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Child-birth and Baptism Traditions in Slovakia

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

Most everyone loves the birth of a child. It brings joy to not only the parents, but the entire family, and even the larger community. Birth is an affirmation of life, and a continuation of the human race. It offers hope for our future, and for our faith.

The Sacrament of Baptism represents the first and one of the most important steps in a person's life of faith. In imitation of Christ himself, we humble ourselves and our children to be baptized and purified in the holy water, so that we have the possibility of accepting the salvation which Christ offered us through His death and resurrection.

This article will summarize some of the Slovak traditions surrounding the birth and baptism of children. Many of the customs have already disappeared or people have modified them, but they tell us much about the lives of our ancestors from Slovakia.

The inspiration for this article comes from the recent birth and baptism of my first grandchild, Pavol James Feighner IV, born to my daughter, Milenka, and her husband Paul. I have officially become a dzedo (grandfather in Spiš dialect) and my wife is now a proud baba. The christening occurred at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Springdale, Pennsylvania, which counts about a third of its parishioners as having some Slovak origins, including the pastor, the Rev. Kenneth Kezmarsky. Some photos from the baptism celebrate this joyous occasion.

Before the Birth For centuries, Slovaks believed that the circumstances surrounding the pregnancy to the birth of a child predicted what type of life that child would have. Everything that happened from the activities of the birthing mother to environment surrounding the child in its earliest days were considered important signs and premonitions of things to come. Customs varied somewhat from village to village, but they all shared a common concern of protecting a child from evil and ensuring that it grows up strong and healthy, both physically and spiritually.

When a woman was with child, Slovak customs barred her from certain actions. She could not venture out alone onto a field, look into a well, whistle, along with various other prohibi-

tions thought necessary. While some of these customs showed the superstitious nature of rural life, many just made common sense. If a mother-to-be fell in a field by herself, she and her child might both be in danger. Miscarriages were a constant danger when many women were engaged in working hard in an agricultural economy with few of the modern conveniences we take for granted today.

People also believed that a woman's behavior and psychological condition affected the baby, so she was told to avoid stressful situations, too much strenuous work and anything boding potential evil. For instance, in Kanianka in central Slovakia (not far from Prievidza), if a pregnant

continued on page 3



Painting by Fra Angelico

All Saints' Day (also known as All Hallows, Solemnity of All Saints, or The Feast of All Saints) is a solemnity celebrated sunrise to sunset on November 1. The day before All Souls' Day, it honors all the saints, known and unknown.

See page 19 for All Saints' Day in Slovakia

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

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Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
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Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

November 3, 2013

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 19:1-10

Gospel Summary

Jesus has now arrived at Jericho and so his long journey to Jerusalem is almost over. He has been modeling for us our own journey of faith. When he meets Zachaeus he reminds us that it will not be

possible to go with him all the way to Cross and Resurrection without total generosity.

In the previous chapter, the rich ruler cannot abandon his wealth in order to follow Jesus (18:18). By contrast, Zachaeus is happy to share half of his possessions with the poor. The wealthy ruler appears to be pious and observant, whereas Zachaeus has been collecting taxes for the hated Roman occupiers of his country. Nonetheless, he is the one who is looking for Jesus and he is the one with whom Jesus wishes to be associated.

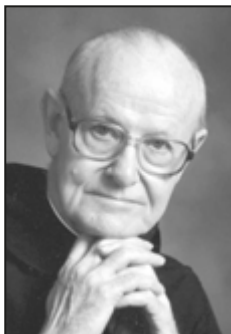
Much has been made of the fact that Zachaeus was "short of stature," so that he had to climb a sycamore tree in order to see, and be seen by, Jesus. Today we would say that he was a little man with a big heart!

Life Implications

The gospel tells us that Zachaeus was a rich man. We may assume, therefore, that he was not like most of us, who would no doubt be surprised if someone should call us rich. In fact, we are wealthy in many ways that do not involve money, such as talent, kindness or sensitivity. And so we need to ask ourselves whether we are as generous as was Zachaeus in sharing our own gifts. Do we think that much about the poor? Do we realize that the "poor" are often those who need a kind word or a friendly smile?

This gospel story reminds us also that we must be very careful not to judge others because of their appearance. We are told that those who accompanied Jesus began to grumble when he chose to be a guest of this marginal Jew, who seemed to be collaborating with the Romans. But, as a matter of fact, this was one of those jobs that someone had to do. The real world is not as neat as we might like it to be. The point is that Zachaeus "redeemed" his unsavory work by the generosity that he brought to it.

It should also be noted that Zachaeus did not live in the illusion of self-sufficiency. He knew that somehow his life was incomplete without Jesus. And he did not allow his short stature to become an excuse for not seeking Jesus. Nor did Jesus consider his "inadequacy" to be an obstacle. Jesus wants to be a guest in all our homes. Our desire to welcome him will easily cancel any feelings of unworthiness that may hold us back. The kindness we offer to others can more than make up any "shortness" we may have.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

November 10, 2013

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 20:27-38

Gospel Summary

Some Sadducees, denying belief in resurrection, pose a hypothetical question to Jesus about seven brothers who, after each other's death, marry the same woman. The Sadducees ask whose wife that woman will be at the resurrection. Jesus replies that those who are deemed worthy to attain to the resurrection of the dead are not married to anyone. They can no longer die, and they themselves are all children of God. Then Jesus points out that the Sadducees should know this from the passage in Exodus where God appears to Moses in the burning bush. The Lord said to Moses, "I am the God...of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." It is evident, Jesus says, that the Lord is "not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

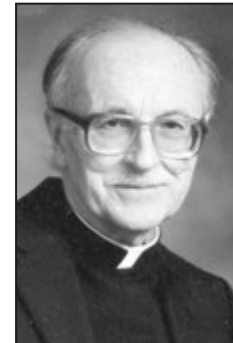
Life Implications

In Luke's gospel, Jesus seems quite reticent in talking at length about the specifics of life after death. To the Sadducees' question, Jesus simply replies that after resurrection there will no longer be a need of bearing children—we will all be children of God. In other episodes of the gospel there is the same reticence. Jesus alludes to gaining a reward in heaven and the coming of the Son of Man in glory. Lazarus in a parable will be carried by angels to the bosom of Abraham. In his last hour, Jesus promises Paradise to the thief who is dying with him on a cross. The principal focus, however, of Jesus' teaching is on the present. "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11:28). They will be counted among the blessed at the Lord's coming in judgment.

Jesus' attention to the supreme importance of responding to the reality of the present moment is evident not only in his teaching, but in his own life. Luke tells us that when Jesus realized that his own death was imminent, he did not explain to his disciples what would happen to him after his death. Rather, he prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me, still, not my will but yours be done." It is in the reality of that moment that Jesus hears the word of God, and keeps it. He could put his life into God's hands at that moment because he trusted that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would not abandon him to the power of death.

We encounter God and can respond to his will only in the narrow gate of our own present moment, our day of salvation. We do not encounter God in the feelings of past moments that we try to hang on to, or in the feelings of future moments that we try to imagine. Now is the only time for the decision of faith and for the works of love.

Because God is the God of the living, when we encounter God in faith we are in the presence of all who are in communion with God. Each Sunday in the Eucharistic prayer, we sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" with the Risen Lord and with all who are alive in him. It is a natural trajectory from the good news of Jesus' affirmation that our life as God's children does not end with death to the good news that Pope Paul VI gave us to affirm in the Credo of the People of God. "We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always attentive to our prayers."



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, NOV 6	MONDAY, OCT. 28
WEDNESDAY, NOV 20	MONDAY, NOV. 11
WEDNESDAY, DEC 4	MONDAY, NOV. 25

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Child-birth and Baptism Traditions in Slovakia

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woman looked at a flame or a fire, or if a flame touched her, people thought she would have a baby on that very spot. She was also warned not to look at anything ugly or unusual, for these would have an adverse effect on the baby's appearance and life.

Childbirth (Pôrod)

While today, most babies are born in hospitals, until the 1950s, most babies were born at home. The same held true for many Slovak-American families until sometime after World War I. A midwife (pôrodná asistentka or babica) typically helped bring the child into the world and cared for it during its first days after birth until the mother had recovered from giving birth.

One of the first activities after birth involved bathing the child. The midwife would first bless the child and then prepare a bath made with peas (hrach) and oat straw (ovsená slama). If the child emerged reddish in tone from the bath, that meant it would live, but a pale color portended a bad omen for survival. We must also remember that as recently as the decade of the 1920s, about 17% of children did not survive their first year.

The first bath was quite important, and placing items in the water could have fortuitous consequences. Dropping coins in the bath would lead to having enough money to live fairly well. Holy Water in the bath would protect the baby and prevent it from being frightened. Girls had sugar added to their water so they would become sweet and loving. Even how the bath water was discarded took on a meaning. People poured the leftover water on their flowers, and particularly on red roses, for that would help the baby's health. Villagers in Vyšná Lesná watered their trees with the bath water in the hope that the baby would grow as strong as a tree.

Other customs related to providing assistance so that the child would be šikovné (skilled in his or her work). Some Slovaks placed the child on sack of flour, believing that would help make it wealthy some day. If one put a fur coat on the child, it was supposed to make him or her a stylish person. Giving a child a prayer book would help make it pious and religious. By placing a variety of work tools or utensils in the child's hands, people thought that it would become adroit with those instruments. A boy might be given a hammer or an axe, so he would be a good carpenter or farmer. Baby girls would get a wooden spoon or needle to hold so they would be good housewives and skilled seamstresses.

Following the bath, a midwife or family member would smear fresh butter and egg whites on the baby. Then the child would be bundled in either in an old apron or some other old clothes, with the



(L - R) Dedo Dr. Michael Kopanic; mother Milenka Feighner, holding baby Pavol; father Paul Feighner; and baba Rebecca Kopanic

idea that clothes would fit better in life, just as old clothes do. Boys were wrapped in women's clothing, and girls in men's clothing, with the idea that this would make them more attractive to the opposite sex at a future date. There were no diapers as we know them today, and old clothing did the job.

The cleansed baby was then laid on the right side of the mother in bed, so that he or she would be right-handed. Similarly, the mother first fed the child with her right breast with a similar intent. When not breast-fed, the baby usually drank goat or cow's milk. If the child happened to touch the straw of the bed with his hand, villagers thought this portended that he would be a wealthy and good farmer.

During the period between birth and baptism, people took great care to ward off evil spirits, for

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Year of Faith: Ministry and Life of Priests, Part 3

Dear Friends,

The summary of the Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests (Prebyterorum ordinis) continues with what it taught regarding priestly celibacy. While not essential to Christ's priesthood (the Eastern churches do not have the celibacy requirement for their priests and the council had no intention of changing it), the Council points out that celibacy has great value and offers three reasons. Priestly celibacy for the sake of the kingdom of heaven is a living sign here and now of the world to come where, as Jesus said in the gospel, people do not marry or are given in marriage (eschatological reason). A priest can dedicate himself more freely to the service of God and his people (ecclesiastical reason). As Christ himself was celibate, a priest by means of celibacy is more united to Christ with an undivided heart (Christological reason).

For these reasons, the Council approves and confirms priestly celibacy for priests in the Latin (Western) Church. It also reminds priests that celibacy is a grace from God the Father they freely received and they are to wholeheartedly adhere to it, thank the Father for this gift, and pray for the grace of fidelity and perseverance to it.

Regarding the possession of temporal goods, the Council advises priests not to seek church offices or the perks of church offices for the increase of their own family wealth. Priests are to avoid all indications of being greedy and are to avoid conducting any business.

As Jesus identified himself with the poor and priests are to conform themselves to Christ, priests (and bishops) are invited to adapt a voluntary poverty in their lives. Nothing in their lives is to turn the poor away from them. A priest is not to arrange his home so that it gives the appearance that he is unapproachable to anyone, lest anyone fear to visit him.

The final section of the last chapter centers on aids for priests, both spiritual and material. Frequent reception of Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance, spiritual reading, reverence and devotion to Mary, visits to and veneration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, spiritual retreats and spiritual direction, mental and vocal prayer are all aids at a priest's disposal for his growth in his spiritual life.

Priests are urged to participate in continuing education for their overall growth and knowledge. This education is not just only in regards to official church teachings, councils, and papal writings, but also methods of evangelization and the apostolate. Bishops are encouraged to avail their priests with the opportunity to go on a sabbatical in order for their personal growth and the welfare of their brother priests. Bishops are also advised to recruit priests for further studies in theology so they themselves can be involved with the formation of current and future clerics.

Regarding their material support, the council advocates equitable remuneration for priests. Their remuneration received should be sufficient for priests to care for themselves, enable them to help the needy, and allow them to take a suitable and sufficient vacation. Bishops conferences are to ensure that sufficient and suitable provisions are made for health care for their priests and also for necessary support of priests who suffer from sickness, handicaps, or old age.

The next and final document from the Second Vatican Council to be examined is the Constitution of the Church in the Modern World. The summary of this document begins in the next issue of the Jednota.



Rev. Thomas Nasta



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christopher

Walking Coast to Coast with God

When Dan Reinke says "I think I'll take a walk," you'd better get out of the way. Because when Reinke speaks of "a walk," somehow it comes out in capital letters--as it did this spring and summer, when Reinke literally walked from coast to coast, from a dip in the Pacific near Portland, Oregon, to jumping into the Atlantic in Virginia Beach, Virginia. In between he covered 2,514 miles, and last August, when his journey came to an end, Reinke was able to say, "God has blessed me along the way."

His trip took a lot of footsteps--5,404,877 of them, by actual count--and it was not without a purpose. Reinke took his walk, he said, to inspire people to greater things.

"God has been working on my heart," he explained, "and I felt called to make a real change in my life...and the change has been great! I'm not asking you to change your vocation, but to take your faith to the next level...to take your faith seriously."

It all began back in Forest Lake, Minnesota, where Reinke, 25, is a member of St. Peter's Parish (and where Kristi Anderson wrote about him in The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese). Reinke wanted to do something special for the Year of Faith, and after talking it over with his pastor, decided on a pilgrimage--which turned out to be The Walk. Slowly it evolved: the things to take, the means of staying in touch, the starting and finishing points, the route. And then it was time to begin.

On the way Reinke found a lot of help, most of it from complete strangers. He would go on to thank them all, for "a donation, a meal, a place to sleep, a phone call or a text, a smile, a ride, a prayer, a song." There were patches of land where he could pitch a tent, and every now and then, "a blessed shower." He met park rangers and police officers ("where the emphasis was on service and friendliness").

At each town he entered Reinke would seek out a parish--where, with luck, he might attend daily Mass. He'd look for parks, or for libraries where he could update his Website with news of his journey. On one of them along the way, he had written, "God is moving and at work in this world."

On August 11, 99 days after he began his incredible trek in Oregon, Reinke tore off his boots, ran across the sand, and leaped into the Atlantic Ocean in Virginia Beach. Then, taking time to reflect on what had happened, he could hardly believe that the journey was over: no roadways to seek out the next day, no wondering where the next meal was coming from (or if there might be one), no more need to keep going on, and on, and on. The walk was finally finished.

And yet it would always stand, a symbol of one person's determination to say something dramatic about what he believed in.

