



Jednota

THE UNION

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

Thank you for keeping the tradition alive.

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

Joe Mitrik Celebrates 40 Years with the FCSU

FCSU Senior Accountant Joe Mitrik achieved a milestone this past April, when he celebrated his 40th year of employment.

Joe was born and raised in Greensburg, PA, and grew up attending FCSU functions – going to conventions and membership meets with his parents, John and Anna Mitrik. John immigrated to the United States from Margecany, Slovakia, a village northwest of Kosice, and served as the Financial Secretary for Branch 512 for many years. Joe assisted as a Junior Branch Elder for a number of years, as well.

After obtaining a degree in Financial Administration from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA, Joe was hired by (then) FCSU Executive Secretary Stephen F. Ungvarsky and moved to Cleveland to take the job at the FCSU Home Office, where he has been a key component of the Accounting Department ever since. Joe and his wife Linda reside in the Cleveland area with their son, Christopher.

The FCSU Officers and Members of the Board of Directors extend their most sincere congratulations to Joe on this milestone anniversary, and thank him for his 40 years of excellent service to the Society.

Congratulations Joe!



(L - R) National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt flank Joseph F. Mitrik after presenting him with an engraved Pieta commemorating his 40th anniversary with the FCSU.

ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS: FCSU SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MAY 15th

\$1000 toward your education may be yours – plus an additional \$3,000 in life insurance – if you are a member of the FCSU who is graduating high school and planning for college. May 15, 2015 is your last chance to apply for an FCSU scholarship!

See page 7 for details.



The following events will be held in recognition of our Society's 125th Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of Fr. Furdek's passing:

- **Sunday, June 7, 2015:**
The Embassy Suites Hotel
Coraopolis, PA
[see page 15 for more]
- **Saturday, August 29, 2015**
Cleveland Downtown
Renaissance Hotel
Cleveland, OH
- **Sunday, October 25, 2015.**
St. Mary's Center, Scranton, PA.
[see page 15 for more]
- **Saturday, November 7, 2015**
Mgrs. Komar Hall
Linden, NJ

Stay tuned for more in upcoming issues of Jednota

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Happy Mother's Day!

8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.60%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.20%
6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA	3.10%

Apply for a minimum \$25,000 - 6 or 8 Year Annuity and upon issuance you will be entered into a drawing for an all inclusive

7 Day FCSU Southern Caribbean Cruise for TWO!

For more details see page 12

Also available:

Park 2	2.15%
Park Free Plus	1.90%



FCSU Financial-First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact your branch officer or the Home Office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131, 800.533.6682
www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com



Insights and Viewpoints



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

May 14, 2015 - Ascension of the Lord Mark 16: 15-20

The Church celebrates the Ascension today, marking the end of Jesus' earthly existence and the beginning of the mission of the Church. After his departure we are responsible to continue the work he inaugurated, and to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

This missionary command is not made only to the apostles themselves but to all of the Lord's disciples, and it is incumbent upon us as his modern-day followers to answer this charge energetically. Pope Francis warned in *Evangelii Gaudium* (no. 275) that a lack of deep spirituality can lead to pessimism and a decline in missionary zeal. We must therefore take up the cause of the gospel by forming a deeper personal relation with Jesus, being transformed spiritually by this intimate rapport so that in turn we can help to transform the world around us and inaugurate the Kingdom of God.

The importance of a personal encounter with Jesus is emphasized by St. Luke in the opening words of his gospel as well as in the Acts of the Apostles, which we hear from today. Luke himself certainly believed many things about Jesus and the salvation he won for us, yet he was not satisfied with merely knowing facts about Jesus, he wanted to know Jesus at the level of a personal relationship.

Luke seeks to share this personal engagement with Theophilus as he describes to his friend the impact of Jesus and the "good news" in his own life: we ought to imitate this kind of person-to-person "mission"! Just as Luke so painstakingly assembled the gospel that bears his name and the Acts of the Apostles which we hear today, so too every baptized believer in Jesus is called to play some role, whether private or public, lay or clerical, formal or informal, in promoting the good news of Christ in our world. And this must be a personal engagement, like that of Luke and Theophilus, because at the core of Christianity itself is a personal encounter.

At the same time that it is personal every authentic Christian relationship must remain ecclesial. Thus we should carefully note that the "powers" described in today's gospel, such as casting out evil spirits, speaking in tongues, handling serpents and drinking poison without harm, and healing the sick, are things that are subject to the judgment of the entire Church, just as the very presence of these verses in Mark's gospel was a collective and implicit judgment of the whole Church, guided by the Holy Spirit.

This simply means that no one should set himself or herself up as a "performer" of such powers and signs without standing in complete union with, and having the authorization of, the Church Catholic. The Church reserves special prayerful rites for the exorcism of evil spirits and to intercede for the renewed health of her sick members; these and the other practices mentioned in the gospel are things with which we must not trifle, for as we know all too well, "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread".

There are many people today, even in places long associated with Catholicism, who have effectively become post-Christian not so much on account of a conscious and deliberate

choice, but because they have never received the witness of a true disciple who has a living relationship with Jesus. As those who are commanded by the Lord to "Go into the whole..." we ought to be vigilant in deepening our personal relationship with Christ and in practicing the faith we profess, so that all whom we encounter will have a true opportunity to behold in us the "joy of the

May 17, 2015 – Seventh Sunday of Easter 1 John 4: 11 – 16 Gospel – John 17; 11B - 19

Two of the readings for this weekend are from St. John, one from his First Letter, and the second from His Gospel. John writes beautifully about the love of God, and this comes not merely from his understanding of the prophecies of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus, but also from his powerful experience of God's love. The lecturer who has not experienced it can say all the right words and use the correct terms, but his listeners will probably sense that it lacks experience and emotion.

John not only knew about God, he knew God and experienced Him in a very personal way. John's writings have the intellectual understanding, and the experience that bring his words to life, even two thousand years after they were written

The selection from the First Letter of John is brief, only five verses. It begins by reminding us that we are loved by God and quickly makes the connection, that for the follower of Jesus being loved by God involves our loving one another. When we accept the pure, nonjudgmental, unconditional love God has for us and strive to extend that to others, then the world sees God's presence in us. John goes to emphasize the importance of our loving one another as the means of God remaining in us and of his love being perfected in us. Our passage then ends with the simple and beautiful verse, "God is Love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him." 1 Jn 4 : 16

In this brief passage on love John also gives a description of the Trinity. He speaks of God's love and how we are blessed by the Father, Son and Spirit. Their love is the perfect love of the Trinity that is God's love and embraces us and blesses us in different ways. The power of God's love is the power to transform, strengthen and empower us to become more faithful followers of Christ, and stronger witnesses in the love that we have for one another.

The Gospel is a selection from the Priestly Prayer of Jesus which is at the end of the Last Supper, just before Jesus leads the Apostles across the Kidron Valley where he is arrested. In the portion of the prayer we hear, Jesus does not mention the word "love." He talks to the Father about how he protected them, guarded them, and desires that they may share his joy completely. He asks the Father to consecrate them in truth and says, "I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth." The Church uses the word "consecrate" to describe the bread and wine becoming the body and Blood, soul and Divinity of Christ, during Mass. Jesus' prayer and desire that we be "consecrated in truth," is more than a nice sentiment, it is a prayer for a major transformation of Love. It is the Love that John writes of in the third Chapter of this Gospel where he says, "For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son." John 3; 16.

This is this love that we celebrate during the forty days of Lent and fifty days of Easter. Ninety days of remembering, reflecting on and celebrating the great love God has for us. If you feel left behind in experiencing and growing in this love, fear not, we still have seven days left of the Easter Season, and ultimately God's love cannot be confined to a particular time, but is an eternal offering to us. Open your hearts and receive God's love.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20	MONDAY, MAY 11
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10	MONDAY, JUNE 1
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15	MONDAY, JULY 6

Correspondents who are announcing events should allow ample time for them to be received by the readership, taking into account the publication schedule and the extra time in the postal system.

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Report of the National Vice-President

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

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



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Marketing

This past year the Membership and Marketing Committee...

- * Is continuing to add more agents – as of this date, we have 176 agents under contract. We are instituting a program to recruit new agents in the states we are newly licensed.
- * On February 22, 2014 – A sales seminar was held at Alliotto's Restaurant in Wausatosa, Wisconsin for Branch #89.
- * On March 23, 2014 – A sales seminar was held for the Rev. Stephen Furdek District (District #8) at St. Andrews Church Hall in Catasqua, PA.
- * On May 18, 2014 – A sales seminar was held for Districts #7 and 13 in Beaverdale, PA.
- * On May 22, 2014 – The committee attended the Bruce and Bruce Seminar in Pittsburgh. They supply us with information regarding pending state and NAIC regulations which may affect us.
- * In May – started 2 new marketing programs:
 - A.) "Final Expense Insurance" – It is coverage specific to the cost of the funeral.
 - B.) "Wealth Transfer – Wealth Management" – Through our single premium whole life policy the benefits avoid income tax * avoid probate * cash value growth.
- * Marketing thru Technology: Our email campaigns – increasing not only the number of people receiving them (an email database up 100% over 2013), but also more than doubling the standard rate at which people open the emails (our 44% vs the industry's 18%) we've increased new viewers coming to the website by 71% and we're prioritizing and leveraging the best social media tools such as Facebook.
- * Advertising the IRA and Roth products in our mailings, on the website and thru email.
- * On July 17, 2014 – An informational booth was set up for the 91st annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park near Pittsburgh.
- * On August 3, 2014 – An informational booth was set up at the seminary grounds in Wickliffe, Ohio. A record crowd of 40,000 people attended. It is sponsored by the Cleveland Diocese.
- * At all the festival booths – Information is provided on the FCSU and its insurance and annuity products. These booths are part of the on-going campaign to make the First Catholic Slovak Union more visible.
- * On August 31, 2014 – An informational booth was set up at the annual Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival held at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall in Parma, Ohio.
- * On September 28, 2014 – An informational booth was set up at the New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. The festival was held at the New Jersey Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey. The President of Slovakia, Andrej Kiska, and other dignitaries from Slovakia visited the FCSU booth.
- * Re-branded the FCSU trademark from FCSU Life to FCSU Financial. It will be used on all product literature and advertisements produced by the home office of the FCSU. Any other use of this trademark by any entity than the home office needs to be approved by the home office.
- * On October 26, 2014 – A sales seminar was held for the Msgr. Joseph Tiso District (District #11) at the Slovak Club in Ford City, PA.

Membership

As you will see by our annual statement, the First Catholic Slovak Union had another good year. Our assets grew by 10 million dollars and our surplus increased by 1.5 million dollars. We will go into all the annuities and insurance statistics when we get into our marketing report.

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

Congratulations to the society's TOP 10 Insurance/Annuity Proposers by Total Points for the year 2014.

1. Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
2. Michael Lako
3. James Marmol
4. Kenneth Arendt
5. Robert Kopco
6. Frances Tarquinio
7. John Bauer
8. Florence Matta
9. Kimberly Meeker
10. Carl Ungvarsky

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Insurance Sold for the year 2014.

1. Helena Gaydos
2. Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk
3. Alexander Fedoriouk
4. Dorothy Petrus
5. Joseph Rimarcik
6. Henrieta Daitova
7. John Bauer
8. James Marmol
9. Michael Lako
10. Frances Tarquinio

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Annuity/IRA/Park Money brought in for the year 2014.

1. Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
2. Kenneth Arendt
3. Kimberly Meeker
4. Robert Kopco
5. Florence Matta
6. Sabina Sabados
7. Geraldine Hricik
8. Ronald Anderson
9. Theresa Chupka
10. Thomas Kirby

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by the Number of Insurance Policies Sold for the year 2014.

1. Joseph Rimarcik
2. James Marmol
3. Vicki Lynn Schaub
4. Dorothy Petrus
5. Henrieta Daitova
6. Michael Lako
7. Joseph Jurasi
8. Frances Tarquinio
9. Dolores Marmol
10. Robert Kopco

To each and everyone who signed an insurance member and/or who sent in an Annuity/IRA/Park Money contract for the year 2014. My heartfelt thanks and congratulations for a Job Well Done!

Report of the National Treasurer Annual Board of Directors Meeting March 20-21, 2015

Reverend Nasta, President Rajac and fellow Board Members and national Officers:

I am pleased to report that all financials and other reports as required by the various states where the First Catholic Slovak Union is licensed to do business have been filed by March 1, 2015.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our past National Treasurer on the excellent job he performed well in office for the past 27 years serving our members and the fraternal. Brother Matta Sr's dedication and devotion were instrumental in placing the FSCU in the strong financial position it is today. I would personally like to thank him for his loyalty and serves to the First Catholic Slovak Union.



George F. Matta II

As 2014, came to a close, most surveys showed investors were in good spirits and with records being reached in the U.S. Indexes, their comfort was quite understandable. The question was will it continue in the New Year and will the Feds start making moves. So far the Federal Monetary policy does not seem to making any major policy changes even with a new Federal Reserve Chairperson and the normalization of its policies.

The Standard and Poor's closed the year with its sixth consecutive yearly gain on a total return basis. The Standard and Poor's 500 index closed the year at 2058.90. The S&P 500 rose 11.4 percent in 2014. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 7 percent and the NASDAQ composite rose 13 percent. Since 1875, we have never seen the S&P raise for seven calendar years in a row. Many investors believe the U.S. Economic recovery - one of the strongest in the world- will continue taking investors along for the ride in the coming year.

Energy stocks fell the most in 2014 as the price of oil collapsed. Oil fell 45 percent in 2014, its biggest yearly loss since 2008. International economies continue to struggle and are trying to stop the falling Euro and prevent certain foreign countries from going into bankruptcy. Oil continues to play a major factor in the falling Euro.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10 year Treasury edged down to 2.18 percent.

Report of the National Vice-President

continued from page 3

- * Still has the incentive plan started in 2013 to help our recommender become a licensed insurance agent in the state you reside in. The FCSU will pay ½ the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the school and fees. Depending on your productivity, the FCSU will pay for ½ of your license renewal. If interested, contact one of our in-house agents for a list of license schools in your state.
- * Set up an insurance meet – A 7-day Southern Caribbean Cruise on Carnival's Liberty Cruise Ship. See the March 4th issue of the Jednota for details.

Activities

Some of my activities in the year 2014 were: Attended all monthly Executive meetings as well as meetings called by the President. Letters concerning marketing/seminars were sent to the recommenders. I wrote articles pertaining to insurance and had them published in the Jednota. From April thru December, I send the "Top Guns" to the editor. Inform all Regional Directors of their districts insurance and annuity production. I attended various district meetings and/or social functions. I am a director in the Indiana Fraternal Alliance and attend all their meetings. Attend Bruce and Bruce Seminar in Pittsburgh. Attended the National Fraternal Alliance meeting. I attended seminars in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Set up booths at festivals. I also chair the Membership and Marketing Committee.

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

Until next time,
Good luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

The First Catholic Slovak Union's surplus increased almost \$1,468,071, or 6.5% in 2014. Our surplus stands at \$24,149,682 for 2014.

Surplus - 12/31/10	\$17,519,864.	Increase of	\$4,350,852
Surplus - 12/31/11	\$18,984,017	increase of	\$1,464,153
Surplus - 12/31/12	\$20,646,572	increase of	\$1,662,555
Surplus - 12/31/13.	\$22,681,611	increase of	\$2,035,039

The Society's portfolio is no longer purchasing CMO's (Collateralized Mortgage Obligations) and is now divesting them from the portfolio by pay downs and sales. FHLB has advised that it no longer is requiring only Federal Government issued securities, but that some municipal government securities are now acceptable for purposes of membership. The advantage is the municipals' interest rate is more favorable and are not as volatile as CMO's.

Annuity were lower in 2014 but still provide adequate funds for the continued growth of the Society.

ANNUITY ACTIVITY FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS.

Annuities Sold 2010 -	\$32,118,507		
Annuities Sold 2011 -	\$14,055,956	decrease of	\$18,062,551
Annuities Sold 2012 -	\$18,090,136	increase of	\$4,034,180
Annuities Sold 2013 -	\$20,701,238	increase of	\$2,611,102
Annuities Sold 2014 -	\$15,341,389	decrease of	\$5,359,839

The Society's investment portfolio continues to be well diversified with a slightly greater emphasis on longer maturities and with no investments on CMO's. Over the last two years the Society's portfolio has diverted from FNMA and FHLMC bonds to other securities such as municipal type bonds. Corporate bond issues have increased in number, providing some higher rates. The Society continues to utilize low interest funds that are available as a result of the Society's membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank. The Society's 2014 Investment Income results are stable. Net investment rate of return was 4.52%. Our net investment rate of return has the FSCU rated in the middle among Fraternal and Commercial insurers. The Societies average investment return for the past five years is 4.86%. Bonds make up 89.5% of the investment portfolio down (0.9%). Investment grade bonds are 98.4% (-1.3%) of bonds owned. No Society bonds are in the low or lower categories and only 1.6% are in NAIC Class 3. The diversification of security classes, although modest in some areas, help stabilize the investment portfolio. The Society had a +4.5% increase in assets.

Gains on the sale of bonds and common stocks were \$1,204,917, of which \$514,288 went into the Interest Maintenance Reserve, as required by regulations. These gains helped increase the IMR balance to \$646,989, which will be released in annual increments each year. In 2014, \$476,440 of prior years' bond/preferred stock profits were included as a part of income. This amount was released from the Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR). The IMR requires that most profits or losses realized when bonds or preferred stocks are matured, called, or sold, must be placed in this reserve and amortized to the original maturity date of the security. This requirement does not apply to bankrupt Bonds & Preferred Stocks. The Society primarily holds bonds for income and does not actively trade these securities. The current IMR schedule provides that past year's profits will be released to income for several years.

The Society purchased over \$61,000,000 of securities in 2014, while over \$53,500,000 of securities were matured, called or sold. The large volume of activity reflects the continuing large number of calls, especially government sponsored entities such as FNMA, FHLMC, and pay downs on GMNA's, etc. The challenge continues to find replacement bonds of equal value and the best interest rates available while maintaining quality. The Society also needs to maintain sufficient investment income to support the competitive interest rates on the Society's annuity products.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted

George F. Matta II
National Treasurer



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

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

2014 Annual Report of the National Chaplain

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

It is an honor to be your National Chaplain. I was happy to be present for and to participate in several events during 2014.

I attended all Board of Directors meetings either in person or by means of teleconference. Each session was opened and closed with prayer; Mass for the Board was offered at the March meeting, which was held in Philadelphia, PA. At the invitation of the National President, I also attended the monthly Executive Committee meeting held in March.

I participated in and was a lane sponsor for the annual Bowling Tournament which took place in April in Pittsburgh, PA. In July, I travelled to West Mifflin, PA, for the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association's Annual Slovak Day held at Kennywood Park and was concelebrant at the Mass. That weekend I went to Blairsville, PA, for the annual Golf Tournament, where I played and celebrated Mass for those who attended.

At the 50th Quadrennial convention held at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel in August in Philadelphia, PA, I prepared and coordinated all liturgical celebrations. I preached the homily at the Mass that took place at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul which opened the convention. I led a prayer at the convention whereby convention delegates remembered our dear members who died since the last convention. I also began and closed each convention session with prayer, served as spokesman for the convention's Resolution Committee, and swore in the newly elected officers just prior to the convention's adjournment. The convention delegates elected me for another term as national chaplain. At the Board of Director's meeting which followed the convention, I opened and closed the session with prayer.

