



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS



Andrew M. Rajec

I am pleased to announce that the First Catholic Slovak Union has reported record assets and record net surplus for the period ending March 31, 2010.

The Society's assets during the first Quarter of 2010 increased by \$15,828,224 over December 31, 2009 to a record \$250,623,136. We are now a One-Quarter Billion Dollar company. In addition, the Society's surplus during the same period increased by \$1,840,138 to a record \$15,009,151.

We have done this while at the same time providing very competitive life insurance products and providing some of the highest yielding annuities in the country while also continuing the policy of paying dividends to our Members. We check our competitors' rates monthly, both fraternal and banks. Have you compared our rates lately? Note that these results were obtained in spite the subprime crisis and near financial meltdown in 2007-2008 and the continuing economic problems today.

What does this means to you, our Members?

First of all, financial strength is critical. Current Members and new Members want to feel confident their money is safe. As I have said many times and in the many places I have visited, "Many current Members and prospective new members, especially younger people, are sophisticated investors and ask two main questions before they invest their hard earned money:

1. Is my money safe?
2. What rate of return can I receive? "

If an organization can give a positive answer to these two questions, then the fact of Slovak kinship may be considered. It is a bonus.

I can confidently say, and our financial results prove, that we are doing the job. I know many of you remember only about fifteen years ago when our surplus was less than \$3 million and our assets only \$100 million. Our Executive Committee consisting of myself as chair, Mr. Harcar, Mr. Arendt and Mr. Matta, with the support of the Board of Directors, has operated under the guideline that we must be a solid financial organization in order to provide fraternal benefits for our Members. We control expenses. For example, the Society Bylaws require four Board meetings a year. Two are held at our Home Office in Cleveland on a Friday and Saturday and two are held via telephone conference call on a Saturday. We also reviewed and revised our investment programs as well as reviewing and improving our marketing program.

I noted previously that our assets increased by over \$15 million in the 1st Quarter 2010 in large part to our strong increase in premiums and increased investment returns. Our Society is growing in strength.

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The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of
THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
extend Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all on this



A Few Facts About Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is the United States federal holiday that commemorates the nation's men and women who died while in the military service.

- Memorial Day was first enacted to honor Union Soldiers of the American Civil war.
- It was expanded to include recognition throughout the United States after World War I.
- It is now celebrated in almost every State in the US on the last Monday in May (as passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971).

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

HOME OFFICE (TELECONFERENCE)
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
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SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. (telephonically).

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, June 18, 2010.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to June 9, 2010.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints



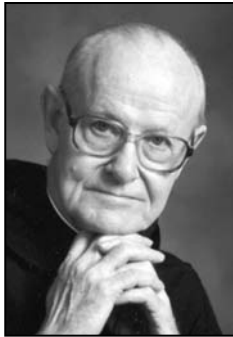
St. Vincent Archabbey — Homily Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.S.B.

May 23, 2010

Pentecost Sunday
John 20:19-23

Gospel Summary

There seems to be a contradiction between the coming of the Spirit as recorded in this gospel and in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. In the gospel, the Spirit is given by Jesus himself on Easter day, whereas in Acts the Spirit comes upon the disciples at the Jewish feast of Pentecost which occurred fifty days after Passover (2:1-4). This dilemma appears to be resolved when we recall that the Spirit was also given to the prophets of the Old Testament. After the resurrection of Jesus, it is the fullness of the Spirit that is offered to us, and this can happen in various ways and on many occasions.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

What matters most is to understand the implications of this out-pouring of God's Spirit. This is clearly presented in today's gospel where the new presence of Jesus in the Spirit is expressed in terms of peace, mission and forgiveness. The risen Lord addressed his disciples with the greeting, "Peace." However, this is no longer just a wish, as is the case when we use it as a greeting; it is now a GIFT. Living in the Spirit of Jesus will provide us with a deep confidence that can withstand even the most tragic experiences.

To live in the Spirit of Jesus means also to accept the mission of making the love of the Father evident in our world and thereby to continue and to extend the presence of Jesus in human history. The love of Jesus is made present in our world most effectively through the loving presence of his followers.

Jesus then breathes upon the disciples, just as God had done in the creation story (Genesis 2:7), making clear that the new life in the Spirit will be a challenge to us just as it was to Adam—a challenge that will lead to life or death. Some will accept the message of Jesus with joy and be converted and experience forgiveness. Others will resist the good news as they cling to selfish ways and thus remain in sinful rebellion.

Life Implications
Many years ago, I heard one of our older monks say about a young novice, "That one has the Spirit." What he seemed to suggest was that this novice was imbued with such a spirit of quiet, confident joy that he was able to go about his work and prayer in a way that seemed so natural and so spontaneous that it could almost be called instinctive. He was reveling in life, not enduring it.

That novice had, of course, the great advantage of being young and healthy. But we all know older persons also who have experienced the sorrows as well as the joys of life and who still seem so peaceful and confident. This cannot be simply a matter of personal disposition.



First Row (seated), L – R: Maria Zakovic, President, Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16; Sabina Sabados, President, Msgr. John E. Rura District 4; Carla Michelle Peshek, President, Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District 14

Second Row (standing), L – R: Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary; George F. Matta, II, President, Pittsburgh District 6; Gregory Petrasek, President, Rev. Stephen Furdek District – Ohio District 10; Andrew M. Rajec, National President; Gregory M. Harakal, President, Rev. Stephen Furdek District – District 8; Robert Kopco, FCSU In-house Agent; Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President

District Presidents' Meeting

On Saturday, April 24, 2010, a District Presidents' Meeting was held at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. The agenda included sales, marketing, branch and district activities, a power point presentation, Convention 2010 and general Home Office information.

tion. This can only happen when we open ourselves fully to the Spirit of God.

When we live in this positive and loving way, we are fulfilling the mission of Jesus in our world. We may seem to be warming and redeeming only the small, chilly space that we happen to occupy in life but our kindness radiates in fact in wonderful ways to touch the whole world. This loving concern will also include the precious gift of forgiveness—a gift that heals and reconciles and liberates. To be a follower of Jesus is a blessing; to "have the Spirit" is the fullness of that blessing



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Stephanie Raha, Editor-in-chief, The Christophers

From Loneliness to Solitude

Do you ever feel lonely? Left out in the cold?

If so, that phrase might be more literal than you think. A study at the University of Toronto shows that people who feel excluded really do tend to feel colder, more in need of warmth more than those who see themselves as part of the group.

Most people are lonely at one time or another. But for some folks, it's an overwhelming sensation that must be feared and fought day after day. These are the men and women, and, yes, young people, who feel alone in a crowd, misunderstood and uncertain about their place in the world. Some people have lost those who were closest to them through death or changing circumstances. Others have always felt shy or different and unable to find acceptance. Whatever the reason, a sense of isolation and separation is painful. If you are trying to come to grips with loneliness, how do you deal with it?

First, do something for the other guy.

You're probably saying to yourself, "Well, if it were that easy, I wouldn't be lonely in the first place." That's true. It is difficult. Yet talking to others, making friendly gestures, even knowing that you might be rebuffed is necessary to breach the wall around you. Think about how much a kind word means to you and share one with someone else. Think about all the people who are hurting even more than you are: those who are house-bound because of age or ill health; those who are new to your community; those who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Surely, there's something you can do for even one of these neighbors. Invite someone in for a cup of coffee, deliver a bunch of flowers, or write a "just thinking of you" note. Try focusing on how the people around you feel and the problems they face. If nothing else, it will give you a new perspective on your life – and theirs.

Go further. Volunteer. Your church and community have opportunities for you to reach out to others. And that could be the best present you ever received. Be gentle with yourself, but keep making an effort to help yourself by serving others.

The next steps you can take are even more important: make friends with yourself and develop your relationship with God. If you enjoy your own company, then being alone is no longer a burden. And if you understand that you truly live in the presence of God, being alone can be a blessing.

Use your time alone to grow spiritually. In one of our latest Christopher News Notes, Seeking Sacred Silence, Rev. Clair McPherson said: "Solitude is a condition of the spirit that is recognized, honored and practiced by adherents of virtually every major faith. All the world's religions include meditation and prayer as an integral part on the faith journey and vital if one is to have a relationship with the divine."

In the still moments of life, listen for God's voice. Whatever He tells you, His message will always begin and always end in love. So wherever you are and whatever you do, enjoy God's company in your solitude. And think about what Christian theologian and philosopher Paul Tillich wrote, "Language has created the word 'loneliness' to express the pain of being alone, and the word 'solitude' to express the glory of being alone."

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

JEDNOTA

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Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary Announces Candidacy for Re-election

For the past 16 years I have worked diligently for the betterment of our Society as your Executive Secretary, I am now announcing my candidacy for re-election to that office. I am proud to say that, together with our extremely qualified and hardworking home office staff, we have achieved many accomplishments over the last four years.

Strong Financial Standing

I am thrilled to report that even against a tumultuous economic background that started in the last third of 2008 and continues to the present day, our Society's current surplus is stronger than any time in its history. In fact, throughout my work history with the FCSU we have shown a profit; and during the first quarter of 2010, we have reached an all-time high of over 15 million in surplus. Admitted assets are equally strong; just over 250 million. Toward that achievement, I have been committed to ensuring that the First Catholic Slovak Union's portfolio continues to reflect and suit all insurance and annuity needs through the following initiatives:

- Explored avenues with the Membership and Marketing Committee and our actuarial firm and financial consultants to improve and enhance our existing products and develop new products such as the new 8 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity and the new Park Free Plus Annuity for our members.

- Supported on-going training seminars to our branches and districts, with seminars designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them.

- Expanded our search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products. The agents that have signed contracts with our Society over the past several years are eager and very interested in making our products available to their clients. They have been especially enthusiastic about our annuity products and insurance rates.

- Maintained a steady supply of sales tools, which aid our officers, recommenders and independent agents with their presentation of our products. Some of the tools I have helped direct with our highly qualified home office staff: the development of encompass sales kits, which contain information regarding our products (rates, application forms, etc.) and sales brochures describing our products.

- Updated sales kits as appropriate; for example, the 2001 Mortality Tables have been incorporated into sales kits, and a newly updated version of the pamphlet: "What is the Jednota that gives a brief history of our Society," is now available.

Improved Operations

I believe that strong communications and a good working relationship between the home office, branches and recommenders is vital; so I continually strive for ways to improve our home office operations and list among the key accomplishments over the past four years:

- Maintained continual updates of our computer system in the home office to ensure that it meets and exceeds all state and NAIC requirements and supports efficiency and cost savings whenever possible.

- Continue to meet the challenges of those branch officers who are unable to continue to provide service to the members in their branches through on-going mergers of inactive branches with active branches. This process has been strengthened by the addition of a dedicated home office employee to work closely with our branches and independent agents and to provide support, information and generally to be available and answer questions.

- As a result of all the above practices, we reduced our operating costs through a rigorous adherence to the budget, improved procedural efficiencies in areas such as the printing and distribution of the Jednota newspaper, and an overall reduction in our insurance costs. We received an excellent review in 2009 from internal auditors and outside auditors of our quarterly and year-end financial statements and our home office operations. We also received an excellent review from our state of Ohio audits.

Streamlined Member Services

To better serve our members and to increase efficiency, I oversaw a number of procedural changes over the past four years, including:

- An automatic premium payment service, which enables our members to have their premium payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts.

- An automatic deposit for annuity checks for our annuity holders as well.

- The acceptance of Visa and Master Card credit cards which may be used for premium payments, annuity deposits and loan payments.

Strengthened Member Outreach

As a top recommender in selling our insurance and annuity products, I fully understand the importance of communicating the features and benefits of our portfolio to our members, and to prospective members. During my latest term of office, I have directed a number of key initiatives with the home office staff to strengthen our outreach efforts, such as:

- Numerous successful direct mail campaigns designed to stay in constant contact with our branches and our members, providing information about our existing and new products in a short time.

- New ads for our official organ, Jednota, as a useful method of communicating the features and benefits of our products.

- Expanding and updating the website established under my last term in 2006 so that it now serves as a complete information portal for all aspects of the FCSU: the history of our Society; information and updates about products; insurance quotes; details of branch and district meetings; information on fraternal events; and an electronic archive of the Jednota, both the English and Slovak sections. The site also now acts as a link to other organizations of interest to our members, such as Slovak news agencies, the Slovak Embassy, and events in the greater Slovak-American community, including our Fraternal Activities Director's website.

- On-going training seminars to our branches and districts, with seminars designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them.

- Implementing a new targeted membership survey designed to elicit feedback from key de-



Kenneth A. Arendt

mographics of our Society as to the best features and benefits of our products going forward.

Continued Fraternal Presence

Our Society is very active in fraternal activities – including a very successful joint golf tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokols in 2009 - and, as your Executive Secretary, I continue to represent the FCSU in many ways, including:

- Serving on the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League.

- Attending various branch and district meetings throughout the year.

- Attending the National Fraternal Congress of America's Annual Meeting.

- Attending many seminars, regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations that might affect the FCSU.

- Serving as the Director of Secretary and Human Relations Section of the National Fraternal Congress.

My family and I appreciate the trust and support you have given me for the past 16 years as your Executive Secretary. I am asking for that same trust and support at the upcoming convention. With it, I can continue to do my very best for our Society.

Fraternally,

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

continued from page 1

Turning around the trend of slowly declining membership is a task that I take very seriously and is being addressed, however, as we all know, there is no magic bullet. Our current Members are part of the solution.

Incidentally, this trend has been going on for over 40 years. Almost all the ethnic fraternal, and I include our other Slovak brothers, are facing the same issues.

A very few people falsely claim that the Society is doing nothing. Unfortunately, some of these same people have done nothing themselves for their own Branch or local Slovak parish for years.

We recognize the future and have taken and continue to take positive actions to improve the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. Some actions go relatively unnoticed, i.e. the dramatic improvements we made in obtaining medical information for insurance applicants through our new blood testing procedures, the changes we made in the content of our own Jednota, adding cross-word puzzles and other contests, adding color to the Jednota, or inviting District Presidents to the Home Office to discuss mutual issues, or enlisting over three dozen independent agents to sell for the FCSU while at the same time retaining our valued Recommenders, or having a program to contact and help local Officers to revive their Branches or help them to merge with nearby Branches if possible, etc. The list could go on and on.

A few people claim that just signing up independent agents would solve all our membership issues. They have very simplistic answers to very complex issues. Would those agents agree to our requirements to have errors and omissions insurance? How much more in commissions would we have to pay them? Would we have to reduce our annuity rates to cover the added commission costs? How much annuity premium do we want and how much and how fast can we profitably invest the money? Will we sign any agent? Do they suggest we no longer have Recommenders?

And very important, who is going to handle the Branch business and Branch activities? How do we maintain our Slovak, Catholic identity, ideals and culture?

We have researched these issues and have worked with and are working with our actuaries, asset manager and others, including our Members, to implement solutions. We have also held discussions with other Slovak fraternal regarding our common issues and possible strategic actions.

As I reported previously we are pursuing being licensed in 15 additional states. Just having a fancy marketing slogan, as suggested by a few, does not guarantee success. Remember the "NEW COKE?"

Our Management Team has addressed these issues and are continually addressing more as we proceed. We want managed, profitable growth for our Society while preserving our Slovak Catholic heritage while providing excellent and very competitive insurance and annuity products to our Members.

In 2007 and especially in 2008 I and our Team had to address and work through the toughest, most dangerous financial crisis (remember "sub-prime" and "meltdown") since the Great Depression of 1929. I think the results speak for themselves. Much work remains. I am ready to do it.

Just a short update on the 2010 Convention. Look for more detailed information and planning in the upcoming Jednota issues. We plan a productive and enjoyable Convention.

Z Bohom!

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec

Slovak Embassy among top visited sites of the European Union Open House 2010

Slovak Embassy was rated among the top visited sites of the European Union Open House 2010 as more than 3,500 guests came to its premises in Washington DC on May 8. The Embassy joined European Union (EU) Delegation and other 26 diplomatic representations of the EU Member States in opening their doors to the public from the wider Washington DC area during the event that has become a very popular and highly anticipated annual celebration of Europe in the U.S.

