



Jednota

THE UNION

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Year of Faith: Sacred Liturgy Summary

Dear Friends,

This final summary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum concilium) focuses on what the Council taught regarding Sacred Music.

The Constitution acknowledged the rich tradition that Gregorian chant had in the church's history and advocated its continued use in the Liturgy. All things being equal, Gregorian chant should be given, to use their words, a "place of pride" in liturgical services.

Although many musical instruments are or can be made suitable for sacred use for the Liturgy, the pipe organ is given the highest regard because it is the traditional instrument that has been used to lift one's mind to God and the things above.

It was the will of the Council that every diocese is to have commissions on Sacred Liturgy, Sacred Music and Sacred Art. They acknowledge that variations to this ideal is possible. A diocese, for example, could have all three commissions fused into one. It is also possible for more than one diocese to get together and have one particular commission serve them.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy had an appendix which contained a rather interesting and novel proposal for the world. Provided that there is acceptance and agreement with non-Catholic Christians throughout the world, Council had no objection for the Liturgical Calendar to be rearranged so that Easter Sunday could be celebrated each year on a particular Sunday.

It was in 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicea, the first ecumenical council of the church, that the date for Easter was established as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. Vatican II opened the possibility of celebrating Easter Sunday each year on the second Sunday of April, for example. Obviously, this suggestion has not been implemented.

This concludes the five-part summary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the first document from the Second Vatican Council, promulgated by Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963. The next issue of the Jednota will examine the other document promulgated on the same day, the Decree on the Media of the Social Communications.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta



The Levočská gate and Church tower in Spišská Nová Ves.

Spišská Nová Ves: A Charming City Steeped in History

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

Spišská Nová Ves ranks as one of the most charming cities of the Spiš region of Slovakia. The town lies in the east-central Slovakia, just southeast of the High Tatra Mountains (Vysoké Tatry). Its historic beauty has always attracted me, and this article aims to familiarize our Jednota readers with the history and attractiveness of this town and region.

In English, the word ves means village or town, but today ves is an ending attached to many towns and cities. Thus the name literally means "New Spiš Town." One would pronounce "Speesh-kah Nova Ves" as Speesh-kah Nova Ves. The city is the second largest city in the Spiš region after Poprad, and the largest town in the Spišská Nová Ves District (okres). Today it

continued on page 9



Hey, kids!

Lots of things in this edition for our younger members (and those "young at heart"):

Christmas Coloring contest, pages 4 – 5



Chewy at a real čuvač dog show, page 5

FCSU Scholarship for 2013, p3



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QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

HOME OFFICE
(TELECONFERENCE)
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012

The **QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING** of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on **Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. (telephonically).**

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 14, 2012.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to December 12, 2012.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints



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

December 2, 2012
First Sunday of Advent
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Gospel Summary

Luke places Jesus' discourse about the destruction of the temple and his coming at the end of the world immediately before the narrative of his death and resurrection. In the present passage Jesus uses cosmic symbolic images of the prophetic tradition to indicate

the final divine action in history at the end of the world. Before the Son of Man comes in a cloud with power and glory, there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. The coming of the Son of Man in power and glory means that the final redemption is at hand. Jesus then issues a warning lest our hearts become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness or from anxieties of daily life. If we are not vigilant, the final day will catch us by surprise like a trap. Jesus tells us to pray for the strength to escape the ever-imminent tribulation so that we may stand erect with raised heads at his coming.

Life Implications

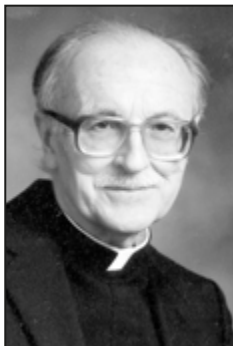
The gospel passage addresses the terrifying experience of one's world coming to an end -- not only the final end of world, but also of our individual worlds such as our financial security, our marriage, our health, our life in dying. These are terrifying experiences not only because of the physical suffering they may entail, but because the tribulation may lead to despair about the meaning of life itself.

Friedrich Nietzsche (d. 1900) anticipated that total loss of meaning which now seems to be so pervasive in our culture when he proclaimed: "God is dead...Do we not wander through an endless nothingness?" Ernest Hemingway (d. 1961) in one of his short stories has a character express the despair of the loss of meaning in a prayer without meaning: "Our nada (Spanish word for 'nothing') who art in nada, nada be thy name..." and "Hail Nothing, full of nothing, nothing is with thee..." Steven Weinberg, a 1979 Nobel Prize winner for physics, writes: "...this present universe has evolved from an unspeakably unfamiliar early condition, and faces a future extinction of endless cold or intolerable heat. The more the universe seems comprehensible the more it also seems pointless" (The First Three Minutes).

Jesus, too, had the experience of his own world coming to an end -- his arrest, suffering and death were imminent. He, however, had the courage to face the loss of his life in hope because he trusted that God would not abandon his beloved Son to the meaningless nothing of death. Jesus, identifying himself with all creation as God's dwelling place, realized that with his death would also come the end of the temple and the world. In the biblical tradition temple and the universe were inseparably joined. God created the universe as a temple for his children to enjoy and for worship on the seventh day. In turn, the temple was the universe in miniature also created for Sabbath worship and joy. We fallen creatures, however, had turned his Father's house of prayer -- the temple and the universe -- into a den of thieves.

The old creation of temple and world in a sense would already come to an end with the death of Jesus. The Romans in response to a Jewish revolt in fact destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in the year 70. The end, however, in the mystery of God's creative love would at the same time be the beginning of a new creation -- first in the resurrection of Jesus, and then in the creation of a new spiritual temple, a New Jerusalem, a new heaven, and a new earth (Rev 21).

Advent is a time of vigilance and prayer. We ask for the gift of sharing the hope and courage



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

of Christ so that we can with his trust face the terrifying experience of our own world falling apart. Jesus is the leader and perfecter of our faith. Following him, for the sake of the joy that is before us, we will endure the cross, despising its shame (Heb 12:2). The universe and our human existence in it are not pointless. We do not wander through an endless nothingness. Advent is also a celebration of the good news that the Risen Lord comes to be with us now -- in the Eucharist, in the words of Scripture, in the least of our brothers and sisters, in all our joys and sorrows. We will stand erect with raised heads at his coming because our redemption is at hand. "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus" (Rev 22:21)!



December 9, 2012
Second Sunday of Advent
Luke 3:1-6

Gospel Summary

Luke's elaborate attempt to locate the arrival of John the Baptist in the context of secular history seems to be the answer to every historian's prayer. In fact, however, these references are very imprecise, and none more so than the apparently decisive "fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar." The problem is that the Roman emperor Tiberius shared power with Augustus for two years and we do not know when Luke is beginning his count of the years of Tiberius' reign. One must wonder whether Luke is not perhaps smiling to himself as he teases historians in this way.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that Luke is very much interested in history. But it is a history that includes God's intervention to bring final salvation from the human scourge of sin and death. This divine "taking charge" of history will be announced by John the Baptist and brought into being by Jesus. However, only those who are ready to embrace God's gracious purposes will participate in the final victory.

John's "baptism of repentance" is a ritual that signifies one's readiness to remove all obstacles to the coming of the Lord. Such obstacles would be, first and foremost, a prideful self-will that wishes to dictate where and how and when the Lord should come. "Making straight the way of Lord" is, therefore, a metaphor for personal conversion from prideful controlling tendencies to humble and grateful acceptance of God's sovereign rights in human life.

Life Implications

The most certain way to miss the promised "salvation of God" is to be too busy, too engrossed in one's work and too distracted to think about God or to prepare for his coming. It is true, of course, that Christ came some 2000 years ago. But that is no guarantee that we have welcomed him. For Christ continues to come to each generation of us humans and to challenge us to let his ideals govern our lives. In that sense, God is always coming and we are constantly being asked to welcome him.

This does not mean that we need to devote large amounts of time to welcoming Christ into our lives. It is more a matter of quality than of quantity. The ideal is set forth in the famous, "Hear, O Israel," of Deuteronomy 6:4. We are told there that we should never be totally unmindful of the reality and the presence of God in our lives. In time of explicit prayer, God is at center stage, as it were, while at other times he moves into the wings but never far from full consciousness on our part.

I like to think of this consciousness of God's presence as a "benign distraction" which, far from interfering with our work, actually helps us to focus more clearly on what we are doing. Moreover, it should not be surprising, when we think of God's love for us, that a smile should play occasionally across our faces, as is customary with those who are in love. Such a benign distraction not only makes us more productive but it also gives us a deep sense of peace and security.

It is our recognition of the presence of God in our world, whether in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, or in December 2012, that constitutes the true meaning of history for us.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY 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. 5	MONDAY NOV. 26
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16	MONDAY, JAN. 7
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30	MONDAY, JAN. 14

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

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 Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
 First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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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 2013 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 sent to the Home Office, each recipient will be issued a \$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 Term Insurance 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, 2009 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 2013 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission 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.

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, 2013.

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 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 2014).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2013. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

For an application form, please call the First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800- JEDNOTA or go to www.fcsu.com/scholarships.

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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.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

God Exchanges Pain for Purpose

Twenty-one-year-old singer/songwriter and author Paige Armstrong Omartian knows that life is precious because she almost lost hers to bone cancer at age 10. Sharing her story and what she's learned is at the heart of her new call-to-faith-and-action memoir, *Wake Up, Generation*.

Omartian first discovered a problem while playing Helen Keller in a community theater production of "The Miracle Worker." What began as soreness in her right leg was eventually diagnosed as a cancerous tumor below her right knee. Specifically, it was Ewings Sarcoma. Chemotherapy, a permanent IV line in her chest, and hair loss followed.

As if that wasn't bad enough, Omartian also endured the spiritual torment of wondering what she did to deserve this. She writes, "I had never felt pain so deep. I could only reason that God was punishing me and had purposefully turned everything against me...but I didn't know why."

Hope was needed as Omartian faced surgery to replace the bone in her leg that the tumor had seized. It arrived when she was being wheeled into the operating room. She writes, "I was brought into a strange presence that I had never felt before. It was as if Jesus was truly there, holding me... in love and the sweetest peace I had ever known...This day marked a change in my battle. I was walking through the valley of the shadow of death, with my Savior lovingly holding my hand."

The days that followed were still a struggle, but Omartian faced them with faith, humor, and the confidence that God had a purpose for her life. She earned a level of fame when the Make-a-Wish Foundation granted her wish to record two songs in Nashville with top industry professionals. As her CD got spread around, she was asked to share her songs and story all over the United States.

In addition to being declared cancer-free in 2002, Omartian also found wisdom. She writes, "[God] took my pain and exchanged it for purpose." And what is that purpose? Telling young people to "Wake Up!"

One of Omartian's most frustrating experiences nowadays is seeing young people wasting their lives. The word she really hates is "bored." As she documents in *Wake Up, Generation*, the notion of boredom lures young people into getting themselves into all kinds of trouble, usually having to do with drugs or sex.

She writes, "As young people, we have a tendency to think that we're not only invincible, but have all the time in the world...We need to open our eyes...We've been sleepwalking in apathy, passive in our motivations, blinded to the incredible adventure that God wants to breathe into our lives...Wake up!...Leave your old ways behind. Christ will guide you...You don't have a second to waste."

Though she doesn't really need them, Omartian gets reminders of how precious life is when she visits the hospital for checkups. She sees, "patients attached to tubes and IV poles...with scared, half-conscious faces, wondering what was happening to them. I couldn't help but ask this: Why do we have to walk through the valley of the shadow of death before we realize our lives are so precious?"

Because of her struggles, Omartian—who is now healthy and married—has the wisdom of someone much older than a typical 21-year-old. As Advent begins and we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, her prophetic message should be a welcome one for people of all ages.

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA
INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2012

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's	3.35% APY
with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.10% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New "Park 2 Annuity"	2.40% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee (new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	1.90% APY
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.85% 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

Email: fcsu@aol.com
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



FCSU 2012 Christmas Coloring Contest

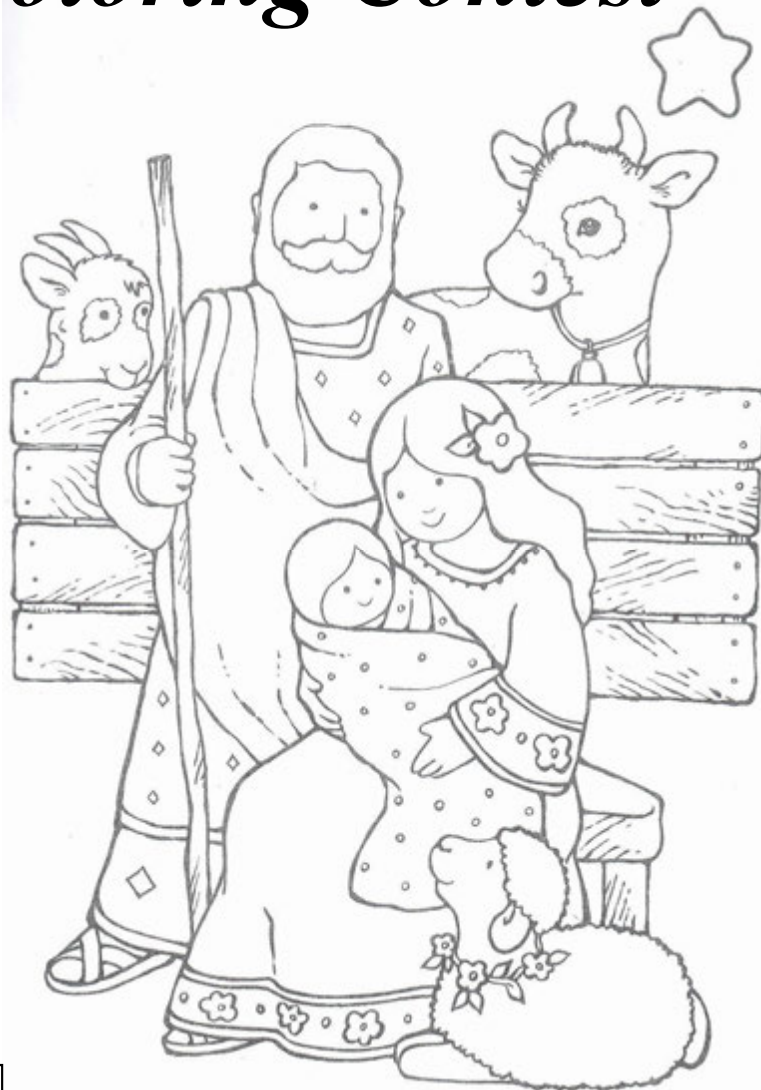
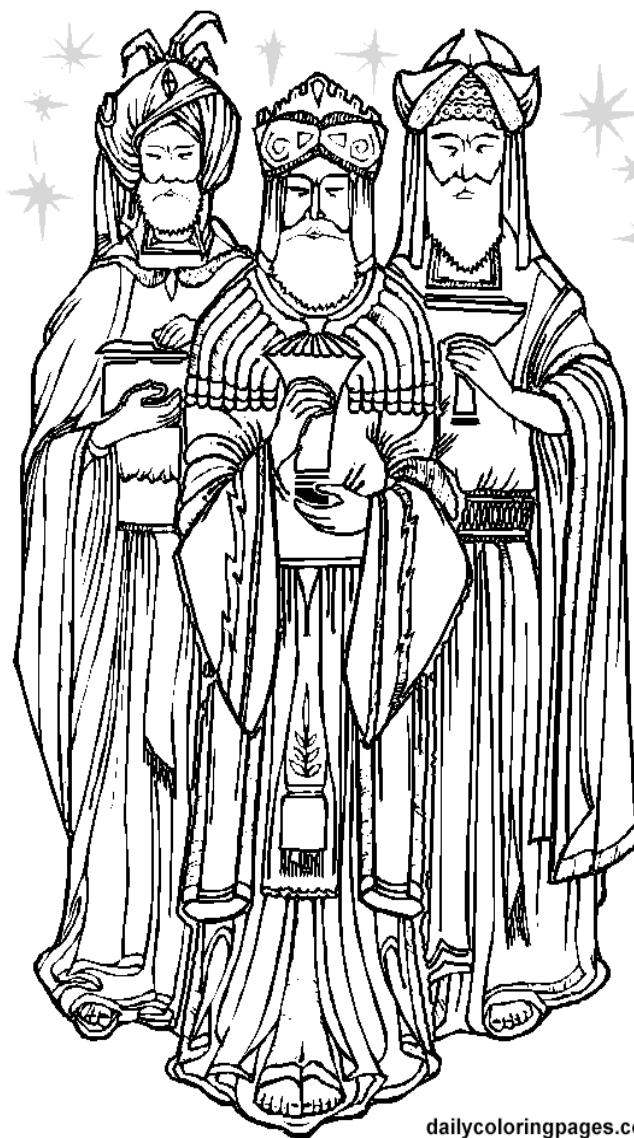
THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;
Born with neither riches nor with fame,
Yet Wise Men came from all around to bring to Him their gifts,
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched Him as He slept, and gently rocked His bed;
Their voices singing softly in His ear;
His Mother and His Father both gave thanks to God above
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear

They knew His life upon this earth would not be filled with wealth,
They also knew He would encounter strife;
But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate this Birth of Jesus Christ,
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day;
For it's not the Christmas wrappings, nor the gifts that lie within,
But our gift of love to others in every way.

