

Jednota

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Number 5765



Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, SS.C.M., General Superior of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius is shown welcoming fraternal leaders who attended the Slovak Catholic Federation in Danville, PA. They are shown before the painting of Father Matthew Jankola, founder of the congregation in 1909. Father Jankola served as an FCSU supreme president and editor. Shown in the photo with Sister Linda Maria are, L-R FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec, Dolores M. Evanko, Trustee of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and Secretary-Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and Sue Ann M. Seich, Supreme President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Pilgrimage of Faith at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville

The Slovak Catholic Federation sponsored a Pilgrimage of Faith on Saturday, September 22, 2007, at the Motherhouse of the Sisters, of SS. Cyril and Methodius at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pennsylvania. It has been a tradition for several years for the Slovak Catholic Federation to hold an annual pilgrimage in Danville or at some other location. Over 50 people participated in this year's pilgrimage in Danville.

The day began with a lunch in the Motherhouse Dining Room. At noon all assembled in the SS. Cyril and Methodius Basilica for opening remarks by the Rev. Philip Altavilla, National President of the Federation and a welcome from Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, SS.C.M., General Superior of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius, who graciously gave their facilities to the pilgrims. This was followed with prayers and the recitation of the rosary. From about 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. pilgrims had the choice to take a tour of the SS. Cyril and Methodius Basilica or visit the Jankola Library and Museum. Later in the afternoon, Sister John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M. gave a talk in Maria Hall Auditorum on the persecution of religious Sisters during the years of communism in Slovakia. Sister John Vianney has done extensive research on this subject and traveled to Slovakia to interview many Sisters in Slovakia.

At 3:30 p.m. all returned to the Basilica

continued on page 7

From the Office of the Vice President Seminars

Would you like to see your branch increase membership? If so... it is imperative that every branch have recommenders to sell our insurance and annuity products.

In order to qualify for your branch's \$4.00 per member stipend for 2007, you must meet certain requirements- one of them being- produce at least one (1) new contract in the previous year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.

It's not hard to do. Our insurance and annuity portfolio is great and our commissions are just as good. All we need are member to sign up their family, friends, neighbors, church and club members. You also have a perfect source for insurance...your current client file, which is your branch membership roster.

Right now the vast majority of branch members have an orphan policy. By that we mean, after the member bought an insurance policy, they never heard from the branch recommender again.

Your branch roster is a valuable source. You have to service your members. Your member's personal circumstances are changing all the time. So, too, is his or her's insurance needs.

If you are unsure about insurance premiums or our annuity plans and you would like me to give an informal seminar at one of your annual or semiannual branch or district meetings---call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682, and give Karen your name, branch number, phone number and the best time of the day to return your call. After that, we

continued on page 7



Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

A Fraternal Tradition

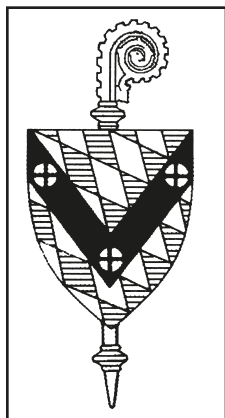


It has been a fraternal tradition of several years for our organization to meet and have dinner with officers of the Slovak Catholic Sokol during the National Fraternal Congress annual meeting. This year's dinner took place on September 9 at The Original Fish Market in Pittsburgh. Jednota and Sokol representatives shown in the photo include, front row L-R, Slovak Catholic Sokol Medical Examiner Dr. Mary Z. Gasparik; Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec and his wife Annie; Phyllis Pogorelec; FCSU National President Andrew Rajec; and Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme President Sue Ann M. Seich. In the back row are L-R, FCSU Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt; FCSU National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr.; Slovak Catholic Sokol General Counsel, Attorney John D. Pogorelec, FCSU National Treasurer George F. Matta and his wife Florence; and Slovak Catholic Sokol Editor Daniel F. Tanzone.

Inside

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Editorial/Commentary | 2, 3 |
| Branch/District Announcements.... | 4, 5, 6 |
| Obituaries | 14 |
| FCSU Financial/Minutes | 6 |
| Slovak..... | 19-24 |

Insights and Viewpoints



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

November 11, 2007

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."

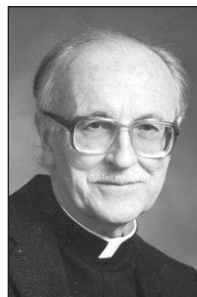
Life Implications

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.

November 18, 2007

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 21:5-19

Gospel Summary

It has been traditional to reflect on an end-of-the-world gospel passage as we approach the end of the liturgical year. We will also be offered a similar gospel passage on the First Sunday of Advent. It is important to note this because, from a biblical perspective, the end of one world is not such a tragic event since it also announces the beginning of a new one. A sorrowful Goodbye must sometimes be accepted before there can be a joyous Hello!

We should note that in today's gospel the end of the world is presented on various levels. The immediate end is the chaotic and painful experience that came when the Romans destroyed the Jewish temple. For Christians at least, this represented the end of the Old Testament era. Secondly, there are hints also of the final, cosmic end of our world with falling stars and the dimming of sun and moon. Finally, in both of these endings we see the elements of the end of our own earthly world in the event we call death.

The phenomena that accompany the final, cosmic end are surprisingly similar to the experiences that often come with our own last days. The failure of the sun and moon and the erratic behavior of the stars are replicated among us when we lose the security represented by these usually reliable heavenly bodies. For instance, when we grow old we sometimes find it hard to remember what time of the day it is. But this is only the end of a world that was never meant to last. We hate to see it go, but God knows what is best for us.

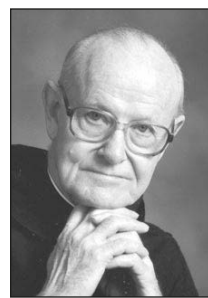
Life Implications

When we try to understand the gospel passages concerning the end of the world, it may be helpful to compare this event with human birth which, for the infant being born, must surely be a traumatic experience. In fact, if an infant were able to choose, I suspect that it would opt for a continued existence in the warm, safe womb of its mother. The infant does not yet know how tragic it would be to miss all the possibilities of independent human life.

We too live in this world in a kind of womb that is meant to prepare us for birth into a new and better existence. Unlike the infant, however, we can resist that birth and we may even see it as a kind of personal tragedy. If our faith were as strong and vital as it should be, this would not be the case. Instead, we would embrace our present life with gratitude and still be ready to leave it with grace and peace, as we welcome the homecoming that God keeps in store for his beloved children.

But we don't have to wait until death to begin living by the wisdom of the Bible. In our lives there are little worlds ending all the time--the end of childhood, of education, of employment, of strength, etc. The courage and generosity and trust with which we deal with these endings will prepare us for the final ending.

It is also true that every time we love unselfishly we die a little bit to our own precious plans and preferences. If we die daily in these small ways, we will have little difficulty with the final dying as our plans are once again revised and we offer our lives, once and for all, to a merciful and loving God.



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

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

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REMINDERS

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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 Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA.

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Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for November 2007

GENERAL INTENTIONS

Respect for Life. That medical researchers and legislators may have a deep respect for human life from its beginning to its natural conclusion.

In February speaking to the Pontifical Academy for Life, Pope Benedict called on scientists, doctors, legislators, and politicians to lead the way in reawakening the voice of conscience in people's hearts regarding the value of human life. "Life is the primary good we have received from God, the foundation of all others."

In his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, John Paul II says that all can "by the light of reason... come to recognize in the natural law written in the heart the sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end. Upon the recognition of this right every human community and the political community itself are founded."

In other words, a reasonable person can uphold the value of life only by complete respect for human life from conception to natural death. Once we start to disrespect the life of one group anywhere, we have disrespected all human life, including our own. If we condone disrespect for fetal life, for example, or the life of one who is disabled, we tempt ourselves and society to disrespect any and all life as it becomes convenient to do so.

The Pope provides a frightening list of current threats to respect of human life:

*pressures to legalize abortion in Latin America

*new forms of chemical abortion

*increase of population control

*obsessive search for the "perfect child"

*legalizing marriages closed to natural procreation

The Pope emphasized the need to "open minds and hearts" to the value of life in all its stages. We do this by praying, especially the fervent prayer of the daily offering. We do this by speaking up in groups. We do this by creating and patronizing arts that lift up human life.

Reflection. Have you ever been in a situation in which human life was disrespected in some way?

MISSION INTENTION

Peace in Korea. That the spirit of reconciliation and peace may grow in the Korean Peninsula.

In October 2006 the world expressed shock and outrage at North Korea's nuclear test. Responding immediately, the Catholic Bishops of Korea sent a message for peace and reconciliation to the North.

The Korean bishops recalled the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula adopted in 1991. "This [denuclearization] can be achieved only through dialogue with patience," they wrote. "Hatred begets hatred and violence begets violence. The international society must walk the difficult way and respond with peace, not through military sanction or blockade. Peace can be achieved only through forgiveness and reconciliation. Therefore, the Catholic Church in Korea firmly refuses any form of violence."

In his own comments on Korea a month later, Pope Benedict affirmed the Korean bishops, saying, "Violence can never be a just response to the problems of societies, because it destroys the dignity, the life, and the freedom of the human being it claims to defend."

The Korean peninsula has suffered divisions for over 50 years. South Korea has 48 million people, including 4 million Catholics. North Korea, which lacks religious freedom, has a population of 22 million.

If, as the Pope and the Korean bishops declare, peace cannot come by violent means, then how may true peace come to Korea? Through reconciliation, communication, empathy, dialogue, sharing, cooperation, and most of all, through prayer. Let us join together in praying for Christ's perfect peace upon the peninsula of Korea.

Reflection. Why do you think the Pope and the bishops insist that peace cannot be violent means?

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007

Effective April 1, 2007, the annual yield on existing First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity 4.75% (4.641% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

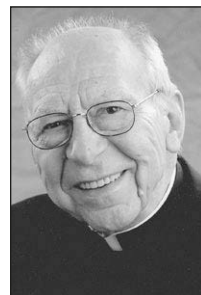
Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRAs, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA.

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007.

**Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary**

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

End Times

Part I

In Judaism, End Times are described as "aharit ha-yamim" (The End of Days). The "days", if you will, are divided into Olam Ha'zeh ("this world"); Olam Haba ("world to come") and Olam Haba ("Future World").

The tractate Avodah Zarah in the Talmud states the world as we know it will last only for 6,000 literal years from the creation of Adam, counting 24/7, 365 days per year with appropriate calculations for leap years. This is the Orthodox Jewish computation. (Conservative and Reform Jews think these calculations are symbolic). Thusly, 5,767 years have passed since Adam, so the end of days will occur on or before the year 2240 (the year 6,000 in the Jewish calendar). We've got 233 years to go.

Jews who have died or will die before 2240 will go either to "gehinom" or "Gan Eden"-paradise or heaven.

Gehinom, is a place of torture but confinement there lasts no more than twelve months, with extremely rare exceptions. Gehinom is the place of a spiritual forge, which purifies the soul for its eventual ascent to Gan Eden.

When the Mashiach/Moshiach (Messiah) returns, those living will be gathered to geographic Israel. The Temple will be rebuilt and temple services including the sacrifice of animals will resume. There will be a revival of the dead ("techiat hameitim").

The Bible (Old Testament) is not to be taken literally or alone. Understanding it requires the Oral Torah, which is found in the Mishnah, Talmud, Gemara and Midrash writings.

In Protestantism, there is the greatest variety of positions regarding the end times.

These are the positions available:

Dispensationalism. Founded by John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), a Plymouth Brethren minister.

Fundamentalism. This was begun at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries by the Presbyterians at Princeton University as the North American Protestantism reaction to modernism. The Bible is literally inerrant and it is a literal historical record. "Sola Scriptura," "Only the Bible" is their position. Fundamentalists look for signs of the coming of Jesus Christ and point to the Six Day War of 1967, the European Economic Community of 1970 and Israel's becoming an Associate Member of the European Union on June 1, 2000, with the agreement negotiated in 1995.

Latter Day Saints (Mormons). We have passed 6,000 years of the 7,000 years during which Christ will make his Second Coming. There are two large doors on the east side of the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City, which are reserved for Christ's appearance. There are three types of heaven: Celestial- for the obedient, the righteous and the baptized; Terrestrial- for those righteous in a sense, and the Telesstial-for those who commit major sins and who are not repentant, including murders.

Millennialists await the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth before the Last Judgment. There are four types of millennialists: Traditional, Amillennialists, Premillennialists and Post-Millennialists.

There are also dispensational premillennialists who believe that they will be supernaturally called to Heaven in an event called the Rapture before the tribulations prophesied in Revelation take place. (See Matthew 24:15-28 and 24:29-35)

Rapturists, however, number three and now four kinds of Rapture: Before, During, After and now Pre-Wrath.

Millerites derive their name from William Miller, a farmer, Baptist layman, and amateur student of the Bible. Millerites, now diverse religious groups, are focused intently upon the Second Coming of Christ and count upon new prophecies to them and to their special gifts of revelation. Miller himself predicted the Second Coming for 1844. Millerites/Adventists today don't fix a date but maintain the God's Judgment is close at hand because of wars, moral decline, and universal corruption. (Sir Isaac Newton says not before 2060)

Preterites. This word comes from the Latin "praeter" meaning past, the grammatical past tense. (He planted corn.) Preterites believe that all biblical prophecies have already taken place. They are all events of the past. It was all over when the Roman army general Titus sacked Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple in 70 A.D. Given that, Preterites distinguish among Full, Partial and Future pasts. (?) *to be continued*

From the desk of the ...

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY *Exciting news!!*

Now you are able to receive life insurance quotes on all our products from our website!! Our website address is www.fcsu.com. To assist you with quotes, click on quotes and then follow the directions, fill in the blanks and you will immediately know the information you are seeking. All Branch Officers, Recommenders and Proposers should take advantage of this useful tool available to everyone now.

If you have any questions, please contact our Home Office at 800-533-6682.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 5P — EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Monday, November 5, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of President Leonard J. Zavada, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the nomination and election of officers for 2008 and a discussion on ways we can improve our sales techniques and our image in the community. All members are invited to attend.

Leonard J. Zavada, President

Branch 6 — STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6, held a meeting on September 6, 2007, at the home of Robert Elias. All the officers were present.

The officers of Branch 6 wish to announce that there will be an Essay Contest for all members of Branch 6 in age groups 7 to 10, 11 to 15, and 16 to 21. The title of the essay is: "What Thanksgiving Means to Me." A maximum of 250 words and a minimum of 50 words will be accepted. A \$25 savings bond will be awarded in each age category. Submit your entries by November 30, 2007 to Catherine Michlik, 1331 North 1709 Road, Streator, IL 61364. Please include your name, address, phone number and policy number. For further assistance call Catherine Michlik at 815/672-3836.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Robert Elias, 1406 Baker Street, Streator, Illinois.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Chipper's Grill. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. Members must be present at this meeting to be elected.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

Branch 19 — BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007. All members are cordially invited to attend. A Mass will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. Following the Mass, members are asked to return to the lower level of the church where our regular meeting will be held. Refreshments will be served in the church hall following the liturgy.

At the meeting, the John A. Zahor Scholarships will be awarded to the following: Alexander Ciejka, Nicole Copertino, Victoria Danielczuk, Gregory Kodz, Justine Linahan, Katherine Mineese, Kira Novak, Paul Quaglioroli, and James Wanta. The Andrew J. Imbro Grants will also be given at this time to the following: Timothy Fico, Tracy Hackett, Robert Lumas and Susan Misur. These funds are given to members for their college expenses in memory of John A. Zahor and Andrew J. Imbro in recognition of the many years they served Branch 19 and their deep interest in the young members.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now named the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall. The election of officers will also take place at this meeting.

We hope our members will take advantage of these meetings and join us.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

Branch 45 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, 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 of events for the coming year. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Joseph Jurasi, President

Branch 55 — PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church Hall of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The election of officers and other business relating to the lodge will be conducted. Refreshments will be served. Call 610/356-7956 or 215/637-6530 for directions.

Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary

Branch 61 — BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The St. Stephen the King Society, Branch 61, will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 29, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of the president, Victor Sebo, 6802 Roberts Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Matters of importance to our Branch and the election of officers will be on the agenda. All members are urged to attend.

Victor Sebo, President

Branch 75 — SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of President and Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. The fiscal end of year reports and financial statements will be presented. The Auditors' report will be submitted and the nomination of officers for the coming year will take place. All members are requested to attend this semiannual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, President & Financial Secretary

Branch 96 — CARROLLTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 96, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Stella Papson, 138 Sunset Road, Carrolltown, Pennsylvania.

Stella Papson, President

Branch 112 — MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 112, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Refreshments will be served.

The Annual Meeting and Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. Light refreshments will be served. Please call Karen Sterling at 570/544-6694 for directions.

Karen Sterling

Branch 157 — NORTH CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007 in the upstairs hall at the Slovak Center. The Christmas party, election of officers and new members will be on the agenda.

Greg Harakal, Financial Secretary

Branch 162 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed and the election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

Branch 166 — BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, SYRACUSE, AND POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:15 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Town Square Mall, Vestal Parkway. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2008, and a discussion of all other topics relating to the Branch. Members are encouraged to attend. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896 by December 4, 2007 if you plan to attend. Thank you and hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, Vice President

Branch 181 — UNITED PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, will hold a meeting on Saturday, November 10, 2007, immediately after the 5:00 p.m. at St. Florian Church in United Pennsylvania. The meeting will be held in the Formation Building on the church grounds. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2008 and a discussion of final arrangements for the Vilija Dinner to be held December 2 at the Bishop Connare Center (formerly St. Joes) in Greensburg. All members are invited to attend, especially those interested in becoming officers. For more information call 724/423-4278.

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

Branch 200 — FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 200, will hold its next meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs Banquet Room at the C.U. Club, Ford City, Pennsylvania. Nominations of officers will be held at this meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 6, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. The election of officers will take place at this meeting.

All beneficial members are urged to attend the meetings.

Patricia Conner, Secretary

Branch 276 — MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Martin de Porres School Hall, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, and the election of officers for the

New Year. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

Branch 278 — MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Peter Society, Branch 278, will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, November 19, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Seven Sorrows Church, Middletown, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

Andrew Trojcak, President

Branch 293 — LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbott Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania.

Anyone needing more insurance or service should contact Mr. Robert Lakata, 527 East Bertsch Street, Lansford, PA 18232-2210, or leave a message at 570/645-4872 and your call will be returned.

Robert Lakata, Financial Secretary

Branch 320 — Stockdale, Pennsylvania

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will be held and other pertinent business will be discussed. Since a Christmas Lunch will be served, please call Fran at 724/929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

Branch 382 — SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, will conduct a General Membership Meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 12:00 noon at Holy Family Church Hall, Gibson Street and North Washington Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Auditors will review the financial records of the Branch. Also on the agenda will be financial and correspondence reports, a discussion of fraternal activities and upcoming activities, and the election of officers for 2008. Refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is Branch President. Other executive officers are: Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President; Michael J. Slovenkai, Treasurer; Michael J. Czankner, Secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Financial Secretary.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

Branch 393 — HANNASTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of John and Mary Ann Nalevanko, 459 Front Street, Hannastown Road. All members are invited to attend.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

Branch 401 — VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 401, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at the King's Family Restaurant. On the

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS continued from page 4

agenda will be the election officers. Annual activities and insurance topics will also be discussed. All members are invited to attend and especially those interested in becoming officers. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Any members celebrating wedding anniversaries of fifty years or more are requested to send names and information to Rose Froncek, 143 Iron Bridge Rd., Ford City, PA 16226. Any items of family interest that you would like to share with other members can also be sent to Rose Froncek for publication in the Jednota newspaper.

Rose Froncek, Secretary

Branch 410 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. at the Highland House. On the agenda will be the election officers. All members are asked to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary/
Financial Secretary**

Branch 425 — BARBERTON, OHIO

The St. Mark Society, Branch 425, will hold its Annual Lodge Meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Society of Barberton Club, 887 West Tuscarawas Avenue, Barberton, Ohio. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Paul J. Slota, Financial Secretary

Branch 493 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 8, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7844 South Cicero Avenue, Burbank, Illinois. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. If you plan to attend, please notify Robert Tapak Magruder at 502/244-6643 or 773/505-0117. Members of other lodges who attend will pay with separate checks.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 567 — ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold its next regular meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend and to take an interest in the branch activities. We will have the nomination of officers at this meeting. Plans will be finalized for our Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on Saturday, November 17, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the church social hall.

**Have a Happy Thanksgiving.
Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary**

Branch 587 — ALIQIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at Alexanders Restaurant, 720 Merchant Street, Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will be held. All members are welcome to attend. For reservations call 724/375-2287 by November 8.