As a member of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation, I attended both its Board meetings. The March meeting was in Wilkes-Barre, PA; the September meeting was in Youngstown, OH. During the September meeting I was elected First Vice President of the Federation. My primary responsibility with this new position is to coordinate the annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. This appeal raises funds to support the operating costs of the residence for priests from Slovakia pursuing post-graduate studies in Rome as well as benefit religious communities of men and women in Slovakia that have a counterpart in the United States represented on the Conference of Slovak Religious. I also attended the meeting of the Conference of Slovak Clergy in Youngstown.

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

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

Fraternally,



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Reverend Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

2014 Annual Report of Jednota Properties President

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, Members of the FCSU Board of Directors, Officers of Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc.,

After being elected as President and Property Manager of the Jednota Properties at the December 2014 Board Meeting my term began on January 1, 2015. I have made contact with the representative of the two tenants of Building No. 2. Steve Nease is our on-site property maintenance custodian with whom I've also made contact.

Mr. Senko, the treasurer of the Jednota Properties, had me contact PNC Bank to sign the signature cards to allow me to co-sign checks. Checks invoiced to February 14, 2015 have been signed by both Mr. Senko and myself and have been sent to the appropriate parties.

At this point in time, I have only been serving for a short two month time period and I am learning about the position and required duties. I have had great support from the other members of the Properties Board and the home office, including President Rajec.

Hopefully our memorial will be dedicated this year and I look forward to working with the other officers in regards to the property mapping and all associated appurtenances such as the right-of-ways and all mineral ownership of the property. Having worked in a civil engineering company for 10 years and currently working in a consulting engineering firm with access to a professional land surveyor, geologist and civil engineers, I believe that I can add constructive support in the decision making of the nearly 300 acres that is owned by our society.

I received an audit report dated January 31, 2015 prepared by Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP for the year ending on December 31, 2014. In that report, it mentioned that our long term debt (mortgage) is due in April 2015. It is anticipated that the mortgage will again be refinanced by the FCSU in the amount of \$1,131,143.30. Also, noted on page 10 of the audit, it states that the first lease expires December 31, 2015 and the second lease expires December 31, 2016. These issues will be followed and addressed during the course of the coming year.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at my home at 724-437-0892, on my cell at 724-970-7642 or send an email to "jrmarmol@verizon.net".

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Marmol
President and Property Manager
Jednota Properties, Inc.

2014 Annual Report of National Board of Auditors

The Board of Auditors consists of a Chairman and three Auditors elected by the Convention. This Audit Team conducted reviews of documentation and processes of the First Catholic Union for the period January 1 through December 31, 2014. These audits were performed in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, effective January 1, 2011.

THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THESE AUDITS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

- Review of expense vouchers.
 - Ensure expense reports
 - contain required and relevant documentation
 - calculations are correct
 - approvals are obtained
 - checks are properly issued and documented
- Test death claims processed.
 - Ensure death claims
 - contain required and relevant documentation
 - are processed correctly according to FCSU
 - checks are properly issued and documented
- Test bond interest income.
 - Ensure investment
 - contains adequate tracking procedures
 - calculations and posting of earnings are accurate
 - adhere to the FCSU investment policy guidelines
- Test certificate loans.
 - Ensure
 - loan does not exceed 80% of policy cash value
 - proper documentation present
 - policy holder informed when funds expire
- Test payroll.
 - Ensure payroll
 - procedures are in place and functioning properly
 - calculations of earnings, special payments, benefits, taxes, voluntary and involuntary deductions are accurate, complete and timely
 - transactions are accurately reflected in the accounting system
- Test branch stipend processing.
 - Ensure approved stipends
 - contain required and relevant documentation
 - Annual report
 - Financial report
 - verified to have had at least 2 published announcements including one for election of officers
 - submitted by February 15
 - showed evidence of appropriate new contract(s)
- Test annuities application process.
 - Ensure the annuity
 - application contains required documentation
 - recommender receives appropriate points
 - interest is calculated correctly according to the contract
- Credential Convention Delegates
 - Verify
 - branch qualifies to send delegates by receiving stipend 2 of 4 years
 - delegate is 18 years or older as of February 1 of the convention year
 - timely election of Delegates
 - home office receipt of application adheres to Bylaws
 - delegate member of society at least one year prior to Convention
- Review corporate credit card procedures
 - Verify proper internal controls are being utilized to ensure
 - relevant documentation present
 - approval follows designated
 - chain of authority mathematical calculations are correct

2014 Annual Report of Region 4 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors,

This past year I've attended all board meetings by personal attendance or teleconference including the March board meeting in Philadelphia, PA. The Executive Board Meeting was attended by teleconference held on April 11th, 2014 at the request of the president.

On March 9th, June 29th and October 19th, 2014, I attended the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District (#9) meetings. On April 26th, 2014, I attended the George Onda District (#3) meeting, May 4th, 2014, the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District (#12) meeting and on May 18th the Monsignor Martvon District (#7) meeting.

I attended the summer picnic on June 29th, 2014 sponsored by Branch 181 at Mamouth Park in Mamouth, Pennsylvania.

Over the past year I was present at one meeting of Branch 367 on March 18th, 2014, a meeting for Branch 181 on March 1st, 2014 and all four meetings of the St. Wendelin Branch 162 on March 16th, June 15th, Sept. 21st and Dec. 14th, 2014.

I was actively involved with the construction operations of the Middletown Memorial by transferring information, material samples and shop drawings to the home office and interacting with the local engineer and general contractor. I picked up and sent the LED light fixtures to the general contractor, Tom Stoner, on June 30th, 2014.

The national convention was held in August from the 21st to the 27th, 2014 and I was present for all duties and activities. On August 27th, I attended the Jednota, Inc. meeting where I served as Vice President.

During the month of November, 2014, I sent out over 600 letters to the members of Branch 162 to try and promote new membership and the products offered by the home office.

My wife, Patty, and I attended a Vilija Dinner on December 5th, 2014 in Fairchance, PA which was sponsored by the Ss. Cyril and Methodius R.C. Church Christian Mothers.

At the December board meeting I was elected to serve as President of the Jednota Properties Board and to act as the property manager for the estate in Middletown, PA. The position took effect on January 1st, 2015. I have contacted our tenants and on-site maintenance manager. I look forward to meeting everyone in person and hope to visit the property this March or April. In the future I look forward to working with the president and general counsel on establishing the mapping, right-of-way lines and location of utility transmission lines that transverse the society's property. Establishing the ownership of the gas and oil rights will also be a part of the property research.

Currently I am continuing to work with President Rajec on the final development and construction details of the new memorial. It is anticipated that the final setting of all the granite products and the bronze items should be completed in the second quarter of 2015 followed by a dedication ceremony. More information about supporting the project by purchasing walkway plaza bricks or memorializing various items are described in the Jednota newspaper. I certainly want to encourage everyone to help support the project by buying a brick or multiple bricks. This is a project that I was proud to work on since 2011 and know it will be one that will last many decades.

I responded in writing at the request of the president regarding a regional celebration for the 125th anniversary of the society.

It is reported with sadness that I attended the funeral home where our brother and former president, vice president and regional director, Regis Brekosky, was viewed. May God bless and watch over his wife, Barb, and family. At this point I'd like to thank all the other officers who have retired and directed our society on its current path and I look forward to meeting and working with the newly elected national treasurer and three regional directors.

Again I want to thank all fraternal members for their hospitality where both my wife and I were graciously welcomed at all meetings and events. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the various branch and district meetings and all activities at the national level. It truly is an honor to serve as your regional director. Thank you everyone for re-electing me as your Regional Director and I look forward to serving you over the next four years during my sophomore term. I am excited about working with our newly elected Board of Directors and continuing the financial success of our society for our members.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at my home at 724-437-0892, on my cell at 724-970-7642 or send an email to "jrmarmol@verizon.net".

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Marmol, Region 4 Director

2014 Annual Report of National Board of Auditors

continued from page 5

- Review Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada, effective January 1, 2011

- submit recommendations to bylaws committee prior to convention

METHODOLOGY

Audit procedure programs, written by the audit team, were used throughout the year to evaluate the key operations of the specific areas audited. Discussion with management and staff, observations, and analytical testing was performed.

OVERALL EVALUATION:

The Audit Team found no indication of irregularities in the documents and processes reviewed during this audit year. We observed that the Home Office operates effectively and within the high standards set for our organization.

RECOMMENDATION

The continuing challenge going forward into 2015 will be to maintain this standard of excellent performance.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Bardar (Quarters 1, 2 and 3)
Karen M. Hunka—Chairman
Raymond G. Lako
John J. Leskovyansky, Jr.
Leonard Zilko (Quarter 4)

2014 Annual Report of Region 6 Director

Rev. Nasta, Mr. President, Fellow Board Members:

Since our last annual board meeting, I have attended all required meetings, local, national and many other events ...

As always, I have our Society upper most in my mind and heart. While attending our last convention in Philadelphia, I was humiliated by not being given an opportunity to address the convention.

I will do my utmost to induce some rules and bylaws changes to allow each board member ample time to express themselves.

It took me a few years to implement the competitive bidding process on all contracts over \$2,000.00.

Historically, I have witnessed an accounting firm charging in excess of \$300,000.00 per year for accounting. After inducing competitive bidding these same services today are less than \$50,000.

I have been an advocate of partnering with professional financial advisors for many years going back to previous administrations.

Fortunately our current President, an attorney, did have the foresight to partner with a major financial advisor who has contributed greatly to our net worth, without depending on the advice of brokers and excessive brokerage charges.

I firmly believe that all our part time help should be paid on an "as needed" basis, instead of annual salaries, thus saving our Society hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps millions.

Brain surgeons are well worth \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 per hour; I do not believe that any of our part time employees are worth the excessive hourly compensation as voted by the convention. If the convention was aware of the hourly pay, I'm sure they would have voted differently.

I harbor no animosity towards any person, region, or families; again, I say "my heart and mind are in the best interest of our Society." I believe Father Furdek, our founder, would turn over in his grave if he was able to witness some of the internal events that take place due to convention rules.

I believe that our antiquated bylaws should be overhauled and brought up to date. Our Society and convention should be run like big business; every member of legal age should have a vote.

As a director, it is my moral obligation to express myself to the Board of Directors and also to the convention. I listen to all suggestions, but I am determined to judge for myself.

As always I am and have been in favor of merging without hurting our members and employees. The benefits of a merger would have many positive factors' the most positive would be the savings from eliminating the duplication of all operational expenses and services.

Respectfully,

Henry Hassay
Region 6 Director

2014 Annual Report of Region 7 Director

In February, I attended the blessing and dedication of the Bishop Andrew G. Grutka Center established at the Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, IN. The center covers many aspects of his life; established the diocese of Gary, IN, Council Father at Vatican II, worked for Slovak causes – especially the Institute of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, racial and union matters, and some important work with federal prison chaplains.

In July there was the Slovak picnic in Franklin, WI (just south of Milwaukee). After the outdoor Mass on a great sunny day, the Slovak Tatra Dancers performed in traditional Slovak costumes. They danced the traditional folk dances of the various regions of Slovakia while the audience applauded enthusiastically. Good food, great weather, and great entertainment made a perfect day.

In September I attended a Slovak Mass celebrated by Bishop Jozef Halko at St. Simon Church in Chicago. St. Simon is on the only Slovak church in Chicago. Bishop Halko brought a relic of St. Cyril to the church for veneration. Bishop Halko resides in Bratislava and is a church historian as well as a pastoral Bishop of Slovaks living abroad.

The highlight of the year for me was the Caribbean cruise sponsored by the FCSU. It's very comfortable to cruise with people that you know – especially Slovaks. The weather, food, and conversation were great. What's next?

Rudolph W. Bernath
Region 7 Director

2014 Annual Report of Region 8 Director

Mr. President, Executive Committee, and Fellow Board Members:

This is my report for the year 2014. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 8.

In 2014:

- I have performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.
- I have attended both the annual and semi-annual Board of Directors' meetings. Also, I took part in both quarterly teleconference meetings.
- I have also attended the local annual meetings of Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba District and Branch 785, as well as their semi-annual meetings.
- Personally, I have participated in fraternal activities of the Jednota by taking part in the International Bowling Tournament which was held in Pittsburgh, PA, on April 25 – 26, 2014.
- For our local fraternal activities, I assisted and participated in our annual summer Regional Picnic held in June 2014 in Mississauga, Ontario, which was well attended by our members.
- I participated in our 2nd Annual Joint Local Golf Tournament of Jednota and Catholic Sokol. This was held in September 2014 at Deerfield Golf Club. This event was well attended by both organizations.

- I assisted and enjoyed the Casino Rama bus trips, which were organized by Jednota Branch 785.
 - With the president of Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba District, we are presently working on organizing a boat cruise on Lake Ontario in celebration of Jednota's 125th Anniversary.
 - Also I attended funeral services of our deceased members in Mississauga, Ontario.
- Respectfully submitted,

Milos Mitro
Region 8 Director



Tee Time: Jednota International Golf Tournament July 18 - 19

Golf is one of the few sports that provides not just a chance to relax, but at the same time a chance to talk in a more relaxed atmosphere and enjoy each other's company. One of the highlights of the summer season is attending the Jednota International Golf Tournament, where you have the opportunity to engage in friendly competition with other Jednota members for a chance to win numerous prizes.

This year the tournament will be held Saturday, July 18th, and Sunday, July 19th, at the challenging and breathtaking Gold and Silver courses in Dubois, Pennsylvania.

The Silver and Gold courses are PGA rated and are located 1 mile off Interstate 80.

The 18-hole "Silver" course at Treasure Lake is more open and friendlier to the beginning golfer. There are 70 sand traps and water hazards on flat, wide open fairways. The greens are well-manicured. Designed by Tom Palumbo, the Silver golf course opened in 1983.

The Gold Course has been featured as one of the best and most affordable courses to play in Pennsylvania by Golfer's Digest. This course is very narrow and wooded making it ideal for the golfer who welcomes a challenge. There are 55 sand traps and hazards. This course was also designed by Tom Palumbo.

Friday evening golfers and guests are invited to attend the Hospitality room at the Hampton Inn, Saturday Evening the Social will be held at the Best Western Conference Center. There are a block of rooms reserved at both properties. When making reservations you must say you are with the "FCSU Golf Group". Deadline for reservations is June 17th, 2015.

If you would like to receive a registration form or more information you can send an e-mail to: rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com or call 412 421-7967.

Faternally,

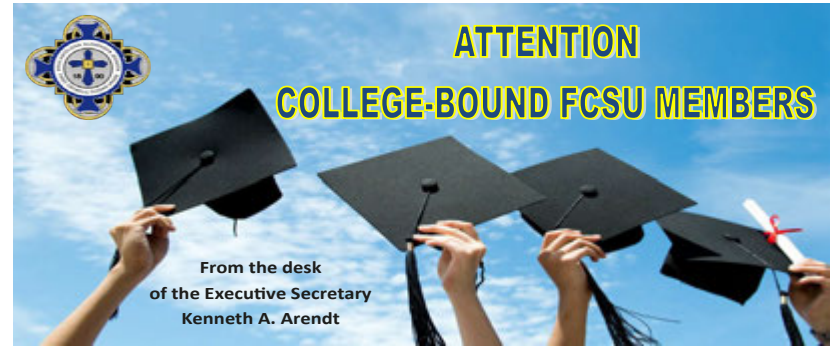
Rudy Ondrejco
National Fraternal Activities Director

March Meeting of the Frank T. Holly, Jr District



The Frank T. Holly Jr. District held a meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2015, at Meloni's Restaurant in Uniontown, PA. Attendees enjoyed an afternoon of fraternalism and friendship, along with a nice luncheon.

Elected officers sworn in during the March meeting by Audrey Balazik were (above, L - R) : Kathryn Baranek, Auditor; Dolores Marmol, Treasurer; James Marmol, President; Tom Kocis, Auditor; Barbara Holly, Secretary; and Geraldine Buchheit, Vice President.



THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS STILL ACCEPTING 2015 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of \$1000.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

For rules, requirements and applications go to
www.fcsu.com/scholarships
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

SPECIAL ONE-TIME DEADLINE EXTENSION:
Applications must be postmarked by midnight, May 15, 2015

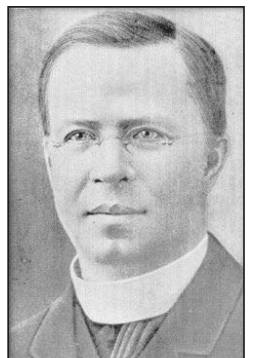
The FCSU Celebration Series

Editor's note: As this year marks the 100th Anniversary of Fr. Furdek's passing on 1915, it seems only appropriate that we rerun the following article from the Jednota archives about the 100th Anniversary of his birth in 1855. Celebrations in honor of our founder are planned throughout the year. Keep reading Jednota for details.

1955 - A Furdek Year

The year 1955 marked the 100th anniversary of Father Stefan Furdek's birth. It was to be a special year both for the Jednota Society and for all of Slovak America.

By 1955 Father Furdek had probably become more famous than he was in his lifetime, regarded not only as the founder of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Slovak League of America, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, but also as the "apostle of Unity of Slovak-Americans," as he was called in Jednota, and the "Father of Slovak-Americans." He was compared to or placed in the same class as other famous Slovak priests such as Reverend Andrej Radlinsky and Msgr. Andrej Hlinka. He was viewed by many as the greatest Slovak-American, the George Washington of the Slovak-American community.



Furdek was honored in many ways since his death in 1915. There have been monuments built in his honor, articles written about him, and frequent references to his ideas and goals since 1915. In 1949 and again in 1950, the month of January was designated by Jednota as "Furdek Month," and in 1952 there was a special Furdek Day in Cleveland sponsored by the Furdek District in that city.

In 1954, in anticipation of the centennial year, a Furdek Centennial Essay Contest was announced, offering cash prizes of \$100 and \$50. It was open to any high school student who wrote an essay on the famous priest and submitted with at least one membership application to Jednota.

Philip Hrobak, editor of Jednota at that time, advocated the formation of a stipend of at least \$500 scholarship in memory of Furdek for those students who pursued studies in the Slovak language or Slovak history. Hrobak wrote that the first and most serious part of Furdek's message was to "preserve the Slovak language." This stipend, he believed, would be a way to honor Furdek and "to fulfill his message....This is our obligation."

The 1955 Kalendar Jednota was devoted to Father Furdek and his work. Jozef Pauco, then editor of Slovak v Amerike, published a study of Furdek and his writings in the same year, entitled, Stefan a slovenske Pristahovalectvo (Stefan Furdek and Slovak Immigration).

The official Furdek Centennial Celebration took place during Labor Day weekend in September 1955, in Cleveland. On September 4, a crowd of nearly 1,000 participated in a memorial service at Furdek's grave. On the following day over 10,000 people attended a special Mass in the Cleveland Public Auditorium celebrated by Archbishop Edward E. Hoban. Following the Mass there was a banquet at the Hotel Cleveland at which 1,800 guests took part. It was all a fitting tribute to the father of Slovak Americans.

