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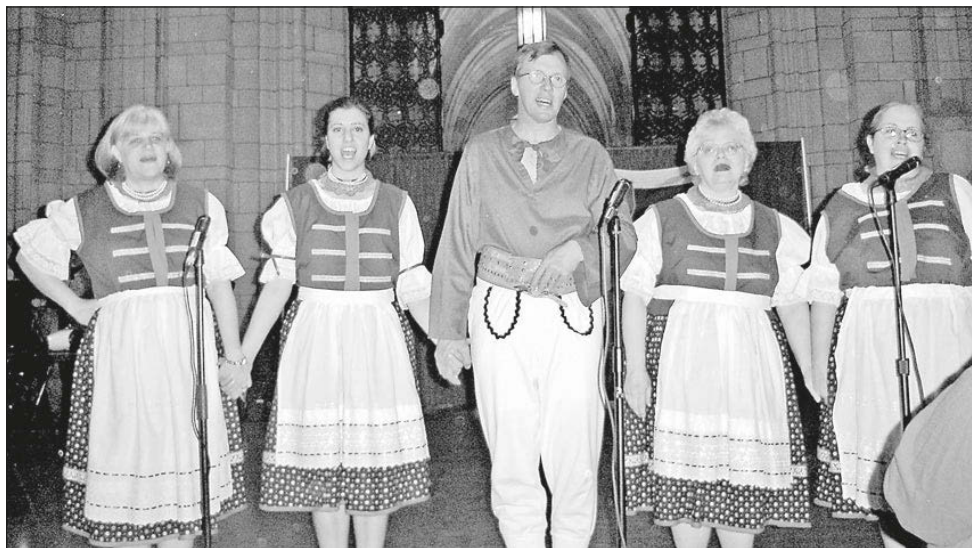


OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 116

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Number 5766



PAS Perform at Pitt Slovak Festival.

The Seventeen Year at the University of Pittsburgh Slovak Heritage Festival

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

The Slovak Heritage Festival at the University of Pittsburgh represents one of the best opportunities in North America to experience and learn more about Slovakia and Slovak culture. This year the event took place on Sunday, November 4, 2007, with the main events happening in the Commons Room of the towering Cathedral of Learning, the tallest university building in the USA.

The program featured a broad array of Slovak songs and dances, educational lectures and displays, Slovak ethnic foods and pastries, and a host of vendors who were selling books, recordings, crafts, Christmas ornaments, and other assorted Slovak merchandise and cultural exhibits.

Helene Cincebeaux and her mother, Helen Zemek Baine, hosted a Slovak parade of kroj (costume), and displayed a variety Slovak folk dress. Those interested in Slovak folk culture, and who are not already members, should consider joining the Slovak Heritage and Folklore Society International. For just \$17 a year (\$14 for seniors/students), one can receive a wonderful newsletter named Slovakia. Write her at 151 Colebrook Dr. Rochester, NY 14617, or email at HYPERLINK "mailto:helenezx@aol.com" helenezx@aol.com to register.

Other exhibits were also both interesting and educational. Joseph showed some Slovak weaving and cut embroidery made with authentic village techniques and styles, and Bill Kurtek and Karen Melis put up some folk displays. Little Europe, the Slovak Import Co., and La Boheme Imports offered gift items from Slovakia. Steve Hoferka was selling his Slovak Phrase Book, a handy brochure for those learning Slovak. The vendor PAV offered Slovak cassettes, and the Singing Revilak Family and Jozef Ivaska offered copies of their music on CD.

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Thanksgiving 2007

Dear Friends,

Celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday has not changed much over the years for a good number of people. Family members travel to a prearranged location. They watch parades and football games on television and then sit down to a delicious meal. All is well with life. And, yes, they remember to thank God for the abundance of blessings they have received throughout the year.

There are others who look back upon their year and all they can recall are sorrows. Natural disasters or other situations have caused some to lose their homes. Some live each day with pain caused by a sickness or other medical condition. Some, because they are either unemployed or underemployed, are facing bills that cannot be paid.

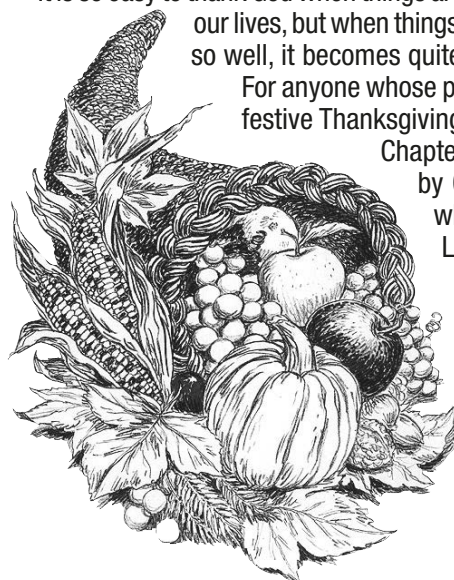
It is so easy to thank God when things are going well in our lives, but when things are not going so well, it becomes quite a challenge.

For anyone whose personal circumstances make it difficult to have a festive Thanksgiving, the Book of Job from the Bible can be of help. Chapter 1 describes Job as being abundantly blessed by God, then through a series of calamities he lost what he had. Job prayed, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord." Job remained steadfast in faith, despite the misfortunes that came upon him.

Whether this year has been one of great joys and abundance of goodness or one of struggles and hardships, the Thanksgiving holiday is an opportunity to grow in faith. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta

Sincerely,
Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



Thanksgiving Greetings from Your Executive Secretary

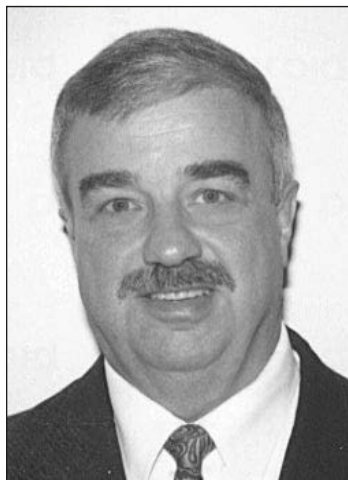
Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Thanksgiving Day is my favorite holiday! It is that special day of the year set aside when families come together to share laughter, turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. Fond memories are relived and shared with those we love. Hours of preparation come together to produce a feast fit for a king. Church bells ring a tribute of thanks for peace, bountiful harvests, and beautiful countryside. It is truly a time to celebrate and give thanks.

Thanks must also be given to our forefathers who came before us with ideals of freedom, peace and prosperity. We are once again enjoying the fruits of those who struggled to achieve these goals. Let us not forget to give thanks to our Almighty Father in Heaven who gave us not only these gifts but gave our ancestors the courage and strength to succeed.

As you and your family come together to give thanks to God, remember to thank Him also for all our gifts and talents. Pray that He may help those in need in not only our country, but also those struggling in our native homeland. We ask that they too are nourished with courage and strength.

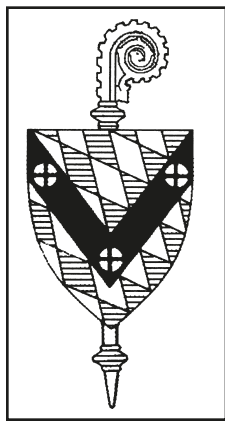
May you and your family enjoy this beautiful holiday. God bless you all.



Kenneth A. Arendt

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Fr. Campion P. Gavalier, O.S.B. and Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

November 25, 2007

Christ the King

Gospel Summary

After his arrest, Jesus has been accused before Pilate, the Roman governor, of being opposed to Caesar and of claiming to be the Messiah of God, a king. Now, having been condemned to death under Roman law, Jesus is being crucified along with two criminals. The rulers and the soldiers taunt Jesus and call out that if he is the Messiah and king of the Jews, he should be able to save himself. One of the criminals also reviles Jesus saying, "Are you not

the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other criminal, however, recognizing his own crimes and the goodness of Jesus, says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus responds, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Life Implications

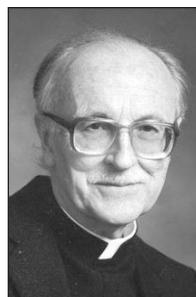
The rulers, soldiers, and the criminal who taunted Jesus had a definite notion of what it would mean if Jesus had been anointed by God as king. In their minds it would mean that Jesus would be a ruler of an empire--certainly more powerful than Caesar, and most certainly not a helpless victim of Caesar's power. We too may fall into the trap of projecting our own notions of what it means to honor Jesus as our king. Instead of projecting our own expectations, we must reflect on how Jesus reveals the meaning of authority in the kingdom he came to establish on earth.

Pope Pius XI, in his 1925 encyclical *Quas Primas* establishing the feast of Christ the King, reminds us of key texts for us to reflect upon today. In response to his disciples who were coveting positions of power, Jesus said that those who are rulers over the Gentiles make their authority over them felt. In his kingdom, however, whoever wishes to be great must be a servant, for he tells them that he himself "did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all" (Mk 10:35-45). To Jesus, the king anointed by God, all power in heaven and on earth was given; yet he issued no imperial decree to be enforced by the power of the sword. Rather he said to all who would listen, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart" (Mt 11:28-29). This is a king?

It is on the cross that Jesus ultimately reveals what it means to be king. The supreme power and glory of God that Jesus reveals is love. And in a world under Satan's reign of evil violence, it must be crucified love. Even though he challenges us to become engaged in the struggle to establish Christ's kingdom of justice and peace on earth, Pius XI calls us to a choice even more fundamental. In his encyclical, the Pope connects the feast of Christ the King to the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As king, Jesus gave his heart to us. "Lifted high on the cross, Christ gave his life for us, so much did he love us" (Preface for the feast of the Sacred Heart). He did so asking that we give our hearts to him.

At our Eucharist today we pray that each of us may truly believe that Jesus "the Son of God has loved me and given himself up for me" (Gal 2:20). And we ask for the grace to respond to this supreme love by giving ourselves and entrusting our lives to his reign. Perhaps for many of us, we may only be able to repeat the words of the criminal dying on his own cross: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Luke 23:35-43



Campion P. Gavalier,
O.S.B.

December 2, 2007

First Sunday of Advent

Gospel Summary

Jesus tells his disciples that they cannot know the day their Lord is coming. They must be prepared because that coming will be at a moment they least expect. He observed that people were totally unconcerned at the time of the flood. As a result the unexpected flood destroyed them. In the same way, he warns, a thief can enter a house if the owner is not prepared to safeguard it.

Life Implications

Jesus observed our human tendency to live in illusion, out of touch with what's really going on, and as a result we often suffer tragic consequences. Jesus warns us that if we succumb to this tendency we will not be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man, either at our death or at the end of time.

Today, as a consequence of the widespread anxiety induced by the terrorist attacks, we may become victims of yet a different kind of illusion. We can become so occupied with the "war on terrorism" that we will be unprepared for the Lord's coming, and suffer even more tragic consequences as a result. "If you are not watchful, I will come like a thief, and you will never know at what hour I will come upon you" (Rev 3:3). Jesus warns us that there are countless things of this world that can make us forget the one certain reality--the day of the Lord's coming.

Immediately following the passage of today's Advent gospel, Matthew places three parables in which Jesus gives us examples of the kinds of people for whom the Lord's coming will not be a happy experience. A wicked servant says to himself, "My master is long delayed," and begins to ill-treat his fellow servants and drink with drunkards. Five foolish virgins, awaiting the coming of the bridegroom, neglect to provide oil for their lamps, and are shut out. A servant out of fear buries the talent that has been entrusted to him instead of doing something creative with it.

As the climax of the three parables, Matthew gives us Jesus' graphic description of what will happen in the final judgment at his coming. The outcome--happy or tragic--depends on how we treat each other here and now, even the least of our brothers and sisters--the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the prisoner. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me...what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me" (25:31-46).

In Catholic belief, the grace of the Eucharistic liturgy actualizes in us what the gospel proclaims. It would not be good news simply to hear the warning of Jesus about the danger of living in illusion. A warning alone brings more anxiety, not joyful hope. The good news is that today we may receive the gift of the Spirit who enables us to see what's really going on with the eyes of Jesus and to respond to that reality with the courage of Jesus--without illusion and without anxiety.

REMINDERS

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057.

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.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Copy Deadline

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

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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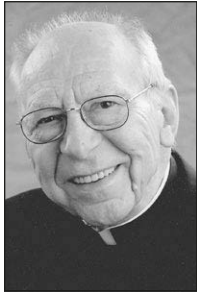
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Insights and Viewpoints

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

End Times Part II

The Catholic position is the biblical one, without any of the Protestant commentaries

Just as the Jews maintain that the Bible (Old Testament for the Jews) cannot be taken alone, so does the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church refers both to the Bible and to Tradition to arrive at certainty about everything that has been revealed in the Bible.

John 20:30-31. "Jesus performed many other signs as well- signs not recorded here- in the presence of his disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, so that through this faith you may have life in his name."

John 21:24-25. "It is this same disciple who is witness to these things; it is he who wrote them down and his testimony, we know is true. There are still many other things that Jesus did, yet if they were written about in detail, I doubt there would be enough room in the entire world to hold the books to record them."

Christ's teaching extended beyond the written text of the Bible through his apostles and extended beyond them through the disciples of the apostles. What was this teaching and how could it be sorted out to include the acceptable and reject the unacceptable? An example is the Canon of the Bible. Who chose the books we now recognize as the Bible?

The canonical books of the Bible were not identified definitively until the Fourth session of the Council of Trent, which met from December 13, 1545 to December 4, 1563. This was a council of the Catholic Church. Sola Scriptura could never give us the Bible as we know it. This definition is that to which we refer as Tradition.

There are many, many writings through the early years and centuries of the Church expressing all kinds of dogmatic and theological "truths". (We refer you to "The Other Bible," published by Harper Collins). Who went through all of these and decided which were in accord with the teachings of Jesus Christ and which were not? The Fathers of the Church and the Councils of the Church did and these make for "Tradition."

Without them, we would be mired in a mishmash of texts that would make the teaching of Jesus Christ a fairy tale. Tradition had to decide which writings which derived from apostolic times and which transmitted the preaching of the apostles. This tradition is an integral part, along with Scripture, of our Catholic faith in Jesus Christ. And, this was the case until the Reformation.

Particular Judgment

"It is appointed that men die once, and after death be judged." (Hebrews 9:27)

"The lives of all of us are to be revealed before the tribunal of Christ so that each one may receive his recompense, good or bad, according to his life in the body." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

"He who fears the Lord will have a happy end; even on the day of his death he will be blessed." (Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 1:11)

The one thief, crucified with Jesus, said to him: Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign." And Jesus replied, "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)

"...replacing Judas, who deserted the cause and went the way he was destined to go." (Acts 1:25)

Immediately after death, the particular judgment takes place, in which, by a Divine Sentence of Judgment, the eternal fate of the deceased person is decided.

Heaven is a place and a condition of perfect supernatural bliss, which consists in the immediate vision of God and in the perfect love God associated with it.

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9) (Supernatural vision and supernatural elevation of the intellect, the so-called 'lumen gloriae.') This vision in heaven continues until the General Judgment and thenceforth for all eternity.

The degree of this heavenly vision is proportioned according to each one's merits.

"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." (John 14:2) Many mansions because of different merits. Yet, each person in heaven is fully blessed because each one, whether pint, quart or gallon, is filled to the brim.

When the Son of Man comes, he will look at each living person and "...he will repay each man according to his conduct. (Matthew 16:27)

"Each will receive his wages in proportion to his toil." (1 Corinthians 3:8)

Hell is a place or state wherein its inhabitants have a permanent lease, if you will, and all therein are filled with hatred. Imagine being with all of those whom you know who are filled with hatred, deceit, despair, and ill will. The one virtue which is non-existent in hell is love.

"...with flaming fire he will inflict punishment on those who do not acknowledge God nor heed the good news of our Lord Jesus. Such as these will suffer the penalty of eternal ruin apart from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his might on the Day when he comes..." (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9) They will join all those already in hell where "the worm dies not and the fire is never extinguished." (Mark 9:48) The damned raise their hands and scream in unison, "Isn't this ever going to end?" The answer is "No!"

Vincentian Sisters of Charity Host the Annual CSR Meeting

Each year, the Conference of Slovak Religious is hosted by another Congregation. Thirty consecrated religious women and men, hailing from Lacon, Illinois, Danville, Pennsylvania, Cleveland, Ohio, Warren, Ohio, and Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and a majority from Pittsburgh attended this year's Annual Meeting at the Motherhouse of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity on October 5 and 6, 2007.



From L-R are Sister Annamarie Pavlik, VSC, Bishop David A. Zubik, Sister Charlene Reeble, VSC, and Sister Mary Michael Baksi, VSC.

On Friday evening, the visiting religious were treated to an inspiring talk in St. Vincent's Auditorium by Rev. Mark Gruber, OSB. Father Mark held his audience captive with his address entitled, "The Sorrowful Mother and the Evangelical Counsels." Speaking of the Sorrowful Mother as the patroness of Slovakia, Father Mark compared her sufferings with those endured by the Slovak nation in Central Europe during World War II. On a poignant note,



Conference of Slovak Religious attending the Annual Meeting.

he spoke of how the Sorrowful Mother served as an ally to the Slovak people, when no European nation rallied to support them at that time. He also proceeded to describe the sorrows the Blessed Virgin Mary endured at different stages of her life., and how she prayerfully reflected on what these events meant to her in her relationship to God. Father's talk so touched his audience that it evoked the spontaneous singing of the Slovak hymn, "O Maria Bolestiva."

The following morning, October 6, Bishop David A. Zubik, the newly-installed Bishop of Pittsburgh, celebrated the liturgy for the CSR, the Vincentian Congregation and visitors at the Vincentian Sisters' Motherhouse Chapel. Bishop Zubik presented a touching homily in which he exhorted the congregation not only to cherish their ethnic heritage, but also live and spread their heritage of Faith with passionate zeal. He spoke of our enduring love of the Blessed Mother and remembered his own beloved grandmother and her devotion to the rosary that so strengthened his priestly vocation. At the end of the Mass after imparting his episcopal blessing, Bishop Zubik greeted every person as each filed out through the rear of the Chapel. After breakfast in the Sisters' dining room, the Bishop drove up to the Vincentian Home to a dying Pittsburgh priest. Admiration for the Bishop's warmth, simplicity, and humility proved quite contagious to all who had the privilege of personally meeting with Bishop Zubik on that memorable morning.

