



Jednota

THE UNION

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

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NUMBER 5946



THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2017 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

- 75 scholarships in the amount of **\$1,000.00**.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of **\$1,000.00** each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

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

THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Applicants must have: a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life); or minimum of \$10,000.00 JEP Policy; or minimum of \$1,000 annuity with the FCSU for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. *All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2013 to be eligible under the rules of this period.*

2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.

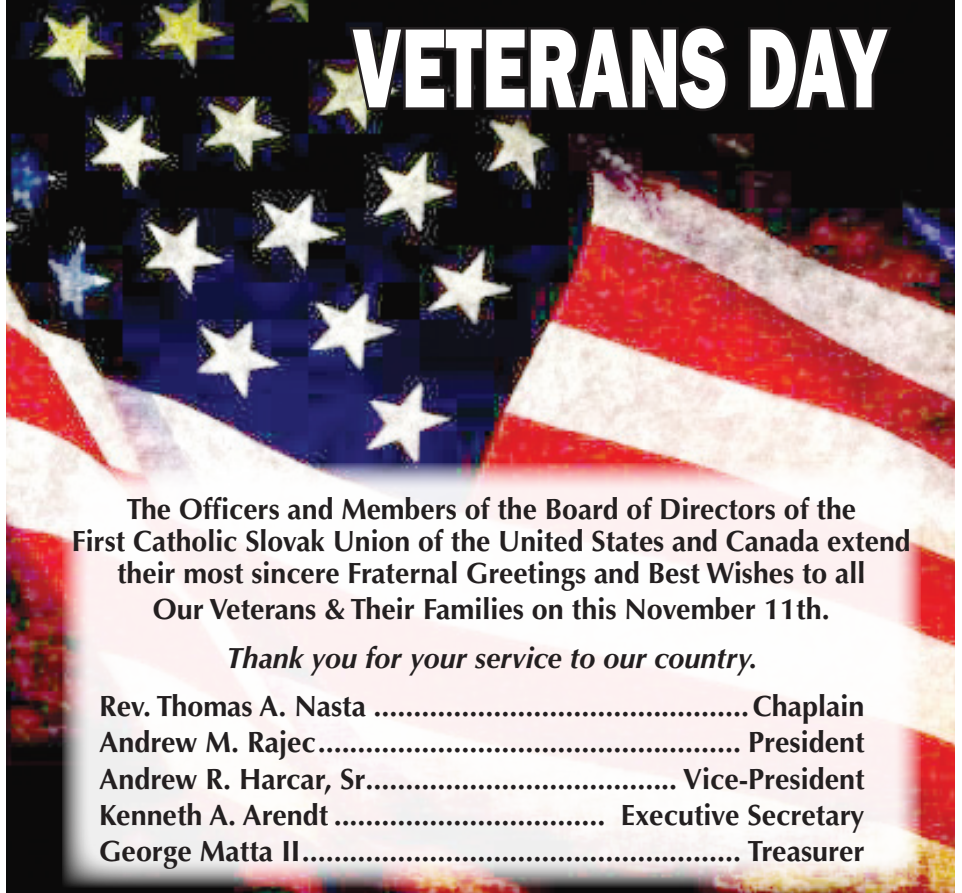
continued on page 3



Christmas Coloring Contest Begins In This Issue

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

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VETERANS DAY

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Our Veterans & Their Families on this November 11th.

Thank you for your service to our country.

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



RAKE IN THE SAVINGS!!!

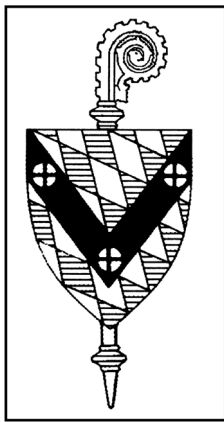
8 YEAR FLEX ANNUITY OR IRA	3.60%
6 YEAR FLEX ANNUITY OR IRA	3.20%
WITH CASH INTEREST OPTION	2.95%
6 YEAR FIXED RATE ANNUITY OR IRA	3.10%
PARK TWO ANNUITY (NOT AVAILABLE IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK)	2.10%
PARK FREE PLUS ANNUITY OR IRA	1.50%

Interest rates effective September 1, 2016

Contact your local branch officer or the Home Office

FCSU Financial® - First Catholic Slovak Union
 6611 ROCKSIDE RD, # 300, INDEPENDENCE, OH 44131
 800-533-6682/Fax: 216-642-4310/ fcsu@fcsu.com/www.fcsu.com

Insights and Viewpoints



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

**November 6, 2016 –
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 20:37-38**

In the first reading today a woman, when faced with torture on account of her faith, cries out: "It is my choice to die at the hands of men with the hope God gives of being raised up by him". As we continually confront images of shocking violence coming from the lands of the Bible in the news each day we ought to consider the

fearful reality of modern day martyrdom, and more broadly, religious violence. For her part, the mother in the Book of Maccabees endured terrible violence and faced death itself with hope, confident that God would raise her and her sons up to new life after their tormentors put them to death. Read 2 Macc 7:20-23 (not included in today's lectionary reading) for her eloquent testimony to her faith in the resurrection.

This brings us to question how our lives are defined by the resurrection of Christ from the dead, which is the foundational tenet of Christian faith and the source of all existential hope—the sine qua non of human purpose and dignity. The gospel narrative of Jesus and the Sadducees illustrates helps us to explore this theme. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, a topic which was the subject of diverse views in the Judaism of our Lord's time. The unusual story which they propose to him as a trick question is an example of what was known in ancient Israel as levirate marriage, the directive found many ancient cultures that if a man died without children his brother had an obligation to marry the widow and bear children "for his brother", so that the memory and line of the deceased brother might not vanish. The practice in general of marrying a former sister-in-law was both forbidden in the Old Testament (Lev 18:16; and 20:21) and allowed in the case when the deceased man died childless (Deut 25:5-6). Read Deut 25:9 to see how seriously this obligation was taken in Israel!

Jesus sidesteps the entire lengthy question and goes to the heart of the matter: he knows the Sadducees deny the resurrection and did not believe in life and earthly death, so in order to demonstrate the reality of the resurrection he invokes an example they cannot possibly refute, coming as it does from a seminal moment in the Torah. Referring to a passage in the Book of Exodus, he says: "That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called out 'Lord,' the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive" (Luke 20:37-38).

The fear that grips many people today on account of war, violence, and uncertainty is one that is understandable yet which is also surmountable. The life to which God ultimately calls us is eternal and imperishable, and even when faced with danger we know—believing that we will share in Jesus' resurrection—that we will inherit the same glory that the mother and her seven sons did in the Book of Maccabees when they stood firm at a time of great anguish and persecution.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

Turning back to the brave mother in Maccabees and the skepticism of the Sadducees in the gospel, we see how even in times of strife, hardship, and violence, which the Church has seen so many times through its history, we can indeed overcome all fears and anxieties by living the present life to its fullest, as the genuine gift of God it is, and by standing firm in our faith that the resurrection of Jesus "turns the tables" on all human fears and puts them in the infinitely larger context of our own eternal life in Christ.

**November 13, 2016 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19**

As we near the end of the Church year we have readings that remind us that a day will come when the world will end. Unlike the end of the Church Year, calendar year, or academic year that have clearly defined dates to mark the beginning and end, the exact day and time for the end of the world is unknown to us. The end can be seen in two ways, the major event itself in which Christ Comes in glory, or our personal event when we breathe our last. How many times have you been shocked by the news of the death of someone who you had just spent time with and they were as healthy as could be. Whether by sudden illness or accident, they have passed on, most likely not knowing the day or hour when it was to occur.

It can be unnerving for us to know that a visitor is coming, or an event is going to happen and we don't know when. If we know a visitor is coming in 10 days, we know that we can wait until the 9th to get everything ready, but if we don't know when, then we must be in constant preparedness. The end of the world is that visitor, and it is referred to as the "Second Coming" because it is Christ, the alpha and omega, who is coming.

Jesus, himself, was asked about when the end of the world would take place in this Gospel. He pointed to signs that would take place but never gave a definite answer. In Matthew's Gospel he makes it clear that we are not to know the time when he says; "you do not know the day or the hour." The question continued to be asked and after the Resurrection it became more focused on when Christ would come again. The early Christians thought that the second coming would be soon, and even in Paul's earlier writings he makes reference to it coming any day. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he advises the people to remain in their present state of married life or the single life, for "the world in its present form is passing away." Paul's later writings shift from the immediacy of the historical event, to the urgency of personal conversion.

The question continued to be asked, and still is asked, of when the end will take place. Every so often some individual or group makes a claim that they have figured it out and give some very specific date. So far, they have all been wrong, for we are still here. This is a lesson on how useless it is to spend time speculating about the end. Instead we should be focused on how we are living our lives. If Jesus were to come to me today, is my house in order? The observance of the end of the Church year gives us the opportunity to pause and to take stock of how we are living. Here are a few questions to reflect on during the closing weeks of this Church Year. Have I grown closer to the Lord? Am I a better Catholic today, then I was a year ago? Have I succeeded in diminishing some faults and sins during this past year? Have I improved my life of prayer? Am I more aware of opportunities to serve? Am I better at loving my neighbor as myself? We have the choice of sitting around twiddling our thumbs and wondering about Christ's second coming, or we can get to work on our continuing conversion and be ready for whenever Christ may return.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, NOV 16	MONDAY, NOV 7
WEDNESDAY, DEC 7	MONDAY, NOV 28
WEDNESDAY, JAN 18	MONDAY, JAN 9

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

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First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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FAX: 216-642-4310

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TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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Veteran's Day: A Wonderful Time to Participate in the Jednota Memorial

Veterans Day is an official United States holiday that honors people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, also known as veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I.

Not to be confused with Memorial Day, Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving.



A Site Dedicated to Members & Their Families

As highlighted in the October 21, 2015 issue of Jednota, the First Catholic Slovak Union dedicated a Jednota Memorial site last September for our members and their families. The site is on a permanently dedicated 3 acres of land of Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue in Middletown, PA. It sits on land that was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed "Doughboy" statue is a key highlight of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks are Available for Purchase



It is important, however, to remember that this memorial is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans. You can remember a loved one, a branch or a district in our Society. All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" in the granite panels found throughout the Memorial will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted.

If you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to download your order form or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

2017 March for Life



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

The FCSU, together with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (FCSLA), is once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH, for this very important trip. For the past few years we have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve two buses for the March. Our organizations are proud to encourage our members along with many young students from area Catholic High Schools to participate. It is a very rewarding experience to actively participate and help relay this very important message of supporting the Right to Life mission.

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

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

Scholarship Applications

continued from page 1

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2017 at a qualifying institution.

4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or download an application from www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/

5. **Applicants must submit a completed application to:**
Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 **not later than February 28, 2017.**

6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.**

7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of professional educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a **proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2018).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2017

All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.



Check List

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR THE JEDNOTA 2017 SCHOLARSHIP PLEASE COMPLETE:

(Please follow this check list to prevent mailing us an incomplete application)

- Completed and signed application
- Photo
- Official Transcript
- S.A.T. or A.C.T. test scores
- 3 Letters of recommendation

Christmas Oplatky – 2016



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

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

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

For more information or to place an order contact

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

From the Office of the Executive Secretary



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

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

November Commemorates Slovakia's Gentle Revolution



The Velvet Revolution or Gentle Revolution, (Nežná Revolúcia) as it was known in Slovakia, was a non-violent transition of power in what was then Czechoslovakia. The period of upheaval and transition took place from November 16/17 to December 29, 1989. Popular demonstrations against the one-party government of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia combined students and older dissidents. The final result was the end of 41 years of Communist rule in Czechoslovakia, and the subsequent conversion to a parliamentary republic.

On November 16, 1989, Slovak high school and university students organized a peaceful demonstration in the center of Bratislava. The next day, November 17, 1989 (International Students' Day), riot police suppressed a big student demonstration in Prague. That event sparked a series of demonstrations from November 19 to late December. By November 20, the number of protesters assembled in Prague had grown from 200,000 the previous day to an estimated 500,000. A two-hour general strike involving all citizens of Czechoslovakia was held on November 27. On November 24, the entire top leadership of the Communist Party, including General Secretary Miloš Jakeš, resigned.

