



Jednota

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Butcher, Baker, Candlestick Maker... What our ancestors did to earn their daily bread

By Helene Cincebeaux and Andrej Stelmak

When our ancestors ended their nomadic way of life and became pastoral, cultivating the land, they began to establish settlements, then villages and towns. The majority of our predecessors in Slovakia worked in agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry.

Craftsmen abounded but they tended to live in cities. The majority of our ancestors lived in villages and worked on the land. Farming was the main occupation; growing and harvesting a labor intensive process. In Slovakia's rich agricultural land set below the Carpathian mountains entire villages engaged in farming for the local lord. Crops ranged from grains, fruits and vegetables to a variety of medicinal plants and immense fields of yellow rape seed and golden sunflowers, prized for their oils.

Researcher Michael Mojher estimated that the number of days a peasant worked for the "lord of the manor" and got paid ranged between 14 and 40 days a year. That's why so many Slovaks became migrant workers; they could not survive on the cash they earned locally.

A story from an octagenarian babicka in Vazec Liptov touched my heart and made me realize how hard life was a hundred years ago. "We arose early and packed a basket with lunch, water and the baby and a parasol for shade. We walked two and a half hours to the fields and toiled all day; then we walked home to prepare the evening meal. Sometimes we sang!"

Shepherding was another main occupation in our ancestors' time. I was told that at one time there were more sheep in Slovakia than people. It's said the Rusyns migrated through the Carpathians with their sheep around the 1600s. Sheep were prized for their wool, their skins and for the amount of milk they provided when milked twice a day.

A hundred years ago and up to the present day sheep were kept in a salas, a sheep farm, up in the mountain meadows, guarded by male shepherds who lived there all summer. The men pastured the sheep, milked them twice a day and made four kinds of cheese - soft white like cream cheese, korbaciky (string cheese), beloved bryndza a spreadable cheese and ostiepok - a firm cheese smoked over the fire after being

continued on page 18



Working the land was a major occupation in Slovakia, as this painting by Hans Weiss of his father in the village of Podhorany under the Tatras illustrates.

Advent Begins December 1st



Advent is a period of preparation, extending over four Sundays, before Christmas. This year, it begins Sunday, December 1st. The word Advent comes from the Latin advenio, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; but second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His Second Coming at the end of time.

Hey, Kids. Sharpen your crayons!

It's time once again
for the annual
National Coloring
Contest

See page 4-5 of this
issue for details.



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Attention, ALL FCSU College-bound Seniors:

Don't let a scholarship opportunity fly away! The FCSU is now accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program.

See page 5 for details

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA

INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2013

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA | 3.60% APY |
| Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA | 3.20% APY |
| with the "Cash Interest" Option | 2.95% APY |
| New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA | 3.10% APY |
| New "Park 2 Annuity" (NOT AVAILABLE IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK) | 2.15% APY |
| New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st year guarantee | 1.90% APY |
| (new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON) | |
| New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of | 2.75% APY |

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

Website: www.FCSU.com Email: annuity@fcsu.com

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints



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

December 1, 2013
First Sunday of Advent
Matthew 24:37-44

Gospel Summary

Jesus tells his disciples that they cannot know the day their Lord is coming. They must be prepared because that coming will be at a moment they least expect. He observed that people were totally unconcerned at the time of the flood. As a result

the unexpected flood destroyed them. In the same way, he warns, a thief can enter a house if the owner is not prepared to safeguard it.

Life Implications

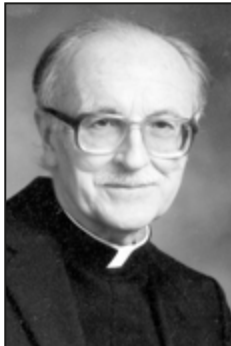
Jesus observed our human tendency to live in illusion, out of touch with what's really going on, and as a result we often suffer tragic consequences. Jesus warns us that if we succumb to this tendency we will not be prepared for the coming of the Son of Man, either at our death or at the end of time.

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

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

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

In Catholic belief, the grace of the Eucharistic liturgy actualizes in us what the gospel proclaims. It would not be good news simply to hear the warning of Jesus about the danger of living in illusion. A warning alone brings more anxiety, not joyful hope. The good news



Campion P. Gavalier,
O.S.B.

is that today we may receive the gift of the Spirit who enables us to see what's really going on with the eyes of Jesus and to respond to that reality with the courage of Jesus--without illusion and without anxiety.



December 8, 2013
Second Sunday of Advent
Matthew 3:1-12

Gospel Summary:

Today we hear once again the impatient voice of John the Baptist urging us to change so that we may be worthy to receive the Lord as he continues to come into our world. Crooked ways must be made straight; bad habits need to be corrected; conversion must continue. This message comes straight from God and that is why John proclaims it in the desert--a place that has always been associated with divine mystery and freedom. (See how this is portrayed in the relationship between Ahab and Elijah: 1 Kings 18:7ff). Human control has no place in the symbolic wilderness of divine freedom.

John wears the garments that identify him with the great prophet Elijah. Just as Elijah challenged the sinful king Ahab, so does John demand a break with a past of sinful human control to make room for a future where God's will is honored and obeyed. This will not be easy. And so John uses very strong language to scold those who are not interested in change that goes deeper than appearances. True conversion and true readiness for the coming of Jesus requires a conversion that touches our hearts and our deepest values.

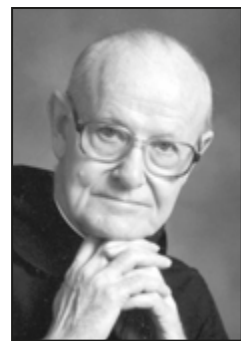
Life Implications:

God very much wants to come to us. We also want to receive him. However, it is usually only on our own terms. We wish to remain attached to habits and attitudes, which are unworthy of us and hurtful to others. Like St. Augustine, we are inclined to say, "Change me, Lord...but not yet." Such hesitation is most unfortunate because an unqualified reception of the Lord can provide far more happiness and peace than all the objects of our sinful attachments.

What is called for is repentance and we must be careful not to confuse that with remorse. Remorse is simply a temporary regret about our unworthy behavior. It usually lasts a very short time and then we return to our old habits. By contrast, repentance means that we have found something better and more promising than our sinfulness. This discovery is the love and goodness of God. If we could only realize how much God loves us, we would be able to resist every temptation. We make this discovery primarily through earnest prayer and a deep yearning to become better persons.

Today's gospel urges us to make room in our hearts for the love of God, not as a theoretical fact or on someone else's word, but in our own experience. The Eucharist reminds us every Sunday that God loves us and has given his only Son to die for us. This means that we are very precious in God's sight. This also means that God is more than ready to enter our hearts and to lead us to true repentance.

We are asked to put aside selfish and defensive behavior so that God's love can give us the freedom to be what God wants us to be--confident and responsible human beings. In this regard, we are reminded of the words of the Book of Revelation: "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me" (3:20). This readiness of the Lord to become our best friend is true at all times, but never more so than in the season of Advent.



Demetrius R. Dumm
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, DEC 4 | MONDAY, NOV. 25 |
| WEDNESDAY, JAN 15 | MONDAY, JAN 6 |
| WEDNESDAY, FEB 5 | MONDAY, JAN 27 |

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
 Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
 First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
 FAX: 216-642-4310

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for *The Christophers*

Changing Lives Rather Than Chasing a Buck

Maybe you've heard of Jon Kitna; maybe you haven't. He was a football player, a quarterback, in the NFL. He played for Seattle, Cincinnati, Detroit and Dallas, and if he was never a marquee quarterback, he was much more than a journeyman. He worked in the league for 15 years, from 1997 to 2011, threw for nearly 30,000 yards, and once was named the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year. In all, a nice career.

But it's what Kitna is doing now that's earning him as many plaudits as he ever got on the football field. He's teaching algebra to students at Lincoln High School in a high-poverty area of his home town of Tacoma, Washington. And it's not just any students he has in his classes. He asked for the toughest kids, the potential dropouts, and he got them. Now he's in the process of turning their lives around, and he loves it.

"This is what I'm supposed to do," Kitna said. "This is my calling."

Kitna's calling came at a steep financial cost. In his final year with the Dallas Cowboys he earned about \$3.2 million; in 2012 he received \$26,000 from Lincoln High--\$20,000 for his part-time teaching, and \$6,000 for coaching the football team. That doesn't mean, however, that he's above dipping into his own financial reserves (he paid for the school's new weight room) or calling on old friends from his NFL days. He's received equipment donations for Lincoln from Carson Palmer, quarterback for the Cincinnati Bengals; from Tony Romo, whom he backed up as quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, and Calvin Johnson, who snagged more than a few Kitna passes when both played for the Detroit Lions.

Still he's dead serious about his teaching. He has an enthusiastic fan in Lincoln High's principal, Pat Erwin.

"Jon reads people really well," Erwin told writer Gail Wood. "He's genuine. He walks his talk. He also challenges kids. Being a former NFL quarterback helps get their attention."

Lincoln High School hasn't changed all that much from the time that Kitna went there in the late 1980's, except that the poverty level in the area might be greater today. He teaches young people because he genuinely cares about them, and he's made a standing offer to meet students before class begins--if they so desire.

Many of them do, and Kitna has been true to his word. As a result, some of those who had been ignoring their homework now turn in assignments, and kids who once had failing grades are finding themselves with A's and B's on their tests.

Perhaps most important is the message of hope Kitna leaves with students.

"I have a chance to really shape their worldview," he says. "That's exciting. It's also a huge responsibility I don't take lightly."

Writer Wood observed that Kitna, gratefully, "is more interested in changing lives than chasing a buck." How does the athlete-turned-teacher feel about that?

"My life should be about the impact and influence I have on others," he admitted. "To see lives changed--that's something!"

For a free copy of the *Christopher News Note*, *YOUR CAREER COUNTS*, write: *The Christophers*, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

March for Life



The 41th Annual Right to Life March on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 in Washington, DC. Our presence there is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association support the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU and the FCSLA are once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH, for this very important trip. 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 1-800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at Kelly@fcsla.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 23th.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online at www.fcsla.org for information and transportation. If you cannot find information please call or email Kelly for assistance.

Attention: FCSU Mobile Members!



Use your smart phone to download a QR-code reader. Then take a photo of this icon for more information on our Society wherever you are - at home or on the go.

Year of Faith: Missionary Activity of the Church, Part II

Dear Friends,

We continue with a summary of the Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church (*Ad gentes*) from the Second Vatican Council.

The Council points out that it is forbidden for one to be forced or allured or deceived into embracing the Faith. A person who comes to faith in Christ Jesus is to do so of his or her own free will. There is a desire on the part of the Council Fathers for specific liturgical guidelines whereby a person who comes to faith in Christ Jesus through missionary activity can become a fully initiated member of the Church. What they propose eventually became what we know today as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA.

One who has freely accepted Christ is to be admitted to the catechumenate, a training period in the Christian life. The catechumen (as he or she is called) is to be properly instructed in the Catholic faith and the practice of Gospel morality. Through other liturgical rites held at successive intervals, the catechumen is to be introduced into the life of faith, of liturgy, and of love. The liturgies of Lent are to be restored so the catechumen's heart may be properly disposed to celebrate the solemn ceremonies of the Easter Vigil during which he or she is reborn through Baptism.

The entire faith community, not just priests and catechists, is to be involved in the work of Christian initiation. In this way, catechumens may know and feel from the very beginning of their spiritual journey to faith in the Church that they belong to a community. Since the life of the church is apostolic, the catechumens should also, by the witness of their lives and by the profession of their faith, help to spread the Gospel and build up the Church. Catechumens are joined to the Church by the formal declaration they make through a liturgical rite of their intention to become baptized in the faith. The Council wanted to make clear that this gives catechumens a juridical status in the church, a status that ought to be clearly defined in a revision of the Code of Canon Law.

The Council Fathers then go on to emphasize the necessity and importance of all who are engaged in day to day missionary activity are to undergo specific training. They begin with the training of priests, saying it is to be an integration of spiritual formation, formal education in doctrinal and pastoral theology, and living the Gospel. Priests are to be instructed in the history, aim, and method of the Church's missionary activity. They are to learn the pastoral needs of the people to whom he is to minister, especially their social, economic, and cultural conditions. They are to be educated in the ecumenical spirit and be prepared for fraternal dialog with non-Christians. They are also to be trained in ordinary church and financial administration. Suitable priests should be chosen to pursue higher studies in universities, including those abroad and especially in Rome.

The training of catechists must be done well so, as reliable coworkers of priests, they may perform their tasks well. The Council calls for an increase in the number of schools where future catechists can study Catholic teachings, teaching methods, and pastoral practice. Catechists who do this work for their living merit a decent standard of living by being paid a just wage. Special funding for the training and support of catechists should be provided by the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. Duly trained catechists should receive a "missio canonica" in a publically celebrated liturgical ceremony, so that in the eyes of the people they may serve the Faith with greater authority.

The summary will continue in the next issue of the *Jednota*.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain

Christmas Oplatky 2013

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 21 until December 18, 2013.

The *Oplatky*, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$4.00. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$5.75 and upwards depending upon the number of packets ordered and the rising 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 and order contact:

Sister Catherine Laboure 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.

Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by

phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the *JEDNOTA* newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Suite 300 Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: info@fcsu.com

FCSU 2013 Christmas Coloring Contest

Dear Drummer Boy

O, precious, little drummer boy,
I often think of you,
For on that special, holy night
You played a tune or two
In honor of the newborn King
Who in a manger lay.
You gave the only gift you had,
Your deep love to convey.
Oh, surely baby Jesus slept
More peacefully that night
As music serenaded Him
And stars bathed Him in light.
Your gift - more sweet
Than frankincense
Or myrrh or gleaming gold -
Was music that welled up inside,
More than your heart could hold.
At times in life we think our gifts
Unworthy since they're small,
But God knows when we sacrifice
And give to Him our all

Written by
Sandra Town Lytle

B



A



www.coloringpages101.com

C



www.coloringpages101.com

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 A
10 – 12 year olds – picture B
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2013**.
6. Mail to:

Susan Ondrejco
 Fraternal Activities Director
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2013

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 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 – Jednota Fleece Blanket and \$25.00
2nd Place - Jednota Fleece Blanket and \$15.00
3rd Place - Jednota Fleece Blanket and \$10.00
Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card

Editor's Note: You also can download the coloring contest pages by going to www.fcsu.com

From the desk of the Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt



The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program.

Seventy (70) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS in the amount of \$750.00 each will be awarded to the winners. In addition, a ONE-TIME "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.

Three additional ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS of \$750.00 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 sent to the Home Office, 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) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Single Premium Policy or \$25,000.00 or more of Annual Premium JEP Policy with the F.C.S.U. 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, 2010 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.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2014 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college acceptance must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained

from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com/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, 2014.

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 2015). Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2014

Check List

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
- Proof of college admission
- 3 Letters of recommendation

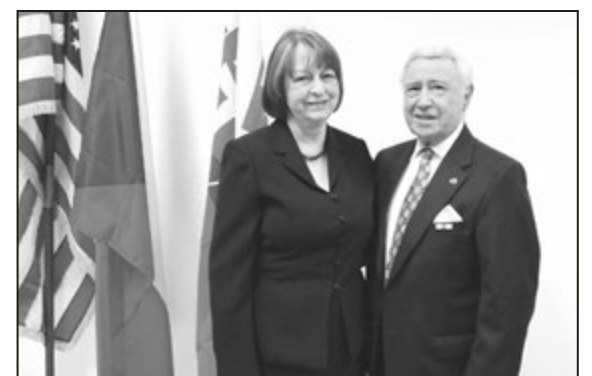
95th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement Celebrated in October

A program commemorating the 95th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement was held on October 19, 2013, at the John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The Pittsburgh Agreement was a memorandum of understanding completed on May 31, 1918, between members of the Slovak and Czech expatriate communities in the US. It was named for the city of Pittsburgh, PA, where the agreement was made to create an independent Czechoslovakia. This was achieved October 18 1918, when the primary author of the agreement, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, declared the independence of Czechoslovakia and was elected its

first president later in November, 1918.

At the 95th Anniversary program, remarks were made by Milan Stech, President of the Czech Senate; Petr Gandalovič, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the United States, and Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania, and a member of the FCSU, Branch 254. A reception and tours followed the program.

A copy of the Pittsburgh Agreement has been on permanent display at the Center since September 9, 2007, when it was presented by the Slovak League of America.



(L – R) Carol H. Hochman, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic, and Joseph T. Senko, Honorary Consul of Slovakia.