"In this Year of Faith, this is a trip of faith," Dan Reinke said. "It's a lesson in relying on God every day and at every encounter. It will also be a way for me to look back on all the ways God has showered his blessings on me."

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Fraternally,
Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Thru Sept. 2013



James Robert Marmol
First Place



Dorothy J. Petrus
Second Place



Sandy Cluey
Third Place



Edward Fibbi
First Place



Frances Tarquinio
Second Place



Andrew R. Harcar
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance
Marmol, James Robert	162	330,000
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	300,000
Sandy, Cluey	322	200,000
Sprock, Florence M.	181	120,000
Barnes, Karianne R.	628	115,000
Schaub, Vicki Lynn	200	105,000
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	100,000
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	100,000
Voytek, Diana	367	100,000
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	90,000
Stoker, Patricia	372	90,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

Name	Branch	Points
Fibbi, Edward	587	524
Tarquinio, Frances	320	342
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	335
Schaub, Vicki Lynn	200	286
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	268
Arendt, Kenneth Anthony	228	176
Sandy, Cluey	322	166
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	163
Matta, Florence K.	38	163
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	161



Edward Fibbi
Frist Place



Andrew R. Harcar
Third Place



Audrey J. Balazik
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Fibbi, Edward	587	416,917.36
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	285,000.00
Balazik, Audrey J.	367	200,000.00
Soltis, Roger T.	410	132,826.14
Matta, Florence	38	130,234.66
Fedor, William Lawrence		116,000.00
Kopco, Robert J.	24	88,972.05
Deliman, Rosemary	417	86,399.00
Bobby, Jaquelyn	731	80,000.00
Minarovich, Joseph F.	290	60,383.43

Christmas Oplatky 2013

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

The *Oplatky*, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$4.00. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$5.75 and upwards depending upon the number of packets ordered and the rising cost of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to **Jankola Library** is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place and order contact:

Sister Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

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Or, for questions, email Jednota Editor Teresa Ivanec @ fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com or call her at the Home Office, 1-800-JEDNOTA, x 123.

Reminder For All Branches

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

14.01 General Rules

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

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

Scenes from the Latest District Sales Seminar: *The Frank T. Holly District 9 and the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District 12*

A combined seminar was held on October 13, 2013, at the Hampton Inn in Uniontown, PA. The seminar got underway at 2 P.M. with presentations by the FCSU Marketing Committee, National President Andrew M. Rajec, Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt. The afternoon of fraternalism was capped off with light refreshments served directly after the seminar and coordinated by Region 4 Director James Marmol and his wife Patty.



36th NJ Slovak Heritage Festival

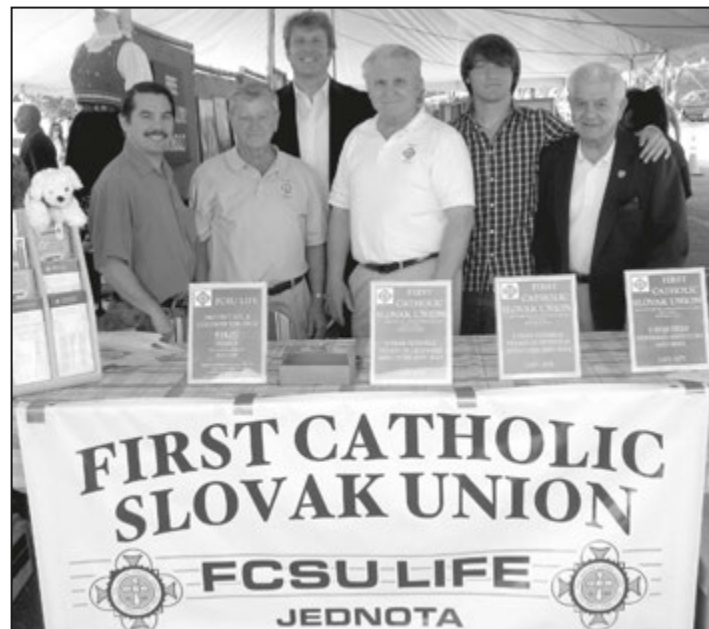
This 36th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival was held on Sunday, September 29, 2013, in Holmdel, NJ, at the PNC Bank Arts Center. With an ongoing mission to celebrate Slovak heritage and culture, this year's event also honored several other key milestones in Slovak history: the 20th anniversary of the independence of the Slovak Republic; the 1, 150th anniversary of the arrival of SS Cyril and Methodius, who brought the gift of faith to our ancestors in Slovakia; and the 150th anniversary of the founding of Matica Slovenska, the oldest Slovak cultural and civic organization. Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic and other dignitaries representing Slovakia in Washington DC and the United Nations in New York attended at the festival.

The Greek Catholic traditions of Slovakia were cel-

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

At 2:00PM, a cultural program began with a Parade of Fashions, featuring Slovak folk costumes, or kroj. Two children's groups, Domovina and the Lama Band, performed. Entertainment by singer Joseph Ivaska and the Circanka Folk Ensemble from Slovakia were featured on the main stage.

An all-day soccer tournament took place as well.



(L - R) FCSU Members: Branch 290 Secretary Stephen Minarovich, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr, Branch 89 Member Andrew P. Rajec, National President Andrew M. Rajec, Branch 290 Member Adam Minarovich, and Branch 290 President and Region 1 Director Joseph Minarovich



FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec (C) and his wife Idka (L) greet a friend.



(L - R) National FCSU President Andrew M. Rajec, Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák, FCSU Branch 89 Member Andrew P. Rajec, and FCSU National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.



(L - R) Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic stops by to greet FCSU National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and National President Andrew M. Rajec



Divine Liturgy was celebrated honoring the rich Greek Catholic traditions of Slovakia.



The 36th NJ Slovak Festival featured an all-day soccer tournament.



Crowds enjoyed the delicious assortment of Slovak foods, baked goods, and drinks for sale.

Festival Held in September



The festival's entertainment program featured two children's groups as well as a folk ensemble from Slovakia.



Seasonal Items for Sale by the Slovak Institute

Dear Friends!

The Slovak Institute has the following books available:

Just some books in ENGLISH about Slovaks

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

PRIATELIA!

Odporúčame knihy v Slovenčine.

- Sv. Andrej-Svorad** \$ 7.00
In 1952 by Fr. Mikuláš Sprinc
- Slovenské Rehole v Amerike** \$10.00
In 1955 by Dr. František Hrušovský
- V Kráľoch Dediny** \$10.00
In 1968 by Jozef A. Mikuš
- Slovenská Republika (SR) 1939-1949** \$20.00
Written by Slovak Institute Member Writers, 1949
- Driftwood Poems** by Mikulas Sprinc \$12.00
Translated to English from Slovak
- Various Slovakia Landspaces** \$15.00
Large used picture books of Slovensko,
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We thank you for your support of the Slovak Institute.

Andrew F. Hudak
Andrew F. Hudak
Director

Joseph J. Hornack
Joseph J. Hornack
Assistant Director

slovakinstitute@cbhs.net

Seasonal Items

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

Saints Cyril and Methodius Anniversary Exhibit in Pennsylvania

The year 2013 marks the 1,150 anniversary of the arrival of Sts. Cyril and Methodius to the region of Europe known then as Greater Moravia, now modern-day Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Austria. Cyril and Methodius were Greek brothers sent to the region by the Byzantine Emperor Michael of Constantinople in 863 at the request of the Greater Moravian Prince Rastislav to evangelize his people.



The missionary work of Cyril and Methodius brought Christianity to the Slavic countries, the creation of the Cyrillic alphabet, and the subsequent translation of the Bible, as well as their first Slavic Civil code. Through their work and the cultural enrichment of the Slavic people, Cyril and Methodius received the title "Apostles to the Slavs." Today, the brothers Cyril and Methodius are revered as national saints throughout Eastern Europe, declared co-patron Saints of Europe by Pope John Paul II, and their 'name day' (July 5) is a national holiday in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Now, 1,150 years later, the work of Sts. Cyril and Methodius is being commemorated throughout Europe and around the world. Pope Benedict XVI declared 2013 as a Year of Faith and asked that time be taken to recall the great faith and legacy that the Slavs inherited from Sts. Cyril and Methodius in commemoration of this special and significant anniversary.

To commemorate the anniversary, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA), will display 11 posters depicting the pictorial history of Sts. Cyril and Methodius bringing Christianity to the Slavic countries. The exhibit still can be viewed in two area locations. The First Catholic Slovak Union is a sponsor.

November 3, 2013

The exhibit of 11 posters will be on display from 1PM – 5PM, at the annual Slovak Heritage Festival, the University of Pittsburgh's Commons Room, the Cathedral of Learning, Oakland, PA. As in the past, the festival program will include ethnic food, musical performances, cultural displays, and lectures.

November 24, 2013

A special program will be held at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Byzantine Seminary, 3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, PA, 15214. Beginning at 3PM, the program will open with a prayer service in the chapel of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, followed by a presentation on the life of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, with all 11 posters on display. Light refreshments will be served. The program is open to the public.

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Branch 254 Member, Slovak Honorary Consul, and WPSCA Director

International Scholarly Conference A Great Success

by M. Mark Stolarik

On Friday and Saturday, October 4-5, 2013, the Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa in Canada organized a major scholarly conference on "The Czech and Slovak Republics: Twenty Years of Independence, 1993-2013." Seventy-three individuals from all walks of life registered. It was opened by University of Ottawa Vice-President and Provost Christian Detellier, who mentioned that, as a Belgian, he could understand what the Czechs and Slovaks went through twenty years ago. His Excellency Milan Kollár, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Canada, then read the plenary address of the Honourable Jozef Moravčík, former Prime Minister of Slovakia, who could not attend. Among other things, Dr. Moravčík mentioned that, as a supporter of Slovak independence, twenty years later his "conscience was clear." By contrast, in the plenary address of the Honourable Petr Pithart, former Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, which was read by Czech chargé d'affaires Robert Tripes, because Dr. Pithart could also not attend, Pithart regretted the breakup of Czechoslovakia and, while admitting that "the dissolution was carried out legally," because there was no referendum, it was carried out "without any legitimacy."

After the plenary addresses, scholars from both the Czech and Slovak Republics looked at the breakup of the former Czecho-

slovakia and its consequences. The Czech perspective was given by Dr. Jan Rychlík of Charles University in Prague, with a commentary by Dr. Michael Kraus of Middlebury College in Vermont. The Slovak perspective was read by Dr. Adam Hudek on behalf of Dr. Jozef Žatkuliak, both from the Historical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Science in Bratislava. The commentary was given by Dr. Stanislav Kirschbaum of York University in Toronto. All four scholars agreed that relations between Czechs and Slovaks had reached an impasse by 1992 and the only solution was a friendly divorce of the two republics.

The next panel discussed political developments in the Czech and Slovak Republics in the last twenty years. Dr. Juraj Hocman, of the Hochschule Goethe Uni in Bratislava, outlined how Slovak politics developed from the authoritarian rule of Vladimír Mečiar in the 1990's through the right-wing governments of Mikuláš Dzurinda and back to the left-wing politics of Robert Fico in the 2000's. Professor Kevin Deegan Krause of Wayne State University in Detroit commented that, in spite of the plethora of political parties that have appeared and disappeared in Slovakia over the last twenty years, voting has been rather consistent along Roman Catholic, Magyar, left-wing and right-wing lines.

Dr. Adela Gjuríčová, of the Institute of Contemporary History at the Czech Academy of Science in Prague, then outlined the course



Slovak Ambassador to Canada Milan Kollar reading the paper by former Prime Minister Jozef Moravcik

of Czech politics over the last two decades. She pointed out that recent Czech politics has been dominated by three men: Václav Havel, Václav Klaus and Miloš Zeman, who respectively espoused a common humanity, right-wing economics and left-wing solutions to society's problems. Interestingly, all three eventually became Presidents of the Czech Republic. Carol Skalnik Leff, of the University of Illinois, concurred.

On the second day of the conference, which was opened by Dean Antoni Lewkowicz of the Faculty of Arts, scholars discussed economic and social developments in the two republics.

Adam Hudek read colleague Miroslav Londák's paper on economic developments in Slovakia over the last twenty years. Londák pointed out that, despite Slovakia having lagged behind the Czech Republic in industrialization after World War II, it rapidly caught up in the last two decades and has almost reached the same level of development as the Czech Republic. John Gould of Colorado College agreed. Martin Pospisil of the OECD in Paris then presented macro and micro-economic developments in the Czech Republic over the last two decades. Sharon Fisher of Global Insight in Washington, D.C. reminded the audience that most observers of the Czech and Slovak divorce

of 1993 predicted that Slovakia would suffer much more from the breakup than the Czech Republic. Subsequent developments proved these observers wrong.

The final presentations focussed on social developments in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Martin Bútorá, a sociologist who founded the Institute for Public Opinion Research in Slovakia, presented a paper co-written by his sociologist wife Zora, which illustrated Slovak satisfaction or dissatisfaction with various elements of society. They noted that Slovaks are most dissatisfied with the state of their judicial system. Sharon Wolchik of George Washington University agreed and suggested some additional areas for research. Oldřich Tůma, of the Czech Academy of Science then spoke on social developments in the Czech Republic over the last two decades. He pointed out that, in spite of their relative prosperity, most citizens of the Czech Republic are in a "foul mood," which is hard to explain. James W. Peterson of Valdosta State University, agreed and suggested some reasons for this foul mood.

In his concluding remarks, the conference organizer M. Mark Stolarik expressed satisfaction with the conference. He was especially proud that, on the 20th anniversary of the "Velvet Divorce" of the former Czechoslovakia, he had brought together some of the leading scholars from the Czech and Slovak Republics with their counterparts in North America. Stolarik then pointed out that, because the Slovaks now had their own, independent, republic, the Czechs at last had to treat them as equals. Stolarik then urged the presenters and commentators to revise their papers and he would seek to publish the Proceedings next year.

Stolarik also expressed his thanks to all the individuals and organizations who had made the conference possible. He singled out the Embassies of the Czech and Slovak Republics in Ottawa for having co-sponsored the conference. Stolarik also thanked members of the Slovak community in North America, whether individuals or organizations, who made financial contributions to cover the costs of the conference. Even though these Slovak communities are not wealthy, they are very generous.



(L - R) Panelists Eda Kranakis (U. of Ottawa), Martin Pospisil of the OECD in Paris, and Sharon Fisher of Global Insight in Washington, DC.

Useful Websites

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

November Commemorates Velvet Revolution

The Velvet Revolution (or Gentle Revolution as it is often known in Slovakia, *nežná revolúcia*) was a non-violent transition of power in what was then Czechoslovakia, resulting in the end of Communist rule. The period of upheaval and transition took place from November 17 to December 29, 1989. The effect of these events was the end of 41 years of Communist rule in Czechoslovakia. A commemorative 2 Euro coin was issued by Slovakia on November 17, 2009.



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 • CLEVELAND, OHIO

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Milos Mitro, Regional Director (Rotating Director)
James Marmol, Regional Director (Requested to Attend)
Gary Matta, General Counsel (By invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August 2013 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The Treasurer presented a written report and answered all the Executive Committee's questions.

