



Jednota

THE UNION

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

Volume 119

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NUMBER 5832

Got questions about when and how often to publish your branch announcement in Jednota? Turn to page 3 for an information Q & A with National Executive Secretary Ken Arendt for answers ...



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

How Insurance Works

Insurance makes it possible to transfer risk from one person to a group of persons. The risk-sharing group is usually a private insurance company, called insurer, underwriter, or carrier.

Insurance is written (set forth in legal language) in the form of a contract called a policy. The policy states the arrangements for the protection or coverage. In it, the company promises to pay the insurance money if your death should happen within the period covered by the policy. The insurance money is called the benefit, or face amount of the policy.

The person receiving the insurance protection is the insured or policy holder. In return for the protection, he/she promises to pay a premium. The sum of money is payable to the company in a lump sum, annual payments, or in periodic installments.

For the cost of protection to be distributed fairly among all holders of a particular kind of policy, calculation of premium rates has to take into account the amount of risk involved as determined from experience.

In life insurance, matters that affect premium rates are age, health and occupation of the insured at the time he/she applies for insurance. Mortality tables show rates of death at each age and are used in predicting life expectancy of the applicant. Making up premium rate tables is part of the work of actuaries. (An actuary is a specialist in the mathematics of insurance. He calculates the probable length of life, works out rates and premiums, and figures risks for life insurance



**Andrew Harcar
National V. P.**

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Radičová Wows Washington

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

During the second week of November 2010, Slovakia's Prime Minister Ivetta Radičová traveled to the USA for what turned into a smashing diplomatic and public relations success for her country. She literally wowed her American audiences with her professional demeanor, her keen sense of humor, and her delightful manner, tempered by a realistic assessment of the many hurdles facing her country.

A Glamour Gal

At her first stop in New York City on November 8, she was among five female world leaders to receive the prestigious "Woman of the Year" award from Glamour magazine. The publication ranked Radičová and several other political leaders as among the "world's most powerful women." Also accepting awards were President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė, Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

During a ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York hosted by American actress Julia Roberts, Radičová displayed both poise and charm as she gracefully accepted the recognition. Radičová commented that "women make such great leaders because we're strong enough to cry and smile."

The editor of Glamour, Cindi Leive, noted that "each of these women has demonstrated tremendous leadership, and their work is an inspiration to girls and women everywhere." Some of the former award-winners have included politicians such as Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton, First Lady Michelle Obama, as well as actresses Nicole Kidman and Susan Sarandon, the tennis player Venus Williams, and the well-known pop singer Madonna.

Radičová reportedly told Glamour magazine that in many countries, women obtained the right to vote less than a hundred years ago. She termed the entry of women into leadership positions a "tsunami" which was changing the global political landscape.

Seeking American Investment

While in New York, Radičová visited the New York Stock Exchange and also met with a group of American entrepreneurs and financiers. The group included such well known firms as Morgan Stanley, Honeywell, Elderson Technology Partners, Credit Suisse Securities, and Nomura Holding America, all of whom showed interest in how her government would support economic growth and facilitate foreign investments in Slovakia. At present, there are about 120 American firms in Slovakia and they account for about one quarter of all foreign investment.

Radičová portrayed Slovakia as a country ripe for foreign investment with its stable economy and

continued on page 20



**Slovakia's Prime Minister
Ivetta Radičová**

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

**HOME OFFICE (TELECONFERENCE)
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-4310**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2010

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 18, 2010 at 9:30 A.M. (telephonically).

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, December 17, 2010.

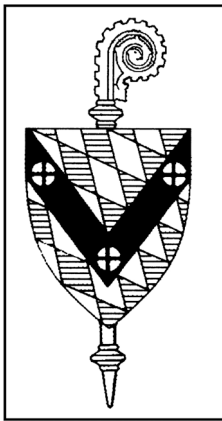
All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to December 10, 2010.

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 Demetrius R. Dumm O.S.B., Father Campion P. Gavaler O.S.B.

December 5, 2010

Second Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3:1-12

Gospel Summary:

Today we hear once again the impatient voice of John the Baptist urging us to change so that we may be worthy to receive the Lord as he continues to come

into our world. Crooked ways must be made straight; bad habits need to be corrected; conversion must continue. This message comes straight from God and that is why John proclaims it in the desert—a place that has always been associated with divine mystery and freedom. (See how this is portrayed in the relationship between Ahab and Elijah: 1 Kings 18:7ff). Human control has no place in the symbolic wilderness of divine freedom.

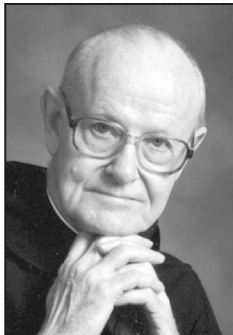
John wears the garments that identify him with the great prophet Elijah. Just as Elijah challenged the sinful king Ahab, so does John demand a break with a past of sinful human control to make room for a future where God's will is honored and obeyed. This will not be easy. And so John uses very strong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

Life Implications:

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

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

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



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

than ready to enter our hearts and to lead us to true repentance.

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



December 12, 2010

Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

Gospel Summary

John the Baptist, in prison, sent his disciples to Jesus with the question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus replied that the outcasts of society were being helped, and the poor were receiving good news. As the disciples were going off, Jesus told the crowds that John was the messenger sent by God to prepare the way for the promised one.

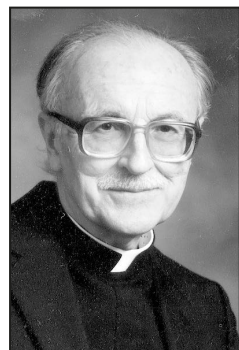
Life Implications

John, sitting in Herod's prison, was quite aware of the situation in Judea. His beleaguered nation, now a province of the Roman Empire, for centuries had suffered under the oppressive rule of foreign powers. The people were victims of heavy taxation, violence, and even the desecration of their holy places and traditions. At times their own political and religious leaders were unfaithful and oppressive. In face of this pervasive evil, John believed that his mission was to prepare the way for the "coming wrath," when God would finally destroy the evil-doers and establish his kingdom.

John's disciples, probably with some hesitation, told him that Jesus made no mention of the "coming wrath." Nor was there anything about rescuing John from prison. Instead, he talked about the blind, the lame, lepers, the deaf, the dead, and about poor people getting good news. Jesus, realizing that his message might not fit John's expectation, added the remark about the blessedness of the one who hears his words, and does not lose trust in him.

We may find ourselves in situations of violence, suffering and confusion; and we too will have expectations of how God will intervene. Isn't our expectation that God's presence will be some manifestation of superior power to make things right? Jesus realized that only the humble power of God's love can vanquish the reign of evil and bring about a new kingdom of justice and peace. Love must actualize itself in defending and promoting the God-given rights of every human being—the fundamental right to live and the right to participate with dignity in the life of the community. Love, which seems most weak, most impractical, most foolish in the face of evil, is the only force that can change the human heart.

Only if we are able, like John, to be freed of our own expectations, will we be able to welcome the coming of the Lord and his way of love. Then we, also like John, may prepare the way for others to welcome the Lord's coming.



Campion P. Gavaler,
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 8	MONDAY, NOV 29
WEDNESDAY JAN 5	MONDAY, DEC 27
WEDNESDAY JAN 19	MONDAY, JAN 10

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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Branch Publication Requirements: A Q & A Refresher with National Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt

As the year 2010 begins to come to a conclusion, I thought it would be a good idea to review the branch requirements for publication in this newspaper. This is particularly critical for members who are assuming office for the first time, as well as the membership in general, as we all "wind down" from a convention year. So I sat down with our National Executive Secretary, Ken Arendt, to review and refresh the bylaws pertaining to the publication of branch announcements in the Jednota.

Teresa Ivanec, Editor

TI: How often do branches need to publish their meetings in Jednota to qualify for their branch stipends?

KA: Once. Local branches do need to conduct two semiannual meetings, one of which is for the election of officers, and submit the required paperwork to my attention at the FCSU Home Office by February 15th of the following year. But you only need to publish the announcement of each meeting one time in the Jednota during that same time period. This is in accordance with Section 4.05 of our Bylaws.

That said, I would encourage all of our members responsible for submitting their branch announcement to Jednota to publish it more than once, space permitting in the newspaper. This way your members have maximum advance notice of the meeting and can plan accordingly. This is especially important if your meeting requires reservations or a head count because you will be serving refreshments or a meal with the meeting. I also encourage you remember our website, which by its very nature can post information quickly and with as much (linked) information as possible about your branch meeting or other event. In general, when you submit a branch announcement to Jednota for publication, it also is simultaneously submitted for posting on our website. If an event is extremely time-sensitive and needs to be posted right away, contact me or our editor Teresa Ivanec at the home office and we will see that it gets posted immediately.

TI: So, to recap: branches never have to publish information about their meetings more than once in order to qualify for their stipend?

KA: Not for their regular stipend, no. But there is another circumstance when branches need to publish a meeting notification two times in the Official Organ. Election of delegates to convention must be published twice in Jednota in order for the branch to send delegates to that upcoming convention. Many members will have Bylaw Section 11.04 fresh in their minds as



How Insurance Works

continued from page 1

companies.) Different actuarial calculations are used to determine premiums for such applicants as ...for example...a 28 year old man, a 45 year old woman, a test pilot, an office worker, a smoker and a non-smoker.

With participating policies (dividend paying), the actuaries set the annual premiums higher to cover the anticipated expenditures. In general, dividends reflect the investment income a company earned, the mortality its policy holders experienced and the company's expenses. Dividends are paid at the company's discretion, and are never guaranteed.

Companies let you borrow against the cash value of your policy at an interest rates specified in the policy. If you die while the loan is outstanding, the amount you owe is deducted from the death benefit paid to your survivors. If you cash in your policy and take the cash value, the amount of any outstanding loan is deducted from the sum the insurance company owes you.

Let me ease your mind and tell you that life insurance companies are required by state laws to establish certain minimum liabilities on their financial statements based on state mandated assumptions. The chief such liability is known as the policy reserve. This is a fund which together with future premiums and interest earnings will be sufficient to meet future obligations. Insurance companies are subject to state law in many of their operations. Every state has an insurance commissioner who checks on the financial stability of companies who is licensed to do business in their state.

Since our society has been in existence for over 120 years...you can be assured any investments you make with us, whether it is life insurance or annuities, are secure.

Please help our society by signing a loved one today.

For information on our insurance and annuity products contact your local lodge officers. If you do not know who they are, call 1-800- JEDNOTA (533-6682). You can also go to our web site at www.fcsu.com to down load information and forms.

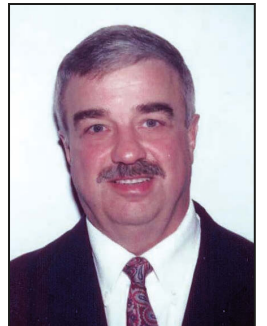
Until next time,
Good Luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
Vice President
Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee

we just completed a very successful 49th Quadrennial Convention in August of this year. But this is a requirement that only comes into effect only every four years, which is when our conventions are held.

TI: What information should be included a typical published branch announcement?

KA: The date, time and place of the meeting, and some idea of what will be on the agenda so attendees can come prepared – to listen, ask questions, or enjoy a nice meal or whatever is planned for that particular meeting. Often, members put in a branch contact (branch president or secretary) to call or email for more information, or if members need to reserve a place at the meeting in advance.



Kenneth Arendt

We have forms available in the home office for branches to use as a guide for submitting branch announcements for publication in Jednota. You can download them from our website at www.fcsu.com or by calling the home office and requesting a blank form.

TI: After the meeting is conducted, doesn't a local branch need to submit details of the meetings, such as reports, for publication in Jednota?

KA: No, we generally do not publish the details of a branch meeting. You do need to submit information about your meeting directly to me, as Executive Secretary, by February 15th of the following year. This information includes a branch annual report, a branch financial report, and a district-level report on branch attendance. All of the details about what each local branch needs to do in order to qualify for its branch stipend are listed in Bylaw Section 4.05.

And, of course, you have a question or concern about your branch requirements, please don't hesitate to call me at the home office.



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- Minimum deposit \$5,000

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TO YOUR LOCAL BANK RATES**

DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW!

Contact our Home Office or your local branch for more information!

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6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
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Independence, OH 44131-8013



Mass at the National Shrine

Mass was celebrated at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on September 19, 2010 in honor of the 45th anniversary of the dedication of the Mother of Sorrows Chapel. The prize winning beautiful chapel was donated to the Shrine by The First Catholic Slovak Union and stands as a monument for all Slovaks. It is one on the most visited tourist stopping points at the Shrine.

The mass which was sponsored by Branch 856 of the FCSU was held in the Crypt Church downstairs, street level of the Shrine. Father Pavol Hrabovecky was the principal celebrant of the Mass. He was assisted by seminarians Brian Thompson and Iain Hight. Lector was Marion Mistrik, Secretary of Branch 856 and the organist was Michelle Prokopchak. Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Knowatkoski were the gift bearers. Katherine Knowatkoski is the Financial Secretary of the Branch.

Father Hrabovecky, who is from a small town of Kendice, near Presov in Slovakia, is a priest of the Archdiocese of Kosice. At the present time, he is a student in the Sacred Theology Licentiate Program at Catholic University in Washington, D. C. His homily, which was given in fluid English, dealt with suffering and what we can do to help those who suffer from many causes, national disasters, earthquakes, floods, fires, loss of homes. These occur in all countries, many in this year. Those who have not experienced these won't fully understand the extent of suffering.

He explained how our Lady of Sorrows understands what suffering really means. She lost her home when she had to run to Egypt and, especially, through the loss of her son. She did not lose faith, however, trusted her son and what he said about the resurrection. Father Hrabovecky related Mary's suffering



Father Pavol Hrabovecky, from Kendice, near Presov in Slovakia, is the priest of the Archdiocese of Kosice who was the principal celebrant of the Mass.

to that of our own and what we are supposed to do when we suffer.

He gave a specific example in the life of 13 young volunteers who for several weeks following floods in Slovakia helped the people in their hometown of Nizna Mysla who suffered as a result of the floods, losing their homes. These volunteers, who lost their own homes, helped others for almost three weeks, continuously, around the clock with little sleep, expected nothing in return, did not consider themselves as heroes and believed what they did, that is, to help others, as simply normal.

He pointed out that perhaps this is the way our personal suffering can be changed into positive value and asked the question, "Isn't this what the Gospel is trying to show us?"

Father concluded with: "If we believe in



Participants at the Mass standing in front of the Pieta in the Mother of Sorrows' Chapel, donated to the Shrine by The First Catholic Slovak Union and stands as a monument for all Slovaks.



L - R, Stephen C. Matula, Father Pavol Hrabovecky, Katherine Knowatkoski, Marion Mistrik, and Bernard J. Knowatkoski

the Cross of Jesus even in its positive side, our heavenly mother shows us what to do when suffering comes. Let us follow her so that we can find inner power to change our daily pain into a miracle".

Out of town participants in the service included: From the Philadelphia area, Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 and his

wife, Helena Gaydos, Vice President, District 8, Anna Rose Payne, Faternal Director, District 8, and Stephen and Josephine Gerba. Mr. Victor Sebo came from Baltimore and brought his son Lt. Col. Anthony Sebo, who is assigned to The Joint Staff in the Pentagon and Stephen A. Roman and his wife, Phyllis, came from Whitehall, Pennsylvania.

Birthday Celebration



L - R: Don Angelo, a George Burns impersonator; Rudy Bernath, FCSU Region 7 Director; and Bob Bernath, FCSU Branch Member 153.

Rudy Bernath, FCSU Region 7 Director, recently celebrated his 75th birthday. Members of FCSU Branch 153 were among the 40 friends and relatives who joined in the celebration. These included brother and Branch Member Bob Bernath; Branch President John Jurcenko; Branch Treasurer Dorothy Jurcenko; and Branch Auditor Liz Bernath. A George Burns impersonator provided lively entertainment.

Happy Birthday, Rudy!

ASCA Annual Vilija Dinner

The American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley will be hosting their annual Christmas Vilija Dinner on December 12, 2010. It will be held at the Father Snock Hall of St. Matthias Parish at 2800 Shady Run Road in Youngstown, OH.

This traditional Christmas Eve dinner has been being held for nearly 30 years at St. Matthias Parish. It was put on by the parish members for a number of years and is now sponsored by the ASCA.

The dinner will have all of the traditional Slovak menu items from the oplatky with honey, bobalky with poppyseed, mushroom soup or macanka, baked fish and peas to potato pirohy. There will also be kolac and apples. Wine or coffee will be served with the dinner, but Slovak beer will be available for purchase along with domestic beer and soda.

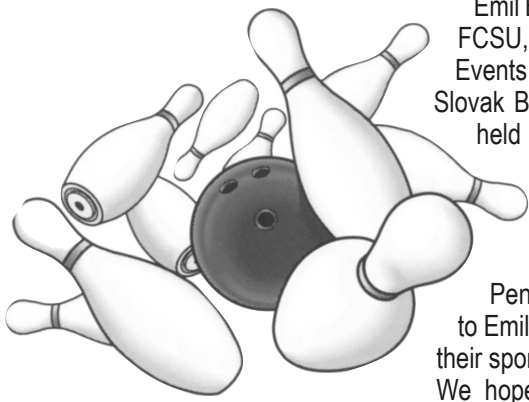
We will have Slovak musical entertainment, a silent auction and a 50/50 drawing. All money raised will go to our scholarship funds and to promote Slovak activities.

All are welcome to join us for an evening of warmth and friendship as we remember our Slovak heritage during this holiday season.

The cost for the evening is \$20/person and seats are reserved as payment is received. The program begins at 4:00pm and should be finished by approximately 8:00pm. For further information or tickets, you can call Loretta Ekoniak at (330) 549-3760, or email loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com. There are no ticket sales at the door.

