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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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Happy Thanksgiving 2016

As I write this message we near Election Day across the USA. Political pundits for the past several weeks have flooded the newspapers and the radio and TV screens. The Democrats, the Republicans, the Tea Party activists have spread their "gospels" preaching their solutions for what's wrong in America. Donald Trump has appealed to his potential voters. Some people lament at the choice of candidates.



Andrew M. Rajec

serve" may have some merit.

We have seen in the past few years a general polarization of our Nation. Some can be attributed to the strong stands, both pro and con, on abortion. Others point to the trend toward socialism. Others say we just don't respect each other anymore. It is a "me first" attitude.

The strength of America has been its ability to have its citizens and political groups make

compromises for the general good of all (I don't suggest a compromise on abortion).

Whether or not the new Administration and Congress, whatever its make-up, can work together for the common good, remains to be seen. With billions of dollars spent on advertising of all kinds, some critics say that our political system is now made up of the "best politicians money can buy". I hope that is not the case.

Election night Tuesday will be very interesting. I know I will stay up late. We all hope and pray that our elected officials have the welfare of our Nation as their priority.

We still live in the greatest country on Earth. May it remain that way.

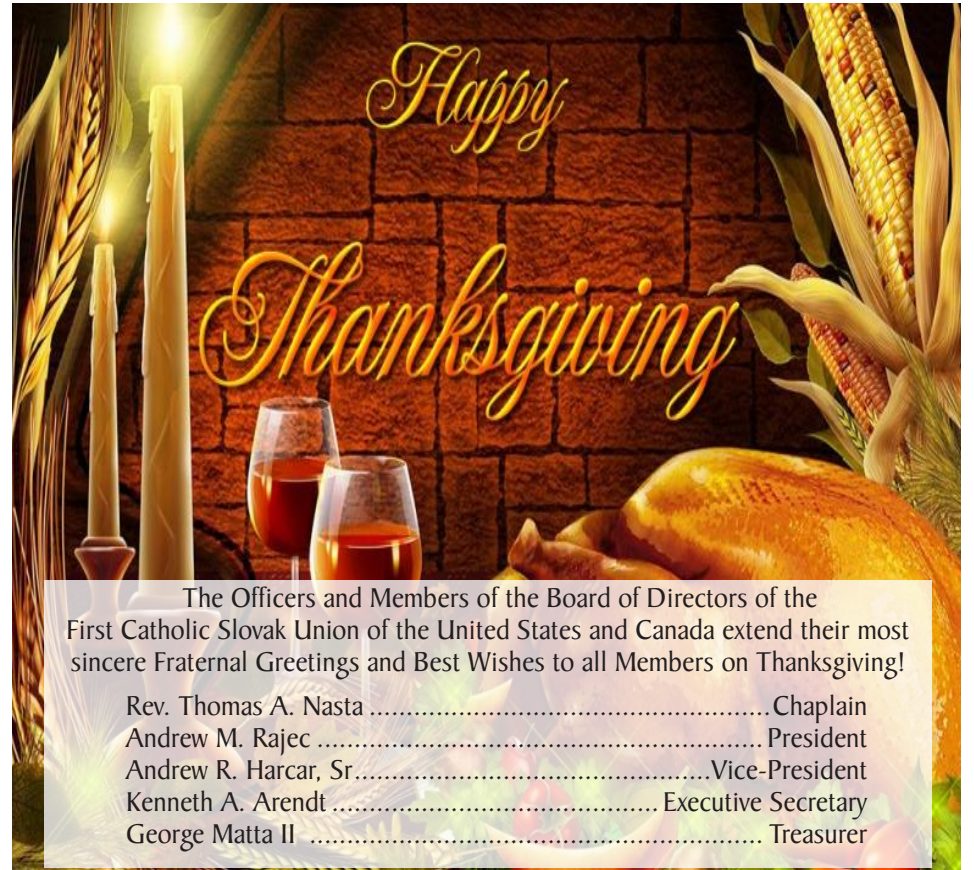
God bless America.
Happy Thanksgiving

Andrew M. Rajec
President

I don't pretend to have the solutions for our Nation's ills. However, I think we all can see evidence of underlying divisions in our Nation's fabric.

Economists and others report that we have the greatest concentration of wealth since the Great Depression in the wealthiest 10% of the population and especially in the wealthiest 1%; the disastrous conditions in many of our cities, both large and small, especially those in the northern "rust belt"; the seemingly almost permanent existence of an "underclass" that cannot or does not rise out of poverty; our National Debt that appears out of control and threatens us and our children to foreign servitude; the destruction of our basic industries; the decline of our social and moral fabric. I could go on but you know the issues.

Unfortunately, probably only 50% of eligible voters will vote at this election. The old saying "People get the government they de-



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

- Rev. Thomas A. Nasta Chaplain
- Andrew M. Rajec President
- Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. Vice-President
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Graduating HS Members:
Apply for \$1000 Scholarship
See p 11

Christmas Coloring Contest In This Issue



Hey, Kids.
Sharpen your crayons!
It's time once again for the annual National Christmas Coloring Contest.
See pages 6-7 for details.

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

**November 20, 2016 -
Solemnity of Christ the King
Gospel: Luke 23: 35-43**

On this feast of Christ the King we begin our reflection at mass with the collect or opening prayer; in part it reads: "Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe..." Here we see right away that Christ is proclaimed as the King of all that

exists, and that his kingship extends in a salvific and redemptive way to all creation. In other words, Christ's Kingdom is not a dominion of warriors and power struggles, but of peace and renewal in all things.

The expression "to restore all things in Christ," employed in the liturgy today and made famous by Pope Pius X in the early twentieth century, at a time when the kingdoms and royal houses of Europe were teetering, is ultimately taken from the Letter to the Ephesians (Eph 1:10). The word rendered in English as "restore" or "renew" or "sum up" is the Greek term *ἀνακεφαλαιῶσθαι*. Seminary Greek students the world over shudder when they see such a tongue-twister on a quiz or exam, but there is no need to fear: this word describes something being completely re-made or refreshed "from the top" in such a way that it is totally revived.

Exactly this sort of spiritual revitalization is what is referred to in the second reading today, taken from the Letter to the Colossians. There we hear the following exhortation to gratitude: "Let us give thanks to the Father...He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Col 1:12-14). The author is urging all Christians to praise God for the fact that in Christ we have found renewal and enduring hope; we have inherited the treasure of his Kingdom, which comes to us in the form of redemption and reconciliation!

This top to bottom re-making of humanity impresses upon us the image of the crucified and risen Christ: "in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him" (Col 1:19-20). Through the cross we have access to the Kingdom and all of its blessings; we also learn that our discipleship toward Christ and our sharing in his Kingdom will always be marked by a tension between the cross and the resurrection—the cross is the boundary between earthly kingdoms and the Kingdom of God, and the resurrection is the guarantee that the Kingdom of God indeed has come and is awaiting our full participation.

We see all of this played out powerfully in the gospel when the "good thief" addresses Jesus with extraordinary humility and with an obvious sense of God's justice and mercy, two beautiful gifts we celebrate in a special way today as we formally conclude the "Year of Mercy" convoked by Pope Francis. Utterly helpless, the condemned man pleads: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" and Jesus replies immediately: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:42-43).

The thief offers a life of sin and is granted life eternal; he brings naked hope and is given the mantle of salvation; he presents a history of dissolution and discovers a future of redemption. No matter what "powers of darkness" seem to possess us we believe in a God



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

who will "transfer us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins". The good thief saw this and rejoiced; may we follow him in putting our faith in Jesus, so that we might enter into the Kingdom of Christ, in whom God has truly restored all things.

**November 27, 2016 – First Sunday of Advent
Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44**

We ended the Church Year with readings about the Second Coming of the Lord, and as we begin the new Church Year with the First Sunday of Advent we hear a similar message, "For at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." The emphasis, however, is different, rather than focus on the final judgement the readings call us to wake up and prepare with joy for the Lord's presence. The preface for the first two weeks of Advent speaks of the Two Comings of Christ; the first coming when he took on flesh and was born into the world, and the second coming when he returns in Glory.

During Advent we call to mind how Christ has already been born into the world. The Nativity scenes, the Christmas Carols and Advent Prayers direct us to celebrate this birth. God's gift of himself to us out of his love for us. Most of our Advent preparation directs us to the beautiful and simple birth of Jesus in the manger. This is our foundation for not losing sight that this baby is our Messiah and Savior. He suffered and died for our sins, and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. The two words that sum up Advent are Joy and Glory. These call us to approach Advent as a time of joyful preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago, and the glory in which he will return.

As we begin Advent let us put ourselves back in time and imagine what it was like for Mary and Joseph as they awaited the birth of Jesus. The faith of Mary to say yes to the angel at the Annunciation, and the Faith of Joseph to believe that Mary was indeed virtuous and faithful, and to accept the words of the angel in his dream. They believed, disregarding what the world might say, that God was acting in their lives calling them to be part of something mysterious and beautiful. Leading them to live chaste lives because of the awesome reality of the Annunciation. Where is our faith when we face difficult times? Our challenges are far less than those of Mary and Joseph, but to each of us the situations that challenge our faith are real and difficult. Mary and Joseph are models of faith. They accompany us on our journey of faith, even during the most trying times.

Look at Jesus, God, sitting at the right hand of the Father, who humbles himself to be born into the world and become like us in all things but sin. It takes a perfect love to act in such a perfectly humble way. A love and humility that can only be found in God, and yet we are the beneficiaries of it. How much do we appreciate this perfect love of God? How much do we realize how he humbled himself for our sake? These are questions that can fill us with humility as we stand with awe in the presence of God, to experience the incomprehensible love of God.

May we begin Advent by looking within ourselves and reflecting on our Faith, Humility, Glory and Awe, as well as how we respond to God's love. This might mean stepping back for a week or two from the premature singing of Christmas Carols and decorating, so as to savor this season of preparation. This will hopefully lead us through the four weeks of Advent to a richer and deeper celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, and to joyful awaiting for his coming again in glory.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

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WEDNESDAY, FEB 15	MONDAY, FEB 6

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Message from the National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

Millions in the United States each year look to the three events that make, in their minds, Thanksgiving Day parades, football, and food..

Even though all three have become identified with this national holiday, only one of them has anything remotely to do with the reason for Thanksgiving Day in the first place. Only one of the three of its very nature beckons us to give thanks to the Lord.

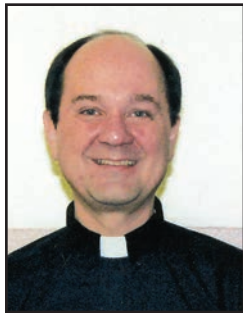
We can live without parades and football, but none of us would be alive if it were not for food.

There seems to be no end to the number of topics related to food. There is food marketing, food safety, food preparation, and food preservation. Food is a subject of countless books. People go to school specifically to learn about food, nutrition, and food handling. There are two television networks dedicated to food. And, of course, many of us will have at least one cookbook in our kitchens.

So much research on food and education about is readily available. We have a seemingly insatiable interest in food learning about food. On the other hand, when it comes to learning the importance of remembering and giving thanks to the One who provides us with food, there is hardly a mention.

As much as we may look forward to sharing a special meal with family and close friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, we cannot at the same time neglect to give praise to the Lord for providing us with such abundant blessings.

So, enjoy the parades and enjoy the football games on Thanksgiving Day, but above all, be grateful to God who gives us our daily bread.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain

2017 March for Life



Our Presence at the 44th Annual Right to Life March on Friday, January 27, 2017 in Washington, DC, is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Slovak Union (FCSU) supports the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU, together with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), is once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH, for this very important trip. For the past few years we have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve two buses for the March. Our organizations are proud to encour-

age our members along with many young students from area Catholic High Schools to participate. It is a very rewarding experience to actively participate and help relay this very important message of supporting the Right to Life mission.

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA home Office. Her phone number is 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at Kelly@fcsla.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 15th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seat. You can also go to our website www.fcsla.org for a tentative itinerary for the trip.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online for information and transportation. Call your local church or diocese, they may be able to help.

Christmas Oplatky – 2016



Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 24 until December 16, 2016.

The Oplatky, five in one package, are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$6.00 and upward depending upon the number of packets ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Customized

requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to **Jankola Library** is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place an order contact Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

From the Office of the Executive Secretary



In observance of Thanksgiving, the Home Office and Jednota Estates will be closed:

Thursday, November 24, 2016, and Friday, November 25, 2016.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

A Reporter Becomes a Sister of Life

Mark Zimmermann likes to keep track of his former employees. My good friend, who's the editor of the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington (D.C.) Archdiocese, isn't up to anything nefarious. Far from it; he's interested in how all of his one-time coworkers are advancing their careers. And he's not above throwing a bouquet their way if it's deserved.

That's especially the case with a young woman named Henrietta Gomes, who came to the Standard some years ago as a bright-eyed graduate of the journalism school at Catholic University. She moved on from the paper, three years later, with other things on her mind. But she never forgot the time she spent at the Standard, especially her first day. And what's more, Mark Zimmermann never forgot her.

Fast-forward 15 years, to a day in the summer of 2016. That was when Henrietta Gomes, now 36, made her final profession as Sister Grace Dominic of the Sisters of Life. Zimmermann admits to having tears in his eyes that day, and if I'd been there I have no doubt that I would have joined him. It was that special a day.

One reason Henrietta—Sister Grace Dominic—never forgot that first day at the Standard was that it was a terrible day, a day of death and destruction. It was 9/11, September 11, 2001, and her first assignment, the one no reporter can ever forget, was to cover a Mass for Peace, hastily put together, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Zimmermann believes the seeds of a vocation were born then and there—"by that day's moments of grace," he later wrote.