Statement as of September 30, 2013 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

| | Current Statement Date | | | 4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| | 1 Assets | 2 Nonadmitted Assets | 3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2) | |
| 1. Bonds..... | 303,346,466 | | 303,346,466 | 281,561,350 |
| 2. Stocks: | | | | |
| 2.1 Preferred stocks..... | 200,000 | | 200,000 | 700,000 |
| 2.2 Common stocks..... | 2,960,869 | | 2,960,869 | 3,178,369 |
| 3. Mortgage loans on real estate: | | | | |
| 3.1 First liens..... | 1,460,425 | | 1,460,425 | 1,587,886 |
| 3.2 Other than first liens..... | | | 0 | |
| 4. Real estate: | | | | |
| 4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances)..... | 980,625 | | 980,625 | 1,020,772 |
| 4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances)..... | 782,595 | | 782,595 | 811,890 |
| 4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances)..... | 562,675 | | 562,675 | 562,675 |
| 5. Cash (\$.....8,202,848), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0)..... | 8,202,848 | | 8,202,848 | 7,916,511 |
| 6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes)..... | 1,063,695 | | 1,063,695 | 1,014,147 |
| 7. Derivatives..... | | | 0 | |
| 8. Other invested assets..... | 11,807,695 | | 11,807,695 | 3,746,150 |
| 9. Receivables for securities..... | | | 0 | |
| 10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets..... | | | 0 | |
| 11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11)..... | 331,367,893 | 0 | 331,367,893 | 302,099,750 |
| 13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only)..... | | | 0 | |
| 14. Investment income due and accrued..... | 4,175,759 | | 4,175,759 | 3,361,023 |
| 15. Premiums and considerations: | | | | |
| 15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection..... | 35,660 | | 35,660 | 18,788 |
| 15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums)..... | | | 0 | |
| 15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums..... | | | 0 | |
| 16. Reinsurance: | | | | |
| 16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers..... | | | 0 | |
| 16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies..... | | | 0 | |
| 16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts..... | | | 0 | |
| 17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans..... | | | 0 | |
| 18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon..... | | | 0 | |
| 18.2 Net deferred tax asset..... | | | 0 | |
| 19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit..... | | | 0 | |
| 20. Electronic data processing equipment and software..... | | | 0 | |
| 21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0)..... | 5,784 | 5,784 | 0 | |
| 22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates..... | | | 0 | |
| 23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates..... | | | 0 | |
| 24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable..... | | | 0 | |
| 25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets..... | 19,287 | 19,287 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25)..... | 335,604,382 | 25,070 | 335,579,312 | 305,479,561 |
| 27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts..... | | | 0 | |
| 28. Total (Lines 26 and 27)..... | 335,604,382 | 25,070 | 335,579,312 | 305,479,561 |

Statement as of September 30, 2013 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

| | 1 Current Statement Date | 2 December 31 Prior Year |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve)..... | 260,332,000 | 243,149,000 |
| 2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve)..... | | |
| 3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve)..... | 42,782,417 | 29,587,520 |
| 4. Contract claims: | | |
| 4.1 Life..... | 300,000 | 300,000 |
| 4.2 Accident and health..... | | |
| 5. Refunds due and unpaid..... | | |
| 6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts: | | |
| 6.1 Apportioned for payment..... | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| 6.2 Not yet apportioned..... | | |
| 7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums..... | 271,559 | 293,109 |
| 8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere: | | |
| 8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts..... | | |
| 8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded..... | | |
| 8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR)..... | 552,214 | 171,618 |
| 9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0..... | 17,201 | 14,903 |
| 10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed..... | | |
| 11. General expenses due or accrued..... | 685,800 | 562,268 |
| 12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves)..... | | |
| 13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued..... | 21,858 | 21,858 |
| 14. Unearned investment income..... | | |
| 15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee..... | 5,882,203 | 7,022,497 |
| 16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances..... | | |
| 17. Remittances and items not allocated..... | | |
| 18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates..... | 9,511 | 9,511 |
| 19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above..... | | |
| 20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0..... | | |
| 21. Miscellaneous liabilities: | | |
| 21.1 Asset valuation reserve..... | 2,251,941 | 2,350,068 |
| 21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies..... | | |
| 21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers..... | | |
| 21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates..... | | |
| 21.5 Drafts outstanding..... | | |
| 21.6 Funds held under coinsurance..... | | |
| 21.7 Derivatives..... | | |
| 21.8 Payable for securities..... | | 535,709 |
| 21.9 Payable for securities lending..... | | |
| 22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities..... | 275,967 | 414,927 |
| 23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22)..... | 313,782,671 | 284,832,989 |
| 24. From Separate Accounts Statement..... | | |
| 25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24)..... | 313,782,671 | 284,832,989 |
| 26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds..... | 0 | 0 |
| 27. Surplus notes..... | | |
| 28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds..... | 0 | 0 |
| 29. Unassigned funds..... | 21,796,641 | 20,646,572 |
| 30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement)..... | 21,796,641 | 20,646,572 |
| 31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3)..... | 335,579,312 | 305,479,561 |

Statement as of September 30, 2013 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

| | 1 Current Year To Date | 2 Prior Year To Date | 3 Prior Year Ended December 31 |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts..... | 13,563,595 | 11,030,617 | 15,472,990 |
| 2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies..... | | | |
| 3. Net investment income..... | 10,338,173 | 10,237,507 | 13,294,944 |
| 4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR)..... | 225,000 | 150,000 | 293,139 |
| 5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses..... | | | |
| 6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded..... | | | |
| 7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded..... | | | |
| 8. Miscellaneous income: | | | |
| 8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts..... | | | |
| 8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts..... | | | |
| 8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income..... | 69,675 | 18,456 | 54,655 |
| 9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3)..... | 24,196,443 | 21,436,580 | 29,115,728 |
| 10. Death benefits..... | 1,919,644 | 2,570,686 | 3,043,177 |
| 11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments)..... | | 1,085 | 1,085 |
| 12. Annuity benefits..... | 7,570,802 | 12,764,020 | 20,015,984 |
| 13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0..... | | | |
| 14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts..... | 436,147 | 394,162 | 545,361 |
| 15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds..... | 207,568 | 222,952 | 284,035 |
| 16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies..... | | | |
| 17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts..... | 10,264,000 | 2,446,000 | 799,000 |
| 18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17)..... | 20,398,161 | 18,398,905 | 24,688,642 |
| 19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only)..... | 146,511 | 127,994 | 220,845 |
| 20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed..... | | | |
| 21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses..... | 2,375,529 | 2,354,389 | 2,421,858 |
| 22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees..... | 187,256 | 119,449 | 80,954 |
| 23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums..... | | | |
| 24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance..... | | | |
| 25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions..... | (365,131) | (264,901) | 182,186 |
| 26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25)..... | 22,742,326 | 20,735,836 | 27,594,485 |
| 27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26)..... | 1,454,117 | 700,744 | 1,521,243 |
| 28. Refunds to members..... | 286,097 | 283,761 | 393,805 |
| 29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28)..... | 1,168,020 | 416,983 | 1,127,438 |
| 30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR)..... | 198,857 | (851,500) | (1,269,681) |
| 31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30)..... | 1,366,877 | (434,517) | (142,243) |
| SURPLUS ACCOUNT | | | |
| 32. Surplus, December 31, prior year..... | 18,984,017 | 17,519,864 | 17,519,864 |
| 33. Net income from operations (Line 31)..... | 1,366,877 | (434,517) | (142,243) |
| 34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0..... | 246,190 | 247,739 | 964,771 |
| 35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss)..... | | | |
| 36. Change in nonadmitted assets..... | (7,368) | 7,784 | 20,162 |
| 37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies..... | | | |
| 38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease..... | | | |
| 39. Change in asset valuation reserve..... | (70,014) | 662,435 | 621,146 |
| 40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period..... | | | |
| 41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement..... | | | |
| 42. Change in surplus notes..... | | | |
| 43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles..... | | | |
| 44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance..... | | | |
| 45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus..... | 995 | 15,452 | 317 |
| 46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45)..... | 1,536,680 | 498,893 | 1,464,153 |
| 47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46)..... | 20,520,697 | 18,018,757 | 18,984,017 |

Branch 450 President George Čarný Honored at 72nd Anniversary Celebration of American-Slovak Zemplin Club in Cleveland, OH

On Sunday October 20, 2013, the American-Slovak Zemplin Club celebrated its 72nd anniversary. The celebration started at 1:00 pm in Lakewood, OH, with a Slovak Mass at the former St. Cyril & Methodius Church (recently renamed Transfiguration Parish) for the living and deceased members of the club. The celebrant was Fr. Joachim Pastirik OSB, Chaplain of the club, and Branch 24 member. Brother Gabriel Balazovic, Branch 24, assisted with three novices of Saint Andrew Abbey Svorad, a Benedictine Order in Cleveland, OH.

After the Mass, festivities continued in SS. Cyril & Methodius Auditorium. The ceremony was open by George Čarný, president of the Zemplin Club, with warm words of welcome. Ken Javor of the Johnny Pasitirk Band and George Čarný lead in singing the American and Slovak national anthems. Fr. Joachim said a prayer before dinner.

Following a delicious dinner, Tom Ivanec, founder and current director of the Lučina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland, and Branch 24 member, introduced the dancers and explained the dance numbers from Eastern Slovakia. These included the time-honored karička, or circle dance, by the girls, and the čapas, a stomping dance, by the boys, all performed in beautiful Slovak costumes. They were rewarded with thunderous applause. Professor Rudy Bachna then recited Slovak poems. Vice President Mary Chura and Branch 450 member introduced the officers of the Zemplin club who were seated at the head table. Club Treasurer Milan Kobulsky and Branch 450 member, introduced and welcomed leaders of the various Slovak organizations and clubs in the Cleveland area. Fr. Joachim Pastirik briefly described the Zemplin region for those in attendance not familiar with the region.

After the cultural program, club officers surprised and honored President George Čarný by naming him "Zemplincan of the Year 2013". The club presented him with a plaque, showing their appreciation for his time, hard work and dedication to the Zemplin club.

Milan Kobulsky acknowledged his hard work, noting the



Zemplin Club Officers flank Zemplincan of the Year 2013 George Čarný (center, holding his award): (L – R) Fr. Marek Vysnovsky, George Balak (Branch 855), Norma Ruttkay (Branch 450), Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450), Mary Chura (Branch 450), and John Buydos (Branch 1)

following about the honoree: "George Čarný comes from the beautiful village of Nizny Zipov, in the Zemplin region, which he carries close to his heart. Under his wing and excellent leadership as president, he managed to revive our club. Even as times get harder, and membership declines, our club continues to strengthen and prosper. George is a member of other Slovak organizations. He is the president of the branch 450 in First Catholic Slovak Union, the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the Slovak Radio Club, the Lakewood

Slovak Civic Club, the Slovak League, and the Slovak Dramatic Club, where he has served as vice president for many years. As we all know, behind every great man is a great woman. George's success is in part thanks to the continued help and support of his loving wife, Mrs. Anna Čarný who is also from this beautiful Zemplin region. Also very helpful to his success have been his sons George and Rick, with their families, and son Michael."

Then together with Vice President Mary Chura, they presented George with the plaque.

The Johnny Pastirik Band played music for the dancing and listening pleasure of those in attendance throughout the day. Cold beverages were flowing, especially Golden Pheasant "Zlatý Bažant" for all to enjoy. Slovak Pastries were also enjoyed by all.

Zemplin is the most eastern part of Slovakia, with a thousand year-old tradition, and through good times and bad has allowed its culture to persevere. Today Zemplin is proud to have a thriving tourist industry, with scenic lakes and popular resorts, along with world-class dancing and singing groups such as "Zemplin", "Vranovcan", "Trebisovsky Furmane", "Parshovianka" and others.

Over the past centuries, many people from eastern Slovakia immigrated to America. Many of them settled in the Cleveland area. It was necessary to organize and establish clubs to inspire an uplifting culture for individuals and families who share ties to their homeland and their ancestor's homeland. On November 12, 1941, a group of Zemplincans got together in Cleveland and established the American Slovak Zemplin Social Club. Cleveland Slovaks support the work of the clubs and appreciate cultural preservation. They are already looking forward to next year and celebrating their 73rd anniversary.

The Zemplin Club Committee thanks all who joined us in celebrating this occasion. Remember: Only with our present, we can ensure our future.

Submitted by Milan Kobulsky, Zemplin Club Treasurer and Branch 450 Member



District 2 Elects Officers

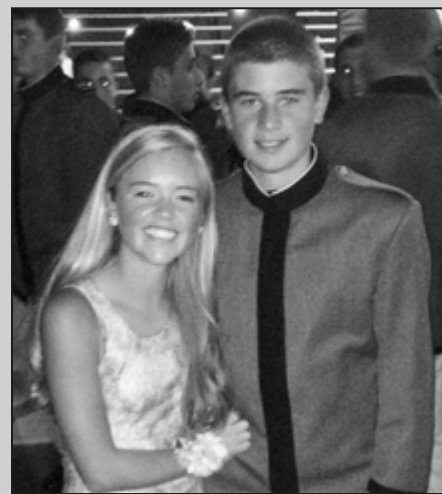
At the FCSU District 2 meeting held in Oak Forest, IL on October 27, 2013, last year's officers graciously agreed to serve another one year term. In the attached photo they are as follows:

Back row left to right: Bob Magruder, recording secretary; Joe Bugel, Lead Auditor, Bob Elias, Auditor; Pete Turner, Sargent-at-arms; Mark Fayta, Co-Director Fraternal Activities.

Front Row left to right: Barbara Fayta, Financial Secretary; John Jurcenko, President; Rudy Bernath, Vice-President; Dorothy Jurcenko, Spiritual Advisor.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, District Vice President and Region 7 Director

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



Christopher Leahey Firment proudly wearing the gray tunic of St. Benedict's Catholic Military School in Richmond, VA. He is the 5th family member generation to attend that school Posing with him is his beautiful sister Quinn Firment. They are in attendance at the cadet ball earlier this season.

Finn Sanford out and about, selling scout cookies, popcorn. Finn attends St. Patricks in Norfolk where dad serves as US navy fighter pilot.



Kathleen Jane Firment at Cotillion 2013 in Richmond, VA. Kathleen attends St Bridget's also in Richmond where she plays field hockey.

The Firment family, all members of Branch 181, have had a busy fall. All photos submitted courtesy of proud grandmother Lynda Firment.

Slovak Radio on the Internet: Websites for 2013

Part I

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

One of the best ways to learn Slovak by hearing it is through the internet. When working on my computer, I am most always listening to Slovak radio, and I have been doing so regularly for nearly ten years. I wrote an article about Slovak websites in Jednota in 2005, but since then much has changed, and many more quality sites have appeared. This article will share some of the best websites which I have found.

Slovenský rozhlas - Slovak Radio

First, if one knows only English, there is Slovak Radio International (SRI). It has a new website because Slovak Radio (Slovenský rozhlas) reorganized its administration and website over the past year due to budget cuts. The new official name is Rozhlas a televízia Slovenska (Radio and Television of Slovakia-RTVS). The old website is no longer fully functioning, even though it will often turn up on a Google search. But I just found out that it still works on the old site, although it did not earlier this year. The newer site has a better and clearer broadcast of higher quality, and its own player. The SRI's new player also provides the names of some of the songs and/or individual program names. On Slovak Radio one may listen in English to a summary broadcast of news and cultural events from Slovakia, and there are text documents that one may read too. Here is the new website for Slovak Radio International: (<http://rsi.rtvs.sk/player/>): <http://en.rsi.rtvs.sk/>. This site gives a list of the most current broadcasts: <http://en.rsi.rtvs.sk/clanky/?currentPage=1>. Questions or comments related to this station? Send an email to englishradio@slovakradio.sk.

Besides English, one can also listen to Slovak Radio International in Slovak or in several other major languages. SRI broadcasts half hour shows seven days a week, and the languages include English, French, German, Russian, Spanish and Slovak; all are available via the internet and satellite. The archive enables one to listen to past shows so that listening at a particular time is not a problem. On Wednesday, SRI airs a Slovak language program for those wishing to learn Slovak.

The page that provides links to many of the available Slovenský rozhlas is found at: <http://www.rtvs.sk/radio/>. To get started, click on one of the selections under the heading Živé vysielanie, meaning "Live Broadcast." The schedule for each can be found with a click on "Program," which links to this page: <http://www.rtvs.sk/radio/program/>. There are also podcasts available to click on for some past archived recordings.

Here is a list of the available radio programs, with a short summary of what each broadcasts.

Rádio Slovensko is the main radio station of Slovenský rozhlas and broadcasts 24 hours a day. It includes the news, weather, traffic conditions, current affairs programs, interviews, live sporting events, and music in Slovak, as well as some English language songs. It aims at a wide audience across all age groups.

Rádio Devín broadcasts mainly classical music, some jazz, alternative music, art rock, folk, chanson, experimental music, and cultural presentations, and is exclusively in Slovak. It is non-commercial radio, which compares with Public Broadcasting in the USA.

Rádio FM offers a cross-cultural mix of music oriented toward the interests of younger-minded listeners. In addition to live music, it features a playlist of both domestic and foreign music, which includes everything from contemporary popular music and rock to hip-hop, world music, metallic, dance, electronic music and jazz. Broadcasts also feature exclusive live concerts from its own studios and from music festivals in Slovakia and abroad. It strives to be the most listened to radio station in Slovakia.

Rádio Patria began broadcasting in 2008 and continues a tradition of presenting radio in the Magyar (Hungarian) language for that minority group in Slovakia and abroad.

Rádio Regina operates an autonomous broadcasting studio and is divided into three units based on the regions of Slovakia - Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, and Košice. All broadcast around the clock, 24 hours a day.

Rádio Regina Bratislava presents material focusing on civic affairs, advice, education and awareness with a focus on the towns and cities of western Slovakia -- Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, and Trenčín. Its much heralded morning program (afternoon in the USA) is called "Magazine Rádio Regina."

