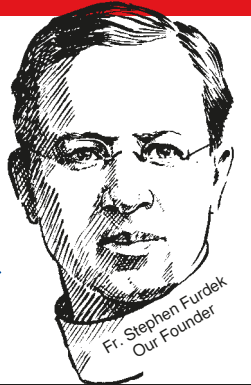




Jednota

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Volumne 118

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

NUMBER 5799



L-R FCSU National President Andrew Rajec, Idka Rajec, Anne Mitro, President of the Parish Council, and Milos Mitro, Regional Director.

SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Mississauga Celebrates 75th Anniversary

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding on Sunday, April 19, 2009. The Most Reverend Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, presided over the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Following the liturgy, the parish hosted

a Diamond Anniversary Luncheon at the Capital Banquet Centre in Mississauga. There were 524 parishioners, clergy and guests in attendance. Among the special guests were FCSU National President Andrew Rajec and his wife Mrs. Idka Rajec, Msgr. Peter Polando, Pastor of St. Matthias Church in Youngstown, The Honorable Paul Szabo, MP for Mississauga South; and Larry Glugosh, President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Included in the banquet program was a video presentation documenting the first 25 years of the parish. The Vychodna Slovak Dancers provided entertainment after the meal.

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NATO at 60: Dissolve or Expand Further?

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum, FRSC

When the Berlin Wall was breached 20 years ago, on 9 November 1989, one of history's greatest confrontations came to an end. An extraordinary socio-political experiment that had cost millions of lives, namely Soviet communism, was relegated to the dustbin of history when the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe rejected its aims, policies, and form of government and turned or returned to liberal democracy and a free market economy in the years that followed. All of the institutions that Soviet communism had put in place, be they national or international, like the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, better known as COMECON, and the Warsaw Pact Organisation, disappeared quickly.

Soviet communism had appeared in 1917 to become in the decades that followed a chal-

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- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications
Visit our web site at FCSU.com

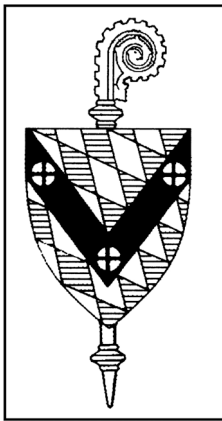


FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, KENNETH ARENDT:

The First Catholic Slovak Union 2009 International Golf Tournament will be held jointly with the Slovak Catholic Sokol on August 14-16, 2009 at the Clarion Oaks and Hi-Level Golf Resorts in Clarion, Pennsylvania. We are very excited at this opportunity to have a historic social event with the Slovak Catholic Sokol. We encourage all our members to get involved and come out and support this event. We are asking all our branches to consider being a sponsor for one or more of your members so they may participate in this exciting event. We look forward to seeing everyone on August 14th. Mark your calendars!

Registration entry form and further information detailing the packages available will be in the next issue of the Jednota Newspaper and on our Website.

Insights and Viewpoints



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

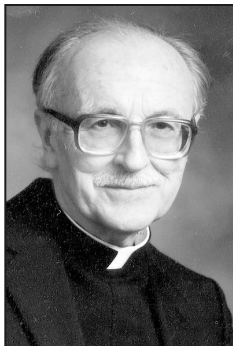
May 24, 2009

the Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17: 11b-19

Gospel Summary

This passage is part of the high-priestly prayer of Jesus that John uses as the climax of the Last Supper Discourse. Its beauty of poetic expression and depth of meaning cannot be captured in a prosaic summary. A summary at most serves as a



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

focus for study in preparation for hearing the prayer in its proper context of the Eucharistic liturgy.

Jesus prays that those who believe in him may be one just as he is one with God, his Holy Father. In his prayer Jesus says that he came into a hostile world to save those the Father gave him from destruction by the evil one. Jesus now is coming to the Father. He will consecrate himself for his disciples so that they may also be consecrated in truth. He will send them into the world as the Father sent him into the world.

Life Implications

A key for grasping the life implications of Jesus' prayer lies in the final verse: "And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth." To consecrate himself means that Jesus offers himself as sacrifice to God, his Holy Father. The word sacrifice, like consecrate or sanctify, refers to the realm of God, the Sacred or the Holy One. In opposition to the realm of the Holy in John's gospel is the "world," hostile to God because it is under the dominion of the "evil one." We who are of the world cannot by our own efforts cross the infinite divide into the realm of the Holy. It is only God who invites and enables us to come into the sanctifying presence through offering ourselves as sacrifice. The offering of self is not complete without God's acceptance. Only then are we consecrated through the gift of being touched by the Holy.

An essential consequence of giving oneself to God is that one belongs to God, and thereby exists for God's use. Otherwise, sacrifice would be as meaningless as giving someone a car, while retaining its use for one's own projects. The gift of consecration by God through sacrifice always involves a mission to advance God's projects in the world.

Of the great variety of sacrifices in the biblical tradition, one is particularly significant in regard to Jesus' high-priestly prayer at the Last Supper. In this tradition a person could offer an animal representing oneself to God. The animal is burned to signify passage into the realm of the Holy. God accepts those making the sacrifice, and invites them to share a sacrificial banquet as an expression of divine communion that has been given. The experience of communion with God is the reason that offering sacrifice of whatever kind in the biblical tradition is associated with joy.

Deuteronomy 16:11-12 illustrates the life implications of offering oneself in sacrifice: "You shall rejoice in his presence together with your son and daughter...with the alien, the orphan, and the widow among you. Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt." We see the joy of celebrating a sacrificial banquet with God. And we see that God uses the one consecrated by the divine presence to serve the destitute and the outcasts of society. If you give yourself to God in sacrifice, you will be used for love.

In his high-priestly prayer Jesus says: "But now I am coming to you...And I consecrate myself for them." Jesus' entire life was a coming to God as sacrifice. Jesus did not offer an animal representing himself; he gave himself in his entire humanity. The climactic completion of his sacrifice comes when he is lifted up on the cross and is accepted by the Holy Father in the resurrection.

At the Last Supper before the completion of his sacrifice, Jesus reveals the good news that his disciples will be consecrated as he is consecrated. With the same mission as was given to Jesus, they will be sent to bring the fallen world, which God loves, into the joy of divine life. In the Catholic tradition, Christ's presence in the mystery of his eternal sacrifice is actualized in every celebration of the Lord's Supper. Today, we also hear the good news that our self-giving becomes one with the self-giving of Jesus. In the joy of this undreamed of communion with the sacrifice of Christ, we offer our prayer of thanks and praise. We share the sacrificial banquet to which God invites us, receiving Jesus himself as food and drink for eternal life. Then the Lord sends us into the world as he was sent to become bread and wine for others, so that all may rejoice in being one with him in the life and love of God.

May 31, 2009

Pentecost Sunday

John 20: 19-23

Gospel Summary

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the wonderful good news that the risen Lord has poured out his Spirit upon us, first of all to convince us of his victory over sin and death, and then to enable us to continue his work of salvation by our own love and concern for others.

As we can well imagine, the disciples were filled with fear and foreboding after the death of their master. But suddenly Jesus is there among them radiant with life. He shows them his terrible wounds, which have now become beautiful emblems of his love for them. He offers them his peace—that deep, calm, resonant sense of confidence, which is so different from the peace that the world can offer—a superficial peace that amounts to little more than a temporary cessation of hostilities. This profound peace becomes possible through the presence of his Spirit in them.

And then Jesus tells them what possessing the Spirit will mean in their lives. Henceforth, they will need to be converted from their natural tendency to be self-centered to an attitude of loving concern for others. And this will be manifested first and foremost by their willingness to forgive others. This would be impossible if we did not enjoy the powerful presence of the Spirit who enables us to overcome our constant judgmental tendencies.

Life Implication

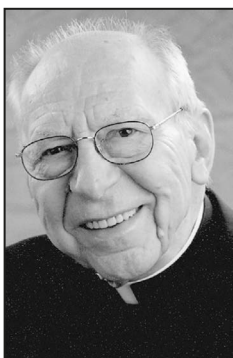
As fragile human beings, we know the experience of living in fear and of being anxious and worried about many things, some of which exist only in our imagination. Jesus, having absorbed the ultimate violence, offers us his peace and thereby enables us to be confident and joyful in the face of even severe uncertainty and threat. This represents a real experience of liberation from the paralysis of fear—a paralysis that often prevents us from doing beautiful and risky things, like giving cut flowers!

With this peace and joy comes the obligation to share our blessings with others. It was once thought that the command of Jesus to forgive or retain sins was addressed only to priests and referred only to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Now it is clear that this charge is addressed to all the followers of Jesus. We must all accept the wonderful and awesome responsibility of offering or withholding forgiveness. In this case, the sin of omission looms large and should make us all examine our consciences in regard to the many times that we may have persisted in nursing old injuries or have refused to make allowance for extenuating circumstances in the lives of those we call sinners.

In this regard, we should recall the very strong words of Jesus in the Sermon on the

continued on page 4

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

The First Epistle of Paul to Timothy

The three letters, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, have been considered since 1750, to be The Pastoral Letters because they are not addressed to the people of the Christian communities but to the pastors/shepherds of these communities.

Timothy (Gk. Timotheos—"honoring the god") was a native of Lystra in Lycaonia, a region of central Asia Minor, and the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. Paul permitted Timothy to be circumcised out of consideration for Timothy's mother, Eunice. (Acts 16:1-3) His grandmother's name was Lois and she was the first to become Christian. Timothy was a companion and associate of Paul, teaming up with him when Paul passed Lystra on his second missionary journey.

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JEDNOTA

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Annual Reports

Annual Report of the National Chaplain

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the FCSU:

It is an honor to be your National Chaplain. I was happy to be present for and to participate in several events during the past year.

In January I joined others from across the country in Washington, D.C. and participated in the annual March for Life.

I was present for all four Board of Directors meetings that were held in 2008. I traveled to the three meetings held at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio and attended one by means of teleconference. I opened and closed each session with prayer. Mass was offered at the Board meetings held at the Home Office.

In April I drove to Youngstown, Ohio to participate in the annual Bowling Tournament and offered Mass for all who attended.

In July I traveled to Canton, Ohio for the annual Jednota Golf Tournament. I played in the tournament and celebrated Mass for those who attended.

A few days after the Golf Tournament, I returned to Ohio and concelebrated a Mass during which the Rt. Rev. Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B. was installed as Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland.

As a member of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I traveled to Wilkes-Barre, PA and Altoona, PA for their Board meetings. I remained one extra day in Altoona for the biannual meeting of the Conference of Slovak Clergy.



Attention Members of:

Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District & Michigan District

On Sunday, June 14, 2009 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. the Membership and Marketing Committee will hold a Sales Seminar at the Hilton Suites, 10 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. This seminar is open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union interested in learning more about our products and selling them.

Because time is of the essence, we must start on time and not deviate from the program. At the seminar, sales brochures and rate charts will be distributed.

All branch officers, district officers, recommenders, and First Catholic Slovak Union members interested in learning and selling our insurance and annuity products are urged to attend this seminar. Form a car pool.

Lets get involved with sales.

Please RSVP to our National Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt by June 8 at 1-800-533-6682.

Until we meet the seminar.

Good Luck and God Bless!

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

National Vice President

Membership and Marketing Chairman

I was privileged and honored to be a guest of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union at their 39th National Convention.

I was appointed by President Andrew Rajec to a special committee comprised of Board members from the First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Ladies Catholic Slovak Association. This committee was established to discuss issues of common interest between the two societies. I attended two meetings.

Throughout the year I have written articles that were published in our fraternal's newspaper and have answered correspondence that was sent to me.

The year 2008 was a special year of grace for all of us. May our Lord continue to bless us in our journey to Him.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain

Report of the Chairman of Auditors

Father Nasta, President Rajec, and Board of Directors:

The Internal Audit Team, comprised of auditors Thomas A. Bardar, Raymond G. Lako, John J. Leskovyansky, Jr. and under my direction, conducted independent and proactive audits for the entire year 2008. The audit team furnished management with analyses and recommendations concerning the activities reviewed, functioning under the policies as written in the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, effective January 1, 2007.

Audits conducted during the year include:

Annuities	Death Claims
Bank Reconciliations	Payroll
Corporate Credit Cards	IT Inventory
Expense Reports	Points and Commissions
New Insurance Applications	Vouchers
Stipend Approval	Scholarships

Concerns were uncovered, though quickly corrected, in the area of credit card payments, annuity interest calculations and AD&D policies. Areas of pending concern are expense reports, delegate qualifications and location of the upcoming convention and deposit agreement commission.

Copies of my reports given to the Board of Directors as well as copies of audits performed were made available to Mr. Mertz, our external auditor.

An audit schedule for the year beginning January 1, 2009 is as follows:

Fourth Quarter 2008 Audit-February 19 & 20

First Quarter 2009 Audit-April 16 & 17

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27	MONDAY, MAY 18
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10	MONDAY, JUNE 1
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8	MONDAY, JUNE 29

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

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- *Term to age 25
- *Annuities



**FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

Insights and Viewpoints

Pentecost Sunday

continued from page 2

Mount: "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get" (Matthew 7:1-2). When we face the final judgment, we all hope to have a merciful judge and now we know how to assure that happy outcome.

It is, of course, very difficult to achieve such an ideal of forgiveness. And that is why Jesus offers us the Holy Spirit who, if given half a chance, will empower us to become the kind of gentle, caring and compassionate persons that can make a real difference in a world that desperately needs the witness of love and forgiveness. Let us all rejoice in this wonderful gift of the Spirit.



Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

At Lystra, Paul cured a crippled man, was name Hermes, and was subsequently beaten into unconsciousness and left for dead. (See Acts 14:8-23)

"What we are aiming at in this warning," Paul writes to Timothy, ("my own true child in faith" 1:2) "is the love that springs from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Some people have neglected these and instead have turned to meaningless talk, wanting to be teachers of the law but actually not understanding the words they are using, much less the matters they discuss with such assurance." (1 Timothy 1:5-7)

"I have a solemn charge to give you, Timothy, my child. This charge is in accordance with the prophecies made in your regard and I give it to you that under the inspiration of these prophecies you may fight the good fight, and hold fast to faith and a good conscience. Some men, by rejecting the guidance of conscience, have made shipwreck of their faith, among them Hymenaeus and Alexander, these I have turned over to Satan so that they may learn not to blaspheme." (1 Timothy 1:18-20)

"It is my wish, then, that in every place the men shall offer prayers with blameless hands held aloft, and be free from anger and dissension. Similarly, the women must deport themselves properly. They should dress modestly and quietly, and not be decked out in fancy hair styles, gold ornaments, pearls, or costly clothing; rather, as becomes women who profess to be religious, their adornment should be good deeds. A woman must learn in silence and be completely submissive. I do not permit women to act as teacher, or in any way to have authority over a man; she must be quiet. For Adam was created first, Eve afterward; moreover, it was not Adam who was deceived but the woman. It was she who was led astray and fell into sin. She will be saved through childbearing, provided she continues in faith and love and holiness- her chastity being taken for granted." (1 Timothy 2:8-15)

"You can depend on this; whoever wants to be a bishop aspires to a noble task. A bishop must be irreproachable, married only once, of even temper, self-controlled, modest and hospitable. He must not be addicted to drink. He ought not to be contentious but, rather, gentle, a man of peace. Nor can he be someone who loves money. He must be a good manager of his own household, keeping his children under control without sacrificing his dignity; for if a man does not know how to manage his own house, how can he take care of the church of God? He should not be a new convert, lest he become conceited and this incur the punishment once meted out to the devil. He must also be well thought of by those outside the church, to insure that he does not fall into disgrace and the devil's trap." (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

"...deacons must be serious, straightforward, and truthful. They may not over indulge in drink or give in to greed. They must hold fast to the divinely revealed faith with a clear conscience. They should be put on probation first, then, if there is nothing against them, they may serve as deacons. Deacons may be married but once and must be good managers of their children and their households. Those who serve well as deacons gain a worthy place for themselves and much assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

"The Spirit distinctly says that in later times some will turn away from the faith and will heed deceitful spirits and things taught by demons through plausible liars- men with seared consciences who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by believers who know that truth. Everything God created is good; nothing is to be rejected when it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by God's word and prayer." (1 Timothy 4:1-5)

"Never censure an older man, but appeal to him as a father. You should treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity." (1 Timothy 5:1-2)

To be continued...

