



# Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek  
Our Founder

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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NUMBER 5788

## Thanksgiving Message from Our Chaplain



Fr. Thomas A. Nasta

Dear Friends,

Pope Benedict, by inviting the universal church to celebrate the "Year of St. Paul," encourages us all to reflect upon the life of this great saint through his writings. In doing so we come to realize that much of what Paul taught and wrote has implications for us today. It becomes obvious that when we read Paul's letters, he begins just about every one with the same theme, namely, giving thanksgiving.

- He thanks God for the Christians in Thessalonica who were persevering in faith despite the hardships and persecution they were facing.
- He expresses thanks for the work of the Philippians in helping to promote the gospel.
- He thanks God for hearing that the faith was being well received in Rome and Colossae.
- He gives thanks to God for his fellow workers Timothy and Philemon who possessed a sincere faith and willingness to share it with others.
- We spend Thanksgiving Day giving thanks to God for our family, our health, our special talents, the good things we have. And we should.
- St. Paul opens our eyes to that which we sometimes overlook when giving thanks to God on this holiday, but it should be given our highest priority. The gift of faith leads us to the kingdom of heaven.

Fraternally,  
Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain



## Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Branch/District Announcements..	7,12, 13
Obituaries.....	12
Coloring Contest.....	14,15
Slovak .....	17-20

## Thanksgiving 2008

Dear Members:

"Kto ma mnoho holubov i viac k nemu prileti" – Doves fly to a person who has many.

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and our Catholic faith. Doves are also a symbol of peace and freedom. I am writing this note on the eve of the United States elections for offices ranging from President of the United States to local sheriff. Many candidates are running on a platform of change.

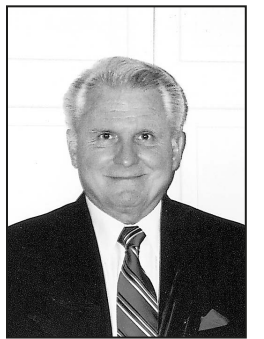
Change is a constant in human life. How we deal with these changes often impacts our own life and those surrounding us.

The current economic changes in our world, the pressures within our Catholic Church and the challenges faced by our Jednota are opportunities to reach out to the Holy Spirit, the symbol of peace and hope, to guide all of us through these unsettled times.

Patience and peace are virtues that can give us strength to face the future with renewed confidence and faith in the Lord.

Doves fly to a person who has many. A person who has inner peace and tranquility attracts others who are inspired by and drawn to that person.

On this Thanksgiving I wish you all the peace of Christ, and hope that you also will be, like the holub (dove), a beacon of peace and tranquility that will inspire many others.



Andrew M. Rajec

Happy Thanksgiving !

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

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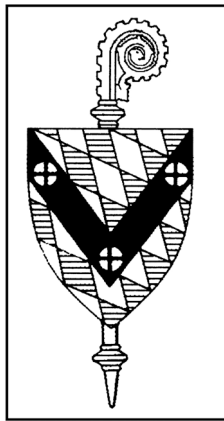
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\*Children 8 and under receive a Jednota teddy bear.

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# Insights and Viewpoints

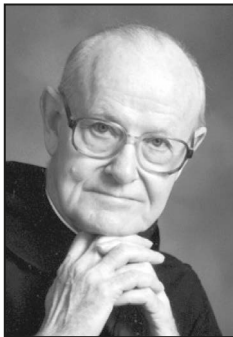


## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B.

**November 23, 2008**  
**Feast of Christ the King**  
**Matthew 25: 31-46**

### Gospel Summary

Today's selection from the gospel of Matthew is very appropriate for the feast of Christ the King because it portrays Christ as a king who presides over the scene of final judgment. The sheep, being economically more valuable than goats, represent



Demetrius R. Dumm  
O.S.B.

those who have been found worthy of final victory and reward.

The central point of the story concerns the criterion that will be used for determining who will be judged worthy and who will be rejected. We are told that the decisive factor in rendering judgment will be an account of how well we have cared for the less fortunate people among us. They are listed twice in the gospel story so that there can be no doubt about their identity: they are the hungry, the thirsty, strangers, the naked, the sick and prisoners. These are, of course, only examples of a more general category of the powerless and needy ones.

The gospel then gives us the surprising information that Jesus has chosen to identify himself with these powerless ones, so that our attitude toward them will reveal how we really feel about Jesus also. In some respects we can say that the Bible is too big for its own good. There are so many words in it that we feel obliged to be selective, and being selective can often mean passing over passages that should never be ignored. This story of the final judgment is certainly one of those indispensable passages.

### Life Implications

We need always to ask ourselves about our concern for the needy people mentioned in this parable. However, the primary emphasis should be placed on the unselfish love that ought to animate us and which will reach out to all who are more in bondage than ourselves. This may very well include many rich and powerful people who are desperately in need of love and peace and hope.

The whole process of salvation can be reduced to an initial cry for help, followed by an experience of God's liberating love (mediated often through good people and the beauty of creation), from which comes a sense of confidence and freedom. Then we are asked to convert our freedom (such as it is) into love and concern for others, so that they too may become free and confident. All this is summed up in the words of the First Letter of John:

"Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another" (4:11).

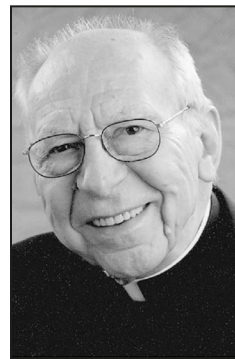
Some of the neediest among us are those who are living in the bondage of low self-esteem. This kind of bondage often hides behind a facade of feigned self-sufficiency or even joviality. The loving, sensitive person will know how to penetrate such defenses and to bring a degree of freedom to such unhappy ones. I have often thought that perhaps the only ques-

tion that will be asked of us at the last judgment will be taken from the story of the Exodus: Did you let my people go? Our strong inclination is to hoard our precious freedom and to use it only to protect ourselves against the needs of others.

The thought of a final judgment is often a source of fear and anxiety. However, it will be a wonderful experience for all those who have helped to free others from the bondage of paralyzing fear and guilt and low self-esteem. In this way, they will have become one with Jesus, who came into our world for that very purpose.

## Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

### 2 Corinth-1



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, O.P. (The New Jerome Biblical Commentary, pages 816-829) views Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians as two letters rather than one. The first letter consists of Chapters 1 through 9, the second letter Chapters 10 through 13. "Chapters 10-13, however, cannot be the continuation of chapters 1-9; it is psychologically impossible that Paul should suddenly switch from the celebration of reconciliation (1-9) to a savage reproach and sarcastic self-vindication. Thus, Second Corinthians is certainly a combination of two letters."

In the introduction to the Second Letter to the Corinthians in the Saint Joseph Edition of The New American Bible, page 211, we read: "...no theory fragmenting Second Corinthians into several letters has proved entirely convincing. A partial explanation of the degree of discontinuity and repetition in the letter would be Paul's own state of mind when he composed it. As new thoughts on the theme of his letter occurred to him, he recorded them in the hope that the outpouring of his own heart (6, 11) would ensure the community's faithfulness to him."

At any rate, the place of the composition of the Second Epistle to the Corinthians is given as Macedonia, probably in the autumn of 57 A.D. during the course of Paul's third missionary journey.

In the first chapter of Second (Letters to the) Corinthians, Paul thanks God for the relief he has received from the serious troubles he had in Asia Minor. (vs. 8) We do not know what these serious troubles were. However, Paul had been imprisoned in Ephesus, the capital of the Roman province of Asia, where he suffered the riot of the silversmiths. (Acts 19:23-40) See also, "While we live we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh." (2 Cor. 4:11) See again 2 Cor. 11: "Are they ministers of Christ? Now I am really talking like a fool-I am more: with my many more labors and imprisonments, with far worse beatings and frequent brushes with death." (vs. 23)

Writing personally, Paul says: "Conscience gives testimony to the boast that in our behavior toward all and especially toward you we have always acted from God-given holiness and candor; this has been prompted, not by debased human wisdom, but by God's goodness. We never write anything that you cannot read and understand. I hope that, just as you know us to a certain degree already, you will in time come to know us well and will recognize that we shall be your boast, and yours ours, on the day of our Lord Jesus." (2 Cor. 1:12-14)

In the First (Letter to the) Corinthians, Paul promises to return to them. "I shall come to you after I have passed through Macedonia. If it is at all possible, I should like to remain with you for some time- even to spend the winter with you- that you may provide me with what I need for the rest of my journey." (16:5-6)

*continued on page 4*

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY -  
KENNETH A. ARENDT.

## Thanksgiving Wishes

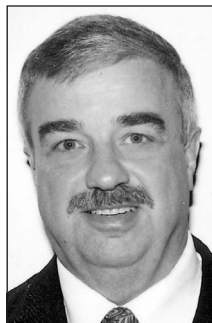
Thanksgiving, what a beautiful holiday! It is my favorite. Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. It is the day set aside for our families to gather together and give thanks to God for all of His blessings.

The preparation for Thanksgiving has been under way for many days. The lines in the grocery store exceed that of any other day of the year. The pumpkin pie is baking until midnight and the turkey is the biggest one we could find.

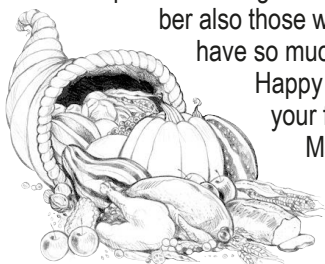
As your family gathers around the table to give thanks and praise for the glorious feast before you, remember also those who sacrificed that we might have so much.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

May God bless all of you.



Kenneth A. Arendt



Kenneth Arendt,  
Executive Secretary

# JEDNOTA

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## Slovakia Meets Requirements for Visa Waiver

By John Karch

On Wednesday, October 8, 10:00—10:30 A.M., at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C., and during the official visit of Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic, the U.S. and the Slovak Republic signed the Agreement on Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Crime.

### President Bush

On Friday, October 17, at 11:13 A.M. in the White House Rose Garden, President George W. Bush named seven countries—whose representatives were standing at the podium with State Secretary Condoleezza Rice and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff— that met the requirements to be admitted to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The countries are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, and South Korea. Their citizens will be able to travel to the U.S. for up to 90 days for tourism and business. The President congratulated “these close friends and allies on this achievement.” Six others, he said, are following a “road map” toward joining the VWP: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Malta, Poland and Romania.

In his welcoming remarks the President said travel could be expanded if security measures were increased. “These countries agreed to share information about threats to our people” and to a new system requiring registration online ahead of their visit to the U.S. “These citizens will travel to the U.S. only,” he added, “if they have tamper-proof biometric passports.” In about a month, he said, “we will be proud to extend to citizens of these seven countries the privilege of Visa-free travel.”

“Today’s announcement signifies a new chapter in the relationship between the U.S. and your nation,” the President told the Ambassadors. “It is a testament to the strong bonds of friendship that unite our people.”

### Climb to Mount Success

The difficult climb for VWP membership was aggravated by the terrorist attack on 9/11 which strengthened security measures. With time, friends and allies thought the restrictions were unfair. The President agreed and, reflecting greater nonpartisanship, the Congress gave the Administration greater flexibility by its “Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007” to admit new countries to the VWP. Ranking officials of potential VWP countries visited Washington and their Ambassadors here and ours there promoted the program.

In our nation’s capital, the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), at which I first represented the Slovak World Congress and, since 1997, the Slovak League of America, was founded in 1993 and now comprises 18 national organizations. We have been an active group in contact with the Administration—especially the National Security Council and the State Department—and with the Congress, particularly with the Central and East European Caucus in the House of Representatives. For example, we believe we have been a factor in NATO’s expansion into the CEEC area, to the VWP, and other issues.

In the case of U.S. Ambassadors to Slovakia, both his predecessor, Rodolphe Vallee, and Vincent Obsitnik explained to government officials and the media VWP developments in the U.S. Readers may recall that in my JEDNOTA articles on Ambassador Obsitnik I quoted his remark about the VWP before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Noting that the VWP was one of the difficult bilateral issues, he said “one of my priorities will be to assist efforts of the Slovak government to meet the VWP standards.”

Accordingly, he briefed Slovak officials and made himself available to the Slovak media—press, radio, TV, wire services—and to others, while informing Washington of Slovakia’s progress.

### Document Signed

An important purpose of the Presidential visit (October 7-11) was the U.S.-Slovak Republic

*continued on page 5*

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10	MONDAY, DECEMBER 1
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7	MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

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 Anthony Sutherland, Editor; editorjednota@yahoo.com  
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 FAX: (717) 944-3107

## From the Desk of the National Secretary First Catholic Slovak Union Annuity & Ira Interest Rates

**Effective October 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2008**

The annual yield on existing Flexible Premium Deferred Annuities & Ira’s is 5.00% (4.879% APR)

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

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If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA’s, please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

**Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary**

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# Insights and Viewpoints

## Reflections on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

However, in chapter 2 of Second Letters to the Corinthians, Paul has changed his mind and writes: "I did decide, however, not to visit you again in painful circumstances. For if I cause you pain, who can make me happy again but the ones I grieved? I wrote as I did so that when I come I may not be saddened by those who should rejoice my heart. I know you well enough to be convinced that my happiness is yours. That is why I wrote you in great sorrow and anguish, with copious tears- not to make you sad but to help you realize the great love I bear you." (2 Cor.2:1-4)

"If anyone has given offense he has hurt not only me, but in some measure, to say no more, every one of you. The punishment already inflicted by the majority on such a one is enough; you should now relent and support him so that he may not be crushed by too great a weight of sorrow. I therefore beg you to reaffirm your love for him. (2 Cor. 2:5-8)

A Christian member of the Church of Corinth, unidentified, had publicly reviled Paul, evidently denouncing his apostolic authority. Paul sent a letter of reproof to the Corinthians with Titus because they were slow to take to task the offending person. The Corinthians responded in support of Paul. "But God, who gives heart to those low in spirit, gave me strength with the arrival of Titus. This he did not only by his arrival but by the reinforcement Titus had already received from you; for he reported your longing, your grief, and your ardent concern for me, so that my joy is greater still. If I saddened you by my letter I have no regrets. Or if I did feel some regrets (because I understand the letter caused you grief for a time) I am happy once again." (2 Cor. 7:6-8)

"Although these data do not constitute a complete reconstruction of events in Corinth between the writing of the two Corinthian letters, they are adequate to account for the nature of this second letter, the most subjective of all the Pauline epistles." (Saint Joseph Edition of The New American Bible, page 211)

"We are an aroma," Paul writes, "of Christ for God's sake, both among those who are being saved and those on the way to destruction; to the latter an odor dealing death, the former a breath bringing life. For such a mission as this, is anyone really qualified? We at least are not like so many who trade on the word of God. We speak in Christ's name, pure in motivation, conscious of having been sent by God and of standing in his presence." (2 Cor. 2:15-17)



### FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

The Home Office and Jednota Editors Office will be closed on the following days during the holidays:



Thanksgiving and the day after  
November 27 & 28, 2008



Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the day after  
December 24, 25 & 26, 2008



New Years Day and the day after  
January 1 & 2, 2009



## Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.com.