Coming Events

NOVEMBER

- 18 – A meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania.
- 27 – A meeting of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

DECEMBER

- 2 – The Pittsburgh District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.
- 9 – The Rev. Matthew Jankola District's Annual Meeting at 11:00 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut.
- 9 – The Prince Pribina District Annual Slovak Christmas Mass and Lunch at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch and meeting.

SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Recalls a Century of Faith and Tradition in Bridgeport

A new chapter in the rich history of one of our most prominent Slovak parishes in America was written on Sunday, September 30, 2007, as the faith community of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Bridgeport, Connecticut, celebrated its 100th anniversary. A perfect fall day provided bright sunny skies and mild temperatures as parishioners, former parishioners, Slovak fraternalists and guests gathered to thank Almighty God for all the blessings received by generations of Slovak Catholics in this southern New England city through the ministry of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish.

The day began with a Pontifical concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at 11:00 a.m. with the Most Rev. William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, as principal celebrant and homilist. The pastor, the Rev. Msgr. Joseph W. Pekar and his good people welcomed their shepherd for this beautiful liturgy. Among the concelebrants were the Rev. Andrew Marus, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Stratford, Connecticut, the Rev. Robert Maty and the Rev. Michael Backman, both sons of the parish, and the Rev. A. Leo Spodnik

The impressive liturgy was enhanced by the beautiful singing of the parish choir, which included the Latin *Salve Regina* Mass as well as English and Slovak hymns.

In his homily, His Excellency Bishop Lori recalled the great legacy of SS. Cyril and Methodius, ninth century evangelizers who were named co-patrons of Europe by Pope John Paul II, of blessed memory, who continue to inspire and enlighten the family of faith at the parish. He paid special tribute to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius for their 67-year educational ministry in the parish. SS. Cyril and Methodius School was opened in the fall of 1910. It was only the third mission established by the new congregation which was founded in 1909. The Bishop especially welcomed Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, S.S.C.M., General Superior of the congregation, and sisters, several of whom were daughters of the parish. The congregation's founder was the Rev. Matthew Jankola, first pastor of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish. The congregation will observe its centennial in 2009.

In his homily, Bishop Lori went on to praise the unique priestly ministry of Monsignor Pekar who has been pastor for the past 36 years. Preserving the parish during years of changing demographics and challenging times is to the credit of Msgr. Pekar. In addition to serving as the faith center of the area's Slovak community, SS. Cyril and Methodius is also the center of the Tridentine Rite community of the diocese. The liturgy is celebrated in the church every Sunday using the 1962 Missal of Blessed John XXIII. At one point, Bishop Lori asked Msgr. Pekar to stand and be recognized. He received a standing ovation from a grateful community of faith.

Following the impressive liturgy, more than 250 parishioners and guests gathered in the parish social center where a delicious dinner was enjoyed. The invocation was offered by the Rev. Michael Bachman, a son of the parish and currently pastor of St. Ladislaus Church in South Norwalk, Connecticut. A warm welcome was extended by John Mojcher, a trustee of the parish. After dinner, the response was made by Msgr. Pekar.

SS. Cyril and Methodius has been the center of local lodges of all our Slovak Catholic fraternalists. The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19 of the First Catholic Slovak Union was the founder of the parish in 1907.

SS. Cyril and Methodius Church had several famous pastors. Among them was Rev. Matthew Jankola, former FCSU supreme president and JEDNOTA editor. Other pastors who served included Rev. Gaspar Panik, who was pastor from 1916 until 1933 and later his cousin, Rev. Stephen J. Panik, pastor from 1933 until 1953.

Father Stephen Panik left an outstanding legacy of priestly ministry and community and fraternal activism. He was recognized as one of the most prominent American Slovak leaders of his generation. It was during Father Panik's pastorate that the church was completely renovated in the 1940's. He had visited Rome on several occasions and was able to visit the grave of St. Cyril in the Basilica of San Clemente there. The historic basilica is adorned with frescoes chronicling the life of SS. Cyril and Methodius, some of which date from the



His Excellency, the Most Rev. William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, is shown with concelebrants and altar servers on the steps of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Bridgeport prior to the centennial Mass of Thanksgiving on September 30. Flanking Bishop Lori are the Rev. Michael Bachman, the pastor; the Rev. Msgr. Joseph W. Pekar and the Rev. A. Leo Spodnik.

9th century. Father Panik had copies of these magnificent frescoes adorn the interior of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Thus SS. Cyril and Methodius is the only church in the United States with copies of these historic frescoes.

A great organizer, Father Panik helped to found the Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport and encouraged participation in Slovak fraternal life. He welcomed delegations of the Matica Slovenska from Slovakia and encouraged higher education among the Slovaks in Bridgeport. His interest in the local community saw the construction of the first federally financed public housing project on Bridgeport's East Side. This housing project was later named "Father Panik Village" in his honor. He was the first Catholic priest to serve as chairman of the Bridgeport Housing Authority. Although only 60 at the time of his death in 1953, Father Panik had been one of the great spiritual and cultural leaders of his generation within the American Slovak community.

Following Father Panik's death, the fourth pastor of the parish was welcomed in the person of Father John F. Murcko who arrived in March 1954. A new Austin Pipe Organ was blessed and dedicated on November 25, 1962. Father Murcko's efforts were recognized in 1965, when he was named a Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor by Pope Paul VI. Msgr. Murcko took an active interest in the work of the newly established Slovak Institute in Rome. He hosted Msgr. Jozef Tomko on several occasions, who visited the United States to gain support for this Institute. The Slovak Institute became a spiritual beacon for the Slovak nation especially during the communist period when the Church was persecuted in the then Czechoslovakia. Msgr. Tomko later became the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and to this day recalls his close association with SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish.

Following Msgr. Murcko's retirement, the Bishop of Bridgeport named Father Joseph Pekar as the fifth pastor of the parish. His 36-year legacy included some trying times when the very existence of the parish was in question. To his credit, the parish not only survived but continues to flourish. Father Pekar also took a keen interest in the work of the Slovak Institute in Rome. During his pastorate, more than \$100,000 has been raised in the annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The Institute, built by American Slovaks in 1963, is now known as the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome and serves as a graduate residence for Slovak priests studying at the various Pontifical universities in the Eternal City.

Due to declining enrollment, SS. Cyril and Methodius School closed in 1977. The school first welcomed 205 students in the fall of 1910 with the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius as teachers. Their founder, Father Jankola, was pastor of the parish at the time. During the Easter Sunday Mass in 1916, Father Jankola suffered a stroke in the pulpit. He died eleven days later at the age of 43. In addition to the grammar school, a two-year commercial high school was introduced during Father Stephen Panik's pastorate in 1938. During the 1930's and 1940's on average, more than 700 students attended both the grammar and junior high schools. The school building was finally razed in 1996. A much needed parking lot replaced it. Father Pekar had the church undercroft or basement restored to serve as the parish social center.

Father Pekar's efforts were recognized when Bishop Edward M. Egan invested him as a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor in 1995. Ordained in 1957, this year marks the Golden Jubilee of Monsignor Pekar's ordination to the priesthood. While one of the oldest active pastors in the Bridgeport Diocese, Monsignor Pekar nevertheless continues an enthusiastic and energetic ministry which is an example for all.

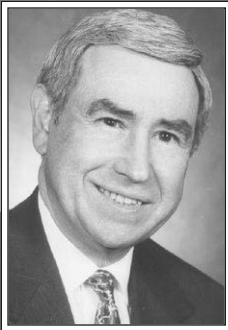
We salute Monsignor Pekar for his fine ministry among us. There is hardly a Slovak project which does not have the wholehearted support of this fine priest. We congratulate him and his good people on the occasion of the centennial of SS. Cyril and Methodius. We pray that the parish's second century be as fruitful as its first... Ad multos annos and Zdar Boh!

Daniel Tanzone



Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius present at the centennial celebration of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Bridgeport are shown and include L-R: Sister Donna Marie Evanko, Sister Bernice Marie Balint, a daughter of the parish; Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, General Superior of the congregation; Sister Madonna Figura, and Sister Carol Marie Walsh and Sister Gloria Marie Kascak, both daughters of the parish.

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



Eight Retirement Savings Mistakes to Avoid

Effective retirement planning is often the result of making good decisions, but avoiding common mistakes can be equally important. Just one or two things done incorrectly can set you back. Here are several retirement savings mistakes you must avoid.

Not Starting Early Enough

Too many people wait too long to start saving for retirement. Investing even a small amount early can make a big difference thanks to the power of compounding.

Poor Asset Allocation

Asset allocation is the way in which you divide your money across different investment classes including stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents. You don't want to be too aggressive, but being too cautious can be just as foolhardy. By investing too conservatively, you deprive yourself of the growth you need to build your nest egg and stay ahead of inflation. The goal is to strike the right balance in allocating your retirement dollars on an ongoing basis and to adjust your allocation appropriately as you get closer to retirement.

Underestimating Your Life Expectancy

It is difficult to predict life expectancy, but when determining how much money will be needed for retirement, many people tend to underestimate how long they might live. To be on the safe side, CPAs generally recommend that you calculate your financial needs based on the assumption that either you or your spouse will live into your nineties.

Misjudging Your Ability to Continue Working

Working during retirement is a fulfilling way to stay active and generate extra retirement income. That presumes, of course, that both you and the job market for seniors remain healthy. While many baby boomers plan to work well past their normal retirement age, risks such as illness, disability, or job loss may prevent this. For this reason, plan as if your working years won't continue indefinitely.

Not Rolling Over Retirement Savings After a Job Change

According to a recent study, close to 45 percent of people who change jobs withdraw money from their retirement plans and spend it. This is never a good idea. When you change jobs, you should request that your employer make a direct rollover of your account to another qualified employer plan or an IRA. By doing so, you will avoid paying income tax or penalty. If you choose to have the distribution made to you, a 20 percent tax will be withheld. Should you change your mind, you still can make a tax-free rollover within 60 days, but to roll over 100 percent of the distribution, you will have to use other funds to replace the 20 percent withheld. If not, the 20 percent balance will be taxable. If you receive a lump sum and do not make a rollover, the taxable portion of the distribution will be subject to income tax. If you're below age 59 ½, you generally will also be subject to a 10 percent penalty.

Borrowing Against Your Retirement Fund

When you borrow money from a 401 (k) plan, the money is no longer working for you. In addition, you are required to pay back the amount you borrowed, generally within five years or the loan will be considered a premature distribution, subject to penalties.

Focusing on Your Nest Egg Too Much

Check your retirement investments from time to time to make sure your asset allocation remains appropriate for your retirement goals. Don't, however, get carried away worrying about month-to-month fluctuations within your portfolio. For the most part, these movements are a natural part of economic cycles. Tending your nest egg is important, but so is determining how you're going to spend your time in retirement.



Annual Christmas Concert and Dinner in Yonkers on December 9

Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, New York will host its 23rd annual Christmas Concert and Dinner on Sunday, December 9, 2007. The concert under the direction of parish music minister and our Maestro Stephen J. Knoblock will feature the choir of Most Holy Trinity along with the choir of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on Elmsford, New York and orchestra at 3:00 p.m. in the church located in Trinity Plaza off Walnut Street.

Following the concert, a festive dinner will be enjoyed at the Polish Community Center located at 92 Waverly Street. The dinner will include the tradition of the sharing of the Oplatky along with Slovak culinary specialties. Tickets for the concert and dinner are \$35.00 per person and tables of 10 may be reserved. Admission to the concert alone is \$5.00. Reservations are necessary. For reservations call the rectory at 914/963-0720. Deadline for dinner reservations is December 2. Father Anthony J. Pleho, the pastor of the parish, extends a cordial invitation to area Jednota members to join the parish at the annual holiday event.

From the Office of the Vice President Seminars

Would you like to see your branch increase membership? If so... it is imperative that every branch have recommenders to sell our insurance and annuity products.

In order to qualify for your branch's \$4.00 per member stipend for 2007, you must meet certain requirements- one of them being- produce at least one (1) new contract in the previous year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.

It's not hard to do. Our insurance and annuity portfolio is great and our commissions are just as good. All we need are member to sign up their family, friends, neighbors, church and club members. You also have a perfect source for insurance... your current client file, which is your branch membership roster.

Right now the vast majority of branch members have an orphan policy. By that we mean, after the member bought an insurance policy, they never heard from the branch recommender again.

Your branch roster is a valuable source. You have to service your members. Your member's personal circumstances are changing all the time. So, too, is his or her's insurance needs.

If you are unsure about insurance premiums or our annuity plans and you would like me to give an informal seminar at one of your annual or semiannual branch or district meetings---call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682, and give Karen your name, branch number, phone number and the best time of the day to return your call. After that, we can decide on a date and place to hold the training session.

Our society has high quality, competitive and affordable insurance products as well as attractive rates on our IRA/Annuities, but very few members know how to sell them. This is the reason the Membership and Marketing Committee is having seminars. We have to educate ourselves by attending them. The knowledge we gain will become a practical sales tool. The more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we'll become as proposers.

Hope to see you at the next seminar.



Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

Until then...

*Good Luck and God Bless,
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President
Chairman, Membership and
Marketing Committee*

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)

Happy Anniversary . . .

Don and Mary Ann Oldham Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

Don and Mary Ann (Engle) Oldham of Longview, Washington, celebrated their 50 wedding anniversary recently with a Mass and reception with family and friends in Longview.

Mary Ann is the daughter of Stephen and Helen Engle of Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Stephen Engle was a former National Regional Vice President as well as a District and branch officer. Helen Engle was also active in the FCSU and served as an officer. Mary Ann Oldham is a member of Branch 112 in Mahanoy City and has been a delegate to several conventions.

The Oldham family is 100 percent Jednota.



Don and Mary Ann Oldham



Strongsville, Ohio Couple to Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary



George and Anne Dobrovic

George and Anne Dobrovic will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Strongsville, Ohio.

George Dobrovic and the former Anne Havrilla were married November 22, 1947 at St. Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Lakewood, Ohio.

The anniversary couple have three children, Christine (James) Prosek, Cynthia (David) Moskal, and Thomas. They also have four grandchildren, Lt. James Prosek, Lt. Jeffrey Prosek, Kelly Ann Smith; and a brother, Steven Moskal.

Mrs. Anne Dobrovic is a member of Branch 325 in Lakewood, Ohio.

We wish the Dobrovics God's blessing in the future.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY: FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007

Effective April 1, 2007, the annual yield on existing First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity 4.75% (4.641% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRAs, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA.

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007.

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary

FCSU Life Single Premium Insurance Fall Special

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren now through December 31, 2007 and receive a ***FREE GIFT** to present with the certificate.

Pay one premium and have fully paid-up insurance. Issued in any amount (\$5,000 or more) subject to current FCSU Life non-medical limits.

Excellent gift for children or grandchildren.



Example – Newborn Male		Example – Newborn Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$290	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$250
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$580	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$500

Example – Age 5 Male		Example – Age 5 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$290
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$680	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$580

Example – Age 10 Male		Example – Age 10 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$400	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$800	\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$680

Example – Age 15 Male		Example – Age 15 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$480	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$405
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$960	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$810

Contact your branch office or to learn more call the FCSU today at 1-800-533-6682

*Children 8 and under receive a stuffed Jednota Bear. Children 9-18 receive a gift card!

the Book Corner

New Revised Book: TALES FROM SLOVAK CASTLES

The newly revised book, TALES FROM SLOVAK CASTLES, has just been released. The fifteen stories that surround fifteen castles in Slovakia have been rewritten and a map has been added indicating the location of the castles.

These tales are based on Dr. Ludovit Janota's work SLOVENSKE HRADY and have been translated by Sylvia M. Lorinc and Lucille P. King. Dr. Janota gathered oral stories from villagers living near the castles. He collected well over 100 stories about 80 castles. SLOVENSKE HRADY, a four volume set, was published in 1935 and is currently out of print.

Sylvia knew Dr. Janota when she was a little girl in Bratislava, Slovakia. He entertained the family by telling these stories. So rapturously did she listen to the stories that Dr. Janota, who had no heirs, willed her his books.

Sylvia's dream was to interpret these stories into English so that others could enjoy them as much as she did as a child and still does. Her student, Lucille, and she took great pleasure in this project and at the end of the stories explained the historic significance of the people in the tales.

Sylvia has co-written several books: SLOVAK PHRASE BOOK, BEST OF SLOVAK COOKING and BEGINNING SLOVAK, A COURSE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL OR CLASSROOM LEARNER.

Lucille, who owns a store called La Boheme, imports Bohemian glass, crystal and jewelry. She was a student of Sylvia's and had studied Slovak at the University of Pittsburgh and Comenius University in Bratislava.

The price of the newly revised edition with map is \$11.95. The book is currently sold at La Boheme in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Call 412-561-3717 or 877-892-8900 for further information.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY **HOLIDAY HOURS**

Home Office will be closed on the following days during the Thanksgiving holiday:

Thanksgiving Day ~ Thursday, November 22

Day after Thanksgiving ~ Friday, November 23

Home office will re-open on Monday, November 26



Slovak Christmas Tree on Display in Chicago

The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District is once again sponsoring the display of a Slovak Christmas Tree, decorated with imported ornaments, a hand-sewn skirt, and an imported Slovak Cornhusk Creche, as part of the annual "Christmas Around the World" exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The exhibit features Christmas trees from 48 nations. This year's exhibit theme is "Celebrating the Spirit of Travel."

This past summer, Christmas Tree Committee members hand-sewed a new 9' x 9' tree skirt to replace the old skirt, which had frayed over time. Also new this year will be 8 ornaments made by the District's teenagers, who submitted entries for the District's first Christmas ornament contest.