At any rate, Henrietta Gomes went on to other things: a master's degree in theology from the Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio; another job as a reporter, this time at the Arlington (Virginia) Catholic Herald. Then she joined the Sisters of Life, as a postulant. And eight years later, on August 6, 2016, she made her final profession as Sister Grace Dominic.

I've always been interested in the Sisters of Life, in part because they were founded by one of my former bosses, Cardinal John O'Connor of New York. I know that he put his heart and soul into the project, and today, in their 25th year, they already number more than 100. As do all members of the community, Sister Grace Dominic promised not only poverty, chastity and obedience, but also "to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life, and to persevere faithfully until death."

Zimmermann describes Sister Grace as "a petite woman with a radiant smile." Judging by the photograph that accompanies the article, she's all that and more. He also wrote that at her Mass of Thanksgiving, Sister Grace Dominic encouraged people to be open to God's plan for their vocation, whether it involves marriage, the priesthood or religious life.

"God has an incredible plan for your life," she said.

"Our former reporter," Zimmermann wrote, "who began working for the Catholic Church on a day of fear and death, now has devoted her life to bringing Christ's love to others."

As I said, Mark Zimmermann likes to keep tabs on his former reporters. I don't know about you, but I'm awfully glad he does..



The New Academic Year for the Pontifical Slovak College in Rome Begins

The new academic year 2016 – 2017 in The Pontifical Slovak College of Saint Cyril and Methodius in Rome solemnly began on October 15, 2016. The spiritual retreat was given by the new rector of the college, Rev. Pavol Zvara for the priests of the college. In his introduction to the meditation, the rector invited the priests to pay attention to time management, giving importance to every moment of the day, especially concerning time for communication with the God in prayer. The Holy Mass was celebrated after the retreat with the invocation of the Holy Spirit – Veni Sancte. The Mass offered the opportunity to pray to the Holy Spirit for the blessings needed to make time for studying during the academic year.

- Submitted by Rev. Jozef Barlaš. Photo courtesy of : Rev. ThLic. Peter Fogaš

Branch 89 November Meeting



The officers of Branch 89 at their November 5, 2016 meeting at Alioto's Restaurant in Wauwatosa, WI (L – R): Paul Novak, Secretary and Treasurer; Dan Loduha, Auditor; and Mike Novak, President. After the meeting the members enjoyed a delicious lunch and an afternoon of fellowship.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director. Photo courtesy of Rudy Bernath

District 2 Awards Scholarship Grant at Annual Meeting



The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District 2 held its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, October 16, at the Convent of the Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict in Oak Forest, IL. At the meeting, John and Lucille Blasko of Branch 581 accepted a \$200 Bishop Stefan Moyzes District 2 Scholarship Grant on behalf of their grandson from District 2 President John Jurcenko (L).

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

Prince of Peace Parish

Presents



23RD ANNUAL SLOVAK VILIIJA & JASLICKARI PROGRAM

Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner & Folk Entertainment

On Saturday, December 10, Prince of Peace Parish (South Side) will host the 23rd Annual Slovak Vilija. The Vilija is a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner featuring homemade Slovak delicacies and authentic folk entertainment sure to warm your spirit. The evening begins as the first star rises with a short reading of Christ's birth and sharing of oplatky, a communion-like wafer. Scrumptious baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohy, bolbalky (bread balls rolled in poppyseed or sauerkraut), and palachinky (jam-filled crepes) crown the menu. It quickly brings to mind meals at grandma's house so many years ago. And it's fun, too – even if you don't follow Slovak traditions. Share your favorite Christmas memories, do a little caroling and even purchase a gift for someone special.

The highlight of the evening is the performance of the Pittsburgh Slovaks -- the Tri-State's oldest Slovak folk ensemble – presenting a variety of traditional dances, songs and hymns, culminating with the story of the shepherds' visit to the newborn Christ Child.

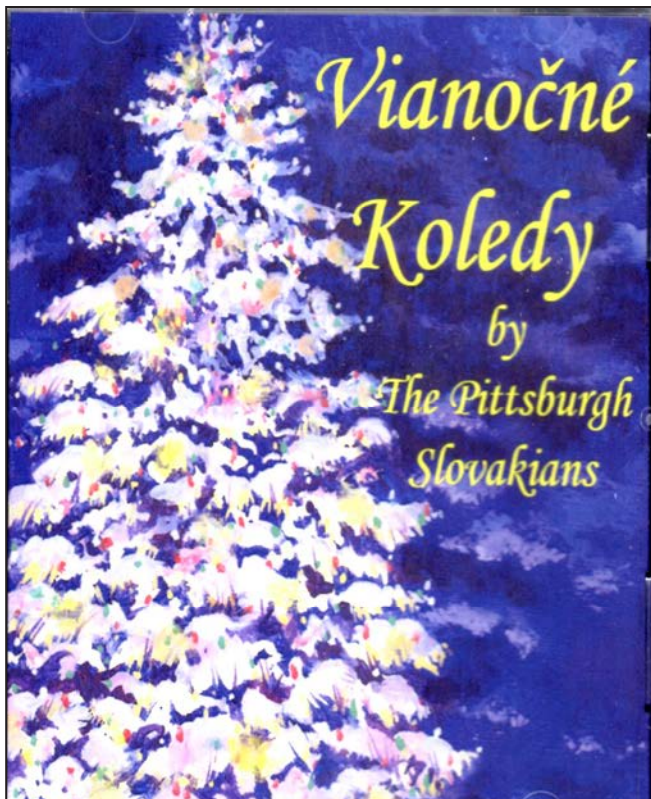
Prince of Peace Parish Center is located at 81 So. 13th Street in South Side, Pittsburgh, PA, and its facilities are fully accessible. Doors open at 4 p.m.; dinner is served at 5 p.m.

Ohio Fraternal Alliance 2017 Scholarship Program offers \$500 to Qualifying Graduating HS Seniors



The Ohio Fraternal Alliance (OFA) will award three college scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. As a member of the OFA, First Catholic Slovak Union members who are Ohio residents and will graduate from high school in 2017 are eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting applications is March 15, 2017. You can obtain an application, including requirement details, by contacting OFA Third Vice President Robert Tiell at either: 419-595-2756 (h); 419-934-0227 (c); or robertstiell@aol.com. Or by visiting the Ohio Fraternal website ohiofa.org or the First Catholic

Union website fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships.



This recording is the result of several decades in which the Pittsburgh Slovaks have spread the Slovak Christmas Spirit through their Christmas performances. The carols offered here are priceless treasures that will re-awaken cherished traditions and memories.

Includes such favorites as:

Do Hory do lesa valasi/ Povedzte nám pastierovia/Plesajte všetci ľudia/Narodil sa Kristus v Betleme./ Dnešný deň sa radujme/Tichá Noc/Silent Night and more!

Make Checks payable and mail to: **Pittsburgh Slovaks**
234 ILION St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

\$15.00 each includes postage.

News From Slovakia

Slovakia and China Ink Memorandum on Customs to Accelerate Trade

Bratislava/Riga, November 6 (TASR correspondent) - A memorandum signed between Slovakia and China on Saturday (November 5) following the meeting of Heads of Government of Central and Eastern European countries (CEE) and China in the Latvian capital Riga should strengthen relations between the two countries in the field of customs duties and so accelerate bilateral trade.

Slovak Finance Ministry State Secretary Dana Meager, who inked the memorandum on Slovakia's behalf, stated that the agreement is a result of two years of work.

"Infrastructure isn't enough, we also need a legislative basis and customs regulations that will allow us to ensure that exchanges between Europe and Asia are rapid and at the same time that goods are transported from one continent to another safely," said Meager. According to her, the aforementioned agreement guarantees such cooperation on both sides, with China mainly seen as the country of export and Slovakia as an entry point to the Schengen area.

In this context, Meager stressed the importance of freight rail transport from Asia to Europe via the Trans-Siberian Railway. While the sea route takes 45 days, only ten-twelve days are required via rail. "It's a significantly faster means of transport. For Chinese and European entrepreneurs it's also a much quicker way of obtaining money from business," said the state secretary.

At the same time Meager pointed out that access through transit countries along the route, such as Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, is also very important. Therefore, Slovakia has already organized a meeting of representatives of railways and financial bodies from all countries concerned. "We discussed the content of our collaboration, potential problems, resolving cases in which violations of the law may take place," she said, adding that she hopes that the results of the negotiations will make the Trans-Siberian Railway accessible soon.

WTA Champion Cibulkova Receives Hero Welcome at Home

Bratislava, November 1 (TASR) - Slovak tennis player Dominika Cibulkova returned from the WTA Tour in Singapore to her homeland on Tuesday ranked as the official world No. 5 women's tennis player.

After defeating world No. 1 Angelique Kerber 6-3 6-4 in the WTA Finals on Sunday (October 30), Cibulkova brought home the victory trophy and 1,250 points added to her ranking.

Landing at Vienna Airport on Tuesday morning, Cibulkova was greeted by Slovak fans, family and friends. From Schwechat she went to Bratislava to begin another leg of her media programme. "I'm incredibly overjoyed.

Although Tuesday will be quite tough; from here we're going to a press conference and an autograph signing. There's a public holiday in Slovakia today, so we'll see how many people will come. We've got a private celebration later in the evening and we'll be flying off for a vacation on Wednesday," Cibulkova detailed her imminent plans.

"We celebrated my success of a lifetime at the hotel a little bit, shared toasts with the organization team. On Monday, I had a photosession with the (Billie Jean King) trophy and had a wonderful time. Originally, we were supposed to fly from Singapore straight to Maldives for vacation, but I wanted to stop by at home and celebrate this. They lent us the trophy, since we would have to wait two weeks for a replica and it needs to be returned to London in a day or two," Cibulkova said at her meet-and-greet with the media.

After her triumph at the WTA Finals, the number one Slovak tennis player has already set her sight on another goal - winning the Grand Slam title. "I've always dreamed of winning one of the Grand Slam tournaments. If a tennis player wants to succeed at such an event, all the planets must be well-aligned, and being in good shape and having peace of mind are a must. The next season will be a great challenge for me," she told the media.

Cibulkova's success in Singapore resonated among Slovak fans, who flocked to the autograph signing to take selfies with the Slovak player, take pictures with the trophy or get autographs on T-shirts and photographs.

Roman Catholics Throughout Slovakia Mark All Saints' Day

Bratislava, November 1 (TASR) - On November 1, Roman Catholics throughout Slovakia observe All Saints' Day - a day on which people gather in churches and cemeteries to pray for relatives who have passed away.

Priests in their sermons point to the saints as setting an example to living Christians by their lives.

The history of the All Saints' holiday goes back to the beginning of the 7th century, when Pope Boniface IV converted the pagan Pantheon in Rome into a Christian church in the year 610 AD. He consecrated the church in honour of the Virgin Mary and all the saints who had been martyred in defense of the faith and the Catholic Church.

In the 8th century Pope Gregory III declared November 1 to be All Saints Day. November 1 has been celebrated in Slovakia as a public holiday since 1994.

In the 10th and 11th centuries, All Souls Day or the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed was introduced to follow All Saints Day. It's based on the Catholic doctrine of purgatory, which states that the souls of the faithful who at death have not been cleansed from venial sins or have not fully atoned for mortal sins cannot yet attain the beatific vision but may be helped to do so by prayer and by the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. On November 2, priests usually appeal to people to repent and to strive to avoid sin.



The Pontifical Slovak College of SS Cyril & Methodius Observes All Saints Day in Rome

On November 1, 2016, the community of the Pontifical Slovak College of Saint Cyril and Methodius visited the main cemetery of Rome Prima porta, where a tomb of the Pontifical Slovak Institute of Saint Cyril and Methodius is located. Rev. Pavol Zvara, rector of the college, and Rev. Marek Haratim, vice-rector of the college, with priests, religious sisters and employees, the whole community of the college, celebrated the devotions and prayed for all who are buried there - including, deceased residents of our college and other Slovaks, who had been living in Rome. The following day, on the morning of November 2nd in the college chapel, the rector offered the sacrifice of the Holy Mass for all deceased residents, benefactors and friends of our college.

- Submitted by Rev. Tomáš Šnadrik. Photo courtesy of Rev. Peter Fogaš



The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey Invite You to the 2016 Viliya - Slovak Christmas Eve Supper

When: Sunday, December 4, 2016

Where: St. Andrew Abbey, 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cleveland, OH 44104

What: 12:00PM (noon) Mass in the Abbey Church, with Christmas Eve supper following in the Benedictine High School Cafeteria (located on the Abbey grounds)

Entertainment: Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland, Accordion Master Ralph Szubski, Slovak pastries for sale, exhibits & other Slovak items of interest

Cost: \$20 per ticket. Advanced sales only.

To order:

Please send a check or money order, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

St. Andrew Abbey - Viliya
2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Cleveland, OH 44104

For Info: please call 216-721-5300, ext. 0 (M - F, 8:00AM - 3:30PM)

SlovakAmericanCC.org

Slovak Ball

Join us for The 24th Annual Slovak Ball

Sat, Feb. 25, 2017

The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ

For reservations/sales contact:
Zuzana Krcmar
973-357-1209
slovakamericanc@gmail.com

7pm to 1am (Open Bar)
Live music by Express Band
Attire: Black tie optional

Tickets available online at:
<http://slovakball2017.eventbrite.com>

For more information visit us at:
SlovakAmericanCC.org

SAVE the DATE!

FCSU 2016 Christmas Coloring Contest

A

The Colors of Christmas

The colors of Christmas are bright and they're true
they tell of God's great love for me and for you.

Blue is the sky where the angels appeared
as they sang "Peace on Earth," to the shepherds who feared.

Silver is for the bright Christmas star
which guided the wise men from countries afar.

Gold tells of their gifts for the Baby that day
who they found in a manger, asleep on the hay.

Purple for suffering and death on a hill.

Red is the blood, which Jesus did spill.

Green shows that Jesus arose from the dead
and saved us and freed us, just as he said.