Edith L. Valo, Financial Secretary

Branch 600 — LEECHBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Mary Society, Branch 600, will hold a meeting and election of officers on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 P.M. at John's Tours Office, Route 66 in the Village of Riverview. All members are invited to attend.

John Mago, President

Branch 633 — FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its yearly meeting on Saturday, November 10, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Cortland Mall, Burton, Michigan. All members are invited to attend.

Eva Craine, Secretary

Branch 636 — TOLEDO, OHIO

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 636, will hold a special meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Helen Springer, 1634 Bond Street, Toledo, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the merger of Branch 636 with Branch 743 in Sterling Heights/Detroit, Michigan. Currently, Branch 636 has only one officer and can no longer provide the assistance members require. Branch 743, founded in 1921, has over 600 members and holds semiannual meetings. All members of Branch 636 are urged to attend this meeting.

Helen Springer, Officer

Branch 670 — DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

Branch 706 — SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 3, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at the home Treasurer Art Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. The Election of Officers for the coming year, the annual audit, and a discussion of new products are some of the items on the agenda. If you plan to attend, please call Art at 219/864-8251 so arrangements can be made.

The Slovak Christmas Tree will be decorated at the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago on November 10, 2007, by the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District Christmas Tree Committee. This will be the twelfth year the District has undertaken this project.

Art Fayta, Treasurer

Branch 716 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be financial and officers' reports, the election of officers, and a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

Branch 731 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will have its annual Mass for the deceased mem-

bers of the Branch on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. at Saint Matthias Church. We encourage everyone to participate at this Mass.

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will take place on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. in Saint Matthias Church Rectory.

We look forward to seeing you.

James Bobby, Secretary

Branch 738 — MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 738, will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, at 6:30p.m. at the Munhall-Whitaker VFW Post Home, Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pennsylvania. The nomination and election of officers for 2008 will take place. Plans for lodge activities for 2008 will be discussed. Input from the membership is requested. All members are invited to attend this meeting.

Jeanette Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

Branch 743 — DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be officers' report, a 2007 financial report, approval of the 2008 budget, a 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 to the regular agenda a vote will be taken at this meeting to accept the merger into our Branch of members of Branch 636 in Toledo (Rossford), Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. Members are also 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, Michigan.

Please note that due to the construction at the church the location of the annual meeting has been changed. We will meet after the Mass at 1:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 34781 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights. The hall is located just south of 15 Mile Road on Ryan Road. 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 Drive, Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087, or phone 586/254-0225.

The officers of Branch 743 wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

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

Branch 796 — EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 P.M. in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Main Street, Whitehall (Egypt), Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. After the meeting there will be a social with Slovak food, music and singing. All members are invited to attend and have a good time.

May Jesus and our Blessed Mother keep our organization in their hands.

Bernard G. Hudak, Recording Secretary

Branch 831 — TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, November 5, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Kathy Persun, 158 Davidson Street, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The nomination of officers will be held at this meeting.

If for some reason the date of the meeting changes, a notice will be posted in the Slovak American Club or in the local paper.

Kathleen Persun, Secretary

Branch 853 — ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, will celebrate the Christmas season with the Annual Holiday Spaghetti Lunch on Saturday, December 15, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at Rego's Restaurant, Charleroi, Pennsylvania. There will be no charge for Branch members. Nonmembers attending will be charged \$14.00 per person. Payment will be made that day. For a seating count, make your reservations by December 8 by calling 412/341-1537. Leave your name and the number of people attending. Also leave the name and ages of any Branch children attending.

The officers and members of Branch 853 wish everyone a Blessed Christmas Season.

Monia Rodacy-Boone, President

Branch 855 — PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Carrie Cerino's, 8922 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio.

The election of officers will take place. Plans for the New Year will also be discussed. Please plan on attending this meeting. If you plan, to attend please call Linda at 440/886-0206 by October 31, 2007.

Linda L. Kolesar, Secretary/Treasurer

Branch 856 — WASHINGTON, D.C.

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, Virginia. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting, a financial report, and the election of officers for 2008. All members are urged to attend.

For more information call Stephen Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

**Katherine M. Nowatkoski,
Financial Secretary**



Oplatky Available for Christmas

Oplatky are available once again through the services of the Jankola Library. They are generally sold in packages of six for \$3.00. Postage and handling are additional.

Other items related to Slovak faith and culture are available. To inquire, call 572/275-3581 or write to: Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, SS.C.M., Director, Jankola Library, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
George F. Matta, Treasurer

Also attending was the General Counsel, Gary J. Matta by invitation of the President.

ACCEPTANCE OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August 2007 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta gave a verbal report summarizing the investments for the month of August 2007 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee.

The Treasurer led a discussion concerning the annuity interest rates for the fourth quarter of 2007. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to keep the fourth quarter annuity rates the same as in the third quarter.

Effective October 1, 2007 the annual yield on existing First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity 4.75% (4.641% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

Motion carried.

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

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

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2007

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Death Benefits & Accumulations | \$42,830.13 |
| Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations | \$14,048.23 |
| Matured Endowments & Accumulations | -0- |
| Trust Fund | \$ 688.14 |

The Executive Secretary presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

New Employees

The Executive Secretary updated the Committee about the hiring of two new employees and answered the Committee's questions.

SALES

The Vice President led a discussion concerning the Monthly Sales Report and answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President also led a discussion regarding marketing the "Immediate Annuity Program."

The Executive Secretary will draft an article to be published in the Jednota and a letter describing the "Immediate Annuity Program" which will be sent to Members and Branch Officers.

BRANCH MERGERS & INDIVIDUAL TRANSFERS

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee about the completion of Branch mergers that were pending. The Executive Secretary further informed the Executive Committee that all the individual transfers have been completed.

CANADA BUSINESS

The General Counsel stated he will inform the Board of Directors on Saturday, September 15, 2007 during the second session of the Board of Directors Meeting about the results of his research regarding this matter.

THE SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN HOLMDEL, NJ

The President stated that we will be attending the 30th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival in Holmdel, NJ on September 23, 2007. He said that we will have a booth. The President, Andrew Rajec, the Vice President, Andrew Harcar and Regional Director Joseph Minarovich will man the booth, passing out the Jednota newspaper and information about the products our Society offers.

STATE LICENSES

The President sent a letter to Ed DePersis asking him to investigate the possibility of our society becoming licensed in states where we are not licensed in. The President will update the Committee regarding this matter as more information becomes available.

SEMIANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The President went over the upcoming Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting, held on September 14 & 15, 2007 at the Home Office.

MISCELLANEOUS

Printery – Update – The President updated the Executive Committee on leasing of our Printery Building in Middletown, PA. He stated that he set up a meeting with two potential brokers concerning our Listing Agreement and will update the Executive Committee as he gathers more information.

Slovak Catholic Federation Executive Board Meeting

The President stated that he and the Executive Secretary will attend the Executive Board

continued on page 7

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT —

New York

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Yonkers, New York. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of next year's program, and the election of officers for 2008. Other business will also be discussed.

We urge all District branches to send representatives to this meeting. All other members of the FCSU are also welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by host Branch 41.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT —

Monongahela Valley, Pennsylvania

The Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. Members of the various District branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT —

Uniontown, Pennsylvania

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall. Preparations will be made for the annual meeting. There will also be a discussion regarding insurance sales.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT —

Youngstown, Ohio

Reservations are now being accepted for an overnight bus trip on Thursday and Friday, November 8-9, 2007, to Windsor Hotel & Casino, Ontario, Canada, and the MGM Grand Casino in Detroit. The cost is \$90.00 (double occupancy) per person. Both casinos will give \$25.00 in coins. For reservations and more information call Carlie Peshek at 330/779-3927, Nancy Scavina at 330/758-4536, or Paul Ritz at 330/744-2377.

Carlie Peshek, President

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT —

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. All branches are expected to send representatives. The election of District officers will be held at the meeting. The meeting agenda includes officers' reports, a discussion of the District program for 2008, and a discussion of other FCSU business. A light luncheon will follow the meeting.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District wish all the members a happy and blessed holidays season.

Margaret Nasta, Recording Secretary

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT —

Cleveland, Ohio

The Reverend Stephen Furdek District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Charles Parish Activity Center, Ridge Road at Charles Avenue in Parma, Ohio. A light luncheon will be served. For any questions on the meeting location call Vice President Linda Kolesar at 440/886-0206.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT —

Los Angeles, California

The Prince Pribina District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. in St. John Bosco Chapel. At the Mass we will pray for all the saints and our beloved deceased. The meeting will follow in the cafeteria. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of District fraternal events, and a discussion of FCSU insurance products. After the meeting there will be a period of fraternal fellowship with coffee and donuts. All members are invited and all branches in the area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting.

Paul Skuben, President



Fraternal leaders and clergy stand outside the SS. Cyril and Methodius Basilica.



Over 50 people took part in this year's pilgrimage in Danville.

Pilgrimage of Faith

continued from page 1

for Slovak Hymn Sing led by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeast Pennsylvania. The day then concluded with a Pontifical Mass at 4:00 p.m. The Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, was the principal celebrant and homilist. Concelebrating with him were Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union; Rev. Thomas Derzack, pastor of St. Michael's Church in Lansford, Pennsylvania; Rev. Anton Hvozdic, Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol; Rev. Philip Altavilla, National President of the Federation; and Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of St. Malachy Church in New York City.

Those who participated in the pilgrimage were spiritually enriched. A special thanks go to Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius who hosted the pilgrimage.

Seminars

continued from page 1

can decide on a date and place to hold the training session.

Our society has high quality, competitive and affordable insurance products as well as attractive rates on our IRA/Annuities, but very few members know how to sell them. This is the reason the Membership and Marketing Committee is having seminars. We have to educate ourselves by attending them. The knowledge we gain will become a practical sales tool. The more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we'll become as proposers.

Hope to see you at the next seminar.

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

Minutes of the Executive

continued from page 7

Meeting of the Slovak Catholic Federation on September 21, 2007 and the SCF'S Pilgrimage of Faith in Danville on September 22, 2007.

REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

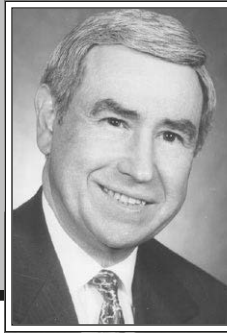
There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

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



How Much Do You Need to Retire?

Determining the money you will need for retirement is a highly personal and complex decision. The goal depends on a number of factors, including the retirement lifestyle you desire, target retirement age, and anticipated life expectancy. The general rule is that you will need 70 percent of your pre-retirement income to retire comfortably. Many, however, suggest 80 percent or more as a more reliable figure increasing longevity.

Think through your responses to the following questions, and prepare yourself for the realities of retirement.

How Do You Define Retirement?

For some, retirement means leaving the job market and moving to an area with a lower cost of living. For others, it may represent starting a new career or creating a business out of a hobby. Still others envision traveling the world. Since retirement means different things to different people, the way you envision your retirement plays a critical role in determining the amount of money you will need to save.

How Much Income is Needed for Retirement?

To determine your annual income needs for retirement, first take stock of your current expenses. List your monthly expenses—such as housing, property taxes, transportation, insurance, and food—then make adjustments for changes you anticipate in retirement, such as having paid off your mortgage or your child's college tuition bills. Factor in costs you expect to increase during retirement, such as healthcare and leisure activities.

CPAs say you should err on the high side when calculating projected expenses. Don't forget to factor in inflation: a 4 percent annual rate should provide a safe cushion.

When Do You Plan to Retire?

Consider your retirement timetable. Obviously, the earlier you plan to retire, the more money you will need.

How Long Do You Expect to Live?

Your life expectancy generally depends on your family history, your lifestyle, and your overall health. You can get an estimate by using one of the many online life expectancy calculators, including one on the American Institute of CPAs' financial literacy Web site www.360financialliteracy.org. To be on the safe side, add five or more years to whatever number you settle on, particularly if you're in excellent health or if one of your grandparents lived to be 100.

What Will Be Your Sources of Retirement Income?

Determine the current market value of what you have saved for retirement in bank accounts, mutual funds, and brokerage accounts, as well as what you have invested in IRAs or other personal retirement savings.

Then, look at the most recent annual benefit statement you received from your employer to determine the amount you can expect to receive from your 401(k) or other qualified employer pension plan. Finally, check your statement from the Social Security Administration to get an idea of your projected monthly Social Security benefit.

"PARK 2 ANNUITY" – NOW PAYING 4.75%

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

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges—Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.

Greatest Generation's 65th Reunion

Last For THS Class Of '42

By John Karch

In September 1939, the nearly 1,300 graduates of Trenton, N.J. Junior High Schools 1, 3, 4, and Lincoln reported to Trenton Central High School (THS), swelling the student body to some 4,000 students. The THS Class of '42 began its three-year studies that would culminate with a graduate ceremony certifying their readiness for college/university. For many it would be employment to assist their families during the depression. Our large class had a multi-ethnic character, including German, Italian, French, Irish, Polish, Slovak, Czech, Hungarian, and others that likely contributed to family discussions about aggressive developments abroad. Although many of us suffered through the depression, I believe we were dedicated to a high standard of values.

We were of the generation that Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation." We grew up with Hitler's MEIN KAMPF, his ascendancy to leadership in Germany in 1933, the militarization of the Rhineland in 1936, "Anschluss" with Austria in 1938, and British & French capitulation ("Peace for Our Time") at Munich in 1938.

The German invasion of Poland September 1, 1939 brought a British and French declaration of war on Germany two days later. France surrendered the following year. Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941. On the other side of the world, Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931 and established control of northern China by 1938.

In all of these benchmarks the League of Nations proved its ineffectiveness. On December 7, 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, a "Day of Infamy," President Franklin Delano Roosevelt exclaimed. For us in THS Class of '42 this was the most shocking and meaningful "Day" for we now realized that it was only a matter of time before changing our civvies to military uniforms. I still remember one of our teachers reacting to several male students who were making light of developments: "Alright wise guys, you wait and see, before this is over, all of you will be in this war."

How We Were

Our '42 Class, probably not fundamentally different from other large high schools across the country, reflected different ethnic and economic backgrounds but otherwise no serious obstacles. The student-teacher ratios and the selection of subjects seemed satisfactory. The English (28 teachers) and Commercial (19) Departments were the largest. The others were French Language (8), Science (11), Social Studies (16), Mathematics (9), Physical Education (13), Industrial Arts (11), Home Arts (6) Fine Arts (5). The Office Staff numbered 10 and the Guidance Department 7. The Administrator was Dr. Paul R. Spencer with three Vice Principals. The Board of Education of Trenton Schools consisted of Superintendent Dr. Paul Loser with 10 Members. All teachers have passed away, the last two died last year.

THS sports consisted of Football, Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Boys' swimming, Girls'

swimming, Cross country, Track, J/V. basketball, Jr. and Sophomore Football, and Boys' and Girls' tennis. Of course, we had Cheerleaders. In March, the annual Sports Night, at which Red and Black teams compete, numbered two thousand girls performing on the theme of famous songs "Casey and the Strawberry Blonde" and "Cakewalk." The performances of both teams, watched by thousands, were

magnificent, but the judges declared the Red Team the winner. In May, "Countess Maritza, the student operetta, performed three

nights before appreciative audiences in Trenton. Also, the students performed the play "Captain Applejack," a fast-moving romantic mystery drama. With guidance, the future reporters and editors prepared an impressive yearbook.

Extra curricular activities depicting clubs and organizations during 1941-42 were impressively numerous. These, the visits to Trenton municipal agencies, the Community Chest, and the highlight visit to Washington, D.C. contributed to career Orientation, now delayed by war or to be changed completely.

What We Became

The THS Yearbook BOBASHELA cited the Senior Roll-Call of '42 as "THS Graduates Look Ahead to A World of Challenge and Opportunity to Serve." The yearbook devoted a paragraph to "War Activities."

This was: "Tramp, tramp, tramp the boys are marching. This time the lads and lassies march in a monster parade to simulate the sale of defense stamps and bonds. Other views depict first-aid training; the swing band at the soldiers' club; the winners of the city contest on Americanism; young scientists working on a formula to fight incendiary bombs; parents and teachers discussing new curricula for wartime America."

In a TRENTON TIMES interview before the Reunion, the Class of '42 President, Andrew (Andy) M. Cella recalled: "It was the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 'Day of Infamy' speech and it was my senior year in high school." The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Andy said, "changed everybody's goals, vocations, and plans." Andy himself, bid goodbye to Duke University that November "because my draft number came up." Andy was commissioned in the U.S. Army and served with the 94th Infantry Division through France, Germany, and Belgium, and was discharged in August 1946. Some volunteered for military service after Pearl Harbor, some after graduation, while most waited to be drafted. Most of the other graduates likely worked with war-related firms. The women went off to college or joined "Rosie the Riveter" in war-related jobs.

Many others of our Class of '42 served honorably in World War II (WW II), in Europe or the Pacific, or both.

Slovak Americans in War

As elsewhere throughout the country, Americans of Slovak heritage in Trenton, New Jersey, including in our Class of '42 served honorably and bravely. Many gave their lives,



Photo CourThe Poetry of Milan Rufus

L-R: Joseph Mislán, Carol Mislán, Loretta Karch, John Karch, Julia Rutkowski, Richard Rutkowski.

including my closest friend, Army Sgt Joseph Gordon, with whom I corresponded who was killed in Europe, as was his brother John--with whom I began my Navy stint in Navy Boot Camp--on a ship off Italy. Joseph Mislán, also with Slovak roots, served in the Navy and, with wife Carol, was at the Reunion. I was with Navy Air photographing Iwo Jima, Okinawa, other islands and China. Many more American Slovaks of military age, some in our Class, served in the war, especially those living in south Trenton, around Sts. Peter and Paul Church (now closed for lack of a Priest and with few Slovak Parishioners).

Our Post-War Lives

As with our ethnic diversity, so it was in our post-war careers, most likely different from what we had dreamed about in Jr. and senior high school. Happily, with the GI Bill, most of us seized the opportunity for higher education. In my case, with only one year at Temple University after graduation, my school years numbered additional six, resulting in a Ph.D. and a career with the U.S. Government and as Professor, rather than what I had written in a 9th grade report--to be a Refrigerator Repairman (at that time my folks had only an Ice Box). I still have that report.

My classmates became successful attorneys--we had several judges-engineers, accountants, businessmen, etc. across the spectrum of activities in the private sector or with the Government. For example,

Andy Cella became Director, Division of Central Services, N.J. Department of Transportation. Joe Mislán was Consultant to the Attorney General, Department of Defense. Richard Rutkowski was a Navy Pilot who made the Navy his career. Dick served during WW II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. In WW II he piloted off carriers in the South Pacific and over China; he trained pilots during Vietnam, retiring after 25 years as LTCDR. He also attended the Reunion, with his wife Julia. A classmate became a Catholic Priest.

Women became homemakers or pursued a variety of careers as did the men--in the private sector or with the government. For example, Carol Mislán taught at an Elementary School for 30 years; one, with a Ph.D. became a Professor; another, a Nurse; and one a Cloistered Nun.

The Last Reunion

Our last Reunion was celebrated September 28, 12 Noon, again at the Trenton Country Club. The Reunion Committee promised that it would be a "great opportunity to renew friendships and share memories over luncheon." Valet Parking would be available and the venue is "handicapped accessible," not insignificant. We had a choice of the entrée and a cash bar would be open. My reply was that Loretta and I would attend. We were looking forward to this event because we were, last year, unable to participate because of my health.

Since I am no longer allowed to drive, Loretta drives us. With our long drive, we arrived a little late, but wonderful to be with the more than 130 classmates, spouses, and guests. President Cella had begun the festive occasion with a Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation, and reading of names of classmates who had died the previous year.

As usual, Classmate Bill Holcombe came with his band. Over the years, this WW II Veteran, played with the Tommy Dorsey and other orchestras. He is an outstanding composer, performer and arranger who is still very active with concerts. All of us were appreciative of his appearances with us and hold him in high esteem for his achievements.

Dick Rutkowski related a fascinating summary of his vast experiences during WW II and after, including meeting classmates or noticing Roebing-made cables. He even mentioned attending the two-week "Communist Strategy and Tactics" Program at the Foreign Service Institute in the late 1950s at which I presented a two hour lecture on Eastern Europe. (I did this monthly for nine years.) Tom Glover, called the "Sentimental Communist" of the TIMES was the Guest Speaker.

In his letter to classmates, President Andy cited a question in a recent article "Why do you attend reunions?" From the various answers the most impressive to him was "Because I want to again meet my classmates who meant so much to me in school."

