



Jednota

THE UNION

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How to Enhance Your Estate through Wealth Transfer/Wealth Management

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

It is estimated that Baby Boomers will pass more than \$40 trillion in accumulated assets to their heirs by the year 2052. Regardless if you are counted among this transitioning generation, or simply one of the many people who plan to leave money to their spouse, children or grandchildren, you need to consider how best to protect that money. It is, after all, the financial legacy you will have worked a lifetime to secure for your loved ones. Undoubtedly, effective estate planning can help you preserve your assets. That's why the First Catholic Slovak Union offers a complimentary Estate Planner for our members (see page 4 of this issue).



Kenneth Arendt

Beyond estate planning, however, there is another option you should consider, one that can immediately enhance the value of your estate: wealth transfer/wealth management. Wealth Transfer single premium whole life insurance is a policy specifically designed for those interested in transferring wealth to their heirs with minimum tax and probate consequences – as well as a safe and secure method of building cash in ways not possible by today's current bank interest rates.

Powerful Protection of Future Funds

The main purpose of any life insurance policy is to protect your loved ones from undue financial hardship if something were to happen to you.

But did you know life insurance can also be a powerful wealth transfer vehicle? A wealth transfer single premium whole life insurance policy allows you to pay a single premium, and pass the guaranteed death benefit on a tax-free basis to your beneficiaries. This type of policy can be the best financial vehicle to leave behind funds you have set aside for future recipients such as kids, grandchildren or your favorite charity. This is because – in addition to removing federal income tax burdens – the cash inside this policy has the potential to grow at a greater rate than savings you would place in a bank CD, money market, or securities product.

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Attention Jednotars:



National Golf Tournament

July 18 – July 20, 2014

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Memorial Day 2014

The First Catholic Slovak Union thanks all veterans who served our country. We especially want to remember all those who gave their lives or suffered permanent disability to preserve our freedom.

Andrew M. Rajec, National President



Andrew M. Rajec



Celebrated every year on the final Monday of May, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th century, Memorial Day was extended to honor all Americans who died while in military service.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day; Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

The Red Poppy for Remembrance

The red poppy is the traditional flower to honor and commemorate veterans in North America, Europe and Australia. In fact, it has been adopted as the Remembrance Flower for the war dead of Britain, France, the United States, Canada and other Commonwealth countries.

The red poppy was made famous by a poem - In Flanders Fields - written during World War I by Canadian army surgeon Lt. Col. John McCrae.

In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the dead.
Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



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• 2014 National Photo Contest Begins:
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Insights and Viewpoints



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

June 1, 2014

Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17: 1-11a

Departure, presence and return are the key themes of the scriptures on the Feast of the Ascension. These points are woven around a basic recounting of the event of Jesus' ascension itself, the moment when he took leave of his disciples physically after his resurrection and appearances to



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

them, not to return "until the end of the age" and the final judgment.

Both the Acts of the Apostles and the gospels of Mark and Luke narrate the ascension of Jesus from the midst of his followers. Mark reports that Jesus ascended "up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God" presumably from Jerusalem, where he had appeared to his disciples (Mark 16:14, 19). Luke says that Jesus ascended from Bethany, just outside of Jerusalem, on the evening of the first Easter Sunday (Luke 24:13-51); in the Acts of the Apostles he states that Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives, where Bethany is found, but he adds that the ascension took place forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:1-12).

As Catholics the differences in these accounts are not a matter to make us stumble but rather an understandable example of the human element in the inspired revelation that comes to us through the scriptures. In any case, the ascension marks the definitive end of the visible presence of Jesus to his newly formed Church. It is thus a moment of sadness for them yet also a moment of great joy and exaltation as they witness his glory and his union with the Father.

Immediately before his departure Jesus makes two important promises to his followers to sustain them—and us—while he is gone: first he declares that he will send the Holy Spirit to them, which will be received through baptism; and then he assures the disciples that he will remain with them always, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matt 28:20).

Regarding the first promise, the apostles and the other disciples present would indeed be baptized in a unique manner, with tongues of fire coming to rest over them in a dramatic public outpouring of the Holy Spirit; the Church will celebrate this event next Sunday on the Feast of Pentecost. While this must have been a truly awesome scene, it is vital for all present day Christians to remember that we too receive the very same outpouring of the Holy Spirit: we too are "baptized in the Holy Spirit", though in the waters of the baptismal font rather than with tongues of fire.

The identity of our baptism and sharing in the Holy Spirit with that of the original Jerusalem community is underlined by the fact that we, like they, are sent forth "to be witnesses to Jesus to the ends of the earth" (see Acts 1:8) and "to make disciples of all the nations" (Matt 28:19), handing on to them the gift of baptism. Through his followers Jesus' mission and ministry thus continues after his ascent into heaven; in a very real way Christian believers make the Lord's presence felt even though he is now physically departed.

This brings us to the second promise which Jesus made before his ascension: that he would remain with us always. The presence within us of the Holy Spirit, given in the waters

of baptism, is itself a fulfillment of this second promise since wherever Jesus' Spirit is present he himself is present and active.

Buoyed up by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in this time of the new evangelization all Christians are called to respond to Jesus' command to: "go forth and make disciples of all the nations" so that on his return in glory he will welcome the fullness of humanity into his kingdom and bring all of us to share in his eternal glory.

June 8, 2014

Pentecost Sunday

John 20: 19 - 23

The actual Pentecost event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. The Jewish Feast is also known as the Festival of Weeks which was the completion of the seven weeks following Passover. This was a time of Thanksgiving during which the harvest took place and the first fruits were brought to the Temple. The day after the completion of the seven weeks, forty-nine days, was known as Pentecost, which means fifty. This Feast celebrated Moses receiving the Commandments at Mount Sinai. When we hear in the readings today references to Pentecost they are referring to the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. Jesus rose from the dead at the completion of Passover and fifty days later his followers experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which was on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

The first Pentecost was a day of anticipation and surprise. At the time of the Ascension Jesus told the apostles to go back to Jerusalem and wait. He didn't say how long they should wait. Would it be hours, a day or days, or a week or even longer? They didn't know, but they were faithful and gathered together every day to pray. For nine days they met to pray, and no doubt with the anticipation that this would be the day Jesus told them to prepare for, but nothing special seemed to happen. When they met on the tenth Day they received the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (It is from these nine days of prayer followed by the Pentecost event that the practice of novenas developed, which are nine days of prayer before the celebration of a particular feast.)

They gathered in anticipation of some great experience of God. After experiencing the Last Supper, the Passion and Death, the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, they were probably not even going to try to guess what God had planned for them. They knew from experience that it would probably be far greater than they could ever imagine. The Apostles shared their anticipation with one another and never grew lax in their coming together to pray. The Lord was preparing them to be Church.

What happened on the tenth day was a total surprise when they experienced a loud noise like a driving wind, tongues as of fire, and the ability to speak in different tongues. The Holy Spirit had come, not merely to visit these followers of Jesus, but to fill them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and found themselves living their faith and proclaiming their experience of Jesus in ways that were foreign to them. They were surprised with the suddenness of how this took place, as well as the permanence of this event in their lives. When they spread out from Jerusalem this presence and the gifts that were part of this presence stayed with them.

When they saw the numerous converts who were baptized experiencing these same gifts of the Holy Spirit they realized that the Holy Spirit is a gift to the Church. A gift that each of us received at Baptism and Confirmation. Pentecost is a time for us to become more aware of the Holy Spirit in our lives and to claim the power and gifts that we have been blessed with. These gifts are far greater and more beautiful than we can probably imagine. Let us celebrate Pentecost with a renewed anticipation of how the Holy Spirit can work in new ways within us.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11	MONDAY, JUNE 2
WEDNESDAY, JULY 2	MONDAY, JUNE 23
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23	MONDAY, JULY 14

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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800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



How to Enhance Your Estate through Wealth Transfer/Wealth Management

continued from page 1

The Right Fit for You?

All that said, you need to talk to a financial advisor before choosing a wealth transfer single premium whole life policy to make sure it is the right fit for your financial needs. You need to be aware that the same underwriting standards apply to this policy, as they do to other insurance policies. So coverage is something you need to qualify for, and is not guaranteed regardless of health issues.



If you are interested in passing money earmarked not for you, your medical or living expenses, but for your heirs, then a wealth transfer single premium whole life policy may be ideal for you. It could just be the product you need – your gift to the future that comes with a guaranteed death benefit, safety from market volatility, and an immediate estate increase through the power of its tax-free status.

For more information on the Wealth Transfer/Wealth Management program from the FCSU, please contact your branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.



[The following begins the last set of summaries of the Documents of Vatican II that were prepared for publication during the Year of Faith.]

The Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, Part II

Dear Friends,

The Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et spes*) begins its teaching with a synthesis of a study of Christian anthropology (who or what the human person is in relationship to Jesus). It recalls the Book of Genesis which teaches that humanity is created in God's image, is capable of knowing and loving the Creator, and is appointed by the Creator as master of all earthly creatures. Since from the beginning humanity was created male and female, producing the primary form of interpersonal communication, God intended humans to be social beings. Humans are drawn to their Creator and seek God as their purpose or end.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

On the other hand, humans also have an inclination toward evil. In addition refusing to acknowledge God as one's source, humans have broken off their proper relationship to their ultimate goal as well as toward one's self, others, and all created things. Therefore, humans find themselves divided within themselves. All human life, individual and collective, is in a continuous struggle between good and evil. Humans discover that they lack the capability to conquer evil successfully.

Because the human person is a unity of body and soul, and the body is created by God and will be raised up on the last day, humans are to regard their bodies as good and honorable. By one's intellect one shares in the light of the divine mind. There is always a search for more penetrating truths and they are discovered. The intellectual nature of the human person is perfected by a wisdom, which gently attracts one's mind to a quest and a love for what is true and good.

The Council then goes on to describe the human conscience as that voice ever calling a person to do good and avoid evil. It is the most sacred core and sanctuary of a person, the locale where one is most alone with God. It is through one's conscience that a person detects the divine command to love God and neighbor and calls him or her to be obedient to it. A person will be judged according to the manner he or she follows his or her conscience. Because the human conscience is not perfect and errors in judgment can be made, a right conscience needs to be formed based upon objective norms of morality.

Death is another issue discussed. Humans are tormented by pain, deterioration of the body, and death. Technological advancements do not take away that anxiety. Prolongation of earthly life is unable to satisfy the desire for a higher life within a person. The Church has been taught by divine revelation and firmly teaches herself that the human race was created by God to share in life with Him in heaven. God continually calls humans to share in this life won for them by Christ's death and resurrection.

The topic of atheism is then discussed at length. Atheism is more than just a denial of God's existence. It involves the denial or the outright rejection of a relationship with God. It is the willful shutting out of God from one's being. Scientific reasoning explains everything and absolute truths do not exist. Modern atheism extends the desire for human independence to such an extreme it results in one freeing oneself from a relationship with or a dependence on God. The human person becomes the focal point and purpose of everything, aided by the sense of power modern technological progress can generate in a person. This freedom is irreconcilable with the assertion that God is the author and purpose of all things. A proper presentation of the Church's teaching and an authentically lived life of faith among her members are offered by the Council as a two-fold remedy to conquer atheism in the world.

The summary continues in the next issue of the Jednota with an overview of the foundations of the Church's social justice teaching.

Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

Expanded Jednota Newspaper Archive Now on FCSU Website



Looking for information in a past issue?

Now you can browse through 5+ years of Jednota that we have digitized. Just go to <http://www.fcsu.com/newspaper> and click on the words Newspaper Archive to access the appropriate PDF.

Or, for questions, email Jednota Editor Teresa Ivanec @ fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com or call her at the Home Office, 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682), x 123.

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

- From the Office of the Executive Secretary - Why You Should Update Your Beneficiaries

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



When is the last time you reviewed the designated beneficiaries on your life insurance policies, annuities, or IRA plans? If you're like most of us, the answer may be the last time you originally opened these accounts.

It's easy, even understandable, to neglect this kind of account "homework." Yet the consequences can be devastating.

We only have to pick up a recent newspaper to read the sad details of worst-case scenarios. There is the elderly person who died with a million dollar insurance policy whose spouse and family receive nothing because that person never reviewed and updated a policy that was taken out before the marriage, and so the money goes to a cousin. Or the bachelor who earmarked his retirement account for a charity that no longer exists, and where the money now goes will be determined by the government.

It Pays to Review

The bottom line is that you need to take care of the people and things that matter most to you - the very ones you have designated as heirs to your financial legacy in the first place. Most financial advisors suggest you review your designated beneficiaries at least every three years. Certainly, you need to do so when life hands you a major change. This includes: marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, moving to a new state, or any significant change in financial status that may occur through inheritance or career changes.

Consider Your Contingents

Consider, too, that insurance policies or retirement plans that allow beneficiaries to be directly named should include secondary or contingent beneficiaries as well. This is the person or persons who will receive the proceeds if those you named as primary beneficiary are no longer living. If no contingency beneficiaries are listed, proceeds have to pass through the probate system, causing needless delays and sometimes creating extra costs before being paid.

A Final Thought

Reviewing the beneficiaries on all your important accounts is a straightforward process, and one that should be done on a regular basis. It is also a good time to check with your financial or legal advisor to make sure these changes will produce the results you desire. Then, keep a copy of all beneficiary designations and review them periodically, realizing that you may change your beneficiary designations at any time.

To review or update the beneficiaries on an FCSU insurance policy or annuity, contact your branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682, ext. 125. Or you can visit www.fcsu.com/forms and locate the Member Service Request form to download.

- From the Office of The Vice President - Attention All Recommenders: Win up to \$500 in the FCSU's Convention Cash Drawing



Each new contract on which you are the recommender for any FCSU product - insurance or annuity - between May 1, 2014 and August 15, 2014, will automatically enter you into our Convention Cash Drawing.

What's a recommender? For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a recommender is simply an FCSU member who recommends, or sells, an FCSU product. It's not that hard to do. The FCSU has an excellent portfolio of insurance and annuity products that you can tell family, friends, neighbors, church and club members about. FCSU forms and applications are available on line at www.fcsu.com/forms.

Now, for a limited time, you have the possibility of getting an additional cash bonus when you sign them up. Your name will be entered into the Convention Cash Drawing as many times as you produce a signed contract. Names will be drawn at random, but the entries are limitless.

The more you sell, the more chances you have to win one of 5 cash prizes:

- First name drawn - \$500
- Second name drawn - \$250
- Third name drawn - \$100
- Fourth name drawn - \$100
- Fifth name drawn - \$100

The names will be drawn during our 50th Quadrennial Convention, which will be held in Philadelphia, PA, from August 23 - 27, 2014. You do not have to be present to win. Winners will be announced from the convention floor and also published in a post-convention issue of Jednota.

All contracts need to be postmarked to the Home Office no later than **August 15, 2014**. No exceptions. All contracts must be approved and issued to be eligible to receive prizes.

So start today, and keep those entries coming! Send in your signed contracts to:

FCSU Corporate Center
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131

Until next time, good luck and God Bless,

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President**

FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

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

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

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



Accent on Activities

Susan Ondrejco, National Fraternal Activities Director



2014 Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held in Blairsville, PA. The fun starts Friday night at the Hampton Inn when they host our hospitality evening.



On Saturday, July 19, a shotgun start is scheduled from the Chestnut Ridge Golf Course. This course renders breathtaking views of Pennsylvania's beautiful Laurel Highlands. Golf Digest Places to Play Guide has awarded Chestnut Ridge a 4 ½ star rating, as well as a good service and good value awards. Their signature 14th hole will be sure to challenge your skills. This hole was designed to be a truly unique risk and reward golf hole that features a green that is supported above a lake by a rock faced wall. While Chestnut Ridge is a true test for low handicappers from the back tees, the course is very playable from the middle and forward tees.

The Mass and banquet will be held at the Hampton Inn. Hotel accommodations will also be provided by the Hampton Inn.

On Sunday, July 20, a shotgun start is scheduled from the Tom's Run Golf Course. Named for the creek that wanders through the front nine, Tom's Run takes a scenic route through laurel-lined canyons while the gentle rolling terrain of the back nine presents its own unique set of challenges. Tom's Run was rated 5th Best Public Golf Course in Pennsylvania by Golf Digest and has earned a 4 and 1/2 star rating. With its multiple tees and bent grass greens and fairways, Tom's Run offers a truly memorable experience for golfers of all skill levels. Already, Tom's Run has hosted such prestigious events as the Pittsburgh Open, the West Penn Open and the Tri-State PGA Championship.