Project Rachel Exported to Slovakia

By John Karch

Amid Slovak Constitutional Court's ruling on Slovak Parliament's majority vote, that abortion be permitted upon request during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, reminiscent of communist control, the promotion of abortion by the UN, EU (European Union), other domestic and international organizations and individuals, funded by pro-abortionists, the pro-life, pro-family Slovak activists held their 11th annual International Conference CHOOSE LIFE, 27-28 March 2009, in Rajec Teplice. Invited to address the Conference was Ms. Vicki Thorn and her husband, Dr. William Thorn.



Vicki Thorn

About Vicki Thorn

Vicki Thorn is the founder of Project Rachel and the Executive Director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She served as the first Respect Life Director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee from 1977 to 1988. She has a degree in Psychology from the University of Minnesota and a certificate in Spiritual Direction. She is a bereavement facilitator and prenatal loss facilitator. She also holds a certificate in Trauma Counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Ms. Thorn is an international speaker and author on the topics of abortion aftermath in women, men and others as well as the process of post-abortion healing. She has spoken in Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas, Australia, New Zealand, Guam, Ukraine, Italy, Austria, Poland, Chile, HongKong and China. She is the primary author of the "The Priests Manual of Post-Abortion Ministry," published by the Pro-Life Secretariat of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Mission Statement

"The National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing (NOPRAH) mission is ministry: to help men and women find a safe place to heal the wounds of abortion; to network caring professionals and clergy who work with, or wish to work with, the aftermath of abortion. We help form Church-based ministry such as Project Rachel, and we promote understanding of abortion aftermath and its resolution wherever we are able. Our ministry embodies the words of God in Isaiah 61: '...to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and relief to prisoners; to comfort all who mourn.'

Founded in 1990, NOPRAH networks researchers and psychotherapeutic professionals working in the field within the U.S. and abroad; consults on the formation of post-abortion support services within secular and religious settings (including Project Rachel); provides training for care providers; maintains a national '800' referral line for those seeking assistance in reconciling an abortion experience; produces and vends audio, video, and printed material; maintains an annotated booklet; tracks support group models and sponsors and the Healing Vision conference, the only international conference on abortion aftermath and its resolution."

The International Conference

Invitations to the 28-29 March 2009 conference CHOOSE LIFE were made by Ano pre zivot (Yes to Life) and Forum Zivota (Forum for Life) under the patronage of MUDr. Anna Zaborska, Member of the European Parliament and Chairperson of FEMM, and RNDr. Peter Dobes, Mayor of Rajec Teplice. The program consisted of three parts.

The first day, Friday, began with remarks by Dr. Zaborska, Mayor Dobes, and RNDr. Ing. Marcela Dobesova, Chairperson of Forum Zivota. Following a break, Part I consisted of Dr. Zaborska as Moderator and the two Thorns from Milwaukee, USA as speakers. The first was Vicki Thorn (4:30-5:45) on "Biology of the Theology on the Body, Influence of a contraception to relationship and sociable positions." The second was by her husband, Dr. William Thorn on "Impact of the Media in Contraceptive Thinking" (5:45-7:00). Following a break the conferees enjoyed a Slovak Concert—including the presentation of three Anton Neuwirth Prizes for the "Protection of Life"—and a Reception.

Parts II, III & IV took place On Saturday, 28 March. The morning program, with Marek Michalcik as Moderator, consisted of four speakers—all from Slovakia: Fr. Marek Iskra on "The Meaning of Sexuality in Men's Life"; J. Laurinec on "Contraception, Impact on the Woman's Body"; I.M. Szaniszló--D. Democko on "Several Ethical Notes about the Use of Contraception"; and M. Drab on "The Problems Contraception Presents to Women and the Opinions Gynecologists Present."

After a break. Part III, with Moderator Dr. Dobasova, ended the lectures with two presentations: M. Kolejak on "Openness to Life and Regulation of Conception—Criteria for Number of Children"; A. Chromik on "Contraception and Freedom of Conscience, Comparison of Modern Natural Family Planning Methods." After lunch, Part IV was for "Workshops": 1. "Education to Understanding of Sexuality"; 2. "Regulation of Fertility in the Practice of Marriage Life"; and "Marketing of Natural Family Planning Methods." The conference concluded with a 6:00 P.M. Holy Mass at the Church of the Divine Heart in Rajec Teplice.

Pro-Life and Pro-Family

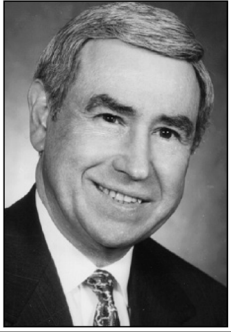
Vicki Thorn's concluding remarks about her observation of pro-life and pro-family in Slovakia were: "My husband and I both spoke at the conference on contraception. I presented

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

THINK ABOUT IT!


continued on page 5

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



How to Protect Your Financial Privacy

You may be surprised to learn that many honest- and dishonest- people may have access to the details of your financial life. If you want to maintain better control over your privacy here are some tips on how to safeguard your information.

Fend Off "Phishing"

According to the Federal Trade Commission, identity theft is the top consumer complaint that the agency receives. One of the most common tricks that identify thieves use is "phishing." In a phishing scam, a criminal sends an e-mail that appears to be from a financial institution, a popular online retailer, or even a federal agency such as the Internal Revenue Service. The e-mail asks the recipient to supply personal information- such as a bank account number or Social Security number- that is later used to make fraudulent transaction or commit other crimes.

Keep in mind that, as a general rule, most legitimate organizations never ask you to supply personal information in e-mails. If you receive a message asking for private data, you should not reply, nor should you click on any links in the e-mail.

CPAs advise that these scams are not limited to the computer. Some fraudsters pretending to be a bank or other legitimate organization may send text messages to your cell phone asking for personal information. Others call their intended victims, claiming to be a bank employee who needs to verify financial data. If you are uncertain about how to respond, call the organization directly to find out if the request is legitimate. If you want to learn more about identity theft, the FTC Web site has information at www.ftc.gov/idtheft.

Privacy Protection

While identity theft is a serious concern, there are other issues that may threaten your financial confidentiality. Under federal law, banks, insurance companies, and other financial institutions must tell you about their privacy policies. That includes revealing what kind of information they collect about their customers, how they protect that information, and whether they share your data with other businesses.

The law allows these institutions to reveal or sell your personal information to other businesses unless you "opt out," by specifically telling the organization that you don't want them to share your data. The information they are allowed to reveal includes your name, address, and Social Security number, as well as your assets, income- including child support payments- outstanding debt, mortgage payments, and more.

Once a year, financial institutions are required to send you a notice that details their privacy policies and offers you the chance to opt out of their information-sharing practices. Be sure to review these notices when you get them, and to let the organization know that you would like to opt out if you're uncomfortable having your personal data passed on to other businesses. If privacy notice tells you that the organization does not share the information with third parties, then you don't have to take any steps to opt out.



Project Rachel Exported to Slovakia

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the bio chemistry of sex, speaking about the impact of contraception in women and by scent, men perceived women as infertile, fertile and pregnant. My husband presented on the advertising of contraceptives in the media and used examples of ads from the U.S. to demonstrate the blatant advertising designed to convince teens and young adult women to use contraceptives.

This conference had a variety of people from different backgrounds, including those who do work with women in crisis pregnancies, physicians, university professors, politicians, and others. I found those I met with were very concerned about the social and ethical issues facing Slovakia. They are also very proactive in developing programs of education as well as counseling and care for families, those about to be married, young mothers and their children.

The Seminarians seemed enthusiastic about their vocations and the faculty members I met were wise and dedicated to working with these young men. I found the priests who attended the Project Rachel workshop to be very interested in this healing apostolate of the Church. The reporter I spoke to and the radio host asked thoughtful and insightful questions."

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt

Indiana Fraternal Congress presents the Adult and Youth Fraternalist of the Year Award to one adult and one youth for their outstanding volunteer contributions to their lodge, society and community each year. We encourage any member who knows an individual who has made outstanding contributions this year and is a resident of Indiana review the qualifications for nomination. Please contact the Home Office for an application. All nomination forms must be postmarked no later than July 20, 2009. Please send completed packets to:

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
First Catholic Slovak Union
508 James Street
Streator, Illinois 61364

ELIGIBILITY:

- Anyone between the ages of 12-22 may be nominated for the youth award. Those ages 23 and older may apply for the adult award. Both groups of nominees must be members of an Indiana fraternal benefit society for at least 2 years.
- Nominees will be judged on activities completed within the last 12 months.
- Individuals who are compensated by their society for their volunteer efforts are not eligible to receive an award.
- The adult and youth awards can be won only once by an individual. However, a society is eligible to nominate an individual not selected in a previous year.
- The program will be administered by the IFC Adult and Youth Fraternalist of the Year Committee.
- A qualified panel of independent judges will choose the winners. The decisions of the judges will be final.
- Each member society is eligible to submit three adult and youth nominations each year.

AWARD DESCRIPTION:

- An engraved plaque will be presented to the adult and youth honorees at the annual meeting of the Indiana Fraternal Congress in August, 2009. Travel, lodging and meal expenses for the honorees will be paid by the sponsoring societies.
- A \$100 check will be awarded on behalf of each honoree to the nonprofit, charitable organization of their choice.
- Media information regarding the honorees will be distributed by the IFC Adult and Youth Fraternalist of the Year Committee.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt

The New Jersey Fraternal Congress offers a Youth Volunteer Award Program to deserving young students from a member society, based on their volunteer achievements with the society as well as the community at large.

This year, thanks to the generosity of the Recreation Farm Society, each award winner will receive \$500 with an additional \$500 award to their designated charity. The number of awards will be based upon the proceeds of our Convention Ad Book.

The deadline for submitting applications is September 1, 2009 postmark. The Youth Volunteer Award Committee of the New Jersey Fraternal Congress will make the selection of the award recipients and all decisions are final. The award recipients will be announced at the 76th Annual New Jersey Fraternal Congress Convention to be held at the Hilton Casino Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey on October 8 & 9, 2009.

Rules/Regulations/Requirements

Applicant Must:

1. Be a resident of New Jersey and a member of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a member of the NJFC
2. Be between the age of 16 and 22 at the time of application
3. Obtain a recommendation letter from your Fraternal Benefit Society
4. Sign the *Statement of Application* printed on the bottom of the award application
5. Return the complete application and letter of recommendation, postmarked no later than September 9, 2009

Please contact the Home Office at 1 (800) 533-6682 for an application if interested.

NATO at 60: Dissolve or Expand Further?

continued from page 1

lenge to liberal democracy and the free market. Initially the challenge was ideological; it became military when the Soviet Union, surviving the test to its survival during the Second World War, developed into a military superpower. Inevitably, the liberal democratic states of the world, particularly in Western Europe, came together to protect themselves against the ideology that nurtured the Soviet system and, above all, against the threat of expansionism that Soviet military power presented. From the end of the war until February 1948, when Czechoslovakia became a Communist state as a result of a coup, the Soviet Union, despite assurances that it would respect the right of self-determination, imposed its system on Central Europe through its military presence in the region. The Brussels Treaty of March 1948, signed by Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, was a response to Soviet activities in Central Europe, but also the forerunner of an even greater alliance of democratic states across an ocean that would set a precedent of cooperation and mutual assistance that remains unequalled to this day. Thus the North Atlantic Alliance, based on security guarantees and mutual commitments between Europe and North America, came into being, creating what is often referred to as a "security community." This took place when the Brussels Treaty members, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway, and Portugal from Europe joined Canada and the United States from North America to form the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) with the signature of the Treaty of Washington in April 1949.

The test of the viability and pertinence of NATO would not come from an invocation of Article 5, which states that "an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all," but rather from the desire of other states to join the organisation. Why would other states wish to join NATO? In the post-war era and for the better part of the second half of the 20th century, international politics was governed by a political, economic, and military confrontation between two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, which resulted not only in a bipolar international system, but also in a dangerous nuclear confrontation that gave each superpower the possibility of guaranteeing the security of the non-nuclear states within its sphere of influence. In other words, NATO was created in order to offer this security guarantee that could be freely acquired, if so desired. As the *NATO Handbook* states: "The North Atlantic Alliance was thus founded on the basis of a Treaty between member states entered into freely by each of them after public debates and due parliamentary process. The Treaty upholds their individual rights as well as their international obligations in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. It commits each member country to sharing the risks and responsibilities as well as the benefits of collective security and requires of each of them the undertaking not to enter into any other international commitment which might conflict with the Treaty." Greece and Turkey acceded to the Treaty in 1952, followed by the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955, and Spain in 1982. Until the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, security considerations, as understood by the applicants, and reinforced by the creation in 1955 of a Soviet-led military alliance, the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, known as the Warsaw Pact, defined NATO. It developed into a major military organisation, which saw national armies cooperate under one military command structure. It had become one of history's greatest military alliances of free and democratic states.

Needless to say, with the end of the Cold War, as the era of post-war ideological confrontation was called, the military and strategic situation in the world changed. Many observers and scholars began to wonder whether NATO should not have been dissolved after Central and Eastern Europe's Communist governments and especially the Warsaw Pact disappeared. Two factors came into play that not only ensured the viability of the organisation but that enabled it to begin the process of redefining itself. The first was the new challenges to peace and stability throughout the 1990s that required a new strategy in the light of the changing strategic and political environment. The second was the nature and structure of the organisation itself. Unlike the Warsaw Pact, created by Moscow, which was dominated by Soviet military concepts and structures (and which, by the way, saw action twice in its history, against its own members, first in Hungary in 1956 and then in Czechoslovakia in 1968), NATO, as we saw above, was an association of free states that freely accepted membership. It is worth noting that France's decision in 1966 to withdraw all French armed forces from NATO's integrated military command, and to ask that all non-French NATO troops leave France did not cause the breakup of NATO, nor create a major crisis. It is also worth noting that France remained a member of the Alliance.

But there is more; according to the Treaty, there were not only military, but also other obligations, as Article 2 specifies: "The Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them." This article is often referred to as the Canada Article because it was the Canadian delegation that insisted that it be included in the Treaty. If it was mostly ignored during the Cold War, with its end this article was able to acquire greater pertinence and meaning, especially as the organisation began the process of redefinition.

It was during three important summits at the beginning of the 1990s, in London in 1990, in Rome in 1991 and in Brussels in 1994, that NATO began the process of redefining itself. The Rome summit produced the Strategic Concept, which outlined a broad approach to security based on dialogue, cooperation, and the maintenance of a collective defence capability. It also integrated political and military elements of NATO's security policy into a coherent whole, establishing cooperation with new partners in Central and Eastern Europe as an integral part of Alliance strategy. Military doctrines as well as NATO's integrated forces were

modified and with the creation of the Partnership for Peace in 1994, and other institutions, such as the Mediterranean Dialogue initiative and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council that ensured cooperation and included the former member states of the Warsaw Pact, NATO also began considering expanding.

The scholarly literature on the first expansion phase clearly demonstrates that NATO, without losing any of its military pertinence, had become something more than a mere military alliance. While the states of Central Europe that sought membership, mainly Czechoslovakia (after breaking up in 1992, the Czech Republic and Slovakia), Hungary, and Poland, did so because, with the disappearance of the Soviet Union, as most strategic analysts recognized, there existed a security vacuum in Central Europe, strategic and military reasons turned out not to be the primary considerations for membership. Slovakia was the test-case; its government under Vladimír Mečiar, elected in 1994, showed authoritarian tendencies that suggested that there was a "democratic deficit" in the Slovak political system. Slovakia could not envisage membership in NATO until it was clear that democracy was being fully embraced. Thus NATO accepted in its ranks only the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland when it announced an eastward expansion in 1997. These three countries became members in 1999. In the meantime, Slovak elections were held in 1998; the Mečiar government was defeated and replaced by a coalition of parties led by Mikuláš Dzurinda that accepted all the conditions for membership not only in NATO, but also in the European Union and worked to implement them. When the commitment to democracy was reaffirmed in 2002 in Slovakia with the re-election of Dzurinda, the country was among those admitted in the second eastward expansion of NATO. Thus, in addition to Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania in northern Europe, and also Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Romania in southern-eastern Europe were first invited to start talks of membership during the 2002 Prague Summit, and joined NATO on 29 March 2004, shortly before the 2004 Istanbul Summit. It must also be pointed out that in April 1999 NATO had also adopted the Alliance Strategic Concept during its Washington Summit that emphasized conflict prevention and crisis management. NATO seemed to be redefining itself.