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L-R David Blazek, Bishop David Zubik, Frederick Frank, Sue Ondrejco, Rudy Ondrejco, and Greg Fajt.

## WPSCA Dinner Successful

Over 200 guests attended the fourth biennial Testimonial Awards Dinner sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association on Sunday, September 14, 2008, at the Radisson Hotel in Greentree. Slovak achievement awards were presented to those who by distinguished leadership and service have enriched our Slovak culture. This year's recipients were:

Frederick Frank, Director of the Slovak American Enterprise Fund (WPSCA Business Award)

Gregory Fajt, Chief of Staff for Governor Rendell (WPSCA Government Award)

Rudy and Sue Ondrejco, Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour and Pittsburgh Slovaks (WPSCA Heritage Award)

David Blazek, President of the National Slovak Society (WPSCA Lifetime Achievement Award)

Most Reverend David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh Diocese (WPSCA Religion Award)

The keynote speaker for the evening was Charles Dougherty, President of Duquesne University. Greetings from the Slovak government were presented by Igor Pokojny, Slovak Consul General from New York. Musical entertainment was provided by Andrei Pidkivka and Friends.

Joseph Senko



Tamburitzans stand outside the Slovak Embassy after their performance.

## Tamburitzans Perform at Embassy

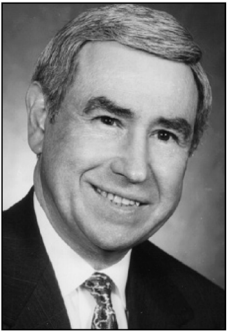

Duquesne University of Pittsburgh held a reception recently for their alumni at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. Over 250 members of the Duquesne University alumni and their families living in the Washington, D.C. region attended the affair where they heard a progress report from the university president Dr. Charles Dougherty. Following this, the world renowned Duquesne University Tamburitzans entertained the guests with their folk dancing and singing.

Joseph Senko

## MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

*By Joseph T. Senko*

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

## Donating Property Can Provide Tax Relief

Cash isn't the only way to help your favorite charity. Many organizations accept gifts of used clothing, household items, and cars, as well as stocks, mutual funds, collectibles, and works of art. In addition to helping out the charity, making a gift of property often means you are eligible for a tax deduction.

Generally, when you contribute property- other than money or publicly traded securities- to a qualified charitable organization, you may deduct the item's fair market value. There are new rules for some types of donated property, however, so it's important that you understand the details.

### **Clothing and Household Items Must be in Good Condition**

When you donate clothing and household items- such as appliances, furniture, linens, and similar items- you may deduct the fair market value of the goods. Under a provision of the Pension Protection Act, passed in 2006, contributions of these items must be good used conditions or better to qualify for deduction. That means you can't deduct the value of a microwave oven that no longer works or a shirt with holes in the sleeves.

To substantiate your deduction in the event you are audited, you might want to take photographs of the items or ask for a receipt that attests to the fact that the items were in good, used condition.

### **Gifts of Appreciated Securities**

Donating appreciated stocks is a great way to help your favorite charity and get a deduction in return. When you donate stocks or mutual fund shares held for more than one year, you may deduct the stocks' current fair market value. Additionally, you can avoid paying capital gains taxes on the appreciated value.

### **Property Valued at More than \$500**

If you donate noncash property that is valued at more than \$500, you need to report to the IRS how and when you acquired the property and your cost basis. You must file Form 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions, for all donations of property valued at more than \$500.

Ask the recipient to provide you with documentation specifying how the property will be used. If the property you donate is used by the organization to carry out its work or is given to a needy individual, you may deduct its full market value. An example would be a donated car used to deliver meals to shut-ins. On the other hand, if the car is sold by the charity, your deduction is limited to the vehicle's sale price.

### **Gifts of \$5,000-Plus**

Donations of tangible property valued at more than \$5,000 require a written appraisal from a qualified appraiser, who must also sign Form 8283. The organization accepting the donation is required to provide written confirmation of any value that the donor did, or did not, receive in exchange.

There is a new reporting rule in effect for donations of art- or other appreciated tangible personal property- made after September 1, 2006. A deduction claimed for a fair market value may be recaptured if a charity sells the property within three years.

## Useful Websites

<a href="http://www.skonline.sk">www.skonline.sk</a> <a href="http://www.travelguide.sk">www.travelguide.sk</a> <a href="http://kosice.region.sk">kosice.region.sk</a> <a href="http://www.slovakia.org">www.slovakia.org</a> <a href="http://www.vtattry.sk">www.vtattry.sk</a> <a href="http://www.tatry.net">www.tatry.net</a> <a href="http://www.hotel-net.sk">www.hotel-net.sk</a> <a href="http://www.skonline.sk">www.skonline.sk</a> <a href="http://www.kultura.sk">www.kultura.sk</a> <a href="http://www.snm.sk">www.snm.sk</a> <a href="http://www.savba.sk">www.savba.sk</a> <a href="http://www.government.gov.sk">www.government.gov.sk</a> <a href="http://www.snd.sk">www.snd.sk</a> <a href="http://www.stv.sk">www.stv.sk</a> <a href="http://www.nbs.sk">www.nbs.sk</a>	Slovakia Travel Guide Hotel and Spa Guide Kosice-City Travel Guide Bratislava-Information about the City Useful Information about the High Tatras Complete Information on Tatra Region Tourist Accommodation Slovakia On-Line (general information) Slovak cultural calendar Slovak National Museum Slovak Academy of Sciences Government of the Slovak Republic Slovak National Theater Slovak Television National Bank of Slovakia
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Department of Homeland Security- photo by Mike Lutz

**L-R Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Robert Kalinak, and Justice Department Deputy Attorney General Mark Filip at the signing ceremony.**

## Slovakia Meets Requirements for Visa Waiver

*continued from page 3*

signing of the "Agreement on Enhancing Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Crime." The October 8 Ceremony took place at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. The signers were Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff, Justice Department Deputy Attorney General Mark Filip, and Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Robert Kalinak.

### **Secretary Chertoff**

Following the signing, Secretary Chertoff remarked, in part: "This is a very auspicious occasion...this is the agreement that the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security is signing with the Minister of Interior for preventing and combating serious crimes....I'm delighted to have the Minister of Interior, my friend, here visiting with us and, of course, the Deputy Attorney General as well.

I want to begin by expressing my appreciation for our Slovak counterparts, as we work together to bring the Slovak Republic into the Visa Waiver Program, which of course will benefit both our freedom-loving people....When we were here in March, we signed our memorandum of understanding....By signing today's agreement relating to preventing and combating serious crime, we're taking another major step forward to the goal of expanding the Visa Waiver Program and welcoming the Slovak people into the program.

What this agreement will do is it will enable law enforcement officials on both sides of the Atlantic to investigate crime more efficiently and more quickly and will help us work together to prevent criminals and terrorists from traveling....Sharing law-enforcement information is a fundamental tool that we have used for years to combat transnational crime and to prevent terrorism....I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge a similar agreement that we signed recently with Germany.

I want to emphasize that we remain committed to Visa Waiver Program expansion at the earliest opportunity. We are strengthening the ties between two freedom-loving people, and we are strengthening the bands of cooperation that enable us to fight against dangerous people who will travel between our countries to do citizens of each country harm. So it's a very good day for freedom-loving and law-abiding people."

### **Minister Kalinak**

Minister Kalinak responded, in part: "Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. [Via interpreter] Ladies and gentlemen, we have arrived to the end of a long journey. By signing this agreement, we've accomplished our long-term efforts to prepare Slovakia to enter the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.... We thought, in 1989, free travel was fiction beyond our wildest dream. Only now, we have changed this historic moment.

The latest developments in the U.S.-Slovak relations reaffirm that Slovakia is a highly respected country and reliable partner not only to Europe but also on a global scale. We wish to convey our gratitude to the U.S.A. for opening these doors to us, and we stay optimistic. And with high self-esteem, we hope that we will be able to convey our happy message to all the citizens of Slovakia, maybe soon. And I would like to say that this agreement will make our two respective countries more safe, and our friendship will be the more stronger. Thank you."

### **Deputy Attorney General**

In part, U.S. Deputy Attorney General Filip said: "I'm very honored to join both Secretary Chertoff and Minister Kalinak today in signing this agreement between the United States and the Republic of Slovakia to prevent and combat crime. It's also a great honor to be with Ambassador Obsitnik.

This bilateral instrument is important not only for visa waiver purposes, but in its own right, giving the criminal law enforcement authorities in our two respective countries an important new tool to fight transnational crime, including terrorism. Also important are the protections for privacy and civil liberties that are built into the agreement.

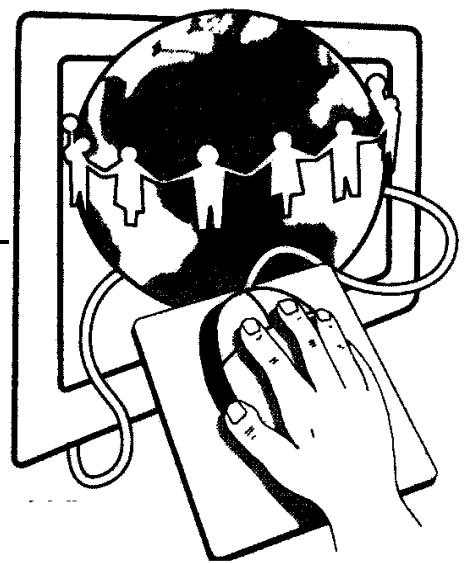
Additionally, this agreement provides a proactive mechanism to enable further appropriate sharing of information concerning elements, suspected criminals, and terrorists....I had the privilege of visiting Slovakia many years ago in 1990. It is, as the Minister explained it, a different country in many respects....And it is a more free and wonderful place...."

Minister Kalinak explained that Slovakia is a highly respected nation and partner of the U.S. "We certainly view Slovakia that way at the Justice Department. I know the Department of Homeland Security does as well. So for the growth of liberty and the efforts made by both Americans and Slovak-Americans, it's a wonderful day for our two nations and for the world in that regard."



Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities

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## Culture Space



November 2008

### Thanksgiving Fun Facts

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Minnesota is the top turkey-producing state in America, with a planned production total of 49 million in 2008. Just six states – Minnesota, North Carolina, Arkansas, Virginia, Missouri and Indiana – will probably produce two-thirds of the estimated 271 million birds that will be raised in the U.S. this year.

In a survey conducted by the National Turkey Federation, nearly 88 percent of Americans said they eat turkey at Thanksgiving. The average weight of turkeys purchased for Thanksgiving is 15 pounds, which means some 690 million pounds of turkey were consumed in the U.S. during Thanksgiving in 2007.

The cranberry is one of only three fruits – the others are the blueberry and the Concord grape – that are entirely native to North American soil, according to the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest pumpkin pie ever baked weighed 2,020 pounds and measured just over 12 feet long. It was baked on October 8, 2005 by the New Bremen Giant Pumpkin Growers in Ohio, and included 900 pounds of pumpkin, 62 gallons of evaporated milk, 155 dozen eggs, 300 pounds of sugar, 3.5 pounds of salt, 7 pounds of cinnamon, 2 pounds of pumpkin spice and 250 pounds of crust.

Originally known as Macy's Christmas Parade – to signify the launch of the Christmas shopping season – the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade took place in New York City in 1924. It was launched by Macy's employees and featured animals from the Central Park Zoo. Today, some 3 million people attend the annual parade and another 44 million watch it on television.



## Trivia Space

The English Colonists at Plymouth (many people call them "Pilgrims" today) talked a little differently than we do today. Here are a few examples of English words, greetings, and phrases that might have been used back then. Practice them and you could talk like a Pilgrim too!

Instead of "Hi, how are you?" the Pilgrims might say:

- "Good Morrow"
- "How now?"
- "How do you fare?"
- "What cheer?"



Instead of "Excuse me," the Pilgrims might say:  
"Huzzah!"

Instead of "Goodbye," the Pilgrims might say:

- "God bye to you"
- "Fare thee well"
- "Pray remember me"



Some more "new" words from old English:

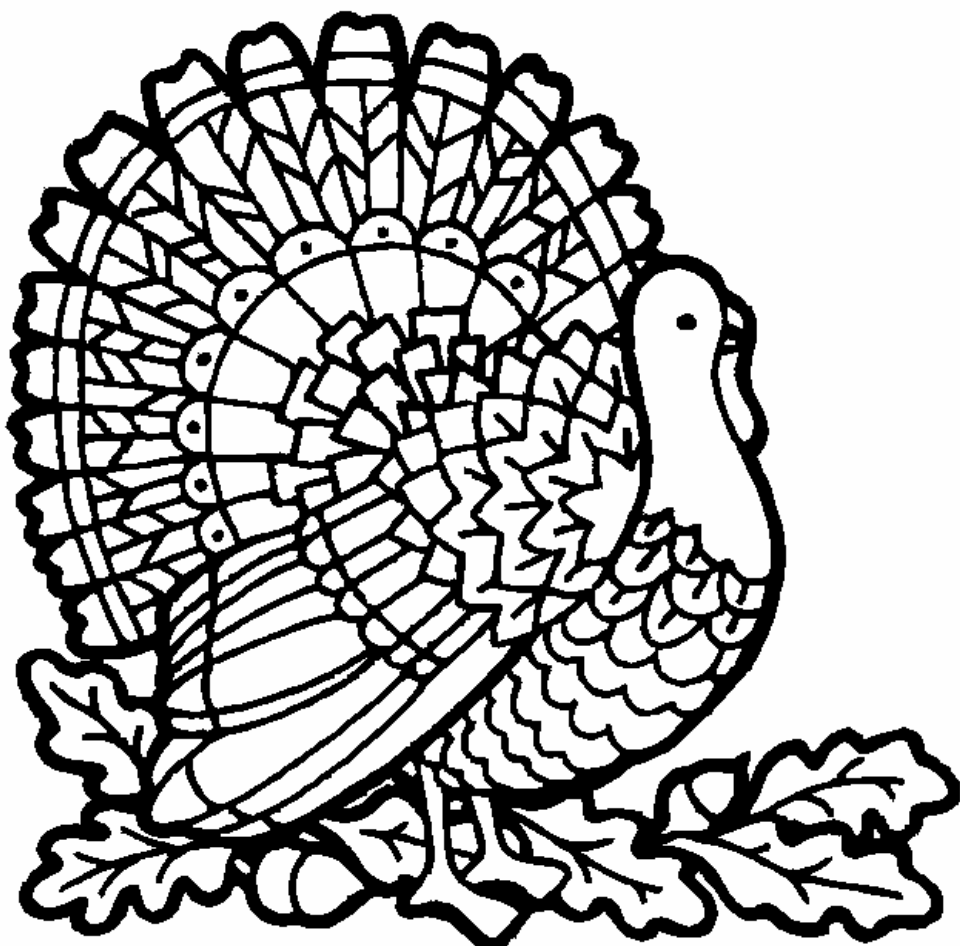
- Instead of *fireplace*, say "hearth"
- Instead of *cat*, say "mouser"
- Instead of *stew* or *porridge*, say "pottage"
- Instead of *pants*, say "breeches"
- Instead of *skirt*, say "petticoat"
- Instead of *backward*, say "arsy varsy"
- Instead of *pillowcase*, say "pillowbere"



Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR\_Space.jrs  
234 Ilion St.  
Pgh., PA 15207  
sueo99@yahoo.com



## Activity Space



### Answers to October's Crossword Puzzle

- |                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| Across          | Down       |
| 2. Boo          | 1. Tooth   |
| 3. Guts         | 4. Skelton |
| 6. Hungry       | 5. Wrapped |
| 8. Wrap         | 7. Meals   |
| 11. Bloodhounds | 9. Spook   |
| 12. Dig         | 10. Blood  |

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PITTSBURGH DISTRICT - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Branch 38 will be the host for this meeting. All branches are expected to send representatives. The meeting will include officers' reports and a discussion of FCSU business. Branch hosts for 2009 events will be selected. District officers for 2009 will be elected at this meeting.

