



# Jednota

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Photo by Helena Gaydos

Participants at the Annual Dedication of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel

## Mother of Sorrows Chapel Celebrated at National Shrine

By John Karch

As announced in the August 6 issue of JEDNOTA, an annual Slovak Mass was celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Sunday, September 7. This marked the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of FCSU's gift of the Mother of Sorrows Chapel to the National Shrine. As recalled by JEDNOTA, it received a prize for being the "most beautiful" chapel in the Shrine. The announcement concluded: "All persons of Slovak descent should be proud of this memorial. Persons of Slovak heritage and their relatives and friends are encouraged to attend."

The approximate forty attendees included, in addition to local American Slovaks, FCSU's National President Andrew M. Rajec, his wife Ida, son Andrew—who is with USAID in the nation's capital—and daughter Idka. FCSU National Treasurer George F. Matta came with spouse Florence. The President and the Treasurer attended the annual National Fraternal Congress of America (NFC), held in Washington, D.C. September 4-6.

### Anniversary Mass

The Celebrant of the 11:00 Slovak Mass at the Shrine was, once again, Fr. Joseph A. Komonchak, Professor at The Catholic University of America (CUA) and the young Slovak concelebrant was Fr. Jan Dolny, only recently ordained in Kosice. The Lector was Stephen C. Matula, President of FCSU Branch 856, the Organist Michele Prokop-

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## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary An Important Message

September 18, 2008

Dear Members:

In response to the recent upheaval in our country's financial markets, please be assured that the First Catholic Slovak Union is on a solid financial foundation.

The First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) was incorporated in 1890 and has been a continuing successful operation for over 117 years. The Society is a member of the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFC). The NFC was founded in 1886 and is the recognized leader of the Fraternal Benefit System; its member organizations work together to meet the challenges of a changing world.

The Society's strong financial condition continues in 2008, with high quality investments, solid certificate reserves, and a substantial surplus position that provides a stable financial base. Our stringent investment standards are reflected in a secure investment portfolio. Bonds constitute 86.2% of the Society's assets, and have an average maturity of 12 years. The Society enjoys excellent bond quality, with 88.9% of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. Preferred Stock now makes up 5.5% of invested assets and Common Stock 0.5% in an effort to diversify the portfolio and increase investment return. Other assets consist of mortgages (1.1%); real estate (1.4%); and all others (5.3%).

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Consider our past in planning your future... Established since 1890

### Accidental Death & Dismemberment

**NEW!**

#### "Fraternal Benefit"

If a member or a new member (ages 30-65) is issued a minimum \$10,000 Whole Life, a 20-Pay Life, or a \*Single Premium Policy, issued after August 1, 2008, FCSU will include, as a Fraternal Benefit, a single \$25,000 \*\*Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) Benefit at no additional charge as long as a premium is being paid. Contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 for further details.

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**Available August 1, 2008**

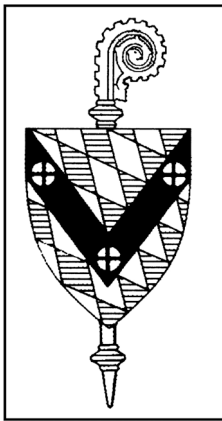
**Visit our website for additional information at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)**

**\*\*Insurance is underwritten by Federal Insurance Company, a member insurer of the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies. Exclusions may apply. Insurance may not be available in all jurisdictions.**



Additional \*\*AD&D coverage up to \$500,000, for single or family, is available to our members at a special rate. Please contact our AD&D Administrator at 1-800-968-2071 for further information and rates.

# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B., Chapmion P. Gavaler, O.D.B.

October 12, 2008

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 22: 1-14

### Gospel Summary

In today's gospel, Jesus offers us another parable about the kingdom of heaven. This does not mean a kingdom located in heaven but a community of believers on earth who accept the rule of God and who hope to find a place eventually in heaven.

Matthew often uses the term "kingdom," and it is sometimes translated as "reign." I think there is a problem here because these words suggest political power and many people have experienced such power as tyranny. I have my own more existential definition of the gospel kingdom: it is God's dream for his beloved children.

In the parable, those who were first invited to the banquet would be the people of ancient Israel, who often violated the covenant and resisted the prophets. At the time of Jesus, they found it impossible to let go of their traditions in order to make room for his revolutionary message.

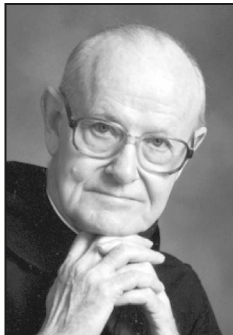
Those brought in from the streets to fill the banquet hall would be the outsiders; including the Gentiles who, in many cases, gladly responded to Jesus' universal invitation. However, some of them too were unwilling to be fully converted and thus were lacking the proper "wedding garment" of unselfish love.

### Life Implications

One of the most dangerous temptations for traditional Christians is an easy assumption that they have responded to God's invitation and are now comfortably seated at the banquet waiting for their final and inevitable heavenly reward. This temptation is so insidious because it really is based on the fact of faithful religious observance.

Our lovely wedding garment begins to look somewhat soiled and shabby, however, when we begin to probe our hidden prejudices. Most of us claim not to be prejudiced, of course, but it is almost certain that such a claim is in fact the worst prejudice of all, for it means that

*continued on page 4*



Demetrius R. Dumm  
O.S.B.

promise of the now -vindicated Risen Lord: "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me . . . make disciples of all nations. . . and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28: 18-20). Jesus, in a new way, continues to be Emmanuel, "God with us."

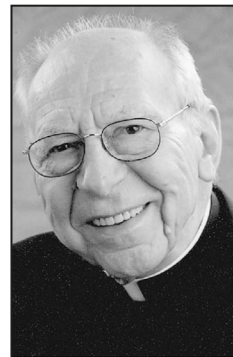
To be a Christian disciple in our time and place means to actualize God's presence and rule as Jesus did in his historical time and place. This means that a disciple ought to know what's really going on, without illusion. Although it may not happen in the extreme circumstances of Mt 10:16-25, it is hard to avoid the life implication that a disciple of Jesus at some point will be faced with the moral necessity of speaking the truth in an adversarial confrontation, regardless of the consequences.

The assurance that Christ keeps his promise to be "God with us" ought to save us from being intimidated, even if it's just writing a "letter to the editor" about a controversial issue. And with a little work on our part, we may even be able "to teach the way of God in accordance with the truth" with some of the poetic flair and wit of Christ. That special presence of Christ's spirit would be a nice gift to pray for in this Sunday's liturgy.

Campion P. Gavaler, O.S.B.

## Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Corinth 2



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

"Now for the matters you wrote about." (1Cor. 7:1)

Paul here gives advice to the married. Here are excerpts from his text.

"A man is better off having no relations with a woman. But to avoid immorality, every man should have his own wife and every woman her own husband. The husband should fulfill his conjugal obligations towards his wife, the wife hers towards her husband. A wife does not belong to herself but to her husband; equally, a husband does not belong to himself but to his wife.

"Give my preference, I should like you to be as I am. Still, each one has his own gift from God, one this and another that." (1Cor. 7:14 and 7)

To those who are single and who are widows, Paul writes: "To those not married and to widows I have to say: It would be well if they remain as they are, even as I do myself; but if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. It is better to marry than to be on fire." (1Cor. 7:8-9)

What does one do when he or she is married to an unbeliever?

If they are willing to live with each other, they must not divorce. If, however, they cannot live with each other, the unbeliever can separate. "The believing husband or wife is not bound in such cases. God has called you to live in peace. (1Cor. 7:15)

This passage is known in Canon Law as "The Pauline Privilege: and it is governed in the Code of Canon Law of the Western (Latin Rite) Church in Canons 1141-1150 and in the Code of Canon Law of the Eastern Churches (Byzantine) in Canons 853-862.

Reviewing these canons in this article is far beyond the space of this writing. Detailed inquiries regarding The Pauline Privilege need to be referred to one's pastor and the chances may be that he never had such a case.

In brief, Canon 1143, Par.2: "The non-baptized party is considered to have departed if he or she does not wish to cohabit with the baptized party or does not wish to cohabit in peace without insult to the Creator unless, after receiving baptism, the baptized party gave the

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October 19, 2008

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 22:15-21

### Gospel Summary

This gospel about paying taxes to Caesar is the first of a set of three passages in which Matthew describes how hostile religious leaders of his day attempt to trap Jesus with trick questions. The incident about paying taxes together with the following exchanges about the resurrection and about the greatest commandment indicate a growing conflict which will eventually result in Jesus' execution under the Roman government.

After offering some flattering remarks about Jesus being a truthful man who teaches the way of God, the Pharisees lay their trap by asking "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" If Jesus replies that the tax should be paid, he will lose the esteem of the majority of his fellow Jews, oppressed as they are by a foreign, pagan government and army. If he rejects payment of the tax, he will be arrested and executed for instigating a rebellion.

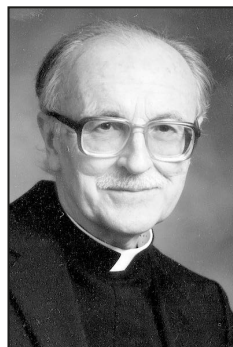
Jesus, recognizing the malicious intent of the questioners, asks them for a Roman coin that would be used to pay the tax. When they produce the coin with Caesar's image on it, he says to them: "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." They are reminded that they themselves have God's image impressed on them, and must repay to God what belongs to God -- that is, their entire being.

### Life Implications

A life implication of this incident in which Jesus outwits his opponents is suggested by the entire context of Matthew's gospel. Matthew begins his gospel by telling us about the birth of Jesus in fulfillment of what the Lord had said through the prophet, "they shall call him Emmanuel, which means 'God with us'" (Mt 1:22-23). This is the good news Matthew proclaims: In Jesus Christ, God becomes part of our world in a new way -- beyond the presence through creation, beyond the presence through the prophets.

In the scene with the Pharisees, we see that Jesus is involved in the realities of the political and religious situation of his nation and his people. He knows what's going on. He is not intimidated by power. He calls his adversaries hypocrites to their face, and then beats them at their own game. As Emmanuel, he will continue "to teach the way of God in accordance with the truth" even though he knows the result will ultimately be his arrest and execution.

Matthew concludes his gospel, and at the same time extends it into the future with the



Champion P. Gavaler,  
O.S.B.

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# Mother of Sorrows Chapel Celebrated at National Shrine

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chak, gift bearers B.J. and Katherine Nowatkoski, the latter Financial Secretary of Branch 856, and the Altar Boy was Anthony Nasta, grandson of Donald and Charlotte Nasta. The former is Fraternal Director of the Rev. Stefan Furdek District 8. Others at Mass of District 8 were Vice President Helena T. Gaydos, Treasurer Edward Nasta. (Anthony's parents—James and Eva—did not attend.) Maryland's Branch 61 was represented by Victor Sabo.

## Celebrant's Homily

Prior to his homily Fr. Komonchak "ad-libbed" a few lines about his Slovak born grandparents: "My grandparents came from eastern Slovakia, Andrew Komonchak to avoid being drafted into the Hungarian Army and Maria Pavlova, because of the forced Magyarization that, for example, forbade children to speak Slovak in school. When I was a boy, I once asked my grandmother if my grandfather was a Czech or Slovak. She made as if to spit on the ground and said: 'Do you think I'd marry a Czech! They're all either Communists or Protestants.'" The Mass, appropriately, began with "Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above" and concluded with "Immaculate Mary."

In his homily, Fr. Komonchak focused on friendship and love. He cited Jesus' "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."

Father continued: "But the capacity for friendship given by the Gospel includes our relationship with our fellow human beings....The only proper response to the infinite—unbounded—love of God that erased the boundary between himself and us is a love that also refuses to be bounded.

This is part of the meaning, surely, of St. Paul's exhortation toward the end of his Epistle to the Romans: 'Owe nothing to one another, except to love one another, for anyone who loves another has fulfilled the law....Love is the fulfillment of the law'....But if someone, even God, tells you to love, how can you make yourself love?

I think the answer is to be found in the same Epistle to the Romans, in chapter 5, where St. Paul says: 'The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.' God himself gives what he commands....To have been made capable of such friendship, such love, for God and for our brothers and sisters, is the great gift that the Gospel announces and that God's holy Spirit accomplishes in us. Thanks be to God!"

Following the Mass, the attendees visited the Mother of Sorrows Chapel where Fr. Dolny said a prayer and gave his blessing. Some of the group then went to the cafeteria for an informal snack and interesting discussions. All valued the Mass enjoyed the social, and hoped for a larger attendance next year.

## Fr. Komonchak's Profile

The Father's roots are in eastern Slovakia. His grandfather—Andrew Komonchak—was born in Sacurov and, as a widower married Fr. Komonchek's grandmother, Maria Pavlova from Secovska Polianka. They were married in Haverstraw, N.Y. Joseph Bernard Komonchak was born in Haverstraw. Father's mother, Hazel Irene Meehan, was born in Brooklyn,



Attending the Mass were L-R: Idka Rajec, Andrew Rajec Jr., Ida Rajec, National President Andrew Rajec, Katherine Nowatowski, Secretary of Branch 856 and Bernard Nowatowski

N.Y. In the Slovak-Irish environment "we only learned a few words, some prayers, and some less than holy words, too."

The Celebrant went to Nanuet public school, then to Cathedral College, the minor seminary of the Archdiocese of New York. He then studied two years of philosophy at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y. before going to Rome where he received his S.T.L. (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) at the Pontifical Gregorian University in 1964. He was ordained on December 18, 1963 in Rome. Upon his return from Rome, he taught theology at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, during 1967-77. In 1976 he received his Ph.D. at Union Theological Seminary, N.Y.

In 1977 he joined the faculty of the Department of Religion and Religious Education at the Catholic University of America, where he is today. Fr. Komonchak is a priest of the Archdiocese of New York. He holds the John and Gertrude Hubbard Chair in Religious Studies at CUA. He has taught courses in ecclesiology, modern theology, the thought of John Courtney Murray, and the history and theology of Vatican II. He has published many articles on these subjects in journals, including French and Italian. He was the chief editor of The New Dictionary of Theology and is the editor of the English-language edition of the five-volume History of Vatican II. A collection of his essays was published as "Foundation in Ecclesiology".



## An Important Message

*continued from page 1*

investment rate of return was 6.4%, which mirrors the five-year average of 6.4%. Surplus funds and other non-liability reserves total over \$19,276,000. These funds are available in case of market downturn, or an unforeseen emergency.

The FCSU is regulated by the Ohio State Insurance Department, as well, as the insurance departments in each state it is licensed. The Society files financial statements on a quarterly and annual basis using the prescribed industry forms and format. The FCSU statements are filed and reviewed by each state in which the Society is licensed. The Society's external auditors annually audit the financial operations of the Society and submit the required certified report to the insurance department.

Our Quarterly Statement was printed in our September 17, 2008 issue of the JEDNOTA newspaper and reflected a surplus of \$13,801,567 as of June 30, 2008 and assets worth \$207,046,082. The Society remains very strong.

We are confident in the First Catholic Slovak Union's ability to meet the promises in all of our certificates now and in the future and we point with pride to our long, sound service to our members and the public sector.

Fraternally,

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
Executive Secretary  
KAA/kd

## Announcement

The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce that beginning in October we will be offering our Annuity and IRA contract holders the convenience of P.A.C.

P.A.C., or Preauthorized Charge Authorization, is a convenient way to ensure that contributions are made to your annuity or IRA account on a regular basis.

By completing and returning an Annuity and IRA Preauthorized Charge Authorization form, your contribution will be automatically transferred from your checking or savings account into your annuity or IRA. It's that simple!

If you are interested in taking advantage of this exciting new offer, please contact our office for a form or download one from our website, fcsu.com

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Independence, OH 44131  
1-800-533-6682

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# Insights and Viewpoints

## Homilies

*continued from page 2*

we are not even conscious of our biases. It is much better to be aware of them so that we can at least try to correct our attitudes.

It is precisely traditional and confident Christian communities that are most likely to be burdened by racism and sexism. It is so easy to forget that Jesus associated freely and lovingly with all kinds of people who were considered unworthy by the "upright" folks of his day. This reminds us that the true characteristics of followers of Jesus are love and tolerance and respect for others, regardless of their social status or perceived unworthiness.