Stephen Palickar, the noted publicist, once wrote that important Slovaks in America become great only posthumously. In the case of Father Furdek, this was not completely true. He was already recognized as a great leader prior to his death, but after 1915 his reputation grew. It is clear, too, that he will be revered for as long as there is a Slovak American community

Mother's Day for Slovaks - Deň matiek pre Slovákov

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

In two of my previous articles on the subject of Mother's Day, I have detailed how Slovaks and Slovak-Americans have shown a special devotion to their moms Slovaks say Deň matiek, literally meaning the Day of Mothers, in the plural (pronounced Dyen maw-tyek). Slovaks have such public and demonstrable love for their mothers, that they write poems about them and sing songs about them.

Mothers' Day Historically

The concept of Mother's Day originated in the United States, when Julia Ward Howe proclaimed Mother's Day in 1870. It did not become an official holiday until the presidency of Woodrow Wilson. That means that Slovak-Americans started celebrating Mother's Day before it took hold in Slovakia. During World War I, mothers played a key role in sewing clothing and send supplies to those Slovak and Czech soldiers, including their own sons, who fought in the Czecho-Slovak Legion, so that their country might be free of the yoke of Austro-Hungarian rule.

After World War I, many other countries around the world started observing the holiday, including the newly independent Czechoslovakia. There Deň matiek observances began in 1923, mainly due to the efforts of Alice Garrigue Masaryk, the American wife of President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the founder of the Czecho-Slovak state in 1918.

Following World War I, the communists erased Mothers' Day from the calendar and imitated the Soviet Union by replacing it with International Women's Day (Medzinárodný deň žien) on March 8. After the overthrow of communism in 1989, the holiday returned; once independent in 1993, Slovakia started celebrating Deň matiek on the same day as other free countries.

Mothers' Day today in Slovakia

Today in Slovakia, children play a leading role in preparing for Deň matiek. In school, they make drawings, cut out hearts, write poems, or create some other little gift for their moms. Nothing touches a mom more than something a child has made himself or herself. In the above photo, one will find several examples of some of the cut-outs which Slovak children made for their moms.

For Mothers' Day, the Union of Mothers' Centers (Únia materských centier) organizes an event known as "Míľa pre mamu" (A Mile for Mom). A favorite of young and old alike, the ceremony occurs in several towns and villages on the Saturday before Mothers' Day. By walking a symbolic mile, each participant pays tribute and honor to their moms, grandmas, and foster moms (mamám, starým mamám i náhradným mamám).

On Mothers' Day itself, mothers are supposed to relax more and not get stressed out. Slovaks today tell moms this: užite si tento deň! Deň matiek - čas nechať sa rozmaznávať (Enjoy yourself this day! Mothers' Day is a time to indulge yourself.) For Slovak moms, nothing is better than quality time with their children, whom they love so dearly. Some take a day trip, picnic, attend a public event, or go out to eat dinner. The important thing is that the family does something together, because Slovak moms revel in their families.

Many towns and villages also sponsor various events such as concerts and cultural programs. For instance, children often take the stage to thank their moms (mamičky). Some will recite poems to their moms which they might have composed in school, or sing songs to their moms. This link shows a group of grade school pupils, called a "Class of Squirrels and Bees" (Trieda Veveričky & Včielky), who recite poems and sing some of these Mother's Day songs: <https://http://tinyurl.com/nrajdf3>. Another is at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/nf3rooq>.

One may find many other such links by doing a Google search and entering the following: Deň matiek youtube.

Here are a few examples of poems which children have written, with translations.

"Tebe mamička" - To you mommy

Za Tvoju nehu mamička,	- For your tenderness, mommy,
za Tvoju veľkú lásku,	- for your great love,
za starosť, bozky na líčka,	- for your care, kisses on the cheeks,
za každú pribudnutú vrásku,	- for every growing wrinkle,
na Tvojej tvári, na dlaniach,	- on your face, on your palms,
čo zrobené sú celé,	- which are made whole,
nech táto malá básnička,	- may this short poem,
tlmočí vďaka tisíceré.	- convey a thousand thank yous,

Here is another child's poem.

Kvety pre mamu - Flowers for Mom

Všetky kvety do rúk mamy,	- All flowers into mom's hands,
skladám ako drahokamy.	- I will put together like gems.
Za jej lásku, plnú nehy,	- For her love, full of tenderness,
za zelené detské brehy.	- for the green hills of childhood
Za jej štedrosť, starosť v hlave,	- For her generosity, her constant caring,
za dni šťastné, za dni hravé,	- for happy days, for playful days,
za rozprávky nad kolískou,	- for fairy tales at the cradle,
za to, že vždy stojí blízko.	- for that, that she always stands nearby.

Mamička, prajem Ti všetko najlepšie ku Dňu matiek.

Mommy, I wish you a happy Mother's Day.

But the dedication to Mothers is hardly something just for children. The Slovak poet laureate, the late Milan Rúfus, wrote a beautiful poem for mothers.

"Pane, ktorý si na nebi,
zachovaj všetkým deťom mamy.
Nech ako cesto na chlebič
im rastú v teple pod rukami.
Zachovaj nám oboch rodičov,
veď dve ruky od Teba máme.
Dve rúčky deťom stvoril Boh:
Pre ocka jednu, druhú mame."

Translation

Lord, who art in heaven,
protect all mom's children.
Let it be as dough is to bread
they grow in the warmth under His hands.
Watch over both our parents,
After all, we have two hands from you.
God created two hands for children:
One for Dad, the second for mom.



Three hearts for Mommy.

Thus Slovaks in Slovakia have turned Mother's Day into more of a public celebration than is the tradition here in the USA, where Slovak-Americans more often just gather with their families. Whether the tradition of public events dates from the 1920s or from just after the 1989 Revolution is a subject of further research.

In combing through old Jednota Annuals from the 1920s and the 1930s, I did not notice any particular celebrations associated with Mother's Day among Slovak Americans or in Slovakia. Regardless, Slovak moms in America and in Slovakia were given special adulation on that day since the 1920s.

The Kalendar Jednota from 1936 published a poem "Mamičke" to mothers by Ludo Hadri-Luboslav, which very much shows the sentiments of Slovaks towards their moms. It conveys the idea that a mom is the first one whom someone meets in this world, depends upon for nourishment, whose support helps one get through the challenges of life, and who dreams about her dear children.

Mamičke - To Mom

Hľa, syn tvoj, matka zružovely,
hľadá ťa všade, hľadá, hľadá,
veď prišiel na svet osamelý
na svete prvú teba badá
a teba volá, ak vie volať
a v tebe celú lásku skladá,
keď teba volá, teba hľadá.

Behold your son, rose-colored mother,
he looks for you everywhere, look for you, looks for you,
after all, he came into the world alone
and he first observes you in the world
and calls you if he can call
and in you is manifested total love,
when he calls, he is looking for you.

Mamička moj, drahá mamka,
ja syn tvoj malý, nemý volám,
pod' oriaď že ma a daj papu,
bo, ver! ja slabý kedy zdolám
sa z vlastnej páste živiť a rásť,
preto ja teba mamko volám
prekážky tie nech všetky zdolám.

My mommy, dear mom,
I am your little son, I call you tenderly,
come, guide me and give me nourishment,
Woe, indeed! I am weak when I am overcome
and cannot grow and nurture myself from my own hand.
so I call on you, Mom
To get through all those hurdles.

Mamička moja, mamka zlatá,
vzpomeň si na mňa - vzpomem si vždycky -
vzpomienka táto bude svätá
a o mne snívaj sladké sničky...
Hoc som len malý, maľučičky.
Len o mne maj, len o mne sničky --
Ó, mamko moja, mamko zlatá.

My mom, golden mom,
Remember me - always remember -
This shall be a holy memory
Dream a sweet little dream about me ...
Though I am only little, very little.
Have them only about me, little dreams only about me -
Oh, my mom, my golden mom.

The verse is especially touching personally, and I think about my own Slovak mother who passed away 15 years ago.

Nech Pán Boh žehna a ochraňuje naše milé mamičky. May the Lord God bless and protect our dear moms!

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Chewy on Mother's Day



Hi Kids (And All Those Young at Heart).

Well, Mother's Day is almost upon us once more, so I looked up my research from last year on this special holiday. Check out these fun facts and hug your own mom, if you're still lucky enough to have her ... I know I sure miss my own dear mamička and think of her every day.

Until next time, keep your ears up and your tail waggin'.



6 Facts about Mamička's Special Day:



1. The first Mother's Day was celebrated in 1908. Anna Jarvis honored her mother Ann Jarvis with a memorial.
2. Mother's Day became a recognized holiday in 1914 in the United States.
3. In most countries and languages, the word for mother begins with 'm'. Hey, we Slovaks and Slovak-Americans all know "Mamicka" -- am I right?
4. The most common flower for Mother's Day is the carnation; pink and red for mothers who are alive and white for those who have passed away.
5. A legend states that carnations were made from the tears of Jesus' mother when she wept at his feet when he was crucified.
6. Mother's Day is celebrated in close to 50 countries in different parts of the world.



Branch 764's Recent Luncheon

Branch 764 of Warren, OH, hosted a lunch at St. Mary/St Joseph in Newton Falls, OH recently. Jednota members as well as members of surrounding parishes attended this wonderful lunch. We had a great turnout! Many in attendance had inquiries about FCSU's products.

Officers in attendance were: Bill Hrusovsky, President; Fred Brunetti, Vice-President, George Yuricek, Treasurer, and Joy Brunetti, Secretary.

- Submitted by Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

Michael J. Krajsa receives Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching



Branch 419's Michael J. Krajsa, instructor in marketing and management at Penn State Lehigh Valley, received the 2015 George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, during a luncheon at University Park, PA. He was one of six Penn State faculty members to receive this award. The award is named after Penn State's seventh president, and honors excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level.

"Michael is a remarkable person, exceptional teacher, outstanding colleague, and impressive proponent of all the best in Penn State's undergraduate mission," said Kenneth Thigpen, director of academic affairs at Penn State Lehigh Valley. "He works extremely hard and yet is easily available to students as teacher, mentor, and adviser. He is a successful advocate for all the modern literacies that we value at Penn State."

Krajsa is currently in his 13th year of teaching and his seventh year at Penn State Lehigh Valley. He also is a partner in HALCYON Strategic Marketing Consulting. Most recently before joining Penn State Lehigh Valley, Krajsa was Founding Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the Kutztown University Innovation Center. He brought this rich experience to Penn State, where he has continued to foster an entrepreneurial environment for our students. His passion for community development was indicated early on in his career, back in 1980, when he ran for a U.S. Congressional seat. He also had a distinguished career as a business professional and publisher of a regional magazine and a national cultural magazine. Krajsa received his M.A.'s in planning, public administration, and business from Penn State University. He also received his B.S. in biology, from The Catholic University of America.

Colleagues say Krajsa is a "passionate" educator who motivates his students to engage life and become global citizens. He credits his educational accomplishments as the result of a team of administrators, faculty, staff and business colleagues working to provide an environment where "innovative and experiential programs" can develop and grow. Krajsa replaces the traditional "three R's of education" with rigor, relevance, and relationships.

In 2005, The Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) awarded Krajsa the Teaching Excellence Award for Region 2. Out of seven regional awardees, ACBSP then selected him as The 2005 International Winner for Teaching Excellence; Innovation, Creativity, Community Involvement.

Slovak Picnic in June



Sponsored by the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

Sunday, June 28, 2015

Noon until 8PM

American Slovak Sokol Camp

2069 Royalwood Road

Broadview Heights, OH

Featuring: Plenty of Slovak Food & Pastries

Music: by Anthony Culkar Band

Admission at gate: \$4.00

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@fcsu.com.



Book Corner

One Thousand And Twenty Years Of Young Slovakia

"ONE THOUSAND AND TWENTY YEARS OF YOUNG SLOVAKIA" with the subtitle **"The first complete book about the Slovak Republic"** is included among the collection of rigorously selected books in the largest and most prestigious library in the world - the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

The Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic contributed to its contents which includes chapters: History, Regions, Microregions, Nature, Society, Culture, Traditions, Curiosities, and Famous People.

On sale only in Slovakia, the book can be ordered by emailing the publisher at: kutalek@centrum.sk

Or by writing to:

Dušan Kutálek
M.R. Štefánika 936/50
907 01 Myjava
Slovak republic

ISBN: 978-80-901403-4-9
Number of pages: 768
Number of illustrations: 1334
Hardcover
Format: 176x250 mm
Weight: 1550 g
Paper: high gloss

Price: € 49 + shipping.
Pay on delivery.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Dr. IVAN KLČ studied journalism and earned a doctorate of philosophy at the Comenius University in Bratislava. He was awarded the Czecho-Slovak Journalist Prize for a series on the humanistic principles of the Olympic Games. He worked as a sport editor, the Editor-in-Chief and publisher of the weekly newspaper "Roľnícke novinky". In Toronto he founded and led the newspaper "Slovak Week". During his journalism career, he published more than 11,000 articles, published and edited 10 books.

Dr. DANICA FILOVÁ studied the history of art and received a doctorate of philosophy at the Comenius University in Bratislava. She worked as a reporter at the Slovak Radio and the Slovak Television, as a spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. As a television reporter she offered to viewers the first visit of the first Slovak president Michal Kováč in the White House at the invitation of U.S. President Bill Clinton (1994).

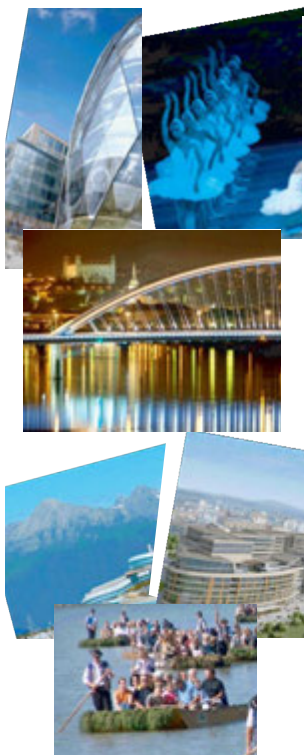
MARIÁN PETRIČKO worked as a member of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic. As a native from Eastern Slovakia he is particularly interested about the history, cultural heritage, life and co-existence of the ethnic minorities in Eastern Slovakia. He worked as the editor and co-author of the book "My, Východniari" (We, the people from Eastern Slovakia).

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

Doc. PhDr. JÁN SAND, PhD.

He studied journalism at the Comenius University in Bratislava. In 1971 he became assistant at the department. He obtained a scientific degree (Ph.D.) in 1981, and acquired an academic title that same year. He became an associate professor in 1985. From 1985 to 1990, he led the Department of Radio and Television Journalism at the Faculty of Philosophy. He was a member of the Council of the Slovak Republic for Radio and Television Broadcasting (1992 – 1994), a member of the Broadcasting Council (1998 – 2002), a member of the Slovak section in the Commission for Social Sciences of UNESCO (1994 – 1998). He participates in the work at the EU institution EJTA in Maastricht. He collaborates with the French Institute in Bratislava and organizes the Summer School of Journalism for countrymen.

On January 2013 received the highest professional awards of the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists Mercurius Veridicus ex Slovakia, a lifetime achievement award. Dr.Ivan Klč, the Editor-in-Chief of this book, was his student.



Branch 382's John J. Slovenkai Recognized for School Entry

John J. Slovenkai, Jr. was recently recognized by the Frances Willard Elementary School PTA for his entry in the National PTA Reflections Program. John's essay was among several school-wide entries judged. He was awarded a certificate of participation and a trophy for his winning essay. The young essayist wrote about environmental conservation as his response to the theme -- "The world would be a better place if ...". John is a fifth-grade student at Willard School in Scranton, PA, and is a member of Branch 382 K. John proudly shows off his awards following the presentation. Standing with him are Ms. Meg Duffy, school principal, and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., proud father.

Elizabeth Slovenkai, Branch 382 Vice President

Slovak – American Cultural Center



You are cordially invited to the

slovak children's folklore show

Sunday, May 17th 2015, 1pm

St. John Nepomucene Church Hall

411 E 66th Street, NYC

Program:

Andrew Pulver – opera singer, NJ

LIMBORÁČIK, NY

DOMOVINKA, Clifton, NJ

SLNOVRÁTOK, Hillsborough, NJ

St. John Nepomucene Slovak School, NY

St. Michal Church Slovak Community, Trenton, NJ

LIPKA – Slovak Children's Center, Linden, NJ

HLAS accompanied by Pajtaši, NY

Entertainment by Slovak folk music PAJTAŠI, NY

Entrance fee: \$5 Adults; children and youth up to 16 years of age free
Slovak lunch will be available for purchase from 12 pm

For more info: www.SlovakAmericanCC.org

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

THINK ABOUT IT!



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2015, in observance of Memorial Day.



Is your FCSU profile up to date?

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at: 1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

ATTENTION BRANCH 40 YOUTH MEMBERS:

You May Be Eligible To Win A Scholarship If:



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

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

These scholarships are solely funded by your local lodge (Branch #40), not the national office.

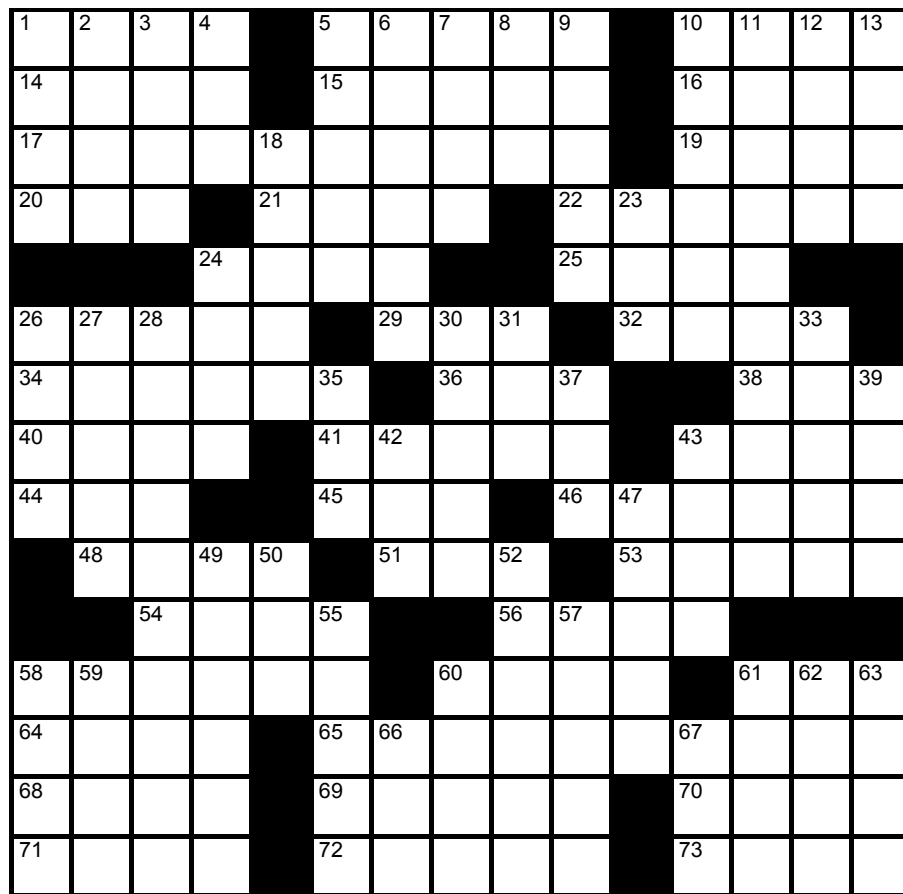
For more criteria and an application, please call Theresa at (815) 672-6142 (leave message) or e-mail her at ttegraves@mchsi.com for an application.