Rádio Regina Banská Bystrica broadcasts from central Slovakia and offers news and commentary about current affairs in that region. It features a very rich program of traditional Slovak folk music, including some of my favorite programs such as Zahrajte mi tuto (Play that for me) at 10 am EST in the USA, and at 4pm on Slovak time. It repeats the program in the night (Monday-Friday 7:30-8:30 pm EST according to the program, but I find it is usually on at 9 pm).

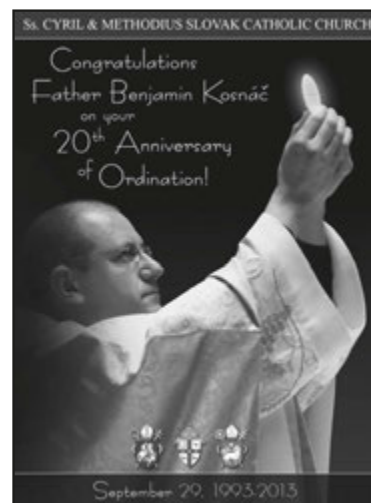
Rádio Regina Košice provides music and information about events in the region of eastern Slovakia, where many of our ancestors came from. It also features current affairs programs. Its music centers on the folklore of eastern Slovakia. The station additionally offers students an opportunity to interact live on the air, as well as specials on sports personalities and consumer issues. Finally, it schedules a regular literary drama series. Rádio Klasika (Classical Radio) is a more recent digital service, which is devoted to all forms of classical music from all periods, from the Renaissance through Romanticism and Modernism. Its selections vary from piano miniatures and chamber music to full symphonies and operas.

Regardless of whether one knows Slovak, it offers some first-rate classical music.

Rádio Junior aims at reaching the youngest listeners, and it began broadcasting in 2010. It broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in 10 hour blocks. It offers a large variety of programming for children: games, short stories, readings, adventure games, biographical plays, musicals, fairy tales and other children's programs. It is a good way to expose your children to Slovak if you are trying to teach them the language from a young age, but you will obviously have to help them out and present them first with basic Slovak conversation. It is also a good place for American Slovaks to try to read Slovak, for the language is simpler, at a child's level, but targeting different ages, depending on the program. It also works well for Slovaks who have settled in the USA but want their children to keep up the native language in a sea of English language Americanisms.

Rádio Litera targets an intellectual audience, including students in high school and higher education. Started in 2009, it offers 24 hour broadcasts of various artistic and dramatic productions. The programs are rich with poetry, prose, drama and journalism, and appeal mainly to those who master Slovak fairly well and who love the spoken word.

continued in the next issue



Father Benjamin Kosnac Celebrates 20 Years in the Priesthood

Father Benjamin Kosnac, Pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, MI, celebrated his 20th Anniversary of Ordination on Sunday, September 29, 2013. The celebration began with a Holy Mass at 1:00PM that was concelebrated by many fellow-priests and deacons. The beautiful Mass was enhanced by the participation of several local Chapters of the Knights of Columbus and dozens of the church's 230 altar boys. There was a full-house of many grateful parishioners and his proud mother, who had traveled from Slovakia, to take part in this joyful occasion.

After Mass, the celebration continued in the Father Mikus Parish Hall, which was filled to capacity. As Father entered, he was greeted in gracious Slovak tradition, and presented with salt and bread as symbols of melting the enmities, and the flavors of friendship and goodness. After dinner, guests were entertained by a multi-media presentation featuring Father's life, highlighting his activities from 15 years at Ss. Cyril & Methodius and 20 years in the priesthood. The presentation was followed by songs by the Slovak and American Children's Choirs, instrumentals by talented parishioners: a pianist, accordionist and violinist, traditional Slovak dancing by the world-traveling, award-winning Junior Šarišan and Senior Šarišan Folk Ensembles and speeches by the church's Associate Pastors, Fr. Ludovit Gabris and Fr. John Simoneau and the first of eight priests to be ordained from Ss. Cyril & Methodius during Fr. Ben's tenure, Father John Bustamante. The beautiful celebration concluded with a heart-felt speech from the Guest of Honor and wrapped up with the entire crowd singing "God Bless America / God Bless Slovakia / Hej Slovaci".

Father Ben, born in Slovakia on November 21, 1969, and Ordained in Bratislava on September 29, 1993, came to the United States July 21, 1998, as requested by Fr. Elemir Mikus, then-Pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius. Father Ben has been officially serving as Administrator/Pastor of Ss. Cyril & Methodius since January 28, 1999. Father Mikus retired, moved back to Slovakia, and recently passed away, on August 6, 2013.

Father Ben has been an inspiration to all parishioners at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church and to the extended Slovak Community. God bless you, Father Ben, with many more anniversaries for us to share with you!

- Submitted by Anna Magusin, Secretary
 Branch 743

The First Catholic Slovak Union is now accepting VISA, Mastercard and Discover credit cards as newspaper subscription payments. Contact the Home Office for details: 1-800-JEDNOTA or info@fcsu.com.

Branch 181's Stephen and Linda Gonta Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary



Stephen and Linda (Rodgers) Gonta of Greensburg, PA, recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on October 12, 1963, at St. Florian Church, United, PA, by the late Rev. Fabian G. Oris. In honor of their golden anniversary, they were feted at a luncheon with children and grandchildren at Atria's in Murrysville on the 12th. They received a Blessing at Mass at Our Lady of Grace in Greensburg on the 13th, and hosted a family brunch at the Greensburg Country Club. They are parents to daughters: Marilyn Young of Mentor, Ohio, and Darlene (Christopher) LaPay of Greensburg. They are the proud grandparents of Madison, Hannah, Gabrielle, Jack and Alex Young, and Stephen LaPay.

Steve and Linda are members of Branch 181. Linda is the George Onda District 3 Secretary and Steven is the District Treasurer. Steve is a retired supervisor from Allegheny Power and Linda is a retired registered nurse.

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours
The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office
will be closed on the following days:



In observance of Thanksgiving:
Thursday, November 28, 2013,
and Friday, November 29, 2013.



In observance of Christmas:
Monday, December 23 –
Wednesday, December 25, 2013



In observance of New Year's –
Wednesday, January 1, 2014

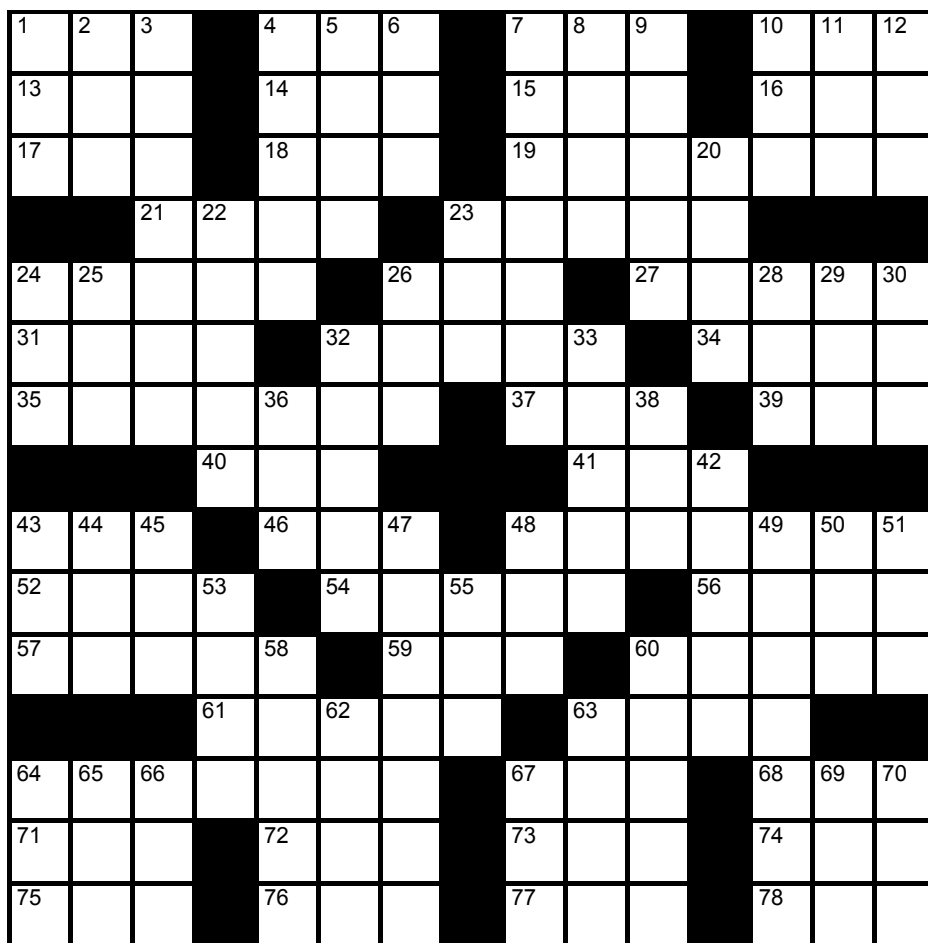


JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2014

| Issue Date | Deadline |
|-------------|-------------|
| January 15 | January 6 |
| February 5 | January 27 |
| February 19 | February 10 |
| March 5 | February 24 |
| March 19 | March 10 |
| April 2 | March 24 |
| April 16 | April 7 |
| April 30 | April 21 |
| May 7 | April 28 |
| May 21 | May 12 |
| June 11 | June 2 |
| July 2 | June 23 |
| July 23 | July 14 |
| August 6 | July 28 |
| Sept 17 | Sept 8 |
| October 15 | October 6 |
| November 5 | October 27 |
| November 19 | November 10 |
| December 3 | November 24 |

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Average
- 4 Craving
- 7 Boxer's punch
- 10 Shade tree
- 13 ___ de France
- 14 Tokyo, formerly
- 15 ET carrier
- 16 Caribbean, e.g.
- 17 Cushion
- 18 Assist
- 19 Clean-up guy
- 21 Bakery buy
- 23 Employs
- 24 Certain exams
- 26 Dracula, at times
- 27 It doesn't hold water
- 31 Absorbed
- 32 Rodeo rope
- 34 Remain
- 35 Swiftest mammal
- 37 "That's disgusting!"
- 39 Did lunch
- 40 Chafe
- 41 Authorize
- 43 Newt
- 46 Jack-tar
- 48 Fine
- 52 Film ___
- 54 Direct elsewhere
- 56 Feel concern
- 57 Coffee order
- 59 Small number
- 60 Small change
- 61 November birthstone
- 63 Locale
- 64 Dolomite, e.g.
- 67 Ariz. neighbor
- 68 ___'easter
- 71 Action word
- 72 Linear unit
- 73 Lubricate

Down

- 74 Low card
- 75 Bit of butter
- 76 12th graders (Abbr.)
- 77 Canny
- 78 Dry, as wine
- 45 Twitch
- 47 Happens
- 48 Church bench
- 49 Cries of sorrow
- 50 Three (It.)
- 51 Thumbs-up
- 53 Miles per hour, e.g.
- 55 Casbah headgear
- 58 Applications, e.g.
- 60 Beaut
- 62 Poker holding
- 63 Go yachting
- 64 Blueprint
- 65 Author Levin
- 66 After expenses
- 67 Romaine lettuce
- 69 Be in arrears
- 70 Bird of myth
- 1 Lulu
- 2 Mode starter
- 3 Bureaucratic stuff
- 4 Time period
- 5 Blue-pencil
- 6 Affirmative action
- 7 Martial art
- 8 Way, way off
- 9 Dog treats
- 10 "C' ___ la vie!"
- 11 DiCaprio, to fans
- 12 Deface
- 20 Horned goddess
- 22 Modify
- 23 Owns
- 24 Tolkien beast
- 25 Stadium cheer
- 26 "___, humbug!"
- 28 Greek letter
- 29 Tank
- 30 Needle part
- 32 Toil
- 33 Lascivious on-looker
- 36 Harbor craft
- 38 Biddy
- 42 Implied
- 43 Conclude
- 44 Adversary

See Solution on Page 19

Sneak Peek at Philadelphia:

Site of the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States & Canada_k

When the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) holds its 50th Quadrennial Convention in the city next year - August 23 – 27th, 2014 – delegates will find themselves right in the heart of it all at Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel.



Here are some of the world-class cultural and historical attractions just minutes away from our convention doorstep.



Philadelphia Museum of Art

Our hotel is located just a mile from the Philadelphia Museum of Art. As one of the largest museums in the United States, the Philadelphia Museum of Art invites visitors to explore its renowned collections, acclaimed special exhibitions, and enriching programs, both in person and online. One of Philadelphia's most famous pieces of public art is a bigger-than-life boxer... The fictional Rocky Balboa of Sylvester Stallone's Rocky movies was immortalized in bronze in 1980. The statue is located at the bottom of the stairs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, so be sure to get a photo with Rocky Balboa himself.



Liberty Bell Center

The Liberty Bell Center is located on Market Street between 5th and 6th Streets. The building is open year round. The Liberty Bell Center offers a video presentation and exhibits about the Liberty Bell, focusing on its origins and its modern day role as an international icon of freedom. Taped presentations about the history of the Liberty Bell are offered in a dozen languages for the convenience of foreign visitors. The Liberty Bell itself is displayed in a magnificent glass chamber with Independence Hall in the background.



Independence Hall

The Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown is located just a mile from Independence Hall. Constructed between 1732 and 1756 as the State House of the Province of Pennsylvania, Independence Hall is considered a fine example of Georgian architecture. It was in the Assembly Room of this building that George Washington was appointed commander in chief of the Continental Army in 1775 and the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. In the same room the design of the American flag was agreed upon in 1777, the Articles of Confederation were adopted in 1781, and the U. S. Constitution was drafted in 1787. The building, inside and out, has been restored whenever possible to its original late-18th century appearance.

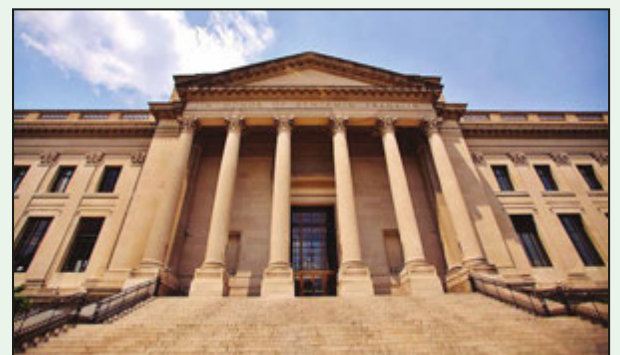
Love Park



Love Park is located a few blocks from Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel. Love Park is a favorite destination for tourists and locals alike. The plaza, designed by famed City Planner Edmond Bacon, father of actor Kevin Bacon, was originally constructed over an underground parking garage in 1965. The plaza expanded in 1969 with the addition of beautifully curved granite steps and a majestic fountain.

The Franklin Institute

The Franklin Institute (named after the noted American scientist and statesman Benjamin Franklin) is another nearby museum, and one of the oldest centers of science education and development in the United States, dating to 1824. The Institute also houses the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial.



Reading Terminal Market

Reading Terminal Market is located just blocks from the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown. Reading Terminal is an enclosed public market has over 100 merchants who offer fresh produce, meats, fish, groceries, ice cream, flowers, baked goods, crafts, books, clothing, and specialty and ethnic foods. The market is open every day of the week.

Look for more pre-convention coverage in upcoming issues of Jednota



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annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at 6:15 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. On the agenda for the meeting will be the election of officers for 2014 and the election of branch delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. All members are encouraged to attend. After the meeting a Christmas party will be held. If you plan on attending please RSVP at 216-228-8179. Thank you.

Fraternally,

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 4 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 4, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2013, at 2PM at the home of Anna Marie Hanlon, financial secretary, 2338 Lucina Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. On the agenda: election of officers.

Happy Holidays to all!

Anna Marie Hanlon, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society Branch 06K will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at Al's Restaurant, 1601 North Bloomington St., Streator, IL. The meeting will begin promptly at 1PM and be followed with a lunch. Please call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764, if you plan to attend or have any questions about policies. The agenda will include: the election of officers for 2014, a discussion on the 2014 schedule and membership drive. We urge all our members to attend and hope to see you.

Paul Chismar, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2013, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. Members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8, at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania. Additionally, the election of delegates to the 2014 National Convention will take place at this meeting.

William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24KJ, St Andrew Svorad Society, will once again be providing complimentary tickets for branch members only for the St. Andrew Abbey Viliya Dinner Sunday, December 8, 2013, at St. Andrew Abbey 10510 Buckeye Road. Mass is at 12:00 with dinner to follow.

Reservations are required and available by calling Activities Director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 after 6:00PM. The deadline is Friday, November 22, 2013.

For non-members or to purchase additional tickets call the Abbey at 216/721-5300 extension 0.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, will hold a meeting/luncheon on Sunday, January 12, 2014, at 1:00 PM at the Beachwood Hilton Hotel, 3663 Park East Drive, Beachwood, OH.

The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia.

Please phone Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 after 6PM if you plan to attend.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Branch 35 will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2013, at 1:00PM at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA.

Agenda items include: election of branch officers, discussion of branch activities, and election of delegates to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Friday, December 27, 2013, at 6:00PM at 40 Dalton Road, Yonkers, NY. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. We urge all members to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Fraternally,

Joanne Failovic, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. The election of officers will be held as well as the election of delegates to the 50th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Philadelphia, PA. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 55 – BROOMHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 29, 2013 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the Vice-President at the Wesley Enhanced Living Complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Apt. P114, Philadelphia, PA.