The Spitzkovsky District Slovak Christmas Tree Committee, chaired by Ed Uram, met at the Museum on Saturday, November 10, to decorate the Tree.

The Slovak Christmas Tree will be on display from November 16, 2007 through January 6, 2008. The museum, located at 57th Street and South Lake Shore Drive, is open every day. For museum hours, call 773/684-1414 or visit www.msichicago.org. Help instill pride in our Slovak heritage by bringing your family and friends to see the beautiful Slovak Tree during the holiday season.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Slovak Tree Committee, Publicity**



The Slovak Tree at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.



The train cars have names of different town in Slovakia.



The Slovak Cornhusk Creche.

"PARK 2 ANNUITY" – NOW PAYING 4.75%

Under the "Park 2 Annuity", you make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- 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.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.

Realm of SLOVAK GENEALOGY

"Class is Now in Session"

By Ray Plutko

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of feature articles addressing the realm of genealogy. It is one specifically designed for Slovak descendants and is so structured to serve as an introductory course for the novice, meet the needs of the advanced researcher— or, if nothing else, the curious.)

Alright class, eyes forward with paper and pencil in hand as it's time again to probe some insights, clues, and possibilities in painting the canvas to your family ancestral portrait.

POSSIBILITY: When integrating all of your research data into a narrative format, make certain to add an early chapter that depicts the town/city where your originating ancestor first settled in the United States/Canada. This effort will bring an added level of "life and feel" to your family chronicle and insights to what your ancestor envisioned and experienced upon his/her arrival from Slovakia. In fact in most instances this historical picture is already written and available at the city library. In my case, I visited the library in McKeesport, Pennsylvania and discovered at least four early histories of the city— which collectively evoked a vivid mental and written view of the area from 1897 to 1908 when my grandfather had yet to marry. Today this chapter remains one of the most popular to our family history.

CLUE: While on the topic of painting a visual/written picture of earlier times, pay a visit to one of any antique stores in a town being researched and ask the proprietor of he/she has any "Penny Postcards" of the area. These timeless visuals were first issued in the United States in 1873 and are an excellent genealogical source of the times. Make certain you ask the owner as most often these priceless and overlooked gems are tucked away in a drawer behind the counter.

INSIGHT: When glancing through albums/boxes of old photographs, develop a knack for closely studying the "background" of each outdoor photo. With the aid of a magnifying glass, look for any house numbers or corner street signs which may provide you with an elusive address/street location that you have been searching for the past 15 years!

POSSIBILITY: Is it just possible the information you have gathered on a specific relative is wrong? One of the most important considerations in your research is adhering to the basic rules of genealogical evidence. This includes ascertaining whether a piece of evidence (date, location, etc.) has been gleaned from an official document or source. You then have to evaluate the quality of the source material, its origin, authority, content, and bias. In many cases a piece of evidence is the result of an event: a birth, marriage, death, sale of property, graduation, probate, or some other focal point. I stress this in that we have all at one time or another, recorded information (in particular, dates) by way of what Aunt Anne or Uncle George told us! Is it indeed possible that the information you have recorded on one of your relatives is wrong?

CLUE: If you are fortunate enough to visit Slovakia and the village of your ancestral line, make certain to literally scour each and every grave marker in the village cemetery. Although it may have been 100 years or more since your ancestors emigrated, one marker may disclose the same surname of an individual who died as recently as 2002. Attention to this clue can lead to living descendants who have remained in the village for multiple centuries. These are the same individuals to have old photographs and family heirlooms, and to have family traditions more intact than those who emigrated through the years.

INSIGHT: Although there is a often-heard belief that a church is located in each and every village in Slovakia, take heed. Yes in general terms, there is a church in virtually each village – even those with a mere 800 inhabitants – but it may not be of the specific religious affiliation you are researching. The five major religious affiliations in Slovakia during the years 1825-1925 and the most referenced in research during this century time span are:

Evanjelicky a.v.	Evangelic Augsburg Confession (Lutheran)
Greckokatolicky	Greek Catholic
Pravoslavny	Orthodox
Reformovany krestansky	Reformed Christian
Rimskokatolicky	Roman Catholic

When researching church records, keep in mind that a "triangle pattern" of villages often supported a collective of church structures and their roster of parishioners. One village may feature a Roman Catholic Church, another may house a Greek Catholic affiliation, and a third may have no church for its population. This is a critical point when examining a baptism certificate from Slovakia (one that also doubles as a birth record) as the village location of the church may not be the actual village of residence.

Well done class, now it's time for recess.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There is now available a completely revised and updated Slovak Genealogy Research Kit (from 18 to 52 pages, plus forms), one designed exclusively for those tracing their Slovak roots. The kit may be ordered for \$13, plus \$1.75 postage. Also available is a detailed historical summary and comprehensive area map for any village that you specify in Slovakia at \$5 plus \$1 postage— make check payable to Ray Plutko, Slovak Genealogy Research Center, 6862 Palmer Court, Chino, CA 91710-7343).



Ray Plutko

The Seventeen Year at the University of Pittsburgh Slovak Heritage Festival

continued from page 1

While all enjoy the entertaining music and exhibits, all look forward to the great Slovak lunch -- delicious halušky, pirohy, klobasa, holupky, and a variety of desserts, including ceregy. The energetic efforts of Sue Ondrejco and her husband Rudy did not go unnoticed, as we could all see them hauling pirohy and other foods and taste the hard work of the ladies who worked so diligently cooking them.

The general program started with Michal Kasony-O'Malley telling the story of Popoluška (Cinderella), with a mix of Slovak and English refrains that involved the crowd shouting "Hej, Hej, Popoluška!" Later, the performer also offered a lecture on his work of storytelling.

The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Ensemble (PAS) commenced the Musical Program started with a duet performance of Slovak som a Slovak budem (I am a Slovak and will be a Slovak) by this author's daughter, Milenka Kopanic, the newest PAS member, and Joe Pacaha. PAS then performed a variety of lively dances, including a valaška dance that thrilled the crowd. John and Angela Lipchick direct PAS. Jerry Jumba accompanied PAS with some lively accordion music.

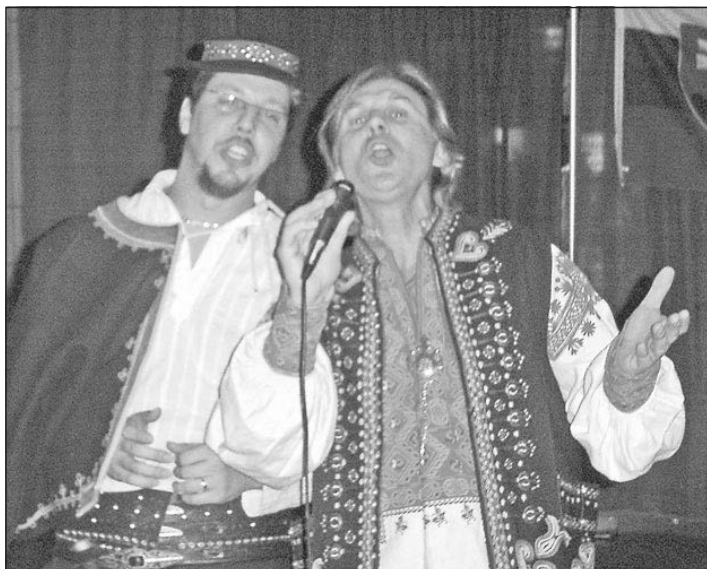
Musician Ben Sorensen followed, playing his flute and the instrument most unique to Slovakia -- the fujara, the traditional favorite of Slovakia's shepherds. The fujara and its music are such treasures, that UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, have awarded it a special status as "oral and intangible heritage of humanity."

After the fujara music, the noted Slovak singer, Jozef Ivaska, the "Man of a Thousand Songs," moved the audience with his striking tenor voice. Ivaska emigrated Slovakia during the communist era, for authorities had banned his music. He has performed around the world and sings in a variety of venues -- operetta, rock, pop, jazz, and of course, folk music. He also sings tenor with the Metropolitan Operetta Theater in Austria.

Following Ivaska's performance, the Revilak Family Singers took center stage. Formerly of Bardejov, Slovakia, the singing family now lives in Pittsburgh. Their youngest boy, who looked around 4 or 5 years old, sang fantastically in perfect Slovak. They have placed successfully in numerous folklore competitions and produced a number of popular CDs of folk songs and religious hymns.

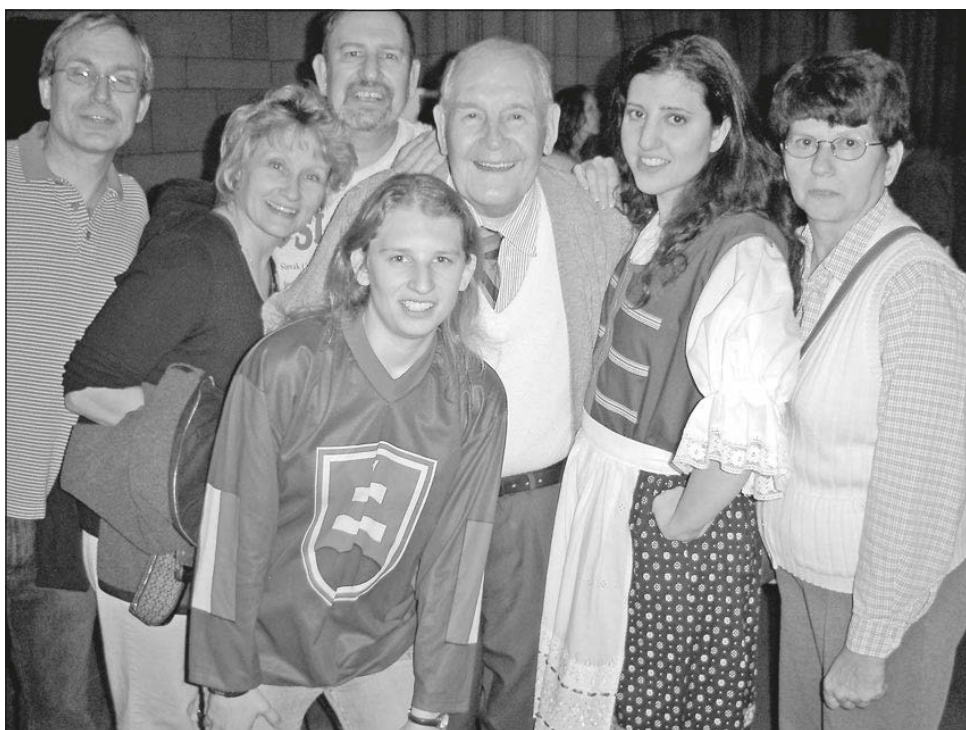
The musical entertainment concluded after 4 p.m. with some lively traditional Slovak folk dancing by the Pittsburgh Jr. Slovaks and the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Directed by Rudy and Sue Ondrejco (Slovak Radio Hours hosts on Sundays at 3:00 pm on WPIT-AM), the Pittsburgh Slovaks have kept alive the song and dance of Slovakia in the spirit of the group's founder, the famous Roman Nižnik.

While the music was playing, attendees had the option to attend some stimulating cultural lectures. In addition to the one on the fujara by Ben Sorensen, Lisa Alzo, a gene-



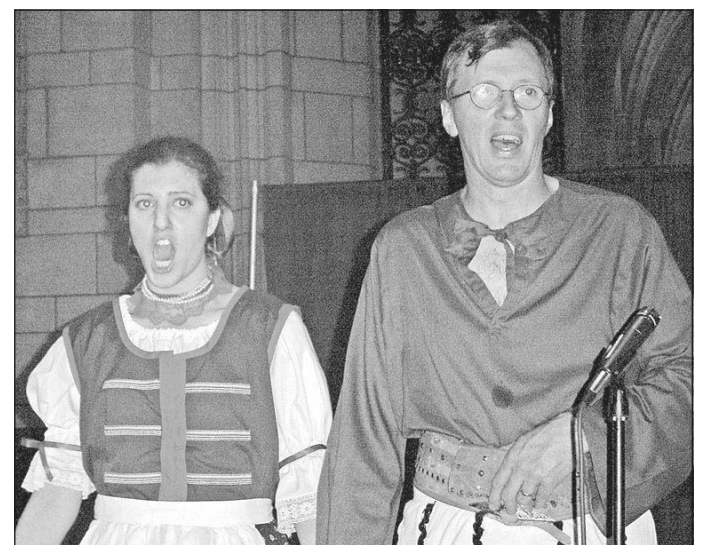
At left: Ben Sorensen and Jozef Ivaska performing.

Pictured at bottom: The Kopanic clan at the Pitt Festival.



The Singing Revilak Family.

alogist and author of the acclaimed *Three Slovak Women* (Gateway Press), gave a well-attended lecture on "Slovak Pittsburgh." Judy Sheary presented "Slovenská cesta -- Slovak Journey -- a student trip to Slovakia." Finally, Dr. Robert Metil, an ethnomusicologist who has done research in Slovakia, presented a lecture on "Music in Slovakia: the Carpatho-Rusyns."



Milenka Kopanic and Joe Pacaha.

The event is held in the Commons Room of the towering Cathedral of Learning, the highest university classroom building in the USA. A great deal of credit goes to the Festival Director, Christine Metil, who virtually single-handedly coordinates this huge undertaking. And the head of the Slovak Studies Department, Dr. Martin Votruba, does a marvelous job ensuring that all is in order for those giving some high quality lectures and presentations.

For seventeen years, the Slovak Studies Program at the university had done a tremendous public service in sponsoring the event, which has evolved into one of the premier annual Slovak festivals. Many busy people have contributed to the success of the event, but we all owe a special thanks to Chris Metil, the Slavic Studies secretary. As Professor Martin Votruba rightly credited her contribution in announcing that she virtually single-handedly always does much of the important tasks of scheduling, organizing and coordinating the festival.

All are surely grateful for her hard work and efforts, and look forward to many future Slovak Festivals thanks to the generosity of the University of Pittsburgh.

Finally, Dr. Votruba acknowledged the very generous support of the Slovak fraternal societies that helped make the Slovak Studies Program and this festival possible -- the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and the National Slovak Society.

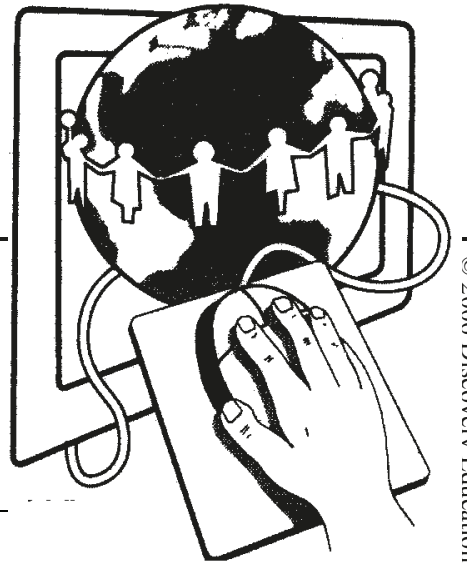


Helene Cincebeaux and mother, Helen Zemek Baine.



Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities

UR_space.jrs



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Culture Space



November 2007

November 30 - Feast of Saint Andrew

The first major feast of the Advent calendar is that of St. Andrew the Apostle. St. Andrew is the patron saint of married men and for this reason girls with matrimonial aspirations turn to him with prayers that he might grant them at least some slight indication as to who will be their future mate.



On the eve of this feast, young girls try to learn their future by cooking dumplings which contain the names of various young men of their acquaintance inside. The first to rise to the surface of the water indicates the name of their future mate.

Others pour molten lead through a keyhole into a basin filled with water and observe the form it takes as it cools. If it resembles a flower, the suitor will be a gardener; if it looks like an animal, he will be a butcher; a sword, a soldier; and so on.

Trivia Space



The Luck of the Wishbone

The tradition of pulling on a wishbone dates back to around 300 B.C. to the Etruscans, a people in central Italy. It began with hens, who were considered prophets since they cackled before laying their eggs and thus supposedly had the power to foretell the future.

Those concerned about the future would draw a circle on the ground and divide it into the letters of the alphabet. Grains of corn were placed into each section, and a hen would spell out words by picking up kernels in different letter sections.

Afterwards, the bird was sacrificed and its collar bone hung out to dry. Three people who wish on the bone: one would make a wish on the intact bone, and two others got a chance to make a wish by pulling on each end. The person who ended up with the larger end of the bone supposedly got his or her wish.

Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR_Space.jrs

234 Ilion St.

Pgh., PA 15207

sueo99@yahoo.com



Challenge Space

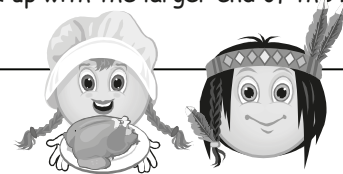
Thanksgiving Word Search



S M K E Y L E Z I A M C N N
 P U M P K I N G G K A O G Z
 M C M R G L G M C O L O N Y
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AMERICA
 COLONY
 COOK
 CORN
 ENGLAND
 FALL
 FAMILY
 FEAST
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 HARVEST
 INDIANS
 MAIZE
 MAYFLOWER
 PIE
 PILGRIMS
 PLYMOUTH
 PUMPKIN
 SAIL
 SETTLERS
 SICKNESS
 SQUASH
 STUFFING
 THANKSGIVING
 TURKEY
 YAMS

Events Space



Veterans Day is an American holiday honoring military veterans. Both a federal and a state holiday in all states, it is celebrated on the same day as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world, falling on November 11, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.)

Veterans Day is largely intended to thank *living* veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to United States national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.



Happy Thanksgiving

Wouldn't it be wonderful
 If every day we're living
 We stopped to count our blessings
 As we do on Thanksgiving?

If every day we took the time
 For gratefully expressing
 Our thankfulness for every joy
 And every little blessing...

Wouldn't it be wonderful
 If we would show all year
 The gratitude we're feeling
 When Thanksgiving time is here.