Applications must be postmarked by **June 5, 2015**.

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2015

Publication Date	Deadline to Receive Materials
May 20	May 11
June 10	June 1
July 15	July 6
August 12	August 3
Sept 9	August 31
Sept 23	Sept 14
October 7	Sept 28
October 21	October 12
November 4	October 26
November 18	November 9
December 9	November 30

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Ship's front
- 5 More cunning
- 10 Jane Austen novel
- 14 Ready for picking
- 15 Pooh's creator
- 16 Lion's den
- 17 Polar ship
- 19 Italian wine center
- 20 Checkers, e.g.
- 21 Priests' vestments
- 22 Connected
- 24 Fish respiratory organ
- 25 Supreme Court count
- 26 Espresso shops
- 29 Dwindle
- 32 Salon offering
- 34 Bored out
- 36 Lubricate
- 38 Dupin's creator
- 40 Rainbow goddess
- 41 Lyric poem
- 43 State of uncertainty
- 44 Tire filler
- 45 Cyst
- 46 Inclined
- 48 Checked out
- 51 Tie the knot
- 53 Collapsible shelters
- 54 Weekday (Abbr.)
- 56 Lamb alias
- 58 Possibility
- 60 Spinnaker, e.g.
- 61 Fancy scarf
- 64 Corker
- 65 Crimes
- 68 Oscar winner Guinness
- 69 Church official
- 70 Rodents

Down

- 1 Proper's mate
- 2 Asian staple
- 3 Store sign
- 4 Fly catcher
- 5 Common sense?
- 6 Civil court verdict
- 7 Classes
- 8 Compass pt.
- 9 Summer TV offering
- 10 *Seinfeld* role
- 11 Long-term program, like zoning
- 12 Minute arachnid
- 13 Parched
- 18 Poker ploy
- 23 Small bite
- 24 Precious stones
- 26 Alpaca young
- 27 Eagle's nest
- 28 Brothers Grimm output
- 30 Frontiersman
- 31 Auction action
- 33 Riding horse
- 35 Condensation
- 37 Grassland
- 71 Dry stream bed
- 72 Brings up
- 73 Entreaty
- 39 Phone no. abbrs.
- 42 Nave bench
- 43 Dog pest
- 47 Long-legged wader
- 49 Harem protector
- 50 Holiday mo.
- 52 Trader
- 55 Cut off
- 57 Deceivers
- 58 Pincer
- 59 Maui dance
- 60 Soft drink
- 61 Recipe direction
- 62 Previously
- 63 On the ocean
- 66 ___ de France
- 67 Rascal

See Solution on Page 19



WIN AN FCSU CRUISE OR OTHER GREAT PRIZES!

Thinking about securing your financial future? Act now!

Apply for a minimum \$25,000 - 6 or 8 Year Annuity or minimum \$10,000 Single Premium Whole Life Policy and upon issuance you will be entered into a drawing for

3 TOP PRIZES!

GRAND Prize: AN ALL INCLUSIVE 7 DAY FCSU SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE FOR TWO

First Prize: \$500

Second Prize: \$250

Begins March 1, 2015 and applications must be postmarked by August 31, 2015. Winners will be notified in September.

7 Day Southern Caribbean

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
Sun	San Juan		10:00 p.m.
Mon	St. Thomas	7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Tue	"Fun Day" at Sea		
Wed	Barbados	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Thu	St. Lucia	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Fri	St. Kitts	8:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sat	St. Maarten	7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Sun	San Juan	7:00 a.m.	

Departure Dates

Your departure date:
November 15, 2015

Itineraries are subject to change; port, sequence and scheduled times, and/or day. For the most updated cruise information, please contact your Travel Professional.

For more info contact:
Andy: 800.533.6682 ext. 112
Bob: 800.533.6682 ext. 116





WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS NOVEMBER?

Rainforests, crystal-clear waters, seaside villages and white-sand beaches are a few of the exotic treasures you'll experience on a Carnival Southern Caribbean cruise where the bounty of activities - including swimming, snorkeling, hiking, shopping and sightseeing - ensure that there's something to suit every taste. Come see for yourself. Book your Carnival Southern Caribbean cruise vacation today.

7 Day Southern Caribbean

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
Sun	San Juan		10:00 p.m.
Mon	St. Thomas	7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Tue	"Fun Day" at Sea		
Wed	Barbados	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Thu	St. Lucia	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Fri	St. Kitts	8:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Sat	St. Maarten	7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
Sun	San Juan	7:00 a.m.	

Departure Dates

Your departure date:

November 15, 2015

Itineraries are subject to change; port, sequence and scheduled times, and/or day. For the most updated cruise information, please contact your Travel Professional.

FOR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS CALL PAUL at:

Adventure International Travel Service, Inc.

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JOIN US FOR THE FCSU MEMBERSHIP MEET

NOVEMBER 15-22, 2015
on Carnival's Liberty Cruise Ship

Space is limited in each category, make your reservation NOW!
Price includes: cruise, meals, airport transfers, gratuity & FCSU extras!

\$250 deposit per person, due before May 15, 2015
Final payment due by August 1, 2015



Interested in this cruise? You could win it!
See page 12 of this issue for details ...

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The Sts. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 1:00PM at the home of our President Delores Genosky, 1001 – 42 ½ Ave., NE, Columbia Hts., MN, 55421.

On the agenda is our summer fraternal activity, and the volunteers needed.

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, invites all Branch 10 members, and their families, to attend the annual Communion Mass and Breakfast on Sunday, June 28, 2015. The 8 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant, will be celebrated for all living and deceased members of Branch 10, FCSU. Immediately following the Mass, a complimentary breakfast for members and their families will be held at the Regal Room, 212-218 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant, PA. Reservations are requested, and may be made by phoning (570) 587-2175 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. no later than Friday, June 12, 2015.

**William A. Nalevanko,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

On June 28, 2015 at 2:00pm Branch 23 will hold a meeting at Resurrection Hall R.C. at the corner of 6th Ave. and Chestnut St. (formerly St. Rochus Church Basement), Johnstown, PA.

Editor's note: please see a special invitation to this meeting from the FCSU National President on this same page.

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

We encourage you to attend two upcoming summer events. The Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will hold their annual picnic on Sunday, June 28th; The American Slovak Zemplin Club's picnic is on Sunday, July 19th. Both are at The American Slovak Sokol Camp, 2096 Royalwood Rd. in Broadview Hts, OH, from 12 to 8 PM.

Join your Jednota Branch 24 members and friends for delicious Slovak food, refreshments, music and dancing. Please help support our fine Slovak organizations.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 38 – DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity FCSU Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at the Eat N Park Restaurant, at the Waterfront, Homestead, PA, at 7:00PM.

Discussions will be held for the 2015 planned activities for the 125-year anniversary. Branch 38 business will be discussed at this meeting. We urge all members to attend.

If anyone is interested in FCSU annuities or life insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, May 17, 2015 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00

p.m. On the agenda will be Officers' reports, and discussion of events for the upcoming year. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society Branch 85K will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church St., Jessup, PA.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Bernard Skovira

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOEY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112, will host a meeting and family day at the park on Saturday, June 13 at noon at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, PA. Please call Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 for details.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 153 will have its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2015. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am at the Chambers Restaurant, 6881 North Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL. There will be a luncheon after the meeting with no charge for branch members. All members are invited to share in fraternalism.

Please call me, if you plan to attend. (773) 763-0810.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold a meeting on May 21, 2015, at Geanhilli's, Rt. 30, Greensburg, PA, 15601. The meeting will start at 6:00PM. On the agenda: appoint committee members their duties for the picnic; picnic committee members to plan annual family picnic to be held June 28, 2015.

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch #276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 17 at 1:00 P.M. at St. Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. All members are urged to attend.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 21, 2015. The meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA, 15963 at 12:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in conjunction with our annual celebration of the feast of our patron, St. John the Baptist. A Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Windber, PA, that morning. All members are invited to attend both events. A dinner will be served.

Edward T. Surkosky, FIC, President

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Monday, June 22, 2015, at 6PM at the home of the Financial Secretary. Anyone needing more insurance or services should call 570-645-4872 and your call will be returned as soon

as possible.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 1:00PM at New City Buffet, 5142 State Route 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA, 15601. All members are invited. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

The following events are scheduled:

May 31st: Branch 553 quarterly meeting at 2 pm, the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. All members are encouraged to attend.

June 7th: Okres District 10 meeting at the Slovak J Club. All district members are invited to attend.

Please notify Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or via email at lhanko@neo.rr.com if you are planning on attending. We need a head count for refreshments.

June 10th: Bus Trip to the Meadows in Pittsburgh (and if you can't make that one plan for a Sept trip to Wheeling). Call Linda Hanko 330-706-0151 for details.

June 20th – 45th: Annual Kielbasa Open at Mayfair Country Club –cost \$60 per person, \$240 for team. Call the Slovak J Club at 330-773-4978 to register your team – get your team and money in early to reserve your spot. If you can donate a door prize contact Linda Hanko at the club office. Events during the Open include:

- Breakfast Buffet 6:30 am to 8:00 am.
- Sausage Sandwiches at turn
- Luncheon Buffet after golf – along with door prizes, etc.

Don't forget our monthly Spaghetti dinner the first Wednesday of every month.

Finally, please note we are looking for anyone interested in forming a bowling league at our club, contact club manager for available dates at 330-773-4978.

Fraternally,

Sandie Klucar, Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist will have a meeting on June 9, 2015, at 2:00PM in the afternoon at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road in Aliquippa. All members are welcome.

Edith L. Valo, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

May 17, 2015 Sunday, monthly branch meeting 2pm.

This will be the last meeting until September May 24, 2015 Sunday, all you can eat Breakfast \$8.00 per person 8:30 am - 12 noon best breakfast in town!

This will be the last breakfast until September. Burritos every third Thursday of the month, to-go only \$7.00. Call ahead to order 231-733-7525.

All events take place at Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI. For information, call 231-733-7525

Susan Hornik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have a meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2015. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Julius Remenar. The address is: 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. The meeting will be held at 2:00PM. All members are urged to attend.

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731, will meet on Sunday, June 14, 2015 at noon at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH. We will be planning our summer activities. Please plan to attend.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, D.C. AND AREA

Branch 856 is asking all members to save the date: September 12, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

At that time we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our beautiful Slovak Chapel, Our Mother of Sorrows at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The celebrant for the Mass will be Cardinal Donald Wuerl. We would like to see many of the Branch 856 members in attendance. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday June 10, 2015. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

The officers of Branch 857 wishes all members of the FCSU a safe and enjoyable summer season.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

Attention Branch 23 Members: Special Invitation from the National President

On June 28, 2015 at 2:00pm Branch 23 will hold a meeting at Resurrection Hall R.C. at the corner of 6th Ave. and Chestnut St. (formerly St. Rochus Church Basement), Johnstown, PA.

At this Business Meeting we hope to elect new officers that will continue to service our members and keep our FCSU Branch improving and growing.

All members of Branch 23 are urged to attend. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Bob at the FCSU Home Office at 1 - 800-JEDNOTA (1-800-533-6682), extension 116.

Fraternally,

**Andrew M. Rajec
National President**

11th CONSULAR TOUR TO SLOVAKIA

August 23, 2015 to September 2, 2015 Escorted by Joseph & Albina Senko



Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko has visited Slovakia 25 times since 1995, including ten tours which he has arranged and escorted. His wife, Albina, was born and raised in Slovakia. With their experience, they have created a customized tour for 2015 which will take you across Slovakia. Each night, we will stay at a first class hotel. Over 270 people from the United States have enjoyed these tours with Joe and Albina.

In addition to touring many historic towns in Slovakia, we will also visit famous historic sites in neighboring countries - Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. Our tour of Slovakia will take us from west to east through Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Trnava, known as the "Little Rome" of

Slovakia; Modra, where we will be seeing a demonstration in a ceramic factory; the world famous spa town of Piešťany; historic Banská Bystrica; the High Tatras; the famous town of Levoca; Bardejov, which is included in the UNESCO list; Presov, the sister city or Pittsburgh; and Kocise, the second largest city in Slovakia.

In addition to visiting several famous castles and museums, we will enjoy listening to live folk music, touring many historic churches, and dining in several typical Slovak restaurants.

Unique to this tour is: receiving a spa treatment; attending a mock Slovak wedding; rafting on the Dunajec river; several wine tastings and meeting with several Slovak dignitaries.

As we travel through the various regions of Slovakia, we can make arrangements for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages at an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour. The 11 days you will spend with us will be enjoyable, educational and you will be pleasantly surprised what Slovakia has to offer visitors.

For a detailed itinerary and payment schedule, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. For a list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule and restrictions, contact Joe Senko.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District will be co-sponsoring a dinner reception to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union and our own local Branch 2. The dinner reception with entertainment will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 550 Cherrington Parkway, Coraopolis, PA. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we celebrate our anniversary. Mass will start at 1 PM. There will be a social hour following Mass. Dinner starts at 4 PM. Entertainment will be provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Tickets are \$40. Meal choices are chicken cordon blue or sliced New York strip loin. Make checks payable to FCSU Pittsburgh District. RSVP by May 25 to Mike Lako, 1 Gamble Street, Pittsburgh PA 15212 or call 412-766-3222. Branches are also asked to consider being a patron for \$100.

Branch 738 will host the Fathers Day brunch on Sunday, June 21. Karianne Barnes of Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. Members are asked to attend the 9:30 AM Liturgy at the church. Immediately following Mass, members are invited to the church hall for a meal and socializing. The cost of the brunch is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 & under. Reservations must be made in advance no later than Monday, June 15. No tickets will be sold at the door. To make reservations please contact Joe Yackovich at 724-863-7502 or email Jryapril43@verizon.net. Checks should be made payable to Patty Guidish. You can pay at the church hall or send your branch check to Patty Guidish 4569 Gate Dr., Munhall, PA 15120. Prices for the ad booklet are: full page \$75, half page \$40, quarter page \$25. This deadline is Sunday, June 7. Contact Karianne Barnes atkvehec@hotmail.com.

The district is also going to be collecting small, unused toiletry items for paralyzed veterans – wipes, small flashlights, disposable razors, etc. Please bring all donations to the brunch.

Branch 38 will host the annual winter meeting at a date to be determined later.

Branches are reminded to update their email addresses with the district secretary

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: June 1 - Sites to see in Slovakia. Meetings resume in October.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees.

** Pittsburgh Folk Festival – Monroeville Convention Center May 15-16, 2015 – see www.pghfolkfest.org/

** Slovak Choir Concert – WPCSA is bringing a group of 38 children from Slovakia for a concert at Synod Hall next to St Paul's Cathedral in Oakland at 7:30 PM, Tuesday, June 30. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$7 for children 12 & under. Tickets must be paid for in advance. Make checks payable to WPCSA and send to Manor Oak Two – Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh PA 15220. If there are questions, contact Joe Senko at 412-531-2990.

** Johnstown Slavic Festival – Saturday, June 13 at the Heritage Discover Center in Cambria City, PA. For more information, contact daniel.kisha@gmail.com

** Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 16, 2015. Tickets available at the district Fathers Day Brunch.

** Tour of Slovakia with the Senko's – August 23 to September 2, 2015 – Includes Vienna and Budapest. Contact Joe Senko for information about the itinerary.

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

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

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php. The NSS Museum is acquiring an outstanding woodcarving of a Nativity Scene, similar to one seen only in Slovakia. It is expected to go on display later this year. The woodcarving was formerly located at the Slovak Folk Craft Store in Grove City, which closed at the end of 2014.

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International is holding its 2015 meeting October 21-24 in Cedar Rapids IA, the site of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. The 2017 meeting is planned for Pittsburgh. Further information can be found at www.cgsi.org.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

** FCSU information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA, will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 1PM in the K-2 Engineering Conference Room located at 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. All district branches are invited to attend.

Barbara Holly, District Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK

Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10 will hold the first meeting of 2015 on Sunday, June 7, 2015, at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. All district members are invited to attend.

Please notify Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or via email at lhanko@neo.rr.com if you are planning on attending. We need a head count for refreshments. We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Mark the date, November 8, 2015. This will be a meeting a date. The location for the meeting is up for grabs. We are looking for a branch to host this fraternal meeting and plan on choosing a location at our meeting on June 7th.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 6:00PM at St Matthias Church, located on Shady Run Road Youngstown Ohio. The agenda will be general district business including upcoming activities. All member branches are urged to attend.

Paul Ritz, Fraternal Activities Director

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA – NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula, District 16, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 31, 2015, at 1:00PM, in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th, 1 Avenue, New York, New York 10065.

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

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

After the meeting, refreshments will be served, courtesy of Branch 716.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT 17 -SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT - BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK AND LACKAWANNA AND LUZERNE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

District 17, in Region 3 of the FCSU, will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the First Catholic Slovak Union and commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the death of Father Furdek on Sunday, October 25, 2015. A Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 P.M. in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, PA. A dinner will follow in St. Mary's Center, Scranton. Details and additional information will be announced in future issues of JEDNOTA.

Fraternally,

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., District President

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT - MONTREAL

Prince Rastislav District 20 will hold their semi-annual meeting Sunday, June 7, 2015 at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall immediately following the eleven (11) o'clock Mass.

The agenda will include the Social Calendar for 2015 and Scholarships.

Branch 784 and 810 are urged to send representatives. Refreshments will be served.

Alexander S Dobrik, President

2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour Takes Off September 11-20, 2015



Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2015 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 11-20, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical research and ancestral village visits available.

For more information: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com



Slovak American Society of Washington Annual Picnic in June

The Slovak American Society of Washington (SASW) announces its annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2015, at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, VA. Fort Hunt is part of the National Park System and is about 12 miles south of the Beltway, off the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The hours are noon to 5PM. All members, prospective members and guests are invited.

This Slovak-style picnic is jointly organized with the Washington Slovak Meet Up group. Food and variety of drinks (beer, wine, and soft drinks) will be provided. Cost to members is \$15 for individuals and \$25 for couples. Nonmembers and guests will be charged \$20 for individuals and \$30 for couples. Nonmembers who join SASW will receive a \$5 discount per person. Children age 10 and under are free.

Reservations are required. For details, contact Ray Luca at 703-475-8356 or go to the Slovak American Society website at www.dcslovaks.org.

Want to learn more about the FCSU's excellent portfolio of insurance and annuity products?

Mark Your Calendars:

The following FCSU Sales Seminars have been finalized...



• **Sunday, October 4, 2015** at the meeting of the Msgr. John E. Rura District 4 Meeting, starting at 11:00AM. The meeting will be held at Msgr Komar Hall (across from Holy Family Church), 2806 Parkway Ave, Linden, NJ 07036-3548.

Editor's note: please watch for details of future meetings in upcoming issues of Jednota, as well as other pending seminars, time and place to be announced.

