



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

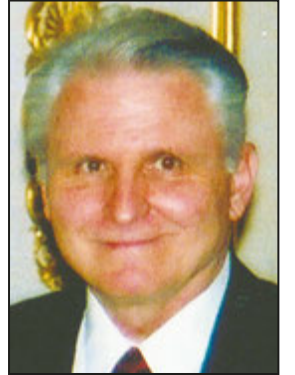
Volume 124

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

NUMBER 5927

National President Andrew M. Rajec's Addresses on September 12, 2015, in Washington, DC

at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



Andrew M. Rajec

Draží Pútnici,

Chcem vám poďakovať za vašu účasť na púti v tomto krásnom kostole. Naša jednota venovala kaplnku sedem bolestnej panny márie patrónky slovenska v roku tisíc deväťsto šesťdesiatom piatom, pred päťdesiatimi rokmi, aby návštevníci, hlavne slováci, mohli vzdať úctu našej patrónke.

Dear Pilgrims,

I want to thank you for sharing this pilgrimage with us at this beautiful church. Our Jednota contributed the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows, the patroness of Slovakia, in 1965, 50 years ago, so that all visitors - especially Slovaks - could

give honor to our Lady.

While the title "Our Lady of Sorrows" commemorates important events in the life of the Virgin Mary, the Seven Sorrows. It relates to the lives of most Slovak people who lived in servitude as oppressed peasants under the rule of foreign landowners for hundreds of years, until recent times when they have experienced freedom.

The pilgrimage to Šaštín traces its roots to 1564 when the wife of a Hungarian nobleman commissioned a statute of the sorrowful mother in thanks for a prayer answered for tranquility in her domestic life.

In 1764 Empress Maria Theresa of Hungary had a large

church built at the site near Šaštín, Slovakia to house a pieta.

In 1927 Pope Pius XI proclaimed Our Lady of Sorrows as patroness of all of Slovakia.

Šaštín has become a favorite pilgrimage site in Slovakia behind the well-known Levoča Shrine, and one of the most visited in Europe.

In Slovakia the feast day is celebrated on September 15th, a national holiday.

continued on page 3



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. For more information on the FCSU's Sept 12th event honoring the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Jednota Chapel at this site, go to pages 12 - 13.



Oct 23rd is Almost Here!



DON'T MISS OUT:
APPLY FOR THE JEDNOTA
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SCHOLARSHIP NOW

See page 4 for details ...

FCSU 125th Celebrations around the Society:



See pages 3 and 17 of this issue for details on upcoming celebrations around our Society celebrating the founding of the First Catholic Slovak Union 125 years ago

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

**October 11, 2015 -
Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 10: 46 – 52**

"The word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). The pointed message of these words from today's New Testament epistle is proven

true in the gospel that follows.

What makes the gospel reading so hard is its blunt warning to all of us who place value on things of this passing life over and above things of the Kingdom of God. To be sure, we are all probably doing pretty well through the first part of the gospel, as our Lord recounts the commandments "do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal..." and we think to ourselves, "well...so far so good". We are getting ready to repeat with the man in the gospel "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth", but then Jesus continues with the startling words "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me" (Mark 10:20, 21). Now for most of us that last command is definitely sharper than a two-edged sword!

Jesus is not teaching us that money or possessions are evil, or that we all need to dispose of everything we own and give away the proceeds. He is telling us rather that in order to be his faithful disciples we must set our hearts fully on Christ and his Kingdom, which is not possible if we are attached to material goods. These things—money and property and so forth—are all good and necessary, and we need to make use of them regularly, yet far too often they become our masters, presenting us with temporary and passing illusions of happiness while at the same time edging us farther from our true joy.

Our response to the challenge which Jesus makes to the man in the gospel is to seek things of abiding value that lead us to God's Kingdom. Two such precious things which direct us to the Kingdom are described in the earlier readings of the Mass: wisdom (Wisdom 7 and Psalm 90) and kindness (Psalm 90). Wisdom helps us to discern between what is worth pursuing and what leads us away from God and his joy, and kindness is the manifestation of wisdom which draws us forth from ourselves and strengthens us to truly love our neighbors as brothers and sisters in the Lord, whether they are rich or poor.

When we seek after gifts like these, we find that following the commandments mentioned by Jesus becomes more natural since we are approaching life from a renewed perspective, seeing our ultimate treasure as living in imitation of Christ's self-giving rather than in accumulation of wealth that corrodes or fades away. Once a person has taken on this new outlook, we can deal with money and possessions without being owned by them.

While our modern culture may find it impossible to find meaning in the wisdom, kindness, and detachment that should characterize Christians, our Lord notes that "All things are possible for God" (Mark 10:27). By the same token all things are possible for disciples of Christ who hear the gospel with ears attuned to the cry of the poor and the poor in heart, and who see the needs of their sisters and brothers with eyes enlightened by wisdom. Keeping a



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

sense of circumspection regarding earthly wealth then, let us seek first Christ and his Kingdom so as to inherit the true the hundredfold promised by our Lord to his faithful.

**October 18, 2015 –
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 53: 10 - 11
Mark 10: 35 – 45**

This Gospel has ambition, jealousy and the paradox of Christian leadership. James and John approach Jesus and seemed very determined to be given the two highest places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. One might even wonder what led them to ask for such a thing. Maybe it was their mother who prompted them to make this request, for in John's Gospel she is the one who approaches Jesus with the same request for her sons. Whatever the reason, this request receives two very different responses. The apostles respond with indignation and jealousy. Maybe a few of them had the same desire and didn't like James and John beating them at making the request. Jesus' response is two-fold; first he talks about the cup that he will drink and the baptism in which he is to be baptized. We know that he is alluding to his passion, suffering and death, but I doubt that the apostles understood it in that way. Then Jesus goes on to give them an instruction on true leadership. It is totally different than theirs and our view of leadership as positions that bring honor and privilege.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

Ambition and jealousy seem to creep into many of our committees and organizations, even in our parishes. Often times there are those members who think that they should be the president or chairman who let this ambition lead them into a sort of "campaign" mode while working on the committee. They might repeatedly criticize the leadership, even embarrassing them at meetings, and telling others what they would do if they were in charge. It is an attitude and behavior that causes tension, division and factions and can tear apart the committee or organization, and if it is a parish, the body of Christ itself. At the same time we can have people in leadership who think that because of their position they know everything. They don't take seriously the input given by others, are very impressed with their position of authority, and expect others to honor them because of their position. The results are the same as with the members with ambition and jealousy. Jesus makes it clear that this is not the way he wants apostles, or we as members of the church, to behave.

In our own day this style of leadership that Jesus calls us to have is known as "servant leaders." Jesus instructs us to see leadership as a call to serve, and not a call to be served. Those who desire to be in leadership should have servant's hearts. These are hearts that are without ambition for power, and free of jealousy toward those who are in authority. These are hearts that are filled with humility and a desire to be attentive to the needs of those who the leader is called to serve. The leader is called to be willing to sacrifice and even suffer for the good of those being served. Jesus ultimately gave us the example of the extent of sacrifice and service on the cross. The Heavenly King was willing to humble himself to become like us in all things but sin, and to suffer a criminal's brutal death out of service to us. We are blessed and redeemed by the servant leadership of our Lord. Imagine how blessed and sanctified our church, our parishes and our schools would be if we began to embrace this style of leadership ourselves. If we empty ourselves of ambition and jealousy and take on the mantle of humility and service we can become the servant leaders Christ calls us to be.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21	MONDAY, OCT. 12
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4	MONDAY, OCT. 26
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18	MONDAY, NOV. 9

Correspondents who are announcing events should allow ample time for them to be received by the readership, taking into account the publication schedule and the extra time in the postal system.

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President Andrew M. Rajec's Address

continued from page 1

AT THE EMBASSY OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Drahi Bratia a Sestri,

I would like to thank all of you for participating in today's pilgrimage. I know that many of you came from a long way. It was beautiful to hear the voices raised to Our Lady of Sorrows in the Slovak language.

We have to thank Fr. Nasta, Vice President of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Jednota Chaplain, for helping put the program together, and Bishop Adamec, Abbot Hoover, and all the priests from the Federation and from New York and New Jersey parishes and elsewhere for concelebrating the Mass with Cardinal (Wuerl) and hearing confessions.

We also want to thank Sabina Sabados for all her efforts in not only assembling the Slovak hymns and prayers but also her tireless efforts in promoting the pilgrimage in the New York and New Jersey parishes. Also a thank you to the beautiful choir.

In Slovakia, the feast of our lady of sorrows celebrated on September 15th, is a national holiday.

Our Jednota Branch 856 through the efforts of Katherine Nowatkoski and Steve Matula has for 25 years had a Mass in mid-September to honor Our Lady of Sorrows at the Shrine.

We would like to continue their tradition.

Finally, I would like to thank Ambassador Kmec and his staff for hosting this event at the Embassy. When Ambassador Kmec heard our Society was planning to host a reception after the pilgrimage, at the shrine, he graciously offered to host the event at the Slovak Embassy and share the cost with our Society.

Ďakujem Každému. Ďakujem a šťastnú cestu domov. Thank you, and have a safe journey home.

Editor's note: for more on the FCSU's event at the Slovak Embassy, go to pages 12 - 13

Message from Our National Chaplain

Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive is the preparatory catechesis (teaching manual) for the World Meeting of Families to be held September 22-27, 2015 in Philadelphia. The catechesis contains 10 chapters, each concluding with four questions for reflection. One of the reflections from Chapter 10, Choosing Life, is offered here.

Do the values and habits in your community make it easier or harder to be Catholic? In your culture, are you free to be fully Catholic, or is there pressure to compromise the faith? How can you participate in your culture while remaining faithful?



Rev. Thomas Nasta

August 2015 Choosing Life

Contemporary culture has become so secularized that it is extremely hard for a Catholic to be in total agreement with and daily living every aspect of Church teaching, especially in regards to marriage and the family.

At one time, a man and a woman entered marriage first before living together and having a family. Today, that is more the exception than the rule. It is more common now for couples to co-habitate and perhaps have a child together first, and then maybe get married. Also, the extremely popular decision of the United States Supreme Court granting the legality of same sex marriages (a term practically unheard of 25 years ago), makes professing and holding on to the church's teaching on marriage a greater challenge than ever before.

A Catholic in our culture is totally free to be fully Catholic, provided that he or she keeps one's thoughts and beliefs to oneself. However, if they are made public, he or she should be prepared to receive a great amount of negative feedback. Two common responses are most likely to happen. People will say, "You have a right to your opinion (which, by the way, is wrong)." Also, the person can end up as a focus of ridicule on different social media outlets.

Today's situation calls upon people who are fully Catholic to continually ask for the Spirit's gifts of courage, fortitude, and perseverance, the same graces given in every generation to all who bore witness to the faith in the midst of trial and rejection. We must remember the words of Jesus: "A lamp [is not lit] and then put ... under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Our faith is not something to hide. We are to live it and share it, even in a world that is hostile to it.

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Hostages' Hope and Faith Lead to Survival

Considering that Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus were kidnapped, held hostage, and repeatedly sexually assaulted by Cleveland school bus driver Ariel Castro for 10 years, it might seem odd that they named their memoir "Hope." But that word perfectly describes these two young women who endured more darkness than most of us can fathom by relying on their faith in God and the light that was brought into their lives by Berry's daughter Jocelyn, a child of her rape by Castro.

Berry and DeJesus (and a third hostage, Michelle Knight) were all over the news two years ago when they finally escaped from Castro's house of horrors. They recently co-authored their memoir with help from Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan (who were Christopher Award winners for their 2006 book "The Prison Angel: Mother Antonia's Journey from Beverly Hills to a Life of Service in a Mexican Jail"). Jordan and Sullivan joined me on "Christopher Closeup" to discuss this horrific, yet ultimately inspiring story.

Berry and DeJesus were just 16 and 14 when Castro lured them into his home (months apart) under the guise of visiting his daughter, who they knew from school. In Berry's case, he chained her to a pole in his cold, dark basement where he abused her every day. Yet Berry refused to let her spirit be crushed because she believed that God had a different plan for her.

Authors Jordan and Sullivan explained that Berry "found a candle with a picture of Jesus on it in the basement, and she would light it and pray. She also found a drawing of Jesus. She put it up beside her bed in the room [to which Castro moved her], and it became a source of strength and hope."

The environment in the house changed when Berry became pregnant with Jocelyn. She saw the new life inside her as a sign of hope, and it bonded her with DeJesus and Knight, who were also able to find joy in this innocent child. Surprisingly, Jocelyn changed Castro as well. Sullivan said, "The baby made him happier, and when he was happier, everyone was happier."

On May 6, 2013, six-year-old Jocelyn opened the door to Berry's room and said, "Daddy's gone." Berry couldn't believe it. In 10 years, he had never left the house with the bedroom doors unlocked. Berry ran downstairs and, with the help of passersby, got out and called for help. The three girls finally achieved their long-awaited freedom. The authors noted, "One of the first things Gina did when she got out, she went to church, lit a candle, and said a prayer for all the other missing girls [in the world]."

In the two years that have passed, Castro committed suicide while in jail. Berry and DeJesus, on the other hand, are full of optimism. Jordan and Sullivan said, "You can come out of difficult things either bitter and broken—or hopeful. They are happy to be young and free... They're going to finish high school... Gina is going to go to New York, and she hopes one day she can have a little store selling clothes. Amanda had a gift for teaching. And both of them want to be advocates for other missing kids."

In addition, the authors describe Jocelyn as "beautiful and vibrant and smart. I think Amanda said, 'I'm not looking as though she is [Castro's] child. She is my child.' And she is. They're extremely close and Jocelyn is a marvelous, infectious-happy little girl. It's one of several miracles of this story."

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, *PERSEVERING THROUGH PAIN AND STRUGGLE*, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

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

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


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

Cocktail attire
Entertainment by Express

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

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

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



OCT 23rd IS ALMOST HERE!

**DON'T MISS OUT: THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION
2015 SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION DEADLINE
APPROACHES**

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

- ♦ Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who attends an Approved Post Secondary Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship.
- ♦ Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
- ♦ Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official college transcript of grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT or SAT scores; (if applicable)
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant;
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement;
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant;
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability;
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives;
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing.