These two enlargements showed once again that NATO, as an alliance of democratic states determined to ensure international peace and security, was passing the test of viability and pertinence. NATO, however, was also being tested as a military organisation throughout this period. From the first NATO military operation caused by the conflict in the former Yugoslavia called Operation Sharp Guard, which ran from June 1993 to October 1996, NATO was called upon to become involved in many conflicts, especially in Bosnia, deploying a peacekeeping force, under Operation Join Endeavour, first named IFOR and then SFOR, which ran from December 1996 to December 2004. There was also a NATO bombing campaign, Operation Deliberate Force, in August, 1995, against the Army of Republika Srpska, after the Srebrenica massacre. On 24 March 1999, NATO saw its first broad-scale military engagement in the Kosovo war, where it waged an 11-week bombing campaign, which NATO called Operation Allied Force, against what was then the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in an effort to stop a Serbian-led crackdown on Albanian civilians in Kosovo. There is no need to enumerate all NATO military operations; suffice it to say that, as a military organisation, it is alive and well, but also as a defensive alliance, as its response to the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001, when the USA invoked article 5, clearly demonstrated. However, the war in Afghanistan against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban that ensued and is still being waged has since become the litmus test of the organisation's continued viability and pertinence. This became clear at the beginning of April, when NATO celebrated its 60th anniversary at the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit. NATO Heads of State and Government agreed to a number of new initiatives for Afghanistan, including a significant expansion of the training and support effort for Afghan National Security Forces, enhanced engagement with neighbouring countries and a more integrated approach to working with the International Community and the Afghan Government to implement the Afghan National Development Strategy.

The focus on Afghanistan notwithstanding, other developments indicate that the organisation is still seen as playing an important role in Europe. Just before the summit, French President Nicolas Sarkozy reversed Charles de Gaulle's 1966 decision and announced that France was reintegrating the military integrated command; NATO also admitted two more states: Croatia and Albania, bringing its membership to 28. At the 2008 summit in Bucharest, three more countries had been promised future invitations: the Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, and Ukraine. If the desire to join the organisation remains the test of viability and pertinence, as we have been arguing, then the future of NATO seems assured and further expansions may be envisaged.

And yet, there are also voices proposing another outcome, the result of the difficulties NATO is experiencing in Afghanistan. On March 28th, 2009, Toronto's *Globe and Mail* published a feature article on NATO by Doug Saunders entitled "Running on empty," which suggested that "it's time for the old warhorse to retire." As Saunders writes: "over the past several months a number of senior NATO officials, diplomats from member countries and military officers have admitted privately they believe the alliance is doomed." To explain what fuels such a conclusion, Saunders relates what Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, special adviser on NATO to United States President Barack Obama, said to him: "the most effective military alliance in history is at risk of atrophy. ... Policy makers will need to notice this atrophy before it's too late. Its engine is running on empty – it lacks the political commitments it needs to sustain its operations. There is a growing disconnect between what the United States is asking it to do and what its European allies are willing or able to do. And we cannot keep on going forward with this growing disconnect." This is not an unrealistic assessment of the more pressing challenges that NATO faces now and in the near future, particularly in Afghanistan, but it is also possible, if not necessary, to look at NATO from another angle, and remember that it forms the core element of the Euro-Atlantic security community, which faces many threats. The record shows that it has developed and continues to develop the capability of dealing with these threats

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REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Paul Jurcenko Branch 153 Chicago, Illinois

Paul Jurcenko, 65 of Renton, Washington, passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on April 16, 2009 following a lengthy illness. He was born December 31, 1943 in Chicago, Illinois, a son of Michael and Rose (Augustiniak) Jurcenko.

Paul was a member of Branch 153 in Chicago and a previous recording secretary of Branch 153. He was the past Grand Knight, Desoto Council #517 Knights of Columbus in Chicago.

While living in Chicago, Paul was very active at St. Edward Parish as an usher, money counter, baseball coach and a member of the Holy Name Society. Paul was the President of the Father's Club at Good Counsel High School. He was also a member of the Father's Club at St. Patrick High School.

Paul was an avid bowler in several leagues and participated in many Knights of Columbus Tournaments and Slovak Tournaments.

Paul was a retired government employee. His last post was Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Paul is survived by a son, Jay (Lisse); daughters, Roberta and Beth Ann; four grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and two step-great grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, John (Dorothy); sisters, Rosalie Kroll and Theresa (Robert) Mokosaik; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Friends were received at the Malec and Sons Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Edward Church in Chicago on April 25. Interment was at Maryhill Cemetery.

Dorothy Jurcenko

SISTER M. CLOTILDA, SS.C.M., 100

Sister M. Clotilda (Florence Omasta) died on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at Maria Hall, Danville, Pennsylvania. The oldest daughter of Stephen and Mary (Olejar) Omasta, was born on May 4, 1908, in East Vandergrift, Pennsylvania.

She received her early education in public school and Holy Trinity School, East Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. Later she attended St. Cyril Academy and Marywood Seminary. She received a B.A. from Marywood University, Scranton, and an M.A. in History from Villanova. She also attended Fordham University and Bloomsburg University.

She entered the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius on June 26, 1922, and was received as a novice on June 3, 1924. On May 29, 1926, she made her first profession of vows.

Sister Clotilda served in many capacities during her 82 years as a religious. She was a teacher, principal, superior, Supervisor of schools in which the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius taught in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and for nine years the congregation's Director of Formation.

She taught in elementary grades, high school and junior college and served in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Indiana and South Carolina. For 13 years Sister Clotilda was principal at St. Joseph Memorial School in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. For 9 years she taught at St. Cyril Academy, Danville, and for 7 years at Bishop England High School, Charleston, South Carolina, where she was head of the history department. She was instrumental in adding Church History to the curriculum. She was also asked to be a demonstration teacher for public school teachers. During her years as an educator

she was also a choir directress and teacher of religious education in parishes.

In 1991, Sister Clotilda became the community archivist, a position she held for sixteen years. As a tour guide she gave detailed explanations of the religious and historical material depicted in the windows of the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. She also narrated the video produced on these stained glass windows.

Sister Clotilda also had great interest in ecumenism and prayed daily for the union of the Eastern and Western churches.

At the age of ninety she was nominated for Ageless Hero in the Love of Learning category and chosen by the judges to compete in the national competition.

Sister Clotilda was preceded in death by her sister, Sister M. Melanie Omasta,

SS.C.M.

She is survived by four nephews and a niece, James McFadden, Spring Church, Pennsylvania; Joseph Omasta, Lakewood,

Colorado; Lawrence Omasta, Shelocta, Pennsylvania; Eugene Omasta, Troy, Alabama; and Rose Marie Furman, Wayne, New Jersey.

The transferal rite and recitation of the Rosary took place at Maria Hall on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at 9 a.m. and the Wake Service at 11 a.m. At 1:30 p.m. a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Maria Hall. The celebrant and homilist was the Reverend Raymond Orloski. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery, Danville.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, Pennsylvania 17821

Coming Events

June 7

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

June 7

- The Frank T. Holly Jr. District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at K2 Engineering, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

NATO at 60: Dissolve or Expand Further?

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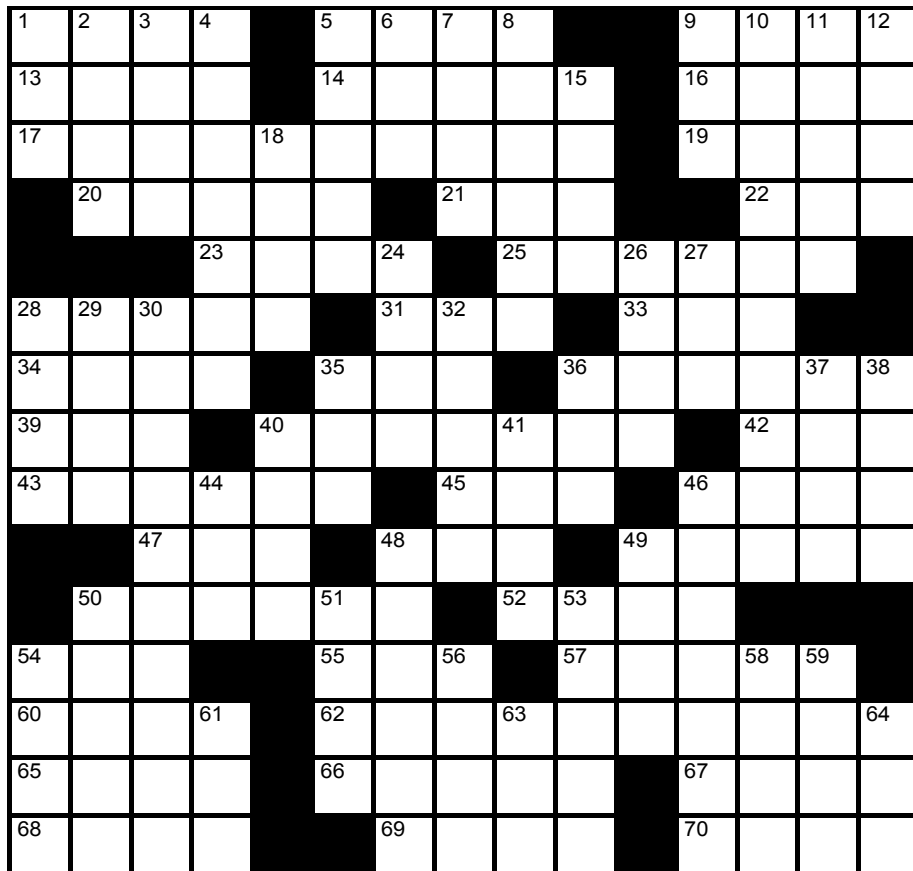
Seen in this light, there is then the prospect of other outcomes, brought about by new challenges, new thinking, and determined leadership. This will depend on the decisions made by NATO, but also by the governments of the member states on what NATO is to become. This involves more than just defining or redefining a strategic concept. Jennifer Medcalf, in a recently published monograph entitled *Going Global or Going Nowhere? NATO's Role in Contemporary International Security* argues for the definition of a global role for NATO. She writes: "no serious alternative has emerged... [to] the most effective military instrument to address the complex security environment of the post 9/11 world. For these reasons, for the foreseeable future, rather than going nowhere, NATO is likely to continue "going global", with all the challenges this role brings." Some refocusing may need to be done. If we look at all the threats, challenges, and opportunities of a global nature today, it seems most likely that terrorism, with all that it entails in military, security, and human rights terms, may yet become the new glue, and act not unlike the glue that the threat from the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact that held together NATO and brought security to the trans-Atlantic area during the Cold War. In addition, there is every indication that the new American administration under President Obama understands the importance of multilateralism and the need to lead through cooperation rather than to act unilaterally. In the light of the record of the administration of George W. Bush in international relations, this is important not merely because it signals a change of direction in American foreign policy, but, above all, because it spills over in the perception by other states of the nature of inter-state relations. Under such circumstances, especially if the Afghanistan challenge is met successfully, given NATO's rather impressive history as an alliance as well as a military organisation and its ability to create and sustain a security community, dissolution is not likely to be in the cards in the near future and more expansions are also not to be ruled out.

Publication Schedule for 2009

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

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Young lady
5 Exhausts
9 Currier's partner
13 Formerly
14 Face downward
16 Metric weight unit
17 Toucan relative
19 Formerly
20 Knowledgeable
21 Soft-finned fish
22 Poetic contraction
23 Wool weight units
25 Save
28 Receded
31 Curve
33 Bustle
34 Crucifix
35 Follower (Suffix)
36 Prayerbook
39 Totally
40 Honorable
42 ___-de-France
43 Beauty parlors
45 Buddhism forerunner
46 Jacket
47 Pale
48 E. state (Abbr.)
49 Dallied (with)
50 Mex. shawl
52 Blue-green
54 Copy
55 Daytimes (Abbr.)
57 Pleat
60 Basketball squad
62 Rabbit
65 Seed covering
66 Genuflect
67 Rain dance
68 Depend
69 Pintail duck
70 Pung

Down

- 1 First gear
2 Celebes dwarf buffalo
3 Barge
4 Tranquillized
5 Velocity
6 Curve
7 Jab
8 Smiles
10 Skill
11 Name for a cow
12 Inebriates
15 ___ Stanley Gardner
18 Goad
24 Brother of Osiris
26 Cruise
27 Bank offerings (Abbr.)
28 Time periods
29 Neck ornament
30 Cotton killer
32 Clutch
35 Common contraction
36 Human race
37 Afr. perennial
38 Contribute
40 Sicilian resort
41 Gaul
44 Scull
46 Crude stone artifacts
48 Fiends
49 Mountain lake
50 Steeple
51 Animal group
53 Fr. school
54 At a distance
56 Shank
58 Injure
59 Accumulation
61 Nevada city
63 Peg
64 Boy

PÁS HOST "A Slovak Murder Mystery"

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

There was a murder in a Slovak village, and everyone there was a suspect!

On April 24, 2009, the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PÁS) hosted a unique event, combining the mystery of an Agatha Christie novel with the setting of a traditional Slovak village. Each attendee became a villager; each on an was given an index cards, with a particular name and occupation, as well as a motive for why that person might hold a grudge against the victim. The experiment aimed to provide an interactive environment that invited the participation of all in attendance.

The event took place in the mock village, *mestečko Zadovec*. Using a church hall as a setting, the members of PÁS worked hard to prepare a setting that mimicked some shops in a Slovak village. There was a Christmas Shop (*Vianočná dielňa*), a Wood Shop (*Drevo dielňa*), a home (*dom*), a garden (*zahrada*), a Sewing Shop, a Bakery (*pekareň*), a Kitchen (*kuchyňa*), and a bar (*kirčma*).

When everyone was gathered to prepare for village festivities that evening, an argument was heard and young girl came scurrying out of the kitchen. Before anyone knew what was happening, there was a scream, and blood was flowing.

The victim was Zora Matavá, a 24 year-old young woman who was the mayor's daughter. She was

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Scenes from the "Slovak Murder Mystery"



See Solution on Page 14



Accent on Activities



2009 International Golf Tournament

May 2009

We are proud to announce that the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol will be having a joint Golf Tournament this year. The Golf Tournament will take place August 14 – 16, 2009, at the Clarion Oaks and Hi-Level Golf Courses in Clarion, PA. The Holiday Inn hotel is adjacent to the Clarion Oaks golf course and located in the picturesque community of Clarion, PA. The surrounding area offers a selection of restaurants, shopping centers and other local amenities.



Both golf courses offer our members spectacular golf facilities with a professional driving range, putting greens and a slope rating of 127. Clarion Oaks is an established course with 18 holes and is ranked one of the best courses in the region. The second course is Hi-Level Golf club also has 18 holes and a wonderful clubhouse with many amenities. Both golf courses have several individual holes that gracefully cut through the country hills. We are working closely with the resort and golf management, to host a wonderful fraternal, golf weekend.

The cost for this year's event is \$285.00 for golfers which includes your three (3) full rounds of golf with carts, two nights lodging at the resort, two (2) breakfasts, (Saturday and Sunday mornings), one (1) wonderful dinner, (Saturday night) a sponsored hospitality evening on Friday night, a complimentary host bar on Saturday night, your tournament entry fee and prize money. (All taxes and gratuities are included)

The non-golf weekend package rate is \$140.00 (inclusive), which includes meals and lodging. Finally, for our local members who may not require the entire hotel and meal package, there is a golf only package for \$145.00, which includes entry and tournament expense fees. These are outstanding packages for the service, quality of meals and golfing that one will enjoy throughout the weekend.

All meals will be served at the Holiday Inn hotel, as well as the Saturday night victory banquet. There will be a charge of \$25.00 for those members that would like to purchase additional banquet tickets for Saturday night only. The banquet will feature a wonderful 4 course sit down meal with host bar. All of this is part of your golf or non-golf package. Holy Mass of obligation will take place shortly before dinner at approximated 5:30 pm followed by a cocktail hour. A short program will follow dinner including the announcement of our tournament leaders and a welcome from our keynote speaker.

You can expect to see your registration forms in the mail later this month.

This is a historic event that we hope shows that Slovak Fraternal can work together and build stronger relationships that will result in benefits for all members. Come and be a part of history at this year's Golf Tournament!



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS, AGES 12 ~ 18!

Get your cameras ready! We are starting a photography contest for those members between the ages of 12 and 18.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

People
Nature or Environment
Travel or Destinations
FCSU Fraternal Activity

Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

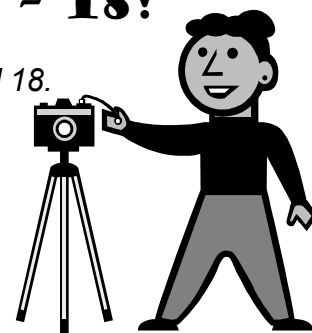
\$50 – First Place
\$30 – Second Place
\$20 – Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Mail your entry to:

Susan Ondrejco
Photo Contest
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

postmarked by October 1, 2009.