Veselé Vianoce!

Congratulations Emil Bobby, Slovak Bowling Congress Winner



Emil Bobby of Struthers, Ohio, a member of the FCSU, captured top honors in the Jednota All-Events Bowling Sweepstakes at the 68th annual Slovak Bowling Congress of America tournament held this spring at Rainbow Lanes in Warren Ohio. This year's tournament attracted 167 teams.

The Jednota-sponsored Sweepstakes attracted bowlers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois. Congratulations to Emil Bobby! And thank you to the Jednota for their sponsorship of this special Sweepstakes.

We hope to see more Jednota bowlers in the Spring of 2011 at Echo Lanes in Warren Ohio for the 69th Annual Slovak Bowling Congress of America National Tournament.



Christmas Craft/Bake Sale in Uniontown, PA



St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Uniontown, PA, located at 210 E. Main Street, is holding its annual Christmas Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, December 4, 2010, from 12 Noon – 5:00pm and on Sunday, December 5, 2010, from 9:00am to 2:00pm in the upstairs school hall.

The many craft items have been made by the Ethnic Craft Club of St. John's Church and include wooden items such as indoor and outdoor lighted wooden angels, Santas, trees, and snowmen, window stars and decorations, wreaths, swags, and door decorations, as well as assorted holiday, craft, and gift items. Also available are tree ornaments of different types including some with icons or pysanky designs, imported items which include embroideries, icons, and other folk and religious art from the areas of Slovakia and Ukraine. Available once again is the parish cookbook, "Carpathian Cookery" now in its thirteenth printing. It has a new look in computerized format and has good prepared by parishioners

at St. John's Church.

Baked items include long rolls (nut, poppyseed, apricot and cottage cheese), small kolachy (pastries filled with nut, poppyseed, or apricot), filled cookie cups, breads, molded candy, many varieties of cookies, and much more.

The church school hall is located at 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA, with parking in the back. There is no admission charge. For more information, call the church office at 724-438-6027 from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

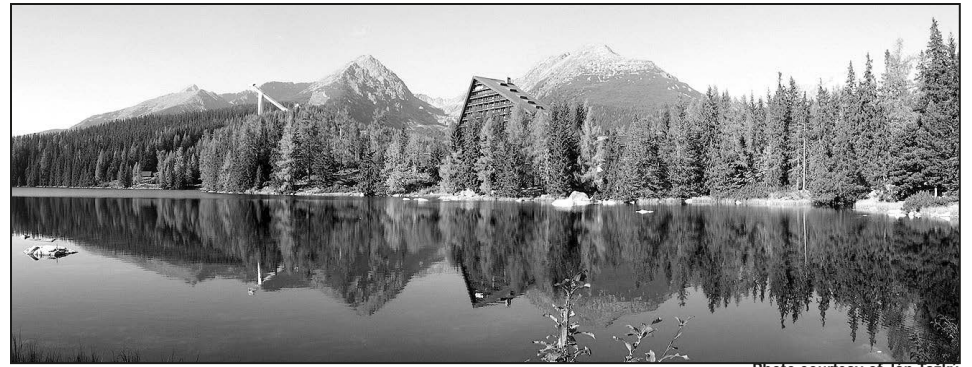


Photo courtesy of Jan Iazky

A visit to the Tatra Mountains is one of the many activities planned on the Youngstown Sister Cities Tour of Slovakia.

Youngstown Sister Cities Sets Slovakia Tour

Youngstown Sister Cities' 14th Heritage Tour to Slovakia has been set for July 4 – 18, 2011. The tour includes sites in Vienna, Austria; Bratislava; Trencin; Tatra Mountains; Levoca; Kosice; and Spisska Nova Ves.

Special features include Mass in Lendak where villages still wear Slovak kroj (costumes) to Mass; Kezmarok Street Fair where local artisans sell their homemade items at booths and where one can sit and enjoy Slovak folk music and dancing which is performed all day on stage (while you eat delicious Slovak food); the Piestany Spa; Slovak woodcarving of the complete scene of Bethlehem; gondola lift ride up the side of a Tatra Mountain and dinner at a genuine koliba (shepherd's hut); raft ride on the Dunajec River; many old churches, museums and castles. A special tour event is a champagne breakfast at the Town Hall hosted by the Mayor of our Sister City, Spisska Nova Ves. One day in Levoca is reserved to visit friends and relatives – English-speaking guides (chauffeurs) will be available for personal visits (for a fee).

Jim and Kay Bench who have been guides on many of the YSC trips are knowledgeable about tours and sites to be seen during the 13-day stay.

Total cost per person (airfare from Pittsburgh-Washington-Vienna) is approximately \$3500, which includes airfare, 13 nights in first-class hotels, two meals per day, and an air-conditioned bus with an English-speaking guide for the entire tour.

For further information, contact Jim/Kay at 724-858-5843 (cell) or jmbench@yahoo.com; or Adventure International Travel Service (800) 542-2487 or Paul@aits.webmail.com; or Bernie Demechko, Secretary, Youngstown Sister Cities at bdemechko@aol.com.

Youngstown Sister Cities Continues Support of Slovakia, Thanks FCSU



SISTER CITIES

ESTABLISHED 7-1-1991

Founded by Steve Bacon

Youngstown Sister Cities would like to thank the Board and delegates to the FCSU Convention for the \$500 donation to our projects. In addition to our High School Exchange Program between the United States and Slovakia, we are currently assisting our Sister City's Volunteer Fire Brigade by donating money to assist in buying a new sump pump. When the Hornad River inundated the farmlands of the Spis area in the spring, it also flooded basements and first-floor areas of many schools, churches, and homes. The current equipment was not able to remove the water very efficiently.

The money will be delivered to Mayor Jan Volny during the group's 14th Heritage Tour to Slovakia, July 4 – 18, 2011. Thanks you for your support.

Bernie Demechko,
Secretary, Youngstown Sister Cities

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2010

Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.65% (3.585% apr)
Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.40% (3.344% apr)
New "Park 2 Annuity"	3.90% (3.826% apr)
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee	3.00% (2.956% apr)
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.15% (3.102% apr)
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	3.40% (3.344% apr)
	3.15% (3.102% apr)

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's, please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office!

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

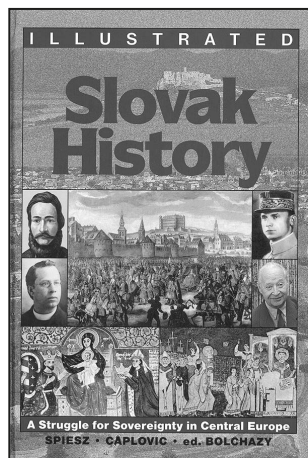
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Book Corner

Slovak Books Make Great Gifts!

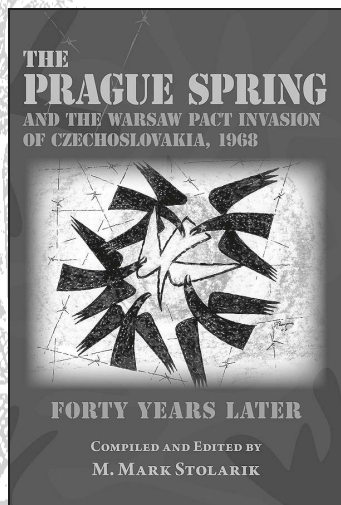
Order in time for Christmas.



Illustrated Slovak History: A Struggle for Sovereignty in Central Europe
320 color illustrations with 150 pages of footnotes addressing the important controversies.

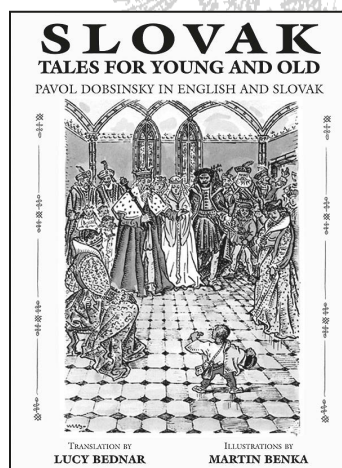
The Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia, 1968 Forty Years Later

Newest facts by sixteen contemporary native scholars.



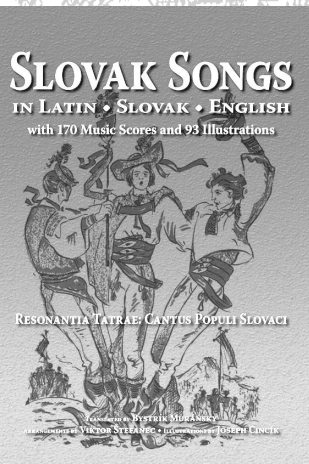
Slovak Tales for Young and Old Pavol Dobšinsky in English and Slovak

With color illustrations by Martin Benka



Slovak Songs in Latin, Slovak, English with 170 Music Scores and 56 Illustrations: Resonantia Tatrae: Cantus Populi Slovaci

Also 170 pages of music scores



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Enesco Announces Innovative Licensing Agreement with Vatican Observatory Foundation

*New Gift Collection Will Draw Inspiration from Vatican Collections;
Proceeds to Benefit Research and Education in
Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy*

Enesco, LLC, a global leader in gifts and home/garden décor, has entered into an innovative licensing agreement with the Vatican Observatory Foundation to create a broad assortment of high-quality merchandise inspired by the renowned Vatican collections.

A portion of the proceeds from the new Vatican Observatory Foundation Collection, created by Enesco's Gregg Gift faith-based division, will support the Vatican Observatory Foundation's humanitarian mission of scientific education, research and discovery in mathematics, physics and astronomy. Founded by the Papacy, the Vatican Observatory (Specola Vaticana) is one of the world's oldest active observatories, with locations in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, and Tucson, Arizona.

"Enesco and its Gregg Gift division have a strong reputation for creating high-quality product lines that are held in high esteem," said Father George Coyne, emeritus director of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. "Enesco has global reach across a variety of retail channels, which will enable new products from the Vatican Observatory Foundation to be offered to retailers and consumers in North America, Europe and Asia."

The Vatican Observatory Foundation Collection will include rosaries, crosses and crucifixes, nativity scenes and ornaments, as well as gift items such as figurines, frames, snow globes, gift boxes and wall décor – many based on designs from the artifacts, architecture and cultural elements of the Vatican's museums and collections. Each item will include certificates of provenance and/or authenticity, identifying the source of its inspiration and adding to its educational value.

"Enesco is truly honored to join with the Vatican Observatory Foundation in presenting this new collection," said Jane Charette, general manager of Gregg Gift. "We are inspired by the Vatican's legendary collections of art and architecture, and look forward to creating unique and beautiful items that also inspire people of faith."

Gregg Gift is one of North America's leading producers of faith-based gifts, home décor and accessories. In addition to collections designed by well-known artists, the company recently introduced a line of toys and giftware based on the best-selling VeggieTales line of faith-based characters and DVDs.

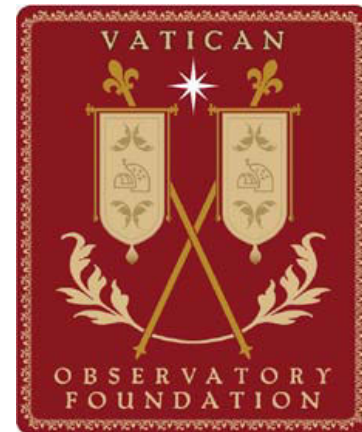
Enesco will introduce the Vatican Observatory Collection at winter gift shows beginning in January, 2011.

About the Vatican Observatory Foundation

The Vatican Observatory traces its roots to the reform of the calendar under Pope Gregory XIII in 1582 with the assistance of Jesuit scientists at the Roman College. After a three centuries long tradition following upon the calendar reform, the Vatican Observatory was founded by Pope Leo XIII to support research in many areas of astronomy. Today, the Vatican Observatory Foundation continues to support this important work in scientific research and educational outreach at the interface of science and religious faith.

About Enesco, LLC

Enesco, LLC, is a global leader in the giftware and home and garden décor industries. Serving more than 44,000 customers worldwide, Enesco distributes products to a wide variety of specialty card and gift retailers, home décor boutiques, mass-market chains and direct mail retailers. With subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Hong Kong and China, Enesco serves markets operating in Europe, the Americas, Australia and Asia. The company's product lines include some of the world's most recognized brands including Heartwood Creek® by Jim Shore, Foundations®, Gund®, Our Name is Mud®, Boyds®, Department 56® Villages, Country Artists®, Walt Disney Classics Collection®, Disney Traditions™, Border Fine Arts™, Cherished Teddies®, The Trail of Painted Ponies®, and Lilliput Lane®, among others. For more information, visit www.enesco.com.



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FCSU LIFE



**PROTECT
YOUR CHILDREN
FOR ONLY
\$14.00
YEARLY!**

This is not a misprint. Read on to find out how.

YOUR FAMILY COMES FIRST.

Your family is the center of your life. You would do anything for them. We are offering you this economical opportunity to guard your children and help them on their way to financial responsibility.

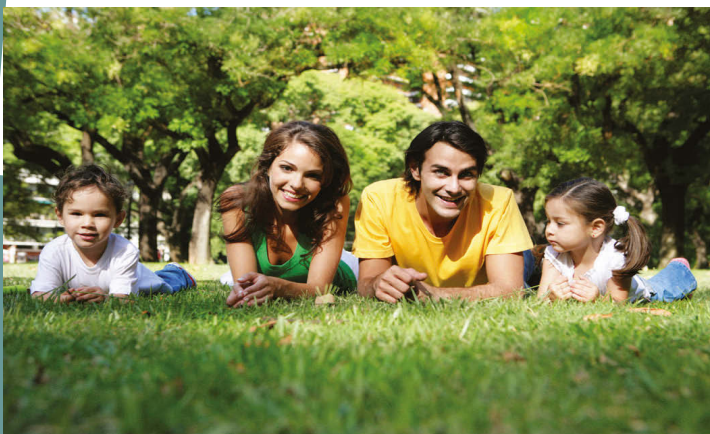
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

The many benefits of insuring your children with JEP include:

- \$10,000 in term life insurance coverage to age 25, for children ages 0-21 — *for only \$14.00 a year.* (Contact the home office for larger amounts)
- Protection for your kids' future insurability by offering conversion at age 16 or older to a regular permanent policy — regardless of health (if policy has been in force for at least two years).
- Enrollees become eligible to apply for the Societies fraternal benefits at no additional cost.
- Annual premiums are eligible for scholarships

CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Yes. We want you to receive our free, no obligation information on JEP! Simply call us at 1-800-533-6682, and we'll send you information and applications for the program. We're confident after reviewing our literature that you'll find this one of the best values to help your children for years to come.



**DON'T DELAY, CALL TODAY!
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER
OR THE HOME OFFICE AT 1-800-533-6682**

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
of the United States and Canada
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131-2398



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Gerald M. Costello, The Christophers

Volunteers – On a Mission

It all began, simply enough, with a community service project in high school, helping out and doing whatever needed to be done at a nursing home. Then as now, there was no shortage of chores the young student was called on to undertake. And then, as she recalls today, "little by little" she came to see how much the elderly residents appreciated her care. Little by little, too, she began to realize how important the work was. And thus were the first seeds of a vocation born – a vocation that would flourish, and one day would affect the lives of thousands of others.

That girl of years ago was Joan Raber, the school was Presentation High School in San Francisco, and the residence where she volunteered was St. Anne's Home, conducted by the Little Sisters of the Poor. Today Joan Raber is Mother Celine de la Visitation, Mother General of the entire Little Sisters community – nearly 3,000 strong, staffing 203 homes in 32 countries around the world. These days, when she speaks of the value of volunteers to the community – and she does that often – the thought that she was once a volunteer herself is rarely far from her mind. If anything, it deepens her appreciation of the important role that volunteers play.

The Little Sisters are quite an organization. They were founded in France in 1839 by St. Jeanne Jugan (canonized by Pope Benedict XVI last year), who took an elderly and destitute woman into her home – toted her up the stairs, the story goes – and took care of her there. That heroic act of volunteerism would be the building block for what became the Little Sisters of the Poor, for that one woman was followed by another, and then several, and soon Jeanne needed more volunteers to help her – and so a community was born.

The mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor is uncomplicated. They take care of the elderly poor, period. They give them a loving home, prepare their meals, care for them if they're sick, and journey with them when they're dying. In an age of billion-dollar deals and trillion-dollar budgets, they support themselves the old-fashioned way: by begging. That's right, begging. They're serious about it, going from business to business, merchant to merchant with outstretched hands and loving hearts, grateful for gifts large and small – anything that helps the mission go forward.

And always, there are those volunteers. I caught up with Mother Celine when she visited one of the Little Sisters' homes, in northern New Jersey. "I can't say there's nothing to do," she told me with a smile. "Our needs are more pressing than ever."

Maryknoll Father James Keller had something in common with Jeanne Jugan; they both understood the value of volunteers. "Alert, bright and generous" was the way Father Keller thought of volunteers, relying on their help when he founded The Christophers in 1945 – making them, in fact, a cornerstone of his movement. Jeanne Jugan thought of them in the same way, and so does Mother Celine today.

"There was a time," Mother Celine said to me, "when the Little Sisters did everything. There were no employees, no volunteers – we did it all. Now, of course, it's different. Now we rely on others to help us." She paused before she added, "And we're so thankful that they're there."