B



C



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

RULES

- Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture C
7 – 9 year olds – picture B
10 – 12 year olds – picture A
- Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
- Pictures may be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
- Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
- Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
- Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2016.**
- Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 Fraternal Activities Director
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

*Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2016
 Please print legibly*

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
 Certificate Number: _____ Branch Number: _____
 (MUST be filled in)
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email Address: _____

PRIZES

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:
1st Place –\$50 Gift Card
2nd Place –\$35 Gift Card
3rd Place –\$25 Gift Card
Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card

Annual ASCA Vilija Nears



The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will once again be hosting our traditional Vilija Dinner. This year it will be held on Sunday December 11, 2016 at 4pm at the Father Snock Center at Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish (former St. Matthias School) 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH. One of our most beloved Slovak traditions, Štedry Večer, or Vilija...the traditional Christmas Eve dinner is a special meal the family shares before going to celebrate midnight Mass. This dinner is filled with tradition and memories of our Slovak heritage. In eastern Slovakia it is a meatless meal but by no means a meager one. We will have the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal

featuring oplatky and honey, fish, pirohy, bobalky, mushroom soup and kolače. There will be musical entertainment by the John Lapinsky Orchestra and much more including a Basket Auction 50/50 drawing and a lotto tree raffle. We'll even have oplatky for sale! We will also be presenting the winner of our annual ASCA scholarship at this dinner and letting you know about some exciting projects coming up in our Slovak community.

While some of us still celebrate this traditional Christmas Eve dinner at home, many no longer have that opportunity and this annual dinner is our way of keeping our tradition alive. Whether you still have this dinner at home or you remember it from your childhood and would like to experience it again... or if you've never had the opportunity to experience it but would like to...come join us in celebrating our Slovak heritage. Get your tickets soon for the best seating. Once again we are going to hold our price at \$20/person. Tickets will be half price for children under 12 years and children under 4 will be free. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.** The deadline to purchase tickets is December 2nd. For tickets and information contact:

Ron Garchar at 330-533-7077 or Loretta Ekoniak at 330-549-3760 or e-mail Loretta at: loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com.

- Submitted by Loretta Ekoniak

Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner in Lorain on Dec 4, 2016



The United Slovak Societies will host a traditional Vilija dinner on Sunday December 4, 2016 at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, Ohio.

Cocktails 5:30, Dinner 6:00p.m. Entertainment by Johnny "Squeeze" Pastirik.

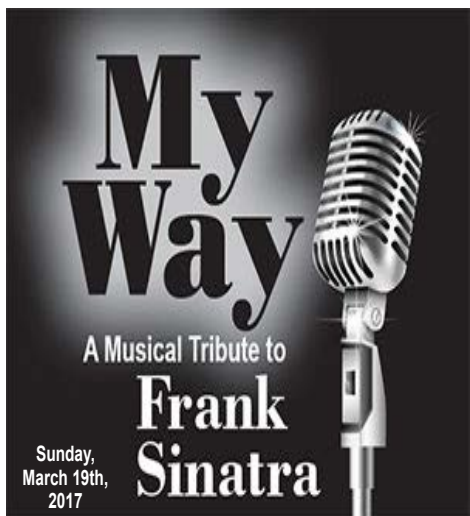
The dinner will consist of the Ladies Auxiliary perch, bobalki, pierohi, sauerkraut soup, kolacki, oplatky and wine toast. Cash bar including Zlaty Bazant will be available. Advanced ticket sales only. \$20.00, contact Len Zilko at 440/988-3236. The event is open to the public.

The United Slovak Societies is comprised of members of the following lodges; Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, National Slovak Society Assembly 160, First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 228, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch 114 and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union Branch 77.

Michele Mager
 Branch 228, FCSU
 Secretary-United Slovak Societies
 Board of Director Member,
 American Slovak Club- Lorain, OH

**District II Annual
 2017 BRUNCH AND PLAY**

On **Sunday, March 19, 2017**, a Brunch/Play event is scheduled at the Center for Performing and Arts, Theatre at the Center, located at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. Brunch starts at 12:45 pm, the show follows brunch at 2:30 pm. The show this year is called **"My Way, A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra."** Relive the legendary career of Frank Sinatra as four actors share more than 50 of his beloved hits. "Fly Me to the Moon," "Chicago," "New York, New York," "The Way You Look Tonight," and "That's Life" are just some of the tunes showcased in this musical tribute to the iconic success story of Ol' Blue Eyes.



If you have been to the brunch/play before, the price is \$31.50 per person. If you have never attended the brunch/play, District II Members pay \$36.50. Non-members pay full price (\$56.50, not including tax or gratuity). District II members, take advantage of this \$25 discount.

For more information, call Lynda Tanis at: 1-630-247-7521. Make checks payable to: **Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II** and mail to Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618. The deadline is January 15, 2017. The event is two months earlier this year, so be sure to mail in your payments before the deadline. Checks will not be honored after this date. *Hope to see you there!*



PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY



District II Annual 2017 Brunch and Play

Members attended last year	\$31.50 x _____ = \$ _____ total
Members not attended last year	\$36.50 x _____ = \$ _____ total
Non-members	\$56.50 x _____ = \$ _____ total

Member's Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

List names of all those attending on the back of this sheet. Make checks payable to Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II and mail together with check to: Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618.

Zabíjačka - The Slaughter in Slovakia

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

While the Dožinky (Harvest Festival) and Vinobranie (Wine Festival) traditionally celebrated the harvests during the autumn, another widespread Slovak custom this time of year was the Zabíjačka - the Slaughter. Since most Slovaks were peasants, they owned their own domestic animals, and they slaughtered them as part of their celebrations after the harvest. In some ways, it might be compared to the American and Canadian celebrations of Thanksgiving.

The Zabíjačka refers mainly to the pig slaughter and the ceremonial traditions surrounding it. In various regions, it is also referred to as a zakáľačka, bravčovina, svin-ský kar, or a karmina. The affair occurred once or twice every year, usually in the late fall about a month before Christmas, and sometimes, again in March before Easter. Before refrigeration, Slovaks needed to do the slaughter before or after warm weather so the meat would not spoil quickly.

The Zabíjačka became an important family event which ethnologist Katarína Ná-daská has studied in depth. She found that the custom started in the early Middle Ages, and originally began on December 21, the feast of St. Thomas, since the peasants believed magical powers flowed on that day. If the slaughter happened then, the meat would last longer, they thought. Young girls thought that if they threw a bone to a dog from the slaughter it would help them find a good mate. If the dog took one's bone first, she would be the first to marry.

Zabíjačka - The Slaughter

Preparation for the Zabíjačka began in the spring, when villagers would buy a small piglet (prasa) or have a piglet from a litter of their own pig (sviňa). All year long, they would feed the pig and wait until it was plump and fattened and weighed 200 pounds or more. In the towns, people would often buy their hog meat from a local butcher. Today, some people buy a grown pig, or a portion of a pig if they have a smaller family.

While most of us might think of a pig slaughter as an awful, bloody affair, Richard Lewis, who lived in Slovakia for four years, tells us in his Slovak Spectator article that it is not a creepy Halloween or nasty type of butchering, but done with respect for the animal. He writes, "it is bloody, brutal, gory. I have the pictures to prove it. But, no, it is not wanton, it is not cruel, and it is not gratuitous, at least in my book. That pig had been bred, cared for, nurtured, to be Ján's family's meat supply for the year. They had raised it with attention and treated it with respect." Nothing is wasted or needlessly thrown away, even the brains.

Preparation for the event began several days in advance, getting all the necessary tools together. The day before the slaughter, the men who would kill the pig would engage in a bout of heavy drinking to get themselves ready. Slivovica (a very strong plum brandy) freely poured. The event would bring together an extended family and could include various friends and neighbors. A division of labor would have the men doing the killing and cutting and smoking the meat, and the women would prepare the food.

First, at dawn the work began so they would have the entire day to butcher and



Butchering and processing the meat was often a day-long affair, as no part of the pig was ever wasted.

process the meat. The men would go to the pigpen (prasači chlievik) and kill the pig. Since my paternal grandparents had a farm, my father told me that he used to kill his family's pig with a sledge hammer. Many today use a pistol today. Sometimes the pig would manage to run away wounded but eventually succumb.

Once slain, they would drain all the blood from the pig. Then they would remove all the hair from the animal. Today they do so by shaving it or burn it off using a heat lamp. For butchering, they would use handsaws and various farm implements. They would place the pig on a wooden plank and wash it with hot water, chop off its head, and slice open its belly. The butchers would proceed to remove all entrails and internal organs, and hand over the intestines (črevá) to the ladies. While some women were cooking, other ladies would wash the intestines and use them as casings for making sausage and hurka (blood sausage), also referred to as jaternica and krvavička). The intestines had to be washed as many as 20 times, and then soaked in water with a mix of lemon, diced onions and black pepper.

While all this was happening, other women were preparing lunch (obed - the main meal in Slovakia). Some parts had to be eaten immediately, and that would be part of the main meal on the slaughtering day. The women would use the internal organs to make a soup (polievka or vývar) for and serve it with liver dumplings mixed with flour (pečeňové halušky). A cook would also bake some of the tastiest meats (pečené mäso) to serve as the main course.

After a hearty meal, the men proceeded to work at the job of making sausages (klobasy). They would butcher the meat and then grind it. After adding various spices such as salt, pepper, paprika, marjoram, and garlic, they would fill the intestines with the mixture. Then they would hang on sticks overnight and be put in a smokehouse (udiareň) the next day. Other meats were salted and soaked in their own juices in wooden tub (korýto) before going to the smokehouse. Bacon (slanina) was made from the fattest part of the hog.

The evening would typically end with a wholesome supper of the sauerkraut soup (kapustnica) and some baked pork. All involved in the Zabíjačka work would then enjoy a convivial evening of talk and drink, and

certainly not soft drinks!

Using the meat from the meal, they would also make hurky and tlačenka ("pressed meat" which we refer to as head cheese). No part of the pig was wasted. Slovaks used the pig's feet, tail, and even parts of the head, ears, and tail to make studenina (jelled pig's feet), also called huspenina. After cooking the mixture of studenina for 4-5 hours, it would be left outside to cool in old times, or in the refrigerator in modern times.

Childhood Memories

During my childhood, studenina was always my late father's favorite dish and he would relish it; we children shied away from the idea of eating a pig's feet. But hurky was another matter. We all loved hurky, which my mother used to get from the local Slovak butcher on the west side of Youngstown, Ohio. She used to fry it until the outside was crispy and we absolutely loved the taste of rice and fresh meat.

My dzedo (grandfather) also used to smoke his own sausages. I surmise that he bought part of a pig from a butcher and cured the meat himself. He built his own wooden smokehouse (udiareň) in his backyard and would smoke his own meats. He lit a small fire around some bricks and let the meat slowly smoke for about 5 days. Dzede did the same with bacon (slanina), which we would later eat with rye bread. They were ever so tasty. What we did not eat was stored in the basement in a cool pantry (špajza in the Spiš dialect) for the winter. In former times before refrigeration, Slovaks stored the meat in winter pits and cold cellar rooms.

Conclusion

Today the zabíjačka still occurs, but mainly in some villages, and fewer people raise their own pigs, and fresh meat is readily available. Fewer people wish to perform the hard, messy, and bloody work which our ancestors did both in the Old and New World. Ethnologist Ná-daská noted that many people know the slaughtering just from talking about the past with family members. Generic feasts have replaced the family feast, but the custom of the zabíjačka remains entrenched in the imagination and folk traditions. But it does persist in some of the more remote villages of Slovakia.

For vivid examples of the zabíjačka, one



Making sausages (klobasy) from the ground pork included mixing in various spices such as salt, pepper, paprika, marjoram, and garlic to the mixture.

may view some YouTube videos which individuals from Slovakia have posted on the internet. One can simply do a search with the term "zabíjačka" to view the action. See this video done in 2016 in fast time for a good short example of a pig slaughtering today: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYjJq8MwQhk>.

For a longer version of a zabíjačka done in 2014, see: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rS_qvEwVvRk

Sources

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Hi, Kids, and All Those Young at Heart.
 It's me, Chewy. Hey, you think any of these Old timey guys were Slovak? Hehehe.
 Have a great Turkey Day!!!



The Origins of Thanksgiving Day

In the United States, the modern Thanksgiving holiday tradition traces its origins to a 1621 celebration at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts. The feast and thanksgiving was prompted by a good harvest. In later years, the tradition was continued by civil leaders such as Governor Bradford who planned a thanksgiving celebration and fast in 1623. While initially, the Plymouth colony did not have enough food to feed half of the 102 colonists, the Wampanoag Native Americans helped the Pilgrims by providing seeds and teaching them to fish. The practice of holding an annual harvest festival like this however, did not become a regular affair in New England until the late 1660s.

ATTENTION
COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

From the desk
 of the Executive Secretary
 Kenneth A. Arendt

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 or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
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Christmas concert and dinner in Yonkers, NY, on December 11

Our Branch 41 member, Stephen J. Knoblock, will direct the traditional Christmas concert of chorus and instrumentalists "Journey to Bethlehem" on Sunday, December 11 at the Church of St. Casimir, 239 Nepperhan Avenue in Yonkers, N.Y. beginning at 3 p.m. The concert will feature the artistry of the choir of the former Most Holy Trinity Parish. The Slovak parish was shuttered on August 1, 2015. For the past 31 years, the concert was an integral part of the celebration of Christmas at the parish. This year's concert, the second in the majestic gothic Church of St. Casimir, under the baton of Maestro Knoblock will feature an array of traditional Advent and Christmas favorites and arrangements.

Following the concert, a buffet supper will be served in the church hall. Traditional Slovak and Polish culinary specialties will be enjoyed. Tickets for the concert and dinner are \$35.00 or \$10 for the concert alone. Reservations for the dinner are necessary and may be made by calling St. Casimir's Rectory at tel. 914-963-1254 or email: office@casimirchurch.com.