In response to the collapse of other Warsaw Pact governments and the increasing street protests, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia announced on November 28 that it would relinquish power and dismantle the single-party state. Two days later, the legislature formally deleted the sections of the Constitution giving the Communists a monopoly of power. Barbed wire and other obstructions were removed from the border with West Germany and Austria in early December. On December 10, President Gustáv Husák appointed the first largely non-communist government in Czechoslovakia since 1948, and resigned. Alexander Dubček was elected speaker of the federal parliament on December 28 and Václav Havel the President of Czechoslovakia on December 29, 1989.

In June 1990, Czechoslovakia held its first democratic elections since 1946.

The term Velvet Revolution was coined by Rita Klímová, the dissidents' English translator who later became the ambassador to the United States. The term was used internationally to describe the revolution, although the Czechs also used the term internally. After the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993, Slovakia used the term Gentle Revolution, the term that Slovaks used for the revolution from the beginning.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Veteran is Tough as They Come

It was April 10, 2012, and U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills was on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan. He and his team were sent to an area to check for IEDs (improvised explosive devices), and according to their minesweeping device, there was nothing dangerous in the ground. Mills, therefore, took off his backpack and put it down next to him. But the minesweeper had been wrong.

A hidden IED exploded, ripping off Mills's right arm at the bicep and right knee at the leg joint. His left leg was broken, barely held on by a few pieces of muscle and tendon at the knee. Medics rushed over, but Mills told them to leave him alone because he believed there was no way he could be saved. They ignored him, evacuating him to Kandahar. As doctors prepped him for surgery, Mills's left leg came off when they pulled his pants down. He had already lost three of his limbs. And on April 12th, his left arm had to be amputated mid-wrist.

After being under heavy sedation for several days, Mills woke up on April 14th as one of only five quadruple amputees to survive injuries in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was his 25th birthday.

His battles weren't over yet, though. Mills was in excruciating pain, both physically and mentally. He feared that his wife Kelsey and baby daughter Chloe would see him as a monster. And then there was God. Mills had lived a pretty upstanding life, so saying he was angry at God for allowing this to happen would be an understatement.

His physical pain was eventually resolved through a revolutionary treatment called a ketamine coma, which reset Mills's nerve endings, allowing him to live pain free. And prosthetics allow him to function normally. When he tried to convince Kelsey that she should leave him because he was too much of a burden, she refused and assured him that she would be staying true to her marriage vows. And six-month-old Chloe? As Mills told me during an interview about his Christopher Award-winning memoir "Tough As They Come," she just sees him as "regular old Dad."

Spiritually speaking, Mills still had some issues. While he was recovering in the hospital, his sister-in-law brought him a plaque with the words of Joshua 1:9 on it: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

He told her to take it away because he didn't believe those words anymore. "What did God do?" he asked her. "Did he take a smoke break? Did he quit on me?"

She left the plaque where it was despite his protests. Eventually, Mills came to a new understanding of God's role in our lives. He said, "I realized it's not okay to just be a believer when things are going your way. That's not how this works. It was important for me to realize that I had my family, I had my life, I had the ability to do things. As much as I was upset about the situation, God had a plan for me to keep going forward."

Part of that forward movement involves running the Travis Mills Foundation, which supports fellow wounded warriors and their families by showing them that they can still live a life of accomplishment, purpose, and love. That's not just speculation or happy talk. It's a truth that Travis Mills exemplifies each day.

President Andrej Kiska Visits Pontifical Slovak College in Rome

During the official visit of the Italian Republic, on September 29, 2016, Slovak President Andrej Kiska (accompanied by Minister of Culture Marek Maďarič, Ambassador of the Slovak republic in Rome Ján Šoňh, and Ambassador of the Slovak republic to the Holy See Peter Sopko, visited the Pontifical Slovak College of St. Cyril and Methodius.

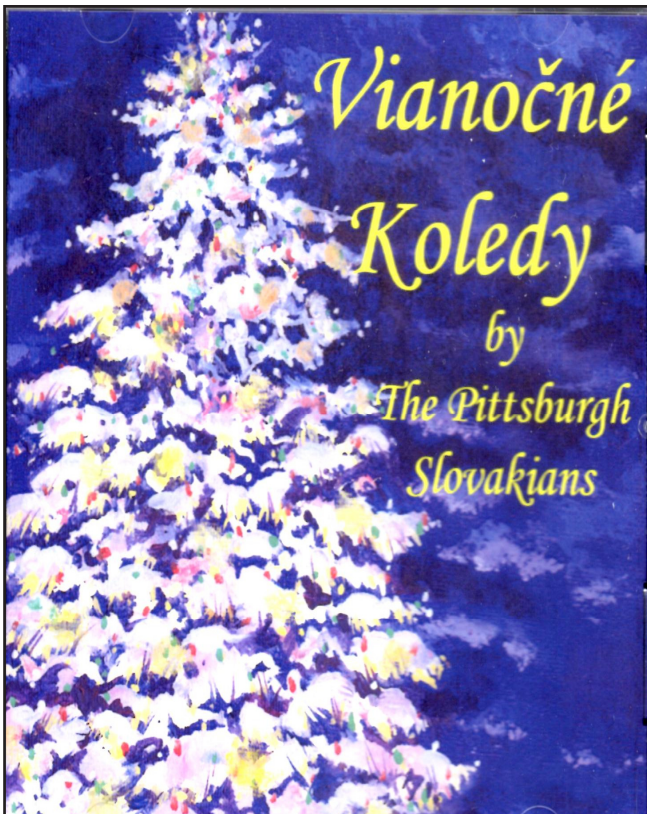
Rector of the College Pavol Zvara and Vice Rector Marek Haratim, together with priests who are studying at the Universities in Rome, and Nuns and friends of the Col-

lege, received a delegation of the Constitutional Officials. The Slovak President was briefly introduced to the history of the Slovak College and the presence of Slovakian people in Rome and solemnly added his signature into the Memorial Book of the College. This was followed by a brief reception.

Present at the College were also Cardinal Jozef Tomko, Archbishop Cyril Vasil', Secretary of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Archbishop of Bratislava Stanislav

Zvolenský, Bishop of Spiš Štefan Sečka. Among them were also priests of the parishes, that lent the historical items for the Exposition of gothic Art, titled "Treasures from Slovakia". This Exposition is being opened in Rome during these days in the presence of the President of Slovak Republic and the President of Italian Republic on the occasion of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

- Submitted by Lubomír Majtán



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

Includes such favorites as:

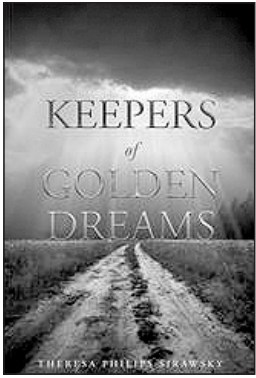
Do Hory do lesa valasi/ Povedzte nám pastierovia/Plesajte všetci ľudia/Narodil sa Kristus v Betleme./ Dnešný deň sa radujme/Tichá Noc/Silent Night and more!

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

\$15.00 each includes postage.



Book Corner



Theresa Philips-Sirawsky, a Christian, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, devoted writer and author, has completed her first novel "Keepers of Golden Dreams": a gripping and potent work that tells a story of sacrifice, dreams, courage and love.

Published by New York City-based Page Publishing, Theresa Philips-Sirawsky's telling work is a heartfelt biography of her family.

Theresa's parents came to America to create a better life for themselves and the family they hoped to have in the future. Her father came first, and her mother and grandmother came shortly after. The people believed that there was so much wealth in this country that the streets were lined with gold.

While growing up, her mother told them about her life growing up in Slovakia, and Theresa would listen trying to picture how it must have been and how hard it must have been to leave all that they loved for a better life.

When Theresa married her husband, they came directly to New Jersey to live. She was the only daughter who moved away from her mother. She missed her parents and siblings and her life back home. After many years, she began to think about what she missed and realized that her mother had experienced the same emotions. Theresa realized that the future generations should know what her parents went through to leave everything and go to a place where the customs and language were different and with very little money. She wanted the future generations to know the story of their lives, so she began to write about them as they lived their journey.

Readers who wish to experience this profound work can purchase "Keepers of Golden Dreams" at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes store, Amazon, Google Play or Barnes and Noble.

Dr. Michael Kopanic Speaks on Slovak Harvest



Longtime Jednota contributor and Branch 553 Member Dr. Michael Kopanic gave a talk on the Slovak harvest at the Arlington Public Library in Arlington, VA, on October 1, 2016. For those interested in the topic, please see Dr Kopanic's excellent two-part series on the Slovak Harvest, starting in the September 21, 2016 edition of Jednota, page 10, with Part II featured on the front page of the October 5, 2016 of Jednota. Just a reminder: all issues of the paper (starting with the November 2006 issue) are available for review and downloading by going to the First Catholic Slovak Union's website fcsu.com/newspaper/newspaper-archive.

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



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

website ohiofa.org or the First Catholic Union website fcsu.com and clicking on the Scholarship tab.

Fun Photos & Facts from the Branch 200 Archives

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 200 in Ford City, PA, is looking forward to celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2020. In anticipation of that momentous event, we have been doing research and found the following fun photos and 6 facts:



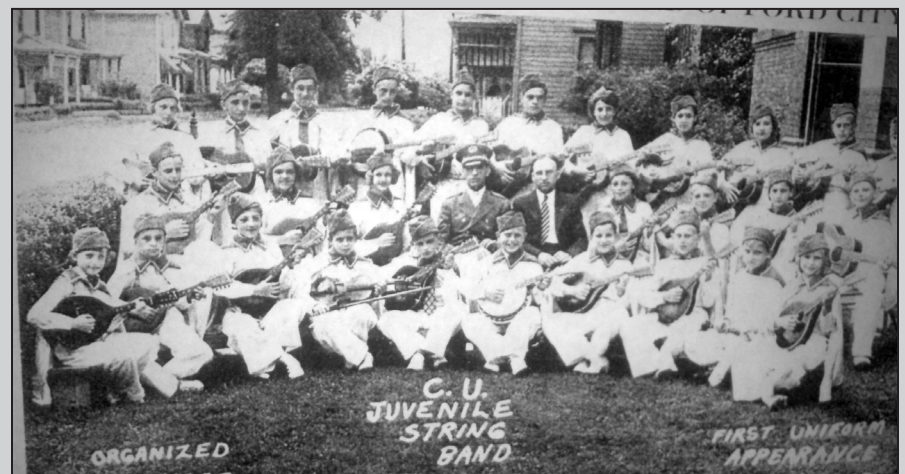
1. The first permanent building for Branch 200, known as the C.U. Sokol Hall, was built at 914 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA, on a site purchased from the Belgian Hall which was subsequently razed. This building served the branch until 1954 when it moved to its current location of 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226, where members have wonderful memories of events such as this Christmas party celebrated in C.U. Sokol Hall by Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG) Company Works No 4 & 6. Many Branch 200 members worked at PPG.

2. C.U. Sokol organized a baseball club in 1922. The branch also formed a women's baseball team prior to World War II.



3. Among the men of the riflemen group at C.U.Sokol was Charles E. Gregory (first row, 2nd on the right). Charles was the Principal of Ford City High School.

4. A Boy Scout Troop (61) was organized in 1929. The Troop Leader was Charles Bartek with committee members Andrew Turicik, John Novak, George Kasun, John Zaludny, Rudolph Petrovsky, & Martin Scury.



5. In 1935, the Juvenile String Band was organized; two years later in 1937, under the direction of Mathew Zuzik, the band received uniforms.



6. Branch 200 hosted many fraternal events, including this bowling one with branch officers and members (L – R): Joseph Zilla, President; M. J. Vargovich; the Rev. Mathew Yanosek, Supreme President; John Sabol; John Skulalek, Treasurer; and John Biscanovsky.

-Submitted by Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary.
All photos courtesy of Vicki Schaub

FCSU 2016 Christmas Coloring Contest

A

The Colors of Christmas

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

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

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

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

Purple for suffering and death on a hill.

Red is the blood, which Jesus did spill.

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

B



C



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

RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture C
7 – 9 year olds – picture B
10 – 12 year olds – picture A
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures may 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. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
6. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2016.**
7. Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 Fraternal Activities Director
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

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

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

PRIZES

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016, MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

OPEN
 President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 11:30 AM and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:
 Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer
 Milos Mitro, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:
 The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August 2016 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr., and seconded by George Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS Management, Inc.
 Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report by telephone and WebEx to the Board of Directors at its meeting on Friday, September 16th. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Board's questions.

