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The Spiš Dialect (Spišské nárečie)

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The Slovak language consists of hundreds of dialects which are regional and local. Separated by mountains and distances, the people of Slovakia molded their language to fit their needs. Influences from abroad also played a major role in the formation of Slovak dialects.

The Spiš region is situated east and south of the High Tatras Mountains (Vysoké Tatry). In 1910, the region incorporated about 3,668 square kilometers, or 2279 square miles. From north to south, it counts among its major cities the following: Stará Ľubovňa, Kežmarok, Poprad, Levoča, Spišská Nová Ves and Gelnica.

Many of us are descendants of immigrants who came from the Spiš region of Slovakia, and most came from villages, not these cities, for there was more work in the larger towns. My entire family came from



what was Spiš county up to 1924, from the villages of Ruskanovce, Harichovce, and Richnava. Many of our readers share a similar background, and a large number of immigrants from Spiš settled in my hometown of Youngstown, Ohio.

The dialect which I heard as a child was one of the Spiš dialects (spišské nárečia, or spiština) of eastern Slovakia. I never thought

about it as a child, and just assumed that my grandparents and relatives were speaking a literary form of Slovak. They were not.

Slovaks use three main regional dialects, which are divided by regions - western, central and eastern Slovak dialects. The Spiš dialect belongs to the eastern group and Slovaks call that východoslovenské nárečia. The eastern dialects, which are spoken in the historical regions of Spiš, Šariš, Zemplín and Abov, resemble one another, but still have very distinct differences, one being that the Spiš dialect includes many words of German origin, due to the large number of Germans who migrated there during the Middle Ages, as the Hungarian king sought settlers to bring craft and mining skills to northern Hungary.

Inhabitants from the Spiš region are called Spišaks in English, Spišáci in Slovak. After they came to the United States, immigrants from Spiš often married other Spišaks because they spoke a common dialect and

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ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

Win a **\$500** Scholarship

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE EXTENDED

See page 3 for details!

Christmas Coloring Contest
in this issue

Hey, Kids.
Sharpen your
crayons!

It's time once again for the annual National Christmas Coloring Contest. See pages 4-5 of this issue for details.

FCSU 125th Celebrations
around the Society:



See page 7 for Region 1's upcoming November Celebration in NJ.

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

November 8, 2015 - Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 12: 38-44

Though hesitant at first, the widow of Zarephath offers all that she has to the prophet Elijah, and is marvelously rewarded. Convinced she needed to hold onto the little she possessed, the prophet revealed to her that small actions and offerings made with humility can be of infinite

value in the eyes of God, who sees not in human terms of prestige or wealth, but sincerity of heart.

The story of the "widow's mite" from the gospel of Matthew confirms and deepens this teaching. There our Lord himself carefully observes members of the community placing contributions in the offering box in the temple, and dismisses the large contributions of some people as being of little value, since they were made from a comfortable surfeit of wealth. The poor widow's two coins were worth only a small fraction of a day's wages, yet Jesus recognizes their value to the woman, who had no other sustenance, and praised the woman's trust in God's providence in giving them.

This episode comes at the end of a long series of encounters with scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees, all of whom had the common desire to rid themselves of Jesus and his troublesome reminders about true religion and worship. They wanted to appear observant and to receive the accolades of the public but had no desire to experience true conversion of heart.

What the readings tell us today is that one cannot be a part-time disciple of Jesus, or a follower who is faithful when convenient. Religion became domesticated for the Pharisees and their cohorts, and it easily can become so for us as well. This happens when participation in parish life is limited to a bare hour per week, when financial support of the Church is conceded grudgingly, and when "going through the motions" sums up our Catholic spirituality and life.

This teaching applies to all Christians and in a special way to those who are given a public role in leading the Church. If pastors and bishops exhort Catholics to active participation in the life of the Church and to give generously to the Church, then we pastors must be good stewards of all that is entrusted to us. Scandal has arisen wherever ministers of the gospel have lived in a manner that does not befit a follower of Christ, who was poor, chaste, and obedient. This means that Church leaders must not revel in public recognition or wealth, or act like corporate executives more than ambassadors of Christ, or forget that the grace of ordination comes from the grace of baptism and one's fundamental bond with all Christians in the waters of that holy sacrament.

In sum, like the passages which precede it, this gospel calls us to think in a Kingdom of God centered way rather than prioritizing the possessions and praise esteemed by our worldly culture. Beginning anew in this month in which we celebrate our national day of Thanksgiving for God's blessings, may we seek what is of abiding value—what is genuinely of the Kingdom—so that together with the poor widow of Zarephath and the widow we met in the temple treasury we might be counted among those who live with firm trust in God, and hope in the coming of his Kingdom. Then, as a community born of baptism and centered



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

around the Eucharist, we will best be able to respond to our calling to "go forth and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt 28:19).

November 15, 2015 – Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Daniel 12: 1 - 3 Hebrews 10: 11 – 14, 18 Mark 13: 24 - 32

This Sunday is the last ordinary Sunday of Ordinary Time. Next weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King which marks the end of the Church year. As we near the end of the Church year the readings have us focus on the end of the world. There are those who take great interest in calculating the exact time of the end. Every few years some individual or group seem to get the attention of the media with their calculations, and it seems that every month or so there is something on the internet that the signs are all pointing to the end. The predicted days come and go, and we are still here.

It seems that Jesus was not as concerned about us knowing the exact time, as he was living each day as if it were our last. In the Gospel Jesus speaks about tribulations and signs, about "the Son of man coming in the Clouds." He speaks of angels and of the elect and that "this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place." This leaves us wondering what Jesus meant by "generation"? Did he mean those of his time, or a much broader sense? Jesus follows that statement by telling them that no one knows the day or the hour, not even Jesus, only his heavenly Father.

We don't know when the end of the world is coming, and the Church has never made an announcement calling all Catholics to prepare for a particular day. Being caught up in speculation and spending time in trying to figure out the exact day is both an exercise in futility, and a distraction of what we should really be paying attention to in our lives. There are so many things that we need to do in our personal lives to prepare for Christ's coming in glory. Each of the three readings gives us instruction on how to prepare for the second coming.

In Daniel we are told that we should seek to be wise and lead others to justice. In Hebrews we are taught about the one offering for sins and that the consecration given to us by Jesus through his one offering leads to our being made perfect. With this is our personal experience of the forgiveness of our sins. In the Gospel Jesus tells us to be attentive to the signs of God's presence, and of his word. This short list takes a long time to make our own, probably a lifetime. It is a lifetime of growing in wisdom and leading others to justice. It is a lifetime that includes experiences of joy and sorrow. It is a life time of walking in faith, and at times stumbling as we try to be attentive to God's presence. Most importantly, it is a lifetime of experiencing God's mercy. This mercy is truly appreciated when we honestly acknowledge that we are sinners, and that we are the ones who make the decision to live virtuously or to sin. It is the realization that we cannot forgive our sins that it is only God who can forgive our sins. When we humbly place ourselves in the mercy of God each day, and even throughout each day, we are preparing for the end of the world. This might be either the glorious second coming of Christ for all, or just for us at the hour of our death. May we seriously prepare for that day, whenever it is, so that Christ may greet us with joy and welcome us into his presence.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18	MONDAY, NOV. 9
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9	MONDAY, NOV. 30
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13	MONDAY, JAN. 4

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- A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant
- A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability
- A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives
- A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 16, 2015

November Commemorates Slovakia's Gentle Revolution



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

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

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

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

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

Christmas Oplatky 2015



Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 26 until December 18, 2015.

The Oplatky, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$6.00 and upwards depending upon the number of packets ordered and the rising costs of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order.

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



**BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Office of the Rector
October 16, 2015

Mr. Andrew M. Rajec
National President
First Catholic Slovak Union
of the United States and Canada
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131

Dear Mr. Rajec,

Thank you so very much for your kind letter and thoughtful gift as well as the unique picture of the Mother of Sorrows Chapel here at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. I have forwarded the picture to our Archivist for safekeeping.

It is always a joy to have pilgrims at Mary's Shrine, but, even more so, when we celebrate significant anniversaries of our chapels and have those responsible for the chapel with us. It not only helps us remain connected, but more importantly, it allows for a beautiful expression of ethnic heritage and devotion to Our Lady.

Entrusting you and the work of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada to the intercession of Our Mother of Sorrows, together with my best wishes for every blessing, may I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Walter R. Rossi
Rector

The First Catholic Slovak Union celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our Mother of Sorrows Chapel on Sept 12, 2015. To view photos of the Mass and the reception following it as the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, go to www.fcsu.com



The First Catholic Slovak Union celebrates its 125th Anniversary and founder Fr. Stefan Furdek this year. To hear more about Fr. Furdek and his reasons for founding the FCSU, go to www.fcsu.com to view a video presentation by Fr. Michael Brunovksy at the 125th Anniversary Celebration on August 29, 2015 in Cleveland, OH at the Downtown Renaissance.

FCSU 2015 Christmas Coloring Contest

The Christmas Story
By Leanne Guenther

A

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

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

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

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

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



C

B



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

RULES

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:
4 – 6 year olds – picture B
7 – 9 year olds – picture A
10 – 12 year olds – picture C
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures are allowed to be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2015**.
6. Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 Fraternal Activities Director
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2015

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

PRIZES

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:

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

Announcement

On Saturday, December 12, Prince of Peace Parish (South Side) will host its **22nd Annual Slovak Vilija**. The *Vilija* is a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner featuring homemade Slovak delicacies and authentic folk entertainment sure to warm your spirit. The evening begins as the first star rises with a short Bible reading of Christ's birth and sharing of oplatky, a communion-like wafer. Scrumptious baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohy, bolbalky (puffs of blanched bread balls rolled in poppyseed or sauerkraut), and a traditional desserts crown the menu. The highlight of the evening is the performance of the **Pittsburgh Slovaks** -- the Tri-State's oldest Slovak folk ensemble – presenting a variety of traditional dances, songs and hymns, culminating with the story of the shepherds' visit to the newborn Christ Child. A bake sale and marketplace are also planned.

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

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

Prince of Peace Parish

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**22ND ANNUAL
SLOVAK VILIJIA
&
JASLICKARI
PROGRAM**



*Traditional
Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner & Folk Entertainment*

Saturday, December 12, 2015

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

Featuring Entertainment by the

Pittsburgh Slovaks

Prince of Peace Parish Center

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

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

By Reservation Only: 412-481-8380

Tickets will NOT be sold at the door

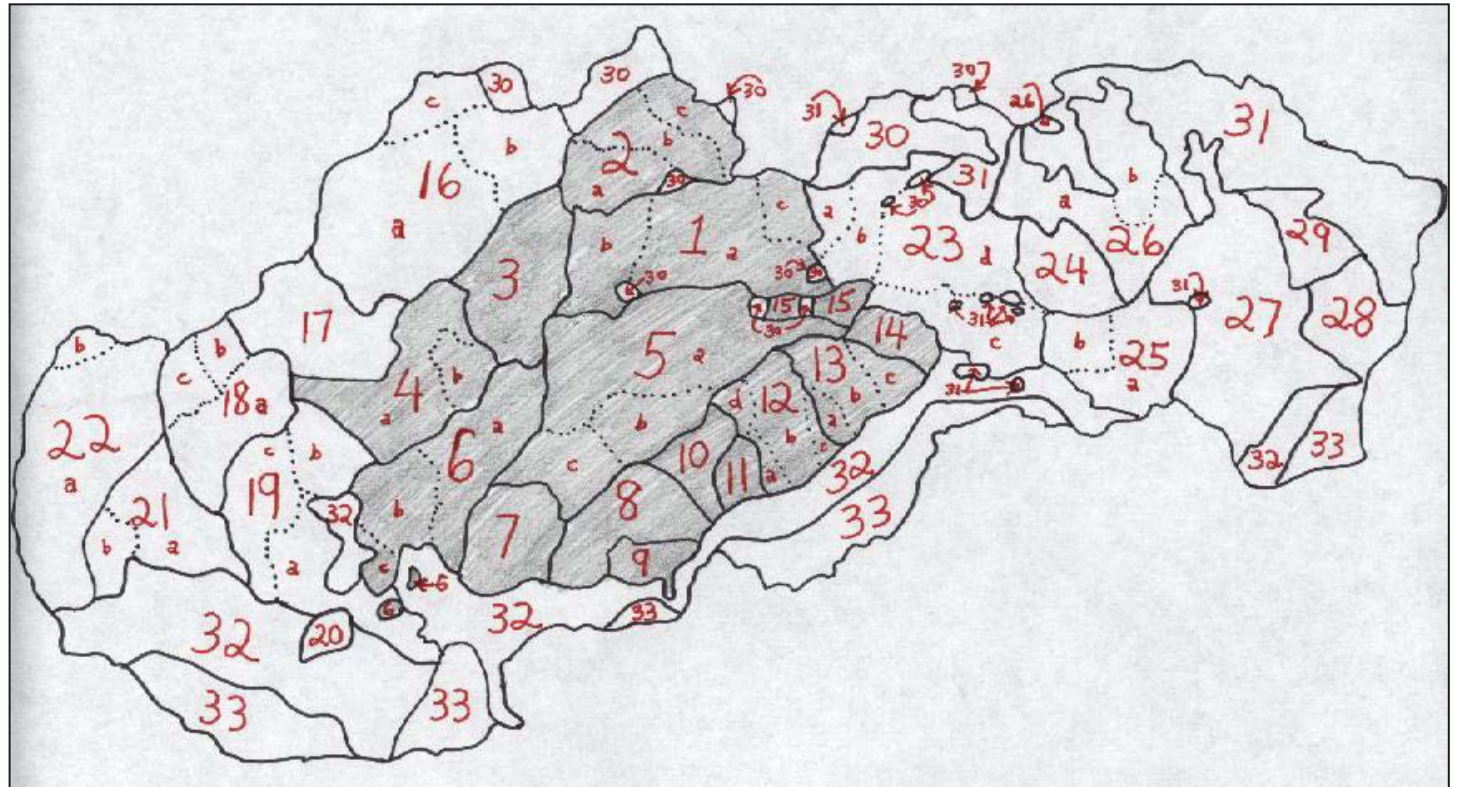
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The Spiš Dialect (Spišské nárečie)

continued from page 1

Map of Slovak Dialects

Redrawn by Joe Armata from Atlas Slovenskeho Jazyka, Jozef Stolc, editor. Bratislava, Slovak Academy of Sciences, 1968.