This does not at all imply that one should condone unseemly or sinful behavior. But, as Matthew also reminds us, we should spend at least as much time removing the log from our own eye as in searching for the speck in our neighbor's eye (Chapter 7: verses 3-5). Pride is such an insidious attitude that it can spoil even our best efforts. I find it helpful to consider that definition of pride which notes that it is not so much the tendency to think too much of oneself as it is to think too little of others. How we think of others, and how tolerant we are of their shortcomings, will tell us a lot about whether we think too highly of ourselves.

Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.



## Reflections on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

other party a just cause for departure.

Canon 1144: In order for the baptized party to contract a new marriage validly, the non-baptized party must always be interrogated on the following points:

1. Whether he or she also wishes to receive baptism;
2. Whether he or she at least wishes to cohabit in peace with the baptized party without insult to the Creator.

Canon 1146: The baptized party has a right to contract a new marriage with a Catholic party:

1. If the other party answered negatively to the interrogation of if the interrogation has been legitimately omitted;
2. If the non-baptized party, interrogated or not, at first peacefully cohabited without insult to the Creator but afterwards departed without a just cause, with due regard to the prescriptions of cann. 1144 and 1145.

"With respect to virgins, I have not received any commandment from the Lord, but I give my opinion as one who is trustworthy, thanks to the Lord's mercy. It is this: In the present



## Coming Events



### October 5

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District's Annual Meeting in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church followed by dinner and meeting at Gil's Catering Service, 5051 Mahanoy Street.

### October 26

The Michigan District's Annual Meeting at St. Patrick's Ryan Church Hall, 4708 South Meridian Road, Merrill, Michigan. Dinner at 11:30 a.m. followed by the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

### November 2

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.

### October 12

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at Cambergs Cozy Corner, 401 Sarah Street, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania.

### October 26

Msgr. Joseph Tiso District's Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania.

### October 26

The Rev. John Martvon District's Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. in St. Francis Church Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania.

### November 9

Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue, New York City.

### November 2

A meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 3:00 p.m. followed by the meeting.

### November 9

The Msgr. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Hall, 16 East Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey.

### November 9

A meeting of the Frank T. Holly Jr. District at 1:00 p.m. at the Meridian Point Apartments, 112 Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

time of stress it seems good to me for a person to continue as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Then do not seek your freedom. Are you free of a wife? If so, do not go in search of one. Should you marry, however, you will not be committing sin. Neither does a virgin commit a sin if she marries. But such people will have trials in this life, and these I should like to spare you." (1Cor. 7:25-28)

"The unmarried man is busy with the Lord's affairs, concerned with pleasing the Lord; but the married man is busy with this world's demands and occupied with pleasing his wife. This means he is divided. The virgin- indeed, any unmarried woman- is concerned with the things of the Lord, in pursuit of holiness in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has the cares of this world to absorb her and is concerned with pleasing her husband. I am going into this with you for your own good. I have no desire to place restrictions on you, but I do want to promote what is good, what will help you to devote yourselves entirely to the Lord." (1Cor. 7:32-35)

"A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. If her husband dies she is free to marry, but on one condition, that it be in the Lord. She will be happier, though, in my opinion, if she stays unmarried. I am persuaded that in this I have the Spirit of God." (1Cor. 7:39-40)

"Now food does not bring us closer to God. We suffer no loss through failing to eat, and we gain no favor by eating. Take care, however, lest in exercising your right you become an occasion of sin to the weak ... If food causes my brother to sin I will never eat meat again so that I may not be an occasion of sin to him." (1Cor. 8:8-9 and 13) Paul here is concerned that when a person whose conscience is in a weak state sees you eat meat, he may give in and eat meat himself and thusly sin against his own conscience. So, in a sense, do not tempt him to do as you do, that which his conscience forbids him to do.



## FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

**Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 5.00% (4.879 APR)**

Under the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity, you may make periodic payments into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at, or greater than, the guaranteed rate. You can open the account with as little as \$500.00 and make additional deposits (\$25.00 minimum) as your financial situation allows. Additional deposits are not mandatory.

At the retirement age you choose, the funds accumulated in the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity may be withdrawn using any of the FCSU's lump sum or periodic income settlement options.

### Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

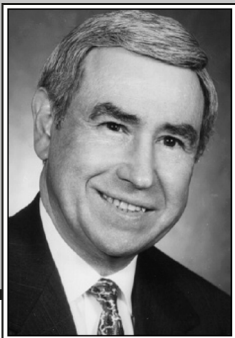
- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
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- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

# MONEY MANAGEMENT

## & TAX TIPS

By **Joseph T. Senko**

Certified Public Accountant  
Certified Financial Planner  
Personal Financial Specialist  
(AICPA)



## For Peace of Mind, Create an Emergency Fund

Your car breaks down and you need repairs immediately. You or a loved one has a medical problem with expenses not covered by insurance. You can't work temporarily because of an illness or injury. Do you have enough money available to pay for unforeseen expenses in a crisis? The best way to make sure you do is to set up an emergency fund that you can tap when the unexpected happens.

### Start Small

To get off to a good start, don't get overwhelmed by the idea of creating a fund to cover all your expenses for any contingency. Instead, pick a reasonable amount that is manageable, and set it aside every week

### Establish Regular Savings Schedule

Stick to your regular deposits. If you have as little as \$5 a week, you'll be amazed at how quickly cash can add up if saving is done routinely. If you do need to tap into the emergency fund, remember to pay yourself back. You can do that by increasing the amount you save each week after the emergency has passed so you can replenish the amount. If that works, try to keep saving at that higher level if your budget allows.

### Set a Realistic Goal

Experts recommend having three to six months of expenses in reserve just in case you lose your job. If that sounds impossible, don't be discouraged. The most important step is starting with small but steady deposits. Pick a small goal-maybe \$500 or \$1,000- and aim to have that much by a certain date. Once you've achieved that, set a new goal.

### Limit Access

You should be able to access your emergency cash readily when a crisis occurs, but if the money is too easy to get, you may end up using it for unintended purposes. Don't accumulate money in your checking account where it can easily be siphoned off for everyday expenses. Open a separate interest-bearing savings account for your emergency dollars, and resolve to leave them untouched until you really need them.

### Define Emergency

Determine what an emergency is to you, and stick to your definition. For example, you may decide to only use the money for medical emergencies, if someone in the family loses a job or is unable to work, or in the event of an accident or disaster. Therefore, finding a great deal on a beach vacation is not an "emergency." You can always set up another "splurge fund" to save money for indulgences.

### Don't Fall Back on Credit Cards

Many people use credit cards to pay for necessities in a crisis. This is a costly way to cover your needs, because you will have to pay interest on the debt. Earning interest on an emergency cash fund is a much better alternative.

# NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15	MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29	MONDAY, OCTOBER 20
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:  
Anthony Sutherland, Editor  
"JEDNOTA"  
1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835  
FAX: (717) 944-3107

## Attention Members of the Pittsburgh District West Mifflin Seminar

The First Catholic Slovak Union Membership and Marketing Committee will hold a Sales Seminar on Sunday October 12, 2008, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Hall in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania beginning at 1:30 p.m.

This Seminar is available to all Branch Officers, District Officers and Recommenders in the Pittsburgh District, District 6. Any First Catholic Slovak Union member interested in learning about and selling insurance and annuity products is also urged to attend this seminar. Form a car pool and get involved in sales.

Please be sure to make your reservations by calling either Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt at 1-800-533-6682 or George Matta II, District President at (412) 672-5330 by October 6, 2008.

See you on October 12<sup>th</sup>

Until then... Good Luck and God Bless  
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
National Vice President

Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee

## "Park 2 Annuity"- Now Paying 4.50%

Under the "Park 2 Annuity", you can make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.00%
- The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your "beginning of year balance" with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.
- Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.



## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Kenneth A. Arendt

### Attention all District and Branch Officers!

At the 48<sup>th</sup> Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union held in Boca Raton, Florida in July 2006, it was agreed that in order to qualify for your \$4.00 per member stipend for 2008 you must meet the following requirements as stated in the Bylaw section 4.05:

"By the end of February of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$4.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

- Published, announced and conducted two (2) semiannual meetings, one (1) of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance sheets shall accompany the reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.
- Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
- Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
- Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one fraternal activity in the past year.
- Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.
- Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.
- Sent a branch representative to attend at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.
  - Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. The district shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article "g" above by no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year.
  - The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.
- Maintained good standing within its district by paying current fiscal year dues and any other dues that may be outstanding from previous years."

Your branch meeting announcement for publication in the Jednota Newspaper should be sent directly to Jednota Estates, Attn: Anthony Sutherland, Editor, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057; Fax (717) 944-3107. Announcements may also be sent directly to the Home Office to be placed on the Branch and District Web Page. All copies are due by 4:30 p.m. the Monday before the issue date.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE BE SURE YOU PRODUCE ONE NEW CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR.**

# Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Open Centennial

On Sunday, September 14, 2008, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius inaugurated their centennial observance with a liturgy celebrated in the Basilica in Danville, Pennsylvania, the only Basilica in the world dedicated to SS. Cyril and Methodius. The congregation was founded on September 11, 1909, in Scranton, Pennsylvania and is the only religious congregation founded by and for Slovaks.

The opening of the centennial recognizes the Slovak families, parishes and organizations that supported the congregation at its inception and from whom many of its members come. The centennial provides an opportunity also for the congregation to express its gratitude for the continued support of Slovak organizations in the U.S.

The celebrant of the liturgy was His Excellency Joseph Adamec, D.D., S.T.L., Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. The homilist was the Reverend Philip Altavilla, president of the Slovak Catholic Federation. A reception followed the liturgy.

Bishop Adamec, presently the Episcopal Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation, served as its president for fourteen years. He is a member of the Catholic Sokol and serves as chairman of the Conference of Slovak Clergy of the U.S. which he founded in 1985. Bishop Adamec is considered a bridge between the American church and the church in Slovakia.

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius were founded by the Reverend Matthew Jankola who dreamed of founding a religious congregation to educate Slovak immigrants, thus enabling them to preserve their faith and to lead a fruitful life in the United States. The first three Sisters made their profession on September 11, 1909, in Scranton.

Guided initially by the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, particularly Mother M. Cyril, the Sisters continued to grow and flourish. Later they spread to the Diocese of Harrisburg where, in June 1919, they established their Motherhouse in Danville at Villa Sacred Heart. Since then the ministry of the Sisters has continued to grow and now extends to other areas in the East as well as the Midwest, the South and most recently the Southwest.

The Sisters are involved in a variety of ministries. Though the primary mission in early years was education, the Sisters have recently invested more time and resources in caring for the elderly as attested by the growth of the Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community in Danville. Religious education in parishes is still an important facet of their ministry as is pastoral care and outreach to the needy and marginalized. As Father Jankola wished, the Sisters continue to pray daily for the unity of the Churches of the East and West.

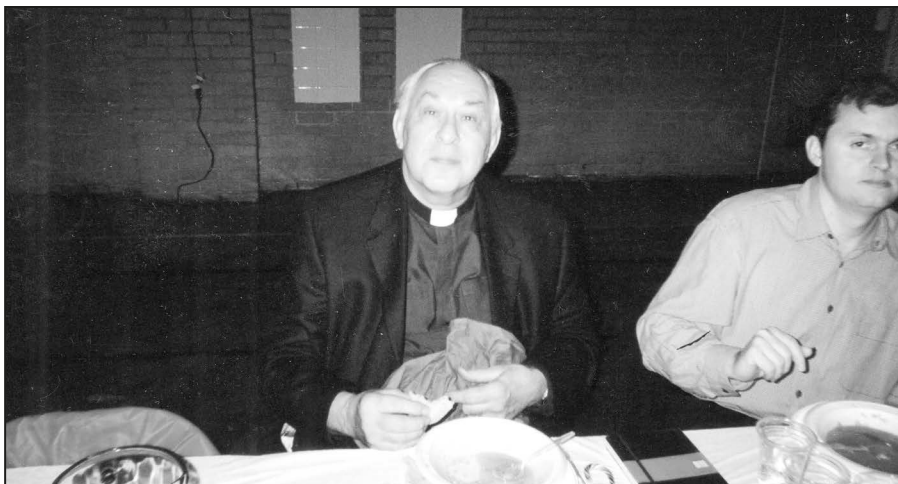


Prior to the Mass which opened the Centennial year of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Bishop Joseph Adamec of Altoona-Johnstown, stands with the Leadership Team of the Sisters, visiting clergy and deacons.



Sister Linda Marie, General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius, welcomes the priests, sisters, family and friends who attended the opening Mass of the community's centennial year.

## Weekly Slovak Masses Continue at Chicago Church



**Father Francis Kub, Pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Church**

A Slovak language Mass is celebrated each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at St. Simon the Apostle Church, 5157 South California Avenue on Chicago's South Side. Mass in Slovak has been celebrated at St. Simon's every week since Vatican 2.

## Philadelphia Parish Plans Festival

St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene parish invites everyone to attend the celebration of its 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary at the Annual Festival on Sunday, October 12, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Fourth and Brown Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Come and enjoy games, cakes and food, including priohy, kolbasy, salads and more. Entrance to the Hall is on Orianna Street. For more details, please call the Rectory at 215/627-0340.



## Kolbe House Celebration in Chicago

The Kolbe House, the Archdiocese of Chicago's Prison Ministry headquartered at Assumption B.V.M. Church, will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. in the church followed with dinner and program starting at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall, 2434 South California Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and \$10.00 for students. For more information, call 773/247-0070, or visit [www.Kolbehouseministry.org](http://www.Kolbehouseministry.org).

Assumption B.V.M. Parish was founded in 1903 to serve Slovak immigrants in the South Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago. It is located two blocks from the Cook County Jail. Kolbe House has been located at Assumption since 1984.

**Robert Tapak Magruder**

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT-ALLEGHENY-KISKI VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. Delegates from all branches should call District Secretary Grace Charney at 724/763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

**Grace M. Charney, Secretary**

### THE JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT-HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Cambergs Cozy Corner, 401 Sarah Street, Osceola Mills, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome to attend.

**Marcella Kopchik, Secretary**

### REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT-BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in St. Francis Church Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania. All branches are reminded of section 405(g) of the bylaws which states that in order to qualify for the branch stipend in 2009 they must send a representative to at least one district meeting per calendar year.

On the agenda will be the election of officers for the coming year. We expect honored guests at this meeting so lets honor them with a good turnout.

**Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary**

### MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT-NEW YORK

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of next year's program, and the election of officers for 2009. Other business will also be discussed. We urge all District branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU are also welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by the host, the St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716.

**Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer**

### REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT-ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, November 2, 2008, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments will begin at 1:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 2:00 p.m. All District branches are encouraged to send delegates. A delicious catered meal will be served. In order to ensure an adequate supply of food and beverages, please contact District President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 if you plan to attend.

**Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary**

### REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2008, in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in the Blessed Teresa Calcutta Church, 614 West Mahanoy Avenue, Mahanoy City. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. in Gil's Catering Service, 5051 Mahanoy Street, Donation for dinner is \$13.00. The meeting will be called to order at 1:30 p.m. Make checks payable to Branch 112 and send the check along with your credentials by September 29. Please send them back on time so I can call the caterers.

For more information call Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614. Hope to see many delegates at the meeting. May God bless and watch over you.

**Helen Fiala, Secretary**

### MICHIGAN DISTRICT-MICHIGAN

The Michigan District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at St. Patrick's Ryan Church Hall, 4708 South Meridian Road (M30), Merrill, Michigan. A Thanksgiving Dinner will be served starting at 11:30 a.m. followed by the business meeting at 12:15 p.m. Branch 774 is the host for this meeting.

Please notify Irene Pacholka at 989/687-5419 by October 19 with the number of delegates attending from your branch.

Since this is our annual meeting, the election of officers will be on the agenda along with a discussion of new events for the coming year. Our District President Victor Jiomkowski encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch.

**Anna Magusin, Secretary**

### MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT-NEW JERSEY

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its next Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Hall, 16 East Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey. Branch 290 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Joe Minarovich at 732/469-5256 by November 1 with the number of delegates who will be attending. Refreshments will be served.

**Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary**

### FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Meridian Point Apartments, 112 Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Representatives from the District branches are requested to attend.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

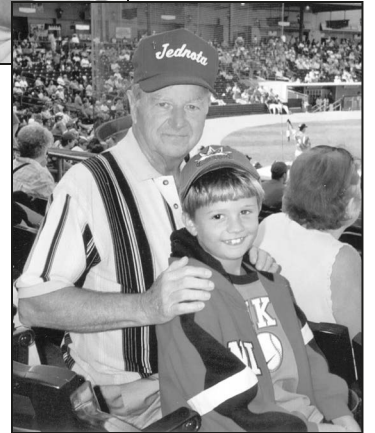
### PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT-LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated for all deceased souls in the chapel at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After the meeting, there will be a period of fraternal fellowship with coffee and donuts. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of District fraternal activities and FCSU insurance products. All members are invited to attend. Branches in the area are requested to send representatives to the meeting.

**Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director**



**Branch 706 members  
Bill Fayta, Art Fayta  
and John Sherly**



**National Vice President Andrew  
Harcar with grandson Matthew  
Manzella.**



**Robert Tapak Magruder and Valerie  
Vesely of Branch 493**



**Bobb Babb and Pete Turner of  
Branch 493**



**Director of Fraternal Activities  
George Kelchak with wife Betty.**

## Spitkovsky District Afternoon at the Ballpark

Twenty-eight members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District and their guests spent an afternoon at the ballpark on Sunday, August 24, 2008. The Gary, Indiana South Shore Railcats minor league team played the Joliet, Illinois Jackhammers at the modern U.S. Steel Yard ballpark in downtown Gary. All enjoyed the great seats along the first base line, reasonably priced concessions, and safe and secure parking.

The seniors, adults and children in the Jednota group all enjoyed this first time fraternal outing to the U.S. Steel Yard. Thanks go out to District 2 Director of Fraternal Activities, George Kelchak for arranging this successful event.

**Robert Tapak Magruder**

# Angel on Loan: The Story of Anthony Schwartz

By Erin Schwartz

*continued from September 17*

## November 23, 2005

On this day we went to my weekly OB appointment only to be put on bed rest for the remaining 3 weeks of my pregnancy (so much for working up until winter break). My legs and feet were so swollen that I could barely walk and the nurse practitioner Luellen Greenlick said, "If you're still working then you're not anymore." We also learned that I was dilated 1 centimeter. We went home and for the next week I rested.

## November 30, 2005

At my 38 week appointment I had dilated to 3 centimeters and Dr. Moore said that she could feel Anthony's head. She also said that before the weekend was over, we would have a baby! I couldn't believe it. All this waiting was about to be over and I could finally hold our son. We talked a lot about which one of us he would look the most like and in the next few days we would finally know. I was scheduled for an appointment the next day to monitor Anthony's movement because I felt a significant decrease. The tests showed that he was doing fine and in fact he was merely getting ready for delivery. That night I cleaned my house from top to bottom and went to bed.

## December 2, 2005

It was 5 a.m. when I first felt a little "something." I had been feeling weird "somethings" the entire time so I didn't think much of it. I went downstairs for a bowl of cereal (my favorite pregnancy snack) and then took a shower. Those weird little "somethings" never went away so I called my mom and said, "Keep your phone close by. I think this is the day." I don't really think she took me seriously at the time but by 10:00 a.m. those "somethings" turned into contractions that were 6 minutes apart. I called Joe and told him that he should come home and a drive that would usually take 20-25 minutes had Joe home in 14 minutes. It was straight out of the movies. I was sitting on the couch with my bags and Joe ran right by me and upstairs to get my things. I told him that I already had them and that I was ready to go. Luckily, St. Rose Dominican Hospital (Siena Campus, Henderson, NV) is only 5 minutes from our home.

Joe pulled the car up to the door and dropped me off while I went up to Labor and Delivery. I had already registered so they set me up in triage to monitor my contractions. By 12:30 I was admitted and we were ready to have a baby! I called EVERYONE. I even talked to my mom 20 minutes before I started to push. Dr. Moore came to see me and told us that as soon as Anthony's pediatrician/neonatologist Dr. Susan Rizal Fernandez (Henderson, NV) was there we would push. There were about 12 doctors and nurses in the room when I delivered. Dr. Moore had arranged to have doctors and nurses from the NICU as well as Dr. Fernandez as a precautionary measure. We were all confident that Anthony was going to be fine, but we all wanted the best for him. After only 20 minutes of pushing at 7:13 p.m. Anthony was finally here! He weighed in at 6 lbs. 6oz. and was 19 1/4" long. His cry was the most beautiful sound we had ever heard. Joe left my side to check on Anthony and he ran back and forth in the room to let me know how great he looked. The nurse asked Joe if he wanted to carry Anthony over to me but he was so excited that he was shaking and he insisted that she do it. I will never forget the way I felt the moment the nurse laid him in my arms. I didn't see his cleft at all. I saw my beautiful son and I cried. It was love at first sight. I held him close and couldn't stop kissing him. After 20 minutes a nurse from the NICU came and said that she had to take him. During the delivery Anthony got some fluid in his lungs and they needed to make sure that he was ok. I reluctantly gave him to her. I immediately called my mom who was anxiously waiting to tell her how beautiful he was. As if she already knew she replied with, "of course he is."

The moment I was able to ease into a wheelchair I had Joe take me to the NICU to see our baby. I hadn't paid much attention to his cleft when I held him earlier because I was so enamored by his perfection and I wanted to see how he was doing. Anthony was born with an incomplete cleft lip on the right side and a complete cleft of the palate. My first visit to the

NICU was hard. Seeing him lay there attached to tubes and wires was difficult to take in, so once again I cried. The nurse assured me that he was doing well and that he would need the tubes to supply him with oxygen and that the IV was to give him nourishment. Anthony wasn't given a bottle until the next day. That night I fell asleep for a short time and went right back to the NICU to see Anthony. In fact, the two days that he was there Joe and I were in there every two hours to hold him and feed him. No matter how many times the nurses told us to get some rest, we just couldn't pull ourselves away from him. He had become our everything. After the first day Anthony was taken off the oxygen and drinking from the Mead Johnson Cleft Lip/Palate Nurser. By the end of day two he was moved from the NICU into the Pediatrics ICU and we were able to stay with him. He stayed on the IV for the next two days and then it was removed because he was eating so well. Anthony has never had any of the typical problems that most children born with CL/CP have such as trouble swallowing or food coming out of his nose. By day five Dr. Fernandez was pleased with how well Anthony was doing and we were able to finally take him home. For the next four weeks we awaited our trip to St. Louis to meet with Dr. Carstens to discuss the next step in Anthony's treatment plan.

## December 31, 2005

This is the day we were leaving for St. Louis. Anthony was almost one month old and we decided to drive instead of fly to avoid the chance of him getting sick. My parents were flying in from Cleveland around 10 a.m. and the plan was to pick them up along with a larger rental car and head to St. Louis. We estimated that it would take 3 days so we left as soon as possible. Along the way we stopped to feed and change Anthony but other than that we drove all day. We stopped at night and got up first thing in the morning to hit the road again. Our appointment was scheduled for January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We arrived in St. Louis on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and got settled.

## January 3, 2006

We arrived at the hospital around 8:30 and nervously waited for our name to be called. I was feeling very anxious and scared because we needed to make a decision today about Anthony's treatment. Debbie came out to get all of us and took us into an exam room. I don't know if it was because there were so many people in the room or that I was feeling so anxious, but boy did that room seem hot and small! Dr. Carstens came in and looked at Anthony and began to explain his procedure and how it was different than the traditional repair. He explained how his technique fixes the problem from the inside-out and how the long term results lead to fewer surgeries. I felt dizzy. We were being hit with so much information that when it was time to make our decision, we asked everyone to leave the room. I didn't know what to think. My mind was still processing what Dr. Carstens had told us, but Joe was ready to make a decision. He looked at me with 100% certainty and said, "I want Dr. Carstens to perform the repair. It is the best thing for Anthony." At that moment I knew that he was right and that this was the absolute best choice we could make for Anthony and we told Debbie about our decision. She immediately made an appointment for us with Dr. Richard O'Brien, the prosthodontist who fitted Anthony for an appliance that would help prepare his mouth for his upcoming surgeries. The appliance fit like a retainer and Anthony adjusted to it well. He actually preferred to have it in. Luckily we didn't have any trouble with it and didn't need to make any trips back to St. Louis before his scheduled surgery in June. In fact he wore it until the day before his surgery when it wouldn't stay in his mouth because he had outgrown it. The timing was perfect.

It was final: Anthony's surgery was scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The only thing to do now was wait. After a few visits with Dr. O'Brien to make sure the appliance fit well, we headed back to Las Vegas.

Over the next five months we dealt with some very emotional issues. The first was taking him out in public because we could always count on getting stares and sometimes rude remarks. I will never forget the most hurtful incident that we encountered was at a local restaurant. We were having dinner and Joe was holding Anthony because he started to fuss. A family of three sat at a nearby table began to stare. In fact, the father and son were making rude comments about Anthony's appearance. The mother had to tell the father and son to stop. At the time Joe wasn't aware of what was going on and I didn't tell him until after we left because I was afraid of his reaction. This bothered me for days. We are proud of our son and the way he looks. He is blessing and we love him more than anything. Why couldn't other people look at him and see a baby, not just his cleft? I don't think I'll ever understand this. We never minded if people asked us questions. We just hated it when they stared. After a while we started to not notice other people's reactions. All we can do is shower Anthony love and kisses and tell him that to us he is perfect.

I've read on some support websites about parents debating whether or not have their child's picture taken if they were born with a cleft. I say, "DO IT!" We fell in love with Anthony's smile from the very beginning. I never want to forget the way God made him and we have hundreds of pictures of him. The first time we took him to have his pictures done professionally he never stopped smiling. It was so cute the way he flirted with the photographer. I think he liked her! The bottom line is that this was our Anthony and we loved the way he looked. In fact, over the next few months we talked a lot about how much we would miss his smile after his surgery. We wondered if he would look the same and if his smile would be as intoxicating as it had been since the day he was born. All of these doubts were put at ease when he shared his first post-op smile.

Erin Schwartz is a member of Branch 228, Lorain, Ohio

*To be continued*

## Useful Websites

<a href="http://www.skonline.sk">www.skonline.sk</a>	Slovakia Travel Guide
<a href="http://www.travelguide.sk">www.travelguide.sk</a>	Hotel and Spa Guide
<a href="http://kosice.region.sk">kosice.region.sk</a>	Kosice-City Travel Guide
<a href="http://www.slovakia.org">www.slovakia.org</a>	Bratislava-Information about the City
<a href="http://www.vtaty.sk">www.vtaty.sk</a>	Useful Information about the High Tatras
<a href="http://www.tatry.net">www.tatry.net</a>	Complete Information on Tatra Region
<a href="http://www.hotel-net.sk">www.hotel-net.sk</a>	Tourist Accommodation
<a href="http://www.skonline.sk">www.skonline.sk</a>	Slovakia On-Line (general information)
<a href="http://www.kultura.sk">www.kultura.sk</a>	Slovak cultural calendar
<a href="http://www.snm.sk">www.snm.sk</a>	Slovak National Museum
<a href="http://www.savba.sk">www.savba.sk</a>	Slovak Academy of Sciences
<a href="http://www.government.gov.sk">www.government.gov.sk</a>	Government of the Slovak Republic
<a href="http://www.snd.sk">www.snd.sk</a>	Slovak National Theater
<a href="http://www.stv.sk">www.stv.sk</a>	Slovak Television
<a href="http://www.nbs.sk">www.nbs.sk</a>	National Bank of Slovakia

# News From Slovakia

## Kosice to Become European Capital of Culture in 2013

The eastern Slovak regional city of Kosice will become the European Capital of Culture in 2013. The decision was made by a 13-person international jury under the leadership of Chairman Sir Bob Scott at the Slovak Ministry of Culture.

The European Capital of Culture project helps bring together different European cultures, Culture Minister Marek Madaric said in a speech following the announcement of the winner.

Sir Bob said that "the jury's decision-making was tough, we were deciding between Kosice and Presov, with the majority tilting eventually in favor of Kosice. The Commission recommended both cities to work together on projects they spoke of in their submitted projects."

There are nine Slovak cities competing for the title including Banska Bystrica, Bratislava, Dolny Kubin, Trencin, Trnava, Kosice, Presov, Martin and Nitra with the last four making the final round.

"The number of European visitors to the city is expected to rise in the year it will be Europe's Capital of Culture. The city will be put into the list of cultural and travel agencies boosting local tourism trade. This is how Kosice can reach the level of famous towns and regions which are already well established in our European hearts and minds," said Kosice Mayor Frantisek Knapik.

Some recent European Capital of Culture cities include Glasgow (Scotland), Antwerp Belgium), Thessalonika (Greece), Graz (Austria), Cork (Ireland) and Porto (Portugal). This year Liverpool (England) and the Stavanger region (Norway) share the honor, and Kosice will share the honor in 2013 with an as-yet undisclosed French city or region.

TASR

## Bratislava Stages Coronation Festivities

On Saturday afternoon, September 6, Bratislava was the scene for the staged commemorative Coronation Festivities, an annual reenactment of the crowning of Hungarian kings and queens 1563-1830.

This year the festivities marked the 1618 coronation of King Ferdinand II, one of the key players in the Thirty Years War-impersonated by popular stage and screen actor Maros Kramar.

The Old Town area of Bratislava became the site of the coronation following the Battle of Mohacs in 1526 after the Ottoman Empire occupied parts of Hungary.

The Coronation procession dressed in period costumes marched from the Bratislava Castle to the Main Square to watch the crowning ceremony of Ferdinand II and his swearing-in on the mound of Hviezdoslavovo Namestie where the Knights of the Order of the Golden Spur were dubbed.

King Ferdinand II went down in history as one of the main actors in the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) affecting the whole of Europe including the territory of what is today Slovakia.

The events continued on the right of the Danube River with re-enactments of the Thirty Years War. The coronation program concluded in late evening with a fireworks display.

TASR

## Around 165,000 Slovaks are Currently Working Abroad

Approximately 165,000 Slovaks are currently working abroad, according to Sloven ska Sportelna bank analysts.

The analysts note that the figure has fallen, however, as there were as many as around 186,000 people working abroad in the final quarter of 2007.

The returnees- who were mainly working in the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Hungary and Austria- tended to work in the trading, social-care and household-help sectors, while the employment of Slovaks abroad is actually growing in industry and construction.

The analysts assume that employment in Slovakia will continue to rise, although slower economic growth and barriers in the employment market- such as the high number of long-term unemployed- will slow the trend down.

TASR

## Feast of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Celebrated in Sastin

A Holy Mass to mark the Feast of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows, Slovakia's patron saint, was celebrated in the basilica of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows in Sastin on Monday, September 15 by Archbishop Stanislav Zvolensky.

The archbishop began the Mass by greeting Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic, Members of Parliament, and all the pilgrims who had braved the bad weather to attend.

Zvolensky focuses on the life of the Virgin Mary, which he said holds a timeless message inspiring the lives of people today. He expressed the need for the warmth of interpersonal relationships, and spoke of the love of parents for their children. He also encouraged parents to stay close to their children and to find time to talk to them. He expressed his condolences

to parents who have lost their children, and paid respect to those who take care of sick and disabled children.

"Let the example of our patron saint, Our Lady of Sorrows, be an example and encouragement to us all," said Zvolensky.

The Mass on September 15 formed part of a four-day national pilgrimage to Sastin that came to a close with a gathering of seniors and disabled people.

TASR

## Slovak Bus Crash in Croatia Kills 14

The Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry said that the list of fatalities in the Slovak bus crash that occurred near the Croatian town of Gospic on September 7 was confirmed after identification of the deceased. As many as 14 people including the driver were killed in the crash. A further 19 holidaymakers were in the hospital, including two in a critical condition. Another 16 people who escaped serious injury were being looked after by the Red Cross.

The bus, which left Kosice on Saturday evening, September 6, and was heading for the Adriatic Sea, went off the road on Sunday morning at around 6:00 a.m. It crashed through roadside barriers before colliding into a concrete pillar of a flyover.

The accident, which is now being investigated, is believed to have resulted from either the driver falling asleep for a moment or a burst tire.

"It was a terrible sight. The injured were draped over each other. Some people were still trapped between the seats, which had fallen on top of them. We were unable to get to them for some time," one of the rescuers told Croatian television.

The Slovak Cabinet coordinated help for the bus passengers. Premier Robert Fico agreed with Interior Minister Robert Kalinak to dispatch aircraft to fly home those who were on the ill-fated Karosa LC 956 bus, whose second driver had both legs amputated.

The premier, Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Paska and President Ivan Gasparovic have all expressed their condolences to the bereaved families.

TASR

## Christmas Eve Vilija Dinner in Cleveland

The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club invite you to their  
**2008 Vilija or Christmas Eve Dinner**  
on **Sunday, December 7, 2008**, at  
**St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio.**

Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 12:00 noon followed by dinner in Benedictine High School Dining Hall.