A Family Christmas Party will be held following the business meeting. This is a new event for the district and members are encouraged to bring their children and grandchildren. Please notify Florence Matta at 412/466-7460 or George Matta at 412/672-5330 if you plan to attend. Come and visit Holy Trinity Church which now has an outstanding new mural featuring Saints Cyril and Methodius with background scenes of the New World and the Old Country.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District wish all the members a Happy and Holy Holiday Season.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

### MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT-TORONTO, CANADA

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District will hold a joint Annual Meeting with Branch 785 on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario.

Milos Mitro, Regional Director

## Coming Events

### December 7

The Pittsburgh District's Annual Meeting and Family Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

### December 14

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District's Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario.



## Prince of Peace Parish Annual Vilija

Making your holiday plans? Hold the date for the **15th Annual Slovak Vilija at Prince of Peace Parish on Saturday, December 20, 2008!** This traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner is the perfect way to start the Christmas holidays with family and friends!

The **Vilija** is a meatless meal enjoyed by Slavic families around the world featuring baked fish, mushroom soup, and assorted vegetables. Scrumptious authentic delicacies such as *priohy*, *bobalky*, and *kolachy* crown a menu, made and served entirely by parish volunteers! Christmas is a time for families, so guests are encouraged to share memories of their own family Christmas Eve traditions as each course is served.

After dinner, the world renowned **Pittsburgh Slovaks**, the Tri-State's oldest Slovak folk ensemble, will entertain guests with a unique presentation of folk songs, dances and carols highlighting some of the customs of the Christmas season observed in Slovak villages of long ago. The program culminates with the well-loved "**Jaslickari**" -- the re-telling of Christ's birth from the point of view of the lowly shepherds.

The **Prince of Peace Slovak Vilija** is a once-a-year opportunity to relax with special friends and family, feast on delicious Slovak foods, and enjoy a moving, authentic folk presentation. You can plan on a memorable experience, but don't delay. Attendance is by reservation only. Tickets are this season's best bargain too: only \$17 for adults and \$9 for children under 16. **Call the Parish office at 412-481-8380 before December 15th to reserve your tickets.** Then, start a new Christmas tradition and join the Prince of Peace Parish family on Saturday, December 20, 2008. Doors open at 4 p.m. Dinner will be served, according to tradition, as the first star rises (approximately 5 p.m.) This special dinner will be held at the Parish Center, 81 South 13<sup>th</sup> Street on Pittsburgh's South Side.

## Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.com.

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 Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; Fax: 1-800-642-4310; E-mail: FCSU@aol.com



U.S. Honorary Consuls at the Presidential Palace L-R: Barbara Pivnicka (California), Joseph Senko (Pennsylvania), Cecilia Rokusek (Florida), President Gasparovic, Greg Fasing (Colorado), Albina Senko (guest), Ross Marine (Kansas), Steve Zlatos (Indiana), and Peter Muzila (Massachusetts).

## Honorary Consuls Meet in Bratislava

There are 141 Slovak honorary consuls throughout the world. Ninety-six of them, including seven of the 12 from the United States, met in Bratislava September 9-11, 2008 for three days of meetings with the Slovak government. The group met with President Gasparovic, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Kubis, the Ministers of Economy and Finance, as well as other high ranking government officials. The meetings included discussions of the various responsibilities of the honorary consuls. The sessions were concluded with various cultural programs in the city.

Joseph Senko

### 5.00%

## FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 5.00% (4.879 APR)

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

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

### Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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

**Thomas E. Golgan, Sr.  
Branch 831**

**Tarentum, Pennsylvania**



Thomas E. Golgan, Sr., 77, of Dorseyville, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, September 9, 2008 in Forbes Regional Hospital, Monroeville.

He was born October 9, 1930 in Tarentum, a son of the late John and Mary (Tomasik) Golgan, and has lived in the area most of his life.

Thomas was a glass cutter for PPG, Creighton for many years. He was also employed at General Electric, Glen Burny, and Bradley Center. A Korean War veteran, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1953-1956 aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. WASP as a machinist mate.

A member of Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum, he is a 1948 graduate of Tarentum High School. Thomas played baseball for Tarentum American Legion as an outfielder in the 1950's. He was an avid fisherman and hunter who loved the outdoors. He enjoyed reading, and doing word search and Sudoku puzzles. His unusual hobby was collecting theater tickets from every movie theater in every port the U.S.S. WASP docked.

He is survived by his son, Thomas Golgan Jr. of New Kensington; grandchildren, Autumn and Sadearah; 3 brothers, John (Julia) Golgan of Dover, Richard (Joann) Golgan, and Charles (Shirley) Golgan, both of Tarentum; sister, Diane (Alvin) Rankin of Brackenridge; and brother-in-law, Joseph A. Bodnar of Tarentum.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Joan Staricek Golgan, October 1984; and a sister, Agnes Bodnar in May 2005.

Relatives were received at the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in Holy Martyrs Church by the Rev. Wesley M. Mash. Burial was in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery.

**Kathleen M. Persun**

**Amel V. Dobradenka  
Branch 831**

**Tarentum, Pennsylvania**

Amel V. Dobradenka, 87, of Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, October 8, 2008, in Alle-Kiski Medical Center, Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights.

He was born September 21, 1921, in Leechburg, the son of the late Alexander and Pauline Pagac Dobradenka. Amel was a 1940 graduate of Leechburg High School. He retired in 1985 as sales manager after 40 years of service at LaRusse Distributing in Tarentum.

Amel was a member of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Natrona Heights, Knights of Columbus Council 2606 in Natrona, where he was a 4<sup>th</sup> degree member and past grand knight, Eagles and Moose in New Kensington, Elks and Jednota in Tarentum and Brackenridge Heights Country Club in Natrona Heights. He enjoyed traveling and spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Theresa A. Kowal Dobradenka; daughter, Karen (John) Godfrey of Natrona Heights; grandson, John Patrick Godfrey of Brackenridge; three great-grandchildren, Chase Godfrey, Payton Godfrey and Mason Smith and two stepgreat-grandchildren, Katlyn

Smith and Nolan Loskoch; and grandson-in-law, Jason Smith of Brackenridge. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Kelly Godfrey Smith; great-grandson, Gabriel John Smith; brothers, Joseph, Matthew and Vincent Dobradenka; and sisters, Betty Stevenson and Grace LaRusse.

Friends were received at the Cicholski-Zidek Funeral Home, Natrona Heights. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Most Blessed Sacrament Church. Burial was St. Mary Cemetery, Lower Burrell. Memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament School, 800 Montana Ave., Natrona Heights, PA 15065

**Kathleen M. Persun**

**Mary A. Hudak  
Branch 831**

**Tarentum, Pennsylvania**

Mary A. Hudak, 94, of Bairdford, Pennsylvania died Thursday, May 29, 2008.

Mary was an inspirational, beloved, caring, giving, an astute and unique woman who lived all of her adult life in Bairdford. Most importantly, she was a blessing not only to her friends and family, but to anyone who came in contact with her. She was truly one of a kind and she will be greatly missed. She was active in business, politics, church, schools, volunteerism, community development and philanthropy. Her business associations were in insurance, real estate and concrete products. Her political involvement led her to be a Judge of Elections for many years as well as participating in many election campaigns, including those of her late husband.

Mrs. Hudak was a devoted, beloved and respected member of St. Victor Roman Catholic Church. As a dedicated member, Mary served as chairwoman of the funeral committee, member of the Young and Restless, member of the church choir and regularly participated as a volunteer in numerous church activities, including the annual festival and managed the bingo kitchen. She was a strong supporter of school activities, including the PTA, as well as a strong supporter of community activities for children. Her volunteerism spanned more than five decades. Her volunteer efforts were significant and involved the organizations of Catholic Daughters of America, Civil Air Patrol, the Red Cross, Volunteers of America and Meals on Wheels. She was one of the founders of the Senior Citizen Center located at the Nike Site and a member of the Northern Area Senior Center Advisory Council.

Among her many contributions to the business community, Mary and her husband worked hand in hand starting, owning and managing real estate, insurance and concrete product companies. They also worked to bring new industry to the community by donating real estate. In addition, they were instrumental in bringing public gas and water to the area. In recognition and in honor of all their contributions to the community, a plaque is hung in perpetuity in the township municipal building. Mary was loved and cherished by her family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John P. Hudak, and sister, Ripka Smith. She is survived by her daughters, Geraldine M. Marsh and Louise A. Slaby; her granddaughters, Jocelyn R.S. (Thomas) Munns, Karen L. (Dan

Hamm) Slaby, Leslie M. Slaby, and Cynthia B. Slaby; and five great-grandchildren, Robert B. Munns, Thomas J. Munns, Lauren O. Munns, Ryan D. Wartenburg and Natasha M. Slaby.

Friends were received at the Siwicki-Yanicko Funeral Home, West Deer Township. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Victor Church. Burial was in Transfiguration Church Cemetery, Russellton.

**Kathleen M. Persun**

**Vincent V. Jacko  
Branch 1**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

Vincent V. Jacko, noted fraternalist and patriot, died October 8, 2008.

Mr. Jacko was born in Slovakia April 10, 1927. He arrived in



America in 1950 to join his parents in Lakewood, Ohio. He was employed for 40 years with the Nickel Plate Railroad and later with Norfolk and Western Railroad. He was active member of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Lakewood and its organizations, including the Athletic Club, Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society, Church Choir and various fund raising activities. He was also very active in various Slovak social and fraternal organizations, including the Slovak League of America and Slovak World Congress. He was cofounder of the Slovak Catholic Youth Federation which later became known as the Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club where he held the position of secretary for many years. He participated in the Slovak play Divaldla, sang Christmas carols with the group and was active in the Slovak dance group and the Slovak Annual Festival.

Mr. Jacko was vice president of Jednota Branch 579 for 26 years. In 2005 Branch 579 merged with Branch 1. He also served on the board of directors of the National Slovak Society until 1982 when he was elected honorary director for life. He also served as secretary-treasurer of Branch 432 for 20 years. As secretary, he often paid dues for members who were unable to pay.

Friends were received at the Joseph Misencik Funeral Home, Lakewood. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Lakewood. Interment followed in Holy Cross Cemetery, Cleveland. Andrew F. Hudak, Director of the Slovak Institute, gave the farewell address at the gravesite. The funeral was also attended by officers of the National Slovak Society, President David Blazek, Vice President Dean Burns, Director Tony Beno, and Tribunal Honorary Member Sophia Hudak.

**Andrew F. Hudak**

**Helen L. Zywan  
Branch 831**

**Tarentum, Pennsylvania**

Helen L. Zywan, 84, a lifelong resident of Springdale, died Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at Little Sisters of the Poor Home in the Brighton Heights section of Pittsburgh.

She was born November 23, 1923, in Springdale, a daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Harvanek) Lukac.

Helen was an active, lifelong member of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Springdale, where she served as a member of the Mother's Club and Ladies of Charity. Helen

lived her life as a dedicated and loving wife, mother, grandmother and homemaker

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew J. Zywan; brother, Joseph Lukac; and sister, Lillian Maglisco. She is survived by three children, Mark A. (Karen) Zywan of Mechanicsburg, Clare Z. (Jerome) Seth of Waterford, and the Rev. Paul J. Zywan of Wexford; two grandchildren, Katherine A. Seth of Conneaut, and Kara L. Seth of Baltimore, Maryland; and a sister, Violet A. Lukac of New Kensington.

Friends were received at the Charles B. Jarvie Funeral Home, Springdale. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Alphonsus Church. Burial was private at Lakewood Memorial Gardens, Indiana Township.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 249 James St., Springdale, PA 15144, or Little Sisters of the Poor Home, 1028 Benton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

**Kathleen M. Persun**

**Frank Buchanich  
Branch 831**

**Tarentum, Pennsylvania**



Frank Buchanich, 88, of Frazer Township, died Thursday, July 3, 2008. He was born December 28, 1919, in Russellton to the late Frank and Susan (Redding) Buchanich and lived in the surrounding area all his life.

Frank sold insurance for National Life and Accident and owned Russellton Dry Cleaners for several years before retiring. He was a World War II veteran who attained the rank of private first class and served in Central Europe, Normandy and France. He enjoyed gardening, was an avid sports fan and loved being around family and telling people about Jesus he loved.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen (Slobogian) Buchanich; sons, Gary and Lester Buchanich of Tarentum; daughters, Yvonne (Robert L.) Henderson and Marcie (Aaron) Rogacki of Buffalo Township, and Juanita (Michael) Smalara of Indiana Township; sister, Betty Bocek of Florida; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by brothers, George, Michael, John and Edward and sisters Ann Buchanich and Mary Puskarish.