The Slovak Embassy offered its thousands of visitors authentic live folk music and dance, traditional food, film, art and fun for the whole family. These irreplaceable elements of Slovakia's presentation in the U.S. were further accompanied by an exhibit of Slovak Modern Art, graphics and sculptures by Dusan Grecner and Zdeno Mayercak as well as hand crafted art. More than 3000 servings of gnocchi (little dumplings) with sauerkraut "Strapacky" were served along with Slovak beer and wine. Throughout the day, folk group "Pajtasi" from New York carried away the audience with their performance of Slovak folk music. Our gratitude goes also to Lucia Maruska Levendis and her traditional children dance group of Washington Chapter of American Sokol for presenting unforgettable performance in original kids' costumes. Home like atmosphere triggered a sincere and broad interest in Slovakia, its people, culture, traditions, economy and tourism.

This was the fourth time that the 27 EU Member States and the European Union Delegation have jointly organized an EU Open House to provide to the general public a rare look inside their Embassies. The EU Open House, the single biggest celebration of the EU in the world, demonstrated the EU's motto of "unity through diversity" by showcasing the range and richness of EU countries.

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ SEMINARS

The First Catholic Slovak Union Membership and Marketing Committee have scheduled a new Seminar. The Seminar will be held for the Frank T. Holly Jr. District (District 9), on Sunday June 6, 2010 at 1:00 pm at the Hampton Inn, 698 West Main Street in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

These Seminars are available to all branch officers, district officers, and recommenders. Any member of the First Catholic Slovak Union interested in learning about and selling insurance and annuity products are urged to attend the seminars in your respective district.

If you plan to attend, please contact the Home Office at least 3 days before your scheduled seminar to provide an accurate attendance count.

Please form a car pool and attend the seminars that are scheduled in your area.

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4.15% (4.066% apr)

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Rate Effective June 1, 2010 ~ 4.15% (4.066% APR)

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

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



Ambassador Burian at the successful open house hosted by the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC

A traditional children's dance group from the Washington Chapter of the American Sokol delighted the audience with their performances during the open house.



The popular Slovak folk ensemble "Pajtasi" from New York carried away the audience with their performance of Slovak folk music.



NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date
WEDNESDAY, JUN 9
WEDNESDAY, JULY 7
WEDNESDAY, AUG 4

Copy Date
MONDAY, MAY 28
MONDAY, JUNE 28
MONDAY, JULY 26

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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Statement as of March 31, 2010 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	199,769,156		199,769,156	192,755,317
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	6,679,617		6,679,617	6,607,387
2.2 Common stocks.....	3,371,110		3,371,110	3,318,652
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	1,989,245		1,989,245	2,023,638
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,167,978		1,167,978	1,181,360
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	913,654		913,654	923,632
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....11,641,428), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	11,641,428		11,641,428	4,417,205
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	893,038		893,038	860,699
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	20,588,332		20,588,332	19,342,441
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	202,000
10. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
11. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 10).....	247,576,233	0	247,576,233	232,195,006
12. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
13. Investment income due and accrued.....	2,984,179		2,984,179	2,583,447
14. Premiums and considerations:				
14.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	26,594		26,594	16,459
14.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
14.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
15. Reinsurance:				
15.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
15.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
15.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
16. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
17.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
17.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
18. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
19. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
20. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	6,496	6,496	0	
21. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
22. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
23. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
24. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	29,634	29,634	0	0
25. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 11 through 24).....	250,623,136	36,130	250,587,006	234,794,912
26. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
27. Total (Lines 25 and 26).....	250,623,136	36,130	250,587,006	234,794,912

Statement as of March 31, 2010 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	206,140,000	196,855,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	12,226,881	12,370,600
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	320,917	299,760
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	1,354,175	1,399,339
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	26,135	17,503
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	824,457	770,564
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	22,843	22,843
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	6,301,306	6,262,860
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	10,000	10,000
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,807,785	2,514,121
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....	4,441,409	
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	401,947	403,310
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	235,577,855	221,625,900
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	235,577,855	221,625,900
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	15,009,151	13,169,012
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	15,009,151	13,169,012
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30).....	250,587,006	234,794,912

Statement as of March 31, 2010 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA****SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	9,737,028	2,249,157	17,676,121
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	3,749,976	2,805,036	14,943,839
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	41,000	64,000	54,446
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	28,385	9,484	16,665
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	13,556,389	5,127,677	32,691,071
10. Death benefits.....	704,182	585,477	2,532,557
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			2,659
12. Annuity benefits.....	1,929,202	1,214,942	4,901,437
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0.....			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	88,476	97,671	498,712
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	73,119	69,423	283,795
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	9,285,000	2,067,000	17,123,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	12,079,979	4,034,513	25,342,160
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	86,411	20,066	134,291
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	886,134	760,422	2,569,964
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	39,398	39,862	98,407
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(111,162)	(54,937)	(122,552)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	12,980,759	4,799,926	28,022,269
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	575,629	327,751	4,668,802
28. Refunds to members.....	65,984	59,709	359,336
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	509,645	268,042	4,309,466
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	127,213		
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	636,858	268,042	4,309,466
SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	13,169,012	9,059,592	9,059,592
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	636,858	268,042	4,309,466
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	1,496,156	(1,106,652)	2,193,793
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	977	977	3,898
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	(293,664)	463	(2,278,782)
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	(189)	761	(118,954)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,840,138	(836,409)	4,109,421
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	15,009,151	8,223,182	13,169,012

Insights and Viewpoints

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE *TWO DECADES AFTER FALL OF COMMUNISM*

By John Karch

The Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Johns Hopkins University, EU Center of Excellence, Washington, D.C., invited an audience interested in Central and Eastern Europe, to a "Transatlantic Leaders Forum Event" with Miroslav Lajcak, Foreign Minister of Slovakia, April 29, 10-11 A.M.

A RSVP was requested. Among the audience were several Ambassadors from the region.

Ambassador Kurt Volker, Senior Fellow and Managing Director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations, was Moderator. In his introduction of Minister Lajcak, he spoke highly of the Minister, whom he has known for several years at NATO. Amb. Volker reflected the invitation's citation that Dr. Lajcak, appointed Minister in January 2009, would discuss the key events in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) over the last 20 years, the story of transformation and integration of the countries of the region, cooperation and relations with the U.S., and current perspectives and challenges for the future. The Ambassador cited Dr. Lajcak's previous position as the High Representative Of the International Community and EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2007-09 and is "one of the most prominent experts on the Western Balkans." The Minister would also be ready to discuss developments in that region.

Foreign Minister Lajcak

The following are personal selections of Minister Lajcak's impressive but lengthy prepared speech at Johns Hopkins April 29.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me, please, to express my pleasure at having the opportunity to deliver my speech at your university again. It is a chance to briefly escape the constraints of governmental mandates and official theses. I would like to thank the Centre, in particular Ambassador Kurt Volker, Director Daniel Hamilton, Michael Haltzel, and many others who contribute their efforts to the strengthening of transatlantic relations, and for having given me this opportunity to stand before you here today. I am especially glad that I can do so right here, in the capital of the country of which thousands of Slovaks called and still call their second home. Cleveland and Pittsburgh had once been the biggest "Slovak" cities. The U.S. was a beacon that guided several generations of Slovaks on their quest for freedom, prosperity, or both.

Central and Eastern Europe

The region and its story 20 years after the fall of Communism is an example of how the determination of communities and decisions of their leaders may contribute to the well being of countries and nations but, unfortunately, to their tragedy and decline as well. CEE may seem like a homogenous region from the outside but the region boasts extreme diversity. Why is it that the Visegrad Four countries—Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia—have become the heart of Euro-Atlantic integration of the Central European Region? Why have the Baltic states already joined the EU and NATO, while Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova have not? Why did the former Czechoslovakia manage to split up in a serene and peaceful manner, and the former Yugoslavia did not? Why did Slovenia become a front-runner of European integration in the Western Balkans, while other regions of the former Yugoslavia kept drowning in ethnic violence? The most important aspect is the "human factor," both in its individual and community-wide meaning—individual decisions made by political leaders of a particular country in a given historical context and determination of the community and its vision of the future, which provided political leaders with a mandate and legitimacy.

Looking at CEE, we may divide these stories into three groups. One covers the region from Ljubljana to Tallinn. This group was the core of Euro-Atlantic integration efforts in the region of CEE. The group also included the three Baltic States, which managed quite swiftly to break loose from the gravitational field of the former Soviet zone. Finally, Slovenia must not be left out of this group. This heterogeneous group of countries shares one thing in common; their "Western" focus, these countries fully concentrated their foreign policy efforts on meeting their integration objectives, which were successfully accomplished by a "Big Bang" enlargement of NATO and the EU in 2004.

We could include in the second group the Western Balkans only whose development has been essentially affected by wars in the former Yugoslavia in which solution of ethnic questions became the priority. New states in the Western Balkans therefore started the processes of democratization and transformation only after the wars, that is with a delay. For Europe, to aid the Western Balkans to make up for what they had missed remains not only a strategic but, in light of the aforementioned facts, also a moral obligation.

Finally, we can identify the Eastern European region in a narrower sense. We have Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova right on the EU eastern borders, with three specific stories that have been marked by some hesitation by these countries with respect to finding their future direction. The Caucasus region, affected by numerous conflicts and an absolute lack of interregional dialogue, may also be included in the Eastern European region. As a result, the region, despite its enormous natural and cultural wealth, remains as if cursed by its ethnic and religious animosities.

A question arises: where can the CEE region be found today? The problem is that an answer is difficult to find because, as I have said, there is no such thing as a uniform Central



(R) Miroslav Lajcak, Foreign Minister of Slovakia

and Eastern European region. Ten countries of the region, lying along the abovementioned Ljubljana-Tallinn axis, have already become part of NATO and the EU, with two of them, Slovakia and Slovenia, also becoming members of the common monetary union—the euro zone.

When facing today's challenges, we are all equal in one thing—all of our countries can boast of approximately twenty years of the tradition of modern democracy. A new generation is thus emerging who have encountered not only the ideals of democracy but also its weaknesses. Development of democracy brought about also the emergence of certain problems, which officially did not exist during the former regime, or problems not allowed to be discussed publicly. It appears that extreme nationalism and different ultra-right and semi-fascist movements became the major problem of the whole Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

This means that we are facing also new challenges—one of them is the commitment to tackle such phenomena, not to allow them to dominate in our lives. Europe was not only the cradle but also the grave of two totalitarian ideologies in the 20th century—fascism and communism. I believe that the united Europe, including the regions of central, eastern and South-Eastern Europe, will always be strong enough to maintain its democratic, multicultural and multiethnic character that make Europe European.

Western Balkans

Despite successes that have been achieved, among which, I include, in particular, the accession of Croatia and Albania to NATO, but also progress achieved by Montenegro, we still cannot claim that the region as a whole is stable. The main reason is that the Balkan's elites have not yet sufficiently assumed the EU and NATO system of values. That is why one cannot be surprised that the interest in further enlargement has decreased within the European Union. It also became evident, that the attraction of the transatlantic integration for the Balkan countries is not equally strong as it was in the case of the countries of Central Europe. The Balkan countries would like to join the EU, but as if not according to our criteria, but their own. In many countries solution of ethnic questions is still a higher priority than the integration processes.

Balkan countries must comprehend that the re-evaluation of their national programs is a condition for their entry into the EU and NATO. These programs should contain Euro-Atlantic integration as a real, not just verbal priority and they should include a change of culture in their domestic and foreign policies manifested, inter alia, in their relations to neighbors and good regional cooperation. The EU has to change its approach to the region too. That is to say, that the integration processes of individual countries should be carried out both individually and regionally.

Another necessary step will be the harmonization of this policy with the policy of the U.S. The situation in the Western Balkans still requires active presence of the U.S. Political elites in some of the Western Balkans countries still have respect towards the "hard power" of the U.S. rather than the "soft power" of the EU.

It would be equally important to create mechanisms that will prevent the emergence of situations when individual countries led by their narrow national interests block their neighbors on the way to the EU and NATO. What I have in mind is a sort of a Pact of Stability, similar to the one that was signed by the Central-European countries in 1995 in Paris and that helped to resolve or at least suppress many mutual problems.

The EU's Eastern policy also deserves our attention. We see the Eastern Partnership program as the key foreign policy instrument in this area, designed to facilitate convergence and approximation to EU laws and standards. Slovakia and other new EU members are offering transfer of our authentic and relatively fresh experience from the transition process.

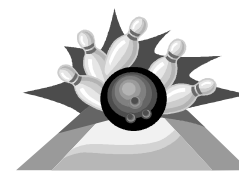
The Western Balkans and the Eastern Partnership do not only represent our strategic interest, they are also our added value for EU and NATO. Slovakia's position, given not only by our geographical, but also language and cultural proximity to nations of Eastern Europe and the Balkans, allows us to take empathetic approach to these regions. Slovakia today contributes to understanding problems of these regions and their solution as a communicator and mediator who is "an honest broker" in the affected countries.

Address Changes?

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



Accent on Activities



2010 International Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 24 - 25, at Cedarbrook Golf Course in Belle Vernon, PA. Practice your hole-in-one shots for this year's hole-in-one contest!

Registration forms will be mailed out the week of May 24. Registration forms can also be found at www.fcsu.com.

May 2010



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Get your cameras ready! We will have a photography contest for all members.

In addition to the 12 – 18 age group, an over 18 age group will be added this year.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

- People
- Nature or Environment
- Travel or Destinations
- FCSU Fraternal Activity

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

For each category and each age group, the following prizes will be awarded.

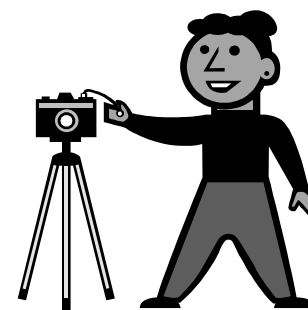
- \$50 – First Place
- \$30 – Second Place
- \$20 – Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Mail your entry to:

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

postmarked by October 1, 2010.



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

2010 Regional Picnics



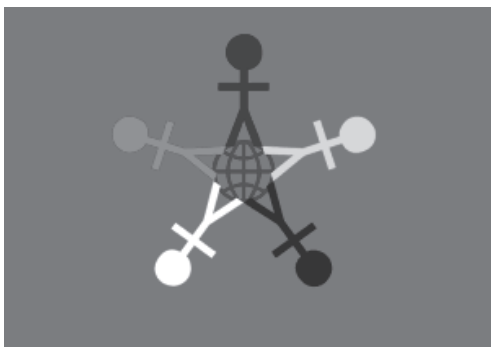
Watch for notices of the Regional Picnics in your area this summer. Requirements for reimbursement of your regional picnic are posted at www.fcsu.com. Your Regional Director also has the guidelines for reimbursement. If your picnic qualifies, your district could be entitled to \$5 per member in attendance.

June 1 Ushers in International Children's Day

The World Conference for the Well-being of Children in Geneva, Switzerland proclaimed June 1 to be International Children's Day in 1925. It is usually marked with speeches on children's rights and wellbeing, children's TV programs, parties, various actions involving or dedicated to children, and families going out together.

The worldwide event has been widely adopted in former and current Communist and Socialist countries. In Slovakia, children get a free entrance to a zoo and some other attractions on June 1, as part of the celebration of International Children's Day.

In the International Children's Day Flag: The background symbolizes growth, harmony, freshness, and fertility. The figures represent diversity and tolerance. The star, which is made up of the figures' legs, represents light. The earth figure directly in the center represents our earthly home and all the blessings on it, which God has given us all to share and respect. The figure at the top represents God, who is the author and finisher of all things.



Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

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Congratulations

Ethan!



Ethan Joshua Soltis received his first sacrament of the Holy Eucharist on May 2, 2010, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Canton, Ohio.

Ethan is a second grader at Sauder Elementary School in Jackson Township and is the second son of Roger and Cherise Soltis of Massillon, Ohio. Roger is a member of Branch 410, and has been a leading recommender in the past several years.

Ethan Joshua Soltis receives his first sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's in Canton, Ohio.

Monsignor Adams Observes 60th Anniversary in Priesthood

Monsignor George J. Adams of Brockway, Pennsylvania – retired from pastoral duties in the Catholic Dioceses of Steubenville, Ohio, since 1995 – observed the 60th anniversary of his ordination in the priesthood on May 1, 2010.