INVESTMENT UPDATES:

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS Fund, and MAI Fund, and gave a complete transaction report for the month.

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee. The report gave a complete update of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).



The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey
invite you to our 2013

VILIYA - SLOVAK
CHRISTMAS EVE SUPPER
Sunday, December 8th
12:00 PM (Noon) Mass
Dinner Following
Held at the Abbey Church and
Benedictine High School Cafeteria

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

TICKETS \$20.00 PER PERSON - ADVANCE SALES ONLY

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Your tickets will be mailed out to you.

**TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2013**

For more information please call: 216. 721.5300 ext. 0
(Monday through Friday 8am till 3:30pm)

Entertainment:
Music by HARMONIA
featuring vocalist Beata Begeniová
(native of Presov, Slovakia)

Religious Articles * Exhibits * Slovak Items of Interest

Following the reports, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES**

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of August for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of August:

Disbursements for the month of August 2013:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 145,009.27
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 26,790.55
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

The Executive Secretary also presented the Membership and Annuity Report. The Executive Committee reviewed the remainder of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered all questions.

PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and found everything in order and answered the Committee's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President summarized the sales production report given to the Board of Directors on the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President stated he will continue to work with the Regional Directors and schedule seminars for 2014.

The Vice President stated he reviewed the "final expense policy" to be offered to our members. The Executive Secretary stated this would not be a guarantee issue but would be handled with expedited underwriting. The Program should be in place by the end of the year.

The annuity rates were reviewed and will remain the same with no changes and will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

ADVERTISING:

The Executive Secretary stated he will continue advertising our products and annuity rates in our Jednota newspaper, mailings, and on our website. The Executive Secretary further stated we will continue to add new addresses as we receive them and using the current e-mail addresses we have on record to advertise our products and inform our members of updated information.

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that we have received the personal Estate Planning Booklet for members. The booklet is a fraternal benefit and is now available to all members upon request.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated the convention plans and event details are being finalized for the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia. The President stated plans have been made for an evening cruise and hors d'oeuvres on the Spirit of Philadelphia during the convention. The Executive Secretary stated that as the convention details come together, he believes we will have an exciting convention schedule. Information concerning convention, including the estimated delegate count for each branch, will be sent to the branches in November.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the problem with the windows leaking on all three floors at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio, causing interior damage. The President stated an expert has been hired to examine the problem and make recommendations on solving the issue. The President further stated we are in the process of receiving a second opinion on the project. The Executive Committee and Board will be kept informed of the progress.

The President stated we have 86 reservations so far for the 2013 Membership Meet on the Crown Princess held in November, and we are still receiving inquiries.

The President informed the Committee he plans to meet with Larry Glugosh, President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, to discuss joint events. President Rajec is interested in a joint Golf Tournament with the other Slovak Fraternal.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

The request for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Happy 60th Anniversary Joseph and Anna Petty



Joseph and Anna (Tkach) Petty, of Hollywood Florida, recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Oct. 2nd.

Although, originally from neighboring villages in Slovakia, Joe and Ann met when they immigrated to the USA, and both settled in Linden, NJ. They were married at St. Joseph's Church in Elizabeth, NJ. and attended Holy Family Church in Linden for many years, until they relocated to Florida.

Joe and Anna are blessed with four children, seven grandsons, a great grandson, great granddaughter, and many nephews and nieces. Both are members of Branch 746.

- Submitted by their daughter, Anka Petty



A Diamond Anniversary Poem

One by one each year flew by,
Since you both said "I do" ...
60 years of memories,
Shared by the two of you.
From big events and holidays
To simple daily pleasures,
Some tearful times along life's way,
Some joys that can't be measured...
One by one each year now gone,
But still they're yours forever...
Each and every memory,
Of sixty years together!



Upcoming United Slovak Societies Events in Lorain, OH



The United Slovak Societies will host a Barnyard Polka Party on Saturday November 9, 2013 from 5-9 PM at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain. Featured musician is Ed Klimcak. The event is free and open to the public. There will be raffles, food and fun!

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

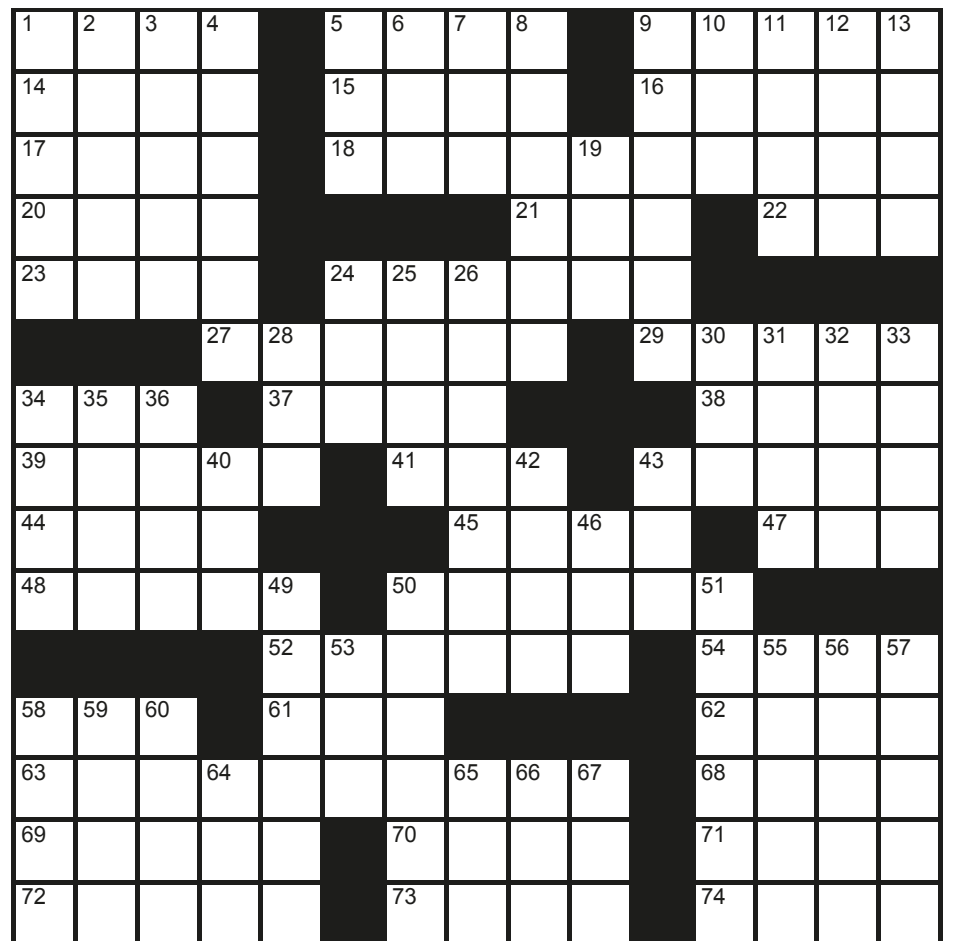
Michele Mager, Branch 228, and Secretary - United Slovak Societies



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

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Taper
- 5 Attention-getter
- 9 College groups, for short
- 14 Groundless
- 15 Maui dance
- 16 France's longest river
- 17 Low-fat
- 18 Blue blood
- 20 First light
- 21 Adage
- 22 Resort
- 23 Besides
- 24 *Seinfeld* gal
- 27 Exit a computer
- 29 Change, as a clock
- 34 Japanese coin
- 37 Outcry
- 38 Hot rock
- 39 High point
- 41 Hale
- 43 Tweak
- 44 Lab gel
- 45 Price
- 47 Sea eagle
- 48 Memos
- 50 Went to sea
- 52 Equally
- 54 Lip
- 58 Sign before Virgo
- 61 Bolivian export
- 62 Calf's meat
- 63 Distributions
- 68 Earthen pot
- 69 Kind of wave
- 70 Jacket
- 71 Knight fight
- 72 Undue speed
- 73 Weaponry
- 74 To be, in old Rome

Down

- 1 Dramatist Oscar
- 2 Perfect
- 3 Talons
- 4 Dog house
- 5 Triumphant cry
- 6 Heston role, *Ben* ____
- 7 Actor Wallach
- 8 Mountain group
- 9 Bloom
- 10 Mythical bird
- 11 Broadcasts
- 12 Golf hazard
- 13 Stiff hair
- 19 Sunburn
- 24 Conceit
- 25 Baker's unit
- 26 Somali, for one
- 28 Crumb
- 30 Addition
- 31 Fill
- 32 Eternally
- 33 Mountain pool
- 34 Glance over
- 35 Hence
- 36 Orderly
- 40 Sp. girl (Abbr.)
- 42 Drudgery
- 43 Dined
- 46 Cunning
- 49 Agree out of court

- 50 Nero's tutor or NY county
- 51 Dedicate
- 53 Energy
- 55 Food shops
- 56 Angers
- 57 Cheer up
- 58 Strip of wood
- 59 Charles Lamb's pen name
- 60 Auto name, for short
- 64 Bran source
- 65 Negative joiner
- 66 Scottish cap
- 67 Peter & Paul, e.g. (Abbr.)

See Solution on Page 19

New

FREE

Estate Planning Booklet
from the First Catholic
Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the newly published Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).

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Male - age 10	Female - age 10
\$5000 for \$565	\$5000 for \$485
\$10000 for \$1,130	\$10000 for \$970
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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

Fraternally,

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 2 will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday Nov 11, 2013, at 7pm. It will be held at Kretzlers in Babcock Blvd. We will hold election of officers for 2014, speak about delegates for the Philadelphia convention August 23rd thru 27th in Philadelphia, PA, and discuss activities for 2014. Please reserve a place for yourself by calling Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204 or Joanne Lako at 412-766-3222.

Joanne Lako, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 3P – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of the St. Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will be held at 9:30 am on Sunday Nov. 17, 2013, at the Faith United Church of Christ Hall, 21 Faith Drive, West Hazleton, PA. All members are encouraged to attend. Election of branch officers for 2014 will be held at this meeting. A breakfast buffet sponsored by the Pardeesville Christian Association will be provided for all branch attendees. Please call M. Koval at 570-454-0004 for details and directions, if needed.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2013 at 1:00 pm.

The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, Vice President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. The agenda will include election of officers for 2014.

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

Marion Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its Breakfast Meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2013. A Mass will be offered by Msgr. Joseph Pekar for our members at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. Following the Mass, members are invited to return to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

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

- Emily Agoglia
- Sierra Frye
- David Gerics

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

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

- Meghan Barry
- April Gulotti
- Renee Lorys
- Leah Phillip
- Peter Solek

This grant was established in honor of Andrew Imbro for his many years as financial secretary of the St. Joseph Society.

The annual meeting will be held Sunday, December 8, 2013, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. We also will elect delegates for the 50th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at this annual meeting.

We cordially invite our members to attend these

meetings and enjoy seeing friends.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

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

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

For further details about the St. Andrew Abbey Viliya Dinner see announcement in this newspaper.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 38 – DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 38, the Holy Trinity Society, will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2013, at the home of Secretary, Florence Matta, 2409 Eisenhower Court, White Oak, PA. The meeting will begin at 7:00PM.

On the agenda will be a review of the financial report through September 30, 2013, branch activities for the year 2014, and any other discussion times that may develop. The annual election of officers for the year 2014 will be held.

Fraternally yours,

Florence K. Matta, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 112 – MAHANOCY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Karen Sterling, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Gerry Kovčina, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 will be holding "Nomination of Officers" on November 7, 2013 following the 7:00 pm Officers meeting. On December 5, 2013, following the 7:00 pm Officers meeting, there will be the "Elec-

tion of Officers". Delegates also will be elected/appointed to the 50th Quadrennial General Convention of the FCSU at the December meeting.

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

Fraternally,

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

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

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

As a reminder, our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are scheduled unless needed, perhaps such as a Convention year. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. I appeal to our younger members to become active in our Branch to help direct us as well as becoming involved with the United Slovak Societies and the Slovak Club. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You are sure to find many items of interest.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 266 – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of St. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will be held on Sunday Nov.17,2013, at 9:30 am at the United Church of Christ Hall at 21 Faith Drive, West Hazleton, PA. All members are urged to attend. Election of branch officers for 2014 will be conducted at this meeting. A buffet breakfast will be provided by the Pardeesville Christian Association for all branch attendees. For more information, and to get directions if needed, contact R. Lazar or any other branch officer.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold the last meeting for this year on Sunday November 17 at St Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa. at 3:00 P.M. On the agenda will be a financial report, election of officers for 2014 and election of delegates to the 50th International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Philadelphia, Pa. in August 2014. All members are urged to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Edward T. Surkosky, FIC, President

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Thank you.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367, Fairchance, PA will hold it's end of the year meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013, at 5 PM at Bogey's Restaurant at Duck Hollow, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, Pa. 15401. Election of officers will be held for 2014. Anyone wishing to attend please call Kathryn Baranek, secretary at 724-569-1006 or Audrey Balazik president at 724-438-3887. We would also like to wish all our members a blessed and safe holiday season.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold its annual meeting on October 27, 2013, at King's Restaurant, Canonsburg, PA. The time is 2:00PM. On the agenda: election of officers.

Fraternally,

Margaret Graytok

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382 K of Scranton, PA, will hold its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2013. The meeting will convene at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

On the agenda will be the reports of the officers, a report from District 17 representatives, information from the Home Office, donations, and future activities. Auditing of the books will be conducted.

Election of officers for 2014 will take place as well as election of Branch delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Refreshments will be served.

All Branch 382 members are encouraged to attend.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting and election of officers on Sunday, November 3, 2013, at 1:00PM at New City Buffet, 5142 State Route 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA, 15601. All members are invited. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Marks Society, Branch 425, Barberton, OH, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2013, at 1:00PM at The Slovak Society

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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of Barberton, 887 West Tuscarawas, Barberton, OH. Nomination of delegates to the convention will be discussed.

Jeannette M. Willis,
Recording Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 10:00AM at the home of the Recording Secretary.

On the agenda will be our annual financial report; nomination and election of officers for the year 2014 and the election of delegates for the FCSU 50th Quadrennial Convention being held in Philadelphia, PA in August 2014.

We will also discuss our fundraising plans for the year 2014.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2013, at 2:00PM at Alexander Restaurant in Ambridge, PA. All members are invited to attend for the election of officers for the coming year. The election of delegates to the convention in Philadelphia, PA, in August 2014 will also take place. For reservations, call Albert Valo at 724-375-2287 by November 1st.

Edith Valo, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSEKON, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 is announcing to all our members that our fabulous "All you can eat Breakfast" has just resumed September 22, 2013, at Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth Street, Muskegon Heights, MI. Breakfast is served from 8:30am till noon. Come and enjoy all the great food.

We would like to thank everyone that attended the "Hotter than Hades" party. The party, to raise money for the air-conditioning fund, was FUN!!!

We will be having election of officers in December. The member meeting will be held at Tatra Hall. Please mark your calendar for this important date--December 15, 2013 at 2:00pm.

The officers of Branch 595 would like to encourage you visit your club and check into the amenities that membership in the FCSU has to offer.