We will close the weekend festivities with a luncheon at the Chestnut Ridge Resort on Sunday.

Further details and registration forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Information was mailed May 16, so contact Susan Ondrejco at 412-421-7967 if you did not receive your forms.

NEW THIS YEAR

Seniors (75 and over) and women have an option to participate in a 9 hole event each day.

Hope to see you there!
July 19 - 20, 2014
Chestnut Ridge and Tom's Run Golf Courses
Blairsville, PA



May 2014

Photo Contest

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be a 12 - 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

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. Judging is based on creativity.

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

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

Mail your entry to:

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

postmarked by October 1, 2014.



Our Annual Golf Tournament will be held Friday, July 18, through Sunday, July 20, 2014. The Jednota sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for skill contest sponsors: (Longest Drive, Longest Putt, etc.)

Skill Contest Sponsor: \$100 – a sign will be placed on the hole where the skill contest will occur with your Branch, District, or Region name.

If you are interested in being a skill contest sponsor, please send the wording for your sign and your check payable to "FCSU Activities" to:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Iliion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

The deadline for sponsoring a hole is June 30, 2014.



Prince Pribina District Event on Palm Sunday 2014

On Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014, the Prince Pribina District, District 15, held a celebration. It began at 12:00 noon at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower, CA. The celebrant was Fr. Pavol Sochuľak from Ontario, CA. A district meeting followed in the cafeteria and included a period of fraternal fellowship and a Slovak gourmet lunch, dessert and refreshments. Children enjoyed traditional Easter Egg hunt as well.

- Submitted by Paul Skuben, District President



Father Pavol Sochuľak from Ontario, CA, was the celebrant at the Palm Sunday Mass attended by District 15 members and guests on April 13, 2014.



Father Pavol speaks about his 15 years of missionary work.



Father Pavol blesses the panel that highlights the membership benefits of the FCSU before the presentation begins.



Jednota is more than just life insurance: a panel presents the membership benefits of the First Catholic Slovak Union during the District 15 meeting held after the Palm Sunday Mass on April 13, 2014.



Current Slovak Sports News

Tichomir Miko

Ice Hockey - Chára Norris Trophy Finalist



Slovak Zdeno Chára of the Boston Bruins is one of three final candidates for the 2013-2014 National Hockey League Norris award. The James Norris Memorial Trophy is awarded "to the defense player who demonstrates throughout the season the greatest all-round ability in the position." The other candidates are Duncan Keith of the Chicago Blackhawks and Shea Weber of the Nashville Predators.

In 77 games this season the Boston captain amassed 40 points (17 goals and 23 assists). "No defenseman was more effective in all areas of the game this season than Chára, who might very well win the Norris Trophy for the second time in his career," writes Dan Rosen for NHL.com. The 37 year old native of Trenčín previously won the Norris Trophy in 2008-09.

Members of the Professional Hockey Writers' Association submitted ballots for the Norris Trophy at the conclusion of the regular season, with the top three vote-getters designated as finalists. The winner will be announced Tuesday, June 24, during the 2014 NHL Awards from Encore Theater at Wynn Las Vegas. The 2014 NHL Awards will be broadcast by NBCSN in the United States and CBC in Canada.

Tennis - Kližan the Giant Slayer

Unseeded Martin Kližan took on the role of giant-slayer at the ATP BMW tournament in Munich, Germany in the first weekend in May. The Slovak had to earn his entry into the event by playing in a preliminary qualification tournament, but once in, created havoc among the top players.



Among the giants he slew en route to the finals were third seeded Mikhail Youzhny of Russia and second seeded Tommy Haas of Germany. The 24 four year old Bratislava native did not flinch when he met the number one seed Fabio Fognini of Italy in the finals on Sunday. He lost the first set 2-6, but then rallied and decisively slew his final giant 6-1, 6-2 to win the tournament.

"We are delighted with Martin's excellent outcome – defeating top players at a tournament such as this after having to go through qualification. We congratulate "Kližko" and hope his future endeavors will be as successful," stated Tibor Macko, president of the Slovak Tennis Federation after the win.

This was Kližan's second ATP tournament victory of his career. His first was at the ATP World Tour 250 St. Petersburg Open in September of 2012.

Branch 40 Now Accepting Scholarship Applicants

ATTENTION STUDENTS You May Be Eligible To Win A Scholarship If:



- * You are a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union's – St. Clement's Society Branch #40, of Streator, Illinois.
- * You are in high school and have applied for a fall term at a qualifying institution OR
- * You are attending a Private Grade School

St. Clement's Society Branch #40 will be offering scholarships to their youth members. They will be giving out one – one time \$500.00 scholarship for college and one – one time \$250.00 scholarship for a Private Grade School student.

These scholarships are solely funded by your local lodge (Branch #40), not the national office. For more criteria and an application, please call Theresa at (815) 672-6142 (leave message) or e-mail her at ttegraves@mchsi.com for an application. Applications must be postmarked by May 30, 2014.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2014, in observance of Memorial Day.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Faith, Chivalry and Timely Messages

"Refreshingly retro" is how I would describe the new TV series, "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," which airs Sunday nights at 8 p.m. on the Hallmark Channel. As the brainchild of former "Touched by an Angel" writer and executive producer Martha Williamson, the show includes that special Williamson touch, which makes it entertaining, funny, heartwarming, and inspirational.

"Signed, Sealed, Delivered" is about four postal workers in the dead letter office who go above and beyond their job descriptions to track down the intended recipients of mail that's been damaged or lost. In light of the post office's recent financial troubles, partially caused by people communicating via email and the internet, what made Williamson choose this particular setting for her story?

During a recent interview on "Christopher Closeup," she recalled feeling exhausted after the end of the Christopher Award-winning "Touched by an Angel's" nine-season run, so she decided to take a break from TV and focus on her family. A few years into her sabbatical, she was going through a storage room and discovered fan letters she had never seen. Not only did these letters express an appreciation for the show, but they revealed stories about ways in which it had changed viewers' lives. Williamson said, "We got one letter from a gentleman who was in prison and said that he and his fellow inmates would watch the show every Sunday night because it was the only time all week they ever heard the words, 'You are loved.'"

Those letters became a source of encouragement for Williamson, who had started wondering if the work she had done really mattered. It then occurred to her that they arrived in her life right on time, just when she needed them most. She also started wondering, "How many lost letters arrive in people's lives just when they need to read them?" That idea percolated in her brain, eventually leading to "Signed, Sealed, Delivered."

The series includes other inspirations from Williamson's life, not the least of which is imbuing the lead character of Oliver, played by Eric Mabius, with many of her father's virtues. She said, "He was born in 1901 and carried a little bit of the Victorian Era with him. He always remained a gentleman. He was always that man who opened the door for anybody; not just a lady, but anybody. He treated everyone with respect. I thought, 'Gosh, where are those men?' Eric Mabius said to me that he loves playing a man who can encourage other men to be both masculine and tender. You can still be kind, you can still be a gentleman."

Williamson also incorporated her father's sense of faith in God into the character of Oliver, faith that helped him through times of great sadness. It's a wonderful change of pace to see believers treated respectfully on television. Williamson sees negative stereotypes of people of faith in other shows and feels "distressed" at the "anger towards faith and religion." The believers in her life "have done nothing but be supportive and always look for ways to translate their faith into action."

For Williamson, writing itself is a prayerful, spiritual experience. She prays before writing every script, asking for guidance and noting that "prayer is a two-way street" in which she needs to be open to listening for God's inspiration. She also recalls her father's advice about her writing career: "Make sure that what you do elevates or encourages, and doesn't tear down."

It sounds like her dad was a true Christopher at heart.

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



2014 September Slovakia Heritage Tour to End in Krakow

This September's Slovakia Heritage Tour (September 4-14, 2014) will finish with a day in Krakow, Poland. This small group, 10-day tour will travel the heartland of Slovakia from Bratislava and the Tatry Mountains to Košice and Bardejov with time to get out into the countryside and cities to meet the people and learn about the history and culture. People will have time to visit their family villages, if they choose. Other positives to ending the tour in Krakow: the city has very good air connections for those returning to the states, and it will be a good launching point for trip extensions to Prague, Warsaw, or other eastern locations. Another plus for devout Catholics, is that it is the spiritual home of Pope John Paul II and there are museums and churches dedicated to his memory.

For more information on the September Slovakia Heritage Tour (Sept 4-14), visit the FCSU website at www.fcsu.com and click on the Slovakia & The World tab or go directly to the Slovak Heritage Tour website at www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Tour Director Judith Northup-Bennett at 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com.

Slovaks and Their Language

Allen Stevo



An aspect of Slovak culture that I love is the playfulness with which so many approach the language. There is correct and incorrect in Slovak. At the same time there are suffixes like -ič, -ik, or -ak used to shorten words and make them sound slang. A Bratislavčan (a citizen of Bratislava) can also be called a Blavak in less polite company, based on the word "Blava," a slang term for Bratislava.

Another aspect of Slovak culture that I love is how common diminutives are. There are the diminutive forms of words that give every Slovak noun another five or ten forms as a way to make speech

sound cuter. Instead of good morning as "dobre rano" some may say good morning as "dobre ranko."

I like how phonetic Slovak spelling is. A Slovak linguist of the past wrote "Piš ako počuješ" as a method of instruction to his fellow Slovak speakers - "Write as you hear," or write phonetically.

This is much different than the system of spelling in the English language. George Bernard Shaw famously pointed out as a way to make fun of the non-phonetic nature of the English language that "ghoti" was an alternative way to spell "fish" in English. This was done by using the GH from laugh the O from women and the TI from nation.

Slovak on the other hand has a spelling system in which an O always sounds the same, a TI always sounds the same and a G and H always sound the same. Spend an hour learning the Slovak rules of pronunciation correctly and you will forever be able to pronounce almost any word correctly. This systematic, clear, ease of spelling and pronunciation is one reason that I believe Slovak is this best method of entry into Slavic languages, especially for someone unfamiliar with the Cyrillic alphabet. When it's time to learn Cyrillic, having a Slovak base makes the learning process effortless, literally lasting minutes to reach a high level of competence.

Some Slovaks will play with this phonetic nature of the language by pronouncing foreign words with a Slovak pronunciation - nation sounds like "Nah-tyee-ohn." Women sounds like "Voh-men" and laugh sounds like "LA-Oo-guh-huh."

Alternately Slovaks will spell English words in Slovak for fun - blekfrajdej - could be a way that a Slovak would spell the post-Thanksgiving retailer's holiday "Black Friday" in order to preserve the English language pronunciation.

Finally, my final bit of praise at the moment for the Slovak language - the verb ending -ovat' is the most playful and pleasant verb ending. It allows virtually any noun to be turned into a verb. Sprechuješ? Is the slang way to ask "Do you speak German?" It's based on the German "Sprechen" (to speak). Spikuješ? Is the slang way in Slovak to ask "Do you speak English?" It is based on the Slovak spelling of the English verb "speak." In the title of this piece is a single word made using the -ovat' verb form.

- Reprinted with permission from the December 2013 post of Allen Stevo's 52 Weeks in Slovakia. To read more of his writings, go to www.52insk.com

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sts. cyril and methodius parish present*

**slovak family
day picnic**

**Sunday July 6, 2014
11am**

**Creditvale Park
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Mississauga, ON, CANADA**

slovakparish.ca

News From Slovakia

Fico: Barroso Acting as Independent European Commission President

Bratislava, April 28 (TASR) - Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico at a meeting in Bratislava on this date praised European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso for his attitude towards countries that don't have the main economic and political influence in the European Union.

"We've dealt together with many crisis situations. He's appeared as an independent chairman who cares about the development of all EU-member countries," said Fico at a press conference. Barroso visited Slovakia on Monday to mark the tenth anniversary of the country's EU membership.

Fico assured Barroso of Slovakia's pro-European attitude, with all relevant political parties concurring on the principal issues of foreign policy and European integration.

Barroso appreciated the fact that Slovakia is aware of the contribution of the Commission and his own towards boosting the EU's spirit and values. He praised Fico for his "bold steps" in fiscal policy.

The past ten years since the broadest EU enlargement in the Union's history (by ten countries) have been a big success for Slovakia, the EU and the entire continent, which is currently more unified than ever, said Barroso.

The Commission head invited Slovaks to the polls in the European Parliament elections on May 24. Slovakia had the lowest voter-turnouts in the two previous elections to the EP in 2004 and 2009. While five years ago, 19.64 percent came out to vote, only 16.97 percent took part in the first ever European elections in 2004.

Barroso also received the White Double-barred Cross Second Class from Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic on this date for "extraordinary merit in boosting Slovakia's status in international relations".

Fico: New Economic Sanctions on Russia Would Damage Slovak Economy

Bratislava, April 29 (TASR) - The economic recovery in the European Union, which is still struggling with the consequences of the economic crisis, is also visible in Slovakia, Prime Minister Robert Fico said in an interview for TASR on this date.

"We can see it in Slovakia as well, because if we look at economic growth and various projections, it's very good," said Fico.

According to him, the Government is taking measures to consolidate public finances, but it also has to meet the expectations of the public. "The people have been patient for two years, and now it's our duty to come up with measures that will benefit them at least to some degree," he stressed.

"If, however, some geo-political fight again prevails over common sense and there is pressure on Slovakia to take part in some hard economic sanctions in relation to the Russian Federation, we can forget about economic success," stressed Fico, adding that after a third round of sanctions is imposed, Slovakia will suffer huge damage.

Lajcak: Slovakia Only Dreamt of EU, Today Helps Others to Fulfill Dream

Bratislava, April 30 (TASR) - Not so long ago, Slovakia was only dreaming about Europe. Today, thanks to its authentic experience, Slovakia helps others to fulfill the dream, Foreign and European Affairs Minister and Vice-Premier Miroslav Lajcak said on this date.

In his speech at Hlavne Namestie (Main Square), Lajcak was addressing invited guests at the gala event held in Bratislava to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Slovakia's joining of EU.

The minister recalled the times when Slovaks could travel abroad only with passports and visas, and perceived mark, schilling or franc as the epitome of prosperity while Slovakia found itself at the bottom of economic prosperity chart in Europe. "Today, we travel to a significant part of the world without visas and in Europe particularly even without passports and border checks. In most parts of Europe we even use the common currency and find it strange and inconvenient to exchange currency for vacation trip to Croatia or Prague," he claimed.

Lajcak broached the accomplished reforms, by virtue of which Slovakia enjoys one of the highest economic growths in Europe. "Our story is far from over. In comparison to our humble beginnings, we're in a completely different position now. We're part of a strong and prosperous community. The voice of Slovakia is widely respected due to our expertise, consistency and strong arguments buttressing our stances," underlined Lajcak, adding that it's only through a strong and efficient EU that Slovakia is capable of promoting its interests the best.

Schulz: Slovakia Returned to European Family a Decade Ago

Bratislava, April 30 (TASR) - The unnatural division of Europe by the Iron Curtain finally become a thing of the past a decade ago. "Ten years ago, Slovakia along with another nine countries, have finally returned back to the European family," European Parliament Speaker Martin Schulz said in his speech at the gala evening on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Slovakia's induction into EU.

Schulz praised the EU project that has transformed Europe into a more united continent, with wars being off the table. "We still need our union, today maybe more than ever," he claimed, referring to the current situation in Ukraine that he believes demonstrates that peace in Europe is more fragile than previously believed.

According to Schulz, the EU faces major challenges such as dramatic rate of unemployment

of young people and rising prices. "Yes, people are turning their backs on the EU with each passing day. It was here in Slovakia where voter turnout in the past European election recorded surprisingly low figures: only every fifth Slovak went to the polling station [slightly less actually - ed. note]. Yet I still remember the enormous Slovak enthusiasm for Europe during the accession process. Back then, public support for the EU was enormous," he said.

Schulz places emphasis on the need to regain the trust of people, mostly by listening to and addressing their problems. "When we look back to our shared history, to all the tragedies and obstacles we've surmounted, I'm confident that we'll tackle these problems as well."