Elections will be held for Branch Officers and Delegates and their Alternates to the National Convention, and regular business will be conducted. Lunch will be served. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid For Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by December 8th in order to make reservations at the Wesley.

The 50th Quadrennial Convention will be held in Philadelphia, and hosted at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel on August 23-27, 2014. If you wish to be a delegate, you may check your qualifications with the President or Secretary.

For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (610) 356-7956 or Secretary at (215) 637-6530.

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

Fraternally yours,

Helena T. Gaydos, President

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 75KJ will hold a meeting on December 8, 2013, at 9:30AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 17872. This will be the branch's annual meeting, held for the election of officers for the 2014 calendar year. Also on the agenda: the recording secretary's report, the financial secretary's report, the auditor's report, and general branch business. For more information, contact Ronald M. Anderson at the above address or by calling 570-648-7012 or emailing chrison@ptd.net.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Mahanoy City, will hold a

meeting on Sunday, December 8. The meeting is scheduled for 1PM at Palermos Restaurant. The agenda will include new business and election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention. Please call 570-640-1796 for more information.

Karen Sterling, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Walter Presperin

Joseph Uhrik

Anna Alstat

Joseph Kotula

Joseph Pavlak

Christine Suma

Louis Lenick

Steve Cermak

Joseph Bronersky

George Janik

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 157 – NORTH CATASAWQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2013, at 1:00PM in the upstairs Jednota Hall, 5th & Grove, Catasawqua, PA. On the agenda: the branch Christmas party and discussions of the upcoming national convention in 2014.

On Sunday, December 15, 2013, the branch will hold its next meeting at 11:00AM in the upstairs Jednota Hall, 5th & Grove, Catasawqua, PA. On the agenda: election of branch officers and election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA in August 2014. The Christmas party will begin directly following the meeting at noon, with Santa arriving at 1:00PM for all children up to 10 years old. Reservations for the party are required by December 1, 2103, by calling 610-264-1740.

Fraternally,

Gregory Harakel, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 9:00AM at Denny's Restaurant, 653 Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given. The National Convention is to be held in Philadelphia, PA in 2014 and the election of delegates and alternates to the convention will be discussed. Election of officers for 2014 will be held at the Christmas brunch. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and brunch. Call for reservations, directions if needed, and for any address changes or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 169P – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael's Society, Branch 169P, will hold its annual meeting on December 9, 2013, at 1:00PM at the Slivosky residence, 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, PA. The agenda will consist of election of officers and electing delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Betty Slivosky, Secretary

BRANCH NUMBER 173 – GREATER WILKES-BARRE, W YOMING VALLEY AREA

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 8, 2013, 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 and delegates and alternate delegates from Branch 173 to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU to be held at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel on August 23-27, 2014.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-4032067, so ar-

rangements can be made.

Fraternally,

Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, November 23, 2013, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian Church. It will be held in the Formation Building, Ste. Florian Church Grounds, 4261 Rt. 981, P.O. Box 187, United, PA, 15689. On the agenda: election of officers, finalized Vilija arrangements. All Branch 181 members are welcome.

Gerry Kovecina, Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold its semi-annual meeting at 1:00PM on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at Jioio's Route 981, Latrobe, PA. A large turnout is encouraged.

Barbara Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

On December 5, 2013, following the 7:00 pm Officers meeting, there will be the "Election of Officers". Delegates also will be elected/appointed to the 50th Quadrennial General Convention of the FCSU at the December meeting. Meetings are held at Social Hall @ C. U. Club, 910-912 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226.

All beneficial members are encouraged to attend and vote. Hope to see you at the meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month except June and July.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Ben./Fin. Sec./Tres.

BRANCH 213 – VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2013. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA at 1:00PM. Election of officers will be held. All members are asked to attend. Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, FCSU Branch 228 will hold an election of delegates to the 50th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at our meeting to be held on December 16, 2013 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. The Convention will be held in Philadelphia, PA from August 23rd through the 27th, 2014 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel. Our preliminary estimate is for six (6) delegate seats at the Convention to represent our Branch and will also elect alternates to serve if a delegate is unable to attend the Convention. We hope to have all representatives and alternates decided upon at this meeting so the certification process can begin immediately after the meeting. Serving as a delegate at the convention is a truly special experience as you help to decide the direction of the FCSU for the next four (4) years. Please contact any of the branch officers if you are interested and, of course, come to the meeting. The Branch will also hold its annual election of officers and by-law review at the December meeting as well as electing two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

As a reminder, 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 scheduled unless needed, perhaps such as a Convention year. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. I appeal to our younger members to become active in our Branch to help direct us as well as becoming involved with the United Slovak Societies and the Slovak Club. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You are sure to find many items of interest.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8, 2013, at the Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, OH, at 1:00PM. At this meeting we will have election of officers and a discussion concerning our National Convention to be held in August of 2014. All members are invited to attend and take part in this fraternal activity.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 1:30PM at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant, 713 Bedford Rd Coitsville Township, OH 44436. On the agenda: election of branch officers and a discussion of the upcoming National Convention including delegates. A luncheon will be served directly after the meeting. For reservations or more information, call Paul Ritz at (330) 397-8337.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

There will be a meeting of St. John the Baptist, Branch 290, on December 4, 2013, at 6:30PM. There will be an election of officers for the new year. Please try to attend. Call Joe at (732) 469-5256 after 6PM for the location of the meeting.

Joseph Minarovich, President

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 12:30 p.m. the meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pa. The election of officers and the election of delegate to the national convention will take place at this time. There will be refreshments and a buffet after the meeting. All members are asked to attend.

The officers of Branch 292 will all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, FIC, President

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 293KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 9, 2013, at the home of the financial society Robert J. Lakata at 6PM. Election of officers will take place at this time.

Anyone needing more insurance or service should contact: Mr. Robert Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA, 18232, or leave a message at 1-570-645-4872 and your call will be returned.

Thank you.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend a Christmas meeting/luncheon on Saturday, November 30, 2013, at 1:00PM, at Rego's in Charleroi, PA. There will be no cost to members; however, there will be a \$10.00 charge for non-members. Please make your reservation by calling Fran at (724) 929-9788 before November 22, 2013, and let her know if you will be attending. On the agenda will be the election of officers; also, the upcoming convention will be discussed.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367, Fairchance, PA will hold its end of the year meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013, at 5 PM at Bogey's Restaurant at Duck Hollow, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, Pa. 15401. Election of officers will be held for 2014. Anyone wishing to attend please call Kathryn Baranek, secretary at 724-569-1006 or Audrey Balazik president at 724-438-3887.

We would also like to wish all our members a blessed and safe holiday season.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372 of Beaverdale, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 29, 2013, at 2:00PM at the home of President Michael P. Hudak Sr., 829 Cameron Ave., Beaverdale, PA. The agenda for the meeting will include a review of financial reports and election of officers for the calendar year 2014.

Respectfully,

Michael P. Hudak, Sr., President

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at Bob Evans of Uniontown, Route 40 W, Uniontown, PA.

The agenda will include the election of officers for the year 2014 and hold nomination and election of delegates to represent Branch 410 at the 50th General Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, from August 23rd through August 27th, 2014. All members are urged to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording/
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Stephen's the Martyr, Branch 419, will hold its meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2013, at 2PM at Norm's Restaurant, 275 N. Sherman St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18702. Election of officers will be held. Also on the agenda: election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, which will be held this coming August 2014 in Philadelphia, PA. Members who are interested should attend. Refreshments will be served.

Fraternally,

Marie Gryczko, President

BRANCH 450 -

St. Joseph Branch 450 will hold a meeting, Saturday, December 21, 2013 at 2pm at the home of Jozef Valencik at 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, OH 44142. Any members interested in becoming branch officers or delegates to the convention that will be held in August of 2014 in Philadelphia should plan to attend or contact Lori Valencik at 440-973-4457

Lori Valencik, Secretary.

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2013, beginning at 1:30PM. The meeting will be held at the home of President Rose Ann Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731.

On the agenda is the election of officers, financial reports and the election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention, August 23 – 27, 2014. Any member who wishes to be a delegate may contact President Rose Ann Rura, 724-479-8181 or Financial Secretary Joseph E. Rura, 724-479-2298, or attend the annual meeting.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, IL, will hold its Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and Election of Convention Delegates on Saturday, November 30, 2013. Location: Mabenka Restaurant, 7844 S. Cicero Avenue, Burbank, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. If you plan to attend, call the Financial Secretary at (773) 558-5956, or (502) 244-6643 by Wednesday, November 27. We need to give an accurate head count to the restaurant.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581 of Gary/Whiting will hold its regular luncheon-meeting at 1 pm, Sunday, December 8, at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN.

The agenda will be -- Election of Officers, upcoming convention and new activities.

RSVP Ann 219-947-2793 or George 219-926-2410.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSEKOGON, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 will hold election of its officers on December 15, 2013, at 2pm in Tatra Hall. Tatra Hall is located on Sixth St. and Sherman Blvd. Please show your support of your club and attend this important meeting.

The Holidays are almost upon us. This will be a great time to purchase your Tatra Hall membership cards for 2014. Breakfast is still on for December 22nd. Fuel up and then you can shop! The Hall is available for rent. Call for further information.

Thank you and stop in.

Laura Karafa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Friday, December 27, 2013 at 4:00 PM at the Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA (Phone: 412-241-9779).

The agenda will include the election of new officers for 2014 and a summary of events and issues during 2013.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 633 – FLINT, MICHIGAN

Branch 633 will hold its annual group outing on November 22, 2013 @ 7pm. District 5 President and Branch 633 Vice President Robert Kristofik will be leading the cheers as the branch attends the Friday night Detroit Pistons game against the Atlanta Hawks. We will meet in the main lobby of the Palace of Auburn Hills @ 6:30pm. Anyone in the branch interested in attending please call Rod Meloni @ 248-444-9141 as soon as possible so we can arrange to have everyone seated together.

Rod Meloni

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 15, 2013, at 11:00AM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville. On the agenda will be the election of officers; also, the upcoming convention will be discussed. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2013, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, New York City.

On the agenda will be a financial report, election of officers for 2014, and discussions of plans for the next season. Also on the agenda: the election of delegates to the 50th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Philadelphia, PA.

All members are urged to attend this meeting.

After the meeting, refreshments prepared by Jan Skrkon will be served, courtesy of Branch 716.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have a meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2013, at 2:00PM in the St. Cyril Parish Hall, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be held. All members are urged to attend.

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate Mass for our deceased members on December 15, 2013 at 11 am at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Following Mass, we will have our annual meeting at Saint Matthias Church meeting room. This meeting will include the election of Branch 731 officers for 2014. Also at this December 15, 2013 meeting we will elect delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention which will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 23-27, 2014.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON

The next regular branch meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Sunday, December 8, 2013, in the St. Patrick's Church hall, NW 19th and NW Savier Streets in Portland, Oregon. This is our annual meeting where there will be the election of officers for 2014. All Slovaks are welcome to join us in a party celebrating the Christmas season after the meeting.

Herbert L. Hirst, President

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 738 will be holding its semi-annual meeting Tuesday December 3rd at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. All members are encouraged to attend. Nomination and election of Branch officers will be held along with nominations for delegates to the National Convention in August 2014. Please come and join us and become a more active member of your branch.

Thank you.

Pat Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 1 2013, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer Report, a 2013 financial report, approval of the 2014 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.

In addition, the 50th Convention of the FCSU will be held in Philadelphia, PA from August 23rd through the 27th, 2014 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel. Election of delegates and alternates will take place at this meeting.

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 mass in the Church Social Hall.

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

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

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

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include election of officers for 2014, as well as discussion of next summer's convention. A holiday get-together will follow the meeting. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 769 – ENDICOTT, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its semi-annual meeting on December 16, 2013, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily at 28098 Smith Drive, Endwell, NY, at

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3- GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stredy Vecer on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Begin the evening with Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Our traditional festive Slovak Christmas Eve dinner will follow in the dining room. After the awarding of door prizes, the Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. Please plan to attend and help us preserve this beautiful custom. Tickets are: \$20 for adults; \$15 for ages 13 to 17; and \$10 for ages 3 to 12. Reserve your tickets prior to November 27 by calling Darlene at 724-537-7743 after 6 p.m. No reservations will be accepted by Darlene or by the Bishop Connare Center after November 27.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 2 will host the annual Fall/Winter meeting of the FCSU/Pittsburgh District on Sunday, December 15, 2013 at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. The business meeting will start promptly at 1 PM. You won't miss the game. The Steelers play Cincinnati & the kick-off is at 8:30 PM.

The meeting will include officers' reports, discussion of district business, and planning for meetings and events in 2014. District Officers for 2014 will be elected at this meeting. The 50th FCSU convention, to be held August 23-27, 2014 in Philadelphia, will also be discussed, and we will elect our District Delegate. The Call for Convention can be found at www.fcsu.com.

This year the District will host a Christmas Eve Vilija in conjunction with our meeting. The Vilija will start at 2 PM after the business meeting. This year the Vilija is open to the general public as well as to members. Jednota members will pay \$5.00 per person. Non-members will pay \$20.00 per person. RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST. RSVP to Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204 or by email to smosr@verizon.net. Get your reservations in by December 1.

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

** Another Slovak Vilija will be held Saturday, December 14 at Prince of Peace Parish in Pittsburgh PA. Call Paul for information at 412-481-8380.

** Yet another Slovak Vilija will be held Sunday, December 8 at Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg PA. Call Darlene for information at 724-537-7743.

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: December 2: Sue Stafura – Slovak Dolls & a Visit from St Nick, January 6: Rich Kocur – 1st Timer's Travelogue, February 3: Mike Yanchak – Egg Decorating, March 3: Jerry

Jumba – Slovak Music, April 7: John Righetti – Slovakia-Who, Why, Where, May 5: Rev Valerian Michlik – Greek Catholic Churches in Slovakia, June 2: Joe Bielicki – The Czechoslovak Room at Pitt.

** Slovak Language Classes will be held Tuesdays in the fall & spring. Call Joe Senko at 412-956-9000 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** The Senko's are planning a Babie Leto Tour of Slovakia for Fall, 2014. Highlights include rafting on the Dunajec, wine tasting, and an overnight stay at a spa. Contact Joe at jtsenko@aol.com for an itinerary when tour details are finalized.

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. The museum will be decorated for Christmas. Call Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations.

** The WPSCA is planning to establish a Slovak Lending Library. Contact Joe Senko for information.

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

Anyone with additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice should send information to manasta@verizon.net

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Sec, Pittsburgh District

DISTRICT 12 - MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville. The upcoming convention will be discussed and there will be an election of officers. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday December 15, 2013. The celebration begins at 12:00 AM with a Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706 followed by the tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children. A gourmet lunch with dessert also will be served.

The meeting will be held at 2:30 PM in the cafeteria. On the agenda will be: Election of officers for the coming year, financial report and election of delegate to the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA. All branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent Annual Meetings.

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

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2013, at 1:00PM in the Rectory of St. Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th, 1st Ave., New York, NY, 10065.

On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of activities, and election of District 16 officers for the year 2014. It also will be election of delegates for the 50th Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

We urge all district branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU – not just delegates – are welcome.

After the annual meeting, excellent refreshments will be served, prepared by Jan Skrkon, courtesy of Branch 716, the St. Stephen Society.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The annual meeting of the Monsignor Michael Shuba District is to be held on Sunday January 12, 2014 at 1:00pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church hall in Mississauga. The meeting is for elections of the district board and to elect delegates to send to the upcoming Convention in August 2014. Lunch will be served. Please call Mike Kapitan 416-621-1534 to RSVP your attendance.

Secretaries,

Helen Von Fridle and Anne Mitro t

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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1:00PM. The meeting will include an election of officers for the year 2014.

In addition, there will be information regarding the forthcoming National Convention to be held in Philadelphia, PA, from August 23 – August 27, 2014, at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel. The meeting will include a discussion of the value of membership in the First Catholic Slovak Union. The meeting also will provide information on annuities as investments.

Henry J. Pochily, President

BRANCH 780 - SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780 will hold their annual meeting on December 11, 2013. It will be at 7:00pm and at 2280 Taft Street, Saginaw, Michigan. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2014.

We hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

Catherine Karlsen, Secretary

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 1:00pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church hall in Mississauga, Ontario, in conjunction with the Annual Monsignor Michael Shuba District meeting. The meeting is for elections of the district officers and to elect delegates to send to the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in August 2014. Lunch will be served. Please call Milan Zoldak at 647-350-0604 to RSVP your attendance.

Anne Mitro, Secretary

BRANCH 844 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold its Christmas Mass on Sunday December 15, 2013 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. Mass will begin at 12:00 AM. Refreshments will be served after Mass in the cafeteria and St. Nicholas will bring Christmas presents to the children.

Following fraternal fellowship, Branch 844 members will hold annual meeting with the election of officers and a financial report. Election of a delegate to the Convention 2014 will be also on the agenda.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday December 1, 2013, at 1:00pm at Regos Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. All members attending will be treated to lunch. Non-branch members cost of the lunch will be \$16. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at 412-341-1577 with your name, phone number, and how many branch, and non-branch members will be attending.

Along with celebrating the birth of Our Lord, we will hold a meeting after lunch. Election will take place for the branch officers for 2014 as well as the election of delegates for the 2014 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Branch 853 extends to all, wishes for a safe, happy and Holy Christmas Season.

Monica Rodacy-Boone, President

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855, will hold an officers' and branch meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2013 at 2:00PM at the residence of Branch President Michael Kolesar.