Thank you

Laura Karafa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 633 – FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its annual meeting at 1:00PM on Saturday, November 9, 2013, at Teppanyaki Grill at G-3583 Miller Road in Flint (former Old Country Buffet) by the Target store. Elections of branch officers and our delegate to the 2014 national convention will be held. All members are asked to consider running for office and/or delegate and please attend.

Eva Craine, Secretary

BRANCH 633 – FLINT, MICHIGAN

Branch 633 will hold its annual group outing on November 22, 2013 @ 7pm. District 5 President and Branch 633 Vice President Robert Kristofik will be leading the cheers as the branch attends the Friday night Detroit Pistons game against the Atlanta Hawks. We will meet in the main lobby of the Palace

of Auburn Hills @ 6:30pm. Anyone in the branch interested in attending please call Rod Meloni @ 248-444-9141 as soon as possible so we can arrange to have everyone seated together.

Rod Meloni

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, at 11:00AM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville. On the agenda will be the election of officers; also, the upcoming convention will be discussed. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 706 – ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Branch 706 will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, November 1st, 2013, at 3:00pm at the home of Vice President, Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. If you plan on attending, please call Barbara at 219-864-8251, so arrangements for refreshments can be made. Dinner will follow the meeting. On the agenda discussion on insurance sales and new business will be discussed. If you have moved or know of a member that has moved; please send us their address so we may update our files.

At the meeting a discussion will be held about the upcoming FSCU Convention in August of 2014.

Fraternally,

Barbara Fayta, Vice President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

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

All members are urged to attend this meeting.

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

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON

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

Herbert L. Hirst, President

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 1 2013, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer Report, a 2013 financial report, approval of the 2014 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of branch officers will also take place.

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

at this meeting.

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

The annual meeting will follow mass in the Church Social Hall.

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

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

Joseph C. Rimarcik,
President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

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

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764's next event will be a one woman re-enactment of the life of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (our parish name-sake) by Carol Starre-Kmiecik on November 3, 2013 at 1:00 PM in the Parish Social Hall, 194 Laird Avenue NE, Warren, OH. The presentation will be followed by a light lunch at 2:00 PM. There is no admission fee, but a free will offering will be taken.

Immediately following the lunch we will hold a meeting for election of officers and discussion about the Christmas Party and future events. All members are encouraged to attend.

The breakfast at SS Mary & Joseph in Newton Falls on Sept 22 was well attended. We sponsored a Mass for the living and deceased members of FCSU Branches 764 & 759K at 11:00 AM and made a cash donation to their food cupboard.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 784 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Our Annual meeting of Branch 784 will be held on November 17, 2013, at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall following the 10.30 Mass. Elections of officers for 2014 and New Year's agenda will be discussed. A light lunch will be served. Please contact Ann Boyce at 514-685-4236 or Ann Chandik at 514-684-0177 to confirm your attendance.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2013, at 1PM in the church basement of Holy Trinity R.C. Church Egypt, PA. All members are welcome to attend. We will also be joined by Sokol Branch 255. Many topics to be discussed. Slovak food and drink to follow the meeting.

Jerry Lloyd, Secretary

BRANCH 810 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Our Annual meeting of branch 810 will be held on November 17, 2013, at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall following the 10.30 Mass. Elections of officers for 2014 and New Year's agenda will be discussed. A light lunch will be served. Please contact Elka Gadosy at 514-634-9650 to confirm your attendance.

Mary Jarabek, President

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2013.

The meeting will be held at 1:30PM at Carrie Cerino's Restaurant, 8922 Ridge Road, North Royalton, OH, 44133.

The Agenda includes the election of officers and discussion of the upcoming 2014 Convention.

Please contact Linda Kolesar at 440-886-0206 by November 1, 2014, if you plan to attend.

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

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

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

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Our Mother of Sorrows Society Branch 856 will hold their next meeting on Saturday November 16, 2013 at 1:00p.m.

On the agenda will be election of officers for 2014. Discussion on the upcoming convention in 2014 in Philadelphia, PA, and our recent Mass on September 15, 2013. Also should we start to plan a celebration for the 50th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel in The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception as Msgr. Rossi suggested.

All members are urged to attend this meeting at the home of Recording Secretary Marion Mistrik, 4513 Gladwyne Drive Bethesda, Md. 20814. Phone 301-654-5638.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Wednesday December 11, 2013. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2014 as well as the election of delegates to the 2014 FCSU convention in Philadelphia.

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

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

Reminder...

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

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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Annual Meeting & Election of Officers on Sunday, October 27, 2013. Location: the Missionary Benedictine Convent at 5900 W. 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm. All branches are urged to send delegates to the meeting. Individual Jednota members who are interested in becoming more active in District 2 are also welcome to attend. We will enjoy a delicious catered dinner. If you plan on attending, please call the District Spiritual Advisor Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810 so she can order enough food and beverages.

Robert Tapak Magruder

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2013 at St. Patrick's Ryan Church Hall in Merrill, MI. The traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served, starting at 11:00AM. The business meeting shall begin at 1:00PM. The church hall is located at 4708 South Meridan Road (M30). Please notify Katherine Stevens, at 989-835-9895 by October 24, 2013, with the number of delegates that will be attending from your branch.

Since this is our annual meeting, the election of officers will be on the agenda, along with discussion of the convention in Philadelphia next year.

Our district president, Robert Kristofik, encourages all branches to be represented. Hoping to see many new faces.

Anna Magusin, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

This year the District will host a Christmas Eve Vilija in conjunction with our meeting. The Vilija will start at 2 PM. The Vilija is open both to members and to the general public. JEDNOTA members will pay \$5.00 per person. Non-members will pay \$20.00 per person. RESERVATIONS are a MUST. RSVP to Sue Ondrejco at 412-421-1204 or by email to smosr@verizon.net.

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

** The Pitt Slovak Heritage Festival will be held Sunday, November 3 at the Cathedral of Learning.

** A photographic exhibit marking the 1150th anniversary of the arrival of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Eastern Europe will be shown in conjunction with the Pitt Slovak Heritage Festival.

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

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: October 7: Andy Warhol, November 4: History of Immigration – Slovakia to US, December 2: Slovak Dolls & a Visit from St Nick, January 6: 1st Timer's Travelogue, February 3: Egg Decorating.

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

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is open Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Call Sue Ondrejco for information.

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 7 - REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT - BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMESSET, AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2013, beginning at 2:00PM. The meeting will be held in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Graham Ave., Windber, PA, with Branch 292, St. John the Baptist, as the host.

On the agenda will be the election of officers and a delegate to the 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held in Philadelphia, PA. Also, a matter tabled from the semi-annual meeting of officers missing two consecutive meeting without a valid excuse will be brought up. Member branches that have not paid their dues may do so at this meeting, and also the requirement to have a delegate from their branch at one yearly meeting to receive the yearly stipend.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 8 - REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2013. The Mass will be held at St. John Cantius Church, 4415 Almond Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19137 at 10:00 AM. (This is the rectory address; the church is directly behind the rectory.)

The church is less than a 5 minute drive off the Bridge Street exit on I-95.

Lunch will be served at 11:30AM in the school hall. (School is on the premises).

The meeting will take place after lunch.

Donation for the lunch is \$15.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 857. All checks and credentials must be returned by Monday, October 28, 2013. PLEASE be prompt!!

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350. Thank You!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 10 will be holding the last meeting for 2013 on November 17,

2013, at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 at 2:00 pm. All District 10 members are urged to attend this meeting.

We will be holding our election for the 2014 year at this meeting. If you are interested in running for office please attend this meeting.

All branches should try to send a representative to this meeting to fulfill your obligations for the yearly stipend and convention attendance.

If you plan on attending this meeting please contact Linda Hanko at lhanko@neo.rr.com or call 330-706-0151. We need a head count for refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The Annual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2013. Time and place are 2:00 PM at the C.U. Club 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. Branches should identify their representatives who will attend to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 by Oct 26.

Reminders:

- Per FCSU By-Laws, Branch representation at one (1) District meeting per year is required to qualify for receipt of the annual Branch stipend for membership.

- District attendance information is submitted to Headquarters in February each year.

- There is no requirement that Branch representative(s) at District meetings be officers of the Branch; any beneficial member who attends District meetings satisfies this By-Law requirement.

Thank you.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

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

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT

The Prince Pribina District cordially extends an open invitation to celebrate with us on Sunday November 3, 2013, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, 710 Sultana Ave, Ontario, CA, where Fr. Pavol Sochulak, SVD, serves as pastor. The All Saints and All Souls Mass will begin at 3:00 PM. After Mass we will play Slovak music, while serving refreshments in the cafeteria. We invite all Slovaks and Slovak friends to join us for a very pleasant afternoon in Ontario, CA.

Paul Skuben, President

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

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

Secretaries,

Helen Von Fridle and Anne Mitro

DISTRICT 20 – PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT – MONTREAL

The Prince Rastislav District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday November 17, 2013, at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, following the 10.30 AM Mass. Discussion of past activities and plans for the New Year, election of officers and the 2014 convention will be on the agenda. Branches 784 and 810 are encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be served, and we ask you to contact Anne Chandik at 514-684-0177 to confirm your attendance.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

OBITUARIES

STEPHEN J. NARKIN, ESQ. BRANCH 55 – BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA



Stephen J. Narkin, 58, of San Francisco, CA, passed away on August 1, 2013

at home, with his family by his side, after a battle with cancer. Steve is survived by his loving wife Thu Hang and daughter Angela, parents Joseph and Mary Narkin, his brothers Joseph Narkin III and John Narkin, father of his beloved niece Cynthia, and his sister Maryann Narkin.

Steve was a remarkably talented and highly respected lawyer who spent most of his career in the Washington D.C. area working on issues relating to international trade. In 1975, he obtained his BA in political science from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1978, he graduated from Stanford Law School with a Juris Doctor degree. After holding various positions in private firms and government agencies, he joined the Washington, D.C. office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom, LLP in 1993. Intermittently, Steve also spent several years at King and Spalding. In 2011, he relocated to San Francisco, where he continued to represent trade clients. He was based at Skadden's Palo Alto office until his death. Steve became a widely recognized, published expert in the field of international trade law.

A memorial service for the family was held in Pacifica, California on August 5, 2013. A memorial service for Steve's extensive professional network and his friends was subsequently held in Washington DC on October 21, 2013.

- submitted by Helena Gaydos, Branch 55 President

EMMA L. WALSH BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Emma L. Walsh, 95, of Shamokin, PA., died Thursday morning, Aug. 29, 2013, at home. Born in Shamokin on July 31, 1918, she was a daughter of the late Mark and Julia (Csirip) Palko.

She graduated from Shamokin High School in 1936. On July 17, 1943, she was married in St. Mary's Church, Shamokin, by Msgr. Matthew Siedlecki to Leon J. Walsh, who preceded her in death Jan. 7, 1994. Mr. Walsh faithfully served the members of Branch 75KJ of the First Catholic Slovak Union as its president for more than 20 years. He was then honored with the title "President Emeritus" for his long service.

Emma was the head bookkeeper at Jones Hardware in Shamokin for 40 years before retiring in 1980. She was a member of Mother Cabrini Church in Shamokin and a former active member of St. Mary's Church, where she worked for many years at the church's food stand at the Bloomsburg Fair. She also was a member of St. Mary's Sodality, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and National Council of Catholic Women. She was past president of Mother Cabrini Council of Catholic Women and served as a member of Shamokin Hospital Auxiliary, Sunflower Club, Shamokin Elks Auxiliary and Shamokin Senior Citizens.

Emma was a member of the Sunday "coffee club" and attended many activities with her sisters and other member of the "Golden Girls."

She was well known for baking delicious cheesecakes, Christmas cookies and other specialties.

Emma was a devoted wife, mother, godmother and aunt who especially loved spending time with her family.

Emma was a devoted wife, mother, godmother and aunt who especially loved spending time with her family.

Survivors include her son, Attorney James L. Walsh, Camp Hill, who currently performs the duties of Branch 75 President; a sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Gilger, Shamokin; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and special caregivers.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a daughter, Susan; a daughter-in-law, Kitty (Endrizzi) Walsh; two sisters, Mary Anderson and Julia Kaminski, and two brothers, Joseph Palko and Stephen Palko.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, Aug. 31, 2013. Viewing was Friday Aug. 30, 2013.

- Submitted by Ronald M. Anderson, Branch 75 Financial Secretary

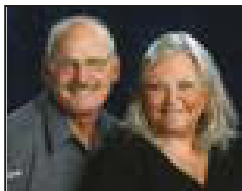
MARIANNA LHOTE BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Past Secretary, Marianna "Nana" Lhote, who was a dear friend and "surrogate mother" to so many and dedicated many years to the club went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wed. October 2, 2013. All her "kids", friends, and members extend our deepest sympathy to her only son, Paul Lhote, and his family. Nana always had a smile on her face, was such a joy to be around, and loved by so many. She will be sadly and deeply missed – but never forgotten.

We would like to thank Grace Charney for the beautiful job and prayer services she has been volunteering to provide at the funeral homes for our deceased members. Grace is fluent in Slovak in both song and word. Grace is a blessing to our branch and highly appreciated.

- Submitted by Vicki Schaub,

JOHN JAMES MIKULIC BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON



John James Mikulic left us on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013, to be with our Lord in Heaven. John was the youngest of three children born to John Mikulic and Mary Anne (Kovach) Mikulic, who both immigrated from Czechoslovakia. John attended St. Clair Grade School and graduated from Wilson High School in 1964. He was an All-City fullback nominated to play in the state Shriner football game. Prior to the game, he was severely injured in a motorcycle accident which ended his football playing days forever. Following high school, John was employed by several companies and in 1977 he enlisted in the Navy, where he served 10 years and was named the top recruit in his Air Squadron Group. At some point, John had been exposed to asbestos which lead him to contract mesothelioma, cancer of the lung lining. He learned of his

diagnosis in August 2012 while he was employed by Fred Meyer as a dispatch supervisor at the distribution center in Clackamas. John reunited with his former wife, Michele, in 2009 and they both knew from the moment they first saw each other that the spark of love had never died. On July 5, 2010, they were remarried and were inseparable from then on and they made up for all those years of love lost while apart. The last four years of his life with Michele were the most joyful ever and he had never been happier than when they were together. They built a home together in Casa Grande, Ariz., in 2010 where they planned to retire. Once John received the news that he had mesothelioma, they moved to Arizona in October 2012, and he was receiving cancer treatment at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Gilbert, Ariz. John leaves behind his loving wife, Michele, whom he referred to as "the love of my life"; brother, Steve Mikulic (Julie); sister, Camille Cantrall; stepson, Todd; stepdaughter, Lindsey; two step-granddaughters, whom he had grown very attached to; daughters, Kim and Kelly; three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. At John's request, no memorial services were planned.

-Submitted by Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, Branch 735 Social Secretary

ANNE MITCHELL BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON



Anne was born on Sept. 1, 1926, and grew up in Linnton and Portland, attending St. Patrick's and Cathedral Grade Schools and graduating from Commerce (Cleveland) High School. In 1947, she married Jesse Mitchell and focused on raising her family and volunteer work. Anne was an active member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church for 60 years, Holy Redeemer's Altar Society, the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, Young Ladies Institute, Keep Christ in Christmas and a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse; parents, John and Caroline (Simora) Kovach; stepfather, Andrew Ballas; and stepsister, Ann Nielsen.

