



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Mothers and Members on Mother's Day!

Thank you for keeping the traditions alive.

- Rev. Thomas A. Nasta Chaplain
- Andrew M. Rajec President
- Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. Vice-President
- Kenneth A. Arendt Executive Secretary
- George Matta II Treasurer

President's Message 2017

Happy Mother's Day to All Mothers of all Ages

It is a time to remember our own Mothers and also our wives in a special way.

Women have a unique mission, since only they can give birth to new generations. God intended it that way.

He intended for women to have a special place in the giving of new life. I and many of you were brought up to treat women with respect.

Today's "modern" society seems to have diminished that respect. Let's hope that can be restored.

God bless all Mothers.

We thank you.



Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Andrew M. Rajec

Happy Mother's Day!

8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.60%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.20%
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Have you put your Best Foot Forward?



Join other FCSU members in this national exercise program today!
See page 12 for details

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

May 14, 2017 – Fifth Sunday of Easter
Gospel – John 14: 1 - 12

This Gospel takes us back to the Last Supper. In John's Gospel the Last Supper begins with the washing of the feet, the announcement that one among them would betray Jesus, the new commandment to "Love one another, as I have loved you," and telling Simon Peter that he would deny Him. These seem to be the preliminaries before Jesus' important discourse that we



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

hear in the Gospel today. There is much to reflect and speak of in this passage; "Do not let your hearts be troubled," "In my Father's house there are many dwellings...I am going to prepare a place for you," "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father," "whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these," Each of these could be the source for a homily. The saying of Jesus I will reflect on is this, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Jesus tells us that he is the truth. Later in this Gospel when Jesus is before Pilate, Jesus brings up truth and Pilate responds with the question; "What is truth?" We have the truth in Jesus, and we have his word that he is the truth, as well as his teachings and commandments, yet so many people question the truth. We have replaced truth with moral relativism that does not acknowledge any objective truth, but rather that truth is defined by each individual. This moral relativism has become pervasive in our society. How often do we hear in a discussion about some important moral issue when there is disagreement, "that's what you believe, but it's not what I believe." This approach has been subtly incorporated into the language of even the most devout when arguing some issue. How often do we hear, or maybe even ourselves say something like, "Abortion is wrong and is a sin, for me." as though it could be right for others? Moral truth is not a matter of personal opinion, it is the acceptance of the truth of the Gospel. When we create our own truth we have no need of conversion or redemption, for we make ourselves the truth and delude ourselves that all that I think and believe is right, because my opinion is as valid as anyone else's.

Pope Saint John Paul II, and Popes Benedict and Francis have spoken on the error of relativism. Pope Benedict described it as, "Dictatorship of Relativism," and Pope Francis often quoted this when he speaks of various objective truths that are seen as relative to individual views. The church challenges us to turn to the truth of the Gospel, not the false belief that I define my own truth.

In the Gospel Jesus makes it clear that there is an objective truth, and that truth is Jesus. This is a call for us to step aside from the temptation of moral relativism and to reclaim the reality of the truth that comes from Jesus. It is when we accept these truths that we will find ourselves challenged to conversion. Turning away from the false god of self, and turning to the One True God. This is what the Victory of Jesus and our celebration of Easter is about, Jesus is our Savior, and His victory is our victory. He is the one who sets us free and leads us to everlasting life. This calls for us to acknowledge that Jesus is "the way, the truth and the Life." And to allow him to transform us in his truth. Jesus is the truth that will truly set us free, while all else is rubbish.

May 21, 2017– Sixth Sunday of Easter
Gospel: John 14: 15-21

In the Easter season the readings at mass are often taken from the Acts of the Apostles and focus on the rapid growth of the Church in its earliest days. In recording these events St. Luke gave encouragement to his readers because they were largely new Christians and it was important to assure them that they had joined the "winning team". St. Luke also wove into his writing the key elements of Christian life and belief, in effect teaching a brief catechism as he narrated the Acts.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

Among the foundations of Christianity which he describes is the sacrament of baptism and the blessings it brings. When Peter and John prayed over the neophytes of Samaria, who had thus far "had only been baptized in the name of Jesus" (Acts 8:16), their initiation was completed and they received the same Holy Spirit that our Lord prophesied in the Gospel today: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17). Jesus goes on to say that the Holy Spirit will come to remain with us and remind us of his own abiding presence—the Spirit would confirm all that Jesus taught us and strengthen us in living the faith: "He remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans" (John 14:17-18).

What our Lord said about the Spirit in the Gospel and what Peter and John teach the Samaritans is as true of us as it was in biblical times: we too receive the surpassing gift of the Holy Spirit when we are immersed in the waters of baptism, and its wonderful vitalizing effects endure as much today as they did in the New Testament era. The First Letter of Peter assures us of this, urging us: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pet 3:15-16). It is the Spirit that inspires us in such moments of testimony, but we need our hearts to be open to the Spirit and indeed longing for it if we are to receive the fullness of its gifts.

While the Church is no longer in its infancy, as in the days of the Acts, we can still make a contribution to its vibrancy today by taking seriously the presence of the Spirit in our midst and seeking to hold fast, teach, and live the faith we profess. The parents who lovingly and devoutly raised us, the saintly sister or priest we know, or the teacher or friend—or stranger—who helped us overcome a life devoid of such positive figures: all of these welcomed the Holy Spirit into their hearts and shared it with us.

Building upon their example, or bravely being willing to accept the gift of healing that carries us over the lack of such examples, it is our evangelical task to move forward in faith, sustained and renewed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept...but you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you" (John 14:17). Through the intercession of Saints Philip, Peter, and John and moved by the presence of the Holy Spirit may we "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks us for a reason for our hope" (1 Pet 3:15).

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

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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Issue Date	Copy Date
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 19	MONDAY, JULY 10
WEDNESDAY, AUG 16	MONDAY, AUG 7

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Those attending the meeting pose for a photograph at its conclusion: (L-R, seated) Guest, Norbert Wagner, Sister Thomas More Dzurnak, SSCM, Brother Gabriel Balazovic, OSB, Dolores Evanko, Robert Magruder, Magdalen Iskra, Martha Iskra and Ann Dougher. Standing (L-R) Scott Pogorelic, Michael Horvath, Father Robert Seeman, Father Thomas Nasta, Father Andrew Hvozdovic, Monsignor Thomas Derzack, Father Gerard Gonda, OSB, and Marie Golias.

Spring 2017 Meeting of the National Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation

The National Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation held its Spring 2017 meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, in Wilkes Barre, PA. As is customary and highlighting the Catholic nature of the group, morning prayer was led by Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derzack, SCF National Chaplain. Beginning with the devotion from the Liturgy of the Hours for Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent, Msgr. Derzack then offered a reflection, Ten Ways to Mediate on Christ's Passion. In his opening remarks, Rev. Andrew Hvozdovic noted his visit on the previous Monday to the room dedicated to Father Jozef (Joseph) Murgas, the founder of the Slovak Catholic Federation at King's College in Wilkes Barre with Father Thomas Nasta, First National Vice President. Father Hvozdovic reiterated the mission of the SCF, defined by Fr. Murgas at the organization's founding, to "federate Catholics who are Slovak." While welcoming Father Robert L. Seeman, pastor of Saint Peter, Slippery Rock and Saint Anthony, Forestville, PA, in the Pittsburgh Diocese, as the newest member of the board, he shared the resignation of long-time board member Sister Catherine Laboure, SSCM. Concluding his remarks, Father Hvozdovic also mentioned that Pope Francis spoke at length about Saints Cyril and Methodius bringing the Catholic faith to the Slovak people during their February 14th feast day Mass.

Rev. Thomas Nasta, the 1st National Vice President, presented a summary of the 2016 Annual Appeal. With a revised approach, including a direct mailing, donations increased by 44.2% from 2015, totaling more than \$51,000. It was also noted that 2018 will be the 40th anniversary of the appeal which primarily supports the endeavors of the Conference of Slovak Clergy and the Conference of Slovak Religious. The required reports of the various SCF Chapters were reviewed. The courtesy report from the Conference of Slovak Clergy was also presented, although the conference president, Rev. Msgr. Robert Siffrin, was unable to attend the meeting due to his diocesan responsibilities.

The standing committees met to formulate goals for the upcoming year and to gauge progress toward previous objectives. The major focus is preparation for the quadrennial convention to be held this fall in Youngstown, OH. The gathering will begin on Sunday, September 17, with the 4:00 PM Mass at Saint Columba Cathedral and a banquet at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hall. The convention will take place on Monday and Tuesday, September 18 and 19, at the Holiday Inn in Boardman, OH.

Prior to closing prayer, Rev. Gerard Gonda suggested the SCF endeavor to create a "Slovak Catholic Directory" to delineate the various groups that share our faith and heritage, as well as serve to identify legitimate Slovak Catholic entities that may seek funding. Msgr. Derzack led the closing prayer. The Daily Number tickets for the August 2017 fundraising effort were distributed with a reminder to sell and return the stubs in a timely manner. This program, which occurs twice per year, is a vital source of funding for the operation of the national office of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Submitted by: T. L. Wagner, Communications and Membership Committee Chairman



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – FCSU Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2017, in observance of Memorial Day.

Jednota Newspaper Archive on FCSU Website

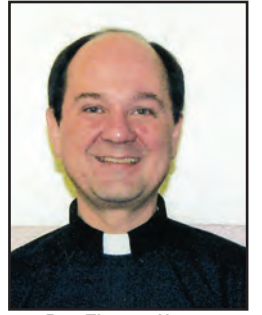


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Message from the National Chaplain: A Summary of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Encyclical God Is Love - Part I



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Pope emeritus Benedict XVI celebrated his 90th Birthday on Easter Sunday. During his papacy from 2005 to 2013, he wrote three encyclicals, or teaching documents, on themes drawn from the three theological virtues, namely, Faith, Hope, and Charity. What follows is the first of a three-part summary of his first encyclical, God is Love, which was issued on Christmas Day of 2005.

God is Love is comprised of two main, interconnected parts. The first is an attempt by Benedict to clarify some essential facts regarding the mysterious and gracious love God offers humanity and the link between that Love and the reality of human love. The second part stresses putting love of neighbor into practice.

Although the encyclical deals primarily with the understanding and practice of "love" in Scripture and Tradition, he states its meaning in different cultures and present-day usage cannot be ignored.

People say they love their country, love their profession, love their parents, children, family. However, love between a man and a woman, where body and soul are inseparably united, where humans are given a glimpse into an apparent irresistible promise of happiness, stands out above all the rest.

Benedict examines "eros," a common Greek word for love that is best described as physical love, or the physical attraction two people may have for each other. Eros is not a word normally used in describing love in terms of a developing relationship. The New Testament, which was written in Greek, uses two other words for love, "agape" (total self-giving), and "philia" (friendship). Benedict notes by the New Testament authors' avoidance of eros clearly points to something new and distinct about the Christian understanding of love.

Benedict writes that the Old Testament firmly opposes eros in its common usage of its day, namely, a fellowship with pagan gods as commonly practiced by the fertility cults and "sacred" prostitution in the Greek and Roman temples. Divinizing eros actually strips it of its dignity and dehumanizes it. Eros needs to be disciplined and purified if it is to offer a foretaste of the pinnacle of our existence.

When reduced to pure "sex," eros has humanity considering their bodies and sexuality as a purely materialistic part of themselves, to be used and exploited at will. Christian faith, on the other hand, has always considered the human person as a body-soul unity.

Fundamentally, "love" is a single reality with different dimensions. Eros, love that tends to lead us beyond ourselves in ecstasy to the Divine, and agape, love that descends from above, can never be separated from each other.

Benedict then tells of the Bible's attempt to portray a new image of God to the culture of the world in which it was written. The Shema Israel ("Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord alone" [Deuteronomy 6:4]) makes clear that all other gods are not God, the Universe was created by God, and God loves humanity and especially loves with a personal and elective love his Chosen People (with a view to healing all humanity).

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

A Mother Sustained by Her Family's Love

"You may get me to the altar, but you can't force me to say, 'I do.'" That's what Anna told her parents when they were pressuring her to marry a man of their choosing. This was Yugoslavia in the 1930s, and it was well before society accepted women standing up for themselves. But there was Anna, speaking her mind.

Because her parents were store owners and considered part of the upper class in their town of Futok, they wanted her to marry someone from an equal class. Instead, the devoutly Catholic Anna liked Paul, a carpenter who was very involved with their local church. Anna got her parents to back down. She dated Paul, and the two soon married in a ceremony literally attended by the whole town because that's how weddings were celebrated in that place and time.

Anna and Paul led a quiet and humble life centered around work, church, and family, especially their two children, Rudy and Cecilia. But as World War II became a reality, peace and stability became a thing of the past.

The town of Futok had been settled by German pioneers known as Danube Swabians during the 17th and 18th centuries. That connection, along with the country's complex political situation, resulted in Russian forces sweeping through the area and sending citizens with any kind of German background to slave labor camps as World War II drew to a close. Paul believed his family would be safe because his last name was Yugoslavian, while Anna's maiden name was French-Hungarian. Unfortunately, he was wrong.

While he was away, Anna and the children, ages four and eight, were put into a camp. Thankfully, when the communists were gathering children to deport them to Russia, a woman wearing a long skirt hid Rudy and Cecilia under it until the danger had passed. For two years, Anna endured a hellish existence that involved hard work during the day, and being awake much of the night to keep the rats away from her kids. She also witnessed acts of brutality that, even years later, she couldn't bring herself to talk about. The only blessing was that she and the kids did survive, and were reunited with Paul, with whom they had to escape the country as refugees.

They found a home among relatives in Germany for five years before immigrating to the United States in 1952 and settling in Queens, New York. They worked hard to build a better life, but occasionally faced strains of anti-German sentiment despite their hatred of Hitler and the Nazis.

Anna took comfort in caring for her family and being a homemaker extraordinaire, who would bake pastries, paint walls, cement the porch, and more. When a grandson came along years later, Cecilia said she'd never seen her mother or father happier. They were moments of happiness that Anna needed to survive when Paul was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. For many years, she was his primary caretaker, though the strong bonds that she had helped forge in the family resulted in everyone pitching in to do their part.

After Paul passed away, Anna's strength and faith allowed her to survive as a widow for more than a decade. But her family was always close by, a fact that had been her light during life's darkest moments.

Anna passed away in 2004. She was my grandmother, my "Oma," as I called her. And I remember her with love this Mother's Day.

2016 Annual Report from the National Chaplain

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the F.C.S.U.:

I am pleased and honored to serve as National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

I attended all four Board of Directors meetings either in person or by means of teleconference. Each session was opened and closed with prayer. The meetings held at the Home Office in March and June as well as the September meeting at Middletown, Pennsylvania began with Mass. I attended the March Executive Committee meeting by invitation of President Rajec.

I was honored to be a guest of the Ladies Pennsylvania Catholic Slovak Union at their convention held in June at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and concelebrated the Sunday liturgy.

In October I attended the 39th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival at Mercer County State Park in Windsor, New Jersey.

In addition to being the national chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union, I am also the First Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation. My primary responsibility is to coordinate the annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. This appeal raises funds to support the operating costs of the residence for priests from Slovakia pursuing post-graduate studies in Rome as well as benefit religious communities of men and women in Slovakia that have a counterpart in the United States represented on the Conference of Slovak Religious. I attended both Executive Committee and Executive Board meetings that were scheduled in 2016.

Throughout the year I have written articles that were published in the Jednota and have answered correspondence that was sent to me.

May our Lord continue to bless us in our all our endeavors.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fraternally,
Reverend Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

2016 Annual Report of the National Vice-President

Reverend Father, President Rajec, and members of the Board of Directors...

As always, I want to start off my report by thanking the Membership and Marketing Committee which is comprised of Brothers Andrew Rajec, Kenneth Arendt, and George Matta II, for all the time and effort they spend with me on the problems and solutions that concern membership and marketing. Each member is very concerned with the growth and success of our society.

Membership

As you will see by our annual statement, the First Catholic Slovak Union had another good year. Our assets grew by 15.5 million dollars and our surplus increased by 1.7 million dollars. We will go into all the annuities and insurance statistics when we get into our marketing report.

Our existing sales force is doing a tremendous job for the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Membership and Marketing Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to those recommenders who consistently recommend new or increased business during the year.

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Insurance Sold for the year 2016.

1. Gerald J. Hamilla
2. Andrew P. Rajec
3. Andrew R. Harcar
4. Vicki Lynn Schaub
5. David Lang
6. Joseph Rimarcik
7. Dorothy Petrus
8. Michael Fedor
9. Richard Mizikar
10. Joseph Scavina

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Annuity/IRA/Park Money brought in for the year 2016.

1. Richard Mizikar
2. Andrew R. Harcar
3. Kenneth A. Arendt
4. Ronald Kurzawa
5. Kimberly Meeker
6. Audrey Balazik
7. Stephen Gerko
8. James Bench
9. Carol Makovsky
10. Linda Hanko

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by the Number of Insurance Policies Sold for the year 2016.

1. Dorothy Petrus
2. Vicki Lynn Schaub

3. Michael Lako
4. Andrew R. Harcar
5. Gerald Hamilla
6. Mary Gerics
7. Richard Mizikar
8. James Marmol
9. Linda Hanko
10. Joseph Scavina

To each and every one who signed an insurance member and/or who sent in an Annuity/IRA/Park Money contract for the year 2016. My heartfelt thanks and congratulations for a Job Well Done!

Marketing

This past year the Membership and Marketing Committee...

• Is continuing to add more agents – as of December 2016, we have 250 agents under contract. We are instituting a program to recruit new agents in the states we are newly licensed. The home office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products.

• On May 25, 2016 – The committee attended the Bruce and Bruce Seminar in Pittsburgh. They supply us with information regarding pending state and NAIC regulations which may affect us.

• Continued our 2 marketing programs:

A.) "Final Expense Insurance" – It is coverage specific to the cost of the funeral.

B.) "Wealth Transfer – Wealth Management" – Through our single premium whole life policy the benefits avoid income tax *avoid probate* cash value growth.

• Advertising the IRA and Roth products in our mailings, on the website and thru email.

• On July 21, 2016 – An informational booth was set up at the seminary grounds in Wickliffe, Ohio. A record crowd of 45,000 people attended. It is sponsored by the Cleveland Diocese.

• On August 26-28, 2016 – A booth was set up for the Plum Kick Off Classic in Plum, PA.

• At all the festival booths – Information is provided on the FCSU and its insurance and annuity products. These booths are part of the on-going campaign to make the First Catholic Slovak Union more visible.

• On September 4, 2016 – An informational booth was set up at the annual Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival held at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall in Parma, Ohio.

• On October 2, 2016 – An informational booth was set up at the New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. The festival was held at the New Jersey Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey. Dignitaries from Slovakia visited the FCSU booth.

• Still has the incentive plan started in 2013 to help our recommender become a licensed insurance agent in the state they reside in. The FCSU will pay ½ the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the school and fees. Depending on your productivity, the FCSU will pay for ½ of your license renewal. If interested, contact one of our in-house agents for a list of license schools in your state.

• Set up an insurance meet – At Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas from November 6-10, 2016. The insurance meet turned out great for all the agents and recommenders that were present.

• We have received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance stating all recommenders must hold at least a fraternal license in order to receive any compensation for any insurance or annuity. The Pennsylvania law reads as follows: "Limitation – No society doing business in this Commonwealth shall pay any commission or other compensation to any person for any services in obtaining in this Commonwealth any new contract of life, accident or health insurance or any new annuity contract, except to a licensed fraternal insurance agent of that society."

• The Executive Secretary stated a letter has been sent to all recommenders and branch officers residing in the State of Pennsylvania that they must apply for at least a fraternal license before they will be eligible to receive any compensation. Once the fraternal license has been obtained a copy must be sent to the home office for our records and then at that time we will begin to issue compensation.

• A detailed instruction guide has been developed and sent to all Pennsylvania recommenders to assist them in going through the steps to apply for the fraternal license. If any recommender has a problem with the process, he or she is encouraged to contact the home office for help. In addition, home office personnel has attended various district meetings to explain the process.

• We are continuing to advertise on Facebook with new material being added daily, as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including new advertising material in our home office mailings. Any branch or district planning a fraternal activity is to please contact the home office or the editor and we will advertise the event through Facebook, email and our mailings.

• Our marketing firm has completed the new website design. It was reviewed by the Board of Directors before going on line.