The Agenda includes a discussion of the upcoming 2014 Convention and a newly elected officer orientation.

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 11, 2013. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2014 as well as the election of delegates to the 2014 FCSU convention in Philadelphia.

The officers of Branch 857 wish all members of the FCSU a safe, Blessed and Holy Christmas season.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary



Dec 14th Slovak Vilija at Prince of Peace Parish Center on Pittsburgh's South Side

As the first star rises in the evening sky on Saturday, December 14, 2013, parishioners, friends and guests will gather at the Prince of Peace Parish Center in Pittsburgh's South Side to commemorate the beloved traditions and customs of a traditional Christmas Eve dinner. This year marks the 20th annual celebration of the Slovak Vilija at Prince of Peace Parish. Also known as Stredy Vecer – Bountiful Evening – this traditional meatless meal is enjoyed by Slovaks around the world on Christmas Eve. Scrumptious authentic Slovak delicacies – baked fish, homemade pirohy, mushroom soup, bobalky, nut and poppy seed rolls and palačinky—will be prepared and served by members of the Parish Cultural Diversity Committee.

The Pittsburgh Slovaks – the Tri-State area's oldest performing Slovak ensemble – will present a unique collection of folk songs, dances and carols highlighting the customs of the Advent and Christmas seasons in the Slovak villages of our grandparents. The program will culminate with the well-loved "Jasličkare" – the re-telling of Christ's birth by poor shepherds.

Whether you commemorate your own stredy vecer, or share the priceless customs of other nationalities, you are invited to join the Prince of Peace Parish family on Saturday, December 14, 2013, for the 20th Annual Slovak Vilija. Admission is only \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. (Children under 3 are free.) Discounts are available for groups of 8 or more adults. To make reservations, please call the Prince of Peace Parish office at 412-481-8380. Seating is limited and early reservations are suggested.

Doors open at 4 p.m. Dinner will be served as the first star rises (approximately 5 p.m.). The Prince of Peace Parish Center is fully handicap-accessible and parking is available on site.

OBITUARIES

MARY ANN OLDHAM BRANCH 112 – MAHANOY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA



A loving wife, mother and grandmother, Mary Ann Oldham, 79, of Longview, PA, died Oct. 23, 2013, at the Hospice Care Center.

She was born July 31, 1934, in Mahanoy City, Pa., to Stephen and Helen (Miskar) Engle.

Mary Ann trained to become a registered nurse in Pottsville, PA. Her husband, Donald, served in the Navy. Mary Ann traveled the country with him, working as a nurse in Pennsylvania, Idaho, Hawaii, Florida and Washington. She retired in 1991.

Mary Ann is survived by her husband, Donald Oldham Sr., at home; four children, Donna Kranik (Claude) of Nairobi, Kenya, Donald Oldham Jr. (Ethann) of Eagle River, Alaska, Douglas Oldham (Dee) of Meridian, Idaho, and Diana Oldham of Anchorage; two grandchildren, Clayton and Claire Kranik; two sisters, Irene and Karen; and a brother, Steve.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Kathy.

Mary Ann was a member of Branch 112 of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU). She also served as a delegate to the FCSU Convention for her home branch several times. Arrangements were made by Cascade Northwest Funeral Chapel at Green Hills Memorial Gardens & Crematory.

ROBERT E. PECHARKA BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



Robert E. Pecharka, 59, of Canonsburg, North Strabane Township, PA, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, October 23, 2013, in his home.

He was born May 9, 1954, in Canonsburg, a son of the late George J. and Ruth J. Nestor Pecharka Sr.

Mr. Pecharka lived in the Canonsburg area his entire life and was Catholic.

He was a machinist for Hallmore Machine in Bethel Park.

Mr. Pecharka had been a member of the AGA, Slovak Club and Jednota and enjoyed fishing, hunting and gardening.

Surviving are two sons, Robert E. Pecharka Jr. and Thomas George Pecharka (Alyssa Schillo), both of Canonsburg two stepsons, Brian (Angel) Krenzela of Eighty Four and Michael Krenzela of McKees Rocks. Also surviving are six brothers, George J. (Janet) Pecharka Jr. of Meadow Lands, John Pecharka of Houston, David (Kathy) Pecharka of Robinson Township, Richard Pecharka of Canonsburg, Christopher (Tracy) Pecharka of Dana Point, Calif., and Joseph (Carolyn) Pecharka of San Juan Capistrano, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were welcomed from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, October 25, 2013, in Sallandra Funeral Service Inc., Canonsburg. Services were held at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the funeral home. Interment was private.

- Submitted by Margaret Graytok, Branch 380 Secretary

STANLEY GEORGE DANKO BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN



Stanley G. Danko, age 59, passed Sunday, October 27, 2013. Stanley lived his life as a single individual, never married, no children. Stan was kind hearted, loving and would share all he had with those he loved. His love was his "baby girl" (kitty) of 16 years – Lena, who was by his side in his final days as he wished. He is now in our heavenly home with our mother, Dolores who passed February 12, 2009. Stan is survived by his father, Thomas and his sisters and brothers, Denice (Mike) Hollingsworth, Tom (Michelle) Danko, Dennis (Darlene) Danko, Brian Danko, Georgette (Pat) Eagan, Karen (Doug) Rudd, Gerard Danko. Stan's nieces and nephews are: Debbie, Nicole, Kirsten, Michael, Nicholas, Christina, Nick, Tom, Joe, Megan. Great nieces and nephews are Kain, Landen, Bryce, Dominic, Nikolai, Anna, Caroline, Ethan and Alexander. A memorial visitation was Saturday, November 2, 2013, 9am, at St Blasé Church, Sterling Heights, MI, followed by a memorial Mass at 9:30am.

- Submitted by Denise Hollingsworth

EDWARD CHRENKO BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN



Edward A. Chrenko, age 88, of Swartz Creek, MI, died Friday, September 27, 2013, at Hyde Park Memory Care in Flushing. Funeral mass was celebrated 10 AM Monday, September 30, 2013 at St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Swartz Creek with Fr. Nate Sokol as celebrant. Interment followed at St. Mary Cemetery, Swartz Creek. Visitation was held 2-5 and 6-8 PM Sunday, September 29, 2013, at Sharp Funeral Homes, Swartz Creek, MI, where a rosary was prayed at 7 PM. Mr. Chrenko was born January 11, 1925 in Owosso, the son of Steve J. and Mary P. (Harcek) Chrenko. He was a graduate of Owosso High School and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He married Mary H. Libra on June 14, 1947 in Owosso. Mr. Chrenko was an active businessman in Swartz Creek. He and his wife owned and operated the Creek Theater and the Sports Center for many years. He was active in community serving on the Zoning Board for 27 years, was a member of the Czech Singers and Friendship Club and was a member of St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church. He loved polka music and was also active at the St. Mary's 50 and Up Group. Surviving are: wife, Mary H. Chrenko; eight children, Linda (Roger) Bloss of Swartz Creek, Dan (Alice) Chrenko of Northville, Diane Chrenko of Redford, Patricia (Terry) Matzke of Swartz Creek, Jim (Lori) Chrenko of Swartz Creek, William Chrenko of Swartz Creek, Sherry (Matt) Lupo of Essexville, Rob Chrenko of Clawson; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by: his parents; infant grandson, Christopher

Chrenko; brother, Joseph S. Chrenko; and daughter-in-law, Jayneen Chrenko.

- Submitted by Stephan J. Patoprsty, Branch 756 President

MARGARET D. GREGORICKA BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN



Margaret D. Gregoricka, age 82 of Owosso, MI, passed away Sunday, September 29, 2013 at Sparrow Health System.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held 10am Monday, October 7, 2013, at St. Paul Catholic Church, Owosso, MI, with Fr. Michael O'Brien officiating. Burial followed at St. Paul Cemetery. The family will receive friends at Nelson-House Funeral Home, Owosso, on Saturday from 6 to 8pm and Sunday from 2 to 8pm with a rosary prayed at 7pm.

Margaret was born June 20, 1931 in Lennon, the daughter of Frank and Dorothy (Misjak) Ocko.

She graduated from St. Michael's Church in Maple Grove and was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, Branch 756 of the

First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), and the Altar Society.

Margaret loved reading and tending to her garden and baking; especially kolache. Most of all she enjoyed spending time with her family and friends.

Margaret married Joseph M. Gregoricka at St. Robert's Church in Flushing on October 3, 1953; he predeceased her in 1997.

She was a homemaker along with helping her husband on the family farm.

Margaret is survived by her daughters Patricia Gregoricka, Elaine Gregoricka and Anne (Robert) Osmer; sons Michael (Karen) Gregoricka and David Gregoricka; grandchildren Theresa (Eric) Graf, Kathryn Osmer, Bethany Osmer, Allison Osmer, Holly Osmer, Joe Gregoricka, David Gregoricka, Mark Gregoricka, Elizabeth Gregoricka and Thomas Gregoricka; sister Pauline Chaprka; sisters-in-law Elle Gregoricka, Vicky Malik and Millie Duchi; many other loving family and friends.

She is predeceased by her husband Joseph, parents, brother and sister-in-law Paul (Joann) Ocko and brothers-in-law Joe Chaprka, Jerry (Liz) Gregory, Cy Gregoricka, John Duchi and Charles Malik.

- Submitted by Stephan J. Patoprsty, Branch 756 President

Cleveland, OH- area Slovak Activist George Terbrack Honored



On November 30, 2013, George Terbrack will be recognized by the American Nationalities Movement – an organization founded by a future mayor of Cleveland, OH, Ralph Perk, in 1959 – at their annual recognition program and dinner. This year, the event will be held at the German Cultural Center in Olmsted Falls, OH. With this recognition, George joins an elite group of people in the Greater Cleveland Slovak-American community who have been recognized for their significant contribution to our culture, heritage and freedom. George helps curate the FCSU Home Office Museum. We congratulate George as he prepares to receive this honor.

29th Christmas Concert & Dinner at Yonkers, NY Parish on Dec. 15

Continuing in a time-honored and beloved tradition spanning more than a quarter of a century, Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, NY, will host its 29th annual Christmas concert and dinner on Sunday, December 15.

The concert, titled "Lead me back to Bethlehem," will feature traditional and seasonal works. It is scheduled for 3 p.m. in the church located at 18 Trinity Plaza in the historic Hollow section of Yonkers. The concert will be under the direction of the Music Minister of the parish and our Branch 41 member, Stephen J. Knoblock. The voices of the choir, one of the finest in the Archdiocese of New York, will be accompanied by a 12-piece orchestra.

Following the concert, a buffet dinner will be served in the parish social hall. The dinner begins with the traditional sharing of the Oplatky - the Christmas wafers and honey. The evening's menu will feature an array of Slovak culinary specialties including klobasy and kapusta, pirohy, halusky as well as roast pork and roast beef followed by an assortment of pastries for dessert. Beer, wine and soda will be included in the ticket price. The cost of the ticket which includes the concert and dinner is \$35.00 for adults and \$17.50 for children, ages 12 and under. Cost of the concert alone is \$10.00. Deadline for dinner reservations is Monday, December 9. Dinner tickets cost \$40.00 after the deadline date. For dinner reservations call the rectory at tel. (914) 963-0720. Tickets are also available following the weekend liturgies in church.

Father George Oonnoony, pastor of the parish and chaplain of Branch 41, K.J., extends a cordial invitation to area Jednota members to join the parish for this annual celebration of Christ's birth with traditional fellowship and merriment.

- Submitted by Daniel F. Tanzone

What our ancestors did to earn their daily bread

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shaped into a small football shape with raised stars around the middle.

A traditional axe/cane, valaska, was used for walking, to cut down bushes and tree branches and to hold the sheep's leg back when milking. This decorated axe was also used in dancing around bonfires in the evenings and sometimes even to fight off wolves or bears.

To pass the time, shepherds carved cheese molds and decorative wooden cups called crpaky. These are works of art and the designs vary from region to region. Originally pale when carved of wood from the Lipa or linden tree, they darkened to a fine amber glow as they hung over the fire.

At a salas I visited in remote Hrochot, men were doing the milking but a kerchiefed grandma stood by to help with shearing, no small task. In a western Slovak village an ancient woman reminisced about her youth when all the young people went up to the mountain meadows to pasture and guard the sheep and spent the summer there among the flocks, singing and dancing in the evenings. With a little smile she remembered it as a golden time. She went on to tell me that the villagers sang when they went to church and when they worked in the fields. "We sang everywhere," she said. The whole genre of Slovak shepherd's songs and calls in the fields is haunting. I sent a photo of that dear lady to the family that Christmas; they wrote back to inform me that grandma had gone to heaven and my picture of her was inset onto her gravestone.

Before cars, horses were vital for transport over distances, to plow fields and to work the steep mountain meadows. Some of our ancestors worked for noble families caring for the horses.

Cowherds were important, cows gave milk which could be made into butter. Up to the present horned cows can be seen in remote areas pulling wagons or small plows. Young children were pressed into service to watch geese, ducks and chickens. Doves and rabbits were also raised for a food source. Goats were prized for their milk and served as the ultimate lawn mower.

Millers had great status in a village, like the mayor and often the miller was the mayor. Flour meal and grains had to be processed for the villagers' daily bread. Distilleries existed for making beloved palenka.

There were priests and pastors; teachers and soldiers and police. Glass works were scattered around Slovakia and employed locals.

Hatters provided necessary headgear for shepherds, farmers and miners. Some hats featured a very wide deep brim so the wearer could collect rainwater and get a refreshing drink.

Research revealed knitters guilds in eastern Slovakia; the oldest one in Bratislava dated back to 1651 – who knew?

With Slovakia's wealth of forests, forestry and logging were major occupations. Raft drivers took logs piled on wooden rafts up the Dunajec to the Vistula to the Baltic Sea or from Lednicke Rovne in western Slovakia down to the Danube.

In some mountain villages lace making was an occupation for everyone. In Spania Dolina where lace is made to this day, I was told that men, women and children made lace; "if you didn't make lace, you didn't eat!", they said.

Women were embroiderers and in many villages they embellished folk dress and christening pillows with elaborate bead work, and made headdresses, wreaths and decorations for men's hats for weddings and celebrations. Women were matchmakers and mid-wives and bakers of the goodies for weddings and christenings. Many wooden cottages had looms in the main room where women spun and wove and made rugs from bits and pieces. Once in Jablonica I was taken to meet a vypis, a woman who drew the designs for fellow villagers to embroider.

And then there were the "wise women", those who knew all the healing herbs and how to use them.

When things got broken itinerant male tinkers repaired them with metal wire. Slovak tinkers or drotari were known throughout Europe. They hailed from Liptov, Orava and the Kysuce region. Tinkers traveled from village to village (some took their sons along to learn the trade). They had wooden cases on their backs with all their equipment plus materials from wire to a small anvil. Tinkers traveled as far as Transylvania, Vovodina and Bessarabia. A few helped establish workshops in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia where brass, aluminum or copper wire objects were made under their skilled direction.

Slovak housewives kept damaged pots and jugs for the arrival of the drotar. After they paid for his services, a meal or liquid refreshment was offered. Often tinkers made whistles or small toys for the children of the house.

Wandering glaziers went through towns and villages with akrosna (a wooden case) on their backs filled with glass panes and tools to provide their services.

Slovakia was famed throughout Europe for its linen, more famous than Ireland! Women tended the flax and did the time-intensive rotting, retting, combing, bleaching, etc. and then itinerant peddlers traveled the continent selling the fine linen. The center of this was Bobrov in Orava.

Peddlers from Liptov traveled to Ukraine and Russia selling herbs and salves and oils. A Slovak town was established in Ukraine near the Russian border and became a center for this trade.

Once a year men dressed in black from head to toe appeared, the chimney sweeps. They carried the sign of their trade, long wire brushes over their shoulders. Touching a chimney sweep was believed to bring good luck.

For our ancestors, textiles were not something bought at the store. Flax and hemp had to be planted, harvested, rotted, retted, combed, spun and then woven. Here is a village spinner showing how it was done.



Shepherding was hard work guarding the precious sheep in the mountain meadows, milking them twice a day, making cheese, while sometimes fighting off bears and wolves.



Villagers in times past needed to store grain and foods, so they visited a basket maker, or someone who made ceramic jugs or wooden barrels.



Men worked with skins - making and repairing shoes, boots, leather krpce and slippers. Smiths needed leather aprons. Peasants and nobles alike wore sheepskin coats. Felting was an important skill to make the dense and warm felted men's coats, pants and hats and jackets for women.

Batik or blueprint fabric was greatly loved and makers had pattern books and hundreds of wooden carved forms with metal inserts. People brought their linen in to be printed and dyed with indigo in a craft from hundreds of years ago that lives on to this day. Slovak blueprint makers had a secret, they knew how to imprint different designs on either side of the cloth. To my knowledge this secret has never been revealed.

Woodworking was an invaluable skill – to make the log homes which were the norm 100 years ago; to build churches and schools, make furniture and fences, carve utensils and create tools. To this day many villagers use hand-made wooden rakes, just like the ones used a century ago.

A few villages men made sponky, pins worn by shepherds, echoing male decoration of centuries ago. Some work was a second job or konicek (literally little hobby horse) such as making musical instruments from violins to flutes to fujaras or bee keeping.