Friends were received at the Adam Siemiowski Funeral Home, Russellton, where services were conducted by the Rev. David Kennard. Burial was Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township.

**Kathleen M. Persun**



## Attention St. Cyril Academy Alumnae

Back issues of the FIALKY, the semi-annual publication as well as the yearbook of graduates are available. Former students who might wish to reminisce about the experiences of their teen years may find them very interesting. Please send requests to: Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M., Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698, or call 570/275-5606 or E-mail jankolalib@jlink.net

# News From Slovakia

## Chertoff: U.S.A to Abolish Visa Duty for Slovaks

The visa obligation for Slovaks traveling to the United States will end on the symbolical date of November 17, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told Slovak Interior Minister Robert Kalinak in Bratislava on October 28.

November 17 is a public holiday in Slovakia commemorating the fall of the Communist regime in the former Czechoslovakia in 1989

People wishing to travel to the United States will have to complete an ESTA (Electronic System Travel Authorization) questionnaire on the internet and should be in possession of the latest type of passport containing biometric data- chips and digital photography. If they don't have this document, they will have to apply for a tourist visa as currently.

The internet questionnaires will be evaluated automatically by the ESTA system, which will allow travel or prohibit it. Travel permits will be valid for two years, while one uninterrupted stay in the U.S.A. must not exceed three months.

Applicants for permits will have to supply a destination address and various other details of their trip. They will be obliged to state if they have been previously prevented from traveling to the United States, and whether they have worked in United States illegally or been convicted of serious crimes. The American authorities are also interested in the health of the applicant and any links with drugs or terrorism.

Unsuccessful applicants for a permit will be invited for a personal interview at the U.S. Embassy, where they can discuss the information that led to the refusal.

The United States is to end the visa regime for seven countries-Slovakia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Hungary and South Korea. Slovakia has a visa-free regime with 80 countries around the world, while 110 states still require Slovaks to apply for a visa.

TASR

## Gasparovic: No Visa Needed to Travel to USA Good News

Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic said recently regarding the abolishment of visa duty for Slovakia by the USA as good news for Slovakia.

"It means a lot. It can appear that it's nothing, but everybody who has traveled to the USA knows what problems it included. Now it will be changed. Students and entrepreneurs have many possibilities how to get to the USA in a short time."

According to the head of state the ideas which he discussed in Washington with U.S. President George W. Bush have been fulfilled. "Slovakia, stated the U.S. president, is a country open in relations with the EU, NATO, the USA, and it is an open partner who is able to react to emerging problems and to help," said Gasparovic. In his opinion, the moves of the USA follow from the assessment of Slovakia's international position and economic development.

The USA will soon abolish visa duty for another seven countries, including Slovakia, the U.S. president said recently.

The move will concern also Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and South Korea. All seven countries will be included in the visa-free program around the same time.

By the abolishment of visa regime Slovakia will get the category of states, the citizens of which won't be evaluated according to the risks of economic migration, but rather from the perspective of security. Those who apply for tourist stay on the United States will no later than 72 hours before their flight fill in the form that will be available on the internet.

Slovak citizens can currently travel without visa to 80 countries of the world, while they need to gain entry visa when traveling to more than 110 countries.

TASR

## Queen Elizabeth II Visits Slovakia

British Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip arrived in Slovakia on Thursday, October 23 for their first ever visit to the country.

The royal couple came to Slovakia following a visit to Slovenia. More than 600 police officers took care of their security.

The Queen's first stop was the Presidential Palace in Bratislava, where she signed the guest book and met Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic and his wife Silvia. The royals then went to the Primacial Palace in Bratislava's Old Town before watching a cultural program on the Main Square.

In Devin near Bratislava, the Queen unveiled a new Iron Curtain Memorial. She ended the first day of her two-day visit with a ceremonial banquet at the Reduta building in Bratislava, which was attended by more than 120 dignitaries.

On Friday, October 24, the royal couple flew to Poprad near the High Tatra Mountains.

TASR

## Parliament Approves Treaty with the U.S. on Criminal Data Exchange

Parliament recently approved an agreement between Slovakia and the United States on intensifying cooperation in preventing and combating crime.

The agreement will make it possible to search for identification data related to the prevention of terrorism and crime, including fingerprints, DNA and personal data. It will also allow the exchange of data on criminals and suspects.

According to Interior Minister Robert Kalinak, the agreement deals with the exchange of standard information, something that is already in place between Slovakia and other European countries.

The treaty on intensifying cooperation is one of two documents dealing with the fight against terrorism that are part of security commitments contained in the 'Memorandum of Understanding' signed between the countries in March.

TASR

## Parliament Strengthens Several Police Powers

As of December 15, a Slovak policeman will be able to order a person committing domestic violence out of the house and order them to stay out for an additional 48 hours, it was reported in connection with the Police Corps Act amendment approved by Parliament on October 24.

According to the Interior Ministry, the new amendment will enable police to fight domestic violence more effectively and protect people from receiving more abuse.

Another new competency, for example, allows the police to arrest people who are present at the site of a crime right after it was committed, unless it is clear they are in no way connected to the perpetrator.

At present, police are not allowed to detain such people when it is not immediately clear whether they are accomplices or passers-by. Currently, they can thwart an investigation while at liberty.

TASR

## Survey Reveals Slovaks not Afraid that Crisis Could Hit their Savings

The global financial crisis is increasingly drawing the attention of the Slovak on-line community, according to an on-line survey carried out by GfK Slovakia on a sample of 500 respondents.

Only 5 percent of those questioned were indifferent to the crisis. One-half of the respondents said that they were rather concerned with the crisis in the United States and its spreading to Europe. Serious concerns were expressed by one-third of the respondents.

In general, however, Slovaks are rather optimistic when it comes to the effects of the crisis on the Slovak economy. More than 50 percent think that the impact of the crisis on Slovakia will be milder than on Western markets. More than 60 percent are convinced that Slovak banks will not face the same problems as banks in the United States and Western Europe.

The respondents feel that their bank deposits are safe. Half have no concerns at all, while another 30 percent said that they are a little concerned.

More than 90 percent have not taken any steps to make their savings more secure. The rest of the respondents have distributed their savings among several banks or deposited them in less risky portfolios.

If forced to cut down on their expenses, the respondents would first avoid cafes and restaurants. They would limit their holiday expenses, stop buying electronics, and, finally spend less on their hobbies and entertainment. Expenses connected to food, transport and the internet would be limited the least, Slovakia was told by Daniels Cekovska from GfK Slovakia.

TASR

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# Philadelphia and the Flag of the Slovak Republic

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum, FRSC

To visit Philadelphia is to experience personally American history. To walk through the historic part of town is to sense the various stages of Philadelphia's development, first as a settlement founded by William Penn in 1681 after he obtained from King Charles II a land grant in North America to repay a debt of £20,000 (\$20,000,000 in today's money) owed to his father, Admiral Penn. William Penn established on this land a colony that later became a commonwealth (equivalent of a state) known as Pennsylvania, meaning "Penn's wood," in honour of his father and at the request of the king. Penn named the settlement he founded Philadelphia, which is Greek for brotherly love (*philos*, "love" or "friendship", and *adelphos*, "brother"), and before he left Philadelphia for the last time, he issued the Charter of 1701, establishing Philadelphia as a city. Philadelphia boasts many "firsts," as one discovers on a walkway while strolling through Penn's Landing. Many will be surprised to learn that it was, from 1780 to 1800, the capital of the United States of America.

There is much that can be written about Philadelphia. There are many places to visit, places that reveal how and why the city became known as the cradle of America. As one visits the historic sights, be it Independence Hall, the Betsy Ross House, the Liberty Bell, the Philadelphia Exchange, or the U.S. Mint, it is easy to imagine earlier times and to get a sense of the city's vibrant life over the centuries. To walk through the streets south of Society Hill or to take a stroll down Elfreth's Alley is to experience glimpses of what life must have been like as generations of immigrants invaded the city. Boot cleaners and horse posts are still to be found at the entrance of well-restored houses. And the historical link is anything but broken: take for example Christ Church, built between 1727 and 1754, where the Episcopalian Church was founded. It is considered one of the most beautiful 18<sup>th</sup> century structures in the United States and has continued to be used regularly for divine services, including Sunday and Wednesday worship, weddings, and baptisms. If you visit it, you will be shown the pews where President George Washington and Benjamin Franklin sat. You also learn that Philadelphia was the only place in the British Empire (that is before 1776) where a Catholic mass could be celebrated in public. The historic part of Philadelphia is replete with houses of worship, among which are not only Christ Church, but also Old St Joseph's Church (Roman Catholic), St. Peter's Church (Episcopalian), and the Free Quaker Meeting House. Particularly poignant are the new Irish Memorial at Penn's Landing and the old Christ Church Burial Ground where Benjamin Franklin, who played such an important role in Philadelphia's as well as in American history, is buried.

To walk in Philadelphia is to realize that this city has been open to the world from almost the moment of its founding. It is therefore not surprising to find today, along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, a magnificent boulevard that leads to a major American art museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the flags of all of the countries of the world and more (that of Wales, for example). Rather than attached to flag poles, they hang horizontally from lamp posts with a small sign identifying them, including, in many cases, the name of the country in English and in the language of origin, all proper and correct - that is, until one comes to the post reserved for the flag of the Slovak Republic.

If you glanced at the photo before reading these lines, you may have noticed that what is



**Incorrect spelling and incorrect flag of Slovakia along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia.**

hanging is not the flag of the Slovak Republic, but rather a pennant representing the Slovak flag. The coat of arms is oriented vertically rather than horizontally as it should be on the flag. Were this pennant raised as a flag, the coat of arms would be laying on its side. But there is more: the sign identifies the flag as that of the "Slovak Republic" (although the Slovak, "*Slovenská republika*," is correct). Clearly, someone goofed, big time .....

Fifteen years after the creation of the second Slovak Republic, one would expect that Slovakia is no longer a "*terra incognita*" (an unknown land) whose flag and the spelling of its name are inaccessible - especially in Philadelphia, one of America's most cosmopolitan urban centers. One can only hope that others, in particular Philadelphians, and not only a Canadian visitor, will notice this anomaly and request that the city fathers hang a proper Slovak flag and correct the English spelling; Philadelphia and Slovakia deserve no less.



## Oplatky and Christmas Cards for Sale

Oplatky are currently available through the Jankola Library. The traditional Christmas wafers are packaged five (5) to a thermo-sealed packet for a donation of \$3.00. Postage (Priority Mail) and handling is an additional \$5.50.

Slovak religious Christmas cards are also available at eight (8) cards for \$5.00 plus postage and handling, unless they are mailed with the oplatky.

To order or to make inquiries, please call 570/275-5606; e-mail at [jankolalib@jlink.net](mailto:jankolalib@jlink.net); or write to: Sister M. John Vianney, SS.C.M., Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698



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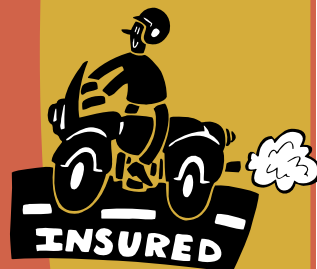
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\*Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years  
\*\*Insurance is underwritten by Federal Insurance Company, a member insurer of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. Exclusions may apply. Insurance may not be available in all jurisdictions.

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its Christmas Meeting and Social Party on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Cyril's Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. We encourage all our members to attend. The activities for 2008 and 2009 will be discussed and the officers will be elected.

We wish a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

**Mary Dubber, Secretary**

## BRANCH 3P- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 3P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church Cafeteria, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2009 will be conducted followed by a short update on local branch activities. New ideas for branch activities will be entertained. Any changes of addresses or beneficiaries can be submitted at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Mike Koval, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 6- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Chipper's Grill, Streator, Illinois. The branch will hold the election of officers for 2009 at this meeting. Any member in good standing must attend the meeting to be considered for an officer's position. All members are invited to attend. For more information call Paul Chismar at 815/822-8851.

**Paul Chismar, Secretary**

## BRANCH 10- OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit, and Election of Officers on Sunday, November 30, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

**William A. Nalevanko,  
Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 19- BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now named the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall. The election of officers will also take place at this meeting.

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 38- DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, December 5, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Florence Matta, 3409 Eisenhower Court, White Oak, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include a recap of the Branch activities for the year, a discussion of plans for 2008, and the election of officers. The Branch is once more gathering useful items to be sent to our troops in Iraq through our local veteran organizations. For any further information, please call 412/466-7460.

We wish our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry and Blessed Christmas Holiday.

**Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 41- YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 22, 2008 in the Rectory of Most Holy Trinity Church, 18 Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, New York, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Robert J. Lutz, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 45- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, report on activities during the past year, and a discussion of events for the upcoming year. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55- PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 30, 2008, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Officers will be elected and regular business will be conducted. Refreshments will be served. All members are cordially invited to attend. For directions, please call the President at 610/356-7956.

**Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 55- PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold a Social Meeting and Annual Vilija on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Immediately after the liturgy, a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner will be served in the Church Hall. Please call the president at 610/356-7956 for ticket information and directions.

**Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 60- MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 30, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Swissvale, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports, the election of officers and a discussion of branch activities. All members are urged to attend.

The officers of Branch 60 wish our members Blessed and Happy Holidays.

**Margaret M. Perla, Secretary**

## BRANCH 75- SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of President and Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. The fiscal end of the year reports and financial statements will be presented. The auditors' report will also be submitted

and the nomination and election of officers for the coming year will take place. All members are requested to attend this semiannual meeting.

**Ronald M. Anderson, President  
& Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 90- OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 90, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Michael P. Gliinsky, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

**Barbara Sochovka, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162- UIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room at the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed and the election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 181- UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of George and Florence Sprock. All members are cordially invited to attend. The election of officers will take place.

We look forward to seeing all Branch 181 members at the meeting.

**G. Kovacina, Secretary**

## BRANCH 199- HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Francis Pipak. The election of officers will be held at that time. A good turnout is requested.

**Sophie Pipak, President**

## BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at DeBlasio's Restaurant in the Virginia Manor Shops on Greentree Road. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch activities and the election of officers. All members are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

**Albina Senko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 259- STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will have a Mass celebrated on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. The Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the branch. Following the liturgy, the Annual Meeting will be held at the Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, Ohio. All members are welcome and are urged to attend this meeting.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 259- STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will have a Mass celebrated on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. The

Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the branch. Following the liturgy, the Annual Meeting will be held at the Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, Ohio. All members are welcome and are urged to attend this meeting.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 266- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Officers will be elected for 2009 and suggestions for branch activities for the next year will be discussed. Please spread the word so more of our members will attend and become involved in branch activities. Please plan to attend.

**Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 276- MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 30, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity School Hall, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be officers' reports and the election of officers for the coming year. Refreshments will be served. All members are invited to attend.

The officers wish all the members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 293- LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Kathryn Drexel Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbot Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania.

Anyone needing service with their insurance should contact Robert Lakata, 527 East Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232 or leave a message at 570/645-4872.

**Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 313- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 313, is trying to locate the following members: Vincent Cerniuk, Theresa Hatfield, Amy Horwath, Stephen Izacovics, Colleen Komar, Eugene Korienek, Marguerite Korienek, Stephen Kosteb, Charles Kozak, Kenneth Michalik, Barbara Perkins, Kimberly Rozema, Thaddeus Rozema, Josephine Ruzon, Angela Schandor, and Lorna Talabay. If anyone knows the address or phone number for any of these members please call Joseph Bugel at 708/349-7873.

**Joseph M. Bugel, President**

## BRANCH 320- STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Since lunch will be served, please call Fran at 724/929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 367- FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold its next regular meeting on Friday, November 14, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at Boggey's Restaurant and Sports Bar, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

**Jane Kish, Secretary**

## BRANCH 421- NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 421, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

**Lillian R. Stager, Secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 425- BARBERTON, OHIO

The St. Mark's Society, Branch 425, will hold its Annual Lodge Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Society of Barberton Club, 887 West Tuscarawas Avenue, Barberton, Ohio. All members are welcome to attend.

**Paul J. Slota, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 493- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday, November 29, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7844 South Cicero Avenue, Burbank, Illinois. After the meeting, members will enjoy a delicious dinner. All members are encouraged to attend. If you plan to attend, please call Robert Tapak Magruder at 502/244-6643 or 773/505-0117 by November 23, 2008.

The members of Branch 493 would like to acknowledge and congratulate three members who recently received their 50-Year Jednota Membership Pins: Joan Marie Churin, Leonard Dudas and James J. Letrich.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,  
Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 553- AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will hold its Annual Vilija Celebration on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. This is a great opportunity to share with your family the traditional Slovak Christmas meal. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Children 16 and younger are free. To make your reservations and purchase your tickets, call the Slovak J Club at 330/773-4978.

Branch 553 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. At this meeting we will hold the election of officers for the year 2009. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors of the Lodge, you must submit your name in writing and the position you would like to serve. This information must be sent to Vera Thomas, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, 1232 Steve Drive, Akron, OH 44319. This information must be received by December 7, 2008.

The officers of Branch 553 wish all members a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 567- ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John's Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend and take an interest in their branch. The election of officers will take place.

The Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner will take place on Saturday, November 15, 2008, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

May God bless you and watch over you.

**Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 633- FLINT MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its yearly meeting on Saturday, November 15, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Courtland Mall, Burton, Michigan. All members are invited to attend. Your presence is required for the future of our lodge.

**Eva Craine, Secretary**

## BRANCH 682- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society will hold a meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at Materials Research Lab, 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of lodge activities for 2009.

The annual Christmas party and swearing in of officers will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at Materials Research Lab, Struthers, Ohio.

All members are invited to attend both meetings and the party.

**Andrew J. Hirt, President**

## BRANCH 682- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society will hold a meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at Materials Research Lab, 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of lodge activities for 2009.

The annual Christmas party and swearing in of officers will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at Materials Research Lab, Struthers, Ohio.

All members are invited to attend both meetings and the party.

**Andrew J. Hirt, President**

## BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will hold its next scheduled meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. at Saint Matthias Church Rectory, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

**James Bobby, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 738- MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael's Society, Branch 738, will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. at the Munhall-Whitaker VFW Home, located on Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pennsylvania. The nomination and election of officers will take place at this meeting. We will also discuss fraternal activities for the year 2009, as well as other lodge business. Of utmost importance, we will conduct a discussion on insurance

sales. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

**Robert Kosko, President  
Regis P. Brekosky, FIC, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Social Hall, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a 2008 financial report, approval of the 2009 budget, a discussion of branch activities and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of officers will also take place. Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need assistance with their policy or need to change their address or beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586/254-0225.

On behalf of the officers of Branch 743, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik,  
President & Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. The agenda will include election of officers for 2009 and the planning of events for the coming year. A holiday get together will follow the meeting.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

## BRANCHES 784 AND 810- MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 784, and the St. Martin Society, Branch 810, along with the Prince Rastislav District will hold their traditional Christmas Dinner on Sunday, November 30, 2008, following the last Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. All members and their friends are cordially invited to attend. For reservations please call Alice Dobrik at 514/684-0832 by November 20th.

**Alice Dobrik, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 785- TORONTO, CANADA

The St. John Society, Branch 785 will have a joint Annual Meeting with the Msgr. Michael Shuba District on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Milos Mitro, Regional Director**

## BRANCH 844- LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Christmas Mass on Sunday, December 21, 2008, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the

liturgy along with the presentation of gifts for the children. Please come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Christmas.

Following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports, hold election of new officers and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see all our members on Sunday, December 21. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 853- ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, invite all members to its Annual Meeting on Monday, December 1, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at Rego's Restaurant, Charleroi, Pennsylvania. As in past years, this meeting will be a spaghetti luncheon celebrating the joy and blessing of Christmas. On the agenda will be a discussion of general business and the election of officers. There will be no cost for members. The cost for nonmembers attending will be \$13.00 and will be collected that day. Please reserve your spot at the luncheon by leaving a message with the number of people attending with Monica Rodacy at 412/220-7722 by November 23.

The officers of Branch 853 wish all the members a Blessed Christmas and a most Prosperous New Year.

**Monica Rodacy**

## BRANCH 855- PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Carrie Cerino's Ristaurante, 8922 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio. The election of officers will be held for the coming year of 2009. If you plan to attend this meeting, members must notify the Branch Secretary, Linda Kolesar at 440/886-0206 by November 10, 2008.

**Linda Kolesar, secretary-Treasurer**

## BRANCH 856- WASHINGTON, D.C., MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike (Route 7), Falls Church, Virginia. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting, planning of our dinner get together, and the election of officers. All members are urged to attend this meeting. For more information call Stephen Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

**Katherine Nowatkoski,  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer**



# FCSU 2008 Christmas Coloring Contest

A

Ring the bells of Christmas morn,  
Tell the world a king is born;  
He, the Saviour promised long,  
Come and hail Him with a song.  
Wake your harps, ye angels bright;  
Sing aloud, ye hosts of light;  
Sing, as on that holy night, Glory in the Highest!



B



Ring the bells of Christmas day,  
Waft the story far away;  
Thro' the air, the earth, the sea,  
Christ has come our life to be.  
Wake your harps, ye angels bright;  
Sing aloud, ye hosts of light;  
Sing, as on that holy night, Glory in the Highest!



## Wedding Announcement

Adriana Marie Anderko and Thomas Paul Scally were married on August 16, 2008 at St. Albert the Great Church in North Royalton, Ohio. Adriana is employed at the First Catholic Slovak Union Home Office in Independence, Ohio. Adriana and Tom were childhood sweethearts and enjoyed a seven year courtship.

Parents of the bride are Frank and Ludmila Anderko, both are from Eastern Slovakia. Parents of the groom are Mary Rose Scally and the late John P. Scally.

The bride wore a strapless satin ballroom gown adorned with crystals and pearls. The bridesmaids wore deep purple off the shoulder floor length satin gowns.

The maid of honor was Anita Anderko, sister of the bride and the best man was Justin Etzel, friend of the groom. Bridesmaids were Susan Halley, Karin Scally, Jennifer Bryan and Silvia Katuscakova. Groomsmen were Tony

Wolf, Tim Scally, Peter Anderko and Michael Anderko. The flower girl was Anna Scally and the ring bearer was Matthew Scally.

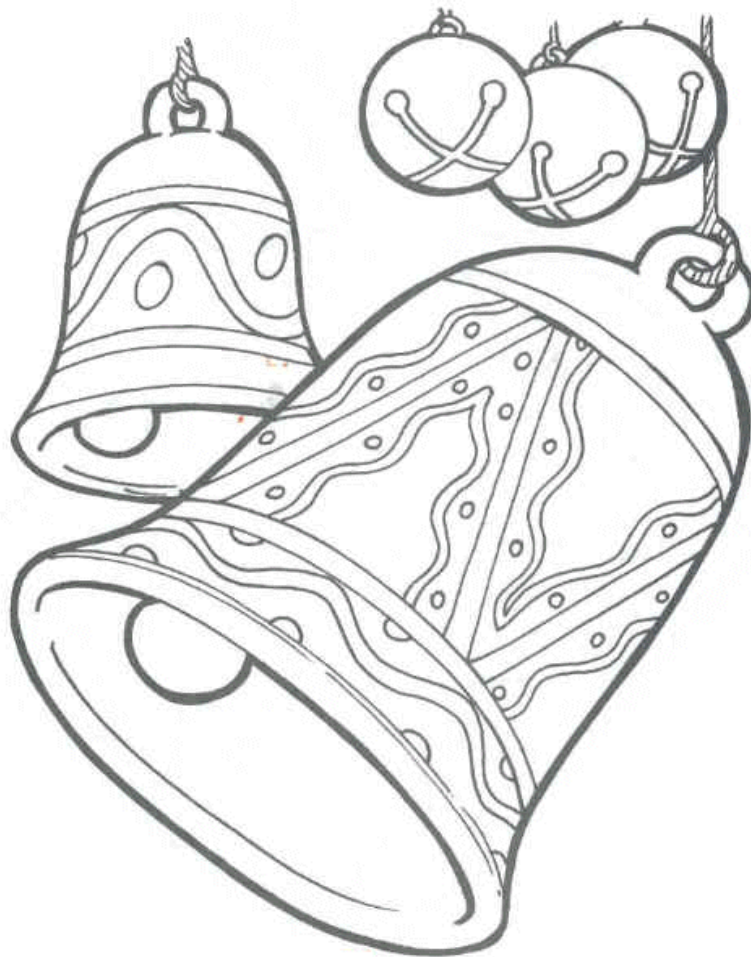
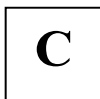
Reception was held at the Belarusian American Community Center in Strongsville, Ohio. In attendance, were President, Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt along with the entire home office staff. The traditional bridal dance, Radovy, was performed; where the mother of the bride removes the bridal veil and places the groom's boutonniere in her hair. The Lučina Slovak Folk Ensemble performed the Gypsy Dance and was joined by the bride who is a former member of the dance group. A good time was had by all.

The happy couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Florida and a 7 day Royal Caribbean cruise on the Freedom of the Seas.



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Scally

# FCSU 2008 Christmas Coloring Contest



Ring the bells of love and peace,  
 Ring the bells till time shall cease;  
 Lo, He comes with us to dwell,  
 Christ the Lord, Immanuel.  
 Wake your harps, ye angels bright;  
 Sing aloud, ye hosts of light;  
 Sing, as on that holy night, Glory in the Highest!

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**  
**Veselé Vianoce a Šťastný Nový Rok!**

**PRIZES**

*Winners in each age group will receive the following:*

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jednota fleece blanket and \$25.00**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jednota fleece blanket and \$15.00**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Jednota fleece blanket and \$10.00**  
**Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card**

**RULES**

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:  
**4 – 6 year olds – picture A**  
**7 – 9 year olds – picture B**  
**10 – 12 year olds – picture C**
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2008**.
6. Mail to:  
 Susan Ondrejco  
 Fraternal Activities Director  
 234 Ilion St.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

*Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2008*

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Region: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Region 1 (New York, New Jersey, and New England States)	Joseph Minarovich
Region 2 (Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington D.C.)	Damian D. Nasta
Region 3 (Central Pennsylvania and SS. Cyril & Methodius District)	Carl Ungvarsky
Region 4 (West of Harrisburg, West Virginia, and Florida)	George Sprock
Region 5 (Western Pennsylvania, Johnstown, and Pittsburgh)	Regis Brekosky
Region 6 (State of Ohio)	Henry Hassay
Region 7 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Points West)	Rudolph Glugovsky
Regions 8 and 9 (Canada)	Milos Mitro

## Craig Matta Receives Promotion

Craig J. Matta was recently promoted to SSgt (Staff Sergeant) in the United States Air Force Band of the Pacific, stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska. He recently returned from Australia and Korea. Craig plays the French horn in the band and in the USAF Alaska Brass. He also plays with the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra.

Craig graduated from McKeesport High School, Duquesne University and Carnegie Mellon University with a Masters Degree in Music. For several years he was music coordinator at McKeesport High School.

A member of Branch 38 in McKeesport, Craig is married to the former Julie Snook and has a son, Dannie who is 1 1/2 years old. He is the son of Carolyn and the late Bill Matta. His uncle, George Matta, is the FCSU National Treasurer.



**SSgt Craig J. Matta**

## Jamie E. Dunlap Receives Doctorate

Jamie E. Dunlap, DPT, received her Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree from Duquesne University on August 1, 2008. She is now a State Licensed Physical Therapist with UPMC Centers for Rehab Services. She is a graduate of Greater Latrobe High School, Class of 2002. In 2006 she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Saint Vincent College.

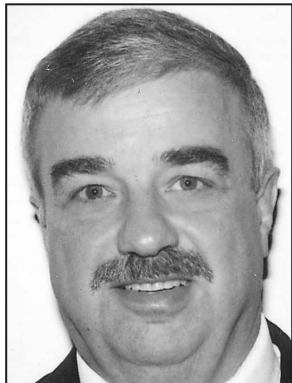
Jamie is the daughter of Jim and Mary Ann (Stas) Dunlap of Hostetter, Pennsylvania. They are all members of Saint Cecilia Church in Whitney and Branch 199 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.