Entertainment will be provided by Lucina Slovak folklore ensemble and Slovenske Mamicky Singers

Tickets are \$20.00 per person and are by advance sales only.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

Send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with your check or money order payable to

**Saint Andrew Abbey-Vilija,  
2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.,  
Cleveland, Oh 44104.**

Your tickets will be mailed out to you. Ticket orders must be received by November 28, 2008.

For more information call 216/721-5300 ext.0

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# Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Pittsburgh Observe Anniversaries



**Diamond Jubilarians: L-R Sister Theresita Sabol, Sister Mary Stella Stofcik, Sister Charlene Reebel, Major Superior, and Sister Augusta Jancek.**

On Sunday, August 17, 2008, three Sisters of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Pittsburgh observed the 75th Anniversary of their Religious Profession by renewing their vows at a liturgy of Thanksgiving in the Motherhouse. Rev. Daniel L. Blout officiated as the main Celebrant and Homilist. Concelebrating were Rev. James Holden and Rev. Reginald Russo, O.F.M. Cap.

#### The Diamond Jubilarians are:

Sister Mary Augusta Jancek entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity at the age of 15. After completing her education, she taught elementary school for 36 years in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Alabama. After receiving two grants to study and teach French, Sister spent the next 35 years teaching French, Religion and Speed Reading at St. Joseph's High School in Natrona Heights, PA. Sister has followed her charism and continues to use her French skills by teaching French to residents, staff and volunteers at the Vincentian Home where she now resides.

Sister Mary Stella Stofcik entered the Congregation from Donora, PA. She attended Duquesne University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. She then went on to earn a Master's Degree in Library Science from Rosary College. Sister taught in elementary schools for 37 years in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri and Scarborough, Canada. She then served as librarian at Mon Valley High School for 14 years and at Vincentian High School for 4 years. When she returned to the Motherhouse, Sister Stella served as a driver and worked in the Host Room baking hosts for the Liturgy. Sister retired to the Infirmary in 2002.

Sister Theresita Sabol entered the Community from Marianna, PA. After receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree from Duquesne University, she attended Notre Dame University and earned a Master of Science Degree in Chemistry. In 1972, she became certified in Secondary Administration through Duquesne University. Sister Theresita taught upper elementary and secondary students in Pittsburgh, Ohio, Alabama and Canada. She was principal at Vincentian High School for 15 years and Director of Social Services at St. Jude Center in Montgomery, Alabama for 14 years. During 1975 and 1983, Sister Theresita served on the Leadership Team at the Motherhouse. Sister Theresita is now retired at the Motherhouse.

#### Vincentian Sisters of Charity Observe Silver Anniversaries

On Saturday, August 9, 2008, two Sisters of the Vincentian of Charity, observed their Silver Anniversary by renewing their vows at a Mass of Thanksgiving in the Motherhouse Chapel. Rev. Mark Gruber, O.S.B. officiated as main celebrant and homilist. Concelebrants were Rev. David Dixon, Rev. Timothy Fitzgerald, C.P., Rev. Michael P. Reid, II, and Rev. Reginald Russo, O.F.M. Cap.

Sister Sandra Emrich, daughter of Marilyn and the late Wallace Emrich, entered the Congregation from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Lebanon, PA. Prior to entering religious life, Sister earned an Associate Degree in Accounting from Thompson Institute in Harrisburg. After entering the Community, she attended Duquesne University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Sister taught at St. Agnes Elementary School in North Huntingdon for eight years. She then served at the Vincentian Child Care Center in North Hills, Pittsburgh for ten years before moving to Bedford, Ohio where she continues to serve in the business office at Light of Hearts Nursing Home.

Sister Catherine Cline, daughter of Kenneth and Mary Cline entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from Good Shepherd Parish in Middlesex, PA. She attended Duquesne University and then St. Francis Hospital working towards a certificate as a Physical Therapist Assistant. She ministered at the Vincentian Home for four years in the Physical Therapy Department. Sister Catherine then served at St. Vincent Hospital in Monett, Missouri and Vincentian Home, Pittsburgh for several months as an Aide. For five years, she ministered to severely handicapped children in the F.P.M. Unit at St. Jude Center in Montgomery, Alabama before returning to Pittsburgh. She worked part time at the Vincentian Child Care Center while attending Community College and is presently serving as a Massage Therapist.

#### Vincentian Sisters of Charity Observe Golden Anniversaries

On Saturday, August 16, 2008, three Sisters of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of Pittsburgh observed the Golden Anniversary of their Religious Profession by renewing their vows at a Liturgy of Thanksgiving in the Motherhouse. Rev. Reginald Russo, O.F.M. Cap. officiated as the main celebrant and homilist. Concelebrants were Rev. Regis Heuschkel, O.P., Rev. William McGuirk, Rev. William Rock, O.P., Rev. Reynolds Rynda, O.F.M. Cap. and Rev. James Holden.

#### The Golden Jubilarians are:

Sister M. Rosetta Diehl, daughter of the late Charles and Rose Diehl, entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. Leo the Great Parish in Ridgeway, PA. Most of her religious life was spent



**Golden Jubilarians L-R: Sister Rosetta Diehl, Sister Lorraine Marie Ferlin, and Sister Madonna Michels. In the back is Sister Charlene Reebel, major Superior.**

in ministering to the elderly sick- 24 years at Assumption Home in Youngstown, Ohio and 11 years at the Villa de Marillac in Pittsburgh. Sister Rosetta is presently serving at the Vincentian Home where she has been an Activities Aide for the past 11 years.

Sister Madonna Michels, daughter of the late Joseph and Theresa Michels entered the Congregation from St. Alphonse Parish, Wexford, PA. Sister Madonna earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from LaRoche College and her Master's in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh. She also attended Duquesne University in the summer of 1977 and Kukiko's Program on Pastoral Ministry in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Before earning her degree in Social Work, Sister Madonna taught in elementary schools in the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Diocese and at St. Jude Educational Center in Montgomery, Alabama. As a social worker, she served in Latrobe, PA and Schuyler, Nebraska before serving as Manager of Germaine Harbor for 8 years and then manager of Just-In for 8 years- both high-rise apartments for the elderly in Pittsburgh.

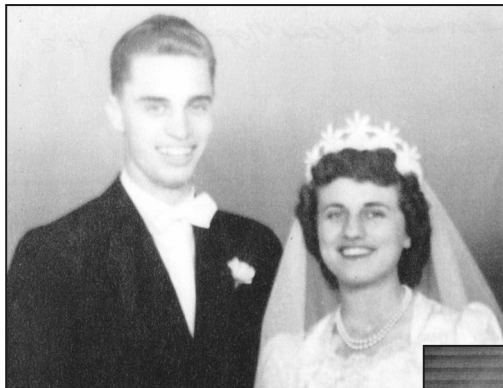
Sister Lorraine Marie Ferlin, daughter of the late Joseph and Marie Ferlin, entered the Community from St. Florian Parish in United PA. Sister earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from LaRoche College and taught in elementary schools in the Pittsburgh Diocese for 14 years. She then served at the Vincentian Day Care for several years before working as an Aide in the Motherhouse Infirmary. Since 1996, Sister Lorraine Marie continues to follow her charism by providing the frail elderly at Vincentian Home with spiritual comfort, crafts and activities.

## YOUTH ROUND-UP

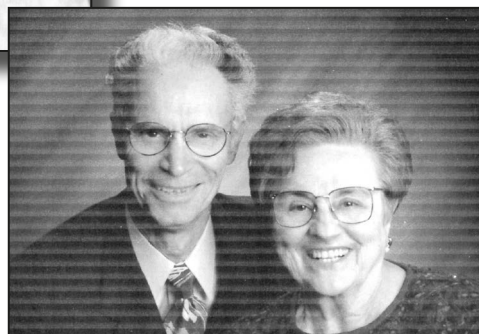


**Julia and Antholy Affrunti**

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, is very proud to welcome its newest members, Julia and Anthony Affrunti. Julia is a college senior majoring in public relations at Illinois Sate University, and Anthony is a senior at Glenbard South High School in Glen Ellen, Illinois, where he plays on the baseball team. The siblings live with their parents in Wheaton, Illinois. Their Aunt Valerie Vesely, serves as the recording secretary for Branch 493



Bernard and Jane on their wedding day in 1948



Bernard and Jane Kapinus

## Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Kapinus Observe 60 Years of Marriage

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard S. Kapinus of Montdale, Pennsylvania, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Thursday, July 24, 2008. They were married July 24, 1948, in Corpus Christi Church, Montdale by the late Msgr. Michael C. Polcha. They were attended by Dorothy Lucas, Warren, sister of the bride, and Cyril Kapinus, brother of the groom.

Mrs. Kapinus is the former Jane Lucas, daughter of the late Daniel and Mary Sholudko Lucas. She is a homemaker. Mrs. Kapinus and her three great-granddaughters are members of Branch 90 in Olyphant.

Mr. Kapinus is the son of the late Stephen and Anna Simcak Kapinus. He is retired from Weston Components in Archibald, PA. He is a lifetime member of the Genealogical Research Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania, first lifetime member and first curator of the Scott Township Historical Society. He has been a member of Corpus Christi Church since its dedication in 1942 and lector for 39 years.

The anniversary couple has four children: Linda Smith of Savannah, Georgia; Gerald of Montdale; Stephen of Los Angeles; and Mary Pizzimenti of Rocklin, California. They also have five grandchildren and three great-granddaughters.



George and Natalie on their wedding day in 1958.



George and Natalie Findish

## George and Natalie Findish Celebrate 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary

George and Natalie Findish celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 7, 2008. George and Natalie were married June 7, 1958 in Holy Trinity Church, Lorain, Ohio by Father Joseph Ungarsky.

An anniversary Mass was held in Holy Trinity Church followed by a reception in De Lucas's Place in the Park, Lorain.

Both George and Natalie are active members of the St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228 in Lorain. George currently serves as president of Branch 228.

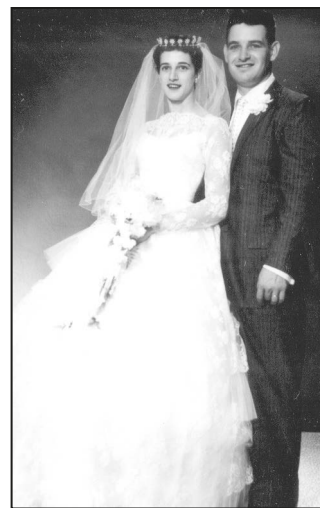
The anniversary couple has three sons, Robert (Debbie) of Brunswick, Ohio, Ronald (Carolyn) of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Randal (Tina) of Woodlawn, Virginia; and one daughter, Marie (Jeff) Schroeder. They also have six grandchildren: Ryan and Lauren Finish, Lea Finish, and Sophia, Ella and Ava Schroeder.

## Mrs. Edward Voytko Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

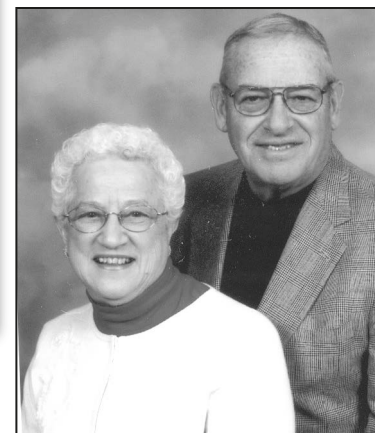
Ed and MaryAnne Voytko of Mansfield, Ohio, will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 27, 2008. The former MaryAnne Elish and Ed Voytko were married in St. Peter's Catholic Church by the Rev. James Hebbler. A private Mass will be celebrated on September 20 at the home of their daughter and son-in-law Susan and Keith Bacin, followed by a dinner.

The anniversary couple has three children, Julianne (Steven) Wolf of Cleveland, Tennessee, Susan (Keith) Bacin of Lexington, Ohio, and Ed (Robin) Voytko of Lucas, Ohio; and nine grandchildren.

Ed retired in 1994 from Armco Steel (AK Steel) after 35 years. MaryAnne retired in 1996 from The Rehab Center of NCO, after 17 years. Since their retirement, they are enjoying traveling and spending time with their family.



Ed and MaryAnne on their wedding day in 1958



Ed and MaryAnne Voytko



## Slovak Self-Taught

By Slavo Moravek

Thank you	Ďakujem	(dYakuYem)
Thanks!	Vďaka!	(VdYaka)
Never mind	To nič	(to nYich)
Good Morning	Dobré ráno	(dobrĚ rÁno)
Good Day	Dobrý deň	(dobree dYenY)
Good Evening	Dobrý večer	(dobree vecher)
Good night	Dobrá noc	(dobroo nots)
Mr. Black	Pán Black	(pÁN blĀk)
Mrs. White	Pani White	(panYi hwa Yt)
Miss Sweet	Slečna Sweet	(Slechna sweet)
Excuse me	Odpusťte	(odpusťtYe)
Come here	Podťte sem	(podYtYe sem)
What is it?	Čo je to?	(cho Ye to)
How much?	Koľko?	(kolYko)
How many?	Koľko?	(kolYko)
That is too much	To je priveľa	(to Ye priveľYa)
You are right	Máte pravdu	(mÁtYe pravdu)
I think not	Nemyslím	(nYemisleem)
I do not believe	Neverím	(nYevereem)
I will show it to you	Ukážem vám to	(ukÁZem vÁm to)
All right	Dobre	(dobre)
Have you-?	Máte-?	(mÁtYe)

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 3 AND BRANCH 226 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 and Branch 226 will hold their Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Joseph Matlon, 4016 Washington Street N.E., Columbia Heights, Minnesota.

**Joseph Matlon, Publicity Committee**

## BRANCH 6P- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Valentine Society, Branch 6P, will hold its Yearly Meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the home of Edmund W. Zigmund. All members are invited to attend.

**Edmund W. Zigmund, President**

## BRANCH 75- SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of President and Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. The fiscal end of the year reports and financial statements will be presented. The auditors' report will also be submitted and the nomination and election of officers for the coming year will take place. All members are requested to attend this semiannual meeting.

**Ronald M. Anderson, President & Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 96- CARROLLTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 96, will hold its next regular meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of President Stella Papson, 138 Sunset Road, Carrolltown, Pennsylvania.

**Stella Papson, President**

## BRANCH 112- MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 112, will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. at Gil's Catering Hall, 505 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania.

All members are invited to attend the District Mass, Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 5 beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please contact Karen Sterling at 570/544-6694 if you would like to attend.

**Karen Sterling**

## BRANCH 153- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of charitable donations. All members are cordially invited to attend. There will be a fraternal dinner after the meeting.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 166- BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 1:15 p.m. at The Old Country Buffet, Town Square

Mall, Vestal Parkway. The agenda will consist of Branch business and a discussion of the District meeting and picnic held in September. Members are encouraged to attend. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896. Thank you and hope to see you at the meeting.

**Arlo Meeker, President**

## BRANCH 290- RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. Please call Joe at 732/469-5256 after 6:30 p.m. for the location of the meeting.

**Joseph F. Minarovich, President**

## BRANCH 362- BARTON, OHIO

Our Lady of Angels Society, Branch 362, held its regular meeting on Sunday, October 19, 2008, at 12:00 noon at 70830 Crescent Road., St. Clairsville, Ohio.

**John Wodarczyk, President**

## BRANCH 380- CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold its Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Patrick Center, West Pike Street, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place.

**Margaret Graytok, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 401- VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 401, will hold a meeting on Saturday, October 25, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at King's Restaurant, 315 Hyde Park Road, Leechburg, Pennsylvania. Please attend as your input may affect the future of the branch.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at King's Restaurant. A new year is coming so let's hear from the members. The election of officers is also on the agenda as well as a discussion of any topic that may interest you.

**Rose Froncek, Secretary**

## BRANCH 425-BARBERTON, OHIO

The St. Mark's Society, Branch 425, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the Slovak Society of Barberton Club, 887 West Tuscarawas Avenue, Barberton, Ohio. All members are welcome to attend.

**Paul J. Slota, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its next meeting on Saturday, October 18, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jozef Valencik, 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, Ohio.

**Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 553- AKRON, OHIO

Members of the St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, are invited to attend a Mass on Sunday, October 19, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Church, Akron, Ohio. We will meet in the church entrance at 9:45 a.m. and seat as a group.

After the liturgy, breakfast will be served to all bona fide members at the Slovak "J" Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron. Following the breakfast, we will hold a lodge meeting. Please attend the Mass, breakfast and lodge meeting. Take an active role in your branch and its activities.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 7, 2008, for the annual Vilija at the Slovak "J" Club. Details will be announced soon.