B

C

A

dailycoloringpages.com

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

RULES

- Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture A
7 – 9 year olds – picture B
10 – 12 year olds – picture C
- Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
- Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
- Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
- Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2012**.

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, 2012

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 Duffel Bag and \$25.00
2nd Place - Jednota Duffel Bag and \$15.00
3rd Place - Jednota Duffel Bag and \$10.00
Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card

Editor's Note: the coloring contest - and entry pages - also are available online. Go to www.fcsu.com/christmascoloring2012

Chewy Goes to the Dogs – And Has Some Texas-sized Fun

Hi. Kids (and those Young at Heart).

It's me, Chewy. You'll never guess where I've been ... (big pause, or should I say "paws") ... Give up?

Texas! And if that isn't crazy enough, I was here visiting a whole bunch of my bratranci a sesternice (boy and girl cousins). You heard me right: čuvači were congregatin' down Richmond, TX way for the Fourth Annual Memorial Prof. Antonin Hruza/American Championship.

The club hosting the awesome event that I attended on October 20th is the Slovensky Čuvač Dog Club of America. The club's very cool president Elisabeth Pisula – originally a Čuvač breeder in Germany – named the event after a professor from (then) Czechoslovakia who started registered breeding of Slovenski Čuvači in 1929. Elisabeth has continued the tradition of breeding from good Slovak stock. Many of the dogs in her club are not only registered with the AKC (American Kennel Club) but also can trace their lineage right back to Slovakia. Just take a peep at the

two beee-u-ties who took first and second place, and who had the honor of getting me for a prize!

I had a blast meeting and greeting all the čuvači and čuvač lovers from around the United States. People and their dogs travelled by car from Oregon, Nevada and Colorado, or even über-far New York! One judge flew in from Germany, and another from Finland. Can you stand it?! My Čuvači brethren have a club all to themselves in Finland; holy smoked sardines, who knew?

Anyhoos, I hope you enjoy these snaps (in Slovak , fotky) of my latest super-fine, adventure. Maybe someday I'll come to your hometown, or maybe even your house. We could have some serious fun, couldn't we?

Until then, keep your ears up and your tail waggin',



Your friend
 (or, in Slovak tvoj priateľ),
 Chewy



(L – R) Best-in-show male Yoo Texas vom Boehmerwald and Best-in-show female Ulka z Pozdisovskej doliny (mother of Yoo) with their respective breeders flank Elisabeth Pisula, President of the Slovensky Čuvač Dog Club of America, holding the grand prize of a Chewy for each winner.

Chewy sits among the excellent prizes given for winners at the October 20, 2012, event.



Eight of the sixteen Čuvači living in the USA reside in Texas, shown here attending the Fourth Annual Memorial Prof. Antonin Hruza/American Championship in Richardson, TX.

For more information on the Club, or its pups, contact Elisabeth Pisula, President of Slovensky Cuvac Dog Club of America by phone at 281 344 0027 or by email at slovenskycuvacusa@gmail.com. Or visit the website: <http://slovenskytchouvatch.com> or www.slovenskycuvacusa.blogspot.com

Statement as of September 30, 2012 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.....	264,664,956		264,664,956	255,081,164
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	2,333,854		2,333,854	2,927,429
2.2 Common stocks.....	3,047,033		3,047,033	2,757,043
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	1,628,322		1,628,322	1,737,103
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,034,154		1,034,154	1,074,301
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	821,655		821,655	843,809
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....20,881,297), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	20,881,297		20,881,297	5,245,505
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,044,750		1,044,750	992,342
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	1,691,511		1,691,511	10,600,462
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).....	297,710,207	0	297,710,207	281,821,834
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	3,543,835		3,543,835	3,252,818
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	21,166		21,166	31,155
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).....	12,705	12,705	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).....	301,307,200	31,992	301,275,208	285,105,807
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	301,307,200	31,992	301,275,208	285,105,807

Statement as of September 30, 2012 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).....	237,869,000	227,605,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	29,771,598	26,045,653
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.....	283,274	313,734
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).....	691,454	1,332,565
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	20,600	25,692
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	562,375	364,187
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.....	24,066	24,066
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	7,127,255	7,140,958
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	10,000
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.....	2,215,022	2,145,008
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized 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.....	1,065,429	
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	414,927	414,927
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	280,754,511	266,121,790
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	280,754,511	266,121,790
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.....	20,520,697	18,984,017
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	20,520,697	18,984,017
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	301,275,208	285,105,807

Statement as of September 30, 2012 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

Spišská Nová Ves: A Charming City Steeped in History

continued from page 1

belongs to the Košice Region of Slovakia and its population stood at 37 948 in 2011.

Formerly, Spišská Nová Ves was also known by its German names, Zipser Neudorf and sometimes Zipser Neuendorf, due to the large number of ethnic German residents. Zips is the German equivalent of Spiš. The Magyars call the former county Szepes and the town Igló (pronounced "Eeg-low"), as it was part of the Hungarian kingdom for many centuries.

Lying in the heart of central Spiš, Spišská Nová Ves is located near many other tourist attractions, including the Medieval/Renaissance gem of Levoča, historic Spiš Castle and the Slovak Paradise National Park (Spišský raj), a true Elysium for hikers. The town has an art nouveau style Reduta (concert hall) for musical and theater performances; it also hosts its own biennial music festival, Divertimento musicale, which features many amateur musicians from across Slovakia. Every summer in July, the city holds a craft fair (jarmok), which features Slovak folklore groups. In addition, one can find some artist galleries, and the Spiš Museum offers an array of artwork from the region, as well as many historical and nature exhibits. Just strolling and shopping along the long lens-shaped town center is a pleasure. Numerous restaurants with Slovak and other specialties line the rectangular central shopping area, and outdoor seating makes summertime meals a real delight. Spišská Nová Ves has much to offer any visitor, including a rich history.

Historical Background

Archaeological finds of copper mining have shown that some prehistoric settlements existed in the area around Spišská Nová Ves that date from the Neolithic age. Evidence from the time of the Celts indicated the original inhabitants utilized advanced iron technology and used currency as a means of exchange. As

the Celts moved westward, Slavic tribes migrated to the region in the 6th century. During the 9th century, the area belonged to Great Moravia, settlements became permanent, and new roads improved communication and trade shortly before the invasion of the Magyars and the later foundation of a Hungarian kingdom. By the 12th century, Slovaks had definitely settled in the area of the present-day town center, and it was referred to as Iglóv. But the Mongol Tartar invasions of 1240-1241 devastated this region and many parts of Hungary, leaving an area badly in need of development and new settlers.

The first written historical records of the town date from 1268, the time when the Hungarian King Béla IV began to fortify the kingdom; he invited Saxon Germans (Carpathian Germans – Kartpatendeutschen) to migrate to the Spiš region. The place they settled in became known as Nova Villa (New Town in Latin) or Neudorf, in German; later in the 13th century, the Slovak section of Iglóv joined with the German part to create one town, so that the Slovak population could enjoy the privileges which King Stephen V has granted to the Community of Spiš Saxons. Later during the 14th century, King Karol Robert confirmed and modified these rights, which included self-government and certain market advantages.

Spišská Nová Ves quickly grew into a lively market center of significance, hosting weekly fairs starting in 1380; the town could boast that it had the largest street market in the Hungarian Kingdom. An abundance of copper, iron-ore, and silver in nearby mountains added to the economic vigor, and by 1320, it became an official mining town with all the privileges accorded such a status. Surrounding forests provided fuel to process copper in local furnaces, and craftsmen built water-driven forges along the Hornád and Dubnica rivers. In turn, the mining boom had encouraged Konrád Gaal to establish a Gothic bell



Soon after 1989, Youngstown, OH, became a sister city with Spišská Nová Ves.



The charming town of Spišská Nová Ves lies in the east-central Slovakia, just southeast of the High Tatra Mountains (Vysoké Tatry).

foundry. Acquiring a reputation for the highest quality, King Louis I of Hungary commissioned Gaal to produce a large bell for him. The final product so pleased the king that he knighted Gaal in 1357. After Gaal's time, the Vaygl and Wagner families continued the tradition of producing quality bronze bells and baptismal fonts. Quality made kettles were even accepted as a form of payment in trade.

Likewise, other metal industries prospered and local craftsmen formed their own guilds to protect their interests. Locksmiths and blacksmiths were among the first to organize and the list expanded in the 16th century to include coppersmiths, dyers, wheelwrights, cordovan-makers, boilermakers, furriers, strap-makers, weavers, drapers, joiners, gunsmiths, bakers, tanners, cooks, clothiers, tailors, butchers, millers, hunters, fisherman, and even beekeepers.

In 1412, the history of Spiš changed when the Hungarian King Sigismund borrowed 360,000 Czech pence from the Polish king. As security for the loan, he offered Spišská Nová Ves and 15 other towns. Ironically, the arrangement helped to safeguard the Spiš towns when disturbances and wars plagued Hungary and Poland, for the towns refused to help either side. Even the Hussite army of Ján Jiska spared the city and concluded an armistice with the crown. Because the loan was never repaid, the Spiš towns remained under Polish sovereignty until 1772, and just 6 years later, Spišská Nová Ves became the capital of the "Province of 16 Szepes towns".

During the Protestant Reformation, the Germans adopted Lutheranism in the 1540s and forbade Catholic Mass in the Spiš towns starting in 1569. Ottoman attacks and religious wars added to the havoc, and on 12 occasions, Spišská Nová Ves suffered plun-

dering between 1612 and 1684. Habsburg victories against the Ottoman Turks strengthened the hand of the Emperor and Catholic religious resumed in 1674. Needless to say, the disturbances interrupted the prosperity of the town and region.

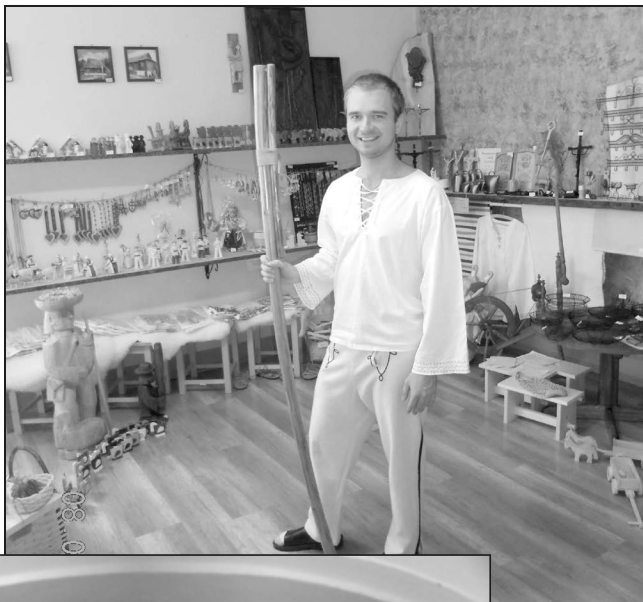
The economy of the town revived somewhat in the 18th and 19th centuries as mining and the smelting industries found new business opportunities. About 4,730 miners lived in the town. A paper mill in operation since 1675 also experienced steady growth. These in turn spurred other manufacturing such as stoneware, oil production, weaving, and agricultural machinery. Products made in the town proudly displayed a trademark of quality imprinted with the Magyar name for the town "Igló," featuring two crossed miners' hammers.

Some unrest interrupted the relative peaceful prosperity in the 19th century. Although the peasant uprisings of 1831 confined themselves mainly to nearby villages, the Revolution of 1848-49 did spread to Spišská Nová Ves. When Slovak nationalists recruited volunteers in the town, the Louis Kossuth-led government sent a garrison there. In a bloody skirmish, several dozen men lost their lives and much of the town burnt down, including the Gothic spire on the Church of the Assumption. The spire would be rebuilt to height of 83 meters (over 282 feet), making it the tallest church tower in central Europe. Today a jaunt atop the tower provides a magnificent view of the town and countryside, with the Tatra Mountains dominating the horizon on a clear day.

The coming of the Košice-Bohumín railroad in 1870 connected eastern and western Slovakia and provided a much needed boost to the local economy and significantly improved

continued on page 17

Miro, owner of the Valach Shop in Spišská Nová Ves sells everything from authentic bryndza cheese to musical instruments such the long shepherd's horn, known as the fujara (pictured here)



An inside view of the Immaculate Conception Church in Spišská Nová Ves.



That Old Suitcase

By Richard Sichula, Branch 181

I think it was when I saw that old restored suitcase at one of my patient's house that created the conflict. It's funny how simple things do that. Just little insignificant things that prompt what we bury in the vaults, deep in our mind. Grains of thought that lay hidden in the cavities of our cortex. They just appear, synapses that flash like lightning. I did see that old leather suitcase once before. Not that very one but one like it. I never asked about it then when I was first became aware of it, but now as I pondered that old container, various memories did slowly travel back. The memories were there all right, tucked in a corner of my mind. They just needed some catalyst to illuminate them, to draw them forth from the darkness. That old suitcase was in the corner of my grandfather's spare bedroom I recalled. When I first saw it, it was tattered and torn. The leather was cracked in places and the brass was dull, with a sad cast of jade. It had layers of dust on it – which was really cool for a kid, because you could draw all kinds of smiley faces through the layers of dust. You could even line up all of your plastic army men on it and pretend it was the high ground, and shoot them down with rubber bands. It weighed a ton too, at least for a kid of eight or nine. I tried to nudge it over one time when I chucked my rubber ball across the room and it landed behind it. I wasn't allowed to play ball in my own house, but it was my grandmother's house my "Baba". Baba's house was not like my mom and dad's home where you couldn't get away with anything. At my Baba's house I was the king.