The President led a discussion of new investment opportunities presented by UBS, Parkway Advisors and Clutterbuck Fund. The president stated he would ask each advisor to present an investment plan to the Executive Committee.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:
Annuity Rates:
 The President led an extensive review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates remain the same and will be reviewed at the next meeting in October.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Investment Updates
 The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), 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 2016:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 225,572.49
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 30,437.35
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 475.97

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.

The Executive Secretary gave a complete summary of the second quarter financial report and answered all the Executive Committee's questions. He further stated the financials will be published in the newspaper.

TREASURER REPORT:
 The Treasurer gave a written report on the investment update to the Board of Directors on Friday, September 16, 2016 and answered the Board's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:
 The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting new agents and at present have over 250 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products.

The Vice President will continue to schedule seminars for 2016 once our marketing firm updates our seminar presentation. The Vice President continues to encourage the districts and branches to contact him concerning acceptable dates. The Vice President asked our marketing firm to include in our seminars an extensive explanation on selling our transfer of wealth product. He feels a better explanation/understanding of how the product benefits membership is valuable information.

The Vice President announced the 2016 Membership Meet will be held in Las Vegas on November 6-10, 2016. He stated we still have rooms available and the final details have been completed.

The Executive Secretary stated we have launched our new website and presented it to the Board. He encouraged the Board to review the website and offer any suggestions or changes.

2018 CONVENTION:
 The Executive Secretary stated that the Board of Directors has agreed to hold the 51st Quadrennial Convention in 2018 at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel. The hotel has been contacted and is preparing the contract for review and signatures.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:
 Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

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

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

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

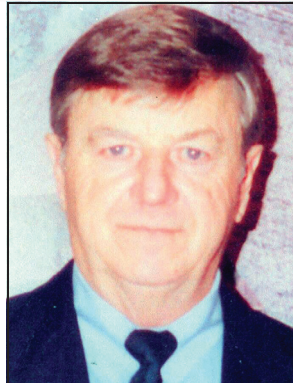
The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Through September 2016

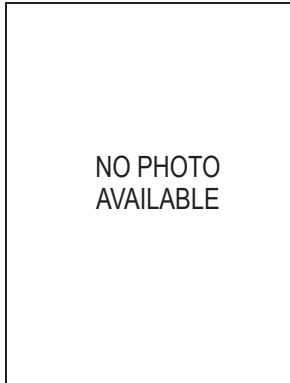


NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Hamilla, Gerald L.
First Place



Harcar, Andrew R.
Second Place



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Schaub, Vicki Lynn
Third Place



Harcar, Andrew R.
First Place



Arendt, Kenneth Anthony
Second Place



Kurzawa, Fr. Ronald
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance
Hamilla, Gerald J.	175	175,000
Harcar, Andrew R.	040	150,000
Schaub, Vicki Lynn	200	105,000
Lang, David A.	024	100,000
Rimarcik, Joseph C.	743	85,000
Fedor, Michael A.	238	80,000
Rajec, Andrew P.	089	75,000
Scavina, Joseph T.	682	66,000
Gerics, Mary S.	019	60,000
Bobby, Jacquelyn	731	60,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Harcar, Andrew R.	040	199,935.40
Arendt, Kenneth Anthony	228	168,335.87
Kurzawa, Fr. Ronald	743	150,000.00
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	132,000.00
Gerko, Stephen P.	372	130,000.00
Bench, James M.	181	108,905.02
Mizikar, Richard F.	181	105,200.00
Makovsky, Carol A.	796	100,000.00
Budjac, Robert J.	089	97,977.65
Ungvarsky, Carl J.	173	96,131.68

Annual ASCA Vilija Nears



The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will once again be hosting our traditional Vilija Dinner. This year it will be held on Sunday December 11, 2016 at 4pm at the Father Snock Center at Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish (former St. Matthias School) 2800 Shady Run Road, Youngstown, OH. One of our most beloved Slovak traditions, 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. There will be musical entertainment by the John Lapinsky Orchestra and much more including a Basket Auction 50/50 drawing and a lotto tree raffle. We'll even have oplatky for sale! We will also be presenting the winner of our annual ASCA scholarship at this dinner and letting you know about some exciting projects coming up in our Slovak community.

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

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

- Submitted by Loretta Ekoniak

The 2016 Lúčina Slovak Gala: An Evening in the Heart of Europe

Saturday, November 12, 2016

Holy Spirit Party Center
5500 W. 54th Street • Parma, OH 44129

Featuring:

The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland
Lúčinka Children's Ensemble
Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble of Detroit
DJ Denis

Tickets: \$50/Person
\$360/Table of 8
\$40/Person under 21

Limited Seating! Only 250 seats available. Advanced sales only.
No tickets sold at the door.

Ticket includes:
Entertainment

Full-course dinner with 3 entrees & dessert
(vegetarian and gluten-free meals available if preordered)
Open Bar

Raffles & Gift Baskets throughout the evening
Followed by music for dancing and listening pleasure with DJ Denis
Doors open: 6:00PM ** Dinner 6:30PM ** Program: 7:30PM

For tickets, call. Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
Christine Matis-Hearn, 440-655-8244
Jenna Allen, 440-439-4119

All proceeds to benefit the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble,
celebrating their 35th Anniversary



**If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately**
THINK ABOUT IT!

News From Slovakia

Five Companies from Slovakia on CE Technology Fast 50 List

Bratislava, October 21 (TASR) - According to the CE Technology Fast 50 list drafted by Deloitte, five companies from Slovakia placed among the 50 fastest growing technological companies in central Europe.

The 4th place - the best from among companies from Slovakia - was taken by a company called Jump soft. The other four companies included on the list were: STUDIO 727 (15th place), Aliter Technologies (30th), Pizza SEO (33rd) and BSP Application (41st). A total of 25 companies from Slovakia signed up for this year's edition of the list.

The list was drawn up based on the firms' profits over the last four years. The average growth rate of these 50 companies jumped to 1057 percent, a year-on-year increase of 497 percent.

Cibulkova Wins Tournament in Linz; Goes to WTA Finals in Singapore

Linz, October 16 (TASR) - Slovak tennis player Dominika Cibulkova has won the tennis tournament in the Austrian city of Linz and thus has fought through to the WTA Finals in Singapore (October 23-30).

Number two seed Cibulkova defeated Viktorija Golubic from Switzerland 6-3, 7-5, securing her third WTA women's singles title this year. Previously she won the tournament in Katowice in April and in Eastbourne in June.

Slovakia will be represented at the elite eight-player tournament for the first time since 2007, when Daniela Hantuchova managed to get to the WTA Finals in Madrid.

Dalai Lama Meets President Kiska and Academic Sector

Bratislava, October 16 (TASR) - Love, forgiveness and understanding among people were the main topics of discussion between Slovak President Andrej Kiska and the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, in Bratislava on this date.

The Tibetan spiritual leader also met with other Slovak politicians as well as representatives of the academic sector from Comenius University in Bratislava.

"I had the chance to meet the Dalai Lama again on this day, but for the first time as a president. I spoke with the supreme Tibetan spiritual leader about the need for understanding among people; about the fact that all religions are similar if they're founded on love, forgiveness and empathy," wrote Kiska on Facebook after the meeting, adding that the Dalai Lama has a wonderful gift. Kiska said that Buddhism is a philosophy of how we should all live.

The Dalai Lama visited Comenius University's Faculty of Philosophy. It was said there that the 21st century should be a century of dialogue. The meeting under the title 'Moral Aspects of Education and Science to the Benefit of Humanism' was carried in the spirit of ideas stressing the need for respecting each other, for unity and solidarity.

"Humanity has to know how to be compassionate," stressed the Dalai Lama, adding that people have to learn how to be empathetic. The Dalai Lama also took part in an exhibition of photographs depicting northeastern Tibet and its culture and religion.

Peter Sagan Defends His Title of World Cycling Champion

Doha, October 16 (TASR) - Slovak cyclist Peter Sagan has defended his world champion title in the Qatari capital of Doha.

Sagan, who dominated last year's UCI Road World Championships in Richmond as well, didn't give his opponents a chance in the final spurt of the men's elite road-race category with a mass start.

He is the first cyclist since 2007 who has managed to defend his rainbow jersey in back-to-back years. The last person who succeeded in doing so was Italian Paolo Bettini (2006 and 2007). He is also the first racer who has managed to secure the titles of world champion and European champion in the same year.

This year, Sagan had a particularly successful season. He won the green jersey at the Tour de France, including three first places in three individual stages of the tour. He also won at Gent-Welvegem, the Tour of Flanders and the Grand Prix Cycliste de Quebec. He has also placed first in the World Tour ranking.

As many as 199 cyclists from 48 countries stood at the start of the 257.3-kilometre long route. Apart from Sagan, Slovakia was also represented by his brother Juraj Sagan and Michael Kolar.

Sagan finished first in front of Britain's Mark Cavendish and Belgium's Tom Boonen.

Next year's UCI Road World Championships will be held in the Norwegian city of Bergen, September 17 - 24, 2017.



District 2 Elects Officers at October Meeting

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 held its second meeting of the year on October 16, 2016 at the Benedictine Sisters Convent in Oak Forest, IL. The existing slate of officers were re-elected, and they are as follows: (L - R) front row : Pat Laporte, Treasurer; John Jurcenko, President; Rudy Bernath, Vice-President; Bob Magruder, Recording Secretary. (L - R) Back Row: Paul Chismar, Auditor; Pete Turner, Sgt at Arms; Bob Elias, Auditor; Lynda Tanis, Fraternal Activities.

After the election, the officers and members enjoyed a delicious, catered meal.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



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

When: Sunday, December 4, 2016

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

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

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

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

To order:

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

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

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

SlovakAmericanCC.org

Slovak Ball

Join us for The 24th Annual Slovak Ball
Sat, Feb. 25, 2017
 The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ

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

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

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

For more information visit us at:
SlovakAmericanCC.org

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through our Single Premium Whole Life Policy

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- Avoid probate
- Cash value growth

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 800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

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

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www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



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Extended to December 31, 2016

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- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



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www.fcsu.com

All applications must be
received in the Home Office
postmarked
by December 31, 2016.

**Higher amounts available - please contact your
Branch Officer or the Home Office
Standard underwriting applies.*



The re-elected officers of Branch 153: (L – R) Standing: Liz Bernath, Auditor; Rudy Bernath, Vice President; John Jurcenko, President; and Pat LaPorte, Auditor. Seated: Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary.

Branch 153's October Meeting

Branch 153 held a meeting on October 22, 2016 in Harwood Heights, IL. The meeting ended with the election of officers. All of the current officers were re-elected. God bless them! After the meeting the members enjoyed a great luncheon. Next meeting April 2017.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14							15				16				
17							18				19				
20							21				22				
			23		24			25	26						
27	28	29		30			31					32	33	34	
35			36				37				38				
39							40				41				
42				43	44				45	46					
47				48				49				50			
			51					52			53				
54	55	56					57	58			59		60	61	62
63						64				65					
66						67				68					
69						70				71					

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



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

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

The dinner will consist of the Ladies Auxiliary perch, bobalki, pierohi, sauerkraut soup, kolacki, oplatky and wine toast. Cash bar including Zlaty Bazant will be available. Advanced ticket sales only.

\$20.00, contact Len Zilko at 440/988-3236. The event is open to the public.