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
038K	Jean M Chonko	162K	Frank Olinzock	320K	Barbara L Sedlak	731K	William J McNally
040K	Lois E Manley	165K	Josephine M Sigler	367K	Michael D Knizner	738K	Eleanor M Steger
045K	Daniel J Cambalik	181K	Sophia Regina Mlinarcik	380K	John Louis Cernava	743K	Ludmila Bucko
055K	Stella Wojtko	211K	James A Merva	456K	John L Kopchik	756K	Agnes E Basovsky
089K	Stephen V Budiac	254K	Stephen M Stefko	484K	Frances A Ceresa	756K	Frank T Zemla
098K	Elizabeth A Neri	259K	Thomas F Unick Sr	514K	Marjorie E Solar	796K	Irene Kovalcik
112K	Lois M Mocknis	259K	Walter J Zupko Jr	595K	Edward J Hanis	855K	John James Csorey
153K	Elizabeth Cornacchione	260K	Thomas R Hassay Sr	670K	Betty J Sarnoskie	926K	Edward J Puzach
153K	Dale Maxwell	312K	Blanche C Siko	729K	Helen Lee Johanic		

*Processed through the month of April 2015

OBITUARIES

DANIEL J. CAMBALIK BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Daniel J. Cambalik of New Paltz, NY died peacefully after a long illness at the VA at Castle Point surrounded by his loving wife and several of his children.

Daniel was born April 23, 1930 in Elmhurst, NY, the second son of Joseph and Veronica (Jansky) Cambalik. He was devoted to our Lord, His Blessed Mother, and to his family.

He proudly served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict. On August 13, 1955 he married Bernadine (Betty) Kemlage at St. John Nepomucene in Manhattan. Together they raised five children in their home in Wappingers Falls, NY.

Daniel graduated from St. John's University and was a financial analyst for Eastern Airlines and IBM. He was a member of the IBM Quarter Century Club, the Wednesday Q-Tip Breakfast Club, and St. Charles Borromeo Church in Gardiner, NY. He enjoyed dancing the polka and lindy at many weddings and parties.

After retiring and selling their home in Wappingers Falls, they moved into their motor home. Dan loved to travel to see the beautiful National Parks in the United States, driving across country several times. Dan and Betty became snowbirds settling in Clermont, FL during the winter months to get away from the cold and returning to New Paltz, NY in the spring.

He will be dearly missed by his dedicated and loving wife, Betty, their five children: John (Dana Woodruff), Ann (Tom) Macur, Karen (Chris) Zaremba, Janet Gonzalez (Andy Briggs), and Mark (Virginia) Cambalik, their twelve grandchildren: Andrew Cambalik, Eve (Sean) Grinnell, Douglas Macur, Elise Macur, Adam (Stephanie) Zaremba, Becky (Kevin) Conway, Emma Zaremba, Anthony Gonzalez, Alyssa Gonzalez, Michael Gonzalez, Olivia Cambalik, and Lauren Cambalik, one great-granddaughter: Alyna, his brother Bernard Cambalik, brothers and sisters-in-law, cousins, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Raymond, who are welcoming him into his eternal home.

Dan's family would like to extend special appreciation to Dr. Bashir, the nurses, music and recreation therapists, dietitian, chaplains, and the entire staff at Heroes Harbor (B1) at the VA at Castle Point for their loving care. He always had a smile for them and for the many volunteer groups that visited with him during his stay.

Visitation was held Sunday, February 22, 2015, from 1 – 4PM at the Copeland Funeral Home, New Paltz, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:00 a.m., Monday, February 23, 2015 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Gardiner, NY with interment in St. Denis Cemetery in Hopewell Jct., NY.

THOMAS W. SABO BRANCH 324 – CARTERET, NEW JERSEY

Thomas W. Sabo, 64, died Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2015 at his home in Raritan Township, NJ.

Born Sept. 12, 1950 in Rahway, NJ, he was the son of the late Joseph and Anna (Lukach) Sabo.

He received his Bachelor's Degree from Rutgers University and retired from Merck + Company in Rahway and Whitehouse, NJ. While living in Rahway, Tom was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union's Branch 324 and the Elks Club in Carteret, NJ. He was a car enthusiast, a coin and stamp collector, a football fan, especially of the Scarlet Knights, and enjoyed his yard work and gardening. In recent years, he could be found spending much time with his poodle, Holly.

Predeceased by his parents, Tom is survived by his wife of 35 years, Barbara A. (Verrastro) Sabo, his son, Anthony J.T. Sabo, D.O. of Owings Mills, MD; and Anthony's fiancé, Sarah Park, D.O. of Allentown, NJ; his brothers, Joseph S. Sabo of Carteret, and James R. Sabo of Metuchen, NJ; as well as several nieces, nephews and special friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at St. Magdalen Church, Flemington, NJ. Entombment followed at St. Magdalen Mausoleum in Flemington. Calling hours were from 5-8 p.m. on Friday evening, January 9, 2015, at Holcombe-Fisher Funeral Home, Flemington.

ALOYSIUS J. RIBECKY BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MI

Aloysius J. Ribecky, age 81, passed away on Monday, April 13, 2015, in Muskegon, MI. He was born in Muskegon Heights, MI on April 16, 1933 to Paul and Mary (Vicen) Ribecky, Sr. Al was a veteran of the United States Navy and served in the Korean War. He had been employed as a tool and die maker for Muskegon Piston Ring for 24 years before retiring in 1992 at the age of



60. Al was a member of Tatra Hall Branch 595, Polish Union, Knights of Columbus and the Muskegon Eagles. He enjoyed golfing, bowling and traveling. He is survived by his two daughters, Diane (Martin) VanDonkelaar and Karen (Michael) Rambo; seven grandchildren, Scott (Lindsay) VanDonkelaar, Craig (Sarah) VanDonkelaar, Kurt (Courtney) VanDonkelaar, Brandi Ribecky, Keith (Rachel) Rambo, Rachel Rambo and Dustin Deephouse; four great-grandchildren, Trevor, Eli, Jacob and Steven; one brother, Paul (Bobbie) Ribecky and three sisters, Mary Radakovitz, Helen (David) Crane and Patricia Armstrong. He was preceded in death by one son, Edward J. Ribecky; his parents and three brothers, Frank, Edward and Joseph Ribecky. Services were 11:00 AM Saturday, April 18, 2015 at The Lee Chapel with Rev. Fr. William A. Langlois presiding. Visitation was from 6-8 PM Friday, April 17, 2015. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Submitted by Susan Hornik, Branch 595 Recording Secretary

ANN DIPRIZIO BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Ann DiPrizio, an incredible mom, doting grandma, amateur gambler, professional optimist, spiffire, and friend to all in the retail sales industry, passed away on January 30, 2015. Though it has been confirmed by a recently discovered copy of her birth certificate that she was 79, she liked to keep folks guessing.

A Mass of Christian Burial, celebrated by Fr. Martin Celuch, was held at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 6, at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish at St. Matthias Church, Youngstown, OH. It is at this location that Ann lit well over a million candles for the needs of others, and maybe one or two for herself.

Born June 25, 1935, in New York City, she was daughter of the late Andrew and Mary (Sich) Hirt.

She married her husband, Michael, on June 27, 1959, and together they worked in the restaurant business in both Arizona and Illinois. When Mike passed on Nov. 10, 1996, Ann was nearing the end of her career as a case worker with the Mahoning County Department of Health and Human Services. She made many friends there that she would cherish for the rest of her life, but took away almost no technological skills of value.

Though she was a master organizer with

a pen and paper, she defiantly allowed for the remote control, computers created after the mid-90s, and digital cameras to remain a mystery. Her children have discovered more than a few rolls of 35mm film that still need developed.

Speaking of children (and she did speak of them to anyone who would listen and often to people who wouldn't), she leaves behind Cheryl Ann DiPrizio, her confidant and casino chum, and Michael DiPrizio, her late night phone buddy. She also leaves behind her daughter-in-law, Joanie DiPrizio, and granddaughter Emmaline DiPrizio, both of whom she loved dearly and also loved shopping for.

From her Chicago family, Ann will be missed by her brother-in-law, Ronald DiPrizio and his wife, Patricia, and their children, Debbie, Karen and Denise, as well as their spouses, children and grandchildren.

Sadly, she was preceded in death by both her brother-in-law, Al Carbonara and his wife, Rose, and will be sorely missed by their sons Corey and Bruce, both now from Texas, and their spouses and children.

Locally, in Ohio, Ann is survived by her younger brother, John Hirt and his wife, Helen, their sons, John and Steven, and their spouses and children; and her older brother, Andrew Hirt and his wife, Florence, known to all "Nin." Nin served many important roles in Ann's life: that of lifelong friend, sister, sounding board and last, but not least, personal chauffeur. Ann will be missed by Andy and Nin's children as well, Mary Beth and her late husband, David, Drew and wife Carol, Tommy and wife Mary Kay, Suzie and husband Kevin, Teri and husband Mike, and Jessie, and all of their children and grandchildren. There are also innumerable cousins, second cousins, and others to add to this list, all of whom were at one time forced to open a Christmas or birthday present which Ann had wrapped with at least three entire rolls of Scotch tape.

Ann is now in the care of God, to whom she spoke quite often, and, for a short time, the Kubina-Yuhasz-Wasko Funeral Home. There, the family received friends from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015, and again from 9 to 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, 2015 at the church. Burial followed at Calvary Cemetery.

- Submitted by Branch 682 President Joseph Scavina who notes that the officers and members of Branch 682 offer their deepest sympathies to Ann's family. May he rest in peace.

continued on page 17

OBITUARIES

continued from page 8

FRANK T. ZEMLA BRANCH 756 – OSOSSO, MICHIGAN

Frank T. Zemla, age 64 of Owosso, MI, passed away Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Sparrow Health Systems.



A Mass of Christian burial was held at 11:00 am Monday, February 23, 2015 at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Fr. Dave Fisher officiating. Burial followed in Riverside Cemetery, Henderson, MI. The family received friends at Nelson-House Funeral Homes-Owosso on Sunday, February 22, 2015, from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Frank was born March 9, 1950 in Owosso, the son of Joseph and Katherine (Sipka) Zemla.

He graduated from Owosso High School, class of 1968 and married Touya Berthume at St. Joseph Catholic Church on April 21, 1979.

Frank spent his life working the family farm that he loved and was brought up on. He loved hunting and when he wasn't hunting in his spare time he enjoyed fishing. Most of all Frank looked forward to spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren

who were his pride and joy.

He is survived by his wife Touya; sons Jeremy (Arica Kanar) Zemla and Joe (Amy) Zemla; grandchildren Emilee and Ethan; brother Ed (Sally) Zemla; sisters Lillian (Jim) Budzynski and Agnes (Ken) Meksula; several nieces, nephews and other loving family and friends.

Frank was predeceased by his parents.

- Submitted by Stephen Patoprsty,
Branch 756 Secretary

MARIE D. VERKIN BRANCH 754 –

Marie D. Verkin, beloved mother and grandmother, 93, of Genoa, OH, passed away on April 2, 2015, at Edgewood Manor Nursing Home, Port Clinton, OH.

She was born in Clay Center, OH, on February 6, 1922, to parents, John and Mary Valko, who preceded her in death. She was married to Andrew Verkin on June 10, 1939, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Genoa, OH, and was happily married for over 70 years.

Marie lived in the Genoa area her entire life, residing at the Genoa Retirement Village for the past seven years. She was



a lifelong member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where she was very active. She was a member of the St. Anne's Study Club, the Rosary Altar Society, the Knights of Columbus Ladies' Auxiliary, and the Prayer Shawl Committee. Marie crocheted over 300 prayer shawls, completing her final one in December. She was employed at the Yankee Peddler in Genoa for over twenty-five years.

Marie was a very caring person and loved by everyone she met. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Andrew Verkin, her son Richard, her sister Rosella Szyпка, and her parents, John and Mary Valko.

She is survived by her son, Edward (Elaine) Verkin of Port Clinton, her grandchild-

dren, Cynthia Johnson, Christine (Thomas) Smit, Edward Jr. (Deborah) Verkin of Port Clinton, and Kathleen (David) Matts of Albuquerque, NM, as well as nine great grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

Visitation was at the Robinson-Walker Funeral Home & Crematory, Genoa, on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, from 2-8 p.m. A prayer service was conducted at 7 p.m. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Genoa, at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, with burial to follow in Clay Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you perform an unexpected and unsolicited act of kindness in Marie's memory.

VISIT SLOVAKIA---- "THE OLD COUNTRY"



Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as "the old country." Well now is the time for you to go to Slovakia and visit the ancestral homeland and villages of your family.

Join Kay and Jim Bench as they host the 18th annual Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Tour July 13-27, 2015.

See the capital of Slovakia—Bratislava, enjoy award winning folk groups, visit Litmanova where there were documented apparitions of the Blessed Mother appearing to three school children in the 1990's, enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas, enjoy shopping, go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River, the natural border between Poland and Slovakia, visit villages such as Cicmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichy Potok, stay in a beautiful spa in Sliac and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools and other amenities. Visit relatives and enjoy a luncheon reception with our Sister City Spisska Nova Ves. There are many more activities and cities too numerous to mention in this short article. For further information call Jim or Kay Bench.

Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900

Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel. Contact Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-mail Paul@advintravel.com

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

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According to a recent article in TIME magazine the cost of a funeral is between \$6,000 and \$15,000 with an average of \$7,775?

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FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
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6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,
www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



Pray for Mom this Mother's Day with Special Prayers from Family Rosary

Website Enables Visitors to Send Free eCards and
Prayers to Moms Everywhere during May



Mom wants only one thing this Mother's Day: your loving presence. And the best way to share that with her – either in the same room or a thousand miles away – is through prayer.

This year, Family Rosary is helping people get closer to mom with special prayers and electronic Mother's Day cards, free at www.PrayersForFamilies.org. Throughout May – the month of Mary – visitors to the website will find dozens of options to honor all of their "moms": birth mother, adoptive mother, step-mother, grandmother, aunt or even the woman

with whom they have that special connection.

The Family Rosary website will offer many different ways to pray for mom. The site features a selection of prayers– all honoring mothers, of course! There are also suggestions for making these prayers more meaningful:

- Saying "Grace" when having dinner together
- Praying over the phone if mom is far away
- Asking our Blessed Mother Mary's intercession for your mother, grandmother or other special woman who has made a difference in your life

Many prayers honoring mothers are available at www.FamilyRosary.org/Mother, including these two:

"Dear Mother, if I could give you one thing in life, I would give you the ability to see yourself through my eyes. Only then would you realize how much I love you. May God bless you always, especially on this special day."

"May the blessing of our loving God shine upon all mothers. May God grant them much peace, joy and love – not only on this special day for Mothers but also every day. Amen."

In addition, visitors can select from a variety of eCards to send to Mom on Mother's Day or any time during the month. These electronic cards for emailing include special greetings and feature a prayer to honor mom.

This special program was inspired by Servant of God Patrick Peyton and his devotion to the Blessed Mother. He once said, "If families give Our Lady 15 minutes a day by reciting the Rosary, I assure them that their homes will become, by God's grace, peaceful places."

While a seminarian, Father Peyton, a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, was stricken with severe tuberculosis. He prayed his Rosary to the Blessed Mother and he made a miraculous recovery, which he attributed entirely to Mary's intercession. This experience – coupled with his spiritually rich family life as a youth in Ireland – inspired Father Peyton to devote his life to Mary, Mother of God, and to the spiritual well-being of the family. His famous words, "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," still resonate today. A candidate for sainthood, Father Peyton was one of the most influential American Catholic priests of the 20th century. Known as the "Rosary Priest," he encouraged millions of people to pray the Rosary daily. Father Peyton founded Family Rosary in 1942. He used film, television and other modern media to inspire and encourage millions of people to turn to prayer for family unity and world peace.

To share the gift of prayer with your mom on Mother's Day or any time during May, just go to www.PrayersForFamilies.org. And Happy Mother's Day to all moms everywhere!

Slovak Sports Spring Roundup

Tichomir Miko

Košice Twice National Champions



HC Košice successfully defended their Tipsport ExtraLiga Slovnaft Playoff championship title by defeating HC '05 Banská Bystrica 2 – 1 on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

Košice won the first two games (3-0, 4-3) at home but Banská Bystrica came back to tie the series when they hosted the following two games (3-1, 2-1). Košice then took control by winning the next game 3-2

at home and then clinching the championship with the 2-1 win in Banská Bystrica.

Košice has now won the championship eight times, tying Bratislava Slovan's record. The "Steelers" (so nicknamed because the U.S. Steel mill is the largest employer in the city) won the championship in 1995, 1996, 1999, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2015. For the "Barani" (meaning "rams" – nickname of the Banská Bystrica team) it was their first trip ever to the finals. The two Slovak teams will take part in the 2015-2016 European Champions Hockey League. The tournament features several teams from the first-tier leagues of at least six countries in Europe.

The Good Angels of the Košice basketball team defeated the Piešťanské Čajky 74-59 on Wednesday April 8, 2015, to win their twelfth Slovak national women's championship. The Good Angels dominated the league all season, going without a single loss. With this title they have surpassed Ružomberok who won the national championship eleven times since Slovak independence.

Slovakia in Fed Cup Play

Slovakia defeated Sweden in World Group II Fed Cup play to remain among the top sixteen nations in women's tennis. The team was without its top player, Dominika Cibulkova who is recuperating from a recent operation on her Achilles tendon. Another top player, Magdalena Rybarikova was sidelined with an injury only a week before the tie with Sweden.

The tie between the two countries began on Saturday, April 18, 2015, in the Aegon arena of the National Tennis Center in Bratislava. First Karolína Schmiedlová put the Slovaks into the lead with a convincing 6-3, 6-3 win over Rebecca Peterson. The 20 year old Kosice native lost the first three games of the second set, but then did an amazing turnaround to win six games in a row to finish the match. Daniela Hantuchová then proceeded to dismantle Susanne Celik 6:2, 6:0 in a match that lasted less than an hour.

On Sunday, Schmiedlová clinched the overall victory for Slovakia with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Ellen Allgurin. The remaining singles match and a doubles match became moot as Slovakia could not be caught with the 3 – 0 lead.

The win was important for Slovakia – a loss would have relegated them to the lower group for next year. Now they can return to the Elite Fed Cup group if they win their matches next year. "I believe that next year we will be able to advance higher. Hopefully, Dominika [Cibulkova] will be back in form by then – we have a great bunch of women and a strong team," declared a euphoric "Kajka" Schmiedlová. Her younger sister, 17 year old Kristina was added to the team as a last minute replacement for Rybarikova. The fourth member of the team was 21 year old Košice native Jana Čepelová. The team was captained by Matej Lipták.

Slovak women won the Fed Cup elite division in 2002 by defeating Spain 3-1 in Gran Canaria. The Slovak team was led by a dynamic teenager, Daniela Hantuchova from Poprad.

Slovakia at World Hockey Championships



The 2015 IIHF World Championships began in Prague and Ostrava in the Czech Republic on May 1. In North America this event causes little excitement because all eyes and ears are focused on the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs.

The Canadian and USA teams are made up almost entirely of NHL players from teams that did not make the Stanley Cup playoffs. Most of the European teams will also be missing some of their best players who are playing for teams engaged in the Stanley Cup playoffs. This predicament especially impacts on countries like Slovakia which lack large numbers of top players because of their small populations and lack of hockey resources (arenas, etc.). Team Slovakia would benefit greatly from the presence of Marian Hossa, Tomas Tatar, Lubomir Visnovsky, and netminder Jaroslav Halak, but these athletes are indispensable to their respective teams in the quest for the Stanley Cup.