I pondered and thought about that suitcase more and more every day since. You know how something gets in your mind and you just can't shake it. That leather suitcase was like that it just bugged me. The more I tried to remember more questions came to mind and those memories just refused to flood back. Where did it come from? What was in it? Why didn't I ask my grandfather (my "Dedo") about it more long ago, and whatever became of it after my grandparents returned to the Lord?

So I started to do some research on the internet. (You know the internet is like the brain of my eighth-grade teacher, Sister Anita. Looking back I never realized how intelligent she really was. All I believed back then about the sisters was that they were old ladies in black who made me sit still all day and made my little life miserable.) From my research, I learned that old decrepit antique suitcase was a leather Finnigan made in England around 1910. Ahh! That sparked a flash for me. My grandfather immigrated from a little village in Slovakia called Vyšná Sítnica, around 1911, and this was his suitcase. The one he used when he came to America. So the mystery was solved ... or was it? Funny thing about mysteries, the more you think you have them solved, the more mysterious they become. Why did that suitcase haunt me? It was his suitcase all right; but what was in it, why did it seem so heavy? How did he get it? And where is it now? What if it could talk?

"It's all there", "all the answers are there, in your thoughts, in what you've been taught and what you've become" I imagined the suitcase would say. "When your grandfather first found me I was already old. I was created on a crystal clear sunny day in 1910 in England. Hand stitched, created and then forgotten. The day that Mr. Mike Sichula first found me was cold and dreary. I was thrown and discarded in back of an old peddler's cart. How I got there is another story, but my new life began with Mike. Knowing that he was leaving all that he knew to travel to a new land Mike Sichula rescued me. He seemed to know that I needed him as much as he needed me. I needed a purpose in life, and so did he. I became a suitcase for his clothes of course. I kept his material things safe for him. I kept everything in trust for him such as his old torn towel, a change of clothes, a few pictures, a small cracked mirror, a bar of homemade soap, and a few odds and ends. I became more than a holder of material things, however; I became a confidant and part of his life and of his descendents. I traveled with him across half a continent by foot, or by cart. I shared with him experiences of the rain and cold, of isolation and of fear. Not that he would show any fear. I don't think he was afraid of anything worldly. But deep in his heart where no one but God dwells he may have known fear – a fear of the strange "unknown" he was about to enter. Fear of what he was leaving, for where he was going. For a promise. A fear of leaving everything he knew and loved for a promise of a better life. Not only for himself, but also for you would come after him. In fact he would speak of that fear when walking, when no one could hear but me. He would also pray and speak of it to his other companion the Lord. He would also speak of his Dreams. His dreams of freedom, his dreams of peace, and his dreams of a better life. Dreams of a place where a person could be whatever he wanted to be. All he had to do is work hard and place his trust in the Lord. He dreamt dreams of what he could pass on to his children his grandchildren and his grandchildren's children. I was with him when he traveled across an entire ocean. I was by his side when he first saw the lady with the torch in New York Harbor. I stepped off the gangplank with him to enter a new land. I was with that man when he experienced the scrutiny of entering that new land. He endured inspections, physicals, the endless hours of standing in line. Waiting for his new life. I was with him again when he humbly trudged for miles from New York to Ft Palmer PA., with only a promise of work in the coal mines. One foot in front of the other, day after day he trudged until he finally arrived in that old coal mining town. Upon arrival he lived out of me for awhile while he shared a room with other coal miners because he had no place of his own to lay his head. And then suddenly I was left alone for longer and longer periods of time. I knew a change was coming. Mike found someone new. Her name was Susanna. She worked in the next town scrubbing floors. They met at church and she was his love, and became his new wife.

I was not forgotten however; I was again called into service for their honeymoon, such as it was. For Mike and Susanna did not have much as far as material things. But it was a happy time that brief weekend trip to New York and they were in love and they did not need much. They returned to Wilpen, PA, after four days in the big city to a 3 room rented home to begin their life together. They raised five children in that home John, Mike, Ann, Mary, and Joe.

Again you may think that this story is over and your memories are complete. Not true, for I was pressed into service many, many times when I lived with the Sichulas. I remember when I carried groceries from the old A&P supermarket in a nearby town some five miles away from the old patch town where we lived. Because Susanna would refuse to be ripped off by the company store, she walked at night to that supermarket so the mining bosses would not know that she hid the food inside my tender embrace. I also remember a war when Mike's oldest son John carried me away to basic training. He then left to defend his country. I was placed in a locker to await his return. He did return ultimately to reclaim me. During that war he received the soldier's medal for heroism and earned five battle stars which included the assault on Normandy Beach. His two other brothers also survived the military both in the Navy. Mike was aboard ship A LST during the D-Day invasion. I remember listening to John and Mike tell the story of how John on one ship was preparing to climb down the cargo net to leave the transport and "hit the beach" when he saw his brother Mike on that LST wave to him. John fought in many places in France. Places with strange names like Normandy, St. Lo, Adenines, the Bulge. I also remember when John came home and I listened while he prepared for another invasion. A place called Japan. He never got there though. A bomb was dropped by the President and the war was over and we came home to Ligonier. Another brother carried me when he joined the Navy after the war. We flew on a blimp patrolling the Atlantic from Main to Key West. I also remember yet another war and another generation that defended our country. I was placed in a locker again while this generation fought in places with names like Korea and Vietnam. Yes I consider it my country too now. War was not the only way however that I served.

I served in peace too. One of my proudest moments was when I carried all the insignias and sashes to and from Lodge functions. For my owner Mike and then John and then Rick were officers in the old Jednota Lodge 560 in Wilpen, PA. It was one of the best times of my life watching all the kids at the yearly picnic wolf down boiled hot dogs. Ice cold pop from a wash tub, and all the ice cream you could eat. The music, yes the polka music and dancing.

I have sat and watched and assisted with generations of Sichulas, and still do. Rick! Think! Think hard where am I now? Your daughter has me now. I'm not an old leather suitcase anymore. I am old but I'm chic, and on display in her living room for all to see. For now through this story, your memories and her restoration I have new life. I will always have life and you will always have your memories. The promise indeed lives on."

I think about that old suitcase now and again, but there is not a day goes by that I do not thank my grandfather and grandmother and my parents for the gifts they have given me. My faith, my work ethic, my drive to succeed, and the drive for an education that came from them and their gentle guidance.

I think of the courage that it must have taken for that man and all immigrants to leave everything they knew. To travel to a place that was totally foreign; for some not even speaking the language and, for most, to be taken advantage of. However, they came to America for the American Dream and to become citizens of a new land. They became Americans in every form – heart, mind, and soul. Now at times when I pray the "Our Father" to my heavenly Father, I sometimes remember when I was about five or six my grandfather taught me to say the "Otec Nas" in Slovak, but when I asked him to teach me to speak in Slovak. He turned to me and said sternly in his broken English "We are Americans, and we will speak American because we are Americans."



(L – R) The author's grandfather and father



The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Members as we enter the season of Advent.

Thank you for keeping the tradition alive.

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on the following days during the holidays:



In observance of
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
 December 24 & 25, 2012



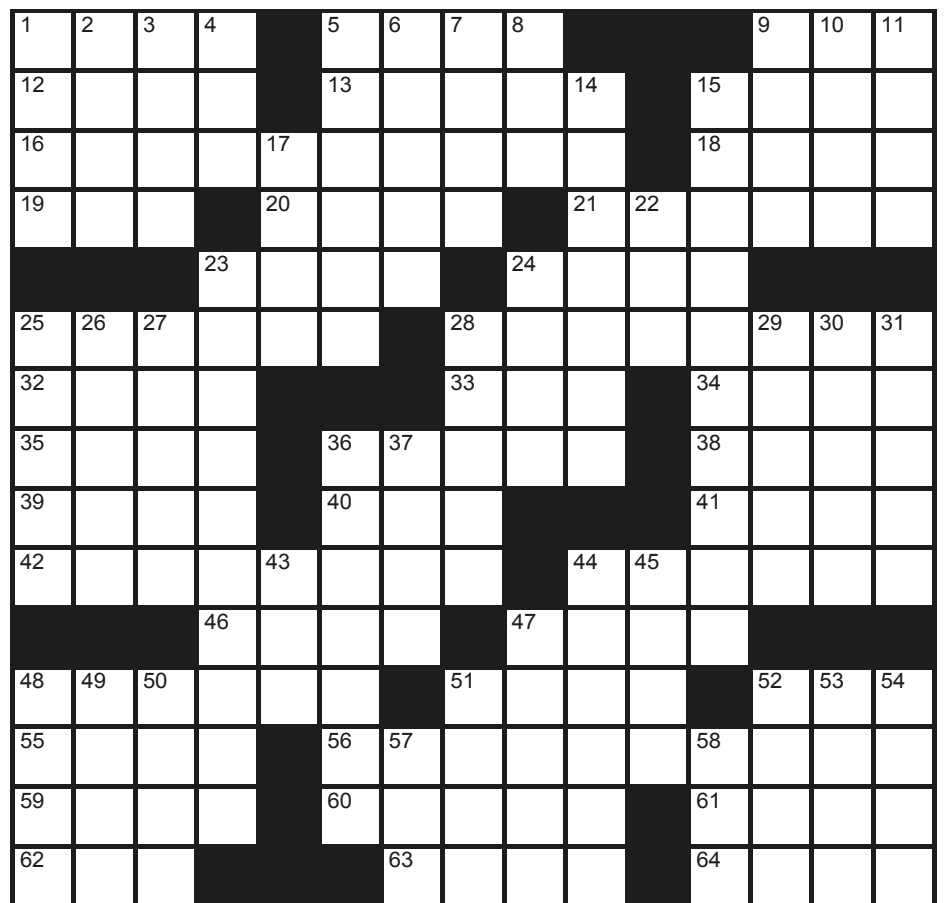
In observance of
New Years Day
 January 1, 2013

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2013

Issue Date	Deadline
January 16	January 7
January 30	January 14
February 13	February 4
February 27	February 18
March 13	March 4
March 27	March 18
April 24	April 15
May 8	April 29
May 22	May 13
June 12	June 3
July 17	July 8
August 7	July 29
September 4	August 26
September 25	September 16
October 9	September 30
October 23	October 14
November 6	October 28
November 20	November 11
December 4	November 25

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Camera part
- 5 Clumsy person
- 9 Bonkers
- 12 Creme-filled snack
- 13 Scrutinize the books
- 15 For Pete's ___
- 16 Explosive holders
- 18 Hibernia
- 19 Sharp curve
- 20 Stocking stuffers
- 21 Pressing
- 23 Seagulls
- 24 Unique person
- 25 Beauty shops
- 28 Attraction-filled magazine
- 32 Norse war god
- 33 Skirt edge
- 34 Horror film staple
- 35 Tiger's tooth
- 36 Hindu teacher
- 38 Locality
- 39 Teen follower
- 40 Even (Poet.)
- 41 Race
- 42 Love song
- 44 Shells out cash
- 46 Mercury and Mars, e.g.
- 47 Okla. city
- 48 Edible tuber
- 51 Wistful word
- 52 Durable wood
- 55 Adjoin
- 56 Take a ride
- 59 Ice cream holder
- 60 After land or moon

Down

- 61 Motorcar
- 62 Social drink
- 63 Very, in Versailles
- 64 Attention getter
- 10 Blood-related
- 11 Fender mishap
- 14 Earthquake aftermath, at times
- 15 Isolated from others
- 17 Collar type
- 22 Minister (Abbr.)
- 23 Assemble
- 24 Utah city
- 25 Divans
- 26 Maxim
- 27 Eye makeup
- 28 Feudal lord
- 29 Sophia of *Two Women*
- 30 Mountain nymph
- 31 Engine parts
- 36 Old salts
- 37 Marries
- 43 "___ so fast!"
- 44 Traps
- 45 Tower site
- 47 Take the honey and run
- 48 Agreement
- 49 Wind instrument
- 50 Cat chow flavor
- 51 At a distance
- 52 Musical composition
- 53 River islets
- 54 Clove hitch
- 57 Fall mo.
- 58 Tree juice

See Solution on Page 20

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For more info please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. We will hold our elections at this time. If you have any questions or are interested in attending, please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michael the Archangel Society Branch 2 will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday December 4, 2012 at 7:00 PM at Kretzlers located on 2240 Babcock Blvd. We will have election of officers and planning of events for 2013. All members are encouraged to attend. Snacks will be served afterwards. Any questions call (412)-766-3222 We ask that you make a reservation by calling (412)-766-3222.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen's Society Branch 006K will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2012, at 1:00PM in Al's Restaurant (formerly Buster's Restaurant), 1603 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL.

The branch will conduct a meeting, followed by the nomination and election of officers. The branch will provide a luncheon with a fraternal gathering. The branch encourages all members to attend and share any suggestions for branch activities for 2013. Call (815) 822-8851 or (815) 672-1764, if you plan to attend or have any questions on insurance. Thank you.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012, 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 K. J., of Olyphant, PA, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 2, at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

William A. Navelanko, Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 9:30AM in St. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place at this meeting.

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

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24 CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St. Andrew Society, will have a branch meeting/luncheon at 1:00PM, Sunday November 18, 2012 at the Old Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd. (Rt. 21) in Independence. Parking is available behind the gazebo on the town square. The agenda will include the election of officers for 2013.

Please phone Activities Director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 evenings after 6:00PM before Thursday November 15th, if you plan to attend.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Branch 25 will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 1:00PM.

The meeting will be held at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 1987 Centurion Drive, #402, Forest Hills, PA.

Agenda items include election of officers and discussion of branch activities. All members are invited to attend.

Fraternally,

Janet M. Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41KJ, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 1, 2012, in the Rectory of the Most Holy Trinity Church, 18 Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, NY, after the 5:00PM Mass. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. Election of Officers for Branch 41KJ will take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Fraternally,

Florence Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012, 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 up coming year. The election of officers will also be chosen. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 75, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012. The 10:00AM meeting will be held at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA.

The fiscal end of the year reports and financial statements will be presented. The auditor's report for the coming year will take place. Any additional branch business will be entertained.

All members are requested to attend this semi-annual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOEY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 1PM. At this meeting, we will elect officers and discuss new business. The meeting will be held at Palermo's Restaurant on the Pottsville-Minersville Highway. Please call 570-640-1796 for further details.

Fraternally,

Karen Engle Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 157 – NORTH CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting and Christmas party on Sunday, December 9, 2012, in the upstairs Jednota Hall, located at 5th & Grove, North Catasauqua, PA. The meeting will begin at noon. The Christmas party will follow at 1:00PM, with Santa arriving at 2:00PM. Reservations for the Christmas party must be received no later than Dec 2, 2012. Please call 610-264-0740 with your reservation, and leave the names and the ages (0 - 10) of any children attending. The snow date for the meeting and Christmas party is December 16, 2012.