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

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

Across

- 1 Went boating
- 7 Capture
- 10 Drawn tight
- 14 Get even
- 15 Jurist Fortas
- 16 Furthermore
- 17 Step down
- 18 Reminisce
- 20 Histriion
- 21 Evergreen
- 22 Guides
- 23 Margin of victory
- 25 Before heat or meat
- 27 "Thar ___ blows!"
- 30 Camping or boating item
- 32 Chem class
- 35 Pleasing to the eye
- 37 News feature
- 39 Egyptian solar deity
- 40 Japanese coin
- 41 Arab ruler
- 42 Abandoned ship
- 45 Lounging chair
- 47 Foxy
- 48 Black Sea country
- 50 Asian holiday
- 51 Curved molding
- 52 Fly in the ointment
- 54 Garden tool
- 57 Recliner part
- 59 Cover, in a way
- 63 Wide scene
- 65 Bottle uncapper
- 66 Allege as fact
- 67 Race unit
- 68 Fat controller
- 69 Hardens
- 70 Dutch city
- 71 Chooses to take part in a contest

Down

- 1 Irene of *Fame*
- 2 With, in Calais
- 3 Cozy retreat
- 4 Burger topper
- 5 Chinese dish
- 6 Family room
- 7 Lynn of *Tampico*
- 8 There's one in WA, MD, SD and Scotland
- 9 Sparkler
- 10 Broken
- 11 Jessica of *Dark Angel*
- 12 Preowned
- 13 Rocky peaks
- 19 Oxlike antelope
- 21 Boggy lowland
- 24 Utter
- 26 Horse-and-buggy ___, for one
- 27 Oodles
- 28 Monopoly purchase
- 29 Manicurist's board
- 31 Sorority letter
- 32 Restrict
- 33 Ouzo flavoring
- 34 Military wear
- 36 Compass pt.
- 38 Pastoral setting
- 40 Shrieked

- 43 German pistol
- 44 One of the Clantons
- 45 MSNBC rival
- 46 Kegler's target
- 49 Belief system
- 51 Bouquets
- 53 Welcome
- 54 Luxurious resorts
- 55 Do roadwork
- 56 Dill seed
- 58 Frenzy
- 60 Feed the kitty
- 61 Nobleman
- 62 Muffs
- 64 Stout relative
- 65 Flowery verse

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2016-2017

Issue Date
November 16, 2016
December 7, 2016
January 18, 2017
February 15
March 8
March 29
April 19
May 10
June 14
July 19
August 16
Sept 13
October 4
October 18
November 1
November 15
December 6

Deadline to Receive
November 7, 2016
November 28, 2016
January 9, 2017
February 6
February 27
March 20
April 10
May 1
June 5
July 10
August 7
Sept 5
Sept 25
October 9
October 23
November 6
November 27

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3P - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The 2016 annual meeting of Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will be held at 9:30AM on Sunday November 27, 2016 in Saint Joseph's church cafeteria at 604 North Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Election of officers for 2017 will be conducted followed by a short update of local branch activities. New ideas for branch activities will be entertained and any changes of address or beneficiaries can be submitted at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and get involved.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Daniel Spegar, President

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2016. A Mass will be offered by Msgr. Joseph Pekar for all our members at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. Following the Mass, our members are invited to return to the church hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

At this meeting, the John A. Zahor Scholarship will be awarded to the following college freshmen:

Julie Rose Farell
Matthew Louis Gerics
Alex Kuruc
Samantha Lello
Zachery Piroh
Joseph Connor Prince
Sara Ann Serdy

This scholarship was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Zahor served as president of the St. Joseph Society, and his commitment to the education of its young members.

Also, the Andre J. Imbro Grant will be given to the following college juniors:

Lauren Brainard
Elizabeth Bruchansky
Nicole Alyssa Cichowski
Michael Lella
Alyssa Pudill
Paul Monks
Christopher Ambrose Zahor

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

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

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner Sunday, December 4, 2016 at St. Andrew Abbey 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH. Mass is at 12:00 (noon) with dinner to follow [Editor's Note: please see page 9 of this issue].

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

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

David Lang, Treasurer

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 - SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its fall meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2017.

Stella Skovira, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

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

Fraternally,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 112 - MAHANAOY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting for Branch 112 will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2016. The meeting will begin at 1PM at Palermos Restaurant on the Minersville Pottsville highway. The agenda will include: officers reports, election of officers, the 2018 convention and new business.

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

Karen Engle Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Stephen Paulov, Joseph Tybor, Anna Capiak,

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

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 UNIONTOWN, PA

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

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

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 173 - GREATER WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

In addition officers will be elected for Branch 173.

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

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky, President.

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will meet on Sunday, November 13, 2016, at 1:00 PM at Joio's Restaurant, Latrobe, PA 15650

All members of the branch are encouraged to join for the election of officers at this luncheon meeting.

See you there.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Patula/Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 invites you to attend our monthly branch meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. So for the remainder of the year, the monthly meetings are as follows: November 3rd (with nomination of officers on the agenda), and December 1st (with the election of officers on the agenda).

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

We look forward to seeing you.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Joseph Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are

held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The Branch: will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 19, 2016. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

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

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

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

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

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PA

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

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

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

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. John Baptist Society Branch 313 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 11:30AM at Arrowhead Ales Restaurant 2101 Calistoga Dr. New Lenox, IL. The agenda will be a discussion of branch business and member-

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting on October 18-21,

2017 in Pittsburgh. Your correspondent will be giving a presentation on Slovak Alias Names. Further information can be found at www.cgis.org.

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

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

Fraternally,

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

DISTRICT 10 - THE OHIO DISTRICT

District 10 will be holding their final meeting for 2016 on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. All district members are invited to attend.

This is our final meeting for the year and we will be electing officers for 2017 at this meeting. Join us for an informative meeting and fellowship.

If you are planning on attending, please call Linda Hanco at 330-773-4978 (J Club office). 330-706-0151 (home) or email me at lhanco@neo.rr.com. We would like a head count for refreshments.

Hope to see you there!

Linda M. Hanco, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

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

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will have a meeting on November 15, 2016, at St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH starting at 6:00 pm in the cry room. Election of officers will be held at this meeting. Also, the Christmas Party will be held on December 20, 2016. Save the date.

Joe Scavina, Vice President

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

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

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 20 – PRINCE RASTISLAV, MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The District Annual meeting will be held on November 6, 2016 at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall immediately following the Eleven (11) o'clock Mass.

The Agenda will include a social calendar for 2017, as well as election of officers.

Branches 784 and 810 are urged to send representatives.

A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ship. A lunch will follow. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Any questions please call Branch 313 President Joseph Bugel 708-349-7873.

Joseph Bugel, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Respectfully,

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382K will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 6, 2016. Branch President Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. will convene the meeting at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA. The agenda will include reports from Branch of-

ficers and the Branch delegates to the District 17 meeting. Information from the Home Office will be presented. Members will also consider charitable donations and future activities.

Election of officers for 2017 will take place.

President Slovenkai reminds members that "Fraternalism is a family affair," and invites all members to attend this meeting.

Following the meeting there will be refreshments and time for socializing.

The other executive officers include Vice President Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Secretary Michael J. Czankner, Treasurer Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., and Financial Secretary John J. Slovenkai, Sr.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Peace and fellowship to all,

Patrick Froncek, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Geri Buchheit, Recording Financial Secretary

BRANCH 419 – MOUNTAIN TOP, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Carol Phillips, Acting Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

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

Refreshment will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484- CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

Robert T'apa'k Magruder,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

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

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

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

Linda M Hanco, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ

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Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch:</u>	<u>Name</u>
001K	Joan A Kokoska	181K	Clarence E Pfeifer Sr	382K	Margaret A Slovenkai	670K	Helen F Palli
001K	Dorothy A Voytko	181K	William Zurbo	410K	Irene Chabanik	670K	Catherine L Suzich
005P	Olga L Bryk	199K	Mary B Lupchinsky	419K	Florence M Palmaoli	682K	Donald E D'Onofrio
019K	Evelyn P Denisevich	199K	Imelda Ransel	419K	Matthew J Smihosky	706K	John C Billeck
023K	William Melikant	200K	Anthony A Vojtilla	419K	Barbara A Yakovich	706K	Kathleen M Krutak
024K	Alfred E Vidinsky	211K	Michael A Androstic	430K	Eugene R Smugeresky	716K	Victor A Ferencko
035K	George Joschak	226P	Helen M Komir	456K	George Joseph Merva	729K	George J Galik
045K	Mary Ann Woods	259K	Joseph M Pavlansky	484K	Mary Ann Parana	731K	Jerome Jablonski
085K	Raniero Farneti	260K	Joseph G Field Sr	497K	John L Longinie	738K	Michael B Steger
086K	Loretta A Melego	260K	Susan Reichert	497K	Pauline Woytko	746K	Joseph John Astalos
086K	George Sidlovsky	266K	Elizabeth S Fellin	514K	Florence Knox	746K	Irene Pocklembo
112K	Caroline Rita Machulsky	292K	M Veronica Ferko	514K	Mary T Switzer	746K	Veronica Sullivan
128K	George Janco	313K	Theresa V Matusak	543K	George S Knorovsky	746K	Ludovit Tirpak
152K	Anna B Gondek	315K	Helen Hacke	553K	Karl F Hirsch	746K	Stephen M Vrabely
153K	George J Pavlak	320K	Alfred J Ulens	553K	Walter Talalas	769K	Rudolph J Sventek
162K	Anna Borek	367K	Margaret F Tencer	587K	Anna C Slobodian	855K	David R Gross
162K	Stephen Haky Jr	381K	John Francis Zalc	628K	Michael J Vehec	900K	Richard J Motil
181K	John R Butala	382K	Stephen R Bonick	670K	Barbara E Abbott		

*Processed through the month of October

OBITUARIES

**GAZA MIKA
BRANCH 10 –
OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA**

Gaza Mika, 90, Old Forge, Pa., died October 17 at his home. His beloved wife of 41 years, Margaret Sopko Mika, died April 7, 1997.

Born in Bridgeport, Conn., he was the son of the late Gaza and Bertha Bushko Mika. Gaza was a 1944 graduate of Old Forge High School, and received his accounting degree from the University of Scranton, Pa. An Army veteran, Gaza honorably served his country as a private first class with the Military Police during World War II. He began his working career at Ralph Grambo, Scranton, and then became the proud owner of G. Mika Trucking, Old Forge. He retired from Geisinger Community Medical Center, Scranton, where he worked in housekeeping and was a friendly parking garage attendant.

A critic of fine food and wine, he mastered many delicious meals for family and friends. Gaza enjoyed fishing, card playing and doing crossword puzzles in ink. He was a parishioner of St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church, Old Forge, and held several offices in Slovak heritage societies, most recently as Vice-President, FCSU Branch 10 K.J., St. John the Baptist Society, Olyphant, Pa.

Surviving are two daughters, Margaret A. Mika Moses and husband, Kenneth, Chadds Ford, Pa. and Barbara C. Mika, with whom he resided, a son, Gaza, Boston, Mass., two grandchildren, Bobby and Lauren Moses, and nieces and nephews.

His brother, Harris Harper, and his sister, Christine King, preceded him in death.

The funeral was held on October 21 from the Semian Funeral Home, Taylor, Pa., followed by Divine Liturgy celebrated at St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Church by the Rev. Eduard Shestak. Military honors were held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Please visit the funeral home website, <http://semiancares.com/>, to share memories or extend condolences.

- Submitted by Daniel Spegar,
Branch 10 President

**VICTOR ANDREW
FERENCKO
BRANCH 716 –
NEW YORK,
NEW YORK**

Victor Andrew Ferencko passed away peacefully at home, with his wife by his side, on July 12, 2016. He was born on January 31, 1931, in Lubica, Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia), the son of Andrew Ferencko and Margaret (Krett) Ferencko. Victor traveled to the U.S. as a young boy in 1938 with his mother to join his father, who had already been living and working in New York City. Victor grew up in Manhattan, attending St. John Nepomucene parochial school, Fordham Prep High School, and Fordham University on an ROTC scholarship. Upon graduation, Victor joined the U.S. Air Force where he reached the rank of Captain. He subsequently obtained a Master's Degree in Economics from Columbia University and worked as a contract administrator for several engineering firms. While working, he attended St. John's Law School at night and obtained a law degree. Thereafter he worked as a contract lawyer, most recently for Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation in Texas and New Jersey.



While visiting the Tatra Mountains in Czechoslovakia on vacation in 1964, Victor met his future wife, Anna. One year later he returned to Czechoslovakia and they were married. Over the years they lived in New York City, Summit, NJ, Houston, TX, and Melbourne, FL.

Victor is survived by his wife of 50 years, Anna Ferencko, his daughter, Tanya Pulver, and husband, Daniel, his son, Gregory Ferencko, and wife, Lauren, grandchildren Andrew, Nicholas, and Viera, his brother, John Ferencko, and wife, Nancy, and many nieces and nephews.

Victor was very proud of his Slovak heritage and throughout his life actively participated in Slovak-American cultural events. He enjoyed traveling and learning languages and traveled to many countries both for work as well as for pleasure. He loved skiing, hiking, and nature, and loved to visit the Catskill Mountains in New York every summer to enjoy the outdoors. He also loved history and was an ardent reader of all types of history books. Most of all, he loved to visit and spend time with his extended family. He never missed a wedding, baptism, or family party. He was a kind and gentle soul, a great storyteller, a patient teacher, a man of great faith, and a wise, supportive and loving husband,

father and grandfather. He surely continues to love and pray for us all. His memory will inspire us for the rest of our lives.

- Submitted by Tanya Pulver

**MARGARET ANN
DORKO BERTOVICH
BRANCH 853 –
CHARLEROI,
PENNSYLVANIA**



Margaret Ann (Marge) Dorko Bertovich, 89, of Bentleyville, PA, went to glory on April 21, 2016.