The European Parliament Speaker considers Slovakia to be a positive example of EU membership, a young democracy that has evolved into a stable, prosperous country and a full-fledged union member. The countries of Central and Easter Europe brought new stimuli and enthusiasm to the united Europe. "Today is the day of celebration for Europe and your country," said Schulz.

Rasmussen to Visit Slovakia to Mark Ten Years of NATO Membership

Bratislava, May 11 (TASR) - NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen is set to come to Slovakia on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, to meet Slovakia's top officials and evaluate the country's ten years as a NATO member, the Defence Ministry.

This will be Rasmussen's third visit to Slovakia as NATO chief.

"Among the issues that are likely to be debated are the evaluation of Slovakia's ten-year membership of NATO, developments in Ukraine and issues pertaining to NATO's further engagement in Afghanistan after the ISAF operation is concluded," said Defense Ministry spokesperson Martina Ballekova.

Rasmussen is scheduled to be received by President Ivan Gasparovic, Prime Minister Robert Fico, Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak and Defense Minister Martin Givac.

The NATO secretary-general should appear at the GLOBSEC 2014 security conference in Bratislava on Thursday. He is expected to comment on the upcoming NATO summit in Wales on September 4-5 and the current situation in Ukraine.

Rasmussen is due to be replaced in the post of NATO secretary-general by Norwegian politician Jens Stoltenberg on October 1.

National Library Publishes Rare Photos Related to Stefanik

Martin, May 5 (TASR) - Marking the 95th anniversary of the tragic death of General Milan Rastislav Stefanik in a plane crash on May 4, 1919, the Slovak National Library (SNK) in Martin (Zilina region) has digitalized photographs of the wreckage of the Caproni 450 aircraft in which Stefanik lost his life and published the rare photographs on www.dikda.eu.

In addition, the Library has made public photographs taken at all four memorial services for Stefanik in Bratislava, Brezova, Kosariska and Bradlo.

"We've made publicly accessible several pictures and documents from his [Stefanik's] journeys around Europe and the world, as well as his rich personal library. In addition to photographs of the plane wreckage and the funerals of the general, we've also published a manuscript written by president Tomas G. Masaryk in which he conveyed his final farewell to Stefanik," said SNK director Katarina Kristofova.

The director went on to observe that during his short life (1880-1919), Stefanik was an extremely dynamic and versatile person. "He was an astronomer and meteorologist, a soldier, aviator, general, politician, diplomat, but also a traveller, photographer, poetry- and classical literature-lover," added Kristofova.

On May 4, 1919 at Campoformido airport near Udine, Italy, Stefanik boarded a Caproni 450 plane that was supposed to land at Bratislava's Vajnory airport. The aircraft crashed near Ivanka pri Dunaji (Bratislava region), however. Stefanik along with three other members of the plane crew were killed outright. The causes of the crash still haven't been clarified, and the incident still raises numerous questions.

M.R. Stefanik was buried at a memorial burial site on Bradlo Hill (Trencin region) overlooking his native village of Kosariska.

Unitary Health Insurer Still on Hold Due to Lack of Money

Bratislava, May 7 (TASR) - The introduction of a unitary health-insurance system with a single, state-run insurer, which should have taken place this year, is still on hold, with Health Minister Zuzana Zvolenska pointing to a lack of money as the reason for the suspension.

Zvolenska's report, according to which the project has already been drawn up, was taken into consideration by the Government on Wednesday.

"Due to the financial aspects of the project ... [the Health Ministry] isn't taking any steps at the moment that would result in a premature and inefficient use of public resources," writes the report.

The Government approved the introduction of a unitary system of health insurance back in the summer of 2012, planning to set this up as of January 2014 if existing private health insurers Dovern and Union had been willing to accept some sort of agreement; or as of July 2014 if it would have had to resort to expropriating the insurers.



Book Corner

Slovakia's First Declaration of Independence (Part 3)

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

Slovakia's first taste with independence came over 75 years ago, on March 14, 1939, and it only lasted for the duration of World War II.

Today many might take Slovak independence for granted, 21 years after Slovak sovereignty was again realized in 1993. It took the Velvet Revolution of 1989 and the end of communism to make Slovak independence a possibility. The communists prohibited any talk of Slovak sovereignty and would often accuse those who advocated independence as fascists, or bourgeois nationalists. So the topic could not be freely debated until after the fall of communist totalitarianism.

Since the break-up of Czecho-Slovakia in 1993, Slovakia has shown it can do well as a small independent country. Relations with Czechs are as constructive as they have ever been, and the bogeyman of obtaining more autonomy in a centralized Czechoslovakia or an hyphenated Czecho-Slovakia is now part of history. As a recent article in the *New Statesman* pointed out, Slovakia's leaving the Czecho-Slovak state has actually enabled both countries to focus on other issues besides obtaining more national rights and freed them of the struggle.

But this was not the first taste of self-rule for the state, for Slovakia had first declared independence on March 14, 1939, at a time when Europe verged at the edge of a Second World War. It was not an auspicious time to build a new state. When the Czecho-Slovak state first was forming during World War I, many Slovaks wanted autonomy in a common state with the Czechs. They had achieved that in October 1938, when the Munich Agreement had weakened the central government in Prague and created an autonomous Slovakia in a Czecho-Slovak Federal Republic.

However, outside interference from Nazi Germany proved crucial in compelling Slovakia to divorce itself from the Czechs in Czecho-Slovakia. The Czecho-Slovak central government, led by the Czech President Emil Hácha, played into Hitler's hands by attempting to suppress the autonomous Slovak government. Slovak leaders would then declare independence under German pressure. Born in such trying times, and tainted by affiliation with Hitler's Germany, the first Slovak state did not survive World War II. But the idea that Slovaks should have self-rule did survive and the example of the first experience of statehood, without a doubt, impacted what happened after the 1989 Revolution.

This is the third installment of a translation of parts of a book written in Slovak by Professor Milan S. Ďurica, *A History of Slovakia and the Slovaks: A Chronology of Two Millennia*. The book documents much of Slovakia's history in a chronological format, including the momentous events of March 1939.

The first parts of this article appeared in *Jednota* over the last two years ("Slovakia's First Declaration of Independence (part one)" (*Jednota*, March 28, 2012: p.7, and part 2 February 27, 2013: p. 5.)). The first two installments outlined the events from March 1-March 11, 1939. Part 3 continues the story, as Germany continued to exert pressure to split Czecho-Slovakia so that Hitler could annex Bohemia and Moravia and manage a malleable Slovakia which would be independent but under German protection, and German threats.

The Czecho-Slovak central government played into Hitler's scheme when it would dissolve the autonomous Slovak government and institute a state of martial law. Slovakia would ultimately be left with the choice to declare independence or risk becoming part of a reconstituted Hungary, whose regime hungered to recover lands lost after World War I, which included Slovakia, the Subcarpathian Rus, Transylvania, and parts of Yugoslavia.

While the Germans would push Slovakia to declare independence, the experience with self-rule had a lasting effect

and never died away after the war, when Slovakia was reunited with the Czechs in a centralized Czechoslovakia, with no hyphen. Ultimately, the Slovak experience with independence would play a role in the second bout with independence in 1993, when the world situation would prove more favorable for the small state in central Europe.

The following passage from March 1939, shows the pressure the Germans were putting on the Slovaks to declare independence. Compelling the Slovak prime minister to commence a meeting after midnight showed the kind of pressure that Germany was putting on Slovakia to declare its separation from the Czechs. The time of day itself was very significant, and the German statements were loaded with double-talk and threats to influence the decisions of the Slovak government. A bomb set off by German agents near Tiso's apartment showed the lengths they would go to in order to compel a Slovak declaration of independence.

PART 3

March 12, 1939 - In the early hours after midnight, the Slovak prime minister Karol Sidor announced the visit of certain Germans. Sidor received them at 3 a.m. in the government office. As state secretary for foreign affairs and Hitler's minister for personal missions, Dr. Wilhelm Keppler headed the German delegation. Accompanying him was the Viennese governor Seyss-Inquart with his secretary Dr. F. Hammerschmidt and Viennese Gauleiter [the regional Nazi Party leader] J. Bürckel. Keppler introduced himself as Hitler's envoy, who had to find out how Sidor viewed the current situation.

He emphasized that he did not have in mind interfering in the internal affairs of Slovakia, but because the Führer had received telegrams asking for assistance for the independence of Slovakia, he wanted to find out what were the intentions of the Slovak government. Sidor answered that he knew nothing about any such telegrams, and Slovak political leaders had decided on a gradual evolutionary approach in preparing for Slovak independence. For this reason, the Slovak government did not have an intention to proclaim independence without the appropriate preparations. After this answer, Keppler drew back, but Bürckel rudely flared out at Sidor, saying that the Führer would not lie, and then Slovak must immediately declare independence. When Sidor announced, that it would remain a decision of Slovak constitutional officials, the German delegation was offended.

German secret agents had placed explosives under the Jesuit monastery building in Bratislava, where Dr. Jozef Tiso had his Bratislava apartment. An explosion damaged the Jesuit monastery, its church, and even the neighboring city hall. However, Tiso was in Bánovce [the village in northwest Slovakia where he was a parish priest].

March 13 - Already during the night of March 12-13, Dr. Keppler received an order from Berlin to do everything so that Slovakia would become independent. For this reason, he turned to former Prime Minister Jozef Tiso with an invitation for a conversation with Adolf Hitler at the office of the German Reich. Twice Tiso refused the first message. But when a third courier came with an invitation, certified by E. von Druffel, the German consul in Bratislava, Tiso departed for Bratislava and put the matter to the current prime minister Sidor, and to Sokol, the head of the Slovak parliament and members of the executive staff of Hlinka Slovak People's Party (HSL'S-SSNJ)... The elected party leaders decided to reserve judgment to the Slovak parliament, and to have Tiso accept the invitation to hear Hitler, but would reserve all decisions to the Slovak parliament. With the mission, Tiso departed for Vienna along with representatives Štefan Danihel. There they added Dr. Ferdinand Ďurčanský and took a private plane to Berlin.

- Around 6 pm, after preliminary talks with Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop and his diplomats, the German Chancellor Adolf Hitler received Tiso. The conversation lasted 75 min-

utes. In his usual monologue, Hitler announced that he had decided to abolish the "remaining Czech Republic" (Resttschechei), but that his interests ended near the Carpathians. If Slovak would decide on independence, he was willing to recognize it and guarantee Slovakia its sovereignty. Otherwise he would leave it to its own fate. Just at that time, Minister von Ribbentrop laid before them an "authentic incoming telegram," which stated that Hungary was concentrating its army in the direction of the Slovak border. Hitler repeatedly emphasized that the Slovaks must decide with lightning speed (*blitzschnell*) because the steam roller is already moving and nothing much can stop it. Tiso answered Hitler that he was sorry, but he was not in position to make such a decision about these matters, because that capability belonged exclusively to the Slovak parliament. He requested if he could make a telephone call to Sidor, the prime minister of the Slovak government and to Hácha, the president of the Czecho-Slovak Federation, whom he wanted to demonstrate to the need for the urgent calling of the Slovak Parliament. President [Hácha, the Czecho-Slovak President] called for a convening of the parliament on the following day, March 14.

- After the conversation with Hitler and further negotiations with von Ribbentrop and his co-workers, they did not cease from pressing Dr. Tiso to proclaim immediately the independence of Slovakia. They gave him the layout of the German Reich's broadcast, and they even edited in Slovak a text of such a proclamation. Tiso refused to act on his own, and abided by the instructions he had received from elected Slovak officials. Because of unfavorable weather, the departing flight from Berlin was delayed until the morning hours of March 14. (Tiso kept the text of his refusing the proclamation and later showed it to the minister, G. Medrický.)

This was the background to Slovakia's declaration of independence in 1939. As we can see, Hitler had already decided to dissolve Czecho-Slovakia, and he exerted immense pressure on Tiso, yet the Slovak leader still refused to declare Slovakia's independence on his own without the consent of Slovakia's legally constituted parliament. But he knew that parliament had to act quickly, because of the impending Hungarian threat. If the parliament did not opt for independence, Slovakia would have to face alone an irredentist Hungary bent on acquiring Slovak territory and undoing the borders settled after World War I.

If one wants to read more about the actual conversations of Tiso with Hitler, one can refer to official German records found online in Documents on German Foreign Policy 1918-1945, Series D. (Accessed May 12, 2014). http://archive.org/stream/documentsongerma014727mbp/documentsongerma014727mbp_djvu.txt

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Milan S. Ďurica, *Dejiny Slovenska a Slovákov v časovej následnosti faktov dvoch tisícročí, Štvrté vydanie*. (A History of Slovakia and the Slovaks: A Chronology of Two Millennia, Fourth edition). Bratislava: Lúč, 2007: pp. 397-400.

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1-800-JEDNOTA or fcsu@aol.com.

Scenes from the 80th Anniversary Mississauga Ont

On May 4, 2014, Toronto Cardinal Thomas Collins along with other visiting clergy presided at the 10:30 am Mass in recognition of the 80th anniversary celebration of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Roman Catholic Church in Mississauga Ontario.

Following the Mass the parish hosted an Anniversary Luncheon at ROMA'S Hospitality Centre in Mississauga. There were 250 parishioners, clergy, and guests in attendance.

Co-masters of ceremonies Eva Lacna and John Grajcar Jr. described the history of the church from the first Slovak mass on April 22, 1934 by Monsignor Michael Shuba to the present day. This presentation was in both English and Slovak.

Michael Martincek, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, spoke of the church as a destination and way of keeping the Slovak community together. The church welcomed many new parishioners that left Slovakia after the 1968 uprising.

The Vychodna Slovak Dancers entertained us after the meal.

- Submitted by Jerry Siman, Branch 785



Cardinal Thomas Collins



(L - R) Jerry Siman, Cardinal Tomas Collins, and Josie Siman



(L - R) Co-masters of ceremonies Eva Lacna, Rev. Paul Magyar, and John Grajcar Jr.



(L - R) Ted Golla, Dushan Doric, and Ted Golla Jr.



(L - R) Choir Director Maria Vacval and Rev. Libor Svorcik.



(L - R) John Pastor, Beatrice Pastor, Lucy Badida, and Edward Badida



Anne Mitro, coordinator of this event



Parish of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish Anniversary 1934 - 2014

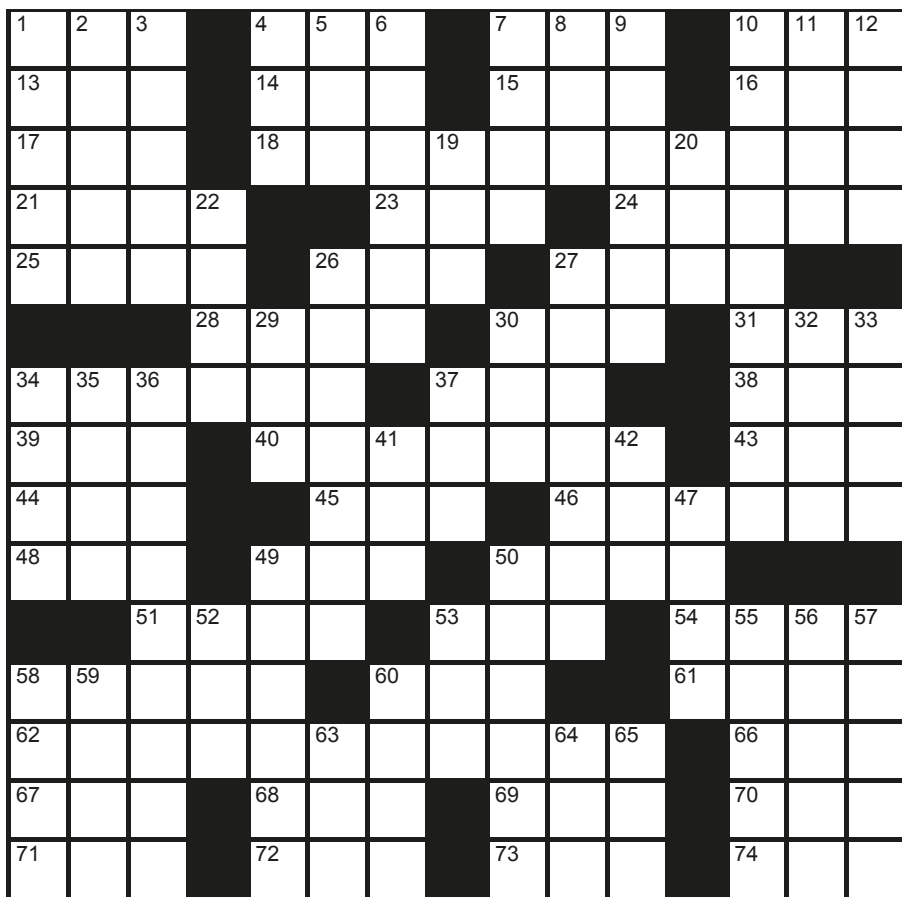


(L - R) Rev. Paul Magyar, Rev. Gregorz Nowicki, Rev. Joseph Vano, Rev. Libor Svorcik, Rev. Joseph Horrigan, and Abbot Julian Balazovic



Vychodna Slovak Dancers

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

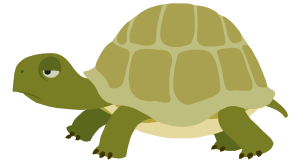


Animal Cracker-uppers



Did you hear about the two silkworms who had a race?
It ended in a tie.