**Linda M. Hanko, Secretary**

## BRANCH 567- ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John's Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend and take an interest in their branch. Nominations of officers will be held. The plans for our pork and sauerkraut dinner will be finalized.

May God bless you and watch over you.

**Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 706- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, October 24, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Treasurer Arthur Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. On the agenda will be discussions on new and existing membership as well as scholarships. The election of officers for 2009 will take place. Branch activities for the coming year will also be discussed. All members are invited to attend. If you plan to attend, please call Mr. Fayta at 219/864-8251.

**Shirley M. Uram, President**

## BRANCH 716- NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, election of officers, and a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

**Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary**

## BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 14, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Social Hall, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a 2008 financial report, approval of the 2009 budget, a discussion of branch activities and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of officers will also take place. Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

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

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

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



## Fraternal Activities Committee

We are looking for new  
members, especially  
from

- Ford City
- Levittstown
- West Mifflin
- Akron

Bring your ideas to  
plan new activities

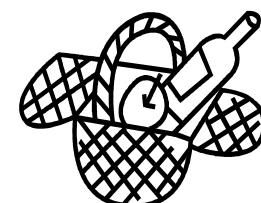
Slovak Civic Federation  
1200 Hodgkiss St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212



We will review the 2008  
tournaments and plan the 2009  
tournaments. We will also  
choose the locations for the  
2010 tournaments.



**Saturday, October 11  
1 PM**



# The Queen of Slovak Culture in Youngstown, Ohio – Mary H. Babnič (1923-2008)

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

The Slovak American community in Youngstown, Ohio recently lost one of its finest leaders, Mary H. Babnič. If there was anyone who would be called the Slovak Queen of Youngstown, it was Mary Babnič. She devoted her life to promoting and keeping alive the Slovak language and Slovak culture in the Mahoning Valley.

Because I was originally from Youngstown, I had the privilege of knowing Mary well over 20 years. Any time a major Slovak event was happening, she was there. I could always see the energy and love of everything Slovak in all she did.

Mary was 85 years old, and passed away on June 20, 2008. She was hospitalized at the time at Forum Health Northside Medical Center, and was suffering from a stomach blockage.

Many friends and relatives expressed their sympathies with the family at the Kubina-Yuhasz Funeral Home, 5925 Market St. in Boardman, Ohio. Funeral services took place at 9:30 a.m. in St. Matthias Church, a Slovak parish in Youngstown, with a Holy Mass celebrated by Msgr. Peter Polando, Fr. George Franko and Fr. Richard Murphy, who was the homilist. She was laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery.

Mary Babnič never married, but in a sense, she married the Slovak community of Youngstown. She lived a very active and fulfilling life as both a devoted Catholic and promoter of Slovak culture. She touched the lives of countless people in the Youngstown area and beyond.

Mary was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, on March 20, 1923. Her parents, Steven and Julia Kvoriak Babnič, raised her in a Slovak environment and taught her to love her God, her country, and her ethnic roots. As a young girl, Mary went to Slovakia with her mother, while her father continued to work at the Sheet and Tube Steel Mill. Mary lived on her grandmother Maria's farm with her mother, her brother Stephan, and her sister Dorothy in Závadka nad Hronom. Závadka is a quaint village in the Brezno District, which is located in the Banská Bystrica Region of central Slovakia. It is quite charming and picturesque area, just south of the Lower Tatra Mountains, and today is near a number of winter ski resorts.

After five years of life in Slovakia, Mary's mother Julia decided to return to the USA. While in Chicago, a doctor who was a relative of the family warned Mary's father that trouble was brewing in Central Europe, and Hitler's armies might soon cut off any possibility of seeing his family. So he sent for them, and Mary and her mother came back to Youngstown.

While in Slovakia, Mary attended Slovak schools and became quite proficient in the Slovak language, so much so, that she had to re-learn English to finish school in America; she

graduated in 1938 from Woodrow Wilson High School in Youngstown. She would later use her education in Slovakia to promote the Slovak language and its culture for the rest of her life.

After graduating from high school, Mary began her pursuit of a lifelong career in nursing. When the US entered World War II, Mary was eager to join and assist with the war effort. She was accepted into the Navy, but the Army needed her immediately.

She soon found herself on ship duty in the Pacific to help wounded soldiers. When she returned to the States, she served in a number of army hospitals around the country -- in Texas, Kentucky, Colorado, California and New York.

Her niece, Diana Colaianni, related that her Aunt Mary would especially enjoy going to the New York Giant football games because she got in free when she wore her military uniform. Mr. Wellington Mera, the owner of the New York Giants, honored all military personnel by allowing them free admission to all New York Giants football games.

After World War II, Mary continued to serve the country in the U.S. Army Air Corp of Nurses from 1946 to 1953. In 1950, she obtained certification as an anesthetist from the Grace School of Anesthesiology in Detroit, Michigan. Finally, she completed her formal education in 1961, when she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Youngstown State University.

For 38 years, Mary was employed as a Nurse Anesthetist for the Youngstown Hospital Association. She retired from her nursing job in 1987, but she then devoted her abundant talents and energies on behalf of the Slovak community.

Patriot that she was, when the Gulf War broke out in 1991, Mary wanted again to use her nursing talents to serve her country again, but was turned down due to her age. But she was proud that her nephew served in the war as a Stealth Fighter Pilot and when he returned from Iraq, she threw him a big coming home party that many Slovak community members attended.

Throughout her life, Mary was among the most active parishioners of St. Matthias Church on the Southside. She sang in both Slovak and English in the church choir. She was also a member of the Infant Jesus of Prague Guild and the Golden Echoes Senior Citizens Group. In addition, Mary was both a Reader and a Eucharistic Minister at Holy Mass, and she would read the Epistles in Slovak when Slovak Mass was offered. She also recruited other readers who could read the Slovak liturgy, and no doubt, helped Msgr. Poland polish up his Slovak, which he used at some Masses.

Mary was quite active in the community. She belonged to many professional and community service organizations, such as the Retired Nurses Association, the American Nurse Anesthetist Association, and the Military Women in Service Organization. She was a lifelong member of the YSU Alumni Association and a permanent member of ROTC. She also formerly served as president of the Catholic Nurses of Youngstown, the Youngstown Hospital Alumni Association and the Ohio State Nurse Anesthetist Association.

Mary's involvement in the Slovak community was second to none. She served as president of the American Slovak Cultural Association in the Mahoning Valley. The organization promoted Slovak cultural activities and sponsored the well-attended annual Slovak *Vilija* Dinner, which celebrates Slovak Christmas Eve customs. Diana Colaianni noted that the *Vilija* in 2008 will pay a special tribute to Mary Babnič.

Perhaps Mary is most well known for her broadcasts of the WKTL Radio Slovak Hour over many years. She assisted in preparing the program for many years, and in 1983, she became the program director. She also served as treasurer of the WKTL Boosters Association.

My father, Michael Kopanic, Sr., and I have spent many wonderful Saturday evenings enjoying the program and we always looked forward to hearing her enlightening stories about life in Slovakia and Slovak culture. Mary always paid special attention to her listeners and gladly accommodated our requests, including *Čarný cigán* (The Black Gypsy), one of our favorites.

In addition to her radio work, Mary taught a weekly class in the Slovak language at St. Matthias to those interested in learning the language. She was a member of the Slovak fraternal societies, Jednota (FCSU - The First Catholic Slovak Union), and the Slovak Catholic Sokol. She also served as a trustee on the board of the Youngstown Slovak Sister Cities Program, which sponsored charitable donations to Slovakia and cultural exchanges with Spišská Nová Ves. Mary herself welcomed to her home three exchange students from Slovakia, including Lucia, from Prešov, Slovakia.

Mary is survived by her nieces, Diana (Dean) Colaianni of Boardman and Judy (Tim) Babnich of Wichita, Kan.; her great-niece, Maria (Denny) Riley; her great-nephews, David, Steven and Robert Colaianni; and by her great-great-nephew, Nathan Thomas Riley. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Stephan A. Babnich Jr. and by her sister, Dorothy Babnič.

All will miss Mary and are most grateful for her lifelong devotion to making Slovak culture a dynamic part of the Youngstown area. She was truly the Slovak Queen of the Mahoning Valley.



Mike Kopanic and his family attending an affair organized by Mary Babnic



## Annual St. Andrew Abbey Benefit Set for November 2

The annual St. Andrew Abbey Benefit will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at the Church of the Assumption, 9183 Broadview Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio. Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, entertainment and Slovak auction will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We will be honoring Abbot Clement Zeleznik, O.S.B. on his retirement, and welcoming the new Abbot Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B. Catering will be provided by Tom's Country Place. Ticket prices begin at \$65.00 for an individual ticket. Additional sponsorships including a \$100.00 Honor a Monk level are available. If you need additional information, please contact Marie A. Golias at 216/228-8179 or Bill Andrews at 216/721-5300 x 252.

## Prvá SNR bola významným míľnikom v slovenských dejinách

Myjava (TASR) - Prvá Slovenská národná rada (SNR) bola významným míľnikom v slovenských dejinách a položila základy slovenského parlamentarizmu a demokracie. Prispela k emancipácii slovenského národa, ku ktorej sa hlási aj súčasná Národná rada SR a celé Slovensko. Počas osláv 160. výročia založenia prvej SNR to 19. septembra povedal predseda NR SR Pavol Paška. Ako povedala podpredsedníčka NR SR Anna Belousovová, prvá SNR je súčasťou našej histórie. „Bez toho prvého vykročenia a bez toho revolučného 19. storočia by určite nebolo slovenskej samostatnosti, pretože vtedy išlo o zachovanie existencie slovenského národa,“ zdôraznila. Ako uviedla, druhá vec, ktorú si dnes v Myjave Slováci pripomínajú, je paralela k dnešku. „Dnes, keď sa máme možno materiálne lepšie, tak predsa len aj dnešný svet nám prináša výzvy, ktorým čelíme,“ uviedla. Z minulosti by sme si podľa nej mali predstaviť ľudí a obdobie, v ktorom naši národovci žili. „Vybrali si to, čo nazýval Štúr 'cestou života trnistou'. Ale to bola cesta pravdy, cesta spravodlivosti, cesta zastávania sa vlastného národa. A to je aj odkaz pre nás, nielen politikov, že tá cesta pohodlia a blaha nie je vždy tá cesta pravdy a spravodlivosti,“ uviedla Belousovová. Pri príležitosti osláv v Slovenskom národnom múzeu - Múzeu SNR v Myjave otvorili aj novú stálu expozíciu venovanú 160. výročiu vzniku 1. SNR. Jej súčasťou je i dom Anny Kolényiovej, v ktorom 1. SNR prvýkrát zasadala a konala. „Je novým pohľadom na tieto udalosti v histórii nášho národa, pohľadom postaveným na autentických dokumentoch zo zbierok SNR tak, aby sme poznali nielen udalosti a historické súvislosti, ale predovšetkým osobnosti, ktoré boli aktívne v týchto udalostiach,“ uviedla spoluautorka výstavy Eva Králiková. Podľa jej slov ide najmä o pamiatky, ktoré sú málo známe a pre verejnosť sprístupnené s veľkým časovým odstupom. Po slávnostnom otvorení expozície prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič spolu s ďalšími ústavnými činiteľmi položil vence k pamätníku u Klasovitých v katastri obce Poriadie. V týchto miestach v meruôsmych rokoch skončili výpravy povstaleckého vojska slovenskej revolúcie a v boji proti cisárskym vojskám zahynulo 12 hurbanovcov. Prvá Slovenská národná rada sa konštituovala 16. septembra 1848 na zhromaždení vo Viedni a následne zasadala 19. septembra v Myjave v dome Anny Kolényiovej. Prvým predsedom sa stal Jozef Miloslav Hurban, ďalšími členmi úzkeho vedenia boli Ľudovít Štúr a Michal Miloslav Hodža. Tento vrcholný politický orgán, ktorý zároveň suploval aj vládu, stál v revolučných rokoch 1848 -1849 na čele síl zápasiacich o presadenie národnopolitických požiadaviek slovenského národa.



## Piaty blok v Jaslovských Bohuniciach zrejme postaví Francúzsko

Paríž (TASR) - Hlavným strategickým partnerom pri výstavbe piateho bloku v jadrovej elektrárni Jaslovské Bohunice bude pravdepodobne Francúzsko. Po stretnutí s francúzskym prezidentom 17. septembra Nicolasom Sarkozym to pripustil predseda vlády SR Robert Fico. Isté už podľa neho je, že francúzske spoločnosti budú Slovensku stavať iné zdroje elektrickej energie, ktoré však Fico nekonkretizoval. „S najväčšou pravdepodobnosťou u nás Francúzi ale postavia tepelnú elektrárňu v blízkosti Novák,“ povedal premiér po pracovnom obede s francúzskou hlavou štátu. Politici hovorili aj o výmene ľudí a skúseností pri výstavbe a zabezpečovaní jadrových zariadení. „Pretože SR nie je nováčik v tejto oblasti, môžeme dať dokopy ľudí a skúsenosti,“ prognózoval Fico. Podľa jeho slov keď sa hovorí o jadre, vždy sa hovorí aj o bezpečnosti. Najskôr musí byť zaistená bezpečnosť, a potom možno podľa neho hovoriť o spolupráci, o výkone, či o umiestnení takejto investície. Zároveň uistil, že na Slovensku existujú funkčné a bezpečné atómové elektrárne ruskej výroby. „Tretí a štvrtý blok v Mochovciach bude takisto ruskej proveniencie s tým, že riadiace systémy sú vždy z inej krajiny,“ vysvetlil Fico. Rovnako deklaroval, že v prípade Mochoviec má SR záujem o najmodernejší a najbezpečnejší reaktor, „preto ja dnes nemôžem vylúčiť spoluprácu s Francúzskom v tejto oblasti“. Zopakoval, že vyhlásenie tendra na dostavbu reaktora, čo je investícia asi za sedem miliárd Sk (232.36 milióna eur), by malo byť do konca roku 2008. „Dávam ale isté právo ministrovi hospodárstva, aby tento termín posúval. Aby som nebol konfrontovaný, že keď to nebude 31. decembra, tak je to katastrofa. Atómová elektrárňu nie je parkovisko pred obchodným domom,“ uzavrel. Zo samotnej podpísanej Dohody o jadrovej spolupráci medzi SR a Francúzskom o rozvoji mierového využívania jadrovej energie vyplýva, že spolupráca môže byť založená na výmene vedeckých, technických, ekonomických a politických informácií, na výmene skúsenosti v oblasti prevádzky jadrových zariadení, ráta sa ja s tréningom vedeckého a technického personálu či spoločným havarijným cvičením na zvládnutie krízových situácií. Premiér na dnešnej jednodňovej zahraničnej pracovnej ceste v Paríži, počas ktorej došlo aj k podpísaniu Akčného plánu a Politickej deklarácie, hovoril s francúzskou hlavou štátu o medzinárodných otázkach. „Urobili sme si krátku inventúru tém, ako je napr. Lisabon, Gruzínsko, teda témy, ktoré zaujímajú celú Európu,“ povedal. Fico a Sarkozy prešli aj otázky novej spolupráce vo vojenskej oblasti a debatovali o investičnom prostredí na Slovensku. Francúzsko je označované za svetovú energetickú veľmoc. Vo svojich 19 jadrových elektrárnach s 58 blokmi vyrobí až 80 percent elektriny pre svoju spotrebu.

## Životnými cestami Jána Palárika

Týmto názvom sa od 6. septembra 2008 označuje združenie miest a obcí s palárikovskou tradíciou. Ide o: Abrahám, okr. Galanta; Banskú Štiavnicu; Hoste, okr. Galanta; Hronské Kľačany, okr. Levice; Majcichov, okr. Trnava; Palárikovo, okr. Nové Zámky; Rakovú, okr. Čadca; Starý Tekov, okr. Levice; Štiavnické Bane, okr. Banská Štiavnica a Trnavu. Združenie bude úzko spolupracovať so Slovenskou samosprávou VI. obvodu v Budapešti, kde sa nachádza farský kostol sv. Terézie Avilskej; ako i so školami a inštitúciami hrdo nesúcimi pomenovanie po národnom dejateľovi Jánovi Palárikovi, dramatikovi a publicistovi, spoluzakladateľovi Matice slovenskej a Spolku sv. Vojtecha.

Zakladaciu listinu združenia Životnými cestami Jána Palárika podpísali starostovia obcí, zástupca primátora mesta Banská Štiavnica a primátor mesta Trnava v Palárikove, ktoré si pripomenulo jednak 60. výročie svojho premenovania zo Slovenského Medera na Palárikovo, ako i 760. výročie svojej prvej písomnej zmienky.