FCSU Reintroduces Senoir Promotion Program

The Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union will introduce a number of programs in the coming months for the benefit of our membership. Back by popular demand is our Senior Promotion Program. This program will be available from October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Initial Program (Current Members)

The Senior Promotion Program is directed to all current members between the ages of 55 and 80. Each member in this age group, subject to current reasonably good health, may purchase the amount of Whole Life insurance that a \$200.00 annual premium will purchase, based on their current age. See the attached Life Insurance Chart. To help offset the cost for the first year, a special fraternal dividend equal to 50% of the first year premium, amounting to \$100, will be provided to each participating member. This means that if each member takes advantage of the Society's offer, they will not only increase their family's life insurance protection, but will receive a generous fraternal dividend.

Application

As part of the effort to encourage as many members as possible to take advantage of this offer, the normal full length application (AJ-2) will not be required for the members participating in this program. Applicants will be required to complete the much shorter (SF-1) Application. Normal underwriting will be waived except for serious illnesses, injury, or medical conditions, which required medical treatment or hospitalization in the last five years. This is not a guaranteed issue program. The FCSU may require the applicant to take a physical exam and /or provide additional medical information.

New Members

The FCSU has adopted the theme of full family participation. As part of this promotion, persons aged 55 to 80 who are not currently a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union may elect to participate in this program and will receive a special first year allowance of \$50.00. New members will be enrolled using the normal (AJ-2) application and be subject to normal underwriting rules. This is each member's opportunity to encourage enrollment of brothers, sisters, relatives, children, friends and others who should be part of our Jednota family. Make certain to contact these individuals who should share in the benefits of fraternal membership and protection.

Please allow sufficient time for your branch proposer or secretary to contact you (up to thirty (30) days.) If contact is not made by November 2007, please contact your branch proposer, branch secretary or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

In the coming months, additional programs directed to various groups of members will be introduced. Watch for announcements in future issues of our JEDNOTA.

FCSU SENIOR PROMOTION AMOUNT INSURANCE - PER \$200 ANNUAL PREMIUM WHOLE LIFT INSURANCE 2007

SCHEDULE 1			SCHEDULE 2		
AGE	MALE NON SMOKING	FEMALE NON SMOKING	AGE	MALE SMOKER	FEMALE SMOKER
55	6,498	7,927	55	4,988	6,928
56	6,175	7,413	56	4,760	6,605
57	5,922	7,145	57	4,598	6,359
58	5,677	6,885	58	4,439	6,122
59	5,438	6,627	59	4,282	5,893
60	5,204	6,380	60	4,129	5,671
61	4,979	6,135	61	3,981	5,456
62	4,762	5,898	62	3,839	5,247
63	4,554	5,666	63	3,702	5,043
64	4,353	5,438	64	3,571	4,845
65	4,157	5,216	65	3,444	4,652
66	3,958	4,999	66	3,317	4,465
67	3,784	4,788	67	3,193	4,283
68	3,604	4,581	68	3,069	4,105
69	3,428	4,379	69	2,946	3,932
70	3,257	4,182	70	2,824	3,766
71	3,091	3,990	71	2,704	3,606
72	2,933	3,804	72	2,588	3,451
73	2,780	3,622	73	2,474	3,301
74	2,632	3,445	74	2,365	3,158
75	2,490	3,275	75	2,253	3,018
76	2,352	3,109	76	2,146	2,883
77	2,221	2,948	77	2,043	2,751
78	2,095	2,791	78	1,943	2,623
79	1,975	2,638	79	1,848	2,497
80	1,866	2,577	80	1,758	2,378

YOUTH ROUND-UP



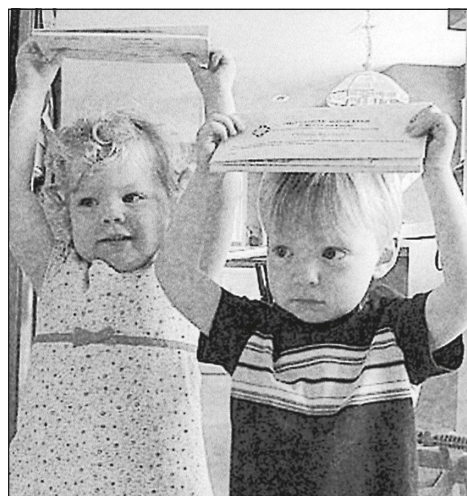
Melanie Zeleny at her graduation ceremony.

Melanie A. Zeleny, a member of Branch 2, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, graduated Cum Laude from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, with a Bachelor of Science Degree. A 2003 FCSU scholarship recipient, Melanie is the daughter of Mark and Mary Zeleny and granddaughter of Raymond E. Zeleny of Pittsburgh. Melanie is presently teaching 7th grade science in Forest, Virginia.



Siblings Trisha Mota, John Munoz, and Crystal Munoz visited Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom in Louisville before the start of the school year in September. They are all members of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, Illinois. Their godfather, Robert Tapak Magruder, serves as financial secretary of Branch 493.

L-R Trisha Mota, John Munoz, Robert Tapak Magruder, and Crystal Munoz.



Showing off their Jednota certificates are three-year old twins, Kayla and James McQuilken, newly acquired members of Branch 35 in Braddock, Pennsylvania. They are the children of John and Kathleen (Cromie) McQuilken of Charlottesville, Virginia. Kathleen, a graduate of William and Mary College, was a 1987 Jednota College Scholarship winner.

Joseph Yuros,
Financial Secretary, Br. 35



The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, Illinois, is very proud of its member Kelly Bobo. Kelly, a 2006 FCSU Scholarship Winner, is a sophomore at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellen, Illinois. Kelly plans on majoring in Social Work.



Father Thomas J. O'Hara, C.S.C., President of King's College, is given a copy of the book **SLOVAK FOLK CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS** from Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. PA Board Member Magdelin M. Benish. Standing are L-R Father Patrick Sullivan, C.S.C., Director of Ethnic Community Outreach at King's College; Philip R. Tuhy, Chairperson of the Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. PA; and William A. Zdancewicz, Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. PA Board Member.

Slovak Folklore Book Presented to Colleges

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania presented copies of its book, **SLOVAK FOLK CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS** to colleges and universities in Northeast Pennsylvania in the continued goal of the society to promote preservation of Slovak heritage.

Book presentations were made to Marywood University, University of Scranton, Luzerne County Community College, College Misericordia, Penn State Campuses in Lehman, Hazleton and Scranton, Wilkes University, and King's College.

The book, originally written in Slovak by Martin and Rudolf Bosak of Slovakia, was translated into English and edited by the Slovak Heritage Society with helpful assistance throughout from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

Philip R. Tuhy, Chairman of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, commented that the "contents of the book highlight many interesting folk customs and traditions of Slovak origin, all preserving our heritage. It truly is a great source to our college youth in understanding their family background."

SLOVAK FOLK CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS is available for sale. To order a copy send \$30.00 payable to the society to: Elaine Palischak, 1340 W. Mountain Rd., Plymouth, PA 18651. For more information call 570/779-1694 or visit the society's web site at www.shsnepa.org.

Pittsburgh Prince of Peace Parish Hosts Annual Vilija December 15

Prince of Peace Parish will host its annual Vilija or Christmas Eve Dinner on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at the Parish Center, 81 South 13th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

A traditional meatless meal will be served featuring baked fish, vegetable, pirohy, bobalky and mushroom soup. Nut and poppy seed rolls will be available for sale. The Pittsburgh Slovaks will provide the entertainment including a performance of the "Jaslickari".

Tickets are \$16.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children under age 16. There are advance ticket sales only. For tickets call 412/431-0168.

From the desk of the ...

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ***Exciting news!!***

Now you are able to receive life insurance quotes on all our products from our website!! Our website address is www.fcsu.com. To assist you with quotes, click on quotes and then follow the directions, fill in the blanks and you will immediately know the information you are seeking. All Branch Officers, Recommenders and Proposers should take advantage of this useful tool available to everyone now.

If you have any questions, please contact our Home Office at 800-533-6682.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Helen Bertoty **Branch 276** **McKeesport, Pennsylvania**

Helen C. Bertoty, 86, of Liberty Borough, Pennsylvania, died Friday, October 26, 2007, at her residence.

Born April 4, 1921, in Glassport, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Maryann (Boruch) Zyra and wife of the late Victor E. Bertoty.

Mrs. Bertoty was a member of St. Mark Parish, Ladies of Charity, Christian Mothers, Rosary Society and First Catholic Slovak Union. She volunteered at John J. Kane Regional Center and belonged to Liberty Senior Citizens. A past employee of Westinghouse Electric in East Pittsburgh and past volunteer of Liberty Borough EMS, Mrs. Bertoty was a past member of St. Martin de Porres Parish and the Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary.

She is survived by children, Victor (Noreen) of Oakdale, Fran Scott of Liberty Borough, Marge (Rich) Lopretto of Elizabethtown, Rich (Cheryl) of Penn Township, Bernadette (Douglas) Young of Franklin Park and James of Liberty Borough; 18 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister, Theresa (Frank) Kurta of Port Vue; and nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Timothy.

Friends were received at the Willig Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mark Parish in Liberty borough with Rev. Gerald Mikonis as celebrant.

Memorial contributions may be made to John J. Kane Regional Center, 100 Ninth Ave., McKeesport, PA 15132.

Nancy Gerdich

Francis A. Fajt **Branch 199** **Hostetter, Pennsylvania**

Francis A. Fajt, 66, of Unity Township, died Saturday, October 27, 2007.

He was born April 5, 1941, in Latrobe, a son of the late Francis A. and Anna M. (Swancer) Fajt. He was the founder and currently vice president of The Palace Printing Inc., Greensburg, and was a member of St. Cecilia Catholic Church, Whitney.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, infant Joseph and David Fajt. He is survived by his wife, Ruth P. (Murray) Fajt; a son, Charley Fajt; two daughters, Shelley Facemyer and husband, Douglas, and Vicki Blake and husband, David, all of Unity Township; four grandchildren, Joshua and Ashley Fajt, Kristen Facemyer and Nicholas Blake; two brothers, Ronad R. Fajt and Eugene J. Fajt and wife, Kathy, all of Unity Township; four sisters, Ann Janik of Camp Hill, Camilla Conrad and husband, Wayne, of Mt. Joy, Marian Alesi and husband, Nick, and Martina R. Castle and husband, Ted, all of Greensburg; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was a loving husband, father and grandfather, and an extremely hard worker.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Cecilia Church with the Rev. Peter Augustine Pierjok, O.S.B. as celebrant. Interment was in St. Vincent Cemetery, Unity Township.

Sophie Pipak

Bonita Rose Sabol **Branch 293** **Lansford, Pennsylvania**

Bonita Rose Sabol, 61, of Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, October 13, 2007, in Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

She was born in Coaldale, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Rose (Vanko) Sabol and the late Frank Sabol of Coaldale.

Bonnie was a 1964 graduate of Coaldale High School. She was a parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Mechanicsburg, and a member of the Legion of Mary. She was also a member of Jednota Branch 293.

She is survived by her mother: two brothers, Gerald and his wife Ann of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, and Charles of Shiremanstown, Pennsylvania; nieces Angela, Jennifer and Melissa; and nephews, Michael and Charles.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Zizelmann Funeral Home., Tamaqua. Friends were received at the August M. Gulla Funeral Home, Coaldale. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at SS. SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, Coaldale, with the Rev. John Pavlosky officiating. Interment was in the parish cemetery in Nesquehoning.

Robert Lakata

Marie Slovenkai **Branch 382** **Scranton, Pennsylvania**

Maria Kalinich Slovenkai of Scranton, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, September 25, 2007, in VNA Hospice of Community Medical Center, Scranton, after an illness, surrounded by her loving children.

Marie was the widow of Frank M. Slovenkai, Sr., who died December 18, 1998. Frank had served for many years as president of the SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382 in Scranton. He also served as an auditor of District 17 as well as a delegate to several conventions. Marie often accompanied her husband to District 17 activities and events.

Mrs. Slovenkai is survived by four children, Elizabeth, Frank, Jr., Michael, and John. All are very active in the First Catholic Slovak Union. Elizabeth is vice president of Branch 382 and fraternal activities director of District 17. She served as one of the Convention Secretaries at the 2002 and 2006 Quadrennial Conventions. Frank Jr. is president of Branch 382. Michael is treasurer of Branch 382 and serves as president of District 17. He has also been a delegate to several FCSU conventions. John is financial secretary of Branch 382.

A Mass of Christina Burial was celebrated on Saturday, September 29, at 10:00 a.m. in Holy Family Church, Scranton, with her pastor, Msgr. Constantine V. Siconolfi as celebrant. Interment was in Holy Family Cemetery, Throop, Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth Slovenkai

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY!

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 2 — PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 1, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at the Slovak Civic Federation, 1200 Hodgkiss Street, Northside, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for the coming year will take place. Refreshments will be served, so please call Recording Secretary Regina Ondrejco to say you will be attending.

Hope to see many of you on Saturday, December 1, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at the Slovak Club on the Northside.

Regina Ondrejco, Secretary

Branch 2 — PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 2, will hold a Family Holiday Get Together on Sunday, January 6, 2008. All members are encouraged to make plans to attend. It will be free to members and will include refreshments and entertainment. More details will be sent to your homes or you may contact Recording Secretary Regina Ondrejco at 412/421-1204 for more information.

Hope to see many of you on Sunday, January 6, 2008.

Regina Ondrejco, Secretary

Branch 3P — HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 6P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 30, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church cafeteria, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2008 will be conducted followed by a short update on local branch activities. New ideas for branch activities will be entertained and any changes of address or beneficiaries can be submitted at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and get involved.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

Branch 6 — STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The officers of Branch 6 wish to announce that there will be an Essay Contest for all members of Branch 6 in age groups 7 to 10, 11 to 15, and 16 to 21. The title of the essay is: "What Thanksgiving Means to Me." A maximum of 250 words and a minimum of 50 words will be accepted. A \$25 savings bond will be awarded in each age category. Submit your entries by November 30, 2007 to Catherine Michlik, 1331 North 1709 Road, Streator, IL 61364. Please include your name, address, phone number and policy number. For further assistance call Catherine Michlik at 815/672-3836.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Chipper's Grill. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. Members must be present at this meeting to be elected.

Paul Chismar, Recording 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 25, 2007, 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 the Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now named the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall. The election of officers will also take place at this meeting.

We hope our members will take advantage of these meetings and join us.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

Branch 41 — YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 1, 2007 after the 5:00 p.m. Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church at the home of President Brother Paul Fialkovic, 40 Dalton Road, Yonkers, New York. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. We urge all members to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

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 9, 2007, 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, a report on last year's activities, and a discussion of events for the coming year. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Joseph Jurasi, President

Branch 55 — PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church Hall of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The election of officers and other business relating to the lodge will be conducted. Refreshments will be served. Call 610/356-7956 or 215/637-6530 for directions.

Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary

Branch 60 — MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, 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 61 — BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The St. Stephen the King Society, Branch 61, will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of the president, Victor Sebo, 6802 Roberts Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Matters of importance to our Branch and the election of officers will be on the agenda. All members are urged to attend.

Victor Sebo, President

Branch 75 — SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, 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 year reports and financial statements will be presented. The Auditors' report will be submitted and the nomination 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 2, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Michael P. Glinsky, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

Barbara Sochovka, Financial Secretary

Branch 153 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The following members of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, recently received their 50-Year Pins: Robert Bernath, Joseph Bonk, Emil Dadas, Susann Flavin, John Ivancik, John Jurcenko, Joseph Kapus, Paul Kapus, Thomas Kerch, Frances Koepele, Stephen Kolodziej, Barbara Mc Donnell, Robert Pekelnicky, James Polacek, Patricia Sikora, Ambrose Smith, Rachel, Waddell, Judy Watson, George Valek, and Ralph Zacek.

Congratulations to all 50-Year Pin recipients.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

Branch 162 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of 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 166 — BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, SYRACUSE, AND POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:15 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Town Square Mall, Vestal Parkway. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2008, and a discussion of all other topics relating to the Branch. Members are encouraged to attend. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896 by December 4, 2007 if you plan to attend. Thank you and hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, Vice President

Branch 169P — JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael's Society, Branch 169P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, November 26, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Joseph Slivosky, 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Happy Holidays

Betty Slivosky, Secretary

Branch 259 — STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will have a Mass offered for all members, both living and deceased, on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. The Annual Meeting will be held after the liturgy at the Bedford Trails Golf Course in Coitsville, Ohio. All members are urged to attend.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

Branch 260 — CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall at St. Elizabeth Church. The election of officers will take place along with a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

Branch 266 — HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 226, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 30, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2008 will take place. There will also be a discussion of branch activities for next year. Please spread the word so more of our members will attend and become more 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 25, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Martin de Porres School Hall, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, and the election of officers for the New Year. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

Branch 278 — MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Peter Society, Branch 278, will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, November 19, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Seven Sorrows Church, Middletown, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

Andrew Trojcek, President

Branch 293 — LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbott Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania.

Anyone needing more insurance or service should contact Mr. Robert Lakata, 527 East Bertsch Street, Lansford, PA 18232-2210, or leave a message at 570/645-4872 and your call will be returned.

Robert Lakata, Financial Secretary

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 9, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS continued from page 12

Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will be held and other pertinent business will be discussed. Since a Christmas 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 393 — HANNASTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of John and Mary Ann Nalevanko, 459 Front Street, Hannastown Road. All members are invited to attend.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

Branch 401 — VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 401, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at the King's Family Restaurant. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Annual activities and insurance topics will also be discussed. All members are invited to attend and especially those interested in becoming officers. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Any members celebrating wedding anniversaries of fifty years or more are requested to send names and information to Rose Froncek, 143 Iron Bridge Rd., Ford City, PA 16226. Any items of family interest that you would like to share with other members can also be sent to Rose Froncek for publication in the Jednota newspaper.