Every village had a bell ringer and the custom was when a storm was approaching the bell ringer climbed the belfry to ring the bells and warn villagers. A sad story involved a young boy who went up to ring the bells, was struck by lightning and perished; it was a legend in John Hudock's family. I won't forget the day John, his wife and I scoured the cemetery in a tiny Saris village to no avail; but then we asked a babicka and she replied "oh yes, he is buried in a special place" and led us there to find a beautiful monument and the young man's memory living on.

Since horses were the main form of transport - saddles, belts, collars and whips were needed as well as various horse harnesses. Blacksmiths were busy shoeing horses and creating staples, nails, drill bits, heavy door hinges, hoes and sickles. White smiths or tinsmiths were in demand.

Cloth production was vital – from making canvas and rope to textiles and blankets and dyes became important. In villages and in towns there was a need for tailors to sew and repair clothes and kozuchnik to make the sheep skin coats and vests and fur trimmed items.

Butchers flourished offering beef, pork, horse, sheep, rabbit and various kinds of poultry but were especially known for salami, sausages and ham.

Trades of masonry, carpentry, roofing and millwork arose. Later crafts were related to making clothing, furniture, footwear. Furriers, tanners, coopers, shoemakers, glaziers - craftsmen thrived.

Those working the land and housewives in the kitchen needed storage for grains, flour and cabbage - so pottery, wooden and metal containers were required. Both men and women engaged in basket making, Lackova in Spis was famed for its baskets.

Pubs appeared and cooks, bakers and brewers busily provided food and drink. In earlier times bakers were in great demand from white bakers making bread and rolls to "black bakers" making gingerbread or honeycakes. Locksmiths fashioned intricate large locks made entirely of wood. Boot makers, goldsmiths and dowsers flourished.

Slovakia is known for its superb wines. The Small Carpathian region features a wine road, the Nitra region excels in wine-making and eastern Slovakia is known for its famed Tokaj wines which were stored in tufa caves. I am so intrigued by homes in Zemplin and so many other regions of Slovakia where grape vines are trellised in front of homes or grow on high wooden frames for the family's home-made wine.

Some crafts have almost disappeared due to the development of industry and technology – tinkering, comb making, soap, candle and oil production. Other got reinvented - wire art to make jewelry and decorate eggs.

Slovak crafts and trades inspired artists, painters, writers, poets, playwrights, etc., for example Drotár The Tinker, a drama by Ján Palárik and a poem Malý drotár – Little Tinker – by Svätozár Hurban Vajanský as well as numerous folk songs.

Learning about our ancestor's daily toil sheds light on their lives. Although they worked hard they found time to celebrate with traditions for special feast days, saint's days and life events. As they decorated their tools, clothing and homes and churches, they embellished their lives with joyful celebrations.

This article was previously published in Nase Rodina and reprinted here with the permission of the author.

Branch 6's Logan Chismar Showcases Meaning of Teamwork

Logan Chismar, a member of Branch 6, the St. Stephen's Society, in Streator, IL, was recognized recently in the local paper for his show of support during a recent cross country race. While nearing the finish line in the Streator Township High School Cross Country event, Logan and another runner helped a fallen team mate complete the race. One young man who has a rare neurological condition since birth, was stricken by a seizure and unable to complete the competition on his own. Logan was among the running friends who stopped to assist.

For details on the article by Steve Stout in The Times go to: <http://tinyurl.com/ktseqhu>

BRANCH 764 Enjoys Fraternal Event, Luncheon & Meeting

A one woman re-enactment of the life of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (our parish name sake) by Carol Starre-Kmiecik on November 3 was very well attended by members and guests of Branch 764, Warren, OH. A lively question and answer period followed the re-enactment.

The presentation was followed by a light lunch in the church hall. Chicken and ham croissant sandwiches with condiment trays, chips, homemade desserts and beverages were served to 100 guests. Beautiful fruit trays were donated by Mary Jane Veri.

Immediately following the lunch we discussed future events and the election of officers.

Officers for 2014 are as follows:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Presiden | Bill Hrusovsky |
| Vice President | Fred Brunetti |
| Treasurer: | George Yuricek |
| Secretary | Joy Brunetti |
| Auditor | Rosemary Heald |

- Submitted by Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary



NEW

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 newly published 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).

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Seasonal Items for Sale by the Slovak Institute

Dear Friends!

The Slovak Institute has the following books available:

Just some books in ENGLISH about Slovaks

- Let's Learn Slovak** (Limited supply) \$ 5.00
By Philip A. Hrobak - 4th edition 1990
- Slovak Songs and Dances** \$ 7.00
Michael Sinchak, Original edition 1942
- Slovaks in Florida** \$10.00
As researched and written by Andrew F. Hudak, Jr.
- Humble Beginnings** \$15.00
Slovak upbringing in Grassflat, PA, by Anne Lucas Ryba
- Remembrances and Testimony** \$18.00
Dr. Jozef Tiso and the Slovak Republic 1939 - 1945
By Dr. Charles (Karo) Murin, Secretary for Tiso
- Cleveland Slovaks** \$22.00
by John T. Sabol & Lisa Alzo, described vintage photos
- History of the Slovaks in Cleveland & Lakewood** \$24.00
Jan Pankuch's forty years in America
translation of his 1929 book.
- The Night of the Barbarians** \$28.00
Experiences under Communism, written by Cardinal
Jan Chryzostom Korec, S.J.
- Cleveland's Buckeye Neighborhood** \$22.00
Collection of early ethnic photos with captions,
by John T. Sabol

Seasonal Items

- Large Map of Slovakia (black & white) \$10.00
- SLOVAK Christmas Cards (10/pkg) \$10.00
- SLOVAK Christmas Cards (10/pkg) TO CANADA \$12.00 U.S.
- ENGLISH Christmas Cards (10/pkg) \$10.00
- ENGLISH Christmas Cards (10/pkg) TO CANADA \$12.00 U.S.
- Christmas Oplátky (1 env of 3 pcs) \$1.00
- SLOVAK Easter Cards (10/pkg) \$10.00
- SLOVAK Easter Cards (10/pkg) TO CANADA \$12.00 U.S.
- ENGLISH Easter Cards (10/pkg) \$10.00
- ENGLISH Easter Cards (10/pkg) TO CANADA \$12.00 U.S.
- Flag of Slovak Republic - Small (4"x5.5") \$4.00
- Flag of Slovak Republic - Large (3'x5') \$20.00



SLOVAK INSTITUTE
Reference Library
10510 Buckeye Road
Cleveland, OH 44104
www.slovakinstitute.com
(216) 721-5300 ext. 294



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STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Payment Enclosed: \$ _____
Shipping & Handling: + \$4.00
TOTAL: \$ _____

We thank you for your support of the Slovak Institute.

Andrew F. Hudak
Andrew F. Hudak
Director

Joseph J. Hornack
Joseph J. Hornack
Assistant Director

slovakinstitute@cbhs.net

PRIATELIA!

Odporúčame knihy v Slovenčine.

- Sv. Andrej-Svorad** \$ 7.00
In 1952 by Fr. Mikuláš Šprinc
- Slovenské Reholec v Amerike** \$10.00
In 1955 by Dr. František Hrušovský
- V Krážoch Dediny** \$10.00
In 1968 by Jozef A. Mikuš
- Slovenská Republika (SR) 1939-1949** \$20.00
Written by Slovak Institute Member Writers, 1949
- Driftwood Poems** by Mikulas Sprinc \$12.00
Translated to English from Slovak
- Various Slovakia Landspaces** \$15.00
Large used picture books of Slovensko,
or regions or cities of high interest.
By your choice?



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

A great source for the
latest information
about our
Society - and events
in the greater Slovak
community.



The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PÁS) and their director Angela M. Lipchick pose with Ivan Gašparovič, President of Slovakia (center), at the New Jersey Slovak Festival.

Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour

GET READY, GET SET, LET'S GO TO SLOVAKIA!
July 7 - 21, 2014



The time is **NOW** to get ready to go to Slovakia with the Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage tour set for July 7 - 21, 2014. Once again the tour will be hosted by Jim and Kay Bench of Derry, PA.

Start talking with your grandparents or older members of your family to get information on your ancestral home in Slovakia. You will have a wonderful feeling walking the streets of the village of your ancestors.

Enjoy rafting on the Dunajec, visit Litmanova where there were sightings of the Blessed Mother in the 1990's, visit Nitra and the oldest church in Slovakia, the fairy tale castle Bojnice, enjoy museums, kolibas, traditional Slovak food, folk groups and attend the Kezmarek fair and watch craftsmen make their wares. These are just a few of the highlights of the tour.

Contact Jim and Kay Bench at jmbench@yahoo.com or phone 724-858-5843 or 724-771-7900 for further information. Paul Hudak at Adventure International Travel will be making travel arrangements. He can be reached at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174.

Also unique to our tour is an informative luncheon meeting with the tour participants regarding tips on currency, dos and don'ts, luggage preparations, clothing and other related tour items.

We fly out of Washington Dulles Airport to Vienna. A Mercedes Benz air-conditioned bus with a rest room awaits us there. Watch for the highlights of our very successful 2013 tour. Hope you will join us.

Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour Itinerary is now available - including prices and how to register. Go to fcsu.com and click on the Slovakia and the World tab to download the information.

SS Cyril & Methodius Church Hosts Slovak Vilija in Fairchance, PA

Ss. Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Christian Mothers will host a Slovak Vilija on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 p.m.

The Vilija, which literally "vigil" in Slovak, is the Christmas Eve Holy Supper and will include a meatless 12-item meal to commemorate Christ's birth. Each of the 12 items represents the 12 apostles.

The evening will also include entertainment by The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PÁS) who are one of the premier ethnic performing groups in Pittsburgh for more than 40 years. They recreate the splendor of Slovakia through traditional folk music, song and dance. They will also be selling Slovak items.

Admission is \$20.00 per person and children \$7.00 for 14 and under.

Checks payable to "Ss. Cyril and Methodius Christian Mothers" and mailed to:

Jean Thompson, 24 E. Church St., Fairchance, PA 15436, her phone 724-564-2641

United Slovak Societies Annual Vilija Dinner in Lorain, OH



The United Slovak Societies will host the Annual Vilija Dinner on Saturday December 7th at 5:30PM, at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain. Advanced ticket sales only, \$20.00 pp, contact Len at 440/988-3236.

Michele Mager, Branch 228, and Secretary - United Slovak Societies

Oktoberfest v New York City zaznamenal ďalší úspech

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Hostí októbrovej zábavy pozdravil aj mimoriadny a splnomocnený veľvyslanec SR v USA, Peter Kmec. Podávali sa nemecké, slovenské a české špeciality bufetovým spôsobom. O ich prípravu sa postaral známy kuchár Janko Škrkoň za pomoci dvoch nemeckých kuchárov a členov spolku patriacich do Okresu č. 16 IKSJ. V kuchyni vypomáhali hlavne Mária Božeková, Veronika Packová, Mária Gaborčíková, Mária Výrostková a ďalší. K občertveniu pre prítomných sa ponúkali čapované nemecké a české pivo, pričom pamiatkový pohár na pivo obdržali všetci dospelí účastníci podujatia. Do tancu a na počúvanie hrala známa hudobná skupina „Express“ a nemecký hudobník pán Hans Schneider.

O zdarný priebeh celého podujatia sa zaslúžili manželka Biliková, Daitová, Korčáková, Lysáková a Milan Brežný, ako aj ďalší členovia zúčastnených spolkov.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka Okresu, Msgr. Štefana Krasul'u



Nemecký hudobník Hans Schneider.



Veľvyslanec SR v USA, Peter Kmec počas prejavu.



Účastníkov zábavy privítal Ján Škrkoň.



Rodina Milana Daita v prostredku Henrieta H. Daitová so synmi Petrom a Pavlom a ich manželkami a deťmi.



Milan Brežný na zábave oslávil svoje narodeniny zľava: Eva Lysáková, oslávenec, Henrieta H. Daitová, Ján Škrkoň, Milka Hlinková.



Členovia výboru pre prípravu Októbrovej zábavy zľava: Ján Lysák, Eva Lysáková, Anna Korčák, Jozef Korčák, Henrieta H. Daitová, Ján Škrkoň so sestrou, Joan Škrkoň a Milan Dait.



Tancujúce páry: Peter a Ingrid Vida; Láďa a Hanka Habina.

Do Soči na ZOH14 pôjde 56-61 slovenských športovcov

Slovenská výprava na zimných olympijských hrách v Soči by mala mať približne 56-61 športovcov. Po zasadnutí štábu to prezradili vrcholní predstavitelia Slovenského olympijského výboru (SOV), ktorí zároveň vyjadrili túžbu, že by reprezentanti mohli v ruskom stredisku získať o jednu až dve medaily viac ako na predchádzajúcich hrách vo Vancouveri.

Vedenie SOV taktiež informovalo o troch septembrových inšpekčných cestách do dejiska budúročných hier a s prípravami organizátorov vyjadrilo spokojnosť: „Zatiaľ sa môžeme pohybovať len v modelových číslach. V súčasnosti má potvrdený počet športovcov biatlon, kde máme päť mužov a päť žien. Ďalej má kvótaplac krasokorčuľovanie a samozrejme hokejisti. Ostatné individuálne športy majú možnosť splniť kvalifikačné kritériá až do uzávierky takzvaného „shortlistu“, sánkari napríklad do 31. decembra. Čiže sme si namodelovali veľkosť výpravy na asi 61 športovcov. Od toho sa odvíja aj počet členov realizačného tímu, kde by to malo byť približne 59 členov. Budeme mať menšiu výpravu ako vo Vancouveri,“ uviedol na tlačovej konferencii športový riaditeľ SOV Roman Buček s tým, že do Soči by malo ísť minimálne 56 športovcov.

Otázkou je však ich príprava, keďže viaceré zväzy sa sťažujú na nedostatok financií. „Žiaľ, každému zväzu ešte chýbajú na kvalitné zabezpečenie prípravy finančné prostriedky. Dofinancovanie prípravy je v súčasnosti náš najväčší problém. Keďže projekt olympijského top tímu sa momentálne nerealizuje, SOV nie je oprávnený požadovať štátne dotácie na prípravu športovcov, len na zabezpečenie účasti na ZOH. Veríme však, že sa podarí vybrať do konca roka aspoň poskytnutie dotácie na prípravu pre tých športovcov, ktorí už splnili či ešte splnia kvalifikačné kritériá do Soči,“ uviedla vedúca slovenskej výpravy na ZOH 2014 Janka Gantnerová.

Slovenská delegácia absolvovala v septembri celkovo tri inšpekčné cesty do Soči. Posledná sa uskutočnila 30. septembra pod vedením Gantnerovej za účasti šéfkára výpravy Branislava Deleja, reprezentačného trénera sánkarov Lubomíra Micka a člena realizačného tímu reprezentácie biatlonistov Pavla Kobelu. Už predtým navštívili dejisko XXII. zimných hier zástupcovia hokeja, či zjazdového lyžovania. Slovenská delegácia navštívila všetky tri olympijské dediny, v ktorých budú slovenskí športovci. Veľmi pekné ubytovanie, aj s relaxačnou zónou, budú mať vo vytrvalostnej dedine, odkiaľ je to tiež veľmi blízko na športoviská. V horskej dedine to však bude veľmi zložité, pretože ubytovacie priestory sú tam stiesnené. Síce tam nie sú veľké spoločenské priestory, ale súkromie športovcov bude zabezpečené.

TASR

Poľsko sa so Slovenskom budú oficiálne uchádzať o ZOH 2022

Poľsko sa bude spolu so Slovenskom oficiálne uchádzať o usporiadanie zimných olympijských i paralympijských hier v roku 2022 s centrom v Krakove. Zástupcovia oboch krajín 7. novembra podpisali vo Varšave dokumenty potrebné k podaniu prihlášky, informoval portál przegladSPORTOWY.PL.

Za slovenskú stranu sa oficiálne aktu zúčastnil prezident Slovenského olympijského výboru (SOV) František Chmelár, za poľskú jeho náprotivok Andrzej Krašnicki i ministerka športu a turizmu Joanna Muchová. „V mene Poľského olympijského výboru mám tu česť oficiálne predstaviť mesto Krakov ako uchádzača o úlohu hostiteľa XXIV. zimných olympijských hier a XIII. zimných paralympijských hier v roku 2022,“ píše sa v úvode oficiálneho kandidačného listu adresovaného prezidentovi MOV Thomasovi Bachovi.

„Keď nám mesto Krakov dalo návrh na spoločné usporiadanie olympijských hier v roku 2022, veľmi nás to potešilo. Našu spoluprácu na organizácii hier plne podporuje športové hnutie na Slovensku, rovnako ako naša vláda. Domnievam sa tiež, že táto myšlienka sa stretne s pozitívnym ohlasom aj u obyvateľov regiónu, kde sa súťaže uskutočnia. Urobíme všetko pre to, aby sme podporili úsilie Krakova v snahe usporiadať toto podujatie,“ cituje poľská verzia stránky Eurosport slová Františka Chmelára zo stretnutia vo Varšave.