The celebration included a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Tobias Church, Brockway, followed by a public luncheon in the church hall. Some 300 people attended the Mass and more than 200 were at the reception. A dinner for clergy, family, relatives, and out-of-town guests also was held that day, attended by nearly 100 people.

Monsignor Adams, 84, is a lifelong member of FSCU Branch 373, Toronto, Ohio, and has attended a number of Jednota national conventions over the years.

He was born on August 13, 1925, in Toronto, the eldest of eight children of George J. Adams, Sr. and Anna Karaffa Adams. All seven of his siblings – four brothers and three sisters – are still living.

He grew up in the "Slovak ghetto" of Toronto, where nearly everyone was of Slovak heritage, many of the residents having emigrated from Slovakia – including all four grandparents of Monsignor Adams. As a second-generation Slovak-American, he became fluent in the Slovak language as a child.

When the Monsignor was in high school, the family moved to Brockway where he attended high school until his junior year. He then attended the preparatory St. Charles High School in Columbus, Ohio, and was graduated in 1943. He then enrolled in St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1946 and completing theology studies at St. Mary of the West Seminary in Norwood, Ohio. He was ordained in 1950 to the priesthood by Bishop John King Mussio of the Steubenville, Ohio Catholic Diocese at St. Joseph Church in Bridgeport, Ohio.

His first assignment after ordination was as assistant pastor of St. Benedict Church in Cambridge, Ohio. Other assignments, all in the Steubenville Diocese, included serving as a parish administrator, assistant pastor, hospital chaplain, high school teacher, diocesan aide, assistant procurator, diocesan consultant, and pastor.

In 1986, he was appointed pastor of St. Sylvester Church in Woodsfield. While at St. Sylvester, he was dean of Visitation Deanery from 1989 until his retirement from administrative and pastoral duties in Feb 1995.

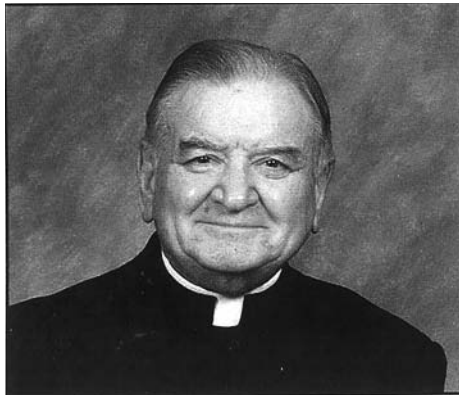
Monsignor Adams then moved to Brockway to reside with his widowed mother (his father died in 1976). He was her primary caregiver until her death in Nov 1998. He continues to live alone in the homestead.

Monsignor Adams has remained active and diligent in continuing to perform priestly duties in his "retirement," being on call to substitute for pastors at various parishes throughout the Dioceses of Erie, Pennsylvania and Steubenville, as well as assisting at St. Tobias where he celebrates Mass regularly on Sunday and weekdays when is not assisting at out-of-town parishes. He has gained a reputation for visiting and administering to the sick at their residences, in hospitals and nursing homes in the tri-county area as well.

Monsignor Adams was appointed a Prelate of Honor to his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, with the title of monsignor in 1990.

During a visit to Rome in 1959, Monsignor Adams participated in a Vatican Radio program beamed to Slovakia, then a part of communist Czechoslovakia. The program broadcast news and "freedom announcements" at least twice a day to the Slovak people behind the Iron Curtain. He later visited Slovakia in the 1960s with two older cousins who had emigrated from Slovakia to the US in the early 1900s and settled in Toronto.

Last January, Monsignor Adams was named "Man of the Year" in Brockway, where he's been active in various community affairs.



L -R: Slovak honorary consuls, Martin Valko of Texas and Joe Senko of Pennsylvania

Slovakia Appoints Additional Honorary Consul

Martin Valko, an immigration attorney in Dallas and Fort Worth, was recently appointed the Slovak Honorary Consul for Texas. This is the 11th Slovak Honorary Consulate currently in the United States. There are 25 honorary consulates located in Dallas. At age 36, Martin is the youngest of the 148 Slovak Honorary Consuls in the world, serving 83 countries. Mr. Valko is acquainted with diplomatic responsibilities since his father served as Ambassador for the Slovak Republic to several countries. Born in Levoca, Slovakia, Martin came to the United States in 1991. He is now a partner in the law firm of Chavez & Valko. Martin is fluent in Slovak, Czech and English. He is also conversant in Russian.

Mr. Valko is married to Martina Moravcova from Piestany, Slovakia. She is a World and European Champion swimmer. Martina is a five-time Olympian for Slovakia, having won two silver medals. She and Martin are expecting their first child in June.



37th Slovak Day 2010

Sunday, June 20, 2010

Salvatorian Shrine

5755 Pennsylvania Street

Merrillville, Indiana

Chairperson: Rev. John Kalicky

General Chairpersons: Carl & Betty Yurechko

10:30AM

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine

Main Celebrant: Rev. Gregory Holicky

1:00PM

Sarišan Dancers – Sterling Heights, Michigan

1:30PM

Raffle drawing

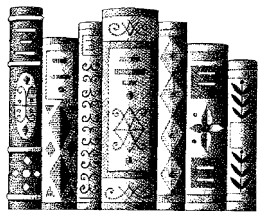
2:00 – 5:00PM

Music & dancing – Gene Mikrut Orchestra

- Buy or sell (6) "cash raffle" tickets for \$10
- Ethnic foods available for purchase after Mass
- Cash bar open after Mass until closing time

For more call:

Carl & Betty Yurechko – (219) 795-1518



Book Corner

In her own words, author Terri Follis says about her charming cookbook *Memories of Baba's Kitchen*:

"This cookbook is a tribute to my Baba. First and foremost, the path that I am walking in my life has definitely been influenced by my mother and her path. Who in turn, shared her own pathway with her mother, my Baba; literally.

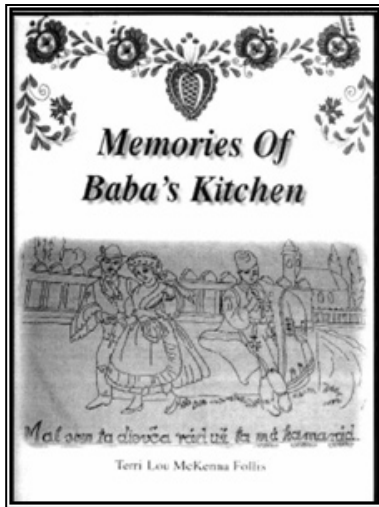
These two women came to Canada from Czechoslovakia in 1934 to be with their husband and father, and leaving behind their home, their mother and grandmother and all that was familiar. Their journey began on foot, then traveling miles in a horse drawn wagon, crossing many countries by train, spending days on a ship in their voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. Upon landing in Canada, they had to board a train again on their final trek to my grandfather in Toronto. With them they brought their longing for a peaceful life. Many hours were spent learning English and the ways of Canada. This was their new home. But it was very important to my grandparents that my mother never forget where she came from nor the rich traditions they brought with them.

I happened to be the lucky one who spent time with her learning how to bake and cook in her kitchen. These are the recipes and memories I have to share.

Just after I got married and moved away from family, I realized how important it was for me to keep our family's traditional Slovak meals a part of my new kitchen. My Baba was instrumental in this process as she was the person who guided me through the recipes as her mother and grandmother had done for her.

Many of the babas at that time cooked or baked by adding a little of this or a dash of that, no one brought recipes books with them from the 'old country'. Each recipe was done by memory.

I was lucky enough to have written down these recipes and have been asked by many family members and friends to compile them into a cookbook – my collection of Slovak recipes and wonderful memories of Baba."



"Eat, Eat, Don't Get Hungry"

Terri Follis

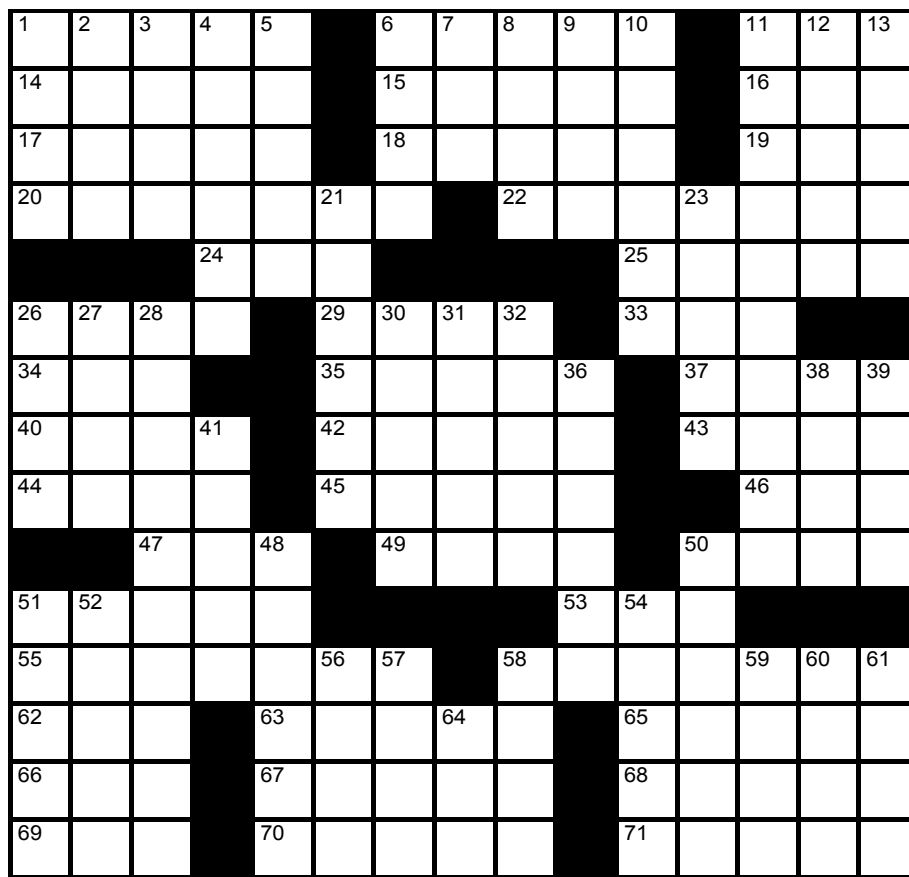
Memories of Baba's Kitchen sells for \$20.00 per copy (USD).

The shipping cost is \$5.00.

To order or for more information, contact:

Terri-Lou Follis
52 Covered Bridge Trail
Bracebridge, Ontario
Canada
P1L 1Y2
Phone: 705-645-1243

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Church recesses
- 6 Pasture herbage
- 11 Embellish
- 14 Heaven sent
- 15 Veranda
- 16 Blunder
- 17 Constellation
- 18 In the middle of
- 19 Brazilian port
- 20 Said to be
- 22 Additional name
- 24 Breach
- 25 Get up
- 26 Anchovy
- 29 Chilled
- 33 Fleur-de-___
- 34 Poem
- 35 Winds
- 37 This (Sp.)
- 40 Suggestive look
- 42 Speak
- 43 Legal document
- 44 Defy
- 45 Fertilizer
- 46 Tub
- 47 Pitiful
- 49 Snowdrift
- 50 Dried-up
- 51 Lyonnaise
- 53 Sphalerite
- 55 Ambrosias
- 58 Additional
- 62 Gall
- 63 Showered with love
- 65 Helpful
- 66 Pastry
- 67 Sidestep
- 68 Auto
- 69 Always (Poet.)

Down

- 70 Bird retreats
- 71 Vogue
- 1 Cupid's AKA
- 2 Skin an apple
- 3 Barber shop sou
- 4 Sufficient
- 5 Yule character
- 6 Happy
- 7 Crash into
- 8 Celebes dwarf buffalo
- 9 Warbled
- 10 Alarm
- 11 Lenient
- 12 Sign of the zodiac
- 13 Monotone
- 21 Artistic copycat
- 23 Bay window
- 26 Congregation
- 27 Thought
- 28 Light puckered fabric
- 30 Lesser Antilles indian
- 31 Intoxicate
- 32 Dissuade
- 36 Lecture
- 38 Lacerate
- 39 Poker term
- 41 Respond
- 48 Muffle
- 50 Gun dog
- 51 Shore bird
- 52 One of 70 Acro:
- 54 Drive out
- 56 Function
- 57 Margolin and Whitman, to the buds
- 58 Fruit drinks
- 59 Conceal
- 60 Panache
- 61 Rupture
- 64 NY hrs.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2010

Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's	4.15% (4.066% apr)
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Single deposit of \$10,000.00 or more—1st yr guarantee	5.60% (5.449% apr)
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New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee	3.50% (3.440% apr)
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.75% (3.682% apr)
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	3.65% (3.585% apr)

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

See Solution on Page 18

49th Quadrennial Convention Program

In his Annual Report, as published in the March 31st edition of this newspaper, our President Andrew M. Rajec pledged to continue the long tradition of the FCSU in supporting our Slovak heritage at the 2010 Convention and mentioned plans for a "Slovak Spectacular." Here are a few examples of what our delegates can expect to experience ... a Slovak Spectacular indeed!

-Teresa Ivanec, Editor



Sarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble

The Sarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble of Sterling Heights, Michigan, will be featured performers in the Sunday (Aug 15) evening entertainment program. The ensemble has been wowing audiences for 37 years under the direction of the group's founder Milan Straka. Sarišan excels in dances from various regions of Slovakia, performing for enthusiastic crowds throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as Europe, at various ethnic festivals, cultural events, charity benefits and fraternal events.



Vychodna Slovak Dancers

Featured performers in the Sunday night entertainment program (Aug 15), the Vychodna Slovak Dancers are an extraordinary folklore ensemble from Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Organized in October, 1985, the group was originally called the St. Mary's Slovak Dancers because they were and still are a part of the St. Mary's Slovak Greek Catholic Church community. Today, Vychodna is renowned, not only in Canada, but throughout the US and Slovakia for delighting audiences with their wide variety of exceptional dances that reflect the many regions of Slovakia.



Lúčinka Children's Folklore Ensemble

Organized in 2006, Lúčinka is comprised of 16 children who have studied diligently over the past few years while performing with the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland, Ohio at multiple venues. The children will perform as part of the Sunday night (August 15) entertainment program fresh from their July appearance at the 14th Annual Children's and Youth Festival in Dulovce, Slovak Republic.



Dolina

Cleveland-based Harmonia, performing under the name Dolina, is a band that specializes in the traditional folk music of Slovakia and will be playing as part of the Sunday night (Aug 15) entertainment "extravaganza," as well as playing for the audience's dancing pleasure after the main program. Performing on authentic folk instruments, and styled after turn of the century East-European folk bands, their music is drawn from both the urban and rural traditions. Extremely well-received at multiple venues throughout the US and abroad, they have been called "obsценely talented" by the Folklore society of Washington D.C. and "a musical gem" by National Public Radio.

mises To Be a "Slovak Spectacular"



Pittsburgh Slovaks

Since being founded by Roman Niznik in 1955, the Pittsburgh Slovaks have continued to perform to this day. Over the years some of the faces may have changed, but the quality of entertainment remains. Currently under the direction of Rudy and Sue Ondrejco, the Pittsburgh Slovaks are the highlight of many Slovak fraternal activities, church functions and festivals. Through their songs and dances, the Pittsburgh Slovaks have managed to keep their Slovak Heritage alive and rekindle many memories of the "Old Country" – a special treat for delegates during the Saturday (Aug 14) evening program.



Pajtáši

Pajtáši, a band that hails from the New York area, will play for our delegates' dancing and listening pleasure during the Saturday evening program (Aug 14). The group, whose name loosely translates from Slovak as "musicians," have been called "spell-binding" and "our Slovak/American National Treasure." With a vast repertoire drawn from multiple and diverse regions of Slovakia, their performances have achieved critical acclaim all over North America and in Slovakia for perpetuating Slovak culture in the Slovak as well as the American communities with high energy, charisma and spirit – including this recent appearance at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC.



John Pastirik Band

A longtime favorite from the Cleveland area, the John Pastirik Band has been entertaining audiences with their repertoire of traditional Slovak music and contemporary dance classics at festivals, weddings, and other key events since 1957. All FCSU members, they will play for the dancing and listening pleasure of delegates during the Monday evening program (Aug 16). The band also has recorded numerous albums, been featured on local television, and traveled extensively throughout Northeast Ohio, North America and Slovakia – including being among the first bands to lead a tour to (then) Czechoslovakia in 1972.