For applications, please contact:
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 E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com – Website: www.fcsu.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 23, 2015

*Family members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.



Christmas Oplatky 2015

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

The Oplatky, five in one package are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$6.00 and upwards depending upon the number of packets

ordered and the rising costs of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order.

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

October: Dedicated to the Holy Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The Rosary (from the Latin rosarium, meaning "rose garden" or "garland of roses") denotes the prayer beads used to count the series of prayers that make up the rosary. Part of the Church's veneration of Mary, the rosary has been promoted by numerous popes. Most recently, in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI stated that the Rosary is experiencing a new springtime: "It is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother."



As seen in  **USA TODAY**
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**125th
Anniversary**

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Vítajte, Welcome, Pope Francis!



**Mother of Sorrows Chapel
Washington, DC**

125th Anniversary Celebration

Recalling a Proud Fraternal Legacy, a History of the Msgr. Stephen J. Krasula District of the State of New York

Daniel F. Tanzone, Branch 41

This district of the First Catholic Slovak Union was established in 1932 to coordinate the fraternal efforts of the local Jednota lodges in southern New York State. Its patron is the late Monsignor Stephen J. Krasula, P.A., a well-known pioneer Slovak spiritual leader, who was born in Slovakia in 1887, and came to the United States in 1907. Following studies at St. Joseph's Seminary - Dunwoodie in Yonkers, N.Y., he was ordained a priest at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1916. Msgr. Krasula served as pastor of New York's St. John Nepomucene Slovak Parish for 52 years from 1915 to 1967. He was a respected leader in American Slovak life and a great promoter of Slovak fraternalism. His many accomplishments were recognized early on when in 1929, Pope Pius II named him a Papal Chamberlain with the title of Monsignor. He was the third Slovak priest in America to receive such honors. In addition to serving as a dynamic pastor, he also devoted himself to numerous projects and activities of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League of America. He was instrumental in helping to establish the Slovak Institute of SS. Cyril and Methodius, now known as the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome. In 1963 on the occasion of the Institute's dedication, he was introduced to Pope Paul VI as "The Patriarch of Slovak priests in America." That year, the same Pope named him to the dignity of Prothonotary Apostolic, the highest rank of Monsignor in the Church. He remained active in his parish as well as the American Slovak community until his retirement in 1967. He passed away in 1970.

As we observe the 125th anniversary of the founding of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Jednota members in New York State take great pride in the knowledge that their local lodges in New York City and its northern suburbs have been an active and integral component of the organization from its earliest years. In 1928, New York Jednota activists hosted the organization's 23rd national convention and again in 1952 when the 31st national convention was convened in the city. Over the years, the district has cooperated and promoted various activities and efforts of the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League of America. Jednota members and their lodges helped to organize the first New York Slovak Day Observance at Fordham University in July 1926 and welcomed the Slovak bishops and the Slovak patriot Msgr. Andrew Hlinka to New York that same year. Members of the district actively promoted the Slovak Day celebrations at the World's Fair held in 1939 and again in 1964-65. Over these many decades, this Jednota district has contributed to and been an integral part of the fabric of Slovak cultural and fraternal life in the Big Apple.

Helping to establish Slovak parishes has been a proud legacy of a number of our New York area Jednota lodges. St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 44, helped to establish St. Elizabeth's Parish in Manhattan in 1891. This society actually dates from 1889 and was incorporated into the First Catholic Slovak Union in the spring of 1891. St. Elizabeth's was the first Slovak parish to be established in New York State. Originally located on East 4th Street where the first Slovak settled on Manhattan's lower east side which became home to great numbers of immigrants from Eastern Europe. The church remained at this site until 1917 when the parish purchased a former Lutheran Church on East 83rd Street in the Yorkville section of Manhattan. For the past 35 years, this parish has served as the center of the Deaf Apostolate of the Archdiocese of New York. The parish was closed in 2015.

St. Matthew's Society, Branch 45, was founded in 1891. This lodge helped to establish St. John Nepomucene in Manhattan in 1895. The parish was originally located on East 4th Street. In 1911, with the movement of many Slovaks uptown, the parish acquired a former synagogue on East 57th Street and remained on this site until 1926 when the present Church of St. John Nepomucene was blessed and dedicated in 1926. In addition to Branch 45, St. Stephen's Society, Branch 716, was founded in the parish in 1916. Previously, Branch 161, Unity under the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which dates from 1894 was also active in this parish. It was merged with Branch 716 in 1970. Today, both Branches 45 and 716 continue their activity at St. John's parish which continues to be the center of Slovak religious and cultural activities in New York City.

In 1902, members of St. Joseph Society, Branch 107, in Brooklyn, NY, met with the intention of establishing a Slovak parish in this borough of the city of New York. Under their leadership, Holy Family Parish was established in 1905 to serve the Slovaks in Brooklyn. While this church has lost its Slovak character, it continues to serve the area's faithful.

Holy Trinity, Branch 41 in Yonkers, N.Y., founded in the spring of 1891, is the oldest Jednota lodge in New York State. The Society's goal was to establish a Slovak parish in this mill town located on the eastern banks of the Hudson River, just north of New York City. It is credited with the establishment of Most Holy Trinity Parish in 1895. Branch 41 continued its activity in the parish over the years. This parish was closed on August 1, 2015.

In another community on the eastern banks of the Hudson River, North Tarrytown, now known as Sleepy Hollow, the Holy Cross Society, Branch 340 was founded in 1910. Under the leadership of Branch 340, Holy Cross Parish was established in 1922. This parish was closed in 2010. Branch 340 was merged with Branch 41 in Yonkers.

On the western banks of the Hudson River lies the community of Haverstraw. Slo-

vaks began to settle there in the early 1890s. SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 84, was founded here in 1893. In 1898, the group was instrumental in the establishment of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish to serve the Slovak community. This parish was closed on August 15, 2015. Branch 85 was merged with Branch 41 in Yonkers.

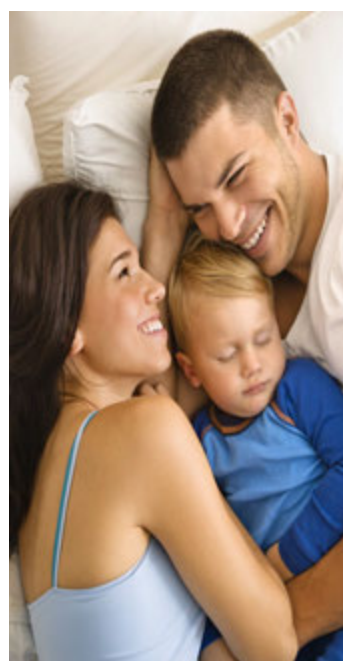
St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 228, was founded in 1920 in Poughkeepsie, NY, another community located on the eastern banks of the Hudson River about 90 miles north of New York City. In 1923, the Society was instrumental in establishing St. John the Baptist Church. This Slovak church continued its ministry until its closing in 2010.

In addition to the above listed local Jednota lodges, others which were previously active and a part of the Msgr. Krasula District have included Branches 283 and 854, both in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Branch 437 in Beacon, N.Y., Branch 594 in Cohoes, N.Y., Branch 302 in Peekskill, N.Y. and Branch 570 in Piermont, N.Y. These branches though not affiliated with a Slovak parish nevertheless were active in the work of their respective local parish.

Members of the Monsignor Krasula District have been pleased to be a part of the story of Slovak fraternalism in the Empire State. Over the years, our lodges have actively promoted our rich cultural and heritage supporting various Slovak organizations and activities. They have contributed immeasurably to the promotion of the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system in general, and of Slovak fraternalism in particular over these past 125 years. Happy 125th birthday Jednota!

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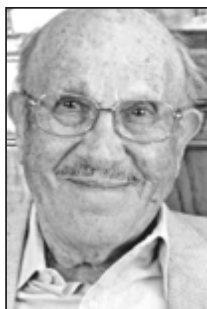


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All applications must be received in the Home Office **postmarked by December 31, 2015.**

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

Branch 153's Stephen Kolada Celebrated 95th Birthday



In pretty good health, Stephen Kolada recently celebrated his 95th birthday. He was born in Chicago, IL, on Sept 11, 1920, to Stephen and Stephanie Kolada. His parents moved the family to Námestovo, Slovakia, where Steve was raised and educated along with two brothers and one sister.

When he was 18, Steve came to the United States and settled in Chicago with his grandparents. He attended Crane Education courses in the evening, and during the day he worked in a print shop where he learned linotype and make-up forms.

At the age of 24, Steve was drafted into the US Army and served in Europe. He was captured by the Germans in November of 1944 and was held in a POW camp until WWII ended in May of 1945.

Upon his release, Steve returned to Chicago. He married Mary Gleason and they raised six children in Southern California, where the couple had relocated and Steve operated his own print shop called Community Press. His wife died in 1987.

Steve retired, and is living in Tujunga, CA. He has four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He and his second wife Rita (nee Lavery) celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary recently.

Steven belongs to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where he also belongs to the Knights of Columbus. He has been a part of the First Catholic Slovak Union since 1938. Steve is a member of Branch 153.

- Submitted by daughter Susan

Branch 6 Enjoyed a Summer Semi-Annual Meeting



Branch 6 in Streator, IL held its semi-annual meeting on August 2, 2015 at Chippers Grill in Streator, IL. After a short business meeting the members and guests enjoyed a buffet luncheon and fraternalism.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

Scenes from Branch 181 Annual Family Picnic at Mammoth Park, Mammoth PA, on June 28, 2015



The 2015 Lúčina Slovak Gala...

An Evening in the Heart of Europe

Saturday, November 14, 2015

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

Featuring:

The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland

Lúčinka Children's Ensemble

Východná Slovak Dancers of Greater Toronto

DJ Denis

TICKETS: \$50/Person

\$360/Table of 8

\$40/Person under 21

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

No tickets sold at the door.

Ticket includes:

Entertainment

Full-course dinner with 3 entrees & Dessert

Open bar

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

Raffles & gift baskets throughout the evening

Doors open: 6:00PM

Dinner: 6:30PM

Program: 7:30PM

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

Christine Matis-Hearn, 440-655-8244

Jenna Allen, 440-439-4119



Slovak Flag Raising In Carteret, NJ



The Slovak Community of Carteret, NJ, gathered together to celebrate the annual Slovak Flag raising in front of the Carteret Memorial Municipal Building Plaza on September 1, 2015, Slovak Independence Day.

The event was chaired by Diane Gruskowski and coordinated by Mary Rindosh.

Mayor Daniel J. Reiman read the proclamation describing a brief history of our Slovak Heritage reminding us of the strong Catholic religion our ancestors fought so hard for.

The Flag raising is a very moving ceremony for the Slovak citizens of Carteret. This was quite obvious during the singing of Hej Slovaci and God Bless America.

After the Flag Raising everyone was invited to a reception hosted by the mayor.

Sponsored by: the Ladies Slovak Citizen's Club of Carteret. Ida Poll, President, Mary Rindosh, Vice President, Rose Kutney, Treasurer, and Mary Warren, Secretary.

- Submitted by Diane Gruskowski, Branch 324 Member

The Annual Pilgrimage at Our Lady of Lebanon in 2015

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

The Slovak pilgrimage at Our Lady of Lebanon was held on August 30, 2015. It included a novena in honor of Saints Cyril and Methodius, followed by Holy Mass. During the late 9th century, these two missionary brothers from Constantinople brought the Christian faith to the area of Slovakia and other Slavic lands in Central Europe, and created a Glagolitic script in the Old Slavonic language, which became one of three languages besides Latin and Greek, which the Church permitted in reciting the holy Liturgy.

For the sake of those readers who could not attend, here are samples of some of the prayers included in this novena to these two patron saints of Europe. One might keep these prayers handy, and use them for a novena on the suggested dates for the Novena -- February 6-14, and September 7-15.

Novena in Honor of SS. Cyril & Methodius

Method's courage, Cyril's wisdom, Bid us follow Christ our Lord.

He has promised us a kingdom, thank Him, praise Him in accord.

Christ has conquered. Whom should we fear? Threats and dangers matter naught. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then the congregation prayed an Our Father and a Hail Mary.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer to St. Cyril

Note: this is excerpt from an anonymous Old Slavonic Life of Constantine (St. Cyril) and the Roman Office of Readings suggests it for the Feast of Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

Before he set on his journey to Central Europe, Constantine had taken ill from the burden of many hardships. During his long illness, he experienced a vision of God and then sang this verse: "My spirit rejoiced and my heart exulted because they told me we shall go into the house of the Lord." Then he stayed dressed in the vestments, which the faithful would later venerate. He rejoiced for an entire day after this vision, pledging, "From now on, I am not the servant of the emperor or of any man on earth, but of almighty God alone. Before, I was dead, now I am alive and I shall live forever. Amen."

The next day, he donned a monastic habit and adopted the religious name of Cyril. He then lived as a monk for 50 days. Soon after, he would set out on his journey to convert the Slavic peoples and transcribe a liturgical language for them.

When he faced mortal death, he prayed and outstretched his hands and recited the following as tears ran down his face:

"O Lord, my God, you have created the choirs of angels and spiritual powers; you have stretched forth the heavens and established the earth, creating all that exists from nothing. You hear those who obey your will and keep your commands in holy fear. Hear my prayer



(L - R) Dr. Kopanic, Helen Firment, Francis Firment, and Rev. Franko

Retired pastor of Holy Name, Rev. George Franko, concelebrated Mass with other priests



Miroslav Puskar reading Scriptures

and protect your faithful people, for you have established me as their unsuitable and unworthy servant. Keep them free from harm and the worldly cunning of those who blaspheme you. Build up your Church and gather all into unity. Make your people known for the unity and profession of their faith. Inspire the hearts of your people with your word and your teaching. You called us to preach the Gospel of your Christ and to encourage them to lives and works pleasing to you.

I now return to you, your people, your gift to me. Direct them with your powerful right hand, and protect them under the shadow of your wings. May all praise and glorify your name, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen." (The Liturgy of the Hours, Feast of SS. Cyril & Methodius, February 14)

After wishing the gift of peace to everyone, St. Cyril said: "Blessed be God, who did not hand us over to our invisible enemy, but freed us from his snare and delivered us from perdition." St. Cyril passed from this life when he was 42 years old.