Poľsko-slovenský projekt počíta s tým, že na Slovensku sa budú konať súťaže v alpskom lyžovaní s centrom v Jasnej. Hokejový turnaj privítajú Katovice, Osvienčim i Krakov. V centre ZOH Krakove bude aj otvárací a záverečný ceremoniál i všetky korčuľarske disciplíny, pre ktoré má vo štvrti Czyżyny vyrásť najväčšia krytá hala v Poľsku. V Zakopanem sa uskutočnia súťaže v severskom lyžovaní, biatlone a snobordingu. V Myšlenicach, na ceste medzi Krakovom a Zakopaným, má vyrásť sánkarská a bobová dráha s predpokladanými výdavkami 24 až 48 miliónov eur. „Nebudú to iba hry krakovské,“ zdôraznil starosta Krakova Jacek Majchrowski. „Budú to hry, ktoré sa uskutočnia v Malopolsku a na Slovensku. Kedysi sa o organizáciu ZOH snažili Zakopané i Poprad. Nepodarilo sa a tak sme teraz sily spojili.“

O usporiadanie ZOH 2022 už oficiálne prejavili záujem aj Peking, ukrajinský Lvov, kazašské Almaty a Oslo. V hre je aj Mníchov, kde o prípadnej kandidatúre rozhodne ešte referendum. Uchádzači musia poslať oficiálnu prihlášku Medzinárodnému olympijskému výboru do 14. novembra a MOV oznámi meno víťaza v júli 2015.

TASR

Historické hotely Slovenska už majú 14 členov

Asociácia historických hotelov Slovenska (HHS) má ďalších dvoch nových členov. Stali sa nimi Grandhotel Starý Smokovec a Grandhotel Praha v Tatranskej Lomnici. Rozšírili tak počet hotelov v Asociácii na 14.

Len nedávno HHS, ktorá združuje hotely v zámkoch, kaštieľoch a historických budovách prijala nezvykle naraz dvoch nových členov. Po mesiaci sa tak stalo opäť, čo svedčí o rastúcom záujme o členstvo v HHS. Grandhotel Starý Smokovec a Grandhotel Praha v Tatranskej Lomnici s vyše 100-ročnou históriou, sa preslávili unikátnou secesnou architektúrou, noblesnou atmosférou, top kvalitou služieb i nespočítaným množstvom významných hostí. V priebehu 100-ročnej histórie oboch hotelov tu boli ubytované osobnosti ako prezident T.G. Masaryk, Kráľovná Alžbeta, Béla Bartók, Karel Čapek, Nancy Sinatra či Fidel Castro. „Sme radi, že sa medzi našich členov zaradili dve legendy slovenského hotelierstva,“ povedal prezident Asociácie historických hotelov Slovenska Ján Svoboda. „Je to pozitívny moment z hľadiska rozšírenia HHS a takisto neklamným znakom prudko stúpajúceho významu Asociácie a záujmu o členstvo,“ dodal Svoboda.

Asociácia HHS bola založená v septembri 2009, štrnástimi členmi sú Chateau Béla (Belá), Hotel Bankov (Košice), Kaštieľ Péchy - Lovecký Dom a Park (Hermanovce), Kaštieľ Villa Nečas (Žilina), Hotel Sebastián (Modra), Hotel Amade Chateau (Vrakúň), Hotel Hviezdoslav (Kežmarok), Castel Pension & Restaurant (Mierovo), Hotel Elizabeth (Trenčín), Hotel Sandor Pavillion (Piešťany), Hotel Dituria (Nitra), Hotel Mikulášska Chata (Jasná), Grandhotel (Starý Smokovec), Grandhotel Praha (Tatranská Lomnica). Asociácia je členom prestížnej Európskej asociácie Historic Hotels of Europe.

TASR

Grandhotel Starý Smokovec



Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Výročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že výročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 24. novembra 2013 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, NYC po slovenskej svätej omši, ktorá sa začína o 11:00 dopoludnia.

Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Na programe bude podanie finančnej správy, budú prevedené voľby úradníkov na rok 2014 a príprava činnosti na budúce obdobie. Tiež bude prevedená voľba delegátov na 50. Konvenciu 2014 IKSJ vo Philadelphii, PA.

Po skončení výročnej členskej schôdzy bude sa podávať bohaté občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ. Variť bude Janko Škrkoň.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ, NYC

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 1. decembra 2013 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční Výročná členská schôdza vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66th Street v New York City.

V programe schôdzy je podanie finančnej správy, voľby úradníkov na rok 2014 a diskusia o návrhoch na ďalšiu činnosť. Tiež budú prevedené voľby delegátov na 50. Konvenciu 2014 IKSJ vo Philadelphii, PA. Vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa tejto dôležitej schôdzy zúčastnili. Po schôdzy sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripraví Ján Škrkoň. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Ročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 1. decembra 2013 o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe sú správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie. Za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje činnosť na ďalšie obdobie. Okrem toho budú zvolení delegáti na 50. Konvenciu 2014 IKSJ vo Philadelphii. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzy.

Ďakujem a s pozdravom

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Vianočné podujatia pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City si vás dovoľuje srdečne pozvať na:

Mikulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou, ktorá bude v nedeľu dňa 8. decembra 2013 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia. Vstupné je voľné, občerstvenie bude zabezpečené.

Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 15. decembra 2013 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia. Vstupné je 20.00 dolárov, v čom je započítaná Štedrá večera.

Bližšie informácie podajú: Farský úrad Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, otec Štefan Chanas tel. číslo: (212) 734-4613; Henrieta H. Daitová: (201) 641-8922; Mária Božeková: (347) 612-1934.

Henrieta H. Daitová
kultúrna referentka Farskej rady

Jankolova knižnica ponúka vianočné oplátky

Jankolova knižnica v Danville, PA ponúka vianočné oplátky, ktoré sú na predaj od 21. októbra do 18. decembra. Cena je \$4:00 za balík (päť oplátok) plus poštovné (\$5.75 je minimum, za väčšie objednávky je poštovné vyššie). Objednávky so šekom vystaveným na Jankola Library odošlite na adresu: Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698. **Bližšie informácie a objednávky: Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M., tel. č. (570) 275-5606.**

Americko-slovenský zemplínsky klub oslávil 72. výročie

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

vyzdvihol prácu Juraja Čarného a spolu s podpredsedkyňou, Mary Chura mu odovzdali záslužnú plaketu uznania.

Hudba Janka Pastírka „Johnny Pastirik Combo“ Johnny, Lenny, Kenny a Paul vyhrávali do reského tanca i na počúvanie. Nechýbalo ani dobre chladené občerstvenie. Mnohí si zahasili smäd dobrým slovenským pivom. Naše výborné slovenské sladkosti chutili všetkým.

Zemplín sa rozprestiera v Najvýchodnejšej časti Slovenska. Má tisícročnú tradíciu, bohatú minulosť, ale aj trpké časy. Dnes Zemplín sa pýši vodnými športami, turistikou, prvotriednymi folklórnymi a speváckymi súbormi: *Zemplin, Vranovčan, Trebišovský furmane, Parchovianka* a iné. V minulých storočiach veľké množstvo Východniarov emigrovalo do zahraničia. Veľa sa usadilo v clevelandskom okolí. Zakladali spolky pre kultúrne povznesenie jednotlivcov a tiež rodiny. Dňa 12. novembra 1941, početná skupina Zemplínčanov sa zišla v Clevelande a založila Americko-Slovenský Zemplínsky Spoločenský Klub. Clevelandskí Slováci veľmi dobre podporili spoluprácu terajšieho výboru a už teraz sa tešia na budúci rok, kedy oslávim 73. výročie klubu. Prípravný výbor srdečne ďakuje všetkým, ktorí sa tejto slávnosti zúčastnili.

Milan Kobulský, pokladník klubu,
člen Spolku č. 450 IKSJ

Príhovor Milana Kobulského pri odovzdaní plakety

Vážení prítomní, milí hostia,

V mene výboru Americko-Zemplínskeho Klubu a v mene svojom dovoľujem si Vám predstaviť, osobne pozdraviť a uctiť vzorného Zemplínčana, hlboko veriaceho, rodinne založeného človeka a pýcha nášho klubu, predsedu Juraja Čarného.

Dnes pri príležitosti 72. výročia založenia klubu, ho vyhlasujeme za Zemplínčana Roka 2013. Je mi ctou mu odovzdať pamätnú plaketu za jeho svedomitú, dlhú, rokmi obetavú prácu v tomto klube.

Juraj Čarný sa narodil v Nižnom Žipove pri Trebišove. Pochádza z rýdzeho zemplínskeho rodu, z ktorého si doniesol veľký kus so sebou do Ameriky. Tu dokázal svojprávnym spôsobom preniesť kus svojho srdca a medzi nami uplatniť všetko to, čo ho spája so Zemplinom. Pod jeho vedením za 17. rokov vo funkcii predsedu a vďaka jeho oddanej práci, klub načerpal nových síl a za sťažných podmienok, naďalej vzrastá a prosperuje.

Juraj Čarný je členom aj mnohých iných organizácií. Medzi ne patria Spolok číslo 450 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, kde pôsobí ako predseda. Slovenský Katolícky Sokol, Slovenský Dramatický Klub, kde je podpredsedom. Ako člen podporuje aj Slovenský rádiový klub, Lakewoodský Slovenský spoločenský klub a tiež je členom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike.

Patričná vďaka patrí jeho manželke, rodáčke zo Zemplína, pani Hanke Čarnej, ktorá ho ustavične podporuje a pomáha mu dosiahnuť jeho úspechy. Samozrejme musíme spomenúť a poďakovať za prácu a pomoc ich trom synom: George P. Rick a Michael, ktorých od malička vychovávali a viedli v láske k rodnému kraju a všetkému čím sa Zemplín môže vyjadriť.

Vyšiel slovenský preklad prvej encykliky pápeža Františka Svetlo viery

Na Slovensku je už k dispozícii oficiálny slovenský preklad prvej encykliky pápeža Františka s názvom *Lumen Fidei* (Svetlo viery). V rámci edície pápežských dokumentov preklad vyšiel vo vydavateľstve Spolku sv. Vojtecha. Tento 72-stranový text bude čoskoro prístupný aj na stránke Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS). Na preklade novej encykliky pápeža Františka pracoval známy katolícky kňaz, novinár, publicista Mons. Marián Gavenda, ktorý preložil viaceré pápežské dokumenty.

TASR



Foto: TASR

Na snímke pápež František

V Bratislave odborná konferencia Vízia pre Slovensko 2014

Minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák 22. októbra 2013 v Bratislave otvoril odbornú konferenciu *Vízia pre Slovensko – 2014* a ďalej, ktorú zorganizovali Americká obchodná komora na Slovensku a Forbes Slovensko. Podujatie bolo súčasťou pravidelného interaktívneho dialógu medzi vládou SR a podnikateľskou komunitou.

M. Lajčák vo svojom príhovore pripomenul, že ekonomická diplomacia patrí k základným pilierom aktivít vlády SR v oblasti zahraničnej politiky, pričom sme aktívnymi účastníkmi diskusií o prehľbovaní integrácie EÚ a o dokončení európskej menovej únie. „Rok 2014 odštartuje zapojenie Slovenska do novej výzvy prepojenia základnej vedy a výskumu s aplikovaným výskumom, s inováciami. Cieľom je podnietiť štruktúrnu zmenu našej ekonomiky smerom k rastu založenému na zvyšovaní inovačnej schopnosti a excelentnosti vo vede a inováciách,“ povedal minister M. Lajčák v príhovore.

MZVaEZ SR bude podľa jeho slov týmto smerom otvárať podnikateľom inovačné a investičné príležitosti v zahraničí tak, aby slovenské firmy mohli zvýšiť pridanú hodnotu svojich aktivít. Konferencia, ktorá prebiehala v bratislavskom hoteli DoubleTree by Hilton, bola príležitosťou na výmenu názorov a skúseností zástupcov zamestnávateľských zväzov a združení, špecializovaných ekonomických agentúr a podnikateľov s čelnými predstaviteľmi štátnej správy a príslušných rezortov.

TASR

Folklorný Súbor Limbora Vás Srdečne Pozyva na Ludovú Zábavu

KEDY: 23. Novembra, 2013
KDE: 411 East 66th Street @ 1st Ave
Slovenský Kostol

ZAČIATOK: 7pm | **KONIEC:** Podľa Nálady
PONÚKAME: Tradičné slovenské jedlá,
Večer plný príjemnej vône a výbornej chuti a
iných dobrôt.

VYSTUPUJÚ: Limbora a ďalší hostia
TOMEOLA: 50/50
HOST PROGRAMIE: Beáta BEGENIOVÁ-FEDORIOUK
HRAJÚ A SPIEVAJÚ: PAJTAŠI

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Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• Po omladení stavu všeobecných lekárov pre dospelých i pediátrov volá Asociácia súkromných lekárov (ASL) SR. Dnes je na Slovensku z celkového počtu 2,200 všeobecných lekárov pre dospelých viac ako 1,000 bližšie k sedemdesiatke, ako k šesťdesiatke. Aj mnoho ďalších je blízko dôchodkovému veku, pri čom mladých lekárov do 30 rokov sú len desiatky. Asociácia preto volá po urýchlenej výchove a podpore mladých všeobecných lekárov. Okrem platovej motivácie, je potrebné riešiť aj rozšírenie kompetencií budúcich všeobecných lekárov, ich prax, ako aj potrebné prístrojové vybavenie.

• V rebríčku zdravotnej starostlivosti sa Slovensko ocitlo na spodných priečkach. Je na tom oveľa horšie ako Česká republika, alebo Poľsko, s Rakúskom sa už vôbec nemôže porovnávať, vyplýva to z hodnotenia, ktoré zverejnila americká agentúra Bloomberg. Agentúra hodnotila zdravotnú starostlivosť v 48 krajinách sveta podľa niekoľkých kritérií, vrátane priemerného veku dožitia, či nákladov na zdravotnú starostlivosť v prepočte na jednu osobu. Zoradila ich do rebríčka podľa účinnosti ich systémov zdravotnej starostlivosti. Slovensko v ňom obsadilo 36. miesto. Najlepšiu zdravotnú starostlivosť na svete má podľa americkej agentúry Hongkong.

• **Tohtoročná** úroda hrozna v slovenskej tokajskej oblasti potešila vinohradníkov, dosahuje nadpriemerné čísla v množstve i kvalite. Cukornatosť dosahovala u muškátu žltého až 26-27 stupňov, uviedol vinohradník Ján Šándor zo spoločnosti Tokaj & Co so sídlom v Malej Tíni (okr. Trebišov). Cukornatosť spĺňa kritériá pre výrobu tokajských vín vysokej kvality. Aktuálne prebieha vo vinohradoch firmy zber odrody furmint, zbierala sa už tiež lipovina. V súčasnosti je zber podľa vinohradníka len zhruba v jednej štvrtine, natiahne sa zrejme do prvej polovice novembra. Vinohradníci v tokajskej vinohradníckej oblasti môžu byť spokojní s tohtoročnou úrodou, čo sa týka kvality aj množstva.

• Český prezident Miloš Zeman podpísal 5. novembra poverovacie listiny niekoľkých veľvyslancov, medzi nimi aj bývalej prvej dámy Livie Klausovej. Klausová je tak nastupujúcou českou veľvyslankyňou na Slovensku. Funkcie sa ujme v okamihu, keď odovzdá poverovacie listiny slovenskému prezidentovi Ivanovi Gašparovičovi. Ako veľvyslankyňa bude mať významnejšie postavenie než jej manžel Václav Klaus, ktorý po odchode z Pražského hradu pôsobí vo svojom novozriadenom inštitúte.

• **Rímskokatolícky** cirkevný hudobný spolok sv. Mikuláša z Trnavy, ktorý je najstarším hudobno-speváckym telesom na Slovensku, si výnimočných 180 rokov svojej existencie pripomenul slávnostným koncertom v Bazilike sv. Mikuláša koncom októbra. Výstupenie bolo zároveň venované 55. výročiu úmrtia skladateľa Mikuláša Schneidra Trnavského, ktorý bol 40 rokov regenschorim v bazilike a jeho tvorba je nerozlučne so spolkom spätá. Spolok je totiž výnimočný nielen svojim vekom, ale aj interpretáciou diel v latinskom jazyku, v nemčine a staroslovenčine, pričom každú nedeľu o deviatej hodine participuje v bazilike na latinskej omši. Jubilujúci spolok, ktorý vznikol v roku 1833, absolvuje podľa slov dirigenta Ladislava Vymazala asi 60 vystúpení ročne, okrem domovského chrámu pohostinne vystupuje aj v okolitých mestách a obciach. Svoje umenie predstavil v posledných rokoch aj v Taliansku, Rakúsku, Poľsku a Česku. Jeho repertoár je zložený zo širokého spektra žánrov - od gregoriánskeho chorálu, cez polyfónie až po modernú cirkevnú hudbu 20. storočia.

• **Slovenskej** hokejovej extralige v jej súčasnej podobe hrozí zánik. Nedávno sa vyjadril o tom zdroj z prostredia extraligy. Podľa jeho slov na kolaps národnej ligy stačí, aby klub z Košíc vystúpil zo súťaže. A práve to ohlásil šéf U.S. Steelu Košice George Babcoke, ktorý je najväčším sponzorom klubu. Riešenie vidí v širšej lige, ktorá prekračuje hranice Slovenska. Hrozbu rozkladu ligy potvrdil aj dlhoročný manažér vo viacerých slovenských kluboch Eduard Hartmann. Ale dajú sa nájsť aj iné riešenia – spojiť tieto kluby s tímami zo zahraničia a vytvoriť spoločnú súťaž. Už po odchode bratislavského Slovana sa sponzori hľadali ťažko, ohlásený odchod Piešťan a Košíc by situáciu ešte viac skomplikoval. Z marketingového hľadiska je ťažké za takýchto okolností zvládnuť chod extraligy, priznáva jej šéf Vladimír Paštinský.