- Daniel F. Tanzone, Branch 41 member

You're Invited to a New Year's Eve Party

The Slovak American community in Cleveland will host its Second Annual New Year's Eve Party

When: Saturday, December 31, 2016

Where: Crystal Chalet, 3600 Biddulph Ave, Cleveland, OH

Time: Doors open at 5:30PM

Program: 5:30-7:00 Early Light Appetizers; 7:00-8:00

Dinner; 10:00-11:00 Hors d'oeuvres; Midnight – Champagne Toast to enjoy

Music: DJ Denis

Catering: Chef Melendez (www.MelendezLatinGrill.com)

Cost: \$75/person; kids under 18 free

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Please, RSVP by December 15.

To purchase: make check payable to Miriam Visnovsky and mail to Miriam Visnovsky, 3518 Stickney Ave, Cleveland, OH 44109.

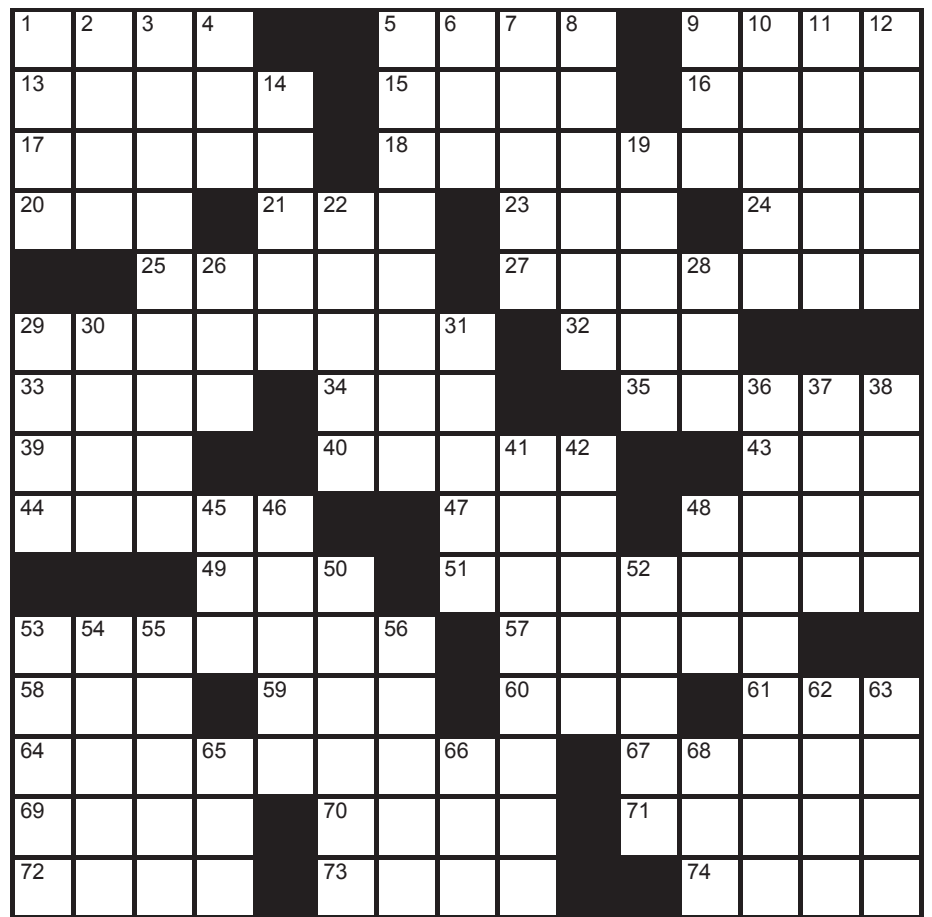


For more information, call or text Miriam at 440-638-9921.

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2016-2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
December 7, 2016	November 28, 2016
January 18, 2017	January 9, 2017
February 15	February 6
March 8	February 27
March 29	March 20
April 19	April 10
May 10	May 1
June 14	June 5
July 19	July 10
August 16	August 7
Sept 13	Sept 5
October 4	Sept 25
October 18	October 9
November 1	October 23
November 15	November 6
December 6	November 27

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Word-of-mouth
- 5 ___ Grande, Ariz.
- 9 Deli order
- 13 Bogs down
- 15 Nile reptiles
- 16 Egg cell
- 17 Spring month (Abbr.)
- 18 Sleight-of-hand activity
- 20 Antique auto
- 21 Devoured
- 23 Zodiac sign
- 24 ___ Juan
- 25 Judge's implement
- 27 Pawnbrokers, e.g.
- 29 Escort
- 32 Ryder Cup org.
- 33 Rural route
- 34 ___ Paulo, Brazil
- 35 Fire sign
- 39 Tolkien beast
- 40 Dog on *Frasier*
- 43 Playing card mark
- 44 Adolescents
- 47 Greek letter
- 48 Trait carrier
- 49 Bar order
- 51 Forage
- 53 Eccentric
- 57 Erica
- 58 Actress Scala
- 59 Windsor, for one
- 60 Psyches
- 61 Literary piece
- 64 Painting or photo type
- 67 Eskimo
- 69 Suffix with exist
- 70 Horned goddess
- 71 Soap opera's Lucci

Down

- 1 Poet Khayyám
- 2 Pickable
- 3 Haughtiness
- 4 Floral ring
- 5 Can be heavy for a cop or social worker
- 6 Volcano output
- 7 Incantation
- 8 Dozing
- 9 Swine
- 10 Give the slip
- 11 Hearsay
- 12 Forebodings
- 14 Work extra hard
- 19 Pines
- 22 Clipped
- 26 Gibbon, for one
- 28 Public works project
- 29 Dangerous blood problem
- 30 Aesop's also-ran
- 31 Bulges
- 36 Real estate sign, at times
- 37 Sovereign
- 38 Fencing sword

- 41 Most fidgety
- 42 Like some seals
- 45 Collar
- 46 Blind parts
- 48 Kind of instinct
- 50 Extract
- 52 Haven
- 53 Stared at, lasciviously
- 54 *Cheers* role
- 55 Social function
- 56 Charter
- 62 Radio tuner
- 63 Bunsen burner
- 65 LBJ was one
- 66 Grenade part
- 68 Kernel

See Solution on Page 16

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society - Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on November 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Sokolowski's. If you will be attending please RSVP at 216.228.8179. Election of officers will be held at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3P - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The 2016 annual meeting of Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will be held at 9:30AM on Sunday November 27, 2016 in Saint Joseph's church cafeteria at 604 North Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Election of officers for 2017 will be conducted followed by a short update of 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 4 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 4, will hold an annual meeting on December 18, 2016, at 3PM at the home of Anne Marie Hanlon, 2338 Lucina Ave., Pittsburgh, PA, 15210. New officers announced.

Anna Marie Hanlon, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

Branch 6K, St. Stephens Society, will hold their annual meeting and election of officers for 2017 on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at Chippers Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. The meeting will begin at 12 noon, followed by a provided lunch and fraternalism. All members of Branch 6K are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764 if you have any questions or plan to attend.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA.

Election of officers will take place. Members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, Pennsylvania will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4, at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant, PA.

Daniel Spegar, President

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The branch's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place and the distribution of our annual donations will be discussed.

We cordially invite our members to attend our meetings and enjoy seeing their friends.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

"Come One! Come All" - On Sunday, November 13, 2016, at 1:00PM, Branch 23 St Joseph Society will hold its second annual meeting at Hoss's Family Restaurant, Johnstown Pa. Near Walmart in Richland on 411 Theatre Drive. Jednota: come find out what it means.

All members of Branch 23 are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call Theresa Cassat 814-254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner Sunday, December 4, 2016 at St. Andrew Abbey 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH. Mass is at 12:00 (noon) with dinner to follow [Editor's Note: please see page 5 of

this issue].

Ticket prices are \$10 for branch members, \$20 for non-members. Reservations are required and available by calling Activities Director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 after 6:00PM. Please make checks payable to Branch 24. The deadline is Friday, November 18, 2016.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Branch Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699.

David Lang, Treasurer

BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael, Branch 35, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 1:00 pm, at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include officers' reports, discussion of branch activities and election of officers for the new year.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch #40, of the First Catholic Slovak Union, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 29, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting. A buffet luncheon will follow. Election of officers will take place. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 25, 2017.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016 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, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 - SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75KJ, will hold its semiannual meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 10:00AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 17872. Agenda items include: the presentation of fiscal year-end reports and financial statements; submission of the auditors' reports; nomination and election of officers for the coming year; and any additional branch business.

All interested members should make an effort to attend this semiannual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 extends an invitation to all members and guests to join the branch for a meeting and social, with luncheon to follow on Saturday, November 5, 2016, at Alliotto's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53222. Social time is from noon until 12:30PM; the meeting is from 12:30PM to (approximately) 1:00PM, with lunch to be served directly afterwards. Lunch for members is complimentary. Guest cost is \$20.00 per person. Reservations are required and must be made by November 1, 2016, by calling Mike Novak at 414-445-5382. Please make checks payable to Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Branch 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222. Among the topics of discussion: Donations, 2017 activities.

Fraternally,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 112 - MAHANOEY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting for Branch 112 will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016. The meeting will begin at 1PM at Palermos Restaurant on the Min-

ersville Pottsville highway. The agenda will include: officers reports, election of officers, the 2018 convention and new business.

Please call 570-640-1796 by November 27 if you plan on attending the meeting.

Karen Engle Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Throughout the month of November, we remember our members who have passed on to their eternal reward. Please pray for the following members who have died during the past year:

Stephen Paulov, Joseph Tybor, Anna Capiak, Marie Slifka, Charles Capiak, Jewel Glines, Helen Ibsen, Alice Kerpec, Michael Likvan, Frank Bucz, Mildred Janik, Edward Malcak, and Louis Sovcik

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the Park Inn By Radisson, at 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Election of Officers for the coming year will be held. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast. Call for reservations by November 21, 2016, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 173 - GREATER WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in the greater Wilkes-Barre-Wyoming Valley Area, will hold its annual meeting on December 4, 2016, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12:00 pm.

General Business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

In addition officers will be elected for Branch 173.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvasky at 570-4032067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvasky, President.

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold its next meeting on Saturday November 5, 2016 immediately following the 5 PM Mass at St. Florian church in United, PA.

The meeting will be in the school hall on the church grounds. On the agenda: election of officers and finalizing plans for the Vilija to be held on December 4, 2016 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. Food and refreshments will be served. For more information or directions call 412-216-5527.

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 invites you to attend our monthly branch meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. So for the remainder of the year, the monthly meetings are as follows: December 1st (with the election of officers on the agenda).

The branch meeting begins directly following the regularly held 7:00PM monthly meeting of the CU Club. Please mark your calendars.

We look forward to seeing you.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on December 11th, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, 16059. Election of officers will be held, discussion of upcoming events and review of by-laws.

All are invited to attend and a blessed Holiday is extended to everyone.

Joesph Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of

each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The Branch: will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 19, 2016. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their annual meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 3:00PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2017, followed by a luncheon - with reservations to be made by calling 330-755-8316.

We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016, at 1:00PM at the Bedford Trails & Golf Course Restaurant. On the agenda: general branch business and election of officers for 2017 will take place at this meeting.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PA

The annual meeting of Saint Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will be held on Sunday November 27, 2016 at 9:30 am in Saint Joseph's church cafeteria at 604 North Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Officers will be elected for 2017 and suggestions for branch activities will be discussed. Please spread the word so more of our members will attend and become involved in branch activities. Please plan to attend.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday November 20, 2016 at St Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa, at 1:00 P.M. Branch activities will be discussed. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of the election of officers for the New Year. We will also be hosting the District meeting on November 27, 2016 at Holy Trinity church hall in West Mifflin, Pa. All officers and members are urged to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist, Branch 290, will be holding a meeting on December 5, 2016, at 6:30PM. Please attend. An election of officers will take place at this meeting. Please call Joe at (732) - 469-5256 for the location. Please leave a message.

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 12, 2016, at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch Street, Lansford, PA, 18232, at 6PM. Election of officers will take place at this time.

Anyone needing service or more insurance should call 1-570-645-4872 and your call will be promptly returned.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 312 - BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its first meeting of the new year on Sunday, January 29, 2017, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Mon-

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at the newly renovated Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA. The celebration will begin with Mass at 4PM in the Chapel. We will then proceed to the banquet hall for our traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner featuring: oplatki with honey; mushroom/sauerkraut soup; baked fish; pierogis; prunes; pagach; and kolache. After the awarding of door prizes, the renowned Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. Please plan to attend and help preserve this beautiful custom. Tickets are: \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 3 to 11. Reserve your tickets early (they are limited) by calling Ticket Chairman, Darlene Patty at 724-537-7743. No reservations will be accepted after November 27.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 276 will host the Pittsburgh District winter business meeting on Sunday, November 27 at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in West Mifflin. A luncheon will be served at 1 PM. The business meeting will follow. Officers for 2017 will be elected at this meeting. We will also plan meetings and activities for the coming year. By the way, the Steelers play the Colts on Thanksgiving Day so there is no game on Sunday. Please RSVP by November 1 at the latest so we can finalize details with the caterer. Leave a message at 412-672-0379 or emailmanasta@verizon.net.

The District Activities Director Annie Ondrejco is organizing a Facebook group to be called Jednota Pittsburgh District Activities. Join the group to keep up with district activities. Annie would like suggestions for additional activities. Bring your ideas to the winter meeting or contact Annie at aondrejco@gmail.com.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. Watch for information about tours to Slovakia and local Vilijas. There is interesting article on Slovak Harvest Festivals by Michael Kopanic: Part 1 in the September 21st issue, Part 2 in October 5. The many delicious Slovak wines are described in the October 19 issue.