Source: <http://www.pitt.edu/~armata/dialects.htm>

EASTERN SLOVAK DIALECTS

SOUTHWEST GROUP

- 23. Spiš dialects:
 - a. Lučivná
 - b. western Spiš
 - c. Hnilec
 - d. central Spiš dialects
- 24. Southeast Spiš and Southwest

OTHER DIALECT GROUPS

- 30. Goral dialects
- 31. Rusyn dialects
- 32. Various Slovak dialects in Magyar language areas
- 33. Magyar dialects

could easily understand one another. The large number of Spišaks who emigrated made it relatively easy to find a mate from the region, or at least from eastern Slovakia, where the speech resemble Spiš dialects. The language, culture, and religions of Spiš were the cultural glues that brought these peoples together.

This article concerns itself with the former item, the language. The people of Spiš spoke a particular dialect that resulted from the location and historical experiences of the region. Spiš literally stood at the crossroads of Central Europe. The so-called Amber Road ran from the Baltic Sea through Poland and then south into northern Spiš along the Dunajec River. It proceeded southward through the heart of Spiš and made towns like Kežmarok and Levoča prosper. The closeness to Poland and the merchants who treaded this well-traveled road brought to Spiš a variety of ideas and influences that colored the nature of the towns and peoples of the region: Slovaks, Germans, Rusyns, Poles, Jews, Roma (Gypsies), Gorali (mountain folk), and Magyars (Hungarians). The Germans called the region "Zips" and the Magyars called it "Szepes."

Using the official Hungarian censuses compiled in 1869, 1900, and 1910, the population of Spiš county recorded the following statistics on nationalities. In 1900, the census counted a population of 172,091 people, of whom 99,557 were Slovak. In percentages during 1869, 1900, and 1910, Slovaks accounted for 50.4%, 58.2%, 58%, Germans 35%, 25%, 25%, Carpatho-Rusyns/Ukrainians 13.8%, 8.4%, 8%, and 0.7% , 6%, 6%) Magyars (Hungarians). There were no accurate separate statistics back then for the Romani, or Gypsies, but they were listed as .3% in 1900, which seems far too low. The Slovak percentages dropped in these years due to emigration and because of the intense Magyarization, as the dominant Magyars tried to force its subject peoples to abandon their native tongues. Germans and Jews tended to Magyarize at a faster rate than Slovaks.

Today, the ethnic composition of the region, however, is much different, as the German and Jewish element is almost non-existent. During World War II, most Jews were sent to death camps in nearby Poland, as Auschwitz is just a couple hours from the Slovak border. After the war, those who survived often immigrated to the USA or Israel. The Beneš Decrees sent most Germans packing, and they settled in either Germany or Austria, forced to leave behind lands they had worked for centuries.

A Spiš Dictionary

One publication in Slovakia provides a useful tool for translating the Spiš dialect into standard literary Slovak. The dictionary by Anton Kret is entitled *Krátky slovník nárečia slovenského spišského* [A Short Dictionary of the Slovak Spiš Dialect], (Bratislava – Smižany: Obec Smižany a MO Matica slovenskej Smižany, 2001), 153 pp. The book presents us with the central Spiš dialect that was commonly used around the towns of Spišská Nová Ves and the nearby community of Smižany.

The author wrote the book in order to

help preserve the rich traditions of speech common in central Spiš. With the spread of mass communications and computers, the people's language, i.e., dialects, are quickly disappearing from common usage.

Today many Slovaks probably feel old-fashioned using such language in public, for fear they might be looked upon as backward. The old folks still use the Spiš dialect, but that is quickly fading. Kret hoped to safeguard some of the rich Spiš folk traditions for those interested in the dialect now and in the future, so he wrote this handy little book as an aid. He published this second edition in conjunction with the World Meeting of Spišaks that took place in July 2001.

The dictionary is especially useful for those who listen to the Spiš nárečie (dialect). But it only goes one way; it is a Spiš-Slovak dictionary, not a Slovak-Spiš dictionary. A word given in the Spiš dialect and a Slovak equivalent defines it. This makes it more useful for someone hearing the Spiš dialect and seeking a Slovak meaning.

On the publication page, the author greets the reader with a Spiš expression: "Idze ftoškaj, neše čoškaj" (Whoever is going, takes whatever). In this case, he seems to be referring to taking this handy little book with you when in Spiš.

The world of folk language fascinated Andrej Kret, and he realized there was very little written about the dialects. Since his research was confined to two towns, he calls this dictionary really a sub-dialect of central Spiš, but many of the words are common throughout all of Spiš.

Kret talks about some of the peculiarities

of the Spiš dialect and here we will just mention a few of his many comments. Spišaks prefer a soft "š" when talking, much more than the rest of Slovakia, and especially western Slovakia. For instance, the reflexive uses "še", pronounced as "sheh" in English transliteration, instead of the literary "sa" with a hard "s." Instead of "sadni si" (sit down), Spišaks prefer "šedni." A popular expression meaning "sit down and stay there" (forcefully emphasized, for children it means you will otherwise get a licking), is spoken as, "Šedni a šedz."

Soft "D's" often are softened to sound like "dz" so that the literary Slovak "dedo" become "dzeda" or "dzedo." When my grandfather was alive, as a young child we always referred to him as "dzeda." When it is raining, Spišaks do not say "prší" as in literary Slovak. Rather, it is raining is "pada diždž" [padah deezhdzh], a tongue twister for those not used to Spiš. Those double consonants are real tongue twisters for someone who did not hear or speak any Slovak words as a child.

I once had a student name Dzurovčin, and when I called her name on the first day of class, she was stunned. She said I was the only one who had ever pronounced her name correctly, as "Dzu-rove-cheen."

Spiš speakers also do not speak the "ch" with the same guttural enunciation as other Slovaks. Thus "chlap" (man) in Spiš is spoken as "hlop," and substitutes the "h" sound for "ch." In the same way, the Spiš word for bread is hleb or hlieb, whereas it is chlieb in standard Slovak.

Foreign influences played a major role

in the development of the Spiš dialect. Many Germans colonized the region during the Middle Ages when the population was scarce and the king of Hungary wanted some skilled workers to develop Spiš. Thus we hear the influence of the Zipser Deutschen, the Spiš Germans. Even my paternal grandfather was a Spiš German, and I might add, he was very proud of it. We see this German influence in many words such as the word for roof, "dach," which is "streacha" in literary Slovak. The Spiš word for breakfast, "frištik," derives from the German word "Frühstück" and does not even faintly resemble the literary Slovak, "ranajky."

Since the Polish king had a mortgage on many towns in Slovakia from the 14th to the 18th century, Polish words mixed with Slovak and German in forming the Spiš dialect.

For instance, dupa means "buttocks" both in eastern Slovak dialects and in Polish. Spišaks also use the word ric for dupa. When we were children, my mother and father always used to say "ric to byc," which in English means "the butt is for beating." We never liked that expression, but it got its point across and kept us kids in line. Little did we know that it had its origin from Polish. I had never heard of the literary Slovak equivalent, "zadok," until I studied Slovak at the university level.

For those who cannot purchase the book, a website provides a useful reference point for finding what a word in dialect means in standard Slovak. One may locate the site at this URL: <http://slovník.dovrecka.sk/narecovy-slovník/spisske-narecie> . While

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The Spiš Dialect (Spišské nárečie)

continued from page 6

the website does not have every word, it still provides a useful tool for translating dialect.

Map of Slovak Dialects

Let us next take a look at the different sub-dialects within the Spiš dialect. On the map on page 6, one can see that the areas marked 23-24, and 30-31 comprise the Spiš dialects. Under number 23, where we find the largest area of Spiš, we find four sub-categories. Going from west to east, the first sub-group is labeled "a" on the map and borders the Liptov region. It is called Lučivná Spiš and is named after the village of Lučivná, which lies just south of the Tatra Mountains, about 15 kilometers west of Poprad, the largest city in Spiš. Just east of this language group is Western Spiš, labeled as letter "b" in section 23 on the map.

The third sub-group under number 23 is under letter "c," the Hnilec Spiš dialect, which starts in the mountains to the south of Spišská Nová Ves. This is the area near and including what is known as Slovenský raj (Slovak Paradise), the national park famous for its pristine natural beauty and challenging hiking trails. The relative isolation of this mountainous area led to its own peculiarities in dialect and derives its name from the village of Hnilec.

Finally, the central Spiš dialects under letter "d" would comprise the language used in Spišská Nová Ves and Levoča, the most heavily settled part of the region. This is the language in Kret's dictionary, and the most commonly used of the Spiš dialects, because the population is more dense in this region.

Another language-island is outlined by number 24 and contains Southeast Spiš. This is the area closest to Šariš and is the area around Richnava where my mother lived. Again mountains set this region off and separate it from the region of Košice in the former county of Abauj.

The northernmost areas of Spiš and northern Orava, the Polish influence is more apparent and the "goral" dialect can be heard in areas marked by number 30 on the chart. Goral simply means a mountain man or highlander. Around 40,000-48,000 Gorals live today in the Slovak-Polish borderlands.

Gorali can be a real challenge to try to understand for either a Slovak or Pole today, and is a mixture of both combined with their own regional peculiarities. It is a somewhat harder sounding tongue and perhaps reflects their hard lives in the mountains. The Gorali typically replace the Slovak "h" with a "g," and words like "hodina" (hour) become godina.

Also in the northern part of Spiš, many is-

lands of Rusyns are scattered about, particularly near Stará Ľubovňa and southward in the mountains north of Levoča. The Rusyn language is a unique tongue, but the local Rusyn dialect shares many similarities with Slovak Spiš. Identified by number 31 on the map, one can see that Rusyns lived in central Spiš as well. Most Rusyns in Spiš are members of the Greek Catholic rite of the Church (called Byzantine in the U.S.). My maternal great grandmother came from one of these villages, which I visited in March 2003 – the isolated hamlet of Pavlani, north-east of Levoča.

In conclusion, we can see that explaining the Spiš dialect and sub-groups is no simple matter; there exist varieties of the dialect, formed by migrations and geographical barriers. Scholars have attempted to record and document these differences before they fade away with time. Dialects are part of the Slovak people's folk heritage, and the language which our ancestors from Spiš spoke. That makes the Spiš tongue special, worth retaining, and I dare say, using. I never could get used to using the Slovak word prať for washing clothes. Rajbac just seems that much cleaner. That was what my mom did - rybala (meaning she scrubbed hard washing clothes).

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You are cordially invited to a
Gala Dinner
in celebration of the
125th Anniversary
of the
First Catholic Slovak Union
Saturday, November 7, 2015

Four o'clock celebratory Liturgy
Holy Family Church
210 Monroe St., Linden, New Jersey

Five o'clock Cocktail hour
Dinner, Dancing, & Open Bar
Msgr. Komar Hall
2806 Parkway Avenue
Linden, New Jersey

Cocktail attire
Entertainment by Express

The Gala Dinner for Region 1 is hosted by Jednota Branch 746 in collaboration with Districts 1, 4, and 16. The event will commence with a celebratory liturgy at 4pm, followed by cocktails, dinner, open bar and dancing until 1am.

Kindly reserve your tickets by October 28th to: Anna Balas (908-925-7430) or Anna Korcal (201-670-8162). Tickets are \$30 for FCSU members, \$50 for guests. Send payment to: First Catholic Slovak Union, c/o Anna Balas, 12 Rosewood Terrace, Linden, NJ 07036.

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Reminder For All Branches

Among the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend, under Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES, is the following:

14.01 General Rules

a) Branch and district meetings must be held in the close proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semiannually, one of which must be for the elections of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election. **Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.**



(R - L) Zemplin Club President George Carny presents Thomas J. Ivanec with a plaque honoring his years of dedication to promoting and preserving the art of Slovak folk dance in America.

Thomas J. Ivanec (center, back) is flanked by the members of the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble and its children's group, Lucinka.



Branch 24 Member Thomas J. Ivanec Honored at 74th Anniversary Celebration of American-Slovak Zemplin Club in Lakewood, OH

On Sunday October 18, 2015, the American-Slovak Zemplin Club celebrated its 74th Anniversary. The celebration started at 1:00 pm in Lakewood, OH, with a Slovak Mass at the former St. Cyril & Methodius Church (now Transfiguration Parish) for the living and deceased members of the club, celebrated by Fr. Justin Dyrwal, OSB.

After the Mass, festivities continued in SS. Cyril & Methodius Auditorium. The ceremony was open by George Čarný, president of the Zemplin Club, with warm words of welcome, and Fr Marek Visnovsky said a prayer before dinner. Vice President Mary Chura (Branch 450) introduced the officers of the Zemplin club who were seated at the head table: George Balak (Branch 855), Norma Ruttkay (Branch 450), Maria Cvicela, and John Buydos (Branch 1).

Following a delicious dinner, the entertainment portion of the afternoon began. Thomas J. Ivanec, founder and director of the Lučina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland, and Branch 24 member, introduced the dancers and explained the dance numbers from Eastern Slovakia. The young children's group, Lucinka, performed as well. The Slovensky Mamicky, a popular Slovak singing trio performed folk songs from Slovakia. Professor Rudy Bachna then recited Slovak poems. Throughout the day, the John Pastirik Band played for the listening and dancing pleasure of the audience.

After the cultural program, club officers surprised and honored Tom Ivanec by naming him "Fraternalist of the Year 2015". The club presented him with a plaque, and President Carny spoke of his time, hard work and dedication to Slovak culture over the years by honoring him with an award founding the dance group some 34 years ago.

Upcoming Events by United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH



A traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner hosted by United Slovak Societies will be held at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, on Sunday December 6, 2015. Cocktails 5:30, dinner 6:00p.m. Entertainment will be provided by violinist Jozef Janis and special guest Celebration Ringers. Advanced ticket sales only.

\$20pp with cash bar. Please contact Len at 440/988-3236.

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



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



Pictured: Branch treasurer, Pat Laport (standing) speaks to members at the October 17th meeting.

Members celebrated the birthday of Branch 153's Lucille Dritlein, who turned 97 in Mid-October.