Here, band members (L-R), Len Jacko, John Pastirik, and Ken Javor perform at a recent Kent, OH event with local area singers the Slovenske Mamicky.



Baine/Cincebeaux Collection of Slovak Folk Art and Folk Dress

FCSU member Helene Cincebeaux will mount an extraordinary exhibit at the 49th Convention Sat., Aug. 14 and Sun., Aug 15 (and open to the public on Aug. 15) that features key pieces of her Baine/Cincebeaux Collection of Slovak Folk Art and Folk Dress. Helene and her mother Helen Zemek Baine (92 years young and also a Jednota member) have traveled Slovakia for 40 years and the collection is a result of their fascination with the beautiful textiles, exquisite embroidery, fine weaving and incredible lace and leather work.

The exhibit will include 25 outfits from all regions of Slovakia like these costumes on a grandmother and a young girl from Vazec taken at Vychodna Festival 2009 by Helene Cincebeaux. Convention attendees also will have the privilege of seeing parts of their collection that have never been exhibited before.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its mid-year meeting on Saturday, June 19, 2010, at 12:00 Noon at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Ave., Chicago. All members are invited to attend. There will be a fraternal luncheon following the meeting.

Please remember in your prayers the following members who have passed on to their eternal rest:

Lillian Laketek
Mary Murawski
Emily Sergey
Jane Churak
Sophie Klotnia
Shirley Novak
Anthony Fabianich

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 20, 2010, at 9:00AM at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed, officers' reports will be given, and developments regarding the upcoming National Convention in Cleveland, OH will be covered. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Fathers and one guest will be treated to breakfast at Denny's Restaurant following the meeting. Reservations and any inquiries should be directed to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 173 – GREATER WILKES-BARRE-WYOMING VALLEY AREA, PA.

The Saint John The Baptist Society, Branch Number 173 and Branch Number 232, located in the Wilkes-Barre and surrounding areas, will have its semi-annual meeting, on June 23, 2010, at Norm's, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, at 1:30 pm. General business will be discussed and the insurance, annuities and the fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union

If you plan to attend please notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067 no later than June 21, so arrangements can be made.

**Fraternally,
Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President**

BRANCH 176 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 176, will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday June 20, 2010, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The next semi-annual meeting for Branch 254 is Sunday July 11, 2010, at Panera's at the Galleria Shops in Mt. Lebanon, 1 to 3 PM.

Albina Senko

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch 292 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, 2010. The meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA 15963 at 1:00 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 June 24th. All members

are asked to attend both events. A dinner will be served.

Edward T. Surkosky, President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the Branch's next meeting on Sunday, June 13, 2010, at noon, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you are attending.

Mary Anne Higgenbotham, President

BRANCH 421 – NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Branch 421K will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, at 2:00PM, at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Edensburg, PA. The future of our branch will be discussed.

Lillian R. Stager, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the St. Joseph the Protector Society, Branch #484 will be held June 11, 2010 at the home of Joseph E. Rura, 43 Rugh Road, Coral, Pa. beginning at 2:00 PM. All members are welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold its regular luncheon-meeting, Sunday, July 11, at my home at 8981 Norris Dr., Hobart, IN. The agenda will be discussion of future activities for the summer and fall. An outing is being considered to see the Railcats Baseball team.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 has monthly breakfast on the fourth Sunday of every month through May. Breakfast features 11 hot items, coffee, milk, juices and a sweets table to top off the meal. The cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.25 for children, and is offered from 8:30 a.m. until noon. It is "all you can eat," and the best breakfast in town!

The polka parties are held the first Sunday of each month (except Easter) through May. There is a free will offering at the door and food and beverages for purchase. Please join us for these events! We are located at the corner of Sixth St. and Sherman Blvd., in Muskegon Hts. For more information call: 231-733-7525.

**Donna Stone,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, June 27, 2010, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 – BOARDMAN, OHIO

A Branch meeting for #682 will be held on Thursday, June 24, 2010 at MRL in Struthers, at 7:30PM. The agenda will be discussion on the upcoming Convention.

Andrew J. Hirt

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday,

June 20, 2010, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC.

On the agenda will be a financial report and discussion of activities. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

**Fraternally,
Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary**

BRANCH 826K – MCCLELLANTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 826K McClellandtown, PA and Branch 162K Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 826K will now hold membership in Branch 162K. This merger has taken place as of April 26, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Dolores Marmol, 45 Barbara Ln, Uniontown, PA 15401, (724) 437-4983. We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 835 – RICHEYVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 835K Richeyville, PA and Branch 367K Fairchance, PA.

All members of Branch 835K will now hold membership in Branch 367K. This merger has taken place as of April 09, 2010. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact: Audrey J. Balazik, 316 Shady Side Rd., Uniontown, PA 15401-6706, (724) 438-3887.



Branch 24 – Cleveland, Ohio

Members of the St. Andrew Svorad Society, Branch 24, are invited to the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club on Sunday, June 20, 2010 and the Slovak American Zemplin Club Picnics on Sunday, July 18, 2010. Both will be held from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM at the St. Sava Picnic Grounds at 2151 West Wallings Road (between Broadview Rd. and State Rd.) in Broadview Heights, Ohio.

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

Bob Kopco, President



Slovak Church in Chicago Conducts Monthly Sanctuario Mass

Assumption of the BVM Church at 24th Street and South California Avenue on Chicago's southwest side holds a monthly Mass for friends of St. Maximilian Kolbe House, the Chicago archdiocese's prison outreach ministry which is domiciled at the parish. Each first Sunday at 3:00 pm, a bilingual (English & Spanish) Mass is celebrated at 3:00 pm, for families of inmates, ex-offenders, and supporters of the Kolbe House ministry, which was founded in 1983. Any questions can be answered by Deacon Pablo at (773) 247-0070. Assumption of the BVM Parish was founded in Chicago's South Lawndale neighborhood by Slovak immigrants in 1903. The last Slovak-American pastor, Father John J. Spitkovsky, namesake of District 2, was transferred in 1984. Branch #493, the Assumption of the BVM Society in Chicago, was also chartered at the parish in 1903.

Robert Tapak Magruder

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 12 MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, June 27, 2010, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold a Meeting on Father's Day Sunday June 20, 2010. Celebration begins at 11:00 AM with a Concelebrated Slovak Mass by Father Pestun and Father Sochulak at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. Father Sochulak is a Slovak missionary who served for several years in Columbia and now is coming from San Bernardino and Father Pestun is coming from San Francisco.

The Meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After the meeting will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a gourmet lunch, dessert and refreshments will be served. All members are invited and all branches in our area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting.

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

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben
President
Prince Pribina District

DISTRICT 20 PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT - MONTREAL

The Prince Rastislav District will hold its semi-annual meeting on June 6, 2010 in the Parish Hall of SS Cyril and Methodius following the High Mass. Branches are encouraged to send representatives. District and branch activities will be up for discussion.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

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SLOVAK PICNIC IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

Sunday, July 18, 2010

The American Slovak Zemplin Club will hold its annual picnic on Sunday, July 18, 2010. The picnic will be held at the ST. SAVA PICNIC GROVE, 2151 Wallings Road (between State and Broadview Roads) in Broadview Heights.

Festivities begin at 12 noon and continue until 8:00PM. Traditional Slovak specialties as well as American favorites will be featured throughout the day. Home-baked pastries/kolace will be available for sale. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by the popular Johnny Pastirik Band. The popular Slovak beer Zlaty Bazant also will be available. There will be 50/50 raffle boards and other activities to please everyone.

The committee cordially invites all Jednotars and Jednotarky. We are looking forward to seeing you. Come with your family and friends. Help us preserve our Slovak culture and heritage. For additional information, call (440) 885-5702.

Fraternally yours,
George Carny, President

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆
District 6 – Pittsburgh District

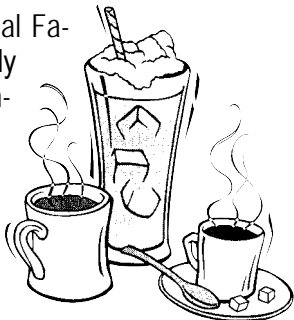
The Pittsburgh District of the FCSU will hold its annual Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 20, at 11AM at Holy Trinity parish church hall in West Mifflin, PA. We are planning a family interactive event, so let's all be ready for a good time. You are also welcome at Sunday Mass at Holy Trinity which starts at 9:30 AM.

Branch 628 will host the event while Branch 2 will handle the program booklet. A notice regarding reservations, fees and deadlines will be sent to each branch. Please let them know who will be attending as soon as possible. The rates for the program ads have been revised: full page \$75, half page \$40, and quarter page \$20.

There will also be a very short business meeting to discuss items concerning this year's upcoming convention and future 2010 events for the Pittsburgh District

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Fathers' Day.

Fraternally,
Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary
Pittsburgh District



DISTRICT 16 MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NEW YORK

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District #16 will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Sunday June 6, 2010 at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, Most Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY.

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 just delegates – are welcome.

Refreshments will be served by Branch 41, Yonkers, NY, after the meeting.

Henrieta H. Davitova, Secretary-Treasurer

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT – DISTRICT 9 - UNIONTOWN PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 6, 2010 at 1PM in the meeting room of the Hampton Inn at 698 W. Main St in Uniontown.

Branch officers, guests, and delegates to the convention are requested to attend this meeting. Discussion will be regarding the 49th FCSU International Convention in Cleveland, OH. Vice President Andrew Harcar will be the guest speaker and will be providing a Power Point presentation. A light lunch will be served.

Reservations need to be made by contacting President Marmol at 724-437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724-438-0697 by Wednesday, June 2, 2010.

Barbara Holly, Secretary



Cassandra (center) is joined by many relatives and friends at her May 8 ceremony

Cassandra Godman Receives Doctorate

On May 8, 2010, Cassandra A. Godman, having satisfied the University of Connecticut's requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Genetics and Genomics, was admitted to that degree with all the related honors, privileges, and obligations.

Cassandra was joined by many relatives and friends traveling from several states to attend the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony. Her parents, John and Mary Godman, hosted a celebration at their home, located in Connecticut. Cassandra's great great grandfather, Andrew (Vetcko) Wetty over 100 years ago was instrumental in forming the a Jednota chapter through Sacred Heart Church, located in Phoenixville, PA.

Congratulations, Cassandra!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the new editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The new E-Mail Address for the articles will be fcsullifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

Turíce - Pentecost Customs in Slovakia

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

Seven weeks after Easter, Christians in Slovakia have typically celebrated the feast of *Turíce* as an important religious holiday. Occurring at the time of the year when spring was turning into summer, *Turíce* marked the beginning of new life in nature, and above all, a new life of faith.

In American culture, the feast of *Turíce* is known as **Pentecost Sunday**. The name derives from the Ancient Greek word *pentekostē*, meaning the fiftieth day, i.e., fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The feast celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Twelve Apostles, who had gathered in an upper room in the days after Jesus' Ascension into heaven.

On the Jewish calendar, Pentecost occurred at about the same time as Shavuot; it was a special occasion for the apostles, who were accustomed to celebrating Jewish holy days. The Jewish feast recalled Yahweh's freeing the Hebrews at Passover and the gift of the *Torah*, the Jewish holy book. Since Moses received the Ten Commandments in the desert on Mount Sinai after Passover, *Shavuot* recalled God's revelation of His will to the Chosen People. The feast commenced with the harvesting of barley after Passover and concluded after 50 days on *Shavuot*, with the harvesting of wheat. One can draw inferences that the Lord was likewise harvesting souls.

During the rule of the Roman Emperor Constantine (306-337 A.D.), Christianity became a legal religion in the Empire, and the Church started to use the word Pentecost in order to differentiate the Christian feast from that of the Jews.

When speaking of Pentecost, the English frequently use the term *Whitsuntide* or *Whitsun*. Some etymologists claim the English word found its origins by identifying with the white garments of catechumens, those awaiting baptism on the vigil of the feast. In early Christian times, infant baptism was less common, for most converts were adults new to the faith. Young women also traditionally wore white dresses to church on that day.

Other scholars ascribe a different origin to *Whitsun*. An Augustinian canon, John Mirk (1382?-1414), believed the name derived from the "wit and wisdom" ("*wytte and wisdom*") which the Holy Spirit inspired among Jesus' disciples.

When referring to Pentecost, most American Catholics think about the tongues of fire which appeared over the heads of the apostles. The Holy Spirit literally fired up the Apostles and emboldened them to go out into the world and spread the Word of God.

The Catholic Church today emphasizes the holy days as the birthday of the Church, for it marked the beginning of a more systematic effort to spread Christianity. Priests wear red vestments, the color symbolizing the Holy Spirit and the tongues of fire.

The Biblical passage describing the events of Pentecost are found in the Book of Acts, chapter 2: verses 1-47. Here is a short excerpt, from Acts, 2: 1-8.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?"

Similar to Catholics, Protestants in Slovakia also celebrate Pentecost but also use the term *Letnice*, or *Sviatok Letnic* (The Feast of *Letnica*). The name derives from the Old Slavic name for the harvest time.

On the other hand, Catholics in Slovakia prefer the word *Turíce* for Pentecost. It is also an ancient Slavic name that derives from the word *tur*, meaning an ox. The ox was a traditional symbol of protection and ancient Slavs frequently used the ox in sacrifices.

In eastern Slovakia, one also finds the term *Rusadla* used for Pentecost, which refers to the ancient Slavic worship of the rivers. It is a common term among Byzantines and the Eastern Orthodox faith. Its origins are connected with the ancient festivals known as *Pascha rosatum*, a term associated with red vestments and the name is still commonly used in southern Italy. In researching ancient archives, scholars have found evidence showing that the ancient Slavs celebrated this feast with a "bountiful feast of eating, masked processions, jovial entertainment, shooting, and village marches with torches."

As recently as the eleventh century, Slavs still sacrificed "animals to the rivers, springs and water demons." Superstitions persisted for many years, and people believed that water flowing at this time of year sparked magical powers among fairies, water sprites, and forest demons. A common belief held that certain rites with water could reveal treasures and towns which had disappeared into the earth.

The traditions gradually transformed with time, and the cleaning of wells became a custom associated with the coming of Pentecost. The Medieval Slavic peoples also used the festivals at Pentecost to pay tribute their ancestors.

In the Eastern rite, Carpatho-Rusyns and Slovaks traditionally decorated both their churches and homes with green branches and green flowers. For this reason, the feast of Pentecost is typically known as "Zeleni Sviata" or the Green Holy Day. The custom recalled the Jewish tradition of decorating their homes with green vegetation in order to remember the Ten Commandments given to Moses.

Eastern rite Christians also celebrated Pentecost all week long after the holy day and referred to it as "*Zalhalnytsia*" or Compact Week. The Monday after Pentecost even used to be a Holy Day of Obligation for the faithful. *Zalhalnytsia* was so special that the Eastern Church allowed meat to be eaten on Fridays during this holy week.

In northern Slovakia, similar traditions existed, with an accent on remembering one's an-



An Eastern Orthodox icon of Pentecost. This is the Icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles. At the bottom is an allegorical figure, called Kosmos, which symbolizes the world.

cestors. Villagers typically placed eggs or green twigs on the graves of their ancestors and celebrated memorial services for those who had died within the past year. Thus we see a possible connection between American Memorial Day tributes to our fallen soldier and family members and ancient Slavic customs.

In modern history, Slovaks often would carry green twigs to church for a blessing. After Mass, they carried branches and/or *bahniatka* (catkins – pussy willows) home and put them on the windows of their houses, sheds, and barns. This custom supposedly protected them from unwanted fires and ensured good health.

Scholars have even found historical sources that referred to the selection of a "Pentecostal King." The village youth apparently elected such a person as an honor, and this person

continued from page 18

SIX YEAR FIXED RATE ANNUITY OR IRA

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNOUNCING

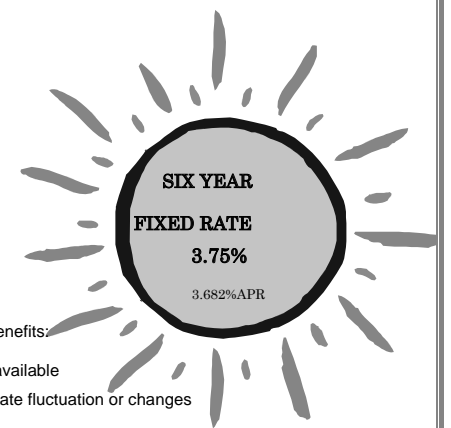
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Call 1-800 Jednota or 1-216-642-9406

St. Thomas A'Becket Annual Festival – June 24, 25, 26, 2010

139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania

The St. Thomas A'Becket Annual Festival will be held on the Church Property at 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills.