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: November 7 – Show & Tell, December 5 – Slovak Christmas Customs. Become a member of the WPCSA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

** Slovak Heritage Festival at Pitt – Sunday, 12-5, November 6 – Slovak food, cultural displays, lectures, entertainment, vendor tables – free admission – Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. Polishfest – November 13.

** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.

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

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

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php.

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting on October 18-21, 2017 in Pittsburgh. Your correspondent will be giving a presentation on Slovak Alias Names. Further information can be found at www.cgsi.org.

** FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. There are many interesting Slovak related links at fcsu.com/resources.

If anyone knows of additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice, they should email information to the secretary.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary
manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 12 – THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

Our President Dorothy Petrus and the officers of the Msgr. Hlinka of the Mon Valley wish their brothers and sisters of the First Catholic Slovak Union a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, prosperity, and much happiness.

District 12 – the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District – will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 1:00PM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, PA. On the agenda will be election of officers. Members are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT

The Prince Pribina District cordially extends an open invitation, to join us for an early Christmas Slovak Mass Celebration on Saturday, December 17, 2016 at 2:00 PM at John Paul II, Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Pavol Schulak, SVD, from San Bernardino. Directly after the Mass, the district will hold its Annual Meeting at 3:00PM. On the agenda will be: planning activities for the year 2017; preparations for a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico; election of officers for the year 2017; and a financial report. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent Annual Meeting.

We will follow with tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children. Also, a gourmet lunch "Kapustnica" & dessert will be served.

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

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The annual meeting of District 19, the Monsignor Michael Shuba District, will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2017, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, ON. Meeting and Lunch start time is 1:30pm. Please RSVP to Mike Kapitan 416-543-4111 if you are coming for lunch.

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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astery Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650. The agenda for this annual meeting will include election of officers. For more information or questions, contact Micki Smolleck at 724-539-8326.

We wish all of our members a very Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Micki Smollec, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. John Baptist Society Branch 313 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 11:30AM at Arrowhead Ales Restaurant 2101 Calistoga Dr. New Lenox, IL. The agenda will be a discussion of branch business and membership. A lunch will follow. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Any questions please call Branch 313 President Joseph Bugel 708-349-7873.

Joseph Bugel, President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter and Paul, Branch 320, want to extend to you and your families our best wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Lodge 367, Fairchance, PA, will hold its annual Christmas meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2016, at the Park Inn by Radisson 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401 at 5 o'clock. Election of officers for 2017 and new projects for the following year will be discussed. All members are welcome; reservations can be made by calling Audrey Balazik, Balazik, president, at 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, secretary, at 724-569-1006. We would like to wish all our mem-

bers and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 1:00PM at the home of President Michael P. Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave, Beaverdale, PA, 15921. On the agenda: general business and election of officers for the calendar year 2017.

Respectfully,

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Br. 401 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 1:00 pm. Location will be at the home of Patrick Froncek, Branch Secretary, 1223 Wysocki Ave., North Apollo, PA. Election of 2017 officers will be on the agenda. Contact can be made at 724-664-8216 ... hope to see you there. Also, please don't forget that JEP policies make great Christmas gifts for the new generation of Slovak youth! Let's do our best to keep this fraternal strong and growing.

Peace and fellowship to all,

Patrick Froncek, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. at Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Branch officers will be elected at this December meeting. All members of Branch 410 are cordially invited to attend. Call for reservations by November 28, 3016 at 724-425-2576.

Geri Buchheit, Recording Financial Secretary

BRANCH 419 – MOUNTAIN TOP, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419, Saint Stephen the Martyr, will conduct a meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016, starting at 12:30PM, at Norm's Restaurant on Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA (across from the Home Depot). Refreshments will be served. The meeting will include election of officers. All are encouraged to attend; please join us welcoming our Branch President Frank Wassil after three months in the hospital and then a physical therapy facility.

Carol Phillips, Acting Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, December 3, 2016. The meeting will be held at 1:00 PM, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129. (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.)

On the agenda will be officers' reports, the 2016 financial report, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch. The election of branch officers will take place at this meeting. All members are urged to attend.

Refreshment will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484- CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will hold its Annual Meeting on December 18, 2016, at the home of Treasurer Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. The meeting will start at 2:00PM. On the agenda will be financial reports, election of officers, payment of donations, bills, and the latest district meeting. All members are welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Location: Mabenka Restaurant, 7844 S. Cicero Avenue, Burbank, IL. A social hour with refreshments will commence at 1:30 pm. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm. Afterwards, we will enjoy a delicious dinner!

If you plan to attend, please call the Branch Financial Secretary Bob by Thursday, December 1st so we can give the restaurant an accurate head count. Home phone: (502) 244-6643 or Cell phone: (773) 558-5956.

Robert T'apa'k Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St John the Baptist, Branch 553 will hold their last lodge meeting for 2016. The meeting will be held on December 4, 2016 at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44310.

All Bonafide members are encouraged to attend this meeting. We will be electing officers to serve on the Board of Directors for 2017. Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Directors must state their intentions to serve and the position they are interested in filling. The letters must be mailed to Grace Bacot, Chairperson c/o the Slovak J Club. Letters must be received by November 30, 2016.

Take an active role in your lodge. Come and fellowship with other members. You are a vital element of our organization. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ

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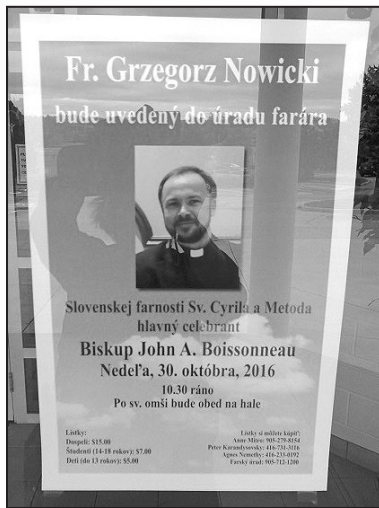
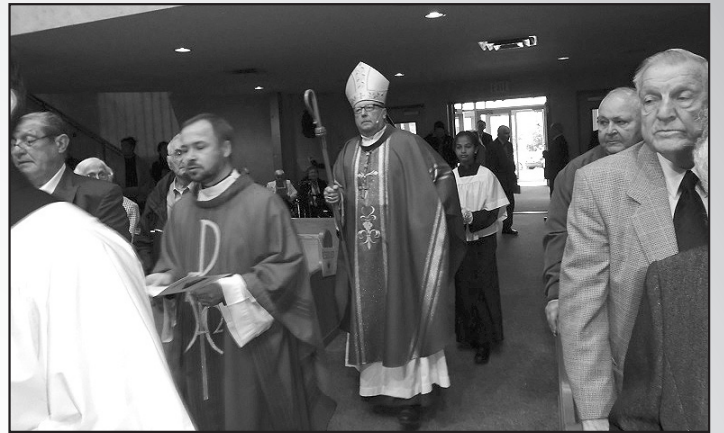
Father Gregory Nowicki Installed as Pastor of Sts Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Parish in Mississauga, Canada

On Sunday, October 23, 2016, Fr. Gregory Nowicki, was formally installed by His Excellency Bishop John Boissonneau as a new pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Parish in Mississauga, Canada.

The many friends and church members who were in attendance – including members of the First Catholic Slovak Union - enjoyed a delicious luncheon after the ceremony, prepared and served by members of Parish.

- Submitted by Helen Von Friedl, Branch 785.

Photos courtesy of Helen Von Friedl.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 1:00PM.

It will be held at the home of the Recording Secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, PA, 18109.

On the agenda for this meeting will be our annual financial report as well as nomination and election of officers for the year 2017.

We will also discuss any business pertaining to our branch.

Wishing everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart Branch 580 will hold a meeting on November 27, 2016, after the 9:30 Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall at 529 Grant Ave ext, West Mifflin, PA. 15122. Election of officers will take place. All members are welcome. The District 6 meeting will also be held on Nov. 27th at 1 PM in the social hall also.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY/WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 18, at 1pm at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN. The agenda will be election of officers, insurance premiums for children to be paid for the first year and the upcoming play. RSVP Ann, 219-947-2793 or George, 219-926-2410

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Toys for Tots - Please drop off your donation of a new toy starting Nov. 1 thru Dec. 12. Thank you for your participation.

Sunday, November 27: Breakfast 8:30-12noon, all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

Sunday, December 4: Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase.

Saturday, December 10: Kid's Christmas Party 1pm - 4 pm. This event is free for children thru 12 years of age. Please sign up at Tatra Hall.

Sunday, December 18: Meeting with election of officers, please try to attend.

There will be no breakfast in the month of December due to Christmas, have a wonderful holiday season! We will see you again on Sunday, January 22, 2017!

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off. Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm, Sat. 12noon-8pm.

Come down and enjoy yourself!

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

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 4:30 PM at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA.

The agenda will include the election of new officers for 2017 and a summary of events and issues during 2016.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, want to extend to you and your families our best wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 11:30AM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, PA. On the agenda will be election of officers. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have their Fall meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 2:00PM at the home

of Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary, located at 8977 S. Mason Road. Election of officers will be held. All members are welcomed to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 Youngstown, Ohio will celebrate Mass for deceased members on December 18, 2016 at 11:00AM. The election of officers for 2017 will also be held at the annual meeting following the Mass. All the events will be held at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels Branch 738 will be holding our next semi-annual meeting Tuesday December 6, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the VFW on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. The meeting will include our celebration of Christmas and pizza will be served. We will also review the annual audit and election of officers for 2017. We invite all members to attend. Please bring any ideas or suggestions for future activities for members as well as ways to increase membership. Please join us and become involve in your branch and its future.

Pat Guidish, Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2016 financial report, approval of the 2017 budget, 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.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The annual meeting will follow the Slovak Mass in the Church Social Hall.

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, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620.

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 18, 2016 in the basement of Holy Family Church, 210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ. The meeting will begin promptly at 3:00 PM. The agenda will include election of officers, as well as discussion of charitable donations and plans for next year's activities. A Christmas holiday dinner will follow this meeting. Please call Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by December 9th if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Nov, 20, 2016 at 12:30 pm. It will be in the Hospitality room of St. Joseph School, 811 E. Oliver St. Please enter on the South East side of the building. Still looking for additional officers. May go to lunch immediately after. May review pictures of last year's trip to Slovakia, Vienna, Prague and Krakow, Poland.

Please RSVP attendance to 517-381-8358.

Stephan J. Patoprsty, President

BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764's next meeting will be held on November 28, 2016 at 12:30 at the Covered Bridge Restaurant. The address is: 22 W Broad St, New-ton Falls, OH 44444.

On the agenda will be election of officers for 2017. All members are urged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 780 – SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780, in Saginaw, Michigan, will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday December 7, 2016. Election of officers will take place and discussion of any matters of concern to our members. For more information members may call Catherine Karlsen at (989) 280-4916.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Fraternally,

Catherine Karlsen, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday January 8, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Mississauga, Ontario. Election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Many Christmas Blessings to all and we hope to see everyone at the meeting in the New Year!

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold their Annual Christmas Mass and meeting on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at 2:00PM at John Paul II, Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. After Mass, the branch will celebrate the tradition of St Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to all the children in attendance. Also, a gourmet luncheon of Kapustnica along with dessert will be served. Come and join us in celebrating the spirit of Christmas, Slovak style.

Also, District 15, the Prince Pribina District, will hold a district meeting in the same place starting at 3:00PM, and all Branch 844 members are invited, and urged to attend [Editor's note: please see page 14 of this issue for details on the District 15 meeting].

We hope to see you all at these important branch and district events, and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

Fraternally,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Please join the members of Branch 853 on Nov 26 as they volunteer at a Washington County (Pennsylvania) food bank from 10am to noon. To get more information and to sign up for the opportunity to help your neighbors, please call Branch

853 President Monica Rodacy Boone at 412-341-1577. This event is open to all, you do not have to be a branch member to sign up for the event. This service opportunity can be used for community service hours for high school students. Let's help our neighbors during this Holiday Season.

Branch 853 will hold its Christmas spaghetti annual luncheon on Sunday Dec 11, 2016, at 12 noon at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. The branch meeting will follow the lunch. All members are urged to attend. If you cannot attend but would like to have a topic discussed please let Mrs Rodacy Boone know. For a luncheon chair count, please leave a message at 412-341-1577. Branch 853 wishes all to have a blessed Christmas season and prosperous New Year.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016.

The meeting will be held at 1:30PM at St Charles Borromeo Church Parish Activity Center [Borromeo Room]; 5891 Ridge Road; Parma, Ohio 44129.

The agenda will include the election of officers and a discussion of activities for 2017. Please contact Linda Kolesar at 440-886-0206 by November 23, 2016, if you plan to attend.

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 will hold a membership meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 2:00PM.

At the residence of Branch President, Michael Kolesar. For more information, please call 440-886-0206. The agenda shall include upcoming branch activities.

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday December 7, 2016. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

Branch 857 wishes all members a Happy Thanksgiving and Blessed Christmas holidays.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta Recording Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 12

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

Správy zo Slovenska

Zahraniční Slováci domov posielajú miliardy eur

Zahraniční Slováci pošlú tento rok do slovenskej ekonomiky takmer dve miliardy eur. Predpokladá to Svetová banka vo svojom najnovšom odhade toho, ako migranti finančne pomáhajú svojim domovským krajinám. V porovnaní s rokom 2015 pritečie na Slovensko o 60 miliónov eur viac. Len do krajín Európskej únie (EÚ) odišlo za prácou 280-tisíc slovenských občanov. V zahraničí tak pracuje zhruba sedem percent slovenskej pracovnej sily. Peniaze z cudziny tvoria značnú časť výkonu našej ekonomiky. Zarádame sa tým medzi rekordérov v EÚ.