Branch 153 held their second annual meeting on October 17, 2015 at Andrews Restaurant in Park Ridge, IL. After hearing the reports by the officers, the members enjoyed lunch and an afternoon of fraternalism.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

Visit Slovakia --- "The Old Country"



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

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

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

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

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

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

For additional information contact Jim or Kay Bench:

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

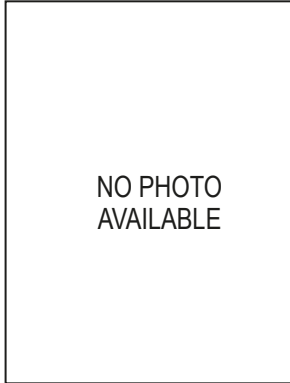
Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel. Call Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-Mail Paul@advintravel.com

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Through September 2015



Rebecca C. Demase
First Place



Susan Louise Lang
Second Place



David A. Lang
Third Place



Kimberly M. Meeker
First Place



Audrey J. Balazik
Second Place



Linda M. Hanko
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance
Demase, Rebecca C.	313	200,000
Lang, Susan Louise	24	175,000
Lang, David A.	24	100,000
Marmol, James Robert	162	100,000
Krajsa, Michael J.	419	75,000
Sabados, Sabina	746	70,000
Smolleck, Michaelene T.	312	65,000
Speshock, Patricia A.	367	55,000
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	55,000
Bugel, Joseph M.	313	50,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Meeker, Kimberly M.	166	125,000.00
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	124,532.71
Hanko, Linda M.	553	118,000.00
Budis, John	746	100,000.00
Sabados, Sabina	746	83,453.95
Deliman, Rosemary	417	80,046.80
Jurcenko, John A.	153	69,038.01
Kelchak, George J.	581	65,000.00
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	55,130.00
Fedor, William Lawrence	900	52,852.28

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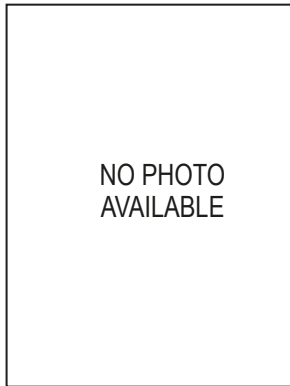
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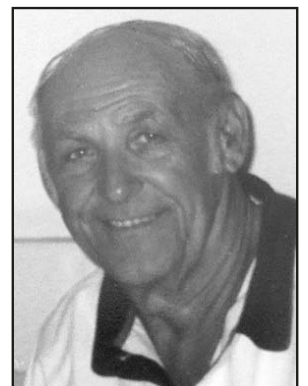
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Susan Louise Lang
First Place



Audrey J. Balazik
Second Place



Albert R. Valo
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

Name	Branch	Points
Lang, Susan Louise	24	221
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	211
Valo, Albert R.	587	181
Demase, Rebecca C.	313	174
Smolleck, Michaelene T.	312	172
Graytok, Margaret A.	380	148
Hanko, Linda M.	553	144
Deliman, Rosemary	417	127
Meeker, Kimberly M.	166	125
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	125

Updated Resource for Slovak-related Topics



Interested in reading more about Slovakia? Now, thanks to Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J., of John Carroll University, there is a central list of publications with Slovak-related topics.

This handy list includes ISBN numbers for those books published in Slovakia – which makes for easier identification when searching for them at the library or online. Websites for locating remaindered and used books, and where to purchase them, are included at the end of the file, as well.

To view or download a PDF of titles, go to www.fcsu.com and click on Slovakia & the World.



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Scenes from a Successful FCSU Sales Seminar in Linden, NJ

The FCSU's Membership and Marketing Committee conducted an insurance seminar on Sunday, October 4, 2015 at Msgr. Komar Hall in Linden, NJ, for members of District 4, the Msgr. Rura District. The seminar got underway after a 9:15AM Mass at Holy Family Church and a brief meeting once back at Msgr. Komar Hall. National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec gave an overview of the FCSU's insurance and annuity products to a packed audience of approximately 60. After the session, Branch 746, Linden, NJ, hosted a luncheon.

If you would like more information about the FCSU Sales Seminar –perhaps to have one conducted at your branch or district location - please call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 or email fcsu@fcsu.com.



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DATE: Sunday, October 4th, 2015
LOCATION: Msgr. Komar Hall in Linden, 2804 Parkway Ave., Linden, NJ 07036
TIME: 11:00 AM
REGISTRATION: Free
Phone Call: 800.533.6682

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DEŤI: Nedeľa, 4. Októbra, 2015
MIESTO: Msgr. Komar Hall v Linden, 2804 Parkway Ave., Linden, NJ 07036
ČAS: 11:00 hodín
VSTUP: zadarmo
Telefón: 800.533.6682



From the Office of the Executive Secretary

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

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



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

New Year's – Friday, January 1, 2016

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2016

Issue Date

Deadline to Receive Information

January 13

January 4

January 27

January 18

February 10

February 1

March 2

February 22

March 30

March 21

April 20

April 11

May 11

May 2

June 15

June 6

July 20

July 11

August 17

August 8

Sept 7

August 29

Sept 21

Sept 12

October 5

Sept 26

October 19

October 10

November 2

October 31

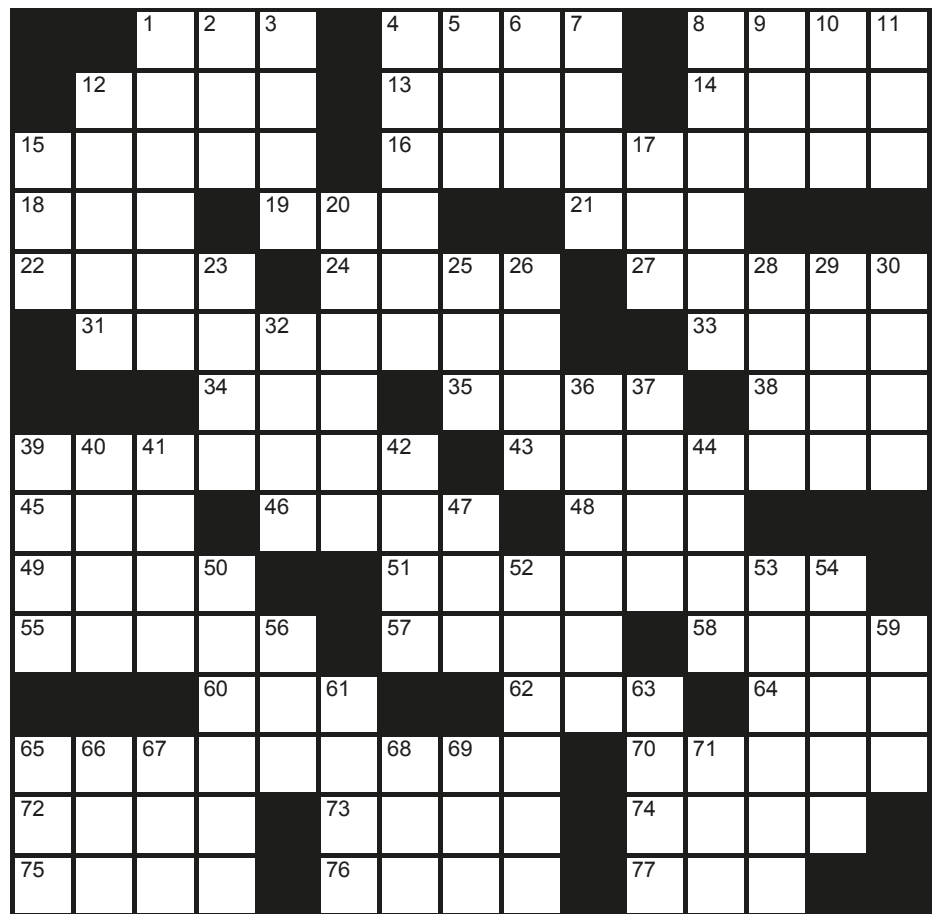
November 16

November 7

December 7

November 28

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Study
- 4 Cast
- 8 Mexican sandwich
- 12 Greek letter
- 13 Creme cookie
- 14 Matinee hero
- 15 Hereditary factors
- 16 Deliberately
- 18 Japanese sash
- 19 Nile viper
- 21 Make lace
- 22 Brit. conservative
- 24 Word of regret
- 27 Rube
- 31 *The Hustler* locale
- 33 Water carrier
- 34 Narrow inlet
- 35 Saltwater fish
- 38 Hairpiece
- 39 Nutty as a fruitcake
- 43 Maneuvers
- 45 Citrus drink
- 46 Rostrum
- 48 Tavern
- 49 Wild hog
- 51 Many
- 55 Miscalculated
- 57 Rigging support
- 58 Genuine
- 60 Toast topping
- 62 Apply
- 64 Smidgen
- 65 Paragon
- 70 Cowboy's rope
- 72 With (Fr.)
- 73 Cover, in a way
- 74 Not a lick
- 75 Trot or canter, for example
- 76 Spotted
- 77 *Lolita* actress Lyon

Down

- 1 *Taxi Driver* lead
- 2 Summer on the Seine
- 3 Astronaut's insignia
- 4 Ballyhoo
- 5 Samovar
- 6 Gym unit
- 7 Clod
- 8 Good shape?
- 9 Rumpus
- 10 Romaine lettuce
- 11 Córdoba cry
- 12 Jazz style
- 15 Figured out
- 17 Sunbeam
- 20 Desert
- 23 Part of NYC
- 25 Priest's robe
- 26 Bed board
- 28 Flightless bird
- 29 Large-scale
- 30 Table parts
- 32 Emulated Pinocchio
- 36 Cavalry swords
- 37 Operation reminder
- 39 Paul Bunyan's ox
- 40 Smell
- 41 Imminent
- 42 Transgresses

44 Jog

- 47 Have dinner
- 50 Veto
- 52 Injured badly
- 53 Polished
- 54 Hotel offering
- 56 Hoover is one
- 59 Airport posting inits.
- 61 Wear a long face
- 63 Sea eagles
- 65 Sleazy paper
- 66 Lab eggs
- 67 Waikiki wear
- 68 Calendar square
- 69 Apple picker
- 71 Debtor's note

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See Solution on Page 20

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

Veterans Day Is November 11



Veterans Day is an official United States holiday that honors people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, also known as veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day,

which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.)

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

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. In proclaiming the holiday, he said:

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

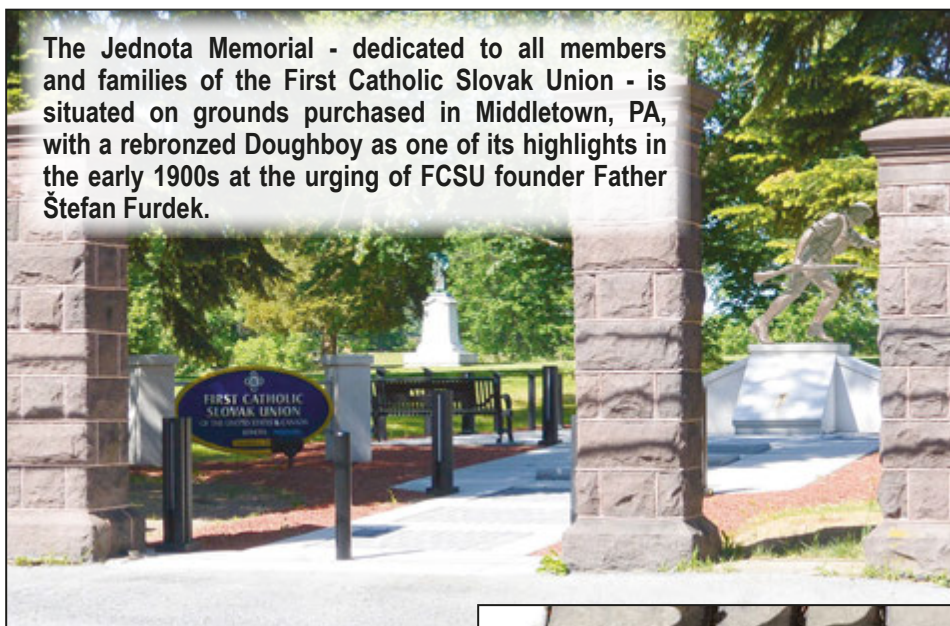
The United States Congress passed a concurrent resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue another proclamation to observe November 11 with appropriate ceremonies.

A Congressional Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

In 1945, World War II veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill into law on May 26, 1954.

Congress amended this act on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

Although originally scheduled for celebration on November 11 of every year, starting in 1971 in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. In 1978, it was moved back to its original celebration on November 11. While the legal holiday remains on November 11, if that date happens to be on a Saturday or Sunday, then organizations that formally observe the holiday will normally be closed on the adjacent Friday or Monday, respectively.



The Jednota Memorial - dedicated to all members and families of the First Catholic Slovak Union - is situated on grounds purchased in Middletown, PA, with a rebronzed Doughboy as one of its highlights in the early 1900s at the urging of FCSU founder Father Štefan Furdek.

TO ALL JEDNOTARS:

As highlighted in the October 21, 2015 issue of Jednota, the First Catholic Slovak Union has just developed a Memorial site for our members and their families on a permanently dedicated ½ acre of land of Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue in Middletown, PA. It sits on land that was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Stefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed "Doughboy" statute is a key highlight of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

While Veteran's Day is a wonderful time to consider participating in this project, it is important to reiterate that this memorial is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans. All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" in the granite panels found throughout the Memorial will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted. If you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, held a meeting on August 19, 2015. There was discussion about attending the FCSU 125th Anniversary Celebration on August 29th, the Abbey Benefit on November 8th and the Viliya on December 6th. The branch will hold its next meeting on November 12th at 6:30 p.m. at Joe's Deli located at 19215 Hillard Blvd. Rocky River, Ohio 44116. If you will be attending please RSVP at 216.228.8179. Election of officers for next year will be held at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3P – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, PA, will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant, PA.

William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2015. A Mass will be offered by Msgr. Joseph Pekar for our members at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church St, Bridgeport, CT. Following the Mass, members are invited to return to the Church Hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

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

Terra Grace Fryer
Wesley Kocurak
Robert Lorys, Jr.
Hayley Elizabeth McDonald
Bridget Magdalen Monks
Stacie Marie Nolan
Christine Radwill
Stephen Panella

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

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

Emily Agoglia
David Geries

This grant was established to honor Mr. Imbro for his service to the St. Joseph Society.

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church St, Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place and the distribution of annual donations to our special charities will take place.

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

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23, St. Joseph Society, will be having our 2nd. Annual Meeting, on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015 at 1 PM, at Our Sons Restaurant, on Broad St. (Rt 56) in Cambria City. All members of Branch 23 are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call Theresa 814-254-2532.

Theresa Cassat/Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Viliya Dinner Sunday, December 6, 2015 at St. Andrew Abbey 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH. Mass is at 12:00 (noon) with dinner to follow [Editor's note: please see page 20 of this issue for details].

Ticket prices are \$10 for branch members, \$20 for non-members. Reservations are required and available by calling Activities Director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 after 6:00PM. Please make checks payable to Branch 24. The deadline is Friday, November 20, 2015.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 38 – DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity FCSU Branch 38 will hold its annual meeting on Monday, November 9, 2015, at 3409 Eisenhower Drive, White Oak, PA 15131, at 7:00 pm. Discussions for Branch 38 business and upcoming FCSU business will take place. We urge all members to attend.

If anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

Logan Dillinger, Branch 38 President

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 31st at 1:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting. A buffet luncheon will follow. Election of officers will take place. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 29, 2016.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2015, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting Sunday, November 15, 2015, at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

On the agenda will be Officers' reports, and discussion of events for the upcoming year. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the BVM Society, Branch 75KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 10:00AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 17872. Agenda items include: the presentation of the fiscal year-end reports and financial statements; the submission of the auditors' reports; nomination and election of officers for the coming year will be held; and any additional branch business will be entertained. All interested members should make an effort to attend this semi-annual meeting.

Ronald A. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its Fall Meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2016.

Bernard Skovira, President

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

May they rest in the peace of the Lord.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 157 – CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Greg Harakal, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold its next meeting on November 11, 2015, at 5PM at Sharky's Café, Rt. 30 Latrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of branch officers for 2016 and a discussion of plans to finalize the Viliya to be held starting at 4PM on Dec 6, 2015 at Bishop Connare Center, Rt. 30, Greensburg, PA, 15601.

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 will be having our annual Election of Officers on December 3rd. This will take place in the banquet room at the regular monthly meeting which begin at 7:00pm. All beneficial members are encouraged to attend.

If anyone knows the names of players that were on the baseball team around World War II, please contact me @ 724-763-9229. Paul Klacha donated

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

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

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 213 – VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their next two (2) meetings Monday, November 16 and the annual election/by-law review meeting on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. I appeal to our younger members to become active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Come to our meetings. They are fun, informative and help to promote fraternal comradery.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

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

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 - MSGR. RURA DISTRICT

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

Mary Kapitan, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: November 2 – Slovak Music and Songs, December 7 – Show and Tell/Bring Your Slovak Memorabilia. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

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

** Slovak Heritage Day at the Pitt Cathedral of Learning will be held Sunday, November 1 from noon to 5 PM. Admission is free. Enjoy Slovak food, entertainment, and vendors.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

** FCSU information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2015, at 1PM. The meeting will be held at the Dairy Queen meeting room located on West Main Street. A social will follow the meeting.

All district branches are invited to attend.

Barbara Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - THE STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Stephen Furdek District 10 meeting will be held on November 8, 2015 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. The meeting will start at 2 PM.

This will be our last meeting for 2015 so we will be holding election for 2016 officers.

Please call Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or 330-773-4978 or email her at lhanko@neo.rr.com to let the Club know how many will be attending so we may plan and prepare refreshment.

We look forward to fellowshiping with all District #10 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

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

Reminders

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

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

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

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

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

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

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

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 20 PRINCE RASTISLAV , MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The District's Annual meeting will be held on November 8, 2015 at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall immediately following the eleven (11) o'clock Mass.

The Agenda will include the Social calendar for 2016 as well as election of officers. Branches 784 and 810 are urged to send representatives. A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2015, at 1:00 P.M. at St Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. Branch activities for the new year will be discussed and officers reports will be given. There will also be election of officers for the new year. All members are urged to attend

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Fraternally,

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 313 will hold its Semi Annual Meeting on Friday, November 6, 2015, at 11:30AM. The meeting will be held at the home of Curtis Johnson (16913 Creekside Tinley Park, IL, 60477). Curt is the recording secretary and treasurer of Branch 313.

Joseph M. Bugel, President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 11:00AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since a light brunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

On Thursday, November 12, 2015 St. Joseph's Branch 367 will hold a meeting at 5 PM at the Flamingo's Hollywood Steak House, 660 N. Gallatin Ave. Ext., Uniontown, PA 15401. All lodge members are welcome. For more information call Audrey Balazik, President 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367, will be meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 5 PM at Bogey's Restaurant @ Duck Hollow Golf Club, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA 15401. All members are welcome. Election of officers for the next year

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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and our branch 2016 projects will be discussed. If planning on attending please call Audrey Balazik 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek 724-569-1006 for reservations.

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

Sincerely, Kathryn Baranek Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 20, 2015, at 2:00PM at the home of President Michael P. Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave, Beaverdale, PA, 15921. On the agenda: general business and election of officers for the calendar year 2016.

Respectfully,

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382 K of Scranton, Pennsylvania will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2015. Officers and members will gather at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and representatives to District 17 events: the annual summer picnic, the semi-annual meeting, and the 125th anniversary celebration of the FCSU. Members will also discuss charitable donations and future branch activities. Information from the home office will be disseminated.

Election of officers for 2016 will be held.

Refreshments and socializing will follow the meeting. All members are urged to attend.

Current officers of Branch 382 K include: President Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr.; Vice President Elizabeth M. Slovenkai; Financial Secretary John J. Slovenkai, Sr.; Recording Secretary Michael J. Czankner; and Treasurer Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 401 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 29, 2015 at 1pm. Location will be the home of Patrick Froncek, 1223 Wysocki Ave., North Apollo, PA. Election of officers for 2016 will be on the agenda. All members are encouraged to attend. Any questions...please call 7246648216.

Patrick Froncek, Secretary

BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Irene Latsko, Secretary

BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

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

Jeanette Willis, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 14 2015. The meeting will be held at 1:00 pm at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma Ohio 44129. (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.) On the agenda will be Officer report, 2015 financial report and discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch. The election of branch officers will also take place.

All members are urged to attend. Refreshment will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

Sincerely,

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Mass will be held at St. Johns on Nov.15th. Meeting in the Lobby of the church at 9:45 for procession into the church for the 10AM Mass.

There will be a brunch at the Slovak "J" Club following the Mass for all Bonafide members.

We are still looking for groups to form a bowling league for the fall. Please support your club. Don't forget to come and bring your friends to our monthly Spaghetti Dinner on the first Wednesday of the month. Hope to see you all there.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary Sandie Klucar

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 KJ – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2015, at Harold's Inn, 2134 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA, at 2:00PM. Election of officers will be held. All members are welcome to attend. Please make reservations by calling (724) 375-2287.

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, Nov. 1 Polka Dance 3pm-6pm food available for purchase.

Sunday, Nov 22 Breakfast 8:30am-12noon all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

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

December 20TH meeting will be election of officers, please attend. The meeting is a 2:00PM.

Burritos every third Thursday of the month, to-go

only. Call ahead to order.

Every Tuesday and Thursday all drinks .50 off

Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm Sat 12noon-8pm Come down and enjoy yourself!

All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI 733-7525.

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Saturday, December 26, 2015 at 4:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Penn Hills, PA.

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

Sincerely,

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

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

Fraternally,

Rod Meloni, Vice President

BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

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

Sincerely,

Rod Meloni, Vice President

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

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

Thank you,

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

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

Respectfully,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michaels Branch 738 will be holding our next semi-annual meeting Tuesday, 12/8/15, at 6:30 pm at the VFW on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. This meeting include a review of our Branch Member Appreciation dinner and plans for future events. We will also be holding election of officers and review of the branch's financial status.

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

Pat Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2015 financial report, approval of the 2016 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of Branch Officers will also take place.

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

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

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

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

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

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

On Saturday, November 7th, there will be a dinner-dance in honor of the 125th Anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union. [Editor's note: see page 3 for details].

Join us on November 21st for a Saturday matinee at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for a showing of "A Playhouse Christmas Musical 2015." This musical revue features songs and dances, carols, humorous skits, and a live onstage orchestra. Lunch and dessert are included. Cost is \$80.00 non-members; \$60.00 members. Bus will leave Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ at 9:45 sharp.

To reserve your spot for any of these events, please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

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

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

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCHES 784 AND 810 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Both branches will hold their annual meeting on November 8, 2015, following the 11 o'clock Mass in the Sts Cyril & Methodius Parish hall – Montreal.

On the agenda: plans for the next season along with the election of officers for 2016.

A light lunch will be served.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday November 8, 2015. The meeting will take place at 1 pm. In the church

continued on page 17

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 16

basement of Holy Trinity R.C. Church, Egypt, PA. All members are invited to attend. Food and drink will be served following the meeting. God Bless.

Jerry Lloyd, Treasurer

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold the next meeting on Dec 20 at 12 noon at Rego's Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. All branch members are asked to attend. The meeting will be the annual Christmas party dinner meeting with the election of officers and a discussion of next year's events. Non-branch member's fee will be \$20 for the dinner meeting. Branch members are free. Please leave your name, number of reservations and phone number at 412-341-1577. Branch 853 wishes all a blessed holiday season.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Branch 853 wishes all our brothers and sisters in the FCSU a blessed Christmas Season and a prosperous New Year.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855, will hold a membership meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 2:00PM at the residence of Branch President Michael Kolesar. For more information please call 1-440-886-0206.

The Agenda includes a discussion of the upcoming Annual membership meeting.

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 22, 2015.

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, D.C AND AREA

Branch 856 will meet on Saturday November 14, 2015 at 10:30 AM at the Tyson-Pimmit Regional Library on 7584 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, Va. 22043. All members are urged to attend. On agenda will be discussion of the district meeting, the 50th anniversary of the Slovak Chapel. Election of officers for the coming year. For more information call Stephen Matula at 703-671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 - LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA, will be held on Wednesday December 9, 2015. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA.

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

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH PETROVICH BRANCH 5P - EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph Petrovich, age 85 of Chesteron, IN passed away Tuesday, September 8, 2015 in Valparaiso, IN. He was born on February 25, 1930 in Gary, IN to Joseph and Anna (Matusiak) Petrovich. He was married to Betty A. McCloud, who survives of Chesterton, IN; sons: Thomas (Donna) Dargewich, and Joseph J. (Kathryn) Petrovich; daughter, Diane (Brian) Porrett; grandchildren: Andrew J., Matthew J., and Joseph R. Petrovich, Julie Elkins, Danielle Frazee, Matt Keator; and great-grandchildren: Aidan, Liam, Dannah, Patrick, and Piper. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Janice Petrovich; grandson Joseph Michael Petrovich; and sisters: Doris Macey and Florence Crane. Joseph was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He enjoyed fishing with his son and grandsons and loved spending time with his family. He graduated from Tolleston High School in 1948. He was a Navy Veteran and a member of the American Legion Post 430 in Merrillville, IN and Post 170 in Chesterton, IN. He was Sgt. at Arms for the Chesterton Moose. Visitation was held on Saturday, September 12, 2015, from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday, September 13, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Edmonds & Evans Funeral Home, Chesterton, IN. Funeral services for Joseph were held on Sunday, September 13, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Michael Porter officiating. Cremation was handled by Heritage Crematory, Portage, IN.

- Submitted by Betty Petrovich

ELEANOR ELIZABETH CESAR BRANCH 633 - MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

Eleanor Elizabeth Cesar, age 97 of Durand, MI, passed away on Thursday, September 3, 2015.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Mary Queen of Angels in Swartz Creek, MI, on Saturday, September 5, 2015, at 11:00 AM with viewing one hour before Mass at the church. The Rev. Fr. Louis Ekka officiated with burial following at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Swartz Creek. The family received friends at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home in Durand on Friday 4-8 PM with a Rosary prayed at 7:00 PM.

Eleanor was born on January 5, 1918, in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Michael & Elizabeth (Margala) Kurpel. On October 16, 1937 she married Joseph Charles Cesar at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Owosso, MI. Eleanor was a homemaker, avid reader, cook and enjoyed gardening.

She is survived by her 8 children; Patricia Finney of Durand, Barbara Chapman of Durand, Joan McCollum of Ann Arbor, Joseph (Jane) Cesar of Vassar, Elaine Cesar of Swartz Creek, Betty (Mick) Thompson of Swartz Creek, Richard (Vicky) Cesar of Durand, Kim (Brad) Wooton of Dexter, 22 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph in 1991, infant son, 2 sisters, 1 brother, and great granddaughter, Emily, son-in-laws Bud Finney and Rod Chapman. The family would like to express their gratitude to the staff and care givers for the kindness shown to their mother at Stonegate Health Campus.

WILLIAM J. FAYTA BRANCH 706 - ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

William J. Fayta, age 90, passed away June 30, 2015. Beloved husband of Marion. Loving father of Marianne (Peter) Fayta-Borsay, Donna Rossman, James (Nicole) Fayta, and the late John Fayta. Cherished grandfather of Jacob Rossman, Mary Fayta, Jonathan Fayta, and Rachel Rossman. Dearest brother of Arthur (Barbara) Fayta and the late Stephen Fayta. Dear brother-in-law of the late John (Ethel) Bomba and the late Joseph (late Jean) Bomba. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. William was a veteran of the U.S. Army - WWII. Visitation was held Friday, July 3, 2015 from 9:30 a.m. until time of Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. at St. Michael the Archangel Church Schererville, IN. Private interment was at St. John - St. Joseph Cemetery, Hammond. Arrangements entrusted to Elmwood Funeral Chapel - St. John.

- Submitted by Marion Fayta

THOMAS POLLACK BRANCH 842 - WINNIPEG, CANADA

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved Husband, Father, Dido and Uncle, Thomas Pollack, on October 21,

2015, surrounded by the love of his family both near and far after a brief illness at Seven Oaks General Hospital.

Left to cherish Thomas' memory are his wife Mary, and his children Diane, Sharon (Al), Ernest (Tammy), Pauline (Fred), Paul (Evelyn), and Donna (Al). He will also be fondly remembered as Dido to his 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren as well as numerous family members in the Slovak Republic. He was predeceased by his parents Jan and Karolina Pollak, a brother, two sisters, and other close family members.

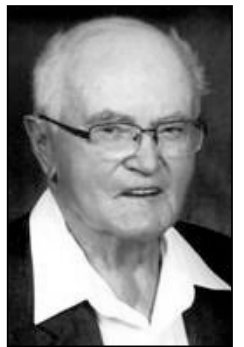
Thomas was born on October 3, 1919 in Dubovce, the Slovak Republic. He served in the Slovak Army for four years fighting against communism. He emigrated in 1949 eventually settling in Winnipeg where he met his future wife and started their family. Thomas was very active in the Slovak community helping to build the first Slovak church in Winnipeg, the Church of Visitation, and volunteered his time singing in the choir and helping with church activities. He was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union for over 60 years.

Dad was a very hard-working man and had a very strong work ethic. He was also very independent and if something needed to be done around the house he was quick to get it done.

We would like to thank the Doctors and Nurses at Seven Oaks General Hospital for their kind and compassionate care for Thomas.

A Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 10:00 am at St. John Cantius Church, Winnipeg, with a reception following.

- Submitted by Pauline Bauer



The 2015 Lúčina Slovak Gala...