Gregory Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 653 W. Main St., Uniontown in the conference room. Officer's reports will be given, branch activities will be discussed along with a report on the membership meeting, and election of officers will take place. All members of Branch 162 and spouses are cordially invited to attend the meeting, including the breakfast. Call for directions if needed and RSVP to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 by December 11, 2012.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 169P – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Lodge, Branch 169P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2012, at the Slivasky residence, 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, PA, at 1:00PM. Election of officers and branch business will be discussed.

Betty Slivasky, Secretary

BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in the greater Wilkes-Barre – Wyoming Valley Area, will hold its annual meeting on December 5, 2012 at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, beginning at 1:00 pm.

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

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067 so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Branch 199, Hostetter, PA, will meet on Sunday, December 16, 2012, at 1:00PM at Chumps Restaurant, Norvelt, PA. Election of officers will take place. Attendance is encouraged.

Barbara Patula, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

We will have our Nomination of Officers AND Election of Officers meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2012, immediately following the Officers Meeting which starts at 7:00PM. All meetings are held in the club's Social Hall at 910-912 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA. Members are encouraged to attend the meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of each month except June or July. The regular meeting follows the officers and directors meeting which begins at 7:00pm. In the event of a holy day, the meeting will be held the 2nd Thursday of that month. Hope to see you there!

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA at 1:30PM. Election of officers and discussion of the district meeting will be on the agenda. All members are asked to attend. Wishing all a Happy, Blessed, and Holy Christmas Season.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during its December 17, 2012 meeting at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This is an opportune time to get into office and help manage our branch as well as become involved with the Slovak Club. Anyone interested in running for branch office and/or ASC board representative should contact the branch officers and attend the December meeting. As always, Branch 228 holds their monthly meetings at the American Slovak Club at 7 P.M. on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. Visit the websites of the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current and future activities. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold an Annual Meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 11:00AM. We will have an Election of Officers, followed by a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are invited to attend.

We wish all members a Holy and Happy Holiday Season.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthews Branch 260 will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, December 16, 2012, at 1:30PM at Bedford Trails golf course. The agenda will include

election of officers. Members are urged to attend. Fraternal submitted,

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday November 25, 2012 at Woody's restaurant on Walnut Street in McKeesport at 1:00 P.M. On the agenda will be reports from the officers and election of officers for 2013. We will be discussing charitable donations and new business for the coming year. All members are invited to attend.

Fraternally

Nancy Gerdich, Rec. Secretary

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

A meeting of the St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will be held on Dec. 12, 2012, at 6:30PM. Election of Officers will be held. Please contact Joe after 6PM at (732) 469-5256 as to the location of the meeting.

Joseph Minarovich, President

BRANCH 292- WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, FCSU, will hold their Annual Meeting on December 16, 2012, 12:30 p.m. at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA. A Christmas Party will follow the meeting. All members are asked to attend.

We wish all members a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, FIC, Pres.

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 293 KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 10, 2012, at 6PM at the home of Financial Secretary Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA, 18232.

Election of officers will be on the agenda. Anyone needing service or insurance should contact Robert at 570-645-4872.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society will hold a meeting on January 12, 2013, at the Mother of Sorrows Convent in Oak Forest, IL (5600 West 147th Street). Election of officers for the new year of 2013 and new memberships will be on the agenda. Memberships are so important to our Society. The meeting will start at 11:15 AM. We hope to see you there.

Joseph M. Bugel, President/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting and Christmas luncheon on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 1:00PM, at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. There will be no cost to members; however, there will be a \$10.00 charge for nonmembers. In addition to conducting general business, there will be an election of officers. Please make your reservation by calling Fran at (724) 929-9788 before December 1, 2012, and let your know if you will be attending.

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

Mary Anne Higgenbotham, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367, Fairchance, PA, will hold a meeting on Monday, November 26, 2012 at 5:00PM at the IHOP Restaurant, 702 Walmart Drive, Uniontown, PA. A review of yearly and new projects will be discussed. Anyone wishing to attend please call Audrey Balazik, President at 724-438-3887, or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006.

Kathryn Baranek Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372 of Beaverdale, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2012, at 2:00PM. The meeting will be held at the home of President Michael P. Hudak, Sr., 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, PA. The agenda for

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

the meeting will include a review of financial reports and election of officers for the year 2013.

Respectfully,

Michael P. Hudak, Sr.

BRANCH 393 – HANNASTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Branch 393 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2012, at 1:00PM. The meeting will be at Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Rt. 119 Greensburg, PA, 15601. All members are welcome. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Navelanko at 1-724-834-6386.

**Mary Ann Navelanko,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2012, 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 2013. All members are invited to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Mark's Society, Branch 425, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2012, at 1:00PM at the Slovak Society of Barberton, 887 W. Tuscarawas Ave., Barberton, OH. Election of officers will take place. All members are welcome.

Jeanette Willis, Recording Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2012 at 1:00pm at 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa. 18109.

Nomination and election of officers for the year 2013 will take place at this time.

The annual report will also be given at this meeting. We will discuss ideas for fundraising for the year 2013.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to everyone!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael Archangel, Branch 581 of Gary/Whiting, IN, will hold its regular meeting Sunday, December 2, at 1 pm at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Road, Hobart, IN.. The agenda will include Election of Officers and discussion on the children's insurance. RSVP Ann Buczek, 947-2793 or George Kelchak, 926-2410.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

The Muskegon Heights Branch will hold elections of officers on December 16, 2012, at the Hall, 2526 6th Street, Muskegon Hts., MI, 49444.

We need your help locating several members:

- Rose Dawson
- David Harley
- Sherri Mierendorf

If you have any information on these people please contact Branch 595 at 733-7525.

Laura Karafa Recording Secretary

BRANCH 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, November 25, 2012, at 4:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Penn Hills, PA.

The agenda will include ongoing business of the branch and the election of officers for 2013.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 9, at 11:30AM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 will hold its annual meeting, with election of officers for 2013 and a festive Christmas party, on Sunday, December 2, 2012, at Material Research Laboratories, Bridge St., Struthers, OH, at 2:30PM. All members are encouraged to attend. We also will discuss past and future events.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have a meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2012, at 2:00PM at St. Cyril Parish Hall in Bannister, MI. Election of Officers will be held. All members are encouraged to attend. Thank you. Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

A Noon Mass for deceased members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will be celebrated on December 16, 2012 at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

Our annual meeting will follow at the Saint Matthias Rectory. The agenda includes the election of officers for 2013.

Please try to attend.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will be holding its semi-annual meeting Tuesday December 4th, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post 6673, Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pa. The meeting will include election of officers and upcoming events for the holidays as well as plans for the new year. All members are welcomed.

Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 9 2012, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer Report, a 2012 financial report, approval of the 2013 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of branch officers will also take place.

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

The annual meeting will follow 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.

On behalf of the officers of Branch 743, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

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

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2012 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 2013, as well as discussion of activities for the next year. 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 January 15, 2013, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, NY. All members are encouraged to attend. The meeting will include election of officers for the coming year, as well as a discussion of value and benefits of membership in the FCSU.

Henry J. Pochily, President

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

Branch 785 will hold a joint meeting with the Mon-

signor Michael Shuba District on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 1:30 pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall.

Please contact Sharon Tomas 416-540-2328, if you are attending the luncheon and meeting.

Anne Mitro, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Christmas Mass on Sunday, December 16, 2012 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. Mass will begin at 11:00 AM.

Refreshments will be served after Mass in cafeteria and St. Nicholas will bring Christmas presents to the children. Following fraternal fellowship, Branch 844 members will hold its annual meeting with election of officers and a financial report. Also on the agenda: activities for 2013, including preparations for the anniversary celebration of 1150 years of St. Cyril and Methodius' missionary work with Slovak people.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention all Branch 853 members. The annual meeting of the branch 853 will take place on Monday November 26 3pm at Regos restaurant in Charleroi, PA.

We will again be celebrating the birth of Our Lord with friendship at our annual spaghetti dinner. There is no cost for branch members, and a cost of \$16 for

non-branch members. Elections will be held.

Members are asked to bring their fraternal activities list for 2012.

Please leave a message at 412-341-1577 with your name and how many people will be attending.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Monica Rodacy-Boone, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Branch 856 will hold their next meeting on Saturday, December 8, 2012, at 1:00PM at the home of Recording Secretary Marion Mistrik at 4513 Gladwyne Drive, Bethesda, MD, 20814. On the agenda will be future branch activities, election of officers, Treasurer's report, report on attendance at the Mass held in honor of our Slovak Chapel. All branch members are invited to attend. For information, call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703-860-1693.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday December 12, 2012. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. Election of officers for 2013 will be held. The officers of Branch 857 wishes all a happy and holy Christmas season.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

ANNUAL SLOVAK VILIJA & JASLICKARI PROGRAM Saturday, December 15, 2012

- Traditional meatless meal of baked fish
- Vegetables, pirohy, bobalky, mushroom soup
- Homemade nut and poppyseed rolls for sale



*Traditional Slovak
Christmas Eve Dinner
Featuring*

The Pittsburgh Slovakians

Performing songs and dances

depicting winter traditions practiced in the Slovakia of our ancestors

"Jaslickari" is the retelling the story of the shepherds at Christ's birth

Prince of Peace Parish Center
81 So. 13th Street, South Side

Donation: \$20 Adults / \$10 Children under 12

By Reservation Only: 412-481-8380

Discount available for groups of 8 or more adults

Doors Open 4 p.m.

Dinner served at 5 p.m.

Handicap Accessible / Open Seating

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3-GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 2, 2012, at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The evening will begin 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 20 by calling Darlene at 724-537-7743 after 6 p.m. No reservations will be accepted after November 20 or by the Bishop Connare Center.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 580 will host the annual Fall/Winter meeting of the FCSU/Pittsburgh District on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Please note that there is a time change - the business meeting will start promptly at 12:00 noon. Luncheon will be served at 1:30. You won't miss the game. The Steelers play at Baltimore & the kick-off is at 4PM. The meeting will include officers' reports, discussion of district business, and planning for 2013. Officers for 2013 will be elected at this meeting.

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:

** A Slovak Vilija & Jaslickari Program will be held on Saturday, December 15 at the Prince of Peace Parish Center on Pittsburgh's South Side. Entertainment will be provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Reservations only: 412-481-8380.

** A Slovak Vilija (Christmas Eve Dinner) will be hosted by the Slovak Cultural Committee of McKeesport & West Mifflin on Sunday, December 16 at 2PM. The dinner will be held at the Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Ave Ext, West Mifflin, PA. The meal includes traditional foods such as oplatky, mushroom soup, bobalky, pirohy, fish, and nut & poppyseed rolls. The cost is \$15 (or \$8 for children 12 and younger). Payment must be made by December 11. Call Sister Irene Benyak, SCN for reservations at 412-751-1673.

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

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: November 5: US Steel in Slovakia, December 3: Finding Your Slovak Immigrant Before and After World War One, January 7: Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program, February 4: Slovak Music, March 4: Slovakia Today and Yesterday.

** The WPSCA is planning a cooking demonstration and a Slovak Film Festival in the Spring. Look for further announcements in the Spring.

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, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, December 9, 2012, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Msgr. Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville. On the agenda will be the election of officers. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

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

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

Upcoming United Slovak Societies Vilija in Lorain, OH

The United Slovak Societies will host a traditional Vilija dinner on Sunday December 9th, 2012 at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH.

Cocktails 5:30, Dinner 6:00p.m.

Menu will include the American Slovak Club Ladies Auxiliary perch, sauerkraut soup, pierohi, oplatky, wine toast and more.

Slovak entertainment and cash bar available. Cost \$20.00pp

The event is open to the public.

Advanced ticket sales only, Contact Len Zilko at 440/988-3236.

Michele Mager, Secretary-United Slovak Societies
FCSU Br. 228; SCS Wr. 111; FCSLA Br. 114

Christmas Oplatky 2012

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers are available from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 22 until December 19, 2012.

The Oplatky, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$3.00. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$5.75 and upwards depending upon the number of packets ordered and the rising costs of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place an order contact

Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M.
at 570-275-5606 or

write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum

580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart,
Danville, PA 17821-1698

DISTRICT 14 - THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

District 14, the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, will have its next meeting, held in conjunction with the Annual Christmas Party, on Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at 6:00PM, at the Fireplace Restaurant and Lounge, 2075 East Western Reserve Road, Poland, OH. On the agenda will be Nomination and Election of Officers, followed by the Christmas party and dinner. Reservations are required by Tuesday, December 11, 2012. To make your reservation, please call either Nancy Scavina at 330-758-4536 or Paul Ritz at 330-501-8768.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold its annual meeting on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2012. The celebration begins at 11:00 AM with Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706, following with the tradition of St. Nicholas presenting Christmas gifts to children. There will be Christmas-carol choir practice and preparation for Sunday Mass and after the Mass celebration, as well.

The meeting will be held at 1:30 PM in the Cafeteria, where a gourmet luncheon with dessert also will be served. On the agenda will be: Election of officers for the coming year, a financial report, and preparations for the 1150th anniversary of the evangelization of the Slovak people by Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and hold their concurrent Annual Meetings.

Please contact your branch officer for details.

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

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

A joint meeting with Branch 785 will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 1:30 pm at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church Hall.

Please contact Sharon Tomas 416-540-2328, if you are attending the luncheon and meeting.

Anne Mitro, Branch 785 Secretary



28th Christmas Concert and Dinner at Yonkers, N.Y. parish on December 9

Continuing in a time-honored and beloved tradition, Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, N.Y. will host its 28th annual Christmas concert and dinner on Sunday, December 9.

The concert will be presented at 3 p.m. in the church located at 18 Trinity Plaza, off Walnut Street in the historic Hollow section of Yonkers where the first Slovak immigrants settled nearly 125 years ago. The concert is under the direction of Stephen J. Knoblock, a member of Jednota Branch 41, who serves as Music Minister of the parish. The concert will feature an array of seasonal works by the choir of the parish. The voices of the choir, one of the finest choral groups in the Archdiocese of New York, will be accompanied by a 12-piece orchestra.

Following the concert a buffet supper will be served in the parish social hall. The dinner begins with the sharing of the Oplatky - the Christmas wafers. The menu will include feature Slovak culinary specialties, including halusky, pirohy, klobasy and kapusta along with roast loin of pork. Beer, wine and soda along with dessert are included in the dinner price. Tickets for the concert and dinner are \$35.00 for adults, prior to the deadline date of December 3 and \$40.00 after the deadline. Dinner tickets for children age 12 and younger \$17.50. For reservations call the rectory at tel. (914) 963-0720. Tickets are also available following the weekend liturgies in church on Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Tickets for the concert alone are \$10.00. Members of Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 which founded the parish in 1894, are serving on the Christmas dinner committee.



Branch 670 Awards 2012 Scholarships, Accepting Applications For 2013

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is proud to announce the winners of the 2012 Scholarship program.

Rachel Wald of Portland, OR is a freshman at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. She is the daughter of Ruth and Barry Wald.

Andrew L. Hyatt of Freedom, PA is a freshman attending the University of Pittsburgh, Titusville, PA. He is the son of Cheryl and Gregg Hyatt.

Branch 670 is also excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2013 Scholarship Program. The committee will award up to three, one-time \$1000.00 scholarships to the candidates who best satisfy the award criteria. Any individual of Branch #670 that has had a policy, other than JEP, for at least 5 years, is current in their premiums, and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship. The applicant must be a senior in high school to qualify for this scholarship.