Chce dohodu o miernejšom treste

Koncom septembra sa preválila kauza lekára - onkológa z Národného onkologického ústavu (NOÚ) v Bratislave Tomáša Š., ktorý podľa kamerového záznamu od pacienta prijal úplatok 50 eur. Podľa informácií si bývalý primár z NOÚ chce zmierniť trest dohodou o vine a treste. Rovnako predtým postupovali aj iní prichytení lekári. Onkológ sa odmieta médiám od zverejnenia kauzy akokoľvek vyjadriť. Polícia o posune vo vyšetrovaní tiež mlčí.

Bude dostatok liekov?

Ťažké mesiace do konca roka čakajú niektorých pacientov, ktorí už dnes majú problém zohnať najmä moderné lieky. Distributéri využívajú čas, kým začne platiť obmedzenie vývozu liekov do zahraničia, a na úkor slovenských pacientov robia biznisy na poslednú chvíľu. Lekárne avizujú výpadky v dodávkach liekov. Z mesiaca na mesiac mizne čoraz viac liekov, najmä moderných, ktoré sú účinnejšie a bez vedľajších účinkov. Niektorí pseudopodnikatelia totiž prišli na to, že ak lieky vykúpia od lekární alebo dodávateľov a predajú ich do zahraničia, zarobia veľké peniaze. Obraty takýchto firiem sa odhadujú na 300 miliónov eur ročne.

Trestali za opustenie republiky, súdia dodnes

Ústav pamäti národa (ÚPN) zverejnil mená 228 sudcov, ktorí súdili podľa paragrafu 109, teda za opustenie republiky (1977-1989). Z nich 30 nedávno odvolal prezident SR po tom, ako dosiahli vek 65 rokov, 41 je stále aktívnych. Čas nás už preveril, hovoria sudcovia o tom, či majú morálne právo naďalej obliekať talár. Šanca vyzliecť ich z neho bola začiatkom 90. rokov minulého storočia, no politici ju premrhali.

Tretinu Slovákov knihy vôbec nezaujímajú

Celkový počet vydaných kníh na Slovensku za minulý rok je 11.448. Pre porovnanie v Českej republike vyšlo v roku 2014 vyše 16.000 kníh. Zdalo by sa, že čo sa týka kníh a literatúry, sme na tom celkom dobre. Lenže ďalšie dáta, ktoré sa objavili v správe s názvom Vývoj a aktuálna situácia knižného trhu na Slovensku, už hovoria niečo iné. A nečíta sa to príjemne, podčiarkol autor článku. Základné závery štúdie, ktorú pre Združenie vydavateľov a knihkupcov Slovenskej republiky vypracovala agentúra Median SK, sú dva. Takmer tretina Slovákov knihy nečíta vôbec a najviac kupujúcich si kúpi len jednu-dve knihy ročne. A takto to nebolo len vlani.

Ikea zarobila milióny. Teraz chystá internetový predaj

Slováci minuli v Ikee milióny. Švédsky predajca nábytku si za uplynulý fiškálny rok pripísal celkový obrat vo výške 97,6 milióna eur, čo je o desať percent viac ako rok predtým. „Slovensko sa tak zaraďuje na piate miesto najrýchlejšie rastúcich trhov v rámci Ikey Group. Dokonca sme predbehli aj Čínu,“ vysvetľuje Marek Felti, generálny riaditeľ Ikey pre Česko, Slovensko a Maďarsko. Pod pozitívne výsledky sa podpísala dobrá ekonomická kondícia krajiny, ako aj pozitívna spotrebiteľská nálada. Na jar Ikea zamieri na internet. Približne od marca spustí online predaj, a to s možnosťou vyzdvihnúť si tovar v obchodnom dome, ako aj jeho dovozu domov. Švédsky výrobca uvažuje aj nad možnosťou v budúcnosti zriadiť pick-up pointy, teda miesta, kde by sa dali zakúpené výrobky vyzdvihnúť. S nábytkom na internet sa však nechystá iba Ikea, ale aj konkurenčná Kika.

Pôdu pre Jaguar pripravujú Rakúšania, boli najlacnejší

Rakúska spoločnosť Strabag Pozemné a inžinierske staviteľstvo vyhrala verejnú súťaž na úpravu terénu v priemyselnom parku Nitra, kde má vyrásť nový závod automobilky Jaguar. Za 96 miliónov eur musí firma odstrániť a odviezť nežiaducu pôdu, zabezpečiť štrkové vankúše pod budovy a cesty či vybudovať dočasné staveniskové komunikácie. Firma má na splnenie úloh päť mesiacov od nadobudnutia účinnosti zmluvy.

Fico sa chváli ekonomikou a čísla mu dávajú za pravdu

Makročísla krajiny sú naozaj lepšie, ako boli pred štyrmi rokmi, keď Robert Fico začal druhýkrát vládnuť. Problém je dlh, ktorý aj po výbornom výkone ekonomiky neklesá. „Áno, nemáme extrémne veľký dlh, ale z pohľadu toho čo nás čaká v ďalších rokoch v demografii, mali by sme ho naozaj znižovať,“ uviedol analytik Tatra banky Juraj Valachy.

ŠÚKL znova zakázal vývoz liekov

Štátny ústav pre kontrolu liečiv (ŠÚKL) zakázal minulý týždeň vývoz ďalších liekov za hranice Slovenska. Išlo o Clexane na liečbu tromboembolických porúch a liekov Fraxiparine a Fragmin, ktoré zabráňujú tvorbe krvných zrazenín. Ide tak o ďalšie zákazy, ktoré padli tento mesiac. Vývoz liekov zo Slovenska pred plánovanou zmenou pravidiel ich reexportu stúpa. K zmene by malo dôjsť od budúceho roka. Potrebnú novelu zákona o liekoch už schválil parlament, teraz čaká na podpis prezidenta Andreja Kisku. Za hranice putovalo vlani podľa údajov ŠÚKL 1216 liekov vo viac ako 1,7 milióna baleniach. Za prvé dva kvartály tohto roku to bolo 700 liekov vo viac ako 1,2 milióna baleniach. Vývoz ďalších státisícov sa zakázal. ŠÚKL v tomto roku vydal už stovky rozhodnutí o zákaze vývozu, vlani to boli desiatky. Nedostatok liekov monitorujú aj lekárne. Napríklad septembrové zistenia v sieti Dr. Max ukázali, že pacientom najčastejšie chýbali lieky Fraxiparine, Pradaxa a Clexane.

Katolícka Televízia Lux odvysielala premiéru filmu „GOJDIČ Láska nadovšetko“

Katolícka televízia Lux 4. novembra v deň 15. výročia blahorečenia grécko-katolíckeho prešovského biskupa a mučeníka Pavla Petra Gojdiča OSBM, odvysielala premiéru nového dokumentárneho filmu s názvom GOJDIČ Láska nadovšetko. Dokumentárny film hovorí o osobnosti, ktorá svojím morálnym profilom prekonala hranice nielen Prešova a rodnej krajiny, ale aj hranice rozdeľujúce ľudí do kategórií na tých, ktorí majú právo na ľudskú dôstojnosť a tých, ktorým sa odopiera. Gréckokatolícky biskup mučeník Pavel Peter Gojdič mal odvahu zastáť sa utláčaných a biednych. Pravdu a lásku povýšil aj nad svoj život. Jeho biskupské heslo „Boh je láska, milujme ho“ vyjadruje, odkiaľ čerpal silu milovať nadovšetko. Stal sa prvým novodobým svätcom na Slovensku.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Zomrel bývalý slovenský hokejový reprezentant Marek Svatoš

V nedeľu 6. novembra zasiahla hokejový svet smutná správa. Vo veku 34 rokov zomrel v Denvere bývalý slovenský hokejový reprezentant Marek Svatoš. Bývalý útočník patril k najväčším slovenským talentom pod Tatrami na prelome tisícročí. Počas kariéry obliekal v NHL dresy Colorado Avalanche, Nashvillu Predators i Ottawy Senators, na Slovensku pôsobil v rodných Košiciach a v rámci nadnárodnej KHL absolvoval aj niekoľko duelov za bratislavský Slovan. V drese seniorskej reprezentácie SR odohral 12 zápasov a strelil jeden gól. Podľa informácií Marek Svatoš zomrel v sobotu v Denvere, kde žil so svojou manželkou a dvoma deťmi.

Teraz.sk

Na snímke Slovenský hokejista Marek Svatoš si po podpise zmluvy oblieka dres s číslom 40.

Noted Slovak hockey player Marek Svatoš died suddenly in Denver, Colorado on November 6, 2016 at age 34. He played on several Slovak and American and Canadian teams during his career.



Košice sa stali najlepším Európskym mestom športu 2016

Mesto Košice sa stalo najlepším Európskym mestom športu 2016. Triumfovalo v konkurencii 19 európskych miest, ktoré sú v tomto roku nositeľmi titulu Európske mesto športu. Na brífingu o tom začiatkom novembra informoval primátor Košíc Richard Raši.

Ocenenie Košiciam udelila Federácia európskych hlavných miest športu a európskych miest športu ACES Europe na základe hodnotenia nezávislej expertnej skupiny Sport Municipal Foundation z Valencie.

„Je to pre nás veľký impulz, pretože počas celého roka sme dostávali obrovské množstvo pozitívnych reakcií na aktivity, ktoré boli organizované pre širokú verejnosť. Takisto od starostov mestských častí sme dostávali pozitívne informácie k tomu, že investície, ktoré sme vyhradili výlučne na športové aktivity alebo športovú infraštruktúru, boli pozitívne vnímané, či to bola výstavba fit parkov, alebo organizovanie športových podujatí, preto sme sa rozhodli, že v podpore športu nad bežný rámec budeme pokračovať,“ uviedol primátor.

Ako vysvetlil, chce sa zamerať najmä na mládežnícky šport, ale budú organizovať podujatia aj pre rodiny s deťmi a seniorov. „Budeme vyčleňovať extra finančné prostriedky na to, aby sme k športu dostali čo najširšiu masu verejnosti, aby sa šport stal každodennou súčasťou nášho života,“ skonštatoval Raši.

Košičanom sa podľa vedúceho referátu športu a mládeže na Magistráte mesta Košice a koordinátora projektu Košice - Európske mesto športu 2016 Ivana Šuleka podarilo za prvých deväť mesiacov tohto roka, ktoré hodnotila nezávislá expertná skupina, dosiahnuť obdivuhodné čísla. „V Košiciach sa uskutočnilo od 1. januára do 30. septembra takmer 500 športových podujatí. Z tohto počtu bolo vyše 300 takých, do ktorých sa mohli zapojiť obyvatelia a návštevníci mesta. Na necelých dvoch stovkách sa mohli ľudia zúčastniť ako športoví fanúšikovia. Celkovo sa na športových podujatiach zúčastnilo takmer 390.000 účastníkov, z toho aktívne vyše 280.000 ľudí,“ povedal Šulek s tým, že v porovnaní s rokom 2015 zaznamenali v Košiciach v tomto roku až stopercentný nárast nových športových podujatí. Napríklad v rámci Európskeho týždňa športu sa v Košiciach zorganizovalo 45 podujatí, čo bola celá tretina zo všetkých 150 nahlásených podujatí, na ktorých sa podieľalo 78 miest a obcí Slovenska.

Medzi najzaujímavejšie podujatia v tomto roku podľa jeho slov patrili Runway Run, Spartan Race, Spoznaj behom Košice, Športové nedele v parku, Športové piatky na Hlavnej ulici, Olympiáda žiakov materských a základných škôl, Letná a Zimná olympiáda seniorov s účasťou viac ako 300 seniorov v priemernom veku 72 rokov, Futbal spája, Šport bez bariér pre hendikepovaných ľudí na vozíčkoch, Štvorylka, Retrospartakiáda, Skoky v centre mesta a mnohé ďalšie.

Ocenenie Najlepšie európske mesto športu 2016 si zástupcovia mesta Košice prevezmú v Európskom parlamente v Bruseli 16. novembra.



Dóm Sv. Alžbety

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu **20. novembra 2016** o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi. Ďakujem s pozdravom,

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Pozvánka na slovenské tance pre Triango a Orchester“ v New Yorku

Generálny konzulát SR v New Yorku uvedie **1. decembra 2016** „Slovenské tance pre Triango a Orchester“ v Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall v New Yorku pri príležitosti slovenského predsedníctva v Rade EÚ. „Slovenské tance“, ktoré skomponoval Peter Breiner ako 90-minútové symfonické dielo, sa predstaví newyorskému publiku vo verzii s Triangom a New York Virtuosi Orchestrom. Peter Breiner je slovenský dirigent, skladateľ, aranžér a klavirista žijúci v New Yorku. V Triangu hrajú Peter Breiner, Stanislav Palúch, Boris Lenko a ako hosť Milan Rendoš. Partnermi koncertu sú Stála misia SR pri OSN v New Yorku, Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky a Fond na podporu umenia, ktorý z verejných zdrojov podporil tento koncert.

Podujatia vo farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

V nedeľu **4. decembra 2016** o 12.30 hodine v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého bude na 411 a 66th Street popoludnie so Sv. Mikulášom. Pre deti bude podávané občerstvenie bezplatne. Dospelí si môžu občerstvenie kúpiť.



V nedeľu **11. decembra 2016** o 3.00 hodine popoludní bude tradičná slovenská Štedrá večera. Rezervácie si môžu záujemcovia spraviť na Fare kostola na tel. čísle: 212-734-4613. Vstupné je \$15.00 za osobu, deti do 12 rokov majú vstup bezplatný.