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



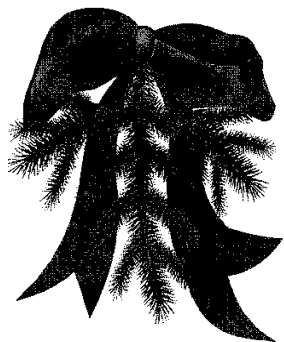
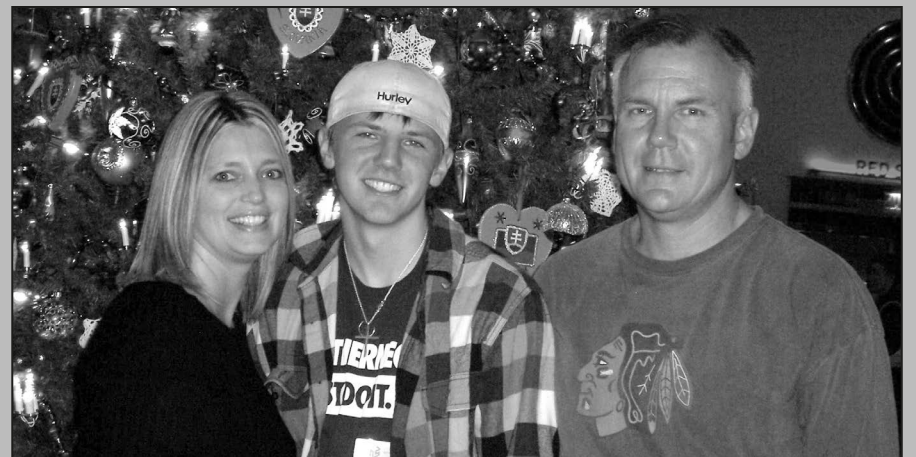
Slovak Christmas Tree on Display in Chicago

Bring your children, grandchildren, other relatives, and friends to see the Slovak Christmas Tree on display at the Museum of Science and Industry's annual "Christmas Around the World" exhibit in Chicago. Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 Christmas Tree Committee decorated an eight-foot tree with imported Slovak ornaments owned by District 2 on November 6th.

The annual display features Christmas trees from 55 countries. The long-time Slovak Christmas Tree Committee chairman Ed Uram has retired after 15 years. Mark Fayta has stepped up to the plate, and assumed the chairman's job. Ed's granddaughter Amber Miller has agreed to be the new treasurer of the Slovak Christmas Tree Fund. Ed will remain on the decorating committee.

The exhibit opens November 20, 2010, and runs through January 5, 2011. The Museum is located at 57th Street and South Lake Shore Drive in the Hyde Park neighborhood on Chicago's south side. For more information, please call (773) 684-1414, or visit www.msichicago.org.

Robert Tapak Magruder
Publicist, Slovak Christmas Tree Committee



The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey
invite you to our 2010

VILIYA
SLOVAK CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER

Sunday, December 5th
12:00 PM (Noon) Mass
Dinner Following

Held at the Abbey Church and
Benedictine High School Cafeteria

Tickets to this event are **ADVANCE SALES ONLY**
TICKETS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR.

TICKETS - \$20.00 PER PERSON - ADVANCE SALES ONLY

**Please send a check or money order
along with a self addressed stamped envelope made out to
Saint Andrew Abbey - Viliya: 2900 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive,
Cleveland, OH 44104
Your tickets will be mailed out to you.**

**TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2010**

**If you have any questions please call: (216) 721-5300 ext. 0
(Monday through Friday 8am till 3:30pm)**

Entertainment:

Lučinka Junior Slovak Folklore Dancers
Slovenske Mamichky Singers
*Religious Articles * Exhibitions * Christmas Bakery*

YOUTH ROUND-UP



(left to right) First row: Kristyna Nosek, Anna Nosek, Victoria Oros, John Allen-McIntyre, Veronica Montani, Lexi Glova, Katie Skurka. Second row: John Moynihan, Kaz Dzurec, John Dzurec, Vladimir Sokol, Scott Connors

The Lucinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble

The Lucinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble experienced a memorable, enjoyable time on their inaugural visit to Slovakia. The Ensemble was invited to perform at the 14th Annual Južnoslovenske' Children and Youth Folk Festival held July 24 to July 25, 2010 at the Amphitheatre in Dulovce, Slovakia. Dulovce is a small town near the southern border of Slovakia which continues to maintain its Slovak heritage through the song and dance of this unique children's festival.

Since many of the Ensemble's members had not travelled to Slovakia previously, along with seeing all of the beautiful history and architecture, visiting grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and other extended family were also a first for some! The Ensemble selected the historic city of Košice to begin their Slovak sightseeing adventures. A day-long tour included a visit to the glorious cathedral of St. Elizabeth, St. Michael's Chapel, the State Theatre and the Immaculata Statue. Visiting the shops and lunch at the Karczma Mlyn, a traditional Slovak wine cellar with traditional Slovak foods and beverages made the day complete.

The Ensemble then travelled to the town of Levoča to visit the church of St. Jacob which contains many beautiful statues and the extraordinary wooden altar made by Master Pavol. The Ensemble visited the historic town of Vlkolinec located in northern Slovakia which has maintained much of its notable architecture, the ancient castle located in Orava, the Slovak mint located in the city of Kremnica and a mineral mine located in the city of Banska Stiavnica. Overnight accommodations for the group included a stay in a 300 year old miner's home located near Banska Stiavnica and Kremnica.

In addition to the invitation to the Juznoslovenske Festival, the Lucinka dancers also received an invitation to dance with children's groups at the From Ohaj to Ohaj Children's Folklore Festi-



(Left to Right) Lucinka Treasurer Michele Mager, Lucinka Secretary Mary Ann Dzurec, Lucinka Parents Committee Chair Dana Glova, Office of Slovaks Living Abroad Representative Mgr. Michaela Grznárová, Lucinka Instructor Nadia Oros and Office of Slovaks Living Abroad Representative Božena Malíková

val held in Horny Ohaj Friday afternoon, July 23rd. In addition to Lucinka, groups included the Kaška Ensemble and the MS Vrable Ensemble both from Vrable and the Silešanek Ensemble from Vinodola. Prior to the Ohaj Festival, the group toured the nearby city of Nitra including the Nitra Castle.

Overnight accommodations for many of the participants were in the city of Komarno near the Hungarian border. While staying in Komarno, the Ensemble visited an historic Turkish fortress which housed Russian soldiers during the Communist regime.

The Južnoslovenske' Festival began with rehearsals on Saturday with all of the members of the participating ensembles which included Slovak Children's Ensembles Zocharik from Topolcany, Stasne Detstov from Brezno, Lucik from Dulovce, Maticiarik from Nove Zamky, Levaranek from Velke Levaré and Inovcek from Hlohovec. From outside of Slovakia included Frano Strapac from Markovec, Croatia, Petrovska Druzina from Bacsy Petrovec, Serbia and the Lucinka Ensemble from Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

A Festival Parade through Dulovce began the Saturday evening's festivities. The performances were entertaining, the costumes were charming and the artistic presentations included all ages of children and youth celebrating Slovak culture through song and dance. The final performance of the evening included the adult folkore ensembles Vatra from Tlmacé, Slovakia and Skowronki from Branksa, Poland, showcasing some of the best Slovak folkore talent! Following Saturday's performances, a dance party was held for the young and young at heart!

Sunday's performances were moved from the Amphitheater to a nearby elementary school due to inclement weather and despite the rain, the spirits were high and the song and dancing once again impressed the audience. Both Saturday's and Sunday evening's performances were concluded with representatives from all of the ensembles dancing together. Even with potential language barriers, song and dance make for immediate friendship and the weekend's events were no exception. These forged friendships and the experiences will not be quickly forgotten.

The week went quickly and all too soon, it was time to head back to the States. However, the Lucinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland has its sights set on a return trip to Slovakia with hopes of performances at the larger festivals for young adults as they continue to develop their talents. The Lucinka dancers and parents wish to extend a sincere thank-you to all who provided financial support in order to make this unforgettable tour possible. Please visit our web site at www.lucina.org for information about the Lucinka Ensemble and to see photos from our visit to Slovakia. You may also contact Director Christine Hearn at 440-655-8244 or Parents Committee Chair Dana Glova at 216-360-0930 for more information.



L - R: District 2 President John Jurcenko presents the scholarship stipend to college student Mariah Horton and her parents.



Branch 6 Member Mariah Horton Awarded Scholarship

FCSU Branch 6 members in Streator, IL, are very proud of Mariah Horton. Mariah, a member of Branch 6, is a 2010 recipient of an FCSU College Scholarship. She is now a freshman at Illinois Central College, majoring in Dental Hygiene.

At the Rev John J. Spitzkovsky District 2's Annual Meeting, held on October 24, 2010 in Oak Forest, IL, District President John Jurcenko presented Mariah with a check for \$100.00 from the District's Bishop Stefan Moyzes Scholarship Fund. Mariah's great-grandfather, Bob Elias, serves as District 2 auditor.

Best wishes to Mariah from District 2!

Robert Tapak Magruder



Back row (L - R): Michael, Sarah, Post Commander Mr. John Billy, Michelle, and Matthew. Front row (L - R): Megan and Jacob

FCSU Member Sarah Francowic Honored with American Legion Citizenship Award

Sarah Francowic received the prestigious American Legion Citizenship Award at a ceremony held in May 2009 at the Monessen High School. The American Legion Citizenship Award is presented to the eighth-grade student who possesses the high qualities of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service which are necessary to the preservation and protection of the fundamental institutions of our government and the advancement of society. Sarah was awarded based on votes from her peers and teachers.

Sarah is active in the National Junior Honor Society; a member of student council; and, as a freshman this year, is on the varsity girls' soccer team; and serves as Freshman Vice President.

Sarah is the daughter of Michelle and Michael Francowic. She is the sister of Matthew, Jacob, and Megan, and the granddaughter of Bernard and Katherine Nowatkoski. All are members of Branch 856.

Congratulations, Sarah!

FCSU 2010 Christmas Coloring Contest

STAR OF THE EAST

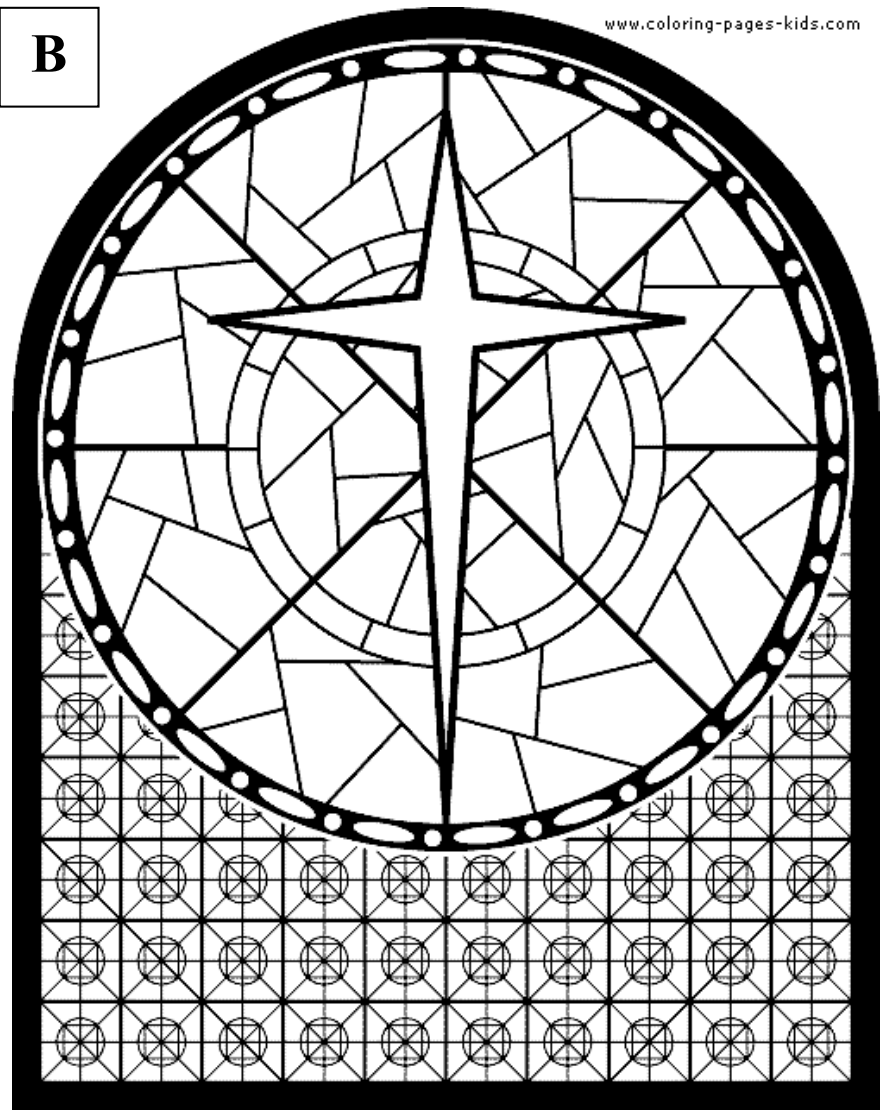
Star of the East, that long ago
Brought wise men on their way
Where, angels singing to and fro,
The Child of Bethlehem lay--
Above that Syrian hill afar
Thou shinest out to-night, O Star!

Star of the East, the night were drear
But for the tender grace
That with thy glory comes to cheer
Earth's loneliest, darkest place;
For by that charity we see
Where there is hope for all and me.

Star of the East! show us the way
In wisdom undefiled
To seek that manger out and lay
Our gifts before the Child--
To bring our hearts and offer them
Unto our King in Bethlehem!

--EUGENE FIELD

B



A



C



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

RULES for Coloring Contest

- Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
 4 – 6 year olds – picture C
 7 – 9 year olds – picture A
 10 – 12 year olds – picture B
- 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, 2010.

5. 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, 2010

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

PRIZES

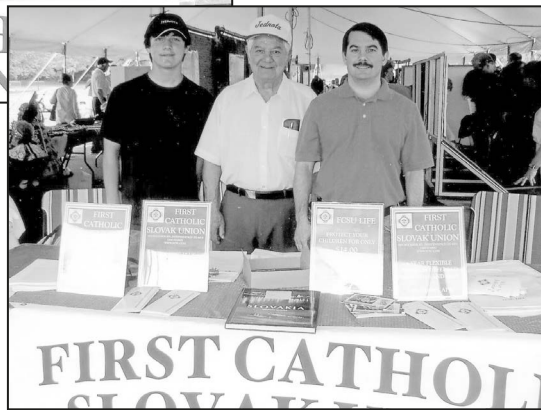
Winners in each age group will receive the following:

- 1st Place – Jednota Art Set in a Nylon Backpack and \$25.00
- 2nd Place - Jednota Art Set in a Nylon Backpack and \$15.00
- 3rd Place - Jednota Art Set in a Nylon Backpack and \$10.00
- Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card

Art set includes: crayons, colored pencils, watercolors, markers, stencils, and coloring book.



(L – R) National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.; Mrs. Idka Rajec; Slovak Ambassador to the United States, Peter Burian; Mrs. Nina Burian; Regional Director Joseph F. Minarovich; National President Andrew M. Rajec



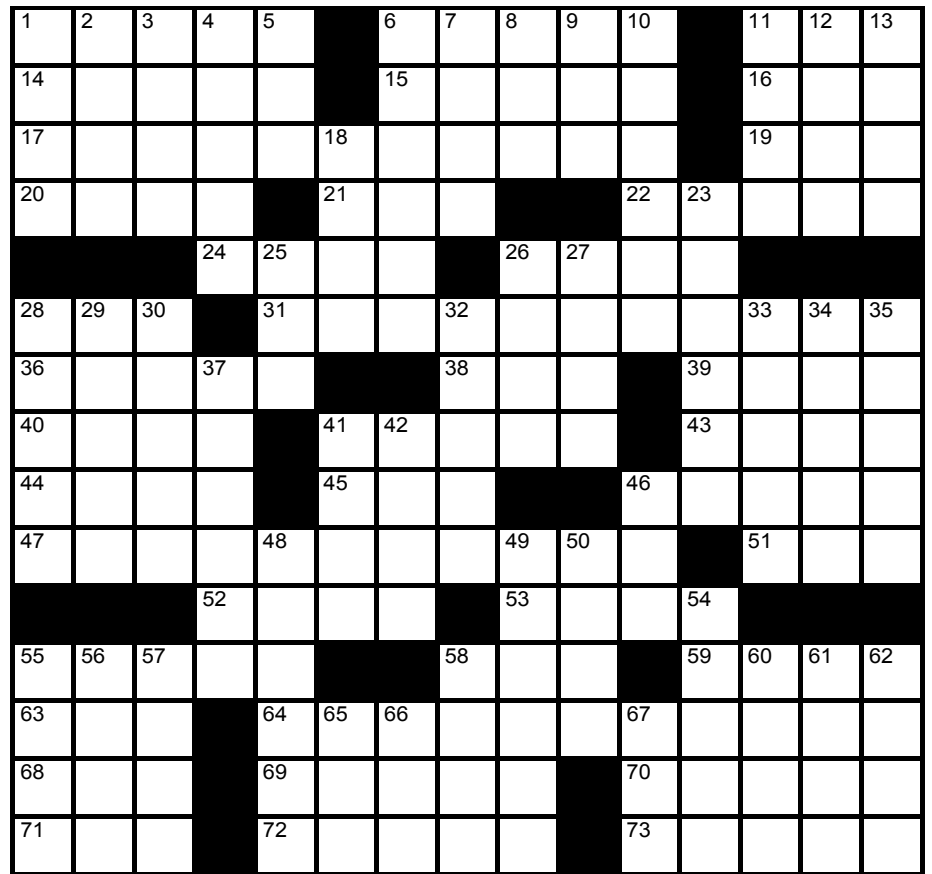
Helping to man the FCSU booth (L – R), Branch 290 Member Adam J. Minarovich, Regional Director of Region 1 Joseph F. Minarovich; Branch 290 Secretary Stephen J. Minarovich

New Jersey Heritage Festival

The 33rd Slovak Heritage Festival took place on Sunday, September 26, 2010 at the PNC Bank Center in Holmdel, NJ. A crowd of about 7,000 people attended this year's event that featured displays, cultural performances, and lots of ethnic food. The 11am Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Bernard Bober, Archbishop of Košice, Slovakia.