• **Podpredseda** vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák absolvoval návštevu Milána, ktoré je metropolou Lombardie. Jej cieľom bolo ďalšie zintenzívnenie spolupráce SR s týmto najvyspelejším talianskym regiónom v rámci pravidelného podujatia Slovenský deň v Miláne, ktoré bolo tento raz venované predovšetkým 20. výročiu vzniku SR a nadviazaniu diplomatických vzťahov s Talianskou republikou. Miroslav Lajčák absolvoval pracovné stretnutie s regionálnymi podnikateľskými kruhmi, v rámci ktorého potvrdil aktívny prístup SR k participácii na svetovej výstave EXPO 2015, ktorá sa uskutoční práve v Miláne. Taliansko je zároveň siedmym najväčším investorm na Slovensku, keď len v uplynulom roku predstavovali investície objem 1.7 mld eur. Na Slovensku aktívne pôsobí viac ako 450 talianskych firiem.

• **Najväčšie** slovenské lyžiarske stredisko Jasná vstúpi do nezadržateľne sa blížiacej zimnej sezóny s ďalšou novovybudovanou lanovkou, zjazdovkou, záchytným parkoviskom, vyhladkovou panoramatickou reštauráciou na Chopku či možnosťou internetového nákupu skipasov. Prevratnou novinkou tejto zimy bude práve nákup skipasov cez internet. Panoramatická vyhladková reštaurácia s veľkou terasou a možnosťou ubytovania bude súčasťou komplexu vrcholových staníc lanoviek prepájajúcich severnú a južnú stranu Chopka. Základným princípom novostavieb za 4.5 milióna eur je komfortný prestup medzi lanovkami v akomkoľvek počasí. Prepravu na novej 1.2-kilometrovej nenáročnej zjazdovke, ktorej úpravy si v nástupnej lokalite Lúčky vyžiadali investíciu, s nadväznosťou na ďalšiu vyššie položenú zjazdovku bude zabezpečovať nová šesťsedačková lanovka za 7 miliónov eur s hodinovou prepravnou kapacitou 2,460 lyžiarov.

• **Slovenskí** zamestnávateľia plánujú na budúci rok zvýšiť základné mzdy medziročne o 3 %. Ukázal to prieskum poradenskej spoločnosti PwC s názvom PayWell 2013, ktorého sa zúčastnilo 272 spoločností zo 17 sektorov. Najvyššie medziročné zvýšenie plátov by malo na budúci rok nastať v oblasti obchodu a distribúcie, kde spoločnosť očakáva 4-% nárast. Nasledujú informačné a komunikačné technológie, kde sa predpokladá zvýšenie miezd o 3.4 % a farmácia s automobilovým priemyslom (3.3 %). Najmenší rast plátov na budúci rok zaznamenajú pracovníci v bankovníctve. Odvetvím s najlepšimi plátmi je tento rok podľa prieskumu farmácia. Odmeny zamestnancov sú tu o 24 % vyššie než je celoslovenský priemer. Nasleduje odvetvie informačných a komunikačných technológií a bankovníctvo. Najhoršie sa platí v strojárstve, kde sú platy o 18 % nižšie než je priemerná úroveň trhu. Druhým najhoršie plateným odvetvím je výroba (-12 %). Prieskum PwC potvrdil, že v rámci regionálneho porovnania sú najvyššie platy v Bratislave. V západoslovenskom regióne sú mzdy približne o 17 % nižšie než v hlavnom meste a na východe Slovenska o 19.5 % nižšie. Najnižšie platení sú zamestnanci na strednom Slovensku, ktoré je v priemere 22 % pod úrovňou hlavného mesta.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Jubilejník k 70. narodeninám slovenského biblistu Jána Ďuricu SJ

Dňa 5. novembra 2013 Únia slovenských spisovateľov, umelcov a kultúrnych tvorcov žijúcich mimo územia Slovenska, Slovenský ústav v Ríme, Libri Historiae, občianske združenie Spoločnosť Ježišova na Slovensku, Teologická fakulta Trnavskej univerzity, uviedli Jubilejník k 70. narodeninám slovenského biblistu Jána Ďuricu, pod názvom "In verbo autem tuo". Podujatie sa začalo svätou omšou v Jezuitskom kostole a za tým nasledovalo v aule Teologickej fakulty TU v Bratislave predstavenie knihy.

Otec Ján Ďurica SJ (1943, Hriňová) bol za kňaza vysvätený r. 1966. Začínal ako kaplán vo Vrútkach a v Krupine, no r. 1971 mu úrady odňali štátny súhlas. V tom čase sa bližšie zoznámil s jezuitmi, stal sa spolupracovníkom tajných biskupov P. Dubovského SJ a Jána Ch. Korca SJ a do Spoločnosti Ježišovej vstúpil r. 1978. Po Novembri 1989 sa stal rektorom Kňazského seminára v Bratislave, no už v septembri sa vrátil ako farár do Banskej Bystrice-Radvane. V tom čase tiež prednášal biblické vedy v Kňazskom seminári sv. Františka Xaverského v Slovenskej Ľupči. Zúčastňoval sa na stretnutiach, ktoré viedli k založeniu *Rádia Mária* (dnes *Rádio Lumen*) r. 1993. Predovšetkým však redigoval slovenský preklad *Jeruzalemskej Biblie* z dielne prelata Antona Boteka, čo ostáva najväčším prínosom otca Jána Ďuricu SJ – nielen pre biblickú teológiu, lež pre celú slovenskú kultúru. Od roku 2011 Ján Ďurica SJ žije a pôsobí v Bratislave, prednáša na Teologickej i Pedagogickej Trnavskej univerzity a rediguje časopis slovenských jezuitov *Posol Božského Srdca Ježišovo*.

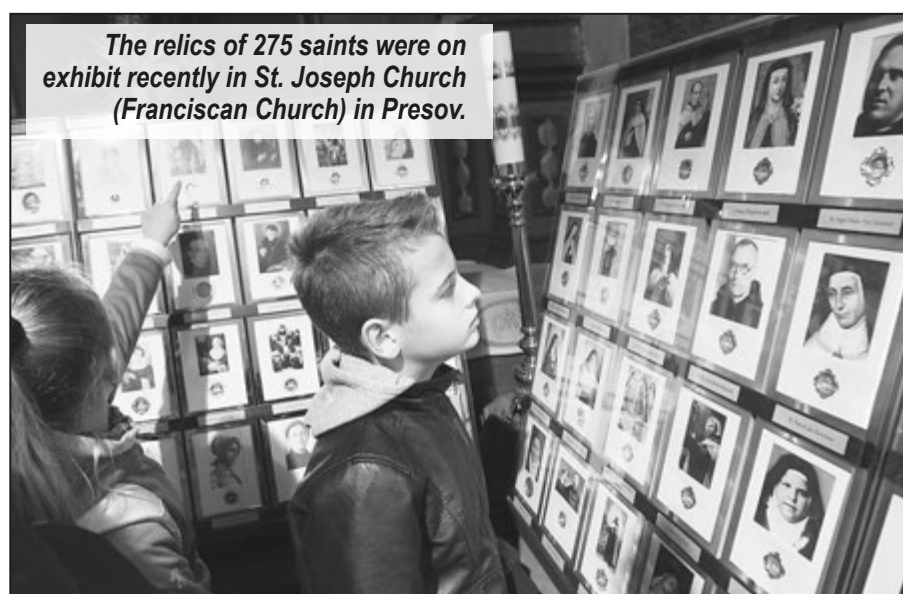


FOTO TASR – Milan Kapusta, 6. november 2013

V Kostole sv. Jozefa, ktorý Prešovčania poznajú ako Františkánsky kostol, sú vystavené relikvie 275 blahoslavených a svätých. Zbierka relikvií vznikla pred 17 rokmi v Trnave a posledné roky je relikviár vo Františkánskom kostole sv. Jozefa v Prešove. Na snímke relikvie si prišli pozrieť žiaci ZŠ sv. Jána Krstiteľa zo Spišských Vlachov.

Slovák vybojoval na celosvetovej súťaži v logike striebro

Študent Univerzity Komenského (UK) v Bratislave Jakub Bahyl vybojoval na 22. Majstrovstvách sveta v logických úlohách (World Puzzle Championship - WPC) v čínskom Pekingu striebornú medailu. Jakub je prvák na Fakulte matematiky, fyziky a informatiky UK.

“Z vlastného konečného umiestnenia som bol neskutočne šťastný a znamená pre mňa nesmierne veľa. Ukázalo sa, že tvrdou snahou sa dá v živote docieľiť skutočne všeličo. Prvýkrát som mal tú úžasnú možnosť zažiť atmosféru, kedy máte okolo seba najlepších z najlepších z celého sveta v danom odbore,” opísal svoje pocity medailista. Keď si uvedomil, že má s týmito špičkami súťažiť, mal podľa vlastných slov obrovský rešpekt. “Zároveň ma hnala dopredu zvedavosť a potreba chopiť sa šance,” prezradil mladý Žilínčan.

Majstrovstvá sveta pozostávali celkovo z 13 kôl, pričom tri z nich boli tímové. Osobitnou kategóriou boli jednotlivci do 18 rokov, v ktorej sa porovnávali iba výsledky súťažiacich s rokom narodenia 1995 a mladších. “Prvenstvo v tejto kategórii získal reprezentant Číny Qiu Yanzhe,” uviedla Andrea Földváryová z UK. Princíp jednotlivých individuálnych kôl spočíval v riešení veľkého množstva úloh s rozličnou náročnosťou a bodovaním. Každé kolo malo iné trvanie – od 30 do 90 minút. Súčasťou kôl boli rozmanité matematické úlohy, optimalizačné úlohy či 3D skladania útvarov. Spolu išlo o približne 130 odlišných typov úloh.

V kategórii tímov sa Slovensko umiestnilo na celkovom štvrtom mieste (z 30 zúčastnených krajín). Členom tímu, ktorý viedla reprezentačná trénerka Blanka Lehotská z Katedry krajiny ekológie Prírodovedeckej fakulty UK, bol aj ďalší študent UK – Matej Uher (Prírodovedecká fakulta UK). “Teší ma, že naši študenti potvrdili svoje kvality aj v silnej medzinárodnej konkurencii. Ich mladý vek a nadšenie nám dáva predpoklad vari ešte lepších úspechov do budúcnosti,” povedal rektor UK Karol Mičieta.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 122

STREDA, 20. NOVEMBRA 2013

Číslo 5893

Minister zahraničných vecí SR M. Lajčák rokoval vo Washingtone DC

Podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák sa v utorok 5. novembra 2013 na úvod návštevy vo Washingtone DC stretol s osobitnou poradkyňou prezidenta USA Baracka Obamu pre Európu Karen Donfriedovou, s ktorou diskutoval o aktuálnych transatlantických otázkach, ako aj o vývoji v krajinách strednej a východnej Európy. Partneri vyzdvihli vynikajúcu úroveň a kvalitu bilaterálnych vzťahov, ktoré sa odrážajú aj na spolupráci na multilaterálnej úrovni vrátane aktivít v rámci Severoatlantickej aliancie.



M. Lajčák vystúpil na pôde Atlantic Council.

M. Lajčák následne vystúpil na pôde renomovaného think-tanku Atlantic Council práve k problematike Východného partnerstva. Minister M. Lajčák okrem iného zdôraznil, že Vilniuský summit bude kľúčovým medzníkom v rámci vývoja situácie v krajinách, ktoré spadajú do tohto programu.

V následnej diskusii so širšou washingtonskou diplomatickou a odbornou komunitou vyzdvihol strategický význam tohto projektu pre budúcu stabilitu a prosperitu európskeho kontinentu. V rámci stretnutia s viceprezidentom Svetovej banky Kyleom Petersom šéf slovenskej diplomacie nadviazal na zasadnutie Skupiny priateľov reformy bezpečnostného sektora v New Yorku a diskutoval o ďalšom prehľbovaní spolupráce Svetovej banky s OSN v problematike reformy bezpečnostného sektora.

Šéf slovenskej diplomacie zavŕšil denný program účasťou na úvodnej pracovnej večeri stretnutia „Core Group“ Mnichovskej bezpečnostnej konferencie, ktorá sa tematicky venovala medzinárodnopolitickým dôsledkom pripravovanej dohody o zóne voľného obchodu medzi EÚ a USA v rámci Transatlantického obchodného a investičného partnerstva (TTIP).

Podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák pokračoval 6. novembra 2013 v návšteve USA účasťou na zasadnutí užšieho tímu bezpečnostných expertov a diplomatov zodpovedných za prípravu bezpečnostnej konferencie v Mníchove, ktorej jubilejný 50. ročník sa uskutoční 31. januára až 2. februára budúceho roku. M. Lajčák v rámci diskusie prezentoval zásadné postoje SR a EÚ k aktuálnym medzinárodnopolitickým otázkam a zdôraznil, že SR ako zodpovedný medzinárodný aktér preberá čoraz väčšiu zodpovednosť za medzinárodné dianie. Na podujatí sa zúčastnili mnohé významné osobnosti.

Vo večerných hodinách vystúpil M. Lajčák na pôde Zastupiteľského úradu Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone DC na recepcii pri príležitosti blížiaceho sa štátneho sviatku SR Dňa boja za slobodu a demokraciu. Šéf slovenskej diplomacie poukázal na viaceré významné výročia, ktoré si Slovensko v tomto roku pripomína, ako napr. 20. výročie samostatnosti a nadviazanie diplomatických stykov s USA. Vo svojom vystúpení vyzdvihol aj dlhoročné spoločné pôsobenie SR a USA v rámci vojenskej operácie ISAF v Afganistane. Minister taktiež slávnostne ocenil viaceré krajanské spolky a osobnosti z radov krajanov, honorárnych konzulov SR v USA, ako aj významných amerických diplomatov, ktorí pôsobili v SR ako prejav uznania za upevňovanie a rozvoj vzťahov medzi SR a USA.

MZV SR

Oktoberfest v New York City zaznamenal ďalší úspech

V nedeľu dňa 13. októbra 2013 sa konala už tradičná 2. októbrová zábava „Oktoberfest“, ktorú usporiadala Asociácia ACF „Big Apple Chapter“ za spolupráce Okresu č. 16 Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Oktoberfestu sa zúčastnilo približne 150 účastníkov.



S naším hosťom veľvyslancom SR v USA, Petrom Kmecom zľava: Henrieta M. Daitová, Jiří Suchánek, otec Rev. Štefan Chanas, Peter Kmec, Nina Holá a Anna Korčák.

Americko-slovenský zemplínsky klub oslávil 72. výročie

Nedeľa, 20. októbra 2013 patrí Clevelandským Zemplínčanom. Slávnostný deň Zemplínčanov sa začal slávnostnou svätou omšou za živých a zomrelých členov klubu vo slovenskom kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda (Transfiguration parish) v Lakewood, Ohio, ktorú odslúžil hlavný duchovný klubu, otec Joachim Pastirik, OSB. Počas omše vypomáhali brat Gabriel Balažovič, OSB a traja novici. Po svätej omši v kostolnej hale bol pripravený chutný domáci obed spojený s tancom a kultúrnym programom.



Na snímke v prostriedku vyznamenaný predseda klubu „Zemplínčan Roka 2013“ Juraj Čarný v spoločnosti zľava: otec Marek Višňovský, George Balak, Norma Ruttkay, Milan Kobulský, Mary Chura a John Buydos.

Podujatie otvoril prezident Zemplínskeho klubu, Juraj Čarný. Milo privítal prítomných členov a hostí po slovensky, ale aj anglicky. Zaspievali sa štátne hymny, Americká a Slovenská. Otec Joachim Pastirik, duchovný radca klubu sa pomodlil pred jedlom.

Po veľmi chutnom obede, dlhoročný vedúci slovenskej folklórnej tanečnej skupiny „Lúčina“, Tomáš Ivanec predstavil tanečníkov a vysvetlil o tancoch, ktorými sa následne súbor Lúčina predstavil vo veľmi pestrých krojoch z východoslovenského regiónu Zemplína a Šariša. So živým elánom pobavili prítomných, za čo boli odmenení búrlivým potleskom. Za tým Rudy Bachna predniesol niekoľko dojímavých básní a podpredsedkyňa, Mary Chura predstavila sediacich pri hlavnom stole a v krátkosti zhodnotila ich prácu. Pokladník klubu, Milan Kobulský privítal a predstavil prítomných vedúcich funkcionárov z miestnych slovenských organizácií a spolkov. Otec Joachim Pastirik v krátkosti prehovoril o Zemplíne pre tých, ktorí ho nepoznajú.

Po kultúrnom programe, úradníci klubu prekvapili predsedu Juraja Čarného a pocítili ho vymenovaním za „Zemplínčana Roka 2013“. Pokladník klubu, Milan Kobulský

Pokračovanie na str.22



The Immaculata statue in Kosice was illuminated to mark the occasion of the World Day of Premature Children (November 17).

FOTO TASR – František Iván

Mesto Košice sa pri príležitosti Svetového dňa predčasne narodených detí (17. november) zapojilo do projektu Občianskeho združenia malíčok. Solidaritu a ocenenie rodinám predčasne narodených detí vyjadrilo mesto purpurovým osvetlením morového stúpa Immaculaty na Hlavnej ulici v utorok 12. novembra 2013.