For applications, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1 of the following officers, or you may email your request to 1 of the following addresses: Dorothy Petrus, 585 Castner Ave., Donora, PA 15033; Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net); Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: hyattfamily@comcast.net) ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2013

Spišská Nová Ves: A Charming City Steeped in History

continued from page 9

transport and communication. A power plant constructed in 1894 added to the improving picture. Miners and other workers organized into trade unions to demand higher wages and safer working conditions between 1905 and 1907, and strikes increased in the years before World War I.

The Slovak national movement also strengthened in this era. In 1874, a group of 17 Slovak nationalists formed a branch of the Matica Slovenska, the Slovak cultural society that had been based in Turčiansky svätý Martin, but prohibited by the Hungarian government. The local society furtively distributed books, magazines and pamphlets in the Slovak language. As a result, Magyarization of the local population intensified, and even after the Great War, Hungary refused to hand over Spiš to the newly established Czecho-Slovak Republic. The Slovak National Council with the assistance of the new republic's Czecho-Slovak army put Magyar aims to rest.

After 1918, the economic situation deteriorated due to the necessity of realigning the economy with a new Czecho-Slovak state. Many businesses had to close because of shortages of raw materials and an inability to market products successfully. The communist party organized a local branch and organized demonstrations and hunger marches to protest the poor conditions. But by the middle of the 1920s, business gradually started to rebound. As a testament to returning prosperity in July 1929, Spišská Nová Ves hosted an Exhibit of the Tatra Region (Podtatranská výstava). The prosperity proved short-lived, as a global Great Depression once again sent the local economy into a tailspin.

During World War II, Spišská Nová Ves remained part of the independent Slovak Republic despite an attack on its airport by Hungarian planes in March 1939. Wartime production brought back a measure of prosperity to the city. Of course, Jews suffered discrimination and most were forcibly expelled to death camps in nearby Poland. The situation became unsettled again during the Slovak National Uprising of 1944, but the Soviet Red Army liberated the town on January 27, 1945, and the long process of rebuilding would continue afterwards. The government of Czechoslovak President Beneš expelled most citizens of German nationality and the town lost one of its most entrepreneurial components.

Following the communist seizure of power in February 1948, the new regime dissolved many small businesses and created large, government-owned enterprises. It revived the iron mines and created state-run flour mills, bakeries, dairies, a furniture factory, an engineering works, a textile mill, and other factories. While the communists helped eliminate unemployment, they also restricted personal freedoms and oppressed religious freedom. The conditions of the church and clergy in all denominations suffered.

Spišská Nová Ves since 1989

The overthrow of communism following the Velvet Revolution of 1989 brought new freedom to Spišská Nová Ves and all of Slovakia. At the same time, the coming of free markets has had mixed results in the town. Many local enterprises such as the Madaras textile plant have closed; it had employed thousands of local workers, including many women. Nearby mines have shut down and former

polluting foundries, such as that in Rudňany, lay abandoned. Many fairly good paying jobs were lost, and unemployment has consistently floated around 20 percent.

Soon after 1989, Youngstown, Ohio became a sister city with Spišská Nová Ves, thanks largely to the efforts of the late Steve Bacon and many other devoted Slovak-Americans. Youngstown area residents have done much to help the town. Early on, they sent computer equipment, books, medical supplies, and sponsored exchanges between officials, students, and cultural groups. Teachers went there to instruct people in the English language, and the Youngstown organization sent donations when floods ravaged the region. Jim and Kay Bench are continuing the Spiš connection by taking a Sisters' City tour to area in July 2013 (For information, see <http://www.youngtownsistercities.com/> [or see announcement on this same page: editor's note])

While much progress has been made, much remains to be accomplished to revive the economy and educate the people. Many small businesses have sprouted to pick up the local economy, and European agencies are helping to ease the ongoing transition to a free market. The European Center for Enterprise and Innovation (CEEI/BIC) has attempted to ameliorate the situation. It obtained PHARE funds from the National Agency for Small and Medium-Sized Business Development (ANDPME). European advisers found that while many Slovaks had good skills, they lacked knowledge in management experience, forming businesses, finding production sites, and finding working capital for investment. Industrial parks needed development and local training has been ongoing.

The former Madaras textile plant was converted into a modern shopping mall and plaza. Foreign firms have constructed shopping places such as Kaufhof, Hypermart, and the newly opened Tesco Department Store. While new shopping centers have created some jobs, much local employment still depends on the production of large factories such as the refrigerator compressors factory built by a Brazilian-owned company. Tourism is one source of potential revenue, but most tourists usually just spend a few hours in the town and do not stay long enough to provide a substantial economic boost. Unemployment still hovers around 18%, far above the 13% national average in Slovakia.

Like the rest of Spiš, Spišská Nová Ves remains a jewel to be discovered by most tourists. Off the maps of most tourism planners, it offers some fine historical attractions at a fraction of the cost of many more frequented places across Europe. However, it is also located in eastern Slovakia, and requires time to get to from Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, or Prague; a better road system would surely help. The new east-west highway across Slovakia will assist in bringing future economic growth, but the town has a job ahead to promote itself to the average European vacationer.

We can help the local economy when visiting Spišská Nová Ves by patronizing local businesses. I would especially recommend the Valach Shop, which is located on Zimná ulica (street), no. 45, in the courtyard on the southern section of the main shopping area. The owner, Miro, is an honest and helpful man who kindly assisted me when I had a flat tire on my bicycle. The Valach Shop offers a wide variety of Slovak foods and folk crafts for purchase. He sells everything from authentic

bryndza cheese to musical instruments such as the long shepherd's horn, known as the fužara. If you are not going to Slovakia, you may even shop his store online at his website: <http://www.valachshop.sk> or write him at the email: info@valachshop.sk The website will translate into English by clicking the icon "Vyberte jazyk" (Choose language) in the upper right hand corner of the Homepage. Slovak folk crafts make for wonderful Christmas gifts, and he will ship to the USA and Canada.

The travel publisher Lonely Planet is also helping promote vacations to Slovakia. It recently ranked Slovakia fifth among the top 10 best places to travel in 2013. It mentioned Slovakia as rating high for culture, adventure, and being off the beaten track. And if one is traveling to Slovakia, Spišská Nová Ves is a great place to enjoy all of these.

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[four additional photos go with the body of the article; captions in the name of the jpegs]



Shown here, the historical center of Trnava, one of the many places you will visit on the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour 2013.



Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour 2013

If you have always wanted to take a tour of Slovakia and never got around to it, NOW IS THE TIME!! Slovakia is celebrating 10 years in the European Union in 2013 and is in the process of refurbishing all their buildings, churches, castles etc. See Slovakia at its finest.

Get started early, find out the names of the villages from your oldest living relatives and once your deposit is made we will help you in trying to locate family. Get out your walking shoes, practice your Slovak and get ready for the time of your life. We stay in the best hotels and you get a flavor of many different hotels, the food is great, our air conditioned bus is large and roomy with a bathroom. We have the finest guide in all of Slovakia and have access to translators for a fee if you want to visit your relatives. You pay these people directly; there is no middle man fee. We do a bus/ walking tour of Vienna, Bratislava, visit castles, white water raft on the Dunajec, have a picnic lunch, visit Nitra, Slovak Bethlehem, Trnava (little Rome of Slovakia) St Jacob's cathedral, Piestany (the spa town) attend a folk performance in Trenčín, travel to the high Tatras and take a ride on the cog railway or gondola ride depending on the weather. We have several dinners in a koliba (a shepherd's cottage with Slovak cooking and music) and everyone lets their hair down and enjoys the evening.

Once again Jim and Kay Bench have agreed to host the tour, which should be scheduled after the first week in July----If you have any questions please contact Jim or Kay at 724-684-5101 home--- Jim's cell 724-858-5843-Kay's cell 724-771-7900 or e-mail them at jmbench@yahoo.com or Adventure International Travel Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171---800-542-2487---Fax 216-228-7174 or www.adventure-intl.travel.com or e-mail Paul@aits.webmail.com.

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News From Slovakia

Kia Motors Slovakia Sets New Monthly Production Record

Teplická nad Vahom, November 8 (TASR) - Kia Motors Slovakia in Teplická nad Vahom (near Zilina) in October made more than 30,000 cars, setting a new record for monthly production, Kia Motors Slovakia spokesman Dusan Dvorak told TASR on this date.

The plant has produced more than 253,000 vehicles since the launch of production in December 2006. This year it has already beaten last year's production record in early November.

The increase in production was due to the introduction of the third shift in early 2012, and the launch of serial production of two new models of Kia cee'd and Kia Sportswagon.

In the first ten months of 2012, Kia Motors Slovakia recorded a 10-percent year-over-year increase in production of Kia cee'd, and a 41-percent rise in production of the SUV model Sportage.

Merkel Praises Slovakia for Its Structural Reforms

Brussels, November 8 (TASR-correspondent) - German Chancellor Angela Merkel Wednesday in the European Parliament positively assessed Slovakia for the structural reforms being carried out by the Slovak Government, TASR was told by European Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic on this date.

"Slovakia was praised as an example of a country that is led by a social democratic prime minister who has been able to engage in structural reforms even in this complicated situation," said Sefcovic, adding that the praise came in reaction to statements made by a number of MEPs pointing to difficult situation that Greece has to face due to the stringent austerity measures.

European Parliament president Martin Schulz added with respect to Merkel's words that countries such as Slovakia need support from the European Cohesion Fund to sustain their successful economic development.

Chancellor Merkel on Wednesday delivered a speech in front of the European Parliament representatives calling on EU leaders to consolidating economic integration in the near future, before visiting London to discuss the 2014-20 EU long-term budget with UK Prime Minister David Cameron.

Former First Post-communist Slovak Premier Milan Cic Dies

Bratislava, November 9 (TASR) - Former Slovak prime minister and Constitutional Court chairman Milan Cic, 80, died Friday, in a hospital in Bratislava, TASR learnt from spokesperson Petra Stano Matasovska (representing the complex of hospitals in Bratislava known as University Hospital) on the same day.

"Despite doctors' efforts, Milan Cic died at the age of 80 shortly after 10 a.m. today (Friday) in Ladislav Derer Hospital. He was admitted into the University Hospital (Kramare) in Bratislava on Sunday, October 25, to undergo urgent neurosurgery," said Matasovska.

President Ivan Gasparovic and First Lady Silvia expressed their sympathy to Cic's family. Cic headed the President's Office from 2004 until his death.

Cic, born in Zakamenne (Zilina region) in 1932, held a number of high-ranking posts both during Communism and after the Velvet Revolution. He completed law studies at the Law Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava in 1961. He went on to act as Deputy Justice Minister in the Slovak Government (while Slovakia was still part of Czechoslovakia) between 1969-1970.

Cic held a number of senior academic posts in the 1970s and 1980s and was appointed professor in 1979. He headed the State and Law Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) between 1987-1988 and acted as SAV vice-chairman between 1988-1989.

Shortly before the Velvet Revolution in November 1989, which brought about the fall of Communism, Cic held the post of justice minister in the then Slovak government. He went on to head the Slovak Government between December 1989 and June 1990, thereby becoming the first Slovak prime minister following the demise of Communism. He then held the post of deputy premier in the government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic until 1992.

Cic, co-author of Slovakia's Constitution, was the first chairman of Slovakia's Constitutional Court between 1993-2000. He became the head of the President's Office in June 2004 after Ivan Gasparovic won the presidential election in May of the same year.

Formerly a Communist Party member between 1961-1990, Cic joined the Public Against Violence (VPN) movement [which spearheaded the Velvet Revolution and formed Slovakia's first post-revolution government in 1990] in 1990. He joined HZDS party after it was set up in 1991 and remained in its ranks until 1993. In the past decade, Cic made several unsuccessful attempts to take up a senior public post again, such as the Bratislava Region governor in the 2001 election and Constitutional Court chairman in 2006.

Bridge Collapses in Kurimany, Four People Dead

Bratislava/Kurimany, November 2 (TASR) - The collapse of a bridge under construction near the village of Kurimany (Presov region) earlier in Friday has claimed four lives, according to Presov Fire-fighter and Rescue Corps spokesman Peter Kovalik.

Another five people have allegedly suffered severe injuries, and eight people lighter injuries. All rescue teams have been despatched to the scene, with Health Minister Zuzana Zvolenska and Interior Minister Robert Kalinak en route to survey the damage in person.

"Prime Minister Robert Fico is in periodic contact with Interior Minister Robert Kalinak and the Transport Ministry management at the accident site. The prime minister will demand a thorough investigation of the case," said the prime minister's spokesperson Beatrice Hudakova.

"A road bridge between the villages of Kurimany and Ijasovce collapsed along with the construction crew that was working on it," Kosice Regional Firefighters and Rescue Corps spokesman Ladislav Fature told TASR. He added that two helicopters, 42 firefighters and 14 fire engines from stations in Levoca, Spisska Nova Ves, Kosice and Presov have already been dispatched to the scene.

Slovakia to Double Diplomats in Brussels when Presiding over EU in 2016

Bratislava, October 31 (TARS) - Slovakia will double the number of its diplomats in Brussels in connection with its EU Presidency scheduled for 2016, the Government approved on this date.

Slovakia's Permanent Representation at the EU currently has 80 employees, 60 of whom are diplomats.

"During the presidency, the overall number of employees should reach 198, while 129 of these should be diplomatic employees," reads a proposal adopted by the Government. The staff should be gradually increased as of 2014.

According to the proposal, it's important to strengthen diplomatic structures, as there will be a new dimension of responsibilities for Slovakia during this period. "They [diplomats] will be responsible for preparing and carrying out negotiations on behalf of EU-member states on EU legislative proposals with the European Parliament and European Commission within the co-decision procedure," reads a document submitted to the session by the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Slovakia based its calculations concerning the necessary number of staff on the experience of other EU-member states that have already presided over the EU. The higher number of employees will have a negative impact on the state budget, but more specific figures concerning the costs will only be known in March 2013.

Slovaks and Poles Constitute Region's Champion Savers

Bratislava, November 5 (TASR) - Slovaks and Poles are the keenest savers in Central and Eastern Europe, depositing 15 and 12 percent of their monthly incomes, respectively, in 2012, according to a survey carried out for Slovenska Sporitelna bank that was released on this date.

"People feel a natural need to save money, which at times of uncertainty gains even greater importance. We heard about the financial crisis first, then about the economic crisis, and finally about the debt crisis over the past few years ... This affects the behavior of people, who in these times of uncertainty are setting aside even greater amounts of their earnings," said Slovenska Sporitelna analyst Maria Valachyova.

The analyst further revealed that while in 2008 Slovaks only deposited 4 percent of their incomes, this grew to as much as 9.5 percent in 2012. "When savings in the pension saving pillars are added, this accounted for 12 percent of their disposable incomes," added Valachyova.

Slovaks set aside an average of €88 a month in 2012, which represented a 1-euro drop year-over-year.

Furthermore, the survey revealed that some 67 percent of Slovaks think it important and responsible to embrace saving. The poll also showed that Slovak women (74 percent) considered saving more important than men (60 percent). Meanwhile, saving accounts were the most popular choice for depositing money, with 52 percent of the poll's participants claiming to have used these types of bank accounts.