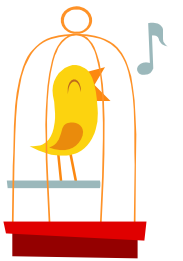
Why is Turtle Wax so expensive?
Because turtles have such tiny ears.



How do porcupines play leapfrog?
Very carefully!

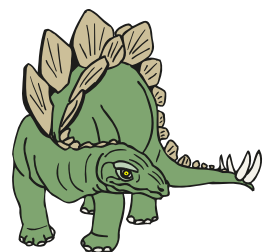
Why can't you play jokes on snakes?
Because you can never pull their legs.

What bird can be heard at mealtimes?
A swallow, of course.



Why do bees have sticky hair?
Because of their honeycombs.

Why wouldn't they let the butterfly into the dance?
Because it was a moth ball.



What do you call a blind dinosaur?
I-don't-think-he-saurus.

Across

- 1 Mouth piece
4 Stout relative
7 Hot springs
10 Understood
13 Citrus drink
14 Kipling novel
15 Fond du ____, WI
16 North Yorkshire river
17 Ocean
18 Teenagers
21 Cumberbund
23 Small amount
24 Surrealist Max
25 Bread spread
26 Church bench
27 Agile
28 God of war
30 Lease
31 Blubber
34 Magical drink
37 Golf peg
38 Honest one
39 Mouse relative
40 Change places, like a bird
43 Hoodwink
44 College major
45 Mode
46 Caught, like a fish
48 Articulate
49 Lulu
50 Nuisance
51 Web journal
53 Dejected
54 Very, in Versailles
58 Parting word
60 In favor of
61 Pledge
62 Ice cream flavor
66 Chinese tea
67 Bran source

- 68 Modern (Prefix)
69 Long, long time
70 Moray, e.g.
71 Bag thickness
72 Sparkler
73 Animal house
74 Sp. girl (Abbr.)

Down

- 1 Riata
2 Perfect
3 Porridge ingredient
4 Alias inits.
5 Cover
6 Plays a role
7 Winter toy
8 __ de deux (2-person dance)
9 Take willingly
10 Burlap bag
11 Table crumbs
12 Try out first
19 Bar topic
20 Go astray
22 Chicanery
26 Old hairpiece
27 Churned
29 Cup feature
30 Pasture
32 Slender reed
33 Curve
34 Historic periods
35 Zhivago's love
36 Minuscule

- 37 Attempt
41 Hiatus
42 Dawn deity
47 Director Preminger
49 Modeling
50 Separated
52 Auction unit
53 Old French coin
55 Speed contests
56 Early anesthetic
57 Fissile rock
58 Above
59 Twofold
60 Gift tag word
63 Charge
64 Foot part
65 Lodge

See Solution on Page 16

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2014

Issue Date

June 11
July 2
July 23
August 6
Sept 17
October 15
November 5
November 19
December 3

Deadline

June 2
June 23
July 14
July 28
Sept 8
October 6
October 27
November 10
November 24

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, OH, 44107. All members are encouraged to attend.

Cynthia Niznik

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michael's Branch 2 will be holding our semi-annual meeting on Tuesday July 8th at 7 pm at Kretzlers on Babcock Blvd. to discuss the upcoming convention. All delegates from Branch 2 should attend. For reservations please contact Joanne Lako at 412 766 3222.

Fraternally,

Joanne Lako, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, Pennsylvania invites all Branch 10 members, and their families, to attend the annual Communion Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, June 22, 2014. The 8 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, PA, will be celebrated for all living and deceased members of Branch 10. Immediately following the Mass, a complimentary breakfast for members and their families will be held at the Regal Room, 212-218 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant. Reservations are requested, and may be made by phoning (570) 489-9819 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. no later than Friday, June 13.

Fraternally,

William Navelanko, Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2014, at 9:00 AM at Denny's Restaurant, 653 Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given. A report on the National Convention to be held in Philadelphia, PA, in August 2014 will be given. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast for Father's Day. Call for reservations by June 10th, directions if needed, and for any address changes or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold its annual family picnic on Sunday, June 29, 2014, from noon

until 6PM, at Pavilion #14, Mammoth Park, PA. The pavilion is located by the lower ball field. The picnic will begin at noon, with lunch to be served starting at 1:00PM. All members and guests of the branch are asked to bring a covered dish to share. The branch will provide chicken, rigatoni, halupki, haluski, kolbasi, hot dogs, and drinks. There will be games and changes to win many door prizes. Entertainment will be provided. Come and enjoy an afternoon with fellow members and friends. For more information, please contact Gerry Kovacina at (412) 216-5527.

Fraternally,

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 8th, 2014. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, Pa. 16059 at 1:00 P.M.

Discussion of the upcoming Convention will be addressed. Members are asked to attend.

Joseph Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthew Branch 260 Campbell, Ohio, will have it's next meeting Sunday, June 22, 1:30 At Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant. Located on Bedford Road, 1/4 mile of Route 422. Agenda will include arrangements with District bus trip. Main topic will be The annual Slovak Fest and information of FCSU Annual Golf Tournament, Blairsville, PA.

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 292 - WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292 K.J., will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 22, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA, 15963, at 12:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in conjunction with our annual celebration of the feast of our patron, St. John the Baptist. A Mass will be celebrated on the feast day, June 24, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Windber, Pa. The Mass will be in remembrance of the living and deceased members of Branch 292. Members are asked to attend both events. A buffet dinner will follow the semi-annual meeting.

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

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 will be holding a Lodge meeting on Sunday, June 29,

2014. The meeting will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 at 2:00 pm. Convention information will be shared with members and upcoming events will be discussed. Join us for an informative afternoon combined with fellowship with other members.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 - GARY/WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Gary-Whiting Branch 581, will hold its semi-annual meeting at the Lake Ridge Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., in Hobart, IN on Sunday, June 22, at 1 p.m.

The agenda will include discussions on a possible outing to see the Whiting Oilers or Gary's Railcats baseball game, convention in Philadelphia, PA., and our future donations to Sharing Meadows in Valparaiso, run by Fr. Blaney, Savior of the World in Africa and the Sojourn Truth House, which is run by the Sisters of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Gary. A yearly walk will be done to raise money for battered women to be held by the Sojourn Truth House.

RSVP to Ann Buczek, 947-2793 or George Kelchak, 926-2410 if you plan on attending.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The May Breakfast will be served at Tatra Hall, 2636 6th Street and Sherman Boulevard, Muskegon Heights, MI, on May 25, 2014. Burritos will be featured on May 22nd. Bring your family and friends to meet for dinner from

4:30pm to 7:00pm.

Our annual Memorial Day luncheon will be May 26th beginning at 12pm. Enjoy a BBQ, Macaroni Salad and a pickle for \$5.00 per person.

Fraternally,

Cindy Bellefeuil, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Branch 731 will meet on Sunday, June 1, 2014. The meeting will be at Noon at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio. Plans for the 50th FCSU convention will be on the agenda. Our participation at the Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest on August 10, 2014 at Saint Matthias Church will also be discussed. Please plan to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 857 - LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday June 11, 2014. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

The officers of Branch 857 wishes all members of the FCSU a safe summer and save travels to the Convention in Philadelphia in August.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

United Slovak Societies of Lorain Scholarships



Branch 77

For rules and application, please contact Helene Virant, 440/282-3325
Deadline for submission is May 30, 2014.

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain Ohio will grant college scholarships to High School Seniors who are members in good standing in the following fraternals:

- First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 228,
- National Slovak Society Assembly 160,
- First Catholic Slovak Ladies Branch 114,
- Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, and
- Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union

District 12 Met in May



District 12, the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District, held it's meeting on May 4th in Bentleyville, PA. Delegate nomination and election took place along with a discussion about representation at the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held this coming August in Philadelphia.

- Submitted by Cheryl Hyatt

Mark Your Calendars:

Interested in learning more about FCSU insurance and annuity products to recommend them to family and friends?

The following FCSU Sales Seminar has been finalized... All Are Welcome!



An FCSU Sales Seminar will be held on **September 28, 2014** at Tatra Hall, at 2526 Sixth Street, Muskegon Hts., MI, 49444. The seminar, which gives an overview of FCSU insurance and annuity products, will be held directly after Branch 595's meeting at 2:00PM (Editor's note: please watch for details of the Branch 595 meeting in upcoming issues of Jednota).

Other seminars are pending...time and place to be announced. Watch for more information in upcoming issues of *Jednota*.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

On April 6 Branch 38 hosted the spring meeting of the Pittsburgh District at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin, PA. District President George Matta II was elected as the District Delegate to the upcoming convention. A meeting for all delegates is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 6:30 PM at the Holy Trinity church hall in West Mifflin.

Branch 254 will host the annual Fathers Day Mass & Luncheon on June 15, 2014, at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin, with assistance from Branch 2. Members are asked to attend a 9 AM Liturgy at the church. Immediately following Mass, members are invited to the church hall for a meal and socializing. The cost of the brunch is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 & under. Reservations must be made in advance no later than Monday, June 9. No tickets will be sold at the door. Prices for the ad booklet are: full page \$75, half page \$40, quarter page \$25. This deadline is also June 9. Contact jtsenko@aol.com or 412-531-2990 (day) 412-343-5031 (evening). Checks should be made payable to FCSU Pgh District and sent to 230 Thornberry Circle, Pittsburgh PA 15234. If possible, use the orange form distributed at the meeting.

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: June 2: Joe Bielicki – The Czechoslovak Room at Pitt. Meetings resume in the Fall. The Western PA Slovak Cultural Association features their events on Facebook.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in Spring and Fall. Call Joe Senko at 412-531-2990 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 17. Discount tickets will be available at our Fathers Day Brunch on June 15 or email Sue at smosr@verizon.net.

** The McKeesport International Village at Renzi Park, August 12-14, features ethnic foods and dancing from many countries, including Slovakia.

** The Pitt Slovak Heritage Festival will be held Sunday, November 2, at the Cathedral of Learning, noon to 5 PM.

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is open Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations at 412-421-1204 or by email to smosr@verizon.net. The web address is www.nsslife.org/Museum.php.

** The 15th Genealogical & Cultural Conference of the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will be held on Oct 21-24, 2015 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See www.cgisi.org. Cedar Rapids is the home of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. See www.ncsml.org.

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

** If you're interested in study abroad, the University of Presov has a number of interesting programs, including the study of Rusyn Language and Customs. Check out www.unipo.sk/en/.

** Western PA Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 29, 2014, at 1PM in the meeting room of K-2 Engineering Building on Pittsburgh St. All branches are encouraged to attend. The meeting will provide information regarding the forthcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in Philadelphia,

PA on August 23 – 27, 2014. Other reports also will be given.

Fraternally,

Barbara Holly, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 14 - REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Rev. Kostik District will hold it's next meeting, Tuesday June 17, 2014, 6:00 PM at St. Matthias Church. On the agenda will be discussion of the FCSU Convention and bus trip to Philadelphia. Also on the agenda will be discussion of District part of annual Slovak Fest.

Carlie Peshek, President

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District cordially invites you to celebrate Father's Day and meet others in the Slovak community on Sunday, June 15, 2014 at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 710 Sultana Ave, Ontario, CA, where Fr. Pavol Sochulak, SVD serves as pastor. Following the liturgy at 3:00 PM there will be light refreshments in the cafeteria, where we invite all Slovaks and Slovak friends, even those not attending the Mass, to enjoy a pleasant afternoon of fraternalism and listening to Slovak music.

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District, District 16, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at 1:00PM in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10065.

On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities and other business.

We urge all district branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU, not only district representatives, are welcome.

After the meeting, refreshments will be served, courtesy of The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, NYC.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

Region 8 Annual Family Day Picnic- It is a Great Day !

Sunday, July 6, 2014 at Creditvale Park in Mississauga, ON. Mass at 12:00pm (noon) Lunch for purchase following the Mass. Entertainment for the kids, ice cream, races, inflatables etc.

Any questions call Mike Kapitan 416-621-1534

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT – MONTREAL

Prince Rastislav District will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday June 8, 2014, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, following the 11.00 AM Mass. Confirmation of the elected delegates and alternate, and the revised social calendar for 2014 will be discussed. Branches 784 and 810 are encouraged to attend.

A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President.

Branch 670 Awards Scholarships at May Meeting



On the agenda for the Branch meeting on May 4, 2014, was the award of several scholarships. Specifically, Branch 670 awarded three (3) scholarships to branch senior high school members who will be attending college in the Fall and have excelled in curricular and co-curricular activities. The three winners are: Syndey Klein who will be attending Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg MD (not present); Jeffrey Ruffing who will be attending Penn State main campus in State College PA; and Sarah Sebetich who will be attending Point Park University in Pittsburgh PA in the Fall. We wish them much success in school and in their future. (Pictured L to R: Joseph Matinko, Branch Treasurer; Jeffrey Ruffing; Sarah Sebetich; and Dorothy Petrus, Branch President.

- Submitted by Cheryl Hyatt

Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2014 Treasure Tours

Treasure Tours is offering two trips this coming summer that visit Slovakia, continuing our strategy of immersing in the culture, traversing the country from east to west and north to south, and finding long-lost family for our travelers; proud of our 98% success rate! 2014 Treasure Tours offerings include Bratislava old town, Modra ceramics, Detva Folk Festival, Kežmarok Crafts Fest; two walled towns - Levoča and Bardejov - Prešov, Spiš Castle, staying in a castle overlooking Košice, charming Čičmany and more. July 11 to 20 -\$2,199 per person for the land trip. More information is

available by visiting www.fcsu.com and clicking on Slovakia & The World Tab or directly from Treasure Tours, Helene Cincebeaux, 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617, (tollfree) 888 529-7150, helenezx@aol.com

The traditional Slovak greeting of bread and salt was offered to Treasures of Slovakia tour-goer Perre DiCarlo at the beginning of a village wedding party.



OBITUARIES

WALTER "WALLY" F. SIREK BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Walter "Wally" F. Sirek, 71, of Coal Township, passed away Sunday, April 27, 2014, at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, after being suddenly stricken ill.

Born in Shamokin, July 24, 1942, he was a son of the late Francis J. "Frank" (Sirek) Sherrick and Catherine C. (Gusick) Sherrick.

Walter attended St. Stanislaus Church and was a 1960 graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes Regional High School. He received an associate degree in applied science and business management technology from Luzerne County Community College in August 2011, and a Bachelor of Arts from Bloomsburg University in December 2012.

Walter worked as a laborer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force as an airman basic and was honorably discharged in 1961.

He was an active member of Mother Cabrini Church, where he served as an usher for the 4 p.m. Mass and also filled in as an altar server when needed. He enjoyed playing bingo Monday nights at Mother Cabrini, where he often treated many people with the coffee he would bring along with him. He also enjoyed getting together with the guys of the St. Francis Tuesday Night Pinochle Club and playing cards, going to casinos and playing scratch-off lottery tickets.

Walter enjoyed being with people, especially walking downtown and talking and attending Saturday morning markets. He was very active in local organizations, including the Lithuanian Club, St. Francis Home Association, Knights of Columbus Third degree, Six County Firemen's Association and, mostly, the East End Fire Company where he served as secretary. He was recently honored by the fire company with the presentation of a plaque citing his service for 50 years. "Wahldek" was a member of St. Mary's Beneficial Society, Branch 75, where he was very supportive of the lodge's youth activities program.