Not surprisingly, the Working Committee meant this would be the LAST ORGANIZED REUNION. Hereafter, the Working Committee will hold quarterly meetings, inviting classmates for an opportunity to exchange memories.

FCSU Life Single Premium Insurance Fall Special

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren now through December 31, 2007 and receive a ***FREE GIFT to present with the certificate.**

Pay one premium and have fully paid-up insurance. Issued in any amount (\$5,000 or more) subject to current FCSU Life non-medical limits. Excellent gift for children or grandchildren.



| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Example – Newborn Male | | Example – Newborn Female | |
| \$5,000 paid-up insurance..... | \$290 | \$5,000 paid-up insurance..... | \$250 |
| \$10,000 paid-up insurance..... | \$580 | \$10,000 paid-up insurance | \$500 |
| Example – Age 5 Male | | Example – Age 5 Female | |
| \$5,000 paid-up insurance | \$340 | \$5,000 paid-up insurance | \$290 |
| \$10,000 paid-up insurance | \$680 | \$10,000 paid-up insurance | \$580 |
| Example – Age 10 Male | | Example – Age 10 Female | |
| \$5,000 paid-up insurance | \$400 | \$5,000 paid-up insurance | \$340 |
| \$10,000 paid-up insurance | \$800 | \$10,000 paid-up insurance..... | \$680 |
| Example – Age 15 Male | | Example – Age 15 Female | |
| \$5,000 paid-up insurance | \$480 | \$5,000 paid-up insurance..... | \$405 |
| \$10,000 paid-up insurance..... | \$960 | \$10,000 paid-up insurance | \$810 |

Contact your branch office or to learn more call the FCSU today at 1-800-533-6682

*Children 8 and under receive a stuffed Jednota Bear. Children 9-18 receive a gift card!

Pittsburgh Fraternal Societies Sponsor "Kidz Bowling for Kidz"

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) is proud to announce that they are sponsoring a bowling tournament for youth members ages 6 to 18 called "Kidz Bowling For Kidz," the proceeds from which will benefit the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The concept was developed to bring youth members from all the fraternal organizations together for an event to raise money for other children.

The event is open to all fraternal society youth members and their non-members friends. All participants must have at least \$25 in sponsorship monies promised in order to enter. There will be no cost to them to bowl, and the FSGP will provide food, prizes and commemorative T-shirts.



The event will take place on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Princess Lanes, located at The Shoppes at Caste Village in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. All participants must be registered in order to bowl.

Monetary donations can be made payable to "FSGP" and mailed to Karen Pintar, SNPJ, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126. If you have any questions, need additional information or would like to help on the day of the event, please contact George E. Lopata at 1/800-722-4428.

George E. Lopata, President, Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007

Effective April 1, 2007, the annual yield on existing First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity 4.75% (4.641% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRAs, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA.

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007.

**Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary**

Christina Kukucka Honored Posthumously



**Christina B. Kukucka
February 15, 1954-April 17, 2006**

The fourth play written by Christina Kukucka, a Pittsburgh resident who grew up in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, was presented in a Staged Reading by the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre on March 20, 2007, in Pittsburgh.

Unfinished when Kukucka died on Easter weekend in 2006 while visiting her parents in Ebensburg, "The Sisters of Zivena" was completed by her sister, Beth Kukucka, to whom her literary works were willed. "The characters were so strong, it was easy to finish the play," she said.

The Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre decided to honor the writers from the Pittsburgh area, during the month of March. They were approached by Beth Kukucka, who submitted the play. Producer/Director Tami Dixon was impressed with the work, and decided to display it as a Staged Reading.

The actors assigned to the roles were all from the Pittsburgh area, including Tiffany Hickman, Mari Anne Wilding, Louise Fox, Judy Kaplan and Barbara Russell.

Based on four sisters and a grandmother, and set two weeks after their mother's death, the play revolves around their efforts to clean the homestead and dispose of their mother's belongings.

The Kukucka family and relatives familiar with the characters on whom the play was based were surprised and delighted to hear the JEDNOTA newspaper publication mentioned frequently. While cleaning the house, the sisters kept coming up on stacks and stacks of JEDNOTA newspapers, accumulated over more than thirty years.

One sister could remember her parents reading the JEDNOTA as soon as it would come in the mail. They could read it to each other, enjoy the articles, and set it aside, probably to be reread at a later date. Only, the new JEDNOTA would arrive, and it would be read, and then set aside.

The play, with its references to the past, was very well received. The actors said it was "a labor of love," a peek into the private lives of "old-country" folks with strong religious beliefs and ethnic traditions, which they instilled in their children.

The Pittsburgh performance was attended by Dr. Steve and Betty Kukucka of Ebensburg; Dr. Stephen P. Kukucka, Janet Kukucka and Ed, Carrie and Thomas Blazina of Pittsburgh; Beth Kukucka and Stephanie Roy of Newburyport, Massachusetts; Theresa Sirawsky and daughter, Kathy Blum, of New Jersey; and Bill Zlatos of Pittsburgh. A reception was held for the cast and audience.

Christina Kukucka was 52 years old when she died. She had graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in English Writing, and worked for a year before setting her sights for New York City. When she moved to New York in 1977, she joined the acting and drama classes at the HB Berghof Playwrights Studio on Bank Street in New York City, where she honed her writing skills.

Three of her plays were produced and directed by Herbert Berghof himself during the 1980's, "Shadberry", "The People from Work", and "Distance From the Stars". All received good reviews. She had started work on "The Sisters of Zivena" when she moved to Pittsburgh in 1991. She kept in touch with HB Berghof Studios and helped one of the directors who presented her play in the Pittsburgh theatre, but didn't pursue her own writing for a few years.

When they heard of her death, her friends at HB Studios in New York got in touch with the Kukucka family, remembering Chris's plays, and said they had decided to set up a Scholarship in Chris's name to help aspiring playwrights. They used her second play, "The People From Work", as a springboard for the Scholarship Fund. Two of the original actors from the play reprised their roles at the Staged Reading November 5-7, with Marlene Mancini as Director.

Each performance, Beth Kukucka would be introduced, and she gave a talk about her sister Christian, her aspiration, and her gift for writing, and she would preface the Staged Reading with the eulogy she had written for Chris.

The Staged Readings, performed at the HB Berghof Theatre on Bank Street in New York City, were attended by the Kukuckas from Ebensburg, Pittsburgh, Massachusetts, and the Sirawsky's from New Jersey as well as Kukucka relatives from New York.

Contributions may be made to the Christina Kukucka Playwrights Scholarship Fund, HB Studio, 120 Bank Street, New York, NY 10014, Attention: Edith Meeks.

◆◆◆ Allentown Branch 567 to Sponsor Dinner

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, is sponsoring a Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on Saturday, November 17, 2007, at St. John the Baptist Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Dinner will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Baked goods will be available. Donation will be \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. A Polka Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. in the church.

For information call Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614 or Bernardine Gerhard at 610/262-6772.

Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar in Chicago

FCSU members were well represented among the 96 attendees at this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar, sponsored by the Midwest District of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The event took place on Sunday, September 30, at Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Church in Homer Glen, Illinois.

Father Thomas Loya, STB, MA, explained and celebrated an Eastern Ruthenian Catholic Divine Liturgy. The beautiful voices of the parish's choir made this a memorable event for the attendees. After the service, Father Loya explained the stunning icons he has painted in the church since it was dedicated in 2000. The presentation attracted both Americans of Slovak descent and recent immigrants from Slovakia. Afterwards, attendees enjoyed a delicious catered ethnic dinner in the church hall.

Annunciation parish was formed from the merger of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Parish in Joliet, Illinois, and St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Parish in the Back of the Yards neighborhood of Chicago, and its mission church in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The descendants of the Carpatho-Rusyn immigrants who founded the two parishes almost 100 years ago have moved out to the suburbs, and now have a beautiful, modern church to attend their homes.

Robert Tapak Magruder



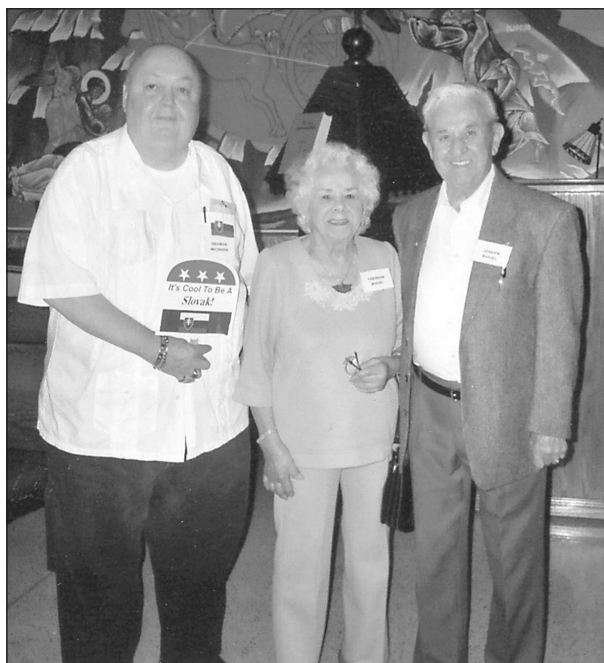
From Branch 313 are also L-R Sister Christella Michuda, S.S.N.D., Edward Michuda and Angelyn Michuda Lindberg. Sister Mary Christella is the last surviving of 12 sisters and brothers of the late Frank S. and Veronica Michuda. Slovak activist George J.E. Michuda is also a grandson of Frank and Veronica Michuda. Frank S. Michuda was the financial secretary of Branch 313 in the 1950s and the 1960s. During the 1970s, Branch 313 was run by the late Frank S. Michuda Jr. Sister Christella had two other siblings who were also members of the Notre Dame Sisters congregation from Holy Rosary Slovak Parish and School.



From Branch 706 are, L-R Albert Uram, Ann Reed, Art Fayta, Barb Fayta, Roland Reed, Shirley Uram, and Ed Uram.



Branch 493 attendees include L-R Don Cummings, Bob Babb, Valerie Vesely, and Robert Tapak Magruder.



Attending from Branch 313 are L-R George Michuda, Theresa Bugel and Joe Bugel.



Representing Branch 153 were L-R John Jurcenko, Dorothy Jurcenko, Ann Mulhall, Rudy Bernath, and Liz Bernath.



From Branch 40 are Maria Harcar and National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

The Poetry of Milan Rufus

By Jan Simko, Ph.D.

Currently the leading Slovak poet, Milan Rufus, was born December 10, 1928, and this article is dedicated to commemorate his impending 80th anniversary.

It was in 2006 that the Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers of Wauconda, Illinois, had brought out a Slovak-English selection from his poetry entitled AND THAT'S THE TRUTH, primarily intended for English language readers. The 62 Slovak poems translated into English by Ewald Osers (34 of the them) and by Viera and James Sutherland-Smith (28 of them; they also wrote the preface), were edited by David L. Cooper. The poems, printed in both the Slovak original and an English translation, selected and edited by Milan Richter (author of two pages of "Rufus' Life and Works"), are grouped in seven sections, each introduced by an illustration drawn from the collection of the graphic artist Koloman Sokol.

Introduction

Rufus' poetry is a verbal creation of a choice quality demanding a high level of a sophisticated appreciation by the readers. They ought to be able to assemble the scattered elements of a sentence, wherever the need may be, into a standard-language sequence, for the language of the poetry classified as surrealist, as at times practiced also by Rufus, does not observe the standard rules of ordering the sentence elements.

Surrealism is defined as "a 20th century movement in art and literature aiming at expressing the subconscious mind, for instance, by the irrational juxtaposition of images" (Reader's Digest-Oxford Complete Wordfinder. Pleasantville, N.Y., 1996, p. 1539). It was considerably influenced by Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis, in Rufus's poetry restrained.

The English Text

Our primary concern has been to evaluate the English translation as to the quality of its doing justice to the Slovak original.

(1) Out of 62 poems, only 19 entries (one third) are beyond reproach. Over two-thirds of them (43) do require greater or smaller changes. Most serious are many cases where the English text uses an incorrect word. For instance: (p. 56, stanza I, line 1) Slovak "miesto" (incorrect English nest) should be "place." And many more such errors.

(2) Several English passages do need a complete "overhaul;" for instance: p. 61, stanza III, line 2, etc. Lack of space prevents us to quote details.

(3) There are two rather strange, even bizarre and unsettling instances:

(a) The Slovak poem: "Len tak" (p. 124)), in stanza III, reads: "A tomu.../da hubu s octom./polievocku kyslu." The English version: "Just so (p. 125), offers this (per) version: "He gives a sponge with vinegar,/a sour soup." The Slovak word "huba" is used in 3 different meanings: /1/ mushroom; /2/ sponge; /3/ (colloquial or vulgar) mouth. The word "polievocku" (=soup) coming after the "hubu" should have served as a perfectly unambiguous signal that the word "hubu" is used here in only ONE possible meaning, that is MUSHROOM! I doubt whether the translators would eat a "sponge"!

(b) The preceding Slovak poem: "Cas odchodov" (p.122) contains these two lines in the concluding stanzas IV and V:

vola smuta dusa Faustova:/"Zotravaj este chvilu, moja krasna."

The Slovak poet has kept it to himself that this passage is (supposed to have been) borrowed (incorrectly, however) from J.W. Goethe's (1749-1832) masterpiece, the poetic drama FAUST (1808). In the German original, Faust tells Mephisto: "Verweile doch,/ du bist so schoen." The double quotation marks used in the Slovak text indicate that the quotation is a correct rendering of an original. Since, however, the German original words are addressed to Mephisto, and, thus, the German adjective "schoen" is in the masculine gender, the Slovak feminine form ":krasna" is incorrect rendering of the original German masculine form, nor does the German original contain an equivalent for the Slovak "moja."

The English text reads: "Stay on a while, my beloved." Since "beloved" is not an equivalent of the Slovak "krasna," the English text has strayed even further from the German original. The improper use of the double quotation marks in the English text makes this an even worse offense.

Form and Meaning

After two opening poems of this collection, the reader is pleasantly surprised with the two outstanding following poems, not surrealist at all but observing all the basic procedures of traditional poetry; this only, however, to be found in the Slovak original text, but none of that rhyme or rhythm present in the English version.

Rufus's humanistic streak come through in "Zbohom, pan Baudelaire" (Goodbye, Mr. B.; pp. 10-11) where the title of the French poet's famous collection: Les fleurs du mal (1857-1861; Flowers of Evil) is replaced by Rufus with his "kvety dobra" (flowers of good).

The poem: "Po vsetkom" (After Everything; pp. 12-13) in the surrealist vein, is, paradoxically, embedded in a very regular poetic pattern.

The poem: "Ustanovenie za basnika" (Ordination for a Poet; pp. 18-19), although surrealist, is most significant for its clear message: the poet's charge and ability to bring warmth to the world are gifts from God. The poet must seek inspiration at home. "Sestricka nadej" (Sister Hope; pp. 104-105), is another expression of a positive affirmation by the poet. In the vital contest between hope and despair, he unequivocally sides with Hope.

The collection's "star" poem is the "Modlitba za Slovensko" (Prayer for Slovakia; pp. 56-57). It is the most beautiful, effective, and moving creation of the collection.

Conclusion

The positive aspects of Milan Rufus's poetry have shone through in spite of the surrealist poems in this collection. Even those display the poet's fertile imagination creating a thick web of striking poetic imagery. His frequent use of effective end rhyme and regular rhythm is proof of his gift of an inborn, and not a superficial, poetic talent. For all this, he can rightly be dubbed with the honorific title: Poeta natus (born poet).

Kukuckas Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Kukucka of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on September 8, 2007, with a Mass at Holy Name Church, Ebensburg, concelebrated by Msgr. Arnold Gaus and Rev. Noel Rothrauff, O.S.B. The couple renewed their vows.

Cantor at the Mass was Theresa (Phillips) Sirawsky, sister of the bride. Readers were Dr. Michael and Ellen Kutcher, with Carrie Blazina and Patrick as Offertory Gift presenters. Mary Ellen Zunic and Vincent Strugala Sr. were Eucharistic Ministers. A reception and dinner followed in the church hall.

Dr. Stephen Kukucka and the former Elizabeth "Betty" Phillips were married August 23, 1947, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Nanty Glo, Pennsylvania, by the Rev. John B. Golias, Mrs. Kukucka's cousin.

Dr. Kukucka was born in Revloc, Pennsylvania, a son of Anton and Priscilla Kukucka. Mrs. Kukucka was born in Nanty Glo, daughter of Emery and Helen (Golias) Phillips.

At the time of their marriage, Dr. Kukucka was in his last year of Dental School at the University of Maryland in Baltimore. He received his dental degree in June 1948.

Dr. Kukucka is an Air Force veteran of World War II, and served with the rank of Captain in the Army Dental Corps during the Korean War. He retired from dentistry May of 2000, after practicing 52 years, the last thirty-nine in Patton.

Dr. Kukucka is an avid golfer and bowler, and enjoys outdoor activities. Mrs. Kukucka enjoys doing calligraphy, working puzzles, and reading. The Kukuckas are faithful members of Holy Name Parish.

Hosting the anniversary celebration were their children: Dr. Michael and Ellen Kutcher of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Dr. Stephen P. Kukucka, Janet Kukucka, Ed and Carrie Blazina of Pittsburgh; and Elizabeth "Beth" Kukucka and Stephanie Roy of Newburyport, Massachusetts. Two children are deceased: Thomas in 1988 and Christina in 2006. The anniversary couple have three grandchildren: Dr. Matthew Emery Kutcher of San Francisco, California; Patrick Stephen Kutcher of Ashville, North Carolina; and Carrie Elizabeth Blazina of Pittsburgh.

Three of the original wedding party were in attendance: Maid of Honor Theresa Sirawsky, Josephine (Kukucka) Mains of New Jersey; and Alex Bellock of Revloc. The reception was well attended by relatives and friends.

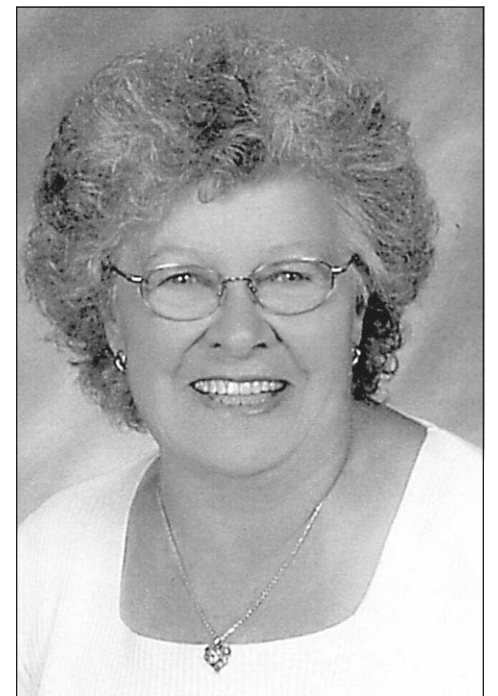


Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Kukucka

Virginia Oplinger Candidate for Westmoreland County Commissioner

Virginia Oplinger of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, is asking for your support as Westmoreland County Commissioner on Election Day. She is asking if you would consider writing in her name. She believes she can make a difference. In the May primary Virginia received almost 13,000 votes.

Virginia is a member of Branch 512 in Greensburg.



Virginia Oplinger

Happy Birthday!



Members of Branch 789 and friends celebrate with Barbara Liska on her 105th birthday.

Branch 789 Member Turns 105!

On October 6, 2007, Barbara Liska, a member of Branch 789 in Windsor, Ontario, celebrated her 105th birthday. On hand to honor her on special day were several members of Branch 789 as well as her special friends.

Barbara Liska is now a resident of Extended Care Nursing Home in Tecumseh, Ontario. Although frail, she is still able to get around at the facility.

Born in the Michalovce region of Eastern Slovakia, Barbara immigrated to Canada to join her husband in 1950. She became a member of the Jednota immediately upon arriving in Windsor and remained an active member of the branch for many years.

In recognition of her longevity, we wish Barbara all of God's Blessings as she continues to maintain a healthy and positive outlook on life.

Mary Boldizar Jacko, President, Br. 789

Luba Mason to Perform in New York's Metropolitan Room

Vocalist Luba Gregus Mason has received rave reviews for her recent performances in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago. Her debut album with its blend of Latin, pop, jazz, theatre, and folk has been well received by enthusiastic audiences and many people in the music world.

Luba Mason will make her next appearance on November 23 through November 26, 2007 at The Metropolitan Room, 34 West 22nd Street (between Fifth and Sixth Avenues) in New York City. All shows are at 10:00 p.m. Admission is \$30.00.