The survey showed that Slovaks and Poles were followed by Austrians, Germans and Czechs - who were shown to deposit 9 percent of their incomes. British people set aside only 7 percent of their income.



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SS Cyril and Methodius Servant Leadership Award

On October 28, 2012, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 37 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors from the dioceses of Harrisburg, PA, Scranton, PA and Bridgeport, CT. The ceremony took place at the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. Over the past 10 years, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius have honored over 600 teens in the Dioceses of Bridgeport (CT), Charleston (SC), Chicago (IL), Gary (IN), Harrisburg (PA), Milwaukee, (WI), St. Louis (MO), Scranton (PA), and Syracuse (NY) with the Servant Leadership Award.



The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA awarded the Servant Leadership Award to 37 outstanding high school Juniors and Seniors this October.

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

Receiving the award were: Rachel Amarante from Danville, PA; Emma Batchelder from Lancaster, PA; Paula Bauder from Chambersburg, PA; Erin Beauduy from Mechanicsburg, PA; Bari Katherine Maria Boyd from Dover, PA; Olivia Braswell from Lititz, PA; Monica Burke from Danville, PA; Anthony Thomas Caruso from Mifflinburg, PA; Thomas Allen D'Arcy from Mechanicsburg, PA; Tara Demko from Kulpmont, PA. Katherine Dibble from Waverly, NY; Alex Dishong from Lebanon, PA; William Charles Edwards from Shiremanstown, PA; Kristen Gerzewski from York, PA; Karen Gomez from Mechanicsburg, PA; Michelle Elizabeth Greaves from Lebanon, PA; Rachel Hoellman from Mechanicsburg, PA; Tyler Kevin Holleran from Kulpmont, PA; Dennis Jansen from Muir, PA; Merlin Kalapurackal from Harrisburg, PA; Zachariah Kuzo from Lebanon, PA; Cassie Lark from

Halifax, PA; Jian Manganti from York, PA; Andrew Moliski from Sayre, PA; Christina Murphy from Danville, PA; Gabriella Page from Bloomsburg, PA; Gina Ricco from Seymour, CT; Julia Robinson from Bloomsburg, PA; Kieran Thomas Slattery from Mechanicsburg, PA; Jennifer Southerton from Lewisburg, PA; Alexander Wesley Swade from Mechanicsburg, PA; Erin Switzer from Orrtanna, PA; Emily Williams from Mechanicsburg, PA; Christian Winstel from York, PA; Megan Wood from Lititz, PA; Challen Yanchuck from Lebanon, PA.

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

At the ceremony, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius also honored four adults who received the Father Jankola Lifetime Commitment to Servant Leader-

ship Award in the ministries of evangelization, education, eldercare and ecumenism. Father Jankola was a priest from the Dio-

cese of Scranton who was instrumental in recognizing the need for religious sisters to educate children and founded the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in 1909.

The 2012 Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Commitment to Servant Leadership Award went to:

Evangelization: Dr. James and Dr. Agnes Dinn

Education: Mrs. Bonnie Riegel

Eldercare: Mrs. Peggy Evans

Ecumenism: Sister John Vianney, SS.C.M.

The ceremony ended with a reception at Maria Hall.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable

John's Tours Heads for Slovakia

John's Tours of Vandergrift, PA, has an extensive Tour of Slovakia set for

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Tour participants will have the opportunity to invite friends and relatives to the cultural performances. John Mago and a Slovak- and English-speaking guide will arrange for transportation and translators for those who wish to contact relatives.

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Items for Sale from the Slovak Institute of North America



The Slovak Institute in North America makes its home in Cleveland, OH, on the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey, a Slovak Benedictine Order. First dedicated in 1952 to be a source for knowledge about Slovakia with material in the Slovak language, the non-profit Institute over the years has also published books in Slovak that now can be offered for sale. The Institute's Director, Andrew Hudak and its Associate Director, Geneologist Joseph Hornack are members of the FCSU, as are all the monks of the Abbey.

The Institute offers seasonal as well as timeless items available for purchasing. Books include those in English

and those in Slovak. English titles include Let's Learn Slovak, Slovak Songs and Dances, the Night of the Barbarians, and Cleveland Slovaks. During Christmas season for example, the Institute has Christmas cards in English and in Slovak as well as Oplatky for sale; they come packaged a minimum 3 wafers per envelope, for \$1. Another item frequently asked about is our 3 ft. x 2 ft. black and white map of Slovakia. Designed and printed by the Slovak Institute, it sells for \$10 per map, plus the necessary \$4 additional charge for packing and postage on any average size order mailed within the United States. If help is needed locating a town or a village on the map or you should want information about a particular place, just provide details with your order.

Order forms with the complete list of items available from the Slovak Institute can be found on the FCSU website by going to <http://www.fcsu.com/slovak-institute>

- Submitted by Joseph Hornack, Branch 1

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Putovanie po regiónoch Slovenska

(Pokračovanie)

Šariš

Podľa početných archeologických nálezísk možno usudzovať, že sa tu prví Slovania začali osídľovať už v 5. storočí. Je to región so slovenským, rusínskym, ukrajinským a rímskym obyvateľstvom.

Kultúrnym a vzdelávacím centrom je starobylý Prešov rozprestierajúci sa na sútoku riek Torysa a Sekčov, nazývaný *Aténami nad Torysou*.

Jeho najvýznamnejšou dominantou je gotický kostol sv. Mikuláša zo 14. st. s vežou vysokou 60 metrov. Na kopci, nad mestom, je kalvária, barokový komplex budov s 12 kaplnkami, obľúbené miesto na vychádzky, odkiaľ je nádherný pohľad na celé mesto a okolie.

K unikátu mesta patri aj solivar, národná kultúrna pamiatka, v mestskej štvrti Solivar, komplex budov na dobývanie a varenie soli z bani kamennej soli (soľanky), ktoré v 17. st. zatopila voda.

Prešovčania mali, aj majú radi svoje mesto, čo prezrádzajú aj niektoré piesne, ktoré sa o ňom zmieňujú, napr.:

Od Prešova dražka nova...

*Od Prešova dražka nova,
stromkami je sadzena.*

*Sadzila ju moja najmilejša,
ej, ket som išol do boja...*

Len na skok od Prešova, v Slanských vrchoch, sa nachádza obec Dubník, kde boli až do r. 1922 bane na opál. V r. 1771 tam našli najväčší opál na svete o hmotnosti 607 g, ktorý pomenovali pre jeho zvláštnu hru fariieb Harlekýn. Uložený je v múzeu vo Viedni a jeho hodnota sa odhaduje na 500.000 US dolárov.

V regióne sa nachádza 5 zrúcanin hradov: Veľký Šariš, Kapušany, Čičava, Zborov, Plaveč. Zachoval sa iba hrad v Starej Ľubovni, ktorý je prístupný verejnosti.

Medzi najkrajšie mestá regiónu, ale aj Slovenska, patri Bardejov, kde sa zachovalo pôvodné mestské opevnenie zo 14. storočia: 7 bašt, 3 brány a hradné múry. Pozoruhodné a prítlačivé je predovšetkým svojim chrámom sv. Egidia s 11 gotickými krídlými oltármi, ktorý je zapísaný do Zoznamu svetového a kultúrneho dedičstva UNESCO. Na nádvorí, pri jeho vchode, sú dva historické zvony: *Urban* z r. 1584 (výška 165 cm, hmotnosť 4000 kg) a *Ján* (výška 120 cm, hmotnosť 2200 kg).

K ďalším zaujímavostiam regiónu patri jeho najmladšie mesto Svidník, ktoré je strediskom ukrajinskej a rusínskej kultúry, kde sa každoročne koná festival ich piesní a tancov. V jeho blízkosti, v skanzene na ploche 10 ha, môžeme obdivovať život jeho obyvateľov a okolia v dávnej i nedávnej minulosti.

Neďaleko za mestom sa nachádza Údolie smrti, s exponátmi rôznych zbraní z II. svetovej vojny, kde v jeseni 1944 prebiehali urputné boje Karpatsko-duklianskej operácie, do ktorých sa zapojila aj čs. armáda. Pamätník našim padlým vojakom sa nachádza vo Vyšnom Komárniku, pri poľských hraniciach.

Mimoriadne prítlačivou atrakciou regiónu sú drevené gréckokatolícke a pravoslávne kostolíky zvané „cerkvi“ v 24 obciach: Vyšná Polianka, Bodružal, Brežany, Dobroslava, Frička, Hunkovce, Krivé, Ladomírová... (okrem Hervartova, kde je kostolík rímskokatolícky).

Lákadlom pre našich, ale aj zahraničných milovníkov prírody, turistiky, horolezectva, pre rekreáciu a liečenie niektorých chorôb, sú naše veľhory Vysoké Tatry (Západné i Východné) s viac než 90 plesami. Najväčšie je Hincovo (18,19 ha).

Raritou sú aj kamziky, svište a plesnivce. Z tatranských vrcholov Východných Tatier je najpozoruhodnejší Kriváň (2494 m), ktorý bol v časech národného a sociálneho útlaku Slovákov symbolom národnej existencie, kam smerovali (a aj teraz smerujú) púte. Prvá sa uskutočnila 16. 8. 1841 za prítomnosti našich popredných národovcov L. Štúra a M. M. Hodžu. Rytina Kriváňa je aj na našich eurominciach.

Vysoké Tatry boli motívom nielen pre vznik našej štátnej hymny *Nad Tatrou sa blýska...*, ale aj piesne Sama Tomášika *Kolo Tatier čierňava...*, pripomínajúcu neblahé obdobie útlaku Slovákov v rakúsko-uhorskej monarchii a revolučné roky 1848-49. Uvádzam úryvok:

*Kolo Tatier čierňava, blýska, bije hrom,
stená Váh i Orava, mútny tečie Hron.*

*Už zvonil vrah v tú dobu Slovákov do hrobu,
Už mu zvonil, zvonil, zvonil do hrobu...*

Treba si pripomenúť aj to, že v 2. polovici 19. st. sa z regiónu vysťahovalo pre chudobu a veľkú nezamestnanosť viac ako 20% obyvateľstva do zahraničia, predovšetkým do Kanady a USA. Z mojej rodnej obce Radoma sa vysťahovali šiesti vrátane môjho otca a môjho uja. Viacerí sa vrátili domov, no niektorým sa stala cudzina novým domovom, novou vlasťou.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliach



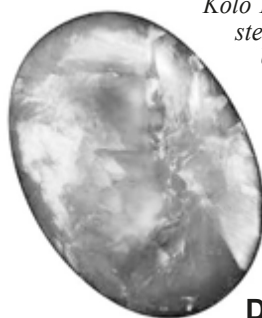
Kostol sv. Mikuláša v Prešove.



Dom zo skanzenu vo Svidníku.



Bodružal – drevený kostolík.



Dubnícký opál Harlekýn.

Krajanovia z 21 štátov rokovali v Bratislave

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

prezentujúce a ovplyvňujúce aktivity krajanových komunít Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí vo vzťahu k upevňovaniu národného povedomia, podpory slovenského jazyka a zveľadovaniu kultúrnych a duchovných hodnôt v kontexte posilňovania identity slovenskosti v celej jej mnohorakosti, ako aj vo vzťahu k svojej bývalej vlasti či domovine svojich predkov - k Slovensku.

Na Stálej konferencii 2012 sa v prvý rokovací deň 30. októbra zúčastnili a krajanov – delegátov vo svojich príhovoroch oslovili aj predstavitelia politického, kultúrneho, vzdelávacieho, duchovného a spoločenského života Slovenska. Po otvorení Stálej konferencie 2012 Igorom Furdíkom, predsedom Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, sa slova postupne ujali Jana Laššáková, podpredsedníčka Národnej rady SR, Miroslav Lajčák, podpredseda vlády SR a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR a Dušan Čaplovič, minister školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR.

Na slávnostnom otvorení snemovania bol prítomný aj Ivan Sečík, štátny tajomník Ministerstva kultúry SR, s prívetom k účastníkom vystúpil aj Marián Tkáč, predseda Matice slovenskej a ďalší, ako aj vrcholní predstavitelia slovenských komunít zo zahraničia a predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí Vladimír Skalský. Delegátov pozdravili aj predstavitelia duchovného života SR – J. E. Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita, predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska, z Rímskokatolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku a Miloš Klátik, generálny biskup Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania na Slovensku.

ÚSZZ



73. plenárne zasadanie KBS

73. plenárne zasadanie Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) sa konalo v dňoch 6. až 8. novembra 2012 v penzióne Zornička na Donovaloch. Zúčastnilo sa na ňom všetkých 16 členov KBS-15 biskupov a jeden diecézny administrátor. Na zasadaní bol prítomný aj apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku Mons. Mario Giordana. Apoštolský nuncius odovzdal biskupom list Svätého Otca, v ktorom sa s láskavou starostlivosťou vrátil k odvolaniu Mons. Roberta Bezáka.

Zasadanie biskupov začalo voľbou predsedu a podpredsedu KBS. Vo funkcii predsedu KBS bol opätovne na najbližšie 3 roky potvrdený bratislavský arcibiskup Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Rozhodlo o tom v tajnom hlasovaní 16 členov KBS-15 biskupov a jeden diecézny administrátor.

Do funkcie podpredsedu KBS bol na 3 ročné obdobie potvrdený nitriansky biskup Mons. Viliam Judák. Za členov Stálej rady boli zvolení košický arcibiskup Mons. Bernard Bober a trnavský apoštolský administrátor Mons. Ján Orosch. Doplňili 5 členný zbor Stálej rady KBS. Ten je tvorený predsedom, podpredsedom, generálnym sekretárom a dvomi volenými členmi. Vo funkcii hovorca KBS bol potvrdený na ďalšie tri roky Jozef Kováčik.

Plénum zvolilo aj zástupcu KBS pri COMECE (Komisia biskupských konferencií Európskej únie). Stal sa ním Mons. Jozef Hal'ko. Za predsedu Ekonomickej rady a Ekonomicko-právnej rady KBS bol zvolený Mons. Štefan Sečka.

Biskupi si vypočuli informácie o Biskupskej synode, ktorá sa konala 7.-28. októbra vo Vatikáne. Jej témou bolo „Nová evanjelizácia pri odovzdávaní viery“. Slovensko zastupovali arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský a arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Ján Babjak. Z jednotlivých rokovaní vzniklo tzv. Propositio, ktoré je zatiaľ dostupné v anglickom jazyku. Hlavným odkazom synody je vernosť autentickému obsahu Evanjeliu, ktorý sa má podávať novou, primeranou formou. Ide predovšetkým o osobný príklad a slovo.

Biskupi rozhodli v rámci slávenia Cyrilometodského roku o konaní Národnej púte do Ríma. Jej program vyvrcholí v stredu 27. februára. Podrobný program pozostávajúci z rôznych duchovných a kultúrno-národných podujatí Cyrilometodského roku je dostupný na stránkach tkkbs.sk

Členovia KBS sa zaoberali počas zasadania zriadením Inštitútu kánonického práva. KBS poverila Mons. Štefana Sečku, aby vstúpil do rokovania s Katolíckou univerzitou /KU/ v Ružomberku o jeho zriadení. Tento inštitút má vykrýť potrebu po vzdelaných cirkevných právnikoch na Slovensku.