Three Days

The times for each day of the festival are:

- Thursday, June 24, 6:00 – 11:00PM
- Friday, June 25, 6:00 – 11:00PM
- Saturday, June 26, 4:00 – 11:00PM

Special Attractions

There will be special attractions, with entertainment and amusement rides.

- Thursday, June 24 – Western PA SNPJ Button Box Club
- Friday, June 25 – Benny Benack's Swing Band
- Saturday, June 26 – The New Holidays

Added to this will be C&L AMUSEMENT RIDES for children and adults. The GIANT SLIDE will be back, plus other fun rides.

The SUPER AUCTION will feature prizes with various themes and will be on display each day with the drawing on Saturday night. We suggest that if you plan to buy a large number of these tickets, please bring your name labels that could be placed on the tickets.

The BIG SPECIAL on Thursday, June 24, will be BINGO UNDER THE STARS with cash prizes. The doors open at 6:00PM, and bingo starts at 7:00PM.

Dinners every evening - and more

Dinners will be served every evening, with food selections to satisfy everyone's tastes.

- Thursday, Chicken Planks and Fries Dinner – Meatball Sandwich
- Friday, Hand-breaded Cod Dinner – Shrimp Dinner & Pierogi (Pirohy)
- Saturday, Ham Dinner, Potatoes, Vegetable

In addition to this, there will be haluski, kolbassi & kraut, hot sausages, hot dogs, hamburgers, french fries, pizza, funnel cakes, strawberry shortcake & sundaes, and more.

There will be a bake sale, kids' booth, grab bags, golf game, hockey game, birthday cube game, Big Cat, homemade donuts, instant bingo, Pic-A-Tic for various gift baskets, games of chance and raffles will be available.

The public is invited to this great event at St. Thomas A'Becket Church. Bring your family and spread the news!

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



Music from the Slovak Mountains Comes to the Library Of Congress



Bob Rychlik.

Developed in the seclusion of the Slovakian mountains, the fujara is the largest member of the overtone flute family. It developed in the seclusion of the Slovakian mountains, and, until recently, was barely known outside Slovakia. Even today, only a small number of traditional musicians play the instrument, and only a handful of craftsmen know how to make it. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, the fujara has been "discovered" by the rest of the music world, and an increasing number of musicians and listeners are embracing this magnificent "Queen of the flutes." The fujara's imposing size, (up to six feet long), and the intricate decorations on the flute's surface draw immediate attention, but listeners only begin to understand the true uniqueness of the fujara after hearing the first tones of its

meditative, soulful, and overtone-rich voice.

On May 27, 2010, the fujara is featured in an American Folklife Center lecture from 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm, at the Coolidge Auditorium, Thomas Jefferson Building, Library of Congress.

Folk Music on the Slovak Mountains: Lecture/Demonstration of the Fujara and Other Overtone Flutes is presented by multi-instrumentalist Bohuslav "Bob" Rychlik. Born in Czechoslovakia, Bob received his first fujara as a gift from Slovak friends in 1999. After mastering the instrument, he started sharing its beauty with others. He has played the fujara with the modern dance troupe CityDance, and has given over 70 fujara and overtone flute performances at folk festivals and Czech and Slovak events. Bob became the first foreign member of the exclusive "Fujarasi" guild in Slovakia, recorded his first CD, Ideas with Fujara, and was featured on Czech and American TV and Czech and Slovak radio.

The fujara was originally developed and played by Slovak shepherds. Its unique voice was used to play slow, lyrical, melancholic folk melodies, which the fujarist played in alternation with sung lyrics about various topics: shepherds' daily routines and hard lives; love; the beauty of nature; and the adventures, capture, and execution of forest outlaws. In this presentation, Bob Rychlik demonstrates the fujara's versatility by playing examples from the traditional repertoire as well as classical and contemporary music, including several of his own compositions.

For more information on the series, please visit <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/events/botkin-lectures.html#may27> or call 202-707-5510.

Radio Slovakia Announces Change of Frequencies

Radio Slovakia International (RSI) is Slovakia's official international radio broadcasting service. The station was created almost simultaneously with the emergence of an independent Slovakia, with an inaugural broadcast on January 4, 1993. RSI's mission is to provide listeners in other countries with information about the new state and maintain contact with the numerous expatriate Slovak communities around the world. Its programs are in English, German, French, Russian, Spanish, and, for expatriates, Slovak. The RSI daily 30-minute magazine programs contain news from Slovakia, features on the Slovak economy, sciences, culture, geography, environment, sports, examples of the spoken, written, and musical arts, and portraits of important personalities.

Schedule Changes From May – September 2010

Radio Slovakia International broadcasts are carried worldwide on shortwave and via satellite/digital broadcasts, as well as on the internet. Between May 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010, however, RSI will make the following changes to their schedule:

- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday broadcasting will only take place on one frequency.
- Highlighted frequencies will be broadcast during even weeks.
- Frequencies which are not highlighted will be broadcast during odd weeks.
- There will be no changes to broadcasts during Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Frequency from 28 March 2010 - New!				
Time UTC	Area	Language	Frequency	
			kHz	m
0100-0130	North America	English	5 930	49
	South and Central America		9 440	31
0130-0200	North America	Slovak	5 930	49
	South and Central America		9 440	31
0200-0230	North America	French	5 930	49
	South and Central America		9 440	31
0230-0300	South America	Spanish	5 930	49
	South America		9 440	31
0700-0730	Australia and South Asia	English	9 440	31
	Australia and Oceania		11 650	25
0730-0800	Australia and South Asia	Slovak	9 440	31
	Australia and Oceania		11 650	25
0800-0830	Western Europe	German	6 055	49
			5 920	49
1300-1330	Eastern Europe and Asia	Russian	7 345	41
			9 440	31
1330-1400	Western Europe	German	6 055	49
			5 920	49
1430-1500	Western Europe	Spanish	9 440	31
			11 670	25
1500-1530	Eastern Europe and Asia	Russian	7 345	41
			9 590	31
1530-1600	Western Europe	Slovak	5 920	49
			6 055	49
1600-1630	Western Europe	German	5 920	49
			6 055	49
1630-1700	Western Europe	English	5 920	49
			6 055	49
1700-1730	Western Europe	French	5 920	49
			6 055	49
1730-1800	Eastern Europe and Asia	Russian	5 920	49
			7 345	41
1800-1830	Western Europe	German	5 920	49
			6 055	49
1830-1900	Western Europe	English	5 920	49
			6 055	49
1900-1930	Western Europe	Slovak	5 920	49
			6 055	49
1930-2000	Western Europe	French	5 920	49
			6 055	49
2000-2030	Western Europe	Spanish	9 695	31
	South America		11 650	25

For more on Radio Slovakia International go to www.rsi.sk

21st Annual Kukucka Scholarship Awards Presented

The 21st Annual Thomas Kukucka Memorial Scholarship Awards/Lecture took place April 11, 2010, at the University of Pittsburgh's Posvar Hall on the Oakland Campus. The event attracted a large number of attendees.

Dr. Martin Votruba introduced himself as the Language Department Head. He commented that, as he gave the first lecture that spring after Thomas Kukucka's death, he thought it appropriate to once again serve as the lecturer on this, the 21st anniversary of awards established to honor Tom's memory.

Supporting Students of Slovak Language & Culture

There were three recipients this year: Valeria Pinchuk, of Pittsburgh, who is majoring in Russian and Political Science, and taking courses in Elementary Slovak; Aaron Pelot, of Pittsburgh, who is majoring in Mathematics and Japanese, and studying Elementary Slovak, Language and Cultural Instruction; and Greg Seaman, of Jeannette, who is majoring in Computer Science and studying Elementary Slovak, along with taking Intermediate Slovak Language Classes.

In speaking of his association with the scholarship fund, Dr. Votruba observed how useful it has been to students over the last 21 years. He also noted how heartening it has been to watch recipients return with their doctorates and lecture on an aspect of Slovak culture. He emphasized the fact that this scholarship is funded by several Slovak organizations, particularly the Slovak Ladies Fraternal Society, along with the Kukucka family and friends, such as Paul Mikus of Sprindale who felt that the scholarship was an excellent way to further the education of students interested in studying Slovak abroad. The Thomas Kukucka Memorial Scholarship helps to pay the travel and living expenses of students while they attend Comenius University in Bratislava, and sample life in this part of Slovakia.

Helping Others Walk In His Shoes

Tom died July 31, 1988 in a car crash in New York while visiting his sister Christina. After learning of the tragedy, his co-workers at the Pittsburgh Press discussed ways that his memory could be honored. A friend, Bill Zlatos, suggested the scholarship fund, knowing of Tom's keen interest in his Slovak heritage. Deciding on a Memorial Scholarship, the University of Pittsburgh was contacted, and the wheels were set in motion. Since then, more than 40 scholarships have been awarded.

Dr. Votruba introduced Christine Metil, Secretary of Slavic Languages, who fondly recalled Tom during the time he was taking Slovak classes at the university, and remembered his curious nature, which led to his newspaper reporting and to his exploration of his Slovak background. Tom grew up in the Edensburg area, attended and played football at Bishop Carroll High School, and received his journalism degree from the University of Pittsburgh. His first job as a reporter was for the Charleston Gazette in West Virginia, where he worked for seven years before moving to the Pittsburgh Press. Christine also mentioned how proud Tom would be to know others have been able to go to Slovakia in his place. He and Bill Zlatos had planned to go to (then) Czechoslovakia in 1989, but his untimely death changed everything. Now, others can "walk in his shoes," going where he could not.

A Stirring Recount of Immigrant Stories

Dr. Votruba's then concluded the lecture portion of the evening with an engaging portrayal of the area's Slovak immigrants. He revealed that these immigrants were not necessarily the poorest or the least talented as public misconception would have it. He drew the audience in with stories of two individuals who came to America; one in 1992 and the other in 1913. Dr. Votruba read aloud their accounts of the hardships they and their friends faced – knowing no English, but willing to do whatever they could to make lives for themselves and their families in the coal mines and steel mills – and eventually becoming absorbed into mainstream America.

A reception followed, and refreshments were enjoyed. The Kukucka family was represented by Dr. Stephen M. Kukucka, of Edensburg; Janet and Beth Kukucka; Dr. Stephen P. Kukucka; Ed and Carrie Blazina; and Thom Blazina – all of Pittsburgh. Mrs. Betty Kukucka was unable to attend.



L – R, Paul Mikus with award recipients Valeria Pinchuk and Aaron Pilot. Not pictured: award recipient Greg Seaman.



L – R, Bill Zlatos, Dr. Martin Votruba, Dr. Stephen M. Kukucka, Janet Kukucka, Dr. Stephen P. Kukucka, Carrie and Ed Blazina, and Paul Mikus.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

Turíce - Pentecost Customs in Slovakia

continued from page 16

would become a leader of young people. However, the Church banned this custom by the 18th century. The custom persisted longest in Moravia, just west of Slovakia.

As one can see, the Slovaks and other Slavs developed a series of rich traditions around the feast of Easter. These began with the festivities of *Fašiangy* (Shrovetide – *Mardi gras*) before Lent, and then turned into a period of fasting and preparation for Christ's passion and glorious resurrection at Easter. The season finally ended with *Turíce*, Pentecost, and the beginning of new life in the Church and the commencement of the planting season in the agricultural world they lived in.

Being acquainted with these rich and meaningful traditions surely enables us to understand better the rich faith and cultural life of our ancestors.

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News From Slovakia

Lajcak Meets New Russian and Turkish Ambassadors

Bratislava, May 6 (TASR) - Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak recently met with two newly appointed ambassadors to Slovakia, receiving credentials from Russian Ambassador Pavol Maratovich Kuznetsov and Turkish Ambassador Fatma Dicle Kopus.

At his meeting with Kuznetsov, Lajcak confirmed that Slovakia, as a member of the EU and NATO, is interested in continuing a good dialogue between Bratislava and Moscow, as well as in good developments in bilateral relations. "We view Russia as an important partner, and we want to lead an open dialogue with the country in which we'll call a spade a spade without any taboos," said Lajcak.

The Russian Ambassador pointed out that there are no ideological problems between the two countries, which allows them to focus on specific projects. "We also want our two countries to be able to speak openly and seriously," said Kuznetsov.

With the Turkish Ambassador, Lajcak discussed his trip to Ankara next week. At the same time, he pointed to Slovakia's efforts to maintain the current quality of contacts. "You've come during a period of excellent relations, the strengthening of economic co-operation is also very positive and we'll do our utmost to help it to grow further," said Lajcak.

Lajcak confirmed Slovakia's support for Turkey's accession to the EU on condition that Ankara meets all the criteria for joining the EU. He also mentioned the growing number of Slovak tourists who are choosing Turkey as a holiday destination, and pointing to the need to deepen contacts between people.

Lajcak to Provide Slovak Aid to Moldova in Its Integration Efforts

Bratislava/Chisinau, May 6 (TASR) - Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak recently left to visit Moldova's capital city Chisinau to provide financial and political aid to his Moldovan partners.

Lajcak will hold talks with his counterpart Iurie Leanca, Prime Minister Vladimir Filat and President Mihai Ghimpu. Slovakia supports the current pro-European Government of Moldova, while offering to share its own experiences with societal transformation and the process of getting together with EU. This support will translate into the upcoming signing of an intergovernmental agreement on developmental aid as well as on co-operation in European integration affairs.

Minister Lajcak, due to preside over a Slovak-Moldovan business forum, is accompanied by 21 representatives of Slovak companies. Lajcak is scheduled to also meet with representatives of Moldova's non-governmental sector and discuss the issue of European integration with students of Free International University of Moldova.

Fico: Slovakia Will Sign Agreement to Provide Loans to Greece

Bratislava, May 7 (TASR) - Slovakia will sign a General Agreement that will allow eurozone members to provide bilateral loans to Greece, Prime Minister Robert Fico said in Bratislava on Friday before setting out for a Euro Group session in Brussels.

Fico, who was speaking after a meeting with representatives of trade unions and employer associations, claimed that providing a loan to Greece is the only viable option. He added that this signature will allow countries that are ready to lend money to Greece to start the mechanism immediately. If Slovakia refuses to sign the agreement, the rest of the eurozone would be prevented to act, stressed Fico.

"Slovakia has no interest in preventing other states providing immediate bilateral loans," said Fico.

The agreement will be still subject to a ratification process in Parliament, however. Fico noted that the matter will be discussed by the new legislature after the June 12 election. The Slovak Parliament will be yet able to block the process of providing financial aid to Athens by Slovakia.

Recent events have indicated that the situation surrounding the eurozone, the euro and financial stability is very serious, said Fico gingerly. He added that Slovakia is ready to meet all its obligations following from its membership in the eurozone (the Maastricht Criteria on economic discipline). He stressed that it will also be crucial how large economies such as Germany and France survive the economic crisis, as the Slovak economy is linked to those economies.

European Commission Predicts 2.7-percent Growth in Slovakia in 2010

Brussels, May 5 (TASR) - The European Commission in its regular spring economic prognosis has given the chapter on Slovakia the headline: 'Moderate Growth Ahead'.

According to the Commission's estimates, Slovakia and Poland will see the fastest economic

growth in 2010, namely 2.7 percent of GDP. The prognosis for 2011 is even more optimistic, with Slovakia experiencing growth of 3.6 percent, taking second place in the EU right behind Estonia (3.8 percent).

As far as unemployment goes, 14.1 percent of Slovaks are expected to be out of work in 2010 (9.8 percent overall in the EU), the fifth-highest rate in the EU. The unemployment rate in Slovakia is predicted to fall to 13.3 percent in 2011 (9.7 percent in the EU).

Most of the foreign investments in Slovakia this year are planned in the automobile industry, which was the driving force behind Slovakia's economy in the recent past. The European Commission cautions that specialisation in a single field makes Slovakia vulnerable in terms of foreign demand for specific products.