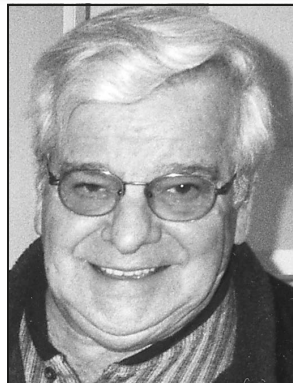
**Jamie Dunlap, DPT**

# The Best of the Best!

## Top Guns Thru September 30, 2008



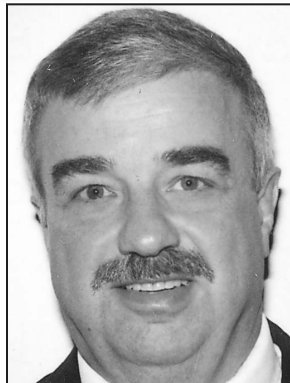
**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
First Place



**George A. Sprock**  
Second Place



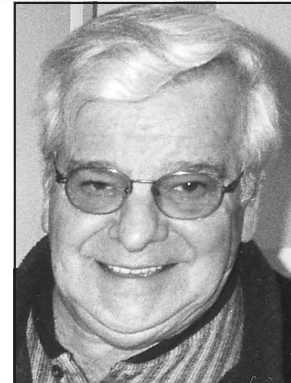
**George F. Matta**  
Third Place



**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
First Place



**Joseph F. Minarovich**  
Second Place



**George A. Sprock**  
Third Place

### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

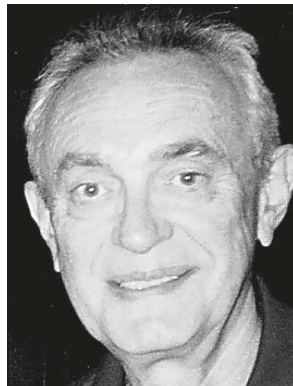
	Branch	Annuities
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	\$349,713.35
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$161,668.98
George F. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$153,205.50
Robert J. Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	\$139,410.97
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$120,856.34
Al Tipul, Columbia Station, Ohio	319	\$109,905.05
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	\$66,000.00
Michael Leo Koval, Hazleton, Pennsylvania	3P	\$60,011.00
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania	417	\$60,000.00
Roger T. Soltis, Massillon, Ohio	410	\$59,150.39

### TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

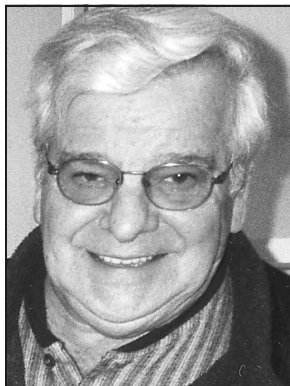
	Branch	Total Points
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	347
Joseph F. Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	298
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	265
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	252
Sophie B. Pipak, Norvelt, Pennsylvania	199	219
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	208
James R. Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	201
George F. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	153
Robert J. Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	138
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	130



**Sophie B. Pipak**  
First Place



**John A. Jurcenko**  
Second Place



**George A. Sprock**  
Third Place

### TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Sophie B. Pipak, Norvelt, Pennsylvania	199	\$520,922
John A. Jurcenko, Chicago, Illinois	153	\$450,000
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$333,614
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$250,489
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$162,000
Michael J. Slovenkai, Scranton, Pennsylvania	382	\$150,000
Joseph F. Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	\$130,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$120,000
John J. Loftus, N. Catasauqua, Pennsylvania	157	\$110,000
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$106,000



## George Onda District Annual Stedry Vecer

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The evening will begin with Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel followed by a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner. Door prizes will be awarded and the Pittsburgh Slovaks will provide the entertainment.

Tickets are \$16.00 for adults and \$11.00 for children 16 and younger. Tickets are limited so make your reservations early by calling Ed Mizikar at 724/423-2616. No tickets will be sold after December 1.

Please make plans to attend and help us keep this beautiful Slovak custom alive.

**Linda L. Gonta, Secretary**

## Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

I have nothing	Nič nemám	(nYich nYemÁm)
Go!	Choďte!	(XodYtYe)
Go out!	Choďte von!	(XodYtYe von)
Let us go!	Podme!	(podYme)
Silence	Ticho	(tYiXo)
Keep still	Buďte ticho	(budYtYe tYiXo)
Wait a little	Čakajte trochu	(chakaYtYe trochu)
Bring me	Doneste mi	(donYestYe mi)
Sit down	Sadnite!	(sahnYitYe)
Follow me	Podte za mnou	(podYtYe za mnou)
Pay!	Platte!	(platYtYe)
Take it!	Vezmite to	(vezmitYe to)
Enough!	Dost!	(dostY)
Work!	Robte!	(robtYe)
Look out!	Pozor!	(pozor)
Come in	Podte dnu	(podYtYe dnu)
Go home	Choďte domov	(XodYtYe domov)
Get up!	Vstaňte!	(vstanYtYe)
Hurry up	Rýchle	(reeXiYe)
Stop!	Stojte!	(stoYtYe)
Shut up!	Mlčte!	(richtYe)
Forward!	Napred!	(napred)
With pleasure	Vďačne	(vdYachn Ye)

## Spomienky vo fotografiách

V Dome Matice slovenskej v Nitre, sa 13. októbra uskutočnila prezentácia novej knihy Dr. Ľudovíta Pavla, doživotného čestného predsedu Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a slovenského rodoľuba s názvom **Obrázky z môjho života**. Na podujatí sa okrem miestnych maticiarov zúčastnili aj členovia Spoločnosti priateľov starodávnej Nitre, ako aj členovia Literárneho klubu Antona Bernoláka, ktorého predseda PhDr. Emil Vontorčík príjemné posedenie s autorom aj moderoval. Životnú dráhu MUDr. Ľudovíta Pavla i jeho literárne dielo v krátkosti prítomným predstavil zostavovateľ obrázkov, ale i jeho dlhoročný blízky priateľ Mgr. Ivan Regulí. Dr. Pavlo bol viac než päťdesiat rokov lekárom a beletrizované zážitky svojho pohnutého života začal dávať na papier až po sedemdesiatke. Ukážky z jeho diela priblížila prítomným PhDr. Mária Tanciková-Strezenická.



Útla knižka Obrázky z môjho života zachytáva autora pri stretnutiach s mnohými významnými osobnosťami svetovej i našej politiky, predstaviteľmi Cirkvi, významnými predstaviteľmi kultúrneho života a slovenského exilu. Ako sa autor v úvode sám vyznáva, fotografie nemal nikdy v úmysle publikovať a v knihe nejde o zachovanie časovej chronológie. Obrázky sú skôr zoradované do istých tematických celkov a mapujú dôležité udalosti v živote Dr. Pavla i v živote nášho národa.

Táto milá, tak trochu osobná knižka je venovaná najbližším priateľom, ale môže byť zaujímavá i pre archívnych pracovníkov v Matici a Slovákovi, žijúcich za hranicami našej vlasti. Za činorodú prácu pre slovenský národ i za finančnú pomoc pri realizácii viacerých knižných projektov poďakoval Dr. Ľ. Pavlovi v mene vedenia Matice slovenskej jej tajomník PhDr. Peter Mulík.

Kniha vyšla vo vydavateľstve Bolchazy-Carducci Publ. s podporou Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation, Inc.

PhDr. ELENA ŠEBOVÁ

(Záujemci si túto publikáciu môžu objednať u Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. 1570 Baskin Road, Mundelein, IL 60060, USA. Tel.: (847) 526-4344; Fax: (847) 526-2867; www.bolchazy.com)



## Spomienkovou slávnosťou si uctili odkaz Martina Rázusa

Liptovský Mikuláš (TASR) – Spomienková slávnosť pri príležitosti 120. výročia narodenia významného slovenského spisovateľa, politika a kňaza Martina Rázusa sa uskutočnila 18. októbra popoludní pri jeho rodnom dome v liptovskomikulášskej mestskej časti Vrba. Zišlo sa tam okolo 200 ľudí, najmä zástupcov kultúrnych inštitúcií a mesta Liptovský Mikuláš, ako aj Matice slovenskej a veľkú časť tvorili sympatizanti Slovenskej národnej strany (SNS).

Podpredsedníčka Národnej rady SR Anna Belousovová (SNS) v príhovore podotkla, že Rázus patrí k popredným slovenským osobnostiam začiatku 20. storočia. "Ostalo po ňom veľké dielo, ktoré sa nedá nahmatať. Zostali po ňom nesmierne duchovné hodnoty," uviedla. Liptovskomikulášsky primátor Ján Blcháč označil Rázusa za veľkého rodáka ich mesta. Pripomenul jeho život a dielo. V podobnom duchu sa niesli aj slová predsedu Matice slovenskej Jozefa Markuša.

Spomienkové stretnutie pokračovalo v tamojšom evanjelickom kostole literárnym programom z básnickej tvorby Rázusa. Jeho verše umocnil spev Chrámového zboru apoštola Pavla z Brezna. V nedeľu 19. októbra boli v Evanjelickom kostole v Liptovskom Mikuláši spomienkové služby Božie a v Múzeu Janka Kráľa v Liptovskom Mikuláši uviedli literárno-hudobné pásmo zo života Rázusa.

Spomienku na Rázusa pripravili SNS, mesto Liptovský Mikuláš spolu so Spolkom Martina Rázusa, Múzeom Janka Kráľa a Cirkevným zborom ECAV na Slovensku v Liptovskom Mikuláši.

Martin Rázus sa narodil 18. októbra 1888 v Liptovskom Mikuláši – Vrba. Vyštudoval teológiu a ako kňaz pôsobil v Modre a Brezne. Vyvíjal aktivity v Slovenskej národnej strane, bol jedným z jej predsedov (1929-1937) a poslancom Národného zhromaždenia v Prahe (1929-1937). Písal poéziu a prózu. Známe sú najmä jeho autobiografické diela Maroško a Maroško študuje. Zomrel v Brezne 8. augusta 1937.

V apríli 2002 sa uskutočnilo v Rázusovom dome v Liptovskom Mikuláši ustanovujúce valné zhromaždenie občianskeho združenia s názvom Spolok Martina Rázusa. Jeho cieľom sa stalo propagovať stále aktuálne dedičstvo duchovnej, umeleckej i politickej práce významného slovenského spisovateľa, dramatika, básnika a publicistu, evanjelického farára.



## Plánované podujatia pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

1. Tradičná Katarínska zábava v sobotu večer 29. novembra 2008 o 7:00 hod večer. Poriadajú spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 a I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v meste New York.
2. Mikulášske odpoľudnie pre deti našich farníkov v nedeľu 7. decembra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia. Poriada Farská rada a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 v meste New York.
3. Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília v nedeľu 14. decembra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia. Poriada Farská rada a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 v meste New York.

## Jednotárska zábava v Linden, New Jersey

Spolok sv. Jána Krstiteľa číslo 746 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, pri kostole sv. Rodiny v Linden New Jersey usporiada tanečnú zábavu v sobotu 22. novembra 2008 v Msgr. Komar Hall 2806 Parkway Ave, Linden N.J., na ktorú slovenskú verejnosť srdečne pozýva.

Večera sa bude podávať od 8.00 – do 9.00 hodiny, prosíme záujemcov aby prišli načas! Do tanca a na počúvanie bude hrať známa hudobná skupina KONTAKTY. Príďte medzi nás, usporiadatelia vám sľubujú príjemné pobavenie! Vstupné za osobu je \$25.00 dolárov, v čom je započítaná aj večera. O bližšie informácie a zakúpenie lístkov volajte na tieto telefónne čísla: Mary Karch: (732) 572 – 2331, Mary Tkach: (908) 862 – 2782.

Mary Karch



## Katarínska zábava v hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ a I. zbor Slovenskej ligy v NYC pozýva širokú slovensko-americkú verejnosť z blízka a okolia na tradičnú Katarínsku zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v sobotu 29. novembra 2008 o 7:00 hod. večer vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C., 411 East, 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Do tanca bude hrať známa hudobno-spevácka skupina KONTAKTY. Vstupné je \$25.00 v čom je započítaná večera. Lístky na Katarínsku zábavu si môžete objednať u nasledovných osôb: Milan a Henrieta Dait tel.: (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik: (718) 463-2084; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.



## Festival slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Medzi nimi nechýbal ani stánok Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, ktorá v snahe zviditeľnenia zúčastňuje sa po Spojených štátoch na rôznych kultúrnych a fraternalistických podujatiach. Na festivale v New Jersey ju zastupovali jej hlavný predseda Andrej M. Rajec, spolu s manželkou Idkou; podpredseda, Andrej Harcar, a oblastný riaditeľ, Jozef Minarovič. Pre záujemcov a účastníkov Festivalu rozdali výtlačky časopisu JEDNOTA a brožúry s informáciami o rôznych produktoch poistenia IKSJ.

31. Festival sa začal rímskokatolíckou omšou, ktorú celebroidal diecézny biskup spišskej diecézy František Tondra a asistovali mu o. Štefan Chanas, ktorý mal na starosti prípravu na omšu. Ďalšími koncelebrantmi boli biskupský sekretár v Spišskej diecéze o. Peter Majda, o. Vladimír Chripko, o. František Čonka, o. Martin Kertys a o. Peter Kunder z Košíc.

Kultúrny program otvorili krátkymi príhovormi spolupredsedovia festivalu Ján Duch v anglickej reči a Nina Holá v slovenskej. Renáta Jurášiová – Ivašková viedla spev americkej a slovenskej hymny. Za tým nasledovala populárna prehliadka krojov z rôznych krajov Slovenska s hudobným doprovodom Jozefa Jurášiho a pod vedením Renáty Ivaškovej. V dvojhodinovom kultúrnom programe sa predstavil detský súbor Limboráčik z New Yorku, folklórny súbor PAS z Pittsburghu, hudobná skupina Pajtáši z New Yorku, spevácky zbor Pristaši a speváci Jozef Ivaška starší so synom Jozefom mladším z Bratislavy. V popoludňajších hodinách vyhrávala do tanca hudobná skupina KONTAKTY. Počas celého dňa sa konal tradičný futbalový turnaj štyroch mužstiev. Víťaz Tatry Slovakia si prevzal Pohár festivalu a rôznymi plaketami boli ocenení aj najlepší hráči.

Pozdravy festivalu poslali aj viacerí činitelia, medzi nimi prezident Ivan Gašparovič, podpredseda vlády Dušan Čaplovič, minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubiš, predsedníčka ÚSZZ Vilma Prívarová, ako aj diplomatickí zástupcovia SR. Pozdrav poslal aj prezident George Bush, guvernér štátu a viacerí senátori a kongresmani USA. Guvernér štátu New Jersey, Jon Corzine vyhlásil 28. september v celom štáte za Slovenský deň.