She was born in Ontario Village, Washington County, PA, on February 26, 1927, a daughter of the late Elizabeth Kipikasha Dorko and Joseph Dorko.

Marge was a member of Ave Maria Parish in Bentleyville, and in former years, was active in the Altar Rosary Society where at many and various times held office as Treasurer or Secretary. While her children attended the catholic school, she was Room Mother and she helped write, direct, and produce monthly school skits and plays for the Parent Teachers Guild (PTG) where she also held various offices at different times. For over 20 years, she taught different grades of Christian Doctrine classes. She was a volunteer for collecting for Cancer, Red Cross, Heart Fund, Diabetes, Parish Share Program, etc., when they were done house to house. In later years, she

collected for these organizations by mailing out literature, etc.

Marge liked to write poems and had a limited edition of a book of her poems published. Several of her poems were also published in the First Catholic Slovak Union newspaper where she is a member of Branch 853. She held office with the District Office and was elected delegate for several conventions. Most recently, she was a member of the Ave Maria Women's Guild and she was a professed Immaculate Heart of Mary Third Order Secular Franciscan.

Marge enjoyed growing flowers from seed, slips, or cuttings such as roses and various shrubs and trees. She shared these with her friends and neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her husband Michael J. Bertovich who died September 25, 1992, and sisters Elizabeth Kral, Anna Powell, and Mary Smolen, and brother Michael Dorko.

Surviving are two sons, Michael Bertovich of Bentleyville and Ronald and wife Cheryl Bertovich of Buffalo, N.Y.; a daughter, Peggy Howson of Littleton, Mass.; two granddaughters, Meghan (Chris) Gonzales of Orlando, Fla., and Kim (Kyle) Feldmann of Detroit, Mich.; a great-granddaughter, Madelyn Feldmann; two sisters, Frances Goroncy of Scenery Hill and Veronica Wilhelm of Happy, Texas; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

- Submitted by Margaret Howson



Legend of the Dogwood Tree

By Marge Bertovich

Oh beautiful, stately, dogwood tree
You were so tall and straight.
Your timbers were selected
To crush Jesus by your weight.

Dogwood tree, you were outraged
To have your wood partake
In crucifying Jesus
Who suffered for our sake.

You begged our Lord for mercy
To forgive you this great disgrace.
For bringing sorrows, blood and tears
To our dear Savior's face.

The Lord saw you were hurting
And His blessing He gave, we see,
That your timbers would now be short
and bent,
Never again a cross to be.

As a gentle reminder
Jesus let your blossoms tell
A story of His crucifixion,
A story we know so well.

Your four petals form a cross
Each one tinged with blood and rust,
The crown of thorns in the center,
The thorns so deeply thrust.

So gentle dogwood of today
In lovely blossoms bright
Give praise to our Redeeming Lord,
Give praise to Him, our Light.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Bertovich contributed poems to Jednota in the past, such as this one submitted by her daughter Margaret Howson along with her obituary.

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

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

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

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

We will also discuss any business pertaining to our branch.

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

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2016, at Harold's Inn, 2134 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA, at 2:00PM. Election of officers will be held. All members are welcome to attend. Please make reservations by calling (724) 375-2287 before November 7, 2016.

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Come down and enjoy yourself!
All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI 231-733-7525

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

Branch 633 will hold its annual membership meeting on Sunday November 13, 2016 at Mr. B's Roadhouse 6761 Dixie Hwy, Village of Clarkston, MI 48346 at 1PM. We intend to hold our officer elections and encourage everyone in the branch to attend. Please prayerfully consider running for an office and help our branch grow. Please contact Branch President Rod Meloni @ 248-444-9141 with questions and RSVPs.

Rod Meloni, President

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have their Fall meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 2:00PM at the home of Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary, located at 8977 S. Mason Road. Election of officers will be held. All members are welcomed to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Pat Guidish, Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2016 financial report, approval of the 2017 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of Branch Officers will also take place.

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

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

Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need assistance with their policy or need to change their address or beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 18, 2016 in the basement of Holy Family Church, 210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ. The meeting will begin promptly at 3:00 PM. The agenda will include election of officers, as well as discussion of charitable donations and plans for next year's activities. A Christmas holiday dinner will follow this meeting. Please call Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by December 9th if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Nov, 20, 2016 at 12:30 pm. It will be in the Hospitality room of St. Joseph School, 811 E. Oliver St. Please enter on the South East side of the building. Still looking for additional officers. May go to lunch immediately after. May review pictures of last year's trip to Slovakia, Vienna, Prague and Krakow, Poland. Please RSVP attendance to 517-381-8358.

Stephan J. Patoprsty, President

BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

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

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

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 780 – SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780, in Saginaw, Michigan, will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday December 7, 2016. Election of officers will take place and discussion of any matters of concern to our members. For more information

members may call Catherine Karlsen at (989) 280-4916.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Fraternally,

Catherine Karlsen, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 784 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Branch 784 will be hosting their Christmas Dinner on November 27, 2016, at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall following the 11 o'clock Mass. It will be catered, so please call to confirm your reservations before November 20, 2016, to: ANNE BOYCE 514-685-4236 OR Anne Chandik 514-684-0177.

Thank you.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCHES 784 AND 810 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Both branches will hold their annual meeting on November 6, 2016, following the 11 o'clock Mass for the deceased members of Branch 784 in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Following the Mass our meeting will be held at the Parish hall. On the agenda: plans for the next season along with the election of officers for 2017.

A light lunch will be served. Please advise us of your attendance so that we may prepare an exciting lunch. It could be sandwiches, soup, steaks or more. It depends on your attendance.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold their Annual Meeting Sunday, November 13, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. The meeting will held at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 4464 Main Street, Egypt, Whitehall, PA, 18052.

All members are encouraged to attend. Agenda items will be general Branch business as well as election of officers for the upcoming year 2017. Concluding the meeting we will have a luncheon.

Monica Fabian, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Please join the members of Branch 853 on Nov 26 as they volunteer at a Washington County (Pennsylvania) food bank from 10am to noon. To get more information and to sign up for the opportunity to help your neighbors, please call Branch 853 President Monica Rodacy Boone at 412-341-1577. This event is open to all, you do not have to be a branch member to sign up for the event. This

service opportunity can be used for community service hours for high school students. Let's help our neighbors during this Holiday Season.

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

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

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

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

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Fraternally,

**Damian D Nasta
Recording Secretary**

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 12

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

Správy zo Slovenska

Čiňania sa hlásia o U. S. Steel v Košiciach

Záujem o kúpu U. S. Steel Košice prejavila aj čínska spoločnosť CEFC. Spoločnosť má podiel v J&T Finance Group, spoluvlastní aerolínie Travel Service a vlastní český futbalový klub Slavia Praha. Súčasným americkým vlastníkom košickej fabriky, ktorá je najväčším zamestnávateľom na Slovensku, by predaj mohol priniesť 800 až 900 miliónov dolárov. Cena košických oceľiarň začala stúpať, lebo mierne stúpa aj cena ocele.

Kliniky nehlásia, koľkým Poľkám urobili potraty

Levickej súkromnej poliklinike Mediklinik hrozí pokuta za to, že nehlási Národnému centru zdravotníckych informácií počet interrupcií cudzinek, predovšetkým Poľiek. Tie chodia na Slovensko na potrat, ale pre štatistiky sú neviditeľné. Poľky chodia najmä do levickej polikliniky Mediklinik. Podozrenie, že táto poliklinika nehlási počet potratov cudzinek má okrem denníka aj ministerstvo zdravotníctva. Poľky cestujú na Slovensko kvôli potratom preto, lebo v Poľsku je interrupcia prakticky zakázaná. Vlni bolo na Slovensku oficiálne vykonaných 7004 interrupcií. V zdravotnickej štatistike potratov sa uvádza, že za rok 2015 podstúpili umelé prerušenie tehotenstva dve ženy bez trvalého pobytu na Slovensku.

Úrad splnomocnenca vlády SR pre národnostné menšiny

Úrad splnomocnenca vlády SR pre národnostné menšiny bude mať na podporu kultúry národnostných menšín v roku 2017 o 621.000 eur viac ako v tomto roku. Vyplýva to z návrhu štátneho rozpočtu na rok 2017, ktorý nedávno schválila vláda. "Dotačný program Kultúra národnostných menšín (KNM) na rok 2017 po schválení štátneho rozpočtu v NR SR by mal disponovať sumou 4.500.000 eur," priblížil tlačový odbor Úradu vlády (ÚV) SR, pod ktorý Úrad splnomocnenca vlády SR pre národnostné menšiny patrí. Výzvu na predkladanie žiadostí v dotačnom programe KNM 2017 plánuje úrad splnomocnenca vyhlásiť v priebehu novembra. V tomto roku odborné komisie posudzovali celkovo 1473 projektov, ktoré sa uchádzali o dotácie v rámci programu KNM 2016. Komisie odporučili podporiť celkovo 1231 projektov. Približne 80 percent alokovanej sumy v dotačnom programe, presne 3.094.110 z celkového objemu 3.879.250 eur, bolo úspešným žiadateľom vyplatených v polovici augusta.

Slováci pri zájazdoch volia najradšej leteckú dopravu a štvorhviezdičkové hotely

Najoblúbenejšou destináciou pre dovolenku prostredníctvom cestovnej kancelárie bolo počas tohtoročného leta pre Slovákov Grécko. Veľkému záujmu sa však tešili aj zájazdy do Bulharska či Španielska a výrazný nárast pocítili exotické destinácie ako napríklad Kapverdské ostrovy či Maledivy. Vyplýva to z údajov cestovnej agentúry Invia. Slovenskí turisti si pritom pri dovolenke najčastejšie vybrali stravovanie v podobe all inclusive a leteckú dopravu, ubytovávali sa predovšetkým vo štvorhviezdičkových hoteloch. Napríklad leteckú dopravu pri dovolenkách využilo takmer 80 % turistov. Zájazdy s autobusovou dopravou predstavovali len 5 % z celkového predaja agentúry. Vlastnú dopravu zase volilo 17 % turistov.

Na Slovensku idú zvyšovať materskú, pretože ekonomika to dovoľuje

Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny pripravuje novelu zákona na zvýšenie dávok pre rodičov. "Pretože ekonomika a rozpočet to dovoľuje, materskú ideme zvýšiť o 5 % na 75 % základu, čo vlastne bude predstavovať skoro 100 % čistého príjmu v predchádzajúcom zamestnaní matky. Rodičovský ideme zvýšiť viac, ako zvyšujeme minimálnu valorizáciu u dôchodcov," povedal Richter s tým, že táto problematika sa týka približne 150.000 detí.

"To sú odpovede tejto vlády, ministerstva práce na problematiku, ktorá sa týkala skloňovania otázok, prečo sa dávky nezvyšujú pre tých a prečo pre tých. Snažíme sa v maximálnej miere robiť, čo sa dá, čo rozpočet dovoľuje a čo dokážeme vyrokovať," povedal Richter.

Slovensko má rekordne veľa štátnych sviatkov

Slovensko má rekordne veľa štátnych sviatkov a dní pracovného pokoja, počas ktorých slovenská ekonomika prichádza o desiatky miliónov eur. Pre porovnanie sa uvádza, že kým Slovensko disponuje 15 voľnými dňami Británia ich má len sedem. Medzi najväznejšími kandidátmi na zrušenie sa dlhšie skloňujú Deň Ústavy - 1. septembra či Sedembolestná Panna Mária - 15. septembra.

Sagan zarobil za svoj veľký titul iba "drobné"

Cyklista Peter Sagan dostal od Medzinárodnej cyklistickej únie za obhajobu majstrovského titulu 7667 eur. Pre porovnanie, titul majstra sveta priniesol chodcovi Matejovi Tóthovi 60-tisíc dolárov. „Cyklistická únia nie je schopná komerčne predať svoj šport. Sťažoval sa na to aj Tiňkov,“ povedal podnikateľ Ján Miškovský, ktorého firma bola sponzorom slovenského tímu na majstrovstvách sveta v cestnej cyklistike. Faktom je, že hlavným príjmom Petra Sagana je jeho profesionálna zmluva. Už od budúceho roka sa stane najlepšie zarábajúcim cyklistom v pelotóne - v novom tíme Bora-Hansgrohe má zarobiť šesť miliónov eur.