An Evening in the Heart of Europe

Saturday, November 14, 2015

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

Featuring:

The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland

Lúčinka Children's Ensemble

Východná Slovak Dancers of Greater Toronto

DJ Denis

TICKETS: \$50/Person

\$360/Table of 8

\$40/Person under 21

Limited Seating! Only 250 seats available. Advanced sales only.

No tickets sold at the door.

Ticket includes:

Entertainment

Full-course dinner with 3 entrees & Dessert

Open bar

Followed by music from DJ Denis for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Raffles & gift baskets throughout the evening

Doors open: 6:00PM

Dinner: 6:30PM

Program: 7:30PM

For tickets call: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797

Christine Matis-Hearn, 440-655-8244

Jenna Allen, 440-439-4119



38th NJ Slovak Heritage Festival Held in September

The 38th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival was held on Sunday, September 26, 2015, in Holmdel, NJ, at the PNC Bank Arts Center.

An 11:00AM Mass opened the festivities. Numerous vendors offered Slovak items along with an assortment of delicious Slovak food and baked goods for sale. At the First Catholic Slovak Union table, festival attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the Society's mission, services, and products.

At 2:00PM, a cultural program began with a Parade of Fashions, featuring Slovak folk costumes, or kroj. Entertainment by the Pittsburgh Area Slovak (PAS) Folk Ensemble was featured on the main stage. The crowd also enjoyed music by FCSU's own Jurasi family from Branch 45, performing as the popular Slovak band Kontakty. An all-day soccer tournament took place as well.

Several members of the First Catholic Slovak Union were in attendance.



Representing the First Catholic Slovak Union at the 2015 Slovak Festival in NJ (L – R) Back row: Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents and Branch 89 Member; Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Jana Trnovcova; Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director and Branch 746 President; Joseph Minarovich, Branch 290 President; Adam Minarovich, Branch 290 Member; Stephen J. Minarovich, Branch 290 Secretary; Front Row: Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President and Branch 40 Member; Mrs. Idka Rajec, Branch 89 Member.



(L – R) Branch 746 Member Joan Tkach and her daughter Branch 746 Vice President Joanne Polt



Kontakty Band, comprised of the Jurasi family of Branch 45, performs for the crowds.

Slovak Sports Fall Roundup

Tichomir Miko

Kosice Marathon Largest Ever

The Kosice Peace Marathon which took place on October 4, 2015, was won by the pre-race favorite, twenty-nine year old Samuel Kosgei of Kenya in a near record time of 2 hours, 7 minutes and 7 seconds. Kenyan Collins Tanui, who set the KPM record time of 2:07:01 three years ago came in second, followed by Haile Tolossa of Ethiopia. It was the thirteenth time and seventh in a row that the men's KPM has been won by a Kenyan. Juraj Vitko was the top Slovak, finishing in eighth place overall and earning the title of Slovak Marathon Champion.



The Women's division was dominated by East Africans as well: Mulu Diru of Ethiopia finished first with a time of 2:35:33 h, followed by fellow Ethiopian Abebu Gelan and Dorcus Chesang of Kenya. Sylvia Sebastianová of Slovakia was fourth and declared Slovakia's Women's marathon champion.

Nature co-operated providing ideal marathon running weather: 14 C at the start and 16 C at the finish with no wind. The race started and finished in the Marathon Arena, Hlavna Street 1. Runners were directed round two laps of the town, along a route with no outstanding hills.

Over 11,000 runners from 49 countries took part in this year's 92nd edition of the second oldest marathon in the world, establishing a new participation record. The oldest marathon in the world is the Boston Marathon and for some years it was considered a herculean feat to win both the Boston and the Kosice Marathons. Only two runners ever managed to achieve the double. Swedish runner Gösta Leandersson won in Kosice in 1948 and triumphed in Boston in 1949. Aurele Vandenriessche of Belgium won the Boston Marathon in 1963 and 1964 before winning the Kosice Marathon in 1965. This year's Kosice marathon was dedicated in his honor.

Our Boys in the NHL



Training camps are over and the 2015 – 2016 NHL season is underway. Of the twenty-players invited to the pre-season training camps, only eight remained with the top teams to start the season. This is the lowest number of Slovak players in the NHL since Slovakia's independence in 1993. Although on the surface this number appears rather dismal, waiting in the wings

on AHL teams and junior squads is a coterie of players working hard to be noticed, hoping to be called up to replace injured players on the NHL teams. It is part of the cursus honorum – paying one's dues en route the big time. There is little doubt that players like Marko Dano will one day earn (hopefully soon) a permanent position on an NHL team. At the same time, the KHL and the German, Swiss, Finnish and Swedish leagues now offer lucrative salaries and have enticed Slovak players to their teams.

Slovak goalie Peter Budaj signed a one year two way contract with the Los Angeles Kings. A two-way contract stipulates that an athlete's salary is dependent upon the league in which the athlete is assigned to play. Budaj will be earning 575,000 dollars when playing for the Kings, and 100,000 when playing for their AHL affiliate. The thirty-three year old Banska Bystrica native will start the season in net for the Reign in Ontario, California. In his NHL career so far, Budaj has played for Montreal, Colorado, and Winnipeg.

Connor McDavid, touted as the next Wayne Gretzky and selected first overall by the Edmonton Oilers in June's NHL entry draft scored his first NHL goal on Tuesday, October 13th in Dallas. Slovak defenseman Andrej Sekera took the shot from the point and McDavid, sliding over to the middle from the left side, tipped the puck past goalie Kari Lehtonen. The 18 year old phenomenon now needs just 893 goals to tie Wayne Gretzky's all-time record.

Team	Pos	
Marian Hossa	CHI	R
Marián Gáborík	LA	R
Zdeno Chara	BOS	D
Tomáš Tatar	DET	L
Tomáš Jurčo	DET	R
Paul Stastny *	STL	C
Andrej Sekera	EDM	D
Martin Marinčin	TOR	D
Jaroslav Halak	NYI	G

*Canadian-born, USA citizen of Slovak origin

Sagan World Cycling Champ

He finished second and third several times at this year's Tour de France but did not win a single stage. At the Vuelta a Espana (Tour of Spain), he was hit by a race vehicle and forced to withdraw from the event. But he refused to succumb to such adversity and on Sunday, September 27 Slovak elite cyclist Peter Sagan won the UCI World Road Cycling Championships in Richmond, Virginia in formidable fashion.

The Zilina native cleverly timed his final assault and outsmarted his competitors. Throughout most of the race in and around the streets of Richmond, Sagan was not even mentioned by the race commentators, biding his time anony-



mously in the middle of the pack. He is a sprinter by nature and like other world class sprinters does not do well on climbs. Since the race was to finish in a long uphill climb, the 25 year old Slovak decided to break from the pack almost two miles before the finish, a tactic that would normally be considered suicidal. But his tactic worked as he built up a large gap between himself and the rest of the pack. The fastest racers gained significantly on him in the last phase but the gap was too great and Sagan crossed the finish line a full three seconds ahead of his closest rival.

Sagan's victory is also our victory. When Sagan wins, we all win. Our self-esteem receives a boost whenever a Slovak athlete excels on the world stage; his or her victory confirms not that we are better but that we are as capable as any other nation on Earth, big or small. With Sagan's capture of the World Championship Title, Slovakia will be mentioned on newscasts and in newspapers and magazines throughout the world, earning positive publicity.

Sagan himself is an exceptional representative for his country. The 25 year old from Zilina is known for his humour and wit and though not exactly shy, he is modest and often attributes his successes to the work of his teammates. In interviews following his ascension to World Champion, Sagan referred to the unrest in Europe and elsewhere, stating that he hoped the unifying nature of sport could help build bridges. "I think it is big problem with Europe and all this stuff that is happening. I want to just say this was very big motivation for me. The problems in the world we have to change. I think that in the next years it can all be different. I think this competition and all the sport unites people. And we athletes are motivation for the people."

One does not have to be a sports fan to enjoy Sagan's amazing victory. When Sagan wins, we all benefit, we all win.

Slovakia Advances to European Cup Finals

On Monday, October 12, 2015, Team Slovakia took to the field in Luxembourg and defeated the host alpine nation 4 – 2. The victory assured Slovakia a berth at the 2016 European Championships which will be held in France in 2016.



For the Slovaks it was do or die – a win would give them direct entry into the Euro Cup finals, a loss would force them to enter another qualifying tournament or even completely eliminate them should Ukraine beat Spain. The Slovaks wasted no time, scoring three goals in the first half. First Marek Hamšík scored at the 24 minute mark, quickly followed by Adam Nemec in the 29th and Robert Mak in the 30th. But the joy of Slovak fans turned to anxiety and fear as the

determined home team came back with two goals of their own in the second half and succeeded in stymieing the Slovak offense. In extended injury time, Captain Hamšík allayed all fears by scoring again to ensure the Slovak victory.

"Congratulations to the lads. The first half saw sensational soccer; we played the kind of game that inspires the team to produce more. After achieving our lead we made a few mistakes in the second half and our opponent capitalized on them. They are a team of warriors who do not give up under any conditions. But the most important thing is the victory which we definitely earned. I never doubted for a second about the outcome. This [Slovak] team has character and quality and I was convinced that we would win," commented Ján Kozák, the coach of Team Slovakia after the game.

At the end of the qualifying round, Slovakia finished in second place in Group C behind defending European Champions Spain. Ukraine finished third, followed by Belarus, Luxembourg, and Macedonia. It is the first time since independence in 1993 that Slovakia has qualified for the European Football Championships. Slovakia won the 1976 Euro Cup as part of Czechoslovakia.

The Euro Cup is the second most prestigious soccer tournament after the FIFA World Cup. It is held every four years, two years apart from the quadrennial World Cup.

17th Printing of Slavic Cookbook Available



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 17th printing, having sold nearly 16,000 copies, is available for sale. This cookbook was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover. The book includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes,

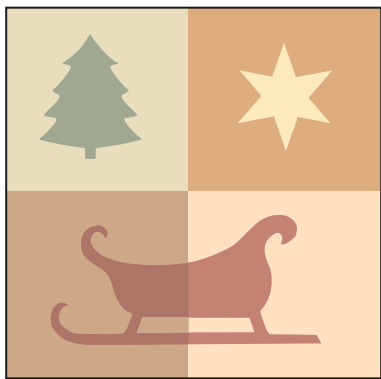
suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling (\$17.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$25.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost.

To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call from 9AM – 3PM at (724) 438-6027 for more information. You may contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Annual Slovak Christmas Meal (Vilija) at Benedictine



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

The date this year is Sunday, December 6, 2015. Beginning the event, noon Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church, a short walk on the St. Andrew Abbey grounds from the High School. The meal fol-

lows immediately after.

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

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

For more information, phone 216 721-5300, ext. 100, Monday – Friday, 8am until 3:30pm. Along with the Mass and meal, there is always traditional music and a performance; this year features the Lúčina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. Exhibits and tables with sale items are also there. The abbey monks, the Slovak Radio Club members, and staff at the Slovak Institute Library all work together in keeping this tradition going.

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

- Submitted by Joe Hornack, Branch 1 Member

News From Slovakia

Kiska: Ludovit Stur Is Symbol of National Togetherness

Uhrovec, October 24 (TASR) - Ludovit Stur (1815-56) is a symbol of national togetherness, as he is the one who formulated the Slovak national ideology, said President Andrej Kiska in his speech at the nationwide commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Stur's birth in his birthplace, the village of Uhrovec (Trencin region) on this date.

"I believe that today, when the national idea is brought into effect by our own statehood, when the Slovak statehood has strong roots and strong guarantees and when we are connecting our future with the European future, we can return to something very significant in the person of Ludovit Stur... to his personal dedication, commitment and the decision to uplift his community, his nation," said Kiska.

According to Kiska, Stur managed to inspire people for the national idea. "Without Stur, without his founding work, we cannot imagine our history and our present. I think that this is a powerful message of Ludovit Stur for Slovakia at every moment in time and especially for our future," said Kiska.

Nitra Bishop Emeritus, Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec, 91, Passes away

Bratislava, October 24 (TASR) - Bishop Emeritus of Nitra and Cardinal Jan Chryzostom Korec passed away in Nitra at 1.30 p.m. on this date at the age of 91, the Slovak Bishops Conference (KBS) informed TASR on the same day.

Korec was the first Slovak representative to have had the honor of becoming a member of the College of Cardinals.

Korec was consecrated as a priest in secret in 1950 [during communism], and a year later he was secretly consecrated as a bishop. He had a blue-collar job until 1960 but continued to carry out his religious duties clandestinely.

The communist regime later sentenced him to 12 years in prison for treason because of his religious activities. Following his release he worked as a lift repairman. After the Velvet Revolution, which brought the downfall of the communist regime in 1989, he became rector of the Priests Seminary in Bratislava.

He was appointed the bishop of Nitra diocese by Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) on February 6, 1990, shortly after the revolution. Korec was appointed cardinal by the same Pope on June 28, 1991.

He was the head of the Nitra diocese until 2005. As Bishop Emeritus, Korec lived in Nitra until his death.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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



Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities, Inc.

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

CHRISTMAS SEASON CELEBRATION

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

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

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

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

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

Live Holiday Music by members of the Dolina/Harmonia Ensembles

Plus traditional American & Eastern European Christmas carol sing-along

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

Note: Capacity is limited to 100.

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

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

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

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

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



Správy zo Slovenska

Slováci už budú môcť cestovať za turistikou do Indonézie bez víz

Slováci si už pred cestou za turistikou do Indonézie nebudú musieť vybavovať víza. Vyplýva to zo zverejnených správ indonézskeho úradu vlády. Bezvízový styk by mal platiť na maximálne 30-dňové pobyty pri vstupe cez vybrané hraničné priechody a vstupy na deviatich medzinárodných letiskách a prístavoch. Slovenským občanom cestujúcim do Indonézie však naďalej odporúča overiť si podmienky vstupu do krajiny na veľvyslanectve Indonézie v Bratislave. Slovensko sa aktívne snažilo o dosiahnutie bezvízového styku na rôznych úrovniach – cez aktivity MZV, veľvyslanectva SR v Jakarte, listom prezidenta Andreja Kisku a tiež v kontaktoch ministra zahraničných vecí Miroslava Lajčáka.

Bez práce viac ako rok. Komisia ponúka riešenie.