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

**Ročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo č. 45 IKSJ**

Oznamujeme všetkým našim členom, že ročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45. Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku sa bude konať v nedeľu 7. decembra 2008 o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue 66<sup>th</sup> Street. V plánovanom programe podajú úradníci svoje správy ako aj finančnú správu, zhodnotia činnosť za uplynulé obdobie. Za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo žiadame o hojnú účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

## Za poznáním svojich

# K nedožitej deväťdesiatke Jozefa Kojtilu

*Hej, slovenská junač, znáš povinnosť svoju,  
k národu tvojemu a k zemi otcovskej?*

**Jožo Heľpiansky**

Medzi pera schopné osobnosti prvej generácie Slovákov v Kanade, do galérie tých, ktorí naplňali slovenský vývojový život tvorivým slovom, nesporne sa radí mladý, nadaný našinec – Jozef Kojtila, ktorý v svojich študentských rokoch písal patriotické a povzbudzujúce verše pod pseudonymom Jožo Heľpiansky. Mimo veršov, novinársky uverejnených, napísal veselohru v troch dejstvách Ach, tí študenti a libreto pre muzikál v zápasoch za slobodu v hudobnej kompozícii Michala Sinčáka, premierované na slovenskom javisku v Montreale začiatkom štyridsiatich rokov.

Krátko po mojom príchode do Kanady, koncom roku 1936, nadviazal som s horemenovanými tvorivé priateľstvo, ktoré trvalo celý život. Obidvaja absolvovali slovenskú doplnovaciu školu, ktorá v tých časoch účelne pôsobila v Montreale, takže dobre ovládali písanú a hovorenú slovenskú reč.

Dnešným slovenským generáciám Jozef Kojtila je málo známy. Avšak za svojich čias bol tvorivou kapacitou, rešpektovaným intelektuálom a aktívnym členom slovenského etnika v Montreale.

Narodil sa pred 90. rokmi, presnejšie 1. septembra 1918 na Horehroní, v rázovitej, ľudovo ospevovanej obci Heľpa – podľa nej prírmenie Heľpiansky. V ôsmom roku svojho



Jozef Kojtila

mladého života fakticky v roku 1926, odišiel s matkou k otcovi do Kanady do ontarijského mesta Kapuskasing odkiaľ neskoršie odišli za lepším životom do Montrealu, kde prežil celý svoj život zasvätený činorodej a kultúrnej práci na tej našej príslovečnej roli dedičnej.

Vyrástol v kruhu širšej slovenskej rodiny, národno-kresťanský orientovanej. Už ako chlapec, keď to potreba vyžadovala, účinkoval v divadlách a iných slovenských podujatiach. Bol prvým miništrantom rodiacej sa slovenskej farnosti svätých Cyrila a Metoda, členom osadnej a neskôr jednotárskej dychovej kapely, aktívnym členom a funkcionárom slovenských fraternalistických spolkov a osady. Za dlhší čas bol predsedom osadného spevokolu. Stál pri zrode Štúrového literárneho krúžku založeného pri odbočkách spolkov za účelom upevnenia a predĺženia slovenského národného povedomia a uvedomenia v radoch dorastajúcej slovenskej mládeži. Po postavení nového Slovenského domu stal sa tajomníkom Kultúrneho strediska kanadských Slovákov a zároveň učiteľom doplnovacej slovenskej školy zriadenej pri tom Stredisku. Hádám, že v Montreale nebolo slovenského podujatia, v ktorom by nebral aktívnu účasť a keď bolo treba nepodal pomocnú ruku. Život pre mladého Kojtilu nebol vždy prijateľný. Prešiel trpkým úsekom svojho života, keď mu umrel otec v pomerne mladom veku, v časoch kedy v Kanade neexistovala sociálna pomoc.

Po skončení strednej školy študoval na Loyola College s titulom B.A. Odtiaľ prešiel na Učiteľský ústav, kde bol promován za diplomovaného učiteľa. Počas učiteľskej kariéry prehĺbil svoje vzdelanie na Thomas Moore Institute a univerzite s akademickým titulom M.A.

Zamestnal sa v školskom katolíckom systéme ako odborný učiteľ do odchodu na penziu. Možno povedať, že bol prvým vzdelancom slovenskej komunity v Montreale. Na svoj slovenský pôvod nikdy nezabudol ako sa to dá vycítiť z jeho veršovej tvorby a jeho plnej účasti v slovenskom dianí.

Oženil sa s Annou Lukčovou rodáčkou z Holčikovíc na východnom Slovensku. Spolu vychovali dvoch synov a dve dcéry dobre zaopatrené. Jeho manželka ešte žije v úbohom zdravotnom stave v starobinci. Zomrel 13. novembra 1992 vo veku 74 rokov.

Češť jeho pamiatke.

**Štefan Hreha**  
Montréal, QC.

## Milanovi Rúfusovi vyšla nová básnická zbierka

BRATISLAVA (TASR) - Novú básnickú tvorbu súčasného slovenského literáta Milana Rúfusa predstavuje zbierka Anjeličku, môj strážničku. Ako napovedá názov, je venovaná najmenším deťom.

“Svet malých mu je od počiatku tvorby veľmi blízky. Hovorí, že každé dieťa by malo dostať do kolísky od sudičky rozprávku, pesničku a modlitbičku,” uviedla Mária Števková z vydavateľstva Buvik, ktoré ako jediné na Slovensku sa špecializuje na literatúru pre najmenších “čitateľov”.

Podľa Števkovej je nová Rúfusova zbierka prostá, čistá a civilná poézia, ktorá sprevádza deti, až kým nedospeli. No môže mať aj všeobecnejšiu platnosť - veď všetci sa utiekame k strážnym anjelom. Ako vyplýva z básnikových veršov, detské modlitbičky sa týkajú mamičky, otecka, sestričky, bračeka, babičky, ale anjeliček má opatrovať i naše slniečko či Zemičku. “Je to metafora pre rodinu blízkych, ale aj za život na planéte. Zahŕňa vesmír dieťaťa,” dodáva Števková.

Buvik spolupracuje s Rúfusom 17 rokov a toto je ich štvrtá spoločná knižka. Každá z nich je ilustrovaná farebnými obrázkami. Do aktuálnej knižky ich namaľovala Jana Kiselová-Siteková. Za svoju tvorbu dvakrát získala Zlaté jablko na medzinárodnej súťaži Biennale ilustrácií Bratislava i Cenu Ľudovíta Fullu.

Jubilujúci Milan Rúfus (1928) začal tvoriť ako 16-ročný, publikoval v rôznych časopisoch. Už v prvej zbierke Až dozrieme (1956) sa predstavil ako vyzretý básnik. Vyšli mu mnohé poetické knihy, aj v spolupráci s fotografom Martinom Martinčekom a maliarom Ľudovítom Fullom. Okrem poézie napísal eseje, tiež rozprávky a iné prozaické knihy pre deti a mládež. Venoval sa aj prekladovej tvorbe.

Získal rôzne významné ocenenia. V roku 1970 mu udelili Štátnu cenu za literatúru, o sedem rokov neskôr ho poctili titulom Zaslúžilý umelec. Má medzinárodnú cenu Zlatý kľúč (1990), Rád T. G. Masaryka (1991), Rád Ľudovíta Štúra I. triedy (1995), Čestný doktorát literatúry udelený Svetovou akadémiou umení a kultúry (1998), Cenu z festivalu v macedónskej Struge (2001), Cenu ministra kultúry za zbierku básní Báseň a čas (2005), Cenu Literárneho fondu za najlepšiu pôvodnú slovenskú tvorbu v roku 2005 za zbierku Báseň a čas (2006). Viackrát ho navrhli na Nobelovu cenu za literatúru

## Slovensko má nové veľvyslanectvo v Hanoji

Hanoj (TASR) - Predseda slovenskej vlády Robert Fico otvoril 28. októbra nové veľvyslanectvo SR vo Vietname. Slovensko sa tak pripojilo k desiatkam vyspelých štátov sveta, ktoré majú svoje ambasády v Hanoji. Bývalá slovenská vláda Mikuláša Dzurindu z politických a ideologických dôvodov predchádzajúce veľvyslanectvo zrušila práve v čase, keď silné svetové ekonomiky na čele s USA a západnou Európou začali masívne prenikať na vietnamský trh.

V otváracom príhovore premiér zdôraznil, že cieľom otvorenia veľvyslanectva je zvýšiť intenzitu slovensko-vietnamských vzťahov, najmä pokiaľ ide o ekonomickú spoluprácu. Na otvorení veľvyslanectva sa zúčastnila aj vládna delegácia Vietnamu na čele s námestníkom ministra zahraničných vecí Nguyen Thanh Sonom. Ten po príhovore Roberta Fica povedal, že vietnamská vláda prikladá tejto udalosti náležitú vážnosť, ktorú chce potvrdiť aj urýchlenným otvorením vietnamského veľvyslanectva v Bratislave. Dnes sídli vietnamský veľvyslanec pre SR vo Viedni.

## Černovská tragédia

Slovensko si pripomenulo tragické udalosti, ktoré sa odohrali 27. októbra 1907 v Černovej. Obyvatelia obce, ktorá je dnes súčasťou Ružomberka, sa pred 101 rokmi vzopreli rozhodnutiu úradov o vysviacke nového černovského kostola, pätnásť z nich zaplatilo za svoj nesúhlas životom, niekoľko desiatok bolo zranených. Udalosti v Černovej a strelba žandárov do zástupu nevinných ľudí vyvolali ostré reakcie nielen doma, ale aj za hranicami vtedajšieho Rakúska-Uhorska.

Rok 1907 bol pre Černovčanov ťažkým rokom. Robotníci z fabrik, pltníci a drobní roľníci si so svojimi ženami za pomoci peňažných zbierok stavali na výšku pri dedine kostol, aby nemuseli chodiť na omše do štyri km vzdialeného Ružomberka. K vybudovaniu chrámu prispel veľkou mierou rímskokatolícky ružomerský farár, černovský rodák Andrej Hlinka, ktorý z celkových nákladov 80,000 korún potrebných na stavbu vykryl 60,000 korún zo zbierok a svojho súkromného majetku.

Základný kameň bol posvätený 20. apríla 1906, na jeseň 1907 čakala na posviacku dokončená stavba. Obyvatelia chceli, aby im nový svätostánok vysvätil Andrej Hlinka. Toho však v tých časoch spišský biskup Alexander Párvy pre politické aktivity suspendoval, pozbavil fary a zakázal mu vykonávať kňazské povolanie. Kostol v Černovej mal podľa rozhodnutia cirkevnej vrchnosti posvätiť liskovský farár - dekan Martin Pazúrik 27. októbra 1907, čomu sa obyvatelia Černovej vzopreli a tak prišli do dediny žandári, na uliciach bol však pokoj. Obyvatelia Černovej začali prejavovať svoju nevôľu v nedeľu 27. októbra. Do obce prišla ďalšia skupina žandárov. Keď zástup ľudí obkolesil prichádzajúce koče a žiadal, aby z obce odišli, vypukol zmätok. Vtedy veliteľ 15-člennej skupiny žandárov vydal bez predbežného varovania osudný rozkaz: Strieľať! Výsledkom bolo 15 mŕtvych a desiatky zranených, z toho niekoľko ťažko. Uhorské úrady obvinili z organizovania nepokojov vyše 55 ľudí, z ktorých potom 40 odsúdili súhrnne na 37 rokov žalára a rôzne peňažné pokuty a zhabanie majetku. Najmladšia odsúdená mala 16 rokov.

Tragédia v Černovej upozornila vtedajšiu svetovú verejnosť na národnostný útlak v cisárskej ríši. Proti krutému zásahu uhorských žandárov protestovali viaceré významné osobnosti v zahraničí, napr. nositeľ Nobelovej ceny za literatúru, nórsky spisovateľ Bjornstjerne Björnson či ruský spisovateľ a filozof Lev Nikolajevič Tolstoj. Černovský kostol posvätil napokon Andrej Hlinka na sviatok Petra a Pavla 29. júna 1910. Obete černovskej tragédie pripomína pomník na miestnom cintoríne, ktorý nechala vybudovať Slovenská liga amerických Slovákov pri príležitosti 25. výročia masakry.

## Krátke správy zo Slovenska

**Poslanci** Národnej rady (NR SR) 22. októbra uznesením schválili súhlas so zmluvou medzi SR a USA o zintenzívnení spolupráce pri predchádzaní a boji proti trestnej činnosti. Tá umožní vyhľadávajúce identifikačné údaje s cieľom predchádzať terorizmu a trestným činom. Medzi identifikačné údaje radí odtlačky prstov, DNA aj osobné údaje. Na základe zmluvy si budú môcť obe krajiny vzájomne vymieňať informácie o páchateloch trestnej činnosti alebo o dôvodne podozrivých v podobe odtlačkov prstov, osobných údajov a DNA. Podľa ministra vnútra Roberta Kaliňáka ide o výmenu štandardných informácií, ktorá prebieha aj s európskymi krajinami. Zmluva o zintenzívnení spolupráce je jedným z dvoch dokumentov zameraných na boj proti terorizmu, ktoré sú súčasťou bezpečnostných záväzkov Memoranda o porozumení. To obe krajiny podpísali v marci tohto roku.

**Bankový** sektor patrí na Slovensku k tým oblastiam finančného trhu, ktoré neboli doteraz vo väčšej miere zasiahnuté svetovou finančnou krízou. K významnejšiemu dopadu na bankový sektor by došlo, ak by kríza negatívne ovplyvnila vývoj slovenskej ekonomiky. Vyplýva to z Analýzy ekonomického a legislatívneho prostredia, v ktorom pôsobia dcérske spoločnosti zahraničných finančných inštitúcií, ktorú spoločne vypracovali Národná banka Slovenska (NBS) a Ministerstvo financií (MF) SR. Bankový sektor na Slovensku má však na rozdiel od bankového sektora v eurozóne dostatok primárnych zdrojov od klientov, vďaka čomu nie je podľa NBS a MF závislý pri poskytovaní úverov od financovania na medzibankovom trhu.

**Najväčšia** letecká spoločnosť na Slovensku, SkyEurope Airlines oznámila vytvorenie aliancie a obchodného partnerstva s talianskou nízkonákladovou spoločnosťou Myair.com. Toto spojenie môže podľa informácií zachrániť slovenskú nízkonákladovú aerolíniu. "Strategická aliancia a partnerstvo pri prevádzke sú prirodzeným vyústením existencie dvoch leteckých spoločností, ktoré doteraz fungovali oddelene, ale s podobnými stratégiami a so zameraním na trhy v krajinách strednej a východnej Európy", povedal na margo partnerstva šéf Myair.com Carlo Bernini.

**Milovníci** lyžovania sa môžu tešiť nielen na 4.9 kilometra nových zjazdoviek, ale aj na novú štvorsedačkovú lanovku, ktorá pribudne v Tatranskej Lomnici. Nové lyžiarske stredisko si môžu návštevníci slovenských veľhôr vyskúšať už na Mikuláša, 6. decembra. Celkové náklady na výstavbu zjazdovky predstavujú približne 310 miliónov korún (10.29 milióna eur). "Tento rok bude hotová prvá etapa výstavby, druhá etapa sa skončí v novembri budúceho roka", povedala marketingová riaditeľka Tatranských lanových dráh Katarína Šarašinová.