For more information visit www.metropolitanroom.com or www.LubaMason.com

FCSU Reintroduces Senoir Promotion Program

The Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union will introduce a number of programs in the coming months for the benefit of our membership. Back by popular demand is our Senior Promotion Program. This program will be available from October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Initial Program (Current Members)

The Senior Promotion Program is directed to all current members between the ages of 55 and 80. Each member in this age group, subject to current reasonably good health, may purchase the amount of Whole Life insurance that a \$200.00 annual premium will purchase, based on their current age. See the attached Life Insurance Chart. To help offset the cost for the first year, a special fraternal dividend equal to 50% of the first year premium, amounting to \$100, will be provided to each participating member. This means that if each member takes advantage of the Society's offer, they will not only increase their family's life insurance protection, but will receive a generous fraternal dividend.

Application

As part of the effort to encourage as many members as possible to take advantage of this offer, the normal full length application (AJ-2) will not be required for the members participating in this program. Applicants will be required to complete the much shorter (SF-1) Application. Normal underwriting will be waived except for serious illnesses, injury, or medical conditions, which required medical treatment or hospitalization in the last five years. This is not a guaranteed issue program. The FCSU may require the applicant to take a physical exam and /or provide additional medical information.

New Members

The FCSU has adopted the theme of full family participation. As part of this promotion, persons aged 55 to 80 who are not currently a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union may elect to participate in this program and will receive a special first year allowance of \$50.00. New members will be enrolled using the normal (AJ-2) application and be subject to normal underwriting rules. This is each member's opportunity to encourage enrollment of brothers, sisters, relatives, children, friends and others who should be part of our Jednota family. Make certain to contact these individuals who should share in the benefits of fraternal membership and protection.

Please allow sufficient time for your branch proposer or secretary to contact you (up to thirty (30) days.) If contact is not made by November 2007, please contact your branch proposer, branch secretary or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

In the coming months, additional programs directed to various groups of members will be introduced. Watch for announcements in future issues of our JEDNOTA.

FCSU SENIOR PROMOTION AMOUNT INSURANCE - PER \$200 ANNUAL PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE 2007

| SCHEDULE 1 | | | SCHEDULE 2 | | |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|------------------|
| AGE | MALE NON SMOKING | FEMALE NON SMOKING | AGE | MALE SMOKER | FEMALE SMOKER |
| 55 | 6,498 | 7,927 | 55 | 4,988 | 6,928 |
| 56 | 6,175 | 7,413 | 56 | 4,760 | 6,605 |
| 57 | 5,922 | 7,145 | 57 | 4,598 | 6,359 |
| 58 | 5,677 | 6,885 | 58 | 4,439 | 6,122 |
| 59 | 5,438 | 6,627 | 59 | 4,282 | 5,893 |
| 60 | 5,204 | 6,380 | 60 | 4,129 | 5,671 |
| 61 | 4,979 | 6,135 | 61 | 3,981 | 5,456 |
| 62 | 4,762 | 5,898 | 62 | 3,839 | 5,247 |
| 63 | 4,554 | 5,666 | 63 | 3,702 | 5,043 |
| 64 | 4,353 | 5,438 | 64 | 3,571 | 4,845 |
| 65 | 4,157 | 5,216 | 65 | 3,444 | 4,652 |
| 66 | 3,958 | 4,999 | 66 | 3,317 | 4,465 |
| 67 | 3,784 | 4,788 | 67 | 3,193 | 4,283 |
| 68 | 3,604 | 4,581 | 68 | 3,069 | 4,105 |
| 69 | 3,428 | 4,379 | 69 | 2,946 | 3,932 |
| 70 | 3,257 | 4,182 | 70 | 2,824 | 3,766 |
| 71 | 3,091 | 3,990 | 71 | 2,704 | 3,606 |
| 72 | 2,933 | 3,804 | 72 | 2,588 | 3,451 |
| 73 | 2,780 | 3,622 | 73 | 2,474 | 3,301 |
| 74 | 2,632 | 3,445 | 74 | 2,365 | 3,158 |
| 75 | 2,490 | 3,275 | 75 | 2,253 | 3,018 |
| 76 | 2,352 | 3,109 | 76 | 2,146 | 2,883 |
| 77 | 2,221 | 2,948 | 77 | 2,043 | 2,751 |
| 78 | 2,095 | 2,791 | 78 | 1,943 | 2,623 |
| 79 | 1,975 | 2,638 | 79 | 1,848 | 2,497 |
| 80 | 1,866 | 2,577 | 80 | 1,758 | 2,378 |

VISIT THE FCSU's WEBSITE

Home page at: <http://www.fcsu.com>

Send e-mail to the FCSU at the following address:

fcsu@aol.com

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

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)



At the dinner are L-R Joseph Petrasek, George Smith, Father Emmanuel, Bob Gergoski, and George Kasanek.



The Kuders Family with Father Emmanuel.

Akron Branch 485 Hold Fundraiser for Ghana

On August 26, 2007, a fundraiser was held at the Slovak "J" Club in Akron, Ohio for Father Emmanuel Amedzi, a Catholic priest from Ghana, West Africa. Father Emmanuel attended Akron University for about 5 years in the late 1990s and was in residence at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Akron. While residing in Akron, he was asked to say Mass at several parishes in the area. When he returned for a visit in August 2007, friends had a chicken dinner at the Slovak "J" Club to help raise funds for his ministry in Ghana. Over 200 people attended the dinner.

Cookie Happiness

Spread The Joy And Share Some Memories By Baking Up Seasonal Cookies

(NAPSA)-Cookies have a way of brightening any day, especially around the holidays, when they offer many delicious opportunities to spread seasonal cheer.

It's not just eating cookies that's enjoyable. The mere act of making cookies with your family can help create some of the best memories. Giving everyone a task makes the job easier, and baking cookies together is a delightful way to spend time with the children.

Cookies make an appetizing gift, a thoughtful way to show you care and a one-of-a-kind creation to give during the holidays or for special occasions. Sharing homemade cookies is a wonderful way to thank friends and families, a much-appreciated gift for a hostess or a delicious treat for a church, school or work function.

Some of the best cookies are made with Argo Corn Starch and Karo Syrup, products that have been classic staples for bakers. For example, did you know that cornstarch is the secret ingredient for softer shortbread cookies? The rich color and flavor of dark corn syrup is an essential ingredient of moist, chewy Oatmeal Hermits, an old-fashioned cookie favorite.

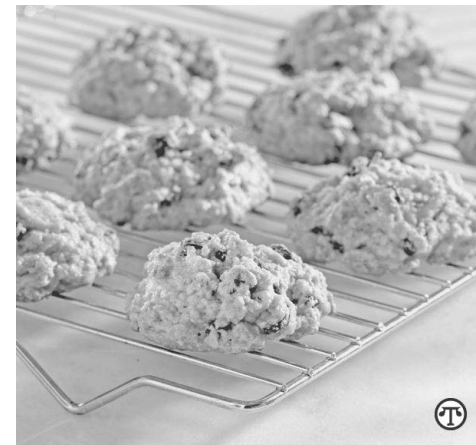
Oatmeal Hermits

Prep time: 10 minutes

Bake time: 15 minutes per batch

Makes: 3 dozen cookies

- 2 cups quick-cooking oats
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 cup raisins
- 1-1/2 cups flour



Oatmeal Hermits offer delicious chewy goodness for an exceptional cookie.

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup Karo® Dark OR with Real Brown Sugar Corn Syrup
- 1/2 cup Mazola® corn oil
- 2 eggs

Mix oats, sugar and raisins in large bowl; add flour, salt, baking powder and cinnamon and mix well.

Whisk together corn syrup, oil and eggs in a small bowl. Add to dry ingredients.

Drop dough by rounded tablespoons 2 inches apart on greased baking sheet.

Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 375° F until lightly browned around edges. Remove cookies to wire rack to cool.

For more holiday recipes, visit www.argostarch.com and www.karosyrup.com.

Coming Events

NOVEMBER

- 4 – The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Yonkers, New York.
- 4 – A meeting of the Frank T. Holly Jr. District at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.
- 4 – A Meeting of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District at 2:00 p.m. at St. Charles Parish Activity Center, Ridge Road at Charles Avenue, Parma, Ohio.
- 18 – A meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania.

DECEMBER

- 2 – The Pittsburgh District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.



George Onda District to Have Stedry Vecer Dinner on December 2

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer (Christmas Eve Dinner) on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at the Bishop Connare Center (formerly the St. Joseph Center), Route 30, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The evening will begin with a Mass at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel followed by a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner. After the dinner, door prizes will be awarded. The Pittsburgh Slovaks will provide entertainment with singing and a reenactment of the "Jaslickari" (Bethlehem Carolers). Please plan to attend and preserve this beautiful custom.

Tickets are \$16.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children age 16 and younger.

Reserve your tickets early (they are limited) by calling Micki Smolleck at 724/539-8326 or Barbara Mizikar at 724/423-2616 by November 26, 2007.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Frances R. Moxie Branch 831 Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Frances R. Moxie, 85, of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, died unexpectedly on Thursday, July 26, 2007, in Alle-Kiski Medical Center, Allegheny Valley Hospital, Harrison Township

She was born September 27, 1921, in Creighton, Pennsylvania, a daughter of the late Louis and Lena (Flowers) Burin. She was predeceased by her husband, Clarence S. Moxie, who died December 25, 1965, and a daughter, Pamela Knabb, who died July 10, 1998.

Mrs. Moxie graduated from New Kensington High School in 1939, lived most of her life in Tarentum, was a homemaker and was employed in the Highland Middle School cafeteria for 20 years. She was a member of Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum, and a former member of St. Clement Roman Catholic Church in Tarentum. She was also a member of Highland Area Senior Citizens and Jednota Branch 831.

Mrs. Moxie enjoyed bowling, bingo, sewing, crocheting and flowers.

Surviving are a son, David (Debra) Moxie of Boston, Massachusetts; a daughter, Paula (Daniel) Kalatshoff of New Kensington; two granddaughters, Anne and Emily Moxie of Boston; and a brother, Michael Burin of Lower Burrell.

Friends were received at the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum. A blessing service was held at the funeral home followed by a Christian Funeral Mass at Holy Martyrs Church with the Rev. Aaron J. Kriss, her pastor, officiating. Burial was in St. Clement Cemetery, Tarentum.

Kathleen Persun

Sally J. Malinsky Branch 831 Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Sally J. Malinsky, 75, of Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, October 4, 2007, at her home.

She was born May 14, 1932, in Tarentum, a daughter of the late George and Frances (Zboran) Knapo and lived in Tarentum until moving to Brackenridge 20 years ago.

Mrs. Malinsky graduated from Tarentum High School in 1950 and was a supervisor in the lending department of mortgage underwriting for Union National Bank and Peoples Savings & Loan and a member of Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum.

She enjoyed gardening, cooking, baking and caring for her home.

Surviving are two stepdaughters, Carla (Edward) Shriver of Moon Township, and Catherine Huet of Brackenridge; two grandchildren, Anita and Abigail Shriver of Moon Township; a brother, Robert (Phyllis) Knapo of Tarentum; a sister, Gertrude (George "Fred") Stauffer of McKinley, Texas; 15 nieces and nephews; 27 great-nieces and great-nephews; and five great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Carl A. Malinsky; brothers George and Frank Knapo, and sisters Helen Glath and Clara Georgic.

Friends were received at the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum. A blessing service was held in the funeral home followed by a Christian Funeral Mass in Holy Martyrs Church with the Rev. Aaron J. Kriss, her

pastor, officiating. Burial was in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township.

Kathleen Persun

Margaret F. Litvinovich Branch 831 Tarentum, Pennsylvania

Margaret F. (Kudlach) Litvinovich, 72, of Arnold, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, August 22, 2007, in the Alle-Kiski Medical Center, Natrona Heights.

She was born July 13, 1935, in Creighton, East Deer Township, a daughter of the late Paul and Anna (Kontic) Kudlach. She was a graduate of East Deer-Frazer High School. She worked at the National Torch Tip Co., Aspinwall, and Allegheny Valley Hospital, Natrona Heights. She was a member of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Creighton.

She is survived by two brothers, Alois (Marlene) Kudlach of Frazer Township, and Joseph Kudlach of Arnold; two sisters, Irene (Thomas) Schantz of Chicago, Illinois, and Mary Ann Konesky of Frazer Township; and several nieces and nephews.

Margaret's wishes were a private visitation and blessing service, which were held Saturday, August 25, in the Paul R. Ajak Funeral Home, Creighton. Interment followed in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township. Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, 787 Freeport Rd., Creighton, PA 15030.

Kathleen Persun

Stephen E. Petrasek Branch 553 Akron, Ohio

Stephen E. Petrasek, 82, died Saturday, September 15, 2007, in Akron, Ohio

Born in Akron on November 10, 1924, Steve was employed by the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. for 40 years. As a tire engineer, he managed the Racing Division during the 50's and 60's traveling around the world on the auto racing circuit. During his racing career, he was the recipient of numerous awards including NASCAR Sportsman of the Year in 1963, the Buddy Shumen Award, the John Naughton Award, and the Andrew Carnegie Award for Heroism in saving the life of NASCAR driver, Marvin Panch. He then managed the Agricultural Tire Design Development and Engineering for Firestone world wide, and was selected as delegate to set world standards on tires and rims. While at Firestone, he held many patents for the development of tires, valves, and military equipment. In 1979, Steve moved to California as Firestone's manager of Field Engineering for the Western United States. In 1982, he retired from Firestone and joined Talin Tire of Long Beach, California as Corporate Engineer. Steve was a member of many professional organizations including the Society of Automotive Engineers, the United States Auto Club (USAC), the National Association of Stock Car Racing (NASCAR), Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, and the Tire and Rim Association. Steve was also a licensed pilot and past president of the Firestone Flying Club. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing, boating, and big game hunting in the Western United States

Steve was a past president of Jednota Branch 553 for 15 years and worked with the Home Office on the Revised By-Laws Committee. The Akron Jednota Branch 553

lost a devoted member.

He is survived by his wife, Doris (Corney) of 61 years; sons, Lawrence (Julie), James (Debbie); a daughter, Catherine (John) Armbruster; grandchildren, Angela Zewe, and Ryan Petrasek, Suzanne Petrasek, Kevin and Jared Orndorff; great-grandchildren, Kenneth and Philip Orndorff; brothers, John (Ann), Joseph (Cecilia), and Anthony (Connie); and seven nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vincent and Mary (Kurnat), and a brother, Frank (Mildred).

Friends were received at the Dunn-Quigley Ciriello & Carr Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. John the Baptist Church in Akron. Interment was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron. Memorial donations may be sent to the Rector's Fund of St. Mary's Seminary, 28700 Euclid Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092.

Gregory G. Petrasek

Memorial Service for Jozef Tiso in Cleveland

A special Mass will be offered for Msgr. Dr. Jozef Tiso, President of the Slovak Republic, 1939-1945, on Saturday, December 1, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. at the Slovak Benedictine Chapel, 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, Ohio. The Mass will be celebrated by Abbot Clement Zeleznik, O.S.B.

After the liturgy, Dr. Ludovit Pavlo, President Emeritus of the Slovak League of America, will formally present relics of Msgr. Jozef Tiso to the Slovak Institute and Library at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland. Dr. Pavlo brought these relics from Msgr. Tiso's grave in Bratislava for the Slovak American community. After the presentation, a video will be shown and Slovak pastries and coffee will be served.

The public is cordially invited to attend the Mass and presentation. For more information call the Slovak Institute at 216/721-5300, Ext. 294.

St. Andrew Abbey to Hold Vilija on December 2

The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club cordially invite you to their annual Vilija or Christmas Eve Supper on Sunday, December 2, 2007. Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 12:00 noon. The dinner will follow in Benedictine High School Dining Hall. Entertainment will be provided by the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble Dancers and the Slovenske Mamichky Singers. There will also be a Christmas bakery, religious article for sale and exhibitions.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will not be available at the door. Send your check or money order to: Saint Andrew Abbey-Vilija, 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cleveland, OH 44104. Ticket orders must be received by Friday, November 24, 2007. For more information call 216/721-5300 ext.0.

*From the desk of the
Executive Secretary –
Visit our web site!
www.fcsu.com*

Exciting News – The Jednota Newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for your convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. If you missed an article or looking for a recipe you need only to go to the web site

Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

If you are looking for forms or applications you may find those also on the web site.

We encourage our branch and district officers to use this means of keeping in touch with their branch members and announcing events. The email address is fcsu@aol.com if you wish to send your information to the home office.

We will continue to update the web page, please check for announcements such as our special 2% bonus now being offered through our annuity program, special offers on our insurance products, trips to Slovakia, and our Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet.

WEB SITE – www.fcsu.com



Slovak Tri-Concert and Dinner on November 10

The 10th Annual Slovak Tri-Concert and Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007, at Pokrova Hall, 6812 Broadview Road, Parma, Ohio. The Tri-Concert is sponsored by the Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland, Ohio. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Slovak folklore concert at 7:30 p.m..

Joining the host Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble will be the folk ensembles Lucinka Children's Ensemble, Sarisan of Detroit, and Domovina of Windsor, Ontario. Music for dancing will be provided by Dolina.

Tickets are \$25.00 and that includes a full course dinner and the concert. A cash bar is available. For tickets call 440/543-5197 in Chagrin, 216/524-7679 in Seven Hills, and 440/263-1573 in North Royalton.

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Thru October 1, 2007

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS



Florence K. Matta
First Place



Dorothy J. Petrus
Second Place



Frances Tarquinio
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD



Roger T. Soltis
First Place



Thomas M. Hricik
Second Place



Mary Lou Krna
Third Place

TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

| | Branch | Total Points |
|---|--------|--------------|
| Florence K. Matta, Duquesne, Pennsylvania | 38 | 675 |
| Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania | 670 | 464 |
| Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania | 320 | 312 |
| Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois | 40 | 290 |
| Mary J. Kapitan, Edison, New Jersey | 746 | 201 |
| Joseph E. Rura, Coral, Pennsylvania | 484 | 168 |
| Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | 2 | 163 |
| Lisa Ann Trifiletti-Palos, Lorain, Ohio | 228 | 160 |
| George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania | 181 | 146 |
| George J. Kacsanek, Akron, Ohio | 553 | 132 |

TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SOLD

| | Branch | Amount |
|--|--------|--------------|
| Roger T. Soltis, Parma, Ohio | 410 | \$100,800.00 |
| Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania | 181 | \$80,903.59 |
| Mary Lou Krna, Binghamton, New York | 166 | \$65,000.00 |
| Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | 2 | \$45,451.43 |
| Michael F. Mihalko, Clairton, Pennsylvania | 454 | \$41,924.60 |
| Shirley A. Kallok, Levittown, Pennsylvania | 857 | \$40,000.00 |
| Steven G. Luca, Lorain, Ohio | 228 | \$31,353.92 |
| Florence K. Matta, Duquesne, Pennsylvania | 38 | \$25,978.77 |
| George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania | 181 | \$24,413.00 |
| Albert J. Savolskis, Munhall, Pennsylvania | 738 | \$20,649.00 |

TOP PROPOSERS BY INSURANCE SOLD



Dorothy J. Petrus
Second Place



Frances Tarquinio
Third Place



George Sprock
Third Place

TOP TEN PROPOSERS BY INSURANCE SOLD

| | Branch | Insurance Amount |
|---|--------|------------------|
| Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania | 670 | \$610,000 |
| Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania | 320 | \$398,000 |
| George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania | 181 | \$345,000 |
| Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania | 2 | \$336,000 |
| Florence K. Matta, Duquesne, Pennsylvania | 38 | \$335,000 |
| Andrew R. Harcar, Streator, Illinois | 40 | \$252,000 |
| James Robert Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania | 162 | \$210,000 |
| Regis P. Brekosky, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania | 738 | \$200,000 |
| Mary Ann Eckard, Cumberland, Maryland | 333 | \$180,000 |
| Margaret M. Perla, McKeesport, Pennsylvania | 60 | \$165,000 |

YOUTH ROUND-UP

If you know of a young Jednota member who has recently graduated, received a special award, been confirmed or made a First Holy Communion, achieved a sports or scholastic "first" or in some other way has something to be proud of, send in the details and a photo, if available, to our "Youth Round-Up" column. Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors are all eligible to "brag" about those special youngsters in their lives. The only stipulation is that the young person must be a member of the FCSU. Be sure to include the Branch to which he or she belongs when you send in your write-up to 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. We look forward to hearing from you!

From the Office of the Vice President

The Membership and Marketing Committee of "FCSU Life" is offering agent contracts to anyone in the following states who has a "state department of insurance producer's license" (state license) and wishes to sell our insurance and annuity products.