Na oslavách sa zúčastnil štátny tajomník Ministerstva výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR, predseda VÚC Nitra a delegácia z bratského mesta Zúbrí na Morave vedená svojím starostom. Nové združenie napokon pozdravil svojím príhovorom aj Pavol Zemko, nástupca Jána Palárika v úrade majcichovského farára.

Pavol Zemko



## Vysokým Tatrám hrozí, že prídu o štatút národného parku

Bratislava (TASR) - Vysokým Tatrám hrozí, že prídu o štatút národného parku. Svetová organizácia ochrany prírody upozorňuje, že podnikateľský boom, ktorý zachvátil tieto hory, sem nepatrí. Vo svojom hlavnom spravodajstve to uviedla nedávno Slovenská televízia s tým, že na Slovensko sa chystá komisia, ktorá má prívlastok „národný park“ prehodnotiť. Misia, ktorá zaraďuje národné parky do kategórií, prišla na Slovensko po kalamite z 19. novembra 2004 a pripravila 18 odporúčaní, aby nedošlo po víchrici k nekontrolovateľnému zastavaniu územia. Avšak to, čo sa v Tatrách deje, je podľa citátu z listu komisie v rozpore s odporúčaniami medzinárodnej misie.

Ak by sa tieto hrozby naplnili a TANAP by bol preradený do nižšej kategórie, teda na chránenú krajinnú oblasť, znamenalo by to podľa STV medzinárodný škandál. Zelenú na rozvoj podnikateľských aktivít a rozšírenie zjazdoviek pritom dali štátni ochranári. Mesto Vysoké Tatry i developeri kritiku odmietajú s tým, že ochranu prírody rešpektujú.



## V Šaštíne bola slávnostná omša k Sviatku Sedembolestnej Panny Márie

Bratislava (TASR) - Slávnostná svätá omša pri príležitosti Sviatku Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, patrónky Slovenska bola 15. septembra v rovnomennej národnej bazilike v Šaštíne - Strážach. Hlavný celebrant omše bratislavský arcibiskup - metropolita Stanislav Zvolenský privítal prezidenta republiky Ivana Gašparoviča so sprievodom, zástupcov parlamentu a ďalších hostí. Pozdravil aj všetkých pútnikov, ktorí napriek nepriaznivému počasiu prišli vo veľkom počte vzdať úctu Matke Božej. Medzi koncelebrujúcimi bol emeritný biskup trnavskej arcidiecézy Dominik Tóth, bratislavský gréckokatolícky eparcha Peter Rusnák a ďalší slovenskí biskupi.

Arcibiskup Zvolenský pripomenul životný príbeh bolestnej Matky Božej, ktorý má nadčasové poslanstvo inšpirujúce aj pre život súčasných ľudí. Vyjadril v tejto súvislosti nevyhnutnosť tepla ľudských vzťahov, lásku rodičov k svojim deťom a povzbudil matky a otcov, aby boli vždy blízko svojich detí a našli si čas na rozhovor s nimi. Aby sa snažili uchrániť svoje deti pred nebezpečenstvami a negatívnymi vplyvmi dnešnej doby. Spomenul takisto a vyjadril účasť rodičom, ktorí prišli o svoje deti a vyslovil úctu tým, ktorí sa s láskou starajú o svoje ťažko choré alebo postihnuté deti. „Príklad našej patrónky, Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, nech je pre nás všetkých príkladom a povzbudením do každodenného života,“ povedal arcibiskup. Súčasťou omše boli modlitby za porozumenie vo svete, za predstaviteľov Slovenska, za rodiny, deti a mládež, ako aj za pracovníkov médií, aby si čestne plnili svoje povinnosti. Na záver slávnostnej omše hovorca arcibiskupa Zvolenského Jozef Haľko prečítal text pozdravného telegramu, ktorú biskupi a kňazi v mene všetkých veriacich a pútnikov poslali zo slávnosti v Šaštíne pápežovi Benediktovi XVI.

# 15. výročie Ozbrojených síl SR

Oslavy 15. výročia Ozbrojených síl SR vyvrcholili v nedeľu 21. septembra aj v Hlavnom chráme Ordinariátu OS a OZ SR na Župnom námestí slávnostnou svätou omšou, ktorú celebroval ordinár OS a OZ SR – vojenský biskup Mons. František Rábek.

Za účasti ministra obrany Jaroslava Bašku, štátneho tajomníka Daniela Duchoňa, zástupcu náčelníka Generálneho štábu OS SR generála Petra Gajdoša, generálov Ozbrojených síl SR, vojenských diplomatov akreditovaných v SR, zástupcov Kancelárie prezidenta SR vedenými kancelárom prof. Milanom Čičom, či exprezidenta SR Michala Kováča a veľvyslanca USA Vincenta Obsitnika sa ordinár Rábek prihovril prítomným v homílii, ktorú zamerl na profil kresťanského vojaka. Podľa jeho slov, vojak nemôže byť len žoldnierom za peniaze, ale mal by byť skĺbením žoldniera a rytiera bojujúceho za vznešené ideály pokoja, mieru a spravodlivosti, či pomáhajúceho bezbranným a postihnutým. Na evanjeliovom podobenstve o Hospodárovi, ako najmal robotníkov do Pánovej vinice vykreslil aj obraz dnešného ideálneho vojaka, ktorý by mal byť viac opravdivým rytierom, ako sebeckým žoldnierom za peniaze. Predpokladá to však vernosť vojaka Bohu, Jeho pravde, ale i vernosť skutočnému dobru jeho samého i blížnych. Dnešný ideálny vojak – aj slovenský vojak – kresťan, akých je aj v Ozbrojených silách SR veľa je podľa slov biskupa Rábeka povinný prejavovať svoju lásku a úctu voči Bohu a blížnym zodpovedným plnením svojich povinností, službou spoločnému dobru, ale aj statočne, šľachetne pripravený obetovať sa pre dobro iných a svojej vlasti, aj za cenu obety vlastného života. Tak už nebude len žoldnierom, ale skutočným rytierom. Ako príklad uviedol aj nemeckých generálov a admirálov, ktorí bez ostychu a prejavujúc osobnú kresťanskú vieru prijímali slová prednášky Mons. Rábeka v Berlíne, čím potvrdzovali ich osobný postoj a chápanie svojho poslania a povolania vojaka súčasnosti.

Armáda SR vznikla k 1. januáru 1993, od 1. júla 2002 došlo k premenovaniu na Ozbrojené sily (OS) SR. Hlavnou úlohou OS SR je zaručovať obranu SR a bezpečnosť štátu. Za 15 rokov prešli ozbrojené sily obrovskými zmenami.

Tie najväčšie súviseli so vstupom Slovenska do Severoatlantickej aliancie. K 1. januáru 2006 bola zrušená povinná základná vojenská služba a slovenská armáda sa plne profesionalizovala. Slovenskí vojaci pôsobili v mnohých zahraničných misiách, v budúcnosti chce Slovensko pôsobiť v troch misiách – v rámci síl NATO v Afganistane, pod zástavou OSN na Cypre a v bezpečnostných silách Európskej únie na Balkáne.

**TK KBS informoval Tibor UJLACKÝ, kancelár a hovorca Ordinariátu OS a OZ SR**



## Modlitba

„Zohýnam kolena pred Otcom, od ktorého má meno každé otcovstvo na nebi i na zemi: nech vám dá podľa bohatstva svojej slávy, aby skrze jeho Ducha mocne zosilnel váš vnútorný človek, aby Kristus skrze vieru prebýval vo vašich srdciach, aby ste zakorenení a upevnení v láske mohli so všetkými svätými pochopiť, aká je to šírka, dĺžka, výška a hĺbka, a poznať aj Kristovu lásku, presahujúcu každé poznanie, aby vás naplnila Božia plnosť celá.“

A tomu, ktorý mocou, čo v nás pôsobí, je schopný okrem tohto všetkého urobiť oveľa viac, ako prosíme alebo chápeme, tomu sláva v Cirkvi a v Kristovi Ježišovi po všetky pokolenia na veky vekov. Amen.“ (Ef 3, 14 — 21)

**Katolícke noviny**



## O najväčší drevený betlehem na Slovensku je už záujem aj za oceánom

Vrbovce (TASR) - Už iba drevené krídla, ktoré budú zároveň bránou, uzatvárajúcou priestor s postavami v nadživotnej veľkosti, chýbajú rezbárovi Dušanovi Šarkanovi na to, aby mohol verejnosti predstaviť najväčší drevený betlehem na Slovensku. Betlehem bude prvým objektom jeho Záhradnej galérie v obci Vrbovce v okrese Rimavská Sobota. Keďže bude prenosný, zapožičať si ho môžu kdekoľvek vo svete. „Už dnes je záujem preniesť ho ako celok za oceánom,“ povedal Šarkan. Na prvú cestu si však musí ešte počkať, pretože práce na krídlach a celkovom dotvorení betlehemu potrvajú ešte niekoľko mesiacov. Postavy z biblického výjavu Narodenia Pána už Šarkan vytvoril predvlni a minulý rok. Sochy Panny Márie, svätého Jozefa a Troch kráľov so zlatom a kadidlom, ktoré sú vysoké takmer 2.5 metra, už aj osadil na dvore, hneď pri hlavnej ceste. Dvoch pastierov k nim pridral len nedávno. Betlehem chce ešte zastrešiť šindľovou strechou tak, aby vplyv počasia na topoľové drevo bol čo najmenší. Vyrobiť chce tiež dreveného somárika, ktorý sa má cez okno maštale pozeráť na dieťa v kolíske.

Šarkan, ktorý je pôvodným povolaním strojný inžinier, sa vydal na dráhu umelca v slobodnom povolaní pred niekoľkými rokmi, po tom, ako sa v okresnom meste rapídne znížila strojná výroba. Odvtedy vytvoril viac ako sto rôznych drevených sôch a plastík. Je napríklad autorom nadrozmerých sôch v amfiteátri vo Východnej, rozprávkových slnečných hodín v Drienčoch, biblických postáv v pútnickom meste Stará Bystrica v Chorvátsku, či autorom drevených reliéfov a erbů viacerých gemerských obcí.

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Výročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že výročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 9. novembra 2008 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Prosíme všetkých predsedov spolkov, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Srdečne uvítame aj nedelegátov. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti a prevedenie volieb nových úradníkov na budúce obdobie. Taktiež bude podaná finančná správa.

Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v N.Y.C. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

**Henrieta H. Daitová  
tajomníčka a pokladníčka**

### Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 26. októbra 2008 sa uskutoční o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia výročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Program schôdze je zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie. Budú prevedené voľby úradníkov na rok 2009 a bude tiež podaná finančná správa. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto výročnej schôdze zúčastnili. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

**Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka**

### Členská schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať schôdzu v nedeľu 2. novembra 2008. Oslava začne o 15.00 hod. so slovenskou svätou omšou v kaplnke sv. Jána Bosku pri St. John Bosco School, 13640 S. Bellflower Bl. Bellflower, CA 90706. Pripomenieme si v modlitbách pamiatku Všetkých svätých a milovaných zosnulých. Po svätej omši sa bude konať schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu s následným posedením s priateľmi pri káve a šiškách. Prosíme všetky spolky aby na toto zasadnutie Okresu vyslali svojich zástupcov. Program schôdze bude zameraný na finančnú správu, aktivity Okresu ako aj informácie o produktoch poistenia Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

**Pavol Skubeň, predseda a**



## Eurové bankovky a mince sú jedným zo symbolov Európy

Bratislava (TASR) - Prezident Európskej centrálnej banky (ECB) Jean-Claude Trichet otvoril 21. septembra podvečer v priestoroch Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) výstavu o eure. Cieľom výstavy je zvýšiť informovanosť verejnosti o eurových bankovkách a minciach. „Eurové bankovky a mince sa od svojho zavedenia 1. januára 2002 stali jedným z najviditeľnejších symbolov Európy. Stali sa dôležitou a prirodzenou súčasťou nášho každodenného života, a to isté bude onedlho platiť aj pre slovenských občanov,“ uviedol pred otvorením výstavy Trichet.

Zároveň odovzdal guvernérovi NBS Ivanovi Šramkovi v poradí 16. eurohviezdu ako symbol určený novému členovi eurozóny. „Toto je historický moment pre Slovensko, ktoré sa 1. januára 2009, presne desať rokov po zavedení eura na peňažnom trhu, stane šestnástou krajinou eurozóny,“ zdôraznil Trichet. Pripomenul tiež, že SR je iba štvrtou krajinou, ktorá vstupuje do eurozóny od zavedenia spoločnej európskej meny do hotovostného obehu v roku 2002. Nasleduje tak zavedenie eura v Slovinsku v roku 2007 a na Malte a Cypre v tomto roku.

## Benedikt XVI. : Oltár je miestom stretnutia medzi neбом a zemou

Vatikán (TK KBS,RV) – „Pre ospravedlnenia, ktoré je ťažké prijať, a ľudí, ktorí ťažko odpúšťajú, je svätá omša kľúčom k otvoreniu duší voči zmiereniu,“ uviedol to koncom septembra v homílii v talianskom Albane blízko svojho letného sídla v Castel Gandolfo pápež Benedikt XVI.

V tamojšej katedrále predsedal eucharistickej slávnosti, pri ktorej posvätil nový oltár. Vyjadril nádej, aby bol „neustálym pozvaním milovať, aby k nemu ľudia prichádzali so srdcami otvorenými voči Kristovej láske a jej šíreniu, aby prijímali odpustenie, aj ho dávali“. Podľa Svätého Otca je oltár v istom zmysle „miestom stretnutia medzi neбом a zemou, stredobodom jednej Cirkvi, ktorá je zároveň nebeská, aj putujúca na zemi, kde uprostred prenasledovaní sveta a Božej útechy, Pánovi učeníci ohlasujú jeho umučenie a smrť, až kým sa nevráti v sláve.“



Na snímke skupina hráčov vo volejbale.



Záber na jeden zo stolov, pri ktorom si zúčastnení pochutnávajú na jedle a osviežujúcich nápojoch.

## Slovenský piknik v Greenwich Point, CT sa vydaril

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Bol pekný slnečný deň. Mierny letný vánok hladkal naše tváre. Videli sme nové tváre, mládež, ktorá sa dozvedela o podujatí z internetu a zo slovenských novín. Tešili sa a neľutovali, že strávili s nami takmer celý deň.

Mnohí z prítomných sa prechádzali okolo pobrežia, iní hrali volejbal, ďalší počúvali a spievali slovenské piesne pri hudbe Dariny Hasprunár Chlebovec na harmonike. Starší spomínali na dávne zlaté časy, keď slnko svietilo, rosa padala, les šumel, kvety rástli a ako mladí mali radosť zo všetkého dobrého a krásneho. Na pikniku oslávil svoje narodeniny p. Puškár, ktorému všetci blahoželali a zaspievali to naše "Živio". Nechýbali chutno pripravené slovenské jedlá, pečivo a nápoje (soft drinks).

Pochvalu a uznanie si zaslúži Adelka Darula, ktorá odborne pripravila celé podujatie. Pomáhal jej dr. M. Bereš a niektorí z členov. Vďaka patrí každému, kto na piknik prišiel a prispel k úspechu tohto podniku.

Veríme, že aj na budúci rok sa zase uvidíme na Greenwich Point, CT.

Rudolf Greguš



## Katarínska zábava v hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ a I. zbor Slovenskej ligy v NYC pozýva širokú slovensko-americkú verejnosť z blízka a okolia na tradičnú Katarínsku zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v sobotu 29. novembra 2008 o 7:00 hod. večer vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C., 411 East, 66<sup>th</sup> Street. Do tancu bude hrať známa hudobno-spevácka skupina KONTAKTY. Vstupné je \$25.00 v čom je započítaná večera. Lístky na Katarínsku zábavu si môžete objednať u nasledovných osôb: Milan a Henrieta Dait tel.: (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik: (718) 463-2084; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.

## Slovensko by si malo s USA vymieňať informácie o teroristoch

Bratislava (TASR) - Slovensko a USA by si mali vymieňať skríningové informácie o osobách podozrivých z terorizmu. Vyplýva to návrhu na uzavretie dohody medzi vládou SR a vládou USA o výmene informácií zo skríningu známych teroristov alebo osôb podozrivých z terorizmu, ktorú ministerstvo vnútra predložilo do pripomienkového konania. Slovensko a USA by si po uzatvorení tejto dohody vymieňali neutajované identifikačné údaje o známych alebo podozrivých osobách, ktoré sa zúčastňujú alebo sa zúčastnili na teroristických činoch, príprave alebo napomáhaní terorizmu.