She is survived by her sons, Jeff (Kathy) Mitchell and John (Theresa) Mitchell; grandsons, Christopher and Drew Mitchell; sister, Mary Weitzel; nieces and nephews and their families; as well as countless numbers of dear friends in the community. A viewing was held from 1-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013, at Zeller Chapel of the Roses. The Rosary was recited at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, followed by a funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. Interment was held 10:30 a.m. Monday Sept. 30, 2013, at Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

- Submitted by Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, Branch 735 Social Secretary

ANNA JANE WITTY BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON



On August 8, 2013, two days after celebrating her 90th birthday, Anna Jane Witty joined her beloved husband Owan in heaven.

Born on August 6, 1923, Anna was the only child of John and Josephine Shimka.

She is survived by her sons John Witty (Portland, Oregon), Owan Witty (Surprise, Arizona) and daughter Jo Ann Brown (Portland, Oregon). She is also survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Raised in a Catholic tradition, Anna devoted her life to her family working both inside the home and outside the home. Her greatest passion was to help others. This led her to her favorite job working at a women's shelter.

Having lived many years in Portland, Anna and her husband moved to Lincoln City where she worked and retired eventually returning to Portland where she would be closer to her family.

She was a loving and caring person and was loved by all who knew her. She will be missed.

Graveside services were held Wednesday August 14, 2013, 11:00am - 11:30am at Willamette National Cemetery.

- Submitted by Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, Branch 735 Social Secretary

Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour

GET READY, GET SET, LET'S GO TO SLOVAKIA!

JULY 2014



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

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

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

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

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

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

News From Slovakia

Fico to Attend V4 Prime Ministers' Meeting in Budapest

Bratislava, October 13 (TASR) - Prime Minister Robert Fico is slated to attend a meeting of Visegrad Four (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) premiers on October 14, in Budapest, Hungary.

Their meeting will focus on issues pertaining to the current co-operation of the V4 countries on defence and security policy, along with energy and nuclear security in central Europe. In addition, the prime ministers are expected to discuss new initiatives proposed by Hungary, which has taken over the presidency of the grouping as of July 1, as concerns further development of the V4 countries co-operation.

Next month's Eastern Partnership summit in Lithuanian capital of Vilnius was also addressed. The event is expected to see an association agreement and an agreement on free trade signed between the European Union (EU) and Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

Slovakia to Open Representative Office in Georgia

Bratislava, October 11 (TASR) - Slovakia plans to establish a representative office in Tbilisi in the near future, Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak said at a press conference following his meeting with his Georgian counterpart Mai Panjikidze on this date.

"The decision has already been passed," said Lajcak. "I found it paramount to have a diplomatic representation directly on the spot." The minister added that the office will represent a new form of diplomatic presence, with the European External Action Service (EEAS) set to offer Slovakia its premises as part of the EU delegation in the Georgian capital.

According to Lajcak, this arrangement with the EEAS will save a great deal of money that otherwise would be needed to operate a building while a fully-fledged diplomatic presence is being established. "It's one of the alternatives that the EU has embraced," claimed Lajcak, adding that this allows Slovak diplomacy to be efficient but not increase the volume of financial resources expended at the same time," claimed Lajcak. European diplomacy has delegations in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Lajcak perceives the mutual political dialogue between the two countries as intensive, although he pointed to a scope for further co-operation in the economic sphere. "The trade exchange grew year-on-year by 60 percent in 2012, but a great deal of leeway for further growth still exists."

Javorcik Chairs Meeting of Working Group on Slovak EU Presidency

Bratislava, October 10 (TASR) - Foreign and European Affairs Ministry state secretary Peter Javorcik chaired the session of one of the working groups of the National Convention on EU on Wednesday that addressed the Slovak EU Presidency in the second half of 2016 with representatives of the Government and Slovak NGOs.

The session's aim was to come up with topics that the working group members find relevant for the Slovak EU Presidency. Among the topics that gained more attention during the discussion was the issue of youth unemployment, water, as well as other socio-economic and foreign-policy issues such as, for example, the Eastern Partnership.

In regard to these issues, members of the working group discussed what added value Slovakia could bring at the European level.

The next meeting of the working group is set for January 2014, with results of its work being presented at the plenary session of the National Convention on EU in May 2014, which will be organized to mark the 10th anniversary of Slovakia's accession to the EU.

The National Convention on European Union was initiated by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. It is an institutional platform for discussion of the executive representatives, parliament representatives, Churches, experts, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, regional government representatives, and representatives of economic and cultural life. The aim is to stimulate the debate on European issues, to help formulate the Slovak positions on the future direction of the EU, and to bring the European dimension closer to citizens.

Under the National Convention fall the meetings of three working groups - on the future of the EU, on assessment of 10 years membership of Slovakia in the EU, and on the Slovak Presidency of the EU.

Lajcak Meets British Charge d'Affaires Gill Fraser

Bratislava, October 10 (TASR) - Vice-Premier and Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak met with British Charge d'affaires to Slovakia Gill Fraser on this date on the occasion of her taking office.

Minister Lajcak praised the good level of bilateral relations between the two countries. "I'd be glad to see my British counterpart William Hague as well as London Lord Mayor Roger Gifford pay a visit to Slovakia," Lajcak stated.

Both sides discussed the upcoming Open Governance Partnership summit set to take place in late October in London. Lajcak and Fraser said they believed that the two countries will engage in excellent co-operation at the ministerial level, particularly between the Slovak Labor, Social Affairs and the Family Ministry and British Education Minister in the area of protection of minors' rights.

[Ambassador Susan Montgomery is on a medical leave of absence and Fraser is now the head British diplomat posted in Bratislava - ed. note]

Ruzomberok Strives to Shed 'Slovakia's Most Air-polluted Place' Moniker

Ruzomberok, October 9 (TASR) - The town of Ruzomberok (Zilina region) is apparently pulling out all the stops to shed the moniker as 'Slovakia's most air-polluted town'.

As part of the 'Environmental Day' on Wednesday, the town's officials unveiled a raft of measures involving the local Mondi SCP company, which operates a pulp and paper mill there.

"The very latest stats show that we longer come first in this unflattering ranking. We've focused especially on transport, small sources of air pollution and waste management. We're waiting impatiently for the construction of the highway bypass around our town. More than 30,000 cars passing on the main road each day is a massive burden," said Ruzomberok vice-mayor Miroslav Zuberec.

He added that the town hall has intensified cooperation with Mondi SCP on the cleaning and repairs of roads within projects that involve the company's financial support.

"Air pollution is a phenomenon proven by measurements. Rather than only talking about it, steps have been adopted recently. The town's leaders are treading the right path. We observe an efficient use of the funds we've provided, and so we'll do our best to endorse activities that yield tangible results," said the company's president Roman Senecky.

The vice-mayor noted that 190 days on which air pollution limits were topped back in 2006 have been slashed to 23 days this year so far.

Mondi SCP is considered to have a sizeable impact on ambient air quality in the town, also called the 'capital' of the Lower Liptov area, and its environs.

Based on a ranking of the worst air pollution as released in February, Banska Bystrica's 'Stefanik's' embankment came a close second behind Ruzomberok's 'Riadok' Street, with the village of Velka Ida near Kosice placing third.

Eco Energo to Build Hydro Plant in Nitra Region

Bratislava, October 6 (TASR) - A company called Eco Energo 3 plans to build a small hydroplant worth €2.7-3 million in Nitra region, according to the investment plan submitted for environmental impact assessment.

The facility is to have an installed turbine output of 2x245 kW, with the additionally flooded area to span 6.63 hectares.

The construction works are to begin in 2014 and expected to be completed in 2016. "The operation of the power plant doesn't require the permanent presence of personnel. An occasional supervision of the structure's operation will be ensured by three operators, with the operation itself being fully automated," reads the proposal.

Eco Energo was founded in October 2011.

As Much as 6 percent of Slovakia's GDP Directly Attributable to Car Industry

Bratislava, October 4 (TASR) - Experts concur on the key character of the car industry for the Slovak economy, with the sector exerting a sizeable influence on GDP growth while creating a large number of jobs.

"The proportion of the automotive industry in Slovakia's GDP stood at six percent last year. If we considered suppliers for car plants as well, then the figure would be even higher. The addition of new capacities in car plants contributed significantly to economic growth especially last year," said Slovenska Sportelna bank analyst Martin Balaz.

When it comes to the production of all means of transportation, which also includes the automotive industry, 66,000 people worked in the sector last year. This figure represents some 2.8 percent of all employees across Slovakia.

The sector's influence doesn't end here, however. As UniCredit bank analyst Lubomir Korsnak pointed out, car plants are also somewhat of a driving force behind certain services such as transport, logistics and retail. "Suppliers for the automotive industry can also be found in other industrial sectors such as metallurgy and the production of rubber and plastics," said Korsnak.

Gov't to Grant Investment Assistance to IBM and T-Systems

Kosice, October 2 (TASR) - The Government at its away-from-home session in Kosice on this date decided that two firms will be granted investment stimuli worth a total of €6.66 million.

IBM Slovakia will receive stimuli worth €1.58 million for implementing an investment project called 'Expansion of the Existing IT Services Delivery Centre in Kosice'.

The labor costs of the project amounting to €13.08 million and investment costs of €409,568 will be spread over the period between 2013-15 and will directly create 150 new jobs with high added value by the end of 2015.

T-Systems Slovakia will receive state assistance worth €5.08 million for expanding its IT center in Kosice I, which provides services in the field of information and communication technologies.

This project's labor costs worth €11.54 million and investment costs of €880,000 are spread over the years 2013-16. The expansion of the IT center in Kosice will directly create 350 new jobs by the end of 2016.

All Saints' Day in Slovakia

By Allan Stevo

People die. Our memories of them fade. Sometimes, very irregularly, we might step into a cemetery to "visit."

Slovaks are different. The markets fill with mums starting this last week of October. And on All Saints' Day, the most beautiful part of any town becomes the place where dead bodies lay in the ground. Train travel, bus travel, car travel, any travel on a weekend like this is highly recommended as Slovaks fill their cemeteries with the most fantastic collections of puffy flowers. Cemeteries on November 1 are so pronounced against the rainy, gray, fall backdrop. Or in the dry crisp weather, the flower-filled cemeteries seem so well placed. Or in "babie leto" when the weather is very warm for a few days – "Indian Summer" as we refer to it where I'm from – the colors fit perfectly. Nature creates beauty in the colors of the trees, man creates beauty in the colors of the cemeteries.

Whatever the weather, this celebration always appeals to the eye, but the perfect weather is crisp, cool, and sunny. It's the weather of autumn that best accentuates the colors of autumn. Leaves everywhere, leaves of all colors, hills that rise up all around you – mottled with the fantastic ambers, reds, oranges, golden colors that are the Slovak hills in the fall. This land, covered in hills, is at its peak beauty in this season. And so are its cemeteries.

Connected to nature, connected to village life, connected to pre-Christian ritual, connected to religion, connected to the shifts in seasons – this is Slovakia. Do not be surprised that they bury their dead and refuse to "get over them."

Aged widows seem to mourn the dead permanently. Some mothers mourn dead children in a public way long after they've laid a child in the ground. Cars or Coca-Cola may be something easy to import. "Get over it," however, is not so easy to import. Maybe it's not even beneficial to import. Slovaks are good at remembering their dead. That's simply one of the characteristics of this culture, and to say that it's good or bad misses the point. It just is.

In remembering their dead, Slovaks make it a point to adorn their graves during the day with colorful flowers, plants, and other decorations. And in the days leading up to this holiday, the outdoor markets have their last hurrah for the year. No matter the weather, the markets will be full – full of vendors, full of flowers, full of buyers. When frost comes, the produce of the market will no longer be reliable. Just cut open an orange or a tomato that spent a December night in an unheated truck and you will learn your lesson about when to buy fruits at outdoor markets. But it is not December, and today, there's so much natural beauty in those markets – as people seek out the adornments they'll use to decorate graves – that today rivals the beauty of the market at any other time of the year.

In your travels across this country on this day, All Saints' Day, be sure you do not end your travels before dusk. Drive into the night and you will be surprised at what happens next.

Out of the distance, over the hill will come a glow, a strange glow unknown to most eyes.



The glow of a cemetery in Slovakia lit by candles. Photo courtesy of Dr. Michael Kopanic

It is especially unknown to eyes that are used to night being illuminated by nothing but street lights and "high beams."

What is that blaze? Just over the next hill is the glow of a cemetery lit by 1,000 candles.

In the last few weeks stores have prominently displayed these candles, from the tiny 20 cent candles housed in red and gold plastic, to the more expensive and elaborate candles in red glass cases. Family members and friends visit graves and light a candle before dusk. In unison, these tiny candles, sporadically-placed, create a calming glow. Maybe the glow is a melancholy one – it tangibly shows the many people who miss someone close to them on this night. Perhaps it's a victorious glow – it tells us that there are many people in that cemetery who've left strong impacts on others in their short time on earth. And for the outsider, this uncommon site of a candle-lit, flower-filled cemetery at dusk is something that we are lucky to witness.

Each year on this day, I go into Bratislava's medická záhrada (medical garden) and light a candle at the foot of Martin Kukučín's statue. Kukučín was a writer of Slovak realism who lived and wrote at the turn of the last century. He models part of what I aspire to be – a traveler, a writer, an observer of the space around me, a good and generous man. Kukučín came before me in my family and in my profession. I light a candle at the foot of his statue and each year am pleased to find that someone else has laid flowers there. To be forgotten is to have no one bring a flower or a candle to your grave on this day. To be remembered is to have your grave visited. On this day in Slovakia, the dead are remembered. It is their holiday.

Taking a moment to remember the people who came before you helps you remind yourself that you did not arrive at this point on your own. As Isaac Newton put it, in a letter to his rival Robert Hooke, "If I have seen a little further it is by standing on [the] shoulders of Giants." On November 1, Slovaks remember the people who personally built foundations under them.

Reprinted with permission from the author, based on his original post All Saints' Day. Allan Stevo is a writer from Chicago. To read more from him, go to his website, 52 Weeks In Slovakia at www.52insk.com.



Entries Sought For Family Rosary's 2014

"TRY PRAYER! IT WORKS!" CONTEST



The call for entries has been announced for the 2014 "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest. In this national competition sponsored by Family Rosary, children are encouraged express their faith through art, poetry and prose.

The contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The national competition attracts more than 1,000 entries from approximately 22,000 participants nationwide. Children and teens from Catholic schools, parishes, home schooling, and other Catholic organizations use their talent to convey their beliefs.

This year's theme – "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." – is based on the Fourth Joyful Mystery. "We all struggle with faith at times," said Father John Phalen, C.S.C., President of Holy Cross Family Ministries. "Helping children understand how to keep their faith during troubling times and what to do to maintain their beliefs and remain committed to Christ, is a critical learning for them, for all of us."