Členovia KBS sa venovali aj schvaľovaniu projektov, ktoré sa uchádzali o finančnú podporu z Mediálnej zbierky. Celkovo KBS prerozdelila tento rok sumu vo výške 181 263 eur. Okrem grantov určených štatútom KBS pre TV LUX, Rádio Lumen a TK KBS boli podporené i projekty Liturgický kalendár, natáčanie dokumentárneho filmu o blahoslavenej sestre Zdenke, ktorý pripravuje s koproducentami Konferenciu vyšších predstavených ženských reholí, ako aj výroba dokumentárneho filmu k 50. výročiu založenia Slovenského ústavu svätých Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme. Podporu získal aj hraný film z produkcie Lux communication „Pán Ježiš na návštevu“, ktorý sa v týchto týždňoch postprodukcne dokončuje. Finančnú podporu získali aj internetové projekty „40dni.sk“ a „Moja komunita“, časopis REBRÍK a projekt na podporu farských časopisov „FACA“. Biskupi sa oboznámili s projektom ECCLESIA a vypočuli si informácie o chystanom plenárnom zasadaní predsedov biskupských konferencií CCEE, ktorý sa uskutoční 3.-6. októbra 2013 v Bratislave.

KBS pripravila k 1. adventnej nedeli /tento rok sa slávi 1. decembra 2012/ posolstvo krajanom žijúcim v zahraničí. V posolstve sa hovorí, že radosť a vďačnosť, s ktorou prežívame Cyrilometodský rok nie je ohraničená iba na Slovensko, ale dotýka sa všetkých krajanov v zahraničí. Vyzývajú ich, aby nezabúdali na svoju národnú a kresťanskú identitu. Táto identita má svoje korene v posolstve svätých Cyrila a Metoda.

TK KBS



73. plenárne zasadnutie KBS.

FOTO/ TK KBS

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov IKSJ

Výročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že výročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 9. decembra 2012 o 12:30 hodine poobede (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 1st a 66th Street. Na programe budú správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie, za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Ďakujem s pozdravom

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Výročná schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať výročnú schôdzu v nedeľu 16. decembra 2012. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706 o 11:00 hodine ráno. Ako už tradične Sv. Mikuláš rozdá vianočné darčeky deťom. Bude pripravený aj kvalitný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Výročná schôdza sa začne o 1:30 hodine popoludní v jedálni. Na programe je voľba funkcionárov na nasledujúce obdobie, finančná správa a príprava osláv 1150. výročia evanjelizácie Slovákov Solúnskymi bratmi sv. Cyrilom a Metodom. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučujeme základným organizáciám Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty vykonať súčasne výročné voľby. Návčik spevu vianočných kolied, ktoré sa budú spievať počas svätej omši, bude v priebehu prvých dvoch týždňov adventu.

Funkcionári Okresu Princa Pribinu želia všetkým členom IKSJ požehnané a radostné vianočné sviatky.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Mikulášske odpoľudnie Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New Yorku

V nedeľu dňa 9. decembra 2012 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, tradičné Mikulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou pre deti. Vstup je voľný a deti dostanú občerstvenie.

Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília

Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New Yorku

V nedeľu dňa 16. decembra 2012 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční tradičná Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília. Budú sa podávať tradičné štedrovečerné jedlá. Prihlásiť sa môžete na Fare Slovenského kostola. Vstupné v ktorom je započítaná večera je 20.00 US dolárov.

Plánované vianočné podujatia sa uskutočnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 1st a 66th Street v New York City.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Výučba slovenského jazyka v slovenskej škole Lipka pri kostole Svätej rodiny v New Jersey

V slovenskej škole LIPKA, ktorá pôsobí pri kostole Svätej rodiny v Linden, N.J., sa už otvorili opätovne aj toho roku brány v sobotu 8. septembra 2012 o 10.00 hodine ráno kedy sa k rodičom a deťom prihovoriť kňaz farnosti Rev. Eugen Diurczak. Dôstojný otec zdôraznil význam udržiavania si slovenského povedomia, kultúry i jazyka tu v Amerike. Povzbudil deti i učiteľov do úspešnej práce v novom školskom roku. Vyzval tiež rodičov k zodpovednosti budovania slovenskej spoločnosti v našej farnosti a to účasťou v akciách, ktoré organizuje kostol ako sú: pečenie koláčov, upratovanie pri oltári či účasti na spoločenských akciách.

Po spoločnej modlitbe a požehnaní sa deti a rodičia vybrali do triedy, kde boli oboznámení s vyučovacím procesom a plánom. Vyučovanie je každú sobotu od 10.00 hodiny ráno do 12.00 hodiny popoludnie. Vyučuje sa slovenský jazyk, spev, hry, história i náboženstvo.

Zaujímavosť sa môžu informovať na tel. čísle (848)- 203-4644



Gabčíkovom sa za 20 rokov jeho existencie preplavilo viac ako päť miliónov ľudí

Cez vodné dielo Gabčíkovo sa za dvadsať rokov jeho fungovania preplavilo vyše 300,000 lodí. Na ich palubách sa pritom nachádzalo viac ako päť miliónov pasažierov. "Môžeme tak povedať, že celé Slovensko prešlo lodnými komorami Gabčíkova," podotkol splnomocnenec vlády pre výstavbu a prevádzku Sústavy vodných diel Gabčíkovo – Nagymaros Ladislav Lazár.

Vodné dielo si práve túto jeseň pripomína dvadsať rokov od svojho uvedenia do prevádzky. Plavebná komora Gabčíkova je podľa Lazára jednou z najväčších plavebných komôr v Európe vôbec. "Jej šírka je 34 metrov a je to viac, ako má plavebná komora v Panamskom priplave," vyčíslil.

Vodné dielo zároveň premieňa vodnú energiu na elektrickú a pokrýva približne 10 % spotreby elektrickej energie Slovenska. V rámci výstavby vodného diela už slovenská strana svoju časť, ktorú podľa zmluvy s Maďarskom mala postaviť, dokončila. Maďarská strana však práce na diele zanechala, čo viedlo k sporu oboch štátov, ktorý sa ťahá už roky. Pred 15 rokmi vo veci rozhodol aj Medzinárodný súdny dvor (MSD) v Haagu. Na implementácii rozsudku sa však doteraz krajiny nedohodli.

TASR

Vydarený Oktoberfest v NYC

Pokračovanie zo str. 24



Počas Oktoberfestu oslávila svoje 70. narodeniny Marta Cataláno. Na snímke v prostriedku s kyticou kvetov spolu s rodinou Milana Daita.



Hlavní kuchári Oktoberfestu manželia Škrkoňovci v spoločnosti sprava Henriety H. Daitovej.



Niektorí z usporiadateľov Oktoberfestu zľava: Arno Schmidt, Lucy Tilicio, Ján Škrkoň a Lou Tilicio.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Minister zahraničných vecí Lajčák na oficiálnej návšteve Vatikánu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Osobitnú pozornosť venovali téme prípravy štátnych a cirkevných osláv Jubilejného roku sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Slovensku, ktorý oficiálne otvorila Konferencia biskupov Slovenska 5. júla tohto roku. „Dovoľte mi vyjadriť pevnú podporu vlády Slovenskej republiky pozvaniu prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča a Konferencie biskupov Slovenska pre pápeža Benedikta XVI. na apoštolskú návštevu Slovenska,“ uviedol v tejto súvislosti minister M. Lajčák. Súčasne odovzdal oficiálne pozvanie predsedu vlády SR Roberta Fica pre štátneho sekretára Svätej stolice kardinála Tarcisia Bertoneho na návštevu Slovenska v roku 2013. Partneri spolu rokovali aj o problematike dohodovania bilaterálnej zmluvnej základne a o zvažovaných opatreniach vlády SR zameraných na zmiernenie negatívnych dôsledkov globálnej krízy na život občanov SR vrátane novej zmeny aktuálne platného režimu slávenia štátnych a cirkevných sviatkov.

Pred rokovaniami vo Vatikáne navštívil minister M. Lajčák Pápežské slovenské kolégium sv. Cyrila a Metoda a Pápežský slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ktorý v budúcom roku osláví 50. výročie svojho založenia. Počas stretnutia s rektorom kolégia a ústavu Mons. Vladimírom Stahovcom a slovenskými študentmi pápežských univerzít v Ríme M. Lajčák vysoko ocenil nezastupiteľný prínos ústavu pre Slovensko a Slovákov. Súčasne navštívil nové možnosti spolupráce s vládou SR pri zachovaní kultúry, tradícií a jazyka krajanov žijúcich v zahraničí a vytváraní vhodných podmienok pre systematické bádanie slovenských historikov vo vatikánskom archíve a knižnici.

V popoludňajších hodinách vystúpil šéf slovenskej diplomacie na Pápežskej univerzite sv. Tomáša Akvinského - za účasti predstaviteľov Rímskej kúrie, zástupcov diplomatického zboru akreditovaného pri Svätej stolici a akademických funkcionárov i študentov ostatných pápežských univerzít - s prednáškou na tému „Budúcnosť Európskej únie – perspektívy európskeho projektu“. S cieľom identifikovať nové impulzy pre rozvoj vzájomnej spolupráce medzi SR a Svätou stolicou a ďalšie zviditeľňovanie a podporu šírenia dobrého mena Slovenska v zahraničí. M. Lajčák uskutočnil aj stretnutie so Slováckmi, ktorí zastávajú významné funkcie v štruktúrach Rímskej kúrie – emeritným prefektom Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov kardinálom Jozefom Tomkom, sekretárom Kongregácie pre východné cirkvi arcibiskupom Cyrilom Vasilom, rektorom Pápežského kolégia a ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda Mons. Vladimírom Stahovcom a rektorom Pápežskej univerzity sv. Tomáša Akvinského prof. Miroslavom Konštancom Adamom. V stredu 14. novembra sa minister M. Lajčák na záver generálnej audiencie stretol s Benediktom XVI. a navštívil redakciu slovenského vysielania Vatikánskeho rozhlasu. Informoval o tom Tlačový odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR.

TK KBS

Nové vedenie SAKS-u

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku (SAKS) na výročnej schôdzi, ktorá sa konala 16. septembra 2012, si zvolilo nové vedenie. Za predsedníčku bola zvolená Zuzana Krčmarová a za podpredsedov Rosemary Golia a Matúš Čulen. Tajomníčkou sa stala Zuzana Harvis a pokladníčkou ostáva Sabína Sabadoš.

SAKS (v angličtine Slovak-American Cultural Center – SACC) je kultúrnym a spoločenským združením. Každoročne usporiada reprezentačné plesy v New Yorku a občas organizuje kultúrne podujatia vrátane koncertov pre slovenských umelcov, výstavy a pod. Každoročne tiež poskytuje dve štipendia študentom na Slovensku, ktorí študujú na odbočke americkej City University v Trenčíne alebo v Bratislave.

Zaujímavosť o členstvo, o spoluprácu v SAKS-e alebo o bližšie informácie sa môžu skontaktovať s predsedníčkou na tel. čísle 973-357-1209 alebo cez e-mail: zuzana11@optonline.net

Krátko správy zo Slovenska

• **Dlhy** Slovákov v bankách z roka na rok narastajú. Slováci na konci vlaňajšieho roka dlhovali bankám 16.4 miliardy eur, čo bolo desaťnásobne viac ako pred 10 rokmi. Z úverového koláča si pritom najväčší, až 43-% podiel v hodnote 7 miliárd eur ukrojil Bratislavský kraj. Žiadnemu inému regiónu sa už ku koncu minulého roka nepodarilo odhryznúť si z koláča ani 10 % a stav úverov pre obyvateľstvo tak ani v jednom kraji nepresiahol úroveň 1.6 miliardy eur. Za posledných 10 rokov Bratislavský kraj zaznamenal päťnásobný nárast objemu úverov. Kým obyvateľ Bratislavského kraja dlžil banke na konci minulého roka v priemere 20,780 eur, tak v ostatných regiónoch išlo o rádovo menšie sumy, najnižšie v Prešovskom kraji (2,939).

• **V areáli** Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) v Bratislave 19. októbra 2012 slávnostne uviedli do prevádzky superpočítač, ktorý sa svojimi parametrami radí medzi 500 najvýkonnejších počítačov na svete. Slovenskí vedeckí pracovníci a celá akademická obec získali superpočítač, ktorý po hlasovaní verejnosti dostal meno Aurel, v rámci projektu Slovenská infraštruktúra pre vysokovýkonné počítanie (SIVVP). Superpočítač môžu využiť tak vedci, ako aj študenti i pri riešení úloh v rámci medzinárodných projektov.

• **Podľa** prepočtov sa hodnota tovaru v slovenských obchodoch, ktorý ukradnú zamestnanci, šplhá ročne až do výšky 64 miliónov eur. Medzinárodný prieskum to vysvetľuje jednoznačne. Trend sa zrodil v socializme ako nepísaná spoločenská dohoda. Kým v roku 2010 Slováci s podielom 36.3 percenta zamestnaneckých krádeží na celkových únikoch obsadili v Európe tretie miesto po Veľkej Británii a Rusku, v roku 2011 s 36.5 percenta Slováci poskočili na striebornú priečku. O dve desatiny Slovensko predbehlo len Rusko. Naopak, najmenej okrádali majiteľov obchodov rakúski predavači. Výskum vychádzal z údajov Svetovej správy krádeží v maloobchode amerického Centra pre retailový výskum.

• **Najlepšie** podmienky na podnikanie na svete sú v Singapure, za ktorým nasleduje Hongkong, Nový Zéland, USA a Dánsko. Singapur zostáva na špici už siedmy rok za sebou. Do prvej desiatky sa ešte dostali Nórsko, Británia, Južná Kórea, Gruzínsko a Austrália, vyplýva z aktuálnej správy Svetovej banky (SB) s názvom Doing Business 2013. SB hodnotila podnikateľské prostredie v 185 krajinách. Slovensko sa umiestnilo na 46. mieste rovnako ako vlani a zostáva najvyššie spomedzi krajín V4. Maďarsko je na 54., Poľsko na 55. a Česko na 65. mieste. Najviac si polepšilo Poľsko, ktoré poskočilo o 19 priečok zo 74. miesta na 55. miesto. Poľsko schválilo štyri inštitucionálne alebo regulačné reformy na uľahčenie registrácie nehnuteľností, platenia daní, vymáhateľnosti kontraktov a insolvenčného konania. Okrem Poľska medzi najviac reformujúce krajiny v rôznych oblastiach podnikateľského prostredia podľa SB patrili Srí Lanka, Ukrajina, Uzbekistan, Burundi, Kostarika, Mongolsko, Grécko, Srbsko a Kazachstan. Informovala o tom Svetová banka.

• **Regionálne** združenie cestovného ruchu Klaster Liptov a Biuro Promocji Zakopanego už viac ako dva roky propagujú Tatry ako celok. Obidve strany pri príležitosti završenia projektu s podporou eurofondov pod názvom Tatry spoločne deklarovali pokračovanie úzkej spolupráce. Nepociťujú liptovských partnerov ako konkurenciu. Tatry berú ako spoločnú vymoženosť susediacich regiónov, ktorá Slovensko nedelí, ale spája. Slovensko položilo pevné základy trvalej spolupráce. Tatry chcú propagovať ako celok, podobne ako to robia v Alpách, ktoré zbytočne nedelia na francúzske, švajčiarske, nemecké či rakúske.