Hopefully, Marian Gaborik, who won his first Stanley Cup ring last year with the Los Angeles Kings, will be able to join Team Slovakia; the Kings became only the fourth team in all NHL history to win the playoffs one year and then miss the playoffs the succeeding year. Zdeno Chara, who logs an unbelievable amount of ice time with the Boston Bruins, needs to recuperate and re-energize. He often plays through injuries when a playoff position is on the line, and this year the Bruins were fighting for a playoff spot right to the very last game of the season. It is not clear whether he will be able to join the Slovak team in Ostrava. Other NHLers whose teams did not make the Stanley Cup playoffs and so are available to Team Slovakia Coach Vladimír Vůjtek are Marko Daňo, Tomáš Kopecký, Andrej Meszároš, Richard Panik, and Martin Marinčin. Andrej Sekera is injured and may not be ready in time for the Championships.

The IIHF championships take place from May 1 – 17, 2015, with 16 teams participating. The teams have been divided into two groups with Group A playing a round robin tournament in Prague and Group B playing in the Ostrava. Slovakia's opponents in the preliminary round robin will be Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Slovenia, and Austria. Group A consists of Canada, Czech Republic, Belarus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, and Latvia. The top four teams in each group at the end of the round robin will advance to the quarterfinals.

Slovakia's first game was May 2 against Denmark.



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Young People Need Hope and Heroes

After spending several years studying to be a screenwriter, Joan Bauer signed with a big talent agency in New York City. Two days later, she endured a debilitating car accident that left her in a great deal of pain and requiring neurosurgery. Angry and scared, she remembers lying in bed and imagining that she saw an open window with her dream of being a writer flying out of it.

Then, Bauer heard a voice inside giving her ideas for a story about a young girl with a big dream. The voice said, "You can write this. It's not over for you." Considering she had trouble even sitting at a desk, Bauer believed this to be impossible. But as she told me during a "Christopher Closeup" interview, "Moment by moment and paragraph by paragraph, I wrote my first young adult novel and it ended up winning a big award."

That novel was the first of 12 books she has now authored for a young adult audience. Along the way, her novels have won two Christopher Awards, and this year she was named the winner of the St. Katharine Drexel Award from the Catholic Library Association. All those accomplishments can be traced back to that small voice that she almost wrote off as nonsense, the voice that taught her about the presence of God in our lives.

Bauer explained, "When we open ourselves up to that power that is beyond who we are and we let God have His way, let Him have our disappointments yet still believe that there's something good, that's what [life] has been for me again and again."

In light of her past struggles, hope and faith are common threads in Bauer's books. That holds true for her latest novel too despite its serious subject matter: human trafficking. "Tell Me" is the story of Anna McConnell, a funny and compassionate 12-year-old who briefly runs into a girl that looks very stressed out and is being controlled by an older woman with a bad attitude. Not everyone buys into Anna's suspicions at first, but Bauer makes sure her young heroine sticks to her moral core and says, "I saw something wrong. I'm not going to give up until somebody believes me." Ultimately, it's discovered that the girl Anna saw is being kept as a slave along with many other women. Everyone comes together to put an end to this travesty.

Bauer handles the topic in an age appropriate way, so it doesn't deal with sexual slavery but rather people who are being enslaved as workers. When figuring out how to approach young people with such a harsh reality, she turned to a story she once heard Fred Rogers of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" tell: "When he was a boy and something frightening happened in his community or the world, he would go to his mother and she would tell him, 'Don't look at the scary thing; look at the people who are helping.' This is a story about a scary thing, but we don't see it. It's about the people who are running in to help."

Bauer also remains committed to using her talents to bring hope into young people's lives. She concludes, "Kids have become very jaded. They've seen a lot of role models fall. And yet, one of the reasons that I love thinking about stories through the eyes of a young person is there's still this idealism. There's still this positive core... When [kids] find something that has hope, I think they really want to grab onto it. So let's give them more."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, LISTENING WHEN GOD SPEAKS, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org tr 05/10/15

Please Join Us for a "Fun" Fundraiser!

Saturday, June 13, 2015

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

at: Scoreboards Sports Bar & Grill
10333 Northfield Road
Northfield, Ohio 44067

All you can eat:

- BBQ Wings & Garlic Wings
- Pasta with Meat sauce
- Pepperoni Pizza & Cheese Pizza
- Cheese & Crackers
- Veggie Trays
- Chips & Pretzels
- Beer and Wine
- Pop and Coffee

We will have raffle baskets and sideboards, too!

Advance sale tickets: Only \$20.00 per person

Please call: 216-235-7466 - Milan
440-439-4119 - Jennifer
440-868-7797 - Tom
440-655-8244 - Christine

The Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland
thanks you greatly for your support!



Scenes from Branch 3 March Meeting



Branch 3 held an event on March 29, 2015. After Mass in St. Cyril & Methodius Church, they enjoyed breakfast in the Church hall. Their meeting followed breakfast.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



Branch President James Genosky, standing, far left, addresses the meeting attendees.

Join the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club

At
Erie, PA's Presque Isle Downs & Casino
With



Cash Bonus: \$35 Slot Play

On
Saturday, June 13, 2015

From
8:00AM – 6:00PM

Trip Details:

8:00AM Report: Lakefront Lines Bus Garage,
13315 Brookpark Road, Brookpark, OH

8:00AM Depart: Lakefront Lines

0:30AM Arrive: Presque Isle Downs & Casino,
8199 Perry Highway, Erie, PA
CONF # 30196

[Subject to casino policy & may change or cancel without notice]

Manifest must be filled out & turned in upon arrival.

4:00PM Depart Presque Isle Downs
6:00PM Arrive: Approximate time of arrival at
original departure location

** All passengers must have driver's license or state ID with them **

To Book Trip: Call Johanna at 440-845-0282

- Submitted by Johanna Oros, Slovak
Dramatic Club President & Branch 24 Member

Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2015 Treasure Tours



Our Girls Dressed Up

The 85th Treasure Tour continues our strategy of immersing in the Slovak culture, traversing the country from east to west and north to south, and finding long-lost family for our travelers; proud of our 98% success rate! 2015 Treasures Tour offerings include Bratislava Old Town, Devta's 49th Folk Festival, Kezmarok International Crafts Fest; the walled towns of Levoča and Bardejov, Prešov, Spiš Castle,

charming Cicmany, the High Tatras, and much, much more. July 10 to 19, 2015 - \$2,199 per person for the land trip.

For more information, contact Helene:

151 Colebrook Drive, Rochester, NY 14617

Phone: (585) 342-9383

Email: helenezx@aol.com

Or visit www.our-Slovakia.com

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

P	R	O	W		S	L	I	E	R		E	M	M	A	
R	I	P	E		M	I	L	N	E		L	A	I	R	
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Reminder...

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

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com

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News From Slovakia

Slovakia's MAGNA to Join Humanitarian Efforts in Nepal

Bratislava, April 26 (TASR) - Slovak humanitarian organization MAGNA will provide medical, psychological and social aid to the victims of the Nepalese earthquake, particularly to children, TASR learnt from MAGNA operations director Denisa Augustinova on this date.

Augustinova reported that MAGNA will send two four-member teams consisting of psychologists, social workers and therapists. "We'll be providing aid at hospitals and provisional centres for the earthquake victims," she told TASR. At a later stage MAGNA will also set up specialized centers for children.

MAGNA teams have already provided aid to the victims of the earthquake in Haiti, destructive cyclones in Burma and the Philippines, on the border between Kenya and Somalia and in areas affected by starvation.

Meanwhile, the Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Ministry has now reported that it's managed to establish contact with five of the 11 Slovaks who registered a stay in Nepal via the ministry's information system.

The earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on the Richter scale that struck Nepal on Saturday was the strongest in 81 years. The quake caused widespread damage, with houses and ancient temples collapsing.

French Embassy to Slovakia Invites Public During Open House Day

Bratislava, April 25 (TASR) - The French Embassy to Slovakia was visited by some 120 people during its Open House Day on this date, TASR learnt from Embassy press attache Didier Rogasik on the same day.

The Embassy opened its premises to public between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. as part of the Bratislava for Everyone event. People interested to get a tour had to register in advance via the Embassy e-mail, even though embassy staff attempted to accommodate requests also from those who asked for tour in person on this same day.

"It's a real pleasure for us, particularly because this was the first time we joined the Bratislava Days in this manner," said Rogasik. The first batches of visitors were personally welcomed by French Ambassador to Slovakia Didier Lopinot, who also took questions from everyone. "People were first a little bit shy, but all it took was for one to ask a question and the others immediately joined in," said Rogasik. Most questions concerned the background of French Ambassador, his previous diplomatic missions and one visitor inquired how much he has enjoyed his stay in Slovakia.

At the Kutscherfeld Palace where the French Embassy is located, visitors could see the Ambassador's office, a presentation on the conference regarding climate change, slated to occur at the end of the year in Paris, and also familiarize themselves with diplomatic missions of the French Embassy to Slovakia.

Slovak Internet Population Swelling Up to 3.5 Million Users

Bratislava, April 25 (TASR) - Internet population in Slovakia (country of 5.5 million) reached approximately 3.5 million users in March, which amounts to a month-on-month rise by almost 25,000 people, according to a survey of AIMmonitor conducted in March.

In terms of demographic makeup, there were more women among online users (51 percent) than men, although men visited more websites. Internet is used most extensively by people aged 20-29 and 30-39, with these age categories forming approximately 24 percent each of the total internet population.

In March, websites involved in the AIMmonitor project were visited by more than 3.3 million Slovak and 800,000 foreign visitors. The most popular websites are those in the category of services, maps, public transport timetables and home websites of portals.

Dzurinda to Lead Relay of European Politicians at Kiev Marathon

Bratislava, April 24 (TASR) - Former two-time Slovak prime minister (1998-2006) and current independent MP Mikulas Dzurinda will take part in the Kiev Marathon this coming Sunday as the leader of a relay called "Run for Ukraine", which will also feature several MEPs and a representative of the European Commission, Dzurinda's parliamentary assistant Viktoria Jancosekova told TASR on this date.

This activity should send a clear signal that European leaders realize their moral responsibility, and it also wants to show support for Ukraine, which is undergoing a difficult period of transformation and preparation of reforms, said Jancosekova.

Dzurinda, 60, known as a passionate long-distance runner, mainly while serving as prime minister, said: "It's a very symbolic gesture demonstrating our solidarity and support to the Ukrainian people. I see many parallels between marathon and introduction of reforms - both require time, courage and a good team."

The Run for Ukraine is part of Brussels-based Wilfried Martens Center for European Studies' project called Reforms for Ukraine. Dzurinda, who is president of the think tank, earlier this month announced that he has accepted an offer to become a foreign advisor to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, with his work revolving around helping Ukraine undertake key political and economic reforms.

Filmmaker Coming to Youngstown May 16th to Show Final Mission

**Loretta Ekoniak, President,
American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valle**

Dušan Hudec, independent Slovak filmmaker and his producer, Darina Zmržova, will be coming into Youngstown on May 16, 2015, to have a showing of the Final Mission film for us. We are so thrilled that they are stopping here between Washington D.C. and Chicago. This documentary film tells the story of American airmen shot down over Slovakia during WWII and taken in and hidden from the Germans by Slovak villagers. It is a story most people have never heard...neither here nor in Slovakia! It is especially appropriate since May 16th is also Armed Forces Day. This will be a sort of "meet and greet" informal reception to introduce Mr. Hudec and Ms. Zmržova to the Youngstown area. We will have the free showing at the First Presbyterian Church at 201 Wick Avenue in downtown Youngstown, OH. There is also free parking there which is an added benefit. The event will begin at 12:00 pm at the church hall. The drive is directly off of Wick Avenue between the church and the red brick Masonic Temple and the entrance is at the back of the church so it is very easy access. There is also a fabulous 24 poster display that goes along with the film which was shown in Bratislava Square when the film premiered last August for the 70th anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising. After introducing our guests we will show the film and afterwards have time for questions. We will serve some light refreshments. This showing is open to the public complements of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley. As the WWII generation passes into history it is so important to preserve these stories and we are so lucky to be able to thank Mr. Hudec and Ms. Zmržova for helping with this effort. Please let everyone know about this event ... it's not too often that Youngstown has the Ohio premier of a documentary like this and we want everyone to know about it!



Branch 382's March Meeting

Branch 382 K, Scranton, Pennsylvania, held its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2015, in the VFW, Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Prior to the scheduled start of the meeting, auditors met to conduct the annual audit of the books. Light refreshments and socializing followed the meeting.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai, Branch 382 Vice President



Auditors Chris Czankner (left) and William Motichka (right) prepare to check bank statements and assist with the audit.

Auditors Paul Czankner (left) and Kenneth Czankner (right) begin the audit of the books for Branch 382 K.



The Meeting began with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Leading the members of Branch 382 K in the Pledge are the youngest Branch members in attendance from left to right: Briana C. Slovenkai, Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr., and John J. Slovenkai, Jr. Briana and Michael are the children of Branch Treasurer Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. John is the son of Financial Secretary John J. Slovenkai, Sr.

Správy zo Slovenska

Neplatné februárové referendum ukázalo, že Slovensko nie je katolícky štát

V roku 2014 zo štátneho rozpočtu dostalo 18 registrovaných cirkví viac ako 38 miliónov eur, z toho vyše 22 miliónov len katolícka cirkev. Výsostné postavenie katolíckej cirkvi znemožňuje odstrihnuť ju od štátnych dotácií. Chráni ju Vatikánska zmluva, ktorú Slovensko podpísalo za prvej Dzurindovej vlády. Zmluva je nevypovedateľná a právnička Katarína Zavacká uviedla, že s jej zrušením by musel súhlasiť pápež František, vyjednávania s ním by mala začať slovenská vláda. Podľa nej je však takýto scenár nereálny. Neplatné februárové referendum, ktoré sa pre katolíckych hodnostárov skončilo fiaskom ukázalo, že Slovensko je sekulárny a nie katolícky štát. Podľa cirkevného analytika Jaroslava Šebeka otázky odľuky budú teraz v spoločnosti silnieť. Rokovania o iných modeloch financovania zdržiavajú samotné cirkvi, ktoré ani po opakovaných výzvach nevedia ministerstvu kultúry dať súpis majetku. V roku 2014 zo štátneho rozpočtu dostalo 18 registrovaných cirkví viac ako 38 miliónov eur, z toho vyše 22 miliónov len katolícka cirkev.

KBS: Na jeseň sa začnú tlačiť nové učebnice náboženskej výchovy

Na jeseň tohto roku sa začnú po desiatich rokoch tlačiť na Slovensku prvé učebnice náboženskej výchovy pre základné a stredné školy. Komisia pre katechizáciu a školstvo Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) na ich prípravu pracovala tri roky, tlačiť ich bude Spolok sv. Vojtecha.

Ako informoval generálny sekretár KBS Marián Chovanec, na jeseň začnú tiež s prípravou elektronickej učebnice náboženskej výchovy pre žiakov 3. a 4. ročníkov stredných škôl, kde nie je výučba náboženstva povinná. „Nové učebnice sa odvíjajú od nových stanov. Keď sa urobia nové stanov, tak sa pripravujú nové učebnice. Tlač bude prebiehať asi osem rokov, každý rok sa vytlačia pre jeden ročník,“ priblížil generálny sekretár.

Ako dodal, učebnice budú určené pre cirkevné i štátne základné a stredné školy. Náklad nových učebníc určí vydavateľ podľa počtu objednaných kusov.

Naši vakcínu na rakovinu?“ a „Naši onkológovia: Je to prelom v liečbe choroby“.

Americkí a britskí vedci majú v rukách kľúč, ktorý by mohol zastaviť rakovinu. Proces je nasledovný. Bunky z kostnej drene od darcu sa rozdelia na dve časti. Kmeňové bunky poputujú priamo pacientovi a T-lymfocyty sa v laboratóriu vďaka impulzom alebo vloženéj DNA premieňajú na proteín. Tento gén má schopnosť identifikovať špeciálne znaky na povrchu nádorových buniek. Takto zmenené bunky sú následne podané pacientovi. Posledné tri roky špecialisti z rakovinového centra Memorial Sloan Kettering v New Yorku touto metódou liečili 15 pacientov v najťažšom štádiu leukémie. Lekári im dávali v tom čase len niekoľko týždňov života. Až polovica z nich však žije dodnes. Lekári teraz zisťujú, či bunky sú dosť silné na to, aby zabránili návratu ochorenia. K svetovému boju vakcín v protinádorovej liečbe prispievajú aj Slováci, 20 našich pacientov ju testuje. „Vakcína účinkuje len na nádorové bunky, nepoškodzuje zdravé,“ vysvetlil docent Frederico Goncalves, urológ z Bratislavy, ktorý sa zaoberá rakovinou prostaty.

Novým poradcom ukrajinského prezidenta Porošenko sa stal M. Dzurinda

Dvojnásobný slovenský expremiér Mikuláš Dzurinda sa stane jedným zo zahraničných poradcov ukrajinského prezidenta Petra Porošenko. Ťažiskom Dzurindovej úlohy ako prezidentovho poradcu bude pomáhať Ukrajine realizovať kľúčové politické a ekonomické reformy. „Ukrajina chce patriť na Západ a potrebuje veľkú modernizáciu,“ vysvetlil. Príbeh Slovenska je z toho hľadiska inšpiratívny, keďže prekonal neľahké obdobie ekonomickej transformácie. „Ukrajina potrebuje vyvážať, nie iba dovážať, a teda zvýšiť svoju konkurencieschopnosť,“ objasnil expremiér. Na otázku, či nepovažuje úlohu, ktorá stojí pred Ukrajinou, za takmer neriešiteľnú, odpovedal negatívne. „Otázka stojí tak, buď sa postavíte, alebo podľahnete. Je výsostným záujmom mojej vlasti, aby mala v Ukrajine stabilného, pokojného a predvídateľného suseda,“ dodal Dzurinda.

Mikuláš Dzurinda nebude prvým Slovákom, ktorý radí čelným ukrajinským predstaviteľom. Jeho dlhoročný blízky spolupracovník Ivan Mikloš už dnes radí ukrajinskej ministerke financií Natalii Jareskovej a ukrajinskému ministrovi hospodárstva Aivarasovi Abramavičovi.

Briti vyhostia časť Slovákov

Veľké regionálne rozdiely na Slovensku nútia viacerých ľudí hľadať si prácu v zahraničí. Len vo Veľkej Británii pracuje vyše 50-tisíc Slovákov. Britom sa nepáči, že do krajiny prichádza viac ako 300-tisíc prisťahovalcov ročne. Súčasní, ako aj noví prisťahovalci to však budú mať ojedinelé pracovnými možnosťami zložitejšie. Pred britskými celonárodnými voľbami, ktoré sa budú konať 7. mája, sa totiž politici predhávajú v návrhoch proti prisťahovalcom. Kto si nenájde prácu po roku po príchode do krajiny, bude zrejme vyhostený. To je zatiaľ najmenej čo z politickej diskusie vyplynulo. Možné sú aj tvrdšie opatrenia a v krajnom prípade aj odchod Británie z Európskej únie.