Slovenský ples v Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ

Slovensko - Americké Kultúrne Stredisko Vás srdečne pozýva už na 24. ročník „Slovenského plesu“, ktorý sa bude konať v sobotu, **25. februára, 2017** a bude sa niesť v duchu elegancie, známych hostí, skvelej hudby a tanca! Tohto roku si pre Vás organizátori pripravujú zaujímavý program a bohatú tombolu. Od 7.hod. večer do 1. hod. rána na Vás čaká „Open bar“. Do tanca hrá skvelá hudobná skupina Express. Ak máte chuť sa prejsť po červenom koberci, neváhajte a zakúpte si lístok už teraz prostredníctvom Eventbrite „Slovak Ball 2017“ alebo kontaktujte p. Zuzanu Krcmarovu na tel. čísle 973-357-1209 alebo na emailovú adresu: SlovakAmericanCC@gmail.com Pre viac informácií nás navštívte na: slovakamericanc.org

Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka

Úspešný kandidát paneurópskeho programu

“European Young Leaders Programme 2017”

Na základe nominácie ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR M. Lajčáka sa zakladateľ a generálny riaditeľ spoločnosti Sygic Michal Štencl zaradil medzi úspešných kandidátov paneurópskeho programu „European Young Leaders Programme 2017“. Program organizuje v Bruseli sídliači nezávislý think-tank Friends of Europe pod záštitou predsedu Európskej komisie Jeana Clauda Junckera a Správnej rady think-tanku. Jej členmi sú významní európski politici, ministri a bývalí vysokí funkcionári EÚ.

Program pre mladých lídrov je jedinečnou iniciatívou, ktorej cieľom je rozvíjať európsky konštruktívny dialóg s cieľom vzájomne zdieľať skúsenosti a prispieť k budúcemu formovaniu európskeho kontinentu. Združuje 40 mladých talentovaných profesionálov z Európy vo veku do 40 rokov, ktorí sú úspešnými profesionálmi v rôznych sektoroch, napr. politiky, biznisu, médií, kultúry a akademickej sféry.

Michal Štencl založil spoločnosť Sygic, keď mal 25 rokov a jeho nápad zožal celosvetový úspech. Podarilo sa mu vytvoriť navigáciu, ktorou sa dnes orientuje na cestách takmer 150 miliónov ľudí. V liste adresovanom úspešnému mladému podnikateľovi Miroslav Lajčák zdôraznil, že jeho úspech v európskej konkurencii potvrdzuje, že Slováci sú šikovní a vynachádzajú ľudia, ktorí ponúkajú svetu dobré nápady. „V kreativite a tvorivosti našich ľudí tkvie náš potenciál. Slovensko považujeme za krajinu inovácií, schopnú adaptácie a so zaujímavými a šikovnými ľuďmi, ktorí vedú zabojovať a nezlaknú sa výziev. Slovensko je krajinou Dobrých nápadov a aj úspešné projekty Michala Štencla sú toho dôkazom,“ uvádza v liste minister Lajčák.

TASR, MZVaEZ SR

V Bratislave diskutovali o východiskách z demografickej a kultúrnej krízy

Charakterizovať situáciu rodiny doma i v krajinách Európskej únie (EÚ), predstaviť jej status v súčasnom práve, priblížiť tzv. family mainstreaming (rodinnú politiku) v jeho základných líniách a navrhnúť základné opatrenia, ktoré by sa mali stať súčasťou oficiálnej politiky EÚ. To boli hlavné ciele medzinárodnej konferencie, ktorú 28. októbra pripravili v Bratislave Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS), Trnavská univerzita v Trnave a s podporou nadácie Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.



Foto: TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

V Bratislave diskutovali o východiskách z demografickej a kultúrnej krízy.

KOCR chce zvýšiť povedomie turistov o pamiatkach UNESCO v kraji

Krajská organizácia cestovného ruchu (KOCR) Košický kraj chce zvýšiť povedomie o pamiatkach UNESCO v Košickom kraji. Prilákať chce najmä turistov zo zahraničia. Východné Slovensko je podľa výkonnej riaditeľky KOCR Košický kraj Lenky Vargovej Jurkovej špecifické práve vysokou koncentráciou pamiatok na jednom mieste.



Spišský hrad

V Austrálii, ktorá je podľa nej 150-krát väčšia než Slovensko, je na Zozname svetového dedičstva UNESCO zapísaných 19 lokalít. „U nás je to 21. Do 100 minút autom je z metropoly východného Slovenska dostupných až 16 z nich, z toho desať sa nachádza priamo v Košickom kraji,“ uviedla Vargová Jurková. Ako povedala, za zmienku určite stojí návšteva Dobšinskej ľadovej jaskyne, ktorá patrí medzi najvýznamnejšie ľadové jaskyne na svete. Medzi najväčšie pamiatky Košického kraja i Slovenska bezpochyby podľa nej patrí Spišský hrad.

Ako vysvetlila, propagujú ich rôznymi spôsobmi. „Máme pripravenú publikáciu Tipy na výlety pre návštevníkov, ktoré sú veľmi pekne spracované, odkrokované tak, aby sa v nich návštevník veľmi jednoducho zorientoval. Máme informácie aj v našom Regionálnom informačnom bode a na webstránke www.kosiceregion.com,“ vysvetlila Vargová Jurková s tým, že v budúcnosti sa plánujú zamerať širšou propagačnou a marketingovou kampaňou na UNESCO pamiatky.

„Rokujeme a spolupracujeme aj s Prešovským samosprávnym krajom a ja pevne verím, že spojíme sily a budeme na tieto UNESCO pamiatky pozývať návštevníkov spoločne,“ tvrdí Vargová Jurková.

Problém nie je podľa jej slov v tom, že ľudia o jednotlivých pamiatkach nevedia, ale je potrebné pripomínať to, že ich nájdu na východnom Slovensku a zvlášť to, že sú ľahko dostupné autom.

Za najväčší problém rozvoja turizmu v regióne považuje infraštruktúru.

Ako prezradila, v uplynulých dňoch rokovali v Spišskej Novej Vsi s oblastnou organizáciou cestovného ruchu práve o tom, ako zabezpečiť lepšiu a ľahšiu dopravu na jednotlivé atrakcie v Slovenskom kraji. „Návštevníci tam radi chodia, ale ešte stále sa stáva, že sa dostanú na niektoré miesto, a potom nevedia, ako sa dostať späť. To je práve taký cieľ, posilniť dopravnú infraštruktúru, kde sa návštevnosť zvyšuje,“ dodal Vargová Jurková.

TASR

Prezentácia Slovak Christmas-Slovenské Vianoce v Bruseli

Nitriansky samosprávny kraj (NSK) sa bude v Európskom výbore regiónov prezentovať v rámci podujatia Slovak Christmas – Slovenské Vianoce. NSK sa v Bruseli predstaví formou výstavy umeleckých fotografií, ktoré propagujú nitriansky región ako kraj histórie, slnka, vody a vína. „Plánovanou súčasťou výstavy je aj prezentácia typických regionálnych produktov. Na podujatí budú zhodnotené výsledky a prínosy predsedníctva SR v Rade Európskej únie a jeho dosah na fungovanie Európskeho výboru regiónov a európskych inštitúcií,“ uviedol riaditeľ Úradu NSK Dušan Guľan.

Podujatie Slovak Christmas – Slovenské Vianoce sa uskutoční v Bruseli od 7. do 14. decembra. Je realizované v partnerstve so zástupcami Európskeho výboru regiónov a Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR, povedal Guľan. NSK sa na financovanie podujatia bude podieľať sumou 10.000 eur. „Zvyšné zdroje poskytne ministerstvo zahraničných vecí, Európsky výbor regiónov a mesto Nitra,“ doplnil predseda NSK Milan Belica.

TASR

Ústav pamäti národa chystá k výročiu 17. novembra 1989 "Festival slobody"

V Ústave pamäti národa predstavili program najvýznamnejšieho podujatia ústavu – 6. ročníka Festivalu slobody. Podujatie sa koná pri príležitosti Dňa boja za slobodu a demokraciu a 27. výročia udalostí 17. novembra 1989. Festival sa začína 8. novembra slávnostným otvorením a premietaním viacerých filmov s tematikou obdobia neslobody. Organizátori pripravili početné výstavy, diskusie, divadelné predstavenia. Vo štvrtok 10. novembra 2016 o 17:30 h sa napríklad v Univerzitetnej knižnici uskutoční diskusný večer so známym poľským novinárom Andrzejom Grajewskym a Pavlom Jakubčinom z Ústavu pamäti národa. Venovaný bude záhade atentátu na Jána Pavla II.

Predseda Správnej rady ÚPN Ondrej Krajňák uviedol, že Festival slobody je vynikajúcou príležitosťou priblížiť najmä mladým ľuďom hodnoty slobody, demokracie, ktoré v minulosti nacistický aj komunistický režim potláčali. „V minulosti tu boli spáchané mnohé zločiny na nevinných ľuďoch. A ak sme konfrontovaní s našou minulosťou, nájde sa tisíc dôvodov aby sme s ospravedlnením váhali,“ povedal Ondrej Krajňák. Na tohtoročnom programe sa podieľa aj Bratislavský samosprávny kraj. Jeho predseda Pavol Frešo pripomenul, že sa hlási k spolupráci na projektoch, ktoré podporujú hodnoty slobody a demokracie. Povedal, že po stáročia žili na našom území rôzne národy, ktoré medzi sebou spolupracovali. „Každá totalita spočíva vo vymedzovaní a rozdeľovaní ľudí, preto vítam aktivity ÚPN, ktoré ľudí spájajú.“

Pri príležitosti 27. výročia študentského pochodu zo 16. novembra 1989 sa stretnú zástupcovia Ústavu pamäti národa, Univerzity Komenského a študentov 11. novembra 2016 pri pamätnej tabuli na budove Univerzity Komenského na Šafárikovom námestí. Organizátori pripravili pre študentov Univerzity Komenského prednášku a diskusiu s priamymi účastníkmi pochodu a pozvanými hosťami. Oceňovanie účastníkov protinacistického a protikomunistického odboja a udeľovanie Cien Ústavu pamäti národa bude 13. novembra 2016. Počas slávnostného programu v Moyzesovej sieni v Bratislave predseda Správnej rady Ústavu pamäti národa Ondrej Krajňák udelí ceny Ústavu pamäti národa a tiež pamätné medaile či ďakovné listy. Nad udeľovaním cien prevzal záštitu rektor Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave Karol Mičieta.

Ústav pamäti národa v spolupráci s Bratislavským samosprávnym krajom organizuje v rámci festivalu aj podujatie Víkend zatvorených hraníc. Podujatie bude v dňoch 18. – 20. novembra na Cyklomeste slobody v Devínskej Novej Vsi.

TK KBS

Príhovor na Kongrese slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliaciach

(Keďže veľmi mnohí prejavili záujem o prejav, ktorý predniesol predseda Únie slovenských spisovateľov, umelcov a kultúrnych tvorcov žijúcich mimo územia Slovenska Jozef Rydlo na Kongrese slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliaciach 22. – 23. septembra 2016, dovoľujeme si tento príhovor na pokračovanie uviesť.)

Keď v roku 1968 hrkotajúce tanky pod oknami našich príbytkov likvidovali manu militari Dubčekovu jar – Vojtech Mihálik napísal v Bratislave Rekvie, z pera Gorazda Zvonického v Ríme vytryskli Výkriky pri invázii, Andrej Žarnov v New Yorku kládol na papier Kvapku krvi a Spolok slovenských spisovateľov a umelcov v zahraničí dvíhal v Clevelande svoj protestný hlas proti mocenskému znásilneniu bezbranného národa, ktorý vtedy ani nejestvoval, lebo národy, ktoré nemajú vlastný štát, neexistujú...

Medzi tisícami Slovienek a Slovákov, ktorých vtedy z domoviny vyhánal príznak červenej posadnutosti, som bol i ja. Vôbec som si vtedy neuvedomoval, že s mojou generáciou sa život zahrá tak, ako sa zahrál so zakladateľmi, budovateľmi, likvidátormi i obnovovateľmi Spolku slovenských spisovateľov, ktorého základy položili v roku už časom zviaťom – v tisícdeväťstodvadsiatom treťom.

S pokorou a bážňou v duši pozdravujem 80. výročie Kongresu slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliaciach v mene Únie slovenských spisovateľov, umelcov a kultúrnych tvorcov žijúcich mimo územia Slovenska, právnej pokračovateľky Spolku slovenských spisovateľov a umelcov v zahraničí, ktorý v rokoch, keď totalitný komunistický režim dal slovenským spisovateľom zubadlo, nejedného uväznil, mnohých natrvalo umlčal a odstaviť a Spolok slovenských spisovateľov bolševicky zlikvidoval, stal sa ak nie majákom, tak aspoň sviecou nádeje, že nie je všetko stratené, že v slobodnom prostredí žije ďalej a rastie zo svojich zdravých kresťanských koreňov slobodná slovenská kultúra.

Pozdravujem toto 80. výročie trenčianskoteplického snemovania slovenských spisovateľov v mene tých slovenských spisovateľov a kultúrnych tvorcov, ktorí utekali v pohnutých časoch nie preto, aby si zachránili umeleckú slobodu, ale preto, aby si zachránili holý život. Odišli do dobrovoľného vyhnanstva, kde tvorili a svojou kresťanstvom inšpirovanou tvorbou vydávali svedectvo o duchovnej a mravnej výške slovenského národa, ktorý bojoval o svoje základné ľudské i občianske práva, o svoje právo na politickú samostatnosť a rovnoprávne miesto v rodine slobodných národov. Slovenskí exulanti nepopretfali zväzky so svojou rodinou vlastnou, lež pre ňu v exile žertvohojne pracovali, obetovali sa pre ňu a napokon v dobrovoľnom vyhnanstve zložili i kosti, lebo sa nedožili ani obnovenia slobody, práva a spravodlivosti, ani obnovenia štátnej samostatnosti rodnej domoviny.