A grand funeral followed in Rome, and included both the Greeks and Romans. The faithful chant over his body and carried candles, celebrating a funeral fit for a pope.

The Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Reconciliation

At the pilgrimage at Our Lady of Lebanon, the Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) followed, which should be part of the novena. Before Holy Mass, the congregation sang several devotional hymns to the Virgin Mary: Ľak sa sladko spieva, tve meno Mária (Oh, how sweet sounds, your name Mary), Spievajme Márii radostnú pieseň (We sing to Mary a joyful song), and Vykvital ruža (A rose has blossomed).

The celebration of Holy Mass followed in the Slovak language, with a choir leading the Slovak hymns. The retired pastor of Holy Name, Rev. George Franko, concelebrated Mass with several other priests. Father Franko deserves commendation for continuing this tradition and trying to keep alive the Holy Liturgy in Slovak.

Mass commenced with the processional hymn of devotion to Our Sorrowful Mother, ÓMária bolestivá (Oh Agonizing Mary). Reading the epistle was Miroslav Puškar, a Slovak immigrant parishioner from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Youngstown.

A native of eastern Slovakia, Rev. Martin Celuch, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, read the Gospel in both Slovak and English. Rev. David Misbrener, pastor of Saint Peter of the Fields in Rootstown, served as the homilist, reminding the faithful of the virtues of Sorrowful Mother, and the importance that she has played in the history and religion of the Slovaks.

Following the sermon, the faithful recited the Nicene Creed in Slovak, and the Prayers of the Faithful in Slovak and English translation. The Offertory hymn followed, Poď k Spasiteľu poď ešte dnes (Come to the Savior, come today). After the Consecration and Prayers of the Faithful, all heartily joined in reciting the Our Father (Otče náš) in Slovak. During Holy Communion (sväté prijímanie), the choir led in singing Hostiu vítajme, tej manne česť dajme (Welcome guests, let us honor the manna), followed by the reflective hymn, Ó láska nádej, spása, Ó Spasiteľu môj (Oh love, hope, salvation, oh my Savior). Mass concluded with the recessional hymn Teba Bože chválime, Teba Pána vyznávame (We praise you God, Lord we acknowledge you Lord).

After Mass concluded, attendees had the option of attending a banquet in Cedars Hall of the shrine. Much to my surprise, my mother's only surviving sister, Aunt Helen Firment and my Uncle Francis Firment from Girard, Ohio, were in attendance, and we had a heartwarming reunion, since I had not seen them since my father's funeral in May.

Conclusion

The Annual Slovak pilgrimage in honor of Our Mother of Sorrow offered an excellent opportunity to celebrate our faith and our rich Slovak traditions and our Slovak religious heritage in song and prayer. Attending such events cements us as an ethnic group and shows how our nationality and religious faith go hand in hand. That is one of the very reasons that Rev. Furdek founded the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Jednota, so that we would remain united as a people and as disciples of Christ.

Our Lady of Lebanon



Hi, Kids (and all those Young at Heart).

Trick or treat? (trik alebo maškrtka?)

Did ya recognize me? Once again, I'm decked out in this crazy pumpkin getup ☺. As I may have said, costumes weren't the deal-io back in the day when I lived in Slovakia as they are here in the States. But, hey, when in Rome, right?



Anyhoo, I hope you enjoy the funnies I found, and that your Halloween is filled with nothing but maskrtky.

Until next time, keep your ears up and your tail waggin' ...

Tvoj priatel' (Your friend),



Chewy



Autumn is a great time of the year. Soon those ugly patches of dead grass in your lawn will be covered up -- with ugly patches of dead leaves.

Now, today's lawn & garden tip. If you haven't found the hedge trimmer yet, forget it. It's almost time now to lose the leaf rake.

Autumn is a season for big decisions -- like whether or not it's too late to start spring cleaning.

Autumn -- time to drag out your winter clothes and see what kind of summer fun the moths had.

St. Thomas A Becket 9th Annual Golf Outing



St. Thomas A Becket will host their 9th Annual Golf Outing at South Hills Country Club located at 4305 Brownsville Road in Whitehall, PA, on Columbus Day, Monday, October 12, 2015. Registration forms are available online at www.stainthomasbecket.com or by calling Ben Huber at 412-650-1505. A single package is \$200.00 which includes: range, golf, cart, lunch, dinner, prizes and entertainment. Foursome and corporate packages are also available starting at \$800.000.

This event will kick off with registration at 10:00AM followed by lunch and a Shotgun Start Team Shamble at 12:00PM. Cocktails and dinner will follow starting at 5:30PM. Non golfers are cordially invited to attend dinner only at \$50.00 per person. Reservations for tables of eight or ten can be made by calling Debbie Madden at 412-655-9335.

The Master of Ceremony, back by popular demand, is Kimberly Richards, the "Funny Nun" from the Pittsburgh City Theater. This is a Premier Event with all proceeds benefiting St. Thomas a Becket Building Fund.

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN

Attention Members of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District 14

Want to learn more about the FCSU's excellent portfolio of insurance and annuity products?



SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATE:

The First Catholic Slovak Union Membership and Marketing Committee will hold a sales seminar for the following district in October:

• Saturday, October 24, 2015: The Rev. Joseph L Kostik District, see page 15 of this issue for details.

AMERICAN SLOVAK ZEMPLIN SOCIAL CLUB

SPONSORS THEIR

74th ANNUAL DINNER DANCE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015

At
ST. CYRIL & METHODIUS AUDITORIUM
12608 Madison Ave. Lakewood, Ohio

Starting at 1:00 PM with Slovak Mass

THE FULL-COURSE HOMEMADE DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 2:30PM

CULTURAL PROGRAM STARTS AT 3:30PM
PERFORMANCES BY:

“Lučina” and the “Slovenske Mamičky”

Live Music by the Johnny Pastirik Band

TICKETS: \$ 15.00 ADVANCE TICKETS SALES ONLY

Last day to order tickets; Tue. Oct. 14, 2015

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION CALL:

Fr. J. Pastirik	216 -721-5300 ext.213	G. Carny	440-885-5702
M. Chura	440-238-4177	G. Balak	440-934-5482
M. Cvicela	440-888-7028	M.Kobulsky	330-239-2256
J. Buydos	440-843-2305	N. Ruttkay	440-237-9012

Slovak Radio program	Every Sunday	11:00 AM – Noon,	On WERE 1490 AM
Slovak Radio Hour	Every Sunday	8:05 PM – 9:00 PM,	On WCPN 90.3 FM



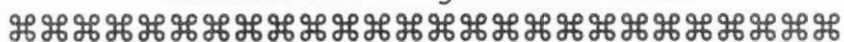
University of Pittsburgh
Pitt Student Slovak Club &
Slovak Studies Program
present the celebration of the

Slovak Heritage Festival -- the 25th YEAR anniversary!



**Sunday, November 1, 2015
1:00-5:00 p.m.**

University of Pittsburgh (Oakland)
Cathedral of Learning Commons Room



FREE admission -- This year's musical performers:

Jozef Ivaška, internationally renowned singer from Slovakia
The Singing Revil'ak Family of Bardejov, Slovakia
Pittsburgh Slovaks
PAS (Pittsburgh Area Slovaks)
Slavjane Folk Ensemble
Ben Sorenson on Fujara
And others!

Also Featuring: Cultural Displays & Lectures
Shop for Christmas: Slovak and East European import vendors
Ethnic Food (klobasa, halušky, holupki, pirohy, and pastries)

(please donate cookies or pastries in support of this wonderful FREE festival. Bring them to the pastry table in the Commons Room)

For more information, call Christine Metil@ 412-624-5906 or email Slavice@pitt.edu

Odpust at the Cathedral of Nativity of the Mother of God

Mother of God - Mary - Mother of us all. Mary is an integral part of the church and an integral part of our life. September 1 is the beginning of our liturgical year. Just as we closed our liturgical year with Mary's feast day - Dormition of the Mother of God, so we celebrate the beginning of our new liturgical year with yet another of Mary's feast days: her Nativity. Parishioners and guests gathered inside the Cathedral singing Marian hymns prior to the liturgy. In the meantime, procession of altar boys, laity and clergy started from the rectory. As H.E. Bishop John entered into his Cathedral, the congregation began singing the traditional "Vosel jesi, Archijereju" - "You have entered into your church, Most Holy Bishop." Blessing into the four corners of the world followed by H.E. Bishop John. This year, we were pleased to have our famous Slovak opera singer, Jan Vaculik, among us. His rendition of "Ave Maria" and "Panis Angelicus" helped to put us even more into the spirit of the day. Concelebrating at the altar with H.E. Bishop John, were: Fr. Marek Novicky, Fr. Jozef Mucha, Fr. Ron Comeau. Also serving were Sub-deacon Winsen Zouzal and Sub-deacon Cyril Pinchak, SJ. Homilies were delivered by H.E. Bishop John in English and Fr. Marek in Slovak.

In his sermon, Bishop spoke about Mary and her importance to all of us. He also spoke about the two faces of Mary: spiritual and worldly. He used the example of Lazarus' two sister, coincidentally named Mary and Martha. While Jesus stopped at Laza-

rus' house, Mary sat at Jesus' feet and hung onto every word Jesus spoke. On the other hand, Martha was busy looking after food and serving and she finally had enough. She approached Jesus and asked Him to please tell Mary to help her. Jesus assured her that Mary chose well; she chose to listen to Jesus. And just as Lazarus' sister Mary chose the better way, so did Mary, the Mother of God. When the Angel Gabriel approached her, Mary could have ignored him and be done with it. She, however, accepted and became the Mother of God.

Bishop also mentioned how the name of our church is also very apropos. Before our Cathedral became ours, it was a Jewish temple. And since Mary grew up in the Jewish tradition, it was an appropriate way to honor her. Our late Bishop Michael made a wonderful decision to name this church after our heavenly Mother and thus, we have a Cathedral named in Her honor.

Fr. Marek also praised our heavenly Mother. Using his own mother as an example, he told us about decisions she has made in her life that affected him. She, like Mary, also made the right decision. It is up to us to live our lives as we choose to, making decisions - some good, some not so good. We should strive to make more and more of the right decisions and open our hearts and our minds to the love emanating from Mary. Mary, Mother of God, is also our mother, who looks after us, protects us and wants only the best for us. Let's help Her; let's be the children she deserves and follow in Her footsteps.

Liturgy concluded with everyone receiving anointing - mirovanije - and all were invited to the parish hall to continue with the celebration. Odpusts are gatherings of friends and family from near and far. It is one day when we meet up with our fellow parishioners from our neighbouring Roman Catholic parish as well as parishioners from our parishes in Hamilton, Thornhill and Windsor. It has not been that long since we welcomed parishioners from Oshawa, Welland as well as Montreal. We continue to cherish these moments since we have no idea how long they will continue.

Our parish continues to grow and that is thanks in part to the priest who continues to listen and work with his parishioners. It is also thanks to the unending devotion and time given by parishioners week after week and year after year who sacrifice themselves for the good of the church. This year we honoured the most prominent of these parishioners: Mrs. Kapitan, Mrs. Bujdos, Mrs. Burger, Mrs. Bucko, Mrs. Lilek, Miss Uram, Mrs. Hosak and Mrs. Snell as well as Mr. Kapitan, Mr. Telepcak and Mr. Tutko. Your contribution to promoting our church has not gone unnoticed. We thank you and we thank your families for allowing you to do the work you do. May God grant you many more years in good health. Fr. Marek presented the honorees with a small gift as a token of appreciation from the church family.

- By Mary Siroky-Snell



News From Slovakia

Indiana National Guard Commander Visits Slovakia

Bratislava, September 22 (TASR) - Defense Minister Martin Gľvac and Chief of General Staff Milan Maxim welcomed Indiana National Guard commander Courtney P. Carr on this date, ministry spokesperson Martina Ballekova informed TASR.

According to Ballekova, Carr is visiting Slovakia for the first time as the new commander of the armed force (since June of this year). His visit also coincides with by far the largest international military exercise undertaken by the Slovak Armed Forces - Slovak Shield 2015 - which is to feature more than 600 pieces of military equipment and almost 4,000 soldiers, including 119 members of the Indiana National Guard.

During the meeting, Gľvac praised the benefits of international cooperation. "The presence of the National Guard of Indiana in our exercises - whether it's Slovak Shield, or last year's Ground Pepper exercise - provides an excellent opportunity for our armed forces. We can test our ability to respond to threats in cooperation with [our] allies and how we interoperate with each other," said Gľvac. "I appreciate the fact that our relations are very active and friendly," added Gľvac.

Gľvac expressed confidence that the cooperation will intensify in regard to new Black Hawk helicopters. The ministry plans to establish a training facility for the pilots of this helicopter, which will not only be used by the Slovak Air Force, but also by Slovakia's allies. "I'm sure that the new Black Hawk helicopters will further increase the already excellent cooperation between the Slovak Armed Forces and our National Guard," said Carr.

During its visit to Slovakia the US delegation will also participate in celebrations of the Day of the Armed Forces in Brezova pod Bradlom (Trencin region).

The Slovak Armed Forces have been cooperating with the Indiana National Guard since 1994 via the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Lajcak Attends 100th Anniversary Celebrations of Cleveland Agreement

Cleveland, September 27 (TASR) - Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak, who is currently in the USA, attended celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Cleveland Agreement in Cleveland, OH, on Saturday (September 26), the Foreign Affairs Ministry's press department informed TASR on this date.

The celebrations were an element of Slovak Heritage Day organized by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. They were attended by many members of the Slovak diaspora community as well as representatives of the political and social sphere of the state of Ohio.

The Cleveland Agreement was the first document formally to express the will of Czechs and Slovaks to establish a joint state of two equal nations and is viewed as the beginning of Slovak political efforts to establish a country outside of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

"The Slovaks who in 1915 signed the Cleveland Agreement would be proud of Slovakia today. Our journey towards meeting the objectives that they set out in this document was long and not always easy, but today we represent a success story," said Lajcak in his speech, praising the role of Slovak Americans in this regard and also the traditional relations between Slovakia and the USA.