The First Catholic Slovak Union operated an informational booth at the festival where newspapers and brochures on the FCUS and its products were distributed to the many people in attendance.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Copyright ©2010 puzzlejunction.com

Across

- 1 Cheese ingredient
- 6 Lance
- 11 Sayonara
- 14 Musical drama
- 15 Flexible joint
- 16 Quarrel
- 17 Shylock
- 19 Wrath
- 20 Insects
- 21 Cervid
- 22 Zealous
- 24 Croat
- 26 Prejudice
- 28 Byways (Abbr.)
- 31 Obvious solution
- 36 Ways of life
- 38 Mine feature
- 39 Scintilla
- 40 Venezuela copper center
- 41 Pomeranian
- 43 Hearts, for example
- 44 Novelist Morrison, for one
- 45 Fleur-de-_____
- 46 Passage
- 47 Stamped, as an actor
- 51 Always (Poet.)
- 52 Section (Abbr.)
- 53 Emulators
- 55 Engine
- 58 Couple
- 59 Roman statesman
- 63 Garden resident
- 64 Burning with emotion
- 68 Scurried
- 69 Fr. river
- 70 Monotone
- 71 Golfer Ernie
- 72 Pulls hard

Down

- 1 Med. condition
- 2 Abreast of
- 3 Hire
- 4 Apparel
- 5 Articulate
- 6 Cancel
- 7 Light shade of red
- 8 Cease
- 9 Epoch
- 10 Peruse again
- 11 Penal facility
- 13 Pitcher
- 18 Vault
- 23 Birthplace of St. Francis
- 25 Definite article (Sp.)
- 26 Football's Starr
- 27 Texas town
- 28 Squabbles
- 29 Fortune telling card
- 30 Gem
- 32 Loud
- 33 Abode
- 34 Helpful
- 35 Spud, to some
- 37 Coiffure

- 41 Splatter
- 42 Actor Brad
- 46 Beverage
- 48 Spookily
- 49 Lulls
- 50 Verse form
- 54 Sports stat
- 55 Bare
- 56 Egg-shaped
- 57 Decades
- 58 Sinister
- 60 Soon
- 61 Take care of
- 62 Lyric poems
- 65 Ratite bird
- 66 Rowlock
- 67 Egos

See Solution on Page 18

New Slovak Museum Open

In the September 30, 2009 issue of Jednota, President Rajec asked all members of our Society to consider donating or lending items for a new Museum at the Home Office. The Slovak Museum and Archives in Middletown had closed with the Printery building in 2001, with most of its exhibits and displays about our heritage going to the Jankola Library in Danville, PA, under the care of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius.

The idea was to display items of interest to the Slovak-American community, as well as to our Society, here in the

FCSU Home Office.

On Saturday, August 16, 2010, as a key part of the 49th Quadrennial Convention, delegates were offered the opportunity to tour the new Slovak Museum. The tour highlighted the display cases of Slovak handcrafts and items of historical interest, such as an extensive collection of corn dolls, costumed dolls, modra, kraslice eggs, religious artifacts, historic household items, and kroj displayed on life-sized mannequins. It also debuted a newly commissioned decorative entranceway patterned after the entrances to

many historical buildings in Slovakia.

The Home Office particularly wishes to thank and acknowledge Honorary Consul Joseph Senko and Albina Senko, for their extensive collection of cornhusk dolls, and George Terbrack, for the displays of kroj, modra and other important Slovak artifacts. Other donors include: Milka Anderko, Linda Kolesar, and Piroaska Merai

This edition of Jednota offers all our members a look at some of the items displayed in the new Slovak Museum Vitajte!



Andrew Marmol (L) presents a framed photograph of the First Catholic Slovak Union, in Scranton, PA, 1925 to Region 4 Regional Director-elect, James ... will present the photo to the Home Office at his ...

If you or a family member has an artifact you t

Items at FCSU Home Office



of the 22nd Conven-
 ton, PA, Sept. 20-25,
 as Marmol (R). James
 first board meeting.

est to the Society – for display in the Home Office Museum or in our
 archives, please send us a picture of the item (if possible) by email at
 fcsu@aol.com or contact us at 1-800-JEDNOTA or fcsu@aol.com to
 discuss the donation or temporary loan.

think would be of inter-

You can direct your inquiries to Teresa Ivanec, Jednota Editor, or
 Ken Arendt, Executive Secretary.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY,PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 5, 2010 at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Begin the evening with Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel. Our traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner (including pirohi) will follow in the festively decorated dining room. After dinner and the awarding of door prizes, the Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. Please plan to attend and help us preserve this beautiful custom. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$11 for children 16 and younger. Reserve your tickets early (they are limited) by calling Darlene Patty at 724-537-7743. Absolutely no reservations will be accepted after November 27 or by the Bishop Connare Center.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Local Branch 60 will host the annual meeting of the Pittsburgh District of the F.C.S.U. on Sunday, December 5, 2010. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. in the St Barnabas Parish Hall, Swissvale, PA. All branches are expected send representatives. The Steelers don't play till evening so that's not an excuse. The meeting will include officers' reports and discussion of F.C.S.U. national and district business. In particular, branch hosts for 2011 events will be selected. District officers for 2011 will be elected at this meeting.

The Pittsburgh District would like to take this opportunity to extend thanks to all of its members who served as delegates at the 49th Convention this August in Cleveland, OH.

The District Christmas Party will follow the business meeting. The officers of the Pittsburgh District wish all members a happy and holy Holiday Season.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - MSGR. HLINKA DISTRICT

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, District Secretary

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT, TORONTO, CANADA

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday Dec 12, 2010 at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril's and Methodius Slovak Church in Mississauga, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Lunch will be served, but please contact Mike Kapitan to confirm attendance, so that proper quantities can be available for all members attending.

Regards,
Mike Kapitan, President

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT - MONTREAL

The Prince Rastislav District - Montreal and Branches 784 and 810 will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday November 28, 2010 after Mass at Sts Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of the social calendar for 2010 and 2011. Refreshments will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood Ohio. We will have our election of officers. Our annual Christmas party will take place after the conclusion of the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions 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 Tues. Nov. 30, 2010 at 7 pm in the Eat n' Park at 7370 McKnight Rd. We will have election of officers and planning of events for 2011. All members are encouraged to attend. Snacks will be served afterwards. Any questions call (412) 766-3222. We also ask that you make a reservation by calling (412) 766-3222.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen's Society, Branch 006, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010, at Chippers Grill, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. The meeting will begin at 1:00PM with a lunch provided for all members after the meeting. The agenda will include the nomination and election of officers for the year 2011. All members are welcome to attend this meeting. Any questions, please call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764. Thank you.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010, at 9:00am at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbia 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., First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, Pennsylvania will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 28, at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 9:30am in the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

The election of officers will take place. We also will make our Christmas donations at this meeting. Our 16-year old members will be listed for the Margaret Evancho Award to be given at our March 13, 2011 breakfast meeting.

We wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 will hold its next meeting at 2pm on Sunday, December 12, 2010, at Our Sons' Family Restaurant, 800 Broad Street, Cambria City, Johnstown, PA 15906. All members are urged to attend.

Lawrence Fenimore, President

BRANCH 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41KJ, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December

11, 2010, 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. A presentation of the 49th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 28, 2010, at 12:30pm after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. The election of officers also will be chosen. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 - SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at 10:00AM, at the residence of President and 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 will be submitted and the nomination of officers for the coming year will take place. The delegates to the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will present their reports. The merger of Branch 18K, Kulpmont, PA into Branch 75, Shamokin, PA, and how the combined branches will be affected by the jointure, will be discussed. All members are requested to attend this semi-annual.

Ronald M. Anderson, President/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at 7:00pm at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2011. All members are invited to attend.

B. Skovira

BRANCH 90 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 90, Olyphant, PA, will hold an Annual Meeting on December 12, 2010 at 2:00pm at the home of Mr. Michael P. Glinky, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, PA.

Sincerely,

Barbara Sochovka, Secretary

BRANCH 112 MAHANOEY CITY, PA

Branch 112 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 19, 2010 to discuss end of year business. The meeting will be at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, PA at 1PM. Please call 570-544-6694 for directions.

Refreshments will be served.

Karen Sterling

BRANCH 157 - N CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 157 will be holding a meeting on December 12, 2010, at 12:00 noon in the upstairs hall. The agenda for the meeting will be upcoming events for 2011, discussions of how to get more customers signed up, and ideas for getting more people involved in our organization. A Children's Christmas Party (up to age 12) will begin at 2:00pm. Rain date will be December 19, 2010, at 2:00pm. Reservations for the Christmas Party are recommended. Please call 610-264-0740.

We need to increase attendance at our meet-

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WANTED

The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States & Canada is seeking agents or licensed Recommenders who are fluent in the Slovak language to represent the Society and market our Life Insurance and Annuity products, especially in the New York and New Jersey area.

Please call or e-mail:

President
Andrew M. Rajec -

1-800 JEDNOTA (533-6682) or

Vice-President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. -

1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682)

E-mail: president@fcsu.com



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ings, so if you are free, plan on coming to the meeting and bringing your suggestions along.

Branch 157 wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Happy and Safe Holiday.

Gregory Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 19, 2010, at 9:00am at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed, annual officers' reports will be given, and election of officers will take place. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting, and breakfast will be provided for members, spouses and guests. Any inquiries and updating information should be directed to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 173 & BRANCH 232 - GREATER WILKES-BARRE AREA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of The Saint John The Baptist Society, Branch 173, and The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 232, of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area, Pa., will be held on December 10, 2010 at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Norms, North Sherman St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The meeting will be for general business and the discussion of the 49th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union, that was held in Cleveland, Ohio.

We request that all members make every effort to attend and in any event please contact Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, 15 Grove St. Mountaintop, Pa. 18707, Phone 570-403-2067, if you plan to attend or do not plan to attend but wish to make any comments or suggestions for the betterment of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Fraternally,

Dorothy A. Ungvarsky President

BRANCH 199 - MT. PLEASANT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold their Annual Meeting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 12th at Chumps Restaurant. Election of Officers will be held at that time.

Barbara Patula

BRANCH 213 - RENFREW, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael, Branch 213, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2010. It will be held at 3061 Kensington Court, Renfrew, PA at 1:30pm. On the agenda will be the election of officers, district meeting news, and a general review of activities. All members are asked to attend.

Wishing everyone a Merry and Holy Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 9, 2011, at noon at Panera's restaurant in the Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads, Mt. Lebanon, PA. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, review the activities for the past year, discuss new products and plan activities for 2011. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, call Albina at 412/343-5031.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold its Annual Meeting on December 12, 2010, at the Bedford Trails Golf Course in Coitsville, OH, following a Mass at 8:30am at Holy Trinity Church for all living and deceased members. All members are invited to attend this fraternal event.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthews Branch 260 will hold its Annual Meeting, Sunday, December 12, 2010 at Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall, St. Elizabeth Church, at 1:30pm. Election of officers will take place, along with plans for the coming year. We urge members to attend and participate in our discussions and submit their ideas for the betterment of the Society.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist, Branch 290, will hold its next branch meeting at 7:00pm on December 1, 2010. Election of officers will take place. Please call Joe at (732) 469-5256 any evening after 6pm for location of the meeting.

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 292 - WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292 KJ, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, December 19, 2010 at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA. All members are asked to attend these events. The Officers extend to all wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky, President

BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mary Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 320 -

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting and Christmas luncheon on Saturday, December 18, at noon at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. There will be no cost to members; however, there will be a \$10.00 charge for non-members. 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 12 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 327 - POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 327, Pottstown, PA, will hold its Annual Meeting on December 19, 2010 in Holy Trinity Parish Social Hall, 370 South St. at 9am. Election of officers will take place. All members are asked to attend.

Elmer C. Pollock, President

BRANCH 362 - ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO

Our Lady of Angel, Branch 362, will have meeting on Nov. 28 at 12:00 noon at 70820 Crescent Rd. St. Clairsville, Ohio all member are ask to attend.

John Wodarczyk

BRANCH 372 - BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Society, Branch 372, of Beaverdale, PA, will hold its annual meeting Sunday, December 5, 2010, at 2:00pm. The meeting will be held at the home of President Michael P. Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave, Beaverdale, PA.

The agenda for this meeting will be the election of officers for the year 2011, and any other appropriate lodge business. All members are urged to attend.

Thank you.

Michael P. Hudak, President

BRANCH 410 UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. The agenda will include

the election of officers for the year 2011.

All members are invited to attend.

**Geri Buchheit,
Recording/Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 419 - NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419 will hold its semi-annual meeting on December 12, 2010, at 2:00pm at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebensburg, PA. There is to be a discussion concerning a merger.

Lillian R. Stager, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 425 - BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Mark Society, Branch 425, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at 1:00pm at the Slovak Society of Barberton, OH, 887 West Toscarawas. Election of officers will take place. All members are welcome.

**Jeanette Willis,
Recording Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of the St. Joseph's the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will be held Sunday, December 12, 2010, 2:00 PM at the home of the president Rose Ann Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, Pa. 15731. On the agenda will be the fiscal year financial statements, branch donations, report of the District 7 annual meeting and the election of 2011 officers. All members are welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493, in Chicago, will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, with the branch Christmas Luncheon following, on Saturday, December 4, 2010. Location: Mabenka's Restaurant, 7844 South Cicero Avenue, Burbank, IL 60459.

At 1:30 pm, members will gather for a period of fraternal fellowship. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm, with a delicious dinner following.

If you plan to attend, please call the Financial Secretary Robert Tapak Magruder at (773) 505-0117 or (502) 244-6643 by November 26th. Members of other FCSU lodges who attend will pay via separate check.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 - UNIONTOWN, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 will hold a lodge meeting on Thursday, December 9th at 3 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44311. At this meeting we will be electing officers for 2011. If you are interesting in running for a lodge office, please send your intentions to Vera Thomas, Nominating Committee Chairperson, at 1232 Steve Drive, Akron, Ohio 44319. In your letter stating your interest, please note what office you are interested in holding. Letters must be received by December 4th.

Come take an active roll in your society. The Board of Directors wishes all members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas season.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 553- UNIONTOWN, OHIO

A "Save the Date" Announcement from Branch 553: Save the date December 5, 2010. That is the date set aside for our annual Vilija sponsored by Branch 553 to be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44311.

This is a time to celebrate your Slovak heritage and Catholic faith by participating and remember the traditional Christmas Eve meal. We will be sharing the symbolism of each part of the meal and the traditions our forefathers entrusted to us.

The cost is \$15.00 per person and children 16

and under are free. The event will start at 4:00 pm.

If you are interested in attending contact Linda Hanko at 330.706.0151 or via email at HYPERLINK "mailto:lhanko@neo.rr.com" lhanko@neo.rr.com.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda M. Hanko
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 567 - ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567KJ, will have their annual meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at St. John the Baptist Church, 924 North Front St., Allentown, PA. The election and swearing in of officers for the year 2011 will take place at this time.

The following officers were elected: President, Bernadine Gerhard; Recording Secretary, Rosalie Favere; Treasurer, William Micek; and Auditor, Loretta Dashner.

The annual report also will be given at this time. Members are encouraged to attend meetings.

Wishing everyone a very Blessed and Happy Holiday Season.

Rosalie Favere, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 581 - PORTER, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold its regular luncheon-meeting at 1 p.m., Sunday, December 5, at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN.

The agenda will be -- Election of Officers, Insurance premium for children with the Branch paying the first premium.

Also, new business for the year will be discussed.

RSVP Ann at 219-947-2793.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 in Muskegon Heights, MI would like to announce our monthly pork and kraut dinners being served at the club. They will be held on the second Sunday of each month. This is a complete traditional dinner including dessert. Only \$6 for adults and children under 12 pay only \$4. We will be serving from noon until 3 p.m.

Our monthly breakfast is held the fourth Sunday of each month. We serve from 8:30 a.m. until noon. We serve a wide variety of breakfast items. The cost remains at \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

We are located at the corner of Sixth Street and Sherman Boulevard in Muskegon Heights. Our phone number is 231 733 7525. Please contact us if you have any other questions.

Thank you,

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 721 - BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will have a meeting on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at 2:00pm, at the St. Cyril's Meeting Room. All members are encouraged to attend.

Joseph L. Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On December 19, 2010, Branch 731 will celebrate Mass at 11:30am at Saint Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio in commemoration of deceased members of Saint Joseph Branch 731. Monsignor Peter M. Polando will be the celebrant.

Following the Liturgy, we will meet at the Saint Matthias rectory for our annual meeting and election of officers for the 2011 year.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday 12/7/10 at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post 6673, Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pa. The meeting will include election of officers and

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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a review of the financial audit. All members are invited to attend.

BRANCH 743--- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer Report, a 2010 financial report, approval of the 2011 budget, discussion of branch activities, convention report 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 12, 2010 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 2011, as well as discussion of activities for the next year. A holiday get together will follow the meeting.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 WARREN, OHIO

SS Cyril & Methodius Branch 764 will hold a meeting on November 14, 2010 at Christ Our King Social Hall, 1000 Tod Avenue, Warren, OH at 12:15PM. We will be discussing election of officers for 2011 and plans for a Christmas Party. We will also be discussing a possible site and date for a meeting in Newton Falls to welcome those members into our Branch 764. All members of the previous Branch 759K Newton Falls and Branch 342 Warren are urged to attend this meeting.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 769 – ENDWELL, NEW YORK

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 769, will hold its semi-annual meeting on December 14, 2010, at the residence of Henry J. Pochily, 2809 Smith Drive, Endwell, NY. All members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting will cover the election of officers for the coming year, as well as information regarding the highly regarded financial status of the FCSU and the opportunities to invest in various annuities having excellent returns.

Henry J. Pochily, President

BRANCHES 784 AND 810 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC.