• Our marketing firm, in conjunction with our in-house marketing committee is developing a marketing strategy to better sell our products. They are also working on updating our presentation that will be used at our seminars. Our marketing firm is also working on a strategy to recruit independent agents in the states we are licensed in.

Activities

Some of my activities in the year 2016 were: Attended all monthly Executive meetings as well as meetings called by the President. Wrote articles pertaining to insurance and had them published in the Jednota. Send the "Top Guns" to the editor. Inform all Regional Directors of their districts insurance and annuity production. I attended various meetings and/or social functions. I am a director in the Indiana Fraternal Alliance and attend all their meetings. Attended the National Fraternal Alliance meeting. Help set up booths at festivals. Attended the 2016 Fraternal Agent Sales Training class sponsored by the American Fraternal Alliance at their office in Oakbrook, Illinois. I also chair the Membership and Marketing Committee.

At this time, I personally want to thank our Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their help and encouragement. I would also like to thank the branch and district officers for their untiring commitment to our great society. Last, but not least, I want to express my sincerest thanks to our home office staff for their excellent help and cooperation given to me throughout the year.

Until next time,

Good Luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr
National Vice President.

2016 Report of the National Treasurer Board of Directors Meeting March 17-18, 2017

Dear Fr. Nasta, President Rajec, Executive Board Members and Board of Directors,

I am pleased to report that all financials and other reports required by the various states where the First Catholic Slovak Union is licensed to do business have all been properly filed by March 1, 2017.

International economies continue to struggle amid a concern that other countries may follow the Brexit in withdrawing from the European Union. The energy sector had investors concerned in the earlier part of the year but eventually recovered later in the year. This has caused rating downgrades and lower market values on bonds but fortunately due to insurance accounting which uses Amortized Cost/Book Value the rating downgrades did not have an effect on the Society's bonds. Oil production and the drop in the price of oil are affecting the economy. The Federal Reserve raised rates late in 2016 and appears to be poised to continue possible raises with two to four interest rate increases in 2017. Economic numbers continue to be strong in the US as well as the stock market soaring since the election. The Society has made a change in portfolio activity from purchasing CMO's to divesting them from the portfolio by pay downs and sales. Almost \$9,000,000 of CMO's and GNMA's were disposed of in 2016 with only about \$2,000,000 of new purchases. As noted in prior reports, this resulted from the FHLB's ruling that it no longer requires only Federal Government issued securities, but that some municipal government securities are now acceptable for purposes of membership and to acquire loans. Over \$40.3 million dollars of Industrial and Miscellaneous bonds were purchased in 2016, while \$26.3 million were disposed of. Combined with the CMO and GNMA trading, investment activity resulted in the value of bonds owned increasing by almost \$5,000,000 from prior year end. Total Invested Assets increased over \$15.5 million, with a large portion of assets in cash, cash equivalents and short term investments (almost \$24,000,000, an increase of almost \$11,600,000). The level of 2016 premium income was 15.5% greater than the 2015 production, which helped produce additional investment funds.

For the year of 2016, surplus was raised to a high of \$28,099,397 for 2016 which was an increase of over \$1,700,000, or 6.4%, and the solvency ratio increased to 107.9%. Investment in Hedge Funds dropped in 2016, as a result of a fund liquidation while new investment of \$500,000 were purchased. The Executive continues to look at opportunities for Hedge Fund-type investments that meet our Investment Policy Guidelines as well as the Ohio insurance regulation standards.

The Society's investment portfolio remains well diversified with emphasis on longer maturities; while purchasing a limited amount of CMO's because the need for flow of cash is less. Purchase and guidance of security purchases continue to be assisted by the Society's Investment Manager (AQS). The Society continues to utilize low interest funds that are available as a result of the Society's membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank. In spite of the continuing, slow economic recovery and changes required in FNMA and FHLMC classification, the Society's 2016 Investment Income results were stable.

Net investment rate of return will remain close to the 2015 figures. The current year's income released from the IMR is included as part of net investment rate of return. The Society's net investment rate of return will rank in the middle of fraternal insurers due to the higher investment expenses associated with FHLB funds. Bonds make up 90.6% (-2.6%) of the investment portfolio. Investment grade bonds (NAIC Class 1 & 2) are 96.1% (-2.7%) of bonds owned. Only one of the bonds owned by the Society is in the lowest rating category, with only 1.2% falling in NAIC Class 4. Currently the Society owns no Preferred stocks. Common stocks remain at 0.6% of invested assets. Common stocks include the Society's investment in Jednota Holding Company (\$776,316). Cash and cash equivalent products were 6.3% (+3.0%) of the invested assets. The diversification of security classes, although modest in some areas, helps stabilize the investment portfolio. Increased diversification of the portfolio could be an area that the Society can look into in 2017. The Society continues to be conservative while maintaining a strong cash on hand position. This enables the Society to take advantage of investment opportunities that have higher returns. The Society has increased its assets by an increase of 10.4%.

There are realized capital losses shown of \$164,465, which resulted mainly from the liquidation of Hedge Fund-type securities. The Society realized \$1,066,464 capital gains on bonds, but \$1,008,805 was transferred into the IMR as required by the regulations.

These bond gains helped to maintain a positive IMR balance, which increased to \$753,160 from \$329,048, which will be released in annual increments each year. The loss on Hedge Funds was offset by unrealized capital gains. There were modest common stock gains of \$31,000 and an increase in the Jednota Inc. value of \$114,241.

The Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR) required by regulation for purposes of mitigating market swings increased \$415,908. This was realized due to the capital loss activity, which was somewhat offset by the unrealized gains. The increase in the AVR was mainly due to the re-rating of bonds classifications. This created the need for more reserves. The 2016 maximum is \$2,904,960, and the Society balance is about 90% of the maximum. The purpose of the AVR is to guard against large swings in the economy. All components of the reserve are consistent with the 2016 90% requirement.

In 2016, \$584,693 of prior years' bond/preferred stock profits were included as a part of income. This amount was released from the Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR). The Interest Maintenance Reserve requires that most profits or losses realized when bonds or



George F. Matta II

preferred stocks are matured, called, or sold, must be placed in this reserve and amortized to the original maturity date of the security. This requirement does not apply to bankrupt Bonds & Preferred Stocks. The Society primarily holds bonds for income and does not actively trade these securities. The current IMR schedule provides that profits from prior years will be released to income for several years.

The Society purchased over \$45,700,000 of securities in the year 2016, while over \$42,000,000 of securities were matured, called, or sold. The combined total of \$87,700,000 equals 23.9% of the 2015 invested assets. The continuing large volume of activity is due to the large number of calls, especially government sponsored entities such as FNMA, FHLMC, and pay downs on GMNA's, etc. The continuing challenge is to find replacement bonds of equal value and high interest rates while maintaining quality. Earning sufficient investment income to support the competitive interest rates on the Society's annuity products is a challenge. The average years to maturity of bonds was 16.0 years at the end of 2016. The current volatile economic climate and large premium production results in the volume of trading activities.

Society Management is faced with constant reinvestment activity and having to make the decisions that move the Organization forward. The engagement of a professional asset manager to assist in portfolio management can be viewed as a wise and prudent decision.

Attached is a Portfolio review of the following investment strategies of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Each strategy specifically designed to react to market conditions and produce returns relevant to each of these strategy benchmarks. Identified are the characteristics of each strategy.

Clutterbuck Fund – Clutterbuck Special Situation Fund, LP invests primarily in stressed and distressed fixed income securities and capital structure arbitrage opportunities. The fund seeks to take advantage of the broadest opportunity set, focused on public and liquid U.S. Credit markets, which its core competency areas.

The managers employ a deep value investing discipline generating attractive absolute returns while maintaining the risk of capital loss and having a low correlation to the broader capital markets. The fund has moderate diversification and turnover. There is an intense focus on risk management and protecting capital.

Clutterbuck reported performance as of January 31, 2017 as MTD a +.005%. Unaudited returns for February are showing a return of a -0.60%. As stated before this fund has had a performance that has shown returns that fluctuate month to month. Performance of this nature is normal for a strategies of this type. The 2016 Year to Date return was very strong with a +18.347%, producing a positive income of \$81,623 for 2016. As a part of this strategy the Executive Committee increased Clutterbuck's allocation by an additional \$500,000 in late of 2016. Over a two year (2015-2016) period the strategy returned a positive return of \$79,482.

MAI Strategy – The objective of the Fund is to achieve performance through stock appreciation, dividend income, and premiums on options written. The Fund's investment strategy is to provide consistent returns, relative to the markets, generally by employing an actively managed option overlay strategy on a high quality, value based portfolio. The Fund will generally consist of about 30 underlying equities with above-average dividend yields that have consistently grown their dividends at attractive levels. The Fund expects to sell covered calls and cash secured puts. In order to avoid the use of leverage, it will maintain a significant cash and/or money market funds balance, typically 40-60% of partners' capital, in the event puts are assigned.

MAI reported performance as of February 28, 2017 with a MTD +1.53%. Their performance has been strong in 2017 showing an YTD return of +2.25%. The 2016 Year to Date return was very strong with a +4.35% producing a positive income of \$49,167.38 and a performance since inception return of +4.30%.

Over the two year period (2015-2016), this strategy returned a positive income of \$49,157.74.

UBS – Currently runs two separate strategies for the FCSU. Currently the UBS account has 43.97% of the total in cash or cash like instrument. The executive committee is reviewing proposals from UBS as to alternatives that will fit within our Investment Policy. The Equity position which is investment in Chart Industries a US small cap position has shown a MTD return of a -0.56%. The Non-Traditional Hedge Fund has three strategies: ALPHAKEYS MILLENNIUM OFFSHORE FUND LTF, AMBER GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY FUND (OFFSHORE) LTD and ATLAS ENHANCED FUND LTD, showing a MTD performance of +2.76%. Overall the UBS position was a +2.27 for the month of February 2017.

I have asked Sean Hardy and David Doll of UBS to do a deeper dive into the following strategies that were introduced to us last month. I still believe that the fee are an issue but am willing to discuss in greater depths. In conjunction with those we have also been discussing three additional strategies that I would like to get additional information on and present to the Executive committee for next month. They are the Graham Absolute Return Class B, The Trigger Absolute Return Step Securities linked to the Euro Stoxx 50 Index and the Trigger absolute Return Step Securities linked to the S&P 500.

As a part of this discussion I have also been talking to two other firms as well as MAI for additional information on investment opportunities. In addition to MAI the other two strategies are Guinness Atkinson Energy Investment Fund and the iNetworks Opportunity Fund, LP.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,

George F. Matta II
National Treasurer

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

Annual Report 2016

National Director of Fraternal Activities

Fr. Nasta, President Rajec, Fellow Board Members and Members of the FCSU,

The 2015 Coloring Contest was again very successful. We received 134 entries. Congratulations to all those who participated and especially to all the winners. The entries were as follows:

Region 1 – 15 Region 3 - 19 Region 5 – 19 Region 7 - 25
Region 2 - 1 Region 4 - 23 Region 6 - 27 Region 8 - 1 4 non-members

The winners' photos were in the Jednota paper. All winners got a sports duffel bag, a certificate and a check. \$25 for first place; \$15 for second place; and \$10 for third place. Those that entered but did not win received a letter with a \$5 gift card to Target. Their names were also listed in the Jednota paper.

The International bowling tournament was held with the National Slovak Society at Sawmill Lanes in Columbus, OH, April 22-23, 2016. There were 91 Jednota bowlers and 27 NSS bowlers for a total of 112 bowlers. There were a total of 34 Lane Sponsors. 10 from the Jednota and 24 from the NSS.

70 people attended the banquet—27 were NSS members and 43 were Jednota members.

The 2017 tournament is coming up the weekend of April 21-23, 2017 at the Brunswick Lanes in Belle Vernon, PA.

The Annual International Golf Tournament was held July 22-24, 2016 at Tam O'Shanter in Canton, Ohio. We had 75 Golfers compete in the tournament. 40 members attended the banquet, and 43 attended the barbecue on Sunday afternoon. There were many positive comments about the tournament. The golfers really enjoyed the putting contest and the hospitality night at the course. Thank you to Larry White of AQS Asset Management who donated \$1,000.00 which was used to sponsor the hole in one contest and for other skill prizes for the tournament. Paul Ritz activity Director Emeritus, donated \$100. \$50.00 to be used for the hospitality night and \$50.00 was awarded to the senior with the best actual score. Theresa Zemelman, former Activity Director also made a \$50.00 donation for the hospitality night. It is disappointing that no other sponsors from any Officer, District, Branch, or individual was received in support of the tournament.

This year's photo contest had 35 entries in the 12-18 age group, and in the 18+ age group there were 136 entries. The photos were judged by an Art Institute of Pittsburgh graduate. Letters of congratulations were sent along with checks to all the winners.

In November, a meeting of the Fraternal Activities Committee was held in Donora, PA. The committee met to discuss rule changes for the tournaments, possible venues, and ways to improve attendance at our tournaments. There have been a few new members who joined the FCSU as a result of allowing non-members to participate in the tournaments one time. After some discussion it was decided to continue this practice. The committee also made recommendations for the places of the 2017 and 2018 tournaments to be held.

At the March 2016 board meeting I also presented the President and Board of Directors suggestions for new activities. They were as follows:

National Picnic (5 sites in different areas to be considered)
Summer reading program
Youth Bowling Tournament
Walking/Running/Biking Program
Participate in Join Hands Day Project
Volunteer program
Jr & Sr Fraternalist of the year awards

Slovak Festival featuring all the Slovak Dance groups every year. Similar to Summerfest.

No further interest or action has been taken by the Executive Committee or Board to follow through with any of these suggestions.

I have given a report about the progress of activities at each board meeting. I have also prepared a financial report for each event which is sent to Secretary Arendt and the chair of the auditors as per the by-laws. Twice a year a financial report of the Fraternal Activities account is prepared and given to the internal auditors for their review and audit of the account.



Rudolf Ondrejco

ACTIVITY	# of Participants	Cost to FCSU
Coloring Contest 2015	134	2480.54
Bowling Tournament 2016	91	3533.36
Golf Tournament 2016	75	3053.56
Photo Contest 2016	171	960.00
		SUBTOTAL: 10,027.46
Picnics: Any region who has a picnic can get \$5/Member reimbursement **		
Region 3	37	185.00
Region 4	101	505.00
Region 5	51	255.00
Region 6	60	300.00
		SUB TOTAL: 1,245.00
Bowling & Golf Leagues can get \$5/ member reimbursement**		
Bowling	Golf	
Akron 9 45.00	Youngstown 13 65.00	
Br. 2 34 170.00		
Mon Valley 26 130.00		
Toronto 39 195.00		
TOTALS:	540.00	65.00
SUB TOTAL:		605.00
Bowling: Sanction Fees	Participates in Nat'l Tournament Full sanction fee paid	DOES NOT participate in Nat'l Tournament half fee paid
Akron 67.50		
Br. 2 495.00		
Mon Valley 458.00		
Toronto 742.00		
		SUB TOTAL: 1,762.50
\$25 for each member on a winning bowling league team		
	Toronto 125.00	SUB TOTAL: 125.00

TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2016: 13,764.96

** Subject to meeting established requirements. For forms or more information contact me.

Rudy.Ondrejco@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you who promote and/or participate in the various activities. But, as you can see there are many regions/branches and members who do not take advantage of the fraternal activities we offer. I would like to hear any ideas that any of you might have for other events.

It is always important to plan for the future. Here are some suggestions to help us prepare for what may lie ahead.

--That the Board of Directors begin updating the by-laws. Some are unnecessary, while others are outdated.

--That board members be given the opportunity to attend meetings/workshops held by the state and American Fraternal Alliance organizations, so that we can bring new ideas to our meetings and organization, and learn about the legal duties and responsibilities of board members.

--That our Officers and Board of Directors promote and support our fraternal activities with enthusiasm in their regions and branches.

Fraternally,

Rudy Ondrejco
National Director of Fraternal Activities



District 8 officers at the April 23rd meeting: [L – R] Emery Roman, treasurer; Katherine Nowatkoski, president; and Margaret Hogan, substitute secretary.

District 8's April Meeting

Members of District 8 – the Reverend Stephen Furdek District of Pennsylvania and North Carolina – met on April 23, 2017. The event began with Mass at 10:30AM at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church Mahanoy City, PA. Following Mass, a dinner and meeting was held at the nearby A & C Catering in Mahanoy City, where members enjoyed an afternoon of fraternalism.

- Photo courtesy of Karen Sterling, Branch 112 Secretary

Slovak American Society of Washington Annual Picnic in June



The Slovak American Society of Washington (SASW) announces its annual picnic will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, VA. Fort Hunt is a national park located just off the George Washington Memorial Parkway. This Slovak-style picnic with food and drinks (beer, wine and soft drinks) will run from 12 noon until 5PM. All members, prospective members and guests are invited to attend. To celebrate a very successful 2016,

the SASW has reduced the cost of attendance.

Cost to members is \$10 for a single and \$15 for a family. Non-members are charged \$15 for a single and \$20 for a family. Non-members who sign up at the picnic will receive a \$10 discount on their annual membership.

Reservations are required by June 5, 2017, by sending a check to: SASW, P.O.Box 2502, Springfield, VA, 22152-2502. For further info, contact Ray Luca at 703-475-8356.

- Submitted by Ray Luca

Mamička's Golden Hands

by Helene Baine Cincebeaux



I first saw the above charming embroidered show towel displayed on the wall of an ancient homestead in the village of Hrušov in southern Slovakia during the Hont Parade Festival one summer. These types of "show towels" were created to brighten a kitchen or cooking area.

This one really touched my heart!

Embellished with rich embroidery the message on it translates to "my mamička has golden hands and a loving heart". This is so appropriate as we celebrate Mother's Day and honor our mothers, grandmothers and all the women who have gone before!

I think the message says it all. Mothers who had so little free time with caring for their families, watching the young children, baking bread and making butter still found time to spin, weave and embroider to make their clothing and to create beauty in their homes.

Those golden hands fed the chickens, geese and rabbits, tended the vegetables, made the soup and patted the children's foreheads as they sang the songs and told the stories. They made sure all the traditions were kept and decorated their homes and their church for special festivities and celebrations.

Untrained as artists nevertheless the beauty these village women created lives long beyond them and brings joy to us who only can marvel at their work.

Usually village girls learned to embroider at their mother's knee or learned from aunts and grandmothers. The motifs were repeated generation after generation; sometimes they didn't know the meaning anymore just telling us, "we always did it this way, my mother did it and her mother"... an unbroken chain to the past.

Many learned to spin and weave and in some cases to make lace. Knowing these skills was a necessity - they didn't have money to buy beautiful things so they created them with simple materials at hand and embellished their work with motifs and colors that sing to this day!

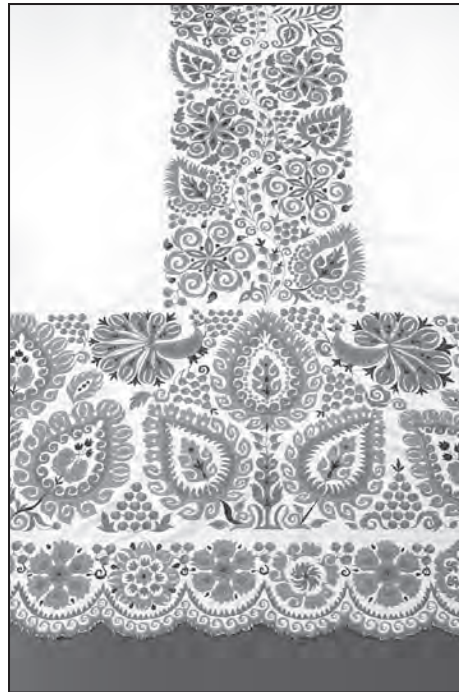
Village women used their skills to mark life events. They began work on their dowry at an early age when they were 9 or 10 and eventually made the ritual cloths that punctuated their lives.

A village maiden might plant and grow the flax and then follow all the labor intensive steps to harvest and treat the flax to create linen thread, spin it and weave the material to make their treasures.

In some villages a linen wedding shawl was woven and then embroidered with ancient motifs to protect the bride on her all important day.



Christening Pillow Cover from Vesele



Wedding Bed Cover from Vajnory



Bed curtain from Jablonice

Some young women made their bridegroom's shirt - in other villages this very special shirt was made by his mother. One from Liptovská Teplička includes the names of the bride and groom and the date, 1937.