Zdravím 80. výročie Kongresu slovenských spisovateľov v Trenčianskych Tepliaciach v mene našich zvečnených členov, menom Jozefa Cigera-Hronského, Rudolfa Dilonga, Andreja Žarnova, Stanislava Mečiara, Gorazda Zvonického, Konstantína Čulena, Jána Okála, Františka Hrušovského, Karola Strmeňa, Eugena Vesnina, Agostina Viscu, Jána Elena Bora, Jozefa Pauču, Henricha Barteka, Jozefa G. Cincika, Pavla Hrtúsa-Jurinu, Joža Zvonára-Tieňa, Vendelína Píra, Antona Murína, Anny Gromovej, Maruši Juskovej, Agneši Gundovej-Jergovej, Jozefa Milučkého, Emila Fürsta Kniežu, Michala Lacku, Štefana Náhalku, Felixa Litvu, Štefana Senčika, Stanislava Polčína, Jána Doranského, Petra Klasa, Štefana Polakoviča, Ernesta Žatku, Júliusa Gašparíka, Stana Kmotorku, Štefana Vagoviča, Dominika Hrušovského a mnohých ďalších, ktorí nás predišli do večnosti. Niektorí z nich tu pred osemdesiatimi rokmi boli osobne prítomní.

Na dnešné podujatie v Trenčianskych Tepliaciach spomína čestný predseda ÚSSU, 102-ročný Imrich Kružliak, pamätník vtedajších udalostí.

Pozdravuje ho aj Slovenský ústav v Ríme, ustanovizeň slovenských kultúrnych najmä vedeckých pracovníkov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorý si pred tromi rokmi pripomínal 50. výročie svojho založenia.

Únia slovenských spisovateľov, umelcov a kultúrnych tvorcov žijúcich mimo územia Slovenska si trenčianskoteplický kongres slovenských spisovateľov pripomenula ešte pred dvadsiatimi rokmi, keď po Budapešti, Turčianskom Sv. Martine a Nadlaku práve preto zvolala svoju IV. konferenciu do Trenčianskych Teplíc. Konala sa v zadaných októbrych dňoch v reprezentatívnych priestoroch Miramare-Corfü, pri dnešnom Moste slávy, vo Vzdelávacom zariadení Slovenskej sporiteľne. Nestálo nás to vtedy nič, lebo táto akciová spoločnosť bola vtedy ešte slovenským finančným domom a veľkoryso zasponzorovala priestory, ubytovanie, stravu všetkým účastníkom a bolo nás čajsi sto z celej Európy i zo zámoria. Pozdravili nás vtedy svojim prísom prezident republiky Michal Kováč, predseda Národnej rady Ivan Gašparovič, predseda vlády Vladimír Mečiar vyslal ministra kultúry Ivana Hudeca a nezabudol na nás ani vlní zosnulý kardinál Ján Chryzostom Korec.

Jozef Rydlo

(Pokračovanie)



Obec Červený Kláštor bude od budúceho roka kúpeľným miestom

Obec Červený Kláštor (okres Kežmarok) bude od januára 2017 kúpeľným miestom. Vláda 26. októbra odsúhlasila nariadenie, ktorým sa vydáva štatút kúpeľného miesta. Kúpeľná tradícia sa na území Pienin obnovila v roku 2012 vybudovaním kúpeľov Červený Kláštor – Smerdžonka.

Tie poskytujú ústavnú kúpeľnú starostlivosť pre dospelých pacientov s kožnými chorobami, netuberkulóznymi chorobami dýchacích ciest aj chorobami z poruchy látkovej výmeny a žliaz s vnútornou sekréciou. Rovnako sa tu liečia ľudia s duševnými chorobami, chorobami z povolania a onkologickými ochoreniami.

Za kúpeľné miesto sa spravidla uznáva územie obce alebo jej časť, na ktorom sa nachádzajú prírodné liečivé zdroje, prírodné liečebné kúpele alebo kúpeľné liečebne. „Pre náš región je to veľká pocta. Najmä z toho dôvodu, že rovnaké označenie bude môcť používať iba 23 lokalít na Slovensku,“ uviedla výkonná riaditeľka Oblastnej organizácie cestovného ruchu Severný Spiš Pieniny Erika Šalatová.

TASR

Deň vďakyvdania je aj oslavou spolupatričnosti

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

sviatok druhý októbrový pondelok. V Amerike má tento deň veľký význam. Snažia sa tak uctiť spomienku na svojich predkov a po vzore ich súdržnosti sa tiež stretávajú celé rodiny na spoločnej večery. Na rozdiel od Vianoc, sa v tento večer stretáva širší okruh blízkych. Ku stolu si sadajú vo veľkom počte a niekedy pozývajú aj svojich priateľov, ktorí sa nemajú ku komu pridať. Opäť môžu stráviť spoločné chvíle a keď sa stretnú po dlhom čase, porozprávajú si aj novinky zo svojho života.

Dôraz sa v tomto čase kladie najmä na jedlo. Vďaka blahobytu, ktorý si doprajú stoločníci, chcú aj oni dokázať, že sa im tiež dobre darí a môžu tak pohostiť aj svojich blízkych. Prioritou je dobre upečený moriak, ktorý je pýchou každej rodiny. Recept sa často dedí z generácie na generáciu a občas sa stáva aj rodinným tajomstvom. Skvele upečený moriak totiž robí z každej gazdinky hviezdu.

K tomu sa tradične podáva aj brusnicová omáčka, sladké a klasické zemiaky, dusená zelenina a chýbať nesmú ani viaceré dezerty, pričom prím hrá tekvicový. S touto udalosťou súvisí aj ďalší zvyk. Aktuálny americký prezident vždy omilostí jedného moriaka, ktorý sa nedostane na pekáč a do konca života už bude žiť pokojne na niekorej z fariem.

Všetky udalosti sa však nekonajú len v rodinnom kruhu. Oblíbené sú aj pestré sprievody, ktoré sa konajú vo viacerých amerických mestách. Ten najznámejší je v New Yorku a najstarší vo Philadelphii. V hlavnej úlohe je opäť moriak, ktorý sa premieta do viacerých alegorických vozov a kostýmov. Z veľkej časti sa to podoba sprievodom počas írskych sviatku svätého Patrika. Akciu sprevádza aj veľa hudby a sprievodný program, ktorý sa spája často s pôvodnými tradíciami. Niektoré televízie dokonca robia priamy prenos z týchto osláv a sprostredkujú atmosféru aj ľuďom, ktorí sa nemohli pridať. Hlavne v menších mestečkách je priama účasť v sprievode veľkou poctou, na ktorú sa potom tešia celé rodiny.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 125

STREDA, 16. NOVEMBRA 2016

Číslo 5947

Deň vďakyvzdania je aj oslavou spolupatričnosti

Plak prichádzajúcich nových sviatkov, ktoré sa k nám presúvajú zo zahraničia, nie je každému po vôli. Dalo by sa na to pozeráť len z negatívnej stránky a nadávať na neschopnosť vázania si toho, čo máme v našich končinách. No podstatne zaujímavejšie je ich spoznávanie a odhaľovanie jednotlivých súvislostí ich vzniku. Veď predsa nemusíme začať oslavovať priamo s nimi, stačí z úcty k inej kultúre vedieť, čo je jej súčasťou.



Jedným z pre nás neznámych sviatkov je aj Deň vďakyvzdania, ktorý sa v Amerike nesie v rodinnom charaktere a je zároveň aj pripomienkou spolupatričnosti medzi domorodcami a novými obyvateľmi z ďalekého sveta. Poďme sa najprv zoznámiť s históriou tohto sviatku. Tá sa spája s Indiánmi a anglickými prisťahovalcami. Vybrali sa za túžbou hľadať nový lepší domov a kvôli tomu absolvovali vtedy mimoriadne náročnú plavbu cez oceán. Cesta bola o to náročnejšia, že im ani neprišlo počasie a už bez viacerých pasažierov sa doplavili na breh pevniny. To najťažšie však mali len pred sebou.

Čakala ich výstavba úplne novej dedinky a mimoriadne krutá zima, kvôli ktorej prišli o ďalších členov komunity. Na jar sa im prvýkrát podarilo stretnúť s Indiánmi, ktorí im začali pomáhať a darovali im aj zrná kukurice, ktorú si vysadili a stala sa ich kľúčovou obživou. Po roku od ich prvého príchodu do Ameriky potom vystrojili veľkú oslavu, na ktorej sa chceli poďakovať nielen svojim záchrancom, ale aj Bohu za jeho milosrdenstvo, že mohli prežiť aspoň v takomto počte. Neskôr sa spájala táto oslava aj s glorifikáciou ústavy.

I keď sa termín Dňa vďakyvzdania niekoľkokrát posúval, nakoniec sa ustanovil na štvrtý štvrtok v novembri, čo sa asi najviac približuje aj pôvodnej verzii z posledného dňa v tomto mesiaci. Čo sa týka Kanady, tak tam je malá zmena. Oni oslavujú tento

Pokračovanie na str. 19

Prezident Kiska: "Vyhrať turnaj majsteriek je fenomenálny úspech"

Slovenská tenistka Dominika Cibulková sa stala víťazkou prestížnych MS WTA Tour v Singapure. Nasadená sedmička si vo finále dvojhry po výbornom výkone poradila so svetovou jednotkou Nemkou Angelique Kerberovou hladko 6:3, 6:4 a hneď pri premiére na Turnaji majsteriek dosiahla životný úspech.

Reakcia prezidenta SR, Andreja Kisku na majstrovský triumf slovenskej tenistky Dominiky Cibulkovej. "Vyhrať turnaj majsteriek, turnaj najlepších z najlepších, je fenomenálny úspech. Dominike Cibulkovej patrí moja veľká poklona, úcta a rešpekt. Neskutočný zápas, neuvěřiteľný tenis, keď diváci vstávajú zo sedadiel. Keď neodídete ani na sekundu od obrazovky. Finále v Singapure so svetovou jednotkou Angelique Kerberovou bolo elektrizujúce. Gratulujem nielen Dominike Cibulkovej, ale aj celému tímu. Dominika si najlepšia!"



FOTO TASR (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

Slovenská tenistka Dominika Cibulková pózuje s trofejou po víťazstve nad Nemkou Angelique Kerberovou vo finále MS WTA Tour v Singapure 30. októbra 2016.

Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia celebrates after beating Angelique Kerber of Germany in their women's singles final match at the WTA tennis tournament in Singapore, Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016.

5. ročník medzinárodnej konferencie GLOBSEC Tatra Summit v Bratislave

Energetická únia, financie, investície, budúcnosť eurozóny, digitálna agenda, ale aj migrácia a terorizmus boli hlavnými témami 5. ročníka medzinárodnej konferencie GLOBSEC Tatra Summit, ktorá sa uskutočnila 27.-30. októbra v Bratislave. Bola jedným z kľúčových udalostí počas slovenského predsedníctva v Rade EÚ. Tohtoročná konferencia bola podľa prezidenta organizácie GLOBSEC Róberta Vassa dôležitá aj pre to, akým výzvam v súčasnosti Európska únia (EÚ) čelí. Do Bratislavy prišlo aj päť eurokomisárov, sedem vysokých predstaviteľov zo západného Balkánu, ministri pre energetiku z Nórska, Bulharska a Rumunska či predstavitelia diplomacie viacerých štátov EÚ.



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke zľava šéf výskumu think tanku Globsec Policy Institute Jakub Wisniewski, štátny tajomník pre európske záležitosti Maďarskej republiky Szabolcs Takács, generálna riaditeľka Riaditeľstva pre migráciu a integráciu ministerstva vnútra Slovenska Nina Gregoriová a analytik think-tanku Carnegie Europe Stefan Lehne počas panelovej diskusie GLOBSEC -Tatra summit 30. októbra 2016 v Bratislave.

Energy, finance, investment, the future of the Eurozone, and migration were among the subjects discussed at the 5th annual GLOBSEC Tatra Summit held October 27-30, 2016 in Bratislava.

V Bratislave zriadili Centrum slovenského zahraničia

V Bratislave zriadili Centrum slovenského zahraničia. Rozhodla o tom Generálna rada Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ) na svojom výročnom zasadnutí počas Stálej konferencie Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí, ktorá sa konala koncom októbra v hlavnom meste. Informoval o tom predseda SZSZ Vladimír Skalský.

Centrum slovenského zahraničia má podľa neho trvalo predstavovať kultúru vyše 1,5 milióna krajanov. Zahŕňať má muzeálnu expozíciu, predstavujúcu históriu krajanov, priestory pre prezentáciu živej kultúry, kde sa bude prezentovať folklór, divadlo, hudba či literatúra Slovákov zo zahraničia a v centre má byť aj galéria, kde sa budú konať výstavy krajanov. „Chýbať nemá ani krajanová reštaurácia so špecialitami Slovákov z jednotlivých krajín, ktorá je dôležitá aj pre samofinancovateľnosť projektu,“ uviedol Skalský.

Sídlo Centra slovenského zahraničia v Bratislave je zatiaľ Sekretariát SZSZ na Laurinskej ulici. Združenie zriadilo komisiu, ktorá chce s pomocou štátu či hlavného mesta získať adekvátne priestory v centre Bratislavy buď do vlastníctva, alebo do dlhodobého prenájmu.

„Máme s podobnými projektmi skúsenosť, pretože naše členské organizácie prevádzkujú slovenské domy či centrá v celom rade krajín. Ja sám som riaditeľom Slovenského domu v Prahe, ktorý sme s podporou oboch krajín kúpili a rekonštruovali a už dva roky úspešne prevádzkujeme,“ uviedol Skalský, podľa ktorého má štát i mesto Bratislava celý rad nevyužitých budov.

„Projekt teda rozhodne nie je utópia a Bratislavčania podobnú inštitúciu nepochybne ocenia, podobne ako krajanovia, ktorí sa dlhodobo sťažujú, že sú na Slovensku málo prezentovaní a vnímaní,“ skonštatoval Skalský.

TASR