Branches 784 and 810 will hold their annual meeting on Sunday November 28, 2010. Elections of officers will take place. All members are requested to attend. The meeting will be held at the SS Cyril and Methodius Parish hall after the mass. Discussion of the social calendar for year 2010 and 2011 will take place. Refreshments will be served.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 785 – TORONTO, CANADA

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday Dec 12, 2010 at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril's and Methodius Slovak Church in Mississauga, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Lunch will be served, but please contact Anne Mitro to confirm attendance, so that proper quantities can be available for all members attending.

Regards,

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The next regular meeting of Br. 831 will be held on Monday, Dec. 6, 2010 at 7:30 at the home of Kathy Persun, 158 Davidson St., Tarentum, Pa. The election of officers will take place at this meeting.

The children's Christmas treat will be given to children, age 12 and under who have their insurance paid to date. The treat will be given out at the home of Rose Kuniak, 1115 Center St., Tarentum, Pa. on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010, between 2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

The officers of Br. 831 want to wish all of the Members a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Kathleen M. Persun, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Slovak Mass on Sunday, December 19, 2010 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. Mass will begin 11:00am. A delicious authentic Slovak lunch will be served after Mass along with

the presentation of gifts for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Christmas.

Also, following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports, hold elections of new officers, and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

**Fraternally yours,
Milan Konkol, Secretary**

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold its annual Spaghetti dinner Christmas party on Saturday November 27, 2010 at Regos Restaurant in Charleroi, PA at 11:00 am. Due to seating, reservations are required.

To make your reservation please call 412-341-1577 and leave your name, phone number and number of adults and children attending. There will be no cost to branch members attending. Non-branch members will be charged \$12 per person which will be payable at that time.

After the luncheon, the branch meeting will be held. This includes the election of the branch officers.

Branch members are requested to bring their list of volunteer hours and fraternal service hours for the 2010 year.

Branch 853 wishes all a blessed Christmas season.

Monica RodacyBoone, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Our Mother of Sorrows Society will hold its annual meeting, December 13, 2010, at 1:30PM at the Pimmit Hills Regional Library, located at 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA, (703) 790-8088. The purpose of the meeting will be to nominate Officers for 2011. We also will discuss success of the recent convention held in Cleveland, OH, August 2010.

We urge our members and our newly acquired Branch 61 from Baltimore to attend. The floor will be open to hear and discuss new ideas. For additional information, please feel free to contact Steve Matula at (703) 671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at (703) 860-1693.

Sincerely,

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 Tuesday December 7, 2010. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. At this meeting we will be electing our branch officers for 2011.

On behalf of all the officers in Branch 857, we wish to everybody a safe, happy, and holy holiday season.

Fraternally,

Damian D. Nasta, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 888 - WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888, will hold its next two meetings on Sunday, November 28, 2010, at 3:00pm at 4649 Perth Road, West Palm Beach, FL, 33410; and on Friday, December 10, 2010, at 5:30pm at 4649 Perth Road, West Palm Beach, FL, 33410. Contact David Rafaidus, President, at (561) 776-0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com for directions and further information.

On the agenda will be future Branch activities, treasurer's report, nomination and election of officers, and items of mutual interest to the membership. All Branch members are invited to attend.

David Rafaidus, President

"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

Effective November 1, 2010

*The new annuity plan that combines features from our most popular annuities...
The Park Annuity and the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.*

The "Park Free Plus" offers a first year interest rate of 3.15% (3.102% APR) that is guaranteed for the entire first year of the Annuity policy. At the first anniversary date of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 calendar days to elect this option:**

1. Withdraw the full value of the accumulated Annuity funds (principal plus interest)

WITHOUT INCURRING A SURRENDER CHARGE!

*Note: If the funds are withdrawn prior to the first anniversary of the policy, a 6% surrender will be imposed on the funds withdrawn.**

2. If this option is not exercised, the Annuity will continue for an additional five years. The interest rate at that time will be based on the interest rate established by the Society on its Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity. This rate is published regularly in the official publication and on our website.

If the policy is continued, the Annuitant may withdraw up to 10% of the policies cash value at the beginning of each policy year, without incurring a surrender charge.*

If the Policy is continued, withdrawals that exceed 10% of the policy's cash value will incur a surrender charge of 5% in the second year and withdrawal charges will decrease by 1% each year until the end of the sixth year from the issue date*.

INITIAL DEPOSIT MAY BE AS LOW AS \$1,000!

Low Minimum Deposit. Initial deposit may be as low as \$1,000 for the "Park Free Plus" Annuity. Maximum deposit for this program is \$100,000.00. No additional deposits are permitted during the first year.

Flexible Deposits. Additional deposits of \$1,000 or more accepted at any time after the first year.

Maturity Options. At the end of the six year policy period; the Annuitant has these options:

(a) The policy can be continued with no surrender charges on any withdrawals.* The interest rate will be based on FCSU Life's Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity interest rate.

(b) The policy can be converted to any Annuity product offered by FCSU Life at that time. The interest rate will be based on the then current declared interest rate on the selected policy.

(c) Taxes on all interest earned on the "Park Free Plus" Annuity and any subsequent policy selected, will be deferred until funds are withdrawn.

For additional information, contact your Branch officer or the Home Office.

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

OBITUARIES

**Richard Paul Yurkovic
Branch 6 –
Streator, Illinois**

Yurkovic, Richard Paul 85, of Brooksville, FL formerly of LaGrange Park, IL passed away on October 17, 2010. Preceded in death by his wife Mahala. Survivors include his sons, Richard, Andrew (Carol) and John, daughters, Catherine Morfe, Carolyn (Fred), Susan (Jerry) Ourada, Josephine (Jeff) Arnold, Elizabeth (Peter) Starck, Mary (Benjamin), eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

He served in the Marines during the Korean War, prior to his retirement he was employed at US Clearing as Tool and Die

Maker. He enjoyed his retirement in Florida and was very active and social member of his retirement community High Point Towers in Brooksville, FL where he loved to play cards and swim daily, he also volunteered on all holidays with Meals on Wheels Association of America, and was also very active member of Saint Frances Cabrini Catholic Church as well as a member of FCSU Branch 6 in Streator, Illinois.

**Margaret Yakubisin
Branch 823
Youngwood, Pennsylvania**

Margaret Yakubisin, 85, of Youngwood, died Thursday, Nov. 4, 2010, in Hempfield

Manor. She was born Feb. 4, 1925, in Youngwood, a daughter of the late Michael and Mary Durich Blanda. She was a member of Holy Cross Church, Youngwood. She was a volunteer at the Youngwood Food Bank, and an officer for the First Catholic Slovak Union. Surviving are three sons, George Yakubisin and wife, Cheryl, of Youngwood, Robert Yakubisin, of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Richard Yakubisin and wife, Sheryl, of Greensburg; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a brother, John Blanda and wife, Emily, of Columbus, Ohio. She was preceded in death by her hus-

band, George S. "Jumbo" Yakubisin; two grandchildren, Tammy Ciacco and Matthew Yakubisin; six brothers, Pete, Mike, Joe, Tom, Paul and George Blanda; and three sisters, Helen Flicky, Mary Katsur and Irene Shaw. Friends were received from 1 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. the following Sunday at the C. RICHARD McCAULEY FUNERAL HOME INC., Youngwood. Funeral Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. the following Monday in Holy Cross Church with the Rev. Bill Berkey as celebrant. Interment followed in Westmoreland County Memorial Park, Hempfield Township.

Branch 784 in Montreal is Mourning

Joseph Corej was a member of Jednota Br. 784. After a short and complicated illness he passed away August 17th, 2010 at Sacre Coeur (Sacred Heart) Hospital in the north end of Montreal.

Joseph is mourned by his wife Helen Micak, daughter Camille, sons Martin and Eric, and four loving grandchildren. He was proud of his children and their accomplishments. His oldest son Martin followed his dad's footsteps and also became a Civil Engineer. Camille graduated in Marketing and Eric in Commerce, all successful in the business world.

Joseph was born in Montreal, Canada to his immigrant parents from Tarnava in Eastern Slovakia. After attending Public Schools in Montreal, Joe graduated from the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario in 1956 and then received his Civil Engineering degree at McGill in 1957.



Joseph was involved in many heavy construction projects mainly building transmission lines in Quebec, Newfoundland, British Columbia, South America, & Iran. His work in Iran became very risky since it took place during the time of the Islamic Revolution when the Shah of Iran was ousted.

Joe was involved in many construction associations such as the Canadian Construction Association and the Quebec Road Builders Association. He was involved in many contract negotiations between Contractors, Unions and Governments in Quebec and other provinces in Canada.

Remembering his Slovak Roots, Joe was a dedicated member of the Slovak Community in Montreal. He and his wife supported and promoted the good work of the Canadian Slovak Professional & Business Association mainly working on the Scholarship Ball held each year in Montreal. Joe was a member of the Jednota Bowling League, helping out on the Committee and enjoying the trips to the Bowling Tournaments.

Joseph was a long time Warden at the Slovak Eastern Rite Catholic Church of the Ascension of Our Lord. He recently negotiated the sale of the church in April 2010.

The Funeral service was held at the Slovak Roman Catholic Church of St. Cyril and Method. The church was attended by more than one hundred relatives, friends and co-workers.

His oldest son Martin presented a most informative and entertaining Eulogy. It was a beautiful day, most everyone attended the service at the Cemetery where Father R. Grega performed the most touching burial service with prayers sung in Slovak.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the Corej family and all their relatives.
Rest in Peace my dear Brother in Law. M. Micak.



Prince of Peace Parish

Prince of Peace Parish on Pittsburgh's South Side will host its Annual Slovak Vilija on Saturday, December 18, 2010. The Vilija is the re-creation of a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner, featuring authentic homemade Slovak delicacies and authentic folk entertainment sure to warm your spirit. The meatless meal features baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohy, nut and poppy seed rolls— all made by parish volunteers! The evening's highlight is the performance by the Pittsburgh Slovaks which re-enacts the visit of the shepherds to the Christ Child, entirely in Slovak songs, verse and dance. Tickets are available by reservation only: \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 16. Group discounts are available. Call the Prince of Peace Parish Center at 412-481-8380 before December 13th to make reservations or request additional information.

Publication Schedule for 2011

Issue Date	Deadline
January 5	December 27
January 19	January 10
February 2	January 24
February 16	February 7
March 2	February 21
March 16	March 7
March 30	March 21
April 27	April 18
May 11	May 2
May 25	May 16
June 8	May 30
July 6	June 27
August 3	July 25
August 31	August 22
September 14	September 2 (early deadline in observance of Labor Day, Sept 5)
September 28	September 19
October 12	October 3
October 26	October 17
November 9	October 31
November 23	November 14
December 7	November 28

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The E-Mail Address for the articles is fcsulife-editor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

Scenes from the Quarterly Business Meeting of the FCSU Board

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada was held at the Embassy Hotel – Pittsburgh International Airport on Friday, September 24, 2010.

On the agenda were the President's report, as well as the convention, estates, and financial reports for the first half of 2010; and the Membership and Marketing report, the Fraternal Activities report, the Chairman of Auditors report, and Committee reports.

From all indications, the meeting was very productive and informative. In addition to the presentation of reports, several important topics were discussed and acted upon.

L – R)
Regional
Director
for Canada
Milos
Mitro with
National
President
Andrew M.
Rajec



National Vice
President
Andrew R.
Harcar, Sr.
presented his
Membership
and Marketing
Report

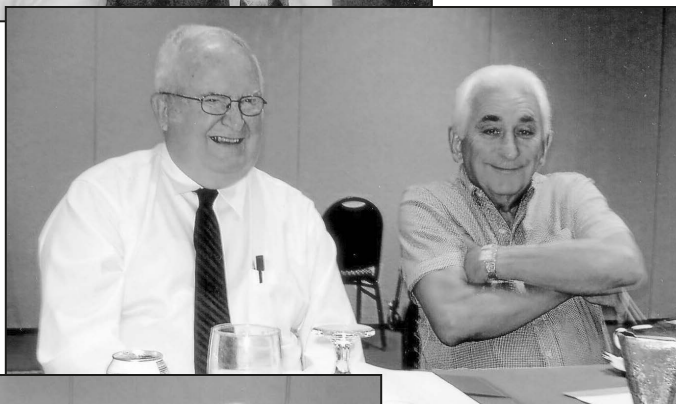
National Secretary
Kenneth A.
Arendt presents
his Midyear 2010
Financial Report
to the Board of
Directors



(L – R) National
Treasurer George
F. Matta and
General Counsel
Gary J. Matta



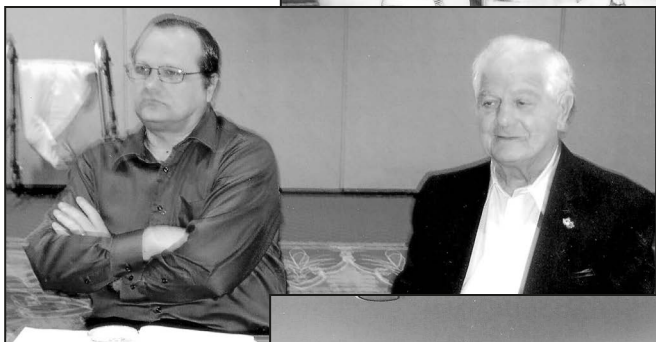
(L – R) Regional
Directors
Rudolph D.
Glogovsky
and Henry G.
Hassay



Regional
Director
George A.
Sprock



(L – R) Regional
Directors
Damian D. Nasta
and Joseph F.
Minarovich



(L – R) Fraternal
Director Susan
M. Ondrejco and
Chairman of Auditors
Karen M. Hunka



(L – R) Regional
Directors Regis
P. Brekovsky and
Carl Ungvarsky



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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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News From Slovakia

Lech Walesa to Visit Bratislava to Mark Velvet Revolution Anniversary

Bratislava, November 3 (TASR) - Former Polish president, famous Solidarity movement leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Lech Walesa is scheduled to visit Bratislava this month in conjunction with the 21st anniversary of the Velvet Revolution on November 17, TASR has learnt on this date.

Walesa was invited by Jan Budaj, one of the leading Slovak figures behind the events culminating in November 1989. The Polish guest is also set to meet Premier Iveta Radicova, who is planning to lunch with Walesa.

Walesa, 67, will spend two days in Slovakia.

Slovak Ambassador to Norway Will Attend Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony

Bratislava/Oslo, November 5 (TASR) - Slovak Ambassador to Norway Dusan Rozbora will attend the ceremony at which Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo will be awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize, Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Lubos Schwarzbacher told TASR on this date.

The spokesman confirmed that the Slovak embassy in Oslo on Thursday received a note from the Chinese embassy, which called for European countries not to attend the ceremony on December 10.

Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Mikulas Dzurinda in October welcomed the decision to award the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo. Dzurinda earlier this year backed Liu's nomination along with another 50 Slovak MPs.

"It's an extraordinary expression of honor and respect to everyone for whom human rights are indivisible and human freedom is a value of principle," said Dzurinda, adding that his signature under Liu's nomination was an expression of Slovakia's civil tradition and recognition of those persecuted by the Communist regime in Slovakia before 1989.

V4 Summit: Hungarian President Accepts Invitation to Visit Slovakia

Karlovy Vary, November 6 (TASR-correspondent) - Hungarian President Pal Schmitt has accepted Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic's invitation to visit Slovakia, it was confirmed after bilateral meeting of the two heads of state in Karlovy Vary, the Czech Republic during the V4 presidential summit late on this date.

Schmitt's visit to Bratislava should be scheduled for either December or January.

Both presidents met for bilateral talks lasting more than an hour, even though the meeting was originally scheduled to last only 30 minutes. Among the most important topics they touched were those related to minority agendas in both neighboring countries, and an issue concerning Slovakia's State Language Act in particular.

The state language legislation and the respective criticism it received has stirred up passions in both Budapest and Bratislava. "Slovakia is built upon the principles of civil rights, and that's why we oppose any attempts to exercise collective rights of minorities," said Gasparovic.

Schmitt said that Hungary was only worried about the existence of sanctions for breaching the Language Act. To this end, Gasparovic assured him that the sanctioning mechanism incorporated in the law is only to apply in cases when legal entities break the law, not individual citizens using their native (minority) language in everyday speech.

The Hungarian head of state said he was convinced that what is often referred to as 'Slovak-Hungarian tension' is now vanishing, and expressed his country's interest in bilateral relations taking a good path and in a positive atmosphere.

"I expect ethnic Hungarians living in Slovakia to be good Slovak citizens. Only then they will be objectively allowed to exercise their rights," emphasized Schmitt.

Radicova Among Five Female Leaders Honored as Women of the Year

Bratislava, November 5 (TASR) - Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicova will receive Glamour Magazine's "Woman of the Year" during a gala in Carnegie Hall in New York on November 8, TASR was informed by Government Office press department on this date.

Next to Radicova, the prestigious award will also be given to other world politicians - Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, Croatia's Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar. Glamour will honor five heads of state in recognition of their individual achievements on behalf of their respective countries. All five honorees were ranked among the most powerful women on earth.

"In some countries we have had the right to vote for less than 100 years, so the entry of

women into political leadership has caused a tsunami," said Radicova.

"I am so thrilled to be recognizing these five outstanding leaders," said Cindi Leive, editor-in-chief of Glamour. "Each of these women has demonstrated tremendous leadership, and their work is an inspiration to girls and women everywhere."

Past honorees include politicians Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton, U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, actresses Nicole Kidman and Susan Sarandon, tennis player Venus Williams and singer Madonna.

Poll: Turnout in Local Elections Should Reach Around 50 percent

Bratislava, October 28 (TASR) - The latest FOCUS agency poll indicates that the turnout in the local elections set for November 27 will reach around 50 percent on average.

In the survey, which was carried out in the first half of October on a sample of 1,033 respondents, as many as 28.6 percent said that they definitely want to take part in the election, while 23.9 percent said that they will probably go to the polls.