The "Try Prayer! It Works!" Contest asks entrants to use creativity to depict their faith. Children in grades K-12 enrolled in a Catholic school, religious education program, parish, home school or other organization are eligible to participate. For details or to download an application, go to www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer. All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2014. Questions? Call Holy Cross Family Ministries at 800-299-PRAY (7729).

About Family Rosary

Family Rosary was founded in 1942 by Servant of God Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., also known as the "Rosary Priest," to advocate for families by preaching two powerful and memorable sayings: "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together" and "A World at Prayer is a World at Peace." He was one of the most influential American Catholic priests of the 20th century, using the entertainment industry to further his mission of family Rosary prayer in honor of Mary and her son Jesus.

In the spirit of its founder, Servant of God Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., Holy Cross Family Ministries serves Jesus Christ and His church by promoting and supporting the spiritual well-being of the family. Faithful to Mary, the Mother of God, the Family Rosary, a member ministry, encourages family prayer, especially the Rosary. For more information, call 800-299-PRAY (7729) or visit www.FamilyRosary.org.



Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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Child-birth and Baptism Traditions in Slovakia

continued from page 1

they thought that a child was vulnerable in the interval. One effective measure involved sprinkling the cradle with holy water and covering his face with a diaper or cloth to counter wicked hexes. A red ribbon tied on the child's wrist would remain there until he started school, an insurance

No one would allow a child to see himself in a mirror until he was a year-old, for the common folk feared the child would not learn to talk. Likewise, no family would cut a child's hair in the first year, because this would inhibit his speech.

Before a child received the sacrament of baptism, the child could never be left alone, for fear that witches might take away the baby and substitute one with physical or mental defects. Superstition held that mentally retarded or physically disabled children had been victims of a sorcerer's exchange. Regardless, the child was to be treated tenderly and kindly, so the witch would do likewise with their original child.

Baptism - Krst

Long ago, one source claimed that the responsibility for selecting a godparent fell on the midwife. Later the child's father or its parents chose, and that decision happened before the child's birth. Usually that couple would be the godparents for all future children for that family. The chosen couple could never refuse an offer to be godparents, unless a woman was pregnant. A refusal would result in seven years of bad luck: grass would no longer grow on a green meadow.

Long ago, baptisms for healthy children took place only twice a year, on Easter and on Pentecost. That changed in the 16th century when the Church required christenings to occur 2 or 3 days after a baby's birth, but usually on the first Sunday after birth. If a baby died before baptism, the midwife would draw a cross on the child's forehead and baptize it with holy water which the priest had blessed on the Feast of the Three Kings.

The godparents, not the child's parents, assumed most of the responsibilities involving the baptism. The godmother dressed the baby in knitted pink or blue clothing, which included a bonnet, shirt, and sweater. A feather pillow with a colored cover revealed the sex of the child. A coin slipped in the pillow cover would ensure that the child would be well off.

In Budča, near Zvolen in central Slovakia, the godmother brought some foods for the parents on the morning before the christening. These included some boiled plums in a jar along with some soup and pasta (rezance). On a plate, she presented the mother in bed with some goodies -- poppy seeded doughnuts.

Unlike today, parents did not attend the baptism. The godmother (kmotra or krstná matka) carried the child, and godfather (kmotor or krstný otec) waited for them in church. As the godmother prepared to leave the house to go to church, she would say: "We are taking from you a pagan and will bring you back a Christian." The godmother and the midwife brought with them a long candle, which would burn through the ceremony, and a shirt with the child's name, birth-date, and his date of baptism.

A priest or minister would lead the ceremony and baptize the child. After reciting the appropriate prayers, he would pour Holy Water over the baby's head, baptizing the child "in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." The cleric would then make a cross on the child's forehead with Holy Oil.

Upon returning to the entrance to the house, the krstná matka would state: "We took away a pagan, and brought back a Christian." Then they would enter the home, and place the child under a central beam or table. As an affirmation of his parenthood, the father then had to lift the child up and acknowledge that it was now part of his family.

Similar to our customs, and still common throughout Slovakia today, a party took place on Sunday afternoon following the baptism. The firstborn usually had the largest party. Guests contributed drinks and koláče (nut or poppy seed rolls). The godparents gave gifts of money, clothing or linen, but could vary by location. More recently, girls started receiving earrings and boys got a necklace. In former times, the midwife use to gather money from attendees to purchase a bonnet or a baby carriage. Superstition had it that a child might speak sooner if people gave money.

When the party ended, all had to be sure to finish their drinks. Unfinished drinks signaled that the child would be an orphan. But spilling a drink was a more welcome sign--many more christenings lay ahead!

One more important fact needs noted. When the child turned one year old, the godparents were expected to visit the child and family. Slovaks termed this occasion križmo. Many godparents would keep a special lifelong relationship with their godchild and closely follow their spiritual life. The honor and privilege of being a godparent was far more than just symbolic.

Song at baptisms - Pieseň na krstínách

As with most Slovak occasions, christenings also featured songs. These varied from place to place, but the godparents were a constant theme. Here is a short song sung in an eastern Slovak dialect after the baptism, which I have translated.

*Na peci majeran a pod pecom poper, bol si mi frajerom, teraz si mi kmoter.
Už sme sa najedli, už sme sa napili, už sme kmoterkovi chlapca pokrstili.
Pan kmotor veselý a kmotrička plače, že sme jej pojedli z komory koláče.
Ej pošol kmoter s kmotru do haju na hubi, ej mne še vera tota robota nelubi,
ej, začal kmoter s kmotru v haju hubi zbírac, ej začal kmoter kmotre hore kabat dzvihac.*

*On the stove, marjoram (majeran) and under the stove, a black pepper (poper),
you were my boyfriend, now a godfather to my baby.
We have already eaten, and drank, and we have baptized the boy for the godfather.
The godfather is happy and the godmother is crying,
because we have eaten the kolache from the pantry.
Ah, the godfather went with the godmother to the woods for mushrooms,
Ah, believe me, I don't like that kind of work,
Ah, godfather and godmother gathering mushrooms in the woods,
Ah, godfather started lifting up her coat*

Important Slovak terms surrounding baptism:

krst = baptism, christening

kerst = baptism (Šariš dialect)

krstiť = to baptize

krstenc, krstena = the person who is baptized

krstiny = christening

krstňa = god-child

krstná dcéra = goddaughter

krstní rodičia = godparents

krstná mať, kmotra = godmother

kmotor, krstný otec = godfather

Spišské nárečie, in Spiš dialect

krstná matka = godmother Spišské nárečie, in Spiš dialect

krstný otec = godfather

pôrodná asistentka, or babica = midwife

rodinná oslava krstu, krštenie = the family christening celebration

radostník = obsolete word for a baptism party

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Veľvyslanci akreditovaní v SR navštívili Žilinský kraj

Po minuloročnej návšteve Košického samosprávneho kraja zorganizoval v piatok a v sobotu (4. a 5. októbra 2013) podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák návštevu Žilinského samosprávneho kraja pre veľvyslancov akreditovaných na Slovensku z Bratislavy, z Viedne, z Prahy a z Budapešti. Ide o tradičnú akciu, ktorej cieľom je predstaviť popredným zahraničným diplomatom históriu jednotlivých regiónov Slovenska, ich kultúru, tradície, možnosti v oblasti cestovného ruchu a v neposlednom rade investičné príležitosti, ktoré by v konečnom dôsledku znamenali nárast pracovných príležitostí a zníženie nezamestnanosti v jednotlivých krajinách. Na akcii sa zúčastnili vedúci diplomatických misií zo štyridsiatichšiestich krajín spolu so svojimi partnermi ako aj vedúci pracovníci MZVaEZ SR.

V rámci kultúrno-spoločenského programu navštívili Sobášny palác v Bytči, kde sa stretli s predsedom Žilinského Vyššieho územného celku Jurajom Blanárom. Ďalej navštívili závod KIA Motors Slovakia v Žiline, kúpele v Rajeckých Tepliciach, absolvovali plavbu na pltiach Strečnianskou úžinou, zavítali na Oravský hrad a pozreli si Múzeum Oravskej dediny v Zuberci.

Počas dvoch dní mali veľvyslanci možnosť zhladať viacero kultúrnych vystúpení, prehliadku bojového umenia rytierov na Oravskom hrade a ochutnať slovenské špeciality v zubereckej kolibe.

MZV SR



FOTO: MZV SR

Na pltiach dolu Váhom pod Strečnom - Amerika, Európa a Ázia na jednej palube.

Ambassadors at the October meeting were given tours of the cultural sites in the Žilina region. Here several ambassadors enjoy a ride on a raft down the Váh River.



FOTO: MZV SR

Spoločná fotografia ministra Miroslava Lajčáka s veľvyslancami akreditovanými na Slovensku z Bratislavy, z Viedne, z Prahy a z Budapešti.

Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak (front, center) welcomes foreign ambassadors for a meeting in the Žilina region, October 4-5, 2013.



7. ročník Slovenského bezpečnostného fóra v Bratislave

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

pripravené pomôcť v procese verifikácie a likvidácie zásob chemických zbraní v Sýrii našimi spôsobnosťami a našimi expertmi. "Slovensko sa aktívne podieľa na humanitárnej pomoci utečencom a prispeli sme priamo aj nepriamo čiastkou 190,000 eur v tomto roku na riešenie ťažkej situácie sýrskych utečencov hlavne v susedných krajinách Sýrie," dodal Burian.

Štátny tajomník ministerstva obrany Miloš Koterec vo svojom príhovore pripomenul 20-ročnú históriu vzniku slovenských ozbrojených síl. "Rezort ministerstva obrany bol jediným ústredným orgánom štátnej správy, ktorý začal pôsobiť takpovediac na zelenej lúke," uviedol Koterec s tým, že zabezpečovanie obrany plnohodnotne fungovalo od samého začiatku. V uplynulých 20 rokoch transformačného procesu našich ozbrojených síl sa podľa neho vykonalo veľa pozitívnych opatrení a dosiahli sa významné úspechy. "Mnohé predsavzatia a zámery sa však nepodarilo naplniť, lebo neboli realistické, alebo dostatočne finančne zabezpečené," uviedol Koterec. To viedlo rezort obrany k realizácii procesu strategického hodnotenia obrany, ktorého zásadnými výstupmi sú v júni schválená Biela kniha o obrane a pripravovaný rozvojový plán rezortu obrany s výhľadom do roku 2024.

TASR

Slávnosť všetkých svätých a Spomienka na všetkých verných zosnulých

Katolícka Cirkev si v novembri pripomína dva významné sviatky. Prvým je Slávnosť všetkých svätých (1. november). Cirkev už po stáročia spája s touto slávnosťou nádej na vzkriesenie. Je to deň radosti, a nie strachu. Pre iných je smrť realitou, ktorú treba prijať. Po vzkriesení Krista sa nachádzame na ceste do večného mesta, kde nás očakáva blaženosť všetkých tých, ktorí boli Pánom oslávení. To má byť zmyslom Slávnosti všetkých svätých.

Začiatky slávania sviatku Všetkých svätých nás vedú až do 4. storočia po Kristovi. Svätý Efrém Sýrsky (306 - 373) a sv. Ján Zlatousta (354 - 407) už poznajú sviatok všetkých svätých mučeníkov, ktorý sa slávil 13. mája, prípadne na prvú nedeľu po Turicach. Ešte aj v dnešnom gréckom kalendári sa táto nedeľa volá Nedeľa svätých.

Slávnosť všetkých svätých sa prvýkrát slávil v Ríme 13. mája 609, keď pápež Bonifác IV. prebral od cisára Fokasa pohanský chrám všetkých bohov, tzv. Pantheon a zasvätil ho Preblahoslavenej Panne Márii, vždy Panne a všetkým svätým mučeníkov. Pápež Gregor III. (731-741) zmenil slávenie Všetkých svätých z 13. mája na 1. novembra, keď v Bazilike sv. Petra slávnostne posvätil kaplnku k úcte všetkých svätých.

Prvého novembra sa sviatok Všetkých svätých (už nielen mučeníkov) začal sláviť v 8. storočí, najprv v Írsku, potom v Anglicku. Pápež Gregor IV. (827-844) rozšíril sviatok na celú cirkev. Veriaci si v tento deň pripomínajú aj svätých, ktorí nemajú miesto v kalendári alebo nie sú oficiálne vyhlásení za svätých. Na Slovensku je Slávnosť všetkých svätých dňom pracovného pokoja.

Druhým významným sviatkom je spomienka na všetkých verných zosnulých – ľudovo nazývaná Dušičky. Tento sviatok nadväzuje na Slávnosť všetkých svätých. Spomienku na všetkých verných zosnulých zaviedol svätý opát Odilo z Cluny roku 998. Vplyvom clunýjských mníchov sa táto spomienka behom 11. storočia veľmi rozšírila. V Ríme ju prijali v 14. storočí.

Veriaci, ktorý v deň Spomienky na všetkých verných zosnulých nábožne navštíví kostol alebo kaplnku a pomodlí sa Modlitbu Pána a urobí vyznanie viery (Verím v Boha), môže získať úplné odpustky, ktoré sa môžu privlastniť iba dušiam v očistci. Okrem tohto odpustkového úkonu sa žiada splniť tri podmienky: sv. spoveď (krátko predtým alebo potom), sv. prijímanie (najlepšie v ten istý deň) a modlitba na úmysel Sv. otca (stačí Otče náš, Zdravas a Sláva). Okrem toho ako vo všeobecnosti treba vylúčiť akúkoľvek pripútanosť k hriechu aj k všednému. Tieto odpustky možno získať od poludnia predchádzajúceho dňa až do polnoci určeného dňa.

Veriaci, ktorý nábožne navštíví cintorín a aspoň myslou sa pomodlí za zosnulých, môže získať odpustky, ktoré sa môžu privlastniť iba dušiam v očistci, raz denne od 1. novembra do 8. novembra. Treba splniť aj ďalšie obvyklé podmienky.

Zdroj: Direktórium 2005. Liturgická komisia KBS. Trnava. SSV. 2003 TK KBS

Slovenská Miss Karolína Chomisteková je 14. najkrajšou ženou sveta

Miss Slovensko 2013 Karolína Chomisteková sa 28. septembra stala historicky prvou Slovenkou v dejinách samostatného Slovenska, ktorej sa podarilo postúpiť medzi TOP 20 najkrajších žien sveta. Na svetovej súťaži Miss World, na ktorej sa zúčastnili delegátky z takmer 130 štátov sveta, obsadila 14. priečku. TASR o tom informovala Zuzana Čizmáriková z Produkčného domu Forza.

Spomínanú priečku obsadila podľa oficiálnej tabuľky, ktorú zverejnili v priamom prenose v rámci finálového večera. Chomistekovej sa počas mesačného pobytu na Miss World podarilo uspieť vo viacerých čiastkových disciplínach. Bodovala v športovej i talentovej súťaži a v rámci Beach Beauty sa umiestnila medzi semifinalistkami.

"Skromnosť, trpezlivosť, dokonalosť a talentovanosť dovedli Karolínu k úspechu, aký si právom zaslúži. Nikto jej nevezme, že je štrnástou najkrajšou ženou na svete s veľkým srdcom," povedala riaditeľka súťaže Miss Slovensko Magdaléna Šebestová.