"In the past, Slovaks came to the United States mainly in search of a livelihood and the prospect of a better life. Today they come to run businesses here, do research or pursue a sports career. I'm convinced that the most valuable capital of Slovakia is the variety of talent of our people," said Lajcak, pointing to Slovak photographer Filip Kulisev, who's exhibiting a selection of his photographs in his Amazing Planet exhibition at the museum.

The Slovak Heritage Days in Cleveland also featured an exhibition of Slovak folk costumes.

During his visit to Cleveland Lajcak met representatives of the local business community and expatriate organizations. At a working lunch organized by former US Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick, Lajcak presented Slovakia's political, economic transformation and integration success story and responded to questions concerning Slovakia's stances on the future of the European Union, the migration crisis, the situation in Ukraine and other current issues.

Cleveland is the second largest city in Ohio after Columbus. At the turn of the 20th century, Cleveland was the center of the Slovak community in the USA. According to estimates, there are more than 20,000 Slovaks and people of Slovak ancestry currently living there.

Memorandum with U.S. Steel Is Being Successfully Fulfilled

Bratislava/Pittsburgh, September 25 (TASR) - A Memorandum on Cooperation involving the Slovak Government and U.S. Steel (Kosice) is being successfully fulfilled, as Finance Minister Peter Kazimir and Environment Minister Peter Ziga stated after a meeting at the company's headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Good cooperation with the Slovak Government was also appreciated by U.S. Steel presi-

dent Mario Longhi in the middle of the current memorandum's validity, the Finance Ministry's press department has informed TASR on this date.

Longhi, representing the biggest employer in the region, emphasized that US Steel would like to continue in Slovakia. Despite the complicated situation on world markets, the five-year Memorandum signed with the Slovak Government in 2013 makes the company's stay in Slovakia possible. The agreement was signed after the company started thinking about leaving Slovakia. Both sides have agreed on certain allowances for U.S. Steel in power engineering and environmental matters.

The recent discussions of Slovak representatives in Pittsburgh concerned the cooperation in the environmental areas as well as emission policies and electricity prices. "Government representatives then left for New York, where they will take part in the UN General Assembly discussion on climate change and global warming," reported the finance ministry press department.

Lajcak Opens Slovak Press Photo Exhibition at Consulate in New York

Bratislava, September 26 (TASR) - Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak (Smer-SD) and Consul General Jana Trnovcova opened an exhibition of Slovak Press Photo 2014 winning photographs at the Slovak Consulate General in New York on Friday (September 25), Slovak Press Photo director Jana Garvoldtova and the ministry's press department informed TASR on this date.

The walls of the Consulate are displaying more than 30 pictures from the journalism photography competition. "I believe that this year's presentation of the best photographs will begin a tradition in New York of regularly displaying the best of Slovak Press Photo in this city," said Lajcak. Since its inception in 2012 the competition has been held under the auspices of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Lajcak is heading the Slovak delegation at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He attended an address by Pope Francis to the assembly on Friday (September 25).



(L - R) FCSU's Branch 278 Helene Cincebeaux, National President Andrew M. Rajec, and Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec, flank former US Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick. Joining them is a young woman dressed in kroj, part of Helene's special exhibit on Slovak folk costumes on display that day. *Editor's note: Jednota will run additional coverage of this event in an upcoming issue.*

Four Presidents Meet at the Birthday Party of Michal Kovac

Bratislava, September 23 (TASR) - All four presidents of modern Slovakia met together on this date at the birthday party thrown by former head of state Michal Kovac (1993-98), who turned 85 on August 5, 2015.

Among the well-wishers were former presidents Rudolf Schuster (1999-2004), Ivan Gasparovic (2004-14) as well as incumbent head of state Andrej Kiska (2014-present).

"It was an era of difficult struggle. The era when Mr. President and his family suffered because they had different political views [from those of then-prime minister Vladimir Meciar - ed.note]. We all rooted for him then. Therefore, I wished him enjoyment of his well-deserved retirement as best as possible. Thus first and foremost I wished him good health," said Kiska.

Gasparovic conceded that Kovac's tenure in office came at the difficult time, when even fellow members of the same political parties fought against each other. "But we managed to survive that and overcome both economic and international troubles. Michal certainly deserves some credit for that. I wish him health today, that's what all of us need the most," said Gasparovic.

Rudolf Schuster evaluated his relations with Kovac as quite cordial. "He was over at my place in Kosice while they kidnapped his son [in 1995]. We spent the evening together then," reminisced Schuster.

The birthday party was preceded by a short mass, celebrated by Archbishop Stanislav Zvolensky. Among the guests were also former finance minister Brigita Schmognerova (1998-02), former international affairs minister Pavol Demes (1991-92) and Martin Butora former Slovak Ambassador to US.

Upcoming Events by United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH

United Slovak Societies will host a Children's Halloween Costume Bowling Party at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, for ages 16 and under on Sunday, October 25, 2015 at 1:00PM, followed by pizza and treats. The party is for members and children of members of SCS Wr. 111, FCSU Br. 228, FCCLA Br. 114, NSS a.160 and LPSCU Br. 77. All children must be signed up by October 19, 2015 at the American Slovak Club at the bowling alley or in the bar area.



A traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner hosted by United Slovak Societies will be held at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, on Sunday December 6, 2015. Cocktails 5:30, dinner 6:00p.m. Entertainment will be provided by violinist Jozef Janis and special guest Celebration Ringers. Advanced ticket sales only. \$20pp with cash bar. Please contact Len at 440/988-3236.

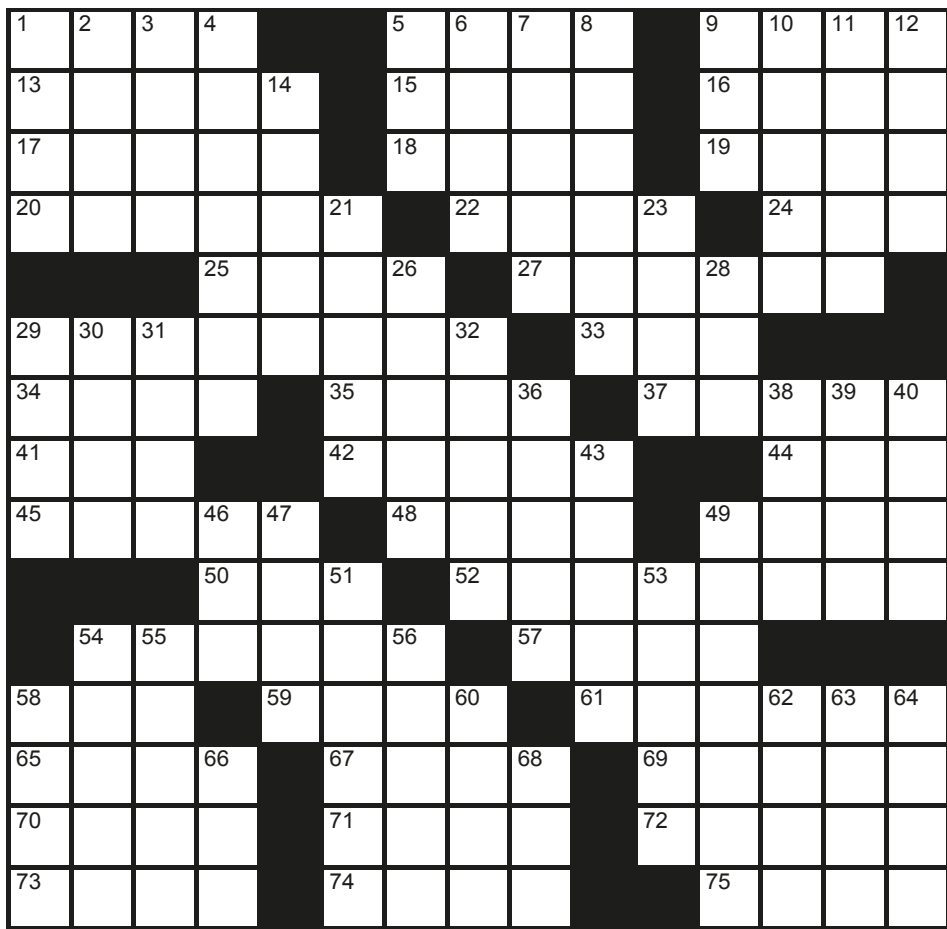
The American Slovak Club in Lorain OH, is seeking children and juniors to participate in their Bumper and Slovak Junior Bowling Leagues held at the Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH. For more information please contact the Alley at 440/244-1293 or visit their site, www.americanslovakclub.com.



- Submitted by Michele Mager

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Darlings
- 5 Struggle for air
- 9 Gumbo vegetable
- 13 Acid in proteins
- 15 Christmas season
- 16 "That was close!"
- 17 60's protest
- 18 Entreaty
- 19 Identical
- 20 Miller's ___ of Capricorn
- 22 Shelters
- 24 Young goat
- 25 Impoverished
- 27 Persian Gulf seapor
- 29 Gun muffler
- 33 Sunburn
- 34 Dill seed
- 35 Heavy load
- 37 Florida city
- 41 Bar stock
- 42 Mine passages
- 44 Writer Fleming
- 45 Tahoe and George, e.g.
- 48 Winter forecast
- 49 Military group
- 50 Be indisposed
- 52 Football aim
- 54 Lingo
- 57 Stead
- 58 Prom rental
- 59 Tones
- 61 Ozzie ___
- 65 Novelist Bagnold
- 67 ___ the Terrible
- 69 Proportion
- 70 Collar type
- 71 Parched
- 72 Pink-legged bird
- 73 Doll's cry

- 74 Great Lakes city
- 75 Gaelic

Down

- 1 Bygone
- 2 Dubai dignitary
- 3 Former Yugoslav leader
- 4 Scrap
- 5 Swindle
- 6 "___ Lang Syne"
- 7 Polished
- 8 Goober
- 9 Saturn's wife
- 10 Uniform shade
- 11 Send, as payment
- 12 Stunned
- 14 Burger topper
- 21 Hot chocolate
- 23 Kill a fly
- 26 Rips
- 28 Literary collectio
- 29 Spinnaker, e.g.
- 30 Old Peruvian
- 31 Relative of 14 Down
- 32 Regretting
- 36 Bar seat
- 38 Subcompact
- 39 Ache
- 40 Kitty starter
- 43 Beau
- 46 Listening device
- 47 Sound of frustration
- 49 Wail
- 51 *Virtuosity* actress Fletcher
- 53 Lascivious looks
- 54 Military clique
- 55 Adage
- 56 At no time
- 58 Swarm
- 60 Indian dress
- 62 Mix up
- 63 Painting types
- 64 Memo
- 66 Paternity identifier
- 68 Maiden name

Celebrating the Birth of a Nation. . . .



THE CLEVELAND AGREEMENT 100 Year Anniversary Commemoration Weekend

United in a desire to form their own government, Czechs and Slovaks in America met on October 22-23 1915, and began the idea to establish a common sovereign state. It was the concept that led to the birth of Czechoslovakia, and it happened right here in Cleveland at Historic Bohemian National Hall.

Under the sponsorship of the Czech Cultural Center of Sokol Greater Cleveland, SVU, and Cleveland-Bratislava Sisters Cities
A two-day celebration of this historic event is planned as follows:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015 * COMMEMORATION BANQUET
Festivities begin at 5:30 pm
Lucina Dancers, sponsored by Misencik Funeral Home
Historical Presentations by Dr Stephen Sebesta and Fr Michael Brunovsky, Benedictine HS
Contact Paul Burik - 440-934-4420 for more information

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015 * SOKOL SUNDAY DINNER
Pork Schnitzel with potato salad and vegetable; Dessert, Coffee, Tea; Cash Bar.
Served 1 to 2:30 pm; Reservations required by Monday, October 19th.
Phone Olga Nemecek 216-447-0264 for reservations

SUNDAY OCTOBER 25, 2015 * "THE BARTERED BRIDE"
The Czech light opera by Bedrich Smetana performed by the Voices of Canton, the Cleveland Women's Orchestra, and the Sokol Greater Cleveland Czech Dancers - 3:00 pm
Contact Jarmilla Skorepa 440-237-4114 for more information

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Czech Cultural Center Museum & Display of Czech and Slovak Kroje

All Events Held at



THE HISTORIC BOHEMIAN NATIONAL HALL
4939 BROADWAY AVENUE, CLEVELAND OHIO

Celebrating 150 Years of Sokol in America

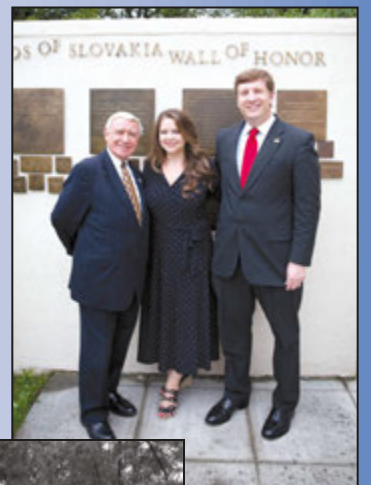
See Solution on Page 20

FCSU Events on September 12, 2015, in National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



To view all the photos from the

in Washington, DC at the Basilica of the on and at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Society, will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2015, in Minneapolis, MN.

The meeting will begin at 11:30AM in Father Dargay Hall, Church of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, 13th Ave., NE & 2nd Street.

The agenda will include officers' reports, schedule of activities for 2016, and the election of officers.

A lunch will be available after the meeting.

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P - EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2015, at 1:00 pm.

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

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. The agenda will include election of officers for 2015.

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

Mary Jo Rubino, Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold our special breakfast meeting at 9:30AM (directly following the 8:30AM Mass) on Sunday, November 8, 2015, when we will award our college-bound members with scholarships for their college expenses. The meeting will be held in the Church Hall of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

We cordially invite our members to attend our meetings held on the second Sunday of the month at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall.

Our annual meeting will be held on December 13, 2015.

Fraternally,

Henry Zack, Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St. Andrew Society, will hold a branch meeting/luncheon at 1:00 PM, Sunday, October 25, 2015 at the Old Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd. (Rt. 21) in Independence. Parking is available behind the gazebo on the town square.

The agenda will include the election of officers for 2016.