**Chlieb** ani rožky na Slovensku lacnejšie nebudú, hoci úroda pšenice bola nad očakávanie dobrá a jej cena sa znížila o desiatky percent. Pekári sa zlacneniu bránia tým, že hoci sa pšenice urodilo viac, nie je taká kvalitná ako vlni. "Tohtoročná úroda obilia kvalitatívne nespĺňa požiadavky mlynárov a kvalitnej potravinárskej pšenice nie je dostatok," povedal Peter Hudák z Mlynu Šurany. Agrárny analytik však reči o nekvalitnej múke považuje za výhovorky, lebo dôvody nezlacňovania majú pekári iné. Sú to drahé energie, teda elektrina a teplo, ktoré pekárom výrazne predražili výrobu. Kvôli lacnejšej pšenici však klesnú ceny hydiny. Zlacnenie tejto komodity už ohlásila spoločnosť Ahold.

**Zaujímavú** medzinárodnú výstavu tradičných remesiel si návštevníci mohli pozrieť do konca októbra v galérii Banického múzea v Rožňave. Výstava už v minulosti obišla aj Maďarsko, Rumunsko či Rakúsko. Ihla, niť a nožnice bol názov druhej časti putovnej výstavy, ktorú pred niekoľkými rokmi odštartovali ako projekt Remeslá bez hraníc. Pred tromi rokmi mohli návštevníci obdivovať umelcov hrnčiarskeho kruhu, tento rok si mohli pozrieť majstrov krajčírstva, čipkárstva, garbiarstva či obuvníctva, ako aj ich diela v historickom prehľade.

**Skokanské** mostíky v areáli Jamy v Tatranskej Lomnici už patria minulosti. Nedávno ich zbúrali, čo vyvolalo medzi obyvateľmi otázky, či napriek dlhodobému chátraniu nebol takýto radikálny krok predčasný. "Obidva skokanské mostíky odpílili a zničili, čo je športová tragédia," myslí si Ján Vaverčák z Tatranskej Lomnice. Vysvetlil, že skokanský areál postavili v rokoch 1967 až 1970 a vďaka parametrom patril k najlepším lyžiarskym mládežníckym strediskám vo vtedajšom Československu. Tridsať rokov ho intenzívne využívali domáci športovci, ale nezriedka aj skokani z Česka, Poľska a Nemecka. Po rozdelení Československa nastal útlm športu a areál postupne chátral. Telovýchovná jednota (TJ) Vysoké Tatry sa márne pokúšala nájsť finančné prostriedky na rekonštrukciu. Jej štatutárny zástupca Peter Bžoch konštatoval, že od roku 1999 sa v areáli neskákalo, chýbal mu platný certifikát. Náklady na rekonštrukciu by si vyžiadali približne 5 mil. Sk (165,969 eur). Starosti im robilo zabezpečenie areálu, ktorý je neohradený a voľne prístupný. Opakovane museli zasklievať a zadbňovať rozhodcovskú vežu. Chátrali aj tribúny a mohlo dôjsť k úrazom.

**Ochrana** a využívanie kultúrneho dedičstva bolo témou dvojdnovej konferencie s medzinárodnou účasťou, ktorá sa konala koncom októbra v Slovenskej národnej knižnici (SNK) v Martine. Približne dve desiatky slovenských a českých odborníkov sa na konferencii zaoberali problematikou ochrany a reštaurovania starých tlačí, archívnych a knižničných zbierok. Experti z Národnej knižnice v Pra-

he sa napríklad podelili so svojimi skúsenosťami pri ničení hmyzu poškodzujúceho knižné a múzejné zbierky. Najnovšie poznatky o ochrane múzejných predmetov predniesli vo svojich prednáškach aj zástupcovia Slovenského banského múzea v Banskej Štiavnici, Diecéznej knižnice v Nitre, Slovenského technického múzea v Košiciach a ďalší. Konferenciu zorganizovala SNK v spolupráci so Slovenským národným archívom, Slovenským národným múzeom, Združením informačných špecialistov na podporu vedy Pro Scientia a Spolkou slovenských knihovníkov.

**TASR a slovenské časopisy**



FOTO TASR – František Iván

**Rakúske lietadlo Draken (na snímke) a ukrajinský stroj Antonov AN 2 pribudli 29. októbra 2008 ako prezidentské dary do galérie Múzea letectva Slovenského technického múzea (ML STM). Spolu ich má múzeum už 18 z viacerých kontinentov sveta a vystavuje ich v osobitnej – vo svete jedinečnej muzeálnej galérii na košickom letisku. Všetky exponáty prišli na Slovensko ako dary prezidentov a panovníkov vďaka iniciatíve exprezidenta Rudolfa Schustera (uprostred). Na odovzdávaní bol prítomný aj rakúsky veľvyslanec v SR Helmut Wessely (vpravo) a honorárny konzul Ukrajiny Stanislav Obický. Stroj Saab Draken švédskej výroby bol vo výbave rakúskeho letectva a R. Schuster ho získal od bývalého rakúskeho prezidenta Thomasa Klestila. Ukrajinský stroj, využívaný v civilnom letectve, múzeu daroval exprezident Leonid Kučma.**

## Múzeum Andyho Warhola sa bude rekonštruovať

Medzilaborce/Humenné (TASR) - Zmluvu o združení prostriedkov a vypracovaní projektovej dokumentácie na rekonštrukciu Múzea moderného umenia Andyho Warhola (MMUAW) v Medzilaborciach podpísal začiatkom októbra počas výjazdového dňa predseda Prešovského samosprávneho kraja (PSK) Peter Chudík a primátor mesta Ladislav Demko.

Náklady na rekonštrukciu dosiahnu zhruba milión korún (33,192.92 eura). Polovicu uvedenej sumy uhradí mesto a rovnakú časť prešovský vyšší územný celok, pričom projektovú štúdiu dá vypracovať PSK. Ten sa na základe pripraveného projektu bude uchádzať o financie z eurofondov.

Predtým je však potrebné zrealizovať rekonštrukciu strechy na múzeu. Mesto sa ako 50-percentný vlastník objektu musí rozhodnúť, či poskytne 50 percent financií na rekonštrukciu, alebo sa zmení vlastnícky podiel. Danou problematikou sa budú zaoberať medzilaboreckí poslanci.



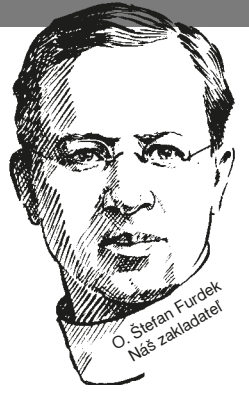
## Od budúceho roka sa zvýšia platy slovenským duchovným

Bratislava (TASR) – Platy duchovných sa od januára budúceho roka zvýšia o sedem percent. Stane sa tak na základe kolektívnej zmluvy, na základe ktorej sa upraví o uvedené percento základná stupnica platových taríf zamestnancov pri výkone práce vo verejnom záujme.

Najnižšia suma tak bude po novom 248.84 eura (7,497 Sk) v prípade duchovného, ktorý sa venuje tejto činnosti menej ako tri roky, a najvyššia dosiahne 656.08 eura (19,765 Sk) pri viac ako 30 rokoch vykonávania duchovnej práce. Zvýšenie základných platov a odvodov si v budúcom roku vyžiada 1,664 milióna eur (50,130 milióna Sk). Výšku platu duchovných cirkví a náboženských spoločností určuje nariadenie vlády SR. Jeho súčasťou je stupnica základného platu. Na ocenenie vysokej kvality výkonu ho môže príslušná cirkev zvýšiť o 30 percent. Duchovnému taktiež patrí hodnotný prídavok.

Štát poskytuje podľa zákona cirkvám a náboženským spoločnostiam financie na platy duchovných, odvody a čiastočne na prevádzku ústredí. Z 18 v súčasnosti registrovaných cirkví a náboženských spoločností ich väčšinou z vieroučných dôvodov nepoberá päť. Ide o náboženskú spoločnosť Jehovovi svedkovia, Kresťanské zbory, Novoapoštolskú cirkev, Cirkev Ježiša Krista Svätých neskorších dní a Bahájske spoločenstvo. Cirkev adventistov siedmeho dňa požaduje štátny príspevok len na chod cirkevného ústredia.

Z vládou schváleného rozpočtu ministerstva kultúry pôjde budúci rok na financovanie cirkví a náboženských spoločností 37.2 milióna eur (1.121 miliardy Sk).



## Slováci sa dočkali Do USA bez víz už od 17. novembra

Bratislava (TASR) - Slováci pcestujú do Spojených štátov amerických bez víz už od 17. novembra. Oznamili to v utorok 28. októbra na spoločnej tlačovej konferencii minister pre vnútornú bezpečnosť USA Michael Chertoff a minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák.

Pred cestou do USA budú musieť záujemcovia na internete vyplniť americký dotazník ESTA a mali by vlastniť novší typ cestovného pasu s biometrickými údajmi - čipom a digitálnou fotografiou.

Zrušením víz sa Slovensko dostane do kategórie štátov, u občanov ktorých sa už nebudú posudzovať riziká ekonomickej migrácie, ale bezpečnostné hľadisko. Žiadatelia o turistický pobyt najneskôr 72 hodín pred odletom vyplnia formulár, ktorý bude prístupný na internete. Elektronický systém pre autorizáciu cesty (ESTA) na jeho základe buď cestu odsúhlasí, alebo nie. Povolenie platí dva roky, pričom jeden nepretržitý pobyt nesmie presiahnuť tri mesiace. Ak záujemca o vycestovanie nemá biometrický cestovný pas, bude musieť požiadať o udelenie turistických víz spôsobom, ako tomu bolo do zrušenia vízovej povinnosti.

Dotazník ESTA, ktorý pred cestou do USA vyplňujú aj občania iných krajín EÚ, ktoré majú s USA bezvízový režim, obsahuje celý rad osobných údajov. Záujemca o cestu do Spojených štátov musí uviesť adresu miesta plánovaného pobytu, rôzne podrobnosti o plánovanej ceste, ako aj to, či mu už niekedy v minulosti vstup do USA odopreli, či v USA nelegálne nepracoval a či bol niekedy odsúdený za vážne trestné činy. Úrady USA sa v dotazníku ESTA zaujímajú aj o zdravotný stav žiadateľa, jeho prípadné problémy s drogami a aktivity na poli terorizmu. Neúspešní uchádzači budú ešte pozvaní na pohovor na veľvyslanectvo USA, kde môžu vysvetliť informáciu, ktorá viedla k zamietnutiu systémom ESTA.

Spojené štáty americké rušia na jeseň vízovú povinnosť pre sedem štátov. Okrem Slovenska a Česka sa zrušia víza aj trom pobaltským štátom - Lotyšsku, Litve a Estónsku, ako aj Maďarsku a Kórejskej republike. Občania z týchto krajín budú môcť stráviť na území USA bez víz maximálne 90 dní. Občania SR môžu bez víz cestovať do 80 krajín sveta, naopak vstupné víza potrebujú získať pri ceste do vyše 110 štátov. Z amerického kontinentu stačí občanom SR platný pas na turistiku v krajinách ako Kanada, Mexiko, Brazília, Argentína, Bolívia, Ekvádor, Chile, Kolumbia, Peru či Venezuela.



Na snímke zľava: podpredseda IKSJ, Andrej Harcar; oblasťný riaditeľ IKSJ, Jozef Minarovich; Miss Long Island 2008, Alyse Zwick (vnučka Jána a Marty Kulháňovcov) a hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrej M. Rajec.

## Festival slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey

V nedeľu 28. septembra 2008 sa uskutočnil 31. ročník Festivalu slovenského dedičstva, v Holmdel, New Jersey. Napriek daždivému počasiu sa na ňom zúčastnilo asi päť tisíc Slovákov nielen z okolitých, ale aj vzdialenejších štátov, ako z Illinois, Floridy a iných.

Pre návštevníkov boli k dispozícii po celý deň potravinové stánky s výberom tradičných slovenských i amerických jedál ako aj výstava a predaj širokého sortimentu slovenskej keramiky, skla, kníh, rezbárskych produktov, cédečiek, výšiviek a obrazov. Prítomní boli aj poradcovia na genealógiu a cestovné kancelárie.

Pokračovanie na str. 17

## V ĎAKYVZDANIE

Keď, na Deň Vďakyvzdania, kľáčime pri oltári, ďakujeme Ti Pane Bože, za všetky tie dary, ktoré nám z Tvojej štedrosti, denne dávaš a milosťami Tvojimi, tak hojne požehnávaš.

Ďakujeme Ti, za ten veľký, dobrý peceň chleba, za zdravie, šťastie, lásku, čo pochádza od Teba. Ďakujeme Ti, za tradične upečeného moriaka, nech ťakonná modlitba, sa zaň denne odrieka.

Ďakujeme Ti, za krčah mlieka, hrudku syra, za dobrú úrodu raži, ovsu, pšenice, jačmeňa, za bystrú, čistú vodu, vyvierajúcu z prameňa, za ovocie, za kvety, za zásoby múky v komôrke.

Za vôňu v kuchyni, kde matka cesto na chlieb miesi vďaku vyjadruje Ti, modlitbou a v svojej piesni. Bože daj ľudstvu, ten každodenný krajec chleba, vody, čo uhasí ten dlhotrvajúci ľudský smäd.

Nech bieda, zloba vojny nikdy nevráti sa späť, ale brány pokoja a lásky, otvoria sa z neba. A na koniec treba vyrieknuť chválu, vďaku aj za hamburger, pizza a náš americký „Apple pie“.

Jozef Smák



Kostolíky v Hevartove a Dobroslave zo zoznamu UNESCO stvárnajú známky, ktoré vydala Slovenská pošta. Návrhy známkov drevených kostolíkov z východného Slovenska, ako aj háččkovej úpravy, kde sa objavujú chrámy v Hunkovciach, Príkrej a Ladomírovej, pochádzajú z dielne akademického maliara Karola Felixu. Tvorcom ich rytín je významný slovenský rytec František Horniak, ktorý už spolu s Felixom vytvoril viacero známkov s architektonickými motívami. Obe známky s označením T1 100 g vyjdú v háččkovej úprave v náklade 0.1 milióna kusov.



FOTO TASR - Jozef Ďurník