Rules:

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, Branch number, age, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a **separate sheet of paper**. DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE

2009 Regional Picnics



Watch for notices of the Regional Picnics in your area this summer. Requirements for reimbursement of your regional picnic are posted at www.fcsu.com. Your Regional Director also has the guidelines for reimbursement. If your picnic qualifies, your district could be entitled to \$5 per member in attendance.

Annual Reports

continued from page 3

Second Quarter 2009 Audit-July 16 & 17

Third Quarter 2009 Audit-October 15 & 16

This schedule has been presented to Mr. Rajec and Mr. Arendt and will be adjusted if necessary. During the course of the fiscal year, if any board member has a request for an audit due to issues that may arise and are deemed urgent and important please know that with the permission of Mr. Rajec the audit team shall adjust our audit plans

The internal audit team is motivated, has a sense of mission, teamwork, and pride. We are open to constructive suggestions and seek continuous improvement.

**Respectfully submitted,
Karen M. Hunka, Executive Chairman of Auditors**

Report from the Director of Fraternal Activities

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

The monthly ur_jrs page has been published throughout the year. It includes games, challenges, trivia, and culture. Due to the positive response, this monthly column will continued this year.

The 2008 Bowling tournament was held the weekend of April 25-27 in Youngstown, Ohio. There were 175 bowlers in the tournament and approximately 65 people for the banquet. The banquet was held at the Holiday Inn Boardman Hotel. After dinner, the group enjoyed the songs of Elvis, impersonated by Jamie Harris. The "Don't Stand a Chance" and "Better Luck Next Year" Awards were presented at the banquet to the men's and women's team in last place. Saturday and Sunday Sweepstakes were added benefits, once again, to the Singles and Doubles competitions. The bowler who met certain criteria for each game was awarded a chance to win an extra cash bonus.

The 2008 Golf tournament was held the weekend of July 11-13 in Canton, Ohio. Seventy-two golfers participated in the weekend-long festivities. The banquet featured a hilarious murder mystery which starred members from the audience. In addition to the monetary prizes, donations were solicited to provide additional skill prizes. For the first time, a hole in one contest took place on both Saturday and Sunday. Several golfers were close, but not close enough, to win the \$7500 prize. The 2008 Coloring Contest was again met with enthusiasm from our young members. We received 152 entries. Congratulations to all the entrants and especially to all the winners. An analysis of the number of entries over the past five years shows that most of the participation is in the 7-9 year-old group, followed by the 4-6 year-old age group. The monthly ur_space_jrs page will be geared towards these groups.

Plans for all scheduled events for this year are well underway.

The 55th Bowling Tournament will take place the weekend of April 24-26 at Brunswick 51 Lanes in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. This year's tournament will be hosted by the St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670 of Donora, Pennsylvania.

The Gold Tournament will take place August 14-16, 2009, at the Clarion Oaks Golf Course in Clarion, Pennsylvania. We will be golfing with our Sokol brothers and sisters to promote fraternalism across both organizations.

In conclusion. I thank the Members of the Board for supporting the various activities throughout the year, and I encourage all of you to promote participation in activities at all levels, of our organization. Please feel free to contact me if I can help to coordinate or promote any activities in your area.

**Fraternally submitted,
Susan Ondrejco, Director of Fraternal Activities**

Report of Region # 1 Director

Reverend Father, Mr. President, and Fellow Members of the Board of Director:

For the past months I have attended the New Jersey Fraternal Congress Meetings, the Msgr. John Rura District Annual and Semiannual Meeting, and meetings of Branch 746 in Linden and Branch 290 in Raritan. I also participated along with the president and vice president and Branch 290 members, in the New Jersey Slovak Festival.

I sent letters and requests for Branch surveys. Unfortunately, not too many responded.

We are hoping that more interest will come from the letters I sent to the different branches in my Region I. I have not heard from anyone yet.

I have attended the Semiannual and Annual Board meetings and also telephonic meetings. I have voiced my opinion of the problem we have with James Nardo.

**Respectfully submitted,
Joseph F. Minarovich**

Report of Regional Director- Region # 2

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec and Fellow Members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It has once again been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 2.

In the past year, I performed all duties required of me as stipulated by the bylaws. I've attended all Board of Directors meetings which were held either at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio or over the phone as a teleconference. I've also attended one of the district meetings that my region held in Stowe, Pennsylvania. I missed the other district meeting due to a family illness. I attended and participated in the annual bowling tournament in Youngstown, Ohio and the golf tournament in Canton, Ohio. In January, I participated in the annual Walk for Life March in Washington, D.C.

As I mentioned last year, traveling to branch meetings is very difficult due to my work

schedule, especially when some branches hold meetings during the day in the middle of the week. I tried to keep in contact with my branches through the mail and at district meetings and will continue to do so in the future.

Fraternally,

Damian D. Nasta, Regional Director-Region 2

Report of Regional Director-Region # 3

My fellow members of Region Number 3, the Saints Cyril and Methodius District Number 17, Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, Pennsylvania, and Broome County, New York, and members and officers of the FCSU, it has been an honor to serve you as Regional Director this past year.

I have participated in every annual and semiannual meeting of the First Catholic Slovak Union. At each of these meetings I have voted for the betterment and goals established by the founding fathers of our Society. I have attended and participated in all District meetings and functioned and promoted "JEDNOTA" with our members and potential members.

I have attended and participated as a member of the FCSU at the Slovak Flag Raising Ceremony at the Luzerne County Court House.

As a member of Properties Inc., profit subsidiary of our organization, I actively participated in each meeting for the best profitable use of the FCSU.

In this period of attrition of our older members and declining membership of all fraternal societies, it has been my aim to help rebuild membership and enhance the fiscal solvency of the FCSU.

At each meeting of District No. 17 I have reported to the members and officers any action from the national board meetings, spoke of ways to promote the FCSU and answered any questions. I am always available to any member or branch officer to help in filling out forms or any other general society business. As an insurance and annuity licensee, I have outlined the latest insurance forms and rates at each meeting and have promoted both the insurance and annuity programs of the FCSU to our members.

At each district meeting I read the correspondence from the Executive Secretary or other national officer that was sent to each branch to be sure each member attending has the latest and most useful information about the FCSU. By doing or other national officer that was sent to each branch to be sure each member attending has the latest and most useful information about the FCSU. By doing this I hope to promote an active discussion or questions about this correspondence and therefore reinforce the subject that the national officers wish to convey and hopefully have a more informed and active member or recommender.

I have also attended and participated in the District Picnic.

If each of us would sign up a new member this year among our family and friends, together we can build our Branches, District and the FCSU.

I stand ready and available to help in any way to serve the best interest of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Carl Ungvarsky

Report of Regional Director-Region # 4

Dear President Rajec, Executive Officers and Board of Directors:

In the year 2008 I attended all Board of Directors meetings held at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio as well as participated in all scheduled teleconference meetings. I was available to attend all District meetings and have done so when called upon. I also attended all scheduled meetings of the George Onda District and was pleased to answer any questions and concerns.

I am an active member of St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, which is the largest branch in the Jednota. Plenty of time is spent preparing paperwork and visiting those who call with questions concerning our insurance and annuities. When other recommenders are in need of forms I am ready to assist by supplying them.

Each year Branch 181 has a summer picnic. Each member and guests is asked to bring a covered dish. The branch provides drinks, chicken, halupky, rigatoni, halusky and the entertainment. Games and prizes are provided for the children, door prizes are available for the adults. Fun is had by all!

When member of our branch or district pass away I go the funeral home and offer my condolences. A Mass is offered up for them from Branch 181 and all officers try to attend. I talk with family members and let them know that when ready they can contact me to fill out the death claim.

**God Bless,
Fraternally,**

George A. Sprock Region 4 Director

Report of Regional Director-Region # 5

For the year 2008, I have attended all scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors (4 meetings) two meetings in Independence, Ohio and two telephonic meetings. An additional telephonic meeting was called in December 2008.

I attended all District meetings and during these meetings I presented a talk on our insurance products and annuities. I also presented to all branches in attendance all information received from Mr. Andrew Harcar on their insurance and annuity sales, quarterly totals and % of their yearly quota met. Also informed each recommender on keeping up to date on sales materials received from the Home Office.

I also received telephone calls from members on changing beneficiaries, increasing face values on their certificates, and answer any questions they may have. Any information I do not have, I obtain this information from our Secretary Kenneth Arendt or from our Vice President Andy Harcar.

continued on page 15

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, held a meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009. A business meeting was held followed by the election of officers. The following officers were elected to serve in 2009-2010: John M. Golias, President; Andrew Hudak, Vice President; Marie A. Golias, Recording Secretary; Mary Dubber, Treasurer; and Richard Korecho and Joseph Hornack, Trustees.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Cyril School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue. All members are encouraged to attend.

Mary Dubber

BRANCH 5P- EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Leonard J. Zavada, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. General topics submitted by members present at the meeting will be addressed and discussed. Member will be given the opportunity to participate and refine their sales approach in regard to prospective members, improve sales and service and contact after the sales, and last but not least, eliminating "orphan" policyholders who are often forgotten and ignored.

See you on May 17th.

Leonard J. Zavada, President

BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

Members of the St. Andrew Society, Branch 24, are invited to the American Zemplin Club Picnic on Sunday, July 12, 2009 and

the Slovak Radio Club Picnic on Sunday, August 2, 2009. Both will be held from 12:00 noon until to 8:00 p.m. at St. Sava Picnic Grove, 2151 Wallings Road (between State and Broadview Rds), Broadview Heights, Ohio.

Why not attend and meet with some of your fellow branch members? There will be plenty of Slovak food, music and dancing.

Bob Kopco, Presiden

BRANCH 40- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, is offering scholarship to their members. The society will give one \$500.00 scholarship for a college student and one \$250.00 scholarship for a private grade school student. These scholarships are funded solely by Branch 40, not the Home Office.

For more criteria and an application, please call Theresa at 815/672-6142 (leave message) or email her at ttegraves@mchsi.com for an electronic application.

Applications must be postmarked by May 15, 2009.

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

BRANCH 41- YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41, is sponsoring a Communion Brunch on Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2009, following the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Parish Hall, Trinity Street, Yonkers, New York. Reservations are available for this parish event by contacting any of our branch officers: President Emeritus John Fialkovich at 914/965-7546; President Paul Fialkovich at 914/375-1650; Vice

President & Recording Secretary Robert Lutz at 914/337-2026; Financial Secretary & Treasurer Albert Figura at 914/963-8229; or Auditor Robert Figura. Reservations and checks (payable to Jednota Branch 41 K.J.) can be mailed to Albert Figura, 92 Wicks Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701.

Admission is \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under age 10. The deadline for making reservations will be Thursday, June 4, 2009. After the deadline tickets will be \$16.00 for adults.

The menu will consist of juice, eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, pancakes, French toast, rolls, donuts, coffee cake, sugar free cake, coffee, tea, cold cuts (roast beef, ham salami, turkey, American and Swiss cheese, salads (potato, Marconi & coleslaw), and soda.

Reserve this date, June 7, 2009, Trinity Sunday, for this parish event sponsored by Branch 41. See you there.

Robert J. Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 41- YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at Holy Trinity School Hall, after our Communion Brunch. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Robert J. Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 153- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its mid-year meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2009, at 12:00 noon at the home of John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. All members are invited to attend. There will be a fraternal luncheon after the meeting. The branch will pay for members and their spouse.

Please remember the following members in your prayers who have passed on to their eternal reward: Joseph Selsky, Edward Pavlak, Emil Kerch, Ed Tybor, Ambrose Smith, Richard Mensik, Anne Pavlak, and Paul Jurcenko.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 166- BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEK- SKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semiannual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, May 24, 2009, at 1:15 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 14 St. Cyril Avenue, Binghamton, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting and branch business. Members are encouraged to attend. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 173- GREATER WILKES-BARRE-WYOMING VALLEY AREA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, and Branch 232, located in the Wilkes-Barre and surrounding areas, will have their Semiannual Meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at Norm's, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre. On the agenda will be a discussion of general

business, FCSU insurance and annuities, and fraternal activities. If you plan to attend, please notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570/403-2067 no later than June 14, so arrangements can be made.

Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President

RANCH 199- HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Francis Pipak. A good turnout is requested.

Sophie Pipak

BRANCH 233- BROCKPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. George Society, Branch 233, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the residence of Irene Halko, Route 219 by the Brockport Post Office in Brockport, Pennsylvania.

Irene Halko, President

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 21, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church, Rev. Cyril Adamko Hall. Important items pertaining to the portfolios, the upcoming convention, plans for the remainder of the year, as well as other business matters will be discussed. Members are urged to attend. We welcome their participation in whatever the Branch may undertake. We must keep our branch viable but it will take many more members to attend the meetings.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 276- MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in the school hall of St. Martin de Porres Church, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend. A Father's Day brunch is being held at Holy Trinity Church Hall in West Mifflin. Members who would like to attend can do so by contacting President Margaret Nasta at 412/672-0379 got more information.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 421- NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 421, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. There will be nomination and election of officers.

Lillian R. Stager, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 484- CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph the Protector Society, Branch 484, will be held Sunday, June 14, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Francis Church

Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania. Information from the Rev. John Martvon District Semiannual Meeting will be presented. All members are welcome. Any member who would like to be more informed about the Jednota or become a branch officer is especially encouraged to attend.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. at Saint Matthias Church Rectory, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Our summer activities will be the main topic of discussion.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS/DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, is sponsoring a Detroit Tiger Baseball Game outing on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:05 p.m. against the Baltimore Orioles. Members will be in section 213 (upper deck-1st base side). This is also a Tiger promotion night, and the first 10,000 fans get a Tiger 2009 All-Star poster. The individual price for each ticket is \$15.00, however your cost will be only \$8.00 We have initially ordered only 40 tickets for this promotion. Therefore, there is a limit of 4 tickets per household. The deadline for ordering tickets is June 18. All purchases up to 40 tickets will be honored. If we do not sell all the tickets we will contact all ticket purchasers after June 18 affording them the opportunity to increase their purchase. However, there will be no refunds after June 18. Tickets will be mailed to you the first week in July. Send your check payable to FCSU-Branch 743 before June 18 to: Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087. Be sure to include your phone number and email address when ordering. Go Tigers!

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President

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BRANCH 853- ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, will hold its next meeting on Saturday, May 30, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. at the McDonalds in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Monica Rodacy-Boone, Presiden

BRANCH 857- LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 857, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, Pennsylvania.

The officers of Branch 857 extend to all wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Damian D. Nasta, Recording Secretary

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

FCSU LIFE



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\$14.00
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6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131-2398



FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2009

The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & IRA's is 4.75% (4.641% APR)

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

The annual yield on a new six year Fixed Rate Annuity & IRA is 4.25% (4.162% APR)

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option is 4.50% (4.402% APR)

The annual yield for new Settlement Options is based on 4.25% (4.162% APR)

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact the Home Office by calling 1-800-533-6682, or your Local Branch Officer.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

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



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4.75%

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

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

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EFFECTIVE 4/1/2009

4.25% (APR 4.162%)

*Interest rate Guaranteed for 6 years



Our FIXED RATE 6-YEAR annuity offers you the following benefits:

- A much higher interest rate than other current low rates available
- Rate is guaranteed for 6 years. No interest rate fluctuation or changes
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- A safe, secure and competitive investment for your retirement (IRA) funds
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The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR annuity has the following features and terms:

- Interest rate fixed for 6 years
- 10% penalty free annual withdrawal (based on contract cash value at the beginning of each year)
- 6-year withdrawal penalty period: 1st year-6%, thereafter reduces 1% each year for next 5 years. Bank withdrawal penalties are much higher
- Not applicable to any settlement option annuity funds, or interest only annuities
- Annuity withdrawal prior to age 59 ½, subject to Federal Excise Tax Penalty
- Minimum deposit \$5,000

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DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW!

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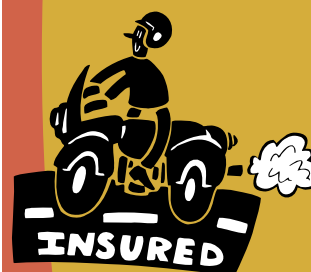
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 - Evacuation & Repatriation
 - Spouse or Domestic Partner Employment
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Quarterly Premium Rates

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

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

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

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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio. On the agenda will be a discussion of plans of summer activities. Members are urged to attend.