The results show a higher level of interest in voting in towns and cities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants, where the turnout should reach 60 percent. It could happen, however, that the turnout in the largest cities will only reach around 30 percent. The lowest turnout of all is expected in Bratislava. Zilina region, conversely, can expect an especially high level of interest among voters.

Young people aged 18-24 were least inclined to vote, while those aged 55-64 appear to be the most disciplined voters. People with a higher level of education are also more interested in voting.

In terms of affiliation to individual political parties, supporters of Most-Hid and the ethnic-Hungarian SMK are most determined to have their say in the local elections, while Freedom and Solidarity (SaS) supporters tend to be reluctant to vote.

Prominent Lawyer Ernest Valko Shot Dead

Bratislava, November 9 (TASR) - A well-known Slovak advocate Ernest Valko was killed on Monday night and found shot in his house in Limbach near Bratislava early on this date, TASR had it confirmed by Interior Ministry spokesman Gabor Grendel, without providing any further details as yet.

Valko had a reputation of a prominent lawyer. Over the past few months he was advocating Finance Minister Ivan Miklos in two civil cases. Both had a political tune, and concerned libel actions.

One regarded Miklos being sued by ex-chairman of Parliament Pavol Paska, who won the case. In the other it was Miklos who pressed charges, this time against former premier Robert Fico. Miklos won the case eventually.

Valko was also connected to a case of lands in Zahorie area, with Valko and businessman Ladislav Rehak allegedly blackmailing two land owners. Prosecution authorities discontinued the investigation in the case eventually.

In 1992, Valko was head of the Czech-Slovak Federal Constitutional Court.

Spisiak: Office for Fight Against Organized Crime Put on Valko Case

Bratislava, November 9 (TASR) - An investigation into the murder of lawyer Ernest Valko has been launched by the Police Presidium's Office for the Fight Against Organized Crime, Police Corps President Jaroslav Spisiak said at a press conference on this date.

Interior Minister Daniel Lipsic asked the public and media to understand that no information that could thwart the investigation will be released. "Our aim is to solve the case and find the perpetrators," said the Interior Minister.

Valko's body was found in his house in Limbach near Bratislava at 10.45 p.m. on Monday [and not on Tuesday morning as earlier thought. - ed. note]. The lawyer hadn't been answering his mobile phone for some time, so his ex-wife and daughter went to his house to investigate, only to find his lifeless body. The police haven't been able to identify the murder weapon yet.

"We won't speculate now about theories or the motive," said Lipsic, adding that he knew Valko personally, and that the lawyer hadn't shown any signs that he feared for his life recently.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Radičová Wows Washington

continued from page 1

sound financial system. She added that "Slovakia is and will be a good place to do business, open to all investors with added value." She noted a particular interest in attracting investments in innovative technologies, research, and the development of new products. She aimed to make her country more investment friendly by creating a more flexible labor market, reforming the educational system, and improving public finances. As a step in this direction, she underlined her determination to pass a balanced budget and incorporate that into law.

Speech at the Woodrow Wilson Center

On the next stop of her U.S. visit, Radičová traveled to Washington, where on November 10, she delivered a speech before a packed auditorium at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Entitled "Freedom, Democracy and Prosperity in Central Europe: Story of Transformation and Integration of Slovakia," her talk outlined her vision of her government's goals for Slovakia in the future.

Radičová commenced her presentation by highlighting the tremendous progress in U.S.-Slovak relations since the Velvet Revolution of 1989 and Slovakia's independence in 1993. Just two years ago, the U.S.A. abolished the need for visas for Slovakia's citizens to travel to this country. Slovakia continues to be a reliable partner with the U.S. in NATO and recently increased its commitment of personnel to assist NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Turning to history, Radičová went on to say that close American-Slovak ties were nothing new and had a firm basis in the past. Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points contained some of the founding principles that led to the establishment of the first Czecho-Slovak state in 1918. Slovaks were so enamored of the U.S. president that after World War I, Slovakia's capital was almost named "Wilson-town" (Wilsonové mesto) instead of Bratislava.

She also mentioned Slovak-born Sergeant Michael Strank, who participated in raising the American flag at Iwo Jima. On Veterans Day, she would lay a wreath at the Iwo Jima Memorial in nearby Virginia.

Opening to the World

Commenting on her travels, Radičová elaborated on how her trips abroad opened her eyes to a new world. Twenty years earlier, when she first went to Oxford University on a research grant, she felt helpless and dumbfounded when she arrived, not even knowing the English language. She had wanted to cry out of frustration. She also experienced a deep cultural shock at the huge differences between England and her homeland and felt deeply sorry for her country and others in the Eastern Bloc. She acknowledged that the experience of living abroad, including a Fulbright to study in the U.S., helped provide her with a more global perspective and to appreciate the relatively minor role that little Slovakia played in world affairs.

Communist Baggage

Then Radičová continued by describing the mentality ingrained by communism. Quoting Slovakia's former ambassador to the U.S., Martin Bútora, she spoke of a "learned helplessness" that the communist system instilled in people. Instead of becoming actively involved and organizing to improve life, most people lived in a state of utter dependency. They looked to the state for long-term social security, not to their own capability for innovation and change. Among many in Slovakia, that mentality persists today.

Drawing on her academic sociological background, Radičová emphasized how people were not prepared for the widening social differentiation which quickly emerged after the fall of communism. Democracy and free markets did not lift all equally. In fact, those who had formerly held privileged positions in the former socialist system simply changed coats, resulting in what she termed "the reproduction of elites." Widespread corruption and misuse of public monies helps explain the political cynicism which many still have about politics and capitalism since 1989.

The EU and Beyond

Moving beyond the difficult early years of the transition from communism, Radičová noted that Slovakia's entrance into the EU in 2004 marked a new phase in the country's history. While being accepted into the EU opened new possibilities for expanded trade and commerce, it also led to abuses of its cheap labor force (such as Slovak migrant workers abroad) and the loss of some of its best and brightest talent moving to other European states.

Now Slovakia is facing new challenges that she believed could be overcome through long-term education, much needed reforms, and time to work things out. She proceeded to list some of her government's main priorities: establishing financial stability, reducing corruption and tunneling (siphoning off taxpayers' money), the reform of the judiciary, a more flexible labor code, and more protection for whistleblowers who expose corruption.

Although the Prime Minister refrained from specifically mentioning her predecessor Fico as contrib-



Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radičová with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Photo courtesy of Michael Gross

uting to the problem of corruption, she stressed that lack of sufficient regulation and transparency had resulted in widespread abuse. She announced that henceforth, all government contracts would be published on the internet so that all bids of both winners and losers would be publicly known.

Radičová expressed the wish that the world would view Slovakia as the "tiger of Europe" with a vibrant and growing economy. She concluded that she wanted to help mold Slovakia into a model democracy with a sound legal system which all could trust.

Fielding Questions

The Prime Minister not only delivered a dashing speech, but she also proved quite adept at answering a series of probing questions.

For instance, Professor Sharon Wolchik of George Washington University asked about the nature of gender issues. Radičová responded that such questions were better answered by her expert colleague, Zora Bútorová. But she did provide her own personal view of what was happening. Even though she lost the 2009 presidential election to incumbent Ivan Gasporovič, she did compete in the second round of the election and still succeeded in obtaining over a million votes. And then a woman becoming Prime Minister – she said that amounted to a "Slovak tsunami!"

Another question concerned the Slovak economy. She underlined the need for seeking greater investments and expanding the public infrastructure to increase employment. Her government also aimed to increase expenditures on social and family care as well as health care. Her government's new budget calls for the creation of 30,000 new "green jobs," i.e., environmentally friendly work to prevent the recurrence of floods such as those that devastated Slovakia during the 2010 summer.

Yet a third question related to the Roma (Gypsy) problem. She outlined that there were three types of Roma – those assimilated into society, those that mixed with others in society, and those who lived in separate enclaves. She could promise no easy solutions but saw their advancement tied to an investment in better education and allowing for time and concerted efforts to improve their economic and social conditions.

Finally, this author posed two questions to Radičová – one about the long-term impact of Slovakia's refusal to participate in the financial bailout of Greece, and a second on the need to address the regional imbalances of job distribution, especially with regard to eastern Slovakia and parts of southern areas.

On her refusal to comply with EU's subsidization of Greece, she asserted that there was "no problem." Having met with EU officials, she stated that they readily accepted her position without condition. Radičová noted her government was willing to cooperate in constructing new safeguards to ensure that such financial irresponsibility would not occur in the future. She made reference to enforcing strict guidelines for governments, rating agencies, the European Commission, Eurostat, and banks. As she has repeated on other occasions, she insisted that the regulating agencies must enforce regulations in order to ensure that these moral hazards would not create another future financial mess. Otherwise, history would repeat itself.

Regarding eastern and southern Slovakia, she admitted that unemployment was a real problem in these regions, climbing as high as 30 percent in some areas. There were no easy solutions, but investment in highways and building better infrastructure were important steps in rectifying the situation. But it would take investment and time to improve the employment opportunities for these less developed parts of the country.

At the conclusion of her talk, the Friends of Slovakia NGO presented the Prime Minister with a token of appreciation to recognize her leadership and efforts to improve Slovakia's relations with the United States.

The audience showed its approval with a thunderous applause. All came away with a feeling that Slovakia has a capable and articulate leader with a firm grasp of the challenges she faces and a set of concrete plans to forge ahead to improve both its economy and its worldwide reputation.

Radičová was then whisked away for a quick lunch before meeting Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. It would be the first meeting in four years between top level government officials of both countries, and indicated a renewed spirit of constructive cooperation in the future.

The Prime Minister concluded the day by attending a benefit banquet hosted by the Friends of Slovakia in Arlington, Virginia at the Washington Country Club.

TASR, November 8, 2010; TASR, November 12, 2010. <http://www.tasr.sk/24.axd?k=20101111TBB00373> (accessed November 13, 2010); "PM gets Glamour Mag "Woman of the Year" award," TheDaily.sk, <http://www.thedaily.sk/2010/11/05/top-news/pm-gets-glamour-mags-woman-of-the-year-award> The Daily.sk". (November 8, 2010), <http://www.thedaily.sk/2010/11/05/top-news/pm-gets-glamour-mags-woman-of-the-year-award/>. (accessed November 8, 2010).

Embassy of Slovakia to the U.S. (November 9, 2010), <http://www.facebook.com/obeo.USA>. (accessed November 15, 2010).

ibid.

Radio Slovakia International (RSI). November 8, 2010. <http://www.rozhlas.sk/inetportal/rsi/core.php?page=showSprava&id=34378:=2> (accessed November 9, 2010).

TASR, November 9, 2010; Slovak Spectator. (November 9, 2010), http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/40737/10/prime_minister_radicova_meets_american_investors_in_new_york.html. (accessed November 13, 2010).

If one is interested in hearing a podcast of Prime Minister Iveta Radičová's speech, the East European Studies Center at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars will post within two weeks a webcast of the speech at the following URL address. http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?topic_id=1422&fuseaction=topics.event_summary&event_id=638921

TASR, November 11, 2010.

TASR, November 10, 2010.



Attending a dinner in Washington, DC for the Prime Minister (L-R): Steve Matula; Marie Parker; Andrew P. Rajec; Mrs. Idka Rajec; FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec; His Excellency Peter Burian, Ambassador of Slovakia to the United States; Mrs. Albina Senko; Mrs. Theresa Arendt; Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko; and FCSU National Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt

Cena Ústavu dejín kresťanstva na Slovensku

Pokračovanie zo str. 24



Doktor Štefan Poláčik s manželkou.

FOTO: Bohuslav Rapoš

Cantorum a počas následnej autogramiády a pohostenia ľudoví umelci Jozef Suchý a Štefan Mikloš spievali a hrali prítomným na fujare a pastierskych píšťalkách.

Odborná verejnosť so záujmom sledovala aké historické dielo, ktoré vyšlo v predchádzajúcom roku, teda v roku 2009, si zaslúži ocenenie a našu pozornosť. Rímskokatolícka cyrilometodská bohoslovecká fakulta Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave vydala Katalóg patricií na Slovensku. Jeho zostavovateľmi sú Prof. Viliam Judák, PhD a Doc. RNDr. Štefan Poláčik, CSc. Takmer v päťstostranovej knihe formátu A4 sú presne zaznamenané všetky slovenské patriciá (objekty zasvätené nebeskému patrónovi) súvisiace s konkrétnymi tajomstvami spásy a svätcami, ktorých si kresťania už v začiatkoch uctievali, lebo sa životom, alebo smrťou osvedčili vo vernosti k Bohu. Ocenené dielo vychádzalo zo staršieho súpisu Jána Hudáka Patrociniá na Slovensku (z r. 1984). Za ostatných 25 rokov však došlo nielen k výrazným politickým zmenám, ale zmenili sa i hranice diecéz a pribudli stovky nových cirkevných objektov, ktoré bolo potrebné zaevidovať. Autori vykonali neuveriteľnú prácu, keď dôkladne zmapovali všetky patrociniá a s vysokou presnosťou zaznamenali geografické miesto kde sa nachádza, dáta vzniku, alebo i jeho zániku. Zo záznamu je jednoznačne jasné do ktorej arcidiocézy, diecézy, dekanátu a farnosti patrí, akými architektonickými prvkami je charakteristické, aký má status. Významnejšie patrociniá sú popísané aj rokom prvej zmienky a strednou nadmorskou výškou obce, v ktorej sú lokalizované.

Ústav dejín kresťanstva na Slovensku vznikol krátko po historických zmenách na začiatku deväťdesiatych rokov. Do súčasnej podoby bol zriadený 13. októbra 1998. Je pevne spojený s osobou svojho zakladateľa Prof. Milana S. Ďuricu. Vlni ústav po prvý raz udelil cenu za najvýznamnejšie dielo historickej literatúry. Dostal ju Doc. PhDr. Ladislav Suško za rozsiahle dielo Das Deutsche Reich und die Slowakische Republik.

Ivan Reguli

Slovenskej premiérke Radičovej udelil magazín Glamour cenu Žena roka 2010

New York (TASR) - Slovenská premiérka Iveta Radičová sa stala jednou z 18 politických líderiek sveta, ktorým americký ženský magazín Glamour udelil tohtoročný titul "Žena roka". Radičová si cenu prevzala v New Yorku počas nedávnej pracovnej cesty v USA. Americký magazín, ktorý má 2.4 milióna výtlačkov, cituje aj šéfkou slovenskej vlády. "V niektorých krajinách máme právo voliť menej než 100 rokov, takže vstup žien do politického vedenia spôsobil cunami," uviedla Radičová.

Ocenenie si vyslúžili aj nemecká kancelárka Angela Merkelová, argentínska prezidentka Cristina Fernándezová Kirchnerová, chorvátska premiérka Jadranka Kosorová či írka prezidentka Mary McAleeseová. Známý časopis zaradil k Ženám roka aj líderky Austrálie, Bangladéšu, Bosny a Hercegoviny, Fínska, Indie, Islandu, Kirgizska, Kostariky, Libérie, Litvy, Švajčiarska a Trinidadu a Tobaga. Glamour ich označil za "doslova najmocnejšie ženy sveta".

Ich výber zdôvodnila bývalá ministerka zahraničných vecí USA Condoleezza Riceová, ktorá titul Žena roka získala v roku 2008. "Vďaka nim majú teraz dievčatá silné vzory na úplnej špičke. S týmito ocenenými ženskými líderkami, ktoré inšpirujú budúcu generáciu, azda budú obavy dneška - napríklad nedostatočné vzdelanie dievčat, úmrtnosť matiek či znásilnenie ako zbraň vojny - vyriešené," uviedla americká politička.

Aktuálny počet ženských vrcholných predstaviteľiek vo svete sa od roku 1990, kedy Glamour začal ocenenia udeľovať, zdvojnásobil. "Vďaka bohu, pretože ženské líderky menia smer dejín nielen pre polovicu sveta, ktorý je ženský, ale pre nás všetkých," uviedol časopis.

Glamour udelil v tomto roku ocenenia Žena roka dvadsaťkrát. Medzi ocenenými sú aj speváčky Fergie a Cher, jordánska kráľovná Rania, herečka Julia Roberts, módna návrhárka Donatella Versace či lyžiarka Lindsey Vonnová.

New York Times: Slovensko je príkladom zneužívania eurofondov

Bratislava (TASR) - Americký denník New York Times (NYT) uvádza Slovensko ako príklad zneužívania eurofondov v rámci Európskej únie (EÚ), ktoré často idú na bezcennú prácu, alebo končia vo vreckách konzultantov a právnikov s politickými konexiami.

"Peniaze sa vždy strácali v rámci obrovského rozpočtu 27-člennej Európskej únie, či už išli nepoctivým poľnohospodárom alebo korupčným úradníkom. Európania však teraz čelia bolesťivým úsporným opatreniam a celý rad slovenských škandálov vyvolal nové pochybnosti o tom, ako sa vynakladajú miliardy eur určené na regionálnu pomoc," píše NYT. Denník uvádza ako príklady zneužívania eurofondov a korupcie na Slovensku nástenkový tender, školenie v spoločnosti Andaco spracúvajúcej kapustu, na ktoré dostala trištvrte milióna eur, alebo dva futbalové kluby, ktoré celkovo dostali 600.000 eur na školenia pre Rómov.

Tieto odhalenia podľa NYT ukazujú "hlboko zakorenené problémy s fondmi určenými na rozvoj chudobnejších regiónov, na ktoré každoročne pripadá viac než tretina úniového rozpočtu". Podľa kritikov sa tieto problémy týkajú celej EÚ, keďže sa príliš nekontroluje kvalita regionálnych programov využívania štrukturálnych fondov a Kohézneho fondu. Tieto sa, ako priznávajú úradníci EÚ, dajú ešte ľahšie zneužiť než veľkorysé agrotodácie.