Európska komisia bije na poplach a ponúka členským krajinám recept, ako sa popasovať s dlhodobou nezamestnanosťou. V septembri vydala usmernenie, v ktorom štátom navrhuje podporiť registráciu dlhodobo nezamestnaných na úradoch práce. Odporúča, aby úrad každý prípad individuálne posúdil, znamená to, že by sa mali zistiť potreby a pracovný potenciál zaregistrovanej osoby najneskôr pred koncom 18. mesiaca nezamestnanosti. Do 18 mesiacov by mala byť registrovanému ponúknutá dohoda o pracovnej integrácii s individuálnym plánom, pre jeho návrat do práce. „Dlhodobá nezamestnanosť je jednou z najväčších výziev, ktoré zapríčinila hospodárska kríza v Európe“, skonštatovala európska komisárka pre zamestnanosť a sociálne záležitosti, zručnosti a sociálnu mobilitu Marianne Thyssenová. Michal Páleník z Inštitútu zamestnanosti označil odporúčanie komisie len za akýsi „povinný základ“, ktorý sa v slovenských podmienkach už dlhšie uplatňuje, no uspokojivé výsledky neprináša.

Prečo šikovní mladí ľudia nechcú robiť učiteľov

„Prečo šikovní mladí ľudia nechcú robiť učiteľov“, článok rozoberá príčiny nezájmu mladých ľudí o učiteľské povolanie. Nie sú to len nízke platy, ale aj byrokracia a zlé spoločenské postavenie. Denníku o problémoch hovorila učiteľka Milada zo základnej školy v Čadci. Na platoch jej prekáža nielen to, že sú nízke, ale aj to, že príplatky nezávisia od výkonu, ale často od sympatií s riaditeľom či vedením školy. Oslovená učiteľka pre denník okrem iného povedala: „Tento školský rok máme ešte viac papierovačiek, aj keď sľúbili menej“. K otázke zlého spoločenského postavenia učiteľa Milada dodala: „Zažívame neúctu zo strany rodičov aj okolia. Kedysi si rodičia učiteľov viac vážili...“.

Recept pre textilky: ušit' a vyviezť

Roboty majú stále dosť, šičky neprepúšťajú, problém je pre nich skôr nájsť ďalšie a so zvýšenou minimálnou mzdou si ťažkú hlavu nerobia. Príbeh firmy zo Záhoria, ktorá sa špecializuje na výrobu pánskych košiel, príliš nezapadá do reality odevného sektora na Slovensku. Napriek tomu však dokáže ďalej rásť. „Darí sa nám aj preto, že vyrábame pre švajčiarsky trh a ponúkame im servis“, vysvetľuje konateľka spoločnosti Marc Thombard Slovakia Oľga Hláveková. Firma momentálne zamestnáva 70 ľudí a problém v zvyšovaní minimálnej mzdy nevidí, pretože podľa slov konateľky firmy ju na výplatných páskach o dosť prekračujú. Práve orientácia na rôzne trhy môže fabrikám pomôcť, pretože takto skôr dokážu vybalansovať výkyvy v sektore.

B. BYSTRICA: Chce byť Európskym mestom športu, predstavila svoje nové logo

Mesto pod Urpínom nedávno oficiálne predstavilo svoje logo Európske mesto športu 2017, ktorým sa počas kandidatúry a po možnom získaní tohto prestížneho titulu bude prezentovať. Samospráva začne logo intenzívne používať od budúceho roka. Ako poznamenala, je dôležité, aby sa jeho vizuál a filozofia dostali do povedomia všetkých Banskobystričanov. Logo je symbolikou sily, štadióna, bežeckej dráhy a štyroch ročných období, čo magistrát nedávno dokumentoval na pracovnom stretnutí zástupcov športových klubov i združení pôsobiacich v Banskej Bystrici, ako aj organizátorov športových podujatí. Verejná súťaž o logo s najpútavejšou myšlienkou prebiehala počas septembra. Odborná porota vybrala v dvojkolovom hlasovaní zo 44 súťažných návrhov to najoriginálnejšie.

„Stop biznisu v športe. Idú zmluvy natvrdo“

Kategória športovec - živnostník má skončiť. Zmenu prináša nový zákon o športe, ktorý hovorí jasne: každý profesionálny športovec bude plnohodnotným zamestnancom. Takýmto spôsobom by malo postupne zo živnostenského registra zmiznúť asi dvetisíc ľudí. Očakáva to aspoň predkladateľ zákona - ministerstvo školstva. Idú zmluvy natvrdo“. Športovým klubom však stúpnu náklady. Po navrhovanom trojročnom prechodnom období budú musieť tímy za športovcov platiť rovnaké odvody, ako ostatní zamestnávateľia. „Vtedy však začne platiť aj nová sponzorská zmluva, ktorá by mala klubom pomôcť nastaviť výšky kontraktov, aby ju dokázali udržať“, uviedol prokurátor Peter Sepeši.

Čoskoro ukončia rekonštrukciu jazdiarne

V Nových Zámkoch vyrastie z bývalej ruskej vojenskej jazdiarne kongresové centrum. Prví návštevníci môžu zariadenie navštíviť už v novembri. Samospráva okresného mesta dlhé roky hľadala investora, ktorý by rešpektoval aj pamiatkový charakter objektu. Mestu sa podarilo získať z fondov Európskej únie 2,4 miliónov dotáciu. Novozvolený poslanecký zbor v decembri rokoval o obnove vojenského objektu historického významu. Dĺžka haly jazdiarne má 68 metrov a je 25 metrov široká. Rekonštrukciu zrealizovala podľa plánov Stanislava Teplana stavebná firma Molda. Pôvodná strešná konštrukcia sa zachovala a je vybavená moderným osvetlením.

Sieť dostala americké školenie o kampani

Vincent Harris je poradca amerických republikánskych politikov, do kresla pomohol napríklad texaskému senátorovi Tedovi Cruzovi. Najnovšie pôsobí ako hlavný digitálny stratég prezidentského kandidáta Randa Paula. O politickom marketingu na internete a sociálnych sieťach neprednáša len svojim kolegom z Paulovho volebného štábu, ale aj neamerickým pravícovými stranám. Izraelskému Likudu, rakúskej Ludovej strane, litovskému Vlasteneckému zväzu a najnovšie už aj slovenskej strane Sieť. Harris navštívil Bratislavu v októbri a podľa vlastných slov v centrálne strany zorganizoval prednášku zameranú na „digitálne médiá, prácu s databázami a úspech vo voľbách prostredníctvom online kampani“. Prochádzkova strana na otázku, či mienia zahraničných poradcov zapojiť do svojej kampane intenzívnejšie, odpovedať nechcela.

Značka Slovensko padá

Britská konzultačná spoločnosť Brand Finance v tomto roku značku Slovenska ocenila na 59 mld. USD. V roku 2014 to bolo 65 mld. USD. Slovensko skončilo na 60. mieste vo svete (v roku 2014 obsadilo 57. miesto). Podľa spoločnosti značka štátu podporuje príviv investícií, zvyšuje export krajiny a láka turistov. Najhodnotnejšia je značka USA. Brand Finance ju ocenila na 19,703 bilióna dolárov. Zo susedov Slovenska je najhodnotnejšia značka Poľska, ktorá rovnako ako vlani zostala na 20. mieste.

Správy čerpané z TASR a slovenských časopisov

Putovanie po regiónoch Slovenska

(Pokračovanie)



Komárno nádvorie Európy.

Podunajsko

Región sa nachádza v Podunajskej nížine s viacerými prírodnými rezerváciami, lužnými lesmi, ostrovom kormoránov a orliaka morského. Šúrsky les (330 ha), ktorý je lokalitou dropa veľkého, patrí medzi najväčšie jelšové barinatio-slatinové lesy v strednej Európe.

Centrom regiónu je starobylé Komárno na sútoku Váhu s Dunajom na slovensko-maďarských hraniciach, obchodné stredisko a významný dunajský prístav. Jeho najdôležitejším priemyselným podnikom sú Slovenské lodenice z r. 1899.

Z historických pamätihodností mesta je obzvlášť zaujímavá stará pevnosť, ktorá sa stala voči výbojným nájzdom Turkov nedobytnou prekážkou. Celé mesto je ohraničené hradbami a valmi.

No Komárno je zaujímavé a prítazlivé aj námestím zvaným Nádvorie Európy, na ktorom sa nachádza vyše 40 budov, ktoré predstavujú architektúru takmer všetkých európskych štátov. Môžeme tam obdivovať budovy z Írska, Walesu, Islandu, Vatikánu, Talianska ..., ako aj sochy Panny Márie, Márie Terézie, Mateja Korvína ...

V Podunajskom múzeu jeho návštevníkov iste zaujmú vzácne pamiatky z obdobia Rimanov v tejto oblasti. Mesto je rodiskom slávneho hudobného skladateľa Franca Lehára a spisovateľa Mórica Jokaia. Pôsobil tu a v r. 1813 zomrel aj prvý kodifikátor slovenčiny Anton Bernolák.

Neďaleká Dunajská Streda sa po odkrytí minerálnych vôd z hĺbky 2500 m (až 92°C), stáva rekreačným a liečebno-kúpeľným mestom. Je aj centrom poľnohospodárskej oblasti a potravinárskeho priemyslu na Žitnom ostrove.

Obec Podhájska je široko-dáľko známa termálnymi prameňmi, ktoré vytvorili výborné podmienky pre liečebno-rekreačné pobyty nielen občanov zo Slovenska, ale aj zo zahraničia.

Nové Zámky, historické mesto na rieke Nitra, boli počas II. sv. vojny pri leteckých náletoch (4000 mrtvých) takmer na dve tretiny zničené. V r. 1545-1580 tu postavili mohutnú hviezdicovú vojenskú pevnosť, ktorú Turci v r. 1663 dobyli a 23 rokov ju mali v rukách. Stváruje ju aj erb mesta. Na námestí je pozoruhodný neskorogotický Kostol sv. križa zo 14. storočia s vežou vysokou 60 m.

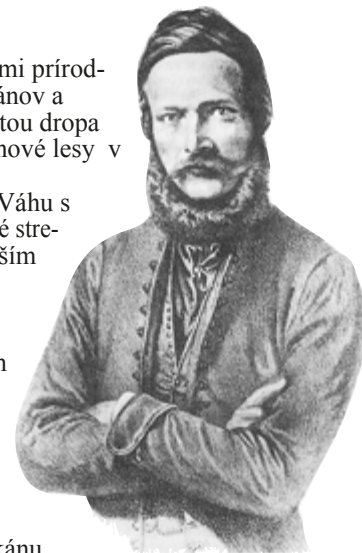
Pre turistov je zaujímavý aj Šamorín, mesto na Dunaji, ktoré bolo často terčom tureckých nájzdov a v r. 1683 ho vyplienili. Je známe aj stredovekými súdmi so ženami podozrievanými z bosoráctva, ktoré hádzali do Dunaja. Tie, ktorým sa z neho podarilo vyplávať, zhoreli v plameňoch ako dôkaz spojenectva s diablom.

Poblíž nachádzajúce sa Hurbanovo je z historickej stránky známe archeologickými vykopávkami a nálezmi od doby kamennej až po 13. storočie. Už od r. 1870 je tam meteorologická stanica. Mesto je známe aj výrobou populárneho piva značky Zlatý bažant.

Pre historikov sú pozoruhodné aj Šurany, ktoré sa už v 13. st. stali hlavným stanom kočovných kumánskych kmeňov. Mesto viackrát dobyli a spustošili Turci. Po ich vytlačení usadzovali sa tam osadníci moravského pomedzia. V r. 1835 vznikol tam prvý valcový mlyn v Uhorsku a v r. 1863 veľký vodný mlyn. V r. 1725 sa však Turci zmocnili aj hradu zo 14. storočia a úplne ho zničili.

Zvyškami pevnosti Castella Gelemantia (175 x 176 m) so 4 bránami a 20 vežami z 2. storočia je známa a turistami často navštevovaná aj neďaleká obec Iža.

Nemali by sme obísť ani starobylú vinohradnícku Modru, kam sa po revolučných rokoch 1848-49 uchýlil k svojmu bratovi významný národovec Ľudovít Štúr, ktorý tam pri tragickej nehode (poľovačke) zomrel. Mestečko je preslávené nielen keramikou a majolikou, ale aj kvalitným vínom značky Zámocké.



Národovec Ľ. Štúr.



Kostol Povýšenia sv. Križa v N. Zámokoch.



Komárno-pevnosť.



Modra majolika.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Gala večera v Msgr. Komar Hall, Linden New Jersey

Gala večera Okresu č. 1 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty z príležitosti 125. výročia jej založenia sa bude konať v **sobotu 7. novembra 2015**. Oslavy začnú slávnostnou svätou omšou o 4:00 hodine poobede v Holy Family Church, 210 Monroe St., Linden, New Jersey. Za tým o 5:00 hodine poobede bude pokračovať Koktail, večera, tanec, otvorený bar a tanec do 1:00 hodiny ráno v Msgr. Komar Hall, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, New Jersey. Gala večeru Okresu 1 pripravuje Spolok č. 746 v spolupráci Okresov číslo 1., 4., a 16. IKSJ. O tanečnú zábavu sa postará hudobná skupina Express. Rezervácia vstupeniek je možná do 28. októbra 2015 na tel. číslo: Anna Balas (908-925-7430) alebo Anna Korcak (201-670-8162). Cena vstupeniek je \$30.00 pre členov IKSJ a \$50.00 pre hostí. Šeky láskave zasielajte na adresu: First Catholic Slovak Union, c/o Anna Balas, 12 Rosewood Terrace, Linden, NJ 07036.

Kultúrne podujatie ľudového súboru Lúčina

Slovenský folklórny súbor Lúčina usporiada kultúrne podujatie v **sobotu 14. novembra 2015** v Holy Spirit Party Center na adrese 5500 West 54th Street v Parma, OH. O 6.30 hod. bude podávaná večera a o 7.30 hod. začne kultúrny program, po ktorom bude tanečná zábava. V kultúrnom programe sa predstavia ľudové súbory Lúčina a detský súbor Lúčinka a Východná Slovak Dancers z Kanady. Cena vstupeniek je \$50.00 za osobu alebo \$360.00 za stôl pre osem ľudí. Vstupné pre mládež do 21 rokov je \$40.00. Rezervácie si záujemcovia musia urobiť vopred. Pri vstupe lístky na predaj nebudú. Rezervácie vstupeniek: Tom Ivanec, tel. č. 440-668-7797, Christine Mat-Hearn, tel. č. 440-655-8244 a Jenna Allen, tel. č. 440-439-4119.

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

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

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v **nedeľu 22. novembra 2015** o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi. Ďakujem s pozdravom

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Mikulášske odpolednie s Mikulášskou nádielkou v NYC

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



Štedrovečerná večera Vigília v NYC

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



Ľudovít Štúr je symbolom národnej súdržnosti

Pokračovanie zo str. 24.