Please phone activities director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 evenings after 6:00 PM if you plan to attend. Thanks.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels, Branch 35, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2015, at 1:00 p. m. at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include officers' reports and a discussion of district and branch activities.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 - will hold its annual meeting Sun-

day, November 15, 2015, at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

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

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Bernard Skovira, President

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 invites all members to join us on Saturday, October 31, 2015, for our meeting and social, with a luncheon to follow. The location is Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI, 53222. Social time is from 12:00 (noon) – 12:30PM, with the meeting from 12:30 – 1:00PM (approximately). On the agenda: donations; 2016 activities. Lunch will be served directly following the meeting at 1:00PM.

Reservations are required by the restaurant. Reservations must be made by October 22, 2015 by calling Mike Novak @414-445-5382.

Lunch for members in complimentary; guest's cost is \$20.00. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

BRANCH 112 - MAHANAOY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will have its annual meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2015. Please note the change of date. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am at Andrew's Restaurant, 2610 East Dempster, Park Ridge, IL. We will elect our 2016 officers at this meeting. A luncheon will follow with no charge for branch members. All members are invited to share in fraternalism.

Please call me at 773 763-0810 if you plan to attend.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 11, 2015, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be the Election of Officers and a discussion of District and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by October 9, 2015, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will meet on Sunday, October 25,

2015 at 1:00 PM at Jioio's Restaurant, Route 981, Latrobe, PA 15650. You are encouraged to attend.

Barb Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 312 – BAGGLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2015, at 1:00PM at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive, Labtrobe, PA, 15650.

Michalene Smolleck, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Joseph M. Bugel, President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 380KJ will holds its annual meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2015, at 2:00PM at Kings Restaurant, Canonsburg, PA. On the agenda: the election of officers.

Fraternally,

Margaret Graytok, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Election of officers for 2016 will be held.

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

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 393, the St. Joseph Society, will hold a meeting at 1:00PM on Sunday, October 18, 2015, at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA, 15601. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting. All members are invited. For reservations, contact Mary Ann Nalevanko at 724-834-6386.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

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

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary Sandie Klucar

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 1:00PM. It will be held at the home of the Recording Secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, PA. 18109. Various issues will be discussed at this meeting.

God Bless All!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, Oct 18 Monthly meeting 2pm. Please note: December 20th meeting will be the election of Branch 595 officers, please attend.

Sunday, Oct 25 Breakfast 8:30am-12noon all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

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

Burritos every third Thursday of the month, to-go only. Call ahead to order.

Every Tuesday and Thursday all drinks .50 off Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm; Sat 12noon-8pm Come down and enjoy yourself!

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

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Dorothy Petrus, President

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT – ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, October 11, 2015. Location: Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will meet at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. A delicious catered dinner will be served to all attendees. All branches in District 2 are encouraged to send representatives. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, call Robert Tapak Magruder at (502) 244-6643 or (773) 558-5956.

Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 11, 2015. Mass will be at 11:30AM at Holy Trinity Church, 4456 Main St., Whitehall, Pa. 18052. Dinner will be served at 1:00PM at the Egypt VFW located at 5209 Spring Mill Road, Whitehall, PA. 18052. This is about a half mile up the road from the church. The meeting will begin after dinner. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Checks are to be made out to Branch 796.

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

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

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

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

All district branches are invited to attend.

Barbara Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - THE STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 – THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

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

Reminders

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

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

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

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 13 – JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT

District 13 Jozef Cardinal Tomko will hold a semi-annual meeting on October 11, 2015, followed by a complimentary meal. Time: 2:00pm. Location: Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA, 16666 (Route 53 South Of Philipsburg, PA, 16866) Members from District 13 branches are requested to attend. Please call Rosemary Deliman at 814 342 5592 if you are able to be present.

Rosemary Deliman, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 12 - ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

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

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District, District 14, will hold a luncheon and meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2015 starting at noon at the Magic Tree Restaurant, 7463 South Ave., Boardman, OH, 44512. Directly following the meeting at 2:00PM, the district will host a sales seminar by the FCSU Membership & Marketing Committee [editor's note: please see p11 of this issue for details about the seminar].

Reservations are requested. Please RSVP by October 16, 2015, to Joe Scavina at 1-330-758-4536.

Joseph T. Scavina, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold its All Saints and All Souls Mass on Sunday November 1, at John Paul II, Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA 92886, The Slovak Mass will begin at 1:00 PM and will be celebrated by Fr. Pavol Schulak, SVD from San Bernardino. After Mass, the district will host a period of fraternal fellowship, accompanied by good Slovak music. Light refreshments of coffee and donuts will be served. We invite all Slovaks and Slovak friends to join us for very pleasant afternoon in Yorba Linda, CA.

Thank you.

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 17 – SS. CYRIL 7 METHODIUS DISTRICT – LUZERNE AND LACKAWANNA COUNTIES, PA AND BROOME COUNTY, NY

The District's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2015, with Mass celebrated at 12:15PM at St. John the Evangelist Church, William and Church Streets, Pittston, PA, followed by dinner at 1:30PM and a meeting immediately after.

Are your district dues up to date?

Election of officers will take place at this meeting. You may be nominated from the floor and everyone has the opportunity to hold a position. Do you, as a member of your branch, have a special gift

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

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

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2015, at Ss Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI, 48314. The meeting is hosted by Branch 743. The Slovak Mass begins at 11:30 am. Our meeting will be held in the Slovak Heritage Room with refreshments at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the agenda will be the reports of District Officers; Branch merger update; 2015/16 Budget and Salary approval; as well as the ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2015/16.

Branch 743 is hosting the meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at 586-254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than October 14, 2015 so the caterer can be notified of the total number of attendees expected.

If you are unable to confirm prior to the meeting but wish to attend a \$10.00 fee will be collected at the meeting. Those making advance reservations will NOT be charged.

District President Robert Kristofik encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch. Remember branches must attend these meetings in order to qualify for branch compensation of \$5.00 per member.

Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 38 will host the Fall meeting of Pittsburgh District to be held on Sunday, November 29, 2015 at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin, PA. Officers for 2016 will be elected at this meeting. Other details of the agenda are still being planned. This notice will be updated when more information is available.

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: November 2 – Slovak Music and Songs, December 7 – Show and Tell/Bring Your Slovak Memorabilia.

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

** Slovak Wood Carving – Scene of Bethlehem: See its new home at the NSS Museum, McMurray, PA, together with craft demonstrations, vendors, food and entertainment. Saturday, September 26, 11AM to 4PM.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. This year the annual Slovak Radio Hour Dinner Dance will be held on Sunday, October 11 at the Westwood Golf Club, West Mifflin, PA.

** Slovak Heritage Day at the Pitt Cathedral of Learning will be held Sunday, November 1 from noon to 5 PM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2015, at Hoss's Steak and Sea Restaurant, 441 Theater Drive, Richland, Johnstown, PA. St. Joseph's Society, Branch 372, will be the host branch. Holy Mass will be offered earlier in the day at St. Michael's Church, St. Michael's, PA.

On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of the low attendance at the district meetings. Branches are reminded to receive the annual stipend from the Home Office they must have their dues current and attend one district meeting annually. Let's have a good turnout.

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	John William Plachko	112K	Timothy M Reed	308K	Alice Machingo	682K	Cyril M Deley Sr
004K	Elizabeth K Wills	153K	Mary A Zbella	315K	Andrew Stupar	682K	Alfred S Leslie
005P	Joseph Negrey	156K	Richard P Bacak	320K	Joseph Turcheck	682K	Sara A Makosky
005P	Felix J Skrzysowski	166K	Robert J Gosney	327K	Dorothy M Litchko	716K	Milan R Dait
005P	John Ursta	166K	William Kenneth Maney Sr	353K	Dolores J Prelic	731K	Paul Petro
016P	Frank J Kaminski	181K	Iris Jean Petrosky	362K	James A Timko	738K	Helen B Ferlic
016P	Joseph M Podskoch	181K	Mary M Pospisil	373K	Irene Smolak	743K	Steve J Buchko
019K	Helen R Wargo	181K	Mary E Tomechko	388K	Terrence M Ulishney	743K	Hedwig Catherine Mckolay
023K	Rose Mary Brown	181K	Dolores J Whalen	404K	Helen Mary Plafcan	746K	John P Nemergut
024K	Warren D Reznicek	200K	Elizabeth Bodnar	410K	John Martin Miklusek	746K	Johan Plisko
035K	Frank A Kravetz	200K	Frank J Walleck	484K	Emma E Galetka	754K	Pauline T Emig
038K	Carl J Dominik	224K	Anthony V Pape	484K	Brian M Gatskie	764K	Edward T Kazimer
038K	Helen A Melko	260K	Joseph J Bartos	484K	Ronald S Vargo	777K	Betty M Sheeler
038K	Paul E Mustovic	260K	Robert E Casey	553K	Joann L Thur	796K	Rose A Hudak
040K	Stephen Francis Mraz Jr	260K	Anne Sarosy	567K	Carole Ann Regeg	831K	Mary A Drotar
041K	John F Benuscak	260K	Joseph Sikora	567K	Alexander Solga	831K	Edith G Gernat
045K	Method M Balco	266K	Thomas A Kochie	567K	Nicholas P Vrablec	831K	Rudolph S Palko
055K	Andrew J Kasarda Jr	270K	Rosalie A Meckes	581K	Margaret M Sandor	831K	Elizabeth P Zencuch
075K	George Centek	276K	Nancy A Buehrle	587K	Mary Ann Yurfest	900K	Catherine T Creamer
085K	John A Gouse	276K	Christopher S Katchur Sr	628K	George W Hook Sr		
085K	Robin Lynn Malia	292K	William Patrick	628K	Cyril A Jacobs		
090K	Mary Ann Egnotovich	292K	Alice M Spak	682K	Stephen M Chlebus		

*Processed through the month of September 2015

OBITUARIES

FRANK A. KRAVETZ BRANCH 35 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



Frank A. Kravetz of Chalfant Borough, East Pittsburgh, PA, died on Friday, August 7, 2015, at the age of 91. Beloved husband of the late Anne (Cerjanic) Kravetz for 68 years and who died just 4 months ago on March 31, 2015.

Loving and dear father of Robert F. "Rock" (Andrea) Kravetz of Monroeville, PA; Cheryl (Ed) Werle of Jones Mill, PA; and Lynne (Ed) Hartnett of Champion, PA. Grandfather of Robert F. "Rocky" (Nina) Kravetz of DE. "Bonus Grandfather" of Ben Werle of Seattle, WA; Mark (Emily) Werle of Harmony Twp, PA; and Anna Werle of Lawrenceville, PA; and "Bonus Great-Grandfather" of Alivia, Gabe and Alaina. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, George and Susan (Salata) Kravetz (Kravec) and his stepmother, Susan (Kollar) Kravetz.

Frank was a proud WW II combat veteran serving honorably as a Staff Sgt. with the Army Air Corp, as a B-17 gunner, Mighty Eighth, 457th Bomb Group. He was severely wounded in action on November 2, 1944, becoming a prisoner of war. Interred at Nuremberg, Stalag XIIID, Frank was liberated from Moosburg, Stalag VIIA on April 29, 1945. Frank was a Purple Heart Recipient, which he was awarded on June 21, 1949.

He was a Charter Member & Past Commander, East Pittsburgh VFW Post 5008 and served as the National Director Service Officer of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and a President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

He was inducted to the Southwestern Veteran Center Hall of Fame in May 2006 and was a Jefferson Award Nominee in September, 2012. Frank told his amazing life story as the author of 'Eleven Two; One WWII Airman's Story of Capture, Survival and Freedom' which was released in 2010.

Frank was a longtime resident of Chalfant

Borough and was retired from Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Churchill site. In 2014, Frank was presented the Charley Ruch Lifetime Achievement Award from Westinghouse SURE.

A lifelong Steeler & Pirate Fan, he also enjoyed gardening, visits to casinos, travel and attending patriotic events of any kind. Proud of his Slovak heritage, Frank was known for his many home-made Slovak dishes made for holidays and family gatherings. Frank's life passions were twofold: his family and his service to his fellow Veterans. Frank was well known for his many efforts to secure benefits for veterans which they rightfully deserved.

Friends were received at Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral Home, 700 Linden Ave. at Cable, East Pittsburgh, PA. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Maurice Church, Forest Hills, PA, on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at 10 a.m. Frank was laid to rest with Military Honors in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies on Wednesday, August 12, 2015.

Frank's family offers special thanks to the caregivers at Concordia of Monroeville.

Dad, you were brave, kind and generous with warmth to others. You are our hero. Now you've folded your wings and met your sweetheart in heaven. Rest in peace, you've earned it. We will live our lives in the freedom you helped secure for all of us.

- Submitted by Cheryl Werle

PAUL L. KRIVACEK BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

Paul L. Krivacek, 81, of Greensburg, PA, died Friday, September 4, 2015, in Forbes Regional Hospital, Monroeville, PA. He was born July 21, 1934, in Roscoe, PA, a son of the late Louis and Anna (Sninchak) Krivacek. Prior to his retirement, he had been the supervisor of special education for the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit 7. He was a member of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Greensburg, an Army veteran and a member of the PSEA. He was a graduate of California State Teachers College with a Bachelor of Science degree and a gradu-

ate of West Virginia University with a degree in Master's of Arts specializing in speech and hearing. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Donna L. (Huwart) Krivacek; a son, Paul D. Krivacek and his wife, Colleen, of San Diego, CA; a daughter, Kristy Johnson and her husband, Steve, of Latrobe, PA; four grandchildren, Owen and Olivia Krivacek and Brayden and Kenzie Johnson; three sisters, Margaret Kopach, of Charleroi, PA; Catherine Martin, of Roscoe, PA; and Julia Brudnik, of Elco, PA; and several nieces and nephews. Friends were received from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, September 8, 2015, in the Leo M. Bacha Funeral Home, Greensburg. Prayers were recited at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, in the funeral home, followed by a funeral Mass celebrated at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Greensburg. Entombment followed in the St. Clair Cemetery Mausoleum.