Rose Froncek, Secretary

Branch 410 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at the Highland House. On the agenda will be the election of officers. All members are asked to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary/
Financial Secretary**

Branch 425 — BARBERTON, OHIO

The St. Mark Society, Branch 425, will hold its Annual Lodge Meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Society of Barberton Club, 887 West Tuscarawas Avenue, Barberton, Ohio. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Paul J. Slota, Financial Secretary

Branch 484 — GRACETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 484, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Francis Church Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers, an update on the Senior Promotion Program, and a discussion of a scholarship. Input from members is encouraged. All members are welcome to attend.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

Branch 493 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 8, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7844 South

Cicero Avenue, Burbank, Illinois. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. If you plan to attend, please notify Robert Tapak Magruder at 502/244-6643 or 773/505-0117. Members of other lodges who attend will pay with separate checks.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 553 — AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will hold its Annual Vilija on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. The celebration will begin at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Children age 16 and younger will be admitted free. The branch will also be commemorating our 100th Anniversary in conjunction with the Vilija. We invite all Jednota members to come and help us celebrate both events. Call the Slovak J Club for tickets at 330/773-4978.

Branch 553 will hold the election of officers for 2008 on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Slovak J Club. Any member interested in running for an office must submit their intentions in writing to Vera Thomas care of the Slovak J Club by November 30.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary

Branch 636 — TOLEDO, OHIO

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 636, will hold a special meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Helen Springer, 1634 Bond Street, Toledo, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the merger of Branch 636 with Branch 743 in Sterling Heights/Detroit, Michigan. Currently, Branch 636 has only one officer and can no longer provide the assistance members require. Branch 743, founded in 1921, has over 600 members and holds semiannual meetings. All members of Branch 636 are urged to attend this meeting.

Helen Springer, Officer

Branch 670 — DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

Branch 682 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. at the Materials Research Building located behind Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2008 and a discussion of activities during the past years and plans for the coming year. The Christmas Party will be held after the lodge meeting. All members are invited to attend.

Joseph Scavina, Financial Secretary

Branch 686 — NORTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 686, chartered in North Chicago, Illinois, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, Novem-

ber 18, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of President Mark Davis, 505 Walworth Avenue, Genoa City, Wisconsin. The Election of Officers and the latest insurance and annuity programs will be on the agenda. Those attending are asked to call Financial Secretary Rudolph Glogovsky at 847/659-1580.

**Rudolph D. Glogovsky,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 716 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be financial and officers' reports, the election of officers, and a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

Branch 721 — BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

The Ss. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 721, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Cyril Catholic Church Meeting Room. All members are urged to attend.

Joseph Beno, Jr., Secretary

Branch 731 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. at Saint Matthias Rectory. Plans for activities in 2008 will be discussed at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

James Bobby, Secretary

Branch 738 — MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 738, will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. at the Munhall-Whitaker VFW Post Home, Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pennsylvania. The nomination and election of officers for 2008 will take place. Plans for lodge activities for 2008 will be discussed. Input from the membership is requested. All members are invited to attend this meeting.

Jeanette Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

Branch 743 — DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be officers' report, a 2007 financial report, approval of the 2008 budget, a discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of branch officers will also take place. In addition to the regular agenda a vote will be taken at this meeting to accept the merger into our Branch of members of Branch 636 in Toledo (Rossford), Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. Members are also urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Please note that due to the construction at the church the location of the annual meeting has been changed. We will meet after the Mass at 1:00 p.m. at the Knights of

Columbus Hall, 34781 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights. The hall is located just south of 15 Mile Road on Ryan Road. 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 Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087, or phone 586/254-0225.

The officers of Branch 743 wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

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

Branch 746 — LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. in the upstairs room in Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2008 and a discussion and planning of events for the coming year. Final preparations for the planned spring bus trip to the Sand Castle Winery will be finalized. Please bring your suggestions. A holiday get together will follow.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 780 — SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 780, wish to remind all members that the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary, 1367 Briarson, Saginaw, Michigan. At this meeting there will be a potluck dinner and celebration for the coming holidays. All members are encouraged to come and bring their families. For more information call Ben at 989/791-1775, Mary at 989/791-3505, or Cathy at 989/792-0186.

The officers of Branch 780 wish all the members a very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Catherine Karlsen, Secretary

Branch 844 — LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Christmas Mass and Lunch on Sunday, December 9, 2007, 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 Mass along with the presentation of gifts to the children. 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 elections for new officers and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you there. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

Branch 853 — ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, will celebrate the Christmas season with the Annual Holiday Spaghetti Lunch

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT — Monongahela Valley, Pennsylvania

The Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. Members of the various District branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT — Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. All branches are expected to send representatives. The election of District officers will be held at the meeting. The meeting agenda includes officers' reports, a discussion of the District program for 2008, and a discussion of other FCSU business. A light luncheon will follow the meeting.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District wish all the members a happy and blessed holidays season.

Margaret Nasta, Recording Secretary

REV. MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT — Bridgeport, Connecticut

The Rev. Matthew Jankola District will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. Members of the various branches in the District are invited to attend this annual meeting.

Jacqueline Zack, Secretary

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT — Los Angeles, California

The Prince Pribina District will celebrate the Christmas season with a Slovak Mass on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Following the liturgy, there will be a gourmet lunch with desert in the cafeteria and the tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to the children.

There will be a Choir Christmas Carol practice on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. in the Slovak American Center. Please contact your Branch officer for details.

The officers of the Prince Pribina District wish all the members of the FCSU a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

Paul Skuben, President

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT — Youngstown, Ohio

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., at St. Matthias Church Rectory. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of the District Christmas Party. The District is sponsoring the Jednota International Bowling Tournament on April 25-27, 2008 at the Wedgewood Lanes. Plans for this event must also be discussed.

Carlie Peshek, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 13

on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at Rego's Restaurant, Charleroi, Pennsylvania. There will be no charge for Branch members. Nonmembers attending will be charged \$14.00 per person. Payment will be made that day. For a seating count, make your reservations by December 8 by calling 412/341-1537. Leave your name and the number of people attending. Also leave the name and ages of any Branch children attending.

The officers and members of Branch 853 wish everyone a Blessed Christmas Season.

Monica Rodacy-Boone, President

Branch 856 — WASHINGTON, D.C.

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, Virginia. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting, a financial report, and the election of officers for 2008. All members are urged to attend.

For more information call Stephen Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

**Katherine M. Nowatkoski,
Financial Secretary**

Oplatky Available for Christmas

Oplatky are available once again through the services of the Jankola Library. They are generally sold in packages of six for \$3.00. Postage and handling are additional.

Other items related to Slovak faith and culture are available. To inquire, call 572/275-3581 or write to: Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M., Director, Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821.

Greg Grys Bowls Perfect 300 Game

Greg Grys, a member of the Toronto Slovak Bowling League, bowled a perfect 300 game on October 10, 2007. He had the high average in the Toronto Slovak Bowling League for approximately 10 years. Previously he had 11 strikes in a row in this league.

Greg started bowling when he was 8 years old in a junior bowling league. His parents Helen and Hank Grys are also avid bowlers in the Toronto league. Greg credits his success to all of the coaching and advice that he had received from his father.



Jerry Siman

Greg Grys shows off his 300 game certificate.

St. Andrew Abbey to Hold Vilija on December 2

The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club cordially invite you to their annual Vilija or Christmas Eve Supper on Sunday, December 2, 2007. Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 12:00 noon. The dinner will follow in Benedictine High School Dining Hall. Entertainment will be provided by the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble Dancers and the Slovenske Mamichky Singers. There will also be a Christmas bakery, religious article for sale and exhibitions.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will not be available at the door. Send your check or money order to: Saint Andrew Abbey-Vilija, 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cleveland, OH 44104. Ticket orders must be received by Friday, November 24, 2007. For more information call 216/721-5300 ext.0.

George Onda District to Have Stedry Vecer Dinner on December 2

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer (Christmas Eve Dinner) on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at the Bishop Connare Center (formerly the St. Joseph Center), Route 30, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The evening will begin with a Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel followed by a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner. After the dinner, door prizes will be awarded. The Pittsburgh Slovaks will provide entertainment with singing and a reenactment of the "Jaslickari" (Bethlehem Carolers). Please plan to attend and preserve this beautiful custom.

Tickets are \$16.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children age 16 and younger.

Reserve your tickets early (they are limited) by calling Micki Smolleck at 724/539-8326 or Barbara Mizikar at 724/423-2616 by November 26, 2007.

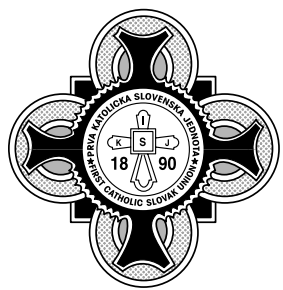
From the Office of the Vice President

The Membership and Marketing Committee of "FCSU Life" is offering agent contracts to anyone in the following states who has a "state department of insurance producer's license" (state license) and wishes to sell our insurance and annuity products.

Colorado	Massachusetts	New York
Connecticut	Michigan	Ohio
Florida	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Missouri	West Virginia
Indiana	New Jersey	Wisconsin

Please send your resume and copy of your state license to:

**Andrew R. Harcar Sr
National Vice President
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131**



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



O. Štefan Furedek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Volume 116

STREDA, 14. NOVEMBER 2007

Číslo 5766

V ď a k y v z d a n i e

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 pozhŕňavaš.

Ďakujeme Ti, za ten veľký, dobrý peceň chleba, za zdravie, šťastie, lásku, čo pochádza od Teba. Ďakujeme Ti, za tradične upečeného moriaka, nech ďakovná 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 vďaka 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 vyriechnúť chválu, vďaka aj za hamburger, pizza a náš americký "Apple pie".
Jozef Smák

Honorárny konzulát SR v Bostone otvára svoju činnosť

Boston (TASR) – Činnosť Honorárneho konzulátu SR v americkom Bostone 7. novembra 2007 oficiálne otvoril slovenský minister školstva Ján Mikolaj, ktorý bol v USA na týždňovej pracovnej návšteve. Ako honorárny konzul v metropole štátu Massachusetts pôsobí Slovák Peter Mužila. Na slávnosti sa zúčastnili aj krajské organizácie a slovenskí študenti z miestnej Harvardskej univerzity.

"S krajskými organizáciami sme hovorili o možnosti pomoci pri ich činnosti z našej strany," povedal Mikolaj. Minister školstva v rámci programu zároveň navštívil v meste Cambridge prestížny Massachusettský technologický inštitút (MIT), ktorý patrí v rebríčkoch medzi najlepšie univerzity na svete. "Majú mimoriadne rozvinutú vedecko-výskumnú činnosť s tým, že popri výbere študentov je ich prioritou prepojenie vedy s vlastnou výučbou," uviedol Mikolaj. Vedenie podľa ministra vyjadriло záujem o spoluprácu so slovenskými univerzitami. "Záujem je, čiže nie sú žiadne bariéry, je to len na vytváraní vzájomných projektov," konštatoval. Prorektor MIT Philip Khoury ministra informoval, že minulý rok sa na univerzitu hlásilo 11,346 záujemcov, pričom prijali iba 1,514. Pri výbere škola nehľadí na krajinu pôvodu či sociálnu vrstvu záujemcu, ten však musí byť vynikajúcim študentom. Rovnako to

platí aj u profesorov, ktorí musia byť uznávanými a skúsenými vedcami, čo dokrešuje fakt, že na MIT učí až sedem nositeľov Nobelovej ceny. Celkovo na škole študuje 10,000 študentov, medzi nimi aj deväť Slovákov. Ročný poplatok za štúdium je 35,000 dolárov, škola má však vypracovaný systém finančných podpôr talentovaným študentom zo sociálne slabších vrstiev.

Minister sa v rámci programu stretol tiež s riaditeľkou Harvardského úradu firemných a nadačných vzťahov Ellen Sullivanovou, s ktorou hovoril o tom, ako Harvardská univerzita získava finančné prostriedky na prioritnú vedu a výskum. Zdrojom financovania sú najmä nadácie a korporácie, alebo federálne granty.

Jána Mikolaja na návšteve USA sprevádzali aj predseda Slovenskej akadémie vied Štefan Luby, rektor Slovenskej technickej univerzity a prezident Slovenskej rektorskej konferencie Vladimír Baleš, rektor Univerzity Komenského František Gaheř a Ján Bujňák, rektor Žilinskej univerzity. Následne slovenská delegácia sa vo Washingtone stretla s prezidentom Amerického úradu pre vzdelávanie Davidom Wardom a veľvyslancom SR v USA Rastislavom Káčerom. Vo štvrtok 8. novembra podpísal medzivládnu dohodu o vedecko-technickej spolupráci.

Z múdrosti našich otcov Svätý Beňadik a Skalka

Viliam Judák: Z múdrosti našich otcov, Svätý Beňadik a Skalka. Vydal Biskupský úrad v Nitre, 2007

Popredný predstaviteľ slovenskej cirkevnej historiografie nitriansky diecézny biskup Mons. Viliam Judák po úspešnom vydaní publikácie Svätý Svorad - patrón mesta Nitry dáva do rúk čitateľa nové dielo: Z múdrosti našich otcov - Svätý Beňadik a Skalka. Sv. Beňadik bol učeníkom Andreja Svorada. Bol pravdepodobne Slovák a pochádzal z Ponitria. Podobne ako Svorad aj on vstúpil do benediktínskeho kláštora v Nitre na Zobore. Neskôr ho prideliili za pomocníka v starobe sv. Svoradovi. Po smrti svojho učiteľa žil Beňadik na Skalke ešte tri roky. V roku 1034 ho prepadli zbojníci a žiadali od neho peniaze. Keďže žiadne nemal, vyhnali ho z jaskyne, zabili a mŕtve telo zhodili do Váhu. Po roku vytiahli Beňadikovo telo z vody celkom neporušené a pochovali v Nitre popri Svoradovi. Pltníci plaviaci sa po Váhu okolo Skalky uctievali sv. Beňadika ako svojho patróna a ochrancu.

Okrem životopisov svätých pustovníkov Svorada, vyznávača, a Beňadika, mučeníka, ktorí sa venovali samote, mlčanu, práci a modlitbe, opisuje autor vo svojej knihe históriu Skalky. V

d'alších kapitolách uvádza pôsobenie jezuitov na Skalke, založenie farnosti Skalka pri Trenčíne a na základe historických prameňov predstavuje známych opátov Opátstva sv. Beňadika na Skalke.

Zaujímavé je dozvedieť sa tiež o priebehu náboženského života na Skalke počas storočí, ako aj o milostivých udalostiach, ktorými Pán vyznačil Skalku. Celá publikácia je bohatou ilustrovaná množstvom fotografií a reprodukciami. Treba oceniť aj kapitolu, ktorá obsahuje šestnásť básní v súvislosti so svätými pustovníkmi a o Skalke. Bibliografia uvádza stodesať prameňov z domácej a zahraničnej literatúry s početnými citáciami v texte publikácie.

Do rúk slovenského čitateľa sa dostáva nová hodnotná publikácia, ktorá svojím spôsobom nadväzuje na dielo Svätý Svorad - patrón mesta Nitry. Mons. Viliam Judák prístupným a pútavým spôsobom odhaľuje ďalšie dejinné skutočnosti zo slovenskej minulosti a poukazuje na význam niektorých osobností nášho národa.

Karol Bošmanský SVD, Katolícke noviny



FOTO TASR - Zuzana Svitanová

Dva nové vagóny pozemnej lanovky na Hrebienok ukladali v utorok 6. novembra 2007 na kofajnice v polovici takmer dvojkilometrovej trate s prevýšením 247 metrov. Na prepravu takmer 20-tonových kolosov použila špeciálna firma špeciálnu technológiu a bez problémov prešla aj náročné úseky dlhej cesty z Bernu, kde vagóny vo štvrtok naložili. V pondelok ich dopravili do Bratislavy, odkiaľ pokračovali do Vysokých Tatier. Kým doterajšie vozne, ktoré slúžili na trati 37 rokov a poslednú jazdu absolvovali v polovici septembra, mali kapacitu 100 až 120 cestujúcich a trať absolvovali za 7 minút, nové pojmy 160 ľudí a prepravu stihnú za 4 minúty. Nová lanovka začne slúžiť cestujúcim 23. decembra, ale technické jazdy sa rozbehnú skôr.

Prošba o finančnú pomoc na výstavbu kostola v Slovinkách

Touto cestou vás v mene veriacich zo Sloviniiek úctivo prosím o finančnú pomoc pri výstavbe rímskokatolíckeho kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda. 1. októbra 1999 sme v tejto filiálke začali so sv. omšami, prenajali sme si priestory, kde sme zriadili kaplnku. Je to veľkým požehnaním pre nás, keď každú nedeľu, každý sviatok a aj vo všedné dni tu môžeme mať sv. omšu. Schádzame sa tu každý deň cez október na modlitbu sv. ruženca, v máji na májovú pobožnosť, v júni sa zasa schádzame aby sme si uctili Božské Srdce Ježišovo. Tu pristupujeme ku sviatosti zmierenia. Slávili sme v týchto priestoroch aj prvé sv. prijímanie. Každoročne na sviatok našich vierozvestcov ďakujeme Pánu Bohu za dar viery.

Tieto priestory boli predať bez toho, aby nám boli ponúknuté. Bojíme sa, že zostaneme na ulici a to krásne spoločenstvo, ktoré sme vytvorili sa rozpráchni. Preto sme sa rozhodli, že ak nás Pán Boh bude požehnávať postavíme kostol, ktorý by sme chceli zasvätiť našim vierozvestcom sv. Cyrilovi a Metodovi. Po poslednom sčítaní ľudu na Slovinkách žije 1867 obyvateľov a k rímskokatolíkom sa hlási 439, pravoslávnych je 800, gréckokatolíkov 490. Teda je nás najmenej, žijeme v diaspore. Veľmi pekne vás prosíme o finančnú pomoc pri výstavbe nášho kostola. Finančná situácia u nás nie je najlepšia, ale sme ochotní priniesť obeť. Zakúpili sme pozemok, máme navožený štrk, štúdia kostola je vypracovaná. Momentálne prebieha územné konanie pred vydaním stavebného povolenia.