• **Poľsko** a Slovensko by mal spájať podľa zámeru majiteľa tatranských zjazdoviek, spoločnosť Tatry mountain resorts 7 kilometrov dlhý železničný tunel, ktorý by mal viesť popod tatranské štíty a spájať Štrbské Pleso s poľským Zakopaným. Malo by ísť o súčasť priprav zimných olympijských hier, ktoré by sa mali uskutočniť v roku 2022, a o ktoré sa budú obe krajiny uchádzať. Olympijské výbory krajín nedávno podpísali deklaráciu o spoločnej kandidature, odhadli približné náklady a rozdelili športové disciplíny.

• **Volkswagen** chystá ďalšiu investíciu v desiatkach miliónov eur. Nemecký koncern by podľa aktuálnych informácií mohol v Bratislave po novom montovať aj plug-in hybridy. Teda autá, ktoré sa od bežných hybridov odlišujú v tom, že sa dajú priamo elektricky dobíjať. "Pokiaľ sa naozaj definitívne rozhodneme, plug-in hybridy začneme v Bratislave vyrábať najneskôr v roku 2014", vyhlásil na medzinárodnom brazílskom autosalóne v Sao Paule pre HN Michael Macht. Člen predstavenstva koncernu, ktorý je zodpovedný za výrobu, poukazuje na to, že investícia si určite vyžiada vznik nových miest. To, že Bratislava je favoritom novej investície, potvrdil aj viceprezident koncernu Rudolf Krebs.

• **Slovensko** je v Top 10 krajín sveta, ktoré treba navštíviť. Výročné rebríčky najväčšieho turistického sprievodcu Lonely Planet uvádzajú najzaujímavejšie miesta na svete, ktoré by mali turisti určite navštíviť. Na lichotivom piatom mieste skončilo Slovensko. Sprievodca sa pochvalne zmieňuje o slovenských zimných rezortoch a hornatej krajine. Neslobodno nezabúdať ani na chutnú liptovskú bryndzu, Slovenský raj či Košice ako Hlavné mesto kultúry v roku 2013. Najväčším ťahákom pre turistov však stále zostáva veľmi zachovalá ľudová kultúra, ktorú možno objaviť v početných pôvodných dedinách.

• **Bývalý** šéf štátneho železničného dopravcu, Železničnej spoločnosti Slovensko (ZSSK) Pavel Kravec rozdal odstupné, ktoré dostal po odchode zo svojej funkcie. Peniaze sa rozhodol venovať na dobročinné účely po tom, čo sa spustila vlna kritiky po medializovaní výšky odstupného, ktoré bolo vyplatené jemu a jeho spolupracovníkom vo firme. Bývalému šéfovi ZSSK bolo po odchode z firmy vyplatené na odstupnom 169,994.20 eur. Z toho zaplatil daň vo výške 32,298.89 eur, na rozdelenie mu tak ostala suma 137,695.31 eur. Peniaze mali tiež putovať na webový portál zameraný na darovanie vecí, na rôzne zdravotné pomôcky pre postihnutých alebo na vybavenie pre školy. Zoznam subjektov, ktorým peniaze venoval, má byť zverejnený na jeho internetovej stránke. Mená jednotlivcov, ktorým z týchto peňazí pomohol, však zverejňovať nebude.

• **Dlhová** kríza šíriaca sa eurozónou znižuje pracovné príležitosti Slovákov v zahraničí a zmiernuje únik mozgov. Už tento rok sa má počet ľudí hľadajúcich uplatnenie v cudzine ustáliť približne na úrovni 100-tisíc, kým ešte v predkrízovom roku 2007 odišlo pracovať za hranice až 160-tisíc Slovákov. Podľa ekonómov sa návrat má týkať najmä IT expertov. Zadĺžené krajiny ako Írsko, Španielsko či Taliansko majú problém zamestnať vlastných špecialistov a pri prepúšťaní najprv posielajú preč cudzincov.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Zomrel bývalý predseda vlády SR Milan Čič

Vo veku 80 rokov zomrel 9. novembra 2012 predpoludním v Bratislave prvý slovenský premiér, ktorý sa ujal funkcie po Nežnej revolúcii, Milan Čič. Ten zastával počas života viacero významných funkcií, v súčasnosti niekoľko rokov pôsobil ako vedúci Kancelárie prezidenta SR. Bol spoluvytvorcom Ústavy SR.

"Dnes krátko po 10. hodine zomrel vo veku 80 rokov v Nemocnici L. Déreera napriek úsiliu lekárov o jeho záchranu Milan Čič. V Univerzitnej nemocnici Bratislava bol hospitalizovaný od nedele 28. októbra, kde podstúpil neodkladný neurochirurgický zákrok," informovala hovorkyňa nemocnice Petra Stano Maťašovská.

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič s manželkou Silviou Gašparovičovou a zamestnanci kancelárie hlavy štátu vyjadrili hlbokú sústrasť najbližšej rodine a pozostalým.

S hlbokým zármutkom prijal správu Milana Čiča predseda Národnej rady SR Pavol Paška. Predseda parlamentu ocenil najmä jeho celoživotný záujem o hodnoty vzájomnosti a solidarity. Ako poukázal, SR jeho odchodom stratila významnú osobnosť politického a národného života.

Hlbokú ľútosť nad úmrtím Milana Čiča a úprimnú sústrasť pozostalým vyjadril premiér Robert Fico. "Pána akademika som vždy poznal ako mimoriadne pragmatického, umierneného politika a veľmi dobrého človeka," skonštatoval Fico s tým, že jeho práce v oblasti trestného práva sa považovali za česko-slovenskú špičku. Posledná rozlúčka s vedúcim Kancelárie prezidenta SR akademikom Milan Čičom sa uskutočnila v stredu 14. novembra o 15.30 h v bratislavskom krematóriu.



FOTO TASR - Milan Čič

TASR

V šaštínskej Bazilike slávil Nedel' s Matkou Terezou

Počas nedele 4. novembra 2012 usporiadali Šaleziáni dona Bosca v Šaštine historicky prvú Nedel' s Matkou Terezou. Išlo o spomienku na jej návštevu pred 25 rokov. „Služba Matky Terezy sa stala výzvou pre celý svet," prihovoriť sa pútnikom počas homílie emeritný biskup Mons. Dominik Tóth. „V dnešnom rozvatenom svete, kde je toľko hnevu, závidí, sporov – hovorí k nám Ježiš Kristus: Milovať budeš svojho blízkeho! Treba odpustiť tomu, kto nám krivdí, kto nás potupil, kto nás ponížil."

Kazateľ pripomenul návštevu blahoslavenej Matky Terezy, ktorá vstúpila pred 25 rokmi do národnej Baziliky, aby sa „modlila v sprievode už zosnulého biskupa Hnilicu za naše rodiny, za náš národ." Poukázal tiež na to, že i dnes zomierajú mnohí ľudia. Nemusi ísť len o ľudí opustených na ulici, ale opustených – bez duchovnej útechy, bez kňaza.

Veriaci si pri všetkých svätých omšiach mohli uctiť relikviu blahoslavenej Matky Terezy. Popoludní sa predstavili v kultúrnom dome ochotníci z Piešťan s predstavením „Malá veľká žena" o tejto svätici z Kalkaty.



FOTO TK KBS/ Martin Ližičiar

Nedel' s Matkou Terezou v Šaštine.

On November 4, 2012 a special Mass was offered in the Basilica in Sastin to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the visit of Mother Theresa to Sastin.

TK KBS

Nie každému v Európe sa páči, že ČR a SR stavili na atómové elektrárne

Nie každej krajine v Európe sa páči, že Slovenská republika a Česká republika stavajú svoju energetickú bezpečnosť na atómových elektrárnach. Po spoločnom rokovaní vlád oboch krajín 29. októbra v Uherskom Hradišti to vyhlásil slovenský premiér Robert Fico (Smer-SD). Jeho český kolega Petr Nečas (ODS) potvrdil, že oba štáty majú záujem o pokračovanie programov jadrovej energetiky, keďže v oboch krajinách je to národný záujem. "Je to skutočný národný záujem," vyhlásil predseda vlády ČR.

Fico si zároveň myslí, že sú krajiny v Európe, ktoré by najradšej kládli prekážky a ktoré by boli najradšej, keby tieto atómové elektrárne buď mali stále problémy, alebo mali byť v nejakom okamihu zatvorené. Za slovenskú vládu, a tiež aj ako to počul z úst českého premiéra Petra Nečasa, takýto postup odmieta. „Každá krajina má suverénne právo rozhodnúť sa pre energetický mix, teda koľko percent elektrickej energie sa bude vyrábať z jadra," dodal Fico. Na Slovensku si podľa jeho slov bez atómových elektrární nevieme predstaviť energetickú bezpečnosť.

Zároveň podľa slovenského premiéra záťažové testy potvrdili, že české a aj slovenské atómové elektrárne majú vysoký štandard bezpečnosti v porovnaní s ostatnými elektrárnami v Európe. „Odmietame, aby politické orgány EÚ politizovali problém bezpečnosti atómových elektrární. Toto je výsostne odborná technická otázka," podotkol predseda vlády SR.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 121

STREDA, 21. NOVEMBRA 2012

Číslo 5874



Účastníkov Stálej konferencie 2012 prijal prezident SR, Ivan Gašparovič s manželkou Silviu v Prezidentskom paláci.

President Ivan Gasparovic welcomed Slovak representatives from 21 countries in the Presidential Palace in Bratislava. The Slovak countrymen were in Bratislava for an assembly of Slovaks Living Abroad, October 30-31, 2012.

Krajanovia z 21 štátov rokovali v Bratislave

na Stálej konferencii Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 201

Krajanovia zo slovenských komunít z 21 krajín štyroch kontinentov sa v dňoch 30. – 31. októbra zúčastnili v Bratislave na vrcholnom snemovaní Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, organizovaným Úradom pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Stála konferencia Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 2012 sa uskutočnila pod záštitou Ivana Gašparoviča, prezidenta SR. V jednotlivých vystúpeniach jej účastníkov a hostí vrátane predstaviteľov politického, vzdelávacieho, kultúrneho, duchovného a spoločenského života Slovenska, ako aj v následnej názorovo rozmanitej diskusii, Stála konferencia 2012 zhodnotila politiku Slovenskej republiky vo vzťahu k Slovákom v zahraničí a aktivity krajanovských komunít v období od predchádzajúcej Stálej konferencie 2010 vo viac ako 50 štátoch sveta, v ktorých naši krajanovia žijú. Účastníci Stálej konferencie 2012 zároveň prezentovali myšlienky a nastolili podnety pre ďalšie upevňovanie národného povedomia a rozvíjanie kultúrnych a duchovných hodnôt Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Tie sa premietli v programových a koncepčných Záveroch Stálej konferencie Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 2012, ktorú jej delegáti drvivou súhlasnou väčšinou schválili.

V zmysle platnej Koncepcie štátnej politiky starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí do roku 2015 ÚSZZ organizuje Stálu konferenciu Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí jedenkrát za dva roky. Hlavným cieľom Stálej konferencie 2012, ktorá bola v poradí vrcholných rokovaní krajanov už jedenástou, bola diskusia o doterajšom zameraní, o obsahu štátnej politiky vo vzťahu k Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí s výhľadom do roku 2015 a prerokovanie podnetov, námetov a návrhov, ktoré môžu prispieť k jej aktualizácii a zlepšeniu, vyjadrených aj v Záveroch Stálej konferencie 2012.

V rokovacej sále bratislavského hotela Bôrik počas dvojdňového snemovania Stálej konferencie 2012 prezentovalo výsledky a skúsenosti práce v oblasti rozvíjania národného povedomia Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, podpory slovenského jazyka v kontexte zachovávaného kultúrneho dedičstva, vzdelávania, ďalšieho vývoja rôznych foriem autentickú slovenskú subkultúru v krajinách, v ktorých tvoria Slováci národnostnú menšinu, vydavateľskej, mediálnej, duchovnej, spoločenskej a vo všeobecnosti prospešnej činnosti krajanovských komunít na prospech slovenskosti naprieč celým krajanovským svetom, 89 delegátov z 21 krajín: Austrálie, Českej republiky, Čiernej Hory, Francúzska, Chorvátska, Írska, Kanady, Maďarska, Nemecka, Nórska, Poľska, Rakúska, Rumunska, Srbska, Sýrie, Talianska, Švajčiarska, Švédska, Ukrajiny, USA a Spojeného kráľovstva Veľkej Británie a Severného Írska.

Delegáti Stálej konferencie 2012 reprezentovali slovenské spolky, kultúrne a vzdelávacie inštitúcie, kresťanské cirkevné zbory a misie, médiá a ďalšie významné organizácie,

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Minister zahraničných vecí Lajčák na oficiálnej návšteve Vatikánu

Podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák absolvoval dvojdňovú oficiálnu návštevu Svätej stolice (13. a 14. novembra 2012), ktorú uskutočnil pri príležitosti nadchádzajúceho 1 150. výročia príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na územie Slovenska a 20. výročia nadviazania diplomatických stykov.

V Apoštolskom paláci vo Vatikáne sa stretol so sekretárom Svätej stolice pre vzťahy so štátmi Mons. Dominiquom Mambertim. Počas rokovania obaja partneri potvrdili, že 20. výročie nadviazania diplomatických stykov je dobrou príležitosťou na bilancovanie dosiahnutých výsledkov dvojstrannej spolupráce, ale aj identifikáciu nových možností rozvoja vzájomného dialógu na bilaterálnej a multilaterálnej úrovni, a v súvislosti s pripravovaným predsedníctvom SR v Rade EÚ v roku 2016 aj na európskej úrovni. Zhodnotili aktuálny stav dvojstrannej spolupráce medzi SR a Svätou stolicou, ako aj medzi štátom a katolíckou cirkvou na Slovensku a prediskutovali možnosti jej ďalšieho prehlbovania, okrem iného aj v oblasti pripravovanej Rómskej reformy.



FOTO TASR/MZVaeZ SR

Podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák (vľavo) sa stretol s pápežom Benediktom XVI. vo Vatikáne 14. novembra 2012.

Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak met with Pope Benedict XVI in the Vatican on November 14.

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Vydarený Oktoberfest v NYC

Asociácia ACF „Big Apple Chapter“, v spolupráci so Spolkom sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City usporiadala po prvýkrát Októbrovú zábavu „Oktoberfest“. Konala sa v nedeľu 14. októbra 2012 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Počas podujatia sa podávali slovenské, nemecké a české špeciality; čapované pivo, víno a nealkoholické nápoje. K dobrej nálade a do tanca hrala hudobná skupina Kontakty, ako aj nemecká hudba. Zábavy sa zúčastnilo približne 100 účastníkov. Každý účastník obdržal pamiatkový pohár na pivo. Predpokladáme, že podľa tohoročného záujmu o toto podujatie sa Oktoberfest bude konať aj na budúci rok.

Viac obrázkov na strane 22.



Medzi farníkov zavítal aj hlavný administrátor kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, zľava: otec Štefan Chanas, Henrieta H. Daitová, Milan Dait a Karol Vida.