Slovakia's public finances are vulnerable as well due to the global economic crisis. This is illustrated mainly by the state budget deficit, which has grown from 2.3 percent in 2008 to 6.8 percent of GDP in 2009. With respect to planned cuts in expenditures, the European Commission expects Slovakia's public-finance deficit to drop to 6.0 percent of GDP in 2010, and to 5.4 percent a year later.

The European Commission in general and EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn in particular view the upcoming June 12 parliamentary elections as a crucial turning point. "I'm aware that the election is drawing near, and my message to Slovakia is as follows: although Slovakia has seen favourable economic developments over the past decade, it's now extremely important to intensify efforts for fiscal consolidation as soon as possible. That will be one of the main challenges for the next government," said Rehn.

The Commission also predicts that the public debt will rise from 35.7 percent last year to 40.8 percent in 2010, and to 44 percent in 2011.

Tatravagonka Launches Production of New Rail-Wagon for Russia

Trebisov, May 5 (TASR) - After last year's development and prototype manufacture - tested on Russian tracks - by the rail-wagon manufacturer Tatravagonka in Trebisov (Kosice region) has led to the launch of production of rail-freight wagons for Russian Railways on Wednesday.

Tatravagonka, based in Poprad (Presov region), moved its manufacturing operation to Trebisov due to the connection to Russian broad-gauged railways.

"It is a success for this company, which I know very well and I have visited many times ... I remember that the company used to be on the ropes, when it was producing fireplace components. Then new owners and interesting contracts with Russian Federation came up," said Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico, who found time during the cabinet 'away' session in nearby Secovce to attend a ceremony prior to the launch of the production.

Alexander Beljajev, Chairman of the managerial board of Tatravagonka, said that the commission comprises a contract for the manufacture of 300 wagons, with the prospect of another 100 for a total of €24 million. Negotiations with the Russians are, however, still ongoing concerning the increase of the manufacture by another 1,500 wagons, on the condition that part of this total would be produced in Russia and part in Slovakia. Currently another wagon prototype is being developed for future testing on the Russian railways, Beljajev.

Ministry: Pension System Probably Won't Run Into Problems Until 2015

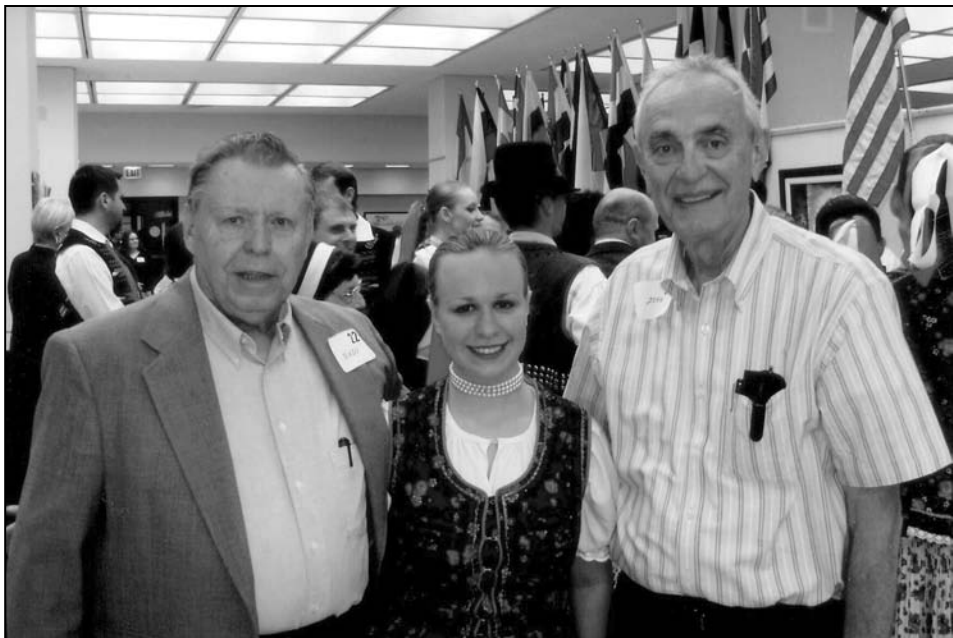
Bratislava, May 5 (TASR) - The first pay-as-you-go pension pillar probably won't experience any significant financial difficulties until 2015, Labour, Social Affairs and the Family Ministry reacted on Wednesday to an analysis published by the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (INEKO) earlier in the day.

"The situation would be better without the impact made by the second capitalisation pillar, as the transfer of state financial assets and the state budget does not fully cover contributions that went to the second pillar," the ministry points out in its statement.

INEKO analysis said that the next government should slow down the pension increases to match the level of inflation and gradually increase the retirement age to 65 in order to make the pension system tenable. "These changes are necessary if the system is to stay in place until at least 2040," cautions the INEKO analysis.

If the future government doesn't consolidate public finances, raise taxes, cut expenditures or introduce some changes in the pension system, Slovakia will go bankrupt in 2014, according to INEKO. "The official public debt will exceed 60 percent of GDP in 2014 if no changes are made."

In its response the ministry states: "We are fully aware of how important it is to financially stabilise the pension system; however, the measures can't be introduced rashly, without nationwide consensus."



L – R, District II VicePresident Rudy Bernath, Slovak dancer, District II President John Jurcenko



Members of the Slovak Folk Ensemble Borievka from Košice, Slovakia playing in Chicago



The audience in Chicago enjoyed the Borievka Folk Ensemble as they danced in traditional Slovak costumes.

Borievka Folk Ensemble Comes To Chicago

At the invitation of Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, the Slovak Folk Ensemble Borievka from Košice, Slovakia came to Chicago on April 30, 2010, to perform traditional Slovak dances. The audience applauded the music and dancers in their traditional Slovak costumes.

Enjoying the performance were FCSU Spitkovsky District II President John Jurcenko and Vice President Rudy Bernath.

Rudy Bernath, District II Vice President

Successful Spring Dance Party in New York City

Shortly after Easter, the St. Matthews Society, Branch 45, in New York City held a Spring Dance Party after the Slovak Mass serviced by Rev. Stefan Chanas in St. John Nepomucene Church Hall. Besides the New York guests we also had in attendance guests from New Jersey and Connecticut.

The introduction, as the tradition dictates, belonged to Branch President Joseph Jurasi, who kindly welcomed everyone, wished them a great time, and presented Father Stefan Chanas who said Grace along with guest priests Marcel Kubinec, a deacon from the diocese of Trnava and Jozef Petrik from Tajov, within the Banska Bystrica diocese. The two were part of the clergy visiting St. Nepomucene Church from Slovakia.

The program began with the children's dance group "Limboracik" from New York, which is directed by Martina Finkova and Dana Podzuban. The guests truly enjoyed the youngsters' performance and their lively dancing, along with the entire dance party – thanks to good music, tasty traditional Slovak foods and drinks, and a raffle drawing.



L – R, Joseph Jurasi, Rev. Jozef Petrik, Rev. Stefan Chanas, Maria Jurasi, Rev. Marcel Kubinec, and Rev. Martin Svitan



St. Matthew Society, Branch 45 Committee, L -R: Joseph Jurasi, Maria Zakovic, Jan Zeman, Helen Brchnel, Maria Jurasi, Michael Zakutny, Anton Kucharovic, Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, Jozef Jurasi, Anna Korcak, and Jozef Korack



"Limboracik" dance group performing



Guests having a great time

Finančná zbierka na vydanie knihy „Gotický kríž Ukrižovaného Ježiša Krista na Slovensku“

Drahí priatelia,

Magistrát mesta Košice, odbor kultúry sa podieľa na finančnej zbierke vydania reprezentačnej umelecko-historickej publikácie fotografií s textom akademickej maliarky a reštaurátorky Márie Spoločníckovej „Gotický kríž Ukrižovaného Ježiša Krista na Slovensku“. Je to pohľad Márie Spoločníckovej na ňou zreštaurované gotické kríže Ukrižovaného Ježiša Krista. Ako svetoznámej slovenskej reštaurátorky gotického sakrálneho umenia chceme pomôcť pri vydaní tejto jej poslednej knihy.

V knihe zachytáva na fotografiách i v texte svetové unikáty gotických krížov na Slovensku, ktoré počas 50 rokov reštaurátorskej praxe reštaurovala a vrátila ich do kostolov. Prosíme Vás o príspevok k tejto zbierke. Ak by ste sa rozhodli prispieť pani Márii Spoločníckovej na uvedenú knihu, pošleme Vám bankový účet i ďalšie potrebné informácie. Po vydaní knihy Vám pošleme výtlačky kníh pre tých, ktorí prispeli k jej vydaniu na propagáciu stredovekej gotickej kultúry na Slovensku, ktorá sa zachovala v gotických krížoch.

Blížšie informácie: PhDr. Mária Agafonová PhD., Katedra spoločenských vied, Technická univerzita v Košiciach, ul. Vysokoškolská 4, 040 01 Košice, Slovak Republic; tel. (421) 55 602 43 06; mobil: (421) 903 126 787; e-mail: maria.agafonova12@gmail.com

Recenzia

Mária Spoločnícková je akademická maliarka, ktorá svoj tvorivý život zasvätila náročnej práci reštaurátorky. Svojim profesionálnym pôsobením presiahla hranice regiónu i krajiny a stala sa uznávanou odborníčkou európskeho formátu. Záchrane výtvarných skvostov sa venuje 50 rokov. Ako jedna z prvých dvoch absolventiek Vysoké školy výtvarných umení sa zapísala do dejín moderného reštaurátorského umenia na Slovensku. Medzi prvé pamiatky, ktoré zachránila patrila vojnovou zničený súbor gotických obrazov hlavného a bočných oltárov Dómu sv. Alžbety. Všetky diela, ktoré prešli jej ateliérom odrážajú hlboký cit pre krásno a zmysel pre znovuoživenie hlby myšlienok pôvodných majstrov.

Mária Spoločnícková pracovala pre Východoslovenskú galériu, Slovenskú národnú galériu, Východoslovenské múzeum a ďalšie významné inštitúcie doma i v zahraničí. Rukami tejto umelkyne prešli zreštaurované diela Majstra Pavla z Levoče, z Banskej Bystrice, z Košického Dómu, zo Spišskej Kapituly, z Bardejova, zo Slovenskej národnej galérie a ďalších. Mária Spoločnícková zreštaurovala okolo 100 plastík a viac než 100 gotických tabuľových malieb.

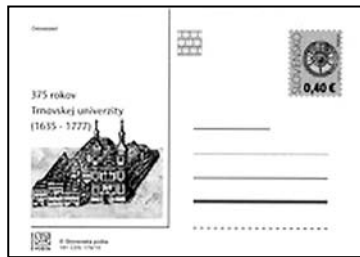


Te Deum a poštový lístok k výročiu Trnavskej univerzity

Trnava (TASR) – Poštový lístok s gotickou pečaťou Trnavy a slávnostná omša v katedrále boli 12. mája venované 375. výročiu založenia Trnavskej univerzity. V roku 1635 podpísal 12. mája uhorský prímás a kardinál Peter Pázmán zakladajúcu listinu tejto inštitúcie, ktorá sa stala uznávanou a rešpektovanou v európskom kontexte. Jej pokračovateľka, súčasná Trnavská univerzita venuje po celý rok 2010 podujatia tomuto výročiu, vyvrcholenie je naplánované na november. Dovtedy sa uskutočnia viaceré vedecké, kultúrne, spoločenské i športové projekty.

Omša Te Deum sa konala v Katedrále sv. Jána Krstiteľa, celebrantom bol pomocný biskup Trnavskej arcidiecézy Ján Orosch.

Jedna z najstarších univerzít na Slovensku mala teologickú, právnickú, lekársku a fakultu umení. Vyučovanie začalo 13. novembra 1635. Existovala 142 rokov, keď roku 1777 prešla z rozhodnutia panovníčky Márie Terézie do Budína. Slovenská národná rada obnovila školu zákonom a znovu otvorila k 1.7.1992. V súčasnosti má univerzita päť fakúlt a viac ako sedem tisíc študentov na všetkých formách štúdia. Škola obhájuje kresťanské princípy, chce chrániť morálne a duchovné hodnoty, vychovávať v duchu ekumenizmu, spolupracovať s univerzitami, výchovnými a vedeckými ústavmi v SR a v zahraničí. Doteraz nadviazala kontakty s 13 univerzitami v Českej republike, Nemecku, Veľkej Británii, Taliansku, Švédsku, USA, Poľsku, Maďarsku, s ktorými spolupracuje na rôznych projektoch.



Poštový lístok s prítláčou



Veľvyslanci z krajín EÚ v Košickom kraji

Košice (TASR) - Veľvyslanci členských krajín Európskej únie (EÚ) v SR, ktorí sa pravidelne raz mesačne stretávajú zvyčajne v Bratislave, si 5. mája zvolili miesto stretnutia v Košiciach, aby sa detailnejšie zoznámili so sociálno-ekonomickou situáciou a perspektívami Košického kraja a jeho metropolu.

„Významom tohto stretnutia je jednak priniesť Európsku úniu bližšie k občanom Košíc. Už sme mali možnosť stretnúť sa s odborníkmi z rôznych oblastí. Sme si vedomí toho, že existujú veľké regionálne rozdiely medzi západnou a východnou časťou krajiny a preto sa chceme dozvedieť, kde sú príčiny, aby sme potom mohli informovať našich podnikateľov, na čo sa majú zamerať. Slovensko je naším partnerom, to znamená, že sme sem neprišli, aby sme niečo hodnotili, ale naopak, aby sme získali viac informácií,“ uviedol španielsky veľvyslanec v SR José Angel López Jorin, ktorého krajina predsedá tento polrok EÚ.

Po pracovnom rokovaní veľvyslancov v Historickej radnici mesta privítali košický primátor František Knapík a predseda Košického samosprávneho kraja (KSK) Zdenko Trebuľa. Predseda KSK Zdenko Trebuľa pripomenul tradíciu ešte z čias svojho primátorovania pozývať veľvyslancov v predvianočnom čase do Košíc. „Verím, že takéto stretnutia v regióne budú pokračovať a chceme poďakovať predovšetkým veľvyslancovi Španielskeho kráľovstva za to, že si uvedomuje, že Slovensko nie je len Bratislava,“ povedal Zdenko Trebuľa.

Hostia absolvovali pracovný obed, ktorý spoločne organizovalo mesto Košice a KSK a na ktorý pozvanie prijala aj predsedníčka Ústavného súdu SR Ivetta Macejková. Za tým sa na pôde Univerzity Pavla Jozefa Šafárika konalo kolokvium pod názvom Skúsenosti Slovenskej republiky v Európskej únii 2004 – 2010.

V Košiciach sa stretli 20 veľvyslanci Rakúska, Belgicka, Bulharska, Českej republiky, Dánska, Fínska, Francúzska, Nemecka, Grécka, Maďarska, Írska, Litvy, Luxemburska, Holandska, Portugalska, Rumunska, Slovinska, Švédska, Veľkej Británie a Španielska.

Radio Slovakia International

Milí krajanovia,

Rádio Slovakia International - zahraničné vysielanie Slovenského rozhlasu - Vám už sedemnásť rokov prináša na krátkych vlnách, cez satelit, ale aj internet aktuálne informácie o Slovensku. Prichádzame k Vám sedemkrát do týždňa v šiestich jazykoch – v angličtine, nemčine, francúzštine, ruštine, španielčine, ale aj slovenčine. Listy a ohlasy od poslucháčov svedčia o tom, že naším vysielaním obsiahneme celú planétu.

Slovenské vysielanie venuje osobitnú pozornosť životu Slovákov v zahraničí. Je vhodným kanálom na šírenie informácií o aktuálnom dianí na Slovensku od hospodárskeho a politického diania, cez vzdelávanie, vedu, kultúru a umenie po šport. Predstavuje prírodné krásy a možnosti cestovného ruchu. Zoznamuje s dejinami, oživuje zvyky a tradície. Prezентuje súčasnú slovenskú hudobnú tvorbu a v súťaži dáva príležitosť vyhrať týždenný pobyt pre dve osoby vo Vysokých Tatrách.

Vysielanie v slovenčine môžete od 28. marca do 31. októbra 2010 počúvať na týchto frekvenciách.