Carla Peshek, President

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District will hold its annual Father's Day Luncheon on Sunday, June 21, 2009, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Barnabas Church Hall, Swissvale, Pennsylvania. Branch 60 will be hosting the luncheon. Branch 2 will handle the program booklet. Branch 2 will be sending a notice regarding reservations, fees and deadlines to each branch. Please let them know who will be attending as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Father's Day.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District held its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at St. John the Baptist Church, Allentown. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. by Msgr. Robert Kozel. Afterwards, all officers, delegates and guests enjoyed a delicious dinner in St. John's Social Hall.

The meeting opened with a prayer by the Rev. Thomas Nasta, The meeting was called to order by President Greg Harakal. Roll call was taken with nine officers and twenty-three delegates present. The count was approved and accepted on a motion by Karen Sterling and Michael Koval. The secretary read the minutes and on a motion by Josephine Gerba and Bernie Madeja, they were accepted and approved. All agreed. The financial secretary and treasurer read their reports. The auditors audited the books and found them to be in good and proper order. All reports were accepted and approved on a motion by Monica Fabian and Stephen Engle. All members agreed.

Our financial secretary, Damian Nasta, spoke about a "Branch Agreement" with the First Catholic Slovak Union. A discussion was held regarding the contest that was talked about last year.

The annual meeting will be held in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania on Sunday, October 11, 2009.

On a motion by Monica Fabian and Katherine Nowatkoski the meeting was adjourned. Father Nasta said the closing prayer. Refreshments were served after the meeting.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT-NEW YORK

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

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at K2 Engineering Co., 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. District branches are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting. District activities and insurance programs will be discussed.

Barbara Ann Holly, Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 8

L	A	S	S	S	A	P	S	I	V	E	S		
O	N	C	E	P	R	O	N	E	K	I	L	O	
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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

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

*Annuity payments cannot be made with credit cards.

NEW FROM FCSU

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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

**We accept:
Visa,
Mastercard,
and Discover**

SPECIAL REMINDER

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

Annual Reports

continued from page 10

I talked to branch members via telephone to see if I could be of any assistance to them on their insurance policies or annuities.

Functions I have attended this past year.

FCSU Bowling Tournament, Saturday evening, April 26, 2008, Dinner with bowlers and guests.

Played in FCSU Golf Tournament, July 11-13, 2008, in Canton, Ohio.

Attended the Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress at the Hershey Conference Center, October 18-19, 2008.

Attended the Christmas Holiday Meeting of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh on December 6.

Attended the FCSU Mmbership Bahama Cruise, November 17-21.

Attended Testimonial Banquet on Saturday, April 5th in honor of Mr. Joseph T. Senko, the 2008 FSGP Fraternalist of the Year, at the Radison Hotel, Greentree, PA. Joe is the Treasurer of Jednota Properties Inc.

Attended the Father's Day Breakfast of the Pittsburgh District, First Catholic Slovak Union on Sunday, June 15th at the Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, PA. Celebrant was Rev. Joseph Groska.

Attended the 85th Slovak American Day, Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association, held in Kennywood Park on July 17, 2008.

Attended the twenty-sixth Annual Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance, Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Center, Southside, Pittsburgh, PA. Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, program hosts, Sunday 3-4 p.m. on Radio Station WPIT/AM

A good bit of my time is taken up in the administration of my duties as president of the Jednota Properties Inc. Also as manager of Building # 2 I see that all needs of our two tenants associated with computer services and US Air are met.

At the time of this report we are working on a new lease for ACS and should be completed soon.

End of report.

Fraternally,

**Regis P. Brekosky, FIC
Regional Director, Region # 5
411 Oak Street
West Mifflin, PA 15122
412-462-8685**

Report of Regional Director-Region # 6

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec and fellow members of the Board of Directors

Since our last Annual Meeting I have been diligent in staying informed on Board business. I am elated that we as directors have finally contracted to have a professional investment guidance. I was never impressed with Merrill Lynch.

I have been and still am an advocate of mergers and consolidations with our other Slovak societies. Primarily to reduce our expenses which are duplicated by the same vendors within all our societies. I believe this can be achieved without monetary injury to all our employees and board members. I for one would be willing to sacrifice my position for the betterment of our members. I have been very outspoken on these issues and I am sure all the other Board Members will attest to this.

I continue to strive to serve our Society by attending all annual and quarterly meetings on the national level held at the home office and telephonically. Locally I have attended branch and district meetings, funerals and etc.

I am happy we are having a joint golfing event with the Slovak Catholic Sokols as I have been a constant supporter of this effort and feel we should have more joint activities.

Our recommenders are an ever important element of our society. We must preserve this by constantly serving them so they can better serve our members and new members. It is important we expand our outside sales force to be professionally competitive in the market.

Our Pastors could help us increase our membership by supporting us from the pulpit. Today they are reluctant to do this for fear of offending other parish fraternalists. If we could consolidate it would be more beneficial for them to help and promote fraternalism.

Fraternally,

Henry Hassay, Regional Director 6

Report of the Regional Director-Region 7

The following is the Annual Report of Rudolph D. Glogovsky, Director, Region 7, of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. My region encompasses the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and all states west of the Mississippi River.

President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, and members of the Board of Directors.

In the past year, I attended and participated in the following FCSU events and related activities.

I attended all District 2 meetings in Oak Forest, Illinois giving oral and written reports to those in attendance relative to the First Catholic Slovak Union.

I attended the November meeting of District 5, in Merrill, Michigan also giving oral and written reports to all in attendance.

My wife, Anita Glogovsky, and I along with Robert Tapak Magruder, Don Cummings, Valerie Vesely, and Pete Turner, displayed FCSU Insurance and Annuity programs at a table representing District 2 at the July Wisconsin Federated Slovak Societies picnic at Croatian Park in Franklin, Wisconsin, a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. FCSU President Andrew

Rajec and Mrs. Idka Rajec made a surprise visit to the event.

I had a dialogue with Mrs. Penelope Link, President of FCSU Branch 717, Antioch, Illinois, a branch of 50 plus members about a possible consolidation with Branch 686 which she believed would benefit both branches. To date, no action has been taken on the matter by the Executive Secretary.

A proposal for advertising in the Sun City, Huntley, Illinois, LIFESTYLES, monthly publication sent out to 12,000 Senior Citizens was presented to the Membership and Marketing Committee for consideration.

As a member of a Special Committee named by President Rajec, comprised of Jim Bacon, Chairman, Joe Senko, Regis Brekosky, Karen Hunka, and Carl Ungvarsky (unable to attend) to study and make recommendations to the FCSU Board of Directors on the possible development of the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania in July of 2008, a detailed written report was given by Chairman, Jim Bacon, at a September Board of Directors meeting.

Last but not least, a written report of Board of Directors meetings all of which I was in attendance at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio, were sent to Districts 2, 5, and 15.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudolph D. Glogovsky, Director, Region 7

Report of the Regional Director-Region 8 & 9

Mr. President, Executive Committee and Fellow Board Members.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 8 & 9. In 2008 I performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws.

I attended both the annual and semiannual Board of Directors meetings held at the Head Office in Independence, Ohio and participated in both quarterly teleconference meetings. I have also attended local annual meeting of the Okres of Msgr. Michael Shuba District and Branch 785 as well as their semiannual meetings.

I helped organize a very successful joint fund raising bowling tournament with Sokol and their President L. Glugosh at the end of February 2008 in Mississauga, Ont. Canada that brought together over 160 bowlers of Jednota and Sokol (for the first time) and we all enjoyed a great afternoon of fun and fraternalism for a great cost.

I personally participated in the fraternal activities of the Jednota by taking part in the International Bowling tournament held April 2008 in Youngstown, Ohio and the international Golfing tournament in July 2008.

For our local fraternal activities, I assisted and participated in our successful annual summer Regional picnic, held on July 27, 2008, in Mississauga, Ontario which was attended by our members and our special guests Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt and his wife Teresa. As well as our annual local golf tournament, which was held in September 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Milos Mitro

Regional Director-Region 8 & 9



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary to All Members:

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that in spite of the financial turmoil on Wall Street, our policy holders enjoy the peace of mind that comes from dealing with a company that has been in business for 119 years with surplus in excess of \$9 mm. And although 2008 was a difficult year of historic proportions, our investment strategy has never been to employ leverage, speculation or risk that has buried some of our larger competitors.

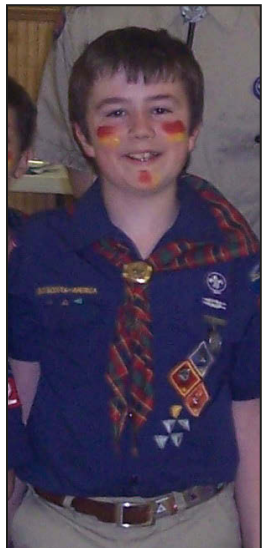
We are also pleased to announce that while literally hundreds of financial institutions line up at the treasury looking to shore up their balance sheet with our hard-earned dollars, FCSU can go about business without government help. We intend to do just that. Our investment portfolio continues to produce income at a rate that allows us to credit our members among the highest interest rates in the annuity business while providing our policy holders the convenience of flexibility and the peace of mind that goes with security.

The unprecedented economic climate resulted in a necessary restructuring on the Society's investment procedures. The prevailing investment philosophy for the Society as well as with other fraternal and insurers was the purchase of quality securities with attractive interest rates. Little trading was involved as the purpose was to hold investments for the income until maturity. With the volatility of the marketplace experienced in the past several years, this type of investment technique is no longer possible. Therefore, the Society has investigated and engaged an asset manager to assist the Society in the analysis of securities owned, purchase selection and necessary repositioning of the portfolio. This should strengthen the investment portfolio and performance as we move forward.

But the message of 2008 was not lost or overlooked by us. We have taken the lessons learned to redouble our efforts to manage risk and to balance that against our expectation of a fair return. We hope the message of 2008 was not lost on you either. The returns of the financial markets and stock markets in particular have shown that they come with significant risk. Perhaps now is the time to limit risk and consider the security we can offer for your investment in us. We are confident in our ability to meet the promises in all of our certificates now and in the future and we point with pride to our long, sound service to our members and the public sector. We take our responsibility to protect your money seriously. We always will.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

YOUTH ROUND-UP



Charles Rodacy Boone of Branch 853, experienced a powerpacked year as a Bear Scout in Pack 262 in Scott Township, Pennsylvania.

In January, one of the yearly traditional Cub Scout events is the Pinewood Derby. Charles raced his original designed and hand painted electric-blue car. He enjoyed the day with his other scouts.

On April 27, 2009, Charles was recognized for his efforts as a Bear Scout at the annual Blue & Gold Banquet. He received a resounding applause when his Den Leader Pat Smith, read the awards he achieved.

Charles worked very hard and earned not only his Bear Patch, but a Gold Arrow and 5 Silver Arrows for his work on the electives as a Bear Scout.

Even at Charles young age, he is aware of how important 'going green' is in our society so he worked on and received the Leave No Trace Award. For his outdoorsmanship, Charles received the Outdoor Activity Award.

For all of his efforts in working on the Academic & Sports Program, Charles earned Belt Loops in Bicycling, Fishing, Ice Skating, Roller Skating, Art, Astronomy, Language & Culture and Maps & Compass. He continued these efforts and earn the achievement of the Pin in Fishing, Roller Skating, Computers, Language & Culture and Maps & Compass.

In having fun and working very hard in earning these awards, the Pack awarded Charles a special 'Sportsman and Academics' recognition award.

In being 10 years old and in the third grade, Charles has now crossed the bridge to WEBELOS Cub Scouting.

Charles is a fourth generation FCSU member with his late great-grandfather Andrew Harchar establishing Branches 852 and 853. Like his late grandparents Charles and Elizabeth Rodacy who were active FCSU members, he continues his pride in his Slovak heritage and Charles is an active Branch 853 member.

Charles lives in Scott Township, Pennsylvania and is the son of Ron Boone and Monica Rodacy-Boone, past National Auditor and past Pension Board Trustee of the FCSU.

Congratulation Charles on having a successful and fun Cub Scout year.



CARNIVAL LIBERTY

Enjoy a 7 Day Cruise in the Eastern Caribbean leaving from Miami, Florida

This magnificent cruise experience begins the moment you step onto the Liberty. On this floating resort you're in for an all-time fantastic week! Your first port of call is Half Moon Cay, Bahamas where you can go horseback riding along the shore. Next it's St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands where you'll marvel at gorgeous white sand beaches. In San Juan you'll tour El Morro Castle or maybe you prefer the hottest nightclubs, or...did you say both? Finally, it's Grand Turk, famous for awesome snorkeling. What will you remember most?

JOIN
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
MEMBERSHIP MEET
NOVEMBER 14 – 21, 2009
From

INTERIOR	OCEANVIEW	BALCONY
\$699	\$799	\$920
3 RD & 4 TH Guests - Rates from \$419		

Carnival reserves the right to re-instate the fuel supplement for all guests at up to \$9 per person per day if the NYMEX oil price exceeds \$70 per barrel.

***All prices include port taxes, transportation, gratuities, FCSU cocktail party and many FCSU extras!**

Cruise rates are capacity controlled in U.S. dollars, per guest and based on double occupancy. Government taxes/fees are included. Air transportation is additional for all guest. Rates are available on select sailings only. Some restrictions (including stateroom category availability) apply. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Ships Registry: The Bahamas and Panama.



DAY	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Sat.	Miami		4:00 PM
Sun.	Half Moon Cay	9:00 AM	4:00 PM
Mon.	"Fun Day" at Sea		
Tues.	St. Thomas/St. John	8:00 AM	6:00 PM
Wed.	San Juan	7:00 AM	3:30 PM
Thurs.	Grand Turk	11:00 AM	5:30 PM
Fri.	"Fun Day" at Sea		
Sat.	Miami	8:00 AM	

The Society is not responsible for airline delays or cancellations, please allow adequate time for transfers between the airport and pier. We strongly suggest you allow at least 3 hours before departure from Miami which is 4:00 pm.. The cruise is contingent on booking at least 25 cabins or 50 passengers; please do not make airline reservations before June 30th.

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Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

At the Dentist		
Have you a toothache?	Bolia vás zuby?	(bolYa vÁs zubi)
Which tooth hurts you?	Ktorý zub vás bolí?	(ktoree zub vÁs bolee)
Do you want it filled?	Chcete ho dať zaplniť?	(XtsetYe ho datY zaplnYitY)
Do you want it pulled out?	Chcete ho dať vytiahnuť?	(XtsetYe ho datY vitY YahnutY)
Does it hurt you?	Bolí vás to?	(bolee vÁs to)
We will take the root out	Vytiahneme koreň	(vitYYahnYeme korenY)
It will not hurt any more	Viac to nebude bolet'	(vYats to n YebudYe boletY)
It will last for about three years	To vydrží asi tri roky	(to vidrzYee asi tri roki)
Please examine my teeth	Prosím, preskúmajte moje zuby	(proseem, preskoomaYitYe moYe zubi)
Clean my teeth	Očistite moje zuby	(ochistYitYe moYe zubi)
Come tomorrow	Prijďte zajtra	(priYdYitYe zaYtra)

God's Echo

Pray for the 'Souls in Purgatory'- they soon our friends in heaven.

A New Era is Ours!

With its promises of new life, new life, new vision, new joy- including a non-corrupt administration.

lets get started. A great task... abandoning all our selfish pride where egos clash, thus very little is gained for America and its citizens

Share prayers and talents to restore America's image around the world-a proud nation of patriotic men and women. This new era is ours- we will not falter to adverse publicity

nor by threatened boycotts- alas we are too strong to become weak. And those who fail to make the adjustments necessary to get our beloved nation back in shape- do a great disservice to all.

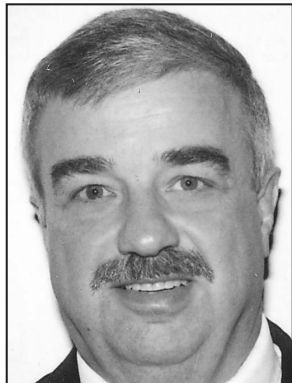
In time our economic downturn will give way to a greater prospect- ensuing a well deserved final victory.

A New Era is Ours!
Let us take its advantage for good.
God Bless America!

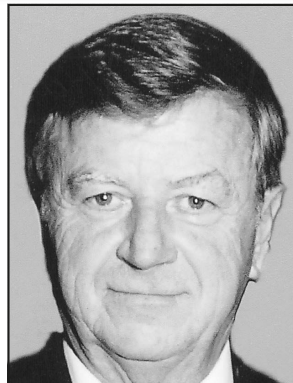
Francis X. Markley

The Best of the Best!