Finále svetovej súťaže krásy sa tento rok uskutočnilo na Bali. Víťazkou titulu Miss World 2013 sa stala 23-ročná Megan Young z Filipín. Titul Miss Slovensko 2013 získala devätnásťročná Karolína Chomisteková z Oravského Podzámku 14. apríla tohto roka.

TASR

Dve trnavské univerzity konečne pod jednou strechou

Až po 16 rokoch existencie dvoch univerzít v Trnave sa túto jeseň rozhodli ich študenti usporiadať historicky prvú spoločnú beániu. Pod jednou strechou sa stretnú Trnavská univerzita (TU) a Univerzita sv. Cyrila a Metoda (UCM) 22. októbra v mestskej športovej hale, aby spolu oslávili vstup nových vysokoškolákov. "Sme nesmierne radi, že sa nám to po dlhých rokoch úvah konečne podarilo, spojiť to, čo si všetci mysleli, že sa spojiť nedá - UCM a TU," uviedol jeden z organizátorov beánie Andrej Brník. Beániu považujú za najväčšiu študentskú akciu roka, vysokoškolákov.

Trnavská univerzita je staršia, založená bola v roku 1992, Univerzita sv. Cyrila a Metoda v roku 1997. Vzťahy medzi inštitúciami boli spočiatku napäté. Po niekoľkých rokoch sa začalo hovoriť o možnosti zlúčenia škôl, kroky k tomu sa ale nerealizovali. Zlúčenie za určitých podmienok nevylúčilo pred niekoľkými mesiacmi v rozhovoroch ani rektori oboch univerzít. Na TU a UCM študuje v súčasnosti spolu viac ako 12,000 študentov z celého Slovenska.

TASR

Oznamy a spoločenské podujatia

Oslava storočnice Cliftone, NJ

Oslava storočnice Slovenského kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda, 235 Ackerman Ave, v Cliftone, NJ bude v nedeľu 3. novembra 2013. Slávnostná svätá omša bude o 10.30 hodine. Po omši bude v reštaurácii Venesia v Garfield, NJ banket. Lístky na banket sú už na predaj na fare sv. Cyrila a Metoda, alebo pred a po slovenskej svätej omši, ktorá je každú nedeľu o 10:30 hod doobeda. Cena lístkov je 80.00 dolárov za dospelých a 40.00 dolárov pre deti vo veku 12 rokov. Bližšie informácie na tel. č. (973) 546-43909.

Kultúrne podujatie Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Srdečne vás pozývame, na stretnutie Slovákov a priateľov Slovenska v nedeľu 3. novembra 2013 vo farnosti Our Lady of Guadalupe, 710 Sultana Ave., Ontario, California, kde slúži Fr. Pavol Sochulák, SVD ako hlavný farár. Slovenská omša so spomienkou na Všetkých svätých a zosnulých začne v kostole o 3:00 hodine popoludní. Po liturgii bude v jedálni ľahké občerstvenie pri slovenskej hudbe v priateľskom prostredí. Pozývame všetkých na toto podujatie, aj tých, ktorí sa nezúčastnia svätej omše.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Slovenský festival na University of Pittsburgh

23. Slovenský festival, ktorý usporiada Pitt Student Slovak Club v spolupráci so Slovak Studies Program, sa bude konať v nedeľu 3. novembra 2013 od 1:00 do 5.00 hodiny v Cathedral of Learning Commons Room, Oakland campus.

Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá a koláče. V kultúrnom programe sa predstavia folklórne skupiny Pittsburgh Slovaks, Slavjane Folk Ensemble a Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PAS). Na fujare bude hrať Ben Sorenson, predstaví sa aj populárny spevák Jozef Ivaška a z Bardejova príde známa speváčka rodina Reviľáková. Pre návštevníkov bude pripravená aj výstava plagátov pri príležitosti 1150 výročia príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu. **Bližšie informácie: www.slavic.pitt.edu alebo Chris Matil, tel. č. (412) 624-5906.**

Výročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

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

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

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

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

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

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

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

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Ročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

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

Dakujem a s pozdravom

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Vianočné podujatia pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

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

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

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

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

Henrieta H. Daitová
kultúrna referentka Farskej rady

Jankolova knižnica ponúka vianočné oplátky

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

Festivalu Slovenského dedičstva v Holmdel, New Jersey sa zúčastnil aj podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky, Miroslav Lajčák (na snímke v prostriedku); zľava hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrej M. Rajec; minister Lajčák; člen Spolku č. 89 IKSJ, Andrej P. Rajec a hlavný podpredseda IKSJ, Andrej R. Harcar starší.



Výstava "Po stopách Cyrila a Metoda" vo Washingtone

V priestoroch Zastupiteľského úradu vo Washingtone bola vo štvrtok 26. septembra otvorená výstava k 1150. výročiu príchodu Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu spolu s výstavou fotografií a prednáškou Pavla Demeša „Po stopách Cyrila a Metoda“.

Výstavu otvoril zástupca veľvyslanca Peter Zeleňák a v krátkom príhovore priblížil publiku Byzantských učencov, známych tiež ako apoštoli Slovanov, ktorí vytvorili hlaholiku a preložili Bibliu do staroslovienečiny. Auditóriu sa prihovoril aj zástupca veľvyslanca Bulharskej republiky Georgij Panayotov, ktorý vyzdvihol význam diela oboch bratov pre bulharský národ. Pavol Demeš vo svojej prednáške predstavil pamiatky, ktoré sa zachovali z čias sv. Cyrila a Metoda alebo sú im venované. Podčiarkol význam diela sv. Cyrila a Metoda v oblasti náboženstva, vzdelávania a kultúry nielen pre Slovákov, ale aj pre všetky ostatné slovanské národy.

Veľvyslanectvo SR vo Washingtone



Slovensko na Euro Night

Vo Washingtone sa v piatok 27. septembra 2013 uskutočnil 6. ročník prezentácie kultúry a kulinárskych špecialít krajín Európskej únie Euro Night. Podujatie prilákalo vyše 1600 návštevníkov, prevažne študentov vysokých škôl z Washingtonu DC a okolia. Jej organizátorom je každoročne veľvyslanectvo Francúzska, ktorý z výťažku za predaj vstupeniek financuje ďalšie spoločné prezentačné aktivity krajín EÚ v USA ako „Kids Euro Festival“ zameraný na detského diváka, na ktorom tento rok bude Slovensko reprezentovať Divadlo v kufri alebo Deň otvorených dverí zastupiteľských úradov členských krajín EÚ.

Zastupiteľský úrad Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone predstavil na tohtoročnej akcii Slovensko ako turisticky atraktívnu krajinu s množstvom historických pamiatok, prírodných krás a možností pre regeneráciu, šport a relax. Na podujatí slovenské veľvyslanectvo predstavilo aj tradičnú slovenskú kuchyňu a slovenský folklór vystúpením fujaristu Boba Rychlika.

Veľvyslanectvo SR vo Washingtone



Štátny tajomník P. Javorčík na Strategickom fóre USA - stredná Európa

Štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Peter Javorčík sa v rámci pracovnej návštevy Washingtonu, DC v dňoch 3. a 4. októbra zúčastnil na pravidelnom Strategickom fóre USA – stredná Európa organizovanom americkým think-tankom CEPA (Center for European Policy Analysis). Cieľom tohtoročného fóra je zhodnotiť vývoj v krajinách strednej Európy po roku 1989 a načrtnúť perspektívy ďalšej spolupráce tohto regiónu s USA.

Počas prvého dňa vystúpil štátny tajomník P. Javorčík v paneli venovanom hodnoteniu fungovania euro-atlantických inštitúcií. Vo svojom vystúpení vyzdvihol najmä strategický význam, ktorý Slovensko prikladá transatlantickému partnerstvu a dôležitosť inkluzívneho procesu prehlbovania EÚ. „Euro-atlantická integrácia zohrávala kľúčovú úlohu pri rozvoji Slovenska. Vďaka nej je teraz moderná história Slovenska úspešným príbehom,“ skonštatoval a vyjadril presvedčenie, že rokovania o pripravovanej dohode o voľnom obchode medzi EÚ a USA, známej ako TTIP (Transatlantické partnerstvo v oblasti obchodu a investícií) budú čo najskôr dotiahnuté do úspešného konca.

V predvečer strategického fóra usporiadal veľvyslanec SR v USA Peter Kmec neformálnu večeru so zástupcami renomovaných amerických spoločností pôsobiacich na Slovensku a slovenských firiem aktívnych v USA. Stretnutie sa konalo v záujme udržiavania pravidelného dialógu s americkými investormi a tiež s cieľom podpory slovenského hi-tech exportu do USA. Americkí partneri boli informovaní o aktuálnom ekonomickom dianí na Slovensku a v EÚ a tiež o otázkach súvisiacich s podporou digitálnej ekonomiky a spolupráce v kybernetickej bezpečnosti na európskej úrovni. Zároveň účastníci prediskutovali možnosti na ďalšiu podporu podnikateľského prostredia na Slovensku.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• O najprestížnejšiu cenu vo filmovom svete, sošku Oscara, bude za Slovensko v kategórii cudzojazyčný film bojovať snímka režisérky Miry Fornay "Môj pes Killer". Rozhodla o tom Slovenská filmová a televízna akadémia (SFTA). Jej členovia vybrali z 12 slovenských filmov, ktorých producenti potvrdili, že spĺňajú podmienky americkej Akadémie filmových umení a vied. Do hlasovania sa zapojilo 74 zo 136 riadnych členov SFTA, čo predstavuje 54 percent. Prezídium potvrdilo výsledky hlasovania. Najviac, 34 percent hlasov, získal už spomínaný Môj pes Killer. Účasť slovenskej kinematografie na cene akadémie finančne podporil Audiovizuálny fond.

• **Hustota** obchodných centier je v Bratislave vyššia než v iných mestách regiónu. Na 1,000 obyvateľov pripadá približne 750 m² podlahovej plochy. V porovnaní s Európou je Bratislava pred Prahou, Kyjevom, Záhrebom aj Viedňou, kde sa čísla pohybujú zhruba na 550 až 600 m². Hlavné mesto SR je špecifické v tom, že ľudia tam dochádzajú za prácou, pričom ľudia, ktorí žijú na západnom Slovensku, sú vo všeobecnosti zvyknutí tu nakupovať.

• Symbolickým aktom - poklopaním základného kameňa, ktorý vykonal premiér Robert Fico, sa v polovici septembra v Trnave oficiálne začala výstavba nového futbalového komplexu City Arena. Slávnostný "krst" projektu, ktorý predchádzal bohatému spoločenskému programu, sa uskutočnil na štadióne Antona Malatinského len 24 hodín pred najväčším slovenským derby Spartak Trnava - Slovan Bratislava. V Trnave nechýbali viacerí významní hostia - prezident Slovenského futbalového zväzu (SFZ) Ján Kováčik, primátor mesta Trnava Vladimír Butko, predseda predstavenstva City-Arena, a.s., Pavol Adamec, legendy československého futbalu a ďalší. Verejnosť mala na akciu voľný vstup.

• **Bystrická** cyklomagistrála, ktorá je v nádhernom prostredí kysuckej prírody, sa nedá porovnať s podobnými cyklotrasami pri Bratislave alebo v iných častiach Slovenska. Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico to 22. septembra skonštatoval po absolvovaní cyklomagistrály z Novej Bystrice do Krásna nad Kysucou na kolieskových korčuliach. Cyklomagistrálu dlhú vyše 22 kilometrov, postavenú v samostatnom telese po trase bývalej úzkokolejnej lešnej železnice z Kysúc na Oravu, si chce premiér v budúcnosti opäť vyskúšať. Dokončenie cyklomagistrály je podľa predsedu Žilinského samosprávneho kraja (ŽSK) Juraja Blanára naplnením niekoľkoročného úsilia.

• V bratislavskej mestskej časti Čunovo vyrastie na ploche 89 hektárov medzinárodné stredisko športu a cestovného ruchu Danubia Park. S výstavbou projektu by sa malo začať v roku 2014, pričom ukončený má byť v roku 2017. Informoval o tom nedávno riaditeľ investora – spoločnosti Danubia Invest, a. s., Július Kováčik. Daný projekt bude stáť približne 45 miliónov eur. Pri financovaní sa budú používať jednak vlastné zdroje a jednak bankové úvery. Pre návštevníkov areálu budú vybudované nové cyklotrasy, detské ihriská, športové ihriská na tenis, volejbal, bedminton, volejbal, či futbal. Svoje miesto si tu nájdu aj apartmánové domy a autocamping. Spoločnosť Danubia Invest, a. s., pôsobí na Slovensku od roku 1994 v telekomunikačnom, finančnom a energetickom sektore. V súčasnosti sa zameriava najmä na trh s nehnuteľnosťami. Spoločnosť stála aj pri zrode tzv. nulte etapy projektu Danubia Park – areálu Divoká voda v Čunove.

• **Centrum** horného Liptova bolo koncom septembra dejiskom prvého ročníka podujatia pod príznačným názvom Valašská gajdošská škola s hlavným zameraním na záujem verejnosti o starobylý ľudový hudobný nástroj typický nielen pre regióny severozápadného Slovenska. Gajdošská hudba je v európskej kultúre neprehliadnuteľným fenoménom. Dôkazom sú viaceré historické, dokonca i niektoré zachované ikonografické dokumenty. Gajdoši pochádzajúci z pastierskych rodín patrili medzi najpôvodnejších a najuniverzálnejších inštrumentalistov. V prvej polovici 20. storočia vytlačili gajdošov z tanečného vidieckeho prostredia sláčikovej muziky a neskôr sa gajdoši vytratil aj zo salašov. V súčasnosti pôsobi v liptovskom regióne jediný ľudový umelec aktívne sa venujúci hre na gajdy. Týmto projektom chceli podporiť oživenie gajdošských tradícií.

• Na Spiši majú možnosť zamestnať sa aj absolventi stredných, či vysokých škôl, a to vďaka programu Trainee spoločnosti Embraco Slovakia. Ale aj pre výrobcu kompresorov je dôležitá odborná pracovná sila. Na úspešných vysokoškolákov sa zameriava práve spomínaný program Trainee. Ponúkajú im ročnú zmluvu so všetkými zamestnaneckými výhodami. Prirodzene, po roku môžu získať predĺženie pracovnej zmluvy, pokiaľ má pracovník aj záujem. Väčšinou to tak je, z 89 účastníkov, ktorí absolvovali program za prvých šesť rokov, stále pracuje v spoločnosti 57. V tomto roku sa Program Trainee uskutočňuje už po siedmy raz. Z niekoľkých stoviek záujemcov bolo prijatých 14 absolventov. Najčastejšie sú prijímaní absolventi škôl technického zamerania, najvyššie zastúpenie má Technická univerzita v Košiciach (TUKE). Intenzívna spolupráca Embraca pritom prebieha aj na akademickej pôde.

• **Nový** priemyselný park vzniká pri obci Veľká Ida neďaleko Košíc s ambíciou prilákať do regiónu nových investorov. Už na jar 2014 bude na ploche 10,000 metrov štvorcových stáť výrobná hala, ktorá bude patriť luxemburskej spoločnosti IEE Group. Základný kameň Priemyselného a logistického parku spoločnosti KKP Invest položili a slávnostne pokleпали 2. októbra. Na slávnosti sa zúčastnil aj najvyšší predstaviteľ IEE Group Guangrong Han. Na jar 2014 sa do svojich nových priestorov presťahuje aj 540 zamestnancov IEE Sensing Slovakia z neďalekého Kechneca. Kým v Kechneci si Luxemburčania priestory prenajímali, vo Veľkej Ide už budú vo vlastných. S výrobou na Slovensku teda výrobca snímacích systémov pre automobilový priemysel ráta aj v budúcnosti.

• **Vďaka** podpore Vysokej školy zdravotníctva a sociálnej práce sv. Alžbety (VŠZaSP) v Bratislave začína ťažko skúšať Keni pomáhať už tretia generácia študentov, pochádzajúcich z chudobných kenských slumov. Presne 28 mladých Keňanov v týchto dňoch v hlavnom meste Nairobi dokončuje druhý ročník bakalárskeho štúdia sociálnej práce a verejného zdravotníctva v rámci kenskej pobočky VŠZaSP sv. Alžbety. Vladimír Krémery, rektor vysokej školy, na tlačovej konferencii pripomenul, že toto bakalárske štúdium v Keni realizuje škola už od roku 2004. Absolventi doterajších štúdií v súčasnosti pracujú v rámci humanitárnych a rozvojových projektov v Keni, ale aj v ďalších afrických krajinách.

• **Časy**, keď slovenské matky zostávali s deťmi na materskej tri roky, sa pomaly končia. Ženy sa vracajú skôr do práce, aby mohli pokračovať v kariére alebo zabezpečili chýbajúci príjem v rodine. Aj preto si želajú návrat jasli, aké kedysi fungovali v každom meste alebo vo väčšom podniku. V tých, ktoré zostali, sa tvoria poradovníky aj rok vopred. Alternatívou tak zostávajú súkromné zariadenia. To, že záujem o umiestnenie aj mladších detí stúpa, potvrdzujú aj štatistiky. Kým pred tromi rokmi bolo v škôlkach vyše 4,400 detí mladších ako tri roky, vlni ich už bolo takmer 7,000.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Rímskokatolícky kostol Fatimskej Panny Márie v Čemernom

Vo vranovskej mestskej časti Čemerné uviedli slávnostne do života v polovici októbra nový rímskokatolícky kostol Fatimskej Panny Márie. Miestna farnosť dokončila jeho výstavbu po takmer desiatich rokoch.

The new Lady of Fatima Church in Cemerne was completed in October 2013. The construction took ten years.



FOTO:TASR/Tomáš Doboš

Zákon o občianstve pripravil doteraz o slovenský pas 641 ľudí

Zákon o štátnom občianstve pripravil za vyše tri roky (od 17.7.2010 do 4.10.2013) o slovenský pas 641 ľudí, z toho 275 mužov a 366 žien. Najviac z nich (274) stratilo slovenské občianstvo pre prijatie českého. Potvrdil to Ivan Netik z tlačového odboru Ministerstva vnútra SR.

O slovenský pas prišli aj osoby, ktoré prijali občianstvo nemecké (122), rakúske (79), britské (55), maďarské (42), americké (14), holandské (12), nórske (10), írské (6), francúzske, talianske, kanadské, švajčiarske (všetky po 4), austrálske (3), belgické, islandské (obe po 2), čínske, ukrajinské, ruské a dánske (všetky po 1).

Slovenský pas strácajú ľudia na základe zákona o štátnom občianstve, ktorý prijala prvá vláda Roberta Fica (Smer-SD). Niekdajší kabinet reagoval právnou normou v roku 2010 na maďarský zákon, ktorý od roku 2011 zjednodušuje udeľovanie dvojakeho občianstva zahraničným Maďarom. Na základe súčasného zákona prichádzajú o slovenský pas tí, ktorí prijali občianstvo iného štátu. Od prijatia zákona sa objavili viaceré pokusy o zjmenenie tejto právnej normy, avšak ani jeden z nich nebol úspešný. V súčasnosti sa zmiernením zákona zaoberá ministerstvo vnútra.

Súčasná právna norma je momentálne na Ústavnom súde SR. Skupina poslancov Národnej rady SR, ktorú vedie Gábor Gál (Most-Híd), namieta, že ustanovenie zákona hovoriace o strate štátneho občianstva SR tým, že občan prijme štátne občianstvo iného štátu, je v rozpore s Ústavou SR.

TASR

Spot o Slovensku videlo na YouTube vyše 1.2 milióna ľudí

Reklamný spot propagujúci Slovensko videlo za prvý týždeň vysielania na YouTube viac ako 1.2 milióna ľudí. Spot tam nasadila Slovenská agentúra pre cestovný ruch (SACR) a zacielený je na Poľsko a Veľkú Britániu.

Video sa zobrazuje tým, ktorí vyhľadávajú informácie spojené s cestovaním, ubytovaním, turistickými sprievodcami a lyžovačkou. Podľa údajov SACR sa v Poľsku zobrazilo 700.000 užívateľom a vo Veľkej Británii 490.000 ľudom. Do konca a bez prerušenia si reklamné video pozrelo v Poľsku 19 % divákov a vo Veľkej Británii to bolo 12 % zo všetkých ľudí, ktorým sa video zobrazilo. "Podľa skúseností spoločnosti Google, ktorá YouTube prevádzkuje, ide o veľmi dobrý výsledok," uviedla SACR.

Podľa agentúry sa tak ukazuje, že v oboch krajinách majú užívatelia YouTube záujem o Slovensko. Dokumentovať to má aj fakt, že po vzhľadnutí videa navštívilo národný portál cestovného ruchu slovakia.travel takmer 17.000 záujemcov o informácie. "Prítom takmer dve tretiny návštevníkov portálu boli z Poľska," informovala agentúra.

TASR

Bratislavu navštívilo takmer 437,900 turistov

Do Bratislavy zavítalo za prvých polrok tohto roka takmer 437.900 domácich a zahraničných turistov, čo je asi o 19 percent viac ako vlni. Najvyšší nárast návštevníkov mesto zaznamenalo z Ukrajiny, o Bratislavu mali, naopak, menší záujem napríklad Francúzi či Poliaci. Do hlavného mesta však chodí zo zahraničia tradične najviac Čechov a Nemcov. TASR o tom informoval šéf kancelárie primátora Lubomír Andrassy.

Turisti sa podľa Andrassyho v meste priemerne zdržali 1,89 dňa a mali 826.000 prenocovaní. "Domáci návštevníci tvoria až tretinu zo všetkých turistov a z pohľadu dĺžky pobytu sú na prvej priečke," vraví šéf Ftáčnikovej kancelárie s tým, že Slováci ostávajú v Bratislave priemerne 2,42 dňa. Turisti zo zahraničia uskutočnili takmer 480.000 prenocovaní.

Až o 8,000 viac turistov prišlo za prvý polrok do hlavného mesta z Ukrajiny, o 5,000 z Nemecka a o 4,000 z USA. "O Bratislavu v ostatných mesiacoch prejavili výrazný záujem aj rakúski či maďarskí turisti, kde bol nárast asi 50 percent. Na druhej strane, bol zaznamenaný pokles medzi tradičnými návštevníkmi zo susednej Českej republiky, Poľska (päťpercentný pokles) a Francúzska (desaťpercentný pokles)," podotkol Andrassy.

Do hlavného mesta chodia turisti najmä v lete, najsilnejšími mesiacmi sú preto júl a august. Vtedy je podľa Andrassyho odhadovaná návštevnosť na úrovni 200,000 ľudí. "Početne sú najsilnejšie zastúpení Česi (asi 18.000) a Nemci (asi 12,000)," dodal.

Podľa Andrassyho sa v tomto roku zvýšil záujem turistov aj o mestskú turistickú kartu Bratislava City Card. Tá umožňuje jej držiteľovi napríklad bezplatnú prepravu v prostriedkoch verejnej dopravy a v cene karty je taktiež hodinová pešia prehliadka v širšom historickom centre mesta v anglickom i nemeckom jazyku. Karta okrem toho ponúka zľavy vo vyše 40 kultúrnych, spoločenských a reštauračných zariadeniach. "Ide napríklad o zľavy v mestskom múzeu (20 percent), galérii (20 percent), národnom múzeu (desať percent), na kúpaliskách (20 percent) či v predajniach suvenírov (päť až 30 percent)," zdôraznil šéf kancelárie primátora. Za ostatných šesť rokov bolo podľa neho predaných takmer 8,000 kariet.

TASR



7. ročník Slovenského bezpečnostného fóra v Bratislave

Siedmy ročník Slovenského bezpečnostného fóra sa začal za účasti niekoľko desiatok odborníkov z domova 7. októbra 2013 v átriu Univerzitnej knižnice v Bratislave. Za 20 rokov slovenská zahraničná a bezpečnostná politika vyzrela a dospela a dnes máme vo svete stabilné a partnermi pozitívne hodnotené postavenie. V úvodnom príhovore podujatia Slovenské bezpečnostné fórum (SBF) 2013 to uviedol štátny tajomník ministerstva zahraničných vecí Peter Burian s tým, že Slovensko v tejto oblasti prešlo viacerými transformáciami zahraničnej politiky.



FOTO TASR - Vladimír Benko

Na snímke pohľad na rokovanie fóra počas otváracieho príhovoru štátneho tajomníka MZVaEZ SR Petra Buriana.

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Peter Burian speaks at the seventh annual Safety Forum held October 7, 2013 in the atrium of the University of Bratislava Library.

„Jednak sme sa transformovali z kandidáta na člena najužšieho jadra EÚ. Transformovali sme sa z príjemcu rozvojovej pomoci na donora. Transformovali sme sa z konzumenta na poskytovateľa bezpečnosti,“ uviedol Burian. Slovensko sa podľa jeho slov stalo aktívnym prispievateľom a tvorcom bezpečnosti vo svete. V tejto súvislosti spomenul napríklad vojenskú misiu ISAF v Afganistane. „V Afganistane sa od roku 2003 vystriedalo už vyše 3,000 našich vojakov, ktorí odvádzajú skvelú prácu. Tento rok však muselo Slovensko v tejto misii priniesť aj najvyššiu obeť. Globálne úsilie o stabilizáciu Afganistanu chceme však napriek tejto strate podporovať aj naďalej,“ dodal Burian. Po prevzatí zodpovednosti za bezpečnosť afganskými jednotkami v roku 2014 chce naša krajina tieto úsilia podporovať jednak prítomnosťou našich jednotiek zameraných na výcvik Afganských národných bezpečnostných síl, ale aj vo forme finančného príspevku na ich fungovanie či vo forme rozvojovej pomoci. Burian zopakoval, že Slovensko je

Pokračovanie na str.21

Projekt Sviečka za nenarodené deti

Hlavnou myšlienkou projektu Sviečka za nenarodené deti 2013, ktorý sa v týchto dňoch už jedenásťkrát rozbieha s podporou a požehnaním slovenských biskupov, je spojiť Spomienku na všetkých verných zosnulých, ktorú slávime 2. novembra, so spomienkou na nenarodené deti, ktoré zomreli pri umelom alebo spontánnom potrate. Kampaň má tri rozmery – duchovný, vzdelávací a praktický. „V modlitbách chceme pamätať aj na rodičov týchto detí, i na tých, čo vykonávajú alebo aktívne podporujú umelé potraty. Milosrdenstvo a odpustenie sú cesta, ktorá je symbolom tohto duchovného rozmeru,“ vysvetľuje Marcela Dobešová, predsedníčka Fóra života, ktoré projekt organizuje.

Sprievodné osvetové aktivity sú spojené so šírením úcty k životu v každej jeho fáze – od počatia až po prirodzenú smrť. „Momentom, ktorý spája duchovný rozmer kampane s praktickým, je symbolická sviečka, ktorú na pamiatku zomrelých nenarodených detí môžeme zapáliť a umiestniť v oknách našich domovov,“ hovorí koordinátorka projektu Elena Miškovičová a dodáva, že práve predaj dvoch druhov týchto symbolických sviečok s logom Fóra života v rámci verejnej zbierky, je „základným zdrojom pre financovanie celoročných projektov, kampaní a aktivít zameraných na ochranu ľudského života a jeho dôstojnosti a podporu rodiny, aby sa tieto kľúčové témy nedostávali na okraj záujmu spoločnosti, ale priamo do jej stredu.“ Prispieť je možné aj priamym darom na číslo účtu 5033357295/0900.

Fórum života organizuje Sviečku za nenarodené deti už tradične prostredníctvom farností a rôznych spoločenstiev, pri ktorých je nenahraditeľná pomoc dobrovoľníkov – ľudí, ktorým je myšlienka ochrany života blízka a chcú sa podieľať na jej šírení aj prakticky, napríklad distribúciou propagačných materiálov, pomocou pri predaji sviečok v rámci verejnej zbierky, organizovaním modlitbových stretnutí na podporu pro-life iniciatív a podobne. O konkrétnych možnostiach pomoci sa môžu záujemcovia dozvedieť na telefónnom čísle 0904 738 411 alebo na adrese: ela@forumzivota.sk. Podrobnosti o kampani Sviečka za nenarodené deti 2013 sa dajú nájsť aj na internetovej stránke: <http://www.forumzivota.sk/sviecka-za-nenarodene-deti-2013/>

TK KBS

NA DUŠIČKY

Slovenský ľud pri hrobch svojich najbližších, skromne kľučí, smútok mu srdce zvierá, slza do očí, sa mu tlačí.
Veď tu odpočívajú svoj sen, starí rodičia, otec, matka, sestra, brat, môj spolužiak, učiteľka, pán farár, priateľka a môj, najlepší kamarát.
Hrobové ticho, je výrazom úcty, pre tých, ktorí nás predišli na druhý svet.
Kytica kvetov, kytica červených ruží, je viac, ako upletený, zlatý kvet.
Tisíciky sviečok a kahancov, ožiari celý cintorín a ústa šeptajú sv. ruženec, a dav ľudu, prosí Všemohúceho o milosť a šťastlivý, na svete, koniec.
„Odpočinutie večné, daj im Pane a svetlo večné, nech im svieti až na veky, vekov, A M E N“.

Jozef Smák



36. ročníka Festivalu slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey, ktorý sa konal 29. septembra 2013 v Holmdel, New Jersey sa zúčastnilo mnoho návštevníkov a priaznivcov slovenskej kultúry a tradičných slovenských jedál. Na festival pozvanie prijal aj prezident Slovenskej republiky, Ivan Gašparovič, ktorý bol v tom čase na 68. Valnom zhromaždení OSN v New Yorku. Medzi mnohými výstavnými stánkami bola zastúpená aj Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota. Na snímke zľava sa prezident SR, Ivan Gašparovič zvitá s hlavným predsedom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Andrejom M. Rajecom (sprava) a hlavným podpredsedom IKSJ, Andrejom R. Harcarom starším (v prostriedku).
(Vid' ďalšiu fotografiu na strane 22.)