Nad mestom lieta automobil

Slovenský vynález, ktorý obdivuje celý svet, brázdí nebo nad Nitrou takmer každý deň. AeroMobil šofériuje aj riadi počas letu jeho vynálezca Štefan Klein. „Testovacie lety prototypu trvali celý marec. Ich účelom bolo naplnenie cieľov letového programu, aby mohol byť AeroMobil certifikovaný na lietanie,“ vysvetlil Štefan Vadocz zo spoločnosti, ktorá auto vyvíja. Lietajúce vozidlo strávilo v oblakoch doteraz sedem hodín. V pozemnej prevádzke má na konte 30 hodín vrátane vzletov a pristátí. „Začiatok procesu predaja je predbežne určený na rok 2017,“ prezradil Štefan Vadocz.

Bez strukovín upadáme

Slovenská poľnohospodárska krajina sa stáva fádnu a jednotvárnou, čo vidieť aj na jedálnom lístku obyvateľstva. Na poliach sa pestujú zväčša už len obilniny, kukurica a olejiny. Strukoviny ako hrach, fazuľa či šošovica sú zriedkavosťou. Ich spotreba podobne ako konzumácia mlieka upadá. Ustupujúce strukoviny neprospeievajú zdraviu ľudí ani pôde. Odborník na výživu profesor Viliam Bada hovorí, že ľudia akoby sa hanbili jesť strukoviny. Pritom sú to plnohodnotné rastlinné bielkoviny. A takmer úplné vyradenie strukovín z osevných postupov má negatívne následky na pôdu znížením obsahu fosforu a draslíka. Bude trvať najmenej 20 rokov, kým sa pôda z týchto nepriaznivých zásahov spamätá.

RegioJet hrozí, že zastaví vlaky do Košíc

Český RegioJet v decembri expandoval k nám s veľkou slávou. Štart linky z Bratislavy do Košíc sprevádzali bubnujúci tanečníci a sebavedomé prehlásenia o tom, že Slováci zažijú vo vlakoch nepoznaný komfort. Po štyroch mesiacoch už tvrdí, že medzi Bratislavou a Košicami sa nedá jazdiť so ziskom. Do konca roku by mohol jej prevádzku ukončiť. Jeho biznis naráža predovšetkým na stopercentné zľavy pre študentov a dôchodcov vlády Roberta Fica. Na linke medzi Bratislavou a Košicami ich dnes ponúkajú len štátne rýchliky. RegioJet požaduje od vlády aspoň čiastočné kompenzácie, aby mohol linku udržať. Ponúka variant, že aj on bude študentov a dôchodcov vozíť zadarmo, chce však preplatenie polovice nákladov. Navyše žiada, aby štát zastavil IC vlaky do Košíc, ktoré vraj dotuje, alebo ich prestal dotovať. Ministerstvo Jána Počiatka (Smer-SD) však akékoľvek ústupky odmieta.

Správy čerpané z TASR a slovenských časopisov



Profesorka Emília Hrabovec nominovaná na titul Slovenka roka

Profesorka Dr. phil. Emília Hrabovec, historička z Rímskokatolíckej cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulty UK a prodekanica pre vedeckú činnosť, medzinárodné vzťahy a rozvoj fakulty, je nominovaná na titul Slovenka roka 2015 v kategórii veda a výskum. Prestížna anketa Slovenka roka sa koná siedmy raz a záštitu nad ňou prevzal prezident SR Andrej Kiska.

Slovenky sú nominované v ôsmich kategóriách: biznis a manažment, umenie a kultúra, médiá a komunikácia, veda a výskum, vzdelávanie a podpora mladých talentov, zdravotníctvo, šport a charita.

O víťazkách rozhodnú diváci a poslucháči RTVS, Profesorka Dr. phil. Emília Hrabovec, čitatelia týždenníka Slovenka formou SMS hlasovania, kupónov a internetového hlasovania na www.slovenkaroka.sk a www.fenskyweb.sk.

Nominantky predstavil na tlačovej konferencii dňa 9. marca v Bratislave týždenník Slovenka, ktorý čitateľskú anketu vyhlásil v spolupráci s Rozhlasom a televíziou Slovenska (RTVS) a Slovenským národným divadlom (SND). Galavečer, na ktorom vyhlásia víťazky jednotlivých kategórií aj absolútnu víťazku ankety, sa uskutoční dňa 24. mája v historickej budove SND. Titul absolútna Slovenka roka si odnesie dáma, ktorá dosiahne najvyšší počet hlasov. Aj tento rok organizátori udelia Mimoriadne ocenenie za celoživotný prínos pre Slovensko.



FOTO TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

TK KBS

Vyhlásenie Panslovenskej únie k Roku Ľudovíta Štúra

Uznesením vlády SR z októbra minulého roka bol tento rok vyhlásený za Rok Ľudovíta Štúra, ktorým si pripomínáme 200. výročie narodenia tohto génia nielen slovenského národa, ale aj Európy. Dôležitosť tohto výročia podčiarkuje aj jeho zaradenie do zoznamu výročí Organizácie Spojených národov pre výchovu, vedu a kultúru (UNESCO) na roky 2014-15.

Ani občianske združenie Panslovenská únia nemôže ostať stranou tohto výročia a podujatí s ním spojených, pravda podľa svojich možností. Tým viac, že štúrovský odkaz má vo svojom názve a jeho realizáciu v hlavnej náplni svojej činnosti. Konkrétnejšie, sú to: všeslovenská vzájomnosť, zmierenie medzi slovanskými národmi, miesto Slovanov v spoločnej Európe a rovnoprávne postavenie v nej.

Štúrov odkaz je dnes aktuálny ako nikdy predtým. Nová železná opona tento raz rozdeľuje slovenské národy, ba dokonca riňcia zbrane na hraniciach medzi nimi. Súčasný neutešený stav slovanstva žiaľ, nielenže zatieňuje toto významné výročie, ale navyše pripomína nejednotu a roztržky medzi Slovanmi v 19. storočí, ktorých svedkom bol samotný Štúr práve v čase, keď písal svoje geopolitické a filozoficko-historické dielo Slovanstvo a svet budúcnosti, ktoré je aj jedným z hlavných zdrojov inšpirácie nášho združenia. Treba si vari znova zopakovať nezvládnutú lekciu z dejín?

V týchto znova ťažkých časoch sa inšpirujeme tiež Štúrovou odvahou – bol to, čo je zriedkavý jav, nielen muž reflexie, ale aj muž činu – a pridajme sa aj k tým, ktorí politickú reprezentáciu i všetkých obyvateľov Slovenska vyzývajú k zastaveniu bratovražedných bojov na východnej Ukrajine (kým je ešte čas) a k obnoveniu mieru v Európe i vo svete. V tejto súvislosti je namieste pripomenúť Štúrove slová, ktorými sa končí citované dielo a ktoré on sám označil ako posolstvo: „Aj keby sa zdalo, že ľudstvo upadáva, nemôže sa na dlhý čas samo seba spreneveriť a vzdáť sa svojej podstaty, predovšetkým pri dnešnom neobyčajnom pokroku. Napreduje stále ďalej a nik nemôže povedať dopredu, kam dospeje. No zhoršenie môže byť len dočasné. Otvorte svoje dlho stiesnené srdcia, Slovania, naberte s božou pomocou odvahy k činom! Prázdna je národná samolúbosť, ktorá v sebe neskrýva nič hlbšie. Ide napokon o ľudstvo, ktorého členmi sme spolu s ostatnými národmi.“

V 17.-18. storočí sa do povedomia Slovákov vracajú názvy ako Panónia či „Veľká Morava“, aj keď k tomuto poslednému môžeme mať výhrady, lebo v samotnej českej terminológii prežil názov Moravské Slovensko, ktorý predsa nespadol z neba. Toto nové hľadanie identity vyústilo v Štúrových časoch do pomenovania Slovenské okolie. Poznané dejiny sú nielen výrazom identity, ale aj zdrojom hrdosti.

Záverom preto ešte odcitujeme slová z Úvodu práce Slovenský juh v stredoveku z pera dôstojného pokračovateľa Ľudovíta Štúra, jazykovedca a historika, Jána Stanislava: „Výsledkom nášho štúdia je poznanie, že Slováci boli kedysi veľký národ, rozprestierajúci sa na väčšine Dunajskej kotliny. Dnešné Slovensko je už len maličkým úlomkom starého Slovenska. Dnešný slovenský národ je len zvyškom veľkého národa. Usudzujúc podľa rozsahu územia, ktoré obýval, a podľa veľkého počtu osídlených lokalít, môžeme povedať, že to bol v IX.-X. stor. jeden z najväčších slovanských národov. Kultúrna práca, vtedy na Slovensku vykonaná, je teda úmerná počtu a sile tohto starého nášho národa.“

V Bratislave 16. marca 2015

Predsedsníctvo Panslovenskej únie

AMERICKÝ SLÁVIK 2015



TRETÍ ROČNÍK SPEVÁCKEJ SÚŤAŽE DETÍ
V INTERPRETÁCII ČESKEJ A SLOVENSKEJ ĽUDOVEJ PIESNE

GARANTI SÚŤAŽE

KAREL GOTT A PETER DVORSKÝ

SLÁVNOSTNÉ FINÁLE SA USKUTOČNÍ

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V BOHEMIAN HALL

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Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Prehliadka slovenského folklóru v NYC

Slovensko – Americké Kultúrne Stredisko Vás srdečne pozýva na prehliadku slovenského folklóru, ktoré sa bude konať v **nedeľu 17. mája 2015 o 13.00 hodine** v hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 E 66th Street, New York City. V hale si bude možnosť kúpiť slovenský obed od 12.00 hod.

V programe vystúpia Andrew Pulver – operný spevák, NJ; LIMBORÁČIK, NY; DOMOVINKA, Clifton, NJ; SLNOVRÁTOK, Hillsborough, NJ; SLOVENSKÁ ŠKOLA pri kos. sv. J. Nepomuckého, NY; SLOVENSKÁ KOMUNITA pri kos. sv. Michala, Trenton, NJ; SLOVENSKÉ CENTRUM DETÍ LIPKA, Linden, NJ; HLAS s doprovodom LH Pajtaši, NY; O zábavu sa postará slov. ľudová hudba PAJTAŠI, NY. Viac info: www.SlovakAmericanCC.org Vstupné: \$5 Dospelí; deti a mládež do 16 rokov zdarma.

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v **nedeľu 31. mája 2015 o 1:00 hodine** odpoľudnia na Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, NYC, po slovenskej omši, ktorá sa začne o 11.00 hodine dopoludnia. Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Na programe bude podanie finančnej správy a príprava činnosti na budúce obdobie. Po polročnej členskej schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

4. ročník Filmového festivalu krajín V4 vo Washingtone

V priestoroch slovenského zastupiteľského úradu vo Washingtone sa 14. apríla 2015 premietal film slovenského režiséra Juraja Jakubiska „Bathory“ v rámci 4. ročníka Filmového festivalu ZÚ krajín V4. Tohtoročný festival organizoval Zastupiteľský úrad SR vo Washingtone v rámci predsedníctva Slovenska vo Vyšehradskej štvorke. Témou festivalu sú Legendy a aj preto sa vybrané filmy snažia zachytiť bohatú históriu nášho regiónu a jeho historické postavy, z ktorých niektoré sa časom pretavili do legiend.

Festival otvoril slovenský film „Bathory“ od Juraja Jakubiska, ktorý mal premiéru na festivale v Karlových Varoch v roku 2008. Jakubiskovo spracovanie filmu sa snaží spochybnit' legendu o Bátoričke, ktorá zabíjala mladé panny a kúpala sa v ich krvi a vykresľuje ju skôr ako modernú renesančnú ženu, ktorá sa stala obeťou mocenských a finančných snáh vtedajšej šľachty. Film bol najúspešnejším filmom desaťročia v Čechách a celkovo najúspešnejším filmom slovenskej kinematografie. Získal mnoho zahraničných ocenení, ako napr. World Fest Houston (2011) za najlepší historický film; Cena poroty RÉMI a najlepší umelecký čin (Monaco Film Festival 2010) a Český lev (2009) za najlepší umelecký čin rok, najlepší výtvarník a najlepšie kostýmy.

Premietaniu predchádzal príhovor veľvyslanca Petra Kmeca, ktorý publiku predstavil regionálne zoskupenie V4, ako aj priority predsedníctva SR vo V4. V rámci recepcie po premietaní filmu mali diváci možnosť porozprávať sa o histórii regiónu V4 a jeho zmenách. Festival pokračuje premietaním poľského filmu „Papusza“ režisérov Joanna Kos-Krauze a Krzysztof Krauze (21.4.), českého filmu „Kdo chce zabít Jesii?“ režiséra Václava Vorlíčka (28.4.) a maďarského filmu venovanom futbalovej legende „Puskás-Hungary“ od režiséra Tamása Almásiho (5.5.).

MZV SR



Dobrá kniha vydala novinku:

„Dejiny jezuitov v Bratislave do roku 1773“

Vo vydavateľstve Dobrá kniha vyšla nová publikácia: „Dejiny jezuitov v Bratislave do roku 1773“. Jej autormi sú Jozef Haľko a Ľuboš Rojka SJ.

V druhej polovici 17. storočia, keď v Európe vrcholil tlak Osmanskej ríše, bol Prešporok – dnešná Bratislava – najdôležitejším mestom Uhorského kráľovstva. Jeho obyvatelia hŕfne zanechávali katolícku vieru a pridávali sa k reformátorom. Ostrihomskí arcibiskupi, ktorí sa v meste často zdržiavali, hľadali pomoc u príslušníkov rýchlo sa rozvíjajúcej rehole, ktorá v európskom meradle výrazne prispela k obrane katolicizmu. Zo skromných začiatkov sa ich činnosť v Prešporoku rozvinula do založenia významného kolégia, ktoré formovalo mládež. Z prešporskej jezuitskej tlačiarne sa šírili významné náboženské i vedecké literárne diela. Mariánske kongregácie, ktoré jezuiti zakladali, poznačili nielen formu ľudovej zbožnosti širokých mas veriacich, ale vtlačili výraznú pečať aj kultúrnemu a spoločenskému životu mesta. Pamätníkom pôsobenia jezuitov pred zrušením rehole v roku 1773 je doteraz viacero významných historických pamiatok v bratislavskom Starom meste. Pútavý text tejto publikácie z pera Jozefa Haľka a Ľuboša Rojku nám približuje požehnané pôsobenie nasledovníkov svätého Ignáca v meste, ktoré by bez ich príspevku vyzeralo v minulosti i v prítomnosti zaiste celkom inak. Knihu ocenia nielen historici, ale aj všetci, ktorí sa zaujímajú o vlastné dejiny. Vychádza pri príležitosti 200 rokov od obnovenia jezuitskej rehole, ktoré si Spoločnosť Ježišova pripomenula v minulom roku 2014.

Publikácia má 190 strán, veľmi veľa farebných a vzácnych dobových čiernobielych fotografií, a je v tvrdej väzbe s prebalom. Jej bežná cena je 21 €, v našom internetovom a zásielkovom obchode 18,90 €. Objednávky na publikácie vydavateľstva Dobrá kniha prijíma na adrese: dobrakniha@dobrakniha.sk, na webe www.dobrakniha.sk alebo na telefónnom čísle 033/ 59 34 221. Novinku je možné nájsť v knižkupectvách Dobrej knihy: Bratislava – Hviezdoslavovo námestie 22, Trnava - Štefánikova 44, Piešťany – Teplická 32 a Košice – Hlavná 89.

TK KBS informoval František Sočufka SJ

Slovenský film na festivale európskeho filmu v New Yorku

Slovenský krátky animovaný film Veroniky Obertovej a Michaely Čopikovej Nina patril 9. apríla 2015 v New Yorku k ponuke prvého ročníka európskeho filmového festivalu Animated Spirits: New Animation for Europe. Na prvom ročníku festivalu sa zúčastnilo 12 krajín EÚ.

Film zobrazuje príbeh bojzlivého chlapca a malej divoženky, ktorých spája, ale aj delí strach. Vzniká medzi nimi silné puto, ktoré je v detskom svete fantázie všemocné. Film si vyslúžil pozornosť odborného publika, po premietaní nasledovala podnetná diskusia. Tento filmový festival patrí k projektom newyorskej skupiny EUNIC (Asociácia národných kultúrnych inštitútov v rámci Európskej únie).

MZV SR

Veľkonočné obdobie pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Pokračovanie zo str. 24



Spievané pašie počas Kvetnej nedele. Na snímke zľava Rado Lesay, zodpovedný za nácvik veľkonočných paší s ochotníkmi kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého.

Sviatky plné milosti, požehnaní a hojnosti od Vzkrieseného Spasiteľa ...

Veľkonočné sviatky v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC sa začali slávnostnou svätou omšou na Kvetnú nedeľu 29. marca 2015, ktorú odslúžil vikár kostola otec Štefan Chanas.

Svätej omši predchádzala navčienená deťmi Živá Krížová cesta. Predstavili ju deti Slovenskej školy kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, ktorú otvorili v jeseni minulého roku. Za túto Krížovú cestu patrí vďaka hlavne otcovi Štefanovi Chanasovi a Zuzane Zemanovej, ktorá sa postarala o nácvik detí programu Kvetnej nedele.

Po svätej omši ako tradične sa spievali „Pašie“, ktoré s ochotníkmi kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého navčienil náš spevák Rado Lesay.

Po svätej omši sa farníci presunuli do Farskej haly, kde bolo pre nich pripravené bohaté občerstvenie o ktoré sa zaslúžili: Janko Škrkoň, Mária Božeková, Magda Vančová, Helena Kopčeková, Serafka Šuláková a ďalší členovia našich Spolkov.



Na snímke Pánu Ježišovi zvliekajú šaty.

Veľkonočnú výzdobu vo Farskej hale pripravili hlavne Mária Božeková, Karol Vida, manželia Bilikovi a niektorí ďalší farníci.

V závere patrí vďaka zvlášť otcovi Štefanovi Chanasovi a všetkým spomenutým farníkom ako i mnohým iným, ktorí sa zaslúžili akýmkoľvek spôsobom na pripravách veľkonočných obradov v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Henrieta H. Daitová, kultúrna referentka Farskej rady



Na snímke Živá Krížová cesta, kde Pán Ježiš padá prvý raz pod krížom.

Vyšlo nové číslo magazínu Slovensko

V týchto dňoch opäť vyšlo nové číslo magazínu Slovensko. Obsahovo pestrý a graficky vynikajúci časopis Vás vtiahne do sveta krás našej krajiny a prezradí Vám to najlepšie o významných Slovákoch. Staňte sa i Vy jeho predplatiteľom, kliknite na: <http://www.matica.sk/objednajte-si-magazin-slovensko.phtml?id3=73133> prípadе nazrite do archívu starších čísel: <http://www.matica.sk/aktualne-cisla.phtml?id3=73125>

PhDr. Zuzana Pavelcová, vedecká a vývojová pracovníčka Matica slovenská, Krajanské múzeum



Spisovateľ Pavol Bindas 80-ročný

V prvých májových dňoch, môj vzácný starokrajový kompartiot, laureát Matice slovenskej, MVDr. Pavol Bindas, dovŕšil významné životné jubileum – 80 rokov svojho plodného života. Narodil sa 5. mája 1935 v Černomom, v mestskej časti Vranova nad Topľou, kde prežil takmer celý svoj život zasvätený svojej veterinárnej profesii, spisbe a ľudu z ktorého vyšiel.