Ľudovít Štúr je symbolom národnej súdržnosti, pretože to bol on, kto sformuloval slovenskú národnú ideológiu. "Narodil sa a žil, aby prekročil hranice dobového národného buditeľstva a dal našim novodobým dejinám nielen zakladateľský impulz, ale najmä vyšší zmysel perspektívy, teda budúcnosti," uviedol 24. októbra vo svojom príhovore prezident SR Andrej Kiska počas celonárodnej spomienky k 200. výročiu narodenia Ľudovíta Štúra v Uhrovci.

"Nazdávam sa, že dnes, keď sa národná idea realizuje cez vlastnú štátnosť, keď má slovenská štátnosť silné korene aj silné záruky a keď našu budúcnosť spájame s európskou budúcnosťou, môžeme sa vrátiť k čomuś veľmi podstatnému v osobe Ľudovíta Štúra, mimoriadneho vzdelanca a prvého významného slovenského politika - k jeho osobnému zariadeniu, jeho odhodlaniu a jeho rozhodnutiu povzniesť svoje spoločenstvo, svoj národ," zdôraznil ďalej Kiska.

Ľudovít Štúr podľa jeho slov dokázal pre národnú myšlienku nadchnúť ľudí, dať im perspektívu, ktorú potom reálnym obsahom naplňali jeho žiaci a pokračovatelia. "Bez Štúra, bez jeho zakladateľského diela si preto naše dejiny ani našu prítomnosť nevieme predstaviť. Myslím si, že toto je veľký odkaz Ľudovíta Štúra pre Slovensko v ktoromkoľvek čase a pre našu budúcnosť predovšetkým," dodal.

TASR

Výstava slovenského fotografa Martina Kállaya v New Yorku



V New Yorku sa vo štvrtok **15. októbra 2015** uskutočnila vernisáž výstavy slovenského fotografa Martina Kállaya „New York, Silent Loneliness in the Middle of Chaos“. Tento mimoriadne vydarený večer bol organizovaný v spolupráci s Generálnym konzulátom SR v New Yorku a s Bohemian Benevolent Literary Association (BBLA). Diela boli vystavené v galérii BBLA do 30. októbra 2015. V rovnakom čase bola časť výstavy umiestnená na generálnom konzuláte SR v New Yorku a bolo ju možné vidieť počas úradných hodín. MZV SR

Štefan Koľada 95-ročný

Z milosti Božej a v dobrom zdraví sa môj otecko, Štefan Koľada dožíva svojich 95. narodenín. Oslávenec sa narodil 11. septembra 1920 v Chicagu, IL. Keď mal 1 rok rodičia sa rozhodli presťahovať na Slovensko do mestečka Námestovo na severnej Orave. Tam vychodil 8-ročnú ľudovú školu a tiež mešťanku.

V roku 1938 sa vrátil do rodnej Ameriky do Chicaga, IL. Ako mládenca ho zastihol osud druhej svetovej vojny. Roku 1944 si obliekol uniformu strýka Sama a po „basic training“ ho poslali do Európy kde slúžil na fronte vo Francii. Neskoršie bol zajatý a strávil 6 mesiacov v Nemecku ako vojenský zajatec „prisoner of war“. Po ukončení vojny sa šťastne vrátil k svojmu rodnému krbu aby pokračoval v započatej práci. Štefan pracoval ako „linotype operator“ u Cuneo Press v Chicagu. V roku 1954 sa presťahoval s rodinou do Kalifornie, kde vlastnil 30 rokov tlačiareň Community Press.

Jeho manželka ho predišla na večnosť v roku 1987. Z toho manželstva mali 7 detí: 5 dievčat a 2 chlapcov.

Štefan žije na odpočinku v Tujangu v Kalifornii s druhou manželkou Ritou. Má jedného brata Romana, ktorý žije v Námestove na Slovensku. V roku 1947 navštívil ešte raz našu Oravu, rodičov, brata a sestru.

Štefan je od roku 1939 členom Spolku číslo 780 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty (pred tým to bolo č. 673 IKSJ).

Barbara, dcéra



Štefan Koľada

Zomrel nitriansky emeritný biskup, kardinál Ján Chryzostom Korec

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Dňa 8. júla 1969 ho prijal na osobitnej audiencii pápež Pavol VI., ktorý na údiv mnohých odovzdal „tajnému“ biskupovi Korcovi svoje biskupské insígnie. Po návrate do vlasti však nedostal súhlas zo strany štátu k pastorácii, a preto pokračoval v práci ako robotník, naposledy ako opravár výtahov v Petržalke. I v tejto situácii nezostal nečinný. Kontakt s mladými ľuďmi, apoštolát v rôznej forme, ale i bohatá literárna činnosť mu vyplnili každú voľnú chvíľu. Vo svojich dielach sa javí ako teológ, filozof, historik, etik a sociológ. V širokej palete jeho diel sa objavujú práce ako aktuálne diskusie s prírodnými vedami, ktoré často prekračujú svoju vedeckú kompetenciu a prispievajú k dezinformácii v základných životných otázkach. Ako veľký znalec ľudskej duše sa zamýšľa nad pôvodom človeka a jeho životnou cestou. Súčasne tvorí aktuálne práce, týkajúce sa problémov náboženského života a Katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku. V množstve asi šesťdesiatich diel pomerne veľkého rozsahu má popredné miesto duchovná literatúra.

Zmena spoločenského systému po roku 1989 zasiahla aj do jeho života. Dňa 7. januára 1990 sa stal rektorom Kňazského seminára sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Bratislave. Významným okamihom jeho života sa stal 6. február 1990, keď na výslovnú žiadosť Svätého Otca Jána Pavla II. bol menovaný za nitrianskeho diecézneho biskupa. Kánonicky správu diecézy prevzal 22. februára 1990 a požehnané ju spravoval do 16. júla 2005. Dňa 28. júna 1991 ho v konzistóriu ustanovil pápež Ján Pavol II. za kardinála. Menovanie bolo ohlásené na všeobecnej audiencii 29. mája 1991. Ján Chryzostom kardinál Korec bol prvým predstaviteľom slovenskej cirkevnej provincie, ktorému sa dostalo vďaka osobným kvalitám takej cti, že sa stal členom kardinálskeho kolégia. Ako emeritný biskup býval až do svojho úmrtia v Nitre.

TKKBS

Slovenská národná knižnica ukončila národný projekt Digitálna knižnica a digitálny archív

Digitalizácia je prospešný a progresívny krok, pretože umožňuje ochrániť naše kultúrne dedičstvo, najmä v prípade knižničných a textových dokumentov. Minister kultúry Marek Maďarič to nedávno povedal pri príležitosti ukončenia národného projektu Digitálna knižnica a digitálny archív (DIKDA) v priestoroch novovybudovaného Konzervačného a digitalizačného centra Slovenskej národnej knižnice (SNK) vo Vrútkach.



FOTO TASR - Erika Ďurčová

Na snímke pracovisko digitalizácie 16. októbra 2015.

Generálna riaditeľka SNK Katarína Krištofová informovala, že projekt DIKDA trval viac ako tri roky a zdigitalizovaných bolo viac ako 2,6 milióna objektov. „Prostredníctvom portálu slovakiana.sk bude k dispozícii viac ako 95 percent zdigitalizovaných objektov a 100 percent v priestoroch digitálnej knižnice v SNK. Vecne sa projekt skončil 30. septembra, jeho trvalá udržateľnosť však je minimálne do roku 2020. Hlavnými cieľmi bola digitalizácia slovacikálnych dokumentov SNK a archívnych dokumentov partnera projektu Slovenského národného archívu (SNA). Ako aj vybudovanie funkčnej infraštruktúry pre digitalizačné a konzervačné centrum SNK,“ povedala Krištofová.

Minister kultúry zdôraznil, že digitalizácia umožní prístup ku kultúrnemu dedičstvu širokej verejnosti, ktorá dnes vo väčšine používa rôzne digitálne nástroje. „Je to možno zásadná až revolučná zmena, ktorou sa Slovensko dostáva veľmi dopredu. Aj v porovnaní so susednými štátmi alebo s inými porovnateľnými európskymi štátmi sme veľmi vpred. V Českej republike sa aj na základe našich skúseností len teraz začínajú zaoberať takouto masovou digitalizáciou. Veľa sa podarilo, ale keďže textové dokumenty pribúdajú a máme ešte veľa nezdigitalizovaných objektov, obrazov, sôch, pamiatok, tak je to proces trvalý. A je v záujme všetkých, aby sa v tom pokračovalo ďalšie roky,“ zdôraznil minister kultúry.

V zrekonštruovanej budove Konzervačného a digitalizačného centra SNK sa podľa generálnej riaditeľky vybudovali špičково vybavené centrá na digitalizáciu, konzervovanie a reštaurovanie fyzických dokumentov. „V budove sú najmodernejšie pracoviská na čistenie, sterilizáciu, odkysľovanie a reštaurovanie dokumentov, ktoré priamo súvisia s digitalizáciou. Taktiež mikrobiologické laboratória a laboratória papiera, vybavené najmodernejšími chemickými prístrojmi. Máme 22 profesionálnych manuálnych, polo- i plnoautomatických skenerov, ktoré denne zoskenujú niekoľko desiatok tisíc strán. Naskenované obrázky dokumentov prechádzajú softvérovým spracovaním, tzv. postprocessingom, v rámci ktorého dochádza k potrebným úpravám obrazu či optickému rozpoznávaniu textu, ktoré je nevyhnutnosťou pre tzv. plnotextové vyhľadávanie, ktoré umožňuje nájsť konkrétne slovo či výraz v digitalizovanom texte,“ vysvetlila Krištofová.

Od roku 2013 sa podľa nej digitalizovalo v dvojnásobnej prevádzke, v roku 2015 dokonca čiastočne v troch zmenách. „Počas projektu sme vytvorili 172 nových pracovných miest, pričom na projekte pracovalo 211 z celkovo takmer 400 zamestnancov SNK. Po skončení projektu u nás ostalo na trvalo udržateľných pozíciách pracovať 72 zamestnancov, jedno trvalo udržateľné pracovné miesto zostalo zachované v SNA. V intenzívnej digitalizácii nášho písomného dedičstva budeme pokračovať ďalších minimálne päť rokov,“ uzatvorila Krištofová s tým, že konečným cieľom knižnice je zdigitalizovať celý slovacikálny fond.

TASR

Homília biskupa Vokála pri začatí zhromaždenia Biskupskej synody

Pri začatí zhromaždenia Biskupskej synody 23. októbra v Ríme predniesol homíliu kráľovohradecký biskup Jan Vokál. Zasadnutie bolo venované rodine. V homílii komentoval slová proroka Ámoa: „Lebo, hľa, on je tvorca hôr a stvoriteľ vetra, oznamuje človeku, čo má na mysli, pôsobí úsvit i súmrak, šliape po posvätných návršiach zeme. Jeho meno je Pán, Boh zástupov.“ V plnom znení prinášame text homílie, ktorý podľa priamych účastníkov vzbudil medzi novinármi veľký ohlas:

„Čas od času sa potrebujeme zastaviť, pozdvihnúť oči k nebu a pripomenúť si, že nie sme pánni sveta a života. Potrebujeme sa pozrieť na nebo, hory, more; cítiť silu vetra, hlas veľkých vôd... Ako to rád robil svätý Ján Pavol II., ktorého liturgická spomienka pripadá práve na včerašok. Potrebujeme sa cítiť malými - ako v skutočnosti sme - vo veľkom vesmíre, ktorý stvoril Boh a naďalej tvorí a oživuje v každom momente. Život stále viac uprostred umelých vecí, ktoré sme vytvorili, pomaly umlčeva naše vnímanie skutočnosti i seba samých. Bez toho, aby sme si to uvedomovali, zabúdame, kde sme a kým sme; strácame zmysel pre svoj ozajstný rozmer: niekedy sa cítime byť všemohúci a nie sme; inokedy sa cítime bezmocní a nie sme. Ako nám pripomína prorok Amos, sme akoby steblo trávy, to je pravda, avšak naše srdce je schopné prijať nekonečno. Sme „takmer nič“, to je pravda, avšak môžeme sa pýtať „prečo“ a cítiť vo vnútri v sebe tajomné spojenie, niekedy bolestné, s Tým, ktorý stvoril svet, slnko, mesiac, hviezdy ... (por. Ž 8).

Medzi všetkými stvorenými bytosťami - ktoré sú, každá svojím spôsobom, pokornejšie a poslušnejšie voči Stvoriteľovi než my - sme my, ľudia, jediní, ktorí poznávajú a niekedy i cítia, že táto Božia všemohúcnosť, táto jeho nepochopiteľná veľkosť, je celá výhradne láskou, a to láskou milosrdnou, nežnou, súcitu, podobnou tej, ktorú má matka k svojim malým a krehkým deťom. Sme jediní, ktorí tušia, že celé stvorenie vzdychá a trpí akoby pôrodnou bolesťou (por. Rim 8, 22). Svätý Ján Pavol II. nám zanechal ako dedičstvo proroctvo, že teraz je čas milosrdenstva. Božiemu milosrdenstvu zasvätil II. veľkonočnú nedeľu a naposledy vydýchol práve v predvečer tejto nedele. Nech sa za nás i naďalej prihovára, aby sme sa stávali stále milosrdnejšími, ako je milosrdný náš nebeský Otec (por. Lk 6, 36).“

TK KBS, TS ČBK

Slovensko kandiduje do expertného orgánu UNESCO

Slovensko kandiduje do expertného orgánu Organizácie Spojených národov pre výchovu, vedu a kultúru (UNESCO). O tom, či sa stane členom Medzinárodného koordináčneho výboru pre program Človek a biosféra, sa rozhodne na najbližšom zasadnutí Generálnej konferencie UNESCO. Tá sa uskutoční 3. až 18. novembra v Paríži.

Vedúcim slovenskej delegácie bude minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák, jeho alternátom minister školstva Juraj Draxler. Zasadnutie sa koná každé dva roky. Tohtoročné sa nesie v znamení 70. výročia založenia tejto medzinárodnej organizácie. Schváli sa návrh jej programu a rozpočtu na roky 2018 až 2021.

Okrem toho sa uskutočnia voľby 30 členov Výkonnej rady UNESCO na obdobie rokov 2015 až 2017. Slovensku sa skončil štvorročný mandát v rade v roku 2013. Okrem toho sa bude rozhodovať o nových členoch expertných výborov a rád medzivládnych programov organizácie.