Walter enjoyed the company of his pet cockatiel bird, George.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Jeanette and Richard Miller, of Mattawana; a niece, Audrey Shawver, of McVeyton; a nephew, Jeffrey Miller, of Lewistown; a cousin, Daniel J. Wagner and his wife, Tosh, of Sylvania, Ohio, who was raised with the rest of the family, and his very close friends.

- Submitted by Ronald M. Anderson,
Branch 75 Financial Secretary

JOSEPH E. STAS BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph E. "Joe" Stas, 79, of Latrobe, died Sunday, April 20, 2014, at his residence, surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren. He was born Aug. 1, 1934, in Whitney, a son of the late John M. Stas and Mary (Menarcheck) Stas. Joe was a lifelong member of St. Cecilia Church, Whitney, its Holy Name Society and had served as a lector and was on the parish council. He was a graduate of Hurst High School, class of 1952, and St. Vincent College, with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1958. He received a Master of Education degree from Duquesne University in 1965. He also attended Clemson University and the University of Pitts-

burgh. His first teaching position was 1958 to 1960 with Unity Township, Youngstown School District, as head elementary teacher at the Northern Area Building. Also, he served as Summer Recreational Director of Unity-Youngstown and served as a board member of Unity-Youngstown Recreation Commission. He retired from Mt. Pleasant Area School District in 1991, where he served as teacher, football coach, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent. Joe served for 20 years (1985 to 2005) on the Greater Latrobe School Board and eight years on the Eastern Westmoreland and Career and Technology Center. His life memberships included, the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals, PSEA and NEA. He was also a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), life member of the BPO Elks 868 Mt. Pleasant and Hostetter Literary and Social Club. Besides his parents, Joe was preceded in death by a grandson, Brian Rusnock; a brother, Stephen Stas; and two sisters, Margaret (Stas) Dlugos and Martha (Stas) Uhring. Joe is survived by his wife, Theresa (Bizup) Stas, of Latrobe; 12 children, Joseph Stas and his wife, Linda, of Wexford, Dr. Ronald Stas and his wife, Melanie, of Latrobe, Annette Rusnock and her husband, Thomas, of Latrobe, Regina Knestaut and her husband, Keith, of New Philadelphia, Ohio, Edward Stas and his wife, Nancy, of Latrobe, Theresa Martincic, of Latrobe, Kenneth Stas and his wife, Sandra, of Latrobe, Mary Helen Vasinko and her husband, Raymond, of Latrobe, Dorothea Looney and her husband, Edgar, of Austin, Texas, Sandra Fenton and her husband, Neal, of Latrobe, Renee Reisenweaver and her husband, Kevin, of Mechanicsville, Va., and Randall Stas, of Latrobe; 33 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; one brother, John R. "Jumbo" Stas, of Latrobe; and numerous nieces and nephews. Joe's positive, uplifting attitude, humor and genuine love for people will be remembered and an inspiration to all. Family and friends were received Tuesday and Wednesday at the JOHN J. LOPATICH FUNERAL HOME INC., 601 Weldon St., Latrobe. St. Cecilia Rosary Society recited the rosary Wednesday in the funeral home. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Cecilia Church with the Rev. Peter Augustine Pierjok, OSB, as celebrant. Interment will follow at St. Vincent Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the American Indian College Fund, Circle of Sons, 8333 Greenwood Blvd., Denver, CO 80221; or St. Cecilia Church, 220 St. Cecilia Road, Whitney, PA 15693. The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Karen, Janet and Chuck for their excellent care during Joe's brief hospice care.

- Submitted by Barbara Patula, Branch
199 Secretary/Treasurer

MARY T. KOZAK BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

There was a Mass of Christian Burial at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at Christ Our Savior Parish St. Nicholas Church in Struthers, OH, for Mary T. Kozak, 92, formerly of Struthers, who passed away



Tuesday, March 4, 2014, at Hospice of the Valley Hospice House in Poland, OH.

Mary was born June 18, 1921, in Youngstown a daughter of John and Julia Pavlansky Toman and grew up in the Lansingville area of Youngstown.

She was a 1939 graduate of Wilson High School, and as a teenager she competed in track for the Sokols in Youngstown.

She was a member of Christ Our Savior St. Nicholas Church of Struthers. She was also a member of St. Luke's Ladies Bowling League, Women's Jednota Bowling League, and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) Branch 731. She enjoyed baking, cooking, sewing, crocheting, knitting, and playing cards.

Mary loved being around her family, especially her grandchildren.

Her husband, Joseph B. Kozak, whom she married May 28, 1941, celebrated 60 years of marriage before his passing on Jan. 10, 2002.

She will be sadly missed by her family, her children, Bill (Carol) Kozak of Poland and Julie (John) Grossman of Boardman; her son-in-law, Tom (Marilyn) Chako of Struthers; and her grandchildren, three granddaughters she helped raise, Lori (Jamie) Owen, Lisa Becker, and Christine (Jon) McLain, Nathan Kozak, Jennifer Grossman, John (Alicia) Grossman, Beth, Amy and Joseph Kozak of Mississippi.

She also leaves her great-grandchildren, Ellen Becker, Hazen Becker, Owen McLain, and Liam McLain.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband; her daughter, Ruth Chako; her son, Joseph Kozak; her brothers, John Toman, Frank Toman and Joseph Toman; and sisters, Helen Luzik and Ann Janosik.

There were calling hours on Friday, March 7, 2014, from 5 to 8 p.m. and prayers at noon on Saturday, March 8, 2014, at the Kirila Funeral Home, Struthers.

Mary will be laid to rest at St. John's Cemetery in Lowellville, OH.

Special thanks to the staff of the Hospice House for the kind and compassionate care given to Mary, and to her caregivers Geri Page, Judy Denmeade, Darla Gingrich and Lola Slaughter.

ROBERT J. KOSKO, SR. BRANCH 738 MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

Age 93, of Munhall, died peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on Friday, April 25, 2014. Eldest son of the late Joseph and Mary (Fetzko) Kosko; survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Mary (Belavic) Kosko; brother of Dorothy Vaslowski, Carl Casey Kosko, and the late Joseph, Eugene, William, and Cecelia Kosko; loving father of Robert J. (Deborah) Kosko, Karen (Thomas) Thomas, Gerald (Rebecca) Kosko, Marc (Cheryl) Kosko, and Cheryl (Jeffrey) Lukacs; grandchildren, Mandy and Zach Hritz, Gerald and Jonathon Kosko, Garrett and Lauren Lukacs, Kristy Shearer, Michael Fonner, Crystal Pollard, and James Cassidy; great-granddaughters, Mia Hritz, Angelica, Marissa, Sammy Riggs, Kayla Shearer, and Kayla and Alyssa Pollard.

Friends and family were received at the

Savolskis - Wasik - Glenn Funeral Home, Munhall, on Wednesday, April 30, 2014, 7-9 p.m. and Thursday, May 1, 2014, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. A Funeral Mass was celebrated Friday, May 2, 2014, 11:30 a.m. at St. Agnes Church, West Mifflin, PA, with Fr. Joseph Grosko officiating. Bob served with the U.S. Army 339th Engineers Philippine Asiatic Theater, obtaining the rank of Lieutenant during World War II from 1942 to 1945, earning the Purple Heart for injuries received during the battle at Mindoro, Philippines. He was Commander Catholic War Veterans Post 1423, Past Commander of Steel Valley Chapter 27 Disabled Americans Veterans, commentator and usher at the former St. Michael Arc Angel Parish, President of the Men's Club of St. Michaels. Commander for the General Charles L. Griffin Post G.A.R Memorial Day Association. Past president and member of the Homestead District Lions Club, where he was "Lion of the Year" in 1997-1998. He was a member of the Mon Valley Initiative. Past president and board member of the Munhall and Steel Valley School Board. Former scout Master Troop 7 St. Michael Church. Bob retired in 1982 after 43 years from U.S. Steel Structural Department Homestead Works, also serving as treasurer for Local Union 1397 steelworkers. Past president and board member of Tri-Boro Federal Credit Union. President and member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) Branch 738, Thompson Run Athletic Association and a member of the AARP #3172. Bob will best be remembered for his service to God, his family, his country and community, and the impact he made on those around him.

- Submitted by Barbara Brekosky,
Branch 738

HELEN RZECZKOWSKI BRANCH 831 – TARETUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Helen (Petruny) Rzeczkowski, 92, passed away on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at Hospice of Dayton, OH. Born January 27, 1922 in Verona, PA, to the late George and Mary (Hulick) Petruny. She is also preceded in death by her husband; Edgar Rzeczkowski, they celebrated 47 years of marriage together, brothers; John Petruny and George Petruny and sister; Mary Pierchalski. She is survived by her daughter; Chris and her husband Jim Damratoski, Troy, OH, 3 grandchildren; Alyssa (Jeff) Piero, Worthington, OH, Jim (Mandy) Damratoski Jr., Gahanna, OH and Ashley (JR) Barnhart, Dublin, OH along with great grandchildren; Alex and Jack Piero and Anna and Katie Damratoski, sister-in-law; Dorothy Rzeczkowski, several nieces and nephews and special nephew; Joe Pierchalski, who took such good care of her.

Helen was a 1940 graduate of East Deer Frazier High School, was employed by Pittsburg Plate Glass, Creighton, PA for 42 years, retiring in 1982. She was a member of the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Creighton, PA and a huge Pittsburgh Steelers fan. She enjoyed polka dancing, and word puzzles but her biggest love was for her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Mon-



continued on page 16

2014 Perch, Peach, Pierogi and Polka Festival Set for Labor Day Weekend

Perch, Peach, Pierogi and Polka Festival in Port Clinton, Ohio



The 10th annual Perch, Peach, Pierogi and Polka Festival will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in downtown Port Clinton, OH, at 109 E. Perry Street, over Labor Day Weekend. This year the fun filled event will begin on Friday, August 29, at 5:00pm. The fun, food and fantastic polka music will continue on Saturday, August 30 and Sunday, August 31. The festival will be open from 5pm to 9:30 pm on Friday and from 11am until 9:30pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

Once again Lake Erie yellow perch sandwiches and dinners will be served along with pierogis and delicious peach cobbler. Polish sausage sandwiches and pizza will also be available. Soft drinks, wine coolers and ice cold beer will be sold in the beer tent.

On Saturday at 4pm, the Black Tie Dance Studio will provide free polka lessons for those wishing to improve their polka skills and on Sunday at 4pm will be the ever popular pierogi eating contest. Cash prizes go to the winner!

The festival will begin at 5pm Friday, with all food and beverages available. The lead band will be the Frank Moravcik Band, a new addition to the festival last year.

Returning to the stage this year, on Saturday from noon to 4pm, will be the Duane Malinowski Orchestra.

Highlighting the weekend music will be the Del Sinchak Band from Youngstown, Ohio. Del will play from 5pm to 9pm on Saturday, August 30 and again on Sunday from 12 noon until 4pm.

The last band to perform will be the Eddie Rodick Orchestra. The Eddie Rodick Orchestra will perform from 5:00pm until 9:00pm on Sunday, August 31st.

The festivities will conclude with the Big Multi-prize Cash drawing at 9:15pm on Sunday.

Admission to the festival for adults is \$3.00 and anyone under 18 is free. The facility is protected from the elements and will continue rain or shine. Everyone - all fellow FCSU members, family and friends is invited to join us for a fun-filled weekend.

Contact Information:

Web site www.kofc1750.org or facebook events

Co chairman Jerry Arnold 419-341-3743 or gramold@thirdplanet.net

Ed Verkin 419-341-4776 or ejvx2@roadrunner.com

- Submitted by Marie Verkin, Branch 754

St. Thomas A'Becket Annual Festival, June 26 – 28, 2014

The St. Thomas A'Becket Annual Festival will be held on Church Property at 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA, from 6:00PM to 11:00PM each day. There will be C&L amusement rides for children and adults. Special attractions like raffles, bingo, face painting and games of chance every day. Entertainment daily: Thursday, June 26 features D.J. Labby; Friday, June 27 Annie (Country); and Saturday, June 28, 2013, is the New Holidays Band.



Home-made donuts will be sold each day at the St. Thomas A' Becket Festival

Dinner will be served each evening: Thursday: Chicken Planks; Meatball Hoagies; Friday: Batter Fried Fish Dinner, Pierogie (Pirohy), Haluski; Saturday: Stuffed Cabbage Dinner. In addition, there will be hot sausages, hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, kielbasa & kraut, funnel cakes, strawberry shortcake, homemade donuts, ice cream, and much more ...

For more information, call 412-655-2885 or 412-653-4322.

\$500 Award from New Jersey New York Fraternal Alliance Now Available

One of the most important fraternal programs offered by the New Jersey New York Fraternal Alliance (NJNYFA) is its Youth Volunteer Award Program. Each year the NJNYFA



chooses deserving young students from a member society, based on their volunteer achievements with their society as well as the community at large. Each award winner will receive \$500 with an additional \$500 award to their designated charity.

Applicants must be residents of NJ or NY, members of a Society within the NJNY Fraternal Alliance, and between 16 and 22 years of age at the time of the application. The deadline for submitting applications is September 2, 2014. All applications must be

postmarked by that date.

To obtain application forms and supporting information, please contact Karen at the First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800-533-6682 or via email at kdavis@fcsu.com.

OBITUARIES

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day, April 7, 2014 at 10:00 AM at Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Creighton, PA, with Reverend Aaron J. Kriss, Celebrant. Burial followed at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazier Township. Friends called from 2:00 to 6:00 PM on Sunday, April 6, 2014 at Paul R. Ajak Funeral Home, Creighton, PA. Parting prayers were offered at 9:30 AM Monday, April 7, 2014, at the funeral home.

SISTER MARY ANN BEHARY

A Sister of Charity of Nazareth, Sister Mary Ann Behary was called to her heavenly home on April, 25, 2014, at the age of 80, and in the 63rd year of her religious life. Sister entered the Congregation of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. Mary Parish in Brownsville, PA in 1951. She received her B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees with Permanent Certification in Elementary Administration from Duquesne University and served the Church as an elementary teacher and principal in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg, PA, Steubenville, OH, Springfield- Cape Girardeau, MO, Mobile, AL, and CCD teacher and Pastoral Minister in Mem-

phis, TN. Her career in education was followed by serving the Sisters as coordinator at the Vincentian Motherhouse. When illness forced her into retirement, Sister spent a brief time in recovery at the Vincentian Home and finally at the St. Louise Convent infirmary, where she passed away peacefully. Although Sister was of short stature and frail body, her presence was felt by her great sense of humor and dry wit that always evoked a good laugh. She often said, "When I die, I want everyone to know it was my bones that killed me." Sister Mary Ann was preceded in death by her parents, George and Mary Behary; and her sister, Christine Florian. She is survived by her brother, George; her sister, Theresa (Dan) Capatolla; nieces and nephews; and her Sisters in Community. Friends were received at St. Louise Convent, Pittsburgh, PA on Monday, April 28, 2014, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. in the convent chapel. Interment followed in the Sisters' Cemetery on the convent grounds.



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

A great source for the latest information about our Society - and events in the greater Slovak community.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 12

L	I	P		A	L	E		S	P	A		G	O	T		
A	D	E		K	I	M		L	A	C		U	R	E		
S	E	A		A	D	O	L	E	S	C	E	N	T	S		
S	A	S	H		T	A	D		E	R	N	S	T			
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E	L	I	X	I	R		T	E	E				A	B	E	
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P	L	Y		G	E	M		D	E	N			S	R	E	

Správy zo Slovenska

PREMIÉR: J. M. Barroso sa ukázal ako nestranný predseda Európskej komisie

Bratislava 28. apríla (TASR) - Premiér Robert Fico ocenil predsedu Európskej komisie (EK) José Manuela Barrosa za jeho postoj voči krajinám, ktoré v Európskej únii nemajú hlavný ekonomický a politický vplyv. „Spoločne sme riešili množstvo krízových situácií. Ukázal sa ako predseda, ktorý je nestranný, a ktorému záleží na rozvoji všetkých členských štátov EÚ,“ vyzdvihol jeho osobu na dnešnej tlačovej konferencii. Barroso je na návšteve Slovenska pri príležitosti 10. výročia vstupu do únie.