Finančné dary môžete posilať na adresu:

Slovenská sporiteľňa, a.s. Bratislava, Slovakia; SWIFT (swiftový kód): GIBASKBX; Názov účtu: Rímskokatolícky farský úrad M. Šprinca 2, 053 42 Krompachy, Slovakia; IBAN: SK900900000000101379582; Platobný titul: 613 - osobný prevod - transfer of person; Kódy poplatkov: OUR, SHA, BEN; Tel: 001- 421 53- 447 2506; krompachy@fara.sk; www. fara.sk/krompachy

Dúfam, že našu dôveru nesklamete a nám pomôžete. Za všetky vaše milodary vám vopred vyslovujeme úprimné Pán Boh zaplať.

Teraz po našich rodinách putuje obraz Božieho milosrdenstva, kde sa za všetkých našich dobrodincov modlíme a veríme, že raz to bude možné aj v novom kostole. S úctou

ThLic. Štefan Kosturko
dekan-farár a veriaci zo Sloviniiek

SARIO umožní stáže študentom PF UK v Bratislave

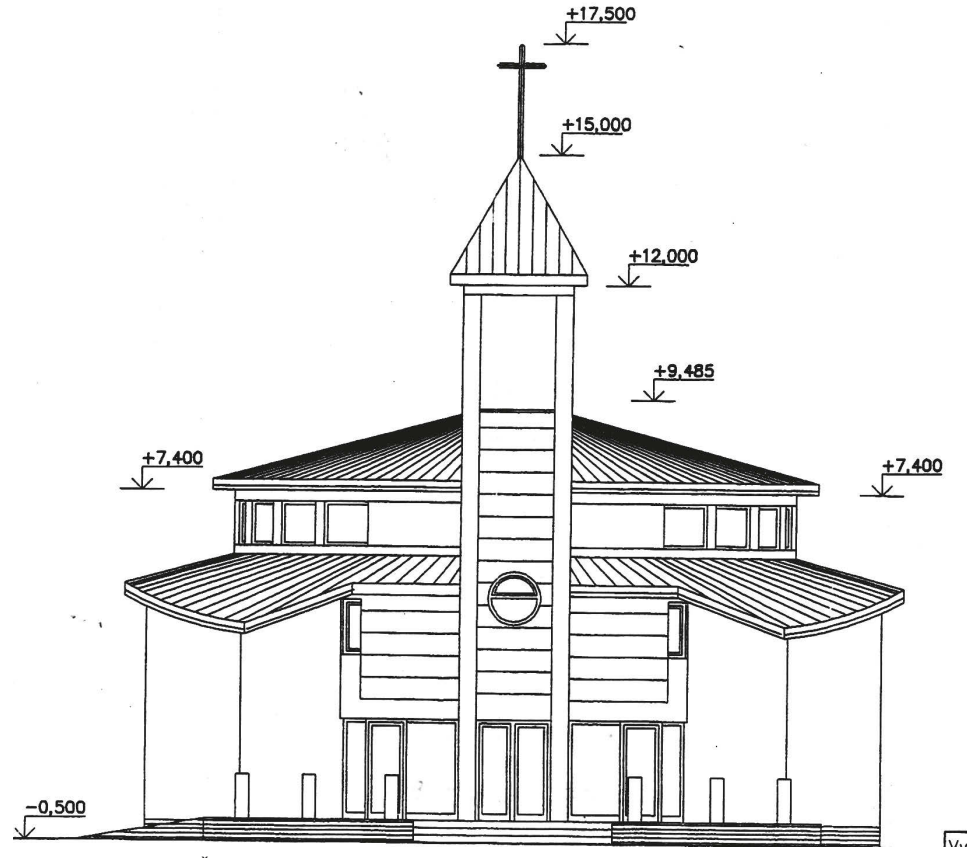
Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenská agentúra pre rozvoj investícií a obchodu (SARIO) umožní najlepším študentom Právnickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského (PF UK) v Bratislave absolvovať odborné stáže. Vyplýva to z Memoranda o porozumení, ktoré 25. októbra podpísali generálny riaditeľ SARIO Peter Hajas a dekan PF UK Marián Vrabko. "Je to pre nás taký nový moment a nový rozmer spolupráce, pretože s takouto inštitúciou sme doposiaľ nespolupracovali," uviedol v rozhovore Vrabko. Podľa jeho slov je potrebné sa zorientovať aj v tomto smere, pretože privátny sektor má už dosť advokátov. "Chceme, aby si naši absolventi hľadali zamestnanie aj mimo poskytovania právnych služieb. Toto by mohla byť jedna z možností," dodal. Odborná stáž v SARIO sa bude týkať študentov venujúcich sa právnym aspektom investovania, štátnej pomoci, medzinárodného obchodu, podnikateľského prostredia, štrukturálnych fondov Európskej únie a hospodárskych politík. PF UK zas poskytne zamestnancom SARIO možnosť ďalšieho odborného rastu v oblasti práva prístupom do fakultnej knižnice a jej databáz elektronických dokumentov za podmienok ekvivalentných denným študentom fakulty, ako aj účasťou na prednáškach pedagógov PF UK. SARIO ako špecializovaná organizácia Ministerstva hospodárstva SR pre otázky štátnej pomoci rovnako sprostredkuje študentom PF UK skúsenosti svojich zamestnancov tak, že sa zapojí do výskumno-vzdelávacieho procesu na fakulte. Odborníci SARIO pre oblasť štátnej pomoci budú na PF UK budúcim právnikom prednášať výberové predmety Európskeho práva a štátnej pomoci v slovenskom, anglickom a francúzskom jazyku. PF UK taktiež vytvorí pre svojich pedagógov priestor pre spoluprácu so SARIO za účelom ďalšieho skvalitnenia investičného a podnikateľského prostredia Slovenska.

V Jaskyni Praslen predmety 6 500 rokov staré

Rimavská Sobota (TASR) – Približne 6 500 rokov staré sú nálezy zdobenej keramiky, ktorú našli vlni speleológovia v novoobjavenej jaskyni Praslen v Drienčanskom krase. Vyplýva to z analýzy, ktorú ukončil archeológ Marián Sojak. "Najstaršie nálezy, ktoré sú dielom ľudskej ruky, pochádzajú z obdobia 4 500 až 4 000 rokov a teda z mladšej doby bronzovej," povedal.

Hlinený praslen, ktorý bol súčasťou tkáčskeho stavu, a tiež bronzovú ihlicu do vlasov a tzv. úštep z krištálu, pomocou ktorého sa brúsili nástroje, dotoval archeológ do doby 1 000 rokov pred Kristom, teda neskorej doby bronzovej. Niekoľko črepov pochádza aj z obdobia

okolo roku 700 pred našim letopočtom, ktorá sa označuje aj ako staršia doba železná. Úplne najstaršie jaskynné nálezy zvieracích kostí sú však staré až 15 tisíc rokov. Za najzaujímavejšie však odborník na históriu označil kresby a otery faki na stene jaskyne. Vzorky z nich by mali čoskoro putovať do Holandska na určenie veku rádiokarbonovou metódou. Praslen je treťou jaskyňou na Slovensku, kde sa našli staroveké kresby ľudí. Pred niekoľkými rokmi objavili podobné výtvyry aj v Domici a Ardovskej jaskyni v Slovenskom krase. Odborníci momentálne čakajú na výsledky rozborov.



Štúdia Rímskokatolíckeho kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Slovinkách.

Nízka informovanosť turistov

Bratislava – Turistickí sprievodcovia na Slovensku musia zahraničným návštevníkom neraz odpovedať na kuriózne otázky. Veľa turistov totiž ani nevie, že sú na Slovensku, povedali pracovníci bratislavského a košického informačného centra.

"Ako sa volá vaša kráľovná", pýtal sa napríklad japonský turista. Keď zbadal udivený pohľad pracovníčky, ešte skôr než stihla odpovedať, opravil sa: "Prepáčte, kráľ". Táto otázka patrí podľa námestníčky Bratislavského kultúrneho informačného strediska (BKIS) Alexandry Bučkovej medzi najvtipnejšie.

Informačné centrá odpovedajú však aj na nevšedné e-mailové otázky. Obyvateľ Južnej Ameriky napríklad plánoval dovolenku v Afrike, v rámci ktorej chcel navštíviť aj Slovensko. "Poslali sme mu informačné materiály a podrobne vysvetlili, kde sa Slovensko v skutočnosti nachádza," povedala Bučková.

Prehľad strácajú niekedy aj turisti zo Spojených štátov, keď počas poznávacích zájazdov navštívia viacero stredo-

európskych krajín naraz. Nevedia odhadnúť, či sú v Maďarsku, Čechách alebo na Slovensku, prezradila Bučková. Informátorku zaskočila aj otázka od anglicky hovoriaceho turistu, ktorý sa chcel za každú cenu dostať z Bratislavy do Modry, ale loďou.

Metropolu Slovenska a Maďarska si za minulý rok pomyslí istý navštevník, ktorý si dohodol stretnutie na námestí v Budapešti a nachádzal sa však v centre Bratislavy. Zistili sme mu najbližší spoj do Budapešti a dali sme mu kontaktné na budapešťianskych kolegov," povedala Bučková. Zamestnancov turistických kancelárií občas prekvapia aj domáci. Informácie potrebné k zakúpeniu pece hľadal v košickom informačnom centre starší pán. Nakoniec však vysvitlo, že mu chcel v skutočnosti kúpiť osobný počítač. Nedorozumenie spôsobila výslovnosť skratky PC.

Nevedomosť často pramení z nízkej informovanosti turistov a zo slabého zviditeľňovania Slovenska vo svete. Máme množstvo historických a kultúrnych pamätihodností no akosi sa nám nedarí sa "predať" vo svete.

Nerobíme pre svoje zdravie dost'

Do roku 2020 bude koronárna choroba srdca najčastejšou príčinou smrti

Bratislava (TASR) – Výskyt srdcovo-cievnych ochorení na svete stále stúpa a do roku 2020 sa koronárna choroba srdca stane príčinou smrti číslo jeden. Vyplýva to z výsledkov Štokholmskej štúdie, ktorá zanalyzovala suboptimálnu liečbu cholesterolu až do roku 2020. Ako je z výskumu zrejme, počet pacientov trpiacich vysokou hladinou cholesterolu sa z roka na rok zvyšuje. Podľa odborníkov totiž nerobíme pre svoje zdravie dost'. Výsledky hovoria aj o dopade na sociálnu politiku, zvyšovaní nákladov a náraste kardiovaskulárnych ochorení (KVCH). Stúpajúci výskyt jednotlivých rizikových faktorov podľa odborníkov súvisí so súčasným štýlom. Zvyšujúci sa počet srdcových ochorení do roku 2020 má mať devastujúci dopad na európsku verejnú politiku. "Srdcové ochorenia spôsobia v Európe 1.9 milióna úmrtí ročne vďaka rizikovým faktorom ako je cholesterol, vysoký krvný tlak, fajčenie a obezita. Celkové náklady na liečbu KVCH v EÚ predstavujú 169 miliárd eur ročne (5.6 bilióna Sk). Kríza môže byť podľa odborníkov zvrátená iba okamžitým zlepšením metód prevencie, ako je zdokonalenia komunikácie, cielenejšie a dostatočné poradenstvo rizikovým pacientom ohľadne stravovacích návykov a životného štýlu či zvýšenie povedomia u pacientov ohľadne dôležitosti hypolipidemickej liečby. TASR o tom informovala Petra Mecárová z Accelerate s.r.o.

Novým generálnym manažérom hokejového A-tímu - Peter Bondra

Novým generálnym manažérom slovenskej reprezentácie je muž, ktorého možno nazvať hlavným autorom historického úspechu kolektívneho športu. Peter Bondra bol streleckým lídrom zlatého mužstva na MS 2002 v Göteborgu a dal víťazný gól vo finále proti Rusku. Funkcia generálneho manažéra v národnom výbere si zakladá na tradícii legend, veď v medailovej ére ju zastával člen troch siení slávy Peter Šťastný. Bondra po oficiálnom oznámení ukončenia hráčskej kariéry neoficiálne nadobúda aj štatút slovenskej hokejovej legendy.

“Bonzaí” sa narodil 7. februára 1968 síce v ukrajinskom Lucku, ale jeho otec pochádza z východu Slovenska a spolu s manželkou poľského pôvodu sa aj s trojročným synom usídlili v Poprade. V tomto meste si talentovaný chlapec obul aj svoje prvé korčule a v sezóne 1985/1986 hral v miestnom klube v I. národnej lige. V nasledujúcej už prestúpil do vtedajšieho VSŽ Košice a okúsil federálnu extraligu. V nej pôsobil štyri roky a získal slávny titul v roku 1988. Rýchleho krídelníka si samozrejme všimli aj záporní skauti a v roku 1990 ho Washington vydraftoval zo 156. pozície. Hneď v nastávajúcej sezóne sa Bondra v drese Capitals presadil, keď v 54 zápasoch strelil 12 gólov a pri 16 asistoval. Potom sa už rozbehla jeho hviezdna profiligová kariéra, ktorú na chvíľu v roku 1994 prerušili iba naťahovačky ohľadom zmluvy a tak mu formálne za dva odohraté zápasy prináleží aj košický titul v samostatnej extralige. Počas 16 sezón v NHL naz-

bieral najmä v drese Washingtonu a na sklonku kariéry v Atlante a Chicagu 892 bodov v 1,081 zápasoch základnej časti (503 gólov a 389 asistencií), v 80 dueloch play off 56 bodov (30+26). Rodený kanonier prekonal v dvoch sezónach métu 50 gólov (v oboch prípadoch 52), pričom v ročníku 1995/1996 sa mu to podarilo iba v 67 zápasoch dlhodobej časti. Individuálna trofej Maurica Richarda mu tesne unikla, pretože ju založili po týchto dvoch jeho výkonoch. Takisto mu už v poslednej inštancii unikol Stanleyho pohár, keď roku 1998 jeho Capitals vo finále nestačili na Detroit (séria 0:4).

Čo Bondrovi nevyšlo na profesionálnom klubovom poli, to si vynahradil v reprezentácii. Popri zlate z Göteborgu ho zdobí aj bronz z nasledujúceho roku v Helsinkách. Okrem týchto dvoch šampionátov má rovnako dve účasti aj zo zimnej olympiády a zúčastnil sa tiež na Svetovom pohári. Na týchto vrcholných podujatiach odohral celkovo 28 zápasov, strelil 15 gólov a pri 7 asistoval. Celkovo v národnom tíme odohral 47 zápasov a strelil 35 gólov. V roku 2002 ho úplne prirodzene a jasne zvolili v ankete KŠR za najlepšieho športovca Slovenska, Zlatý puk v absolútnej kategórii najlepší hokejista SR dostal okrem tohto roku aj v 1998 a 2003.

Peter Bondra je ženatý, má tri deti a dvaja synovia kráčajú v jeho hokejových šľapajách vo Washingtone, kde má rodina popri Poprade svoj “hlavný stan”.

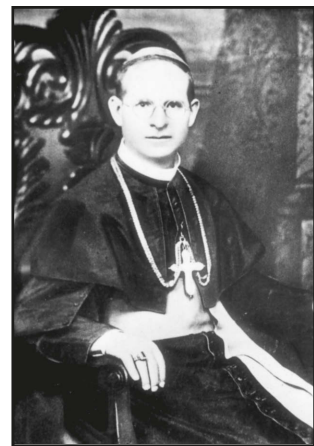
TASR

Rok Božieho sluhu, biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka

Spišská diecéza slávi 130 rokov od narodenia biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka

V týchto dňoch si pripomínáme 130. výročie narodenia biskupa Vojtaššáka. Spomienkové podujatia sa budú konať 14. novembra 2007 v katedrále v Spišskej Kapitule a 18. novembra 2007 v jeho rodisku v Zákamennom. Súčasný spišský biskup František Tondra pri tejto príležitosti vyhlasuje rok od 14. 11. 2007 do 14. 11. 2008 pre Spišskú diecézu za Rok Božieho sluhu, biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka.

Spišský biskup Ján Vojtaššák sa narodil pred sto tridsiatimi rokmi, presne 14. novembra 1877, v oravskej obci Zákamenné. Kňazské štúdiá absolvoval v Spišskej Kapitule, Biskupom sa stal v roku 1921. Túto službu vykonával nehatene až do konca 2. svetovej vojny. V roku 1950 bol nespravodlivo súdený a odsúdený vo vykonštruovanom procese na 24 rokov väzenia, z čoho aj v skutočnosti odsedel 12 rokov v rôznych väzniciach vtedajšej ČSSR. V roku 1962 bol z väzenia prepustený a vyvečený do Senohrabov pri Prahe, kde v roku 1965 zomrel. Pochovaný bol v rodisku až do exhumácie v roku 2003. Odvtedy je pochovaný v Katedrále sv. Martina v Spišskej Kapitule.



Biskup Ján Vojtaššák

Nevinnosť biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka potvrdilo právne a oficiálne po páde komunizmu aj rozhodnutie Krajského súdu v Košiciach, č. 2Rt 158/90, ktoré úplne rehabilitovalo a pôvodný rozsudok v plnej miere zrušilo. Spišská diecéza začala proces jeho blahorečenia v roku 1996. Diecézna fáza tohto procesu bola ukončená a postúpená Kongregácii pre kauzy svätých vo Vatikáne v roku 2001. Odvtedy prebieha proces na úrovni kongregácie, kde sa vysvetľujú a hlbšie dokumentujú historické okolnosti doby, v ktorej žil, pôsobil a trpel tento Boží sluha, biskup Ján Vojtaššák. Proces sa spomalil kvôli neprajnosti niektorých skupín, ktoré obviňujú biskupa, že urobil málo v prospech záchrany Židov pred deportáciami v čase 2. svetovej vojny. Paradoxom je, že v minulosti ho nikto z toho neobvinil, čo dokazuje len opäť vykonštruované obvinenie, ktoré však vyvracajú mnohé fakty, dokumenty a rodiny zachránených. Obvinenia biskupa Vojtaššáka sa tak stávajú podobnými obvineniam na pápeže Pia XII., ktorý v tej dobe viedol Cirkev.