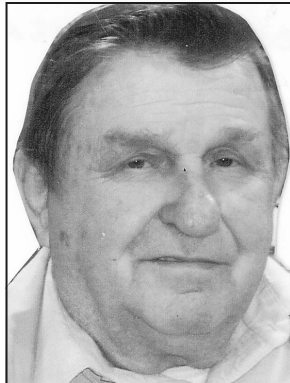
Top Guns thru March 31, 2009



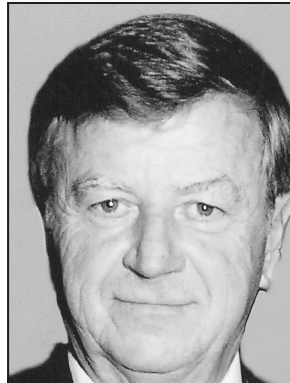
Kenneth A. Arendt
First Place



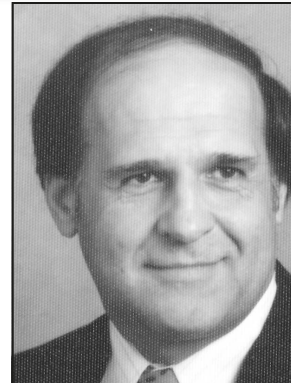
Andrew R. Harcar
Second Place



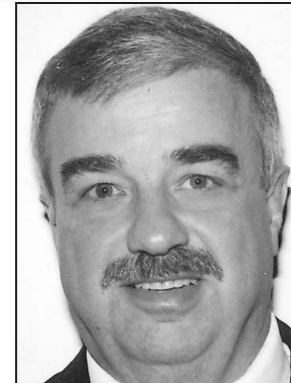
Joseph John Lucas
Third Place



Andrew R. Harcar
First Place



Carl J. Ungvarsky
Second Place



Kenneth A. Arendt
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

	Branch	Annuities
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	\$221,107.98
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	\$219,126.93
Joseph John Lucas, Parma, Ohio	855	\$137,207.71
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$121,829.99
Roger T. Soltis, Massilon, Ohio	410	\$96,574.71
Kimberly M. Meeker, Windsor, New York	166	\$78,300.00
Vincent P. Ciganik, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania	635	\$50,000.00
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	\$45,500.00
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania	417	\$35,300.00
Jacquelyn Bobby, Poland, Ohio	731	\$30,000.00
Shirley A. Kallok, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$30,000.00

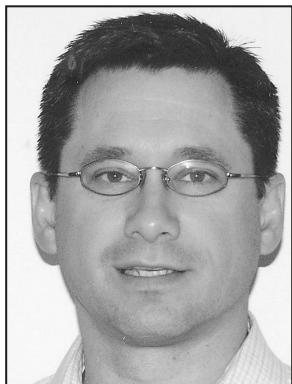
TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

	Branch	Total Points
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	368
Carl J. Ungvarsky, Mountain Top, Pennsylvania	173	308
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	221
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	144
Joseph John Lucas, Parma, Ohio	855	136
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	135
Mark Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	108
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	100
Roger T. Soltis, Massilon, Ohio	410	96
Ann Kacsanek, Akron, Ohio	553	85



PÁS HOST "A Slovak Murder Mystery"

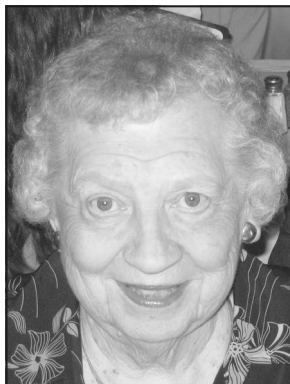
continued from page 8



Mark Marmol
First Place



Anna Magusin
Second Place



Dorothy J. Petrus
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Mark Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	\$500,000
Anna Magusin, Warren, Ohio	743	\$300,000
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$150,000
Andrew C. Herman, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$101,000
Joseph T. Scavina, Boardman, Ohio	682	\$60,000
Michael J. Slovenkai, Scranton, Pennsylvania	382	\$50,000
John Mago, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania	600	\$50,000
Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois	40	\$41,000
Michaelene T. Smolleck, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	312	\$40,000
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$30,000
Carl J. Ungvarsky, Mountain Top, Pennsylvania	173	\$30,000



Rev. Alojsius Pestun, S.D.B. to Celebrate Jubilee

Reverend Alojsius Pestun, S.D.B., a member of the Salesian Order of Don Bosco, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. in Christ the King Church in Šulekovo, near Trnava, in the Slovak Republic. Anyone visiting Slovakia at that time is cordially invited to attend.

Father Pestun is well known in the California Slovak communities. Presently, he is Associate Pastor at Corpus Christi Church in San Francisco. For the past 20 years Father Pestun has traveled from San Francisco to Los Angeles to celebrate a Slovak Mass. The trip takes six hours each way.

The officers of the Prince Pribina District thank God for sending us Father Pestun. We wish him abundant blessings of good health and peace.

Paul Skuben, President, Prince Pribina District

murdered in cold blood with a blunt instrument. The crime had happened in her boyfriend Jaromir's house.

Zora had led a quite pampered life, and "was given everything she could possibly want." Her parents had spoiled her and riches made her somewhat haughty. So that she might come to appreciate the value of money, her father got her a job as a waitress at the local *krčma* (restaurant and bar). But she never learned much about managing her *koruny* (the former Slovak currency), and instead spent her time flirting and flaunting herself at her job. Many folks had cause to resent her.

Police hurried to the scene and commenced an investigation to gather evidence. It was up to the villagers (the attendees) to help figure out the murderer. The police organized three groups of villagers to help solve the crime. The groups questioned PÁS members who worked in the various shops and locations. It was everyone's task to figure out who the murderer was.

Everyone had a specific Slovak identity. The mystery would gradually unfold as each villager took up the task of questioning who saw what around the time of the crime. Almost everyone in the village disliked Zora and resented her behavior. For instance, Milan was her family gardener. He was disgusted because Zora was so obnoxious and thought someone had to put a stop to her irresponsible behavior. Zora had just had a loud spat with her boyfriend, Jaromir, and he was a prime suspect. Apparently, he was also carrying on with Iva Dunik while still seeing Zora, so there was suspicion everywhere. And someone had stolen an axe from the Wood Shop!

While the investigation proceeded, some "villagers" enjoyed some PÁS song and dance performances while others ate a delicious meal of homemade *pirohy*, *halušky*, and *chalupky* (stuffed cabbage) or a *kolbasa* sandwich. Villagers could buy homemade desserts such as *koláče* and even purchase some to take home.

After questioning local business people and witnesses, someone finally figured out that Iva had hacked her rival with an axe (*valaška*) out of jealousy, and the mystery was solved.

A packed house attended the event at the Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. The fundraiser went a long way in helping PÁS to raise money to help pay expenses for its summer trip to Slovakia. Those in attendance were quite generous in giving the troupe a vote of confidence and showing support for Western Pennsylvania's representative. PÁS will perform at the Detva Folk Festival, which takes place on July 12, 2009.

A very special thanks goes out to Issie (Alyssa) Lipchick who organized the murder mystery scenario, as well as to all members of PÁS, who not only performed, but also assisted in preparing and baking and cooking so that all could have a wonderful time.

PÁS wanted to express a warm "*dakujem*" (Thank you) to all those who attended and contributed to making the event such a success. PÁS also feels honored that it was invited to represent American Slovaks at this international celebration. For over 35 years, the group has aimed to preserve and perform traditional Slovak songs and dances of their Slovak heritage in the Pittsburgh area and throughout the United States.

To learn more about the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble, visit www.pasfolkensemble.weebly.com. Browse through all parts of the website and enjoy the marvelous photos.

If you wish to support PÁS in any way, or its trip to Slovakia, it is not too late to do so. Please send your much appreciated donations to:

PÁS FOLK ENSEMBLE
1254 Old Concord Road
Monroeville, PA 15146 Tel. (412) 373-3873

SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Mississauga Celebrate 75th Anniversary

continued from page 1



Regional Director Milos Mitro, President Andrew Rajec, and Larry Glugosh, President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.



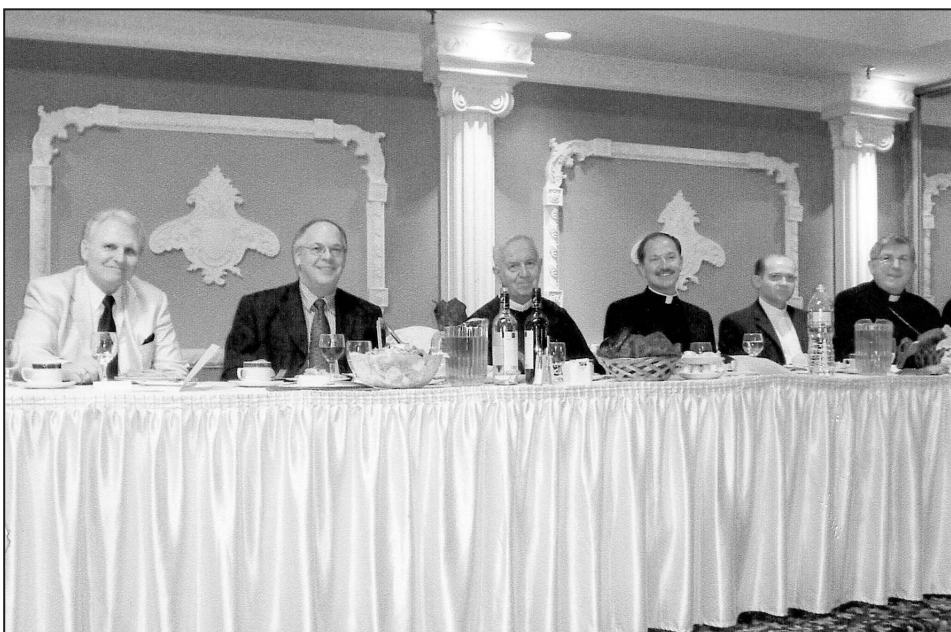
Jerry Siman and Josie Siman with Brother Peter Nacell, OSB and Brother Gabriel Balazovic, OSB



Regional Director Milos Mitro and Anne Mitro, President of the Parish Council.



National President Andrew Rajec and Idka Rajec attended both the anniversary liturgy and banquet luncheon.



At the Head Table L-R National President Andrew Rajec, Paul Szabo, MP for Mississauga South, Father John Fecko, Msgr. Peter Polando, Father Eugen Rybansky, and Archbishop Thomas Collins.



The Vychodna Slovak Dancers provided the entertainment.

Piate výročie vstupu SR do NATO a 60. výročie vzniku tejto aliancie

Bratislava (TASR) - Členstvo v Severoatlantickej aliancii (NATO) prinieslo podľa ministra obrany SR Jaroslava Bašku Slovensku výhody a záväzky zároveň. "Oboje plynie z podstaty kolektívnej obrany, teda zo záväzku členov aliancie vzájomne si v prípade potreby pomôcť a v dobrej viere plniť spoločné ciele," vyhlásil 21. apríla na slávnostnom zhromaždení, ktoré sa konalo na pôde rezortu obrany pri príležitosti piateho výročia vstupu Slovenskej republiky do NATO a tiež 60. výročia vzniku tejto aliancie.

Minister obrany SR pripomenul, že ak chce naša krajina využívať výhody spojenectva a pomoc priateľov, musíme byť aj my pripravení v prípade potreby priateľom a spojencom pomôcť. "To je základný princíp solidarity, na ktorom je Severoatlantická aliancia postavená už 60 rokov," povedal. Zdôraznil, že vstupom do NATO prebrala naša krajina svoj diel zodpovednosti, ktorá nie je politickým luxusom, ale nevyhnutnosťou, pretože v dnešnom svete nie je žiadna hrozba dostatočne ďaleko na to, aby sme si mohli povedať, že sa nás netýka. Za najväčšie výhody členstva SR v NATO označil najmä to, že ako štát už v oblasti bezpečnosti nie sme odkázaní len sami na seba. "Garantom našej bezpečnosti je NATO, ktorého sme plnoprávnym a plnohodnotným členom," zdôraznil.

Počas slávnostného zhromaždenia Baška zároveň ocenil viacerých súčasných aj bývalých zamestnancov rezortu obrany a tiež zamestnancov iných štátnych úradov a inštitúcií, ktorí sa podieľali na vstupe SR do NATO. Plaketou ministra obrany ocenil okrem iných bývalého štátneho tajomníka Ministerstva obrany (MO) SR so zodpovednosťou za rokovania a prístupový proces Slovenska do NATO Rastislava Káčera, bývalého náčelníka Generálneho štábu (GŠ) Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR Milana Cerovského, mimoriadneho a splnomocneného veľvyslanca - vedúceho misie SR pri NATO v rokoch 2003-2008 Igora Slobodníka, mimoriadneho a splnomocneného veľvyslanca - vedúceho misie SR pri NATO v rokoch 1999-2003 Petra Buriana, náčelníka GŠ OS SR Ľubomíra Bulíka, vedúceho sekcie obrany stálej Misie SR pri NATO v rokoch 2001-2005 Júliusa Demetriana, zástupcu náčelníka GŠ OS SR Petra Gajdoša a ďalších 23 ľudí. Vybraných profesionálnych vojakov a zamestnancov OS SR ocenil za ich osobitný prínos a vynikajúcu prácu, ktorú odvedli počas plnenia úloh súvisiacich s prístupovým procesom SR do NATO, aj náčelník GŠ OS SR Ľubomír Bulík.



Koncert bratislavských konzervatoristov vo Washingtone

Na pôde slovenského veľvyslanectva vo Washingtone sa 22. apríla 2009 uskutočnil koncert mladých slovenských umelcov – študentov Bratislavského štátneho konzervatória. Diela svetoznámych slovenských i zahraničných skladateľov v podaní barytonistu Pavla Kubáňa a bratov Norberta a Karola Daniša (klavír a husle) v sprievode Ivety Sabovej mali medzi washingtonským publikom veľmi pozitívny ohlas. Predvedené výkony mladých talentovaných umelcov zo Slovenska zaujali aj viacerých zúčastnených predstaviteľov miestnych umeleckých inštitúcií a boli potvrdením vynikajúceho renomé Bratislavského štátneho konzervatória, ktoré na podujatí zastupovala PhDr. Daniela Sliacka. Koncert sa uskutočnil v spolupráci s organizáciou World Artists Experience. V rámci dvojtýždňového turné absolvujú bratislavskí konzervatoristi viac ako desiatku ďalších vystúpení v rôznych mestách severovýchodu USA.

Tlačový a komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR



Pietna spomienka pri príležitosti 90. výročia tragickej smrti Milana R. Štefánika

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histórie, uviedol počas pietnej spomienky premiér Robert Fico. Dokumenty dokazujú, že Štefánik ako prvý prezentoval premiérovi Francúzskej republiky 25. decembra 1915 myšlienku vzniku samostatného Československa, konštatoval Fico. Súčasne vyzdvihol štyri rozhodujúce kroky generála Štefánika. "Opustil prax neúčinných vyhlásení a výziev a odhodlal sa k priamym rokovaniam s politikmi Dohody. Vytvoril československú armádu, légie a rozhodol, aby legionári bojovali na strane dohodových mocností. V jeho hlave vznikla myšlienka vytvoriť Československú národnú radu, ktorej sa stal podpredsedom. A tiež vystúpil s ideou povojnového usporiadania strednej Európy na spôsob Spojených štátov európskych. Presnejšie, vytvoril projekt federatívnej republiky podunajských štátov, čo je vlastne dnešná Višegrádska štvorka," konštatoval Fico.

Päť rokov v Únii Slovensku prospelo

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

významným krokom bolo prijatie spoločnej európskej meny euro 1. januára 2009. Slováci sú iba štvrtým národom, ktorý z novopristúpených členov prijal euro za vlastné. Európska komisia navyše štyri mesiace po prijatí eura konštatuje bezproblémovosť celého procesu. Väčšina krajín už otvorila pre Slovákov svoj pracovný trh, výnimku tvoria Nemecko a Rakúsko.