Na programe bude aj otázka žiadosti Kosova o nadobudnutie členstva, pričom je pravdepodobné, že uspeje. K aktuálnym témam UNESCO patrí záchrana ohrozených kultúrnych pamiatok a múzeí v konfliktami zmietaných krajinách. Hlavnou snahou je zabrániť nelegálnemu predaju ukradnutých pamiatok, pričom oficiálne spolupracuje s Interpolom, Úradom OSN pre drogy a kriminalitu, colnými agentúrami a trhom s umením.

V zmysle návrhu viacerých krajín sa uvažuje nad rozšírením mandátu mierových síl OSN o oblasť kultúry a dedičstva. Rozhodnutie o adekvátnych prostriedkoch je momentálne v kompetencii členských krajín Bezpečnostnej rady OSN, u ktorých sa táto výzva stretla s plnou podporou.

UNESCO uznáva teritoriálnu integritu Ukrajiny a v rámci svojho mandátu pozorne sleduje situáciu v oblasti médií, vzdelávania, kultúry či znevýhodňovania tatárskej menšiny. Problém historického dedičstva a kultúrnych pamiatok Palestíny a okupovaných arabských území je zase tradičnou horúcou témou zasadnutí Výkonnej rady a Generálnej konferencie UNESCO. Rada, Generálna konferencia a sekretariát patria k trom hlavným orgánom organizácie.

TASR

Úlohou prezidentov je upokojovať situáciu okolo migrácie

Z pohľadu signálov doma v súvislosti s migráciou je úlohou prezidentov trochu situáciu upokojovať, pretože ľudia majú strach. Vyhlásil to 9. októbra v druhý deň summitu prezidentov Vyšehradskej štvorky (V4) prezident SR Andrej Kiska v maďarskom Balatonfürede. Na rokovaní sa zúčastnila aj prezidentka Chorvátska Kolinda Grabarová-Kitarovičová.

Podľa slov Kisku hlavy štátov by mali vo svojich krajinách upokojovať situáciu, ktorú mnohí politici zneužívajú, a tiež ukázať, že „sme zostali ľuďmi“.

Signálom smerom von podľa slovenského prezidenta by malo byť prejavit' solidaritu s partnermi v rámci Európskej únie. Kiska varoval pred rozdelením Európy v prístupe k otázke migrácie.

Najvyšší predstavitelia Maďarska - János Ader, Slovenska - Kiska, Českej republiky - Miloš Zeman, Poľska - Andrzej Duda a prezidentka Chorvátska sa podľa maďarského prezidenta Ádera zhodli na tom, že otázku migrácie treba riešiť ako otázku humanitárnu, trestnoprávnu a národno-bezpečnostnú. Prezidenti sa tiež zhodli na tom, že treba posilniť ochranu hraníc Európskej únie, treba zabezpečiť, aby vstup na územie únie bol kontrolovaný.

EÚ musí zabezpečiť finančné zdroje pre fungovanie migračných táborov. Posilniť by sa mala spolupráca rezortov vnútra s cieľom potlačenia prevádzčstva, tlmočil Ader názor prezidentov summitu V4.

TASR

Slovensko si pripomína černovskú tragédiu pamätným dňom

Pamätným dňom si Slovenská republika (SR) aj v roku 2015 pripomenula 27. októbra tragické udalosti v Černovej z roku 1907. Obyvatelia obce, ktorá je dnes súčasťou Ružomberka, sa pred 108 rokmi vzopreli rozhodnutiu úradov o vysviacke nového černovského kostola, pätnásť z nich zaplatilo za svoj nesúhlas životom, niekoľko desiatok bolo zranených. Udalosti v Černovej a strelba žandárov do zástupu nevinných ľudí vyvolali ostré reakcie nielen doma, ale aj za hranicami vtedajšieho Rakúska-Uhorska. Rok 1907 bol pre Černovčanov ťažkým rokom. Robotníci z tovární, pltníci a drobní roľníci si so svojimi ženami za pomoci peňažných zbierok stavali na vršku pri dedine kostol, aby nemuseli chodiť na omše do štyri kilometre vzdialeného Ružomberka. Na vybudovanie chrámu prispel veľkou mierou rímskokatolícky ružomberský farár, černovský rodák Andrej Hlinka, ktorý z celkových nákladov 80.000 korún potrebných na stavbu vykryl 60.000 korún zo zbierok a svojho súkromného majetku.

Základný kameň bol posvätený 20. apríla 1906, na jeseň 1907 čakala na posviacku dokončená stavba. Obyvatelia chceli, aby im nový svätostánok vysvätil Andrej Hlinka. Toho však v tých časoch spišský biskup Alexander Párny pre politické aktivity suspendoval, pozbavil fary a zakázal mu vykonávať kňazské povolanie.

Kostol v Černovej mal podľa rozhodnutia cirkevnej vrchnosti posvätiť farár - dekan Martin Pazúrik 27. októbra 1907. Černová sa vzoprela. Úrad hlavného slúžneho v Spišskej Kapitule vyslal v sobotu 26. októbra do obce skupinu žandárov s príkazom „porobiť poriadky“. Na uliciach bol však pokoj. Obyvatelia Černovej začali prejavovať svoju nevoľu v nedeľu 27. októbra. Do obce prišla ďalšia skupina žandárov. Keď zástup ľudí obkolesil prichádzajúce koče a žiadal, aby z obce odišli, vypukol zmätok. Vtedy veliteľ 15-člennej skupiny žandárov vydal bez predbežného varovania rozkaz: „Strielat!“ Výsledkom bolo 15 mŕtvych a desiatky zranených, z toho niekoľko ťažko. Uhorské úrady obvinili z organizovania nepokojov vyše 55 ľudí, z ktorých potom 40 odsúdili súhrnne na 37 rokov žalára a rôzne peňažné pokuty a zhabanie majetku. Najmladšia odsúdená mala 16 rokov. Tragédia v Černovej odhalila pravdu o propagovanej „příkladnej slobode v Uhorsku“ a upozornila vtedajšiu svetovú verejnosť na národnostný útlak v cisárskej ríši. Proti zásahu uhorských žandárov protestovali viaceré významné osobnosti v zahraničí, napr. nositeľ Nobelovej ceny za literatúru, nórsky spisovateľ Bjornstjerne Björnson, britský publicista a historik Robert William Seton-Watson a ruský spisovateľ a filozof Lev Nikolajevič Tolstoj. Černovský kostol posvätil napokon Andrej Hlinka na sviatok Petra a Pavla 29. júna 1910. Obete černovskej tragédie pripomína pomník na miestnom cintoríne, ktorý dala vybudovať Slovenská liga amerických Slovákov pri príležitosti 25. výročia masakry.

TASR



Kostol v Ružomberku-Černovej.

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Zomrel nitriansky emeritný biskup, kardínál Ján Chryzostom Korec

Biskupstvo v Nitre s veľkou bolesťou, avšak v nádeji na vzkriesenie, oznamuje, že v 91. roku života, v 77. roku rehoľného života, v 66. roku kňazstva, v 65. roku biskupskej služby, zaopatrený sviatosťami chorých, dňa 24. októbra 2015 zbožne usnul v Páňovi nitriansky emeritný biskup, kardínál Ján Chryzostom Korec. Klérus a ľud Nitrianskej diecézy sa rozlúčil so svojim drahým pastierom vystaveným v Katedrálnej Bazilike svätého Emeráma dňa 30. októbra 2015 a nasledujúceho dňa 31. októbra. Následne pri svätej omši, ktorej sláveniu o 11.00 hod. predsedal Stanislav kardínál Dziwisz, arcibiskup krakovský, poručili dušu nášho emeritného pastiera do rúk Večného Pastiera. Následne pochovali jeho telesné pozostatky v dolnej lodi Katedrály-Baziliky svätého Emeráma. Ján Chryzostom kardínál Korec sa narodil 22. januára 1924 v Bošanoch. Dňa 15. septembra 1939 vstúpil v Ružomberku do rehole jezuitov. V roku 1944 maturoval na Gymnázium v Kláštore pod Znievom, kam chodil ako externý študent. Od roku 1945 študoval na Filozofickom inštitúte Spoločnosti Ježišovej v Brne. Potom odišiel do Trnavy, kde pomáhal v redakcii Posla a študoval štvorročnú teológiu. Po likvidácii reholí a kláštorov v roku 1950 bol spolu s rehoľníkmi spolubratmi internovaný od 14. apríla 1950 v Jasove, potom v Podolínci a od 20. septembra 1950 v Pezinku. Odtiaľto bol donútený odísť do civilného života. V tom istom roku (1. októbra 1950) bol tajne vysvätený v Rožňave za kňaza a po uväznení a internovaní takmer všetkých oficiálnych biskupov, bol ako 27-ročný 24. augusta 1951 tajne vysvätený za biskupa, ocom biskupom Pavlom Hnilicom. Konsekrácia sa uskutočnila na základe rozsiahlych fakúlt Svätého Otca Pia XII. pre naše krajiny.

Biskupskú službu však nemohol vykonávať verejne. Po celý tento čas pracoval ako robotník. V tomto období oprávnene desať rokov každý deň očakával, že príde pre neho Štátna bezpečnosť, ako sa to stalo v mnohých prípadoch jeho spolubratom v reholi, či diecéznym kňazom alebo veriacim laikom. O to viac, že vedeli o ňom, že je biskup a vyvíja aktívnu apoštolskú činnosť, ba i tajne ordinuje kňazov. Bolo to však, ako sám spomína, obdobie preniknuté nádejou a dôverou v Boha. Dňa 11. marca 1960 bol zaistený a 21. mája odsúdený ako vlastizradca – pre náboženskú činnosť medzi študentmi na 12 rokov väzenia, ktoré prežil v neľudských podmienkach s mnohými kňazmi v Prahe na Pankráci, Ruzyni a Valdiciach. Z väzenia sa vrátil 24. februára 1968 s podlomným zdravím. Napriek tomu sa zapojil do nadšenej obnovy náboženského života.

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TK KBS/ Peter Zimen
Kardínál Ján Ch. Korec

Generálny tajomník OSN Pan Ki-mun na návšteve Slovenska

Viac ako jednodňová návšteva generálneho tajomníka Organizácie spojených národov (OSN) Pan Ki-muna 18. októbra večer vyvrcholila stretnutím s prezidentom SR Andrejom Kiskom na Štrbskom Plese. „Stretnutie generálneho tajomníka OSN s prezidentom republiky je do istej miery najvyššia schôdzka počas jeho návštevy na Slovensku, pretože prišiel práve na pozvanie prezidenta,“ uviedol hovorca ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR Peter Stano.

Témou diskusií generálneho tajomníka so všetkými slovenskými partnermi je vklad a názor Slovenska na tie témy, v ktorých sa OSN angažuje a ktoré považuje za dôležité.

Pan Ki-mun počas pobytu vo Vysokých Tatrách navštívil Lomnický štít, historické mesto Levoča, ale aj Spišský hrad. Regiónom Spiša ho od 17. októbra sprevádzal minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák. „Destinácie sme vyberali my, chceli sme, aby videl aj niečo iné ako Bratislavu. Rozhodli sme sa, že ho vezmeme do Vysokých Tatier a okolia, program sme organizovali tak, aby bol spojený aj s jeho agendou. Ráno sme hovorili o klimatických zmenách, následne sa k nám na obed pridali aj ministri životného prostredia a hovorili sme o príprave blížaceho summitu o klimatických zmenách v Paríži. Ďalšie popoludnie bolo zase venované téme UNESCO, takže sme sa rozhodli ho vziať do Levoče a na Spišský hrad,“ zdôvodnil výber destinácií Lajčák.

V pondelok 19. októbra návšteva generálneho tajomníka pokračovala v Bratislave, kde sa stretol so študentmi Diplomatickej akadémie – Inštitútu medzinárodných vzťahov Karola Rybárika a vystúpil s prednáškou o implementácii udržateľných rozvojových cieľov. Okrem toho sa zúčastnil slávnostného zasadnutia Vedeckej rady Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave, kde mu bol udelený čestný titul doctor honoris causa. Jeho návšteva pokračovala v Univerzitnej knižnici v Bratislave, kde mu odprezentovali unikátnu Bašagičovú zbierku islamských rukopisov, ktorá je na zozname UNESCO, zároveň sa zúčastnil otvorenia výstavy k 70. výročiu OSN a stretol sa s predsedom vlády SR Robertom Ficom i predsedom Národnej rady SR Petrom Pellegrinim.

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FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Na snímke generálny tajomník OSN Pan Ki-mun (v strede) počúva výklad v Chráme svätého Jakuba v Levoči 18. októbra 2015

United Nations General Secretary Pan Ki-mun (center) is shown Saint James Church in Levoča during his recent state visit to Slovakia.



Slovenskí biskupi sa stretnú s pápežom Františkom

Slovenských katolíckych biskupov čaká od 8. - 14. novembra návšteva Ríma a Vatikánu - tzv. Ad limina apostolorum. Zároveň sa 15 biskupov stretne s pápežom Františkom počas tradičnej generálnej audiencie a taktiež súkromne. Informuje o tom Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (TK KBS).

Oficiálny program sa začne v pondelok 9. novembra. Biskupi budú sláviť svätú omšu v Bazilike sv. Petra vo Vatikáne. Stretnutie s pápežom Františkom je naplánované na štvrtok 12. novembra. Biskupi a veriaci sa s ním stretnú aj počas generálnej audiencie, ktorá sa uskutoční o deň skôr. Biskupi navštívia aj viaceré sekcie Rímskej kúrie, kde budú hovoriť o stave Cirkvi na Slovensku. Naplánované majú aj návštevy viacerých bazilik v Ríme.

Posledná podobná návšteva sa uskutočnila v roku 2007 ešte za pápeža Benedikta XVI. Z Kódexu kánonického práva vyplýva, že diecézny biskup je viazaný povinnosťou každých päť rokov podať Najvyššiemu veľkňazovi správu o stave svojej diecézy, prísť si do Večného mesta uctiť hroby svätých apoštolov Petra a Pavla a vykonať návštevu u Svätého Otca.

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FOTO TASR - Pavol Ďurčo

V parku Ľudovíta Štúra v Ziline si pripomenuli 200. výročie jeho narodenia 26. októbra 2015. Podujatia sa zúčastnili štátni predstavitelia, poslanci a občania. Delegácie položili kvety pri soche Ľ. Štúra. Na snímke predseda ŽSK a poslanec NR SR Juraj Blanár počas príhovoru.

The 200th anniversary of the birth of Ludovít Štur was observed on October 26, 2015 in Ludovít Štur Park in Zilina. National Council Deputy Juraj Blanar delivered a speech while a delegation placed flowers at the Ludovít Štur statue

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