TK KBS



Senohraby, 14. júl 1965

J e s e ň 2007

Jeseň sa záhadným spôsobom pritiahla k nám, svoju zlatožltú krásu, otvorila nám dokorán. Vyparádená vo svojom, novom šate - rúchu, neponúka, hudbu nášmu žiarlivému uchu.

Pavučinová priadza, do údolia ťarbavo letí, každý ju obdivuje, mladí, starí, aj malé deti. Oráč pred zimou, preoral poslednú brázdú, uspokojil sám seba, aj svojho dobrého gazdu.

Ach Bože a tie milé, štebotavé lastovičky, na telefónnych drótoch, akosi smutne sedia, akoby nám všetkým chceli s Bohom povedať. Na ďalekú cestu, do teplých krajov sa stroja, čakajú na tajný povel, o ktom iba ony vedia.

A akéže to majú plány, vo vzduchu nie sú cesty, diaľnice, semaforey, premávkové svetlá, moria. Vezmite ma sebou, naše, štebotavé lastovičky, nech vidím tie krásy sveta, mesiac, hviezdičky.

Viem, že na jar, ako vždy sa zase vrátite späť. Späť, do našej malej, ale krásnej dedinky. Budú vás tam čakať, naše dobré gazdinky.

Privíta vás, aj náš strážny pán, náš pes Dunčo a celý štáb zvierat, žijúci na našom malom dvore. Dokorán otvorí, naše drevené, rozvrzvané dvere. Pod odkvapom v kúte, nájdete svoje staré hniezdo, tak, ako ste ho tam zanechali, nič doň nevliezlo.

Vďaka Ti Bože, za všetko, čo nám v živote dávaš, za krásu jesene, lastovičky, čo sv. rukou požehnávaš.

Jozef Smák

Slovenský choreograf a tanečník získal prestížnu cenu v New Yorku

New York (TASR) - Slovák Pavel Zuštiak získal v New Yorku prestížne ocenenie americkej Nadácie princeznej Grace. Cenu mu udelili za výnimočnú a originálnu choreografiu v kategórii tanečného umenia. Americká Nadácia monackej princeznej Grace sa venuje podpore mladých talentovaných umelcov prichádzajúcich do USA z celého sveta. Slávnostná ceremónia spojená s odovzdávaním významných ocenení bola jednou zo sérií podujatí organizovaných pri príležitosti 25. výročia tragickej smrti kňaznej, ktorá umenie štedro podporovala. Grace bola herečkou a držiteľkou Oscara. Galavečer odovzdávania ocenení sa uskutočnil 25. októbra v reprezentačných priestoroch aukčnej siení Sotheby's. Hlavnými hosťami ceremónie boli monacký princ Albert s princeznou Karolinou Hannoverkou. Pavel Zuštiak si vychutnal pózovanie pred kamerami a bleskami fotoaparátov s americkými celebritami a členmi monackej kniežacej

rodiny. Ocenenie v podobe bronzovej sošky okomentoval slovami: “Pre mňa je to veľká pocta, som nesmierne šťastný, že som jedným z ocenených umelcov. Je to impulz, povzbudenie, posúva to dopredu”.

Zuštiak sa začal venovať tanečnej choreografii už ako 17-ročný. Debutoval v Košiciach tanečným predstavením “Obrázky z výstavy” na hudbu M.P. Musorgského. Tanečnú kompozíciu neskôr vystudoval aj na Škole moderného tancu v Amsterdame. Profesionálne tanečné tréningy absolvoval v Európe aj Amerike. Jeho inovačné tanečné vystúpenia videli diváci nielen v USA, Kanade, Francúzsku, ale aj Belgicku či Dánsku. V tomto roku zavítal aj do rodných Košíc, kde sa publiku predstavil tanečnou kreáciou Le Petit Mort. Bravúrne výkony a provokujúca originalita choreografie vzbudila veľkú pozornosť popredných amerických médií.

Oživa stáročná vinárska tradícia Trnavy

Deň vinných pivníc

Trnava (TASR) – Deň vinných pivníc, prostredníctvom ktorého oživa stáročná vinárska tradícia Trnavy, sa už piatykrát uskutočnila poslednú októbrovú sobotu. Hodinu po dvanástej sa otvorili podzemné priestory historických domov v centre mesta, aby privítali pútnikov na prechádzke za dobrým vínom. Aj na tomto ročníku, ktorý organizovalo mesto Trnava s Vincechom - Trnavským spolkom priateľov vína, návštevníci mali možnosť degustovať vína 27 najlepších vinárov trnavského regiónu, Veľkého Krtíša i moravského Kroměříža. Počet otvorených pivníc je v porovnaní s uplynulými ročníkmi rekordný - bolo ich až 20 a niektoré z nich boli verejnosti sprístupnené výnimočne iba z tejto príležitosti. "V tomto podujatí vidíme možnosť, aby ľudia spoznali podzemie Trnavy, kde sa kedysi hospodárilo a obchodovalo s vínom," povedal predseda Vincechu Eduard Krištofovič.

Na vstup do pivnice a na ochutnávku vín oprávňovalo účastníkov Dňa vinných pivníc vinný pas, ku ktorému organizátori pridali štýlový pohár, mapku s trasou, pero na zapisovanie dojmov a originálnu závesnú taštičku na krk. Hoci pas je oproti roku 2006 drahší o sto korún a stojí 600 Sk, všetkých 700 kusov bolo už dlhšiu dobu vypredaných. Pútnici za vínom však nemuseli prejsť všetky "stanovišťa",

ale iba toľko pivníc, ktorú si vybrali a zvládli. Tí, ktorí mali v pase pečiatky zo všetkých dvadsiatich, mohli navyše získať aj niektorú zo zaujímavých výhier. Bonusom tohto ročníka od organizátorov bol aj prípravok na detoxikáciu organizmu po konzumácii alkoholu.

Deň vinných pivníc nie je iba dňom ochutnávania darov viníc, hneď od svojho začiatku sa stal aj synonymom stretávania známych i príležitosťou pre cezpoľných návštevníkov Trnavy. A hoci by sa mohlo zdať, že je výlučne pánskou záležitosťou, opak je pravdou. Ženy nielen sprevádzajú mužov, ale čoraz častejšie sa na trasu vydávajú čisto ženské "posádky". O Trnave, prvom slobodnom kráľovskom meste na území Slovenska, sa už v polovici 13. storočia píše v análoch ako o meste s mešťanmi vlastniacimi vysoko produktívne vine. Víno dlho tvorilo jednu z najvýznamnejších komodít v ich obchodných aktivitách. Bola to doba, ktorá podnietila budovanie povestných klenbových pivníc pod meštianskymi domami. Potom prišla iná doba, ktorá odsúdila takmer všetky pivnice v lepšom prípade na uloženie uhlia či zemiakov, v horšom prípade rôznej suty a neporiadku. Dnes je už veľa pivníc zrekonštruovaných a prístupných vďaka ich majiteľom, prevádzkovateľom, ale aj Dňu vinných pivníc.

Skalický trdelník získa ochrannú značku EÚ

Brusel (TASR) – Získanie ochrannej značky Európskej únie (EÚ) pre skalický trdelník ako prvý spomedzi slovenských potravinárskych výrobkov je takmer isté. Totiž 28. októbra uplynulo mesačné pripomienkové obdobie, počas ktorého voči slovenskej žiadosti nikto nenamietal. Keď sa Európska komisia (EK) uistí, že do Bruselu neprišli námietky voči tomu, aby sa skalický trdelník zaregistroval ako výrobok s chráneným zemepisným označením, začnú sa kroky vedúce k zverejneniu tohto produktu ako oficiálne registrovaného. K tomu dôjde zverejnením tejto informácie v oficiálnom vestníku EÚ. Malo by sa to stať najneskôr do Vianoc. Slovenský veľvyslanec pri EÚ Maroš Šefčovič potvrdil, že EK nezaregistrovala žiadne výhrady zo strany ostatných členských krajín. "Skalický trdelník sa tak bude môcť vyrábať tradičným spôsobom, bude viazaný k Slovensku, k skalickému regiónu a malo by to mať okrem tej pozitívnej reklamy takisto aj dobrý marketingový zvuk a malo by to pomáhať pri tom, aby sa tento slovenský produkt lepšie predával už ako

chránený výrobok v EÚ," myslí si Šefčovič. O registráciu sa možno uchádzať v troch kategóriách - okrem uvedeného chráneného zemepisného označenia ide aj o chránené označenie pôvodu a zaručenú tradičnú špecialitu.

Druhým slovenským výrobkom, ktorý by mohol získať európsku ochrannú značku rovnakého druhu ako trdelník, je slovenská bryndza. Voči tomu však môžu krajiny vznášať námietky až do 4. apríla. Slovensko má okrem toho záujem aj o registráciu ďalších výrobkov. V štádiu posudzovania komisiou je aj žiadosť o registráciu slovenského oštiepka a slovenskej parenice ako produktov s chráneným zemepisným označením, ako aj o registráciu ovčieho šalasnického hrudkového a udeného syra, špekáčikov, bravčovej domácej klobásy, spišských párkov, loveckej, liptovskej, strážovskej, ipeľskej, inoveckej trvanlivej salámy i salámy Nitran ako zaručených tradičných špecialít. Voči registrácii uvedených mäsových výrobkov sa zdvihla vlna nesúhlasu v Českej republike.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Slovenská vianočná omša Okresu Princa Pribinu, Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia pozýva všetkých svojich členov a slovenskú verejnosť na slovenskú vianočnú omšu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 9. decembra 2007 o 11:00 hodine v kaplnke sv. Jána Bosku pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Bl., Bellflower CA. 90706. Už ako to tradične býva, po svätej omši v jedálni kostola Svätý Mikuláš rozdá darčeky deťom. Pre prítomných bude pripravený chutný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením.

V nedeľu 16. decembra o 18:00 hodine pripravujeme v Slovensko-americkom centre spev vianočných kolied. O podrobnostiach podujatia sa dohovorte so svojím zástupcom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

Funkcionári Okresu Princa Pribinu prajú všetkým členom IKSJ požehnané vianočné sviatky.

Paul Skuben, predseda

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 25. novembra 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

Na programe je finančná správa, príprava programu a voľba nových úradníkov na budúce obdobie. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto výročnej schôdze zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Výročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že výročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 9. decembra 2007 o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe sú správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie. Za tím budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý zároveň vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctive vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdži.

Ďakujem a s pozdravom, brat

Jozef Juráši, predseda

Jednotárska zábava v Linden, New Jersey

Spolok svätého Jána Krstiteľa číslo 746 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty pri kostole sv. Rodiny v Linden, New Jersey usporiada tanečnú zábavu v sobotu 17. novembra 2007 v Msgr. Komar Hall, 2806 Parkway Ave. Linden N.J. Večera sa bude podávať od 8.00 do 9.00 hodiny, preto prosíme záujemcov, aby prišli načas. Do tanca a na počúvanie bude hrať hudobná skupina Kontakty. Vstupné za osobu je \$25.00. O bližšie informácie a zakúpenie lístkov volajte na tieto telefónne čísla: Mary Karch: (732) 572-2331; Mary Tkach: (908) 862-2782.

POZVÁNKA

na zádušnú svätú omšu za prvého prezidenta Slovenskej republiky
Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu,
ktorá bude 1. decembra o 10.00 hodine v kostole sv. Andreja Svorada.
Svätú omšu bude slúžiť opäť **Clement Železník, OSB.**
Pri tejto príležitosti tam budú uložené relikvie
Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu,
z hrobu na Martinskom cintoríne v Bratislave,
ktoré priniesol **Dr. Ľudovít Pavlo.**
Po svätej omši bude premietnutý videozáznam o exhumácii spolu s
výpoveďami pamätníkov na prezidenta Tisu.

**Získajte ešte dnes nového člena
do Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej
Jednoty**

Môj pohľad za 30. slovenským festivalom v Holmdel, N.J.

Každoročne je zvykom, že poslednú septembrovú nedeľu v PNC Bank Arts Center, Holmdel, NJ. sa koná Festival slovenského dedičstva. Toho roku sa uskutočnil 23. septembra a prišli tu návštevníci z rôznych kútov Slovenska, USA, či ostatného sveta, aby pozdravili Deň Slovákov. Stretávajú sa tu rôzne generácie, takže ani neprekvapilo, že pri zvitani sa niektorí na seba akoby nechápavo pozerali, alebo po tichu sa suseda pýtali, kto to vlastne je. Až potom vybuchol smiech z neznalosti. Darmo, zub času na každom zanechal nejaké stopy.

Po mesiacoch driny hlavne predsedov Jána Ducha i Niny Holej, nestárnuceho Jána Holého, ale i celého organizačného výboru sa podaril tento veľký slovenský sviatok. Návštevníci prichádzali už od 8.00 hodiny ráno a tak bránami prešlo okolo 7,000 ľudí, čo pri súčasnej nerozhodnej životnej situácii nebolo málo. Bolo to dojemné stretnutie. Keď Festival pozdravil slovenský prezident Ivan Gašparovič s manželkou, mnohým bolo vidieť slzy v očiach ... a zvlášť počas slávnostnej svätej omši, ktorú celebroidal arcibiskup Ján Sokol, metropolita Bratislavsko-Trnavskej arcidiecézy a predseda Rady pre Slovákov v zahraničí, keď zazneli tóny známej piesne v tejto chvíli hádam nebolo v areáli suchého oka. Ale aj ostatní, ktorí sa vystriedali v kultúrnom programe, či vo fubalovom zápase, prispeli svojou troškou ku krásnemu dňu. Pri slovenskom jedle, rôznych výstavných stánkoch a suveníroch ako aj pri speve šarmantnej speváčky Renátky Jurášiovej, čas nemilosrdne plynul. A tak jedno je isté, že počas 30. výročia slovenského festivalu každému tlklo slovenské srdce.

I na záver podujatia, keď už slnečné lúče pomaly zapadali a prišiel čas lúčenia sa pána prezidenta a jeho sprievodu, stále bolo cítiť nádhru Slovenského dňa v New Jersey. Stálo to zato.

Ludvík Kováč

Slovensko bude mať v roku 2008 najvyšší rast ekonomiky

Washington (TASR) – Slovensko si v tomto a v budúcom roku udrží vysoký rast ekonomiky. V roku 2008 by mal byť dokonca najrýchlejší v rámci celej Európskej únie (EÚ). Vyplýva to zo zverejnenej pravidelnej polročnej správy Medzinárodného menového fondu (MMF) venovanej výhľadu svetovej ekonomiky s názvom World Economic Outlook. Miera rastu slovenskej ekonomiky by mala v tomto roku dosiahnuť 8.8% po vlaňajších 8.3%. V budúcom roku by mal reálny rast hrubého domáceho produktu (HDP) spomaliť na 7.3%. Napriek tomu by mal byť najvyšší v rámci celej únie.

Rýchlejšiu konjunktúru by malo mať v tomto roku s 10.5% iba Lotyšsko. Expanzia jeho hospodárstva sa však v roku 2008 podľa MMF spomalí na 6.3%. Rast spotrebiteľských cien v SR by mal v tomto roku spomaliť na 2.4% po vlaňajších 4.4%. Inflácia by mala pokračovať v spomaľovaní aj v roku 2008, kedy by mala klesnúť až na 2.0%. Znižovať by sa mal aj schodok bežného účtu platobnej bilancie, ktorý vlni dosiahol 8.3% HDP. V tomto roku by mal klesnúť na 5.3% a v budúcom na 4.5%. Spomedzi krajín Višegradskej štvorky (V4) si relatívne vysoký rast udržia v tomto a budúcom roku aj Česká republika 5.6% respektíve 4.6% a Poľsko 6.6% respektíve 5.3%. Rast HDP v Maďarsku by sa mal na budúci rok mierne oživiť na 2.7% po tohoročných 2.1%. Motorom rastu krajín strednej a východnej Európy zostanú pobaltské štáty. Tie sa však budú musieť vyrovnávať s vysokou infláciou a vysokými schodkami bežného účtu platobnej bilancie. Napríklad v Lotyšsku, ktoré je najrýchlejšie expandujúcou pobaltskou ekonomikou, dosiahne v tomto roku miera inflácie 9% a v budúcom 8.9% a deficit bežného účtu platobnej bilancie vyskočí v tomto roku na 25.3% HDP po 21.1% vlni. V roku 2008 by mal pokračovať v raste a dosiahnuť až 27.3% HDP. Informoval o tom Medzinárodný menový fond.

Putovanie za poznáním

V termíne 3. - 12. júla 2008 sa uskutoční putovný poznávací tábor pre slovenských stredoškôľakov zo zahraničia vo veku 14 - 18 rokov. Jeho plným gestom je Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ), ktorý hradí všetky náklady spojené s pobytom na Slovensku.

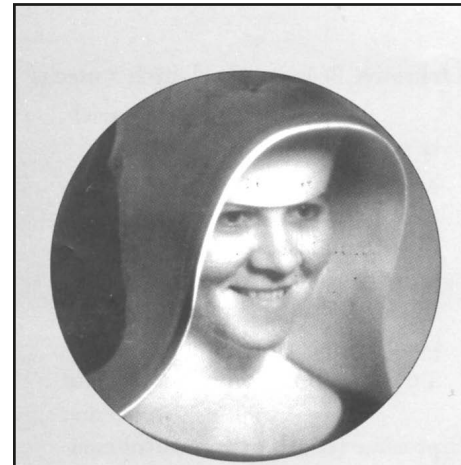
Zámerom ÚSZZ je poskytnúť možnosť pobytu na Slovensku čo najširšiemu okruhu študentov z krajín, kde žijú slovenské menšiny. Krajania sa zoznámia s Banskou Bystricou, Hroncom, Čiernym Balogom, skanzenom Vydrovo, Bystrianskou jaskyňou, Hornou Lehotou, Detrovou, Bojnicami a Bratislavou.