NYT tiež uviedol slovenské slovo pre zneužívanie verejných peňazí - tunelovanie. Podľa autora článku však čoskoro zistíme, že "peňazí na tunelovanie je menej". "To bude veľmi dôležitá vec v atmosfére úspor," myslí si predstaviteľ bruselského Centra pre štúdium európskej politiky (CEPS) Jorge Núñez Ferrer. "EÚ môže brániť štrukturálne fondy, len ak ich dokáže obhájiť a ukázať, že sa nezneužívajú."

Mnohé škandály vyšli na povrch po zmene vlády. "Neočakával som nič pozitívne, ale to, čo som objavil, ma šokovalo," uviedol minister pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka Zsolt Simon. Dodal, že dedičstvo po predchádzajúcej administratíve bolo "katastrofálne".

"Máme skupinu odborníkov, ktorých hlavnou činnosťou je zarábať na štrukturálnych fondoch," uviedla štátna tajomníčka ministerstva práce Lucia Nicholsonová. "V skutočnosti nič nerobia. Sedia vo svojej kancelárii a spisujú dokumenty o ničom za veľa peňazí."

Podľa Nicholsonovej boli "v Bruseli šokovaní", keď zistili, ako sa využívali peniaze z eurofondov. Dodala, že nová vláda odstrihne od eurofondov ľudí, ktorí ich tunelujú.

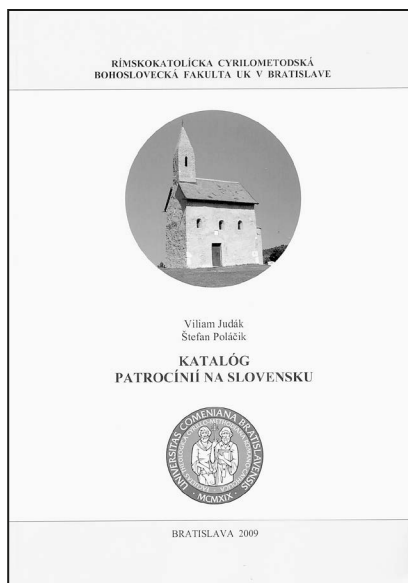
Podľa NYT podobné komentáre nie sú bežné v krajinách, ktoré dostávajú od EÚ miliardy a v ktorých sa politici obávajú, že úprimnosť by ich mohla o ne pripravíť. Nová slovenská vláda však za podpory médií odmietla pokračovať v praktikách predchádzajúceho kabinetu.

Slovenské škandály týkajúce sa zneužívania eurofondov sú podľa NYT len časťou širšieho obrazu, ktorý zahŕňa regionálne podporné programy únie. V rokoch 2000 až 2006 sa cez fond pre regionálny rozvoj, ktorý je najväčším fondom v EÚ, preinvestovalo 123 miliárd eur. Z týchto peňazí sa vybudovalo napríklad 2000 kilometrov diaľnic a podľa odhadov vytvorili okolo 1.4 milióna pracovných miest, uvádza Európska komisia (EK). Európsky dvor audítorov však v 36 % projektov, ktoré si vlni vybral na preskúmanie, našiel chyby, vrátane technických chýb a zneužitia. Odhaduje, že neoprávnené bolo vyplatených okolo 700 miliónov eur.

Protikorupčný úrad EÚ, Olaf v separátnej správe vlni našiel 4,931 porušení zákona v týchto fondoch, pričom celková hodnota takýchto podozrivých projektov predstavovala 1.22 miliardy eur, čo je o 109 % viac než v roku 2008. Najvyšší podiel projektov podozrivých z podvodu mali Slovensko, Poľsko, Estónsko a Taliansko.

"V regionálnej politike predovšetkým chýba kontrola, či sa tieto fondy využívajú na niečo užitočné," myslí si Núñez Ferrer. "Politikovi vždy bude veľmi lákať zneužívanie tohto systému, ak zoberieme do úvahy lukratívne kontrakty a slabú administratívu."

Informoval o tom New York Times.



Katalóg patrocinií na Slovensku.



FOTO TASR - František Iván

Vínarska firma J.&J. Ostrožovič so sídlom vo Veľkej Trni pôsobí v tokajskej oblasti Slovenska (Tokaj) od roku 1990, vyrába klasické tokajské vína a koncom októbra toho roku ukončila zber hrozna z cca 50 ha viníc v tokajskej oblasti. Hrozno sa spracováva priamo v dedinke Veľká Trňa v zrekonštruovanej výrobní hale, kde sa pozbierané hrozno najprv očistí od strapiny, rozmelie a takto vzniknutý rmut sa čerpadlom prepraví do nádob - tankov na víno, kde čaká na lisovanie a ďalšie spracovanie. V areáli firmy v Tokajskom dome sa nachádza v hĺbke 13 metrov klasická tokajská pivnica, v ktorej sa vo veľkej miere nachádza ušľachtilá pleseň Botrytis Cinerea, základ tokajských výberov. Na snímke tokajské výbery.

Slovak winery J & J Ostrožovič located in Velka Trna display their classic Tokaj Wine produced from their vineyards.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Ročná schôdza Spolku sv.

Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 28. novembra 2010 o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue, 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančná správa, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie. Za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie.

Úctivo žiadame o hojnú účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi. Ďakujem a s pozdravom

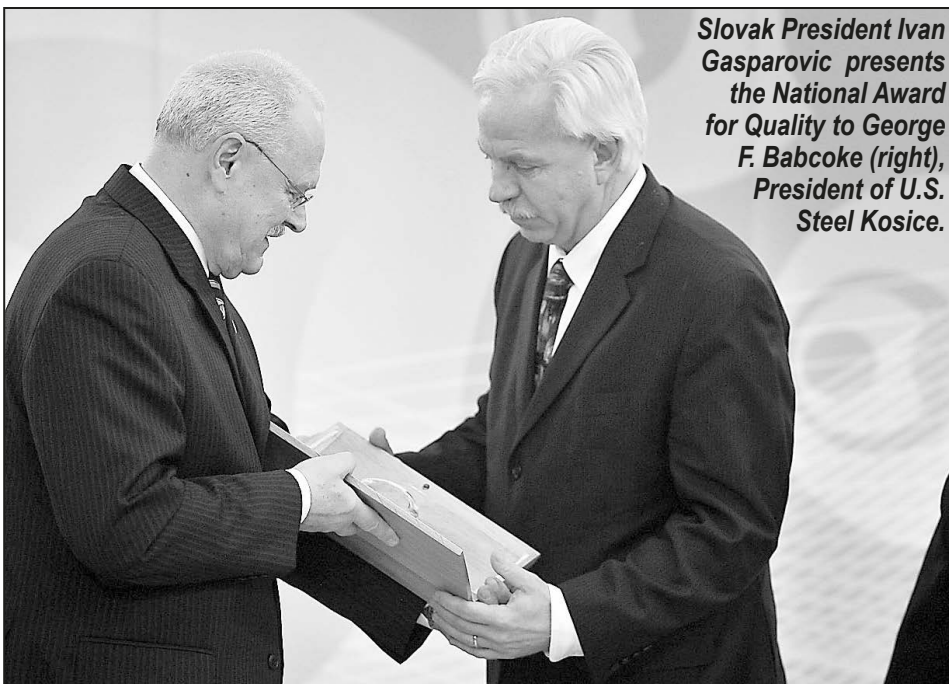
Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou, ktoré sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 5. decembra 2010 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Str. v New York City.

Prosíme rodičov, ktorých deti by mohli spestriť naše Mikulášske posedenie básničkou, spevom, alebo iným vystúpením, nech zavolajú vo večerných hodinách na číslo telefónu (201) 641-8922 pani Henrietu.

Vstupné na podujatie je voľné a o občerstvenie bude postarané.



Slovak President Ivan Gašparovič presents the National Award for Quality to George F. Babcock (right), President of U.S. Steel Košice.

FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Z odovzdávania Národnej ceny SR za kvalitu 2010 v priestoroch starej NR SR v Bratislave. Na snímke vľavo prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič odovzdáva cenu víťazovi súťaže, prezidentovi U. S. Steel Košice s.r.o. Georgeovi F. Babcockemu (vpravo).

Národnú cenu za kvalitu získala spoločnosť U.S. Steel Košice

Bratislava (TASR) - Spoločnosť U. S. Steel Košice, s.r.o., sa stala víťazom XI. ročníka súťaže Národná cena SR za kvalitu. Ocenenie si 8. novembra v Bratislave prevzali z rúk prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča a predsedu Úradu pre normalizáciu, metrológiu a skúšobníctvo SR (ÚNMS SR) Jozefa Mihoka predstavitelia spoločnosti spoločne s ďalšími ocenenými v súťaži.

Ako povedal Mihok, Národná cena SR za kvalitu je najprestížnejšou národnou cenou kvality pre organizácie a zároveň najvyšším možným stupňom uznania, ktorý je možné dosiahnuť a odlišiť sa tak od svojich konkurentov v oblasti manažérstva kvality. Súťaž odlišuje organizácie a vodcov v danom odvetví s nespochybniteľnými dôkazmi dosiahnutých úspechov v pretváraní stratégie do reality a trvalého zlepšovania ich organizačnej výkonnosti. Súťaž je zároveň hlavnou aktivitou štátnej politiky kvality, ktorú predstavuje Národný program kvality SR.

Do jedenásteho ročníka súťaže sa prihlásilo spolu 32 organizácií (v roku 2009 to bolo 12 a v roku 2008 štyri organizácie), pričom náročné kritériá pre postup zo základnej časti do finále súťaže splnila polovica z nich. Už teraz prebieha príprava na ďalší ročník súťaže Národná cena SR za kvalitu 2011. Na základe dopytu sa už v decembri 2010 budú na ÚNMS SR konať úvodné školenia o metodike súťaže a organizácie budú mať možnosť do súťaže sa prihlásiť a využiť tak viac času na prípravu súťažných materiálov.

Na slávnostnom stretnutí ocenili aj novinárov, ktorí sa venujú problematike kvality.

KIDS EURO festival vo Washingtone

V dňoch 14. októbra – 10. novembra 2010 sa vo Washingtone uskutočnil 3. ročník KIDS EURO festivalu, ktorý patrí k najväčším detským festivalom organizovaným na území USA. V spolupráci s veľvyslanectvami štátov Európskej únie na festivale bola prezentovaná kultúra všetkých 27 členských štátov EÚ.



V spolupráci s BIBI-ANOÚ, medzinárodným domom umenia pre deti a sekretariátom Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava, významným príspevkom Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone bola prezentácia ilustračného umenia kníh pre deti a mládež formou dvoch samostatných výstav tohtoročného KIDS EURO festivalu.

Prvá výstava v priestoroch Children's National Medical Center priblížila ilustračné umenie ilustrátorov kníh pre deti a mládež z 26 štátov EÚ, ocenených a zúčastnených na doterajších 22 ročníkoch Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava. Druhá výstava v renomovanej knižnici pre deti Palisades Library umožnila návštevníkom obdivovať ilustrácie detských kníh 15 ocenených slovenských ilustrátorov na Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava 1967 – 2009.

Príspevkom k prezentácii slovenskej kultúry boli aj vystúpenia svetoznámeho slovenského pantomimistu Miroslava Kasprzyka, ktorý svojimi predstaveniami „Zlý kráľ“ washingtonským deťom priblížil čaro „neviditeľného“ umenia zakomponovaného do rozprávky.

Vystavené ilustrácie z Bienále ilustrácií Bratislava a vystúpenie slovenského pantomimistu Miroslava Kasprzyka prispeli k úspešnému priebehu KIDS EURO festivalu vo Washingtone a zároveň úspešne prezentovali slovenské a európske kultúrne tradície v hlavnom meste USA.

Fedor Roll



Štedrovečerná večera - Vigília v New York City

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City pozýva všetkých farníkov na Štedrovečernú večeru – Vigíliu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 12. decembra o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Vstupné za osobu je 20.00 dolárov v čom je započítaná aj večera. Lístky na Štedrovečernú večeru si môžete objednať na: Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, telefón (212) 734-4613; Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 6412-8922.



Ľudia by už nemali prichádzať o slovenské občianstvo žiadosťou o druhé

Bratislava (TASR) - Ľudia by už nemali prichádzať o slovenské štátne občianstvo, keď dobrovoľne požiadajú o občianstvo iného štátu. Počíta s tým návrh novely zákona o štátnom občianstve od koalíčných poslancov Národnej rady SR, ktorú 5. novembra parlament posunul do druhého čítania.

Po novom by malo byť možné stratiť slovenské občianstvo iba prepustením zo štátneho zväzku SR na vlastnú žiadosť. Zároveň ho získajú naspäť žiadatelia, ktorí ho stratili od 17. júla do konca tohto roka na základe novely pripravenej kabinetom Roberta Fica. Takéto osoby budú súčasne oslobodené od zaplatenia správneho poplatku súvisiaceho s týmto úkonom.

Podľa navrhovanej novely by nemala SR uznávať účinky udelenia štátneho občianstva cudzieho štátu slovenským občanom, ak bude udelené v rozpore s medzinárodným právom, medzinárodnou obvyčajou a všeobecne uznávanými zásadami medzinárodného práva, týkajúcimi sa občianstva.

Právna úprava má za cieľ zmeniť zákon, ktorý bol prijatý ešte za vlády Roberta Fica v reakcii na maďarský zákon o dvojakom občianstve. Rozšíril tak prípady straty štátneho občianstva SR. Na jej základe občania SR, ktorí dobrovoľne požiadajú o občianstvo iného štátu, automaticky prídu o slovenské. Strata sa nevzťahuje na nadobudnutie cudzieho štátneho občianstva v súvislosti s uzavretím manželstva alebo narodením. Maďarský parlament schválil zákon, ktorý sa týka zjednodušeného udeľovania dvojakého občianstva zahraničným Maďarom 26. mája napriek ostrým protestom SR.



Slovenská Štedrá večera – Vilia v Chicagu, IL

Slovenská komunita a farnosť sv. Šimona Apoštola v Chicagu, IL Vás pozýva na Slovenskú Štedrú večeru spojenú s vianočnými koledami, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 19. decembra 2010 otvorením dverí o 2.00 hodine popoludní a večerou o 3:00 hodine vo farskej hale kostola sv. Šimona, 5135 S. California Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632. Vstupné: \$ 15.00- dospeli; \$ 6.00 – deti od 2 -12 rokov. Lístky si musíte zakúpiť v predpredaji na telefónnom čísle: (773) 436-1045 Ext. 1.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Slovensko** bude mať o nedelňu novú kalváriu. Vo Vysokých Tatrách už vyrastá krížová cesta so štrnástimi zastaveniami, nad ktorými bude na kopci vztýčený veľký kríž. Miestni veriaci sú nadšení. Na cestu v krásnej tatranskej prírode chcú prichádzať aj pre upokojenie a zamyslenie. Vo Vysokých Tatrách už niekoľko rokov v parčíkoch a rôznych zákutiach mesta vyrastajú sochy po sochárskych sympóziách. Tentoraz ale Tatranská galéria prichádza s niečím výnimočným, čo podľa ohlasov ľudí z tatranských ulíc takmer s istotou osloví veľmi široké množstvo ľudí. Sochári Stanislav Gabriška a Czesław Podlesny nedávno **odhalili dve sochy. Symbolizujú prvé dve zastavenia krížovej cesty Ježiša na vrch Golgota pred jeho ukrižovaním.** Počas troch rokov ďalší sochári na ceste doplnia zvyšných 12 zastavení.

• **Na Slovensku** by mala od 1. januára budúceho roka pôsobiť nová verejnoprávna inštitúcia, ktorá vznikne zlúčením Slovenskej televízie (STV) a Slovenského rozhlasu (SRo). Vláda 3. novembra schválila zákon o Rozhlase a televízii Slovenska (RTS) a súhlasila s jeho skráteným legislatívnym konaním. Rezort kultúry to odôvodnil hrozbou značnej finančnej škody, keďže STV počítala na budúci rok s deficitom 37 miliónov eur. Podľa ministerstva kultúry ako predkladateľa návrhu sa zlúčením má predísť ďalšiemu zadlžovaniu verejnoprávneho vysielania a vytvoriť podmienky pre jeho konsolidáciu. Budúci rok sa prijatím zákona predpokladajú úspory v minimálnej výške 1,653,725 eur. Tie sa dosiahnu najmä v administratívnej a ekonomickej agende, ako aj v oblasti techniky a technológie, výroby programu a v obchodnej činnosti. RTS bude národnou, nezávislou, kultúrnou, informačnou a vzdelávacou inštitúciou, pričom majetok rozhlasu a televízie sa stáva jej majetkom. Postavenie, poslanie a rozsah hlavných činností RTS zostávajú oproti SRo a STV nezmenené.

• **Slovensko** prvýkrát v histórii vyšle do vojenskej operácie ISAF v Afganistane 5. pluk špeciálneho určenia zo Žiliny. „Tento pluk sa bude podieľať na výcviku afganských bezpečnostných síl,“ ozrejmil po rokovaní vlády minister obrany Ľubomír Galko. Pluk by mal podľa šéfa rezortu popri strážení koalíčných síl v krajine naplňať najmä tzv. systém tranzície. Ozrejmil, že moc sa má v Afganistane postupne odovzdávať do rúk afganskej národnej armády, ktorú však treba predtým vycvičiť. SR okrem toho posilní tím, ktorý bude mať za úlohu odstraňovanie nevybuchnutej munície a improvizovaných nástražných výbušných systémov. Mandát slovenských vojakov vo vojenskej operácii ISAF v Afganistane by sa mal zvýšiť zo súčasných 314 na celkový počet do 348 príslušníkov Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR.