- Submitted by Frances Tarquinio,
Branch 320 Secretary

EDITH G. "EDIE" GERNAT BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA



Edith G. "Edie" Gernat, 79, of Fawn Twp., PA, passed away Saturday, August 29, 2015 at Good Samaritan Hospice at Concordia, Cabot, PA, following a lengthy illness. She was born in Pittsburgh, PA, daughter of the late John Pobicki and Catherine (Schaeffers) Pobicki, Naperkowski. Edith lived in Fawn Twp. since 1978 and prior to that Brackenridge, PA. Edith was an Agent for the IRS in the Pittsburgh office, retiring in 1997. She was also an all-around wife, mother and homemaker while maintaining an eclectic work history from her time at Gulf Research to nurse's assistant at Allegheny Valley Hospital and Georgian Manor, to tax preparer at H&R Block. Following her retirement she worked side by side with her best friend as a tax preparer during the annual tax season. She was a member of Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Most Blessed Sacrament Church, Natrona Heights,

PA, and a 1953 graduate of Tarentum High School and furthered her education by taking accounting and tax courses. Edith surrounded herself with a group of very talented, fun loving lifelong friends who were like family to us all. As all of their children grew, this super team of ladies prepared for weddings, baby showers, and graduations by making decorations, decorating and cooking to celebrate these milestone events. She was involved in all aspects of her children's lives. She was teacher, advisor, mentor, Girl Scout Leader, Cub Scout Den Leader, marching group organizer and attended every school event and activity possible her children were part of. She also enjoyed arts and crafts, gardening and travelling. Summer vacations were filled with the family visiting State and National Parks, monuments and relatives throughout the country. After the children were grown, the adventure continued. Edie and Ed visited numerous countries such as Mexico, Aruba, Bermuda, Belize, Ireland, Jamaica and many more. Her numerous trips to the homeland of her relatives in Boleraz and Bratislava, Slovakia brought her great joy. Her pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia/Herzegovina where she climbed the mountain of stones to visit the shrine of the Blessed Mother was a dream of her lifetime. She will be missed, but never forgotten. Her kindness and generous spirit will live on in each person's life she touched. She took great joy in and cherished each and every one of her children, but the delight on her face when she saw her nine grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren (one on the way) was beyond words. Survivors include her husband of 63 years, Edward J. Gernat; her children, Sherry L. (James) Murphy, Milton, Delaware, Mark A. Gernat, Flowery Branch, GA, Leslie A. Collier, Sewickley, Christopher J. (Natalia Rusak) Gernat, Lafayette, NJ and Jennifer L. Gernat, Little Rock, Ark; 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Also surviving is a brother, Francis "Frank" Pobicki, North Brunswick, NJ. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by infant son Regis and a brother, John "Jack"

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OBITUARIES

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Pobicki. Visitation was on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, from 4PM until time of service at 6PM in the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum, with Rev. Nick Spirko, officiating. Interment in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Twp followed.

- Submitted by
Kathy Persuns, Branch 831 Secretary

ELIZABETH P. "BETTY" ZENCUCH BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA
Elizabeth P. "Betty" Zencuch, 88, formerly of Tarentum, PA, passed away,



Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at Elmcroft of Sxaonburg, where she had been a resident the past two years. Betty was born Aug 15, 1926 in Tarentum a daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Dubansky) Zencuch, Sr. and lived her entire life in Tarentum. She was a custodian at

the University of Pittsburgh and the Highlands school district for a number of years. Betty was a member of Holy Martyrs Church Tarentum, and a member of the former St. Clement R.C. Church. Elizabeth was a member of Branch 831 of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the former Ladies Guild of St. Clement Church. She enjoyed bowling, watching TV, bingo, walking and being with her family. Betty is survived by her sister, Pauline Chupka, Tarentum, and a number of nieces, nephews and three great nieces. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by 5 Brothers, John, George, Stephen, Joseph and Frank Zencuch, and 3 sisters, Dorothy, Ann Zencuch, and Helen Raybits. Visitation was Thursday, August 13, 2015, from 4PM to 8PM in the Duster Funeral Home, Tarentum, where a prayer Service was conducted on Friday, August 14, 2015, at 9:30 AM followed by a Christian Funeral Mass at 10AM in Holy Martyrs Church with her Pastor Rev. Thomas L. Gillespie, MD officiating. Interment was in St. Clement Cemetery, Tarentum.

Submitted by
Kathy Persuns, Branch 831 Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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of talent/service/interest in Jednota? Even your presence as a member is appreciated. Come ... join in keeping FRATERNALISM alive!!!

Reservations and any questions you might have may be made by calling District President Michael Slovenkai at (570) 342-7562.

We hope to see you on Sunday, October 18th.
Fraternally,

Theresa Chupka, Secretary

DISTRICT 17 –SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT - BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK AND LACKAWANNA AND LUZERNE COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

District 17, Region 3, will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union and commemorate the death of Father Stephen Furdek, founder of the FCSU, on Sunday, October 25, 2015.

The observance will begin with a Mass at 12:15 P.M. in St. Peter's Cathedral, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Following the Mass, there will be a dinner at St. Mary's Center, 320 Mifflin Avenue, Scranton. The Center is approximately 5 1/2 blocks from the Cathedral which is the Mother Church of the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

There will be a half hour open bar. The dinner will begin with a wine toast followed by Caesar salad, choice of entree (filet mignon or filet of salmon with lemon buree blanc), twice baked duchess potatoes, roasted vegetables, and a celebratory cake.

A short program will follow with Pennsylvania State Legislator Sid Kavulich as speaker.

Each branch of District 17 is asked to send ten representatives to this event. Of course, guests are always welcome. Children are also welcome and are encouraged to attend.

This event affords branches the opportunity of fulfilling a fraternal activity by attending, by assisting members with the cost of the dinner, or by paying for the children's dinners.

If there are questions or if you wish to make reservations, contact Martha Zavada, Region 3 Director, at 570.655.4141 (Home) or 570.954.3771 (Cell).

Reservations are due before Thursday, October 15, 2015.

Thank you.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, District 17 Fraternal Activities

DISTRICT 20 PRINCE RASTISLAV , MONTREAL, QUEBEC

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

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

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 25, 2015, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, New York City.

On the agenda will be: 1) the election of Branch 716 officers for 2016 2) a financial report and 3) a discussion of plans for next season.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.
Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 738 will be holding its Bi Annual membership appreciation dinner.

This Gala evening is planned for October 18, 2015, at the Westbrook Country Club.

Cocktails will begin at 5:30 and dinner is at 6 pm. This will be a sit down dinner and if you are interested in attending and have not received your invitation please contact Pat Guidish at 412-496-0224 to reserve your dinner. Please join us for this enjoyable evening.

Pat Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 743- STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

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

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

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

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCHES 784 AND 810 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

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

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

A light lunch will be served.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday November 8, 2015. The meeting will take place at 1 pm. In the church basement of Holy Trinity R.C. Church, Egypt, PA. All members are invited to attend. Food and drink will be served following the meeting. God Bless.

Jerry Lloyd, Treasurer

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855, will hold a membership meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2015 at 2:00PM at the residence of Branch President Michael Kolesar.

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

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2015

Publication Date

Deadline to Receive Materials

October 21

October 12

November 4

October 26

November 18

November 9

December 9

November 30

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA • SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2015 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

(TELECONFERENCE)

OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked the National Chaplain, Fr. Thomas Nasta, to offer the opening prayer.

ANTHEMS

The President asked Regional Director Sabina Sabados to lead in the singing of the anthems.

READING OF THE CALL

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly Meeting.

ROLL CALL

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call:
Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain – present via telephone;
Andrew M. Rajec, National President – present;
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President – present
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary - present;
George F. Matta II, National Treasurer – present;
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors – present via telephone;
Rudolf Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director – present via telephone;
Sabina Sabados, Regional Director, Region 1 –present via telephone;
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2 – present via telephone;
Martha Zavada-Wojcik, Regional Director, Region 3 – present;
James Marmol, Regional Director, Region 4 – present via telephone;
Michael Lako, Regional Director, Region 5 – present via telephone
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6 – present via telephone
Rudolph Bernath, Regional Director, Region 7 – present via telephone
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 – present via telephone;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel – present via telephone;

All present and accounted for.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20-21, 2015 BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Michael Lako to accept the minutes as presented of the March 20-21, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting which had previously been sent to all the Board members and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order if necessary. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer presented a report and answered the Board's questions.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President presented his report.

125th Anniversary Celebration

The President stated the celebrations of our 125th anniversary have been finalized and the dates are as follows: Chicago-August 23, Toronto-August 23, Scranton-October 25, New Jersey-November 7, and the main celebration will be Cleveland-August 29th. The President stated the final plans for the joint celebration of the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Rev. Stephen Furdek, are almost complete. The event will take place on Saturday, August 29, 2015 at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. Father Michael Brunovsky, OSB, will speak and give a brief history of our society at the celebration. The video of our Society will also be shown that evening. Reservations may be made by contacting the home office. The celebration has been publicized in the Jednota newspaper and on our website. The Board will continue to receive updates on the progress.

The Pilgrimage to the National Shrine

The 50th anniversary of the dedication of the chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC will be held on September 12, 2015 in conjunction with the Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage. The President stated there will be readings in Slovak and English for Mass and also Slovak hymns. The Cardinal will do the homily in English and he has agreed to allow a Slovak Priest to translate it to Slovak at the end of Mass. Following the Mass at the Shrine the Slovak Embassy has graciously volunteered to host a Reception at the Embassy. The full schedule

will be published in the Jednota for everyone's review. The Board will be kept informed as details are completed.

The President stated it has been decided that a district which charters a bus for Washington, DC and is able to have a minimum of 30 people agree to go will be reimbursed \$500.00 towards the cost of the bus. Regional Director Sabina Sabados announced that she has contacted all the parishes in the New York – New Jersey area about the event and believes she will have 4 buses going.

Memorial

The President updated the Executive Committee on the Jednota Middletown Memorial and stated the project will be complete very soon. The President announced September 13, 2015 is the date for the dedication to be held in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The tentative schedule is as follows:

1:00 pm Field Mass celebrated by our Chaplain
1:30 pm Dedication of site and Memorial
2:00 pm Reception and social

The President stated we have published some pictures in the Jednota showing the progress of the memorial. If we experience inclement weather, the event will be held in the Printery building. Anyone interested in attending is asked to please make reservations by contacting the home office.

AQS – ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC.

Larry White, of AQS Asset Management Company, LLC, presented his extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report to the Board via teleconference. A copy of his presentation was distributed to each Board Member prior to the meeting. Following his report, he answered all the Board's question.

Annuity Rates

The President stated that after an extensive discussion it was decided the rates will remain the same and will be reviewed at the July meeting of the Executive Committee.

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% apy
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.20% apy
With the "Cash Interest" Option	2.95% apy
New Six Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.10% apy
New "Park 2 Annuity"	2.15% apy

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FIRST QUARTER 2015

Executive Secretary's Report

Secretary Arendt presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2015. After his report he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2015 first quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors giving a complete update of all MPAM, UBS, MAI investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Portfolio Custodian

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

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments

The Executive Secretary stated all investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015 • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00am and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta II, Treasurer (Absent and Excused)
Michael Lako, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the July 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr. and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The Executive Secretary reviewed the second quarter of the financial statement. He stated the following:

Assets	\$364,939,349.00
Surplus	\$ 25,634,786.00

He answered all the Board's questions.

INVESTMENT UPDATES:

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

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

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of July 2015:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 89,173.62
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 42,243.64
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

ANNUITY RATES:

The President led a lengthy discussion on our current annuity rates. It was decided by the Executive Committee to keep the rates the same and review them again at the September meeting.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report via web ex and telephone. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report Larry White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President presented a written detailed sales production report to the Executive Committee on the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents and now have 200 agents. The Executive Secretary stated we are recruiting new agents in Nebraska, Texas and Florida and the response has been very favorable. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President said we are still scheduling seminars for 2015 and asked the Regional Directors to contact him with available dates for their regions.

The Vice President announced the program to reintroduce the special offer of waiving the first year premium on the JEP Policy began August 1st. All branch officers received information on this special offer. There has also been an advertising campaign with notice being in the newspaper, sent through email, and on our Facebook.

The President stated we have interviewed 2 local marketing firms to review the effectiveness of our current marketing plan and to offer assistance in enhancing it. The marketing firm ultimately chosen would help the FCSU develop training videos for use in our seminars to explain our products better and to allow these videos to be used by our branches and districts to help in developing our overall marketing plan.

The Executive Secretary stated we are continuing to advertise on Facebook with new material being added daily, as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including new ad material in our home office mailings. The Vice President stated if any branch or district is planning a fraternal activity to please contact the home office or the Editor and we will advertise the event through Facebook, email, and our mailings.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President updated the Executive Committee on the Jednota Middletown Memorial and stated the project is complete except for additional "bricks" and final landscaping. The President announced September 13, 2015 is the date for the dedication to be held in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The President stated anyone interested in attending the dedication to please make your reservations by contacting the home office.

The President stated the celebrations of our 125th anniversary have been finalized and the dates are as follows: Chicago-August 23, Toronto-August 23, Scranton-October 25, New Jersey-November 7, and the main celebration will be Cleveland-August 29th. The President is encouraging all branches within these districts to participate their event. Notices have gone out to all branches informing them of the dates and asking for their support. The final plans for the joint celebration of the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Rev. Stephen Furdek, are complete. The celebration has been publicized in the Jednota newspaper and on our website. The Executive Committee will continue to receive updates on the progress.

The President gave an update on the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC will be held on September 12, 2015 in conjunction with the Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage. The President stated the schedule is complete with the Federation to incorporate Slovak into the readings for Mass and also to include Slovak hymns. The full schedule will be published in the Jednota. The Board of Directors semi-annual meeting will be held in conjunction with this event on September 10-11, 2015.

The President stated it has been decided that a district which charters a bus for Washington, DC and is able to have a minimum of 30 people agree to go will be reimbursed \$500.00 towards the cost of the bus.

The President updated the Executive Committee on the meeting called for Branch 425 in Barberton, Ohio on July 26. He stated that, even after notices were mailed to members of the branch and placed in the Jednota, only 4 members came to the meeting. Those members present and the home office decided to close the club. The President and Executive Secretary went to Barberton and closed the club and the bar operation. The property is for sale with the assistance of the branch president and financial secretary.