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Colorado | Massachusetts | New York |
| Connecticut | Michigan | Ohio |
| Florida | Minnesota | Pennsylvania |
| Illinois | Missouri | West Virginia |
| Indiana | New Jersey | Wisconsin |

Please send your resume and copy of your state license to:

Andrew R. Harcar Sr
National Vice President
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131

Annual Pitt Slovak Festival Set for November 4

The University of Pittsburgh Slovak Studies Program will present its 17th annual Slovak Heritage Festival on Sunday, November 4, 2007, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room in the Oakland section, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As in past years, the program will include ethnic food, musical performances, lectures, and cultural displays. This year there will be performances by Jozef Ivaska, the Singing Revilak Family, Pittsburgh Slovaks and PAS (Pittsburgh Area Slovaks). A special performance by Ben Sorenson on the Fujara, the traditional shepherd's flute, will add a special touch to the program. The "Big Slovak Book Sale" will include works in both English and Slovak. For more information, contact Christine Metil at 412/624-5906.

Pennsylvania Heritage Society Members Enjoy Picnic

Members of the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania enjoyed an end of summer gathering recently on the picnic grounds of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Wilkes-Barre located in Nuangola.

A variety of Slovak dishes highlighted the picnic menu and fun-filled guessing games, plus singing were enjoyed by all in attendance.

Philip R. Tuhy of Wilkes-Barre is the Chairperson of the Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. PA. The society is now promoting its book, "Slovak Folk Customs and Traditions." Information about this book and the society is available at the Web Site: www.shsnepa.org.



Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania 'End of Summer Gathering.'

Neslusan/Micica/Zabka Family Reunion in Slovakia on 7/7/07

By Joseph A. Neslusan

continued from the October 17, 2007 issue

As we were saying our last goodbyes to the Neslusan and Micica families, inviting them all to come visit us in America, someone said to look up at Stranik Hill and sure enough we saw a paraglider gently hanging in the air.

With Juro in his car leading the way, we headed to Kotrcina Lucka to see Carol's cousin Jozef Zabka and his family. After entering the gated residence, we were immediately invited inside to meet a family that was very happy that we came for a visit. We were again treated to an endless flow of slivovica, wine, and a variety of tasty fancy sandwiches, sheep cheese and delicately decorated pastries. Jozef gave us a brief history of the Zabka family and how all of Adam Zabka's family members saved money to help Adam buy passage to America. Carol briefly told the story of Adam and his wife, Mary, in America; that Carol's mother Frances was the oldest of five children and that after Adam's death, Mary did not remarry for over 20 years and then it was to another fine Slovak, Mr. Soter who was also a widower. The conversation went on for several hours when Juro indicated that it was time for him to leave. So we said our last goodbyes to him and extended an invitation for him to visit us in America.

Jozef indicated that this was a good time for a walk to the village cemetery to see Carol's great grandparent's burial site. I again felt in awe realizing Carol's grandfather, Adam, had walked and prayed on this very sacred ground about 100 years ago. I paused for a few moments trying to grasp the importance of this moment in the lives of Carol, Lori and Lisa. After praying at the family grave sites, Jozef took us into the village church located in the cemetery. Jozef pointed that this was a relatively new church and that Adam Zabka had also been baptized in St. Martin's Church in Teplicka nad Vahom.

Back at the Zabka residence Jozef showed me his garden which was laid out in sections. He had planted a variety of crops and also had a variety of fruit trees. After posing for a few family photographs, we went back inside the house for more food, drinks, conversation, and gift exchange. It was late evening and darkness had arrived some time ago, and reluctantly, it was time to say goodbye, with many teary eyes and inviting them and their children to come visit us in America.

Over the next several days we visited the Janosik memorial at Trechova, the Oravsky Castle, Pope John Paul II Krakow's Cathedral when he was cardinal, Pope John Paul II birthplace in Wadowice, Auschwitz, the Wieliczka Salt Mines, the Knurow (Carol's maiden name) village for a family photo underneath the village sign and then returned to the High Tatras in Slovakia to meet up with my other email pen pal, Dr. Lubos Neslusan, and his wife Eva, and daughters Dagmar and Lenka. Lubos was my first email contact in October 2004 and we have since been emailing regularly. Our surnames are the same, but we are not related.

Lubos, an astrophysicist, does research at the Astronomical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Tatranska Lomnica. He had spent many years observing the evening

sky at the Skalnaté Pleso and Lomnický Peak Observatories. He, accompanied by his wife and daughters, treated us to a private tour of the Skalnaté Pleso Observatory. That was a very special treat for us because we were privileged to see an actual functioning observatory. The scenic view from that elevation was just marvelous. Additionally, it was awesome watching the huge cable car (only one exists) travel from our elevation, at the Skalnaté Pleso Observatory (1783 m), just about disappear from sight as it reached the Lomnický Peak Observatory (2632 m), the second highest peak in Slovakia.

Lubos was also our tour guide at several other Poprad and Starý Smokovec sites. While in the Starý Smokovec region we viewed the devastation of the November 2004 wind storm. In place of where the tall pine trees stood were fields of purple kyprina flowers. The kyprina appeared in great numbers just this year and this is considered an unusual sight, since they lay dormant for many years because of the tall pines, except for those that grew in the meadows near the forests. With the tall trees gone, driving through the new openness of Starý Smokovec makes the area appear small and friendly. When the tall pines existed, as in our 2004 tour, the mountain roads appeared very narrow and a bit frightening.

We attended Sunday Mass in Spisska Sobota's church with Lubos and his family. After Mass, the sexton gave us a private tour explaining in great detail the history of the church and its beautiful century old carved statues. Immediately after Mass we said our goodbyes to Lubos and his wife, Eva, and daughters, Dagmar and Lenka, and invited them to come visit us in America some time in the future.

Some of the other memorable moments of our two week trip included a surprise birthday cake and party for Lori in a Starý Smokovec koliba, a tour of the awesome Belianska Jaskyňa (cave), the raft ride down the Dunajec River, the very large hand carved altars in St. Jakob's Church in Levoča, the vastness of the Spissky Castle complex, a large glass of wine in restaurants for less than one American dollar, and on a very hot day in Kosice, ice cream at noon and a cold beer at mid afternoon at an outdoor sidewalk restaurant.

Special thanks to Roman and Dagmar of Sunway HT for being so patient with us late into most evenings; to Anna Korcak of Danube International for helping with our trans-Atlantic travel planning; and to U.S. Senator Judd Gregg's Office for assistance in obtaining a desperately needed passport.

Our traveling family all felt that Martin and Zofia (Micica) Neslusan and Adam Zabka could rest happily that their roots were not forgotten since some

of their children and grandchildren walked, played and prayed on the same ground that they (Martin, Zofia and Adam) walked, played and prayed about a hundred years ago. Our phenomenal family reunion on 7/7/07 is permanently etched in our minds.

Martin and Zofia (Micica) Neslusan and Adam Zabka were all members of Branch 859, Webster, Massachusetts.

Lisa, Carol and Joseph are current members of Branch 859.



Outside St. Martin Church in Teplicka nad Vahom are Joseph and Carol Neslusan (front left) with members of the Neslusan and Micica families.



Standing outside the Skalnaté Pleso Observatory are L-R: Lisa Neslusan, Carol Neslusan, Joseph Neslusan (author), Lubos Neslusan and daughter Dagmar, Roger, Rachel and Susan (Neslusan) Remillard, Lubos' daughter Lenka and wife Eva and Lori (Neslusan) Nugent.

Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day Customs in Slovakia

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

Slovaks and other peoples of Europe have often associated the coming of All Saints Day and All Souls Day as a sacred time. In contrast to our secular celebration of Halloween in the United States, Slovaks have traditionally emphasized the spirituality of this time of year. Only in recent years, have some Slovaks, mainly in the cities like Bratislava, incorporated some of the spooky and costume dressing customs that Americans are more familiar with.

Traditionally, Slovaks have considered All Saints Day to be a sacred feast, and in keeping with the Catholic tradition dating from the seventh century, it is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is also a state holiday in the Slovak Republic. Practicing Catholic Slovaks attend Holy Mass and many also go to Mass again on All Souls Day to pray for their deceased family members and friends.

When one lives or travels through Slovakia, it is truly amazing to see how the landscape in village and town glows with light from the cemeteries on All Saints evening. Slovaks honor their dead (zosnulí) with candles and flowers on this sacred night, and they light up the night.

Origins

The custom of commemorating All Saints Day (Sviatok všetkých svätých) dates from the fourth century, when Christians paid tribute to the Holy Martyrs who had given their lives for the Church. Initially, the feast was held on the old Julian calendar in May, specifically on the first Sunday after Pentecost. Pope Gregory III (731-741) changed the Feast of All Saints Day to November 1, and celebrated Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. By the eighth and early ninth centuries, the feast took place throughout the Church community.

The Feast of All Souls Day on November 2, called Dušicky in Slovak (pronounced Doo-sheetz-kee), began as a memorial to all believers of the faith. It started in the French monastery of Cluny in 998 and the practice spread throughout much of Europe by the 11th century. The Church in Rome formally incorporated the day as All Souls Day in the 14th century.

Grace for Faithful

According to Church tradition, those who attend Mass on All Souls Day and pray, reciting the Creed, could receive special grace – a full indulgence from their sins. To fulfill the conditions for a plenary indulgence, one had to meet three pre-conditions:

- 1) Go to Confession either before or shortly after Mass.
- 2) Receive Holy Communion on All Souls Day or shortly afterwards.
- 3) Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, keeping in mind the Holy Father.

Thus for Slovak Catholics, All Saints and All Souls Day not only meant prayers for the deceased, but a chance for eternal paradise for the living. Slovaks would often visit the cemetery and pray for the deceased loved ones not just on All Saints Day and All Souls Day, but every day from November 1 until November 8. People used to leave food on their



Rad Ludovit Stur III Award to Dr. Ladislaus J. Bolchazy

Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic announced that he had chosen Dr. Ladislaus J. Bolchazy, President of the Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation, Inc., to receive this Slovak National Award. The ceremony took place at Bratislava Castle on August 3, 2007 on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Slovak Constitution. Dr. Bolchazy traveled to Slovakia to accept this award in person, on behalf of the members of the Slovak-American International Foundation.

According to the Law of the Slovak Republic on National Awards, "Rad Ludovita Stura" is usually given to the Slovak citizen who, in an exceptional manner, helped to develop the fields of policy, administration, economy, science and technology, culture, sport and the good name of the country of the Slovak Republic.

Dr. Bolchazy, through his Slovak Foundation (SAICF) has sought out Slovak writers and artists and helped them get their works published in English. He believes it is essential that Slovak books in English, the language that the world understands, are the vehicles that promote and preserve the Slovak culture. It is important to raise awareness that Slovaks as a group are important to the world and that their poets and artists can enrich the world.

Help Needed to Locate Artesian Wells on the Jednota Estates

The officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union are asking for assistance in locating the three artesian wells on the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania. It is hoped that perhaps one of the senior members might have knowledge about these artesian wells. Any help will be appreciated. If you have any information on the artesian wells you are asked to contact National President Andrew Rajec at FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398 or phone 1/800-JEDNOTA.



Cemetery in Iliasovce

table for the deceased (mrtvi), and placed moss (rašelníky), pine-branches (vetvicky), and pine-wreaths (vence) at the graves of the dead.

Contrasting Customs

When Slovaks visit the United States, they are surprised at how we celebrate Halloween and the Holy Days. Americans tend to associate Trick or Treat? (in Slovak, trik alebo maškrtá?) with this time of year.

When in the USA, Kristína Havasová was shocked to find that instead of solemnly praying for the dead, Americans turned the holiday into time to collect candy and celebrate autumn. We carve pumpkins (vyrezáva? tekvice), decorate their homes and yards with witches, demons, zombies, vampires, bats, monsters, black cats, graveyards, and signs saying like "Happy Halloween" or "Trick or Treat." Havasová wrote, that "while Slovaks went to visit the dead in the cemeteries, the American dead came to visit the living."

While All Saints and All Souls Days are Christian traditions, Halloween derives from pagan traditions from the ancient Celts of Ireland. Those customs of dressing in costumes came to the USA with Irish immigrants in the 19th century. Since World War II, the gory side of Halloween has gathered steam, and even since the 1960s, much of the fun dissipated when some morbid derelicts started putting razor blades in apples and terrorizing children.

In Slovakia, the religious side of the feasts still tends to predominate, especially in the villages and small towns. In larger cities like Bratislava that have many expatriates and foreigners, revelers celebrate Halloween at the Irish pub in a more secular fashion. Havasová wrote that in 2002, pub employees wore masks and encouraged customers to come in costumes. The bar served spooky drinks, such as Bloody Marys, voodoo cocktails, and bosorkine prsia (witch breasts), and it even staged a show of eight dancing witches. Several other pubs held similar events on Halloween.

As Slovak Americans and Catholics, we should try to emphasize the spiritual side of these Holy Days. Yes, we can have a little fun at Halloween, for it remains an integral part of American culture. But we should also try to kindle in our families the spiritual side of early November, remember the sacrifices of our deceased family members and ancestors who came to America, and say some very special prayers for them, and even light some candles for them, even if we just do so in the hearth of our own homes.

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The scope and meaning of contemporary Slovak politics

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

Contemporary Slovak politics, given the recent creation of the Slovak Republic, have been and continue to be influenced by the events that accompanied independence in 1993. The societies that had experienced Communist rule after the end of the Second World War found, when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, that they were facing two daunting challenges: the acquisition and practice of democratic values and government and the transformation of their socialist economies into market ones. Slovakia, at that time one of the constituent republics of Czechoslovakia, faced these challenges within the context of a third one, namely the readjustment of the constitutional and political relations between the Czech and Slovak Republics within a united Czechoslovakia. As it turned out, for the better part of three years, it is this latter challenge that occupied much of Slovak politics, but also Czech politics, which, it must be pointed out, was equally concerned with the other two challenges, not just for the Czech Republic but also for all of Czechoslovakia. How the third challenge was resolved in the first three years of post-communism marked Slovak politics for the next decade.

The reasons for the declaration of Slovak independence are many and there are still some who claim that it would never have taken place had there been a referendum on the question. Whatever the explanations for the break-up, the fact remains that the common state of the Czechs and Slovaks came apart on 31 December 1992 and, thereafter, each nation faced on its own the two main challenges of post-communism, democratic development and economic transformation. The people of Slovakia also had to deal with the additional task of creating and running their own state. To the surprise of many, especially during the early years of independence, the political, administrative, and social elite of Slovakia met the challenge of independence with an unexpected high degree of competence. Forgotten today is the fact that this was done against the claims by Czechs and others that the Slovaks needed the Czechs to survive and thrive, arguments first used during the inter-war period in the First Czechoslovak Republic against the granting of the autonomy promised to Slovakia in the Pittsburgh Pact and reiterated during the constitutional debate in the years preceding the declaration of independence. Commentators on Slovak politics also tend to overlook the dangers that inappropriate or bad decisions during the state-building process would have had for Slovak society and its development. The meaning and scope of contemporary Slovak politics cannot, therefore, be fully understood without a proper appreciation of the circumstances around the declaration of independence.

There was no surprise, given Slovakia's history in Czechoslovakia, that its political elite experienced a split in the pre-independence period along two lines. While there was general agreement that there had to be constitutional change, there was initially only a difference of opinion on the best option for Slovakia in post-Communist Czecho-Slovakia. Mirroring the inter-war debate between the autonomists and the Czechoslovaks, the choice now was between a strong centralised federal state and a decentralised one, each option articulated in a number of variations. The situation on the Czech side was somewhat different as elite and public opinion favoured overwhelmingly the strong centralized federal state solution. It is only when it became clear that the common state was headed for a break-up that a split, as opposed to a difference of opinion, occurred in Slovakia. While a direct correlation can be made between opposition to independence and those who favoured a centralised option, like Alexander Dubcek, the position of many was not all that clear. Slovakia's Prime Minister, Vladimír Mečiar, leader of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (MDS), initially stood for a confederal arrangement, that is to say decentralised common state, and opted for independence only when it was clear that there would be no arrangement with the Czech political elite that would have been satisfactory for Slovakia.

In view of the fact that he dominated the political landscape since his victory in the elections of June 1992, when his party won 74 seats in the National Council of the Slovak Republic (NC SR), Mečiar ensured, with support from the Slovak National Party (SNP), that independence was the outcome. This solution ended the impasse with the Czechs and brought to a close a normal historical development for the Slovak nation. Nevertheless, there were those who opposed independence and many, like Ján Carnogurský, leader of the Christian Democratic Movement (CDM), did so because they feared the negative economic and political consequences of independence. They favoured waiting until Czecho-Slovakia was admitted in the European Union where Slovakia could then take its place as an independent state. The fear of the future and perhaps some nostalgia of the past explain to a great extent the position of the political leaders who did not vote for independence in the Czechoslovak National Assembly in November 1992.

This split made the task of building a new state difficult for Mečiar. Those who opposed it were, at best, in a "wait and see" mode and rarely cooperated with the government. The political debates in the NC SR remained highly political and partisan, as they had been before independence, something, however, to which Mečiar also contributed by his idiosyncratic way of governing. Nevertheless, during the period from January 1993 until March 1994, when he was ousted from power by a vote of non-confidence in the NC SR and replaced by Jozef Moravčík who headed a coalition of opposition parties, Mečiar successfully completed the process of state-building. He returned to power after the elections of September 1994, when he formed a coalition government with the SNP and the left-wing Alliance of Slovak Workers (ASW), a coalition which enabled him to launch Slovakia on a specific economic and political path. By then, those who had opposed independence were becoming reconciled to the fact that it was proving to be successful and that Slovakia was not headed for disaster. They needed to define policies that benefited Slovakia; they opted for pro-Western policies and turned to Western political parties for support. The legacy of the past, that is to say the question of whether the inhabitants of Slovakia could govern themselves, was no longer on the Slovak political agenda and the Slovak body politic began the process of considering and defining national objectives and strategies. This proved to be an interesting challenge.

It is also forgotten that the many challenges that the Slovak political elite faced in the

first years of independence were not centered uniquely on the question of whether independence would be a success. The post-Communist transformation of Slovakia proved to be daunting in one particular respect: Not just the political elite, but all sectors of Slovak society were being called upon to define the interests and objectives of their new state no longer along lines of compromise with another nation or center of power (Budapest or Prague), but mainly for the good of Slovakia and its inhabitants. As a senior Slovak army officer declared shortly after independence: "Slovakia has always been a part of larger state units and has never designed concepts concerning its own foreign policy, military, security and strategy."¹ This comment applies to all aspects of Slovak life, except perhaps for culture, which managed, especially under the Communists, to remain Slovak and also to thrive. The responsibility of defining the interests and objectives of their new state first fell to Mečiar who, as prime minister, in addition to building a new state, proceeded to give Slovakia a specific direction in the economic transformation process.

The transformation of Slovakia's socialist economy could have taken place along a number of lines. Most of the Central European states, in particular the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland opted for a rapid transition, often referred to as "shock therapy," with the help of massive Western investments in most, if not all, sectors of their economies. Mečiar opted for another solution, which carried with it great risks. On the face of it, his option was not so radical that it would have prevented the transformation process; rather it was one that would be considered normal in most states. He sought to ensure that Slovakia's economic development was in the hands of a Slovak economic elite rather than in the hands of foreign investors. There was, however, a fundamental problem as far as Slovakia was concerned: Czechoslovakia's Communist economic system had not only eliminated all previous economic elites but had also not allowed for the development of one, especially in Slovakia. In addition, the transformation process required an understanding of the market as well as access to investments. The other Central European countries, which faced similar conditions, resolved this issue by opting for an open door policy to foreign investment and their economic transformation, as a result, proceeded rapidly apace.

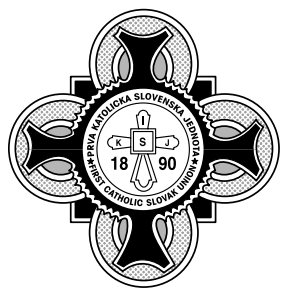
But there was a second economic challenge that Slovakia faced: The pre-eminence of the armament industry in Slovakia under communism, which had been the hallmark of its economic development, became after 1989 its Achilles heel. Even before independence, Slovakia paid the price for this type of economic development: When the Czecho-Slovak government decreased arms sales abroad in 1990, especially to the Third World, the resulting decrease in armament production hit this industry particularly hard, resulting in high unemployment in many regions of Slovakia. Faced with this situation, Mečiar opted for an economic programme in Slovakia that would allow for some state intervention to ensure a social safety net while transforming the Slovak economy. As Milton Goldman writes, Mečiar "was much less an economic reformer than Czech Republic Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus, who was staunchly devoted to free enterprise capitalism. Mečiar favoured an economic system somewhere between capitalism and socialism that included a substantial amount of state control and a very gradual rate of change."²

Unfortunately, Mečiar's approach to Slovakia's economic transformation produced two problems for him: in the first place, those on whom he relied did not ensure the optimal economic development of Slovakia and secondly, by his insistence on creating a Slovak economic elite, foreign investors found it often difficult to invest in the country. During the voucher privatisation process, where formerly state enterprises were sold to Slovak investors, the process that was meant to create the economic elite, there were accusations of cronyism and questionable deals. In addition, during his first tenure in office, from June 1992 to March 1994, his government privatized a limited number of enterprises for a value of 21,8 billion Sk whereas the Moravčík government, in its six months in office from March to October 1994, privatized 250 enterprises for a value of 130 billion Sk.³ Although he continued to apply the brakes on voucher privatization after his return to power in October 1994, Mečiar did initiate two privatization campaigns whose aim was declared to be the need to "create a genuine entrepreneurial group, which the [privatization] vouchers had not been able to do." Observers, including some from the World Bank, noticed again that only certain groups were benefiting from privatization and that the process seemed to lack fairness. Many people became rich, but no Slovak economic elite to speak of emerged from that process. While such practices did not slow down the transformation process, which, by the end of Mečiar's term of office in 1998, had 82.4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) coming from the private sector, Slovakia's economy was, in contrast to neighbouring countries, still characterized as one over which the government had substantial control.

The second problem arising from Mečiar's policies was that Slovakia benefited from less investment than its neighbours. Foreign direct investments turned out to be comparatively lower than in neighbouring countries, ranging from \$194 million US in 1995 to \$514 million US in 1998, which, for the period 1989-2000, meant that per capita foreign direct investments averaged \$648 million US while Hungary and the Czech Republic each averaged \$2,059 million US and \$2,233 million US respectively in that period. It is only after the elections of 1998, when Mikuláš Dzurinda formed a coalition government, that the foreign investment situation changed in Slovakia.

continued in future issue

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Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

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Prezident Gašparovič na oficiálnej návšteve Španielska



FOTO TASR/AP

Madrid - Španielska kráľovná Sofia sa usmieva na slovenského prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča na slávnostnej večeri v Kráľovskom paláci v Madride 22. októbra 2007.

Madrid (TASR) - Slovenského prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča s manželkou Silviou 22. októbra na úvod trojdňovej oficiálnej návštevy Španielska prijali v Madride kráľ Juan Carlos I. a kráľovná Sofia. Témou ich stretnutia boli slovensko-španielske vzťahy a spolupráca, ako aj záujem Slovenska o prehĺbenie ekonomického partnerstva, zvýšenie prílivu španielskych investícií a priamej obchodnej výmeny. Obaja predstavitelia hovorili aj o oficiálnej návšteve Slovenska, ktorú španielsky kráľovský pár uskutočnil v júli 2002. Juan Carlos sa v Bratislave stretol s vtedajším prezidentom SR Rudolfom Schusterom, predsedom NR SR Jozefom Migašom, premiérom Mikulášom Dzurindom a primátorom mesta Jozefom Moravčíkom. Kráľ tiež navštívil Univerzitu Komenského a prezrel si bratislavské Staré mesto.

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Vzniká nový portál pre zahraničných Slovákov

Bratislava (TASR) - Slováci žijúci v zahraničí budú môcť od 24. októbra využívať nový spravodajský portál slovacivosvete.sk, ktorý spúšťa Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ). "Portál by mal byť ústrednou stránkou slovenského sveta vo všetkých zmysloch," povedal predseda združenia Vladimír Skalský.

Stránka bude obsahovať všetky informácie o slovenských komunitách v danej krajine, vrátane demografických či sociologických, ďalej kontakty na krajské spolky, zastupiteľské úrady, linky na slovenské médiá a obchodné komory. Okrem informačnej zložky bude portál v spolupráci s partnermi - Tlačovou agentúrou Slovenskej republiky, Slovenským rozhlasom a periodikami vydávanými krajskými spolkami - poskytovať spravodajský servis o dianí na Slovensku i v slovenskom svete v zahraničí.

Sekcii publicistiky doplnia interne-

tové diskusie a blogy zahraničných Slovákov a súčasťou stránky bude i právna poradňa a praktické rady týkajúce sa víz, pobytov, pracovných povolení, občianstva, volieb zo zahraničia a podobne.

V zahraničí žijú asi dva milióny Slovákov. Cieľom portálu slovacivosvete.sk je podchytiť najmä mladých ľudí, ktorí do zahraničia odchádzajú dlhodobo študovať či pracovať a z generačných dôvodov alebo pre odlišné záujmy doteraz nemali záujem hlásiť sa k slovenským krajským spolkom.

SZSZ vzniklo v roku 2002 nadviazaním na staršiu tradíciu strešných organizácií Slovákov v zahraničí, no bez regionálnych, konfesijných či politických obmedzení. Zastrešuje 80 organizácií z 23 krajín a k jej členom patria aj významné osobnosti z umeleckého, vedeckého a podnikateľského sveta, žijúce v zahraničí.

Svetová digitálna knižnica bude bezplatne na inernete

Paríž (TASR) - Organizácia Spojených národov pre vzdelávanie, vedu a kultúru (UNESCO) a Knižnica Kongresu USA spoja svoje sily na vybudovanie Svetovej digitálnej knižnice. Dohodu v tomto zmysle podpísali 17. októbra 2007 v parížskom sídle UNESCO zástupca generálneho riaditeľa tejto svetovej organizácie pre komunikáciu a informácie Abdal Wahíd Chán a knihovník amerického Kongresu James H. Billington.

Ako ďalej informovala UNESCO na svojej internetovej stránke, Svetová digitálna knižnica bude digitalizovať jedinečné a zriedkavé dokumenty z

knižníc a kultúrnych ustanovizní na celom svete. Po digitalizácii budú prístupné bezplatne na internete. Medzi dokumentmi bude možné nájsť napríklad rukopisy, mapy, knihy, partitúry, zvukové záznamy, filmy aj fotografie.

Od 15. do 19. októbra v priestoroch UNESCO v Paríži je k dispozícii prototyp Svetovej digitálnej knižnice s ukázkami jej činnosti pre účastníkov Generálnej konferencie UNESCO zo 193 štátov. Prototyp knižnice pripravili Knižnica Kongresu USA, UNESCO s ďalšími partnerskými inštitúciami: Alexandrijskou knižnicou, Štátnou egyptskou knižnicou, Štátnou brazílskou

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Spomienka na černovskú tragédiu v obnovenom kostole

Ružomberok (TASR)

- Približne 8.5 milióna Sk stála obnova kostola v Ružomberku-Černovej, ktorého vysvätenie je známe ako černovská tragédia v roku 1907. Najväčšou sumou - 4.2 miliónmi Sk financovalo práce Ministerstvo kultúry SR, černovskí veriaci vyzbierali okolo 700-tisíc korún, mesto Ružomberok prispelo sumou 200-tisíc Sk, zvyšné peniaze darovali sponzori. V tomto roku opravili na kostole v Černovej fasádu, okná. V týchto dňoch stavbári dokončujú vstupné schody do chrámu a upravujú vonkajší areál okolo neho. "Vlani sme zrekonštruovali napríklad interiér kostola, kúrenie, spovednú miestnosť, sakristiu, pristavili kotolňu," povedal černovský farár Jozef Trstenký. Dodal, že všetky stavebné práce ukončia do 27. októbra pri príležitosti celonárodnej pietnej spomienky, ktorá sa uskutoční v pamätný deň černovského krviprelievania. Kostol Panny Márie Ružencovej v Černovej, terajšej ružomerskej mestskej časti, začali stavať v roku 1906 na podnet ich rodáka kňaza Andreja Hlinku.

Chrám, ktorý dokončili o rok neskôr, projektoval významný slovenský architekt Michal Harminc. Postavili ho v novogotickom štýle a má pôdorys jednoramenného kríža. Je v ňom približne 250 miest na sedenie. Kostol zasvätili Panne Márii Ružencovej, ktorá je vyobrazená na hlavnom oltári. Na dvoch bočných oltároch sú výjavy Božského Srdca Ježišovo s apoštolmi Petrom a Pavlom a sv. Ondreja apoštola s vierozvestami sv. Cyrilom a sv. Metodom.



FOTO TASR - Tibor Šula

58. plenárne zasadanie Konferencie biskupov Slovenska

V dňoch 9.-10. októbra 2007 sa v priestoroch penziónu Zornička na Donovaloch uskutočnilo 58. plenárne zasadanie KBS. Zúčastnilo sa ho 18 biskupov a apoštolský nuncijs v SR Henryk Józef Nowacki. V úvodnom príhovore sa arcibiskup Alojz Tkáč zamyslel nad úlohou biskupa. Vyčítal pri tom z kázne pápeža Benedikta XVI. pri poslednej vysviacke biskupov vo Vatikáne. Biskupi počas zasadania schválili Pastoračný plán KBS na roky 2007-2013 (PP). Jeho zámerom je aktualizovanie misie svätých Cyrila a Metoda na našom území. Práve v roku 2013 si pripomenieme 1150 rokov od začiatku tejto misie. PP je zameraný na 3 cieľové skupiny rodinu, mládež a sociálne odkázaných na pomoc. Riešenie plánu sa ponúka v troch oblastiach ohlasovať (učiť), sláviť (liturgia, sviatosti) a slúžiť (konkrétne pomoc). PP bude predstavený novinárom i verejnosti na osobitnej tlačovej konferencii, ktorá je naplánovaná na polovicu novembra v Bratislave.

Biskupi sa zaoberali aj situáciou pri príprave metodických príručiek a pracovných listov pre katolícke náboženstvo. Konkrétne sa to dotýka katolíckych gymnázií, nakoľko na nich je katolícke náboženstvo maturitným predmetom. Plénum KBS odsúhlasilo aj podporu pre mediálne projekty, ktoré získali granty z tradičnej zbierky veriacich na katolícke masmédiá. Táto zbierka sa koná vždy na 7. veľkonočnú nedeľu. Z celkového počtu 64 projektov získalo podporu v celkovej sume 3 milióny Sk 25 projektov z oblasti internetu, televíznej i rozhlasovej tvorby, agentúrneho spravodajstva a počítačovej animácie. Plénum sa zaoberalo aj budúcnosťou TV LUX a jej vzťahu k TV NOE. Odsúhlasilo podporu pre televíziu a menovali osoby na rokovania so zástupcami Českej biskupskej konferencie a TV NOE. Biskupi zdôraznili potrebu vzájomnej spolupráce v tejto oblasti. Biskupi sa počas zasadania zaoberali aj informáciami o kaplnke Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Lagiewnikach v Poľsku. Táto kaplnka je budovaná od roku 2005. Celkový projekt je naplánovaný v hodnote 1.5 milióna Sk. Časť je už preinvestovaná (cca 800 tisíc Sk). Zvyšok sa uhradí zo zbierok veriacich. Biskupi vyjadrili podporu všetkým darcom, ktorí doteraz na kaplnku prispeli.

Pravidelnú Celoslovenskú ekumenickú pobožnosť organizuje v tomto roku Katolícka cirkev. Je naplánovaná na 20. januára 2008. Biskupi navrhli za miesto konania Dolný Kubín. Osobitným bodom rokovania bol aj Medzinárodný deň boja proti chudobe. KBS pri tejto príležitosti zverejnil osobitné vyhlásenie o sociálnej situácii na Slovensku. Bude zverejnené 18. októbra. Biskupi sa venovali aj aktivitám Rady KBS pre rodinu a mládež, konkrétne prípravou Týždňa Cirkvi pre mládež, ktorý sa uskutoční 10.-18. 11. 2007. Jeho náplňou bude široké spektrum aktivít od duchovných po športové podujatia. Športové aktivity vyvrcholia v Prešove záverečným futbalovým turnajom o pohár predsedu KBS. 11. novembra bude čítaný v chrámoch pastiersky list venovaný mládeži. Jeho obsahom bude čistá láska milovať Boha a blízkeho. Kolínsky Kardinál Joachim Meisner venoval mladým zo Slovenska 10 leteniek na Svetové dni mládeže so Svätým Otcom, ktoré sa uskutočnia počas júla 2008 v Sydney v Austrálii. Zo Slovenska je zatiaľ prihlásených 100 účastníkov. Počas tzv. prípravnej fázy budú slovenskí pútnici hosťami arcibiskupa v Melbourne. Mládež, ktorá nebude môcť do Austrálie vycestovať, bude mať možnosť spoločného stretnutia spolu s mladými Čiech a Moravy na Velehrade.

Osobitný pastiersky list bude venovaný 2. decembra, na 1. adventnú nedeľu, Svätému Písmu. Práve ono bude aj predmetom biskupskej synody 2008 vo Vatikáne, nakoľko sa stáva stále výraznejším svetlom pre svet pri orientácii v súčasnom živote. Biskupi opätovne vyslovujú podporu časopisu Sväté Písmo pre každého. Plénum bola predstavená aj činnosť Slovenskej biblickej spoločnosti.

Biskupi sa zaoberali aj návrhom nariadenia vlády SR o rozdeľovaní výnosov dane z príjmov územnej samosprávy o financovaní školských zariadení a základných umeleckých škôl v zriaďovateľskej pôsobnosti obcí a na druhej strane cirkví, náboženských spoločností, právnických a fyzických osôb. Biskupi budú daný návrh pripomienkovať a rokovať priamo s ministrom školstva SR.

TK KBS

Košické letisko rozšíri terminál

Košice (TASR, ČTK) – Medzinárodné letisko v Košiciach do roku 2016 preinvestuje 911 miliónov korún. Investície budú smerovať najmä do zlepšenia kvality služieb, povedala novinárom začiatkom októbra Marta Horváthová z vedenia letiska. Ešte tento rok letisko ráta s rozšírením počtu pravidelných leteckých liniek. Po privatizácii letiska vlastní 66 percent akcií KSC Holding, zvyšok akcií kontroluje štát.

“Investície budú smerovať do terminálov, odbavovacích plôch, rolovacích dráh a ďalšie technológie,” povedala Horváthová. V tomto roku letisko preinvestuje 150 miliónov korún. Peniaze na investície zabezpečil súkromný vlastník KSC Holding, ktorý tvoria Letisko Viedeň, finančná skupina Penta a rakúska Raiffeisen Zentralbank. Na účet letiska už v minulom roku vložili 380 miliónov korún. Prevádzkovateľ medzinárodného Letiska Košice - Airport Košice, a.s., odstránil všetky nedostatky, ktoré mu Schengenská komisia oznámila po vlaňajšej májovej kontrole a je podľa jeho výkonného riaditeľa a predsedu predstavenstva Michaela Hoefera plne pripravený na prepravu cestujúcich do krajín Schengenu. Ako vedenie informovalo Schengenský režim vybavovania cestujúcich na letisku sa začne od 1. apríla budúceho roku.

Zástupkyňa výkonného riaditeľa pre prevádzku a bezpečnosť Marta Horváthová spresnila, že najhlavnejšou investíciou bolo vybudovanie nového terminálu pre cestujúcich v hodnote približne 455 miliónov Sk, ktorý bude k dispozícii výhradne pre cestujúcich v rámci Schengenu. Košické letisko má aj osobitnú miestnosť pre potrebu separovania cestujúcich zo zdravotných dôvodov. Ide nielen o cestujúcich, ktorí sú imobilní na vozíčkoch, ale aj nepočujúcich a nevidiacich.

Letisko Košice - Airport Košice, a.s., očakáva v tomto roku približne 440,000 prepravených cestujúcich, čo bude 20-percentný medziročný nárast. Od vlaňajšieho októbra má letisko nového väčšinového majiteľa, respektíve majiteľov 66-percent akcií vlastní KSC Holding, Letisko Viedeň, Reifeisen Bank a skupina Penta, 34 percent akcií patrí štátu.

Z letiska pravidelne lietajú tri letecké spoločnosti - České aerolinie, SkyEurope Airlines a Austrian Airlines. Od konca októbra počet pravidelných letov stúpne. Pribudnú tri lety týždenne do Londýna a Dublinu, sedem letov do Prahy a 22 nových letov do Bratislavy. Podľa zámeru predchádzajúceho kabinetu Mikuláša Dzurindu mal štát spolu s letiskom v Košiciach predať aj väčšinový podiel v bratislavskom letisku. Nová vláda Róberta Fica však tento predaj zastavila.

Vilu na Slavíne čakajú len minimálne investície

Bratislava (TASR) – Kancelária prezidenta (KP) SR Ivana Gašparoviča plánuje investovať v roku 2008 do rekonštrukcie a úprav štyroch objektov, ktoré spravuje, 18 miliónov korún. Vilu na Slavíne však opäť očakávajú len minimálne investície. “Na prezidentskú rezidenciu na Slavíne vynakladá KP minimálne finančné prostriedky, rádovo ide o desiatky tisíc korún na nevyhnutnú údržbu a aj v nasledujúcom roku predpokladáme investoval len minimálne,” uviedol hovorca prezidenta Marek Trubač. V minulom roku sa malo investovať do jej dostavby 20 miliónov korún, nakoniec však peniaze neboli využité. Podľa Trubača prezident očakáva, ako sa bude vyvíjať situácia ohľadom rekonštrukcie kaštieľa v Rusovciach na štátne reprezentačné priestory, na ktorej sa dohodli spolu s predsedom Národnej rady SR a predsedom vlády v lete v Častej-Papierničke. “Kancelária prezidenta SR by v prípade rozbehnutia projektu odpredala rezidenciu a peniaze by investovala do kaštieľa, ktorého priestory by využívali všetci traja najvyšší ústavní činitelia,” doplnil Trubač.

Trojpodlažnú vilu so 42-árovým pozemkom kúpila KP v roku 2001 za 36

miliónov korún od Východoslovenských železniarní. Okrem reprezentačných priestorov a prezidentskej pracovne sa v nej nachádza aj jedáleň, kuchyňa a štyri izby. Ivan Gašparovič sa sem plánoval nasťahovať už po nástupe do funkcie na jeseň 2004, avšak z rôznych dôvodov sa tak doteraz nestalo a stále býva vo svojom dome v Limbachu.

Do rekonštrukcie, modernizácie a vonkajšieho osvetlenia národnej kultúrnej pamiatky Loveckého zámku v Tatranskej Javorine investovala KP v minulom roku 3.19 milióna korún. Budova z roku 1885 patrila pruskému kniežaciemu rodu Hohenlohe, po roku 1936, už ako majetok československého štátu sa zámok stal letným sídlom prezidentov a neskôr aj vysokých funkcionárov strany a štátu. Od roku 1993 do roku 2004 bol v správe Národnej rady SR, potom prešiel pod správu prezidenta. Prezidentský palác z 18. storočia prešiel v 40. rokoch minulého storočia úpravami na rezidenciu prezidenta Slovenského štátu. Po rozsiahlej rekonštrukcii v polovici 90. rokov je palác od roku 1996 sídlom prezidenta Slovenskej republiky.

Kvapka pre dušu

“Keď je človek starý, musí sa väčšmi namáhať, ako keď bol mladý. Krásni mladí ľudia sú hračkou prírody, ale krásni starí ľudia sú umelecké diela.”

J.W. Goethe

Myšlienka

“Láska začína priamo v našich srdciach. Musíme vedieť, že sme stvorení pre väčšie veci, ako byť iba číslom na svete.

Nie sme tu pre diplomy a tituly, pre tú či onú prácu.

Boli sme stvorení, aby sme milovali a boli milovaní.”

MATKA TERÉZIA

**Získajte ešte dnes nového člena
do Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej
Jednoty**

Hudba spája kontinenty

Hudba spája kontinenty, alebo most medzi mestom Wilkes-Barre, Pa a obcou Široké na východnom Slovensku? Aj tak by sa to dalo nazvať. Prečo? Lebo Wilkes-Barre, Pensylvánia bolo mesto, kde sa začiatkom 20. storočia nasťahovalo za prácou, hlavne do baní veľké množstvo občanov. Zvlášť z východného Slovenska, čo spôsobilo veľký rozmach tohto mesta. Podobný osud stihol rodinu Chechových, ktorí prišli zo Slovenska z obce Široké do Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Jedno zo štyroch detí, ktoré sa im narodili bola známa a mnohostranne aktívna v slovensko-amerických kruhoch zakladateľka a predsedníčka Spolku slovenského dedičstva v USA, Trudy Check Tuhy. Ako veľmi hudobne nadaná už od malička verejne vystupovala a rada spievala piesne, ktoré si priniesli jej rodičia zo Širokého. Po štúdiách v hre na klavíri a speve na vysokej škole muzických umení sa stala učiteľkou hudby. Zakladala hudobné telesá a spevokoly, ktoré sa pod jej vedením stali široko známe. Spolok slovenského dedičstva v USA pod jej vedením okrem iného rozširoval slovenskú kultúru aj vydávaním hudobných platní, pásiiek, CD, knihu o slovenských zvykoch. Trudy bola taktiež zakladateľkou Klubu Jozefa Murgaša, ktorý usporiadal rad zaujímavých výstav. V roku 1981 keď sa konalo Stretnutie slovenskej mládeže v Mt. Airy Lodge, Mt. Poconos, programovú časť kultúrnych vložiek mala Trudy na starosti. Zároveň usporiadala výpravy na Slovensko, ktoré nikdy neobišli obec Široké.



Dr. Thomas Check si podáva ruku so starostom obce Široké, Ing. Stanislavom Bartošom.



Počas občerstvenia si pochutnávajú na sladkostiach zľava: Ing. Stanislav Bartoš, starosta obce Široké; Anna Bירוšová, host; Júlia Milčáková, riaditeľka ZUŠ; Ondrej Nehila, učiteľ spevu; a pocentený hosť, Dr. Thomas Check.



Na snímke zoskupení študenti, účinkujúci programu spolu s pocentenými hosťami a starostom obce Široké.

Slávime Sviatok Všetkých svätých 1. novembra 2007

Návštevy cintorínov, zapalovanie sviečok na hrobch blízkych, spomienky na tých, čo už nie sú medzi nami každoročne charakterizujú prvé novembrové dni. Pre veriacich kresťanov sú to aj dni modlitieb za duše zosnulých. Sviečky na cintorínoch sa zapalujú na znak nesmrteľnosti duší a Božieho milosrdenstva. Katolícka cirkev 1. novembra slávi prikázaný Sviatok Všetkých svätých, na ktorý 2. novembra nadväzuje Pamiatka zosnulých, známa ako Dušičky.

Od roku 1994 je v Slovenskej republike 1. november dňom pracovného pokoja. V tento deň si veriaci počas omši spolu s kňazmi pripomínajú svätých, ktorí viedli pravý kresťanský život, milovali Boha a žili pre iných. Tento sviatok je pre veriacich kresťanov spojený s nádejou na vzkriesenie a večný život. "Tento sviatok nám pripomína, že v Bohu všetci žijú a my s nimi môžeme a máme vytvárať živé spoločenstvo. Ved' aj po smrti niektorých členov tvoríme jednu rodinu i jednu Cirkev," to je jedna z myšlienok Mariána Gavendu, šéfredaktora Katolíckych novín, k sviatku Všetkých svätých. Ako dodáva, prvé novembrové dni nie sú dňami mŕtvych, ale živých. Majú ľuďom pripomenúť, aby lepšie žili, vážili si dar života a plnšie ho prežívali. Tento sviatok sa konajú omše a

pobožnosti za zosnulých nielen v kostoloch, ale i na mnohých cintorínoch.

Pre veriacich sú to aj dni modlitieb za duše zosnulých a spomienka na všetkých svätých, vrátane tých, ktorí nemajú miesto v kalendári. Cirkev oddáva spája s týmto sviatkom nádej na vzkriesenie. Sviatok Všetkých svätých sa prvýkrát slávil v Ríme 13. mája 609, keď pápež Bonifac IV. prebral od cisára Fokasa pohanský chrám všetkých Bohov, tzv. Pantheon a zasvätil ho Panne Márii a všetkým svätým. Neskôr pápež Gregor III. (731-744) zmenil slávenie sviatku Všetkých svätých z 13. mája na 1. november, keď v Bazilike sv. Petra slávnostne posvätil kaplnku k úcte všetkých svätých. O sto rokov neskôr pápež Gregor IV. rozšíril tento sviatok na celú cirkev. Na sviatok Všetkých svätých nadväzuje 2. novembra deň spomienky na všetkých verných zosnulých, ľudovo nazývaný Dušičky. V roku 998 opäť Odilo v benediktínskom kláštore Cluny zaviedol tradíciu 1. novembra večer vyznávať a spievať žalmy zádušnú omšu. Tento zvyk sa čoskoro rozšíril po celej západnej cirkvi. Sviečky na cintorínoch sa zapalujú na znak nesmrteľnosti duší a Božieho milosrdenstva.

Ako už väčšine čítateľom je známe, bude tomu pomaly rok, čo sa Trudy Check odobrila na večný odpočinok. Ale veru na obec Široké a Základnú umeleckú školu sa nezabudlo. Keď sme v júni tohto roku odchádzali na Slovensko, pri tejto príležitosti nás požiadal jej brat, Dr. Thomas Check, aby sme odniesli peňažný dar vo výške 1,000 USD na Základnú umeleckú školu v Širokom. My sme túto milú povinnosť radi splnili. Stretli sme sa so starostom Ing. Stanislavom Bartošom a učiteľkou Mgr. Lenkou Stašíkovou. Pán starosta si zaspomínal na Trudy ako pri jej návštevách povzbudzovala deti k hudobnému umeniu. Neraz si zasadla za klavír a zaspievala im. Bola nadšená počtom záujemcov o hudbu, preto aj finančne podporovala túto umeleckú školu. Pre jej nespočetné zásluhy sa stala čestnou občiankou obce Široké. S cieľom udržať kontakt so Spolkom slovenského dedičstva v Pensylvánii pri odovzdávaní daru pisateľka článku vyjadrila prosbu o pomenovanie Základnej umeleckej školy v Širokom práve po Trudy Check Tuhy. Pán starosta obce prisľúbil, že tomuto želaniu sa pokúsi vyhovieť. My teraz len môžeme dúfať, že sa to podarí, lebo Trudy by si to plne zaslúžila.

Starosta obce tiež vyjadril želanie stretnutia sa s bratom Trudy, Dr. Thomasom Checkom, ktorý práve v septembri plánoval kúpeľný pobyt v Piešťanoch. Stretnutie sa uskutočnilo 22. septembra a obohatil ho koncert, ktorý z tejto príležitosti pripravila Základná umelecká škola v Širokom. Predstavili sa v ňom deti v hre na klavíri, organe, gitare, husle, zobcovej flaute, akordeóne ako aj samotného spevu žiakov. Krásne kroje žiakov súboru a na záver spev Zuzky Strakovej vytvorili takú náladu, že aj obecenstvo sa pridalo k jej spevu. Koncert obohatilo aj vystúpenie učiteľa hudby Ondreja Nehila, ale aj úsmevné vystúpenie pána starostu za doprovodu organu učiteľky Mgr. Lenky Stašíkovej. Príhovor starostu vyjadril, nielen radosť zo stretnutia, ale aj záväzok pre žiakov, ktorým sa v priestoroch novej budovy vytvárajú všetky možnosti pre ich budúci rast. Bude ozaj záležať len na nich ako budú svoje talenty využívať a rozvíjať.

Na záver sa k žiakom prihovril aj Dr. Thomas Check, ktorý sa poďakoval za túto milú udalosť. Medziiným poprosil študentov, aby hudbu, ktorá je medzinárodným dorozumievacím prostriedkom milovali a svojim nadaním tak prispeli k šíreniu hudobnej kultúry na Slovensku. Zdôraznil, že dokonalosť nie je maličkosť, ale z maličkostí sa tvorí dokonalosť. V závere dodal, "cvičiť, cvičiť, cvičiť a Spolok slovenského dedičstva vám bude nápomocný". O to milšie mu padlo, keď na keyboarde sa objavil štítok o jeho zakúpení z poslaných peňazí. Aj riaditeľka ZUŠ, Júlia Milčáková sa vrele poďakovala za dary od Dr. Thomasa Checka, jeho manželky pani Betty a rodine Bירוšovej za ich sprostredkovanie.

Na záver nám len ostáva zaželať Základnej umeleckej škole veľa úspechov.

Anna a Jozef Bירוš

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Schôdza okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia pozýva svojich členov a všetkých priateľov a známych z okolia na schôdzu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 4. novembra 2007. Slávnosť začne o 15.00 hodine poobede so slovenskou svätou omšou v kaplnke sv. Jána Bosku pri St. John Bosco High School, 1340 S. Bellflower Bl. Bellflower, CA 90706. Pripomenieme si v modlitbách pamiatku Všetkých svätých a milovaných zosnulých. Po svätej omši sa bude konať schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu a za tým bude nasledovať spoločné posedenie s priateľmi pri káve a šiškách. Všetky obvody v okolí sú pozvané na zasadnutie Okresu. Na programe budú finančná správa, aktivity okresu a poistenie cestou Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Výročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasulu, spolok č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že výročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasulu, spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu 4. novembra 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpolednia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojice v Yonkers, N.Y.

Prosíme všetkých predsedov spolkov, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov a privítame medzi sebou aj nedelegátov. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu činnosti na budúce obdobie, na voľbu nových úradníkov a taktiež oboznámenie prítomných s finančnou správou. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku č. 41 Yonkers, N.Y.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka/ pokladníčka

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 25. novembra 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpolednia sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

Na programe je finančná správa, príprava programu a voľba nových úradníkov na budúce obdobie. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto výročnej schôdze zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Výročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že výročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 9. decembra 2007 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 zároveň vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctive vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Ďakujem a s pozdravom, brat

Jozef Juráši, predseda

Jednotárska zábava v Linden, New Jersey

Spolok svätého Jána Krstiteľa číslo 746 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty pri kostole sv. Rodiny v Linden, New Jersey usporiada tanečnú zábavu v sobotu 17. novembra 2007 v Msgr. Komar Hall, 2806 Parkway Ave. Linden N.J. Večera sa bude podávať od 8.00 do 9.00 hodiny, preto prosíme záujemcov, aby prišli načas. Do tanca a na počúvanie bude hrať hudobná skupina Kontakty. Vstupné za osobu je \$25.00. O bližšie informácie a zakúpenie lístkov volajte na tieto telefónne čísla: Mary Karch: (732) 572-2331; Mary Tkach: (908) 862-2782.

Slovenský festival na Univerzite v Pittsburghu, PA

Pittsburghská univerzita "The University of Pittsburgh - Slovak Studies Program" usporiada 17. Festival slovenského dedičstva v nedeľu 4. novembra. Bude sa konať v University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning Commons Room v Oakland Section v Pittsburghu, PA od 1.00 do 5.00 hod.

Usporiadatelia pripravili bohatý kultúrny program, v ktorom sa predstaví spevák Jozef Ivaška zo Slovenska, spevácka rodina Revoláková z Bardejova, tanečná skupina Pittsburghskí Slováci a PAS. Zaujímavé bude aj vystúpenie Bena Soresona, ktorý zahrá na fujare. Počas popoludnia budú výstavy a prednášky o slovenskej histórii a kultúre. Na predaj budú tradičné slovenské jedlá a koláče.

Bližšie informácie o festivale: Christine Metil, telefónne číslo (412) 624-5906; e-mail: Slavice@pitt.edu.

NECHAJTE INÝCH VEDIEŤ O JEDNOTE

Prvý zbor SLvA v New Yorku pripravuje oslavu 90. výročia

Oslava bude 10. novembra – Slávnostný príhovor bude mať riaditeľka Odboru kultúry na USZZ v Bratislave

Najstarší zbor Slovenskej ligy oslávi svoje 90. výročie založenia slávnostným banketom a zábavou v sobotu 10. novembra v spoločenskej hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého.

Banket sa začne o 6. hodine večer a po bankete bude nasledovať tanečná zábava. Hrať bude populárna hudobno-spevácka kapela Kontakty.

Na bankete bude mať prejav historička a autorka Dr. Ľubica Bartalská, riaditeľka Odboru kultúry na Úrade pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorá mala hlavné vystúpenie aj na oslave 100. výročia Slovenskej ligy v hoteli Bôrik v Bratislave v máji t.r. V rámci kultúrneho programu vystúpi aj operný spevák Jozef Ivaška ml.

Vstupné na banket s tradičnou slovenskou večerou a na zábavu je \$25.00. Vstupenky si možno zaistiť v predpredaji u nasledujúcich: Jozef Bilík, tel. (718) 463-2084 alebo Henrieta Daitová, tel. (201) 641-8922.

Prvý zbor Slovenskej ligy bol od svojho založenia jedným z najaktívnejších slovenských spolkov v New Yorku. Zapájal sa do národnej práce nielen v New Yorku, ale aj na širšej americko-slovenskej scéne. Výbor zboru pozýva na jubilejnú oslavu slovenské národné spolky a slovenskú verejnosť z New Yorku a okolia.

Predsedníctvo 1. zboru

Svetová digitálna knižnica bude bezplatne na inernete

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

knižnicou a dvoma knižnicami z Ruskej federácie. Prototyp pracuje v šiestich oficiálnych jazykoch OSN - arabčine, čínštine, angličtine, francúzštine, ruštine a španielčine, ako aj v portugálčine. Navigácia a vyhľadávač pracujú podľa zadania požiadavky na vyhľadávanie miesta, dátumu, témy a dotyčnej inštitúcie.

Projekt Svetovej digitálnej knižnice vznikol s cieľom podporiť porozumenie medzi kultúrami na medzinárodnej úrovni, zlepšiť kvalitu a rozmanitosť kultúrnych správ a informácií vo svetovej počítačovej sieti a v neposlednom rade aj prispieť k výchove a výskumu na univerzitách. Generálny riaditeľ UNESCO Kolčiro Macuura zdôraznil, že "knižnice predstavujú kľúčové miesta na zabezpečenie univerzálneho prístupu k informáciám a na budovanie znalostnej spoločnosti". "Sme spokojní, že môžeme pokračovať a zintenzívňovať spoluprácu s UNESCO, spolupracovať s pracovníkmi tejto organi-

zácie tak, aby knižnice, archívy aj múzeá na celom svete sa mohli spojiť s nami s cieľom sprístupniť svoje poklady v počítačovej sieti," vyhlásil James H. Billington. Podľa podpísanej dohody UNESCO i Knižnica Kongresu USA budú spoločne postupovať a vytvárať pracovné expertné skupiny, prijímať ďalšie strany na spoluprácu, aby sa rozvíjali hlavné línie a technické špecifické stránky projektu.

Jedným z kľúčových aspektov projektu je poskytnúť rozvojovým štátom možnosť vytvárať digitálne knižnice, aby sa všetky krajiny a regióny mohli figurovať v Svetovej digitálnej knižnici a spolupracovať s ňou. Projekt Svetovej digitálnej knižnice je pokračovaním Programu UNESCO nazvaného Pamäť sveta zameraného na vyhľadávanie a zachovávanie dokumentačného dedičstva. To je odrazom rozmanitosti jazykov, národov a kultúr, podotýka na svojej stránke UNESCO.

Na vedeckej konferencii historici hodnotili význam Andreja Hlinku

Ružomberok (TASR) – Černovská tragédia, pri ktorej zahynulo 15 veriach, dokazuje zneužitie štátnej moci - vtedajšej uhorskej vlády. Úradníci pre potlačenie nespokojnosti obyvateľov neváhali použiť aj zbrane, čo je veľmi nebezpečné v politike, podotkol profesor histórie na Univerzite Komenského v Bratislave Robert Letz na vedeckej konferencii o Andrejovi Hlinkovi, ktorá sa uskutočnila 18. októbra na Katolíckej univerzite (KU) v Ružomberku. Zúčastnilo sa na nej okolo 50 historikov, pedagógov a študentov. Konferenciu pripravil Historický ústav KU pri príležitosti 100. výročia černovskej tragédie. Letz zdôraznil, že černovské krviprelieanie by malo byť pre politikov poučením. Dokazuje, ako ťažko sa rodila na Slovensku sloboda. Na Slovákoch sa v minulosti napáchalo viacero podobných násilností, aj keď

černovská tragédia mala najsmutnejší koniec.

"Dôležité je morálne posolstvo konferencie, že nezabúdame," podotkol riaditeľ Historického ústavu KU Peter Zubko. Publikované príspevky sa podľa neho stanú súčasťou národného dedičstva. "Pamäť spoločnosti nesmie byť prerušená ani zahlúšená mladšími až súčasnými názormi mnohých, veľakrát nekompetentných jednotlivcov, inak zabudneme kto sme," dodal. Súčasťou konferencie bolo i predstavenie knihy Andrej od černovského rodáka Antona Laučeka. Je prvou beletriou o živote kňaza a politika Andreja Hlinku. Dotýka sa čiastočne aj černovskej tragédie, ktorá sa odohrala 27. októbra 1907. Spisovateľ využil pri jej písaní spomienky svojej starej mamy a mamičky, ktoré Andreja Hlinku poznali.

Nie každý SlovákJE SlovákJ

Už dávnejšie natrafil som na české televízne vysielanie Nová Víze z Montrealu. Vo svojich reláciách oznamujú aj slovenské podujatia, majú rozhovor so Slovákami a slovenskými činiteľmi a obyčajne končia správami zo Slovenska. V jednej takej relácii venovali skoro pol hodiny 65-ročnému jubileu Kanadského Slováka.

Z rozhovorov so starými českými prisťahovalcami do Kanady, vycítil som, že pokiaľ ide o ich a naše mladé generácie, máme jednak problémy. Naši mladí nevenujú dostatočnú pozornosť podnikom, ktoré tu nastavali starí emigranti. Naplno si osvojili kanadský spôsob života a rečové problémy u nich neexistujú. Počuť hlasy z obidvoch strán po užšej spolupráci týchto dvoch etnických entít, ktoré v nedávnej minulosti tvorili spoločný štát.

Na českej strane existuje české a slovenské združenie. Nevie, či také združenie existuje aj na slovenskej strane a či vlastne ide tu o kontinuitu vojnového Československého národného združenia.

V jednom vysielaní mali rozhovor s prominentkou jej profesie. Povedala, že je Slovenka z Bratislavy. Študovala na univerzitách v Bratislave a Prahe. Zhovára sa podľa potreby. Celkom logické riešenie. Inak však dopadol rozhovor, v závideniahodnej slovenčine, s istým profesionálom slovenského pôvodu, ktorý v rozhovore s hlásateľkou často

spomínal Československo. Keď mu to na konci rozhovoru hlásateľka pripomenula, skoro doslovne odpovedal: "Narodil som sa v Československu, považujem sa za Čechoslováka. Tu ho máš! Taký múdry človek urobil zo seba capa. Zarezal do živého. Nechápem. Po vyše desaťročnom trvaní Slovenskej republiky, nevie kde je jeho rodné miesto.

Predpokladám, že dotyčný nepozná históriu slovenských vysťahovalcov do Kanady. Naši otcovia, ktorí tu prišli, sa narodili v bývalej Rakúsko-uhorskej dynastii, presnejšie v starom Maďarsku. Nehlásili sa za Maďarov ani Maďarónov. Naopak. Zakladali tu slovenské spolky, organizácie, cirkevné osady, divadelné, spoločenské a vzdelávacie krúžky, športové kluby, Slovenské národné domy, vydávali slovenské noviny a kalendáre. V iných slovách to, čo tu robili, robili to v slovenskom mene.

Keď vezmeme do úvahy historický fakt, že prvé Československo začalo existovať dňom 18. októbra 1918 a ja som sa narodil v marci toho istého roku, podľa mienky toho Slováka - pardon Čechoslováka - mal by som sa hlásiť za Maďaróna. Ani v najodvážnejšom sne sa mi neprisnilo hlásiť sa za iného ako Slováka. Žiaden div, že pri poslednom sčítaní ľudu v Kanade, napočítali tu viac Čechov-Čechoslovákov ako nás Slovákov z čoho vyplýva poučenie, že nie každý SlovákJE SlovákJ.

Štefan Hreha, Montréal, QC

Unikátna výstava J. C. Hronského v Martine

Život bez domova

Martin (TASR) – Prezentovať spisovateľa Jozefa Cígera Hronského predovšetkým ako človeka, ktorý aj v zmenených životných podmienkach v exile od roku 1945 chce prežiť dôstojný život, je zámerom výstavy Život bez domova v Matičnom dome v Martine. Podľa Vlasty Bellovej z Matice slovenskej (MS) v Martine ide zväčša o unikátne exponáty, ktoré sú prvýkrát predstavené na verejnosti. "Tieto dokumenty uchovávala takmer 47 rokov nevesta Jozefa Cígera Hronského Cecília Hronská, ktorá žije so svojou dcérou a vnučkou spisovateľa v dome, ktorý si J. C. Hronský v Argentíne aj so svojim synom Jurajom postavili," skonštatovala Bellová.

Výstava predstavuje Hronského v čase martinského pôsobenia od roku 1932. "Sústreduje sa však hlavne na trojročný pobyt v Rakúsku, Bavorsku a Taliansku od roku 1945 a zvlášť na posledných dvanásť rokov života v Argentíne do Hronského smrti v roku 1960," povedala Bellová. Návštevníka môže zaujať spoločný pas manželov Hronských, vysokoškolský index z čias štúdií na Akadémii výtvarných umení v Ríme, prederavené kožené vrecúško s matkiným ružencom a zrnkami rodnej zeme, do 80 výtvarných diel - akvarelov a perokresieb s prírodnými a mestskými motívmi, návrhy na vitráže s kresťanskou tematikou, keramické výrobky z vlastnej dielne, návrhy na textíliách či rukopisy literárnych diel.

Jozef Cíger Hronský sa narodil 23. februára 1896 vo Zvolene, zomrel 13. júla 1960 v argentínskom meste Lujan. Ako spisovateľ patrí medzi najvýznamnejších reprezentantov modernej slovenskej literatúry, je priekopníkom nových smerov slovenského literárneho vývinu a zdokonalovateľom štylistickej techniky. Jeho literárne dielo je veľmi rozsiahle. Vydal niekoľko zbierok poviedok, je autorom početných kultúrno-literárnych esejí a príspevkov v slovenských periodikách i v krajskej tlači. Vo svojom období bol najvýznamnejším autorom literatúry pre deti a mládež.



Jozef C. Hronský

V Košiciach postaví španielsky investor odevný závod

Košice (TASR) – Približne 33 miliónov Sk investuje do odevného závodu v Košiciach španielska spoločnosť Gestora de Inversiones Siglo XXI. Začiatok výstavby výrobného závodu v západnej priemyselno-obchodnej lokalite mesta limituje už len vydanie územného rozhodnutia. V súčasnosti prebieha na mieste budúcej výstavby archeologický výskum. Výstavba začne bezprostredne po vydaní príslušných rozhodnutí a v lete budúceho roka už ráta investor s nábehom výroby, informovali o tom v druhej polovici októbra

zástupcovia spoločnosti. Španielsky investor chce v novom závode vytvoriť viac ako 150 pracovných miest, pričom z pracovných profesií sú vítané hlavne šičky. Výborným sortimentom závodu budú totiž košeľe a blúzky. K dispozícii už má investor štúdiu vplyvu na životné prostredie a prešovskí architekti vypracovali projektovú dokumentáciu závodu, v ktorom bude aj predajná plocha. Závod s rozlohou 2,236 štvorcových metrov lokalizovali v súlade s územným plánom mesta Košice v mestskej časti Juh.

V Clevelande pripravujú uctenie Dr. J. Tisa

Slovenský ústav v Clevelande pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na slávnostnú sv. omšu k počte prezidenta prvej Slovenskej republiky Dr. Jozefa Tisa, ktorú odslúži opäť Klement Zelezník, O.S.B. v sobotu 1. decembra t.r. o 10. hod. ráno v kaplnke Slovenských benediktínov na 10510 Buckeye Road.

Po sv. omši bude nasledovať program s premietaním videozáznamu o umiestnení nového pomníka na Tisovom hrobe v Bratislave. Dr. Ľudovít Pavlo potom odovzdá Slovenskému ústavu predmety z hrobu Dr. Tisa, ktoré mu zverila Spoločnosť Andreja Hlinku po čiastočnej exhumácii telesných pozostatkov Dr. Tisu v marci t.r.

V zápise o exhumácii, ktorý podpísali za Spoločnosť A. Hlinku predseda Stanislav Májka a Marián Šuran a za Farský úrad Bratislava - Nové Mesto o. Štefan Herényi, sa mimo iného píše:

"Členovia Spoločnosti A. Hlinku a Farský úrad Bratislava - Nové Mesto

vykonali na Martinskom cintoríne v Bratislave pred realizáciou nového pomníka Dr. Jozefa Tisa v dňoch 29. a 30. marca 2007 exhumáciu telesných pozostatkov nebohého. Exhumácia definitívne vylúčila komunistami šírenú dezinformáciu o spolopnení a potvrdila pravosť hrobu, lebo v hrobe sa našli nielen telesné pozostatky nebohého, ale aj predmety, ktoré mu patrili, ako aj kňazské insígnie, ktoré do truhly vložil pochovávací kňaz.

Dr. Jozef Tiso si vysoko vážil zásluhy amerických Slovákov o svoj národ. Členovia Spoločnosti A. Hlinku a farského úradu nezabúdajú ani na vrelý vzťah amerických Slovákov k prezidentovi počas jeho pôsobenia, ale aj po jeho poprave, až do dnešných dní. Preto sa rozhodli pre uchovanie pamiatky Dr. J. Tisa odovzdať im aspoň malú čiastku z exhumovaných pozostatkov, látky z odevu a zeme... Pozostatky boli odovzdané pánovi Dr. Ľudovítovi Pavlovi počas jeho návštevy na Slovensku v máji 2007."

Prezident Gašparovič na oficiálnej návšteve Španielska

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Slovenského prezidenta po príchode na nádvorí paláca El Pardo privítala slávnostná ceremónia s čestnými salvami, hymnami oboch štátov a prehliadkou Čestnej stráže. Pred kráľovským a prezidentským párom nasledovalo pôsobivé defilé stoviek príslušníkov Kráľovskej gardy. Slávnostný pochod viedli kráľovskí vojaci na motocykloch, nasledovali pešie a jazdecké jednotky v historických uniformách zo začiatku 20. storočia a sprievod uzatvárala delostrelecká batéria ťahaná koňmi. Keďže podľa protokolárnych zvyklostí sa členovia kráľovskej rodiny nevyjadrujú pre médiá, po stretnutí v kráľovskom paláci sa nekonala tlačová konferencia.

Prezident v rámci programu zavítal na madridskú Univerzitu Complutense, kde sa stretol so španielskymi študentmi slovenčiny. V areáli školy položil kytice kvetov k soche Alexandra Dubčeka. Hlavu štátu počas návštevy sprevádzali ministri zahraničných vecí, hospodárstva, spravodlivosti a regionálneho rozvoja Ján Kubiš, Ľubomír Jahnátek, Štefan Harabin, Marian Janušek, ako aj početná skupina slovenských podnikateľov.

Cieľom Gašparovičovej návštevy Španielska bol rozvoj dvojstranných vzťahov a spolupráce vo všetkých oblastiach. Vzájomné vzťahy hodnotí hlava štátu ako veľmi dobré, vo sfére ekonomiky a obchodu vidí napriek pozitívnemu trendu v ostatných rokoch veľký priestor na ďalšie prehĺbenie partnerstva.

Prezident SR popri kráľovskom páre sa stretol aj so všetkými najvyššími ústavnými činiteľmi Španielska vrátane premiéra Josého Luisa Zapatera, predsedov oboch komôr parlamentu Javierom Jojom a Manuelom Marínom ako aj s primátormi Madridu, Barcelony a s premiérom regionálnej katalánskej vlády.

Spoločne rastieme

Krása kresťanstva spočíva v tom, že objíma celého človeka, miluje ho takého, aký je, a dotyk lásky vždy uzdravuje, premieňa. Ak by to tak nebolo, človek by musel hľadať čosi, čo väčšmi vyhovuje jeho prirodzenosti. Keďže však Kristus nás miluje tak, ako nás miluje, nemusíme nič iné hľadať. Kristus nič neberie, ale všetko dáva. Kto sa mu zverí, kto sa mu odovzdá, dostáva stonásobne viac. Nikdy mu nebude chýbať víno pravej, zrelej lásky. A keď ľudia z neho ochutnajú, povedia: "Odkiaľ ho máte? Veď každý dáva dobré víno najskôr a horšie až potom, keď si ľudia upili. Ty si zachoval dobré víno až doteraz." Áno, milovať s Kristom znamená mať víno lásky stále kvalitnejšie, čoraz chutnejšie.

Katolícke noviny

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Tri vozidlá Peugeot 207, určené na pedagogické účely, daroval začiatkom októbra PSA Peugeot Citroen Slovakia vybraným odborným školám Trnavského kraja. Dar nadväzuje na dohody o francúzsko-slovenskom partnerstve pri odbornom vzdelávaní z mája 2005, v rámci ktorých sa spoločnosť PSA Peugeot Citroen zaviazala venovať na rozvoj vzdelávania v SR celkovo 2.3 milióna eur na technické a vzdelávacie zariadenia a 1.1 milióna eur na prestavbu objektov, financovanie stáží francúzskych lektorov a administratívne náklady. Trnavská automobilka celkovo školám darovala už 31 vozidiel. Automobilka v Trnave je technologicky najmodernejším závozom skupiny PSA Peugeot Citroen. V júni 2006 sa rozbehla v ňom sériová výroba vozidiel modelu Peugeot 207. V roku 2006 bolo vyrobených takmer 52 tisíc vozidiel. V roku 2007 objem výroby v dvoch pracovných zmenách stúpne na takmer 180,000 vozidiel. Výrobná kapacita závodu, v ktorom si našlo prácu 3,300 ľudí, je 300,000 vozidiel ročne v troch pracovných zmenách. Do roku 2010 sa spustí výroba nového koncernového modelu.

Za účasti niekoľko tisíc veriacich, kňazov, rehoľníkov a rehoľníčok posvätil v sobotu 6. októbra 2007 vo farnosti Nitra Klokočina nitriansky diecézny biskup Mons. Viliam Judák nový kostol svätého Gorazda. Stavbu mu slávnostne odovzdal na začiatku bohoslužby architekt Ing. František Dulík. Nitriansky biskup v homílii hovoril o potrebe chrámu a o jeho spojení s Cirkvou ako spoločenstvom veriacich. Ďalej pripomenul, že pôvodne socialistické nitrianske sídlo Klokočina malo byť bez chrámu, a teda aj bez Boha. Podľa jeho slov boli v roku 1987 z celého sídliska prihlásené na vyučovanie náboženstva iba dve deti. Po zmene politického režimu tu vznikla farnosť, postavený bol plechový provizórny kostol a dnes aj trvalý konsekrovaný chrám, v ktorom majú veriaci nachádzať silu do svojho života. Nitriansky biskup vydal dekrét, podľa ktorého pôvodný provizórny kostol stráca svoju posvätnosť a môže slúžiť profánnym účelom. Zároveň vymenoval miestneho farského administrátora Mgr. Miroslava Haferu za titulárneho dekana Nitrianskej diecézy. Nový farský kostol v Nitre na Klokočine, ktorého pôdorys tvorí nepravidelný kruh, má kapacitu 500 miest na sedenie a ďalších 500 miest na státie. Je vybavený modernou vykurovacou technikou a klimatizáciou. Farnosť, ktorá vznikla v roku 1996, má v súčasnosti modernú budovu Pastoračného centra a nový farský kostol. Stále sa buduje 24 metrov vysoká zvonica, ktorá jasne prevyší všetky okolité budovy, amfiteáter na poľné omše a mládežnícke programy.

Britská rozvojová spoločnosť a investičná skupina Letterstone predstavila projekt výstavby tatranského dovolenkového komplexu Silver Resort s celoročným využitím, v ktorom pribudne 150 pracovných miest. Pod Tatranskou Lomnicou v priestoroch bývalého Športcampu vyrastie na ploche vyše 84,000 štvorcových metrov sedem prázdninových domov s 368 apartmánmi, 6 dvojviliék a štvorhviezdičkový hotel s 91 izbami. Generálny riaditeľ Letterstone Slovakia Ivan Zatloukal konštatoval, že ide o investíciu za 1.5 miliardy Sk. Pozemok odkúpili približne pred rokom. Nedávno dostali územné rozhodnutie, stavebné povolenie predpokladajú získať na prelome rokov 2007-2008 a začiatok prác plánujú na apríl prípadne máj budúceho roka. Na margo výberu lokality uviedol, že spoločnosť verí v potenciál cestovného ruchu v regióne Tatier. Pozitívom je aj blízkosť letiska Poprad-Tatry, ktoré má priame spojenie s Londýnom.

Súdy v Košickom kraji sú v súčasnosti najväčšími dlžníkmi slovenských advokátov. K 1. októbru im dlhujú viac ako 31 a pol milióna korún. Najhoršia situácia je na okresných súdoch v Spišskej Novej Vsi (deväť miliónov), v Michalovciach (päť a pol milióna), v Trebišove a Košiciach II (3.2 milióna) a Košice - okolie (3 milióny). Podľa hovorkyne Krajského súdu v Košiciach Marcely Gálovej ani jeden zo súdov v Košickom kraji nie je schopný zaplatiť advokátom dlžoby, pretože musia v prvom rade uhradiť výdavky na zabezpečenie nevyhnutnej prevádzky súdov. Advokáti, ktorí od súdov v Košickom kraji nevedia vymôcť svoje peniaze, sa chcú so žiadosťou o pomoc obrátiť na medzinárodné organizácie.

Európa nezaradila Bratislavu medzi turistické destinácie, len ako miesto obchodných stretnutí. Prevažnú časť návštevníkov tvoria obchodníci - je ich 70-80 percent a tí sa v meste zdržia krátko. "Po veľmi dobrých rokoch 2004-2006 prišlo skutočne k poklesu záujmu o Bratislavu", povedal manažér Bratislavskej hotelovej asociácie Igor Kuhn. "Bratislava je silne sezónna, najvyšší nával cudzincov je v lete a na jeseň", potvrdil Milan Vajda z magistrátu.

Na slovenských chovných rybníkoch sa začali tradičné výlovy rýb pre vianočné trhy. Tak ako každý rok, bude dominovať predovšetkým kapor. Stúpa však záujem aj o dravé ryby, ako je pstruh, štika, či zubáč. Slovensko má približne 1,600 hektárov produkčných rybníkov, mimo chovných revírov Slovenského rybárskeho zväzu. Avšak nie je sebestačnou krajinou v produkcii konzumných rýb. Ročne na trh ponúkne necelých 414 ton kaprov. Pritom spotreba rýb v SR je veľmi nízka. Dlhodobá sa pohybuje okolo 4.3 až 4.5 kg na osobu a rok. Na sladkovodné druhy z toho pripadá necelý jeden kilogram. Najväčším dovozcom kapra na Slovensko je Česká republika. V posledných troch rokoch sa však celkový dovoz kapra z ČR znižoval.

Účastníci podujatia Slovak Day v budove Európskeho hospodárskeho a sociálneho výboru v Bruseli sa 24. októbra zoznámili so slovenskou gastronómiou, ukázkami tradičných slovenských zvykov, hudbou a folklórom. Podujatie organizovala Slovenská agentúra pre cestovný ruch (SACR) v spolupráci so stálym zastúpením SR pri EÚ a pod záštitou slovenských zástupcov v Európskom ekonomickom a sociálnom výbore. Cieľom SACR je prezentovať Slovensko ako krajinu, ktorá vyniká rozmanitou kultúrou a zvykmi ako aj presvedčiť ľudí v centre európskej politiky v Bruseli, že návšteva Slovenska prináša množstvo

nezabudnuteľných zážitkov, pretože je krajinou plnou turistiky atraktívneho prírodného a kultúrneho bohatstva.

Časť poslancov Mestského zastupiteľstva vo Vysokých Tatrách je znepokojená narastajúcou výstavbou apartmánových domov a bytov v intraviláne Vysokých Tatier. Poslanci tvrdia, že výstavba apartmánových bytov je v priamom rozpore so schválenou koncepciou rozvoja tohto územia a je aj v rozpore s vyhláseniami vedenia mesta po veternej kalamite v roku 2004. Apartmánové byty už vyrastajú na Štrbskom Plese. Plánujú sa v Novom Smokovci. V Starom Smokovci majú ďalšie apartmánové byty stáť na mieste nedokončeného kultúrneho domu, ktorý sa v súčasnosti asanuje. Podľa riaditeľa Združenia cestovného ruchu Vysoké Tatry Petra Chudého hrozí, že v čase dokončenia viacerých projektov, okolo roku 2010, nebudú Vysoké Tatry, najmä služby a infraštruktúra, pripravené na takýto rozvoj apartmánového bývania.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Slováci sa boja nezamestnanosti i kriminality

Bratislava (TASR) – Úroveň zdravotníckej starostlivosti je podľa obyvateľov Slovenska piatym najzávažnejším problémom, ktorý ich najviac znepokojuje. Pred ním sú sociálno-ekonomické faktory a kriminalita. Vyplýva to z prieskumu verejnej mienky, ktorý realizovala agentúra MVK v októbri na reprezentatívnej vzorke 1,101 dospelých obyvateľov SR získanej kvótnym výberom podľa pohlavia, veku, vzdelania, národnosti, veľkostnej kategórie, bydliska a regiónov.

Za najzávažnejší problém označili respondenti vysoké životné náklady (46.2%) a zväčšovanie rozdielov medzi ľuďmi (44.9%). Na treťom mieste sa ocitol problém nezamestnanosti a málo pracovných príležitostí (33.2%), nasleduje kriminalita a zločinnosť (32.2%) a prvú päťicu uzatvára úroveň zdravotníckej starostlivosti (28.8%). V prvej desiatke sa nachádzajú aj úplatkárstvo a klientelizmus (22.3%), dôchodky a starostlivosť o starých ľudí (19.5%), úroveň školstva (13.7%), bytová politika (13.7%), úroveň a kvalita slovenskej demokracie (9.9%).

Za najzávažnejšie problémy v zdravotníctve respondenti považujú drahé lieky a vysoké doplatky za lieky (20.2%),

zdravotnú politiku ministerstva zdravotníctva (15.8%), technické vybavenie nemocníc (12.1%), čakacie lehoty na vyšetrenie a odkladanie operácií (9.9%) a korupciu (9.8%) Ministri zdravotníctva Ivanovi Valentovičovi deklarovalo v rámci prieskumu dôveru 37.8% opýtaných, u 51.1% účastníkov prieskumu, naopak, minister dôveru nemá. Odpovedať nevedelo 11.1% opýtaných. S požiadavkami petície za pluralitné zdravotníctvo, ktorú pred pár dňami doručili do Národnej rady SR, vyslovilo súhlas 49% respondentov, naopak nesúhlasilo s nimi 38.3% respondentov. Odpovedať nevedelo 12.7% respondentov.

V súvislosti so Zákonníkom práce a dopadom jeho poslednej úpravy na fungovanie zdravotníckych zariadení 50.3% respondentov prieskumu vyjadrilo názor, že sa treba usilovať o jeho zmenu. Opačnú mienku má 17.2% opýtaných. Situáciu nevedelo posúdiť 32.5% opýtaných. Prieskum zisťoval aj postoj verejnosti k alternatívnej medicíne. Najväčšiu dôveru - 55.8% prejavili respondenti akupunktúre a homeopatii (49.5%), kým relatívne najmenej dôverujú chiropraktikom (27.2%).

Vydavateľ Ladislav Bolchazy dostal vyznamenanie SR

Dňa 31. augusta, v predvečer štátneho sviatku Dňa ústavy prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič odovzdal najvyššie štátne vyznamenania osemnástim laureátom. Medzi nimi bol aj americký Slovák Ladislav Bolchazy, spolujaditeľ vydavateľstva Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. a zakladateľ nadácie Slovak-American International Cultural Foundation, Inc. Toto vydavateľstvo vydalo viaceré cenné publikácie o Slovensku v anglickej reči a úspešne ich umiestňuje v amerických knižniciach a na univerzitách. Poslednou z nich je cenná kniha Illustrated Slovak History, ktorej spoluautormi sú historici Anton Spiesz a Dušan Čaplovič, pričom redaktorom tejto publikácie bol L. Bolchazy.

L. Bolchazy dostal vyznamenanie Rad Ľudovíta Štúra III. triedy. Medzi vyznamenanými bol aj v Amerike z viacerých zájazdov dobre známy hudobný skladateľ Tibor Andrašovan, ďalej hudobný skladateľ Gejza Dusík a sochár William Schiffer (všetci in memoriam).

Slávnostné odovzdávanie štátnych vyznamenaní sa konalo v reprezentačných miestnostiach Bratislavského hradu za prítomnosti najvyšších ústavných činiteľov Slovenskej republiky a zástupcov diplomatického zboru na Slovensku.

Prezident SR zapožičiava štátne vyznamenania na návrh vlády SR dva razy do roka: pri príležitosti štátnych sviatkov Dňa ústavy 1. septembra a Dňa vzniku SR 1. januára.



Sprava Ladislav Bolchazy a prezident SR