Informácie zo skríningu teroristov by mali zahŕňať celé meno osoby, známe prezývky, dátum narodenia, čísla cestovných pasov prípadne iných dokladov totožnosti, národnosť a štátne občianstvo. Všetky ostatné dostupné identifikačné informácie vrátane biometrických údajov bude možné poskytnúť podľa právnych predpisov a uváženia jednotlivých strán. Podľa ustanovení navrhovanej dohody nebude možná výmena žiadnych utajovaných skutočností.

Spojené štáty by informácie poskytovali prostredníctvom Centra pre skríning teroristov (TSC) a Slovensko prostredníctvom Prezídia Policajného zboru Ministerstva vnútra SR. Každá strana by podľa dohody mala informácie zo skríningu pravidelne aktualizovať, TSC aspoň jedenkrát týždenne, PPZ jedenkrát mesačne. Návrhu dohody predchádza Memorandum o porozumení medzi Ministerstvom vnútra SR a Ministerstvom pre vnútornú bezpečnosť USA z marca tohto roku, ktoré sa týka Programu bezvízového styku Spojených štátov a súvisiacich posilnených bezpečnostných opatrení.



## Na slovenskom veľvyslanectve vo Washingtone slávnostná recepcia

Washington (TASR) - Pri príležitosti štátneho sviatku SR, Dňa Ústavy, sa na slovenskom veľvyslanectve vo Washingtone uskutočnila v utorok 17. septembra slávnostná recepcia za účasti predstaviteľov amerických vládných a mimovládnych inštitúcií, ozbrojených síl USA, diplomatického zboru a krajanskej komunity. Súčasťou slávnostného otvorenia podujatia bolo aj odovzdanie Čestnej medaily náčelníka Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl SR prvého stupňa ad memoriam, ktorú v mene svojho brata Michala Stranka prijala pani Mary Pero. Recepcia na slovenskej ambasáde bola spojená s otvorením výstavy "Magická osmička v dejinách SR", ktorá prezentuje dejinné udalosti slovenskej histórie. V Galérii Kolomana Sokola bude prístupná do 13. októbra.

Americký hrdina 2. svetovej vojny z bitky o ostrov Iwo Jima Michal Strank sa narodil 10. novembra 1919 na Slovensku v dedine Jarabina, odkiaľ ako šesťročné dieťa odišiel so svojimi rodičmi do USA. Slávnym sa stal vďaka fotografii reportéra tlačovej agentúry Associated Press, Joa Rosenthala, ktorá zachytáva vztyčovanie americkej vlajky na sopke japonského ostrova Iwo Jima. Dobytia ostrova, na ktorom vztyčoval túto vlajku, sa Strank nedožil, padol 1. marca 1945 po zásahu šrapnelom z americkej lode.



## Plánované podujatia pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

1. Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 v nedeľu 26. októbra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia.
2. Výročná okresná schôdza Msgr. Krasul'u v nedeľu 9. novembra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia.
3. Tradičná Katarínska zábava v sobotu večer 29. novembra 2008 o 7:00 hod. večer. Poriadajú spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 a I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v meste New York.
4. Mikulášske odpoľudnie pre deti našich farníkov v nedeľu 7. decembra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia. Poriada Farská rada a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 v meste New York.
5. Štedrovečerná večera – Vigília v nedeľu 14. decembra 2008 o 1:00 hod. odpoľudnia. Poriada Farská rada a Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 v meste New York.

# Spoločná rozlúčka s obet'ami nehody v Chorvátsku

*Dopravná nehoda autobusu bola najväčším tragickým nešťastím v histórii samostatnej SR*

Košice (TASR) - Spoločná posledná rozlúčka so 14 obeťami tragickej dopravnej nehody zo 7. septembra v Chorvátsku bola 16. septembra v košickom Štátnom divadle. Po dohode s pozostalými ju zorganizoval Magistrát mesta Košice. Do budovy divadla prišli stovky Košičanov - najbližších príbuzných, známych, spolupracovníkov, i široká verejnosť a zástupcovia verejného, kultúrneho a cirkevného života. Sledovať rozlúčku mohli Košičania aj na veľkoplošnej obrazovke pred divadlom. Na jeho pódiu so smútočnými vencami bol stôl potiahnutý čiernym súknom so 14 sviečkami, pri ktorých boli portréty zosnulých 11 žien a troch mužov.

Prítomným sa prihovorili zástupcovia mesta, vyššieho územného celku i cirkvi. Smútočnú atmosféru umocnili hudbou a zborovým spevom súbor Musica juvenalis a zbor sv. Cecílie dielami Mozarta či Pergolesiho, zaznela poézia Milana Rúfusa. Hlboko súcitiť s pozostalými aj košický gréckokatolícky biskup Milan Chatur. "Ale zároveň všetkých ostatných pozývam k triezvemu pohľadu na život i náhľenie sa v tomto svete, lebo nie vždy nám musí cieľ vyjsť podľa našich predstáv. Avšak keď triezvo ideme cestou za svojím cieľom a pritom dbáme aj na tých, čo kráčajú vedľa nás, nemusíme ublížiť iným ani sebe," povedal vladyka. Pri nehode alebo na jej následky zahynula Irena Ďurove (76), Klára Flóriánová (62), Eva Švidroňová (59), Ružena Kollárová (57), Katarína Körtvélyessy (63), Marta Kovalčíková (64), Lýdia Kővérová (67), Irena Kubištová (74), Věra Medved'ová (61), Mária Popovičová (67), Mária Sud'ová (68), Ladislav Karas (57), Ján Bartko

(64) a Pavel Poľak (54). Vláda SR vyhlásila po tragickom nešťastí jednodňový celoštátny smútok a sústrasť pozostalým vyjadrili traja najvyšší ústavní činitelia. Mesto Košice si pamiatku krajanov uctilo trojdňovým smútkom. Konala sa ekumenická bohoslužba a samospráva zriadila kondolenčnú miestnosť v Historickej radnici a neďaleko Dómu sv. Alžbety pri historickom zvone Urban pietne miesto, kde Košičania nosili kvety a zapalovali sviečky. Košická samospráva vytvorila aj osobitnú komisiu na pomoc pozostalým a vyhlásila verejnú zbierku. Jej výťažok pôjde na pokrytie nákladov spojených s pohrebom obetí a ďalších potrieb osôb zasiahnutých tragickou udalosťou. Hutnícka spoločnosť U.S. Steel už prispela sumou milión Sk (33.193 eur). Občania a organizácie, ktoré chcú pomôcť, môžu zasielať dobrovoľné finančné príspevky až do 10. septembra budúceho roka na účet s číslom 0516007019/5600, variabilný symbol 79.

Autobus so 49 cestujúcimi, vrátane dvoch vodičov, smeroval z Košíc do chorvátskeho mesta Vodice, kam dovolenkári, väčšinou ženy, išli na rekondičný pobyt k moru. Diaľkový autobus košickej dopravnej spoločnosti Mostarko neďaleko mesta Gospič medzi Splitom a Záhrebom pred 6. hodinou ráno z doteraz neznámych príčin na rovnom úseku zišiel z diaľnice a narazil do mostného piliera. Následky boli zdrvujúce. Na mieste zomrelo 11 ľudí, ďalší traja pri prevoze do nemocnice alebo krátko po ňom, zranilo sa celkovo 22 pasažierov. Príčina nehody je stále v štádiu vyšetrovania. "Pracuje sa s dvoma verziami. Jedna je spánok vodiča, druhá defekt pneumatiky," uviedol hovorca MV SR Erik Tomáš. Po nehode pohotovo zasiahli chorvátske záchranárske tímy a zranených previezli do nemocnice v Gospiči a neskôr aj do Záhrebu a Rijeky. Pomoc slovenským občanom koordinovala vláda SR prostredníctvom Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR, Ministerstva zdravotníctva SR a Ministerstva vnútra SR. Na zabezpečenie zdravotnej starostlivosti v Chorvátsku a neskôr na Klinike úrazovej chirurgie košickej Fakultnej nemocnice Louisa Pasteura (FN LP) dohliadal osobne minister zdravotníctva SR Richard Raši. Ešte v deň tragédie prepravil letecký špeciál z chorvátskeho Zadaru na košické letisko 26 účastníkov nehody, ktorí obišli bez ujmy na zdraví, alebo boli len ľahšie zranení. Ďalších zranených prepravili z Chorvátska sanitkami.

Po leteckom prevoze telesných pozostatkov obetí 10. septembra vojenským špeciálom a opakovaných pitvách na košickom pracovisku súdneho lekárstva experti Kriministicko-expertízneho ústavu PZ v Košiciach ukončili 12. septembra aj analýzu DNA, nevyhnutnú na stotožnenie obetí nešťastia. Telesné pozostatky obetí odovzdali ich rodinám, ktoré pripravili individuálne pohreby.

Dopravná nehoda autobusu bola najväčším tragickým nešťastím v histórii samostatnej SR. V auguste 2003 zahynulo pri podobnom nešťastí neďaleko Úhornej v okrese Gelnice 13 ľudí. V auguste roku 1984 havaroval neďaleko chorvátskeho Záhrebu autobus s dovolenkármi z vtedajšieho Československa, pričom o život prišlo šesť dovolenkárov z východu Slovenska vrátane dvoch detí.



## Koncert na poctu hudobnému skladateľovi Mikulášovi Schneiderovi Trnavskému

Už teraz môžeme oznámiť slovenskej verejnosti, že Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku usporiada koncert národnému umelcovi Mikulášovi Schneiderovi Trnavskému za jeho hudobnú tvorbu. Je to prejav vďačnosti za jeho piesne, ktoré sú objavom krás slovenskej hudobnosti.

Podujatie sa uskutoční v nedeľu 19. októbra 2008 o 2. hodine odpoľudnia priamo v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého 66<sup>th</sup> Street and First Avenue, New York City.

Schneider Trnavský vytvoril diela trvalej hodnoty. Mnohé jeho piesne znárodneli a mnohé sa dostali do stáleho piesňového repertoáru. Z oficiálnych kultúrnych a umeleckých kruhov sa mu dostalo najvyššieho uznania a vyznamenania. Za zásluhy na poli cirkevnej hudby Pápež Pius II. mu udelil vyznamenanie: Rytier Rádu sv. Gregora.

Z viacerých zbierok piesní ktoré vytvoril majster Trnavský hodno spomenúť aspoň niektoré: Drobné kvety, Slzy a úsmevy, Zo srdca a Piesne o matke. Nutno spomenúť vydanie Jednotného Katolíckeho Spevníka, do ktorého zozbieral okolo 600 slovenských duchovných piesní. Toto dielo bolo považované v novinárskych referátoch ako monumentálny čin v slovenskej národnej kultúre.

Na koncerte budú vystupovať poprední umelci z Juilliard School of Music a Manhattan School of Music – 3 pravnučky skladateľa, sestry Hálkove a známa speváčka a herečka z muzikálov na Broadway a koncertov, Luba Greguš Mason. Mimo toho farský spevokol zaspieva niekoľko národných piesní. Po koncerte bude stretnutie spojené s osviežením v spoločenskej miestnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého.

Výbor Kultúrneho strediska úctive poveláva slovenskú verejnosť z New Yorku a okolia. Vaša účasť a dobrovoľný príspevok pri vstupe kostola bude pre nás povzbudením do ďalších programov v budúcnosti.

**Rudo L. Greguš**

## Slovenská liga oznamuje

### České a slovenské múzeum v štáte Iowa žiada pomoc

České a slovenské múzeum v Cedar Rapids, Iowa (National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library),



bolo pri nedávnych povodniach na stredozápade zatopené. Povodeň prišla náhle a zaliala budovu silným prúdom vody, takže sa k nej nebolo možné priblížiť ani na člnoch. Napriek tomu pred nútenou evakuáciou bolo možné zachrániť časť knižného fondu a iných zbierok. Poškodený bola j nábytok, počítačový systém, steny atď. Bude trvať istý čas, kým sa zistí čo všetko bolo zničené.



Časť budovy bude potrebné prestavať a tzv. suché steny (sheet rock) budú musieť byť odstránené a všetky steny musia byť dezinfikované proti pliesni. Náklady budú podľa

predbežných odhadov dosahovať viac miliónov dolárov.

Toto múzeum bolo slávnostne otvorené v októbri 1995 za účasti amerického prezidenta Clintona, slovenského prezidenta Kováča a českého prezidenta Havla. V októbri 2003 Slovenská liga požičala múzeu viac dokumentov pri výstave venovanej vzniku Česko-Slovenska.

Finančnú pomoc na obnovu múzea prisľúbili aj česká a slovenská vláda. Potrebné sú však ďalšie zdroje, preto prezidentka múzea Gail Naughton sa obracia na českú a slovenskú verejnosť so žiadosťou o finančnú podporu na potrebné opravy a náhradu zničených kníh a artefaktov.

Záujemcovia môžu poslať pomoc priamo na adresu: National Czech & Slovak Museum 30 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404, alebo môžu poslať pomoc prostredníctvom Slovenskej ligy. Šeky majú byť vystavené na **SLA Heritage Foundation** a poslané na adresu: **205 Madison St., Passaic, N.J. 07055.**

**Daniel F. Tanzone**  
predseda

**Nina Holy**  
tajomníčka

## Krátke správy zo Slovenska

**Najmodernejšie** lietadlá slovenského vojenského letectva majú zakázané lietať v Európe. Dvanásť strojov, ktoré modernizovali v Rusku za 1.6 miliardy korún, nevyhovuje technickým predpisom a kazia sa im dôležité prístroje. Ministerstvo obrany SR potvrdilo, že do zahraničia lietať nebudú. MiG-29 pritom patrili k výstavným strojom slovenskej armády, ktorými sa chválila na viacerých leteckých prehliadkach. Dnes môže lietať len na Slovensku, aj iba vďaka výnimke Úradu vojenského letectva. Lietadlá totiž nie sú plne bojaskopné. Musia však strážiť vzdušný priestor, bez nich by Slovenská republika nemala chránené nebo. Stíhačky majú problémy nielen s hlavnou vysielacou a anténou, ale zákaz lietať dostali aj pre pokazenú navigáciu.

**Rímskokatolícky** kostolík v Hervartove v okrese Bardejov turisti obchádzajú, aj keď vzácnu národnú kultúrnu pamiatku nedávno zapísali do zoznamu UNESCO. Ani to nepomohlo vyššej návštevnosti. Príčinou môže byť slabá informovanosť. Na ceste z Prešova nie je ani jedna informačná tabuľa o tom, že v Hervartove existuje taká vzácna pamiatka. Podľa kostolníka Jána Ontka (53) je táto sezóna ešte horšia ako vlaňajšia asi o 20 percent. Rímskokatolícky kostolík postavili približne v roku 1500. Je vytvorený z červeného smreka a tisu. Ide o najstarší kostolík tohto druhu na Slovensku.

**Podnikanie** na Slovensku sa oproti minulému roku nezhoršilo. Naopak, došlo k nepatrnému zlepšeniu. Konštatuje sa to v analýze Svetovej banky (SB) o podnikaní Doing Business 2009, ktorej závery sa tak líšia od analýz slovenských podnikateľských združení. V nich sa hovorí o zhoršovaní priestoru pre podnikanie. V rebríčku SB sa Slovensko umiestnilo na 36. mieste spomedzi takmer 200 štátov, ktoré banka hodnotila. Vlni Slovensko skončilo na 37. mieste.

**Všetci**, čo sa plánujú sťahovať a chcú predať starý byt alebo dom, majú na to najvyšší čas. Ceny starších nehnuteľností už niekoľko mesiacov klesajú prakticky na celom Slovensku. Aj keď znižovanie cien starých bytov by do budúcnosti nemalo byť také výrazné, najlepšie je byt predať hneď. Ceny starých bytov stúpali niekoľko rokov až do jarných mesiacov, nahor ich tlačil stály dopyt. Na rozdiel od začiatku roku teraz už nie je o drahé staré byty veľký záujem. Ceny bytov klesli o niekoľko stotisíc korún. Dôvodom je slabý dopyt. Staré byty sa dnes predávajú ťažko prakticky na celom Slovensku, najmä v oblastiach, ktoré objavili developeri. K ďalšiemu poklesu cien by mohlo dôjsť na budúci rok, aj keď zavedenie eura by k tomu nemalo priamo prispieť.