In southwestern Slovak villages of Vajnory, Viničné, and Slovenský Grob glorious wedding blouses were made. Many were embroidered with real gold and silver thread echoing the nobility who lived in nearby Bratislava, then called Pozsony. One of the most precious pieces in our collection has the maker's name and the year of her wedding, 1893.

In this region elaborate bed covers were embroidered; they look like altar cloths because they carry religious symbols the chalice, the Paschal Lamb and the IHS symbol but these were embroidered there to bless the union.

Another ritual cloth was the christening cloth decorated with colors and lace, you can identify this one easily as it is only decorated at one end - the other was wrapped around the babe.

A slightly different version in villages in old Nitra County depicted the Holy Spirit as a dove; this heavily beaded and embroidered cloth from Veselé was embellished with real gold and silver thread. It hung down from the pillow that the godmother used to carry the newborn infant to the church. In most cases infants were baptized a day or two after their birth.

Then there was the ritual cloth that seg-

regated the mother and new born from the family for 6 weeks until the mother was "churched." Only the godmother could touch the mother and the newborn bringing special soup in special pots and singing special songs.

In Jakubany Spiš, garlic and blessed herbs were tied to the bed curtain and needles, knives and scissors were thrust into it to repel evil.

Could anything be more charming than this bed curtain from a village near Michalovce in old Zemplin County - I love the bird and the fanciful flowers. Ritual cloths from this region are famed for the rare combination of weaving and embroidery and for being so colorful - a magnificent display of

ritual cloths from Zemplin and Uz villages is on exhibit at the kaštieľ in Michalovce, now a superb museum with a special section devoted to folk life of the region.

Textiles were made to celebrate the holidays and also for everyday use from one to cover bread which was considered precious and holy, the staff of life, to basket covers for the Easter blessing, my favorite has a basket filled with decorated eggs and pussy willows. Special cloths were also created with Christmas motifs.

I discovered an extremely large woven and embroidered ritual cloth in Ocova in old Zvolen county. They confirmed that it was a coffin cover - the amount of work it entailed is daunting.

Countless village women proudly opened their wardrobes to show us all their clothes and their very best outfit set aside for when they went to heaven - they wanted to meet their maker dressed in their best. In many cases these precious cloths went to the grave as the maker's shroud.

In today's fast paced modern world it is good to look back and imagine the "golden hands" that made this enduring beauty under difficult circumstances and think of the joy and the tears that were embedded with each stitch and marvel that some of these treasures yet endure for our admiration and awe.

If you have heirlooms from your family - give them another look - that tablecloth may well be a ritual cloth or an Easter basket cover. If you want to e-mail or send me a photo - I would be glad to try to help you identify your family heirloom. And treasure what you have, for it was made with love and by golden hands!

About the author

This article is reprinted with permission from the May 2012 Jednota, authored by a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 278, Helene Baine Cincebeaux, who has traveled to thousands of villages over the past 40+ years, collecting traditions and folk dress. She also has traveled to Slovakia with her tour group Treasures of Slovakia for 29 years. Through her many exhibitions, lectures and publications, she has helped preserve the craft and understanding of Slovak folk dress, and has helped reunite Americans with their long-lost families in Slovakia through an extensive genealogical database. This July, she will lead her 90th Treasures Tour to Slovakia. For more information on the 2017 Treasures of Slovak tour, phone 386-264-2757 or e-mail hele-nezx@aol.com.

Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by

phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

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 Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

District 2 Annual Brunch and Play Outing

On Sunday, March 19, 2017, District 2 gathered for their annual brunch and play outing. The outing was at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts, located in Munster, IN. Brunch was held in the main banquet room of the Center. There was a great turnout this year of 38 District 2 members, family and friends. The show followed after brunch and was very entertaining. It featured a group of talented singers paying tribute to the late, great, Frank Sinatra. Everyone ate well and had a good time. We were also blessed to have such great weather that day.

- Submitted by Lynda Tanis, District 2 Officer and Branch 706 Vice President



Youngstown Sister Cities Hosts Slovak Mayor



The mayor of Spisška Nová Ves, Slovakia, Doctor Jan Volny, will be a guest of Youngstown Sister Cities on his visit to Youngstown, OH, from June 15 – 22, 2017. The visit is in honor of the 25th anniversary of the cooperative between the two cities – the Youngstown-Spisška Nová Ves Sister Cities Program, Inc.

During his stay, there will be a presentation by Youngstown's mayor, John McNally, of two wooden plaques to be hung in City Hall. They have been carved by an artist in Slovakia and represent the crest of Spisška Nová Ves and the Seal of Youngstown.

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, Mayor Volny will be in the entertainment tent at the Simply Slavic Fest, which is held in downtown Youngstown and runs from noon until closing. He will be available to meet and visit people attending the Fest.

The itinerary has been set for the Board to escort him to places of interest in the area, including a visit to the home office of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Independence, OH.

- Submitted by Bernie Demechko, Secretary, Youngstown Spisška Nová Ves Sister Cities

Join us for our 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia and its Neighbors

July 29 -August 11, 2017



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak-born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Šaštín, Skalica, Trenčín, Bojnice, Rajecké Teplice, Rajecká Lesná, Čičmany, High Tatras, Levoča, Kežmarok, Ždiar, Stará L'ubovňa, Košice, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Prešov. As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives or

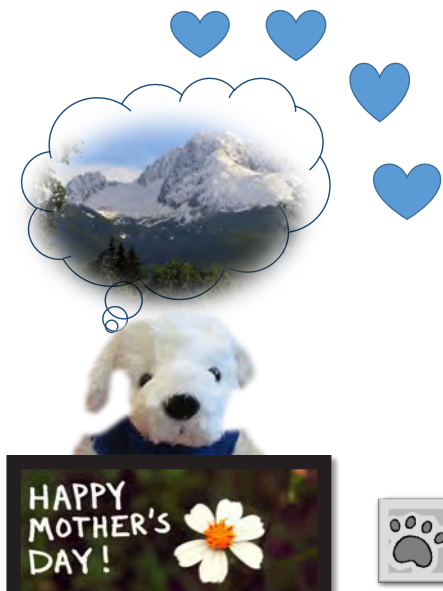
family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour.

What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, and a welcome reception with the Mayor of Prešov.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of Vienna and Poland. While in Poland, we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

The total price for this complete tour is just \$3,798 per person (double occupancy). The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For a copy of a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtjenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joe Senko, Branch 254



Hi, Kids & All Those Young at Heart.

It's Me, Chewy. I wanted to give a big shout-out to all the moms out there and all us kiddos who love them so. When I think of my dear mamička (mommy, in English), I always think of where I grew up with her, my dad, and my big ol' pack of littermates on our master's homestead high up in the Slovak mountains. So for this Mother's Day, I wanted to share the lyrics to one of my fav tunes of all times. My gift to her, and you.

Happy Mother's Day
(Deň matiek, in Slovak!)
Tvoj priateľ (your friend)
Chewy

**Slovenská rodná dedina
Slovak native village**

Vysokou horou obklopená, dedinka moja spí.
Tam prežil som ja krásne chvíle, najkrajšie detstva sny.
Tam rástol som jak jedlička, keď kvitla lúčina,
a preto ma dnes srdce bolí, keď sa s ňou lúčiť mám.

Surrounded by high mountains, my village is asleep.
There I spent good times, beautiful childhood dreams.
Where I grew like a tree, when the meadow was in flower,
making my heart ache when I have to say farewell.

[Slovenská rodná dedina, pod horami,
najkrajšia v svete jediná, domov drahý.
Tys bola mojím životom, celučký čas,
odkiaľ dnes náhle odchádzam, vrátim sa zas..]

[My Slovak native village under the mountains,
the most beautiful in the world, beloved home.
You have been my life, all the time,
where suddenly I am leaving today, I'll be back again..]

Ja sľubujem vám hory rodné, nadišiel lásky čas.
Že moje srdce vždy a všade, spomínať bude vás.
Aj keď ma život zavolá, dovidenia národ môj,
ja zostávam vždy a všade verný syn ľudu tvoj.

I promise you, my native mountains, the time of love has come;
That my heart always and everywhere, will remember you.
Even as life calls me, and I say goodbye my nation;
I will stay always and everywhere a true son of my people.

**United Slovak Societies of
Lorain Accepting Scholarship
Applications**



The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, Ohio will offer \$1,000 college non-renewable scholarship awards to eligible High School seniors who are five year members of the following Lorain Lodges:

St. John the Baptist, Branch 228, of the FCSU
Slovak Catholic Sokol Wr. 111 & 177
St. Mary Magdalene of the LPSCU Branch 77

National Slovak Society Assembly #160
St. Ann's Lodge of the FCSLA Branch 114

Deadline for application is May 30, 2016.

To obtain rules and application, please visit, www.americanslovakclub.com or contact Michele Mager at 440/984-3353

Michele Mager
FCSU Member, Branch 228
Secretary-United Slovak Societies
Board of Director Member, American Slovak Club- Lorain, OH

THE SLOVAK-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE

*4th Annual Children's
Slovak Folklore Show*

WITH PERFORMANCES BY

Andrew Pulver, OPERA SINGER
Isabella Valeuha, VIOLINIST
Limborá - Limboráčik
Lipka Academy
Pajtási - Hlas

Slovak School at St. John Nepomucene Church

Sunday, May 21st at 1pm

TICKETS:
\$5 adults (16 years old and up)
FREE for children and teenagers up to 16 years old
FREE for S-ACC members
Availability to buy Slovak lunch in the parish hall
downstairs from 11:30am till 12:45pm.

VENUE:
St. John Nepomucene Church
411 East 66th Street, New York, NY 10065
Slovak mass starts at 10:30am.

More info at SlovakAmericanCC.org

S finančnou podporou
**Úradu pre Slovákov
žijúcich v zahraničí**

**September Small Group Tour Explores
the Heart and Heartland of Slovakia**

Slovakia's ever-changing countryside is even more beautiful in the fall highlighted with richly green grasslands aside the dried sunflower and corn fields; bountiful apple, plum and walnut trees along the road side; and the brightly-colored fall leaves against the green spruce of the mountains.



Celebrate the harvest this fall in Slovakia on the 2017 Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 8-17, 2017. You'll travel to the heartland of Slovakia and experience the age-old villages and way of life that our families left behind to start new lives in America. We'll explore the rich history and cultural changes that shaped this young nation at the heart of Europe, and meet the Slovak people as they transition from life in the Soviet era to the European Union.

You'll join with the Slovak people as they celebrate at the Wine and Harvest Festivals in Banska Bystrica and Modra, as well as the age-old Mining Festival in Banska Stiavnica. Relax and enjoy local music and crafts as we travel comfortably around this small but diverse country to explore picturesque villages, spectacular castles, outdoor folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral landscapes and comfortable small cities with well-preserved historic buildings, Soviet-era remnants and the vibrant life of Slovakia today.

You'll be able to arrange for personal visits to family and ancestral villages, as well as genealogical research to trace your family history as well as extend your stay in Central Europe with small-group tours to Prague, Krakow and Vienna following the Slovakia tour.

"Slovak Americans and others love our small group tours as a way to effortlessly experience the culture and history of this fascinating region," said tour organizer Judy Northup-Bennett. "Many people come to find their family roots but others, some of Polish and Ukrainian descent, come to immerse themselves in the Slavic culture of this small country that is off-the-beaten tourist path."

Slovakia Heritage Tours can also arrange small group tours for families and organizations wishing to travel at another time of the year. "I love to talk to people and help them realize their dreams to find and visit their Slovak families and learn about this beautiful country and culture," said Northup-Bennett.

For more information on the September tour or to plan your own private family tour contact: Judy Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 and slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or visit the web site at: www.slovakiaheritage.com

OVERVIEW:

2017 SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR
September 8-17, 2017
www.slovakiaheritage.com
PRICE: \$2,230 complete, land-only package

Finding My Slovak Mother: A Mother's Day Tribute

**Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.,
University of Maryland University College**

When we are children growing up, we really do not know who we are. Our mothers help shape who we are, and teach us right from wrong, and how to behave in society. We evolve as persons, a composite of our individual personality, the way our parents raised us, the schools we attended, the churches we belonged to, the friends we made (enemies as well), what we read, view, and listen to, and the choices we make in life. Often hidden are the characteristics which come from our nationality background, which shape us in multiple ways, whether we realize it or not. Most of our readers have some Slovak ethnicity, and it has exerted varied amounts of influence on us when combined with other factors.

My life has been a quest to find out who I am, why God put me here, and one way I have tried to understand myself has been through the lifelong task of finding my roots. In particular, with Mother's Day (Deň matiek) among the most prominent holidays in May, this article focuses on the steps that led me to discover who my Slovak mother was, where she came from, and what made her the great mom she was. Finding my mother has helped me to find and understand myself, and helped me become who I am today. Many of our readers might identify with at least some of the experiences I will share, and hopefully, will provide some guidance for the process of digging up information about family and relatives, and of course, our Slovak moms.

The article is partially based on a lecture I presented in Johnstown at April 24, 2016 meeting of the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands (SHALH). The non-profit organization publishes a superbly edited quarterly newsletter which one may subscribe to for \$15.00 even if one cannot attend our meetings. (SHALH, P.O. Box 203, Johnstown, PA 15907. Website: <http://www.shalh.org/home.html>)

Growing up Slovak-American

Like many of us, I was raised in a Slovak-American household to learn only English. My mother had emigrated from Slovakia in 1936, and my father, though born in America, knew the Spiš dialect from his Slovak parents. As children, my parents spoke Slovak mainly at our grandparents, and when they did not want us not to know something, such as a film with Marilyn Monroe. When mom was on the telephone talking in Slovak, we always knew she was speaking with Baba (grandmother). When I answered the phone and it was Baba, she would call me malý Michal (little Michael), pronounced "Molly Mikhal", and I knew what it meant, but wondered why a girl's name preceded mine! At the time, I had no idea of Slovak spelling and pronunciation.

Why did they not teach us Slovak? They thought it was not worth knowing and it only complicated life in America. Few people know Slovak and it is a very difficult language. Knowing Slovak does not get a job! And after all, that is why most of our grandparents came here. Our parents thought that speaking a second language would only confuse us. And when I was a young child, my mother was still working on trying to get her English pronunciation right.

As a child, when we went every Sunday to visit Baba on the west-side of Youngstown, Ohio, all the adults spoke Slovak, and the children spoke English. (We always said we were going to Baba's, a symbol of respect for the Slovak mother.) At the time, we children thought hearing two languages was the norm and did not question it. But I always wondered what they were saying, and wished I knew more Slovak.

On holidays, we heard Slovak songs on the Victrola (record player), and my dzedo (grandfather) always perked up when he sang a Slovak song. We children came to know a few lyrics, even though we did not always get them right, nor could we spell them. My brother Jim and I used to joke about songs like "Naša Anička" (Our little Annie). We knew Slovaks loved to sing, dance the polka, enjoyed weddings, and several times, we attended Slovak Day at Idora Park in Youngstown.

My mother had an outstanding voice, and once in a while, I could prompt her to sing some Slovak. Most of the songs she sang were religious, specifically Marian hymns. She sang with so much volume that I could tell that she could have tapped that talent with some training. My daughter Milenka seems to have inherited her talented voice, and has used that talent to sing for her church and for the Slovak group PÁS (Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble). On the other hand, my father used to sing all the time in both Slovak and English, especially when we traveled. He was the one who exposed me to lively Slovak folk songs.

On special occasions, our family would attend Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church, a Slovak-American parish. The rosary in Slovak always preceded Mass, and the Staré Baby (old grandmothers) who sat in the front on the left of the church would recite prayers in unison. I distinctly remember the Hail Mary's in Slovak: "Svätá Mária, matka Božia" (Holy Mary, mother of God) ... Slovak and the Church seemed to run together in our family's identity.

It all seemed so mysterious, so close and yet so far away from my comprehension. Why could our Baba not speak English?

As a child, I gradually began to want to understand more. We knew and loved Slovak foods like halupky (pigs in a blanket), pirohy, halušky, koláči (kolachi), lokše, pagač, homemade smoked klobasy (kielbasy) etc. We also knew Slovaks loved soup (polievka) and Baba always had a bowl of her chicken soup ready for us, with her homemade noodles (rezance). My mom made the best čeregi (fried doughnuts) that I ever tasted, and my brother Jim and I used to stand by ready to grab some when she dipped them in powder sugar. The smells and aromas in our home and at Baba's were distinctly Slovak.

But the language was still a puzzle. It seemed the key to learning more about Baba and my own mother. I only knew a few words in Slovak and in Spiš dialect— dobre (good), malý (small), the dreaded po rici (get a licking, literally, on the behind), baba, dzeda, cetka (aunt), the Sign of the Cross, Jak še máš (How are you?), etc. (My mother had us pray the rosary every day, and we always started with the Slovak Sign of the Cross - V mene Otca i Syna i Duchu Svätého. Amen. But the other prayers were always in English. Why did we not know more Slovak?

In general, young people did not think it was "cool" to show any sign of foreign ethnic background. They pushed modern rock 'n roll, shunned learning their parents' or grandparents' language, and made fun of "Hunkie" ways. But deep down, I knew there was something to be treasured in the old ways: a life living a faith, love of family, devotion to hard work, and taking pride in being both American and Slovak. Not until the ethnic revival movement of the 1970s did some begin to appreciate the

treasures they were losing as their parents and grandparents passed away.

Now we know that knowing another language enhances one's ability to learn. According to psychologists, the "benefits of learning a second language include brain growth, staving off dementia, boosting memory, improving attention and more..." Another language exposes us to other modes of thinking, helps cognitive development, and actually improves our ability in other languages, including English. But our parents did not know that.

An Educational Awakening

From an early age in school, I took a great interest in geography and history. Geography fascinated me and seeing how differently some people lived. My curiosity grew as I found where my mother was from on the map - Czechoslovakia! Then I found out that my paternal grandparents had come from Austria according to my father, but it was really Austria-Hungary. The past also intrigued me, as I studied how we as Americans had changed over the years, yet kept some core values. European history would have to wait until high school, but the realization that people dressed and thought differently piqued my interest. Little did I know that these very subjects would help me find my Slovak mom!

When I finally started attending college at Youngstown State University, I found my passion in studying the past. I contemplated a future as a professor of history. Having taken German in high school, I decided to minor in German, and the fact that my paternal grandfather spoke German further impacted my decision, and roused my curiosity. But Slovak was not offered as a language choice.

A little country like Czechoslovakia received scant mention in history classes, but I learned it was formed in 1918 and we briefly learned about the 1938 Munich Pact which broke up the country. When I asked

a professor why Czechs and Slovaks formed a country together when they did not seem to like each other, I received a simplistic answer that a group of Czech and Slovak leaders decided that in Pittsburgh in 1918. When the professor pronounced the first Czechoslovak president's name Masaryk as "Maz-a-rik", I knew something was wrong. My mother had always pronounced Masaryk, a Slovak name, as "Maw-saa-reke." I was determined to find more, and embarked on reading on my own about the origins of Czechoslovakia and the Slovaks.

I started reading a few books about Slovakia and Czechoslovakia. Perhaps the influential was R.W. Seton-Watson's, *Racial Problems in Hungary*, which he published in 1908 under the pseudonym, Scotus Viator. There I learned that our Slovak ancestors had suffered oppression from the ruling Magyars in Hungary. Perhaps the most influential expression that Seton-Watson noted was the Magyar expression "Tot nem ember," which meant "a Slovak was not a man"! It was the English equivalent of calling a Slovak "a nigger." Soon I was also reading copies of *Jednota*, which seemed the best Slovak-American newspaper with informative articles about Slovaks and Slovakia. But I could not read the articles in Slovak, and this was a stumbling block to learning more about the people and the culture. Universities did not seem to teach Slovak, a language of just a few million people.

I tried learning Slovak on my own, but realized that was a gargantuan task. But I was trying to pick up some words from my mother and my baba. I remember well how thrilled baba became when she realized how much I wanted to learn Slovak. Every visit to her home involved a learning experience, and she would tell me to fetch her kufaga (cane, in Spiš dialect). Unfortunately, my baba passed away while I was away at school in February 1977. I wept.

After college, my graduate studies led me to pursue a Master's degree in history from the University of Notre Dame thanks to a full scholarship. There I received some of my first more extensive exposure to immigration history and its historiography in an Historical Methods class. Thus Slovak immigration history became another area of interest in the path to finding my mom.