Fico ho zároveň ubezpečil o proeurópskom zameraní SR, kde majú relevantné politické strany konsenzus v zásadných otázkach zahraničnej politiky a európskej orientácie.

Pre šéfa EK je významný fakt, že si Slovensko uvedomuje príspevok komisie vrátane jeho osoby k posilneniu ducha a hodnôt EÚ. „Mali by sme všetkých členov únie, či ide o chudobnejšie alebo bohatšie krajiny, rovnako oceňovať,“ zdôraznil, pričom pozitívne hodnotil Fica za odvážne kroky v oblasti fiškálnej politiky.

Obdobie 10 rokov, kedy sa únia v najväčšej vlne rozšírenia rozrástla o 10 nových členských štátov, označil za veľký úspech Slovenska, EÚ a celého kontinentu, ktorý je podľa neho v súčasnosti oveľa viac zjednotený. „Niektoré transformácie by boli pred niekoľkými rokmi úplne nemysliteľné, a práve vďaka spolupráci medzi európskymi inštitúciami a členskými štátmi sme boli schopní napredovať,“ konštatoval Barroso.

Aj z tohto dôvodu sa domnieva, že Slováci prídu 24. mája na voľby do Európskeho parlamentu. „Bolo by dobré, keby prostredníctvom tohto hlasovania Slováci ukázali, že majú naďalej záujem o otázky EÚ,“ podotkol.

Barrosovi dnes prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič pri príležitosti 10. výročia vstupu SR do únie udelil štátne vyznamenanie – Rad Bieleho dvojkríža II. triedy. Získal ho na návrh vlády za mimoriadne zásluhy o posilnenie postavenia Slovenska v medzinárodných vzťahoch.

Gašparovič poďakoval za pomoc, ktorú Slovensko dostalo od európskych krajín, ale aj od európskych politikov. Za jedného z nich považuje Barrosa, ktorý podľa prezidenta ešte ako portugalský premiér robil všetko pre to, aby sa SR dostala do EÚ.

PREMIÉR: Ekonomické sankcie voči Rusku by ťažko poškodili Slovensko

Bratislava 29. apríla (TASR) – Oživenie ekonomiky v Európskej únii, ktorá sa ešte stále borí s dôsledkami ťažkej hospodárskej krízy, je očividné. „Vnímame ho aj na Slovensku, pretože ak sa pozeráme na hospodársky rast a rôzne prognózy, tak je to veľmi slušné,“ konštatoval v rozhovore pre TASR premiér Robert Fico.

Vláda podľa jeho slov robí opatrenia na definitívne konsolidovanie verejných financií, avšak zároveň musí naplniť očakávanie ľudí. „Dva roky boli trezliví a teraz je našou povinnosťou prísť s takými riešeniami, z ktorých budú mať nejakú mieru prospechu,“ zdôraznil.

Je presvedčený o tom, že ak nepríde ku krízovým javom, tak je Európa na dobrej ceste vyjsť z krízy v roku 2015. Dodal, že Slovensko by mohlo dosiahnuť hospodársky rast blížiaci sa k trom percentám, čo bude jeden z najvyšších.

„Ak však opäť nad zdravým rozumom zvíťazi nejaký geopolitický súboj a bude tlak na Slovensko, aby sa stalo súčasťou ťažkých ekonomických sankcií vo vzťahu k Ruskej federácii, tak zabudnime na hospodársky úspech,“ podčiarkol s tým, že v SR po ich zavedení príde k obrovským škodám. Verí, že sa podobným spôsobom na to pozerajú aj predstavitelia iných členských štátov únie.

Európska únia zaviedla voči Rusku už dve etapy sankcií. V prípade, ak bude naďalej eskalovať situáciu vo východnej časti Ukrajiny, je únia pripravená aj na tretiu - ekonomickú fázu. „Existujú presné analýzy, ktoré hovoria, čo by konkrétna sankcia znamenala pre hospodársky rast tej či onej krajiny. Nechcem tieto analýzy teraz odtajniť, ale pre Slovensko je to brutálne,“ poznamenal premiér. Vyjadril však presvedčenie, že nakoniec zvíťazí zdravý rozum a pre geopolitický súboj sa neobetujú roky konsolidácie a boja s hospodárskou krízou.

M. LAJČÁK: Nedávno sme snívali sen o Európe, dnes ho pomáhame naplniť iným

Bratislava 30. apríla (TASR) – Slovensko sa iba nedávno nachádzalo v pozícii, keď snívalo sen o Európe. Dnes ho vďaka svojej autentickej skúsenosti pomáha naplniť iným.

V príhovore pred pozvanými hosťami to počas dnešného galavečera k 10. výročiu vstupu Slovenska do Európskej únie povedal hosťiteľ Miroslav Lajčák.

Zaspomínal si na časy, keď Slováci cestovali do zahraničia iba s pasmi a vízami. Na marku, šiling či frank hľadali ako na stelesnenie prosperity a naša krajina sa nachádzala na ekonomickom chvoste Európy. „Dnes cestujeme po veľkej časti sveta bez víz a po Európe dokonca bez pasov a hraničných kontrol. V jej prevažnej časti využívame spoločnú menu a zdá sa nám trochu zvláštne a nepohodlné, ak musíme vymieňať valuty pri dovolenke v Chorvátsku alebo pri ceste do Prahy,“ podotkol.

Poukázal na zrealizované reformy, vďaka ktorým má dnes SR jeden z najvyšších rastov hospodárstva. „Náš príbeh sa zďaleka nekončí. V porovnaní so situáciou na jeho začiatku sme v úplne inej pozícii. Sme súčasťou silnej a prosperujúcej komunity. Hlas Slovenska je aj vďaka našej expertíze, konzistentnosti a vyargumentovanosti našich postojov široko rešpektovaný,“ podčiarkol minister zahraničných vecí, pričom upozornil, že iba cez silnú a efektívne fungujúcu EÚ je Slovensko schopné najlepšie presadzovať svoje záujmy.

M. SCHULZ: Pred 10 rokmi sa Slovensko vrátilo do európskej rodiny

Bratislava 30. apríla (TASR) – Pred 10 rokmi sa navždy skoncovalo s neprirodzeným rozdelením Európy železnou oponou. „Pred 10 rokmi sa Slovensko konečne spolu s ďalšími deviatimi krajinami vrátilo do

európskej rodiny,“ konštatoval vo svojom príhovore predseda Európskeho parlamentu Martin Schulz. Ten je jedným z pozvaných hostí na dnešnom galavečere k 10. výročiu vstupu Slovenska do Európskej únie.

Vyzdvihol projekt EÚ, ktorý z Európy urobil mierový a zjednotený kontinent. „Stále potrebujeme našu úniu, dnes možno ešte viac ako kedkoľvek predtým,“ konštatoval na margo aktuálnych udalostí na Ukrajine, ktoré sú podľa neho výrazným momentom, že mier v Európe je krehkejší, než sme si mysleli.

Ako upozornil, únia čelí veľkým výzvam, tými sú dramatická nezamestnanosť mladých ľudí či rastúce ceny. „Áno, ľudia sa čoraz viac otáčajú Európskej únii chrbtom. Práve na Slovensku bola volebná účasť v posledných európskych voľbách prekvapivo nízka. Len každý piaty Slovák šiel voliť. Pritom si stále pamätám obrovské nadšenie slovenských ľudí za Európu počas pristupovania. V tom čase bola podpora vstupu do EÚ obrovská,“ konštatoval Schulz.

Za dôležité označil získať opätovnú dôveru ľudí. Spôsob vidí v ich počúvaní, riešení problémov a predkladaní výsledkov. „Keď sa pozerám späť na naše spoločné dejiny, na všetky tragédie a prekážky, ktoré sme prekonali, som presvedčený, že prekonáme aj tieto problémy,“ poznamenal.

Slovensko považuje za svetlý príklad členstva v EÚ. Mladá demokracia sa stala stabilnou, prosperujúcou krajinou a plnoprávnym členom. Krajiny strednej a východnej Európy podľa Schulza priniesli do únie nový stimul a pľnoš. „Dnešok je dňom osláv pre Európu a vašu krajinu,“ uviedol.

OBRANA: A. F. Rasmussen by mal zhodnotiť 10 rokov členstva Slovenska v NATO

Bratislava 11. mája (TASR) - Generálny tajomník NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen pricestuje v stredu 14. mája na návštevu Slovenskej republiky. V rámci rozhovorov s vrcholnými politickými predstaviteľmi by mal zhodnotiť desaťročné pôsobenie Slovenska v rámci NATO. Pre TASR to potvrdil rezort obrany. Rasmussen príde na Slovensko tretí raz počas svojho funkčného obdobia.

„Medzi témy, o ktorých budú pravdepodobne diskutovať, patrí predovšetkým zhodnotenie desaťročného pôsobenia Slovenska v NATO, vývoj na Ukrajine a otázka ďalšieho pôsobenia aliancie v Afganistane po ukončení operácie ISAF,“ uviedla hovorkyňa ministerstva obrany Martina Balleková. Generálneho tajomníka NATO by mal prijať prezident Ivan Gašparovič, premiér Robert Fico, minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák a minister obrany Martin Giváč.

Rasmussen má vo štvrtok 15. mája vystúpiť v rámci medzinárodnej bezpečnostnej konferencie GLOBSEC 2014 na tému priorít k nadchádzajúcemu summitu NATO vo Walse, ktorý sa uskutoční 4. až 5. septembra. Dotknúť by sa mal aj aktuálnej situácie na Ukrajine. Na poste generálneho tajomníka končí Rasmussen 1. októbra, jeho nástupcom bude Jens Stoltenberg.

VLÁDA: Projekt jednej štátnej zdravotnej poisťovne naďalej stojí

Bratislava 7. mája (TASR) - Projekt jednej štátnej zdravotnej poisťovne, ktorá mala podľa plánov vlády Roberta Fica fungovať už v tomto roku, naďalej stojí. Ministerka zdravotníctva Zuzana Zvolenská koncom minulého roka avizovala, že projekt je pripravený, ale nepohne sa ďalej skôr, ako budú na neho peniaze. Informáciu o projekte dnes vzala na vedomie vláda.

„Vzhľadom na finančnú stránku projektu zavedenia unitárneho systému verejného zdravotného poistenia, ministerstvo zdravotníctva predtým, ako bude zo strany ministerstva financií verifikovaná pripravenosť SR na jeho dostatočné finančné krytie, neuskutočňuje ďalšie kroky, ktoré by v súčasnosti mohli znamenať predčasné, a teda neefektívne nakladanie s verejnými zdrojmi,“ píše sa v informácii.

Vládou schválený projekt zavedenia unitárneho systému verejného zdravotného poistenia počítal s tým, že v prípade dohody s akcionármi súkromných poisťovní, by jedna štátna poisťovňa vznikla od začiatku tohto roka. Ak nie, malo sa siahnuť vo vyvlastňovaní a vznikla by od júla 2014.

MARTIN: SNK zdigitalizovala dobové fotografie tragického úmrtia M. R. Štefánika

Martin 5. mája (TASR) - Slovenská národná knižnica (SNK) pri príležitosti 95. výročia tragického úmrtia generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika zdigitalizovala a sprístupnila na internetovej stránke www.dikda.eu dobové fotografie trosiek lietadla typu Caproni 450, v ktorom 4. mája 1919 zahynul neďaleko Ivanky pri Dunaji, a fotografie dokumentujúce všetky štyri posledné rozlúčky s generálom v Bratislave, Brezovej, Košariskách a Bradle.

Fondy SNK sú podľa generálnej riaditeľky SNK Kataríny Krištofovej bohaté na fotografie a dokumenty týkajúce sa významného vedca, politika a diplomata M. R. Štefánika. „Verejnosti sme už sprístupnili viaceré fotografie či dokumenty z jeho ciest po Európe a svete, ako aj jeho bohatú osobnú knižnicu. Okrem dobových fotografií trosiek lietadla a posledných rozlúčok s generálom sprístupňujeme napríklad aj rukopis prezidenta Tomáša G. Masaryka, ktorým sa s generálom rozlúčil,“ uviedla Krištofová.

Podotkla, že M. R. Štefánik žil krátko, ale jeho život bol neuveriteľne dynamický a jeho záujmy všestranné. „Bol astronóm a meteorológ, vojak, letec, generál, politik, diplomat, ale aj cestovateľ, fotograf, milovník poézie a klasickej literatúry. Na letisku Campoformido pri Udine nastúpil 4. mája 1919 do lietadla Caproni 450, ktorého cieľom cesty bolo letisko vo Vajnorochoch pri Bratislave. Lietadlo však nepristálo, pretože sa náhle zrútilo neďaleko Ivanky pri Dunaji. M. R. Štefánik a ďalší traja členovia posádky boli na mieste mŕtvi. Havária lietadla sa dodnes úplne nevysvetlila. Generál je pochovaný v mohyle na Bradle. Jeho tragická smrť vyvolala v slovenskej a česko-slovenskej verejnosti dovtedy nevidané reakcie. Prvýkrát totiž národ v novovzniknutom štáte stratil jednu z vodcovských osobností, ktorá ho reprezentovala,“ dodala generálna riaditeľka SNK.

Vlani sa zo Slovenska vyvážali najmä autá, televízory a telefóny

Vlani sa zo Slovenska vyviezol tovar v celkovej hodnote 64,4 miliardy eur. Firmy exportovali najmä autá, televízory a telefónne súpravy. Upozorňuje na to vo svojej najnovšej analýze Poštová banka na základe údajov Štatistického úradu (ŠÚ) SR.

Export automobilov v minulom roku dosiahol hodnotu viac než 11 miliárd eur a tvoril tak z celkového slovenského exportu až 17,2 %. „Automobily sú jednoznačne naším najdôležitejším vývozným artiklom. Po autách s nálepkou Made in Slovakia siahali vlani najmä Nemci, Briti, Číňania, Francúzi a Taliani. Do tejto päťice krajín smerovala v roku 2013 viac ako polovica všetkých áut vyvezených zo Slovenska,“ približuje analytčka banky Dana Špacirová. Zároveň dopĺňa, že poradie v rebríčku najväčších importérov slovenských automobilov sa v porovnaní s rokom 2012 mierne zmenilo. „Veľká Británia a Francúzsko si vymenili pozície a Taliansko vytlačilo z prvej päťky USA,“ hovorí Špacirová. Významnou mierou sa na slovenskom exporte vlani podieľali aj výrobcovia televízorov a monitorov. V roku 2013 sa zo Slovenska vyviezli obrazovky v celkovej hodnote 5,4 miliardy eur a najčastejšie sa vyvážali do Nemecka, Veľkej Británie a Holandska. „Top trojku slovenských exportných položiek vlani uzatvárali telefónne súpravy, ktoré zosadili z bronzovej priečky ropné oleje,“ uvádza Špacirová. Telefóny sa zo Slovenska vyviezli v celkovej hodnote 3,2 miliardy eur a tvorili tak rovných 5 % slovenského exportu. Svojich odberateľov našli najmä v Českej republike, Poľsku a v Rakúsku. Najväčšia časť slovenského vývozu pritom smeruje do krajín Európskej únie, predovšetkým na nemecký a český trh. „Z krajín mimo EÚ si najvyšší podiel na našom exporte drží Ruská federácia, na ktorú sa ale postupne doťahuje Čína. Kým v roku 2007 do Číny smerovalo len 2,8 % zo Slovenska vyvezených automobilov, tak v roku 2013 to bolo už 11,4 %. Zjednodušene povedané, každé deviate auto vyrobené na Slovensku putovalo do Číny,“ dodáva Špacirová.

TASR

V rámci osláv vstupu SR do EÚ sa predstavil Košický kraj v Bruseli

Pokračovanie na str. 20

„Kultúrne centrum KSK pripravilo prezentáciu s názvom Tradičné netradične. Išlo o exponáty, ktoré mali byť dôkazom, že tradície sú v tomto kraji inšpiráciou pre súčasnosť. Tradičný ľudový odev reprezentovali krojované bábiky, ktoré pre túto príležitosť zapožičala Únia žien Slovenska,“ doplnila riaditeľka Kultúrneho centra KSK Lenka Vargová Jurková. Dodala, že kroje bábik boli vytvorené v rámci projektu Minikroje podľa autentických krojov z regiónov Abov, Spiš, Gemer a Zemplín. Umelecké spracovanie ľudových motívov zastúpia modely šiat z kolekcie Tradičné, ktorú pripravili študenti Strednej odbornej školy na Gemerskej ulici v Košiciach a dôkazom naozaj živej tradície boli ukážky využitia originálnych ľudových vzorov v rámci jedného z trendov súčasného odevného dizajnu.