Jubilant, Pavol Bindas, po maturite na gymnáziu v Trebišove, nastúpil na Veterinárnu fakultu v Košiciach, kde bol promován na lekára veterinárnej medicíny. Následne prešiel početnými pracovnými zmenami prístrihutej existujúcej partajnej politiky. Skončil vo funkcii riaditeľa vtedajšej Regionálnej pozemkovej informačnej služby vo vranovskom okrese. Vo veku 60 rokov, zo zdravotných dôvodov, odišiel do výslužby, ktorá sa preňho stala oázou literárnej tvorby. Napísal päť kníh, včítane historio-grafickej knihy Černé na nebol valal, dve bibliografické štúdiá svojich významných rodákov, a počet dobových článkov, z ktorých niektoré prenikli do slovenských periodík publikovaných za oceánom, či za tou veľkou mláskou. Jubilant za svoju literárnu tvorbu bol poctený záslužnou medailou Matice slovenskej.

I keď sa osobne nepoznáme, je pre mňa čťou byť s ním v písomnom styku už dlhý počet rokov. Spája ma s hrejivým teplom rodného kraja. V svojich listoch obrazne mi sprítomňoval známe i menej známe miesta nášho spoločného rodného valala, ba i také, ktoré skoro po 80 rokoch života v Kanade, vypľšali z pamäti. S manželkou Aninka vychovali dve deti.

Z napísaných slov jubilanta a jeho spoločenského počínania usudzujem, že je človekom vysokých mravných kvalít, nezlomnej viery a rodovej príslušnosti, čo nemožno vygumovať z jeho životnej pôsobnosti. Svoje profesionálne zážitky a príhody faktograficky zdokumentoval v jednotlivých epizódach zhrnutých do knihy Vypadlo z veterinárneho kufriku. Každá epizóda končí východoslovenským múdroslovím v ľudovom dialekte.

Bolo by naivné sa nazdávať, že profesionálny život jubilanta plavil na lodi po tichej vode. V reči ľudu: Nemal na ružiach ustlané, najmä počas nadvlády totalitárneho režimu bez ľudskej tvári o čom sa názorne zmienil v úvode spomenutej knihy.

Prežil dobu totálnej ľudskej nepravosti a brutálnej krivdy zo strany orgánov kádrovej byrokracie. Vtedy sa lámal chlieb, ľudské charaktery, náboženské presvedčenie, sloboda tlače a prejavu, a bezohľadne sa ničili za dlhé a dlhé roky používané pozemkové hodnoty. Neveril, že zo stokrát opakovanej nepravdy sa stane nakoniec pravda. Veril, že skôr-neskôr okyptená pravda ľudu sadne za stôl.

V duchu rodáckej spolupatričnosti žičím jubilantovi veľa ľudskej dobroty a Božej milosti s kanadským prívolaním: Happy 80th Birthday, Alf!

Štefan Hreha, Montréal, QC.



Spolok sv. Vojtecha spúšťa novú webstránku

Spolok sv. Vojtecha, ktorý si tento rok pripomína 145 rokov od svojho založenia, spustil 23. apríla, na sviatok svojho patróna sv. Vojtecha, novú webovú stránku www.ssv.sk a internetový obchod s názvom eobchod.ssv.sk.

„V duchu idey zakladateľa Andreja Radlinského, ktorý sa usiloval využívať najmodernejšie komunikačné prostriedky na šírenie kvalitnej literatúry, sa aj my chceme priblížiť našim čitateľom a priaznivcom jazykom dnešného sveta,“ hovorí riaditeľ Spolku sv. Vojtecha Ivan Šulík. Pod grafickú podobu webovej stránky a internetového obchodu sa podpísalo grafické štúdio Pergamen, ktoré patrí medzi svetovú dizajnérsku špičku. Nová webová stránka je len jednou z aktivít, ktoré najväčšie katolícke vydavateľstvo pripravilo na tento rok. „Pracujeme aj na ďalších projektoch, z tých významnejších môžem spomenúť vydanie Jednotného katolíckeho spevníka v novej grafickej úprave,“ hovorí riaditeľ SSV.

Spolok sv. Vojtecha pripravil na 87. valné zhromaždenie, ktoré sa uskutočnilo 25. apríla v Trnave a zúčastnili sa na ňom delegáti vyše 96-tisícovej členskej základne. Členovia SSV získavajú každý rok podielovú knihu, DVD s filmom a kalendár Pútnik svätovojtežský. Najbližšie sa môžu tešiť na životopisný film o sv. Maximiliánovi Kolbom Život za život a na román Jozefa Repka Prebúdzanie obra, zachytávajúci životné osudy biskupa Štefana Moyzeša.

Spolok sv. Vojtecha založil v roku 1870 katolícky kňaz a jazykovedec Andrej Radlinský s cieľom šíriť vzdelanosť, prehlbovať náboženský život a oživovať myšlienku národného povedomia Slovákov. Spolok sv. Vojtecha hneď po svojom vzniku prevzal vydávanie týždenníka Katolíckej noviny (založené v roku 1849), vydával knihy a školské učebnice, čím sa usiloval podporovať vzdelanosť širokých vrstiev obyvateľov. Hoci v roku 1953 komunistický režim takmer štvrtmilionovú členskú základňu zrušil, v roku 1990 bolo členstvo obnovené a zapojili sa doň desaťtisíce ľudí.

TK KBS



Žiaci základných škôl dostanú učebnice angličtiny

Žiaci na prvom stupni základných škôl dostanú učebnice angličtiny. Minister školstva Juraj Draxler vyčlenil na zabezpečenie učebníc angličtiny v nasledujúcom školskom roku 1,6 milióna eur. Pôjde o príspevok školám, ktorý sa rozdelí podľa počtu žiakov jednotlivých ročníkov. TASR o tom informovala hovorkyňa rezortu školstva Beáta Dupalová Ksenzsihová.

Peniaze sú priority určené na učebnice pre 3., 4. a 5. ročník základných škôl (ZŠ). Podľa ministra Draxlera by malo na jedného žiaka pripadať približne 10 eur. Financie sú účelovo viazané, ale každá škola si môže určiť, akú učebnicu chce. „Len pre tretí ročník ZŠ je na výber asi 18 druhov odporúčaných kníh a nechceme učiteľom určovať, ktorá je tá najlepšia,“ tvrdí Draxler.

Podľa rezortu školstva jednotná učebnica angličtiny neexistuje. „Je to z dôvodu, že ani s amotní pedagógovia nedokážu určiť jednu, univerzálnu, vhodnú pre všetkých žiakov a učiteľov na všetkých slovenských školách,“ vysvetlila Dupalová Ksenzsihová. Ako tvrdí, deti a aj ich pedagógovia, sú totiž na rozličnej vedomostnej úrovni. „Tá sa líši od školy k škole, a tak používajú rozličné typy kníh. Zároveň je veľká variabilita učebných plánov v rámci školských vzdelávacích programov,“ podotkla hovorkyňa. Ministerstvo tvrdí, že by nakúpilo jednu učebnicu pre všetkých, veľmi pravdepodobne by ju však množstvo škôl používať nechcelo, ako sa to už v minulosti stalo.

Riešenie tohto dlhoročného problému vychádza z novely školského zákona, na základe ktorého je možné poslať školám finančné prostriedky, a nie konkrétnu knihu vysúťaženu cez verejné obstarávanie, ako to bolo legislatívne možné doteraz.

TASR

Vojtekov film DETI ovládol Medzinárodný filmový festival v Pekingu

Hraný debut Jara Vojteka DETI ovládol Medzinárodný filmový festival v Pekingu.

V konkurencii 15 súťažných snímok z celého sveta si vo štvrtok 23. apríla pripísal na konto až tri z desiatich hlavných festivalových cien Tiantan, o ktorých rozhodla prestížna porota na čele s predsedom - svetovým režisérom Lucom Bessonom.

Najslávnejší ázijský režisér dneška a porotca Kim Ki-duk osobne odovzdal do rúk Évy Bandor ocenenie za najlepšiu herečku vo vedľajšej úlohe. Producent Mátyás Prikler sa potom vrátil na pódium ešte dvakrát, aby prevzal cenu za najlepší scenár, ktorý napísal Marek Leščák a cenu za najlepšiu kameru, ktorá putuje Tomášovi Stanekovi.

„Na svete je veľa festivalov a veľa cien. To, čo najviac záväzuje, je kto o cenách rozhoduje. A keď v porote sedí Luc Besson, Kim Ki-duk a ďalší oceňovaní tvorcovia, tak to váhu má. Aj keď nerobíme filmy kvôli peniazom, ale potešilo nás to,“ napísali priamo z pekinského červeného koberca režisér Jaro Vojtek a producent Mátyás Prikler z produkčnej spoločnosti MPhिल्ms.

Do oficiálneho výberu 15 súťažných snímok z celého sveta vybral DETI Marco Müller, oscarový producent a bývalý riaditeľ prestížnych festivalov v Benátkach, Locarne či Rotterdame. Ten osobne privítal slovenskú delegáciu tvorcov na červenom koberci pri príležitosti medzinárodnej premiéry filmu na festivale 20. apríla 2015. Súťažná zostava vzišla z takmer 1000 prihlásených snímok z 90 krajín.

Na pekinský festival prišli film osobne uviesť režisér Jaro Vojtek, herečka Éva Bandor, producent Mátyás Prikler, kameraman Tomáš Stanek a vedúca produkcie Martina Agricolová.

Prvý hraný film oceňovaného dokumentaristu Jara Vojteka autenticky zobrazuje pokrivené rodinné vzťahy aj fakt, že s najbližšími sme si najbližší, aj keď to niekedy nezvládame.

Syn, Maratón, Kanárik, Otec - štyri poviedky, ktoré vytvárajú jeden pohľad na rôzne podoby vzťahu rodičov a detí. Či už ide o otca vyrovnávajúceho sa s nedostupným autistickým svetom svojho syna, mladého muža, ktorý nezvláda odlúčenie od rodiny, chlapca žijúceho s necitlivým otčimom či zradenú ženu starajúcu sa o zomierajúceho otca, každá z postáv rieši svoju situáciu po svojom: návštevou ľudového liečiteľa, útekem z väzenia, súťažou kanárikov, výletom k moru.

Producentom filmu DETI je Mátyás Prikler z produkčnej spoločnosti MPhिल्ms, koproducentmi sú česká spoločnosť Duracfilm a Rozhlas a televízia Slovenska.



Foto: MPHILMS

Zľava Jaro Vojtek, Éva Bandor a Matyas Prikler.



Zľava Jaro Vojtek a Éva Bandor.



Po premiére filmu DETI: producent Mátyás Prikler (druhý zľava), herečka Éva Bandor, režisér Jaro Vojtek a vedľa (druhý sprava) kameraman Tomáš Stanek.



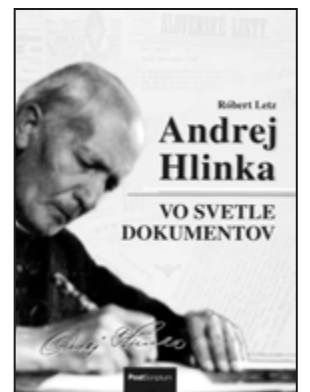
Knižná novinka z vydavateľstva Post Scriptum

Róbert Letz: Andrej Hlinka vo svetle dokumentov

Nedávno vydaná kniha prináša reprezentatívny výber 59 dokumentov týkajúcich sa všetkých podstatných etáp a dimenzií verejného účinkovania Andreja Hlinku (1864 – 1938), kňaza, politika a národného dejateľa, a ponúka tak možnosť utvoriť si pomerne komplexný obraz o jednej z najvýraznejších osobností novodobých slovenských dejín. Napriek rozličným prístupom

k interpretácii jeho postojov a činov je nespochybniteľné, že Hlinka výnimočným spôsobom ovplyvňoval mnohé oblasti života Slovákov od konca 19. storočia až do svojej smrti. Úplné oddanie sa svojmu kňazskému povolaniu, ktoré ho priviedlo k nezištnej službe jemu zvereným, ťažko skúšaným veriacim na poli duchovnom, kultúrnom, vzdelávacom i sociálnom, prerástlo do aktivít zameraných na dosiahnutie podstatných riešení s cieľom dosiahnuť lepšie, spravodlivejšie podmienky pre život svojho národa ako celku. V tomto zmysle Hlinka rozhodujúcim spôsobom prispel k dotvoreniu Slovákov na moderný štátotvorný národ.

Aj preto v jeho neobyčajne košatom životnom príbehu - zvlášť, ak je to na báze prameňového materiálu - môže pozorný čitateľ nachádzať nové horizonty našej národnej historickej pamäte, ba odkrývať mnohé podstatné otázky týkajúce sa formovania našej identity, odkazu predkov, či zmyslu našich dejín. Jednotlivé pramene sú usporiadané chronologicky v rámci šiestich tematických celkov: Ochrana slabých, V boji za práva slovenského národa v Uhorsku, Princípy Hlinkovej autonomistickej politiky v Československej republike, Hlinka o kresťanstve, viere a cirkvi, Hlinka očami iných osobností, Záver životnej cesty a odkaz Andreja Hlinku, a sú vybavené dôkladným poznámkovým aparátom, ktorý má predovšetkým vysvetľujúcu funkciu a ozrejmuje rôzne fakty, súvislosti a vzťahy, ktoré by inak mohli čitateľovi uniknúť. Každú časť uvádza stručný komentár editora, renomovaného historika strednej generácie. Okrem rozsiahleho obrazového materiálu, osobitne hodnotná je podrobne spracovaná Chronológia života Andreja Hlinku a pamäti o ňom, no nechýba ani súpis použitej literatúry, anglické resumé, či menný register. Kniha má tak predpoklady stať sa základnou príručkou k danej problematike pre historikov, pedagógov, študujúcu mládež, či zaujímavým prameňom poznania pre každého záujemcu o našu minulosť.





Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 124

STREDA, 6. MÁJA 2015

Číslo 5920

Národná slávnosť na Devíne pri príležitosti 200. výročia narodenia Ľudovíta Štúra, ako aj výročia pamätného výstupu štúrovcov na Hrad Devín v sobotu 25. apríla 2015.



FOTO TASR - Miroslav Košírer

A national pilgrimage was held to Devín Castle on Saturday, April 25, 2015 to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ľudovít Štúr and the anniversary of the first gathering at the famous castle in 1837.

Národné slávnosti na Devíne

Buďme Slovanmi a pestujme odkaz Ľudovíta Štúra, ktorý je o chudobe a pokore, odvahe, i v tom, že sa nekradne! Týmto slovami privítal 25. apríla účastníkov Národnej slávnosti na Devíne predseda Matice slovenskej (MS) Marián Tkáč. Podujatie sa konalo pri príležitosti 200. výročia narodenia Ľudovíta Štúra, ako aj výročia pamätného výstupu štúrovcov na Hrad Devín (24.4.1836).

Na začiatku slávnosti, po tom, čo si prítomní položením vencov uctili pamiatku slovenských vierozvestcov, pripomenul Tkáč aj význam Devína pre Slovákov a slovenčinu. „Práve v tomto priestore sa pohyboval Konštantín, neskorší sv. Cyril, ktorý bol prvý kodifikátor slovenčiny, na färe v Devíne bol v lete 1785, rok predtým, ako vyšli jeho známe spisy o slovenčine, Anton Bernolák, a napokon je Devín aj symbolom výstupu štúrovcov, ktorí v roku 1836 prijali slovenské mená,“ povedal Tkáč. Predseda MS tiež poukázal na fakt, že tento rok je rokom Ľudovíta Štúra. Odkaz štúrovcov a ich snahy o povznesenie slovenského národa sú podľa Tkáča inšpiráciou aj pre súčasnú generáciu. „Keby sme boli ako Štúr, boli by sme ako národ v nebi, no bohužiaľ nie sme všetci ako Štúr a čo je horšie, mnohí ani poriadne nevedia, kto to bol Štúr,“ skonštatoval. V úvode Národnej slávnosti na Devíne účastníci položili vence pri pamätníku sv. Cyrila a Metoda pred Farským kostolom Svätého kríža, pamätnej tabuli Antona Bernoláka, soche kráľa Rastislava a pri pamätníku obeťam železnej opony.

Slávnosť sa po tomto akte presunula priamo na Hrad Devín, kde sa konali evanjelické služby Božie pod vedením biskupa západného dištriktu Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania (ECAV) na Slovensku Milana Krivdu.

Podujatie organizovala Matica slovenská v spolupráci s ECAV na Slovensku, Ministerstvom kultúry SR, Bratislavským samosprávnym krajom (BSK), Mestským múzeom Bratislava a mestskou časťou Devín. Záštitu nad podujatím prevzal minister kultúry SR Marek Maďarič.

TASR

Mojej mamke

Tebe, moja milá mamko,
slová vďaka stvárom,
ruky k nebu spinám,
volám:
Pane, buď jej milostivý,
obráť k nej Svoju tvár
a daruj jej kýžený pokoj,
bo už od dávnych rokov
v nesvojej zemi odpočíva,
o svojej domovine
dlhé sny sníva.

Tebe, moja dobrá mamko,
venujem moje ľúbe spomienky
a pred Tvoj mĺkvy pomník,
ukladám do bieleho kvetníka
ruží nerozvité púčiky,
bo na Tvojom clivom hrobe
rozkvitnú
v jasavé ružičky.

Štefan Hreha



Skupina detí Slovenskej školy v NYC, ktoré stvárnili Živú Krížovú cestu počas Kvetnej nedele 29. marca 2015 v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Na snímke v popredí otec Štefan Chanas, v pozadí Zuzana Zemanová.

Pokračovanie na strane 22

Fico hovoril o boji proti korupcii s Američanmi

O slovenskom akčnom pláne na boj proti korupcii a podporu právneho štátu hovoril 20. apríla 2015 premiér Robert Fico s koordinátorom protikorupčnej stratégie amerického ministerstva zahraničných vecí Georgeom Kentom a americkým veľvyslancom na Slovensku Theodorom Sedgwickom. Ako Fico informoval médiá po stretnutí, Slovensko požiadalo americkú stranu, aby bola súčasťou tohto boja proti korupcii. Akčný plán spája iniciatívu podnikateľskej obce, ktorá sa nazýva Právny štát, a iniciatívu vlády na boj proti korupcii. „Vieme aj o tom, že jednotlivé americké ambasády majú vlastné akčné plány. Dovolil som si pozvať pána Kenta na Slovensko a za prítomnosti amerického veľvyslancu sme si prešli našu iniciatívu,“ povedal Fico. Premiér predpokladá, že potom, ako akčný plán schvália, budú mať približne osem mesiacov na jeho implementáciu.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Michal Svítok

Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico (vpravo) rokoval s koordinátorom pre boj proti korupcii Európskej sekcie Ministerstva zahraničných vecí USA Georgeom Kentom (na snímke druhý sprava) o pripojení sa vlády k iniciatíve Rule of Law 20. apríla 2015 v Bratislave. Na snímke vľavo minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák a druhý zľava veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Theodore Sedgwick.

President of Slovak Government Robert Fico held talks in Bratislava on April 20, 2015, on the subject of government corruption with American Ambassador Theodore Sedgwick (second from the left); coordinator for the movement against corruption for the American Ministry of Foreign Affairs George Kent (second from right); and Minister of Interior Robert Kalinak (left).