Čas UTC	Oblasť	Jazyk	Frekvencia	
			kHz	m
0130-0200	Severná Amerika	slovenský	5 930	49
	Stredná a Južná Amerika		9 440	31
0730-0800	Austrália a Južná Ázia	slovenský	9 440	31
	Austrália a Oceánia		11 650	25
1530-1600	Západná Európa	slovenský	5 920	49
			6 055	49
1900-1930	Západná Európa	slovenský	5 920	49
			6 055	49

Magazíny RSI v slovenskom jazyku môžete počúvať aj na internete: WWW.rsi.sk. Prosíme Vás, aby ste túto informáciu širili aj medzi Vašimi priateľmi v slovenských spolkoch a organizáciách. Slovenské vysielanie Rádia International je totiž určené všetkým, ktorí chcú viac vedieť o Slovensku a spoznávať ho.

Napište nám a staňte sa spolutvorcami našich relácií. Vaše ohlasy, námety a pripomienky čakáme na emailovej adrese: rsi_slovak@slovakradio.sk

Kolektív Krajanskej redakcie RSI

Slovenský rozhlas, Radio Slovakia International, Krajanská redakcia, Mýtna 1, P.O. Box 55, 817 55 Bratislava 15, Slovak Republic; tel.: (421) 2 57 273 746; redakčný záznamník: (421) 2 572 73 747.

Medzinárodná vedecká konferencia k 60. výročiu likvidácie reholí

Bratislava (TASR) - Likvidácia reholí a ich život v ilegalite v rokoch 1950-1989, bola téma dvojdnovej medzinárodnej vedeckej konferencie pri príležitosti 60. výročia "Akcii K (kláštory) a R (rehole)", ktorá sa konala 5. mája v Aule Rímskokatolíckej cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulty (RKMBF) Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave. Úvodným vystúpením a prednáškou predchádzala sv. omša v neďalekej Katedrále sv. Martina s hlavným celebrantom bratislavským arcibiskupom Stanislavom Zvolenským za účasti ďalších slovenských biskupov, kňazov, rehoľníkov a rehoľníčok.

Predseda Správnej rady Ústavu pamäti národa (ÚPN) Ivan Petránsky v úvodnom prihovore spomenul proticirkevné aktivity komunistického režimu v bývalom Československu v roku 1950, Akciu K - násilný vstup do mužských kláštorov v noci z 13. na 14. apríla 1950 a sústredovanie rehoľníkov, ako aj prerušenie diplomatických stykov s Vatikánom. Cirkevný historik Jozef Haľko z RKMBF UK sa vo svojom vystúpení zamyslel nad dôvodmi zásahov komunistickej moci voči rehoľiam z rôznych aspektov, poukázal na význam reholí v spoločnosti a ich dlhodobú dobrú tradíciu.

Zo zahraničných hostí ako prvý vystúpil Massimiliano Valente z Ríma, ktorý sa zamerl na tému Východná politika Svätej stolice a Československo. Priblížil okrem iného misiu kardinála Augustína Casaroliho, ktorý viackrát rokovo s predstaviteľmi Československa o prepustení zatknutých rehoľníkov, možnostiach ich pôsobenia v diecézach, o práci rehoľníčok a iných otázkach.

O perzekúcií rehoľníkov a rehoľníčok z právneho hľadiska hovoril Martin Šabo, ktorý poukázal na nerešpektovanie vlastných právnych noriem komunistického režimu, prísnu kontrolu cirkví, nespravodlivé procesy s kňazmi, represálie proti rehoľníkom. Zmienil sa takisto o rušení ženských kláštorov, prepúšťaní rehoľných sestier zo škôl, neskôr aj z nemocníc a ich presun do psychiatrických zariadení, do poľnohospodárstva či ich odsun do českého pohraničia, kde pracovali ako robotníčky vo fabrikách. Sestra Mária Greškovičová priblížila prítomným spomienky na Akciu R, rušenie ženských kláštorov a sústredovanie rehoľných sestier koncom augusta 1950, ich prácu v sociálnych zariadeniach, v poľnohospodárstve a vo fabrikách. Oboznámila prítomných s projektom Svedkovia viery, ktorého cieľom bolo zdokumentovať spomienky a svedectvá rehoľných sestier o tých ťažkých časoch prenasledovania a priblížiť tieto spomienky najmä mladej generácii. Vznikli tak viaceré filmové dokumenty a DVD nosiče. Na záver konferencie premietli krátke ukážky z jedného z týchto dokumentov - filmu Pilátova amnestia.

Na programe konferencie boli ďalej príspevky o likvidácii kláštorov rôznych rehoľných spoločností či o podiele Slovenského úradu pre veci cirkevné na likvidácii reholí a ďalšie. Osud benediktínov z komárňanského rehoľného domu priblížil hosť z Maďarska Asztrik Várszegi.

Konferenciu zorganizovali ÚPN, RKMBF UK v spolupráci s Konferenciou vyšších predstavených ženských reholí a Konferenciou vyšších rehoľných predstavených na Slovensku. Záštitu nad ňou prevzal bratislavský arcibiskup, metropolita Stanislav Zvolenský. Podujatie podporili Nadácia Konrada Adenauera a Rada pre históriu Konferencie biskupov Slovenska.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu Spolok č. 16 IKSJ sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 6. júna 2010 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojici v Yonkers, NY.

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

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

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Polročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKS v New York City

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 20. júna 2010 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční polročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66th Street v New York City.

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

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu pripravuje schôdzu v nedeľu 20. júna 2010. Oslava začne slovenskou koncelebrovanou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine ráno, ktorú odslúžia otec Alojzius Pestun zo San Franciscu a otec Pavol Sochuľak zo San Bernardina, v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640, S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Otec Pavol Sochuľak predtým než prišiel do San Bernardina, pôsobil niekoľko rokov ako slovenský misionár v Columbií.

Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Pozývame všetkých našich členov ako aj delegátov jednotlivých spolkov nášho Okresu Princa Pribinu, aby sa zúčastnili tejto schôdze, ktorá bude pokračovať po obede v jedálni.

Na programe schôdze je príprava plánu aktivít na ďalšie obdobie a informácie o poisťovacom programe Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda



Na obrázku víťazné mužstvo futbalového turnaja Tatry Slovakia z New Jersey.

Futbalový turnaj v New York City

23. januára 2010, 45. Spolok sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku zorganizoval v kostolnej hale sv. Jána Nepomuckého halový turnaj v mini futbale. Turnaj sa odohral za účasti štyroch mužstiev: Tatry Slovakia z NJ, Staten Island, Fofo Z Brooklynu a Old Boys Slovakia.

Turnaj mal veľmi dobrú úroveň. Najlepší zápas bol Tatry Slovakia: Staten Island. Keď po prvom polčase mužstvo Tatra Slovakia prehrávalo Už 6:2, málokto veril, že sa to obráti. Ale v druhom polčase mužstvo Tatra Slovakia zápas otočilo a dotiahlo do víťazného konca. Ako sa neskôr ukázalo tento zápas rozhodol o konečnom víťazovi. Víťaz turnaja mužstvo Tatra Slovakia, ale aj mužstvá na 2, 3, a 4 mieste získali ceny. Ceny odovzdal kapitánovi bývalý Československý reprezentant a hráč Slovana Bratislava a MSK Žilina Jozef Tomanek. Pán Tomanek, ktorý nastúpil za mužstvo Old Boys Slovakia aj pri svojom veku ukázal, že niekedy patril medzi špičkových hráčov.

Organizátori turnaja: Ján Zeman, Dušan Krajčovič a Jozef Korčák pripravili pre všetkých účastníkov turnaja pohostenie. Nechýbali aj tradičné slovenské jedlá: guláš, kapusta s pečeným bravčovým mäsom a k tomu dobré Plzenské pivo.

Ďakujem Pastorovi Slovenského kostola otcovi Martinovi Svitani, že nám poskytol halu na odohratie tohto turnaja.

V závere môjho príspevku by som chcel poukázať, že aj keď sú Slováci zaťažení každodennými starosťami v ďalekej cudzine, tak sa dokázali vďaka organizátorom zhromaždiť v hojnom počte. Týmto prispeli k vydarenému športovému dňu.

Spracoval športový referent 45. Spolku sv. Matúša IKSJ v NY Ján Zeman.

Výstava slovenských ilustrátorov na BIB v Dallase, TX

Dňa 3. mája 2010 sa v reprezentačných priestoroch Scottish Rite Hospital for Children v Dallase uskutočnilo slávnostné otvorenie honorárneho konzulátu SR v štáte Texas. Otvorenie honorárneho konzulátu SR za účasti štátnej tajomníčky Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR Olgy Algayerovej, veľvyslanca SR v Spojených štátoch amerických Petra Buriana, starostu mesta Dallas Toma Lepperta, honorárnych konzulov SR pôsobiacich v teritóriu USA bolo spojené s výstavou ocenených slovenských ilustrátorov na Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava 1967 – 2009. Výstava Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava-BIB sa stretla s veľkým záujmom vyše 150 pozvaných hostí, medzi ktorými boli akademickí funkcionári Dallaskkej univerzity, členovia konzulárneho zboru, zástupcovia podnikateľskej komunity a kultúrnych inštitúcií v Dallase a predstavitelia krajanských organizácií v Texase. Výstavu BIB si so záujmom prezrela aj členka Kongresu USA za Republikánsku stranu Kay Grangerová. Výstava ilustrácií 15 slovenských ilustrátorov ocenených na doterajších 22 ročníkoch BIB bola doplnená o premietanie filmu z posledného ročníka Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava 2009.

Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava je medzinárodnou súťažnou prehliadkou originálov ilustrácií kníh pre deti a mládež s vyše 42-ročnou históriou, ktorá je organizovaná v Bratislave v dvojročných intervaloch od roku 1967. Na BIB sú medzinárodnou porotou zloženou z odborníkov z oblasti ilustračného umenia udeľované ocenenia Grand Prix BIB, Zlaté jablká BIB, Plakety BIB a Čestné uznania vydavateľom kníh pre deti a mládež.

Ambíciou Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone v súčinnosti s honorárnymi konzulmi SR v USA je prezentovať ilustračné umenie ocenených slovenských ilustrátorov a ocenených ilustrátorov z členských štátov Európskej únie na doterajších ročníkoch BIB aj v ďalších mestách v USA. V októbri 2010 bude výstava BIB pozostávajúca z ocenených ilustrátorov z členských štátov EÚ zahajovať EÚ Kids festival vo Washingtone a spolu s výstavou slovenských ilustrátorov bude v hlavnom meste USA prezentovaná do konca januára 2011.

Fedor Roll
radca Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone



Na Slovensku vznikajú tri nové aerolínie

Bratislava (TASR) - Na Slovensku vznikajú tri nové letecké spoločnosti. Fakt, že požiadali o vydanie Osvedčenia leteckého prevádzkovateľa (AOC), potvrdila hovorkyňa Leteckého úradu SR Petra Pastýriková. Mená žiadateľov odmietla bez ich súhlasu konkretizovať. Jednou zo spoločností je AirExplore. Chce sa špecializovať na charterovú dopravu. Podanie žiadosti potvrdil jej konateľ Miroslav Polonyi. "Spočiatku sa zameriame na charterové lety a prenájom lietadiel," konštatoval. Aerolínie plánujú zo začiatku podnikáť v Taliansku. V budúcej sezóne možno oslovia slovenské cestovné kancelárie. AirExplore má mať zatiaľ k dispozícii 150-miestny Boeing 737-300, o ktorom rokuje.

O licenciu požiadala aj firma Central Charter Airlines Slovakia, ktorá vznikla koncom minulého mesiaca. Ide o dcérsku spoločnosť českého dopravcu. Ďalším žiadateľom o AOC je popradská Tatra Jet, ktorá si vo februári zmenila obchodné meno z Air Business. Spoločnosť sa má špecializovať na VIP lety a aerotaxi. Konateľ a majiteľ spoločnosti Peter Beník v minulosti pracoval v aerolíniách VIP Wings. Letecký úrad eviduje ešte jednu, štvrtú žiadosť od českej firmy Travel Service. Tá cez leto plánuje zo Slovenska prepraviť 300,000 dovolenkárov. Aerolínie chcú podľa ich hovorkyne Vladky Dufkovej podnikáť v SR prostredníctvom organizačnej zložky. Ich žiadosť o obchodnú licenciu na ministerstve dopravy zasa naznačuje, že voľné kapacity charterových letov budú predávať jednotlivcom. Rovnako postupujú aj v Českej republike.

Srdce ma pobolieva ...

Hej, kamaráti moji, zaspievajte že, mi tú moju:
„Rodný môj kraj, zo všetkých najkrajší“,
lebo tu mi ju mláďenci, ani dievčatá, nezaspievajú.
Áno, bol, je a bude zo všetkých najkrajší.

Keby ich aj milióny bolo, on mi je najbližší ...
Cudzina pekná je, ale niekedy, troška chladná ...
Láska k svojetu, sa nedá za peniaze kúpiť.
Do cudziny, sa je dosť ťažko zaľubiť ...

Nie len telo, ale duša, je smädná.
Moje srdce, ma už toľko rokov pobolieva,
ono patrí tam, kde mama, slzami muškáty polieva.

Jozef Smák

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Záujem** o výstavbu železničnej infraštruktúry v SR prejavili hneď po otvorení Svetovej výstavy EXPO Sanghaj 2010 zástupcovia významnej štátnej organizácie podnikajúcej v železničnej doprave. Zámer firmy China Railway Signal and Communication Shanghai Engineering International Co. Ltd. podnikateľ na Slovensku potvrdil jej predseda Čung Č'-kuo v rámci rokovania, ktoré inicioval štátny tajomník Ministerstva hospodárstva (MH) SR Ľuboš Halák s čínskymi podnikateľmi. Halák tlmočil záujem SR o zahraničné investície v tomto segmente a odporučil čínskym partnerom kontaktovať Ministerstvo dopravy, pôšt a telekomunikácií (MDPT) SR. V rámci rokovania Čung Č'-kuo predstavil aktivity menovanej spoločnosti, ktorá je súčasťou holdingu China Railway Signal and Communication Group Corporation. Spoločnosť sa angažuje vo výstavbe železničných sietí v Ázii, Afrike, Latinskej Amerike a má záujem o výstavbu železničnej siete v Európe. Čínska spoločnosť chce v Európe postaviť rýchle vlakové dráhy s rýchlostnými parametrami 200 až 350 km/h.

• **Titulkom** "Pred miernym ekonomickým rastom" označila Európska komisia (EK) kapitolu o Slovensku vo svojej pravidelnej jarnej prognóze ekonomických ukazovateľov Európskej únie (EÚ). Komisia predpovedá Slovensku spoločne s Poľskom najvyšší rast v roku 2010, a to 2.7 % hrubého domáceho produktu (HDP), pričom celej únii prisudzuje v tomto ukazovateli 1.0 %. Na rok 2011 sú predpovede optimistickéjšie, SR má obsadiť s rastom 3.6 % druhé miesto medzi krajinami európskej dvadsaťsedmiky hneď za Estónskom (3.8 %). Čo sa týka nezamestnanosti, v roku 2010 má byť na Slovensku na úrovni 14.1 %, čo je piaty najvyšší údaj v únii, o rok neskôr počíta komisia s miernym poklesom na 13.3 %.

• **Štátna** tajomníčka Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR Olga Algayerová vystúpila 5. mája v New Yorku s prejavom na 8. hodnotiacej konferencii OSN o Zmluve o nešírení jadrových zbraní (NPT). Zdôraznila, že šírenie zbraní hromadného ničenia zostáva jednou z hlavných hrozieb pre medzinárodný mier a bezpečnosť, ktorej musíme čeliť spoločným úsilím. Zmluva NPT poskytuje jedinečný a nenahraditeľný rámec v globálnych snahách zabrániť šíreniu jadrových zbraní. SR sa štandardne angažuje vo všetkých troch pilieroch NPT (odzbrojenie, nešírenie, mierové využívanie jadrovej energie) a presadzuje ich rovnováhu s cieľom efektívneho fungovania režimu nešírenia prostredníctvom plnenia záväzkov vyplývajúcich z NPT. Algayerová zdôraznila, že mierové využívanie jadrovej energie patrí pre SR ku kľúčovým otázkam, pretože jadrová energia je elementárnym prvkom energetickej bezpečnosti Slovenska.