After graduating from Notre Dame in 1977, I attended the University of Toronto and served as a Teaching Assistant, and managed to meet retired Professor Joseph M. Kirschbaum. While I liked the school, the department would not allow me to take a course on East Central Europe taught by Peter Brock because I did not have enough courses on the topic and lacked language courses. Even though a Slovak native was tutoring me once a week and I had read quite a bit on my own, that did not count. Forced into German history, I decided to transfer to the University of Pittsburgh, the one school that continually taught the Slovak language. There I obtained a scholarship and Teaching Fellowship, and later a Foreign Language Area Studies grant. In addition to studying history, I could learn Slovak with native Slovaks, Professor František Galan, and later with Professor Verona Chorvathová, a Slovak literature specialist. And I studied history with Professor Linda Blodgett, who unfortunately, left her job before I completed my degree, and would later study with Zdeňek Suda, a Czech sociology professor who knew history well.

Visiting Slovakia for the First Time

That summer in 1978, I set out on a three month backpacking trip to Europe with my wife Becky. Our trip traversed all across Europe and included an 8-day stay in Czechoslovakia, with dates set in early August after obtaining expensive \$90 visas which also required us to exchange \$10 a day. As we took the train from Austria to Slovakia, we encountered a new world on the other side of the Iron Curtain. It would teach me how fortunate my mother was to leave before the tragedies of World War II and the communist takeover whammed the country.

First, we had to deal with unfriendly border control and customs officials, who hardly made us feel welcome in our ancestral homeland. Then we entered gray and dingy Bratislava (unlike today!), which appeared very dirty, unlike the characteristic Slovak way of life we knew in America. Soviet flags seemed everywhere, telling us who was boss. Prices were reasonable, but goods for sale in stores lacked much choice. Though inexpensive, the student dorm room we looked at was so dirty that we decided to camp at the edge of city at Zlaté Piesky (Golden Sands) in our clean tent.

Our real aim was heading out east, to the Spiš region, where both our families trace their origins. We hopped on a train and headed to Spišská Nová Ves, and camped out just north of Levoča. Since my wife's father had a first cousin, Ján Filip, in Spišské Vlachy, and her aunts had been there in the early 1970s, we decided to pay him a visit. Arriving by train, we had to walk from the train station lugging our huge backpacks, and searching for his house. With my then weak, beginning Slovak, we asked for directions and found him. He knew we were coming from letters from relatives, but had



**The author's mother Ann (L) at age 14
with her 12-year old sister
Mary, in Slovakia.**



Spring

Spring will sprout,
The blossoms will show forth their bloom,
And on some sweet-scented bough,
Half dazed with delights of perfume,
The red-breasted robin will sing
In praise of the glorious spring.

© 2001 by George Kossik, Branch 584



Michigan District's April Meeting

The Michigan District, District 5, held their semi-annual meeting on April 23, 2017, at the Deer lake Inn in Clarkson, MI. Branch 633 hosted the luncheon meeting which was attended by several branches. District Vice President Rod Meloni led the meeting.

-Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Director Region 7

Slovak U.S.A.

As a project for the Slovak Catholic Federation, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School in Cleveland, OH, is trying to assemble an on-line guide to Places of Slovak Interest around the United States. Please send him information about anything connected with Slovak history or culture in your city of state (excluding Cleveland, Ohio) at: gerard@cbhs.edu.

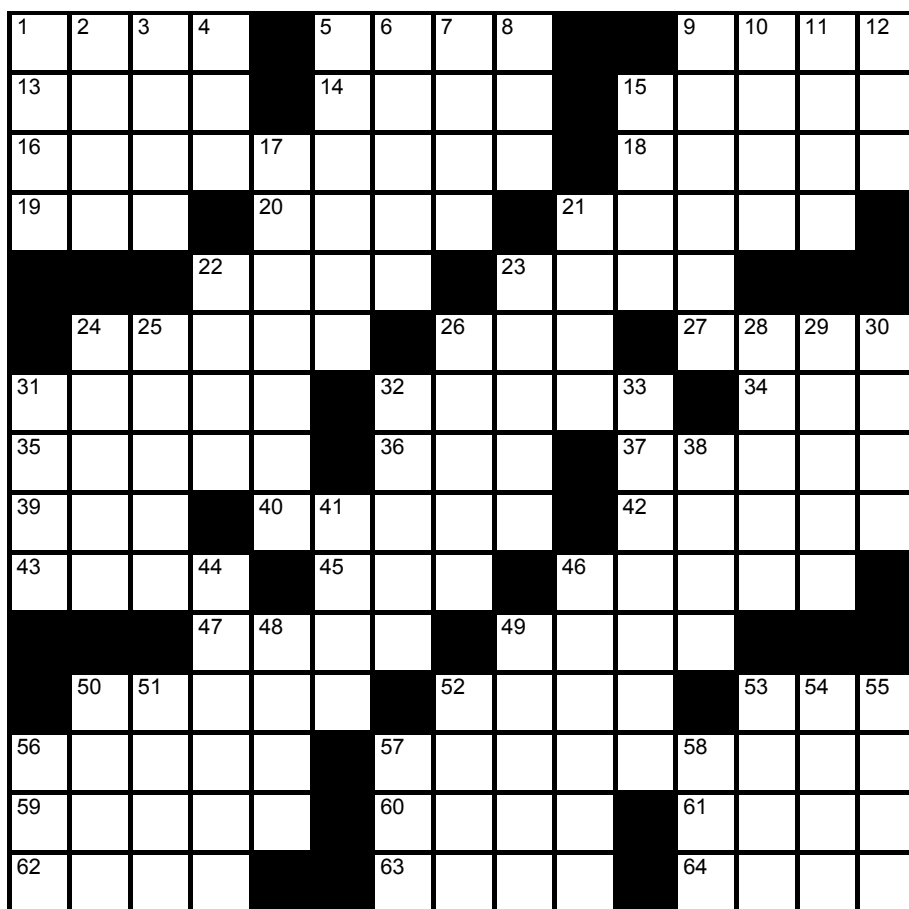
- Submitted by Fr. Gerard Gonda, Branch 24 Chaplain



JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
June 14	June 5
July 19	July 10
August 16	August 7
Sept 13	Sept 5
October 4	Sept 25
October 18	October 9
November 1	October 23
November 15	November 6
December 6	November 27

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Gaelic tongue
- 5 Farm unit
- 9 Dip's partner
- 13 Attention-getter
- 14 Nitty-gritty
- 15 Savage
- 16 Unwilling
- 18 Parts for 5 Down
- 19 "My gal" of song
- 20 Percolate slowly
- 21 Fires
- 22 Lopsided
- 23 Stead
- 24 Zingers
- 26 Moray, e.g.
- 27 Lays down the lawn
- 31 Flick
- 32 Golf course leftover
- 34 High school class, for short
- 35 Archetype
- 36 Dutch city
- 37 Upright
- 39 French sea
- 40 Cruise ship
- 42 Dreams
- 43 Guesses (Abbr.)
- 45 Round Table title
- 46 Risk a ticket
- 47 Serene
- 49 Campus figure
- 50 Vineyard fruit
- 52 Partiality
- 53 Melbourne locale
- 56 Bastilles
- 57 Humorist Clemens
- 59 Ringmaster
- 60 A while back
- 61 Yemini city
- 62 Shirt types
- 63 Garden intruder
- 64 Trait carrier

Down

- 1 Corn units or cup handles
- 2 Perlman of Cheers
- 3 Order to a broker
- 4 Down Under bird
- 5 Performing artists
- 6 Unbalanced
- 7 Ancient Germanic letter
- 8 Phone number add-on (Abbr.)
- 9 Early spring bloomer
- 10 Bruce Banner's AKA
- 11 Residents (Suffix)
- 12 Latin foot
- 15 Scottish hillside
- 17 Meadow ding dong
- 21 Storage cylinder
- 22 Met solo
- 23 Pry bar
- 24 Indicates
- 25 Ward off
- 26 Sea duck
- 28 Corpulent
- 29 Cut into cubes
- 30 Lushes
- 31 Marcel Marceau, for one
- 32 Tough material

- 33 Violent storm
- 38 Lamented
- 41 Capri, for one
- 44 Post office machines
- 46 All wet
- 48 Cathedral area
- 49 Odyssey enchantress
- 50 Willing
- 51 Food staple
- 52 Curse
- 53 Wither away
- 54 Property claim
- 55 Poet Sexton
- 56 Passenger carrier
- 57 Do yard work
- 58 Joker

See Solution on Page 18

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1. The objective of the Best Foot Forward Walking Program is to reach milestones to be eligible for level awards. The pursuit of the milestones leads to a healthy way of life.
2. Participants MUST be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
3. A member can start the program at any time during the year.
4. Tally sheets should be sent in periodically throughout the year.
5. Walking minutes from January 1, 2017, and forward will be used to determine the milestones.
6. Awards will be given in October & April.
7. Awards will be based on the number of minutes you walked.
8. Pedometers may be used to track steps. (20 minutes of light cardiovascular activity = 1,000 steps.

Milestone	Award
900 minutes	Hat
1800 minutes	Hip pack
2700 minutes	Water Bottle
3600 Minutes	Ice/heat bandana

1 STEP ONE
 Register: Fill out the registration form and mail to:
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 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207
 To receive your welcome kit.

2 STEP TWO
 Just START WALKING!
 Log your walking minutes. The more you walk, the more prizes you can win!



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Be a Part of the Jednota Memorial



A Site Dedicated to Members & their Families

The First Catholic Slovak Union dedicated a Jednota Memorial site in September 2016 for our members and their families. The site is on a permanently dedicated 3 1/2 acres of land of Jednota property fronting on Rose-

dale Avenue in Middletown, PA. The land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed "Doughboy" statute is a key high-

light of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks are still available for purchase

It is important, however, to remember that this memorial is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans. You can remember a loved one, a branch or a district in our Society. These are just some of the completed granite panels found throughout the Memorial. All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted.

These are just four of the panels that have been completed. To view more complete panels, or if you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form. Or you can request an order form by calling the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

1	FR. RALPH V. COLETTA ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PASTOR AKRON, OH 1987	ANDREW VICTOR KOZAK B. SPIS D. W-B, PA FCSU PRESIDENT, 1908	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MIKE AND LIBBY KRAL BRANCH 857
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSEPH & MARY ZLATOS BY DAU. ANNE SIMONE	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE BARLEK FAMILY JOSEPH & JOHN - VETS	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS-STEPHEN CATHERINE TKACH SR.
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN J. NALEVANKO PRESIDENT BRANCH 393	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSEPH S. FIALA HELEN T. FIALA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE LISICKY, KULAS AND DAVIS FAMILIES
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN J. AND MARY B. RUSNAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARY & CHARLES YEVCAK BRIDGEPORT, CT	IN LOVING MEMORY OF TILLIE AND JOSEPH V. TAKACS
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSEPH J. KRAJSA MISS YOU EVERY DAY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS JOSEPH A. AND ROSEMARY BABIK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF SANDOR AND VERONIKA KISS STREATOR, IL
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOMAS & ANNA HARCHAR STREATOR, ILLINOIS	IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEVE LEDVA FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE E. KOVALCHECK KATHRYN I. KOVALCHECK 784 MONTREAL, CANADA
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MEMBERS OF BRANCHES #114 #258 #332	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE BEST MOM EVER ANN DUNAWAY KAVLICK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW AND ANNA TROJCAK
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FRIEND IRENE T. KOCAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY MOTHER MARGARET MATTA PERLA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND JULIUS R. KURIMCAK JR.
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FRIEND CHARLES AND VERNA SCHADDER	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY GRANDPARENTS LEOPOLD-MARY MARFLAK	
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDMOTHER MARY GOELLER	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDFATHER TED GOELLER	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDFATHER CHARLES GREGOROVICH
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDMOTHER ANNA GREGOROVICH		

3	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE DECEASED OF THE RAJEC AND RIECAN FAMILIES ANDREW SR. & ANNA RAJEC-DUBNICA NAD VAHOM-HORNÝ MOŠTENEC, SLOVAKIA JOSEPH & KATHERINE DIAN-DUBNICA NAD VAHOM, SLOVAKIA ANDREW J. & JOSEPHINE RAJEC-MILWAUKEE, WI JAN & ANNA RIECAN-HORNÉ PRŠANY-BELUŠA, SLOVAKIA		
	JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU. IN LOVING MEMORY NA NAŠU DRAHU IDUŠKU TILL WE MEET AGAIN MATTHEW 19:14 MOM DAD ANDY DANKO	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY COUSIN JOSEPH KOLLAR	
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY MOTHER IN LAW PHILOMENA PIERONI	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FATHER IN LAW LIVIO PIERONI	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND ALFI PIERONI
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DAD AND MOM EDWARD & ANNA KOZAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF EMMA V. CADENA MOTHER	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS ANDY & SUE MOLCHANY
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRANK AND PAULINE URBANEK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FRIEND CYRIL KREMPASKY	BARBARA J. CEKLOSKY FRIEND OF CYRIL KREMPASKY
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY PARENTS JOSEPH & MARY CHARNOKI	IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEPHEN J. AND MARGARET J. DOLAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FATHER WILLIAM E. GALDUN SR.
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY PARENTS FRANK AND MARY JURIK	IN MEMORY OF ANDREW AND SUSAN JERDONEK	IN MEMORY OF MY PARENTS JOHN & MILDRED JASO
	IN MEMORY OF JOHN & ROSEMARY FALATOK	IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BR. 175 READING, PA	IN MEMORY OF OFFICERS #308 HOLY NAME JESUS YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO
	IMRICH ULICNY FAMILY CORAL, PA	KLUCHO STARÍ RODIČIA JOZEP A. ŠTEFANIA Z RAJECKEJ LESNEJ, SK	KLUCHO FAMILY ANN CECILIA MILDRED MARY AGNES CLAIRE JOSEPH
	KLUCHO FAMILY JOSEPH DEBORAH CHRIS NOEL	IN LOVING MEMORY BRANCH 112 MAHANAY CITY, PA	

2	IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL, ANDREW AND GEORGE MARMOL FAMILIES BY FRANK MARMOL, MATTHEW MARMOL, ANDREW MARMOL, BERNADETTE GAYDOS AND JAMES MARMOL FAMILIES		
	THE KOPCO FAMILY CLEVELAND, OHIO	WAR & VETERANS, INC. UNIONTOWN, PA HONOR ALL VETERANS	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 417KJ
	STEVE & VERONA BALOG STEVE 53 YEARS 635KJ NEW BRIGHTON, PA	JAMES ROBERT WALIKIS NAVY CORPSMAN VIETNAM	JEAN KALLA ARITZ JEDNOTA HOME STUDENT RESIDENT 1952-1955
	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF CHICAGO BRANCH 493	FOR DOLORES CARLSON JOHN & CATH. JANECHEK WITH LOVE BR. 280K	ANDREW N. HARCHAR BRANCH 853 FOUNDER 1895-1980
	REST IN PEACE MARYANN AND ANTHONY WALIKIS	JOE MARY BENDZELLA DRAVEC SPIS ZUPA N. CAMBRIA PA 15714	PAPPAP FRANK VANEK'S LOVE & GRACE PASSED INTO THE FUTURE
	TOMORROW'S GOALS SPIRITUAL FREEDOM FOREVER	JACOB SAMUEL SARAH KINGSTON YESTERDAY'S KICKS	
	MY BELOVED PARENTS STEFAN & JOHANNA UEBERLAUER - RIP	POKOJ MARY S. KOZUSKO YOUR LOVING FAMILY	THE PAVLEKOVSKY AND HASA FAMILIES FORD CITY, PA
	GEORGE J. PETKOSH JR. B-372 BEAVERDALE, PA ARMY VETERAN WWII	DECEASED BOARD MEMBER JEDNOTA INCORPORATED JOHN J. MATTEY	MAY GOD LOVING HAND BE ON THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH & ROSE YAKO
	LOVE YOU ALWAYS ANN DUNAWAY KAVLICK RJK GAK LMK	THE YANDURA FAMILY EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA 1927	JOE BRAZINA MARTINECK SLOVAKIA OTEC MANZEL
	STEVE G. & GEORGE S. STROPKI CANTON, OHIO	THE KREMPASKY FAMILY STEPHEN AND MARY STEVEN AND MARGARET	TRUST IN GOD LET GO, LET GOD MSGR. CYRIL NAVIN
	TOM KRISTOVENSKY SISTER MARY MARK SCM LEBANON PENNA	MICHAEL F. MIHALKO JR. REGION V. DIRECTOR 1990-1998	ANDREW J. & MARY A. MERKOVSKY THE BEST EVER
	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 308	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER ANN J. NEMISH	BR 173 1896 W-B PA A UNGVARSKY PRES J JANOSIK SECTY

4	BR 173 1950 W-B PA J JANOSIK PRES J S UNGVARSKY SECTY	EDWARD UNGVARSKY BRANCH 181 UNITED, PA	WILLIAM M VALCHAR BORN MARCH 20, 1931 KOREAN WAR CONFLICT
	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 226, LORAIN	DEDICATED TO THE LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF BR 173 WILKES-BARRE, PA	BR 173 2014 W-B PA J A UNGVARSKY PRES D A UNGVARSKY V PRES CARL UNGVARSKY SECTY
	STEPHEN F. UNGVARSKY BRANCH 181 UNITED, PA FCSU SUPREME OFFICER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY 1971-1983 A LIFELONG JEDNOTAR	REMEMBRANCE MEN AND WOMEN DIED SERVING U.S. OF AMERICA BR 764	LIVING & DECEASED HOLY TRINITY #60 MCKEESPORT, PA
	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 856	IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEPHANIE UNGVARSKY BRANCH 181 UNITED, PA SONS: EDWARD-TIMOTHY WILLIAM & RICHARD	IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED CANADIAN MEMBERS OF BRANCH 784 MONTREAL, CANADA
	IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT 20 MONTREAL, CANADA	FONDEST MEMORIES OF LIFE IN JEDNOTA THE CAPKA FAMILY THEODORE AND MARY, ADOLPH, MARY, TED, JERRY AND DICK CAPKA	MONICA RODACY BOONE NATIONAL AUDITOR 1984-1998 PENSION BOARD TRUSTEE 1988-1991 BRANCH 853 MEMBER
	FRANK & MARY HOLUB OF CHICAGO, IL SAFE IN GOD'S KEEPING	IN MEMORY OF PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF BR 367 FAIRCHANCE, PA	DEDICATED TO THE LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN SOCIETY BRANCH 10K OLYPHANT, PA
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN A. SABOL SUPREME PRESIDENT FCSU 1961-1977 AND HIS BELOVED WIFE CAROLINE T. SABOL	IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE VALCHO FAMILY HOMESTEAD, PENNA.	DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF THE VITKAY FAMILIES
	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BR 425 BARBERTON, OHIO	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 19	

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch 1-will hold its next meeting on August 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10 invites its members and their families to attend the annual Mass for living and deceased Branch 10 members on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The 11:00 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Church at Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant. Immediately following Mass, the semi-annual business meeting will be held at the parish's Kelley Hall.

William F. Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society Branch 19K, will hold its special semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2017, in Saint Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. Following the 8:30AM Mass celebrated by Msgr. Pekar in memory of Margaret Evancho, members are invited to return to the church hall for our breakfast meeting.

At this meeting we will award our young members who have reached their 16th birthday with the Margaret Evancho Award. This award was established to recognize the many years Margaret worked for Branch 19K, especially with young people. The awards will be given to the following:

Chase Evancho
Michaela Kollar
Kayla Mercure
Tyler Nolan
Jacob Novak
Emily Proulx
Hannah Sherriff
Joseph Zabor

We hope our members will join us in this special tribute to Margaret Evancho.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at 9:30AM in Saint Cyril and Methodius Church Hall.

We wish all the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a happy and safe summer season.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 23, St. Joseph Society, will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 21 2017, at 1PM. The meeting will be held at VOMA HALL, 307 Chestnut St. Johnstown, Pa. If you have any policies with Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, then you are a member, and you are encouraged to come. Come to see what is new. Our meetings are informative and sometimes fun!! A light lunch will be served. Any questions please call Theresa Cassat at (814) 254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's, Branch 35, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 25, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include officers' reports and a discussion of district and branch activities.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Rock Bottom 171 E Bridge Street, Homestead, PA 15120. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on 2017 fraternal social activities. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend, and all visitors are welcome.

If anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

Logan Haselhoff, President
Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 112 - MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 will sponsor a meeting and a family fun day at Knoebels Amusement Park on Monday, June 12, 2017. The meeting will begin at noon; the agenda will include officers' reports, new business and the 2018 convention. The meeting will be followed by lunch and the rest of the day to enjoy the Park.

If you are planning to attend please contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 by Friday June 9, 2017.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St Stephen Branch 153 will have its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2017. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence Avenue in Harwood Heights. All members are invited to attend. A fraternal luncheon will be served after the meeting.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 4, 2017, at 9:00AM at the Catholic War Veterans, at 1170 National Pike, Hopwood, PA, 15445.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Arrangements for annual masses for members and veterans will be scheduled and Vacation Bible School plans will be finalized. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of activities from the home office. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and have refreshments. Call for reservations by May 30, 2017, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to the annual family picnic to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA, at Pavilion #14 on Sunday, June 25, 2017. Registration begins at noon and the picnic starts at 1:00 p.m. Each member is asked to bring their favorite covered dish. Beverages and main entrée (chicken, kolbasi, halupky, haluski, and rigatoni) will be provided by branch. All members are asked to bring their favorite dish to share. The spectacular Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. A branch meeting will be held directly after the picnic. For more information or directions, please call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 invites you to attend our monthly branch meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. So for the rest of 2017: Aug. 2nd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 2nd with Nomination of Officers, & Dec. 7th with Election of Officers.

We look forward to your presence at the monthly meetings held in the banquet hall directly following the BOD's meeting at 7pm. If you are not local to attend, please send your ideas to me @ vschaub123@gmail.com as we are compiling memorabilia for our 125th Anniversary in 2020.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 213 – VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at 1:00PM. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, 16059. All members are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 221 - TOLEDO, OHIO

Attention Branch 221 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. All branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 221 and its 41 members are greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than July 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 holds its meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of July and August when

no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 18, 2017. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This past December, incumbent officers President Leonard Zilko, Vice-President Luis Palos, Financial Secretary Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary Thomas Zuffa were re-elected to their respective offices. Leonard Zilko and Kathleen Trifiletti were re-elected to a 3 year term on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors representing our local Branch 228.

The warm weather has us all anticipating Spring activities such as sprucing up the lawn, planning our gardens and shining up our golf clubs in anticipation of chasing that little white ball around. We can also anticipate the activities of our District and local lodge planning and activities as the 2018 FCSU National Convention will be here before we know it. I put out a challenge for our younger members to consider being a convention delegate and becoming even more involved in our organization. It is a great experience that is interesting, fun and gives a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are directly contributing to the future of the FCSU. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You will be happy you did.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch # 276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday May 21, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. at St Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa. On the agenda will be general branch business. We welcome any new members to attend our meetings.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 292 - WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch 292 KJ will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA, 15963, at 12:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in conjunction with our annual celebration of our patron, St. John the Baptist. A Mass will be celebrated at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Windber, PA, Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. All members are asked to attend both events. A buffet dinner will be served.

Edward T. Surkosky, F.I.C., President

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The semi-annual meeting of the St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 1:00PM at the home of President Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, PA. All members are encouraged to attend.

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 382 – DUNMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Branch 382 will hold its annual Spring meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at noon at VFW Post 3474 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA. The agenda will include the following: an audit report, branch donations, future plans, District 17 news, and updates for the Home Office. Light refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend. Branch officers are: Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr., President; Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President; Michael J. Czankner, Secretary; John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Financial Secretary; and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Treasurer.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 1:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 401 - EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 401 will hold its semi-annual meeting on

Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 1:00pm. Location will be at the home of Patrick Froncek, Branch Secretary, 1223 Wysocki Ave. North Apollo, PA. Agenda will include discussion of proposed motion to absorb those FCSU Branches within District 11 that have been inactive for the past several years. Also, plans for a Fall 2017 Slovak wine/beer tasting party will be addressed. Contact can be made at 724-664-8216. Hope to see YOU there.

Peace & Fellowship to all,
Patrick Froncek, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 29, 2017 at 1:30PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend. Call for reservations by Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 724-425-2576.

**Geri Buchheit,
Recording & Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 25, 2017, beginning at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. All members are cordially invited to attend and to participate in a discussion of obtaining new members.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

Branch 553 reminds all members as well as family, friends and guests to come to the J Club at 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, OH 44311 on June 7th, for their fabulous all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner, served 4:30PM - 7:00PM. For more information, call the J Club at 330-773-4978.

Save the date for the fantastic Kolbasi Open Golf Outing at the Mayfair Country Club in Uniontown, OH, on July 29th Golf Outing. Refreshments throughout the day with breakfast from 6AM- 7:45AM, homemade sausage at the turn, and a banquet with prizes at the end. Shotgun start at 8:00AM; 18 holes. \$65 per golfer. Reserve your foursome early for this guaranteed sellout by calling Linda Hanko at the J Club: 330-773-4978.

Sandie Klucar, Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSEKGN HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, May 28 - Breakfast 8:30 - 12noon is all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

** This is the last breakfast for the summer!
Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off. Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm - 8pm Sat. 12noon - 8pm.

Come down and enjoy yourself.
All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI 231-733-7525.

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 615 - HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN

There has been a merger between Branch 615K Harper Woods, MI and Branch 633K Mt. Morris, MI and Branch 743K Sterling Heights, MI.

Members of Branch 615K have been divided proportionately between Branch 633K and Branch 743K. This merger has taken place as of May 2, 2017.

Members of Branch 615K will be notified by mail and given their new branch officer contact information.

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 706 – DYER, INDIANA

St. Anthony Society, Branch 706, will hold its next meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2017, at the residence of Branch Treasurer, Barbara Fayta, at 1:00 pm. We will be discussing the Slovakia Christmas Tree exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, the Easter Coloring Contest, and the recent election of new officers along with their duties. We will also be celebrating Memorial Day and praying for those who we have lost in our Branch, especially Shirley Uram and Arthur Fayta.

Please email Lynda Tanis at: Lynda.tanis@comcast.net by May 20th if you would like to attend or

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Spring district meeting has been postponed to Wednesday, May 24, 2017 beginning at 7 PM at Holy Trinity Church Hall, 529 Grant Ave. Extn. in West Mifflin. All members are welcome. Snacks will be provided. Branch 580 will host. Please RSVP to Mary Elizabeth Polatas at 412-469-0551 or Virginia Jasek at 724-593-2715 or email jasekva1@gmail.com

Branch 2 will host the next Fall/Winter meeting at a date to be determined.

Branch 38 will host the Fathers' Day Brunch. More information will be available at the May meeting. RSVP at the May meeting.

The District Activities Director Annie Ondrejco has organized two summer events: June 10 – a 2-hour painting session "Painting with a Twist" 2603 E Carson Street, Pittsburgh, 5-7 PM; cost is \$35. July 15 – baseball game "Pirates vs Cardinals" starts at 7:05 PM; cost is \$45. Make checks payable to FCSU Pittsburgh District. RSVP to Annie at the district meeting or contact her via the Jednota Pittsburgh District Activities Facebook page. Notices of these events were also emailed to branch officers.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. The April 19 issue has a list of the requirements for the Branch Stipend.

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: June 5 – Eastern Slovak Village Culture. Meetings resume in October. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners.

** Slovak Summer Language Camp for Kids – May 6 to June 24.

** 94th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 20.

** 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia – Bratislava, Trencin, High Tatras, Kosice, and more: July 29 to August 11. Contact Joe Senko.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.

** The Pittsburgh Slovaks have a CD of Christmas music available for sale. Contact Sue Ondrejco.

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

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

** Prešov University in Slovakia, announces its 8th annual three-week Studium Carpato-Ruthenorum International Summer School for Rusyn Language and Culture to be held from June 4 – 24, 2017. The program is hosted by the university's Institute of Rusyn Language and Culture.

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

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting on October 18-21, 2017 in Pittsburgh. Your correspondent will be giving a presentation on Slovak Alias Names. Further information can be found at www.cgsi.org.

** FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

If anyone knows of additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our

district notice, they should email information to the secretary.

Faternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary, manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. It will be held in the meeting room of the Dairy Queen Grill & Chill located at 575 West Main Street. Branch members are invited to attend. A Dairy Queen social will take place following the meeting.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The election of officers for the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District was held, December, 2016. The results are as follows: President, Barb Hosa; Vice President, Nancy Scavina; Treasurer, Selma Bolash; Secretary, Joe Scavina; Auditor, Jackie Bobby; Fraternal Activity Director, Paul Ritz. The following dates are the scheduled district meetings for 2017: July 18, 2017; November 21, 2017; and December 19, 2017.

Joe Scavina/Secretary

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV, MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The District's semi-annual meeting will be held on June 11, 2017, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall immediately following the eleven (11) o'clock Mass. Members of Branches 784 & 810 are invited to attend. A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

Putting up Maypoles in May



In general, the month of May in Slovakia is considered to be a time of love and new life. The May verdure used to be the symbol of energy and good growth. The most important place among plants belonged to the tree which in these circumstances was called the maypole.

The maypole was usually put up by a young man for the girl he loved.

Mostly tall straight trees served as maypoles, especially firs and pines with their bark peeled off. Their tops were decorated with colorful ribbons.

Maypoles were put up at night and on the next Sunday, young men went around to all the houses with maypoles in front of them and they collected "fees" for the coming festivity - the may ball.

The custom has been preserved and is still widely practiced today throughout Slovakia, though it has been modified. Usually only one decorated tree is put up in the middle of the village or the main square.

- From Slovakia.travel, a portal developed as part of a project called National Unified Tourism Information System of the Slovak Republic. It is an official central promotional and information system of the tourism in the Slovak Republic in the Internet, which shall promote Slovakia as a tourism destination.

FCSU Night at PNC Park

Cheer on the Pirates **July 15, 2017** as they take on St.Louis at 7:05pm.

We will be in Section 203, rows A, B, and C. Which are "All-you-can-eat" seats! This is also a "Free Shirt Saturday", and receive a "Scratch and Win" ticket upon entering.

Seats are \$45 and will be reserved on a first-come-first serve basis.

To register, please email Annie at aondrejco@gmail.com. In your email, please include the names of all people attending, their branch, and your name and branch.

FCSU Paint Night

Join the Pittsburgh District for an evening of painting and fun on **June 3, 2017** at **Painting With a Twist South Side!**

2603 E. Carson St., 15203.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

The cost is \$35 per person. Light refreshments will be provided, but feel free to bring your own favorites! Alcohol is permitted and is BYOB.

To register, please follow this link and enter the password FCSU.
<http://www.paintingwithatwist.com/events/viewEvent.aspx?eventID=1117467>

The painting will be "Island Breeze", depicted above.

Any questions, please email Annie at aondrejco@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>
001K	Joseph D Bunso Sr	055K	William J Roth	228K	Robert J Papajcik	670K	Margaret A Duda
001K	Joan E Carriere	075K	Richard A Marcinek	260K	Joseph A Kocis	731K	Dolores Jean Ferencak
002K	Frances L Bischak	085K	Frank J Tomko	276K	Wilda E Cartia	731K	Anthony A Leskovyansky
006K	Helen Carr	085K	Catherine Yankanin	308K	Ethel A Capone	743K	Anna T Olekszyk
006K	Gloria M Kotras	089K	Robert Andrew Filo	367K	Charles J Gennaula	764K	Andrew R Sinchak
010K	Gaza H Mika	089K	Mary L Wacho	388K	George A Firment	764K	Kathryn M Tatka
016P	Rita H Steckman	153K	Helen Marie Kolodzej	414K	Elizabeth Borawski	831K	Eleanor M Martonik
023K	Eugene M Puzak	157K	John M Sedmak	456K	Joseph B Zuranik	831K	Bernadett M Peltz
024K	Maria D Burkhammer	162K	Anna Marie Gruesser	512K	Margaret E Blahovec	856K	Michael Novak
024K	Bette Louise Zajac	162K	Elizabeth M Zahradnik	512K	Grace M Rohal	900K	John Stephen Kubik Sr
035K	Bernard R Joscak	166K	Arlene M Rose	581K	Agnes M Rzetelny	900K	Theodore Frank Toth
038K	Jean Louise Sekulich	175K	Rev Francis P Straka	586K	Joseph E Grno Jr	916K	Garney C Schultz
040K	Frank Butzen	181K	Mary M Gratcar-Smith	652K	Edward A Soltis	920K	Mary T Thrasher

*Processed through the month of April

OBITUARIES

**FRANK WILLIAM KAVLICK
BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA**



Frank William Kavlick, 85, of Indian Head, MD, passed away Saturday, March 11, 2017, at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, D.C.

He was born April 16, 1931 in Bobtown, PA, a son of the late Francis and Marie Kavlick.

Frank, a graduate of West Virginia University, served four years with the U.S. Air Force in Japan and Korea. He worked for the Department of the Navy as a budget analyst until his retirement. He was a member of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church and volunteered at the parish food pantry. Frank enjoyed vegetable gardening and visiting his childhood home. He loved spending time with family, especially his grandchildren. He was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union for many years.

He is survived by his children, Kathryn, of Indian Head, Mark F. and his wife, Tamara, of King George, VA, Craig and his girlfriend Tamra Baldwin, and Matthew and his wife, Kelly, of Indian Head; seven grandchildren, brother Regis Kavlick and his late wife, Ann Kavlick, of Arlington, VA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Ann Rendulick Kavlick, whom he married on April 11, 1959, in Morgantown, WV; son, Ronald W. Kavlick, sister Frances Kavlick Horvat and her late husband, Anthony P. Horvat, of Corry, PA.

Family and friends called at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Indian Head, on Friday, March 17, 2017, with prayers later in the afternoon. A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church on Saturday, March 18, with the Reverend Brian A. Coelho and Deacon John Barnes. Interment

to follow at St. Charles Cemetery, Glymont, MD. Memorials may be made to St. Mary, Star of the Sea Church.

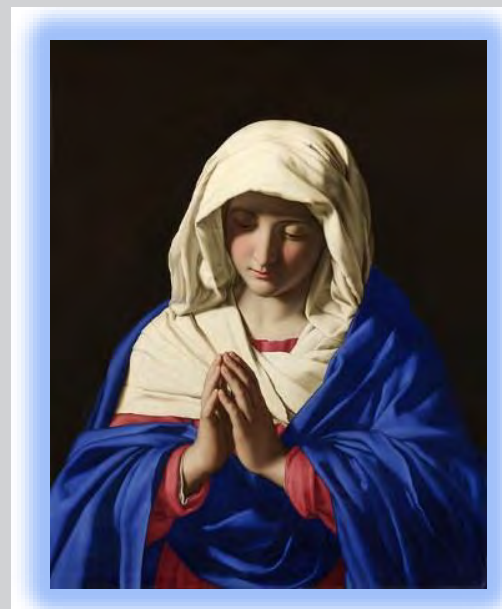
**NICHOLAS G. BALOG
BRANCH 90 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA**



Nicholas G. Balog, age 85, entered eternal life on April 3, 2017.

He was the tenth of thirteen children born to Michael and Mary Balog in Peckville, PA. He was the outstanding tackle player for Blakely High School's football team, winning two back-to-back championship games in the Eastern Conference and a member of the Blakely Papa Bear Club. He moved to Bridgeport, CT, in 1950 and worked in the steel industry until he retired from Carpenter Technology in 1989. Always very generous, he enjoyed hosting family gatherings, grilling out, and family pinochle card games. Since moving to sunny Florida in 1995, he was a member of Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, volunteered at the weekly Bingo games, annual festivals, and worked on the B-team for coffee and doughnuts on Sundays after Masses. Health issues prevented him from continued service. He is survived by his loving wife, Hildegard, of 64 years; two children, daughter, Debra (Dave Madison), son Nicholas A. (Patricia); grandchildren, Sara, Kevin, Andrew, Christopher; sister, Irene (Gerald) Zorechak, brother, Daniel (Joan) Balog. He is predeceased by sisters, Marie, Margie, Elizabeth, and brothers, Michael, John, Steve, Joseph, Peter, Eugene and Andrew. Visitation took place at Lohman Funeral Home, Port Orange, FL on Thursday April 6, 2017 with a Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, April 7, 2017, at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, Port Orange. Burial followed at Woodlawn Cemetery, Port Orange.

Prayer to the Mother of the Lord for all Mothers



Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own "Fiat." May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love- the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son.

On this Mother's day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you...

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

-From Catholic Online

Newly Updated Resource in 2017 for Slovak-related Topics



Interested in reading more about Slovakia?

There is a handy list that includes ISBN numbers for books published in Slovakia – courtesy of Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J., of John Carroll University, and newly updated for 2017 – makes for easier identification when searching for them at the library or online. Websites for locating remaindered and used books, and where to purchase them, are included at the end of the file, as well.

Go to www.fcsu.com/resources to access this list.

Or, for more information, please contact Fr. Gerald Sabo at gsabo@jcu.edu.

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

Branch 853's Charles Boone Earns Every Possible Scout Merit Badge

Branch 853 Charles Boone wears his Boy Scout sash with pride. In the history of the Boy Scouts, Charles did what only a handful of Boy Scouts have done. Charles earned every merit badge – he earned 137 of them, plus 1. The plus one means that Charles earned the Computer merit badge before it was discontinued in 2014. He then earned its replacement, the Digital Technology badge that is the one extra.

If you name a badge, he has it. Robotics was his first, it was first released months after he crossed over to boy scouts. It is fitting that the last badge released, Exploration was also Charles' last badge earned.

For the Welding merit badge, Charles along with other scouts went to the company, saw the safety procedures first hand, saw the actual work place, and then experienced what the field entails. Charles worked with the Charleroi Officer Rex (police dog) when he earned Citizenship in the Community. Presque Isle Bay is where Charles earned the Small Boat Sailing badge with the merit badge counselors from the Erie Yacht Club.

For Wilderness Survival, building a shelter and sleeping outside in a snow storm in below zero temperatures proved to be warmer than it sounds. Charles earned the Hiking badge when he hiked more miles than most

people want to imagine - on one trip, over 8000 feet. As high in elevation as he hiked, Charles went below sea level in earning the SCUBA merit badge and becoming a PADI certified open water diver.

You must earn Family Life badge to become an Eagle Scout. Charles' counselor worked diligently with the group to make it fun but also a learning experience. For the most memorable activity, she gave each scout a spoon symbolizing the parent and a plastic empty Easter egg which symbolized their child. Everyone had to follow her with their egg in the spoon and not let the egg fall.

When Charles was a patrol leader, he organized a merit badge program so that his patrol can earn the Horsemanship merit badges.

The hardest thing in working on badges, was finding a merit badge counselor. When he couldn't hook up with a counselor for the Dog Care badge, he talked to the education director at Animal Friends to see if she would become a counselor. Then he took it one step further, by working with her to start a Dog Care merit badge class at Animal Friends which is now offered.

The Skating merit badge turned all of those ice skating lessons into useful fun, and genealogy was the badge which Charles learned a lot about his own family. In being a descendent of Squire Boone, brother of Daniel Boone, he learned much from a family member who already did a long history of the family back to the 1700s. Charles researching his Slovak maternal family immigration in the 1900's, found ship records and wrote down the stories to piece together interesting facts of the of coming to the States and the early life of a Slovak immigrant. With Charles being a second generation American Slovak, he wrote down the facts, heard the songs like Hej Slovaci and learned of the hardships. He enjoys learning of his heritage and the music and dance so much that he wanted to join the Pittsburgh Slovaks.

While working on the badges, Charles



found his career. After working on the Aviation merit badge at the Erie International Airport, Charles knew he wants to be a pilot. Charles, a junior at Keystone Oaks high school, is enrolled in a dual high school/college program with the Community College of Beaver County, where Charles is an A average college freshman working towards his aviation degree.

Although the Boy Scouts do not keep records on how many scouts earn how many badges, one private website says under 350 scouts, out of the millions of boys who have been in Scouts since it began in 1910, earned all of the merit badges. Congratulations Charles on such a historic achievement.

Charles is the son of Monica Rodacy Boone, former National Auditor and former National Pension Board Trustee, and Ronald Boone of Dormont, Pennsylvania. All are active members of Branch 853.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President

Attention Rev. Stephen Furdek Ohio District 10 Members: Food, Fun, Fireworks – And Minor League Baseball - At Canal Park in Akron, OH on August 12, 2017



On Saturday, August 12, 2017, join other FCSU members in District 10, the Rev. Stephen Furdek District, for a fun evening of minor league ball as the Akron Rubber Ducks take on the Binghamton Rumble Ponies; enjoy an all-you-can-eat picnic style buffet; and watch spectacular "Bob Seger" fireworks – plus, if you are among the first 1,000 attendees – you'll receive a tin lunchbox giveaway.