Slovensko je aktívnym členom

Slovensko počas uplynulých piatich rokov potvrdilo svoju schopnosť byť aktívnym členom Európskej únie, tvrdí slovenský eurokomisár Ján Figel'. 10 - počet krajín, ktoré vstúpili do EÚ v roku 2004 Cyprus, Česká republika, Estónsko, Maďarsko, Litva, Lotyšsko, Malta, Poľsko, Slovensko, Slovinsko. 73 miliónov - celkový počet obyvateľov nových krajín. Poľsko má najviac obyvateľov - 38 miliónov, Malta najmenej - 400.000. 460 miliónov - populácia Európskej únie po rozšírení. 9 - počet jazykov, o ktoré sa po Veľkom tresku rozšíril počet oficiálnych jazykov EÚ na 21. 162 - počet poslancov Európskeho parlamentu, o ktorých sa rozšíril na 732 členov. 3 - počet abecied používaných v EÚ po rozšírení. Pribudla bulharská cyrilika a grécka abeceda Cypru. 9.1 miliardy eur (274,15 miliardy Sk) - celková suma, ktorá bola vyplatená z rozpočtu EÚ novým členom prvom úplnom finančnom roku po rozšírení 2005 5.4 miliardy eur (162,68 miliardy Sk) - suma, ktorou nové členské štáty spolu prispeli do rozpočtu EÚ v roku 2005. 144.539 - kilometrov, o ktoré sa rozšírila cestná sieť v EÚ. 182.865 - počet nových automobilov zaregistrovaných v prístupujúcich štátoch EÚ v posledných dvoch mesiacoch pred rozšírením. Ich predaj vzrástol viac ako o 15 % mesačne. Kupci takto zareagovali v očakávaní, že ceny automobilov po vstupe do EÚ vzrastú. 227 - počet miestnych pomenovaní vín v nových krajinách (127 v Maďarsku). 327 - počet pivovarov v nových členských štátoch (116 z nich je v Českej republike). Úspechy krajiny sa ukázali podľa neho v oblastiach, kde sa prejavila kontinuita prekračujúca dlhšie obdobie a viaceré vlády a ukazujúca dôležitosť vnútroštátnych a európskych reforiem. Za príklad úspechu označil komisár vstup SR do eurozóny, a to aj v súvislosti s pretrvávajúcou hospodárskou krízou, ktorej dopady boli v štyroch nových členských krajinách eurozóny miernejšie než v štátoch bez spoločnej európskej meny. Reformy, ktoré Slovensko zrealizovalo, mu pomohli v hospodárskom raste, avšak toto úsilie musí pokračovať, upozorňuje komisár.

Slovensko má dobrý imidž

Slovenskí europoslanci sa zhodujú, že krajina má v Únii dobrý imidž a jeho pozícia je v súčasnosti oveľa lepšia ako bola pred vstupom. "V roku 2004 sme boli v polovičke hospodárskej a životnej úrovne EÚ, v súčasnosti sa to číslo blíži k 70 percentám. Keby možno nebola prišla tá finančná a hospodárska kríza, to číslo by bolo naďalej narastalo a verím, že v eurozóne a v spoločenstve 500 miliónov európskych občanov sa ďaleko skôr vyrovnáme s ekonomickými dopadmi krízy, ako keby sme to mali robiť len na úrovni nejakej päťmilionovej národnej ekonomiky," myslí europoslanec za SDKÚ-DS Milan Gaľa.

Euro je aj menou Slovákov

Vstupom do únie sa slovenskí občania stali podľa Moniky Flašíkovej-Beňovej zo Smeru-SD súčasťou jedného z najvýznamnejších a najvplyvnejších zoskupení. "Získali sme jedinečnú šancu pomôcť rozvoju našej krajiny financovať zlepšenie situácie našich regiónov a teda aj ich obyvateľov s veľkou finančnou podporou EÚ," povedala. Europoslancov Slováci volili raz v nedeľu 13. júna 2004. V historicky prvých eurovoľbách si voliči na Slovensku zvolili 14 poslancov. V najbližších voľbách, ktoré sa uskutočnia 6. júna však budú vyberať na základe nových pravidiel už iba 13-tich.

Európska únia

Európska únia je medzinárodné spoločenstvo, ktoré od posledného rozšírenia v roku 2007 tvorí 27 členských štátov s celkovým počtom 496 miliónov obyvateľov. Jej základom sa stali tzv. Rímske zmluvy, ktoré 25. marca 1957 podpísalo šesť krajín Európskeho združenia uhlia a ocele (EZUO) a založilo tým Európske hospodárske spoločenstvo (EHS). K zakladajúcim členom - Nemecku, Francúzsku, Taliansku, Holandsku, Belgicku a Luxemburgu - sa v roku 1973 pridali Británia, Írsko a Dánsko. V 80. rokoch vstúpilo do EHS Grécko, Španielsko a Portugalsko a v roku 1995 Švédsko, Fínsko a Rakúsko. EHS sa medzitým v roku 1993 premenovalo na Európsku úniu. V Únii v súčasnosti prebieha diskusia o jej budúcnosti. Zmenu by malo priniesť prijatie Lisabonskej zmluvy, ktorá by mala byť náhradou za európsku ústavu. Nie všetky štáty sa s ňou stotožňujú a zatiaľ ju neratifikovali.

Žena – tvorivá osobnosť tretieho tisícročia

Podnikateľky SR a ČR budú čeliť kríze konferenciou v USA

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenské a české podnikateľky sa od 21. - 22.5.2009 stretnú so svojimi americkými kolegyňami na konferencii v New Yorku, s cieľom nielen vymeniť si skúsenosti a nadviazať kontakty, ale aj získať nové impulzy a prepojenia, ktoré by mohli pomôcť čo najviac eliminovať dopady krízy. Po tlačovej konferencii 5. mája v Bratislave povedala prezidentka Top centra podnikateliek SR Elvíra Chadimová. “Slovenské a české ženy budú čeliť kríze organizovaním konferencie tam, odkiaľ kríza prišla,” poznamenala s úsmevom Chadimová na margo otázky, ako vznikla myšlienka usporiadať medzinárodné stretnutie v zahraničí. Dodala, že podujatie s názvom Žena – tvorivá osobnosť tretieho tisícročia sa tento rok uskutoční po šiesty raz a je pokračovaním podobných podujatí, ktoré sa konali na Slovensku a v Čechách.

Hlavnou témou newyorskej konferencie bude podnikanie žien, a tiež podmienky a podpora podnikania na rôznych kontinentoch. Účastníčky a účastníci konferencie sa budú zaoberať najmä otázkami spojenia kariéry, rodiny a osobného rozvoja žien a skúsenosťami s podnikaním v neziskovom sektore. Záštitu nad konferenciou Top centra podnikateliek (OZ TCP), Moravskej asociácie podnikateliek a manažérok (MAPM) a Fóra žien (FŽ) v Českom národnom dome v New Yorku prevzal minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák, ako aj šéf českej diplomacie Karel Schwarzenberg.

“Je to skvelá príležitosť, ako prezentovať krajinu v zahraničí a tiež ako priblížiť podnikateľov Slovenska a Česka k podnikateľom v Amerike,” povedala štátna tajomníčka Ministerstva zahraničných vecí (MZV) SR Diana Štrofová. Dodala, že MZV SR toto podujatie vníma ako jednu z ďalších možností prepojenia nielen kultúr, ale v prvom rade obchodu. “Ministerstvo svojim spôsobom vníma túto možnosť ako jeden z ďalších variantov, ako prepojiť podnikateľov na oboch stranách Atlantiku,” poznamenala s tým, že aj z tohto dôvodu rezort podporuje projekt podnikateliek. Zároveň vyjadrila presvedčenie, že ak podnikateľky skutočne zorganizujú aj ďalší ročník podujatia, ktorý plánujú usporiadať v Keni, rezort zahraničia ho určite bude chcieť podporiť.

Slovenské a české podnikateľky pripravujú newyorskú konferenciu v úzkej spolupráci s americkou neziskovou organizáciou Vital Voices, založenou súčasťou ministerkou zahraničných vecí USA Hillary Clintonovou. Zúčastniť by sa jej malo 22 Sloveniek a 68 Čechiek z rôznych podnikateľských oblastí. “Je prihlásených aj viac ako 30 Američaniek. Čakáme však, že ich bude okolo 50–70,” priblížila organizačná riaditeľka konferencie Lucie Pilipová. “Veríme, že konferencia bude úspešná a predpokladáme, že počet 220 účastníčok, ktoré boli tu v Bratislave, sa nám prevýši,” uzavrela Chadimová.



Zimná olympiáda v Kanade v roku 2010 by mala SR vyjsť na 3.66 milióna eur

Bratislava (TASR) - Náklady na zabezpečenie prípravy, kvalifikácie slovenských športovcov a účasti na XXI. zimných olympijských hrách (ZOH) 2010 vo Vancouveri predstavujú v rokoch 2009 až 2010 sumu 2.43 milióna eur (73.2 milióna Sk). Z toho by malo ministerstvo školstva (MŠ) vynaložiť 2.19 milióna eur (66 miliónov Sk). Predpokladané výdavky súvisiace s X. zimnými paraolympijskými hrami (ZPH) 2010 v tomto kanadskom meste sú 1.23 milióna eur (37 miliónov Sk). Požiadavka na rozpočet MŠ SR tvorí takmer 1.1 milióna eur (33 miliónov Sk). V programe ZOH 2010 (12. až 28. február) sú súčasťou v 15 športových odvetviach. Odhaduje sa, že slovenskí športovci budú mať zastúpenie asi v desiatich športoch. Výbor predpokladá, že do Kanady pocestuje 160-členná výprava SR, ktorú bude tvoriť asi 75 športovcov. Konečnú nomináciu Výkonný výbor SOV schváli v januári budúceho roka. Na ZPH 2010 (12. až 21. marec) sa bude súťažiť v piatich športoch – zjazdovom a bežeckom lyžovaní, biatlone, curlingu na vozíčkoch a ľadovom hokeji na sánkach. Celkovo sa na týchto hrách bude bojovať o 64 medailových sád. Za Slovensko sa ich pokúsi získať 23 športovcov. Počíta aj s 12 návštevami, 20 členmi realizačných tímov a nevyhnutného sprievodu, ako i šiestimi členmi vedenia výpravy.



Vilma Prívarová s veľvyslancom Petrom Burianom.

Slovenský veľvyslanec v USA na pôde ÚSZZ

Dňa 25. 3. 2009 prijala predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vilma Prívarová na pôde úradu veľvyslanca Slovenskej republiky v USA p. Petra Buriana. Predmetom rokovania bola prisľúbená pomoc Národnému českému a slovenskému múzeu a knižnici v Cedar Rapids po ničivých záplavách, ktoré múzeum postihli minulý rok. V. Prívarová informovala p. veľvyslanca o tom, že táto inštitúcia si v rámci grantového systému úradu v roku 2009 predložila žiadosť o poskytnutie dotácie. Veľvyslanec SR informoval predsedníčku úradu o organizovaní stretnutia predsedov všetkých slovenských fraternalistických organizácií a spolkov, ktoré ZÚ SR plánuje na pôde veľvyslanectva zrealizovať v máji t. r. Veľvyslanec SR v USA prisľúbil zaslať ÚSZZ informácie o všetkých súčasných honorárnych konzuloch SR v USA, ako aj zoznam všetkých funkčných slovenských spolkov a organizácií v USA. Na pravidelnej báze prisľúbil informovať úrad aj o všetkých pripravovaných a zrealizovaných krajanských podujatiach so zámerom zverejniť tieto informácie na webovej stránke ÚSZZ. Ďalšou témou rozhovoru boli významné osobnosti z radov Slovákov žijúcich v USA, ich prezentácia a prípadné ocenenie na Slovensku, ako aj využitie ich vplyvu v USA. P. Burian a V. Prívarová sa dohodli aj na spoločnom postupe v oblasti záchran slovenských archiválií, dokumentov a pozostalostí významných osobností, ktoré sa nachádzajú na území USA a ktoré by ich majitelia formou daru alebo predajom chceli odovzdať Slovenskej republike.



Počet Slovákov pracujúcich v únii sa ustálil

Bratislava (TASR) – Za päť rokov od vstupu SR do Európskej únie (EÚ) sa počet Slovákov pracujúcich v ostatných členských štátoch ustálil na približne 230,000 až 240,000. Najviac ich pritom v krajinách únie pracovalo pred rokom, odvtedy sa pod vplyvom hospodárskej krízy časť z nich vrátila späť na Slovensko. Ako ďalej vyplýva z odhadov, ktoré poskytol Peter Zeman z kancelárie generálneho riaditeľa Ústredia práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (ÚPSVaR) SR, rok po vstupe do EÚ pracovalo v zahraničí 120,000 občanov Slovenska. Tento počet každoročne narastal o desiatky tisíc ľudí a svoj vrchol dosiahol vlani, keď v krajinách únie pracovalo okolo 250,000 Slovákov. Odvtedy sa ich podľa ústredia práce 10,000 až 20,000 vrátilo naspäť.

Najviac, vyše 90,000 občanov Slovenska v súčasnosti pracuje v Českej republike, vo Veľkej Británii ich je približne 60,000, v Írsku bolo registrovaných viac ako 40,000 a v Maďarsku asi 15,000 Slovákov. Nezanedbateľnou časťou z celkového počtu pracujúcich v zahraničí sú tí, ktorí dochádzajú za prácou na dennej alebo týždennej báze. Takýmto spôsobom podľa ÚPSVaR dochádza do niektorých zo susedných krajín EÚ približne 30,000 občanov SR, najviac do Maďarska, nasleduje Rakúsko a Česko.

Ústredie práce vie presne vyčíslit iba tých, ktorí sa po príchode idú zaregistrovať ako uchádzači o zamestnanie. Na úradoch práce bolo takýchto ľudí vlani zaevidovaných spolu 10,039. Najčastejšie to boli Slováci, ktorých predchádzajúcim pôsobiskom bola Česká republika (3,890), nasledovali tí, ktorí sa prichádzali evidovať po príchode z Veľkej Británie (1,983) a Maďarska (1,085).

75. výročie osady sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Mississauga, Ontario, Kanada

V nedeľu, 19. apríla 2009 si osada sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Mississauga, Ontario, Kanada okázalými oslavami pripomenula 75. výročie svojho založenia. Po svätej omši, ktorej hlavným celebrantom bol jeho excelencia, toronský arcibiskup, Rev. Thomas Collins, sa konal v Capital Banquet Centre v Mississauga, slávnostný banket. Toto významné diamantové výročie osady si prišlo poctiť približne 520 osadníkov, cirkevných hodnostárov, predstaviteľov politického a spoločenského života.

Medzi pozvanými hosťami bol aj hlavný predseda Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Andrej Rajec, spolu s manželkou Idkou; Msgr. Peter Polando, farár slovenského kostola sv. Matiaša v Youngstown, Ohio; Paul Szabo, MP for Mississauga South; Larry Glugosh, predseda Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola. Kultúrny program spestrila prezentácia videa, ktoré zdokumentovalo 25-ročnú činnosť osady. Po pohostení vystúpili členovia slovenskej folklórnej tanečnej skupiny Východná.



Na snímke hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrej Rajec v spoločnosti zľava oblastného riaditeľa, Miloša Mitro a sprava čestného MP for Mississauga South, Paula Szabo.

Zľava: arcibiskup Thomas Collins; otec Jozef Vaňo; otec Mike Kolarčík; otec J. P. Horrigan; Hazel Mc Callion, primátorka mesta Mississauga; Larry Glugosh, predseda SKS.



Členovia slovenskej folklórnej tanečnej skupiny Východná počas svojho vystúpenia.

❖❖❖ Pracovná cesta politického riaditeľa MZV SR v USA

Generálny riaditeľ Politickej sekcie MZV SR Igor Slobodník uskutočnil v dňoch 21.-23. apríla 2009 pracovnú návštevu USA. Vystúpil ako jeden z panelistov na seminári „5 rokov členstva v NATO – očakávania, realita, budúcnosť“, ktorý 22. apríla z iniciatívy slovenského veľvyslanectva vo Washingtone, zorganizovali veľvyslanectvá krajín tzv. Vilniuskej skupiny (V7 - Bulharsko, Estónsko, Litva, Lotyšsko, Rumunsko, Slovensko a Slovinsko) spoločne s prestížnou mimovládou organizáciou German Marshall Fund. Cieľom semináru bolo zhodnotiť päťročné skúsenosti krajín Vilniuskej skupiny z členstva v NATO, vymeniť si pohľady na aktuálne otázky a výzvy stojace pred Alianciou, ako aj na jej budúcnosť. Na podujatí sa okrem zástupcov ministerstiev zahraničných vecí krajín V7 zúčastnili aj vysokí predstavitelia viacerých vládnych inštitúcií USA, diplomatického zboru a mnohých washingtonských think-tankov. I. Slobodník sa vo svojom vystúpení zameril na zhodnotenie prínosu členstva v NATO pre SR, prínosu pôsobenia SR v NATO pre Alianciu, ako aj kolektívneho prínosu rozšírenia Aliancie o krajiny V7.