• **Bratislava** - Brusno, Dudince, Číž, tieto tri kúpeľné zariadenia si z pohľadu poistencov zdravotnej poisťovne Dôvera vedú najlepšie v rámci starostlivosti o ich zdravie a pohodu. Do prieskumu spokojnosti za rok 2009 sa zapojil každý šiesty poistenec súkromnej zdravotnej poisťovne a vyslovil sa v otázkach, ako je spokojnosť s prístupom personálu, ubytovanie, strava a v neposlednom rade aj účinok pobytu v kúpeľoch na jeho zdravie. Vavrín si teda z vyplnených dotazníkov odniesli Kúpele Brusno, ktoré žali úspech aj v uplynulom roku. Druhým miestom sa môžu pochváliť Kúpele Dudince, známe svojou liečivou vodou, tretiu priečku obsadili Prírodné jódové kúpele Číž. V roku 2008 sa na treťom mieste umiestnili kúpele v Bardejove, v roku 2009 ale skončili na 13. mieste.

• **Poslanci** stopli Danube Arénu. Športová hala za 90 miliónov eur je už minulosťou. Výstavbu arény v Petržalke presadzoval najmä bývalý župan Vladimír Bajan. Nové vedenie samosprávneho kraja projekt kritizovalo a zdá sa, že nepresvedčil ani župných poslancov. Tí 30. apríla 2010 odhlasovali jeho koniec. Župan Pavol Frešo je zhraný zo sumy 667,000 eur, ktorú musel kraj za halu zaplatiť. Nehovoriac o dvoch zmenkách za viac ako 10 miliónov eur, za ktoré ručí župa. Poslednou stopkou pre projekt však bola analýza, ktorú si dal vypracovať kraj a vyplýva z nej, že hala by nikdy nebola samofinancovaná, ako sa pôvodne hovorilo.

• **Do** výzbroje Ozbromených síl Slovenskej republiky (OS SR) pribudnú dve nové lietadlá. Slovenská armáda ich kupuje napriek kríze a kráteniu rozpočtu Ministerstva obrany SR (MO SR). Nejde však o stroje, ktoré by výraznejšie pomohli riešiť problémy s dopravou slovenských vojakov na zahraničné misie. Sú to Turbolety L-410, ktoré sa v Českej republike (ČR) vyrábajú s malou prestávkou 40 rokov. Tieto stroje majú krátky dolet a nízku nosnosť. "Jeden sme už dostali," povedal národný riaditeľ pre vyzbrojovanie MO SR Ľudovít Mikuška. Povedal, že nejde o model, ktorý u nás lieta roky, ale o nové a výrazne modernizované stroje. Cenu si na konečné približne štyri milióny eur za kus znižuje tak, že výrobcovi dáme dva slovenské L-410, ktoré "už majú technický život niekde na konci". Nákup armáda nerobila cez bežnú verejnú súťaž. Lietadlá nakupovala priamo od výrobcu.

• **Slovenský** hokej sa v noci na štvrtok 13. mája dožil veľkej slávy, keď jeho brankár prvýkrát dovedol najtradičnejší klub NHL a rekordéra Stanleyho pohára do semifinále play off. V noci na štvrtok chytil Jaroslav Halák 37 striel Pittsburghu v siedmom zápase semifinále Východnej konferencie NHL a jeho tím z 8. pozície postúpil do finále atlantickej vetvy. V 1. kole Halák eliminoval víťaza Prezidentskej trofeje pre najlepšie mužstvo základnej časti NHL. Vyradil tak washingtonskú gardu okolo Rusa Alexandra Ovečkina a v druhej fáze sa podobne vyrovnal so Sidneym Crosbom, takže zlikvidoval dve najväčšie hviezdy NHL. Vo finále konferencií sa v západnej vetve stretnú San Jose a Chicago, vo východnej Montreal s víťazom série Boston - Philadelphia.

• **Najväčšia** stavba v dejinách Slovenska má zelenú. Brusel povolil diaľnicu na východ. Európska komisia totiž odklepla výstavbu 75 kilometrov diaľnice D1 medzi Martinom a Prešovom. Slovensko sa tak dočká kľúčového úveru od Európskej investičnej banky, ktorý zo štvormiliardového projektu pokryje štvrtinu. Brusel aj banka o tejto ceste dlho pochybovali, keďže vedie chránenými územiami Veľkej Fatry. Nakoniec však prižmúрили oči s podmienkou, aby v nich sa nestavalo, kým nebude s Bruselom dohoda na náprave ekologických škôd. Výstavba sa tak mala začať krátko po finančnom uzatvorení, ktoré bolo naplánované na 18. mája.

• **Východne** Slovensko dostane nové pracovné miesta. Rozšírenie výroby a výstavbu nového závodu v Košiciach oznámila spoločnosť Howe Slovensko. Dcérska spoločnosť producenta kožených výrobkov pre automobilky Howe Leather plánuje zamestnať 450 ľudí. Pôjde o investíciu za niekoľko miliónov eur, ktorá by sa mala začať ešte tento rok. Na východe krajiny sa môžu tešiť dvakrát. Okolo 150 ľudí plánuje prijať firma Monocrystalax v Medzilaborciach. Tej i ďalším štyrom firmám k rozvoju pomôže vláda dotáciou. Do roku 2014 sľubujú vytvoriť ďalších 300 miest. Analytici varujú, že štátna pomoc diskriminuje ostatné firmy.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



Záujem o voľbu zo zahraničia je takmer dvojnásobný

Bratislava (TASR) - Záujem o voľbu zo zahraničia oproti roku 2006 výrazne vzrástol, je takmer dvojnásobný. Informoval o tom PR manažér oddelenia externej a internej komunikácie Slovenskej pošty Juraj Danielis.

Pred parlamentnými voľbami 2010 požiadalo o voľbu poštou celkovo asi 6,900 Slovákov s trvalým pobytom na Slovensku, ktorí sa v čase voľieb budú zdržiavať v zahraničí, alebo Slovákov s trvalým pobytom v zahraničí, uviedol Danielis. Podľa jeho slov prišlo do 17. mája z cudziny späť 184 doporučených a 356 obyčajných listov s volebnými lístkami určenými obecným úradom, kde je volič registrovaný.

Deň rodiny 2010 na Slovensku

15. máj vyhlásilo valné zhromaždenie OSN 20. septembra 1993 za Medzinárodný deň rodiny. OSN povzbudzuje vlády a krajiny, aby pri príležitosti tohto dňa venovali pozornosť téme rodina a realizovali prorodinné projekty. To je dôvod, prečo sa viaceré mestá a obce v spolupráci s tretím sektorom rozhodli reagovať na túto výzvu OSN a aj na Slovensku venovať pozornosť práve v tieto dni rodine. Minulý rok sa slovenské rodiny stretli na Námestí SNP v Bratislave. Vychádzajúc z tejto dobrej skúsenosti a so zámerom upevniť povedomie rodinného zázemia a vzťahu k deťom formou kultúrno-spoločenskej udalosti pre čo najširšiu verejnosť, organizátori podujatia sa zhodli v tom, že v roku 2010 oslava tohto sviatku bude rozšírená do regiónov Slovenska.

Tento rok sa preto Deň rodiny pod celo slovenským mottom "Aby deti otcov mali, aby mali mamy" ... príd' to povedať nahlas! organizovali v Košiciach, Prešove, Poprade, Žiline, Nitre, Trnave, Bratislave ale aj v Šamoríne, Pezinku či iných obciach Slovenska. Výtvarnej stránky sa ujala akademická maliarka Iva Štrbová, ktorá navrhla plagáty pre celé Slovensko, logo podujatia a celkový vizuál.

Toto podujatie je vyjadrením podpory prirodzenej rodine založenej na manželstve 1 muža a 1 ženy - ideálneho priestoru pre rozvoj dieťaťa, pre vzájomnú lásku a dôveru medzi partnermi. Organizácia spojených národov vydáva k medzinárodnému dňu rodiny každoročne posolstvo. Tento rok znie:

"Vplyv migrácie na rodiny vo svete" (The impact of migration on families around the world).

Deň rodiny v Bratislave sa uskutočnil v nedeľu, 16. mája na Hlavnom námestí ako oslava rodiny, deň zábavy a hier, čas na zastavenie sa a zamyslenie nad hodnotou rodiny, podujatie pre všetkých od tých najmladších až po skôr narodených. K naplneniu tohto zámeru slúžili aj sprievodné a súbežné aktivity. Deti, ktoré prišli osláviť Deň rodiny, mali možnosť zabaviť sa na nafukovacom skákacom hrade ako aj pri ďalších atrakciách a zaujímavých aktivitách ako napr. mestská hra pre celú rodinu, calcetto (stolný futbal), maľovanie na tvár, netradičné pohybové aktivity.

Okrem aktivít pre deti boli pripravené na rozhovory a poradenstvo odborníci z oblasti psychológie, drogových a iných závislostí, ale aj mladé mamičky a ženy, ktoré jednoducho ponúkli svoju otvorenosť a ochotu počúvať a zhovárať sa.

Myšlienka rodiny spojila aj cirkvi. Vo Veľkom evanjelickom kostole na Panenskej ulici sa súbežne konala s programom na Hlavnom námestí ekumenická bohoslužba vďakyvzdania za Boží zámer s rodinou.

TK KBS

„aby deti otcov mali, aby mali mamy“
príd' to povedať nahlas!
Deň RODINY
Family Day

8.máj
 Košice
 15.máj
 Šamorín, Levice,
 Lozorno - Abeland
 16.máj
 Bratislava, Trnava, Pezínok,
 Nitra, Banská Bystrica
 Žilina, Poprad
 Prešov

Organizátori a partneri:
 občianske združenia zamerané na rodinu

www.denrodiny.sk
 www.familyday.sk

A new airline service called Travel Service was announced recently at a press conference in at the M.R. Štefanik Airport in Bratislava. In the photo is a Travel Service Boeing 737.

FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškáš

Tlačová konferencia leteckej spoločnosti Travel Service, a. s., a Letiska M. R. Štefaníka v Bratislave v utorok 11. mája 2010 ku vstupu spoločnosti na slovenský trh. Na snímke dopravné lietadlo Boeing 737.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 119

STREDA, 26. MÁJA, 2010

Číslo 5822



Obecnosť sa prizerá na kultúrny program počas Dňa otvorených dverí vo Washingtone.

4. ročník Dňa otvorených dverí veľvyslanectiev krajín EÚ – EU Open House

Vo Washingtone sa 8. mája 2010 uskutočnil 4. ročník Dňa otvorených dverí veľvyslanectiev krajín EÚ – EU Open House. Podujatie, organizované Delegáciou Európskej únie vo Washingtone a zastupiteľskými úradmi členských krajín, sa medzi obyvateľmi Washingtonu DC a okolia teší mimoriadnej popularite a je dlho očakávanou udalosťou v spoločenskom živote mesta. Nosnou témou tohtoročného Dňa bola Zelená Európa: prínos pre ekonomiku i životné prostredie.

Obyvatelia Washingtonu a širšieho okolia mali v tento deň možnosť navštíviť všetky veľvyslanectvá krajín EÚ, prehliadnúť si ich priestory a zoznámiť sa s reáliami, kultúrou a tradíciami jednotlivých členských štátov únie. Veľvyslanectvo SR pripravilo pre návštevníkov bohatý program. Počas celého dňa hral slovenský ľudový súbor Pajtáši, tradičné ľudové tance predviedli deti zo slovenskej školy pod záštitou pani Lucie Marusky Levendis zo Sokola a zaznela aj ukážka hry na fujare. Veľký záujem bol o stánok so slovenskými ľudovo-umeleckými výrobkami.

Súčasťou programu Dňa otvorených dverí bola aj prezentácia Slovenska ako modernej, dynamicky sa rozvíjajúcej krajiny s vynikajúcimi možnosťami v oblasti cestovného ruchu, investícií a podnikania. Práve o tento typ informácií a propagačných materiálov prejavovali návštevníci mimoriadny záujem.

Tradičnú slovenskú kuchyňu reprezentovali strapačky, ktorých bolo pripravených vyše tisíc porcií. Návštevníci mali možnosť ochutnať aj slovenské pivo a víno. ZÚ SR patril medzi najnavštevovanejšie spomedzi krajín EÚ. Celkovo sa na slovenskú kultúru, tradície a súčasnosť prišlo pozrieť viac tri a pol tisíce návštevníkov.“

MZV SR

Na pôde Kongresu USA vznikol Kongresový slovenský výbor

Washington/Bratislava (TASR) - Z iniciatívy členov americkej Snemovne reprezentantov Petra Viscloského (demokrat, štát Indiana) a Joea Wilsona (republikán, štát Južná Karolína) bol 7. mája na pôde Kongresu USA oficiálne zaregistrovaný Kongresový slovenský výbor. Informoval o tom nedávno Tlačový odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR.

Cieľom činnosti výboru je podporovať a posilňovať vzťahy medzi USA a SR a rozvíjať vzájomne prospešnú spoluprácu medzi oboma krajinami. Spolupredseda výboru sú kongresmani Peter Visclosky a Joe Wilson.

Kongresový slovenský výbor vzniká ako výsledok dlhodobého záujmu o posilnenie vzájomných vzťahov medzi Slovenskom a Spojenými štátmi aj na pôde Kongresu a slovensko-americkú reláciu obohatiť o ďalší efektívny nástroj dialógu a spolupráce. Kongresový slovenský výbor bude združovať členov Kongresu, ktorých so Slovenskom viaže úzky záujem a blízke vzťahy.

Mestá B. Bystrica a Charleston, WV podpísali zmluvu o partnerstve

Banská Bystrica (TASR) - Zmluvu o partnerstve medzi mestami Charleston, (West Virginia, USA) a Banská Bystrica podpísali 10. mája v meste pod Urpínom ich predstavitelia. V zastúpení primátora mesta Charleston Dannyho Jonesa prednosta úradu tohto mesta Charleston David Molgaard a za Banskú Bystricu jej primátor Ivan Saktor. „Oficiálna spolupráca medzi samosprávami týchto miest prináša obojstranný prospech. Ale najmä znamená novú úroveň vzťahov, ktoré sa môžu ďalej rozvíjať, napríklad v oblastiach vzdelávania, kultúry, zdravotníctva či podnikania,“ povedal krátko po podpise zmluvy Saktor.

Partneri v zmluve o partnerstve okrem iného deklarujú, že obe mestá budú formou rôznych stretnutí a programov vytvárať podmienky na zblížovanie národov. Štatutári samospráv sa budú vzájomne informovať o aktuálnom dianí, obe mestá budú podporovať spoluprácu v oblasti vzdelávania, kultúry a športu najmä prostredníctvom výmeny profesorov, študentov, lekárov, ale aj skupín športovcov, turistov a umeleckých súborov.

Americká delegácia pricestovala do Banskej Bystrice už v piatok 7. mája. Jej členovia navštívili Donovaly, Španiu Dolinu, Hronsek i kúpele Brusno. Za tým si prezreli banskobystrický historický Matejov dom a absolvovali stretnutie s predstaviteľmi miestnych neziskových organizácií. Súčasťou ich programu boli stretnutia s vedením Univerzity Mateja Bela, návšteva Fakultnej nemocnice F. D. Roosevelta a prehliadka Štátnej vedeckej knižnice.

Pre asi päťdesiatistisícové americké mesto Charleston je Banská Bystrica zatiaľ jediným partnerským mestom. Zástupcovia mesta pod Urpínom navštívili Charleston ešte v októbri minulého roka, kedy prednosta MsÚ Jaroslav Sihelský, prorektor UMB pre zahraničnú spoluprácu Ján Chorvát a podnikateľ Štefan Ševčík absolvovali sériu rozhovorov a stretnutí. Výsledkom ich pracovných rokovaní je aj aktuálna návšteva amerických partnerov v Banskej Bystrici a podpis spomínanej zmluvy.



Z otvorenia výstavy Ars Liturgica Slovenského národného múzea (SNM), ktorú sprístupnili pre verejnosť 14. mája 2010 v priestoroch Klenotnice na Bratislavskom hrade.

A special exhibit of religious art was opened on May 14, 2010 in the Bratislava Castle. The exhibit, Ars Liturgica features religious monstrances, chalices and other religious objects from the Slovak National Museum collection.

FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer