



# Jednota

THE UNION

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## Message from the President Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving 2015

For most of us Thanksgiving is a very pleasant event. We have family gatherings and relax and enjoy each other's company. In many instances, Mom or Grandma (Babička) put in long hours of work to prepare and serve the meal or meals. We should thank them for their loving efforts. Household family members who live many miles away gather and share their latest life experiences.

But not all of us are all that fortunate at Thanksgiving. Those who face unemployment or illness or loneliness need compassion and help. In our nation of overall plenty there are many of those less fortunate.

I urge you to reach out in any way possible, whether it be with time, money or other caring ways to those in need. There are many unrecognized people who volunteer their time and efforts in helping the elderly, infirm or others in need. God bless them.

Christ said that whatever you do for the least of my brethren you do for me.

What lays ahead none of us knows, however we can be assure that Christ will provide us the strength we need if we open our heart to Him and to our brothers and sisters in need.

Local elections were held in many areas this past week. We have been inundated with constant polls for national candidates prior to Party Conventions. How things will turn out we don't know, but we trust our political process, even though many people are concerned that the huge sums of money spent in election advertising by special interest groups may unfairly impact the results.

To you and your family from my family, and all of us in the First Catholic Slovak Union, Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.



Andrew M. Rajec

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President



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

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

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## Celebrating Our Heritage



This year marks a number of milestones for the First Catholic Slovak Union, including the 125th Anniversary of our Society and the 100th Year of our founder, Fr. Štefan Furdek's passing.

See page 6-7 of this issue for coverage of District 17's celebration event held in October.



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 4-5 of this issue for details.

## GOBBLE UP THESE RATES... ... AND YOU'LL BE THANKFUL

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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

### November 22nd 2015 - the Solemnity of Christ the King Gospel John 18: 33b-37

Today, on the feast of Christ the King, we sing at mass: "The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty!" (Ps 93:1). From the earliest traces of religious practice, in cultures from the Yellow River to ancient Sum-



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

meria, from the Vikings of northern Europe to the stone pyramids of the Maya, and from the Indus Valley to Upper Egypt, divinity and the royal prerogatives of kingship have gone hand in hand. The Psalmist eagerly joins in this chorus, proclaiming that splendor, strength, wisdom, and holiness are all in the possession of the Lord God of Israel. Daniel too, gives us a vision of the Ancient One, seated upon his throne in glory, graciously bestowing his powers on the mysterious Son of Man, and the Book of Revelation teaches us that it is through the resurrection—Jesus' status as "the firstborn of the dead"—that he is king and "ruler of the kings of the earth" (Rev 1:5).

These readings leave us with no doubt that the Lord is king indeed, but only in the gospel do we find just what kind of king he is. In that moment of interrogation before Pontius Pilate, in language that remained obscure to his followers until after his resurrection, we discover that Jesus' reign was not like that of earthly kings, for he himself says: "My kingdom does not belong to this world". We further begin to realize that the kingdom would only be fully revealed when the Lord himself had been raised from the dead.

The centrality of the resurrection in defining Jesus' kingship is made clear in the readings from Daniel and Revelation, which provide a frame centering upon and highlighting it. The resurrection is anticipated in the heavenly coronation language of Daniel and confirmed in Revelation, with a clear mention of it, "Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead", at the beginning of the Revelation text.

The dominion, glory, and power of which Daniel and the author of Revelation speak contrast sharply with the portrait of the Kingdom of God that eventually emerges in the gospels—a dominion of humble, self-giving love, which gives of itself to the very end. This contrast is not surprising after all, since in the ancient religions of the near east, kings demonstrated their sway by bringing death and destruction to others, not by dying themselves, much less dying innocently and scandalously, on a cross.

Still, Jesus announced clearly in his dialogue with Pilate that he indeed has a kingdom, "... but as it is, my kingdom is not here". The gospel on this day and the feast of Christ the King itself thus serve as reminders to us that the painful events which were about to unfold in Jesus' life were not the end, and that he would be vindicated in a wondrous and unprecedented way. When we go through difficulties as we seek to hasten the coming of the kingdom in its fullness, we should remember that the joy of the kingdom will one day be ours as well, when through our participation in the resurrection we—and all the members of the Church—will share in the glory of the risen Christ, a glory that has already begun to manifest itself in the Kingdom here on earth.

Sustained by the revelation of the powerful yet humble royal dignity witnessed in Jesus' passion, let us resolve to imitate his way of faith in God and his manner of living that "King-

dom faith" so that we may say together with the Psalmist—and all the humble Christian believers over the centuries—"The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty!"

### November 29, 2015 – First Sunday of Advent

**Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16**

**1 Thessalonians 3: 12 - 4:2**

**Luke 21: 25 - 28, 34 - 36**

In the Gospel for this Sunday Jesus speaks about the signs in the sky and our need to be attentive, vigilant and strong. This is the First Sunday of Advent, shouldn't we have a Gospel that reminds us of the birth of Jesus and gets us in the mood to want to put up our manger scenes, listen to Christmas carols (even though Christmas is almost four weeks away), and think of the Baby Jesus? Yes and no, Advent is meant to have us remember all that led up to the first coming of Jesus, and also to keep us mindful that there will be a second coming of Jesus. With these reminders of what God has done, and what God will do, we are placed within the context of God's actions and presence.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

The Nicene Creed lists the Actions of God; Creator of heaven and earth, the conception and birth of Jesus, the death and resurrection of Jesus by which our sins are forgiven, Jesus will come to judge the living and the dead, the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church, and the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. This brief list of the actions of God shows us very clearly the presence of God. God has been with us from the day he created the world, God will be with us until the end of the world and then for all eternity. God, is with us. One of the titles given to Jesus is, Immanuel, which means God is with us. The readings today remind us that God is with us.

Our preparing to celebrate Christmas is not just a remembering that God was with us, but a reminder that God is with us. Scriptural accounts of the second coming are not just warnings that we should look busy because God is coming, but that God is with us now. During these four weeks of Advent we are called by the church to take this time to reflect and pray about how we acknowledge the presence of God in the world and in our lives, and how we can become more aware of embracing God by being more attentive to His presence and molding our lives around him so that he is the center of our lives.

Here are three suggestions of how this can be done. 1. Celebrate Advent as a time of preparation for Christmas. Don't get caught up in the Christmas Season that the world has been marketing since late September. Hold off until the evening of December 24th to begin the celebration of Christmas. That is when we, as Church begin the Christmas Season. This first suggestion is probably the most difficult, but if you focus on it you will become more mindful of Advent as its' own season, and thus why Christ was born, and better appreciate the Feast and Season of Christmas. 2. Listen attentively to the words of the Advent Hymns we sing and make the words your prayer. Notice that these hymns are not celebrating Christmas, but are hymns of preparation. 3. We are surrounded these weeks by the "Christmas Spirit of Giving." Change your personal focus from Giving as being a Christmas Gift, to giving as part of your and the recipients' observance of Advent. Ask yourself how is my spirit of giving helping me to better prepare for Christmas?

This year Christmas falls on the Friday of the Fourth Week of Advent. This gives us close to four full weeks of Advent. Let us take advantage of the Advent Season and better prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13	MONDAY, JAN. 4
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27	MONDAY, JAN. 18

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# Slovak League of America to Offer 10 Scholarship Grants This Year

**Dan Tanzone, Branch 41 Member**



The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry founded in Cleveland, OH, in 1907 will offer ten(10), \$1,000 college scholarship grants to students of Slovak ancestry currently enrolled as full time students in a college, university or professional school. These grants are available to both students on the undergraduate and graduate level of study. The grants will be awarded in late December 2015 and made payable directly to the student.

These scholarship grants are given in memory of Doctors Catherine and Ladislav P. Hinterbuchner of Rye, NY. Dr. Ladislav P. Hinterbuchner served for many years as the national first vice president of the Slovak League of America. A native of Slovakia, Dr. Hinterbuchner and his wife, Dr. Catherine Hinterbuchner were active in the work of the Slovak League as well as other Slovak American cultural projects over the years. This year's scholarship grants are designated as the Doctors Ladislav P. and Catherine Hinterbuchner Memorial Grants.

Applicants are asked to prepare a study paper on some theme from Slovak history or culture of no less than five, type-written double-spaced pages. Through the preparation of this paper, hopefully the applicant enjoys a learning experience acquiring a better appreciation of his/her rich Slovak heritage. The completed application, a head and shoulders photo along with the study paper in hard copy is to be returned by the deadline date of December 7, 2015. The scholarship grants will be paid directly to the individual student by December 30, 2015. For an application, write: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, N.J. 07055, tel. daily Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (973)472-8993.

The Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc. was established in 1972 to assist American students of Slovak ancestry in their quest for a good education. To date, more than 200 students have received scholarship grants from this fund. Tax deductible donations are welcome. Make checks payable to: Slovak League Scholarship Fund and send same to the address listed above. We encourage students of Slovak ancestry to make application for this year's scholarship grants honoring the memory of Doctors Ladislav P. and Catherine Hinterbuchner

## March for Life 2016



Our Presence at the 43rd Annual Right to Life March on Friday, January 22, 2016 in Washington, DC is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and support the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU and the FCSLA are once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH, for this very important trip. Please call Kelly at the FCSLA home Office: 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at

Kelly@fcsla.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on one of the two reserved buses before December 28th. 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](http://www.fcsla.org) for a tentative itinerary for the trip.

## READY FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING

**Two Hard Cover Mystery Novels by Bishop Joseph V. Adamec based on his Dinner Mysteries and experiences from his youth**

Now available at CATHOLIC CHARITIES with all proceeds allocated for their ministry of assisting the needy of the Allegheny Mountains in Pennsylvania

Catholic Charities -1300 Twelfth Avenue [TEL: (814) 944-9388]  
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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of **Flight of the Beetle** and/or \_\_\_\_\_ copies of **Heir Non-Apparent** at \$28.00 each (including postage & handling).



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# Thanksgiving Message From the National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta

**Dear Friends,**

Thanksgiving Day will be here soon. Many of us will take the opportunity that day to reflect on the abundance of good things and blessings the Lord has given to us. Among the many things we normally take for granted that we give praise and thanks to God are: family and friends, life and health, first responders and emergency medical technicians, food and drink, faith and freedom.

Together with all these and many more items that come to mind for which we are and ought to be grateful, Pope Francis reminds us of one more, the mercy of God.

Our Holy Father announced earlier this year that he is designating a Year of Mercy for the universal church. A twelve month period from December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, to November 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, has been selected by Pope Francis to be a year during which all God's people may make a true commitment to reject sin in their lives and to experience day to day the overabundant mercy of God who is all good and worthy of all our love.

Since God's mercy has been bestowed upon us several times over the course of our lives, it is imperative that we not only never cease giving thanks to the Lord for this gift, but also to make it known and share it with others. Pope Francis writes in *The Face of Mercy*, "Jesus affirms that mercy is not only the action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us."

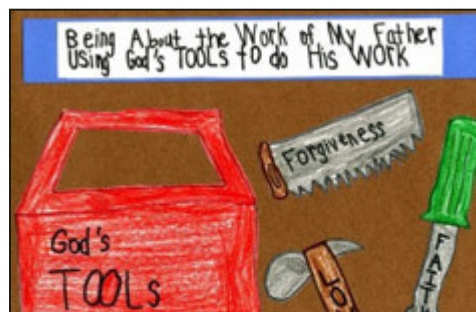
As many times as the Lord has blessed us with his mercy throughout our lives, the more we ought to share that gift with others, so that eventually the prayer of the psalmist may continually resound from all our hearts: "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for his mercy endures forever."

Fraternally,

**Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain**

## Entries Sought for Family Rosary's 2016

### "TRY PRAYER! IT WORKS!" CONTEST



**This artwork by Remy Lambert of St. Peter Chanel School in Paulina, La., tied for First Place in the First Grade Category of the 2015 "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest.**

The call for entries has been announced for the 2016 "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest. In this national competition sponsored by Family Rosary, children participate in an inspiring faith experience as they express their belief through art, poetry and prose.

The "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The national competition attracts more than 1,000 finalist entries from approximately 22,000 participants nationwide. Children and teens from Catholic schools, parishes, home schooling and other Catholic organiza-

tions use their talent to convey their beliefs.

This year's theme – "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers and sisters?" – is about doing God's will. It is by listening to the Father and understanding His wishes for us that we join the family of Heaven.

In Matthew 12:46-50, Jesus is told that his mother and brothers are waiting to speak to Him. Jesus asks, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" He then holds out His hand toward His disciples and says, "Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in Heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

The "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest asks entrants to use creativity to depict their faith. Children in grades K-12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, home school or other organization are eligible to participate. For details or to download an application, go to [www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer](http://www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer). All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2016. Questions? Call Holy Cross Family Ministries at 800-299-PRAY (7729).

Family Rosary was founded in 1942 by Servant of God Patrick Peyton, also known as the "Rosary Priest," to help families pray together. Father Peyton, and the ministry, are known by two powerful and memorable sayings: "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together" and "A World at Prayer is a World at Peace." Father Peyton was one of the most influential American Catholic priests of the 20th century, using the entertainment industry to further his mission of family Rosary prayer in honor of Mary and her son Jesus.

**Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)**

# *FCSU 2015 Christmas Coloring Contest*

**The Christmas Story**  
By Leanne Guenther

A

Once upon a time,  
A long, long time ago.  
Begins the story of a baby,  
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,  
And Mary was his mom,  
This babe was very special  
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,  
And they began to sing.  
To the shepherds in the fields below,  
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,  
To light the magi's way,  
To the baby in the manger  
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,  
Rejoiced and praised His birth,  
For the babe, the king named Jesus,  
Is our savior here on earth!



C

B



© 2013 Ian Dale Art & Design

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

**RULES**

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:  
**4 – 6 year olds – picture B**  
**7 – 9 year olds – picture A**  
**10 – 12 year olds – picture C**
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child’s completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2015**.
6. 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, 2015*

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:*

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

**Announcement**

On Saturday, December 12, Prince of Peace Parish (South Side) will host its **22<sup>nd</sup> 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 Bible reading of Christ’s birth and sharing of oplatky, a communion-like wafer. Scrumptious baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohy, bolbalky (puffs of blanched bread balls rolled in poppyseed or sauerkraut), and a traditional desserts crown the menu. 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. A bake sale and marketplace are also planned.

Ticket donation is only \$28 for adults and \$12 for children under 12. Children under 3 are FREE. Discounts are available to groups of eight or more adults. **Tickets will not be sold at the door.** Prince of Peace Parish Center is located at 81 So. 13<sup>th</sup> Street in South Side and its facilities are fully accessible. Doors open at 4 p.m.; dinner is served as the first star rises – approximately at 5 p.m.

To make reservations, please call the Prince of Peace Parish Center at 412-481-8380. Ticket orders must be placed and paid for by December 8, 2015.

*Prince of Peace Parish*

Presents

**22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
SLOVAK VILIJIA  
&  
JASLICKARI  
PROGRAM**



*Traditional  
Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner & Folk Entertainment*

**Saturday, December 12, 2015**

*4:00 p.m. Social Hour / 5:00 p.m. Dinner*

*Featuring Entertainment by the*

**Pittsburgh Slovaks**

**Prince of Peace Parish Center**

*81 So. 13th Street, South Side - Handicap Accessible*

Donation: \$28 Adults/ \$12 for Children under 12  
 Group Discount Available

**By Reservation Only: 412-481-8380**

*Tickets will NOT be sold at the door*

*Handicap Accessible – Ample Parking on Site*

# District 17 Celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the FCSU in Scranton

District 17, in Region 3 of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU), celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the Society's founding and commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the death of FCSU founder Father Štefan Furdek on Sunday, October 25, 2015.

The observance began with a Pontifical Mass celebrated at 12:15 P.M. in St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., bishop of the Diocese of Scranton, was celebrant and homilist. Concelebrants were Msgr. Dale Rupert, pastor of the Cathedral Parish, and Msgr. John Bendik, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston. Readers for the Liturgy were Laura C. Christianson and Elizabeth M. Slovenkai of Branch 382K, Scranton. The Intercessory Petitions included prayers for the members of FCSU, for the continued growth and mission of the FCSU, and for Father Furdek and deceased members. The Offertory gifts were presented by young members of Branch 382K – Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr. and Briana C. Slovenkai.

Before the Ministers of the Liturgy entered the Cathedral in procession, representatives of District 17 offered symbolic gifts and placed them in the Sanctuary. They were escorted by flag bearers. William Motichka presented the flag of the United States and Jay Rubino carried the flag of the Republic of Slovakia. The traditional gifts of hospitality and welcome – bread, salt, and wine – were offered by Marion Rubino, District 17 Treasurer, and Mary Jo Rubino. The FCSU Bylaws and a picture of Father Stefan Furdek were presented by Arlo Meeker, District 17 Vice President. Rebecca Czankner offered a piece of anthracite coal as a reminder that Father Furdek organized the Society to care for Slovak immigrants who came to this country and labored in the coal mines, iron furnaces and steel mills as well as factories and farms. Joshua and Matthew Christianson presented books on Slovakia – the geographical heart of Europe – and a book of Slovak Folk Tales, reminders that Father Furdek believed in promoting and preserving our Slovak heritage and culture. Michael Czankner offered a picture of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the patron saints of District 17 and of Scranton Branch 382K, and a replica of Our Lady of Sorrows, the patroness of the FCSU and of Slovakia. Both are reminders that one of our purposes is to preserve our Catholic faith.

A gala dinner – including Slovak pastry and a traditional birthday cake – followed in St. Mary's Center, Scranton. Members and guests greeted each other and renewed friendships during a short cocktail reception before dinner.

Martha Zavada, Region 3 Director, welcomed all in attendance and served as master of ceremonies. Invocation was offered by Father Phillip Sladicka, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Parish, Sayre, Pennsylvania. Robert Zavada led the singing of the National Anthems of the United States and Slovakia.

Reminding the assembly that the day was a celebration our Slovak heritage, District 17 President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. offered the toast to our founder, Father Furdek, and to our FCSU and its 125-year history: "May our First Catholic Slovak Union – JEDNOTA -- enjoy 125 more years of fraternalism and service for God and Nation!"

Guest speaker was Pennsylvania State Representative Sid Michael Kavulich of the 114th Legislative District, who read the congratulatory Resolution from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He spoke of his pride in the Slovak heritage of both his wife and himself and listed the contributions of many Slovak Americans. Pennsylvania State Representative Eddie Day Pashinski from the 121st Legislative District offered brief remarks citing the importance of celebrating our heritage. He spoke emotionally of the strong faith in God that our immigrant ancestors had and passed on to us. FCSU President Andrew M. Rajec addressed the on-going work of the Jednota as we move forward into the 21st century.

Lackawanna County Commissioner Patrick O'Malley presented a Resolution congratulating the FCSU on its 125th Anniversary and proclaiming Sunday, October 25, 2015, as First Catholic Slovak Union Day in Lackawanna County. Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, District 17 Fraternal Activities Officer, read proclamations from Scranton Mayor William L. Courtright and Scranton City Council. Tori Kovalchick provided the musical entertainment as well as music for singing. Benediction was offered by Msgr. John Bendik.

National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union were in attendance, including National President Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka; Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt and his wife Theresa; and National Chaplain Thomas A. Nasta. Regional Directors in attendance also included Damian Nasta, Sabina Sabados, and Martha Zavada. Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec attended as well.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai,  
District 17 Fraternal Activities Officer



All photos courtesy of Andrew P. Rajec

# District 17 Celebrated the 125th Anniversary



The flag of the Republic of Slovakia and the flag of the United States wave in the breeze from the pillars of St. Peter's Cathedral Rectory.

Members of Branch 382 K stand on the steps outside Council Chambers after receiving proclamations from the Scranton City Council and from Mayor William L. Courtright. Standing left to right and holding the proclamations are Joshua and Matthew Christianson and John J. Slovenkai, Jr. Standing in the back are William Motichka, Rebecca Czankner, Laura C. Christianson, John J. Slovenkai, Sr., and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr.



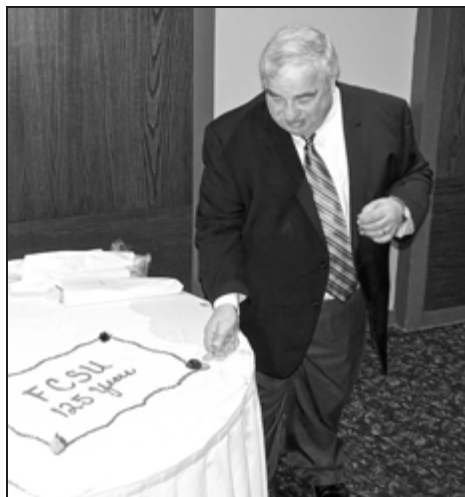
## City of Scranton Recognizes FCSU's 125th

Monsignor Dale Rupert, pastor of St. Peter's Cathedral Parish in Scranton, PA, directed that the flag of the Republic of Slovakia be displayed with the flag of the United States on the Rectory pillars from Friday, October 23 - Monday, October 26, 2015. In issuing the instruction, Monsignor acknowledged the Slovak heritage of his mother and the importance of the October weekend to people of Slovak descent in the city and diocese.

Members of Branch 382K attended the October 22 meeting of Scranton City Council to accept a congratulatory resolution presented by the Council. The resolution cited the founding of the organization and its history of support of Slovak families and of honoring and practicing the Catholic Faith. In recognition of the 125th Anniversary, Council declared Sunday, October 25, 2015 as "First Catholic Slovak Day" in the City of Scranton.

Mayor William L. Courtright also issued a proclamation recognizing the 125-year history of the First Catholic Slovak Union and its many activities and programs that support families and the faith. He specifically noted the Jednota Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. and the Jednota Memorial on the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania, which honors all who have contributed to the society and pays special tribute to Slovak Americans who served in the armed forces of the United States.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai, Branch 382 Secretary



# Deň vďakyvzdania: Thanksgiving Day and the Slovaks (2015)

**Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.,  
The University of Maryland University College**

Slovaks do not celebrate Thanksgiving (Deň vďakyvzdania) in November, as it is a strictly American holiday. But days of thanksgiving are celebrated in Slovakia and elsewhere, often as harvest festivals, or as feasts of gratefulness for the blessings over the year. Most of those feasts occur in October, such as the famous Oktoberfest in Germany, known for its celebration with beer (bier in German, pivo in Slovak). In Slovakia, the feast of St. Martin's Day on November 14 most closely resembles our Thanksgiving. Regardless, European harvest festivals have a long tradition, and they typically decorate their churches with cornucopias, pumpkins, corn, wheat sheaves, and other signs of a bountiful harvest. The feasts usually coincide with a weekend, and the English and other Europeans traditionally sang harvest hymns on the Sunday of a Thanksgiving weekend.

When attending graduate school at the University of Toronto, I discovered that Canadians celebrate their own Thanksgiving on the second Monday in October. The Canadian Parliament declared it a national day of thanksgiving in 1879, and its date was usually the third Monday of October, but fluctuated several times until 1957.

Canadians celebrate their Thanksgiving feast over their long weekend, and could do so on any of these days. The foods served resemble those eaten in the USA: roasted turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, sweet corn, a variety of vegetables (especially squashes and Brussels sprouts), and the traditional pumpkin and/or apple pie. Some regions serve their local specialties such as salmon, pheasant, or some other wild game, and baked ham also graces some tables.

## A Brief History of Thanksgiving in the New World

Historians attribute the first documented celebration of thanksgiving in North America in territories now part of the USA to the Spaniards in the 16th century. In 1540, Vasquez de Coronado took a group of 1,500 men on a long trek north from Mexico City in search of gold and fortune. During the spring of 1541, the expedition camped for two weeks at the Palo Duro Canyon, which today lies in the Texas Panhandle. There they celebrated the "first Thanksgiving" on what would one day become American soil.

About 37 years later, the English in Canada rather than the Pilgrims in Massachusetts could lay claim to a thanksgiving celebration. When Martin Frobisher sailed on his third voyage in 1578, with a fleet of 15 ships in search of a Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean, he attempted to found a small settlement at the southeastern corner of Baffin Island. The island is located in Frobisher Bay, a large inlet of the Labrador Sea in what is today the Qikiqtaaluk Region of Nunavut, Canada. When the icy waters and many storms scattered his fleet and sank one of his ships and he lost many building materials, he abandoned the settlement project. But when the remaining ships reassembled and anchored in Frobisher Bay, a preacher known as Mayster Wolfall "made unto them a godly sermon, exhorting them especially to be thankful to God for their strange and miraculous deliverance in those so dangerous places ..." They thanked God with a Mass and communion, one of the first such celebrations in North America.

Again before the Pilgrims, French settlers, who accompanied Samuel de Champlain on his explorations, organized feasts of thanksgiving starting in 1604. The French even invited the Indians, which Canadians today refer to as First Nations, to share food together. Likewise, following the victory of the English in the Seven Years' War (which Americans call the French and Indian War), ended in 1763, the people of Halifax, Nova Scotia began celebrating "a special day of Thanksgiving." When many American loyalist refugees fled to Canada during and after the American Revolutionary War, they brought with them the traditional American practices of celebrating Thanksgiving to Canada, making turkey and all the trimmings part of the feast. The day of observance varied in different parts of Canada until it became a national holiday in 1879.

## Thanksgiving in the USA

As most American know, Thanksgiving Day in the USA is an official holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. First President George Washington informally proclaimed it a holiday in 1789. Thanksgiving only became an official national holiday in 1863. During the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed it a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

The holiday commemorates the First Thanksgiving which the Pilgrims celebrated for 3 days in 1621 to thank God after their first harvest in the New World. According to historical documents recorded by Edward Winslow, 53 Pilgrims and 90 Native American Indians attended the event. Although we do not know the exact date, sources tell us it occurred sometime between September 21 and November 11. The Pilgrims were grateful that an English educated Indian named Squanto translated for them had taught them to survive by catching eel and growing corn. The feast was supposed to praise and show gratefulness to God and indicated how colonists and native peoples could get along well with one another.

In recent history, the celebration of Thanksgiving has become clouded by commercialism and protests by some Native Americans that the friendship was short-lived and that English land-grabbing soon soured relations between the two peoples. Regardless, the feast has continued among Christians in America as a celebration of God and family, and this despite the increasing commercialization and opening of stores on a public holiday.

## St. Martin's Day - November 14

Instead of Thanksgiving, Slovaks celebrate St. Martin's Day on November 11, which also marks Veterans Day in the USA, Armistice Day in Europe, and the feast day of the Slovak Catholic Sokol's patron saint. Bratislava's cathedral is named after the saint, and many Slovaks carry the name Martin. The city of Martin, a center of Slovak culture and home of the Matica Slovenska, was named in the saint's honor. The original name of the city was Turčiansky svätý Martin, until the communists did away with all the saints in town names. Some, though not all Slovaks celebrate the saint's day with roast goose (husacie hody). For those with the name Martin in Slovakia, the day resembles a second birthday and anyone with the name Martin often receive some small gifts.

The Day's special status derives from the fact that St. Martin of Tours became a legend for his kindness and generosity. Though a Roman soldier, St. Martin's life began about 100 miles from



Bratislava. Born in the 4th century to a Roman officer in the city of Savaria, which lay in the Roman province of Pannonia, the town is today known as Szombathely, Hungary. Martin was named after Mars, the Roman god of war, but he turned out to be anything but a warrior. When just a youth, he wished to be a Christian, but his parents barred him from the practice. So he served in the cavalry.

The most well known story derives from a hagiography, a saintly legend. It relates how as a young man under 18 in the Roman cavalry, he met a poor beggar with inadequate clothing, when it was quite cold outside. Compassionate for the man, he drew his sword and cut his cloak in half

Martin pulled out his sword and cut his own cloak in two, and gave half of it to the beggar.

Eventually, St. Martin requested release from military service, because he objected to fighting. The Romans, having no tolerance for someone who was a conscientious objector, refused his request. A huge battle was brewing, and the Romans viewed such exemption from service as an act of cowardice, and told him as much. Nonetheless, St. Martin agreed to lead the Roman army into battle the next day, but insisted that he carry no weapon and not hurt any opponent on the battlefield. If he survived, his superiors would release him from duty. Fortunately, the battle never happened, and he was permitted to leave military service.

According to the legend, St. Martin opted to lead his life in poverty in a monastery, and spent most of his time in solemn prayer. Martin had acquired a reputation of performing miracles and people urged him to become bishop when the local pastoral leader passed away. When messengers arrived to inform him of the news of his appointment to the office, Martin allegedly hid himself among a flock of geese. Unable to find him after a long search, the men did notice a great deal of noise among the geese in a nearby barn. Amidst the gaggle of geese (krdeľ hus), they found Martin. They grabbed him, cleaned him up and whisked him away. Ultimately, Martin accepted his fate and accepted the office of bishop, which he deemed to be God's will.

Because the geese had betrayed Martin's hiding place, his feast day is celebrated with the roast goose. His feast day on November 11 is believed to be the anniversary of his death in 397. Christians in the Middle Ages feasted on that day, and afterwards began a 40-day fast leading to Christmas. In later years, the period evolved into what we now know as Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of Christ.

In addition to enjoying roast goose on St. Martin's Day, some in Slovakia also used the occasion to tap the new barrels of wine made after the autumn harvest. The wine would serve as an appetizer for the meal, which included the broiled liver of a fattened goose.

Slovaks enjoyed other foods at this feast, and every meal always began with soup (polievka), in this case, oftentimes a soup made of goose giblets (drobky z husata). Other specialties common on St. Martin's Day are the following: cabbage (kapusta), which is usually blanched, and fried or roasted with sweet seasonings; lokše, a potato pancake made from mashed potatoes, often sprinkled with cinnamon (skvorica), poppy seeds (mak), ground nuts (mleté orechy), honey (med), and/or chocolate syrup.

Another well-known delicacy commonly eaten on St. Martin's Day are rožky. Slovak rožky are homemade rolls that literally melt in one's mouth and are absolutely delicious. The rožky were often filled with plum jam (lekvar) or poppy seeds (mak siaty). Girls would often give one of these rožky to their fathers, or give rožky to someone who had performed a service for the family, such as farm boy helper (čeladník).

Finally, there are many proverbs (prislovia) and weather lore sayings associated with St. Martin's Day, including one that states: Ak hus o Martine už po ľade chodí, zas okolo Vianoc v kaluži sa brodí. This literally translates, "If the goose walks on ice on St. Martin's Day, again around Christmas it will be wading in a muddy puddle." It means that if it snows and is cold on St. Martin's feast day, it will snow on Christmas Day. This was because St. Martin rode on a white horse. If there is no snow on his feast day, then it is not supposed to snow on Christmas Day.

## Key Slovak words for Thanksgiving

Finally, in order to provide our readers with a few Slovak words for family discussion at the Thanksgiving table, here are some common words and phrases we associate with the feast, with their Slovak translations. It represents a good opportunity to teach our family a few Slovak words, and be thankful for our Slovak and religious heritage.

Thanksgiving Day = Deň vďakyvzdania [Dyen (soft "n") vdyak-ee-vzdaa-nyia]

Happy, lucky, fortunate = šťastný [shtyaast - nee]

Happy Thanksgiving Day = Šťastný Deň vďakyvzdania [Shtyaast-nee Dyen (soft "n") vdyak-ee-vzdah-nyia]

cornucopia = roh hojnosti [row hoy-no-stee]

acorn = žalud' [zha-lud] (soft "d")

apple pie = žemlovka [zhem-lov-kah]

pumpkin pie = dyňový koláč [dee-nyo-vee ko-lawch]

whipped cream = šľahačka [shla-hawch-kah]

cranberry = brusnica [bruce-nee-tseh]

cranberries = brusnice [bruce-nee-tseh]

turkey (a tome, a male) = moriak [more-ee-awk]

turkey (a hen, a female) = morka [more-kah]

turkey (a hen, in Spiš dialect) = puľka [pool-kah]

to gobble = hltat' [hl-taat with a soft "t"]

For a guide on Slovak pronunciation, see this website:

<http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/alphabet/slovak.htm>

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# The First Catholic Slovak Union Helped Commemorate the Birth of a Nation in October

The 100 Year Anniversary of the Cleveland Agreement was celebrated on the weekend of October 24-25, 2015, in Cleveland, OH. The Agreement was formed in 1915 when, united in a desire to form their own government, Slovaks and Czechs in America met at Bohemian National Hall in Cleveland, OH, and formulated the idea to establish a common sovereign state. It was the concept that led to the birth of Czechoslovakia, and members of the First Catholic Slovak Union participated in the commemoration of this historic event. [Editor's note: More about the Cleveland Agreement is Daniel Tanzone's article in the September 23, 2015 Jednota, page 6].

On Thursday, October 22, 2015, National Public Radio's Cleveland program, the Sound of Ideas, brought together a panel to discuss how the Slovaks and Czechs began planning a unified and independent state in Europe a century ago. The guest panel included FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec, along with Kenneth Ledford, Associate Professor of History & Law, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH and Paul Burik, Former President of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences, Cleveland Chapter. Thomas M. Prose, Consul General Emeritus, Consulate for the Czech Republic, participated from Michigan via phone.

[Editor's note: to listen to the entire program, go to [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)]

Then, on Saturday, October 24, 2015, Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Branch 24 Member and Principal of Benedictine High School in Cleveland, OH, was one of the keynote speakers, presented an historic overview of Slovaks in Europe and in America at the time the Cleveland Agreement was signed.

The Lúčina Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland, directed by Branch 24 Director Thomas J. Ivanec, provided the entertainment portion of the evening.



(L - R) Sound of Ideas's Mike McIntyre interviews Andrew M. Rajec, National President of the First Catholic Slovak Union; Kenneth Ledford, Associate Professor of History & Law at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH; and Paul Burik, former President of the Czechoslovak Society of the Arts & Sciences, Cleveland Chapter. Thomas M. Prose, Consul General Emeritus for the Czech Republic, participated by phone



(L - R) Master of Ceremonies for the 100th Anniversary Celebration Paul Burik,; Denise Ivan-Antus, who recited a poem about General Milán Rastislav Štefánik, an author of the manifesto establishing the first Czecho-Slovak government; Guest Speaker Stephen Sebesta on "The Cleveland Agreement - the First Major Declaration of Cooperation Between Czechs and Slovaks in the US to Support an Independent Czechoslovakian State"; and Guest Speaker Rev. Micahel Brunovsky, OSB, on "The Slovak Struggle Toward the Cleveland Agreement."

The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Dance Ensemble performs a gypsy number on stage at the historic Bohemian National Hall in Cleveland, OH, for attendees at the 100th Anniversary Commemoration of the Cleveland Agreement on October 24, 2015.



## Slovak Domovina Dancers at Annual Oberackova Zabava in Windsor, Ontario

The Slovak Domovina Dancers of Windsor, Ontario, presented their annual Oberackova Zabava on October 24, 2015, at the St. Cyril Slovak Center, Windsor, Ontario. The autumn event was well attended, and guests exhibited a festive attitude throughout the entire evening.

After a delicious dinner, the Slovak Domovina Dancers performed their full repertoire of Slovak dances – including their newest dance from the Myjava Region of Slovakia.

During one of the intermissions, Marcy Jacko Namespetra, representing Branch 789 of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), presented a donation from the branch to Irene Kominar Timko, director of Domovina. The donation is intended to indicate that Branch 789 supports the group's promotion of Slovak folklore. The Slovak Domovina Dancers have performed extensively in Canada, the USA, and Europe (including Slovakia) for the past 31 years.

After the concert, the evening continued with dancing and socializing with family and friends. The Oberackova Zabava was an occasion that will be remembered for many years to come.

Thank you and congratulations, Slovak Domovina Dancers.

- Submitted by Mary Boldizar Jacko, Branch 789 President

(L - R) Irene Kominar Timko, Marcy Jacko Namespetra, and Ann Palenkas Chauvin



## Branch 682 Supports Coats for the Needy in Struthers, OH



At the September 15, 2015 meeting of the Rotary Club of Struthers, OH, was Joe Scavina, Financial Secretary of FCSU Jednota Branch 682 (St. George Lodge) who presented a check for \$2500 to JoAnn Sweeney, Stuthers Rotary Chair for this year's Rotary Operation Warm in Mahoning County. Branch 682 has always been active in the community and decided this year to help provide coats for the needy in our area. Jednota provides services and scholarships for children of Slovak heritage and strives to support community activities.

- Submitted by Andrew Hirt, Branch 682

## Presov Delegation Visits Pittsburgh



Recently elected Mayor of Presov, Andrea Turcanova, and six other representatives from Presov, Slovakia, visited Pittsburgh, PA, for seven days on a trade and cultural mission. Presov has been a sister city with Pittsburgh since 2002. Since then, all four Presov mayors have visited Pittsburgh. While in Pittsburgh, the delegation met with Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto, Pittsburgh City Council, and the University of Pittsburgh Slovak department.

They visited the Warhol Museum and the Heinz History Center; and they had a tour of the city. They attended the Slovak Radio Hour Dinner and they had dinner with the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association Board. They also had meetings with five different businesses and an educational organization in the area.

Accompanying the Mayor were two representatives from Presov University, a member of the Presov Chamber of Commerce, a reporter from SME, a trip coordinator and a translator.

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Honorary Consul from Pittsburgh to Slovakia and Branch 254 Member

## District 14's Sales Seminar in October

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, District 14 held a luncheon and meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2015 starting at noon at the Magic Tree Restaurant in Boardman, OH. Directly following the meeting at 2:00PM, the district hosted a sales seminar by the FCSU Membership & Marketing Committee. National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Director of Independent Agents Andrew M. Rajec, and In-house Sales Agent and Branch Coordinator Robert Kopco offered information about the Society's portfolio of insurance and annuity products. All photos courtesy of Andrew P. Rajec.

If members in your branch or district would be interested in learning more about the products the First Catholic Slovak Union has to offer, contact the Home Office to schedule a seminar: 1-800-533-6682.



The FCSU's Robert Kopco flanked by members and guests at the District 14 Sales



Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec explains which annuities the FCSU carries.



National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., leads a discussion of the various insurance policies the FCSU offers.

## St. Thomas A's Becket's 2nd Annual Christmas Cookie Walk, December 5

On Saturday, December 5, 2015, from 11:00AM – 2:00PM in the St. Thomas A' Becket School Building at 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, a Cookie Walk will be held. Cookies are sold for \$8.00 a pound.

Last year over 360 pounds of cookies were sold; and, once again, we are looking forward to selling more of the very special homemade cookies baked by the people of St. Thomas A' Becket Church.



In addition to this, there will be complimentary hot dogs, beverages, and snacks. Children can have fun at the "Kid's Corner," with cookie decorating, crafts, games, and more.

You are invited to join this event and take home your ready-made Christmas gifts – HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS COOKIES. For more information, call: 412-655-2885 or 412-653-4322.

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN

## Clean Up at the Slovak Cultural Gardens in Cleveland, OH

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens are a collection of public gardens located in Rockefeller Park in Cleveland, OH. There are 31 distinct gardens situated within this 276 acres of wooded parkland on the city's east side, each commemorating a different ethnic group whose immigrants have contributed to Cleveland's heritage.

Planning for the three acres of the Slovak Cultural Garden began in 1929, and in 1934 was dedicated with two bronze busts. Father Štefan Furdek, a gift of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and, Lutheran Minister Jan Kollar, a gift of the Slovak Evangelical Union and Lutherans of Cleveland. Recently, the statue of Milán Rastislav Štefánik was added to the Slovak Gardens, moved from another nearby location. Cleveland Slovaks had raised money to remember Štefánik with a monument after his tragic death in a 1919 airplane crash near Bratislava. This sculptured bronze figure atop a stone base was commissioned to Slovak sculptor M. Frico Motoska in 1922.

Members of the Slovak-American community in Cleveland who regularly help clean and maintain the Slovak Gardens are shown here before Štefánik's statue.

- Photo courtesy of Patty Allen, Branch 24



### Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities, Inc.

invites you to tastefully initiate the Christmas Season by attending their annual...

### CHRISTMAS SEASON CELEBRATION

Join members/friends/guests for an afternoon of American/Slovak/Czech/Rusyn Christmas music and song, along with holiday cheer and taste delights.

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015 - 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church – Activities Center (behind the church) 8111 Brecksville Road (Route 21), Brecksville, OH 44141 (between Wallings and Fitzwater on the East side of Brecksville Road).

**WHAT:** Enjoy holiday foods and refreshments, including assorted party trays and homemade Slovak specialties, e.g. sauerkraut soup, along with beer, wine and soft drinks.

**SPECIAL GUEST:** Bring the children & grandchildren to meet this year's special guest, St. Nicholas himself, who will bring holiday cheer to all in attendance.

Live Holiday Music by members of the Dolina/Harmonia Ensembles

Plus traditional American & Eastern European Christmas carol sing-along

**COST:** \$5 per person over 18 years of age for paid-up CBSC members. \$15 per person over 18 years of age for non-members. Payable in advance or at the door. (No charge for children)

**Note:** Capacity is limited to 100.

All persons/couples attending are requested to bring along and share a dish of one of the following:

Hors d'oeuvres, Christmas pastries/desserts, or salads/vegetable & Slovak specialties.

Bring ready to be served on a serving dish, with necessary serving utensils. You may also bring a bottle of your favorite spirits! Other drinks will be provided.

**RSVP (including number of adults & children) by Tuesday, December 1st to:**

Marie Golias 216-228-8179 or Paula Tilisky 440-668-2145



## From the Office of the Executive Secretary

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

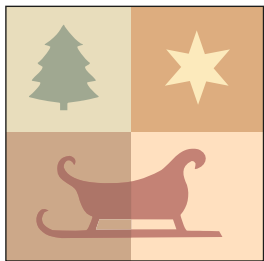
Thanksgiving - Thursday, November 26, 2015, and Friday, November 27, 2015.



Christmas – Thursday, December 24, 2015 – Friday, December 25, 2015

New Year's – Friday, January 1, 2016

## Annual Slovak Christmas Meal (Vilija) at Benedictine



Early in December each year, held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School, Cleveland, OH, has been a Slovak Traditional Christmas Meal. This traditional meal prepared by local members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club and served by monks from St. Andrew Abbey, truly has been considered the start of the Holy Christmas season for many years. This is a meatless meal as was celebrated in Europe and continued here in America.

The date this year is Sunday, December 6, 2015. Beginning the event, noon Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church, a

short walk on the St. Andrew Abbey grounds from the High School. The meal follows immediately after.

**Tickets to attend are only sold in advance**, to ensure food supply. Dinners are \$20.00 each. Orders are placed by mail, with check, sent in care of:

Saint Andrew Abbey – VILIIJA  
10510 Buckeye Road  
Cleveland, OH 44104

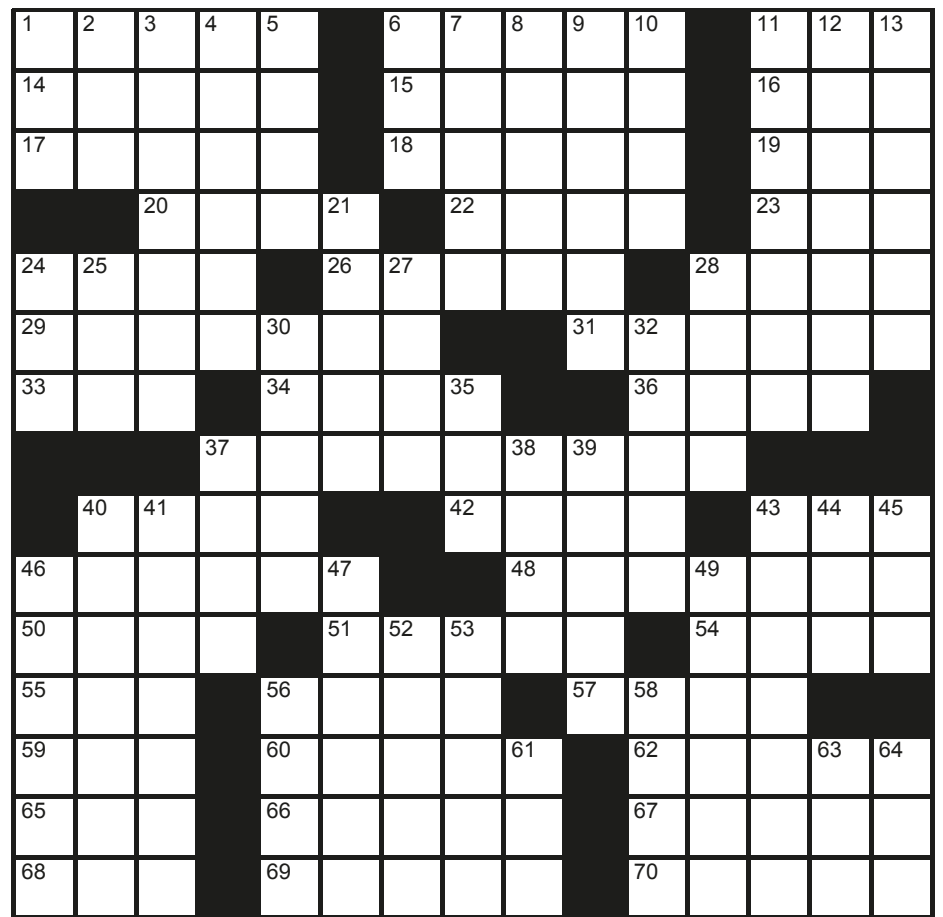
For more information, phone 216 721-5300, ext. 100, Monday – Friday, 8am until 3:30pm.

Along with the Mass and meal, there is always traditional music and a performance; this year features the Lúčina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. Exhibits and tables with sale items are also there. The abbey monks, the Slovak Radio Club members, and staff at the Slovak Institute Library all work together in keeping this tradition going.

The Slovak Institute has been located in the Abbey building since 1952, and before that since 1936 known only as a Slovak Library.

- Submitted by Joe Hornack, Branch 1 Member

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



### Across

- 1 After land or sea
- 6 Spheres
- 11 Thickness
- 14 Tourist court
- 15 Actress Oberon
- 16 Jeans brand
- 17 Bonus
- 18 Type of car
- 19 Long \_\_\_\_
- 20 Family member
- 22 Military might (Abbr.)
- 23 Bubble source
- 24 Elevator man
- 26 Bee product
- 28 Mountain lion
- 29 Dance, e.g.
- 31 It can be silver
- 33 Your (Fr.)
- 34 Two out of two
- 36 *Bonanza* brother
- 37 Caromed
- 40 Coin opening
- 42 Yawner
- 43 Scoundrel
- 46 Surrounded by
- 48 College team
- 50 Hillock
- 51 Crosswise, on deck
- 54 Leg part
- 55 Legendary Giant
- 56 Cameo stone
- 57 Passionate
- 59 Colorado native
- 60 Concur
- 62 Modify
- 65 Japanese coin
- 66 Congregation
- 67 Fling
- 68 Naval rank (Abbr.)
- 69 Taste or touch

### 70 Boxer Mike

### Down

- 1 That girl
- 2 *Mr. Peepers* actor Wally
- 3 Realizes
- 4 Examine closely
- 5 Gusto
- 6 Sound booster
- 7 Summer TV offering
- 8 Jagged
- 9 Forever
- 10 Ego
- 11 Besets
- 12 Bean or pea plants
- 13 Beefeater
- 21 Pulsate
- 24 Frequently, in verse
- 25 Dead heat
- 27 Conductor Klemperer
- 28 Egg on
- 30 Assists
- 32 Bravo, e.g.
- 35 Focal point
- 37 Took the bus
- 38 Exploding star
- 39 Video store category

- 40 Enamored
- 41 Takes heed
- 43 BBQ leftovers
- 44 Lunched
- 45 Salon supply
- 46 Stimulate
- 47 Snarl
- 49 Deficient
- 52 *Don Juan* poet
- 53 Biz VIPs
- 56 Klutzes
- 58 Far reaching
- 61 Supplement, with "out"
- 63 Modern (Prefix)
- 64 Good room for the TV set

See Solution on Page 20

## JEDNOTA

### Publication Schedule for 2016

#### Issue Date

January 13  
January 27  
February 10  
March 2  
March 30  
April 20  
May 11  
June 15  
July 20  
August 17  
Sept 7  
Sept 21  
October 5  
October 19  
November 2  
November 16  
December 7

#### Deadline to Receive Information

January 4  
January 18  
February 1  
February 22  
March 21  
April 11  
May 2  
June 6  
July 11  
August 8  
August 29  
Sept 12  
Sept 26  
October 10  
November 7  
November 28

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*\*Higher amounts available - please contact your  
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**Reach out to us at 800.533.6682**



# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 3P – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The 2015 annual meeting of Branch 003P, Saint Joseph Society, will be held at 9:30AM on Sunday November 22, 2015 in St. Joseph's church basement at 604 North Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Election of officers for 2016 will be conducted, followed by update of local branch and society activities. Ideas for branch activities for 2016 and beyond will be discussed and new ideas are welcomed. Any address changes or name or beneficiary changes can be reported and recorded. All society members are urged to attend and become more involved in branch and society activities.

**Mike Koval, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 06K, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 27, 2015, at 1PM at Cracker Barrel, 4119 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL. The agenda will include the election of officers for 2016, and discussions for activities and business for 2016. A lunch will be provided for all members, followed by fraternalism. Please call: 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764 if you plan to attend or have any questions on policies, or to purchase a policy or annuity for a new member. We urge all members to attend.

**Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. All 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, PA, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant, PA.

**William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015, 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 annual donations to our special charities will take place.

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

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St. Andrew Society, will hold a branch meeting at 1:00 PM, Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the Old Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd. (Rt. 21) in Independence, OH. Parking is available behind the gazebo on the town square.

Refreshments will be served.

The agenda will include discussion of branch activities and a financial report.

Please phone Activities Director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 evenings after 6:00 PM if you plan to attend. Thanks.

**Bob Kopco, President**

## 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 6, 2015 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 20 of this issue for details].

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 20, 2015.

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's, Branch 35 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA.

Agenda items will include a discussion of branch and district activities, officer's reports and the election of officers for the New Year.

**Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 31st at 1:00 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 29, 2016.

**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 22, 2015, 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.

Sincerely,

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55 – BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 55KJ will host a VILIA at St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church, 4th and Brown Streets, Philadelphia, PA, on the Second Sunday in Advent, December 6, 2015. Mass will be at 9:30 A.M. Seating for the dinner begins at 11:00 A.M. in the Church Hall with a Candlelight Procession. Branch 55 KJ is supporting this event and reserving tables for its members. To reserve your seat, please call Josephine Gerba at 215.639.6530 on or before Saturday, November 28th.

**Helena T. Gaydos, President**

## BRANCH 55 – BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 KJ is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the President and Secretary-Treasurer in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Mass will be held at Wesley Hall at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch.

Elections will be held for Branch Officers and Delegates and their Alternates to the District 8 meetings, Regular business will also be conducted. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid for Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting, will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's recently published book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. Joe, a multi-faceted entrepreneur, is a member of the FCSU, who shares his insights and experience in building a successful career centered in the field of music. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by December 10h in order to make reservations at the Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (610) 356-7956 or Secretary at (215) 637-6530.

In the event of severe weather, or any other emergency, we will conduct a telephone conference meeting with those who cannot attend.

**Helena T. Gaydos, President**

## BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the BVM Society, Branch 75KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, 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 the fiscal year-end reports and financial statements; the submission of the auditors' reports; nomination and election of officers for the coming year will be held; and any

additional branch business will be entertained. All interested members should make an effort to attend this semi-annual meeting.

**Ronald A. Anderson, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 112 - MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Branch 112, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at noon at Palermos Restaurant on the Pottsville/Minersville highway. The agenda will include the treasures report, election of officers and new business. A light lunch will be served.

Please call Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 if you plan to attend.

**Karen Sterling, Secretary**

## BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Please pray for the following members of St. Stephen Branch 153 who have gone to their eternal rest in the past year:

Joseph Behm	born 1925
Mary Pustelnik	1925
Penny Lazzara	1939
Edward Zolna	1929
Dale Maxwell	1931
Elizabeth Cornacchione	1927
Anna Kurinec	1918
William Zibrada	1925
Mary Zbella	1923
Richard Imrisek	1933

May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 157 – CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

St Andrew's Branch 157 will be holding a meeting in the upstairs hall at 5th and Grove N Catasauqua, PA .It will begin at 1:00PM, Sunday, December 6, 2015. On the agenda will be the Christmas party, results from the last 2 District meeting's.

On Sunday, December 20, a meeting will be held at 12 (noon) in the upstairs hall. Election of officers will take place at this meeting. Christmas party doors open at 1:30PM, and Santa will arrive at 2:00PM. Reservations are required. Please call 610-264-0740 by December 6th.

For any questions or more information, contact Greg at 484-908-9200 or gharakal@aol.com.

Branch 157 wants to wish a safe and Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

**Greg Harakal, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 9:00AM at Golden Corral Restaurant Conference Room, 129 Matthew Drive, Uniontown, PA.

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast. Call for reservations by December 1, 2015. Branch activities will be discussed, officers' reports will be given, and election of officers will take place. Voting on Christmas expenditures and upcoming events will be discussed. Please advise of any address changes or any questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

## BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, will hold its annual meeting on Dec. 20, 2015, at Norms North Sherman St Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12 Noon.

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

Fraternally,

**John Ungvarsky, President**

## BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will meet on Sunday, December 13th at 1:00 PM at Jioio's Restaurant, Route 981, Latrobe, PA 15650. You are encouraged to attend.

**Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 will be having our annual Election of Officers on December 3rd. This will take place in the

banquet room at the regular monthly meeting which begin at 7:00pm. All beneficial members are encouraged to attend.

If anyone knows the names of players that were on the baseball team around World War II, please contact me @ 724-763-9229. Paul Klacha donated a team uniform which has been placed in a glassed frame to preserve. There are 5 known players but that's not enough for a full team. Charney, and Habrovsky, are 2 family names that we know. Our hope is someone has a photo and/or names of all or any of the players. Our 125th anniversary is coming up in 2020 and we would like to show case this. If anyone has any history, memorabilia, photos of the past that you would like to share, please call or mail to CU Branch 200 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. Please note if the items are to be returned following our anniversary celebration. 2020 may sound like a long time away but the planning starts now for a successful event and it will be here before we know it. Anyone that would like to participate in the planning, please let me know and what you would be interested in. Many hands make for less work.

The home office has continued to offer 1st year \$14.00 premium paid on \$10,000.00 JEP policies. We are happy to announce our branch will pay the 2nd year premium. Should the home office discontinue this, we will continue by paying the 1st year premium. Other insurance policies are available for your needs. It's something we all should plan and remember the younger the cheaper. Do you have a child or grandchild that doesn't have any material needs, this is a great gift option. Burial costs are very expensive to families that are not insured. Accidents happen and we all need to be prepared. Call and I will gladly mail out some literature to review or will arrange to meet with you. Please leave a message if I am not available. No pressure.

Fraternally,

**Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 213 will hold a general meeting at Panera's in Cranberry, PA, on Sunday, November 22, 2015, starting at 1:00PM. On the agenda: general branch business.

On Sunday, December 13, 2015, Branch 213 will hold its semi-annual meeting. It will be at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, at 1:00PM. Election of officers will be held at this meeting. All members are asked to attend.

Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Joe Belechak, Secretary**

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their annual election/bylaw review meeting on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in 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. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. I appeal to our younger members to become active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Come to our meetings. They are fun, informative and help to promote fraternal comradery.

**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 20, 2015, at 1:00PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year followed by a luncheon – with reservations to be made

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## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 3----GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT---WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union invites you to attend its annual "Stedry Vecer" on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA. Begin the evening with Mass at 4 P.M. in the Chapel followed by our Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner. Door prizes will be awarded and the Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. Ample seating will be available. Tickets: \$22 age 12 and up; \$10 age 3 to 11. Tickets must be reserved prior to November 29th by calling Darlene Patty at 724-537-7743.

**Linda L. Gonta, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2015 at 1:00 PM. Branch 290 will host the meeting at St. Joseph's Church Hall, 16 Somerset Street in Raritan, NJ. Branch secretaries are asked to RSVP to Joe Minarovich @732-469-5256 by November 28th. Agenda will include election of new officers, as well as plans for future events. Lunch will be served.

**Mary Kapitan, District Secretary**

### DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 38 will host the Fall meeting of Pittsburgh District to be held on Sunday, November 29, 2015 at 1 PM at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin, PA. RSVP to Flo Matta at 412-466-7460 or email the secretary at manasta@verizon.net by November 20. District officers for 2016 will be elected at this meeting. The meeting will also include officers' reports and discussion of district business. We will be planning the meetings and events for 2016. Bring your suggestions if your branch would like to host a meeting or if you have an idea for a group event.

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:

\*\* WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: December 7 – Show and Tell/Bring Your Slovak Memorabilia. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

\*\* Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees (412-956-6000). The Fall classes will be directed toward intermediate and advanced students. The Spring classes will be for beginners.

\*\* Annual Slovak Vilija and Jaslickari Program – December 12 – Prince of Peace Parish Center, 81 S Thirteenth Street, South Side, Pittsburgh. Entertainment will be provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Reservations only: 412-481-8380.

\*\* 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](http://www.wpitam.com).

\*\* You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook.

\*\* Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See [www.slavic.pitt.edu](http://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/](http://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](http://www.nsslife.org/Museum).

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

\*\* FCSU information and forms can be found at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

Anyone with additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice should send information to [manasta@verizon.net](mailto:manasta@verizon.net)  
Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary**

### DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) is scheduled for Sunday, November 22, 1:30 PM at the C.U. Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City. When possible, Branches should designate their representatives to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 by November 21; however, Branch members not previously identified are also welcome to participate in all District meetings on a walk-in basis.

#### Reminders

-- Per FCSU By-Laws, Branch representation at either of the two District meetings each year is required to qualify for receipt of the annual Branch stipend.

-- Up-to-date payment of District dues and attendance at District meetings are requirements for Branches to send delegates to the quadrennial FCSU convention.

-- Branch representation at District meetings need not be by Branch officers; any beneficial member may represent his/her Branch.

**Grace M. Charney, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 12 - ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

**Frances Tarquinio, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2015, at 1:00PM in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report and discussion of activities; also election of officers for next year will take place at this meeting. After the meeting, refreshments will be served, courtesy of Branch 45.

**Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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by calling 330-755-8316.

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

**Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at 1:30PM at the Beford Trails & Golf Course Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: general branch business and election of officers for 2016 will take place at this meeting. A Christmas luncheon will follow directly after the meeting, so please call President Paul Ritz by Friday, December 11, to make your reservation at (234) 855-1233.

Fraternally,

**Paul Ritz, President**

### BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Saint Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will be held on Sunday November 22, 2015 at 9:30AM in Saint Joseph church basement at 604 North Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Election of officers for 2016 will be held and other branch business for the remainder of this year and beyond will be covered. Any changes of name, address, or beneficiary can be reported. Also, report on details for this year's Christmas food basket project will be discussed. Please plan to attend and get involved in branch activities.

**Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a meeting on December 9, 2015 at 6:30PM. Election of officers will be held at this meeting. Please call Joe at (908) 413-7177 after 6PM for the location of the

meeting.

**Joe Minarovich, President**

### BRANCH 292 - WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold their Annual Meeting and Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, December 13, 2015, at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA. Nomination of officers will take place at this meeting. All members are asked to attend this event.

On December 18, 2015, Branch 292 will hold a special meeting for election of officers. The meeting will start at 7:00PM and will be at the home of President Edward T. Surkosky. Details of this meeting will be offered at the December 13th meeting or for more information call 1-814-467-9346. All members are asked to attend.

The officers extend to all members best wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Edward T. Surkosky, FIC, President**

### BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA, 18232-2210, at 6PM. Election of officers will take place at this time. Anyone needing service or more insurance should call 570-645-4872 and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Fraternally,

**Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next

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## Annual ASCA Vilija Nears

By Loretta Ekoniak



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 13, 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, Štedrý 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. As our special guest we are honored to have the Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J., Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown. There will be musical entertainment by the Pittsburgh Area Slovaks (PAS) and much more including a Basket Auction 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 great 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. We are still holding the price at \$20.00 this year! 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 7th. 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](mailto:loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com).**

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 11:00AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since a light brunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

### BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367, will be meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 5 PM at Bogey's Restaurant @ Duck Hollow Golf Club, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA 15401. All members are welcome. Election of officers for the next year and our branch 2016 projects will be discussed. If planning on attending please call Audrey Balazik 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek 724-569-1006 for reservations.

We would like to wish all of our members and their families a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Sincerely, Kathryn Baranek Secretary**

### BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at 2:00PM 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 2016.

Respectfully,

**Michael Hudak, President**

### BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 401 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 29, 2015 at 1pm. Location will be the home of Patrick Froncek, 1223 Wysocki Ave., North Apollo, PA. Election of officers for 2016 will be on the agenda. All members are encouraged to attend. Any questions...please call 724-664-8216.

**Patrick Froncek, Secretary**

### BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 410 are invited to a branch meeting at the Titlow Grille, 92 W. Main Street in Uniontown, PA at 1:30 on January 21, 2016.

Elections of officers for 2016 will be on the agenda. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording & Financial Secretary.**

### BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419, Saint Stephen the Martyr, will conduct a meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2015, at Norm's Restaurant on Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Refreshments will be served, starting at 12:30PM. Bring a friend; all are welcome. The meeting will be an open forum; all interests will be entertained. Thank you.

**Irene Latsko, Secretary**

### BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Mark's Society, Branch 425, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 1:00PM at the home of Jeanette Willis, 3252 Reimer Road, Norton, OH. Election of officers will take place at this meeting. To confirm attendance, please call 330-825-3534. Refreshments will be served. All members are welcome

**Jeanette Willis, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of St. Joseph's Society, Branch 494, will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015, beginning at 2PM. The meeting will be held at the home of the recording secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA.

On the agenda will be the election of officers, payment of bills and donations to organizations. There will be details given and a discussion of the recent annual meeting of the Rev. John Martvon District.

All branch members are welcome, especially anyone wishing to become a branch officer.

**Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 5, 2015. Details: Members will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm. Afterwards, attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. The location is Mabenka Restaurant, 7844 S. Cicero Avenue, Burbank, IL.

If you plan to attend, please contact the Recording Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder by Wednesday, December 2, so we can give an adequate headcount to the restaurant. Call him at: (773) 558-5956, or (502) 244-6643.

Sincerely,

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

On Sunday, December 27, 2015 at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH, St. John the Baptist, Branch 553, will have our last meeting of the year to elect officers for 2016.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please send your letter to intent to Grace Bacot, c/o Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. In your letter please state what position you are interested in serving on the board. Deadline for letters is December 18, 2015. This is your opportunity to take an active roll in your Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 567 KJ – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 1:00PM.

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

Our annual financial report will be given at this meeting. We will also have nomination and election of officers for the year 2016.

There will be a discussion regarding plans for the year 2016.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

**Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart Branch 580 will hold a meeting on Nov. 29, 2015, after the 9:30 Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall at 529 Grant Ave. Ext., West Mifflin, Pa. 15122. All members are welcome.

**Virginia Jasek, Secretary**

### BRANCH 581 – GARY/WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold a meeting on Friday, December 18, 2015, at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN, at 1 p.m. The agenda will be election of officers and insurance premiums for children to be paid by the branch for the first year. New business will also be discussed. Please RSVP to Ann, 219-947-2793 or George, 219-926-2410.

**Ann Buczek, President**

### BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

There will be no monthly meeting in the month of November.

Sunday, Dec. 6 Polka Dance 3pm-6pm food available for purchase.

December 20th meeting will be election of officers, please attend.

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

Burritos every third Thursday of the month, to-go only. Call ahead to order.

Every Tuesday and Thursday all drinks .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 733-7525.

**Susan Hornik, Secretary**

### BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel

will be held on Saturday, December 26, 2015 at 4:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Penn Hills, PA.

The agenda will consist of the election of new officers for 2016 and a summary of activities in 2015, plus ideas for the upcoming year for our branch.

Sincerely,

**Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

FCSU Branch 633KJ, Sacred Heart of Jesus Society in Mt Morris, MI is announcing its annual branch activity. We are once again going to an NBA basketball game. We are going to see the Detroit Pistons take on the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday December 9th @ 7:30pm at the Palace of Auburn Hills. If you are interested in joining us please email branch Vice President Rod Meloni at roderickm@comcast.net as soon as possible so we can get a head count. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Fraternally,

**Rod Meloni, Vice President**

### BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

The officers of FCSU Branch 633 [Sacred Heart of Jesus Society] Mt Morris, MI, ask any and all members to attend our annual meeting scheduled for 1pm, Sunday, December 6, 2015, at Mr. B's Roadhouse, 6761 Dixie Hwy, Clarkston, MI 48346. We encourage all members to attend as we will be holding elections for officers. If you have any questions or need any assistance please feel free to contact Branch Vice President Rod Meloni at (248)-444-9141. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

**Rod Meloni, Vice 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 6, 2015, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

**Dorothy Petrus, President**

### BRANCH 682 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

Branch 682 will hold a meeting December 13, 2015 at 2:30 pm, at MRL, 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH 44471. The election of officers for 2016 will be held, and a discussion of 2016 upcoming events. Please also join us for the annual Christmas Party to be held after the elections. All members are encouraged to attend.

Thank you,

**Andrew J. Hirt, President**

### BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have a meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Julius Remenar, 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be held. All members are urged to attend.

Respectfully,

**Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On December 20, 2015, members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will remember our deceased members at 11:00 am Mass at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Following the Mass, we will have our annual meeting to elect Branch officers for 2016. Please try to participate.

**Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON

Branch 735KJ's Annual Election of Officers will be on Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 1:00PM to 2:30PM. The location is St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1623 NW 19th Ave, Portland, OR, 97209. After the short business meeting, we'll sing Christmas Carols while waiting for Santa to arrive. Bring a dessert to share (Slovak if you can) and beverages will be served.

Contact for more information contact Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, 503-647-4600 (h); 503-314-5065 (c); 503-647-5840 (f); E-mail: hirst@q.com or chirst811@gmail.com.

**Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 738 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michaels Branch 738 will be holding our next semi-annual meeting Tuesday, 12/1/15, at 6:30 pm at the VFW on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. This meeting include a review of our Branch Member Appreciation dinner and plans for future events. We will also be holding election of officers and review of the branch's financial status.

Come celebrate Christmas with us and become involved in your branch and its future.

**Pat Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2015 financial report, approval of the 2016 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.

Our Treasurer Mrs. Anna Magusin has announced her retirement and will not be seeking re-election. Mrs. Magusin has served Branch 743 for over thirty years, the Officers and members thank her for her dedicated and invaluable service to our branch and St. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church. She will be greatly missed.

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, 42909 Sussex Park Dr. Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone @586-254-0225.

**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 20, 2015 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include election of new officers, as well as plans for next year's activities. A Christmas holiday lunch will follow this meeting. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if plan on attending.

**Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

### BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

The meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 12:30PM. It will be held in the Hospitality Room of St. Joseph School on 811 E. Oliver Street in Owosso, MI. Enter from the front of the building.

A review of the last meeting will be discussed, and officers will make their reports. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to 517-381-8358. We may go to lunch after the meeting.

**Stephan J. Patoprsty, President**

### BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764's next meeting will be held on December 8, 2015 at 12:30 at the Sunrise Inn. The address is: 510 E. Market Street, Warren, OH 44481.

This meeting will be for election of officers for the year 2016. Please get involved in your local Branch and become an officer! All members are urged to attend.

**Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold the next meeting on Dec 20 at 12 noon at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. All branch members are asked to attend. The meeting will be the annual Christmas party dinner meeting with the election of officers and a discussion of next year's events. Non-branch member's fee will be

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# Scenes from the 2015 Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar

The Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar, under the auspices of the Slovak Catholic Federation, celebrated its 35th anniversary on September 20, 2015, at the Garden Chalet Banquet Hall in Worth, IL. Abbot Gary Hoover of St. Andrew Svorad Slovak Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland, OH, spoke about the Abbey's roots in Lisle, IL, their establishment of a new Abbey in Cleveland in the 1920's, and their service in the Archdiocese of Chicago at St. Michael the Archangel Slovak Catholic Church in the Back of the Yards neighborhood. Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal after the presentation.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 492 and District 2 Recording Secretary



## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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\$20 for the dinner meeting. Branch members are free. Please leave your name, number of reservations and phone number at 412-341-1577. Branch 853 wishes all a blessed holiday season.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, President**

### BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 853 members. The Annual Christmas Party meeting of the branch will take place on Sunday Dec 6 at 12:30pm at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. The meeting will celebrate the birth of Christ with a spaghetti dinner Christmas party. There will be no cost for branch members. Non-branch member cost is \$20.00.

So that we can have a count for seating purposes, please leave a message for Monica Rodacy Boone at 412-341-1577 to let her know how many people will be attending. Officers for the new year will be chosen. A wrap up of our year will be discussed.

Branch 853 wishes all our brothers and sisters in the FCSU a blessed Christmas Season and a 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, November 22, 2015.

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 includes the election of officers and discussion of activities for 2016.

Please contact Linda Kolesar at 440-886-0206 by November 16, 2015, if you plan to attend.

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 9, 2015. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

The officers of Branch 857 wishes all members of the FCSU a safe and Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year.

Fraternally,

**Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary**



## OBITUARIES

### FR. GEORGE JACKOVIC BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



The Rev. George V. Jackovic, 95, entered into eternal rest Thursday, October 1, 2015, in Southmont of Presbyterian SeniorCare, Washington.

He was born May 3, 1920, in Canonsburg, PA, a son of George and Marie Jackovic.

During his youth, Father Jackovic attended elementary school at Third Ward in Canonsburg and graduated from Canonsburg High School.

On June 16, 1946, in Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA, he was ordained by Bishop Hugh C. Boyle as a Roman Catholic priest.

Father Jackovic was incardinated into the Diocese of Pittsburgh June 16, 1946.

He was assigned as parochial vicar at Saint Joachim Parish in Pittsburgh, PA, from 1946 to 1951, at Saint Mark Parish in McKees Rocks, PA, from 1951 to 1953, at Sacred Heart Mission Parish in Nemaconlin, PA, Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Carmichaels, PA, and Saint Mary Mission Parish in Nemaconlin from 1953 to 1958 and at Immaculate Conception Parish in Pittsburgh from 1958 to 1966. He then served as Pastor of Holy Family Parish in Creighton, PA, from 1966 to 1994.

Father Jackovic was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 3291, Canonsburg, and Bishop Boyle Assembly 922. He was also a member of Priest's Choir and chaplain of St. Vincent DePaul Society, Knights of Columbus Council 3291, Canonsburg, the Catholic Daughters of America, and the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 380 of Canonsburg.

After a long and faithful career spanning nearly five decades, he retired from service February 7, 1994.

Surviving are a cousin, Dennis (Johanna) Trylko of McMurray, and other cousins.

Father Jackovic was the last of his immediate family.

Deceased, in addition to his parents, is a brother, Albert Jackovic.

Friends were received from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, October 5, 2015, in St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church, 317 West Pike Street, Canonsburg, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 6, with Bishop David A. Zubik as celebrant. Interment followed in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Peters Township, PA. A vigil service was held at 7 p.m. Monday, October 5, 2015, in the church, which was attended by Knights of Columbus Council 3291 and Bishop Boyle Assembly 922.

Arrangements were in the care of Mario L. DeAngelo Funeral Home, Canonsburg.

- Submitted by Margaret Graytok,  
Financial Secretary

### JOSEPH M. SIROTNAK BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph M. Sirotnak of Cedar Grove, NJ, passed away on Sept. 21, 2015. He was 91.

Visitation was Sept. 23, 2015, at Shook's Cedar Grove Funeral Home, Cedar Grove, with a prayer service at 4:30PM. Interment was Sept. 24, 2015, at St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Throop, PA.

Born and raised in Throop, he proudly served our country as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, receiving a Purple Heart, and during the Korean War as a serviceman.

Predeceased by his parents, Michael and Anna Sirotnak, he is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Monica; loving daughter, Michele and her husband, William Wall; cherished grandchildren, William and Meghan; and his brother, Dr. Francis Sirotnak.

- Submitted by Monica Sirotnak

### ELIZABETH AGNES "BETTY" KUKUCKA BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA



Elizabeth Agnes "Betty" (Phillips), 89, Ebensburg, PA, died Oct. 11, 2015, at home. Born Feb. 22, 1926,

in Nanty Glo, PA, the seventh child of 13, daughter of Emery and Helen Philip. Preceded in death by parents; husband, Dr. Stephen M. Kukucka; sons, Dr. Stephen P. and Thomas; daughter, Christina; and siblings, Cyril, Thomas, Helen, Emery, John, Anne Wolfe, Marge Bartoletti, Maryann Strugala and Barbara Krupa. Survived by son, Dr. Michael A. Kutcher (Ellen); two daughters, Janet (Ed Blazina) and Beth; brothers, Paul and Steve; sister, Theresa Sirawsky; three grandchildren, Dr. Matthew Kutcher (Paloma); Patrick Kutcher; and Carrie Blazina; and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. Betty was anticipating her first great-grandchild in February. Betty graduated from St. Mary's Parish School in 1939. A member of the Nanty Glo High School, Class of 1943, she was first in her family to graduate from high school. During her teenage years, she developed her drawing and reading skills that she used her whole life. She was employed as a typist in the office of the Cambria County Recorder of Deeds in Ebensburg. She married Dr. Stephen M. Kukucka in 1947, and had six children in the next 11 years. She made a warm and welcoming home for them through many moves, including Yorktown, VA; Lancaster, PA; Castle Shannon, PA; and numerous Cambria County towns before settling in Ebensburg. For 50 years, she was a member of Holy Name Parish, where she was involved in choirs and served as a Eucharist minister. She was member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 680, serving in local, diocesan and state offices. In her later years, Betty used her calligraphy and artistic skills for parish and family activities. Her extensive vocabulary came in handy as she solved word and Jumble puzzles. A voracious reader, she continued reading a book a day despite poor vision. She will be remembered for capturing family, church and community events through photos and eight millimeter film. Many of those family films ended with leaving visitors saying, "Goodbye, Aunt Betty." The family would like to thank Stephanie Roy for her care and companionship and the staff of Conemaugh Regional Hospice for their expert medical care. Family received friends from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, October 13, 2015, at Matevish and Matevish Funeral Home, Ebensburg, where vigil wake services were held and the rosary was prayed at 5:30PM. Funeral Mass was at 11 a.m. Wednesday,

October 14, 2015, at Holy Name Catholic Church, Ebensburg, with the Rev. Monsignor David Lockard as celebrant. Interment followed at Holy Name Cemetery.

- Submitted by Janet Kukucka

### STEPHEN P. SROMOVSKY BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY



Stephen P. Sromovsky, 92, of Edison, NJ, passed away at home on October 7, 2015. He was born in Perth Amboy on November 28, 1922. He resided in Edison for over 50 years. Stephen was an Electrician for Germinsky Electrical in South Plainfield, NJ. He was the Owner/Operator of Mike's Tavern in Perth Amboy. He was a communicant of Our Lady of Peace Church and a member of the Holy Spirit Senior Citizens. He was the past President and Treasurer of the Fords-Clara Barton Baseball League. Stephen was an avid gardener and had a great sense of humor. He was a Veteran of the US Army, serving in WWII.

Stephen was predeceased by his wife, Matilda Sromovsky, in 2013; two sisters, Margaret Sromovsky and Emily Price; and a brother, Joseph Sromovsky.

He is survived by two daughters, Donna Capizzi and her husband, Thomas, of Bridgewater, NJ; and Judy Sromovsky and her husband, Frank Adornato, of Bridgewater;

a son, Stephen Sromovsky and his wife, Caterina, of Jackson; two grandchildren, Stefanie Capizzi and Jessica Sromovsky.

Visitation was Sunday, October 13, 2015, from 2-4 and 7-9 pm at the Flynn and Son Funeral Home, Fords, NJ. Funeral services began Monday at 10 am at the funeral home, followed by a 10:30 am Funeral Liturgy at Our Lady of Peace Church in Fords. Interment was in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

- Submitted by Donna Capizzi

### JOHN M. SISKOVIC, SR. BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

John M. Siskovic Sr., age 79, passed away on August 31, 2015. Beloved husband of Carole (nee Novak); dearest father of Carolyn, John Jr. (Susan) and Andrea (Mark Jadwisiak); cherished grandfather of Alexandra, John "Jack" and Lauren; fond brother of Joseph Scott (deceased) (Jeanne, deceased), Valentine "Bill" Siskovic (deceased) (Joyce) and Paul Siskovich (Mary Ann); loving uncle of many nieces and nephews. The family received friends at the Schulte & Mahon-Murphy Funeral Home, Lyndhurst, on Friday, September 4, 2015, from 3 – 7PM. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, September 5, 2015 at 10:00AM at Our Lady Chapel-Gilmour Academy, Gates Mills, OH. Interment followed at Lake View Cemetery.

- Submitted by Carole Siskovic

## Visit Slovakia "The Old Country"



Join the 19th Annual Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour July 8-July 22, 2016

Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as the "the old country?" Well now is the time for you to sit down and talk with the oldest members of your family to learn about their birthplaces in the old country. There is so much beauty and charm in their ancestral land, and it's all there just waiting for your visit. So get your passport and let's go.

Join Jim and Kay Bench as they host the 19th Annual Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour from July 8-July 22, 2016. We will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities agreement so get your dancing shoes ready for the time of your life.

In 2016, you will see the capitol of Slovakia, Bratislava, located on the Danube River. Since joining the European Union, you will see how the villages, towns and cities have been restored to their former beauty. Unique to our trip is a reception with the mayor of our sister city, Spišská Nová Ves, complete with entertainment and a formal signing of the city registry for all tour participants. You will enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas, enjoy shopping, go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River (the natural border between Poland and Slovakia), visit villages such as Čičmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichý Potok (a village of 324 people), stay in a beautiful spa in Sliach and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools, saunas and other amenities. Visit many of the Unesco sites, castles, and churches – especially the oldest church in Slovakia located in Nitra. Attend and participate in a mock wedding in traditional Slovak kroj. Wine tasting is a favorite to many participants. There are so many things to see and do, too numerous to mention in this short article. Remember, our trip is fourteen days so you really get to see Slovakia, visit family, and have time for shopping.

A Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour includes an English speaking tour guide, large air conditioned bus with restroom, first class hotel accommodations, great food and entertainment.

Kay and Jim are seasoned travelers, who must be doing something right as people are returning for their 5th and 6th time! The tour makes changes yearly. They have a luncheon several weeks before the tour leaves, along with travel agent Paul Hudak, to answer questions. They tell you what type of clothing to take, how to pack, weather conditions, money exchange, where and how to carry your money, medications etc.

For additional information contact Jim or Kay Bench:

- Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com
- Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900 e-mail skbench@gmail.com

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

# 2015 Servant Leadership Award

## Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.

On October 25, 2015, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 40 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg PA, Scranton PA and Bridgeport CT. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Over the past 13 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored over 880 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee (WI), Pittsburgh (PA), St. Louis (MO), Scranton (PA), and Syracuse (NY) with the Servant Leadership Award.

The Servant Leadership Award recognizes distinguished high school juniors and seniors who are joyful witnesses, compassionate proclaimers, and enthusiastic builders of the Kingdom of God. The focus of the award is on teens who remain active in their faith and parish beyond Confirmation, and who actively serve in their parish, school and community.

Receiving the award were: Monica Amarante, Rebekah Aungst, Hayley Beck, Amanda Bell, Dallas Cook, Elizabeth Cooper, Emily D'Amico, Luke Darrup, Ryan Denis, Madeline Driscoll, Brigit Duffy, Ruby Erickson, David Fletcher, Sylvia Garner, Santana Gutshall, Emily Herb, Caroline Hills, Alexa Hinegardner, Alex Holleran, Hope Joyce, Hannah Konkolics, Madison Kovach, Austin LaBant, Joshua Ladonis, Adam Maneval, Joanna Murphy, Maria Mutchler, Sarah Pagnanelli, Steven Pomykalski, Angelique Poragratti, Mary Pugh, Charles Ricco, Joseph Rossi, Janes Rushton, Morgan Smarsh, Zachary Sowa, Jennifer Strouse, Caroline Swade, Aubryanna Tayman, and Lianne Uroda.

Each teen was given the opportunity to select one person as a mentor who has encouraged them to generously use their time and talents as a follower of Jesus. The mentors selected were parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, youth ministers, scout leaders, Sisters and Priests, who have been role models for the teens. Mentors recognized by the teens have made a difference in their lives by modeling servant leadership as a way of life in their family, parish, and community.

At the ceremony the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, elder care and ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Diocese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.

### The 2015 Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards went to:

**Evangelization:** Sister Claire Christi Schiefer, OSF, from Camp Hill, PA, was recognized for her work as President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association where she leads the organization in lobbying for or against legislation and regulations that impact the protection of the sanctity of life and the preservation of religious liberty by recognizing



Student recipients of the 2015 Servant Leadership Award



Receiving Lifetime Awards: L-R: Sister Claire Christi Schiefer, OSF; Sister Michael Ann Orlik, SS.C.M.(Center) General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius; Sister Romaine Niemeyer, SCC.

the needs of children, the elderly, the poor and the underserved, including immigrant populations.

**Education:** Sister Agnes Hughes, IHM, from Immaculata, PA, was recognized for her more than 50 years as Professor of Psychology at Immaculata University, in Immaculata, PA and her 16 years as a Lecturer at Saint Charles Seminary in Philadelphia, PA. Her faithfulness to the gospel message of Jesus is enhanced by her lifetime love of learning and her desire to serve others.

**Elder Care:** Sister Romaine Niemeyer, SCC, from Camp Hill, PA was recognized for her work as President and CEO of Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill where she reached out to people of all ages, including the elderly, and recognized the specialized needs of geriatric patients and worked to initiate programs to help the staff deal with the complex needs of elderly patients.

**Ecumenism:** Sister Honora Nicholson, RSM, from Merion, PA was recognized for her work as a Campus Minister at Gwynned Mercy College where she developed a course in which students from all faith traditions were introduced to working with the poor, and her work as a Pastoral Associate in New York City where she developed programs that exhibited a deep concern for issues of social justice for all, and served the needs of immigrants.

Because this year was named by Pope Francis as the Year of Consecrated Life, all of this year's recipients of the Father Jankola Lifetime Servant Leadership Awards are Consecrated Religious.

The ceremony ended with a reception at Maria Hall.



Tour goes on the 11th Consular Tour enjoyed such events as this Slovak wine tasting in a cave in Slovakia

## 11th Consular Tour to Slovakia Highly Successful

During the 11th Consular Tour, thirty people from ten states, including Alaska, gathered together for a tour of Slovakia, Vienna and Budapest. Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his wife Albina hosted this tour, creating an interesting 11-day itinerary which included something for everyone. There were two wine tastings in ancient wine cellars, a mock wedding ceremony with a festive reception in one of the wineries, a visit to a ceramic factory, a spa treatment, as well as visits to art museums, historic churches and a rafting trip on the Dunajec River. Drivers were available at different stops to take those who wished to visit villages of their ancestors and meet with their relatives. The tour ended with a visit to the mayor's office in Prešov. Prešov is the Sister City with Pittsburgh.

Joe is already planning his 12th tour to Slovakia for August, 2016, which will include a trip to Krakow, Poland where tourists will visit both the famous salt mines and the historic Auschwitz concentration camp. Also, the tour will include a visit to Slovakia's unique Ochtinská Aragonite Cave and the Jedlinka wooden church which are both on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Some of the towns that will be included in the 2016 tour will include Vienna, Bratislava, Šaštín, Skalica, Trenčín, Rajecké Teplice, the Tatras, Čičmany, Košice, and Prešov. The programs will include several castles, wine tastings, a spa treatment, a mock wedding, and a welcome reception by the Mayor of Prešov and much more.

If you are interested in a copy of the itinerary when it is completed, contact Joe at [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com) or 412-956-6000.

## Upcoming Events by United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH



A traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner hosted by United Slovak Societies will be held at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, on Sunday December 6, 2015. Cocktails 5:30, dinner 6:00p.m. Entertainment will be provided by violinist Jozef Janis and special guest Celebration Ringers. Advanced ticket sales only. \$20pp with cash bar. Please contact Len at 440/988-3236.

The American Slovak Club in Lorain OH, is seeking children and juniors to participate in their Bumper and Slovak Junior Bowling Leagues held at the Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH. For more information please contact the Alley at 440/244-1293 or visit their site, [www.americanslovakclub.com](http://www.americanslovakclub.com).



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

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

### HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

**OPEN:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 3:45pm and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer.

The President stated the Executive Committee Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Board of Directors Meeting on the University of Maryland campus. The President further stated the meeting is being held in the area so the Board will be able to participant in the joint pilgrimage with the Slovak Catholic Federation in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer (Absent and Excused)  
 Henry Hassay, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr. and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**INVESTMENT UPDATES:**

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

**PORTFOLIO REVIEW:**

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, found everything in order, and answered the Committee's questions.

**MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES**

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of August for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

**MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of August:

Disbursements for the month of August 2015:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 145,602.10
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 22,174.54
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

**ANNUITY RATES:**

The President led a lengthy discussion on our current annuity rates. It was decided by the Executive Committee to keep the rates the same and review them again at the October meeting.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report via web ex and telephone to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors on Thursday at their morning session on September 10, 2015. Each member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. Following the report, Larry White answered the Executive Committee's and Board of Director's questions.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President presented a written detailed sales production report to the Board of Directors on Thursday, September 10, 2015 on the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents and now have 200 agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Commit-

tee's questions.

The Vice President said we are still scheduling seminars for 2015 and asked the Regional Directors to contact him with available dates for their regions.

The Vice President announced the program to reintroduce the special offer of waiving the first year premium on the JEP Policy began August 1st. All branch officers received information on this special offer. There has also been an advertising campaign with notice being in the newspaper, sent through email, and on our Facebook.

The President stated we are in the final stages of interviewing local marketing firms to review the effectiveness of our current marketing plan and to offer assistance in enhancing it. A budget will be developed.

The Executive Secretary stated we are continuing to advertise on Facebook with new material being added daily, as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including new ad material in our home office mailings. The Vice President stated if any branch or district is planning a fraternal activity to please contact the home office or the Editor and we will advertise the event through Facebook, email, and our mailings.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President announced September 13, 2015 is the date for the dedication of the Jednota Middletown Memorial to be held in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The President stated for anyone interested in attending the dedication, the schedule will be: 12:00 noon Mass; 1:00 pm Dedication; and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm will be lunch and social time.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

The request for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr. and seconded by Kenneth Arendt. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to close the meeting with prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Andrew M. Rajec  
 President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kenneth A. Arendt  
 Executive Secretary

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

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

## Správy zo Slovenska

### DOPRAVA: Z bratislavského letiska možno lietať aj do Berlína

Cestujúci môžu od 27. októbra lietať z bratislavského letiska aj do Berlína a späť. Nové letecké spojenie spúšťa spoločnosť Raynair a linka bude cestujúcim k dispozícii denne. Dopravca zároveň zvyšuje frekvencie aj na linke do Bruselu-Charleroi. To by malo podľa obchodného a marketingového manažera Denisa Barabasa priniesť spoločnosti viac ako 1,2 milióna pasažierov ročne. Z Bratislavy bude Ryanair podľa hovorkyne Letiska M. R. Štefánika Veroniky Ševčíkovej lietať počas zimného letového poriadku okrem Bruselu a Berlína aj do Atén, Dublinu, Alghera, Milána, Ríma, Barcelony, Madridu, Birminghamu, Liverpoolu a do Londýna. Zimný letový poriadok platí do konca marca 2016.

### TURIZMUS: V lete na Slovensku dovolenkovalo o päťinu viac turistov než vlni

Pre dovolenku na Slovensku sa počas tohtoročného júla a augusta rozhodlo viac ako 979.000 turistov. Počet dovolenkárov sa tak počas týchto dvoch mesiacov v porovnaní s rovnakým obdobím minulého roka zvýšil podľa ministerstva dopravy o takmer päťinu. Najväčší podiel na tom majú najmä Slováci, keďže tých v lete na Slovensku dovolenkovalo 549.000. Celkovo pritom od začiatku tohto roka do konca augusta vzrástol počet všetkých návštevníkov na Slovensku o takmer 13 %. Pri zahraničných návštevníkoch tvorili počas leta najväčšiu skupinu dovolenkári z Česka. Na druhom mieste sa v počte turistov umiestnilo Poľsko. Trojku najväčších skupín zahraničných hostí uzatvárajú Nemci. Najnavštevovanejšími krajinami pritom boli v júli a v auguste Bratislavský, Žilinský a Prešovský kraj.

### TERCHOVÁ: Novou dominantou obce je 30-metrová rozhľadňa Terchovské srdce

Novou dominantou rodiska Juraja Jánošíka je 30-metrová rozhľadňa Terchovské srdce na kopci Oblaz, na ktorom stála šibenicca pre legendárneho filmového Jánošíka - Paľa Bielika. Rozhľadňa s náučným chodníkom vybudovala obec Terchová v rámci projektu cezhraničnej spolupráce „Spoločne k poznaniu a ochrane prírody“ s českou obcou Třanovice. Podľa starostu Terchovej Milana Laurenčíka vymyslel názov rozhľadne autor návrhu celého projektu Alojz Mucha. „Inšpirovalo ho, že sa tam vytvára obraz srdca zo stromov a inšpirovala ho aj pesnička o Terchovej, v ktorej sa spieva ‚To terchovské srdce na dvoje sa delí, jedna strana plače, druhá sa veselí‘. Strana čo plače, je strana, kde bude nový terchovský cintorín. A strana, čo sa veselí, je strana s rozhľadňou a vstupom na kopec,“ povedal Laurenčík.

### CIRKVI: Rada KBS spustí oficiálnu registráciu na Svetové dni mládeže do Krakova

Rada Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) pre mládež a univerzity spustí počas Týždňa Cirkvi pre mládež (16. - 22. novembra) registráciu na Svetové dni mládeže (SDM) do Krakova. Spusteniu oficiálnej registrácie bude predchádzať propagácia podujatia. Podujatie už teraz aktívne propagujeme na sociálnych sieťach,“ uviedla Marika Komendová, administrátorka Rady. Všetky potrebné informácie nájdu záujemcovia na internetovej stránke [www.svetovednimladeze.sk](http://www.svetovednimladeze.sk) a na stránkach diecéznych Komisií pre mládež. Svetové dni mládeže sú najväčším celosvetovým stretnutím veriacich mladých so Svätým Otcom. Najbližšie SDM sa uskutočnia od 25. do 31. júla 2016 v poľskom Krakove. Podujatie sa koná každé dva až tri roky, vždy v inej svetovej metropole.

### Ľudia bez pomoci a opatrovatelky bez práce

Od novembra si mnohí starí a chorí budú musieť zabezpečiť opateru opatrovateliek inak ako sú zvyknutí. Vyše tisíc opatrovateliek, ktoré sa im doteraz venovali, totiž nebude z čoho zaplatiť. K 31. októbru sa končí národný projekt, ktorý umožňoval odmeňovať opatrovatelky z eurofondov. Bez opatery tak môže zostať takmer štyritisíc ľudí. Rezort práce síce upokojuje, že v priebehu niekoľkých mesiacov spustí podobný projekt. Poskytovatelia služieb zapojení do toho pôvodného však varujú, že prerušenie kontinuity bude mať na mnohých odkázaných vážne dosahy a k službám sa nedostanú bez toho, aby nemuseli platiť vysoké sumy z vlastného.

### Porucha kapitalizmu sa na Slovensku ešte naplno neprejavila

Jedna z chýb kapitalizmu, ktorou je nahromadenie majetku úzkou skupinou ľudí, sa na Slovensku ešte nestihla naplno prejavíť. Pri tejto poruche systému bohatí bohatnú a chudobní viac menej prešlapujú na mieste. Nožnice medzi bohatými a chudobnými sa začali prudko otvárať po Nežnej revolúcii v roku 1989. Podľa správy Credit Suisse Global Wealth za rok 2015 sú na tom však mnohé krajiny, v ktorých funguje kapitalizmus dlhšie, oveľa horšie. Slováci majú podľa tejto štúdie najrovnomernejšie rozdelený majetok spomedzi 200 krajín celého sveta. Najbohatších desať percent obyvateľov na Slovensku vlastní 32,8 percenta celkového bohatstva, zatiaľ čo v prípade Spojených štátov amerických (USA), ako majetkovo najnerovnejšej krajiny, je to až 75 percent

### Pasca na nepoctivých úradníkov

Štátnu správu čakajú technické novinky. Naše údaje budú vo väčšom bezpečí. Vďaka myšiam so zabudovaným snímačom sa na úradoch nepovolani ľudia k citlivým údajom občanov a firiem nedostanú. Inteligentná myš tiež zaznamená, ako dlho sa dotýčny práci na počítači venoval a či nemal „za lubom“ niečo nepoctivé. „Pri položení ruky zariadenie presvieti dľa infračerveným žiarením a vytvorí jedinečný obraz krvného riečišťa,“ vysvetľuje Milan Masár z firmy, ktorá myš vyrába a dováža. Toto a ďalšie technické novinky v slovenskej štátnej správe predstavili na kongrese ITAPA.

### Hoffmann stavia atletický štadión

Po hokejových štadiónoch v Bratislave a Košiciach či futbalom v Trnave sa moderného stánku dočká aj slovenská atletika. A to bez akejkoľvek pomoci od štátu. Nový štadión pre kráľovnú športu totiž stavia finančník a podnikateľ Mario Hoffmann. Aréna s kapacitou 5000 miest sa už v lete budúceho roka stane súčasťou športového komplexu Elements Resorts v Šamoríne, kde v posledných rokoch vyrástol aj najmodernejší jazdecký areál v strednej Európe a tiež 50-metrový plavecký bazén.

### Užíva si dva štátne fleky

V zdravotníctve chýbajú peniaze na platy, no niekto si užíva hneď dva. Lekára Denisa Valenta zamestnala Lekárska fakulta Univerzity Komenského ako odborného asistenta v Ústave súdneho lekárstva. Príležitosť mu dal aj Úrad pre dohľad nad zdravotnou starostlivosťou, kde pracuje na súd-nolekárskom pracovisku ako lekár. Aj keď sa na Úrade pre dohľad nad zdravotnou starostlivosťou bráni, že Valent dodržiava pracovný čas v stanovenom rozsahu, otázkou ostáva, ako stíha ešte aj plný úväzok na Lekárskej fakulte UK.

### Správy čerpané z TASR a slovenských časopisov

## Sagana vyhlásili za najlepšieho cyklistu na svete

Slovenský cyklista Peter Sagan opäť zabodoval. V rebríčku 100 najlepších cyklistov sveta, ktorý spoločne zostavili portál [Cycling Weekly](http://Cycling Weekly) a [Cycle Sport](http://Cycle Sport), sa umiestnil na prvom mieste.

Jeho tvorcovia si naozaj dali záležať a zohľadnili nielen vek, počet víťazstiev, osobnosť či otázku budúceho kariérneho postupu, ale aj to, ako si jednotliví cyklisti počínali počas pretekov, aj keď sa im nie vždy podarilo doraziť ako prvým.

Peter Sagan patrí už niekoľko rokov medzi najperspektívnejších mladých cyklistov na celom svete. Svojimi výkonmi to potvrdzuje od svojho vstupu medzi profesionálov a podčiarkol to aj v nedeľu, keď sa premiérov v slovenskej histórii stal majstrom sveta v pretekoch s hromadným štartom kategórie elite.

Ako dvadsaťpäťročný predvádzal nevídané výkony už od detských čias a do povedomia odborníkov sa dostal ešte pred vstupom medzi elitu, keď v roku 2008 vyhral ako junior tituly v horskej cyklistike na MS i ME. Od začiatku kariéry ho zdobili odhodlanie, bojovnosť, obrovská chuť vyhrávať a niekedy až tvrdohlavosť.

TASR



Foto: TASR

Slovenský cyklista Peter Sagan.

## Andrej Kiska podpísal dohodu SR a USA o výmene daňových informácií

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska. 4. novembra podpísal dohodu Slovenska so Spojenými štátmi americkými o vzájomnej výmene daňových informácií v rámci zákona FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act) a zlepšenia dodržiavania medzinárodných predpisov v oblasti daní. Ešte v septembri tohto roka ju odobril slovenský parlament. Štát tak bude mať ďalší nástroj v boji s daňovými únikmi.

Cieľom FATCA je zmapovať príjmy Američanov v zahraničí a zabrániť daňovým únikom. Bankám a ostatným finančným inštitúciám založeným a pôsobiacim mimo územia USA ukladá povinnosť poskytovať informácie o účtoch Američanov.

Na základe dohody FATCA bude Slovenská republika prostredníctvom príslušného orgánu na výmenu informácií v oblasti daní oznamovať požadované údaje v pravidelných časových rámcoch príslušnému orgánu Spojených štátov. „Keďže ide o uzatvorenie dohody na recipročnej báze, obdobné údaje o slovenských daňových rezidentoch bude zo strany USA získavať aj Slovenská republika,“ uviedlo Ministerstvo financií (MF) SR, ktoré dohodu s americkou stranou pripravovalo.

Na vykonanie dohody FATCA je ďalej potrebné prijatie vnútroštátnej právnej úpravy, ktorá určí slovenským finančným inštitúciám povinnosť zisťovať informácie o klientoch a finančných účtoch prostredníctvom uplatňovania pravidiel preverovania. „Zistené informácie budú zasielané príslušnému orgánu v SR a následne budú prostredníctvom medzinárodnej automatickej výmeny oznamované daňovej správe Spojených štátov,“ priblížil rezort financií.

Ministerstvo zároveň uviedlo niekoľko prínosov, ktoré táto dohoda prinesie Slovensku. „Finančné inštitúcie na Slovensku budú uplatňovať rovnaké pravidlá jednotnou formou, čo bude mať pozitívny vplyv vo forme zníženia administratívnej záťaže pri vykonávaní požadovaných postupov,“ priblížilo.

Dohoda FATCA ďalej prostredníctvom pripojeného vyhlásenia o porozumení zabezpečí, že sa posunie dátum, od ktorého sa uskutoční výmena informácií v prípade, že by sa nepodarilo zabezpečiť vnútroštátne všetky požiadavky na vykonávanie dohody. Taktiež sa má odložiť uplatňovanie zrážkovej dane vo výške 30 % zo strany Spojených štátov v prípade neoznamovania požadovaných informácií finančnými inštitúciami.

Z medzinárodného hľadiska Slovensko podľa MF SR uzatvorením takejto dohody deklaruje aktívnu participáciu v oblasti boja proti daňovým podvodom a daňovým únikom. Legislatívou FATCA sa Európska únia inšpirovala pri príprave legislatívy týkajúcej sa výmeny daňových informácií. Členské krajiny majú stanovený termín na jej prevzatie do vnútroštátneho práva do konca tohto roka.

TASR

## Slovenská republika prevzala predsedníctvo Stratégie EÚ...

V dňoch 29. - 30. 10. 2015 sa v nemeckom Ulme uskutočnilo 4. výročné fórum Stratégie EÚ pre dunajský región. Fórum zorganizovala Európska komisia, spolu so spolkovou krajinou Bádensko-Württembersko a mestom Ulm. Na fóre sa zúčastnili Corina Cretu, komisárka pre regionálnu politiku EK, ministri zodpovední za oblasť implementácie EŠIF z krajín dunajského regiónu, národní koordinátori a koordinátori prioritných oblastí Stratégie EÚ pre dunajský región a zástupcovia všetkých 14 podunajských krajín.

Pod mottom „Inteligentné, sociálne a trvalo udržateľné - inovácie pre dunajský región“ sa fórum zameralo na oblasť inovácií, profesionalizácie v školstve mobility a migrácie pracovných síl a konkurencieschopnosti v podnikaní. Počas tematických panelových diskusií sa uskutočnilo 30 odborných workshopov aj za aktívnej účasti zástupcov Slovenska.

Podujatie poskytlo veľmi vhodnú príležitosť pre vytváranie sietí a partnerstiev v rôznych oblastiach pre viac ako 1000 účastníkov. Na záver fóra prevzal štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR Igor Slobodník v mene Slovenskej republiky predsedníctvo Stratégie EÚ od Bádensko-Württemberska na rok 2016. Počas predsedníctva v úzkej súčinnosti v rámci tria predsedníctva (Bádensko-Württembersko - Slovensko - Maďarsko) bude Slovenská republika okrem presadzovania priorit stratégie a zlepšovania jej implementácie zodpovedná za organizáciu viacerých podujatí súvisiacich s implementáciou Stratégie EÚ pre dunajský región. Predsedníctvo bude ukončené 5. výročným fórom v dňoch 3. - 4. novembra 2016 v Bratislave.

TASR

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### Výročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že Výročná členská schôdza Okresu č. 16. Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu sa bude konať v **nedeľu dňa 22. novembra 2015** o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia na fare kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, 411 East 66th Str. 1. Avenue, NYC., po slovenskej omši, ktorá začína o 11. hodine dopoludnia. Na programe bude podanie finančnej správy, príprava činnosti na ďalšie obdobie a voľba úradníkov na rok 2016. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia spolu sv. Matúša č. 45. IKSJ. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka**

### Ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v **nedeľu 22. novembra 2015** 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**

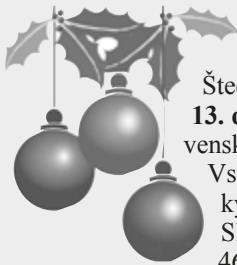
### Mikulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716, Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v NYC a Slovenský katolícky sokol v NYC, pozýva slovenskú verejnosť v **nedeľu dňa 6. decembra 2015 o 1:00** hodine odpoľudnia na Mikulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou, ktoré sa bude konať v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Vstupné je voľné. Občerstvenie bude zabezpečené. Bližšie informácie podajú: Farský úrad Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, otec Štefan Chanas tel. číslo: (212) 734 4613; Jozef Bilik: (718) 353 6541; Henrieta Daitová: (201) 641 8922; Mária Božeková: (347) 612 1934.



### Štedrovečerná večera Vigília v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ, Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ a Slovenský katolícky sokol NYC Vás pozývajú na Štedrovečernú večeru - **Vigíliu**, ktorá sa bude konať v **nedeľu dňa 13. decembra 2015 o 1:00 hodine** odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street NYC. Vstupné je 20.00 dolárov. Večera je započítaná vo vstupnom. Lístky na Štedrovečernú večeru si môžete objednať na: Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, telefón: (212) 734 4613; Jozef Bilik: (718) 353 6541; Henrieta H. Daitová: (201) 641 8922; Mária Božeková: (347) 612 1934.



## SelectUSA Investment Summit 2016 vo Washingtone, DC

V dňoch 19. - 21. júna 2016 sa vo Washingtone, DC uskutoční tretí ročník podujatia s názvom *SelectUSA Investment Summit 2016*. Podujatie na najvyššej celoštátnej úrovni organizuje americké ministerstvo obchodu a jeho cieľom je predstaviť firmám z celého sveta investičné príležitosti v USA. **Investičný summit je určený aj pre firmy zo Slovenska**, ktoré zvažujú (alebo už plánujú) investovanie v USA. Účastníci budú mať možnosť diskutovať s poprednými predstaviteľmi amerického biznisu a od predstaviteľov vlády sa dozvedia o programoch podpory podnikania a investovania v USA. V roku 2015 sa na podujatí, ktoré otvoril prezident B. Obama, zúčastnilo takmer 2600 zástupcov firiem a inštitúcií zo 70 krajín sveta, vrátane niekoľkých spoločností zo SR. Program SelectUSA ([www.SelectUSA.gov](http://www.SelectUSA.gov)) ohlásil prezident Obama v roku 2011, ako jednu zo snáh na podporu globálnej konkurencieschopnosti USA. Podrobnejšie informácie o uvedenom podujatí budú organizátori postupne zverejňovať na: <http://selectusa.commerce.gov/2016-summit.html>

MZV SR

## Tradičná púť švajčiarskych Slovákov v Einsiedelne 2015



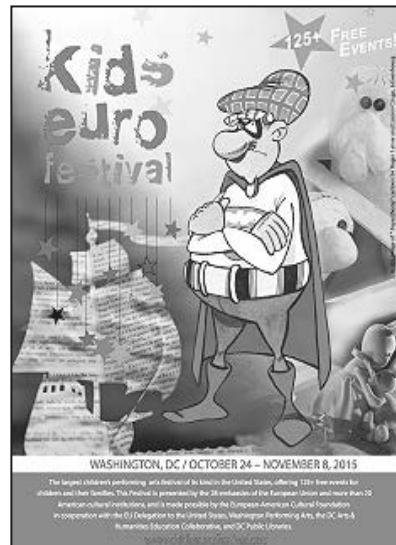
*The traditional national pilgrimage of Slovaks to the Marian shrine in Einsiedeln in Switzerland was held on Sunday, September 6, 2015.*

V **nedeľu 6. septembra 2015** sa konala tradičná národná mariánska púť Slovákov do Einsiedelnu vo Švajčiarsku. Napriek dáždivému počasiu prišlo veľa krajanov nielen zo Švajčiarska, ale aj zo Slovenska.

## 8. ročník detského festivalu Kids Euro Festival vo Washingtone

Jeden z najväčších detských festivalov v Spojených štátoch amerických KIDS EURO FESTIVAL prebieha vo Washingtone DC od 24. októbra do 8. novembra. Ide o prehliadku divadelných, filmových a hudobných predstavení ako aj workshopov umelcov z členských krajín EÚ. Tohto roku majú detskí diváci možnosť pozrieť si zdarma viac ako 125 predstavení. Organizátorom festivalu je European-American Cultural Foundation so sídlom vo Washingtone DC, ktorá hradí umelcom všetky náklady spojené s ich účasťou na festivale. Slovensko na tohtoročnom festivale reprezentovalo Divadlo PIKI z Bratislavy. So svojím interaktívnym predstavením pre deti Elá-hop sa prezentovali v amerických školách, ako aj v profesionálnych divadelných priestoroch. V utorok 27. októbra vystúpili aj v prestížnom Kennedy Centre.

MZV SR



## Arcidiecézna charita Košice prepúšťa zamestnancov

Vzhľadom na končiacie národné projekty Podpora opatrovateľskej služby a Komunitné centrá musí Arcidiecézna charita Košice (ADCH) prepustiť k 31. októbru zamestnancov z týchto projektov.

Národné projekty financované z eurofondov, do ktorých sa charitatívna organizácia zapojila, končia bez priameho pokračovania, na nadväzujúce projekty sa zatiaľ čaká. Opatrovateľskú službu poskytovala ADCH v 52 obciach, mestských častiach a mestách na východe Slovenska. „Pokúsili sme sa rokovať so samosprávami o preklenutí obdobia od ukončenia jedného projektu do začatia ďalšieho projektu. Podarilo sa nám dohodnúť naše opatrovanie v pôvodnom alebo len polovičnom rozsahu na mesiace november a december iba v šiestich obciach a jednom okresnom meste. V ďalších dvoch mestách ústretovo prevzali klientov a ich doterajšie opatrovateľky pod svoju pôsobnosť,“ konštatoval Korpesio.

Ukončenie projektu podľa neho spôsobí nielen nárast miery nezamestnanosti, ale mnohé rodiny a domácnosti sa dostanú do komplikovanej životnej situácie. Poskytovanie sociálnej služby prostredníctvom opatrovateľky sa stalo pre mnohé rodiny veľkou pomocou. Pokračovanie projektov podľa Korpesia nevyriešia miestne samosprávy, keďže väčšina z nich nemá na takéto sociálne služby dostatok financií ani skúseností. „Druhou možnosťou je požiadať úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny o príspevok na opatrovanie, ktorý poskytne podľa zložitosti vzorca opatrovateľskej osobe vo výške približne 80 - 180 eur, čo je za takúto náročnú prácu veľmi nízka suma,“ dodal riaditeľ ADCH.

Za sklamanie označil ukončenie aj Národného projektu Komunitné centrá, ktorého primárnym cieľom bola integrácia najmä rómskych komunit. „Mnohé formačné, edukačné, kultúrne a spoločenské aktivity boli veľkým prínosom pre ich rozvoj a následne aj pre celú spoločnosť. Obávame sa, že ukončením tohto projektu príde nielen mnoho ľudí o svoje zamestnanie, ale zároveň vznikne v spoločnosti veľká diera po aktivitách a činnosti, ktorú nebude mať v spoločnosti kto nahradiť,“ uviedol Korpesio.

Podľa predpokladov ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny budú výzvy nových národných projektov, ktoré obsahovo nadväzujú na tie končiacie, vyhlásené do konca tohto roka. „Začiatok aktivít je naplánovaný na január, resp. február 2016,“ informoval rezort. Dané národné projekty predstavovali podľa vlády preukázateľne veľký prínos v oblasti sociálnej politiky na lokálnej úrovni. „Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR si preto uvedomuje nevyhnutnosť ich opätovného nastavenia aj v programovom období 2014-2020 a všetko svoje úsilie sústreďuje na úpravu a modifikáciu tak, aby tieto osvedčené projekty boli v súlade so schváleným operačným programom Ľudské zdroje a mohli byť opakovane podporené z európskych štrukturálnych a investičných fondov,“ konštatoval rezort.

TASR



## Koncert slovenského skladateľa Juraja Filasa v Carnegie Hall

Slávna Carnegie Hall uviedla 2. novembra 2015 koncert súčasného slovenského skladateľa Juraja Filasa v New Yorku, za osobnej účasti autora. Výnimočné dielo Requiem: Oratio spei – Modlitba nádeje začal komponovať autor v roku 2000. Po udalostiach 11. septembra 2001 sa rozhodol venovať tento hudobný monument pamiatke obetí teroristických útokov na World Trade Center. Juraj Filas je rodákom z Košíc a v súčasnosti žije a pôsobí v Prahe.

On November 2, 2015, a concert of the contemporary Slovak composer Juraj Filas was held in Carnegie Hall in New York City. Juraj Filas is a native of Kosice and is currently living and working in Prague.



MZV SR

# Posviacka Pamätníka Jednoty v Middletown, PA

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

stál Ústav IKSJ. V súčasnosti je venovaný nielen padlým vojakom I. a II. svetovej vojny, ale aj bývalým zosnulým jednotárom, ktorých rodina svojim najbližším prejavila úctu týmto spôsobom. Architektom Pamätníka je hlavný riaditeľ Okresu č. 4 IKSJ, James R. Marmol.

V blízkosti pomníka vojaka veterána, slávnosť posviacky zahájila svätá omša, ktorú odslúžil hlavný farár IKSJ; Pastor, Our Lady of Ransom Church Philadelphia, PA, Rev. Thomas A. Nasta. Pri tejto príležitosti hlavný príhovor predniesol predseda IKSJ, Andrej M. Rajec, ktorý v krátkosti priblížil históriu Jednoty a začiatky Ústavu IKSJ a Tlačiarne na Jednotárskych pozemkoch. V ďalšom programe vystúpil člen Spolku 278. IKSJ, syn bývalého pracovníka Tlačiarne Jednota, Joe Trojčák s dojímavou básňou venovanou pamiatke padlým veteránom a zosnulým jednotárom. Po omši sa podával teplý obed a občerstvenie.

Medzi účastníkmi posviacky, okrem členov Hlavného zboru IKSJ a zástupcov Okresov a Spolkov IKSJ, bol nemalý počet bývalých pracovníkov a jednotárskych aktivistov. V závere podujatia si vo vzájomnej debata mnohí prítomní zaspomínali na kultúrne tradície Slovákov a starokrajové zvyky.

Dlaždice (žulové tehly), na prístupovom chodníku k Pamätníku, ktoré na pamiatku zosnulým Jednotárom si môžu americkí Slováci zabezpečiť na objednávku, nesú venovania a mená zosnulých príslušníkov rodiny. Na jeho okolí sú zase umiestnené mramorové tablice so zakladateľom IKSJ Rev. Štefanom Furdekom ako aj fotografie bývalého Ústavu Sestier sv. Cyrila a Metoda a následne mená bývalých a terajších riaditeľov Zboru IKSJ. Tehličky na pamiatku zosnulým Jednotárom sa môžu objednávať na web stránke IKSJ vyplnením tlačiva na adrese: [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) alebo v Hlavnom úrade IKSJ na tel. čísle: 1-800-533-6682.



Hlavný farár IKSJ, Rev. Thomas A. Nasta počas omše.



Hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrej M. Rajec otvára program podujatia.



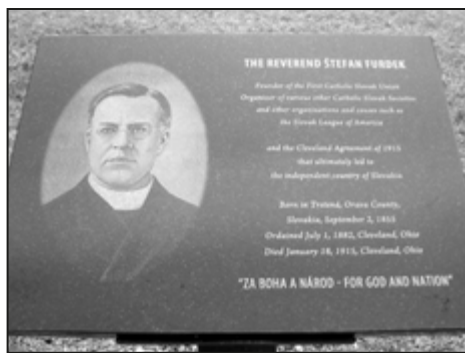
Joe Trojčák počas prednesu básne.



Pohľad na zúčastnených osláv.



Obraz bývalého Ústavu IKSJ na jednotárskych pozemkoch.



Pamätná tabuľa zakladateľovi IKSJ Rev. Štefanovi Furdekovi.



Dlaždice nesú nápisy na pamiatku zosnulým jednotárom.

# Slovenská liga oznamuje

**Nové číslo publikácie Slovakia**

V septembri t.r. vyšlo ďalšie číslo publikácie Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, *Slovakia*. Je to v poradí už 42. vydanie tejto publikácie, ktorá tradične uverejňuje príspevky autorov na akademickej úrovni. Ich tematikou sú pohľady na rôzne udalosti a periódy slovenskej histórie, ako aj príspevky o súčasných pomeroch a udalostiach v slovenskej diaspore a tiež i na Slovensku. Najnovšie číslo má 150 strán a prináša zaujímavé príspevky od viacerých autorov.

Slovakii 2015 sme rozposlali do viac ako 50 popredných knižníc v Amerike a Kanade a tiež členským organizáciám a slovenským kultúrnym inštitúciám v Amerike.

Slovakii 2015 si možno objednať za \$10.00 (vrátane poštovného) na adrese: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison Street, Passaic, N.J. 07055.

**Storočnica 34. zboru SLvA**

34. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike v Detroiti plánuje na jar 2016 osláviť storočnicu svojej existencie. Pri tejto príležitosti mieni vydať Pamätnicu, ktorú zostavuje podpredseda Jozef Janek. Mnoho rokov existovali v Detroiti dva silné zbory – Zbor č. 15 a 34. Zbor. K ich zjednoteniu prišlo pred viac ako 10 rokmi. 34. Zbor SLvA má teraz svoje sídlo pri slovenskom kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v detroitskom predmestí Sterling Heights, kde každoročne usporiada niekoľko národných podujatí.

**Archív Slovenskej ligy**

V posledných mesiacoch spracúvame archív Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Sú v ňom bežné archívácie, ale aj vzácne dokumenty z rokov 2. svetovej vojny a z boja za samostatnosť Slovenska. Mnohé vzácne archívácie zo života Slovenskej ligy sú aj v zborech Slovenskej ligy, alebo u bývalých funkcionárov zaniknutých zborov, prípadne aj v miestnych spolkoch našich fraternalistických organizácií, alebo aj nezávislých spolkov. Archívne dokumenty tohto druhu je hodné zachrániť. Radi ich prijmeme a zachováme v archíve Slovenskej ligy. Možno ich poslať na dole uvedenú adresu.

**Saňte sa členmi Slovenskej ligy**

Slovenská liga v Amerike je registrovaná ako nezáboková kultúrna inštitúcia. Vydáva *Slovakii*, má štipendijný program a podporuje mnohé národné a kultúrne podujatia. Finančné príspevky do SLvA sú odpočítateľné z daní. Ročný členský poplatok je \$10.00 a doživotné členské je \$200.00. Doživotní členovia majú práva delegátov na kongresoch Slovenskej ligy.

**Adresa Slovenskej ligy:** Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St, Passaic, NJ 07055. Tel. 973 472 8993. Fax: 973 835 3723.

**Daniel F Tanzone**  
predseda

**Nina Holá**  
tajomníčka

# Medzinárodná konferencia Tatra Summit v Bratislave

Energetická únia, inovácie, investičné príležitosti, ale aj aktuálna migračná kríza boli hlavnými témami 4. ročníka medzinárodnej konferencie Tatra Summit, ktorá sa uskutočnila 4. až 6. novembra v Bratislave. Kľúčovým motívom ekonomickej verzie bezpečnostnej konferencie Globsec, ktorú organizuje Centrum pre európske záležitosti ako súčasť Stredoeurópskej strategicko-rady, bude budúročné predsedníctvo Slovenska v Rade Európskej únie.

„Európa dnes čelí rôznym krízam na mnohých frontoch, či je to migračná kríza, ekonomika, bezpečnosť. Nevyhneme sa tiež otázkam, ako je britské referendum o Európskej únii. Všetky tieto otázky budú mať zásadný vplyv na budúcnosť európskej integrácie. Práve debata v strednej Európe môže prispieť ku generovaniu novej vízie a nových myšlienok,“ uviedol výkonný riaditeľ Stredoeurópskej strategicko-rady Róbert Vass na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave.

Konferencia sa konala pod záštitou slovenských ministerstiev zahraničných vecí, hospodárstva a financií. Rezort hospodárstva sa podľa jeho šéfa Vazila Hudáka zamerl na oblasť energetiky, inovácií a investícií. O Energetickej únii, ale aj plynovode Nord Stream 2 či energetickej efektívnosti diskutoval aj viceprezident Európskej komisie Maroš Šefčovič.

Investíciám sa venovalo najmä investičné fórum. S tým súvisí budúce fungovanie Európskeho fondu pre strategické investície a projektov Slovenského investičného holdingu.

Predmetom diskusií bola tiež podpora inovácií predovšetkým cez podporu startupov. Minister avizoval, že v rámci Tatra Summitu prvýkrát zasadala medzinárodná poradná rada zložená z ľudí zo Silicon Valley, Japonska či Izraela a zaoberala sa tým, ako naštartovať túto oblasť na Slovensku. Súčasťou konferencie bola aj debata o tom, ako vniesť inovácie do tradičných oblastí priemyslu.

Zo zahraničnopolitických tém boli popri príprave slovenského predsedníctva v EÚ domínou migračná kríza a jej ekonomický rozmer z pohľadu náporu na ekonomiku členských štátov. Dôvody ohlasovaného britského referenda o zotrvaní v únii priblížil minister Veľkej Británie pre EÚ David Lidington.

Na konferencii vystúpil aj prezident SR Andrej Kiska, minister financií Peter Kažimír, minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák, prezident Euroskupiny Jeroen Dijsselbloem či prezident Európskej investičnej banky Werner Hoyer.

TASR

# Predsedenstvo SR v Spoločnosti zahraničných konzulov v New Yorku

Novozvolená prezidentka Spoločnosti zahraničných konzulov v New Yorku generálna konzulka SR Jana Trnovcová zvolala v pondelok 26. októbra 2015 pri príležitosti začatia sezóny 2015/16 zasadnutie správnej rady spoločnosti.

Po produktívnom pracovnom stretnutí všetci členovia Spoločnosti boli pozvaní na čašu vína spojenú s nadviazaním nových kontaktov. Spoločnosť zahraničných konzulov v New Yorku je prestížna inštitúcia, ktorá vznikla v roku 1925.

Konzulárny zbor New Yorku je jedným z najväčších na svete a pozostáva zo 113 zahraničných konzulátov. Slovensko je prvýkrát na poste predsedníctva od samotného vzniku.

O. Štefan Furdek  
Náš zakladateľ

Na snímke kňazi, veriaci a politici sa účastnia na svätej omši, ktorej predsedal krakovský arcibiskup kardinál Stanisław Dziwisz v Katedrálnej Bazilike svätého Emeráma na Nitrianskom hrade.

*Priests, members of the faithful and political leaders took part in the funeral for Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Emmeram in the Nitra Castle on Saturday, October 31, 2015.*



FOTO TASR - Henrich Mišovič

## Pápež František vyjadril hlboký zármutok nad smrťou kardinála Korca

Predstavitelia cirkvi i veriaci ľud sa v sobotu 31. októbra 2015 o 11. hodine v Katedrálnej Bazilike svätého Emeráma na Nitrianskom hrade rozlúčili s kardinálom Jánom Chryzostom Korcom, ktorý zomrel v sobotu 24. októbra vo veku 91 rokov. Zosnulý kardinál bol pochovaný v Dolnej lodi Katedrály – Baziliky svätého Emeráma na Nitrianskom hrade tak, ako si to želal.

V závere pohrebnej omše 31. októbra sa s kardinálom Jánom Chryzostomom Korcom vo svojich príhovorech rozlúčili predstavitelia cirkvi, laických kresťanských spoločenstiev i politického života, ktorí zhodne ocenili jeho veľký prínos pre Slovensko.

„Celým svojím životom sa stal svedkom pevnej viery v Ježiša Krista, ktorá nezostane bez odmeny,“ skonštatoval vo svojej reči kardinál Jozef Tomko. Hlboký zármutok nad smrťou kardinála Korca vyjadril vo svojom telegrame aj pápež František, podľa ktorého sa zosnulý kardinál vo svojej dlhej cirkevnej službe prejavil ako neohrozený svedok evanjelia a odvážny obranca kresťanskej viery a práv ľudskej osoby. „Vzdávam vďaka Pánovi za to, že daroval svojej cirkvi túto vynikajúcu postavu kňaza a biskupa a pozdvihujem vrúcne modlitby k Bohu, aby prijal tohto dobrého a verného služobníka po toľkých utrpeniach do svojej večnej radosti, pričom posielam slovenskému biskupskému zboru, kňazom, rehoľným komunitám a všetkým veriacim Nitrianskej diecézy, ktorú miloval a jej slúžil, apoštolské požehnanie ako znak kresťanskej viery a nádeje vo Vzkrieseného Pána,“ uvádza sa telegrame pápeža Františka, ktorý prečítal predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) Stanislav Zvolenský.

Ten vo svojom príhovore poďakoval za slovenských biskupov zosnulému kardinálovi za jeho životný príklad. „Jeho pôsobenie v rámci KBS predstavuje jedinečnú službu pre duchovný život v našej vlasti. Bol duchovným otcom spoločenstva biskupov na Slovensku a my sme čerpali z jeho duchovnej sily. Jeho podnety a stanoviská hlboko vplývali na činnosť KBS. Nech ho dobrotivý Boh oslávi,“ povedal Zvolenský. Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico ocenil prínos Jána Chryzostoma Korca pre duchovný život na Slovensku i jeho vlastenectvo. „Som vďačný, že som mohol spoznať tohto výnimočného človeka, túto veľkú morálnu autoritu. Kardinál Korec miloval Slovensko, bol veľký vlastenec. Všetci si pamätáme na jeho pokojný hlas, keď hovoril, naše milované Slovensko, naša vlasť. Vynikajúci dobrý človek, to je asi najlepšie zobrazenie toho, ako sa správal počas celej svojej životnej púte,“ uviedol Fico.

Prácu a životné dielo kardinála Korca ocenil prostredníctvom listu aj generálny biskup Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania na Slovensku Miloš Klátik a v príhovore tiež nitriansky primátor Jozef Dvonč, za duchovných Nitrianskej diecézy kňaz Jozef Varhaník i Katarína Hulmanová z Fóra kresťanských inštitúcií.

TASR

## Vďakyvzdanie

Vďaka Ti Pane Bože, za všetko čo máme, za všetky tie dobrodenia, ktoré z štedrosti Tvojej požívame. Ďakujeme Ti za všetky plody zeme, ktoré do našich komôr, stodôl pozvážame.

Zvlášť, ale ďakujeme, za tradičného, upečeného moriaka, keď pred jedlom, naša ďakovná modlitba, sa odrieka. Vďaka Ti, za náš každodenný peceň chleba, ktorý požívame z Tvojich rúk z neba.

Vďaka Ti, za krčah čerstvého mlieka, keď deň, do nedeľného šatu sa oblieka. Ďakujeme Ti za kus slaniny a vyúdenú šunku, aj za ten pohár čerstvej, studenej vody v hrnku.

Ďakujeme Ti za dobré, jablká, hrušky, orechy, za misu šošovice, zemiaky a za maminé varechy. Ďakujeme Ti Pane, za hojné a šťastné vinobranie, s vďakou a láskou, prijímame Tvoje Božie požehnanie.

Jozef Smák

## Posviacka Pamätníka Jednoty v Middletown, PA

Za pekného septembrového počasia, z príležitosti 125. výročia založenia IKSJ, 160. výročia narodenia a 100. výročia úmrtia zakladateľa Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Rev. Štefana Furdeka sa konala v nedeľu 13. septembra 2015 posviacka Pamätníka Veteránov na pozemkoch Jednoty v Middletowne, Pennsylvánia. Tento obnovený pomník padlým jednotárom v dvoch svetových vojnách stál kedysi pred budovou redakcie Jednota. Nedávno bol preložený do blízkosti kde pôvodne

Pokračovanie na str. 23



Členovia Zboru riaditeľov a hlavní úradníci Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty púžujú počas osláv posviacky Pamätníka Jednoty 13. septembra 2015 v Middletowne, PA.

## Na Slovensko prídu relikvie svätej Terézie z Lisieux

V januári budúceho roka prídu na Slovensko relikvie svätej Terézie z Lisieux. Putovať budú po viac ako 25 miestach Slovenska. Týmto podujatím zároveň vyvrcholí slovenská oslava Roka zasväteného života. Informuje o tom Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (TK KBS).

Relikvie sv. Terézie z Lisieux, patrónky misií, misionárov a letcov, prevezmú slovenskí rehoľníci od francúzskej komunity sestier bosých karmelitánok z Lisieux. Relikvie na Slovensku pobudnú od 10. do 24. januára. Urna s relikviami putuje po celom svete od roku 1945. Doteraz navštívila množstvo krajín na všetkých kontinentoch. „Do dnešného dňa je to vyše päťdesiat krajín, od Filipín po Spojené štáty, cez Irak, Izrael, Rusko, Sibír,“ dodáva TK KBS. K relikviáru prišlo niekoľko desiatok miliónov ľudí.

Sv. Terézia z Lisieux sa narodila 2. januára 1873 v Alencone vo Francúzsku. Pochádzala z deviatich detí. Ako štrnásťročná vstúpila do karmelitánskeho kláštora. Túžila ísť do misií do Vietnamu, no chatrné zdravie jej to nedovolilo. Neskôr dostala tuberkulózu. Zomrela 30. septembra 1897 ako 24-ročná. V roku 1923 ju pápež Pius XI. vyhlásil za blahoslavenú a o dva roky neskôr za svätú. Štrnásteho decembra 1927 ju spolu so sv. Františkom Xaverským vyhlásil za hlavnú patrónku misií. V roku 1997 ju pápež Ján Pavol II. vyhlásil za učiteľku Cirkvi.

Putovanie relikvií sa uskutoční na záver Roka zasväteného života na Slovensku. Aktuálne u nás pôsobí 46 ženských a 30 mužských reholí, ktoré majú svojich rehoľníkov v 446 rehoľných komunitách.

TASR