All branches in District 10 are eligible to participate, including: 1, 24, 228, 319, 425, 450, 553, 714, 754, 777, 852, 855, and 862. A \$25 value, **discounted tickets** are available for District 10 members through participating branches. Non-members are welcome at the \$25 price.

The location is the state-of-the-art minor league baseball facility called Canal Park in downtown Akron, OH. It is situated at South Main Street between State and West Exchange Streets. Designed by the same company that developed other baseball gems, including Progressive Field in Cleveland and Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Canal Park also features a beautiful picnic area along the left base line.

Come early, stay late

District 10 members will enjoy a two-hour, all-you-can-eat picnic buffet that begins when the gates open at 6:00PM. Then, from the great vantage point of the Canal Park picnic area along the left base line, you can enjoy the game that starts at 7:05PM when the Akron Rubber Ducks take on the Binghamton Rumble Ponies. The evening ends with a spectacular pyrotechnic fireworks display with a "Bob Seger" theme.

The all-you-can-eat buffet, served picnic style, includes:

- Hamburgers
- Hot Dogs
- BBQ Pulled Chicken
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Potato Salad
- Potato Chips
- Cookies
- Iced Tea/Lemonade/Water

How to Reserve Your Seats

Reservations must be made by **Friday, July 28, 2017**. To reserve your tickets and for more information, please contact your local branch officers* or District President Greg Petrusek at (330) 398-1888.

*All branches in District 10 and their branch contact info can be found at fcsu.com/district/ and clicking on District 10.

August 12 Highlights:

- Date: Saturday, August 12, 2017**
- Place: Canal Park, Akron, OH**
- Gates open at 6:00PM with lunchbox giveaway to first 1,000 attendees**
- All-you-can-eat, 2-hour buffet starting at 6:00PM**
- Akron v Binghamton game, starting at 7:05PM**
- Fireworks after the game**
- Discounts on \$25 tickets through participating branches in District 10**

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius Select Jessica Pastuszek as Mission Advancement Director

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius are pleased to announce that Jessica Owens Pastuszek has been selected as Director of Mission Advancement at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, PA.

Jessica had been serving as Museum Director and Corporate Communications Coordinator at Albright Care Services, Lewisburg, where she supported the fund development and marketing teams. As Director of Slifer House Museum, she developed public programming and events, solicited donations, wrote grant requests, maintained the museum collection, developed a college internship program and oversaw a team of volunteers. In her communications role, she planned and assisted in overseeing corporate events, maintained social media sites and wrote press releases and content for publications.

As Director of Mission Advancement, Jessica has a dual role to develop funding for the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community in Danville. Some of her responsibilities include developing a long-range plan and annual goals to support the mission to provide compassionate care for the elderly and youth, working with leadership to establish a benevolent fund, directing the gift stewardship process, planning major events and managing the production of the annual report.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 12:45 PM and asked National Chaplain, Rev. Thomas Nasta, to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the February 2017 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar, Sr., to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The President stated his year-end report that was presented on Friday, March 17, 2017 at the Board of Directors meeting will be published in the April issue of the Jednota newspaper.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates
 The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Monthly Disbursements

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

Disbursements for the month of February 2017:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 270,962.32
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 38,255.60
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

The Executive Secretary stated his year-end financial report that was presented on Friday, March 17, 2017 at the Board of Directors meeting will be published in the April issue of the Jednota newspaper.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report by telephone to the Board of Directors on Friday, March 17, 2017. Each member of the Board of Directors received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Board's questions.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:
 The President led an extensive review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in April.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a summary of his report on investments that was presented to the Board of Directors on Friday, March 17, 2017 and answered the Committee's questions.

The Treasurer stated his year-end report that was presented on Friday, March 17, 2017 at the Board of Directors meeting will be published in the April issue of the Jednota newspaper.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a summary of his report that was presented to the Board of Directors on Friday, March 17, 2017 and answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President stated his year-end report that was presented on Friday, March 17, 2017 at the Board of Directors meeting will be published in the April issue of the Jednota newspaper.

MIDDLETOWN PROPERTY:

The Board of Directors gave the Executive Committee authority to review the potential broker's listing agreement.

The President stated the Executive Committee will review the listing agreement for our property in Middletown, Pennsylvania at the next meeting in April and decide which one will be best for FCSU.

MISCELLANEOUS:

All year end reports presented at the Board of Directors meeting on March 17, 2017 by the National Chaplain, Regional Directors, Chairman of Auditors and Fraternal Activities Director will be published in the upcoming issues of the Jednota newspaper.

All year-end financial reports will be published in the April issue of the Jednota newspaper.

The President stated he wants to send thanks to Joe Annotti, President of American Fraternal Alliance for his presentation to the Board of Directors.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

The President asked National Chaplain Rev. Thomas Nasta to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Finding My Slovak Mother: A Mother's Day Tribute

continued from page 10

no idea of when. He welcomed us and his wife Anna proceeded to feed us well over the next day. We managed to communicate with my weak Slovak, a handy dictionary, and some German we both knew.

Years later, he would say we looked like *chudáci* (poor and underfed people). Living meagerly on a tight budget, and starting our third month of travel, we had both lost much weight. We both wound up getting a bit sick from eating and drinking so much when we were not used to doing so. And the drinks were potent. A bottle of liquor always came out when Slovaks or Slovak Americans entertained adult visitors. A real shocker was waking up to an offer of *slivovica* (a very powerful, homemade Slovak brandy) at 6:30 in the morning; I was told it was healthy and would help my stomach. Told to gulp it down I screamed *požiar* (fire)! Thus I had my baptism in Slovak manners.

We spent the next day recovering, having our laundry washed, and attempting to communicate about our relatives. I told him that my mother had come from Richnava, a village just 13.4 km from Spišské Vlachy. Since Ján had a car, he offered to drive us there. Feasting my eyes on my mother's village was magical, and one of the crowning moments of my life that I will never forget. All the stories I had heard about life in the old country were coming to life. I could see the Hornád River, which she waded across very early every morning to go sell milk and eggs in Krompachy. Walking on the ground of her village was like walking on sacred ground, and I even put a small sample of the soil in an empty photo film container.

There I met some of her childhood friends, like Anna Čarochová and her husband, and we talked with them as best we could with my limited Slovak. Then I spoke with my mother's best friend, Mária Kurillová, whom she had watched cows with. I also met my baba's friend and neighbor and was shown the house which my mother had lived in. It was a small, simple cottage, but it felt like I had come home, and found part of me in that village. We parted one another with hugs and kisses, and I knew that I would have to return again someday, when my Slovak speaking ability would improve, and I could ask more questions.

Ján and Anna Filip also treated us like close family, and even took us for a day trip to the High Tatra Mountains. But with just an eight-day visa, we soon had to leave, and made our way to Prague on a night train with a sleeper. We did not sleep much, but I am not sure if it was from the rocking of the train, or the excitement of having one of my lifetime dreams fulfilled. But as I told them, "I shall return," and like General MacArthur, I did come back several years later.

Prague was indeed beautiful, even though it was also somewhat dirty in those days, and not clean and so welcoming as the villages and people in Slovakia. From there, we took a train to Nuremberg, and short on money, hitchhiked our way to the English Channel, for our remaining three weeks in the British Isles.

Back in the USA

Upon returning home, I realized how much that trip overseas has transformed me. I could not wait to go back, but that would take some time and effort. Due to the dearth of employment for university teaching, I decided to try teaching high school, and worked at Culver Military Academy in Indiana, but then resolved to return to the University of Pittsburgh in order to continue my doctoral studies.

In the meantime, my parents made an unexpected two week trip to Slovakia in 1981, and visited her old friends and attended a wedding. One of the funniest moments from their stay occurred when my father started singing the patriotic song "Hej Slováci" at the wedding reception. Everyone just stared at him and my mother poked him in the ribs. Little did he know, though the song was the anthem of American Slovaks, it had also been the anthem of the short-lived Slovak Republic from the World War II era. They found afterwards that singing the song in public was strictly forbidden, and subject to a two-year prison sentence! Nonetheless, their stay revitalized ties with the old country, and their stories made me all the more determined to try to live for an extended period of time in Slovakia.

All along my aim was not just to learn Slovak history, but to become fluent in the Slovak language, so I could talk with my mother in her native tongue. I realized that the best way to do that was to study in Slovakia, so I applied and successfully obtained an International Research Exchange Grant. My dissertation research would involve a study of interwar Slovak trade unions, a topic acceptable to the communist regime. But I also wished to find out about working conditions in Slovakia during the interwar and why my grandfather and many others lost their jobs at a factory in Krompachy. I would be the only American with a year-long stay in Slovakia for several years.

Studying under Communism

My year in Slovakia commenced with a stay at the summer language school, Studia Academica Slovaca. Starting in the intermediate group, I learned some more Slovak, but the real learning started after the summer school ended, for too many students there spoke English. With a week free before my research could begin, I headed out east and spent a week in Spišské Vlachy, visiting Richnava again, and hiking in the Tatra Mountains, where I befriended some Czechs who spoke Slovak as well. Having to interact in the language without the crutch of English compelled me to use Slovak, and gradually, I would become more comfortable, as virtually no one spoke English, even when I returned to Bratislava in September.

Since my research meant mainly reading, aside from conversing with the employees at the Slovak archives and university library, I spoke with others as much as I could, and would write down new words I learned in a little pocket notebook. I also took a weekly class in the Slovak language with a Pole and a Japanese girl, Fumiko Kuwahara, who became a good friend. Our professor, Dr. Prokop, did not use English at all, and stressed conversation and using the language. He said not to fear making mistakes, but getting accustomed to speaking. That I did, and by Christmas time, I was dreaming in Slovak and fluently conversing.

Home Again

By July 1983, my trip abroad ended, and I had to proceed writing my dissertation. I tried to keep up my Slovak by talking with my mother and father. In fact, I often had to remind her to speak Slovak, for I did not want to converse in English. Often, I had to stoke her memory, for living so long in the USA caused her to forget some things.

Life changed again when my wife gave birth to our first child, Milenka Anna, in 1984. I loved her so much that I gave her that name, and from the very beginning, I decided to speak only in Slovak to her and any other children that followed. My daughter Erika was born two years later, and the Slovak continued. I read Slovak children's books with them, and urged them to talk in Slovak with each other.

At this time, I also came to be one of the hosts of the Slovak Radio Program on WAUP-FM, the

station at the University of Akron, where I also taught part-time. The children used to listen to my program on Sunday evenings, and I recorded many of them. I remember how they used to dance, and Milenka and Erika would sing Slovak songs. We also used to read some Slovak children's books which I obtained. Going to occasional Slovak masses at St. Matthias helped reinforce the language. This not only helped them learn Slovak, but I learned as well, and it helped so I would not lose the language I had worked so hard at.

When at their baba's, my mother's, I urged her to speak Slovak with them. My mother helped teach me some Spiš dialect, although I spoke mainly in literary Slovak because of academic training and reading. Through it all, I was getting to know my mother better, becoming acquainted with the Slovak side of her life, and constantly trying to reach into her past.

Once I finished my dissertation, I also became more interested in genealogy and was asking her and other family members many questions about our own family history. I would eventually join the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, which provided some useful literature and lectures at conferences about composing a family history. Interviewing older family members led to some findings, but going into church records, census data, and later, working in the Slovak archives in Levoča, would help paint a clear picture of our family background. The written materials could substantiate some of oral history, and provide a context for what family handed down. They led to more questions, and some more answers. I carefully recorded all was finding out in Word documents and my Family Treemaker software.

Returning to Slovakia Again

Getting to know my Slovak mother also led to finding out more about my paternal Slovak roots. Asking my father and Aunts Mary and Helen only led so far. Thus while in Slovakia during 1990, I visited Harichovce, the home of my paternal grandmother. Asking if anyone knew of someone who knew of our family, the parish priest helped connect us with Mária Grondžaková, whose maiden name was Kopaničáková, like ours. Thus I met our distant cousin who also had roots in Ruskinovce, my paternal grandfather's birthplace. Visiting her many times afterwards, the stories she offered helped fill some parts of the puzzle which comprised our family history.

Perhaps the culmination of the quest to find my Slovak mother occurred in 1997, when I escorted my mother, her sister Helen Firment, and my father on a two week trip to Slovakia by car. There I witnessed her reconnecting with her Slovak roots in Richnava. Perhaps the most telling moment occurred when my mother and Mária Kurillová hugged each other and cried, "How poor we were!" They shared stories about their difficult past, but rejoiced in how both of their families had grown and how they had survived despite life's hurdles and the vagaries of history.

That would be my mother's last trip, for she had come down with cancer, and weakened with each passing day. Time with her became so precious, but she finally succumbed and passed away on Holy Saturday morning in the year 2000.

Following her death, I would make many more trips to Slovakia, including the first of four visits with my own children in 1998. Because I had taught them Slovak, they were able to carry on conversations, visit and understand, and also see where their Slovak baba had come from. They also established a good relationship with my mother's Slovak girlfriend, Mária Kurillová, who noticed how much Erika looked like my mother when she was young.

Back in the USA, a reconnection with my godmother who had married her first cousin John, Ann Varesčák from Indiana, Pa., further enlightened me about the character of my Slovak mother. Sharing her memories of my own baba and mother, I found out that my mother did not want to immigrate to America because she had had a boyfriend in Slovakia! She had never talked about that.

Further discoveries of my mother's past came from old photos, one of which I obtained on my 1998 trip to Slovakia. A former friend of hers lent me an old wedding photo which included both my mother and her sister Mary dressed in traditional Slovak costume (*kroj*). Still alive at the time, my mother recognized her sister, but not herself!

Thus knowing she had a Slovak costume, I later found a photo among my father's collection which included my mother and her sister Mary from Slovakia, and then another in costume after coming to the USA. Old photos can help bring new meaning to one's roots.

Extending My Mother's Roots into the Future

Since my mother passed away, and my father more recently in 2015, I have continued my quest to understand my Slovak mother and Slovak-American father. When the opportunity arises, I ask my Aunt Helen, my aging godmother, or other family members some questions. Though my Slovak mother has become clearer, I am not satisfied and continue to pursue every resource possible to better understand her.

What is important is to carry the memory on into the future. In most families, only one person, if lucky, takes an intense interest in family history. So talking about one's roots, and preserving memories and the past in writing, photos, and using Slovak regularly has helped construct our family story.

When my grandchildren were born, it presented a new opportunity to extend the family's Slovak roots into the future. I only speak with them in Slovak, and my daughters mainly do as well. I often remind the grandchildren of their Slovak connection and use photos to show them *starý dzedo* (my father, old grandfather) and *stará baba* (my mother, old grandmother). We keep them exposed to the Slovak tongue, Slovak song, and the symbols of Slovakia such as the Slovak flag.

As a result, my 3 3/4 year-old grandson Pavol can speak Slovak, and turn around and translate many sentences into English on the spot; and his 1 1/2 year old sister, Míla, understands basic Slovak and can already say a few key words like *hej*, *baba*, *dzedo*, *mama*, etc.. That is because their mother, my daughter Milenka, and I only speak with them mainly in Slovak. Teaching the language from birth has been one of the keys to carrying it on in our family. And the internet has assisted us in that task, as songs and even TV programs in Slovak can be found there.

But even if one does not have proficiency in Slovak, we can still help keep alive the remnants of our families' Slovak past by talking about it, using pictures, maps, and going to Slovak-American events together. Retaining a Slovak identity after immigration requires some effort, but the rewards of knowing where one came from far outweigh the efforts.

Discovering my Slovak mother has been a lifetime adventure, and one which I will continue to unravel and treasure as my life journey continues. Every time I speak, read, or write Slovak, or study Slovak history, I am in essence still trying to find my Slovak mother.

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

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
1-800-JEDNOTA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- information you provide to us in an application or other form;
- information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others; and
- information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, Non-Public Information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

SLOVAK PICNIC

SPONSORED BY:

THE CLEVELAND SLOVAK RADIO CLUB



SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

12 - 8 pm

Admission: \$4.00 (At the gate)

SLOVAK SOKOL CAMP

2069 ROYALWOOD RD; BROADVIEW HTS. 44147
BETWEEN STATE AND BROADVIEW RD

SLOVAK FOOD, BEER-PIVO, PASTRIES and DANCING



ENTERTAINMENT: WAYNE TOMSIC BAND

CONTACT INFORMATION:

MILAN KOBULSKY 330-239-2256

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

would like to send any information for us to review at the meeting.

Lynda Tanis, Vice President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Branch 716 members: please save the date of Aug 13, 2017, for a trip to the Marian Shrine & Don Bosco Retreat Center, 174 Filors Lane in Stony Point, NY. Look for details in an upcoming issue of Jednota.

Jan Skrkon, Acting President

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have their summer meeting on Sunday, June 25, 2017, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary, located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. All members are welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will meet on Sunday, June 25, 2017 at Noon. We will gather at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Plans for summer events will be on the agenda. Please try to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 774 – SANFORD, MICHIGAN

There has been a merger between Branch 774K Sanford, MI and Branch 780K Saginaw, MI.

All members of Branch 774K will now hold membership in Branch 780K.

This merger has taken place as of April 26, 2017. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

CATHERINE ANNE KARLSEN
2280 TAFT ST
SAGINAW, MI 48602-3855
(989) 280-4916

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold their annual Fathers' Day Mass and meeting on Sunday, June 18,

2017, at John Paul II Polish Center 3999 Rose Drive, Jorba Linda, CA, 92886. The Slovak Mass will begin at 1:30PM Slovak lunch will be served after Mass. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Fathers' Day. We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Fathers' Day.

Fraternally yours,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, D.C AND AREA

Branch 856K will hold its meeting on May 12, 2017, at 1:00pm at the Thomas Jefferson Library on 7415 Arlington Blvd. Falls Church, VA, 22042. On the agenda will be discussion on the district meeting that was held in Mahanoy City, PA, in April; a financial report; and activities for the remainder of the year. Also our yearly Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is scheduled for September 17, 2017 at 11:00 am in the crypt church. Please mark your calendar. All members are welcomed to attend this meeting in May. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Stephen Matula at 703-671-3013.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday June 21, 2017. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 919 (FORMERLY 748) - NILES, MICHIGAN

Attention Branch 919 (formerly 748) members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. All branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 919 (formerly 748) and its 48 members are greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than July 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

The charismatic blind singer from Slovakia -
"the Slovak Andrea Bocelli" - whose masterful voice
is matched by a remarkable life story



MAROŠ BANGO

In Concert May 13, 2017

**An Evening of Classical,
Pop & Traditional Folk Songs**

Doors open: 6PM

Concert: 7PM – 9PM

DJ Denis : 9PM - 11:30PM

LOCATION St. Mary's Crystal Chalet Party Center,
3600 Biddulph Ave, Cleveland OH 44109

TICKETS: \$20 adult; \$15/ages 16 and younger
Limited Seating! Advanced sales only.

Ticket includes: Appetizers, Concert, Music for Dancing
Cash Bar provided by Melendez Catering

Raffles & gift baskets available to win throughout the evening benefiting the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble. Concert proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Building Fund.

Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Matching Funds for the Lúčina Raffles provided by First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Br. 176.

For tickets call: **Miriam Visnovsky, 440-638-9921, vismimi@hotmail.com**
Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797, tivanec@aol.com

Správy zo Slovenska

Prezident vyzval úspešných študentov, aby boli nositeľmi zdravého sebavedomia

Krajina potrebuje ľudí, ako ste vy, potrebuje, aby ste boli nositeľmi zdravého sebavedomia. Týmto slovom sa nedávno prihovril prezident SR Andrej Kiska laureátom Študentskej osobnosti Slovenska, ktorých prijal v Prezidentskom paláci. Poďakoval sa im a vyzdvihol, že ich talent je jedným z dôvodov, prečo je na Slovensko hrdý. Hlava štátu pripomenula, že aj na Slovensku máme kvalitné katedry, kvalitné vysoké školy.

Jadro upadá, energie dražejú

S úbytkom jadrových elektrární a pribúdaním solárnych zdrojov rastú medzinárodné trhové ceny elektriny a zvyšujú sa aj svetové ceny ropy, s ktorými idú hore aj ceny plynu a tepla. V prípade elektriny a plynu hrozí len na základe trhového vývoja nárast cien od januára 2018 asi o 7 percent. Môže sa to zmeniť, ak by začali elektrina či ropa na trhu lacnieť. V roku 2016 bola priemerná cena ropy 41 dolárov za barel a predpoklad na tento rok je 52 dolárov. Naposledy sa zdražovalo v roku 2013, keď ropa rok predtým lákala rekordy.