Mochovce nebudú hotové ani na rok

V januári uplynie tridsaťštyri rokov, odkedy sa začala stavať jadrová elektrárň Mochovce. Prvý a druhý blok sa podarilo dostavať za sedemdesiat rokov. Elektrárň mala mať štyri bloky, tretí a štvrtý sa však majiteľom nedarí dostavať. Termín dostavy sa už niekoľkokrát posúval. Stane sa tak opäť. Kým tretí blok sa mal dokončiť už o pár týždňov - v novembri, stane sa tak najskôr koncom budúcoročnej jesene. Štvrtý blok sa tiež dokončí s ročným oneskorením nie v novembri 2017, ale v novembri 2018. Potvrdila to hovorkyňa Úradu jadrového dozoru Zuzana Hostovecká. Minister hospodárstva Peter Žiga sa chce ísť pozrieť na situáciu priamo v Mochovciach koncom októbra.

Slovensko má najpomalšie vlaky v Európe

Slovenské vlaky jazdia pomaly s výnimkou hlavnej trate medzi Bratislavou a Košicami. Slováci nadávajú vo vlakoch najviac na meškanie, špinu a chlad v zime či dusno v horúčavách. Napríklad cestujúci vo vlakoch smerujúcich do Banskej Bystrice zo Žiliny či z Bratislavy si užívajú priemernú rýchlosť len tesne nad šesťdesiatkou. Na rozdiel od Česka či Nemecka na Slovensku žiadne normy neurčujú, akou rýchlosťou má premávať osobný vlak, rýchlik či expres.

Slovákov je v práci najviac za posledné dve desaťročia

Slovákov je v práci najviac za posledné dve desaťročia. Doma aj za hranicami je zamestnaných najviac ľudí zo Slovenska. Dopyt dnes vysoko prevyšuje ponuku. Za posledných 20 rokov ešte nepracovalo toľko Slovákov ako dnes. Ide o takmer dva a pol milióna ľudí. "Bez ohľadu na to, na ktorú sezónu sa pozeráme, je to najväčší počet," hovorí analytik VÚB banky Andrej Arady. A to napriek tomu, že čísla nezamestnanosti nie sú rekordné. Údaj vychádza z posledného zverejneného kvartálu roka 2016. Súčasná miera nezamestnanosti 9,6 percenta je za posledné tri sledované mesiace najnižšia od roku 1994.

Autobus na baterky jazdí grátis

Dopravný podnik Bratislava (DPB) nasadil do ulíc hlavného mesta od 19. októbra zelené vozidlo, ktoré šetrí životné prostredie. Elektrobus na pohon nevyužíva naftu, ale jazdí na dobijacie batérie. Celý mesiac ho budú vodiči testovať a ľudia s ním môžu cestovať zadarmo. Vozidlo sa nabíja v garáži asi 7 hodín, na jedno nabitie vozidlo prejde až 180 km.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače.

Jubilejný 25. ročník celoštátnej súťaže

Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko“

Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu Slovenskej republiky, Ministerstvo kultúry Slovenskej republiky, Štátny pedagogický ústav, Slovenské pedagogické nakladateľstvo – Mladé letá, s. r. o., Matica slovenská, Vydavateľstvo Maticy slovenskej, Spolok slovenských spisovateľov, Jazykovedný ústav Ľudovíta Štúra Slovenskej akadémie vied a Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí **vyhlasujú jubilejný 25. ročník celoštátnej literárnej súťaže s medzinárodnou účasťou** "Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko."

Cieľom súťaže je podchytiť, rozvíjať a prehliť záujem detí a mládeže o slovenčinu a Slovensko, o významných dejateľov Slovenska a svojho kraja, o miestne spoločenské a kultúrne problémy a nárečia formou slohových úloh, pokusov o umelecké vyjadrenie myšlienok v podobe prozaických žánrov a básní. Tento ročník sa bude niesť v znamení **Roka Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana**, v ktorom si pripomenieme 200. výročie narodenia tejto významnej osobnosti slovenského národného obrodenia. Rok 2017 bude výnimočný aj 230. výročím prvej kodifikácie slovenského spisovného jazyka Antonom Bernolákom a zameriame sa v ňom aj na ďalšie výročia osobností v dejinách slovenského národa – 305. výročie narodenia a 260. výročie úmrtia Hugolína Gavloviča, 205. výročie narodenia Sama Chalupku, 200. výročie narodenia Andreja Radlinského, 195. výročie narodenia a 125. výročie úmrtia Štefana Marka Daxnera, 180. výročie narodenia Adolfa Petra Zátareckého, 160. výročie narodenia a 75. výročie úmrtia Terézie Vansovej, 150. výročie narodenia Boženy Slančíkovej Timravy, 110. výročie narodenia Dobroslava Chrobáka, Jozefa Horáka a Ľuda Zúbka. Pripomenieme si aj výročia dvoch významných slovenských autorov z Vojvodiny: 90. výročie narodenia Michala Babinku, básnika, prozaika, literárneho kritika, prekladateľa a publicistu a 20. výročie úmrtia Paľa Bohuša, popredného básnika a esejistu. V roku 2017 zároveň oslávime 1150. výročie schválenia staroslovienčiny ako bohoslužobného jazyka, 550. výročie založenia univerzity Academia Istropolitana, 155. výročie založenia prvého slovenského gymnázia v Revúcej, 150. výročie založenia druhého slovenského gymnázia v Martine a 25. výročie prijatia Ústavy Slovenskej republiky.

Do súťaže sa môžu zapojiť žiaci všetkých typov a druhov základných, špeciálnych a stredných škôl na území Slovenskej republiky prostredníctvom škôl a iných subjektov a v zahraničí prostredníctvom škôl, vzdelávacích centier, spolkov a organizácií Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

Organizačný poriadok súťaže a text záhlavia (formulár) sú uverejnené na internetovej stránke Štátneho pedagogického ústavu www.statpedu.sk (v sekcii *súťaže, Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko*) a na internetovej stránke Ministerstva kultúry Slovenskej republiky www.culture.gov.sk (v sekcii *pôsobnosť ministerstva*, v kapitole *štátny jazyk*, v časti *súťaž Prečo mám rád slovenčinu*).

Výbrané súťažné práce do celoštátneho kola treba zaslať do 31. januára 2017 (Slováci žijúci v zahraničí do 1. marca 2017) v **štyroch exemplároch** na adresu: Štátny pedagogický ústav, Pluhová 8, 830 00 Bratislava, heslo **PREČO MÁM RÁD SLOVENČINU, PREČO MÁM RÁD SLOVENSKO** (Slováci žijúci v zahraničí na adresu: Matica slovenská, Krajaňské múzeum Maticy slovenskej, P. Mudroňa 1, 036 52 Martin, Slovenská republika alebo na mejlovú adresu domhronskeho@matica.sk).

Záujemcovia o súťaž môžu získať **ďalšie informácie** o súťaži v Štátnom pedagogickom ústave (spu@statpedu.sk, tel. číslo: 02/49276122). **Slávnostné vyhlásenie výsledkov jubilejného 25. ročníka súťaže sa uskutoční v júni 2017 v Nových Zámkoch.**

Doc. PhDr. Ľudovít Hajduk



V Bratislave sa rozlúčili s bývalým prezidentom Michalom Kováčom

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

V rokoch 1991-1993 bol členom Hnutia za demokratické Slovensko (HZDS) a jeho podpredsedom pre ekonomickú oblasť. V prvých slobodných voľbách v júni 1990 bol ako kandidát VPN zvolený za poslanca Snemovne ľudu Federálneho zhromaždenia (FZ) ČSSR (Československej socialistickej republiky), resp. Českej a Slovenskej Federatívnej Republiky (ČSFR, 1990-1992). Po parlamentných voľbách v roku 1992 bol členom Predsedníctva FZ ČSFR, dňa 25. júna 1992 ho zvolili za predsedu FZ ČSFR. V tejto funkcii pôsobil do zániku Českej a Slovenskej Federatívnej Republiky (ČSFR) k 31. decembru 1992.

Ako kandidát HZDS bol Michal Kováč poslancami Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky (NR SR) 15. februára 1993 v druhom kole prezidentských volieb zvolený za prvého prezidenta samostatnej Slovenskej republiky. Hlavou štátu a súčasne hlavným veliteľom Ozbrojených síl SR bol od 2. marca 1993 do 2. marca 1998.

Michal Kováč bol spoluzakladateľom Nadácie Michala Kováča (1998) a venoval sa aj práci v Nadácii Václava Havla. Bol čestným predsedom Centra pre európsku politiku a čestným členom Hospodárskeho klubu (NEF). Bol spoluzakladateľom Nadácie na podporu slovenských študentov študujúcich v ČR a českých študujúcich v SR. V roku 1994 mu v Spojených štátoch amerických (USA) udelili Cenu Inštitútu pre štúdie Východ-Západ za mimoriadny prínos k medzinárodnému porozumeniu a počas oficiálnej návštevy Poľska získal Veľký kríž za zásluhy o Poľskú republiku (1994). V roku 1995 dostal v USA Cenu Americkej advokátskej komory - Právnej iniciatívy pre strednú a východnú Európu - za mimoriadny prínos k budovaniu právneho štátu, ako aj Cenu Lions Clubu. V roku 1997 mu počas oficiálnej návštevy SR odovzdal prezident Poľskej republiky Aleksander Kwasniewski najvyššie poľské štátne vyznamenanie Rad Bieleho orla, veľmajster Zvrchovaného rádu maltézskych rytierov Andrew Bertie zasa Maltézsky kolár za zásluhy a prezident Bulharskej republiky Petar Stojanov ocenenie Orden Stará planina so šerpou. Bol držiteľom ďalších ocenení a vyznamenaní doma i v zahraničí. V roku 2003 pri príležitosti 10. výročia jeho inaugurácie vyšla kniha s názvom Nový štát a jeho prvý muž Michal Kováč očami svojich spolupracovníkov. Zosnulý bol ženatý a s manželkou Emiliou mal dve deti, synov Juraja a Michala.

V Katedrále sv. Martina v Bratislave sa 13. októbra konala zádušná svätá omša za zosnulého prezidenta Slovenskej republiky Michala Kováča. V prítomnosti apoštolského nuncia na Slovensku Maria Giordanu, viacerých biskupov a kňazov, stoviek hostí a rodiny ju celebraval predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Liturgiou, ktorej predchádzala rozlúčka s najvyššími poctami na Bratislavskom hrade a pred Prezidentským palácom, vyvrcholil štátny pohreb. Po svätej omši prezidenta Kováča pochovali v kruhu rodiny na Ondrejskom cintoríne.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Jozef a Dodo Ivaška budú spievať v Pittsburghu a v Tennessee

Slovenskí operní a kabaretní speváci Jozef Ivaška a jeho syn Dodo Ivaška budú vystupovať **5. novembra 2016** na Festivale Pittsburskej univerzity a **12. novembra** na gala programe v Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Jozef Ivaška má rezidencie v Bratislave a v Rakúsku. 20 rokov spieval v Baden Operetta Theater v Rakúsku a okrem toho vystupoval na mnohých koncertoch a kultúrnych programoch v 30 krajinách. Jeho syn Jozef žije v Amerike. Je operným spevákom ale tiež vystupuje aj na rôznych kultúrnych a hudobných programoch. Obaja vystupovali spoločne i samostatne na populárnych festivaloch slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey. O ich profesionálnej kariére vyšla nedávno v Bratislave kniha Život na hrane. Kniha tiež obsahuje kariéry slovenských spevákov, ktorí sa uplatnili vo svete. Informácie o ich vystúpeniach v novembri možno získať u Heleny Cincebeaux: tel. 585-342-9383.

Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v **nedeľu dňa 13. novembra o 1.00 hodine odpoľudnia** za uskutočnenia Výročná členská schôdza v hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East, 66th Street v New York City. **Program schôdze:** 1. Voľba úradníkov na ďalšie obdobie; 2. Finančná správa; 3. Plán podujatí na ďalšie obdobie. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie. 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 20. novembra 2016** o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi. Ďakujem s pozdravom,

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

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

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

Slovenský ples v Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ

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

Slovak Ball
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February 25, 2017
slovakamericanc.org

Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka SAKS

M. Lajčák ohodnotil svoje umiestnenie pri výbere šéfa OSN

Minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák ohodnotil svoje umiestnenie pri výbere generálneho tajomníka OSN ako bezprecedentný úspech v histórii slovenskej diplomacie. Informoval o tom hovorca slovenského rezortu diplomacie Peter Stano. Bezpečnostná rada OSN oficiálne navrhla vo štvrtok 6. októbra 193-člennému Valnému zhromaždeniu OSN za nového generálneho tajomníka niekdajšieho portugalského premiéra a bývalého vysokého komisára OSN pre utečencov Antónia Guterresa. Na jeho odporučení sa dohodla v stredu 5. októbra 2016.