• **Pri príležitosti** 112. výročného stretnutia Americkej keramickej spoločnosti (ACeRS) udelili jedno z najvyšších ocenení riaditeľovi Ústavu anorganickej chémie Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) prof. Pavlovi Šajgalíkovi. Stretnutie ACeRS sa uskutočnilo v októbri v americkom Houstone (Texas). Americká keramickej spoločnosť patrí medzi najstaršie odborné spoločnosti USA, má viac ako 5,000 členov. Každoročne udeľuje významným vedeckým pracovníkom z oblasti výskumu keramických materiálov niekoľko cien, z ktorých okrem „Distinguished Life Member“ najvýznamnejšou je menovanie za člena Vedeckej spoločnosti ACeRS. Toto ocenenie má v ACeRS dlhú tradíciu a udeľujú ho po prísomnom výberovom konaní. Nomináciu môžu udeliť len členovia tejto vedeckej spoločnosti a komisia podrobí kandidáta náročným kritériám výberu. O náročnosti kritérií svedčí aj fakt, že doposiaľ nie je členom vedeckej spoločnosti ACeRS nikto z krajín strednej a východnej Európy. Prvým z tohto regiónu sa stal práve Pavol Šajgalík, informoval Tlačový odbor SAV.

• **Slovenská** syrová špecialita „Ovčí hrudkový syr - salašnícky“ dostala nedávno od Európskej komisie status zaručenej tradičnej špeciality. Na obale tohto syru bude tak možné uviesť ochrannú známku, ktorá bude zaručovať tradičný charakter výroby. Známa nebráni iným výrobcam mimo Slovenska, aby syr vyrábali pod týmto názvom, no ochrannú známku si budú môcť dať len tí, ktorí dodržia tradičnú formu výroby. Tá spočíva v tom, že pre syr musí byť základom čerstvé mlieko z oviec chovaných v horských oblastiach a dodržaná špecifická technológia pri fermentácii a zachovaní osobitný hrudkový tvar syra. EK zaregistrovala aj ďalší slovenský produkt do skupiny zaručených tradičných špecialít - ovčí salašnícky údený syr. Na zverejnenie v tejto databáze čakajú v súčasnosti Liptovská saláma, Lovecká saláma, špekáčiky (všetky tri spoločne s Českou republikou), Spišské párky a Bratislavský rožok. V inej skupine „chránené zemepisné označenie“ sa uchádzajú o ochrannú známku aj Tekovský salámový syr, Závrzský korbáčik a Oravský korbáčik.

• **Historicky** prvá pilotka Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR Míriam Štefaničová nalietala v rámci leteckého výcviku už 272.10 hodiny. Momentálne je zaradená vo vrtníkovom krídle v Prešove. Michalovčanka sa vo veku 24 rokov stala historicky prvou pilotkou slovenskej armády v septembri minulého roka po slávnostnom vyrazení absolventov odborného kurzu liptovskomikuláškovej Akadémie OS (AOS) generála M. R. Štefánika. Ako vtedy uviedla, nepochádza z rodiny s leteckou a vojenskou tradíciou. Šancu stať sa pilotkou jej ponúkli ako študentke 3. ročníka AOS. Štefaničová však už nie je jedinou ženou pilotkou v slovenskej armáde, medzičasom k nej pribudli dve ďalšie.

• **Počas** tohtoročného jesenného počítavania kamzíkov v Tatrách narátali pracovníci Štátnych lesov Tatranského národného parku (ŠL TANAPu), Správy TANAPu a v spolupráci s Tatranským parkom narodovým (TPN) 841 kusov tejto vzácnej zvery. Na slovenskej strane ich bolo takmer 700, na poľskej strane Tatier 142 kusov. Potešiteľný je i počet tohtoročných mláďat kamzíka vrchovského, ktorých tentoraz napočítali 74 kusov, z toho 57 bolo na slovenskej strane Tatier. Prežiť zimu v tatranských podmienkach je pre kamzíka veľmi náročné, preto sa každoročne ráta s určitými stratami. Nie je to len kvôli lavínam, poveternostným podmienkam či človeku, ale aj kvôli predátorom.

• **Zimná** sezóna je čoraz bližšie, lyžiarske strediská vo Vysokých Tatrách už čakajú len na minúsové teploty, aby mohli zasnežovať a spustiť tak lyžovačku. Tahákom tejto zimy je spoločný skipas najväčších lyžiarskych stredísk z celého Slovenska. Nesie názov Slovakia Super Skipas a základom pre jeho vytvorenie bol minuloročný Slovakia Ski Region. Nový produkt, ktorý vytvorili spoločnosti Park Snow a Tatra Mountain Resorts (TMR), však ponúka viac možností, viac kilometrov zjazdoviek, ako aj freeride zóny na oboch stranách Chopku. Majiteľ skipasu tak bude mať možnosť počas celej sezóny prostredníctvom jedného lístka lyžovať v strediskách Jasná – Nízke Tatry, Veľká Rača, Donovaly, Štrbské Pleso a Tatranská Lomnica.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



Predsedníčka vlády SR rokovala s americkými podnikateľmi a investormi

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

SR záujem predovšetkým o investície do moderných technológií, výskumu a vývoja. V súčasnosti na Slovensku pôsobí približne 120 amerických investorov, ktorí reprezentujú štvrtinu všetkých zahraničných investorov v krajine. Na Slovensku vrátane ďalších rozvojových plánov preinvestovali približne štyri miliardy dolárov. Hostitelia ocenili pokrok, ktorý Slovensko robí a poďakovali sa predsedníčke vlády SR za „presvedčivú prezentáciu vládných opatrení“.

V ten istý deň sa premiérka SR zúčastnila na obede, ktorý podávala členka kabinetu prezidenta USA Baracka Obamu a veľvyslankyňa USA pri OSN Susan Riceová. Na obed boli pozvané politicky ocenené titulom Žena roka. Delegácia predsedníčky vlády SR následne odcestovala z New Yorku do Washingtonu, kde sa stretla s predstaviteľmi krajskej komunity a zástupcami miestneho ekonomického a kultúrneho života. Informoval o tom Tlačový a informačný odbor Úradu vlády SR.



FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškás

People visit a memorial set up at the Slovak National Theater in Bratislava for Ernest Valko, an investigating lawyer who was murdered recently at his home in Limbach.

Na snímke spomienkové zátišie pri Gamidesovej fontáne pred budovou SND.

Pamiatku E. Valka si uctilo v smútočnom pochode vyše 250 ľudí

Zhromaždenie občanov s názvom Protest za demokraciu (za Ernesta Valka) sa konal v piatok 12. novembra 2010 pred historickou budovou Slovenského národného divadla (SND) na Hviezdoslavovom námestí v Bratislave. Týmto pochodom chceli občania vyjadriť pohoršenie a smútok nad tragickým úmrtím Ernesta Valka. Valkovu pamiatku si účasťou na tichom smútočnom pochode so zapálenými sviečkami uctilo vyše 250 občanov. Pri stene bohosloveckého seminára oproti Dómu sv. Martina v Bratislave zapálili sviečky okolo právnikovej fotografie. Na podujatí sa zúčastnili minister vnútra Daniel Lipšic, minister financií Ivan Mikloš a ďalšie osobnosti politického a kultúrneho života. Verejná rozlúčka so zosnulým advokátom Ernestom Valkom, bývalým predsedom Ústavného súdu ČSFR, bola 16. novembra od 9.00 h do 10.30 h v Zrkadlovej sieni Primaciálneho paláca v Bratislave.

Prominentný právnik Ernest Valko bol usmrtený 8. novembra vo večerných hodinách strelnou zbraňou v jeho dome v Limbachu. Minister vnútra Lipšic a prezident Policajného zboru SR Jaroslav Spišiak informovali, že v prípade sa začalo trestné stíhanie pre vraždu, ktorú bude vyšetrovať Úrad boja proti organizovanej kriminalite.

Pred 300 rokmi zastavil plačúci obraz bohorodičky mor v Trnave

Trnava (TASR) – Spolu 45 omší čakalo veriacich v Trnave v období deviatich dní počas tradičnej Novény Panny Márie Trnavskej. Deviatnik sa začal 13. novembra v skorých ranných hodinách v Bazilike sv. Mikuláša. V tomto roku sa Novéna nesie v znamení 300. výročia zastavenia moru v Trnave, o čo sa pričínili slziaci obraz Panny Márie. Témou Novény je Mária v evanjeliách.

Na hlavnej bohoslužbe na tému Zvestovanie Pána kázal biskupský vikár Trnavskej arcidiecézy Pavol Zemko. Neskôr sa vystriedali ďalší duchovní z arcidiecézy, omšu v nedeľu 21. novembra, spojenú s tradičnou procesiou s obrazom Panny Márie Trnavskej z baziliky na Trojičné námestie slúžil kardinál Jozef Tomko. Odznali aj omše v maďarskom jazyku, pripravený bol aj poľnohospodársky program. Počas každej omše spoluúčinkovali spevokoly chramov arcidiecézy, medzi nimi Rímskokatolícky cirkevný hudobný spolok sv. Mikuláša v Trnave, ktorý interpretuje liturgiu v latinskom jazyku.

K výročiu pripravila farnosť sv. Mikuláša v spolupráci s ďalšími subjektmi viacero sprievodných podujatí, okrem výstavy dokumentov, viazucich sa k zázraku zastavenia moru aj premiéru dokumentárneho filmu Matkine slzy, na ktorom spolupracovali historik Hadrián Radványi a biskup Ján Orosch.

Keď v roku 1710 vypukol v Trnave mor, magistrát mesta dal odslúžiť prosebnú omšu za ochranu pred morom. Po omši nasledovala 21. novembra procesia po meste s obrazom a „mor zázračne prestal hneď na druhý deň“. Trnavčania dali Panne Márii z vďaky sľub, že sa každú sobotu zúčastnia na ďakovnej omši a raz do roka na novéne pod jej obrazom.

Obraz, ktorý dal namaľovať neskorší ostrihomský arcibiskup František Forgáč po svojom návrate v roku 1585 z Ríma do Trnavy, je počas roka vystavený v samostatnej barokovej kaplnke gotickej Baziliky sv. Mikuláša. Je kópiou ikony z kláštora sv. Alexeja a Bonifáca v Ríme, ktorú podľa tradície namaľoval evanjelista sv. Lukáš. Obraz slzil aj niekoľkokrát pred rokom 1710, vždy ako predzvesť katastrof, ktoré Trnavu čakali.



Nežnú revolúciu si pripomenuli pri pamätníkoch neslobody i slobody

Košice (TASR) – V predvečer 21. výročia nežnej revolúcie sa mestské oslavy v Košiciach začali položením kytíc a zapálením sviečok pri pamätnej tabuli obetiam komunizmu 1945 – 1989 na Hlavnej ulici. Okolo sto účastníkov, medzi nimi zástupcovia mesta, mestských častí, Konfederácie politických väzňov Slovenska (KPVS) a okoloidúci Košičania väčšinou staršej generácie, si tak pripomenulo popravených, umučených a prenasledovaných v boji proti totalitnému režimu.

„To už je 21 rokov, ako skončila tá obrovská svetová diktátorská ríša s bezpečnostnými silami a tisícami všelijakých špicľov. Tu je určitá paralela s bývalými diktátorskými režimami, s mocnými rímskymi cisármi, s Napoleonom, Hitlerom, Stalinom. Všetci skončili preto, že nepravosť a zlo nikdy trvalo nemôže poraziť dobro. Za každým víťazstvom treba vidieť obeť ľudí, ktorí všetko pre to dali, aby sa k tomu víťazstvu dopracovali,“ uviedol predseda košickej pobočky KPVS Vincent Samuely.

Sprievod sa potom presunul k pamätnej tabuli 17. novembra 1989, inštalovanej pred rokom na budove Štátnej vedeckej knižnice, ktorej balkón bol centrom novembrových udalostí v Košiciach. Aj tam si položením kytíc a zapálením sviečok prítomní uctili blížiaci sa štátny sviatok - Deň boja za slobodu a demokraciu.

Košický primátor František Knapík vo svojom príhovore vzdal úctu všetkým, ktorí počas revolučných dní dokázali zložiť bremeno strachu ešte predtým, ako sa ukázalo, ktorým smerom sa dejiny budú vyvíjať a komu dajú za pravdu. „Chcem však poďakovať aj tým, ktorí sa 17. novembra nedožili, no svojimi životnými postojmi k tomuto dňu jednoznačne vždy smerovali. A napokon chcem poďakovať nám všetkým za to, že sa s darmi 17. novembra učíme žiť múdro, užívať ich a smerovať ich na prospech toho, aby vnútorná sloboda už nikdy neprestala byť súčasťou nášho života,“ ukončil príhovor košický primátor.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník Jednota



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

Ročník 119

STREDA, 24. NOVEMBRA, 2010

Číslo 5832

Cena Ústavu dejín kresťanstva na Slovensku

Cenu Ústavu dejín kresťanstva na Slovensku za najvýznamnejšie dielo historickej literatúry vydané v uplynulom roku si 10. novembra 2010 prevzali Viliam Judák a Štefan Poláčik. Slávnostné odovzdanie ceny sa uskutočnilo vo Veľkej aule Cyrilo-metodskej bohosloveckej fakulty Univerzity Komenského (UK) v Bratislave.

Zasadnutie otvoril dekan Mons. Marián Šuráb. Hodnotiace príspevky o predmetnom diele predniesli Prof. Peter Liba a HEDr. Ľuboslav Hromjak. A potom už nasledovalo odovzdanie Ceny z rúk riaditeľa ÚDKS Prof. Milana S. Ďuricu a tajomníka dp. ThLic. Jána Košiaru. Za ocenených sa prítomným prihovril J. E. nitriansky biskup Viliam Judák. Po jeho príhovore prítomným dekan Šuráb „prezradil“, že pán biskup mal deň predtým narodeniny, čo vyvolalo nadšený spontánny potlesk. Atmosféru slávnostného udeľovania ceny rámcovал zborový spev bohoslovcov Schola



FOTO: Bohuslav Rapoš

Ocenený biskup Viliam Judák s gratulantkou.

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Arcibiskup Bernard Bober sa dožíva svojich šesťdesiatin



Mons. Bernard Bober

Košice (TASR) – Dňa 6. novembra 2010 sa slávnostnou svätou omšou v Seminárnom kostole sv. Antona Paduánskeho v Košiciach poďakoval za 60 rokov života košický arcibiskup-metropolita Bernard Bober. Počas slávnosti bol prečítaný telegram Svätého Otca, podpísaný štátnym sekretárom, kardinálom Tarcisiom Bertonom. Benedikt XVI. v ňom jubilantovi udeľuje osobitné apoštolské požehnanie „ako znak nebeských milostí, aby jeho služba Božiemu ľudu prinášala hojné duchovné ovocie.“

Jubilant chce vo vedení diecézy klásť predovšetkým dôraz na novú evanjelizáciu. Plánuje sa tiež viac venovať patrónovi košickej arcidiecézy sv. Ondrejovi, získať jeho relikvie a vyhlásiť Rok sv. Ondreja. V nasledujúcom období chce v košickej katedrále zriadiť kaplnku svätého Cyrila a Metoda na prehlbenie úcty k našim vierozvestcom i slovanskej histórii a podľa ich odkazu učiť ľudí odísť od novodobého poňatia a zachovávať boží poriadok.

Mons. Bernard Bober sa narodil 3. novembra 1950 v Zbudskom Dlhom v okrese Humenné. Po gymnaziálnych štúdiách absolvoval Teologickú fakultu v Bratislave, kde 8. júna 1974 prijal kňazskú vysviacku. Po troch rokoch kaplánskeho pôsobenia v Humennom, Snine a Zborove sa v roku 1978 stal na 12 rokov farárom v Kecerovciach. Krátko pred príchodom na vtedajší biskupský úrad v Košiciach ako generálny vikár bol dekanom v Humennom a 28. decembra 1992 ho vymenovali za biskupa. Po biskupskej vysviacke 30. januára 1993 pôsobil v diecéze ako pomocný biskup a po menovaní za košického arcibiskupa 4. júna 2010 sa ujal tohto úradu 10. júla 2010.



Predsedníčka vlády SR rokovala s americkými podnikateľmi a investormi

New York (TASR) –Predsedníčka vlády Slovenskej republiky, Iveta Radičová sa počas svojej nedávnej pracovnej cesty v USA stretla v utorok 9. novembra s americkými podnikateľmi v New Yorku, kde hlavnou témou stretnutia bolo Slovensko ako krajina atraktívna pre zahraničné investície. Takmer 20 zástupcov amerických podnikateľských a finančných kruhov – napríklad Morgan Stanley, Honeywell, Elderson Technology Partners, Credit Suisse Securities alebo Nomura Holding America, sa zaujímali o opatrenia vlády, ktoré majú podporiť ekonomický rast a prílev zahraničných investícií.

Iveta Radičová zdôraznila, že Slovensko je krajina so stabilnou ekonomikou a finančným systémom, ktorá pokračuje v dôležitých ekonomických reformách. Medzi kľúčové priority vlády patrí práve zlepšovanie podmienok na podnikanie, pružnejší trh práce, reforma vzdelávacieho systému a zdravé verejné financie. Slovensko navyše plánuje prijať dôležité opatrenia, aby súčasné stabilizačné a ozdravné kroky boli dlhodobo udržateľné.

Premiérka predstavila americkej podnikateľskej komunite návrh na prijatie takzvaných „rozpočtovej ústavy“, ktorá by mala zaviesť výdavkové stropy a limit pre výšku verejného dlhu. „Slovensko je a bude dobrým miestom na podnikanie, ktoré je otvorené všetkým investorom s vyššou pridanou hodnotou,“ zdôraznila Iveta Radičová. Podľa nej má vláda



Foto: TASR

Iveta Radičová

Pokračovanie na str. 23



FOTO: Bohuslav Rapoš

Zľava Th.Lic. Ján Košiar a Profesor Milan S. Ďurica.

HĽADÁME

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E-mail: president@fcsu.com