The President will ask Regional Directors to help identify all the Slovak clubs in their region affiliated with the FCSU (if any) and to inform the home office immediately if they identified any.

The President announced the home office has developed a video of our society to be shown at various events and at the anniversary dinners. It shows a commentary of the President and the history of our society. It has been well received by everyone that has seen it.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING

continued from page 18

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed the sales production by Districts and also by General Agents and Independent Agents and answered the Board's questions.

The Vice President updated the Board on the recruiting process for independent agents to sell our products. He informed the Board we already have 200 agents.

The Vice President further led a discussion regarding seminars for the remainder of 2015 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their region.

The President stated he has contacted a local marketing firm to review the effectiveness of our current marketing plan and to offer assistance in enhancing it. He further stated several more marketing firms would be interviewed. The marketing firm ultimately chosen would help the FCSU develop training videos for use in our seminars to explain our products better and to allow these videos to be used by our branches and districts.

The Executive Secretary stated we have been advertising the insurance and annuity products in our mailings, on the website, Facebook, and through e-mail. The Executive Secretary stated we have been utilizing social media more and more to reach our members and our branches.

The Vice President announced the program to reintroduce the special offer of waiving the first year premium on the JEP Policy begins August 1st. All branch officers received information on this special offer. There has also been an advertising campaign with notice being in the newspaper, sent through email, and on our Facebook.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President stated the lease for ACS/Xerox, a tenant in Building #2 in Middletown, Pennsylvania, is up at the end of 2015. He asked Dan Alderman, our leasing agent for Middletown, Pennsylvania, advice and direction on approaching this tenant. Mr. Alderman reviewed the current market in Middletown and offered his opinion to the Board. The Board agreed unanimously to suggest to the Jednota Properties, Inc., to accept Mr. Adelman's advice on negotiations with ACS/Xerox.

The President announced to the Board a special business meeting for Branch 23 will be held in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on June 28 for the purpose of electing new officers. The home office will work with them to help them get organized. He further stated a meeting was called for Branch 425 in Barberton, Ohio on July 26 concerning the sale of their building and the closing of their bar operation.

President of Jednota Inc., Andrew Harcar, Sr., presented the Board a \$150,000.00 dividend check for the FCSU.

George Matta II asked for a clarification of the FCSU travel policy and travel reimbursement policy. The President gave an explanation of the travel and reimbursement policies to the Board.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Director of Fraternal Activities Rudolf Ondrejco presented his report and gave a summary of the bowling tournament held May 1-3, 2015, in Erie, Pennsylvania. Director Ondrejco further stated plans were in place for the FCSU Golf Tournament for July 17-19, 2015, in Dubois, Pennsylvania. The President asked the Fraternal Director to think of ideas or suggestions of activities members would be interested in participating in.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President stated he received a letter from a lumber mill concerning harvesting some of the trees on our property in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The lumber mill offered \$50,457.00 to do this work, an increase from a proposal it made over a year ago for \$32,000.00. After deciding that a managed harvesting program on the property would make way for new trees to grow, the Board decided to accept the mill's offer of \$50,457.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITOR'S REPORT

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented the Auditor's Report for the first quarter of 2015, and answered the Board's questions. She stated that the Internal Auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything was in order.

DONATIONS

Donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Rudolf Ondrejco to adjourn. Motion carried.

The President asked Father Thomas Nasta to end the meeting with a prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Správy zo Slovenska

Čínsky drak v strednej Európe

Slovensko a Česko sa čoraz viac dostávajú na čínsku investičnú mapu. Kým za posledných desať rokov investovali čínske firmy na Slovensku približne 40 miliónov eur, len za tento rok by túto sumu mali niekoľkonásobne prevýšiť. V Česku investovali v roku 2015 už viac ako 370 miliónov eur. James A. Dorn, viceprezident Cato inštitútu vo Washingtone povedal, že Čína sa snaží týmito krokmi rozširovať svoju geopolitickú moc. A to aj v čase, keď tamojšia ekonomika dosiahne najnižší rast za ostatných 25 rokov.

Slovensko môže zlomiť rekord v počte turistov

Slovensko má našliapnuté k novému rekordu. Za prvý polrok na Slovensko prišlo síce iba o necelých dvetisíc, ale predsa viac turistov ako za rovnaké obdobie v roku 2013. Ten sa považuje za rekordný, pretože sa mu prvýkrát od krízy podarilo prekonať magickú hranicu štyroch miliónov turistov ročne. Destináciám pomohla reklama i stabilné počasie k tomu, že ich navštívilo takmer 1,9 milióna turistov.

Chaty lákajú ľudí čoraz viac

Záujem o kúpu chaty či chalupy je o tretinu vyšší ako vlni. Podľa realitných kancelárií sa ľudia čoraz častejšie presúvajú za oddychom mimo mesta. Za rastúcim záujmom je najmä oživenie realitného trhu a lepšia finančná situácia Slovákov, tvrdia realitní makléri. Rastú aj ceny. „Najviac stúpali ceny chat a chalúp postavených na takých pozemkoch, ktoré sú čo najbližšie k mestu a do budúca sú vhodné na výstavbu rodinného domu a trvalé bývanie,“ povedala maklérika RE/MAX Family v Nitre Mária Ševčíková.

Tohtoročný festival navštívilo vo Veľkých Kapušanoch niekoľko tisíc ľudí

Lečo festival prilákal v centre Použia vo Veľkých Kapušanoch niekoľko tisíc ľudí. Napriek tomu deviaty ročník podujatia bol stratový. Do súťaže vo varení leča sa mohli prihlásiť trojčlenné družstvá. Pre návštevníkov pripravili organizátori bohatý kultúrny program. Vystúpil detský folklórny súbor, gitarová skupina, ale priestor dostali aj populárne skupiny a sólisti z domova i zahraničia. Na dvojdnovom festivale vystúpila rocková skupina Republic, predstavil sa Peter Cmórik, Peter Bič, Magdi Rúzsa a Margit Bangó. Nechýbali ani sprievodné programy pre deti a dospelých. Mesto vynaložilo na podujatie 20.000 eur, sponzori prispeli ďalšími 4500 eurami. Príjmy festivalu prekročili sumu 9000 eur, ale napriek tomu akciu uzavreli so stratou.

Prečo Slovenky nechcú robiť za 600 eur?“

Firma Eissmann so sídlom v Holíči by potrebovala obsadiť pozície šičiek, no ženy z okolia nemajú o prácu záujem. „Plat takmer 600 eur v hrubom však zrejme nikoho nezaujal natoľko, že by sa o pozíciu uchádzal. Máme voľné pozície na krajčírky. Firma Eissmann potrebuje okamžite 150 žien“, uviedol riaditeľ Úradu práce v Senici Ján Kovár. „Ak sa situácia nezmení budeme musieť zamestnať aj utečencov, hovorí finančný riaditeľ firmy Eissmann Štefan Pollák. Prijímanie zahraničných zamestnancov vo výhlade dvoch rokov predpokladá aj spoločnosť Manpower.

NATO: Regionálne veliteľstvá by čoskoro mohli vzniknúť aj v SR a v Maďarsku

Regionálne veliteľstvá Severoatlantickej aliancie (NATO) by čoskoro mohli vzniknúť aj v Slovenskej republike a Maďarsku. O týchto plánoch NATO sa definitívne rozhodne na rokovaní ministrov obrany členských štátov aliancie, ktoré sa uskutoční 8. októbra v Bruseli. Už začiatkom roka 2015 sa NATO v reakcii na krízu na Ukrajine a napäté vzťahy s Ruskou federáciou rozhodlo zriadiť regionálne veliteľstvá v troch pobaltských republikách - Estónsku, Litve a Lotyšsku, ako aj v Bulharsku, Poľsku a Rumunsku. Tieto by mali byť funkčné v plnej miere do júla 2016. Nové veliteľstvá by mali poslúžiť okrem iného ako centrá plánovania a koordinácie výcviku novej jednotky rýchleho nasadenia (VJTF).

Stavbárom chýbajú ľudia

Nedostatok kvalifikovaných zamestnancov v stavebníctve môže predražiť stavbu diaľnic a sťažiť podnikanie zahraničných firiem na slovenskom trhu. Až šesť z desiatich stavebných firiem hlási, že majú málo ľudí. Chýbajú najmä kvalifikovaní a vyškolení pracovníci ako železiari, tesári, ale aj stavbyvedúci. Na druhej strane, práve stavbári sú jedni z tých, vďaka ktorým slovenská ekonomika budúci rok vzrastie aspoň o 3,1 percenta.

Študentov ubudne, školy čaká boj

Pedagóg Fakulty ekonómie a podnikania Paneurópskej vysokej školy Vladimír Bačišin skonštatoval, že v najbližších desiatich rokoch klesne počet mladých ľudí, ktorí by mohli študovať na verejných a súkromných vysokých školách o takmer stotisíc potenciálnych študentov. Tento úbytok študentov sa v budúcnosti prejaví aj na množstve vysokých škôl. Bačišin odhaduje, že do desiatich rokov odíde zo slovenského trhu dve až päť verejných vysokých škôl a tri až päť súkromných vysokých škôl.

Nemocnica v Šaci má nové operačné centrum s najmodernejšou technikou

Nové operačné centrum 28. septembra slávnostne otvorili v Nemocnici Košice - Šaca. S jeho výstavbou sa začalo na jar 2014 v snahe zvýšiť kvalitu, ako aj preto, že za uplynulých desať rokov sa počet operácií strojnásobil. Celkové náklady na vybudovanie a zariadenia moderného centra sú do deväť miliónov eur, nemocnica ich hradí z vlastných zdrojov. Nemocnica Košice-Šaca, a.s., 1. súkromná nemocnica, zamestnáva 952 zamestnancov, z toho 179 lekárov a 319 zdravotných sestier. Ročne je v nemocnici hospitalizovaných vyše 17.000 pacientov.

Megaškandál Volkswagenu je na Slovensku

Dobrá povest' nemeckej automobilky Volkswagen sa rozpadá a firma prichádza o miliardy eur. Z pol milióna áut v Spojených štátoch amerických, do ktorých firma montovala falošný softvér na skresľovanie emisných testov, je totiž v skutočnosti 11 miliónov vozidiel po celom svete. Časť áut pritom presiakla aj na Slovensko. Konkrétne sa kauza týka dieselových motorov EA189. Tie boli u nás a v Českej republike montované do generácií Octavie, Fabie a Superbu.

Správy čerpané z TASR a slovenských časopisov

Putovanie po regiónoch Slovenska

(Pokračovanie)

Záhorie

Región sa nachádza pozdĺž Borskej nížiny a povodia Moravy. Hraničí s Českou republikou.

Kultúrnym, historickým a priemyselným mestom je starobylá Skalica. Od 16. st. prichádzali tam, najmä po Bitke na Bielej hore, českí utečenci. V 17. st. sa tam usadili viaceré rehole ako: františkáni, karmelitáni, jezuiti, paulíni, a milosrdní bratia. Jezuiti tam založili v r. 1662 gymnázium.

Od 19. st. sa Skalica stala strediskom slovenského, politického a národného života, ale aj zblížovania Čechov a Slovákov, ktoré vytvorilo tradíciu každoročných slovensko-moravských stretnutí. V 17. st. tam vzniklo viacero cechov a remesiel. Chýrne bolo aj súkenníctvo.

Mesto je známe aj výrobou obľúbeného červeného vína *Skalický rubín*. Po bitke na Bielej Hore sa tam usadilo veľa českých rodín.

Obzvlášť pozoruhodná je románska rotunda svätého Juraja z 12. st. a hradný kostolík. Atrakciou je aj Slovenský kultúrny dom z r. 1905 s figurálnou maľbou fasády od Mikuláša Aleša. Vyhladávaný je aj ďalekoširoko známy chutný koláč *trdelník*, ktorý patrí medzi najzaujímavejšie nielen skalické, ale aj slovenské kulinárske špeciality.

Skaliciania si dávno obľúbili svoje mesto, a tak si zložili o ňom aj pesničku, z ktorej prinášame úryvok:

Skalica je pěkne mjesto, prez ňu chodníček, vyprovod' mňa, moja milá, svítí mjesiček...

Z okolitých obcí si zasluhujú pozornosť Brodzany, kam chodievala do tamojšieho kaštieľa s deťmi za svojou sestrou Natalia, vdova po ruskom básnikovi Puškinovi. Teraz je v kaštieli Puškinovo múzeum.

Nedaleké Sobotište je známe najmä tým, že v r.1547 sa tam usadili prví habáni (baptisti) zo Švajčiarska, ktorí žili na zásadách hospodárskej komúny a v 16. - 17. storočí si tam vybudovali sídlisko známe ako Habánsky dvor. Venovali sa remeselníckej výrobe: džbankárstvu, hrnčiarstvu, tkáčstvu, garbiarstvu. Z niekdajšieho Dvora sa zachovalo podnes: radnica, kľúčiareň, kaplnka, škola, džbankárska dielňa, mlyn a 7 domov, ktoré sú pokryté zmesou zeme a slamy, ktorá vytvára ohňovzdorné strechy s výbornou tepelnou izoláciou. Habáni sa usadili aj v okolitých obciach: Dechtice, Dobrá Voda, Kuchyňa, Stupava, Smolenice...

Takmer sme pozabudli na Myjavu, charakteristickú svojím kopaničiarskym nárečím, ktorá bola často terčom tureckých nájazdov.

Nezamestnanosť, národnostný a hospodársky útlak sa koncom 19. st. prejavili značným vysťahovalectvom predovšetkým do USA. Strediskom ich usadzovania sa stalo mestečko *Little Falls* (NY).

Pozornosť si zasluhujú aj Malacky, predovšetkým kostolom Nepoškvrneného počatia Panny Márie so svätými schodmi, ktoré sú iba troje na svete. O meste sa zachovala široko-ďaleko známa žartovná pieseň *Išiel Macek do Malacek*, z ktorej prinášame úryvok:

Išiel Macek do Malacek, šošovicku mlávic, zabudol si cepy doma, mosel sa on vráćic. Ej, Macejko, Macejko, ko-ko-ko-ko, zahraj mi na cenko,ko-ko-ko-ko. Na tú cenku strunú. nu-nu-nu-nu, ej, dzunu,dzunu,dzunu,nu-nu-nu-nu...