Miroslav Lajčák po oznámení výsledkov hlasovania Bezpečnostnej rady OSN zablahoželal z Washingtonu najúspešnejšiemu kandidátovi, Antóniu Guterresovi. „Osobne cítim zadosťučinenie, že spomedzi východoeurópskych kandidátov som skončil na najvyššej priečke, hoci v celkovom poradí je „len“ druhá. V každom prípade predstavuje toto umiestnenie bezprecedentný úspech v histórii slovenskej diplomacie. Dôstojnou účasťou v súťaži o najvýznamnejšiu medzinárodnú pozíciu vo svete sa Slovensko výrazne zviditeľnilo, slovenská diplomacia získala neoceniteľné skúsenosti a som hrdý, že som ako kandidát Slovenskej republiky dosiahol takýto výsledok,“ povedal Lajčák.

Zdôraznil, že si nesmierne váži silnú a jednoznačnú podporu najvyšších ústavných činiteľov SR a všetky aktivity, ktoré vyvinuli v prospech jeho kandidatury.

„Ďakujem aj všetkým občanom SR i partnerom v zahraničí za ich podporu, ktorú mi prejavovali počas celého procesu. Intenzívne som si ju uvedomoval a veľmi si ju vážim,“ uviedol Lajčák.

Slovensko podľa jeho slov viedlo korektnú, transparentnú a pozitívnu kampaň postavenú na obsahu. Kampaň „priniesla veľmi dobrý výsledok, ktorý je úspechom celej našej krajiny“, poznamenal minister. „Za týmto úspechom stojí profesionálny tím slovenských diplomatov, bez ktorých tvrdej a neúnavnej práce by takéto finále nebolo možné a ktorým aj touto cestou vyjadrujem úprimné poďakovanie,“ dodal šéf slovenskej diplomacie Miroslav Lajčák.

TASR



39. Festival slovenského dedičstva v NJ v nových priestoroch sa vydaril

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Nasledoval pozdrav veľvyslanca SR v USA Petra Kmeca, ktorý predniesol s krátkym príchovom jeho zástupca Peter Zelenak. Festival pozdravila aj generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku Jana Trnovcová, ktorá hovorila o spolupráci so slovenskou komunitou v New Yorku a na okolí a o spolupráci s výborom festivalu. Prečítaný bol aj pozdrav od prezidenta SR Andreja Kišku.

Nina Holá potom predstavila niekoľko hostí, medzi nimi predsedu Slovenskej ligy Daniela Tanzona a podpredsedu Dr. Mikuláša Halka a predsedníčku Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska Sabínu Sabadoš.

Mercer County Park je vybavený veľkým permanentným javiskom. Na ňom sa konal kultúrno-zábavný program, ktorý viedla a moderovala Janka Konzelmán. Na úvodné číslo programu predstavila Danku Poduvanovú, ktorá viedla tzv. prehliadku krojov. Tohto roku kroje z rôznych krajov Slovenska predviedol newyorský folklórny súbor Limbora. Pri prezentácii tanečníci Limbory predviedli tance alebo piesne z predstavovaných krajov. Ich program doprevádzala populárna hudobná skupina Pajtáši, ktorá predstavila aj svojho fujaristu Jána Trnovského.

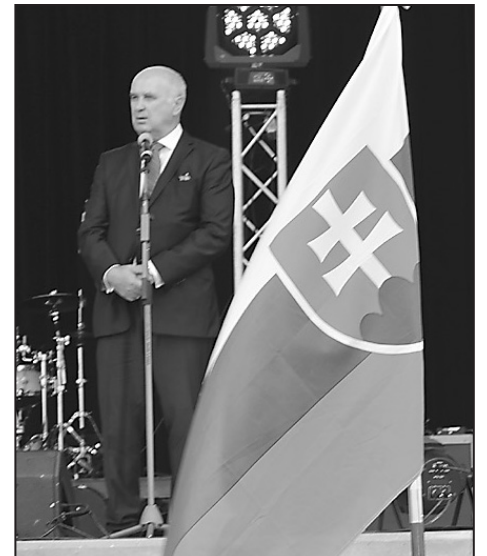
Nasledovali milé vystúpenia detských súborov Limboráčika z New Yorku, Lipky z Linden, NJ, Domoviny z Clifton, NJ a tanečnej skupiny pri kostole sv. Michala v Trenton, NJ. Po nich sa predstavila detská hudobná skupina Llama Band, ktorá pobavila účastníkov slovenskými piesňami, hranými na mnohých hudobných nástrojoch. Obecenstvo oceňovalo detské vystúpenia dlhým potleskom. V tomto detskom programe účinkovalo vyše 150 detí, ktoré počas výstupu Llama Band vyšli na javisko a spoločne zaspievali sentimentálnu pieseň Slovensko v nás.

Po tejto časti programu, v ktorej dominoval slovenský folklór, nasledovala tzv. populárna (popová) hudba a piesne. Najprv na východe USA dobre známy Rado Lesay v 40-minútovom vystúpení, pri silnejšom ozvučení zaspieval piesne v 70-tych rokoch na Slovensku veľmi populárneho speváka Karola Duchoňa.

Po ňom nasledovala na Slovensku známa a veľmi obľúbená interpretka populárnej hudby Katka Knechtová s doprovodom jej hudobnej skupiny. Už prvou piesňou si získala obecenstvo, hlavne tých mladších, ktorí s ňou vydržali až do záverečnej hodiny.

Napriek nepriaznivému počasiu 39. festival slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey bol úspešný. Kultúrny program obsahoval nielen folklór, ale aj modernejšie prejavy národnej kultúry. Zúčastnilo sa ho približne 3000 návštevníkov. Výbor festivalu si zaslúži vďaka slovenskej verejnosti za usporiadanie týchto festivalov už 39 rokov.

Keďže rozpočet na tento festival bol hodne vyšší ako na minulé festivaly v PNC Arts Center, ÚSZZ poskytol na jeho podporu finančnú podporu, čo bolo s vďakou oznámené z javiska pri otváracích formalitách.



Festival prišiel osobne pozdraviť predseda ÚSZZ Dr. Ján Varšo.



Zomrel bývalý provinciál saleziánov Ernest Macák

Vzácny slovenský salezián, bývalý provinciál saleziánov na Slovensku don Ernest Macák, zomrel 13. októbra vo večerných hodinách v Cerovej vo veku 96 rokov. Zo svojho života 80 rokov žil ako rehoľník salezián a 70 rokov bol kňazom.

„Videli sme, že už sa to končí, tak už celý deň sme boli pri ňom a modlili sme sa, tesne pred tým ako vydýchol som mu dal požehnanie Panny Márie Pomocnice,“ povedal salezián Aurel Menke, ktorý bol ostatný rok pri donovi Macákovi v Cerovej, kde sa o neho starali rehoľné sestry.

Don Ernest Macák sa narodil 7. januára 1920 v obci Vištuk ako prvý z piatich detí roľníckych rodičov. Základnú školu navštevoval v rodisku a neskôr študoval na štátnom gymnáziu Jána Hollého v Trnave, odkiaľ v roku 1932 prestúpil na saleziánske gymnázium v Šaštíne. Po skončení piatej triedy vstúpil do noviciátu Saleziánskej spoločnosti v Hronskom Sv. Beňadiku. V roku 1936 zložil prvé rehoľné sľuby a v Moravskej Ostrave potom dokončil gymnaziálne a filozofické štúdiá (1936 – 1939). Saleziánsku pedagogickú prax si vykonával v rokoch 1939 – 1942 v saleziánskych ústavoch v Hronskom Sv. Beňadiku, v Šaštíne a v Trnave. Na štúdium teológie ho predstavení poslali do Turína v Taliansku. Na tamjšej Teologickej fakulte Pápežskej saleziánskej univerzity však absolvoval iba dva semestre, lebo pre vojnové udalosti sa tam už v jeseni 1943 nemohol vrátiť. Teológiu dokončil na Slovensku a 29. júna 1946 ho biskup Dr. Michal Buzalka vysvätil za kňaza. V jeseni toho istého roka nastúpil na Filozofickú fakultu Slovenskej univerzity v Bratislave (filozofia a dejiny), pričom vykonával aj kňazskú a pedagogickú činnosť medzi mladými v Bratislave na Miletičovej ulici a na saleziánskom pedagogickom inštitúte v Hodoch pri Galante (1948 – 1949) a nakoniec aj v Šaštíne (1949 – 1950). Tam ho v apríli 1950 stihol drastický zásah komunistického režimu proti slovenským rehoľníkom.

V Podolínci, kde ho deportovali s ostatnými spolubratmi, začal uvažovať o úteku, ktorý sa mu ešte 10. októbra toho istého roka aj vydaril. Zatykaču, ktorý naňho vydali, sa vyhol tajnou prácou medzi mladými saleziánmi. Pri organizovaní jedného z posledných útekov mladých spolubratov za hranice „sovietskej zóny“ ho 7. septembra 1952 v českom Píerove ŠtB zatkla. Prešiel väzením v Bratislave a na Pankráci. Z vlastnej iniciatívy sa pustil do „hry na blázna“, a tak sa dostal aj na policajnú psychiatriu v Bohniciach, odkiaľ ho poslali na liečenie do Havlíčkovho Brodu a do Pezinka. Nakoniec ho 20. apríla 1955 prepustili – k rodičom. Až do apríla 1968, keď vycestoval do Talianska, pracoval ako roľník v rodnom Vištuku, stále „ako blázon“, trinásť rokov. V Taliansku účinkoval najprv ako kaplán španielskych rehoľných sestier v Ríme (1968 – 1976), pričom intenzívne spolupracoval na mládežníckom vysielaní Vatikánskeho rozhlasu (viac ako šesťsto výstupov). V ďalšom období (do roku 1985) zastával úrad direktora saleziánskej komunity Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Vyučoval tam aj na slovenskom gymnáziu, a od roku 1987 bol direktorom komunity v Bazileji (Švajčiarsko). Práve z tejto poslednej „zahraničnej vinice Pána“ sa v roku 1990 vrátil na Slovensko, kde mu roku 1991 zverili úlohu direktora saleziánov a riaditeľa Gymnázia Jána Bosca v Šaštíne. V roku 1993 sa stal provinciálom Saleziánov dona Bosca na Slovensku. Po šiestich rokoch služby bratom a mladým v úlohe „otca“ sa vrátil do milovaného Šaštína. V roku 2005 mu hlavný predstavený don Pascual Chávez počas svojej návštevy Slovenska verejne prejavil poctu a uznanie na veľkom stretnutí saleziánskej rodiny v Bratislave.

Popri svojich rehoľných a pedagogických záväzkoch sa otec Ernest Macák venoval aj literárnej činnosti. V zahraničí a po páde totality aj na Slovensku publikoval niekoľko kníh: Malý generál/Malá superstar (Michal Magone), Muž s ranami (Páter Pio), V bunkri hladu (Maximilián Kolbe), Lurdy – maják atómového veku, Naša Sedembolestná Matka. Don Macák je aj spoluautorom (spolu s Rudolfom Blatnickým a Andrejom Paulíny) významného katechetického diela – príručky Dejiny spásy.

Sériou kníh: Zápisky spoza mreží (vyšli v slovenskom, anglickom a španielskom jazyku), Dva roky v katakombách, Diagnóza: blázon pre Krista, Utečenci pre Krista a Prenasledovaní pre Krista priblížil dejiny prenasledovania Cirkvi na Slovensku. Posledné jeho dielo – pohľad na vlastný život – vyšlo v roku 2009 pod názvom Bože, oplatiť sa mi žiť.

TKKBS/Rastislav Hamráček SDB



Medzinárodná konferencia vo Washingtone

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Konferenciu s názvom „Silnejší so spojencami: Budúcnosť Európy po brexite“ usporiadala organizácia Atlantická rada v spolupráci s predsedníctvom SR v Rade EÚ. Európski a americkí predstavitelia diskutovali na témy budúcnosť EÚ po vystúpení Británie, migračná kríza, terorizmus a bezpečnosť, vzťahy s Ruskom či vplyv prezidentských volieb v USA na transatlantické vzťahy.