Hlavným cieľom podujatia je poznávanie kultúry svojich predkov: pamätných miest slovenskej histórie, galérií, múzeí, knižnej tvorby a prírodných zaujímavostí Slovenska, ako aj výmena vzájomných skúseností účastníkov tábora. ÚSZZ pozýva študentov a 1 dospelú osobu ako pedagogický dozor. Podmienkou účasti je znalosť slovenského jazyka na základnej komunikačnej úrovni.

ÚSZZ týmto oznámením chce zistiť záujem o toto podujatie, preto žiada jednotlivých záujemcov a spolky, aby informáciu o počte študentov a ich doprovoďte zaslali na adresu úradu do konca januára 2008. Na základe prejaveneho záujmu z jednotlivých krajanských komunít a spolkov bude bližšie špecifikovať počet študentov z jednotlivých krajín. Adresa Úradu: Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, Radlinského 13, 817 80 Bratislava, Slovak Republic; tel. číslo 011-421-2-5720 0512; e-mail: iveta.balogova@uszz.gov.sk

Relikvia pozostatkov blahoslavenej sestry Zdenky v Rimavskej Sobote

Bratislava (TASR) – Relikvie telesných pozostatkov katolíckej rehoľníčky sestry Zdenky, ktorá v roku 1955 ako 39-ročná zomrela na následky krutého mučenia, previezli 3. novembra do katolíckeho kostola v Rimavskej Sobote. Bola to prvá Slovenka, ktorú katolícka cirkev vyhlásila za blahoslavenú. Občianskym menom Cecilia Schelingová (1916 - 1955) zasvätila svoj život pomoci blížnym. V 50-tych rokoch minulého storočia pomohla niekoľkým nespravodlivo odsúdeným kňazom ujsť, za čo bola 29. februára 1952 zatknutá a vo vyšetrovacej väzbe kruto mučená. Nakoniec bola odsúdená 17. júna 1952 na 12 rokov väzenia a 10 rokov straty občianskych práv za údajnú velezradu, čiže za jeden z najťažších prečinov proti štátu. Zdenka zomrela 31. júla 1955 v Trnave a jej pozostatky odpočívali v Podunajských Biskupiciach. 3. novembra 2007 malú relikviu v podobe kosti umiestnili aj v katolíckom kostole v Rimavskej Sobote. Štrnásteho septembra 2003 ju pápež Ján Pavol II. vyhlásil za blahoslavenú.



1916–1955
Sr. Zdenka Schelingová
– obeť lásky a násilia

Inštitút Milosrdných sestier
sv. Kríža

V zahraničí pracovalo 174,000 Slovákov

Bratislava (TASR) – Východiska na riešenie nedostatku kvalifikovaných pracovných síl zamestnávania starších, žien, ktoré sa rozhodli budovať si kariéru a znevýhodnených skupín občanov, ktoré trápia Slovensko a okolité štáty, hľadali odborníci v rámci diskusného večera Vývoj európskeho trhu práce, ktorý sa konal koncom októbra v Bratislave. Na podujatí sa zúčastnilo 50 zástupcov trhu práce Slovenska, Rakúska, Nemecka a Švajčiarska.

Zora Barochová z odboru európskej stratégie zamestnanosti sekcie práce Ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (MPSVR) SR v príspevku uviedla, že 174,000 Slovákov oficiálne pracovalo v 2. štvrtroku tohto roka v zahraničí. Medziročne to bolo viac o 18,000 ľudí. Najviac ich zamestnávali firmy v Česku, Veľkej Británii, Maďarsku, Rakúsku, Írsku a Taliansku, s ktorými má SR po otvorení trhov práce uzatvorené zmluvné vzťahy. Z hľadiska odvetvovej štruktúry občania SR

pracovali najmä v priemyselných odvetviach s podielom 28.8%, stavebníctve 28.1% a hoteloch a reštauráciách 11.8%. Na trhu práce SR k 30. júnu tohto roka bolo 6,800 občanov z EÚ, z nich na základe pracovno-právnych vzťahov pracovalo 5,100 vyslaných na výkon práce 1,700 cudzincov. Politika riadenej migrácie, zdôraznila, musí byť na Slovensku komplexná so zapojením, relevantných rezortov, samosprávnych krajov a ústredia práce.

Wolfgang Tritremmel zo Združenia priemyslu Rakúska upozornil, že je škoda, že mnohí Slováci sa nemôžu umiestniť na ich trhu práce a miera za prácou do vzdialenejších štátov EÚ. Poukázal na efekt, ak sú aktuálne problémy trhov práce v nových a starých členov EÚ riešené spoločne. Hoci z 9 spolkových krajín v Rakúsku má teraz 5 krajín plnú zamestnanosť, kvalifikované kádre a špecialisti chýbajú aj na rakúskom trhu práce, dodal Tritremmel.

Uviedli poštovú známku k výročiu černojskej tragédie v Ružomberku

Ružomberok (TASR) – Poštovú známku s portrétom britského novinára Setona Watsona uviedli 27. októbra pri príležitosti 100. výročia černojskej tragédie v Ružomberku - Černovej. Publicista, známy ako obhajca slovenského národa, sa vo svojich prácach venoval černojským udalostiam. Znáмка v hodnote 24 Sk je dielom akademického maliara Ivana Schurmana. Poštová cenina, ktorú vydala Slovenská pošta (SP), zobrazuje Roberta Setona Watsona z mladších rokov a ružu, ktorá sa symbolicky viaže k mestu Ružomberok. Verejnosc si ju mohla kúpiť počas pietnej spomienky v Dome Andreja Hlinku v Černovej. Návštevníci majú možnosť získať aj príležitostnú pečiatku a obálku prvého dňa vydania. Uviedla to hovorkyňa SP Andrea Pivarčiová. Znáмку v náklade 500 tisíc kusov vytlačila Poštovní Tiskárna cenín, Praha, a.s., technikou ofsetu. FDC vytlačila tlačiareň TAB, s.r.o., Bratislava ocelotlačou z plochých platní v náklade 3,200 kusov. Rytinu FDC vyhotovil výtvarník Vierošlav Ondrejčka.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Na zavedenie eura v SR sa zatiaľ pripravuje 52% subjektov oslovených Podnikateľskou alianciou Slovenska (PAS). Ďalších 42% respondentov začne s prípravou v budúcom roku, zvyšných 6% predpokladá, že sa na príchod eura nemusia pripravovať. Vyplýva to z prieskumu, ktorý PAS uskutočnila v júli a auguste na vzorke 204 respondentov. Z toho 77% tvorili podnikateľské subjekty a zvyšných 23% predstavovali samosprávne orgány. Väčšina oslovených subjektov sa pritom chystá na prípravu ešte pred definitívnym rozhodnutím európskych inštitúcií o plnení maastrichtských kritérií v SR, ktoré sa očakáva na jar budúceho roka.

Automobilka Kia Motors Slovakia, s.r.o., získa finančnú dotáciu 1.15 miliardy Sk na rozšírenie výroby osobných automobilov. Návrh Ministerstva hospodárstva (MH) SR 24. októbra schválila vláda SR. Ak vláda SR vysloví súhlas s návrhom poskytnúť štátnu pomoc, Kia začne projekt realizovať v existujúcej lokalite Teplička nad Váhom ešte v roku 2007. Kia plánuje v tomto roku vyrobiť 150,000 automobilov a v roku 2008 sa výroba zvýši na 250,000 áut. Plnú kapacitu 300,000 áut ročne plánuje automobilka dosiahnuť v roku 2009, keď má byť zavedená aj tretia zmena.

Vláda Roberta Fica v tomto roku nezniží počet úradníkov o päťinu, ale len o štyri percentá. Nepodariť sa jej tak splniť pôvodný plán zrušiť približne 30-tisíc miest a ušetriť len na platoch vyše osem miliárd korún. Znižovanie stavov sa v najbližšom období nebude týkať učiteľov, ktorí tvoria veľkú časť štátnych zamestnancov. Zo zoznamu možných prepustených rezort financií vylúčil aj vojakov, policajtov či sudcov.

Kontrola pasov bude po 21. decembri v schengenskom priestore minulosťou. O niekoľko týždňov sa niektorí policajti z priechodov posadia do áut s kolegami spoza hraníc, vytvoria spoločné hliadky a presunú sa do vnútrozemia. O dva týždne pravdepodobne ministri vnútra Európskej únie rozhodnú, že Slovensko spolu so susedným Českom, Poľskom a Maďarskom vstúpi do Schengenu a pohraničníci tak odslúžia posledný deň na hraničných priechodoch práve 21. decembra.

Zlatú medailu SAV odovzdal 26. októbra predseda akadémie Štefan Luby riaditeľovi Neuroimunologického ústavu SAV v Bratislave prof. MVDr. Michalovi Novákovi, DrSc, pri príležitosti jeho životného jubilea. Ocenenie je prejavom uznania SAV za jeho zásluhy v oblasti rozvoja vedy nielen na Slovensku, ale aj v zahraničí, najmä pri výskume Alzheimerovej choroby. Profesor Novák sa v druhej polovici osemdesiatych rokov v Cambridge podieľal na objasnení podstaty tohto ochorenia - v roku 1993 odhalil jeho molekulovú podstatu. V súčasnosti patrí k najvýznamnejším odborníkom na Alzheimerovu chorobu vo svete. Medailu SAV za podporu vedy prevzala aj významná botanička a environmentalistka RNDr. Helena Ružičková, CSc. z Ústavu krajinskej ekológie SAV, ktorá sa mimoriadne zaslúžila najmä o výskum lúčnych biotopov Slovenska.

Voskovú figurínu katolíckeho kňaza Andreja Hlinku v životnej veľkosti inštalovali 25. októbra v Dome A. Hlinku v Ružomberku - Černej. Jej autorom je Marek Dolník z Prievidze. "Figurína pripomína 43-ročného Hlinku v čase černej tragédie," povedal umelec. Na asi 1.8 m vysokej soche pracoval celý rok. Figurínu Andreja Hlinku slávnostne predstavili verejnosti počas 100. výročia pietnej spomienky na čerňovskú tragédiu, ktorá sa uskutočnila v pamätný deň v sobotu 27. októbra, na historických miestach. Hlinkova expozícia v Černej predstavuje aj politickú situáciu danej doby. Návštevníci sa môžu oboznámiť aj s časťou pôvodného vybavenia. Exponáty pochádzajú z Liptovského múzea v Ružomberku a z osobných archívov tamojších obyvateľov.

Minister kultúry Marek Maďarič odovzdal 25. októbra v Bratislave ceny Fenix víťazom súťaže Kultúrna pamiatka roka 2006. Nominovaných bolo sedem pamiatok, z ktorých nakoniec 12-členná odborná porota vybrala štyri. Kostol sv. Jakuba Staršieho z Tužiny získal cenu za technologicky náročnú sanáciu a reštaurovanie výrazne poškodenej neobarokovej maliarskej a štukovej výzdoby a za úsilie o dlhodobé zabezpečenie mikroklimy priestoru a stability reštaurovaného diela. Druhou ocenenou pamiatkou sa stal gréckokatolícky chrám sv. Michala Archanjela v Lodomírovej za mimoriadne kvalitné a citlivé reštaurovanie ikonostasu a mobiliáru chrámu, ktorý je súčasťou nominovaného súboru drevených kostolov v Karpatском oblúku do Zoznamu svetového kultúrneho dedičstva UNESCO.

Kanada zrušila pre občanov Českej republiky vízovú povinnosť pre pobyty do 90 dní. Zmena začína platiť od 1. novembra. Bez víz mohli českí občania do Kanady už od roku 1996, ale bezvízový režim vydržal iba do roku 1997. Kanada víza zaviedla ako opatrenie proti nežiadúcej migrácii. K prehodnoteniu postoja Kanady k vízom pre Čechov prispelo aj to, že počet zamietnutých žiadostí o kanadské víza klesol v Prahe dlhodobo pod dve percentá. Kanadské úrady budú situáciu po zrušení víz detailne monitorovať. Pre českých turistov totiž naďalej platí, že svoj krátkodobý pobyt v Kanade nesmú využívať k zárobkovej činnosti.

Zdravotný turizmus v produktovom portfóliu európskeho kúpeľníctva v ostatných rokoch rastie. Platí to aj v prípade 26 spoločností - členov Zväzu slovenských liečebných kúpeľov a žriediel (ZSLKaŽ), povedala prezidentka ZSLKaŽ a Európskeho zväzu kúpeľov Janka Zálesáková. V podmienkach Slovenska patria do zdravotného turizmu rôzne produkty, najsilnejším je však tradičné kúpeľníctvo. Realizuje sa v kúpeľných sídlach uznaných ako kúpeľné obce, a mestá, ktoré spĺňajú základné podmienky využívajú klimatické podmienky vhodné na liečenie alebo zdroj podzemnej vody, ktorý sa nachádza v mieste a je uznaný za

prírodný liečivý zdroj. K ďalším segmentom zdravotného turizmu patria návštevy akvaparkov, ozdravné, rekondičné a rekreačné produkty, ktoré rovnako prispievajú k formovaniu zdravotného štýlu a podpore zdravia. Európa volá po výraznejšej realizácii programov zameraných na prevenciu. Nikto nie je na Slovensku lepšie pripravený na poskytovanie produktov cielených na preventívnu starostlivosť ako kúpele.

Slávnostnou archijerejskou svätou liturgiou v staroslovanskom jazyku vyvrcholilo 4. novembra v pravoslávnom katedrálom chráme Alexandra Nevského v Prešove privítanie ostatkov dvoch významných pravoslávnych svätcov z Grécka - Jana Ruskeho Vyznavača a Dimitrija Solunského. Jan Rusky žil v rokoch 1690- až 1730. Trpel za kresťanskú vieru po tom, čo ho počas tureckých vpádov zajali a predali do otroctva. Svätý veľkomočeník Dimitrij Solunský pôsobil v 2. storočí n.l. a taktiež zomrel pre vieru. Ostatky svätcov si tak mohli prezrieť pravoslávni veriaci v Humennom, Snine, Košiciach, Kropachoch, Poprade, Spišskej Novej Vsi, Michalovciach, Medzilaborciach, vo Svidníku a pod. Ostatky svätcov sa dostali na Slovensko na podnet Bratstva pravoslávnej cirkvi Syndesmos. Táto organizácia má na Slovensku dlhoročnú históriu. Pracuje s mládežou a pomáha pri jej kresťanskom formovaní.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Známe pútnické miesto Staré Hory



FOTO TASR - Jozef Durník

Medzi najznámejšie pútnické miesta v Banskobystrickej diecéze, ktoré v posledných dňoch navštívilo mnoho ľudí, patrí volakedajšia banícka obec Staré Hory neďaleho Banskej Bystrice. Vypína sa v nej starodávny a praslávny kostol zasvätený Navštíveniu Preblahoslavennej Panny Márie, ktorom sa už od 15. storočia uchováva pamätná socha Bohorodičky. Od začiatku 90-tych rokov minulého storočia chrám poctili titulom Basilica minor.

Na Starých Horách sa počas roka koná niekoľko pútí. Prvá a najväčšia na Slávnosť Zoslania Ducha Svätého a druhá väčšia na sviatok Nanebovzatia Panny Márie. Okrem týchto pútí prichádzajú pútnici nielen na väčšie mariánske sviatky, ale zastavujú sa tam každý deň. Neodmysliteľnou súčasťou pútnického miesta je prameň Studnička. Podľa ústneho podania sa jeho vznik odvodzuje z čias občianskych nepokojov v 17. storočí, keď celé okolie obce bolo v rukách protestantského vojska. Jej obyvatelia sa obávali, že nepriatelia dostanú sochu Panny Márie. Zložili ju preto z oltára, dôkladne zabalili a potom zakopali na mieste terajšej Studničky. Roku 1711 ju vykopali z úkrytu a preniesli na oltár. Na pamiatku, že tam na kopci bola kedysi ukrytá socha, vyvesili obraz Panny Márie. Pod obrazom vyvieral svieži prameň. Dlhé roky bol prameň zanedbávaný. Zmenilo sa to až 1. septembra roku 1886, keď sa náhle uzdravil z ťažkej choroby starohorský farár Matej Hrivňák. Po prechladnutí mal veľké bolesti hlavy, uší a d'asien. Keď zlyhali lieky a bolesti sa zväčšovali, obrátil sa s dôverou o pomoc k Panne Márii. Dal si priniesť vodu z mariánskej Studničky a len čo vypil prvý pohár vody, bolesti hneď prestali, trauje sa v ústnom podaní.

Z vďačnosti za svoje zázračné uzdravenie dal farár postaviť dôstojný stánok. V prostrednej kaplnke umiestnili drevenú sochu Panny Márie, dielo tirolského rezbára Rungaldiera. V súčasnosti sa socha Panny Márie nachádza na hlavnom oltári v kaplnke sv. Anny.

TASR

Juraj Vancák vo večnosti

Vo veku 49 rokov zomrel v Linden, New Jersey dlhoročný oddaný člen a funkcionár Slovenského kultúrneho strediska v Linden pán Juraj Vancák. Juraj prišiel do Spojených štátov v roku 1987 zo Slanica na Východnom Slovensku. Najprv sa usadil v Linden, N.J. a za posledných 18 rokov pracoval ako mechanik u Glaco-Smith-Kline CO., Clifton, N.J.

Za 25 rokov bol verným manželom Darine Vancák rodenej Korodi. Bol láskyplným otcom pre Sláva z Linden a Erika na Slovensku.

Za nebohým smútia na Slovensku jeho sestra Irena Gažo, vnúčatá Štefan, Samuel a Nikolas. Juraj Vancák bol láskyplným manželom, otcom, starým otcom a priateľom, ktorým bude veľmi chýbať. Nech zostane navždy v našich v spomienkach.