**Nereálnosť** cien a súvisiaca cenová bublina na hypotekárnom trhu, ktorá je príčinou finančnej krízy v USA, na Slovensku nie je alebo je výrazne nižšia. V prípade výrazného spomalenia obchodných partnerov SR by však mohla mať táto kríza určité sekundárne vplyvy aj na slovenskú ekonomiku. Po rokovaní vlády to uviedol 17. septembra minister financií Ján Počiatek. Určitým spôsobom môže na Slovensku podľa neho kríza ovplyvniť akurát ceny niektorých finančných produktov. Aj keď v niektorých európskych krajinách sa už ukazujú prvé príznaky recesie, podľa ministra financií prevláda aj v európskych inštitúciách názor, že ku globálnej stagnácii v Európe by dôjsť nemalo. "Ale keby sme hypoteticky predpokladali, že by došlo k nejakému výraznejšiemu spomaleniu u našich hlavných obchodných partnerov, tak samozrejme pri znížení dopytu po určitých komoditách sa to nejakým spôsobom sekundárne prejaví aj u nás," pripustil Počiatek.

**Slávnostná** svätá omša bola súčasťou inaugurácie 16. septembra rektora Katolíckej univerzity (KU) v Ružomberku profesora Tadeusza Zasepu v univerzitnom kostole. Rektor Zasepa za jednu zo svojich priorít považuje vytvorenie dvoch nových fakúlt - právnickej a ekonomickej. Okrem toho plánuje vybudovať nové internáty pre študentov, knižnicu, ako aj športoviská. Ich výstavbu by chcel financovať najmä prostredníctvom eurofondov a sponzorov. Život a dielo profesora Zasepu ocenili viaceré domáce a svetové inštitúcie. V roku 1997 mu Medzinárodné biografické centrum v Cambridge udelilo prestížnu cenu Muž roka ako uznanie za službu vo vzdelávaní a kultúre. V roku 2001 mu rovnakú cenu udelil Americký bibliografický inštitút. V tom istom roku ho The United Cultural Convention of the United States of America nominoval na Nobelovu cenu mieru. V roku 2004 získal Medzinárodnú cenu Slovenskej akadémie vied za príspevok k rozvoju spoločenských a humanitných vied, kultúry a umenia na Slovensku.

**Známy** slovenský režisér a cestovateľ Pavol Barabáš triumfoval v polovici septembra na festivale horských filmov v poľskom meste Zakopane, z ktorého si odniesol tri ocenenia. Hlavnú cenu festivalu získal Barabášov nový film s názvom Carstensch - Siedma hora, ktorý zachytáva horolezeckú expedíciu na najvyššiu horu v oblasti Austrálie a Oceánie, na Carstenschovu pyramídu v Indonézii. Druhá snímka úspešného slovenského filmára s titulom Vysoké Tatry - Divočina zamrznutá v čase získala v Zakopanem cenu divákov, ako aj ocenenie riaditeľa Tatranského národného parku. Na štvrtom festivale horských filmov v Zakopanem súťažilo celkovo 33 filmov.

**Starnutie** slovenského obyvateľstva spôsobí rast priemerných výdavkov na poistenca, pretože starostlivosť o väčší počet starších ľudí bude nákladnejšia. Ako sa uvádza v dlhodobej vízii rozvoja SR, príjmy systému zdravotníctva negatívne ovplyvni výpadok prispievateľov spôsobený menším počtom ekonomicky ak-

tívnych osôb. Deficit v zdravotnom poistení tak podľa vízie môže pri súčasnom systéme financovania neúmerne zaťažiť platiteľov poistného. Takéto riešenie nie je ekonomicky, sociálne, ani politicky únosné. Jednou z možností reformy zdravotníctva v oblasti príjmov je podľa spomínaného dokumentu vytvorenie osobitného zdravotného pripoistenia pre prípad chorôb typických pre vyšší vek. Špecifikom ochorenia vo vyššom veku je zvýšená potreba osobnej starostlivosti a opatery. Druhý pilier v zdravotníctve, podobný tomu, ktorý zaviedla dôchodková reforma, by bol podľa jeho slov vhodným riešením nielen pre výdavky vo vyššom veku, ale aj pre financovanie bežných výdavkov za návštevy lekára, nemocnice, doplatkov na lieky alebo liečbu ľahších diagnóz.

**Stredoveký** kostol v Malých Teriakovciach v okrese Rimavská Sobota, ktorý je jedným z nachádzajúcich sa na tzv. Gotickej cesty na Gemeri, môžu návštevníci obdivovať po rokoch opäť v plnej kráse. Tamojšia evanjelická cirkev, spolu s obyvateľmi dediny totiž v uplynulých mesiacoch obnovili a zrenovovali interiér chrámu a priblížili ho tak ešte viac verejnosti. Na jeho obnovu získala cirkev z Ministerstva kultúry SR 180,000 Sk (5,975 eur). Cirkev sa chce ešte pokúsiť získať dotáciu na celkovú renováciu starých malieb, ktoré sa v kostole z 15. storočia nachádzajú na stropných kazetách, drevenom obložení chóru a kostolných laviciach. Väčšie opravy zažil tento svätostánok naposledy na prelome 70. a 80. rokoch uplynulého storočia, kedy vymenili časť strešnej krytiny. Interiér kostola však chradol. V 90. rokoch ho dokonca vykradli, pričom zloději si z neho odniesli niekoľko vzácných drevených plastiek. Pôvodne gotický kostol v Malých Teriakovciach bol v 17. storočí neskororenesančne prestavaný a v rokoch 1774-1795 kompletne zrenovovaný. Podľa odborníkov má veľmi hodnotný interiér, drevená maľovaná empora pochádza z roku 1795. Obranný múr okolo kostola je zo 17. storočia.

**Bratislavský** primátor Andrej Ďurkovský informoval prezidenta Medzinárodnej hokejovej federácie (IIHF) René Fasela o pripravenosti mesta zabezpečiť prestavbu Zimného štadióna Ondreja Nepelu v takom rozsahu, aby vyhovovala požiadavkám a potrebám pre usporiadanie Majstrovstiev sveta v ľadovom hokeji v roku 2011. Informovala o tom 19. septembra Katarína Uhrinová z Kancelárie primátora hlavného mesta Bratislavy. Na stretnutí sa zúčastnili aj prezident Slovenského zväzu ľadového hokeja (SZLH) Juraj Široký a generálny sekretár SZLH Igor Nemeček, ktorí sú garantmi, že miesto konania šampionátu bude spĺňať všetky technické požiadavky. Hlavné mesto pokračuje v intenzívnych prípravách na prestavbu zimného štadióna, koordinácia skupina sa schádza pravidelne každé dva týždne. Primátor aj týmto stretnutím verejne deklaroval, že hlavné mesto s finančnou pomocou štátu dokáže garantovať prestavbu štadióna s potrebnými parametrami na MS v ľadovom hokeji.

**Svetoznámy** husľový virtuóz Edvin Marton na Slovensko priviezol vzácne husle - stradivárky, na ktorých vraj hral aj maestro Paganini. Maďarský huslista na nich bude sprevádzať ruského krasokorčuliara Jevgenija Pluščenka počas jeho šou. Diváci tak okrem skvelého programu zažijú aj famóznou hudbu na vzácných husliach.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



## Chata pri Popradskom plese vo Vysokých Tatrách

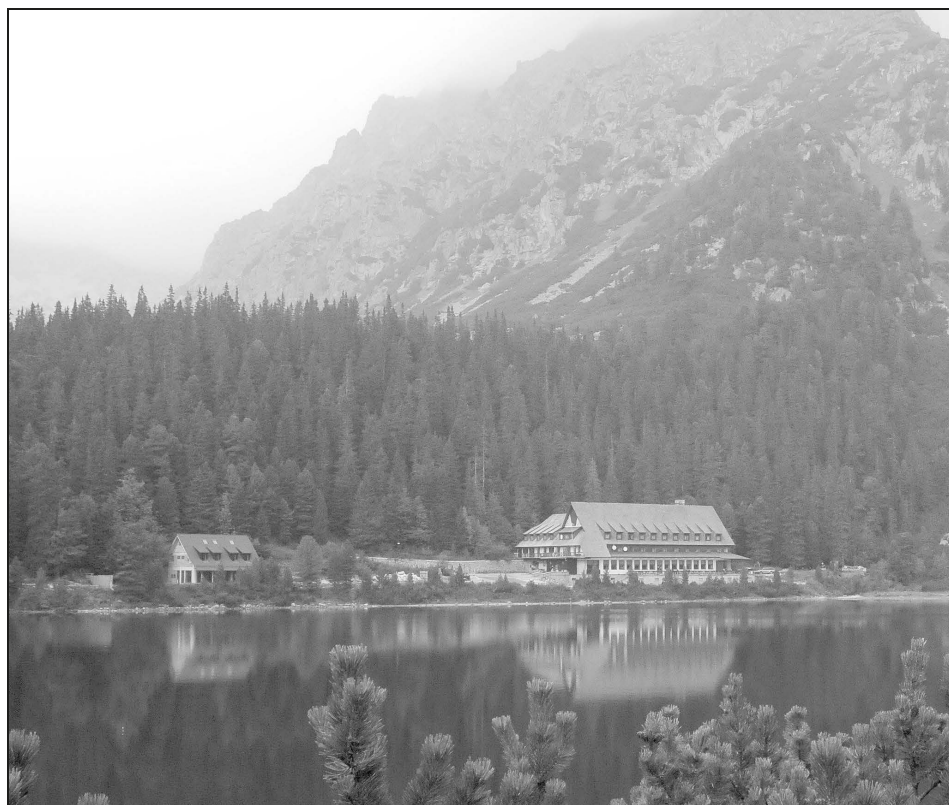


FOTO TASR – Radovan Stoklasa 23.9. 2008



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



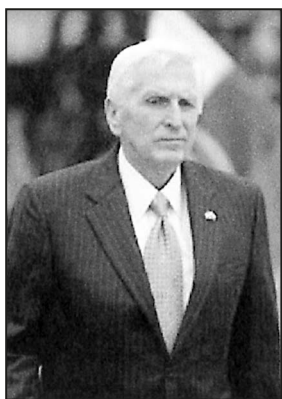
ÚRADNÝ ORGÁN PRVEJ KATOLÍCKEJ SLOVENSKEJ JEDNOTY V SPOJENÝCH ŠTÁTOCH A V KANADE

Ročník 117

STREDA, 1. OKTÓBER, 2008

Číslo 5785

## USA zrušia víza pre Slovákov do konca októbra



Vincent Obsitnik

Bratislava (TASR) - Vízová povinnosť pre Slovákov cestujúcich do USA bude zrušená ešte za vlády súčasného amerického prezidenta Georgea W. Busha, a to do konca októbra. Na stretnutí so zástupcami slovenskej verejnosti, nadácií, agentúr, médií aj politiky v rezidencii veľvyslanca USA v Bratislave to 22. 9. 2008 uviedol ambasádor Vincent Obsitnik. Ako dodal, v pondelok podpíše s ministrom vnútra Robertom Kaliňákom posledné dve dohody potrebné pre zrušenie vízovej povinnosti. Nie je tajomstvom, že počet zamietnutých slovenských žiadostí o víza do USA nepresahuje v súčasnosti desať percent, povedal Obsitnik. Neprekročenie hranice desať percent zamietnutých žiadostí je podmienkou pre

zrušenie vízovej povinnosti. Obsitnik ďalej uviedol, že sa teší na ďalšie roky spolupráce so Slovenskom a okrem iného poďakoval SR za spoluprácu v Afganistane.

Poukázal tiež na skutočnosť, že USA už na Slovensku investovali štyri miliardy dolárov. Premiér Robert Fico uvádza, že najväčším zahraničným investorom na Slovensku je Francúzsko. Obsitnik v tejto súvislosti konštatoval, že by bol rád, ak by to boli práve Spojené štáty, keďže, ako uviedol, "sú zvyknuté na prvenstvo".

Hlavným dôvodom dnešného stretnutia vo veľvyslaneckej rezidencii bolo predstavenie nových zástupcov americkej ambasády na Slovensku. Tá teraz obmieňa až 30 percent svojich amerických zamestnancov, čo je nezvyčajné - doteraz to bývali v priemere len tri až štyri percentá.



## Ján Kubiš povedie slovenskú delegáciu na zasadaní VZ OSN

Bratislava (TASR) - Minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš bude vedúcim slovenskej delegácie na 63. zasadaní Valného zhromaždenia OSN, ktoré sa začína 22. septembra v New Yorku.

Okrem účasti na plenárnom zasadaní VZ OSN a sprievodných akciách v newyorskom sídle OSN má minister počas budúceho týždňa na programe sériu bilaterálnych rokovaní so svojimi partnermi zo Srbska, Turecka, Gruzínska, Ukrajiny, Libanonu, Indonézie, Palestíny, Srí Lanky, Afganistanu, Macedónska, Sv. Krištofa a Nevisu a Čiernej Hory. Rokovať bude aj s generálnym tajomníkom Rady Európy Terryom Davisom.

Šéf slovenskej diplomacie vystúpi s prejavom pri okrúhlym stole počas pondelňajšieho zasadania VZ OSN na najvyššej úrovni ohľadne rozvojových potrieb Afriky. V súvislosti s touto témou VZ OSN prijme politickú deklaráciu. Kubiš vystúpi s prejavom aj v stredu na ministerskom zasadaní Skupiny priateľov Aliancie civilizácií. Zúčastní sa tiež na 4. ministerskej konferencii Zmluvy o všeobecnej zmluve o jadrových skúškach (CTBT).

Vo štvrtok bude zastupovať SR na plenárnom zasadaní VZ OSN na najvyššej úrovni k plneniu miléniových rozvojových cieľov a v rámci okrúhleho stola venovaného otázkam chudoby a hladu vystúpi s prejavom. Vystúpi aj na piatkovom ministerskom zasadaní Spoločenstva demokracií. Kubiša prijme v stredu večer generálny tajomník OSN Pan Ki-mun; na programe má aj rokovania s námestníkmi generálneho tajomníka pre politické záležitosti a pre mierové operácie B. Lynnem Pascoem a Alainom Le Royom. Pobyt v USA využije Ján Kubiš aj na neformálne stretnutia s predstaviteľmi amerického politického života. Aj tento rok minister zahraničných vecí pozval na Stálu misiu SR v New Yorku predstaviteľov Amerického židovského výboru a ďalšej židovskej organizácie B'nai Brith na diskusiu o zahraničnej politike SR. TASR o tom informoval hovorca Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR Ján Škoda.



Časť účastníkov pikniku v Greenwich Point ,CT.

## Slovenský piknik v Greenwich Point, CT sa vydaril

Cez letné mesiace spolková činnosť obyčajne utíchne. Neporiadajú sa schôdze, zábavy, kultúrne a národné programy. Sú prázdniny, dovolenky, cestovanie do cudzích krajín, vyhľadávanie turistických stredísk a kúpalísk pri mori.

Ale aby členstvo v spolkoch a organizáciách malo možnosť stretnúť sa v lete aspoň jedenkrát, viaceré slovenské spolky, organizácie i farnosti usporiadajú pikniky. Veľmi sa nehládajú aby z toho bol finančný zisk. Hlavné je to, že sa ľudia stretnú, bližšie poznajú, aby práca v organizáciách prebiehala hladko bez ťažkostí. Ľudský vzťah tu hrá dôležitú úlohu.

Toto má na mysli vedenie Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska v New Yorku, ktoré poriadá piknik každý rok. Aj v tomto roku 3. augusta zorganizovalo v poradí už ôsmy piknik a pripravilo pre účastníkov neobyčajne milú pohodu.

Pokračovanie na str. 17



**Zmeny v produktoch**  
**Poštové známky**

Slovenská POŠTA

Poštové známky nepodliehajú duálnemu zobrazovaniu \*

do 31. 12. 2008

- SP prijíma poštové známky s nominálnou hodnotou v Sk a poštové známky bez nominálnej hodnoty

od 1. 1. 2009 – 31. 12. 2009

- SP prijíma poštové známky s nominálnou hodnotou v Sk, v eurách a poštové známky bez nominálnej hodnoty
- poštové známky s nominálnou hodnotou v Sk je možné používať výlučne do 31. 12. 2009. SP nebude vykonávať ich výmenu

**FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškás**

**Europeňazka: Tlačová konferencia Slovenskej pošty, a. s. a Poštovej banky, a. s., o príprave na zavedenia eura a o zmenách v obchodných produktoch. Na snímke budúce slovenské euroznámky.**