Lenivosť Slovákov stojí takmer pol miliardy

Práve fyzická neaktivita stojí ľudí zdravie a štát peniaze. Ministerstvo zdravotníctva hľadá riešenie, do medzinárodného pripomienkového konania dalo plán, ktorý nás má prinútiť viac sa hýbať. Plánuje väčšiu osvetu, či zaviesť tri hodiny telesnej výchovy v školách. Riaditeľka slovenskej pobočky Svetovej zdravotníckej organizácie (WHO) Darina Sedláková však tvrdí, že veľakrát chýba finančné krytie takýchto programov a ich realizácia tak často zostáva v rovine želania.

Konečne vidím synov a manžela!

Jana (34) začala strácať zrak už ako tínedžerka. Diagnostikovali jej degeneratívne ochorenie očí - tzv. keratokonus. Prvá klasická operácia jej nepomohla. Návrat zraku nastal až po novátorskom chirurgickom zákroku. Pacientka podstúpila implantáciu faktických šošoviek. „Operácia prebehla za 10-15 minút a hlavne na druhý deň som už videla!“, teší sa pacientka Jana. Operáciu previedol primár očnej kliniky v Bratislave Radovan Piovárči.

Kupujeme elektronicky, úradujeme papierovo

Spomienkou na režim, keď Slováci hodiny stáli v radoch na nedostatkový tovar, zostali už len na úradoch, kde trávime veľa času. Nakupovať sme sa už naučili online, až 68 percent ľudí u nás využíva takúto možnosť, čo nás radí na 10. miesto v Európskej únii. Na druhej strane, len 18 percent ľudí komunikuje so štátnou správou elektronicky, v rebríčku sme obsadili 25. miesto. „Máme vybudovanú infraštruktúru a veľké informačné systémy, ale nedostatkom je chýbajúca súčinnosť a používateľská prívetivosť“, hovorí Milan Ištván, prezident združenia Partnerstvá pre prosperitu.

Tatranskí podnikatelia chcú do Álp

Spoločnosť Tatra mountain resorts z portfólia finančnej skupiny J&T je len krok od vstupu do lyžiarskeho biznisu v Alpách. Ako možný investor totiž figuruje v expanzných plánoch lyžiarskeho strediska Nassfeld-Hermagor na rozmedzí Álp a talianskych Dolomitov.

Bude na lieky v celej únii dozerat' Bratislava?

Bratislava má záujem o Európsku liekovú agentúru, ktorá zatiaľ sídli v Londýne a má v rukách zdravie 400 miliónov ľudí. Spomedzi záujemcov sme hodnotení ako ekonomicky najsilnejšia krajina s výhodnou geografickou polohou. Slovensko bude o ňu súperiť v konkurencii šiestich krajín. „Bola zriadená medzirezortná koordinačná skupina, ktorej hlavným gestorom je ministerstvo zdravotníctva v spolupráci s rezortom zahraničných vecí“, uviedla hovorkyňa rezortu zdravotníctva Zuzana Eliášová. „Znamenalo by to dobré meno pre krajinu, dokázali by sme sem pritiahnúť špičkových odborníkov na farmáciu aj z iných krajín a títo ľudia by následne viazali ďalšie skupiny, vzťahy s firmami či politické vzťahy,“ zhodnotil prezident Slovenskej lekárskej komory Ondrej Sukeľ.

Slováci nadchli. Proti Rusku ich netreba odpisovať

Šéf európskych skautov v novom klube zámožnej NHL z Las Vegas Vojtěch Kučera s desiatkami skautov z NHL je na Majstrovstvách sveta do 18 rokov na Slovensku. V rozhovore Kučera povedal, že sa snažia vidieť čo najviac zápasov a pokryť dianie na ľade v oboch mestách - Poprade a Spišskej Novej Vsi. „Po zápasoch zadávame získané informácie do počítača, kde program tieto poznatky o jednotlivých hokejistov vyhodnocuje“.

Svet uzrel slovenský aeromobil, za 1,2 milióna

Prvý komerčne predávaný aeromobil na svete je zo Slovenska. Predstaviteli ho včera v Monaku. Do predaja by sa stroj na cesty i do vzduchu mal dostať ešte tento rok a prví zákazníci si ho budú môcť zaparkovať v garáži či hangári v roku 2020. Jeho vynálezca Štefan Klein však ešte pred jeho premiérou v Monaku projekt opustil. Má v pláne založiť si vlastnú firmu. Na čele AeroMobilu ostáva spoluzakladateľ a súčasný riaditeľ Juraj Vaculík.

Švédsky kráľ sa vyváža na midibuse zo Spiša

Midibusy zo Spiša si obľúbili vodiči na cestách po celej Európe. Výrobný riaditeľ firmy Rošero-P Dalibor Dravecký potvrdil, že na trhu sú už 18 rokov, zamestnávajú 110 ľudí a sústreďujú sa na midibusy. Vyrábajú aj školské, prímestské a diaľkové autobusy, pričom ich vyvážajú predovšetkým do štátov západnej Európy.

Presadnú Slováci na dve kolesá?

V Bratislave by malo pribudnúť 750 bicyklov s GPS. O návrhu bike sharingu, teda bicykloch na „požičanie“, rokovala nedávno komisia dopravy a integračných systémov mestského zastupiteľstva v Bratislave. Návrh hovorí o približne 150 staniaciach a 750 bicykloch, ktoré by boli k dispozícii takmer zadarmo - jazdili by ste možno na električenku. Má ísť pritom o smart bicykle, každý by mal byť vybavený GPS, SIM kartou, zariadením na čítanie kariet a ďalšími vychytávkami.

Jenifer Lawrence nakrúca v Petržalke

Dodávky plné techniky a osvetlenia, početná prítomnosť SBS-károv a polície, závery a dopravné obmedzenia. Takto 25. apríla vyzeralo okolie Zrkadlového hája v bratislavskej Petržalke, kde sa nakrúcali scény amerického špiónážneho thrilleru z obdobia studenej vojny.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Vedecký seminár na tému

Mons. ThDr. Jozef Tiso – kňaz a prezident

Biskupský úrad v Nitre a Katedra dejín RKCMBF UK dňa 25. apríla 2017 spoločne zorganizovali vedecký seminár na tému *Mons. ThDr. Jozef Tiso – kňaz a prezident*. Účelom tohto akademického podujatia bolo prispieť k vedeckej diskusii o historickej téme, ktorá je v mnohom ohľade dosiaľ deziderátom historického výskumu, a sústrediť sa osobitne na jeho kňazskú dimenziu.

Prednášajúci sa snažili, ako v úvode podujatia odznelo, o analýzu významnej postavy slovenských dejín predovšetkým z pohľadu cirkevno-historického a teologického. Osobitná pozornosť sa venovala mysleniu Jozefa Tisu, jeho kňazstvu a duchovnému rozmeru, z ktorého vychádzali všetky jeho činy a postoje. Z tejto perspektívy sa prednášajúci zamerali na Tisove vnímanie dobových spoločenských problémov, židovskej otázky a sociálnej problematiky a na vzťah cirkevnej autority ku kňazovi a prezidentovi Jozefovi Tisovi.

Prezentované boli zistenia nových vedeckých výskumov ako aj doteraz známe skutočnosti. Príspevky, ktoré pre krátkosť času odzneli iba v stručnej podobe, budú v plnom znení publikované v pripravovanom vedeckom zborníku. Bohatá účasť vyše 300 poslucháčov však dokázala nielen potrebu, ale aj záujem širokej akademickej i neakademickej verejnosti o podujatia podobnej tematiky.

Nitrianske biskupstvo



Foto: Marek Mucha



Projekt pôstnych zamyslení denne prijímalo vyše sedemnásttisíc ľudí

Na Slovensku vyvrcholil projekt pôstnych myšlienok. Štyridsaťsedem krátkych myšlienok dostalo do svojho e-mailu počas marca a apríla okolo 17 tisíc zaregistrovaných ľudí. Boli medzi nimi nielen biskupi a kňazi, ale i stovky laikov. Ďalšie tisíce ľudí si myšlienky denne čítali na stránke projektu advent.kbs.sk. Zamyslenia sa šírili aj prostredníctvom vysielania Rádia LUMEN i sociálnych sieťach. Väčšia časť z nich pochádzala od sv. Vincenta de Paul. Vincentská rodina si tento rok pripomína 400 rokov od založenia svojej charizmy. Ostatné od rozličných ďalších ľudí.

„Keď Bohu slúžime a oslavujeme ho, potom sa nemusíme starať, čo iní hovoria a robia,“ prihovárал sa v poslednej myšlienke sv. Vincent de Paul. Odberatelja ju dostali na Veľkonočnú nedeľu. Cieľom projektu bolo pomôcť všetkým, ktorí prejavujú záujem, spoločne sa duchovne pripraviť na Veľkú noc. Tí, čo nemajú prístup na internet, mohli projekt podporiť svojou modlitbou, pôstom alebo inými skutkami milosrdnej lásky. Projekt nadväzuje na podobné projekty z minulosti. Tí, čo boli zapojení do predošlého, už boli registrovaní automaticky.

Projekt aktívne podporili všetci biskupi Slovenska. Osobne tiež prijímali na svoje emaily denne myšlienky. Neprijímali ich len ľudia zo Slovenska, ale

i v zahraničí. Zo štatistík vyplýva, že išlo napríklad o záujemcov z Českej republiky, Rakúska, Veľkej Británie, Spojených štátov amerických, Talianska, Írska, Nemecka, Maďarska a Srbska. Podľa štatistík zo sociálnych sietí, statusy s myšlienkami najviac čítali ľudia z Bratislavy a celkovo najviac ľudí vo veku od 18 do 24 rokov. KBS plánuje v podobnom projekte pokračovať i v najbližšom adventnom období.

Prvý podobný projekt sa konal v roku 2013. Bola to vtedy letná interaktívna duchovná podpora putovania relikvie sv. Cyrila v USA a Kanade. Ďalším boli zamyslenia na adventnú alebo vianočnú tému (2013). Neskôr to boli pôstne myšlienky súčasného Svätého Otca (2014), a potom adventné zamyslenia sv. Jána Pavla II. (2014). V rámci Roka zasväteného života sa konal Pôst zo zasvätenými (2015) a v rámci Svätého roku milosrdenstva Advent s KBS (2015). V rámci pôstu 2016 to boli myšlienky so sv. Teréziou z Lisieux, ktorej relikvie putovali po Slovensku. V Advente 2016 to boli myšlienky od rôznych autorov, ktoré pripomínali veľkú úlohu Panny Márie. Tieto myšlienky boli vybrané pri príležitosti 100. výročia zjavení Panny Márie vo Fatime, ktoré si pripomíname práve tento rok - 2017.

TK KBS

V centre Košíc postavili Máj

Oslavy Dňa mesta Košice začali v nedeľu 30. apríla pri Dolnej bráne programom EJ, MÁJE, MÁJE.. Košičanov tam zabával rad folklórnych súborov. Od Dolnej brány potom k Immaculate priniesli statní mládenci máj a za spevu folklóristov bol ihneď vztýčený. „Týmto považujem 23. ročník osláv Dňa mesta Košice za oficiálne otvorený,“ prihovril sa ľudom na Hlavnej primátor Richard Raši. Okamžite po postavení mája sa začala veselica, kde folklórne skupiny spievali a tancovali.



Foto: KORZÁR/Judita Čermáková

Máj priniesli na Hlavnú ulicu švární mládenci v krojoch.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

4. ročník Prehliadky slovenského folklóru v New Yorku, NY

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko srdečne pozýva verejnosť na 4. ročník Prehliadky Slovenského folklóru v nedeľu **21. mája 2017 o 13.00 hodine** v telocvični Church of St. John Nepomucene 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY 10065. Slovenská svätá omša začne o 10:30 hodine. V programe vystúpia operný spevák Andrew Pulver; huslička, Isabela Valcuha; hudobne skupiny Limbora, Pajtáši, Limboráčik, Hlas, Lipka Academy, Slovenská škola pri Kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Vstupné pre dospelých \$5.00 deti do 16 rokov a členov S-AKS zdarma. Možnosť zakúpiť si slovenský obed vo farskej hale od 11:30 do 12:45 hod. Podujatie sa koná s finančnou podporou Úradu pre Slovákov v zahraničí. Viac informácií na www.SlovakAmericanCC.org. Príďte podporiť našu mladú generáciu a pozvite aj svojich priateľov a známych!



Daniel F. Tanzone oslávil 70-ku

Významný americko-slovenský činiteľ Daniel F. Tanzone sa dožil 1. apríla 70 rokov. Daniel Tanzone je predsedom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a redaktorom Slovenského katolíckeho sokola. Od mladých rokov sa venuje úsiliu zachovať a zveľaďovať slovenský život v Amerike. Je aktívnym členom viacerých organizácií. A je tiež jedným z najlepších znalcov americko-slovenskej histórie. Desiatky rokov sa venoval najmä práci v Slovenskej lige v Amerike (SLvA) a Združení Slovenských katolíkov. V oboch organizáciách je už desiatky rokov členom Výkonného výboru a v Slovenskej lige bol zvolený za predsedu v roku 1985 a túto funkciu zastával do roku 1993. Boli to prelomové roky pre slovenský národ, ktorý si práve v týchto rokoch vybojoval samostatnosť. Pod vedením predsedu D. Tanzoneho a podpísaného gen. tajomníka, Slovenská liga bola v tomto procese aktívne zapojená. Oficiálni predstavitelia SLvA sa zúčastnili na formálnom vyhlásení samostatnosti v slovenskom parlamente a na nasledujúcich slávnostiach a recepciách. Pre SLvA to bolo završenie jej boja o slovenskú identitu a samostatnosť. D. Tanzone bol znovuzvolený za predsedu SLvA v roku 2006 a túto funkciu zastáva dodnes. Ako novinár prispieval do mnohých slovenských i amerických časopisov a publikácií a je autorom knihy Slovaks of Yonkers, New York. Bol tiež spoluautorom najväčšieho diela o amerických Slovákoch – knihy Slovaks in America, ktorú vydala Slovenská liga pri príležitosti 200. výročia Spojených štátov amerických. Jeho prácu ocenil aj prezident Slovenskej republiky Michal Kováč, keď mu v r. 1995 udelil Prezidentskú zlatú medailu. Dobré známe sú aj aktivity D. Tanzoneho v katolíckych organizáciách a inštitúciách, najmä v Združení slovenských katolíkov. Za túto činnosť ho pápež Ján Pavol II. vyznamenal v roku 1996 poctou Pro ecclesia et Pontifice a v roku 2005 ho kardinál Edward Eagan inštaloval za Rytiera sv. hrobu v Jeruzaleme. Daniel Tanzone venoval svoj život práci za Boha a národ a doposiaľ je pilierom v americko-slovenskom živote. Pri jeho sedemdesiatke mu želáme dobré zdravie, vytrvalosť v práci na americko-slovenskej scéne a dobrú pohodu v súkromnom živote.



Daniel F. Tanzone

Ján A. Holý/ SvA

Univerzita Komenského sa opäť dostala medzi top 500 univerzít sveta

Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave (UK) sa opakovane umiestnila medzi päťstovkou najlepších univerzít sveta. V rebríčku Round University Ranking (RUR), kde je jediným reprezentantom zo Slovenska, obsadila 433. miesto. Polepšila si tak o 12 miest, keď v roku 2016 obsadila 445. pozíciu.

Rebríček, ktorý disponuje dátami od roku 2010, hodnotí 20 indikátorov v štyroch základných oblastiach: vzdelávanie (40 %), výskum (40 %), medzinárodná diverzita (10 %) a finančná udržateľnosť (10 %). Za doterajších osem rokov ranking hodnotil 930 najlepších svetových univerzít z 80 krajín sveta.

Univerzita Komenského dosiahla najvyššie „skóre“ v oblasti vzdelávania (220. miesto). Prvé miesto v rebríčku RUR obsadila Harvard University, na druhej pozícii je California Institute of Technology (Caltech) a na treťom University of Chicago. Päťicu najlepších svetových univerzít v tomto rebríčku uzatvárajú Imperial College London (4. miesto) a Stanford University (5. miesto).

„Rebríčky najlepších svetových univerzít sú len jedným z hodnotiacich kritérií, s ktorými pracujeme. Patria však k populárnym indikátorom scientometrie a sú pre nás istým akademickým majákom ukazujúcim, v akom konkurenčnom medzinárodnom prostredí sa pohybujeme a kde by sme sa v ňom chceli dostať. Slúžia teda aj ako motivácia pre ďalšie zlepšovanie sa,“ uviedol rektor UK Karol Mičieta.

TASR

Velkonočné tradície si pripomenuli aj krajanovia v hlavnom meste USA

Pochádza z česko-slovenského pohraničia, má 81 rokov a za oceánom nikdy nebola. Teraz pricestovala do Spojených štátov, aby ukázala tunajším krajanom veľkonočné tradície. „Kde by ma to v živote napadlo, že v 81 rokoch sa ocitnem v Amerike,“ priznala Marie Švirgová z Lanžhota. Do Washingtonu s ňou prišla aj Dagmar Benešová, s ktorou v Břeclavi pôsobí vo výtvarnej folklórnej akadémii. Ich cieľom je zachovať ľudové tradície.



Chlapec maľuje veľkonočné vajíčko vo Washingtone.

Deťom s českými a slovenskými koreňmi, ktoré žijú vo Washingtonu, ukázali tradičné farbenie vajíčok v cibulových šupkách, maľovanie vajíčok fixkami, zdobenie voskom, výrobu papierových vajíčok a maľovanie ľudových ornamentov na mašle, stuhy aj vajíčka. Najväčší úspech malo zdobenie vajíčok voskom. „Všetci sa na to vrhli. Je to lákavé maľovať voskom, takže o to bol veľký záujem. Chceli sme ich naučiť maľovať na vajíčka permanentnou fixkou, toho sa báli, je to trochu zložitejšie. Chceli sme vyskúšať ešte cibulové vajíčka, to sa veľmi nikomu nechcelo,“ povedala Dagmar.

Marie priviezla z Moravy do hlavného mesta USA aj veľké perníkové vajíčka plnené prevkapaním. Priznala, že sa bála, že sa po ceste polámu, ale nakoniec všetko dobre dopadlo a vajíčka očarili malých aj veľkých. „To pečiem z perníka a maľujem a dávam do toho ešte aj kindervajce alebo nejakú vec – mačka vo vreci sa za našich mladých časov hovorilo – prevkapanie,“ vysvetlila Marie.

Tvorivé veľkonočné dielne na Veľvyslanectve Českej republiky boli tento rok vo Washingtonu jediným podujatím svojho druhu, a tak tam zavítali aj Slováci.

„Farbíme vajíčka a manžel sa veľmi teší na slovenskú tradíciu – používanie korbáča,“ opísala Lucia veľkonočné sviatky v česko-slovenskej rodine žijúcej vo Washingtonu. Dodala, že ich dvojročný syn má zase najradšej americkú tradíciu – hľadanie vajíčok ukrytých na dvore. „Snažíme sa to nejakú všetko spojiť dohromady, aby sme si z každého odniesli to najkrajšie, čo tie tradície ponúkajú,“ uviedla Lucia. Slovenské a americké tradície spájajú aj v rodine ďalšej Slovenky, tam sa však už vzdali korbáčov. „Už tie tradície s vodou a korbáčikmi nerobíme, ale máme pekné kraslice zo Slovenska. A potom k tomu trochu aj tie americké tradície.“

Slováci vo Washingtonu a okolí si pripomenuli rodnú krajinu aj na veľkonočnej omši, kde zazneli slová v slovenčine. Biblický verš v rodnej reči predniesol Miloš Tóth, starosta organizácie Sokol Washington, ktorá združuje Čechov a Slovákov v hlavnom meste USA.