Lajčák odpovedal aj na otázky týkajúce sa slovenského predsedníctva. V tejto súvislosti okrem iného zdôraznil, že jednou z hlavných výziev, ktorým Brusel čelí, je vzdalovanie sa únie od bežných občanov. Európski lídri musia podľa ministra ukázať, že sú schopní zvládnuť súčasné výzvy.

„Naším hlavným cieľom je teraz priniesť Európsku úniu bližšie k Európanom. Musíme obnoviť dôveru a ukázať, že Európska únia funguje, že robí život bežných ľudí bezpečnejším a lepším,“ uviedol Lajčák.

Podobne bývalý generálny tajomník NATO a bývalý dánsky premiér Anders Fogh Rasmussen povedal, že inštitúcie únie majú problém nájsť veci, ktoré by o nich vytvorili priaznivý obraz v očiach ľudí. Nevyhnutná je podľa neho komplexná reforma trhu práce a sociálneho systému, keďže „dnes je veľmi ťažké získať prácu, ale ľahké získať sociálne dávky“.

Rasmussen sa vyjadril aj na tému vzťahov s Moskvou. „Rusko sa zmenilo zo strategického partnera na strategickú výzvu,“ uviedol.

Po prvé posilnením našej spoločnej obrany, po druhé zachovávaním si pevného postoja a po tretie udržiavaním jednoty v rámci EÚ, NATO aj naprieč Atlantikom,“ myslí si bývalý generálny tajomník Severoatlantickej aliancie. Len vtedy podľa neho Vladimir Putin pochopí, že konfrontácia sa neoplatí, a že musí spolupracovať. Rasmussen tiež zdôraznil, že Západ nikdy neuzná nelegálnu anexiu Krymu.

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Sagan si prevzal cenu za triumf vo WorldTour

Peter Sagan bol hlavnou hviezdou 2. ročníka galavečera Medzinárodnej cyklistickej únie (UCI) 18. októbra v Abú Zabí. Na slávnosti v hlavnom meste Spojených arabských emirátov si prebral dňový dres pre svetového šampióna, ktorý bude po úspešnej obhajobe v Katare nosiť druhý rok za sebou. Slovenský cyklista dostal aj ocenenie za celkový triumf v hodnotení WorldTour.

Sagan aj v roku 2016 patril k absolútnej svetovej špičke. Sezónu začal v januári v Argentíne na Tour de San Luis. V závere marca vyhral klasiku Gent - Wevelgem, krátko potom ovládol aj jubilejný 100. ročník slávneho podujatia Okolo Flámska, ktoré patrí medzi päť najprestížnejších klasík na svete. V máji zbieral víťazstvá na svojich obľúbených pretekoch v Kalifornii, o mesiac neskôr v Kyjove pomohol svojmu bratovi Jurajovi vyhrať titul majstra Slovenska. Na Tour de France piatykrát vyhral bodovaciú súťaž o zelený dres, získal tri etapové triumfy a dva dni bol lídrom celkovej klasifikácie. Na olympiáde v Riu, kde štartoval v pretekoch cross country, neuspel pre technické problémy. Vrátil sa na cestu a v septembri sa v bretónskom Plumelecu stal prvým majstrom Európy medzi profesionálmi. Vyhral GP Quebec a triumf v celkovej klasifikácii renkingu WorldTour si definitívne zabezpečil po treťom mieste na Eneco Tour v Beneluxe. V nedeľu v katarskej Dauhe nedal súperom šancu, záverečný šprint MS vyhral o dĺžku bicykla a obhájil titul svetového šampióna. Stal sa len šiestym jazdcom, ktorému sa to podarilo. Od budúcej sezóny bude jazdiť v nemeckej stajni Bora-Hansgrohe.

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FOTO TASR/AP

Slovenský cyklista Peter Sagan pózuje so slovenskou zástavou po jeho víťazstve v pretekoch s hromadným štartom mužov elite na 257,5-kilometrovej trati na MS v cyklistike v katarskej Dauhe 16. októbra 2016.

Gold medalist Peter Sagan of Slovakia poses on the podium during the medal ceremony of the men's Elite Road Race at the 2016 Road World Championships in Doha, Qatar, Sunday Oct. 16, 2016.

V Ríme otvorili prestížnu výstavu Poklady gotiky zo Slovenska

Minister kultúry SR Marek Maďarič sa 29. septembra v rámci pracovnej cesty do Ríma v sídle talianskeho prezidenta Palazzo del Quirinale zúčastnil na slávnostnom otvorení výstavy Poklady gotiky zo Slovenska. Nad touto výstavou prebrali záštitu prezidentí Slovenska a Talianska Andrej Kiska a Sergio Mattarella, ktorí ju spoločne s Maďaričom otvorili.

Výstava je podľa ministra špeciálne pre Rím unikátna, keďže z hľadiska pamiatok je to jedno z najbohatších miest. Maďarič upozornil na skutočnosť, že gotika v Ríme chýba, výstava by preto mohla byť atraktívna aj pre Talianov. „Gotické umenie okolo roku 1500 na Slovensku malo naozaj špičkovú európsku úroveň,“ konštatoval.

Tým najvrcholnejším zástupcom slovenskej gotiky sú diela Majstra Pavla z Levoče, ktoré vo výbere výstavy rezonujú. Maďarič považuje za unikátne najmä to, že „niektoré z týchto diel vôbec prvýkrát opustili územie Slovenska“.

Minister túto výstavu označil „za jeden z najvýznamnejších kultúrnych počínov“ počas predsedníctva Slovenska v Rade Európskej únie. Podujatie sa vďaka tomu koná v Ríme na prestížnom mieste, a síce v prezidentskom paláci.

Výstavu, ktorá prezentuje výber diel z prelomu 15. a 16. storočia, si budú môcť návštevníci Ríma prezrieť do 13. novembra. Prezentuje viac než 50 národných kultúrnych pamiatok mimoriadnej umelecko-historickej hodnoty, z ktorých niektoré po prvýkrát opustili územie Slovenska. Ide napríklad o sochárske práce Majstra Pavla z Levoče, súsošie z oltára Narodenia alebo súsošie Oplakávania Krista z Baziliky sv. Jakuba v Levoči.

Výstavu pripravilo Slovenské národné múzeum ako jeden z najdôležitejších výstavných projektov, ktorými Slovensko ako predsedajúca krajina Rady EÚ prezentuje svoju kultúru a históriu.

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Foto: TASR/Martin Baumann

O. Štefan Furdík
Náš zakladateľ

Pred sv. omšou zľava: spolupredsedovia festivalu John Duch a Nina Hola, o. Richard Baker, o. Peter Buydoš, predseda ÚSZZ Dr. Ján Varšo, Henrieta Daitová a generálna konzulka Jana Trnovcová.

39. Festival slovenského dedičstva v NJ v nových priestoroch sa vydaril

Tradičný slovenský festival v New Jersey sa po 38 rokoch konal v nedeľu 2. októbra 2016 v novom parku. Keď správa PNC Arts Center v Holmdel rozhodla, že od r. 2016 nemôžu byť v priestoroch Centra poriadané etnické festivaly, festivalový výbor prehliadol viaceré podobné zariadenia a rozhodol sa usporiadať 39. festival v Mercer County parku v obvode mestečka Windsor, N.J.

Park bol otvorený pre návštevníkov od 9:30 hod. ráno. Potravinové a výstavné stánky boli otvorené od 10. hod. Avšak futbalový turnaj o Pohár festivalu sa začal už o 9. hodine.

Keď sa o 11. hodine začala sv. omša, v parku už bolo vyše 1000 ľudí. Sv. omšu slúžil farár slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku o. Richard Baker. Slovenskú kázeň mal o. Peter Buydoš. Pri sv. omši asistoval tiež spevácky zbor z troch slovenských farností – v Linden, Clifton a Trenton.

Hlavnou atrakciou festivalu bol zábavno-kultúrny program, ktorý sa začal o 2:30 popoludní. Po americkej a slovenskej hymne, ktorú spieval Rado Lesay, spolupredsedovia festivalu privítali účastníkov a hostí, John Duch v angličtine a Nina Holá v slovenskej reči.

Nasledovali krátke pozdravy hostí. Prvý príhovor mal predseda Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) Dr. Ján Varšo. Odovzdal pozdrav účastníkom od ministra zahraničných vecí Miroslava Lajčáka, ktorý sa viackrát zúčastnil na minulých festivaloch a vyslovil vďaka a ocenenie organizačnému výboru festivalu za dlhoročné úsilie udržať tieto národné festivaly na východe Ameriky. Hovoril tiež o práci ÚSZZ a uistil prítomných, že vláda SR chce udržiavať kontakty so slovenskými komunitami v zahraničí a chce podporovať ich aktivity a programy.

Pokračovanie na str. 18



Pri spievaní americkej a slovenskej hymny na javisku Rado Lesay spolu s deťmi z piatich detských súborov.

V Bratislave sa rozlúčili s bývalým prezidentom Michalom Kováčom

Bývalý prezident SR Michal Kováč zomrel 5. októbra 2016 vo veku 86 rokov v Nemocnici svätého Michala v Bratislave na zlyhanie srdca. Exprezidenta museli pre zdravotné problémy v priebehu niekoľkých mesiacov hospitalizovať viackrát, ako aj roky ho trápila Parkinsonova choroba.

Michal Kováč sa narodil 5. augusta 1930 v obci Lubiša v okrese Humenné. Vyštudoval Obchodnú akadémiu v Humennom (1946-1950) a Vysokú školu ekonomickú (VŠE, dnes Ekonomická univerzita) v Bratislave (1950-1955). Na VŠE zostal pôsobiť ako asistent (1955-1956), v rokoch 1956-1967 bol jej externým pedagógom. V tom istom čase pôsobil aj v Oblasťnom ústave Štátnej banky československej (ŠBČS, 1956-1965). V rokoch 1965-1966 prednášal v Bankovej škole na Kube, v rokoch 1967-1969 bol námestníkom Živnostenskej banky v Londýne v Spojenom kráľovstve. V roku 1969 ho z Londýna odvolali, v roku 1970 vylúčili z Komunistickej strany Československa (KSČ). Stal sa radovým bankovým úradníkom v ŠBČS, v pobočke Bratislava-mesto. V bankovníctve pracoval do roku 1989. Popritom bol vedeckovýskumným pracovníkom Výskumného ústavu pre financie a úver, neskôr pracovníkom Ústredného ústavu národohospodárskeho výskumu (1978-1989), kde sa venoval problémom menovej politiky. V rokoch 1987-1989 tiež externe prednášal na Stavebnej fakulte Slovenskej vysokej školy technickej (SVŠT, dnes Slovenská technická univerzita - STU) v Bratislave.

Po novembri 1989 sa Michal Kováč angažoval v hnutí Verejnosť proti násiliu (VPN). V decembri 1989 sa stal ministrom financií, miezd a cien SR vo vláde národného porozumenia (vo funkcii bol do mája 1991, po odvolaní Vladimíra Mečiara z postu predsedu vlády podal demisiu).

Pokračovanie na str. 17



FOTO TASR - Michal Svítok

Príslušníci Čestnej stráže prezidenta SR stoja pri rakve s ostatkami prezidenta SR Michala Kováča v Dóme sv. Martina, kde sa konala zádušná omša za zosnulého prezidenta, ktorú celebroid arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský. V Bratislave dňa 13. októbra 2016.

A state funeral was held on October 13, 2016 for former Slovak President Michael Kovac in St. Martin's Cathedral in Bratislava.

Medzinárodná konferencia vo Washingtone

Vždy, keď Európa a Spojené štáty spolupracovali, história sa pohla lepším smerom. Preto je dôležité, aby sme zostali silnými partnermi bez ohľadu na to, akým náročným výzvam práve čelíme. Veľvyslanec EÚ v USA David O'Sullivan to vyhlásil 6. októbra na medzinárodnej konferencii vo Washingtone.

„Sila pramení z jednoty,“ dodal minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák. Zdôraznil, že dôležitá je nielen spolupráca medzi EÚ a USA, ale aj v rámci EÚ. Európa je podľa neho odhodlaná pokračovať v roku 2017 spoločne a musí nájsť silu na prekonanie súčasných výziev.

O'Sullivan pripomenul, v akých ťažkých časoch sa EÚ zrodila a čo všetko vtedy prekonala. Na to by sme podľa neho nemali v dnešných časoch zabúdať, najmä keď máme pocit, že únia nefunguje. V minulosti totiž EÚ prekonala oveľa väčšie prekážky, myslí si O'Sullivan.

Pokračovanie na str. 19