Interaktívnou a zároveň aj zážitkovou aktivitou bola Pozvánka do kraja, v ktorej sa mohli účastníci osláv odfotografovať pred fotostenou s najkrajšími pohľadmi do Košického kraja. V prípade záujmu sa mohli odfotiť v niektorej z charakteristických častí slovenského kroja, ako lajblík, šurc, parta, ktorú ešte nemali možnosť vidieť takto zblízka. „Fotografiu vytlačenú priamo na mieste si odniesli ako suveníry. Chceli sme ich takto inšpirovať, aby objavili, spoznali a zažili atmosféru tých miest v našom kraji, ktoré si v centre Bruselu vybrali. Pri tejto príležitosti predstavili aj program KSK Terra Incognita – Krajina nespoznaná, ktorého cieľom bolo inšpirovať domácich i zahraničných hostí, aby spoznali krásnu, aj keď pre mnohých ešte stále neznámu krajinu,“ doplnila Vargová Jurková.

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Pripravované podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City Vám oznamuje, že pripravuje pre Vás tieto zaujímavé podujatia:

Dvojďňovú katolícku púť do chrámu Božieho milosrdenstva – National Shrine of The Divine Mercy Stockbridge, Massachusetts v máji 2014.

Tradičnú slovenskú katolícku púť do Marian Shrine, West Haverstraw, New York spojená so slovenskou svätou omšou, ružencovou pobožnosťou a obedom v nedeľu dňa 10. augusta 2014.

Zájazd na divadelné predstavenie s náboženskou tematikou „Mozes“ do divadla Sight & Sound Lancaster, Pennsylvania (pravdepodobne 2-dňový s nocľahom) jeseň 2014 – presný termín bude oznámený – podľa záujemcov.

Ziadame záujemcov o uvedené podujatia, aby sa prihlásili do konca mája 2014.

Bližšie informácie Vám podajú: Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu Spolok č. 16 sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 1. júna 2014 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia na färe Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Program schôdze bude podanie finančnej správy a príprava plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie. Po polročnej schôdzi sa bude predávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravujú členovia spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Nová webová stránka pre kresťanských manželov a rodičov

Občianske združenie Slovenská asociácia kresťanských rodín (SAKRO) spustilo novú webovú stránku zastolom.sk. Jej cieľom je sprevádzať rodiny na ceste viery, a vyplniť tak prázdne miesto medzi súčasnými slovenskými portálmi. Mottom stránky je myšlienka: „... keď Boh má miesto za rodným stolom“. Čitatelia na nej nájdu články pre manželov, pre rodičov, tipy pre manželské a rodinné spoločenstvá, svedectvá, rozhovory, recenzie.

Zastolom.sk je prvý slovenský online magazín venovaný špeciálne kresťanským rodinám. Snahou je denne ponúkať nové články zamerané na manželstvo a výchovu detí z teologického a psychologického pohľadu. Z pravidelných rubrik ide o témy: manželská spiritualita, manželská komunikácia, teológia tela, láska a plodnosť, výzvy manželstva (bezdetnosť, rozvod, nesviatostné manželstvo), materstvo, otcovstvo, výchova detí ku viere, slávenie sviatkov v rodine.

Zastolom.sk prináša slovenskému čitateľovi i množstvo kvalitných zahraničných článkov z anglických, nemeckých, poľských a iných portálov. Tím autorov je tvorený prevažne z odborníkov v mladom veku, ktorí žijú v manželstve a vychovávajú deti. Stránka je projektom Spoločenstva Ladislava Hanusa (SLH). Víziou SLH je byť inšpirujúcim spoločenstvom vzdelaných a angažovaných kresťanov, ktorí budú obohacovať kultúru a verejný život na Slovensku. Prevádzkovateľom web stránky je občianske združenie Slovenská asociácia kresťanských rodín (SAKRO). Portál bol podporený mediálnym grantom Konferencie biskupov Slovenska.

TK KBS

Zápisky legionára sa otvárajú čitateľom...

Práve v čase, keď si pripomínáme 100. výročie začiatku 1. svetovej vojny, Vydavateľstvo PRO, Banská Bystrica, pripravilo a uviedlo „do života“ novú knižnú publikáciu venovanú spomienkam takmer zabudnutého slovenského legionára Jozefa Honzu-Dubnického.

Jozef Honza-Dubnický bol nielen legionárom, ale i významnou osobnosťou, ktorá sa zapájala do slovenského krajan-ského života v zahraničí. Tak, ako uvádzajú jej vydavateľa, Dubnický sa: „v Amerike (...) stretol s najvýznamnejšími predstaviteľmi česko-slovenského zahraničného exilu M. R. Štefánikom a T. G. Masarykom. Bol veliteľom prvej výpravy slovenských a českých dobrovoľníkov, príslušníkom československých légii vo Francúzsku, kde sa stýkal s E. Benešom, J. Šnejdárkom a ďalšími aktérmi prvého odboja v rokoch 1914 – 1918.“

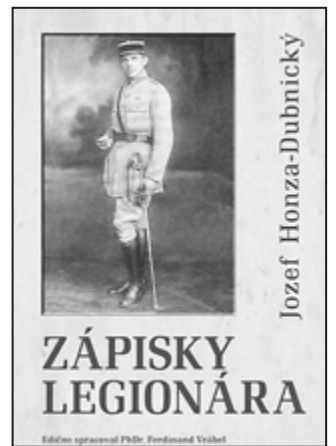
Nové dielko vyšlo nielen na sté výročie 1. svetovej vojny, ale i v čase 130. výročia narodenia Honzu-Dubnického, ktorému je kniha venovaná. Krajan-ské múzeum Matice slovenskej, v spolupráci s vydavateľmi a editorom dielka sa rozhodli knižku predstaviť aj martinskej verejnosti v sídle KM MS, v dome Jozef Cigera Hronského v Martine.

V príjemnej atmosfére, za účasti zástupcu vydavateľstva Augustína Rosu, v sprievode moderátorského slova Juraja Genčanského, hlavný editor Ferdinand Vrabel, priblížil zostavovanie knihy. Popísal, s čím sa stretával, čo v slovenských i českých archívoch našiel, ako informácie overoval, i to, ako knižka vznikala.

Pozoruhodný „román“, doplnený archívnymi materiálmi Honzu-Dubnického, ktoré sú písané jeho vlastnou rukou a skráslené vlastnoručnými, niekoľko desiatok rokov starými ilustráciami, predstavuje súčasť mozaiky o slovenských legionároch, ktorá je na Slovensku ešte stále slabo „poskladaná“.

Ak Vás zaujal knižný titul, plný neodhalenej minulosti o slovenskom legionárovi Jozefovi Honzovi-Dubnickom, môžete si ho zakúpiť na <http://www.pro.sk/knizny-eshop.php?k=3&h=43>.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Velká noc v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v Los Angeles, Kalifornia usporiadal 13. apríla 2014 na Kvetnú nedeľu Veľkonočnú slávnosť, ktorú zahájila slovenská svätá omša o 12:00 hodine v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Hlavným celebrantom svätej omše bol slovenský misionár Spoločenosti Božieho Slova, otec Pavol Sochuľak SVD, ktorý v súčasnosti pôsobí ako farár (Pastor) farnosti Our Lady of Guadalupe v časti Los Angeles – Ontário, Kalifornia.



Slovenský misionár Spoločenosti Božieho Slova otec Pavol Sochuľak počas svojho príhovoru v jedálni v St. John Bosco High School.

Po bohoslužbe sa otec Pavol prihovoril prítomným v jedálni St. John Bosco High School krátkym príhovorom o svojom pastoračnom pôsobení vo svete. Slovenskí veriaci sa mu pri tejto príležitosti poďakovali za jeho 15-ročnú vernú službu vo Vinici Pánovej. Okres Princa Pribinu, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v Los Angeles pripravil na stretnutie Slovákov a priateľov Slovenska prezentáciu o rôznych možnostiach a výhodách poistenia prostredníctvom IKSJ.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda



Na snímke otec Pavol Sochuľak SVD, podáva palmové ratolesti slovenským veriacim v Los Angeles, CA počas svätej omše na Kvetnú nedeľu 13. apríla 2014.

Prednáška Ricka Zednika k 10. výročiu vstupu SR do EÚ

Pri príležitosti 10. výročia vstupu Slovenska do EÚ prednášal 28. apríla 2014 na Zastupiteľskom úrade SR vo Washingtone Rick Zednik na tému „Slovakia in the EU 10 years on: Promises Fulfilled?“. Prednášku organizoval slovenský zastupiteľský úrad vo Washingtone v spolupráci s organizáciami Slovak-American Society of Washington a Friends of Slovakia. Rick Zednik mapoval cestu Slovenskej republiky do Európskej únie a NATO, ako zakladateľ týždenníka Slovak Spectator v Bratislave v rokoch 1994 až 2000. Neskôr sa téme venoval v Bruseli. Vyštudoval politické vedy na Univerzite v Hartforde, žurnalistiku na Columbia Journalism School a na Harvarde získal titul MBA. V súčasnosti pracuje ako výkonný riaditeľ portálu EurActiv v Bruseli. Zároveň je autorom knihy rodinných spomienok „A Country Lost, Then Found: Discovering My Father's Slovakia“.

R. Zednik priblížil v pútavej prezentácii americkejmu publiku cestu samostatného Slovenska od roku 1994 k zaradeniu sa do Euroatlantických štruktúr v roku 2004. Vstup do EÚ a NATO znamenal pre Slovensko kulmináciu bod dlhého procesu s neistým výsledkom. Prednáška bola reflexiou, čo prinieslo členstvo SR v EÚ, Schengenskom priestore a eurozóne našej krajiny v ekonomickej, ale aj politickej a sociálnej oblasti. Publikum ocenilo jej interaktívny charakter a zaujímali sa o budúci vývoj v rámci rozširovania EÚ, povolebnú situáciu v SR, ako aj situáciu v sektoroch školstva, justície a ekonomiky.

MZ SR

Slovenská Národná Aliancia



Pozýva všetkých na 13. ročník

Slovenských ľudových slávností v Chicágu

poslednú májovú nedeľu, t.j. 25. mája 2014.

Program:

- Začiatok o 12:30 hod., svätou omšou, celebranou Mons. Jánom Sokolom, emeritným arcibiskupom.
- Obed o 13:30 hod.
- Hlavný program o 14:00 hod.

Do programu boli pozvaní:

- Žiaci Školy slovenského jazyka v Chicágu.
- Host zo Slovenska: Dvadsaťjeden členov folklórneho súboru ORAVAN z Nižnej.
- Po programe nasleduje tanečná zábava – o občerstvenie je postarané (Cash bar).

Adresa: The Village of Bridgeview Community Center
7900 Oketo Ave., Bridgeview, IL 60455

Vstupné: dospelí \$25, seniori a mládež do 21 rokov \$10, deti do 12 rokov zdarma

Prid' objaviť krásu slovenskej kultúry, zvykov a výnimočnosť našich jedál!
Tešíme sa na stretnutie!

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FOTO TASR-Lukáš Grinaj

Na snímke prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič (druhý zľava) sa účastní pietnej spomienkovej slávnosti pri príležitosti 95. výročia tragickej smrti generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika pri Brezovej pod Bradlom v sobotu 3. mája 2014.

The 95th anniversary of General Milan Stefanik's death was observed in special ceremonies in Bradlo on May 3, 2014. In the photo is Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic (second from left).

95. výročie tragickej smrti generála Milana R. Štefánika

Pietnym kladením vencov na Bradle sa konala 3. mája spomienková slávnosť pri príležitosti 95. výročia tragickej smrti generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika. Aj napriek silnému vetru a dažďu prišli vzdať úctu tomuto slovenskému politikovi desiatky ľudí, medzi nimi i zahraniční veľvyslanci či predstavitelia historických vojenských spolok zo Slovenska, Česka a ďalších krajín. Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič vo svojom príhovore pripomenul, že M. R. Štefánik zahynul 4. mája 1919. „Jeho vzácny život vyhasol práve vtedy, keď sa plný síl a nadšenia vracal na slobodnú slovenskú zem. Slobodný slovenský národ nemohol prijať generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika s príslušnými poctami, ako svojho hrdinu. Namiesto toho, aby sa stal vedúcou postavou slovenskej politiky, stráca život. Jeho životný odkaz je tu ale dodnes medzi nami,“ zdôraznil Gašparovič.

Prezident zároveň skonštatoval, že súčasné Slovensko a jeho obyvatelia sú dôstojnými pokračovateľmi Štefánikovho diela. „Verím, že sú nám jeho myšlienky nielen blízke, ale aj vlastné. Lebo sme ich prijali dnes za svoje. Slovenská spoločnosť má povinnosť stále rozvíjať odkaz, ktorý nám zanechal Milan Rastislav Štefánik. Platí to najmä pri rozvíjaní jeho humanistických, demokratických, ale aj republikánskych myšlienok,“ povedal prezident.

Štefánikov prínos pre mier a integráciu Európy na Bradle ocenil aj veľvyslanec Francúzskej republiky na Slovensku Didier Lopinot. „S osobnosťou Štefánika si uvedomujeme, že sloboda nikdy nie je definitívna, ale je potrebné ju brániť každý deň a všade,“ pripomenul vo svojom príhovore.

Spomienková slávnosť pri príležitosti 95. výročia smrti generála Štefánika po pietnom kladení vencov pokračovala v Brezovej pod Bradlom otvorením výstavy s názvom Obrana hraníc Československa v rokoch 1918–1919 i autogramiádou generálneho biskupa ECAV na Slovensku Miloša Klátika, ktorý je autorom knihy V Tvojej ruke sú naše časy. Súčasťou osláv boli aj spomienkové pobožnosti v evanjelickom chráme, slávnostné odovzdanie repliky zástavy Československých légií a fakľový pochod historickou cestou na Bradlo, kde sa večer pri Mohyle M. R. Štefánika zapálili vaty a odzneli slávnostné príhovory.

TASR

Rektor Katolíckej univerzity v Ružomberku rezignoval

Rektor Katolíckej univerzity (KU) v Ružomberku Tadeusz Zasepa 5. mája oznámil rezignáciu na svoju funkciu. Funkčné obdobie rektora KU skončí podľa Buznu vzdaním sa („požiadaním o uvoľnenie z funkcie“) po završení takmer druhého roka druhého funkčného obdobia, teda k 31. máju 2014. „V liste z 5. mája 2014 adresovanom senátu univerzity, akademickej obci KU, Konferencii biskupov Slovenska (KBS), veľkému kancelárovi KU Bernardovi Boberovi, ministrovi školstva zároveň žiada Akademický senát KU, aby v zmysle rezignácie predložil ministrom školstva SR návrh na odvolanie z funkcie rektora KU, aplikujúc ustanovenie Zákona o vysokých školách,“ uviedol hovorca KU.

„Mrzí ma, že nebudem môcť dokončiť začatú prácu, optimalizovať procesy riadenia, zabezpečiť úplné financovanie realizovaných prác a uskutočniť ďalšie plánované rozvojové projekty v spolupráci s ohlásenými štedrými donormi. Ďakujem KBS, študentom, učiteľom a všetkým pracovníkom KU, ako aj priateľom KU za spoluprácu a podporu v mojej službe Katolíckej univerzite v Ružomberku, cirkvi a Slovensku,“ uvádza v liste Zasepa.

Hlboké rozpory Akademického senátu ružomerskej KU a rektora Zasepu, ktoré vyvrcholili koncom minulého roka návrhom na jeho odvolanie, neustali ani po januárovom pracovnom stretnutí obidvoch strán s členmi KBS. „Rektor stratil našu dôveru, a to, čo sme prezentovali 18. decembra, zostáva pre nás nemenné a nezvratné. V tejto chvíli skutočne neexistuje medzi nami možnosť dohody. Preto si nevieme predstaviť našu ďalšiu zmysluplnú spoluprácu do budúcnosti,“ uviedla v januári predsedníčka Akademického senátu KU Ľudmila Krajčířiková.

Prodekanka Pedagogickej fakulty KU Zuzana Gejdošová odmietla tvrdenia rektora o nekalých finančných praktikách na pôde tejto fakulty. „Policajný vyšetrovateľ zastavil v tejto súvislosti všetkých desať trestných stíhaní s odôvodnením, že sa nestal žiadny podvod, krádež či sprenevera,“ zdôraznila.

„Stojím za zisteniami našej vnútornej kontroly, ktoré potvrdil externý audit. V tom duchu musí prebiehať snaha o obnovu vzájomnej dôvery. Keď budeme zakrývať klamstvá, falšovanie a podvody, potom je jasné, že nie je možný dialóg. Stojac pevne na základoch kresťanskej morálky verím v jeho obnovenie,“ skonštatoval po januárovom pracovnom stretnutí rektor.

Hovorca KU Vladimír Buzna vtedy vysvetlil, že problematika nezákonnosti úkonov na Pedagogickej fakulte KU spočívala v tom, že poplatky za niektoré poskytované služby neputovali na účet univerzity, ale súkromného neinvestičného fondu. „Skutočným dôvodom návrhu na odvolanie rektora je to, že dlhodobo upozorňoval na tieto nezrovnalosti,“ dodal.

TASR

Stratený syn

Keď je človek mladý, o svojich predkoch a minulosti príliš nerozmýšľa. Pozná pár strýkov či bratrancov a svoju najbližšiu rodinu. A ani so mnou to nebolo inak...

Bol som najmladší syn zo štyroch súrodencov, vyrastajúci na Orave, pod bedlivým okom starej mamy. Moji rodičia ako pracovníci stavebného podniku, chodili v tých časoch po celom Slovensku všade tam, kde sa stavali vodné diela. Iróniou osudu je fakt, že môj otec začal stavať práve Oravskú priehradu, ktorá neskôr pohltila jeho rodnu obec. Do prevádzky bola spustená práve v čase, keď som prišiel na tento svet. Rodičov som vídal málo. Niekedy prišli na víkend, skontrolovali nám čiacke knižky, trochu sa s nami porozprávali a my sme sa často predvážali, čo sme v športe či v hre na hudobnom nástroji už dokázali. A oni už zase museli ísť... Boli šťastní, že mali prácu. Veď na chudobnej Orave, okrem tvrdej práce na poli, jej veľa nebolo. Aj ja som pomáhal pri týchto prácach, pásol som kravy, hrával futbal a s radosťou som očakával, čo bude ďalej. Našťastie na rozdiel od časov minulých, po vojne, ktorá sa skončila, sme mali čo jesť.

Najväčším zážitkom z detstva bol pre mňa príchod tety Žofie z Ameriky. Na návštevu zavítala v roku 1968. Prišla k môjmu otcovi, ako najmladšiemu bratovi, o ktorého sa kedysi starala a ktorý, po vybudovaní Oravskej priehrady, býval najbližšie pri ich rodnej, teraz už zatopenej obci, Slanica. Veruže k nám vtedy ľudia chodili ako na diváky. Každý ju chcel vidieť a každý sa chcel s ňou porozprávať o „tej Amerike“. Veď veľa „oravských detí“ odišlo za chlebom za veľkú mláku. Toľko u nás bývalo ľudí, že my deti sme museli spať u susedov. Po čase však teta odišla a s ňou aj rok 1968. Prišli tvrdsie časy a rodičia museli zapierať, že si vôbec nejakú Žofiu pamätajú.

Postupne sme vyrástli a založili sme vlastné rodiny. Škoda, že sa môj otec František nedožil svojich dvoch vnukov, mojich synov, ktorým by určite rád porozprával, ako sa kedysi žilo v Slanici – dnes už zatopenej obci. Ako sa všetky deti starého otca Ignáca – a bolo ich desať, po zatopení rodnej dediny rozprchlí po celom Slovensku, ba aj ďalej. Smrťou otca sa pretrhli posledné putá s niektorými jeho súrodencami. Veď otec bol najmladší z 15 detí (z toho 5 zomrelo v detskom veku) a medzi jeho najstaršou sestrou Máriou a ním by bol býval (keby ju v 19 rokoch nezastreli) – vekový rozdiel 23 rokov. Boli by ako dospelá žena a batoľa.

Aj ja som zostal a moji synovia vyrástli. Zomrela aj mama. Doba sa zmenila. Zrazu som začal rozmýšľať o mojej rodine, o mojich koreňoch, o súrodencoch môjho otca. Kam sa všetci podeli? Zaujalo nás to a preto sme sa s manželkou rozhodli, že svojim deťom zanecháme mená predkov, aby si ich navždy pamätali. Veď my sme tá generácia detí socializmu – vyrastajúca medzi starým svetom a novým. Len my si ešte môžeme pamätať staré a dokážeme sa prispôbiť novému. Našťastie to, čo nebolo možné v socializme je dnes vďaka internetu a slobodnému prístupu k informáciám veľmi uľahčené. Nuž začalo sa hľadanie...

Keď mi manželka po určitom čase pátrania povedala, že okrem tety Žofie som podľa nej mal v Amerike aj strýka Jozefa – neveril som jej: „To nie je možné, nikdy som o ňom nepočul“. Ale ona ma presviedčala, že podľa USA Census (to je spis podobný súpisu obyvateľstva), nejaký Joseph Jenvancik, je tu zapísaný spolu s Adalbertom Vojtanekom ako jeho synovec, a že predsa moja stará mama Mária bola za slobodná Vojtaneková a Adalbert Vojtanek mohol byť jej brat, ktorý emigroval do USA zo Slanice. Pokračovala, že je to len skomolené meno a že by to bola prílišná náhoda, aby to nebola pravda. Stále som tomu neveril. Ale manželka, pre ktorú sa medzitým zostavovanie rodokmeňa a hľadanie predkov stalo koníčkom, mi ukázala fotku hrobu, na ktorom stálo meno Joseph J. Zemancik 1897-1964.

Povedala, že hrob je v štáte Ohio a že v tom meste, kde je pochovaný žijú ešte Zemančíkovci a pravdepodobne sú to jeho potomkovia. Potom nahovorila syna, ktorý vie anglicky, že im pošleme list.

Veľmi rýchlo nám prišla na e-mail odpoveď. Napísali nám: „Ahoj Daniel, bol som veľmi šťastný, keď si sa ozval a hneď som utekal k sestre ukázať jej tvoj list. Volám sa James E. Zemancik a som najmladší syn svojho otca Josepha Johna Zemancika. Narodil sa 25.4.1898 a mal 15 rokov keď ušiel z domu, pretože mu povedali, že v 18 bude musieť narukovať do armády. Rodičia o tom nevedeli. Rok sa túlal, kým si hrou na malej harmonike a drobnou prácou nezarobil na lodný lístok na loď, ktorá vyplávala z Hamburgu. Bol úplne sám. V Amerike našiel svojho strýka Adalberta Vojtaneka, ktorý ho prichýlil a našiel mu prácu. Tu sa oženil s mojou mamou a mal 5 detí. Zomrel mladý v roku 1964, keď sa stal o svoje kravy“.

Toľko v krátkosti z listu. Bola to pre nás veľká radosť, že sme si našli rodinu v Amerike, o ktorej sme ani nevedeli. Veď medzi ním a jeho bratom – mojim otcom – bol vekový rozdiel 22 rokov a nikdy sa nevideli. Medzi Slovenskom a Ohiom sa začala svieža korešpondencia. Ozvala sa mi 83 ročná sesternica Edna, jej dcéra Laurie aj Josephov právnik. Z listov vyplynulo, že aj oni sa už dávnejšie pokúšali zistiť niečo o rodine na Slovensku, ale rečová bariéra im to nedovolila. Postupne sme sa dozvedeli ďalšie informácie. Jozefova mama Mária, pravdepodobne tušila, že syn chce emigrovať, lebo mu ušila dve košeľe a jeden malý ruksak (ktorý spolu s inými vecami po svojom otcovi Slovákov dodnes opatrujú jeho deti). Spočiatku Jozef býval u strýka, ale keď sa strýko odsťahoval do Kalifornie ostal v Ohio sám. Postupne zabudol čítať a písať po slovensky (ako povedal svojim deťom, v škole sa učili raz nemecky a raz maďarsky) a neskôr sa ani nemal s kým rozprávať. Úplne splynul so svojim prostredím. Oženil sa a s manželkou Carie si kúpili 88 akrovú farmu, kde dodnes žijú jeho potomkovia. Podľa rozprávania bol veľmi pracovitý, rýchlo chodil a nikdy neoddychoval. Jeho farma bola čistá a krásna. Bratranec James nám povedal, že ich občas cez žatvu navštívila sestra Žofia z Chicaga a on je dával čítať listy, ktoré mu chodili zo Slovenska. Z toho vidno, že rodina na Slovensku už vedela, kde je a písavala mu.

Bolo pre nás prekvapením, keď sme sa dozvedeli, že jeho deti dodnes opatrujú listy, ktoré mu posielali súrodenci a mama zo Slovenska a pritom ani nevedeli, čo v nich je. Takisto opatrujú aj rôzne letáky z tých čias, šeky, ktorými posielal peniaze domov na Slovensko, skrátka papiere, ktoré by sme my už možno dávno zahodili. Museli ho mať veľmi radi.

Kópie spomínaných listov nám poslali a my sme im ich prekladali do angličtiny. Sú to dojemné listy z rokov 1921-1928, vďaka ktorým sme sa dozvedeli o biede, v ktorej sa rodina ocitla po smrti otca, o súrodencoch, ktorí sa povydávali a oženili, o pomeroch, ktoré vtedy v Slanici vládli. Každý list sa začínal slovami: „Pán Boh s nami“. Práve tieto listy od strateného strýka nám umožnili doplniť rodokmeň rodiny o mená súrodencov, o ktorých sme ani nevedeli. Škoda, že sa toho nedožil môj otec. Sme však radi, že sa matka dozvedela, kde má syna. Veď my si v dnešnej dobe ani nevieme predstaviť, že by sme už nikdy nevideli svoje deti.

Preto som sa rozhodol, že s rodinou navštívim Slanický ostrov, kostol, do ktorého sa chodili modliť a ktorý sa ako jediná pamiatka na zatopené územie týči nad hladinou Oravskej priehrady. Tam zapálím v mene strýka Jozefa sviečku nad hrobom našich predkov so slovami: „Váš stratený syn sa našiel“.



FOTO: TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

Celoslovenská púť kňazov a bohoslovcov v Šaštíne.

Over a thousand priests and religious from all parts of Slovakia participated in a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Sastin on Thursday, May 8, 2014. A Mass was celebrated by Bratislava Archbishop Stanislav Zvolensky.

Celoslovenská púť v Šaštíne

V Bazilike Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Šaštíne-Strážach sa konala vo štvrtok 8. mája 2014 celoslovenská púť kňazov a bohoslovcov, na ktorú sa prihlásilo vyše 1 000 kňazov a bohoslovcov. Svätú omšu celebrou Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita, homíliu predniesol pomocný biskup Prešovskej archieparchie Mons. Milan Lach SJ.

Púť bola súčasťou prípravy na septembrové vyvrcholenie Jubilejného roka v Šaštíne. Príprava spočíva v 9-mesačnej novéne, pričom každý mesiac má svoju vlastnú tému. Tie vo svojich príhovoroch rozoberajú kňazi v kostoloch. Základným cieľom tematického roka je primknúť sa bližšie k Ježišovi s Pannou Máriou a podľa jej vzoru. Dôvodom vyhlásenia Jubilejného roka je 450. výročie od prvého zázraku na príhovor Panny Márie v Šaštíne a 50. výročie potvrdenia Sedembolestnej Panny Márie za Patrónku Slovenska pápežom Pavlom VI.

TK KBS



V rámci osláv vstupu SR do EÚ sa predstavil Košický kraj v Bruseli

Oslavy 10. výročia vstupu Slovenska do Európskej únie sa uskutočnili v sobotu 3. mája v Bruseli. „Program, zastrešený všetkými krajinami Slovenska, bol zložený z vystúpení folklórnych skupín, ukážok ľudových remesiel a ochutnávok slovenských špecialít, ktoré doplnili aj netradičné aktivity. Kultúrne centrum KSK pripravilo aktivity, ktoré prezentovali Košický kraj ako Kraj plný inšpirácie,“ informovala hovorkyňa Košického samosprávneho kraja (KSK) Zuzana Bobriková.

Košický kraj sa predstavil ako región, v ktorom sú tradície nielen stále živé, ale aj skutočne inšpiratívne pre súčasnosť. Aj vďaka tomu je destináciou s pestrou ponukou atraktivít, ktoré sú unikátne nielen z pohľadu Slovenska, ale aj z pohľadu celej Európy.

Pokračovanie na str.17

MO Matice slovenskej Dunajská Lužná, Šamorín, OÚ Ivanka pri Dunaji,
Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí
Združenie slovenskej vzájomnosti

VYHLÁSENIE

z 24. ročníka Vlasteneckej pochôdzky po slovenskom juhu pri príležitosti 95. výročia tragickej smrti gen. M.R. Štefánika a jeho talianskeho sprievodu

Rok 2014 je aj rokom stého výročia začiatku I. svetovej vojny, v ktorej práve M.R. Štefánik zohral významnú politickú, strategickú, diplomatickú, oslobodzovaciu úlohu Slovákov a Slovanov.

Z tohto pamätného miesta preto my, účastníci tohtoročnej vlasteneckej pochôdzky voláme po prehĺbovaní slovensko-slovenskej vzájomnosti ako duchovného a mravného odkazu našich predkov a obetí nám a našej mladej generácii.

Európa a svet by boli bez slovenského prínosu ochudobnené. Nech sú si teda vedomé nášho historického i súčasného vkladu do svojej identity a výchovy mladej generácie.

Slováci, Slovania, Európania, nech nás duch a odkaz M. R. Štefánika vedie vo vzájomnom spolunažívaní.

Ivanka pri Dunaji 6. mája 2014

Za správnosť a organizátorov:

Magdaléna Holcingerová, starostka obce Ivanka pri Dunaji
Stanislav Bajanič, MO MS Dunajská Lužná



Agát kvitne v máji

„Bol dvadsiaty máj, práve kvitol agát“, napísal Vincent Šíkula v románe *Leto s Rozárkou*. Príbeh románu sa odohráva neďaleko Pezinka, čo nie je od Bratislavy ďaleko. Pozorujem agáty na našej ulici už viac než tridsať rokov. Keď bola zima tuhá a jar studená, agát zakvitol až koncom mája. Ale Vincent Šíkula sa nemýlil. Obyčajne agát kvitne naozaj okolo dvadsiateho mája. Jeden deň nič a na druhý deň je v kvete. Vlani však zakvitol už 11. mája a tak som bol zvedavý čo bude toho roku, lebo zima bola mierna a jarné slniečko vyhnalo teploty cez poludnie aj vyše dvadsiatky. Včera, tretieho mája, napriek tomu, že sa dost ochladilo a fúkal studený vietor, náš agát vyhodil prvé kvety a dnes je už celý zakvitnutý. Včelári však zo skorej jari nemajú veľkú radosť. Nevyliahli sa im ešte všetky včely. Tie potrebujú 23 dní, aby boli schopné lietať a opeľovať kvety. Repka olejnatá na veľkých poliach čaká na pracovité včely, ale tých je málo, aby zvládli svoje poslanie. Aj včelárov ubudlo, je ich vraj už iba tretina, čo bývalo a včely hynú otrávené pesticídmi... Albert Einstein kedysi povedal: „Keď zahynie posledná včela, ľudstvo zahynie do štyroch rokov“. Veď až 97% poľnohospodárskej vegetácie potrebuje k svojmu prežitiu opelenie včelami. Na Slovensku bolo včelárstvo veľmi rozšírené, slovenský med mal svoje dobré meno aj ako exportný artikel. Nuž, ale dnes sme uverili, že medu je dost, lebo v supermarketoch ho ponúkajú pod najrozličnejšími názvami. Je to však ešte med?