TASR

Mobilná učebňa slovenského jazyka pre krajanov

Vážení krajanovia, radi by sme Vás pozvali na vzdelávací program organizovaný Útvorom Jazykovej a odbornej prípravy cudzincov a krajanov Centra ďalšieho vzdelávania Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave „Mobilná učebňa slovenského jazyka pre krajanov“, ktorý sa uskutoční v študijnom a kongresovom stredisku v Modre-Harmónii a vo vybraných častiach Slovenska, v termíne **18.06. – 23.06.2017**. Vzdelávací program je určený krajanom vo veku 15 – 18 rokov, žijúcim v zahraničí, ktorí majú záujem spoznávať národné, kultúrne a prírodné pamiatky Slovenska a zdokonaľovať sa v slovenskom jazyku. Viac informácií na našej web-stránke, prípadne kontaktujte p. Plekancovú, e-mail: plekancova@cdv.uniba.sk, tel. č.: +421 2 54410902, +421 911911700.

Prihlášky akceptujeme len elektronicky cez portál eduabroad.sk. Ďalšie programy pre krajanov nájdete na stránke vzdelávanie krajanov a na portály eduabroad.sk. Tešíme sa na vašu účasť.

Mgr. Tatiana Ilavská, PhD. manažérka marketingu



Mama

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Izraelskú planinu. Prešiel popri dverách veľkých kráľov východu až prišiel k žene, ktorá kľáča v modlitbe. Povedal jej: *Zdravas' milosti plná*. Hneď potom bola dotknutá Duchom lásky a v sebe počala najväčšiu Lásku, akú kedy svet poznal. V tomto máme úžasné poučenie: *Sám Boh prišiel na svet na rukách matky*. Tridsať rokov žili v tesnej blízkosti: Matka a Syn, Mária a Ježiš. Neopustila Ho ani počas rokov verejného účinkovania. V rozhodujúcej chvíli, ktorá začínala meniť ľudské dejiny, bola prítomná pod Jeho krížom a v bolestiach Golgoty sa stala Matkou všetkých Ježišových bratov a sestier.

Albino Luciani (neskorší pápež Ján Pavol I.) raz sedel vo vlaku a videl ženu, ktorá svoje dieťa uložila späť do siete na batožinu. Keď sa maličky prebudil, videl zhora zo siete svoju mamu, ktorá sedela oproti. Zavolať: *Mami*. A ona odvetila: *Ano môj poklad*. Takto rozhovor prebiehal dobrú chvíľu: *Mama – zhora dole; Ano, môj poklad – zdola hore*. Iné slová neboli potrebné.

Niet na svete človeka bez pozemskej matky a niet kresťana bez nebeskej Matky. Nezabudnime na to, že pre obe zostávame navždy ich pokladom. Obe si chceme uctiť v tomto mesiaci. S kvetmi podať kus svojej lásky.

terasafarnost.sk

Mesto Poprad podpíše Memorandum s fínskym mestom Oulu

Mesto Poprad podpíše Memorandum o vzájomnej spolupráci s fínskym mestom Oulu. Zámer schválili poslanci počas dnešného zasadnutia mestského zastupiteľstva v Poprade. Oulu je najväčšie mesto v severnom Fínsku. Leží na severovýchodnom pobreží Botnického zálivu Baltského mora pri ústí rieky Oulu. „So svojimi takmer 200.000 obyvateľmi je to piate najľudnatejšie mesto Fínska. Mesto je v Európe známe okrem iného aj ako „laboratórium života“, v ktorom obyvatelia experimentujú s využívaním nových technológií ako napríklad NFC, teda bezkontaktnou komunikáciou,“ uviedla vedúca oddelenia strategického rozvojového manažmentu Mestského úradu v Poprade Marta Kurpašová.

Podľa nej sa Oulu v rokoch 2012 a 2013 umiestnilo medzi siedmimi najinteligentnejšími mestami na svete, čo môže pomôcť aj popradskej samospráve, ktorá postupne zavádza v meste viaceré smart riešenia. „Cieľom bude podpora vzájomného spoznávania obyvateľov, spolupráca, solidarita, spoločná orientácia na aktivity v oblasti moderných technologických riešení pre Smart City, inovatívnych a informačno-komunikačných technológií a ich využitia v praxi a zároveň i prispievanie k vytvoreniu jednotnej Európy,“ priblížila. Podľa primátora Popradu Jozefa Švagerka sa pripravuje veľká spolupráca medzi Slovenskom a Fínskom. Zároveň podotkol, že Oulu nebude družobné mesto, ale samospráva, s ktorou bude Poprad spolupracovať.

TASR

Motorový vlak odvezie turistov za pamiatkami UNESCO na Spiš

Turisti z východu Slovenska budú môcť spoznať pamiatky UNESCO na Spiši netypicky. Organizácia Košice Región Turizmus pre nich pripravila jazdy motorovým vlakom. Prvý vlak vyrazí na Spiš už od 2. apríla 2017.

„Ak ponímame Košice ako základný východiskový bod turistu, ľudia sa vedú do 100 minút dopraviť až k 18 pamiatkam zapísaným na Zozname svetového kultúrneho a prírodného dedičstva UNESCO. Preto sme pripravili ponuku v podobe výletov nostalgickým vlakom aj po tých tratiach, kde už v súčasnosti nepremávajú. Pred nami je v tomto roku šesť výletov k najzávažnejším pýcham regiónu svetového významu,“ ozrejmila výkonná riaditeľka Košice Región Turizmus Lenka Vargová Jurková. Súčasťou výletov vlakom je tiež ponuka uceleného programu a služby turistického sprievodcu.

Súčasťou UNESCO pamiatok na Spiši je nielen samotný Spišský hrad, ktorý patrí medzi najnavštevovanejšie pamiatky na Slovensku, ale aj sídlo spišského biskupstva v Spišskej Kapitule. Dominantou je Katedrála sv. Martina, zapísaná v zozname UNESCO. Pár kilometrov od Spišského Podhradia sa nachádza aj Kostol Ducha Svätého v obci Žehra, ktorý je do tohto zoznamu tiež zapísaný. Vo svojom interieri ukrýva vzácne fresky. Po celodennom výlete vyrazí vlak zo Spišského Podhradia nazad do Košíc o 17.10 h. „K výletu za krásami Košického kraja prispieje samotný dopravný prostriedok, a to legendárne motorové vozne 810, ale aj cieľová stanica v Spišskom Podhradi, ktorá je už niekoľko rokov opustená. Je však ideálnym východiskovým bodom k pamiatkam svetového významu,“ priblížil predseda občianskeho združenia Detská železnica Košice Ľubomír Lehotský.

Výlety za pamiatkami svetového významu vyvrcholia 17. novembra retro jazdou do Plešivca a jaskyne Domica.

TASR

Veľvyslankyňa SR O. Algayerová vymenovali do vysokej funkcie OSN v Ženeve

Veľvyslankyňa SR Oľga Algayerová sa stala novou výkonnou tajomníčkou Európskej hospodárskej komisie Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN) v Ženeve. Do funkcie ju vymenoval generálny tajomník OSN António Guterres. Informoval o tom 18. apríla Tlačový odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR. Algayerová je doterajšia stála predstaviteľka SR pri medzinárodných organizáciách vo Viedni.

„Nesmierne ma teší, že Slovensko má popri pomerne dobrom personálnom obsadení v štruktúrach EÚ – čo do počtu i čo do kvality – osobnosti, ktoré nachádzajú svoje uplatnenie aj v medzinárodných organizáciách, ako sú tie pod hlavičkou OSN. Je to výraz kvality a vyzretosti slovenskej diplomacie, ktorú si v zahraničí uvedomujú a som hrdý na to, že táto vysoká funkcia pripadla už po tretí raz slovenskému občanovi,“ reagoval na vymenovanie šéf slovenskej diplomacie Miroslav Lajčák.

Vymenovanie je podľa ministerstva zahraničia ocenením lídrovských a diplomatických zručností veľvyslankyne Algayerovej, ako aj prejavom uznania jej hlbokej znalosti problematiky a schopnosti budovať partnerstvá kľúčových aktérov s OSN. Rezort pripomína, že Algayerová pracovala viac ako 20 rokov v oblasti zahraničného obchodu, v rezorte diplomacie SR zastávala okrem iného aj funkciu štátnej tajomníčky.

Európska hospodárska komisia je jednou z piatich regionálnych komisií OSN vo svete zameraných na regionálny hospodársky rozvoj. MZVaEZ pripomína, že funkciu jej výkonného tajomníka v minulosti zastával bývalý minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš aj bývalá ministerka financií SR Brigita Schmögnerová.

TASR



Centrom Bratislavy 18. apríla podvečer pochodovali tisíce ľudí proti korupcii.

April 18 protest march against corruption in Bratislava.

Centrom Bratislavy pochodovali tisíce ľudí proti korupcii

Centrom Bratislavy 18. apríla podvečer pochodovali tisíce ľudí proti korupcii. Vyjadriť tak chceli nespokojnosť s tým, že na Slovensku podľa nich jedna korupčná kauza strieda druhú a vinníci sa netrestajú. Trasa pochodu viedla z Hviezdoslavovho námestia cez Jesenského a Štúrovu ulicu na Námestie SNP, kde prebiehala hlavná časť programu.

Podľa odhadu organizátorov, ako aj príslušníkov bratislavskej mestskej polície, sa pochodu zúčastnilo zhruba 5000 ľudí. Účastníci pochodu kričali heslá - „skutok sa stal“, „chceme lepšiu krajinu“ či „nie je nám to jedno“. Akcie sa zúčastnilo aj viacero známych osobností spoločenského a kultúrneho života.

Protikorupčný pochod zorganizovali dvaja 18-roční stredoškólači Karolína Farská a Dávid Straka. Ako tvrdia, sú unavení z toho, že peniaze sa strácajú v korupčných aférach a politici hlas ľudí vôbec nepočujú. Dôsledky korupcie musia podľa nich znášať obyčajní ľudia.

„Sme frustrovaní zo situácie na Slovensku. Tento pochod je venovaný hlavne boju proti korupcii. My ako študenti chceme v tejto krajine ostať. Čo sa tu však deje, odrádza veľa z nás. To, že krajina nemôže prosperovať, je práve tou korupciou,“ priblížil zámer zorganizovania pochodu Straka. Obaja študenti vyjadrujú nesúhlas so súčasným stavom spoločnosti, ktorý je podľa nich dlhodobo neudržateľný a je jedným z hlavných dôvodov narastania podpory pre extrémistické sily.

V memorande, ktoré dnes odovzdali na Úrade vlády SR, žiadajú dôkladné vyšetrovanie kauz „Bažernák“ a „Gorila“, odvolanie ministra vnútra Roberta Kaliňáka (Smer-SD) a prezidenta Policajného zboru SR Tibora Gašpara. Taktiež požadujú odstúpenie špeciálneho prokurátora Dušana Kováčika a pokračovanie vo vyšetrovaniach a súdnych konaniach ohľadom všetkých Vladimírom Mečiarom amnestovaných skutkov.

TASR

Košice sa uchádzajú o členstvo v sieti UNESCO Creative Cities Network

V košickej Kunsthalle koncom apríla aktéri pôsobiaci v oblasti verejného života, v sektoroch kultúry, kreatívneho priemyslu, IT priemyslu a odborného vzdelávania podpísali memorandum o spolupráci.

Mesto Košice sa zapojí do otvorenej výzvy Siete kreatívnych miest UNESCO Creative Cities Network a bude sa tak uchádzať o možnosť vstúpiť do tohto klubu. V košickej Kunsthalle dnes aktéri pôsobiaci v oblasti verejného života, v sektoroch kultúry, kreatívneho priemyslu, IT priemyslu a odborného vzdelávania podpísali memorandum o spolupráci.

„Ide o špeciálny projekt a mesto má šancu získať titul UNESCO Kreatívne mesto nových médií. Ide o projekt, ktorý spája umenie s novými technológiami, kreativitou, digitálnymi technológiami alebo sektorom informačných technológií. Ide o ponúknutie umenia občanom možno tak, ako ho doteraz vždy nechápali a je to také spojenie umenia ako ho chápeme, s tým, čo prináša život a nová doba,“ vysvetlil primátor Košíc Richard Raši.

Podľa jeho slov je uchádzanie sa o členstvo v sieti UNESCO Creative Cities Network predovšetkým príležitosťou pre mesto Košice pokračovať v rozvoji, ktorý naštartoval titul Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013 a znamená to veľký potenciál na rozvoj.

Prípravou prihlášky mesta Košice do UNESCO Creative Cities Network bola poverená nezisková organizácia Creative Industry Košice, ktorá pracuje na stratégii kandidatury zapájajúc aj ďalších hráčov v meste a regióne.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network bola založená v roku 2004 s cieľom združovať mestá, ktoré identifikovali kreativitu ako významný faktor pre trvalo udržateľný rozvoj. Aktuálne má 116 členov z celého sveta. Každé kreatívne mesto sa orientuje na jedno zo siedmich odvetví: hudbu, literatúru, film, ľudové umenie a remeslá, dizajn, mediálne umenie a gastronómiu. Košice majú ambíciu byť kreatívnym mestom mediálneho umenia. Členstvo v UNESCO Creative Cities Network nie je časovo obmedzené.

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Foto: TASR

Na archívnej snímke rodina kráča po ceste k Spišskému hradu.



Košice, ilustračná snímka.

O. Štefan Furdek
Naš zakladateľ

FOTO TASR – Michal Svitok

Spoločná fotografia účastníkov Konferencie predsedov parlamentov členských štátov Európskej únie na Bratislavskom hrade 24. apríla 2017. Na snímke uprostred predseda NR SR Andrej Danko naľavo od neho predseda Európskeho parlamentu Antonio Tajani.

Parliamentary presidents of the European Union held a conference in Bratislava on April 23-24, 2017. President of the Slovak Parliament Andrej Danko stands in the center beside President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani.

Na summit v Bratislave prišlo 45 delegácií zo všetkých krajín EÚ

Zriadenie Spoločnej parlamentnej kontrolnej skupiny pre kontrolu činnosti Europolu, a to spoločným rozhodnutím zúčastnených predstaviteľov európskych parlamentných komôr. Aj to bola jedna z tém Summitu predsedov parlamentov krajín Európskej únie (EÚ), ktorý sa v Bratislave uskutočnil 23. a 24. apríla.

Súčasťou tohto rozhodnutia malo byť aj odsúhlasenie spôsobu nominácie členov za jednotlivé parlamenty a spôsob fungovania takejto spoločnej parlamentnej kontrolnej skupiny.

Do Bratislavy prišlo takmer 300 delegátov zo všetkých krajín EÚ. Účasť na podujatí aktuálne potvrdilo 45 zahraničných delegácií, z toho 29 predsedov parlamentov, 11 podpredsedov a päť delegácií bolo zastúpených na nižšej úrovni.

Úvodná časť pracovného programu konferencie bola zameraná predovšetkým na zhodnotenie výsledkov slovenského predsedníctva v Rade EÚ a jeho parlamentnej dimenzie. Na konferencii okrem iných vystúpili aj predseda Európskeho parlamentu Antonio Tajani a podpredseda Európskej komisie pre pracovné miesta, rast, investície a konkurencieschopnosť Jyrki Katainen.

TASR

Mama

V jednej staršej slovenskej piesni sa spieva: *Najkrajšia hviezdica z celého nebička je tvoja mamička, ktorú ti Boh dal.* Takto máme nebo i zem plné trblietajúcich sa hviezd, ktorými sú naše mamy.

Mama – veľké slovo, čo sa skvie naveky. Čo ju robí takou jedinečnou, drahou a nikým nenahraditeľnou? Je to jej životodarná materinská láska. Pre matku je láska akoby príkazom a objímanie zákonom. Stále zostáva objímajúcou matkou, nech by sa deťom stalo čokoľvek, nech by čokoľvek vykonali. Ona najdokonalejšie a najviditeľnejšie stelesňuje milosrdenstvo nebeského Otca. Na každý úsmev má svoj úsmev; na každý povzdych svoju pozornosť a na každý poklesok svoje odpustenie.

Spisovateľ Lajos Perlaky prirovnáva naše srdce ku kláštornej cele s jedinou ozdobou na stene a tou je obraz vlastnej matky. A dodáva, že v živote možno pretrhať všelijaké väzby a vzťahy, ale nie je možné pretrhnúť vlákno, ktoré púta človeka k tomuto obrazu. Každú tvár možno zabudnúť, ale na drahú tvár, ktorú si prvú zamilujeme, len čo vieme otvárať svoje náručie, nikdy nemôžeme zabudnúť!

Materstvo je veľmi vznešené, priam posvätné. Podľa arcibiskupa Fultona Sheena nemôže byť bez ideálu a tým ideálom je Panna Mária. Jedného dňa zostúpil anjel svetla na

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Na Turíce svetlo mysle, lásku srdca, zdravie tela

Prečo si neblahoželáme a neposielať pozdravy aj k Turíciam ako k Vianociam či k Veľkej noci? Zaskočila ma nedávno otázka môjho šéfa. Takže prečo nie? Na Turíce „svetlo mysle, lásku srdca a zdravie tela“ po celý život. Na sviatok Zoslania Ducha Svätého sa často pozeráme ako na čosi rituálne, čo oslavujeme medzi inými liturgickými sviatkami. Najprv Veľká noc, potom Nanebovstúpenie, napokon Turíce, po nich ešte Svätodušný pondelok.



Recept pátra Cantalamessu

Nevedomujeme si, že Turíce sú stálou prítomnosťou v našich životoch. Duch sa človeku nielen na sviatok, ale denne ponúka, aby urobil jeho život šťastným.

Pápežský kazateľ Raniero Cantalamessa vo svojej knihe *Spev Ducha* odкрýva biblickú perspektívu účinku Ducha Svätého, ktorý „pôsobí na celého človeka, na jeho myseľ, srdce i telo“. Vysvetľuje, že „pre každú z týchto častí ponúka osobitný dar: svetlo pre myseľ, lásku pre srdce a zdravie pre telo“. Čo to však znamená konkrétne? Nie sú turíčne dary len akési príslušby o šťastí, ktoré si vynucujú svojimi vzdychaniami účastníci „letničiarskych“ stretnutí a dokladajú to prípadmi uzdravení tých, o ktorých sa dodatočne dozvieme, že po čase upadli opäť do svojich chorobných stavov? A čo je svetlo mysle dnes, keď sa všetky veci vo svete komplikujú a my sa čoraz menej vyznáme v udalostiach? A láska srdca... v tomto tvrdom prestížnom prostredí sa predsa čoraz viac stráca! Napokon je tu zdravie tela, kde hranicu medzi prirodzeným a umelým už biológovia nevedia stanoviť a kde sa dá manipuláciou génov všeličo meniť. Načo Ducha?

Turíčne objatie človeka

Duch Svätý nám osvecuje a vyvažuje všetky tri oblasti (mysle, srdce i telo) naraz. Až v tejto harmónii môže človek žiť plnú pravdu o sebe. Niežeby sme dostávali zhora hotové riešenia našich problémov ani okamžité telesné zázraky, ale Duch v nás vyrovnáva tie krajnosti, v ktorých silno prevažuje iba jedna stránka našej bytosti. Tomu, kto sa príliš zaoberá svojim telom a zdravím či svojou materiálnou existenciou, Duch Svätý prostredníctvom nedostatku pripomenie, že sú tu aj iné hodnoty – poznanie a krása ľudských vzťahov. Kto všetko vkladá do zhrňania vedomostí a hodnoty vzdelania, toho Duch privedie k objaveniu lásky – v jej jednoduchosťi a nádhre. A kto sa ženie citovo od jedného vzťahu k druhému, toho Duch bolestne upovedomí, že bez rozumu si nevypustuje hlboký vzťah. Napokon tým, ktorí pohrdajú hmotou a telom – myslia si, že vyžijú iba z duchovných ideálov – dá Duch pocítiť, že telo s jeho potrebami nemožno preskočiť.

Turíce sú darom zhora vytvárajúcim v človeku zjednotenie múdrosti poznania, inteligencie srdca a ich prežarovanie cez telo. Boh nám takto dáva možnosť žiť celostne už na tomto svete. Umožňuje, aby sa ľudia s darmi Ducha rozpoznali, zjednocovali a vymieňali si bohatstvá svojich osobností. A šírili turíčneho ducha ďalej.

Mária Raučinová, KN



On May 2, 2017 Slovak President Andrej Kiska (right) welcomed Prince Albert II of Monaco in Bratislava on his official two-day visit to Slovakia.



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke vpravo prezident SR Andrej Kiska a vľavo monacké knieža Albert II. počas stretnutia v Prezidentskom paláci 2. mája 2017 v Bratislave. Monacké knieža Albert II. pricestoval na dvojdňovú oficiálnu návštevu Slovenska.