V rámci programu I. Slobodníka vo Washingtone sa uskutočnilo aj stretnutie so štátnym podtajomníkom MZV USA Danielom Friedom. Témou rokovania bola najmä situácia na Západnom Balkáne. I. Slobodník sa stretol aj s poradcom viceprezidenta USA pre otázky národnej bezpečnosti Anthonym Blinkenom. Dňa 23. apríla 2009 absolvoval I. Slobodník rokovania s riaditeľom Národnej bezpečnostnej rady USA pre strednú a východnú Európu J. Hovenierom a štátnym podtajomníkom Ministerstva obrany USA pre medzinárodné bezpečnostné otázky Alexandrom Vershbowom, s ktorými diskutoval o vzájomných slovensko-amerických vzťahoch a aktuálnych zahraničnopolitických otázkach s dôrazom na situáciu v Afganistane a vývoj na Balkáne.

Tlačový a komunikačný odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

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

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

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

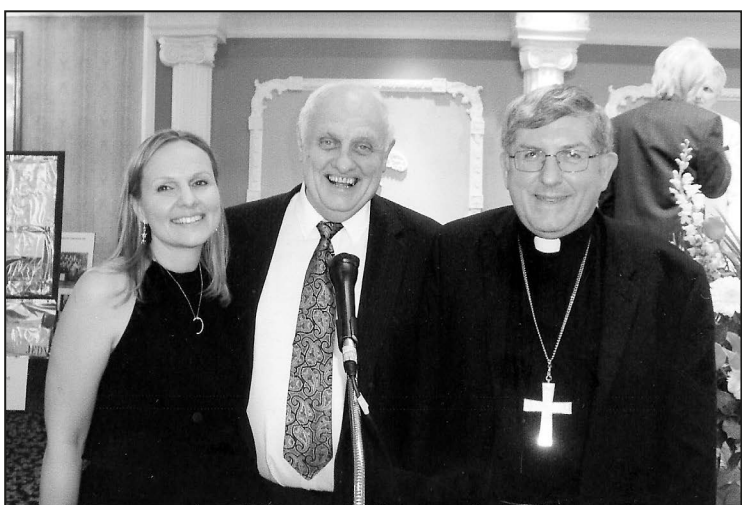
Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Zľava: Msgr. Peter Polando, farár slovenského kostola sv. Matiaša v Youngstown, Ohio; Larry Glugosh, hlavný predseda SKS; Andrej Rajec, hlavný predseda IKSJ; Rev. Thomas Collins, toronský arcibiskup a John Balážovič.



Zľava hlavní moderátori programu, Maria Vacval a Emil Jurša spolu arcibiskupom Thomasom Collins.



Arcibiskup Thomas Collins počas svätej omše.



Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Preletom prvého lietadla typu MiG-29 sa 20. apríla začalo sťahovanie techniky a personálu Leteckej základne (LZ) Sliač do ich dočasného pôsobiska – Dopravného leteckého krídla Kuchyňa. Dôvodom sťahovania je generálna rekonštrukcia vzletovej - pristávacej dráhy a infraštruktúry sliačskej základne. Samotná dĺžka výluky leteckej základne bude ovplyvnená rýchlosťou stavebných a rekonštrukčných prác. V Kuchyni bude zabezpečovať prevádzku presťahovanej techniky 150 až 200 profesionálnych vojakov zo sliačskej základne, ktorí sa budú v pravidelných intervaloch striedať na plnení úloh výcviku. Úlohy súvisiace s pohotovostným systémom PoSy a NATINADS budú až do ukončenia rekonštrukcie Leteckej základne Sliač plnené a zabezpečované z vojenského letiska na Záhorí, rovnako aj letecký výcvik.

Investícia automobilky Volkswagen do výroby nového modelu automobilu na Slovensku je zaujímavá nielen svojím objemom, ale aj tým, že vznikne 1,500 nových pracovných miest. Konštatoval to v druhej polovici apríla na tlačovej konferencii predseda vlády SR Robert Fico. Nemecký koncern Volkswagen informoval, že bude nové malé rodinné auto s projektovým názvom Up! vyrábať v bratislavskom závode automobilky Volkswagen SK, a.s. Výška investície dosiahne 308 miliónov eur (9,28 miliardy Sk). Prvé vozidlá tohto nového modelového radu by sa mali dostať na trh začiatkom roka 2011. Potom budú k dispozícii varianty pre značky koncernu Volkswagen, Seat a Škoda v trojdverovom aj päťdverovom prevedení.

Premiér SR Robert Fico verí, že kórejské spoločnosti pôsobiace na Slovensku sa sústredia nielen na výrobu, ale tiež na investície do výskumu a vývoja. Konštatoval to po nedávnom stretnutí s predsedom vlády Kórejskej republiky Han Sung-suom. Slovensko podľa neho ponúka zahraničným investorom kvalifikovanú pracovnú silu, spoločnú európsku menu a tiež politickú stabilitu. Kórejský premiér označil za veľký úspech Slovenska vstup do eurozóny. Tiež poznamenal, že predpokladá, že kórejské firmy budú aj naďalej investovať na Slovensku, pravdepodobne viac ako tie slovenské v Kórejskej republike. V rámci stretnutia podpísali ministri hospodárstva oboch krajín memorandum o porozumení. V súčasnosti v SR pôsobí viac ako 60 kórejských firiem, ktoré zamestnávajú asi 20,000 Slovákov. Okrem veľkých ako Samsung a Kia aj veľa malých a stredných podnikov, ktoré fungujú ako ich dodávatelia. Spoločnosti z Južnej Kórey investovali v SR 1,5 miliardy eur (45,19 miliardy Sk).

26. apríla uplynulo 100 dní od chvíle, keď sa na Slovensku skončil duálny obeh a koruna ako platidlo odišla do histórie. Od 17. januára 2009 sa Slováci pridali k viac ako 300 miliónovej populácii Európanov platiacich len spoločnou menou. Obavy v súvislosti so zavedením eura sa týkali najmä zvýšenia cien a zhoršenia konkurenčnej pozície slovenskej produkcie v zahraničí.

Slovensko môžu z hospodárskej krízy vytiahnuť nové investičné projekty. Podľa štúdie poradenskej spoločnosti PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) totiž Slovensko patrí medzi krajiny s vysokým potenciálom návratnosti a bezpečnosti vložených investícií. Prieskum z prvých dvoch mesiacov roka v kategórii investícií do služieb Slovensko zaradil na prvé miesto. Slovensko si polepšilo aj v odvetví výroby, keď sa zo 16. miesta z roku 2004 postupne prepracovalo na aktuálne šieste. Kľúčovými kritériami pre zostavovanie rebríčka je politická stabilita, efektívnosť regulačnej politiky či ekonomická sila.

Nová mena euro priniesla do kúpeľov Sklené Teplice v Štiavnických vrchoch zmenu klientely a návrat hostí zo západnej Európy. V súvislosti s prechodom na euro po takmer štvormesačných skúsenostiach uviedla členka predstavenstva spoločnosti Liečebné termálne kúpele, a. s., Iveta Šatková, ktorá vedie úsek marketingu. V minulom roku až 40 percent klientely tvorili kúpeľní hostia z Čiech. Od januára vzhľadom na nepriaznivý kurz českej koruny ich postupne ubúda. Začali sa však vracajú hostia z Nemecka a Francúzska a dokonca na veľkonočné sviatky kúpele boli obsadené na 100 percent. Kúpele Sklené Teplice v okrese Žiar nad Hronom patria svojou kapacitou 220 lôžok k malým kúpeľným centrom na Slovensku. V obci, kde žije len vyše 400 obyvateľov, vyvierajú 14 prameňov s teplotou vody od 37 °C do 52,3 °C. Sú to najvýznamnejšie minerálne pramene vulkanického pásma a fyzikálno-chemické vlastnosti termálnych vôd predurčili kúpele v Sklených Tepliciach na liečbu chorôb pohybového a nervového ústrojenstva.

V najbližších dňoch začne 200 zamestnancov bratislavského závodu Volkswagen Slovakia pracovať pre automobilku Škoda Auto v jej závodoch v Mladej Boleslavi a Kvasinách. Česká automobilka týmto krokom reaguje na zvýšený dopyt po malých osobných automobilov v dôsledku zavedenia tzv. šrotového, teda štátnej dotácie na nahradenie starého auta novým, vo viacerých európskych štátoch. V bratislavskom závode Volkswagen Slovakia už vyše roka prebieha aj sériová výroba modelu Škoda Octavia, ktorá sa začala v marci 2008. Slovenskí zamestnanci tohto závodu tak už dnes majú skúsenosti s výrobou automobilov značky Škoda. Na výrobe modelov Škoda v Českej republike a na Slovensku sa zároveň dlhodobo podieľajú aj slovenskí dodávatelia.

Trenčianska Merina 30.4.2009 zastavila svoju výrobu. Z fabriky, ktorá vyrábala látky a priadze vyše 100 rokov, teda odíde aj posledná stovka zamestnancov. Zostane len malá firma, ktorá bude rozpredávať majetok bývalej textilky. Merina mala pred 20 rokmi okolo 2,500 zamestnancov. Po nástupe lacných ázijských výrobkov na trh jej postavenie upadalo. Podľa generálneho riaditeľa Meriny Miroslava

Majerníka skončil textilný priemysel v celej strednej Európe. V Trenčíne je to už druhá veľká fabrika, čo ukončila výrobu. Pred dvoma rokmi zanikla Ozeta. Textilná fabrika v Trenčíne vznikla v roku 1907 pod názvom Tiberghien a synovia. Názov Merina používa od roku 1949.

Prasacej chrípky sa boja aj Slováci. Minister zdravotníctva Richard Raši síce vyhlásil, že na Slovensku zatiaľ žiaden podozrivý prípad nie je, napriek tomu Slováci zobrali lekárne útokom a to najmä v Bratislave. Skupujú antivirotiká aj ochranné rúška. Tamiflu stojí 33 eur a rúško 7 centov. Slovensko konkrétne opatrenia zatiaľ neprijalo. Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí však odporučilo cestu do Mexika zviaziť, respektíve vyhnúť sa najviac postihnutým oblastiam.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



Od júna sa budú vydávať na Slovensku pasy s dvoma biometrickými údajmi

Bratislava (TASR) - Po približne jeden a pol roku od zavedenia biometrických pasov na Slovensku sa začnú 22. júna vydávať cestovné pasy s dvoma biometrickými údajmi. Pasy s prvým biometrickým údajom - digitálnou mapou tváre, vydávajú od 15. januára 2008, druhým budú od júna odtlačky prstov. Druhý biometrický údaj malo Slovensko do pasov zaviesť podľa nariadenia Európskej únie (EÚ) do 30. júna tohto roku. Po zavedení digitálnej mapy tváre začiatkom minulého roku Slovensko čakalo na schválenie technológie od EÚ.

Medzičasom tieto pasy prispeli okrem iného aj k zrušeniu vízovej povinnosti do USA a stali sa jednou z dvoch hlavných podmienok na to, aby slovenský občan mohol bez víz pricestovať do USA. Druhou je vyplnenie formulára, na základe ktorého systém ESTA cestu povolí alebo nie. Spojené štáty zrušili v novembri minulého roku vízovú povinnosť pre sedem štátov. Okrem Slovenska a Česka aj Lotyšsku, Litve, Estónsku, Maďarsku a Kórejskej republike. Informácie z čipu v biometrickom pase je možné čítať len pomocou špeciálnej čítačky a to tak, že do nej treba pas vložiť. V systéme vydávania biometrických pasov participuje aj Národný bezpečnostný úrad (NBÚ), ktorý plní úlohu overovateľa a garanta originality vydaného pasu. Prevádzkuje certifikačnú autoritu, ktorá vydáva certifikáty pre overenie autenticity vydaného pasu. Prevádzka a systém vydávania certifikátov určených na tieto účely sa riadi štandardami, ktoré platia pre všetky členské krajiny EÚ. Úradom vydaný certifikát dohodnutým spôsobom zasiela Ministerstvo vnútra SR všetkým pasovým a colným orgánom členských krajín EÚ. Pri predložení biometrického pasu pri pasovej kontrole sa týmto certifikátom overí, či predložený pas je pravý, alebo nie.



FOTO TASR - Tomáš Halász

Na snímke tradičné stavenie mája v mestskej časti Bratislava- Karlová Ves 29. apríla 2009. The erection of the traditional May Tree in Bratislava Karlova Ves, April 29, 2009.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 118

STREDA, 13. MÁJA, 2009

Číslo 5799



FOTO TASR - Michal Svitok

Oslavy 5. výročia členstva Slovenska v Európskej únii za účasti prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča, predsedu Národnej rady SR Pavla Pašku a predsedu vlády Roberta Fica sa uskutočnili v Liptovskom Mikuláši 1. mája 2009. Na snímke premiér Robert Fico počas príhovoru v rámci osláv piatich rokov Slovenska v Európskej únii. The celebration of the 5th anniversary of Slovakia's membership in the European Union. Prime Minister Robert Fico delivered the main address at the anniversary ceremonies in Liptovský Mikuláš on May 1, 2009.



Päť rokov v Únii Slovensku prospelo

Bratislava (TASR) - Slovensko 1. mája oslavuje piaty rok členstva v Európskej únii. Za ten čas sa stalo aktívnym členom spoločenstva, vstúpilo do Schengenského priestoru a prijalo ako štvrté z nových členských krajín spoločnú menu euro. Za necelých päť rokov členstva sa podiel Slovákov, ktorí sa často, alebo aspoň niekedy cítia byť občanmi únie zvýšil zo 46 na 58 percent. Stále však majú o spoločenstve málo informácií, zároveň však o ne ani nemajú záujem.

Slovensko v únii rástlo

Päť rokov v Únii sa krajine vyplatilo. S pomedzi krajín V4 sa jej podarilo najviac zvýšiť svoj ekonomický potenciál. Hrubý domáci produkt na obyvateľa sa na Slovensku zvýšil z 57 percent v roku 2004 na 72 percent priemeru európskej 27-čky v roku 2008. Česká republika si za rovnaké obdobie pripísala k dobru osem percent, no k priemeru únie je s 83 percent z celého regiónu V4 najbližšie. Kým poľský HDP na obyvateľa vzrástol z 51 na 56 percent, Maďarsko prvých päť rokov v únii prakticky stagnovalo s minimálnym jednoperceným prírastkom zo 63 na 64 percent.

Veľké míľniky

Slovensko takmer definitívne zavŕšilo začlenenie do európskych štruktúr a prekonal dva veľké míľniky. Na sklonku roku 2007 sa stalo členom Schengenského priestoru, ktorý umožňuje voľný pohyb osôb po celej európskej únii. Ďalším

Pokračovanie na str. 20

Pietna spomienka pri príležitosti 90. výročia tragickej smrti Milana R. Štefánika

Brezová pod Bradlom (TASR) - Tradičným zapálením vatier najvyššími štátnymi predstaviteľmi pri mohyle na Bradle 3. mája vyvrcholila pietna spomienka pri príležitosti 90. výročia tragickej smrti Milana Rastislava Štefánika. Počas spomienkového stretnutia sa zavŕšila aj štafeta s názvom Pocta Štefánikovi, ktorá symbolicky spojila všetky mestá, obce i miesta na Slovensku, kde sa nachádzajú sochy, pamätníky či busty generála Štefánika. V pondelok 27. apríla tohto roka vyštartovalo päť štafiet, ktoré navštívili desiatky miest na Slovensku. Primátori i občania v týchto mestách pripli pestrofarebné stuhy na jeden z piatich štafetových kolíkov. Na Bradle sa k nim pridali i prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič, predseda vlády SR Robert Fico, minister obrany Jaroslav Baška, náčelník Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl SR Ľubomír Bulík, primátorka Brezovej pod Bradlom Anna Danková a spoločnú stuhu uviazali na štafetový kolík podpredsedovia Národnej rady SR Anna Belousovová a Milan Hort. Štafeta bude uložená v depozite múzea M.R. Štefánika v jeho rodných Košariskách.

Milan Rastislav Štefánik bol jednou z najvýznamnejších osobností slovenskej

Pokračovanie na str. 20



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Snímka z odhalenia Pamätníka M. R. Štefánika 4. mája 2009 v Bratislave. The unveiling of the new memorial of Milan Stefanik in Bratislava, May 4, 2009