Na nedostatok návštevníkov a turistov si nemôže pošťazovať ani Brezová pod Bradlom. V revolučnom roku 1848 tu J. M. Hurban vyhlásil nezávislosť Slovenska od Uhorska.

Na vrchu Bradlo je mohyla M. R. Štefánika, generála francúzskej armády a spoluzakladateľa štátu Čechov Slovákov, ktorý tragicky zahynul, keď sa vracal lietadlom v r. 1918 z Talianska do rodnej vlasti.

Patrí sa nám pristaviť aj v Šaštíne, známej pútnickej obci, s neskorogotickým a jedným z najväčších slovenských kostolov z r. 1773 - 1786.

V regióne sa nachádza viacero hradov, ktoré sú už v ruinách ako: Branč, Pajštún, Korlatko, Plavecký hrad...

Andrej Štelmák, Sliač, Slovakia



Skalický trdelník.



Rotunda v Skalici.



Brodzany-kaštieľ.



Šaštín-bazilika.



Bradlo-mohyla.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Oberačková zábava v New Yorku

V nedeľu 18. októbra bude v hale kostola Sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 E 66th St, v New Yorku oberačková zábava. Začiatok bude o 1.00 hodine. Rezervácie sú nutné. Vstupné je \$30.00, v čom je zahrnutá večera, káva a koláč. Rezervácie vstupeniek: Henrieta Daitová, tel. č. 201-641-8922, Jozef Bilik, tel. č. 718-353-6541, Mária Božeková, tel. č. 347-612-1934, alebo na fare: 212-734-4613

Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 25. októbra 2015 o 1.00 hodine odpolednia za uskutoční Výročná členská schôdza v hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East, 66th Street v New York City. Program schôdze: 1. Voľba úradníkov na ďalšie obdobie; 2. Finančná správa; 3. Plán podujatí na ďalšie obdobie. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Gala večera v Msgr. Komar Hall, Linden New Jersey

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

Sabina Sabados

Kultúrne podujatie ľudového súboru Lúčina

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

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

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

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Predsedom Konferencie biskupov Slovenska zostáva Stanislav Zvolenský

Do funkcie predsedu Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) bol 21. septembra opätovne zvolený bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. Mandát má na tri roky. Vo funkcii podpredsedu KBS bude najbližšie tri roky košický arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Bernard Bober, ktorý vymení nitrianskeho biskup Mons. Viliama Judáka. V tajných voľbách o tom rozhodlo 15 členov KBS. Voľba sa uskutočnila na úvod 82. plenárneho zasadnutia KBS, ktoré sa konalo v Marianke. Biskupi zároveň rozhodli, že generálnym sekretárom KBS bude naďalej Mons. Marián Chovanec, bansko-bystrický biskup. V Stálej rade bude okrem predsedu, podpredsedu a generálneho sekretára KBS aj Mons. Stanislav Stolárik, rožňavský biskup a Mons. Ján Orosch, trnavský arcibiskup.

TK KBS



Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, bratislavský arcibiskup



Generálny konzulát SR v New Yorku otvára výstavu Slovak Press Photo 2015

Za účasti slovenského ministra zahraničných vecí a podpredsedu slovenskej vlády Miroslava Lajčáka bola v piatok 25. septembra v New Yorku slávnostnou recepciou otvorená výstava Slovak Press Photo. Informovala o tom generálna konzulka SR v Spojených štátoch Jana Trnčková.

Slovak Press Photo je súťaž s následnou výstavou fotografií, ktorá nezávislým a autentickým spôsobom prezentuje vizuálne svedectvo o živote, ako ho vidia novinári zo Slovenska a z východnej Európy.

Cieľom súťaže a výstavy je umožniť verejnosti, aby sa aj ona mohla stať očitým svedkom udalostí i špecifických javov, ktoré charakterizovali a poznačili obdobie uplynulého roka.

Absolútnym víťazom tohtoročného, v poradí už štvrtého ročníka Slovak Press Photo sa stal mladý fotograf Robert Tappert. V novej kategórii - krátke video je prvým víťazom Tomáš Rafa. Obaja sú Slováci.

Sedemčlenná medzinárodná porota zložená z fotografov počas troch dní hodnotila rekordný počet 1356 fotografií od 191 autorov. Súťažné fotografie jej boli predložené anonymne.

Slovenskí fotografi súťažili v deviatich kategóriách. Pre zahraničných autorov z ČR, Poľska, Maďarska, Rakúska, Bieloruska a Ukrajiny organizátori otvorili kategóriu stredo-európska fotografia. Z týchto krajín i zo Slovenska sa mohli zapojiť súťažiaci s krátkym videom.

TASR

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí má nového šéfa

Na najvyššom poste Úradu Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) prichádza k výmene. Vláda 16. septembra ku koncu septembra odvolala jeho súčasného predsedu Igora Furdíka. Od 1. októbra ho vystrieda Ján Varšo.

Ako po rokovaní priblížil minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák, k tomuto kroku prišlo po dohode s Furdíkom. „Splnil úlohu, ktorú som mu dal - stabilizoval úrad, vniesol do toho transparentnosť a pravidlá hry, upokojil situáciu v krajinskej komunite,“ poznamenal s tým, že ďalej počíta s jeho využitím v zahraničnej službe. Furdík pracuje na ministerstve od roku 1993. Podobne ako jeho nástupca bol tiež veľvyslancom SR v Belehrade.

Varša považuje minister za skúseného diplomata, ktorý okrem iného pôsobil v Spojených štátoch a západnej Európe, takže má vzťah a praktické skúsenosti so slovenskou krajinou komunitou.



Foto: TASR

Ján Varšo (vľavo) preberá v roku 2011 ako nový veľvyslanec v Srbsku poverovací dekrét.

TASR

Slovenským kandidátom na cenu Oscar je film Koza

Slovenská filmová a televízna akadémia (SFTA) navrhla na cenu americkej Akadémie filmových umení a vied (AMPAS) v kategórii cudzojazyčný film snímku Koza režiséra Ivana Ostrochovského.

Slovenského nominanta na prestížne filmové ocenenie Oscar vyberali členovia SFTA zo siedmich snímok, ktorých producenti potvrdili, že spĺňajú podmienky AMPAS. Okrem vybraného titulu to boli aj filmy Láska na vlásku (r. M. Čengel Solčanská), Comeback (r. M. Remo), Rukojemník (r. J. Nvota), Tak ďaleko, tak blízko (r. J. Vojtek), Sedem zhavraných bratov (r. A. Nellis) a Očami fotografky (r. M. Mináč).

Na základe výsledkov hlasovania členov akadémie prezidium SFTA potvrdilo, že film režiséra Ivana Ostrochovského Koza bude reprezentovať Slovensko v súťaži AMPAS v kategórii cudzojazyčný film. Rozpráva príbeh bývalého olympionika, ktorý sa so svojim manažérom vydáva na posledné turné. V zápasoch však ide od jednej prehry k druhej, napriek tomu však bojuje o svoje šťastie až do konca. Film mal premiéru na tohtoročnom Berlinale, odvtedy ho uviedla dvadsiatka medzinárodných festivalov, na ktorých získal 11 ocenení.

Režisér Ivan Ostrochovský absolvoval magisterské štúdium na Filmovej a televíznej fakulte Vysokej školy múzických umení v Bratislave, na Katedre dokumentárnej tvorby, pokračoval doktorandúrou na Katedre audiovizuálnych štúdií v Banskej Bystrici. Jeho celovečerný režijný debut Zamatoví teroristi, ktorý spolurežiroval s Pavlom Pekarčíkom a Petrom Kerekesom, získal na MFF Karlovy Vary 2013 cenu FEDEORA.

TASR

Členovia SSV si pripomínajú 145. výročie založenia združenia

Členovia Spolku svätého Vojtecha (SSV), najväčšieho a najstaršieho združenia katolíkov na Slovensku, si v týchto dňoch pripomínajú 145 rokov od jeho založenia. Spolok momentálne združuje 95.710 členov, a to nielen na Slovensku a v iných krajinách Európy, ale aj v Kanade a Spojených štátoch amerických.

Spolok svätého Vojtecha založil v roku 1870 katolícky kňaz a jazykovedec Andrej Radlinský s cieľom šíriť vzdelanosť, prehľbovať náboženský život a oživovať myšlienku národného povedomia Slovákov. Hneď po svojom vzniku SSV prevzal vydávanie týždenníka Katolíckej noviny (založené v roku 1849), vydával knihy a školské učebnice, čím sa usiloval podporovať vzdelanosť širokých vrstiev obyvateľstva. Hoci v roku 1953 musela byť takmer štvrtmilionová členská základňa zrušená, v roku 1990 bolo členstvo obnovené a zapojili sa desaťtisíce ľudí.

Členovia SSV získavajú každý rok členskú publikáciu, DVD s filmom a kalendár Pútnik svätovojtešský. Tento rok sa môžu tešiť na román Jozefa Repka - Prebúdzanie obra, ktorý približuje životné osudy Štefana Moyzesa a takisto na film poľského režiséra Krzysztofa Zanussiho Život za život. Tento film zachytáva okolnosti, za akých obetoval svoj život v koncentračnom tábore sv. Maximilián Kolbe. Nosnou témou Pútnika svätovojtešského je téma Božieho milosrdenstva.

V súčasnosti patrí SSV k najväčším katolíckym vydavateľom na Slovensku. Z poverenia Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) vydáva liturgické knihy, oficiálne dokumenty Katolíckej cirkvi a Bibliu. V najbližšom čase vyjde v novej grafickej úprave v poradí už 76. vydanie Jednotného katolíckeho spevníka, ktorý patrí medzi najdôležitejšie publikácie SSV.

TASR



V Bratislave na konferencii experti o bezpečnostných otázkach

Centrum pre európske a severoatlantické vzťahy (CENAA) pripravuje na jeseň dve veľké medzinárodné bezpečnostné konferencie. Tretie Juhokaukazské bezpečnostné fórum, ktoré sa uskutoční 26. a 27. októbra v Tbilisi, a štvrtý ročník konferencie NATO 2020, ktoré bude v Bratislave 11. a 12. novembra.

Obe konferencie sa budú venovať aktuálnym otázkam medzinárodných vzťahov a bezpečnosti a výzvam týkajúcich sa Severoatlantickej aliancie, krajín V4, Ukrajiny, Ruska, južného Kaukazu, regiónu Čierneho mora a Blízkeho východu. Diskutované budú taktiež témy ako blížiaci sa summit NATO vo Varšave 2016, hybridná a informačná vojna, Islamský štát a príprava spoločnej V4 EÚ Battle Group.

„Juhokaukazské bezpečnostné fórum je najväčšou bezpečnostnou konferenciou v regióne južného Kaukazu. Pravidelne sa na nej zúčastňujú najvyšší predstavitelia Gruzínska a celého regiónu, predstavitelia medzinárodných organizácií, ale aj poprední experti na medzinárodné vzťahy a bezpečnosť celého sveta,“ priblížil Čížik.

„Konferencia NATO 2020: Challenges Ahead of Warsaw Summit“ je podľa jeho slov bezpečnostnou konferenciou, ktorej hlavným cieľom je zhromaždiť odborníkov z celého sveta, prediskutovať aktuálne bezpečnostné otázky a pripraviť závery a odporúčania pre politikov a odbornú komunitu. „Na úvod konferencie vystúpi prezident Slovenskej republiky Andrej Kiska. Účasť na konferencii potvrdil aj náčelník generálneho štábu OS SR Milan Maxim a štátny tajomník ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Igor Slobodník,“ doplnil Čížik. Na konferencii taktiež vystúpia experti z krajín V4, Spojených štátov, Ukrajiny, Gruzínska a ďalších štátov z troch kontinentov.

TASR



Peter Sagan vybojoval historické zlato

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Sagan si tak vynahradiť smolu, ktorú mal na veľkých klasikách v prvej časti sezóny. V nedeľu predviedol svoj výborný prehľad, výdrž, výbušnosť i odhodlanie a tak po pretekoch na MS prvýkrát v histórii zaznela slovenská hymna. „Preteky boli veľmi zvláštne. Celý čas som len čakal a čakal. Mal som pri sebe brata Juraja a taktiež Michaela Koláča, ktorí mi pomáhali. Vedel som, že v záverečnom kole musím zvládnuť kocky, udržať sa tam v dobrej pozícii a potom som zaútočil. Som rád, že to vyšlo,“ vyhlásil Sagan.

Medaila z Richmondu sa bude vynímať v jeho zbierke medzi ďalšími trofejami. Jazdec stajne Tinkoff-Saxo v doterajšej kariére vyhral štyrikrát zelený dres na Tour de France, odkiaľ si odniesol aj štyri etapové vavríny. Rovnaký počet dosiahol aj na španielskej Vuelte, je päťnásobný majster Slovenska v hromadných pretekoch a raz v časovke, celkovo triumfoval na pretekoch Okolo Kalifornie (2015), Poľska a Sardínie (obe 2011), vyhral klasiku Gent-Wevelgem či GP Montrealu. Na druhej priečke skončil Austráľčan Michael Matthews a bronz pripadol Ramunasovi Navardauskasovi z Litvy.

Ďalší dvaja slovenskí reprezentanti Saganov brat Juraj a Michael Koláč (všetci traja z tímu Tinkoff-Saxo) do cieľa neprišli, no mrziť ich to nemuselo. Svojimi výkonmi totiž výraznou mierou pomohli Petrovi Saganovi k vytúženému triumfu.

TASR



Pápež František ukončil ôsme Svetové stretnutie rodín vo Filadelfii

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

všetkých kontinentov, ktoré pápež, sprevádzaný veľkým aplauzom, ešte pred začiatkom liturgie zdravil a žehnal prechádzajúc popri nich papamobilom. Po tom, ako diakon v angličtine zaspieval úryvok z Evanjelia podľa Marka (9,38-43.45.47-48) sa prihovril v homílii Svätý Otec. Zameral sa na prorocký význam skutkov lásky v rodine, na dôležitosť malých gest, ktoré sú konkrétnymi prejavmi svätosti. Veriacim položil aj viacero otázok na premýšľanie. Okrem iného povedal: „Viera otvára „okno“ konajúcej prítomnosti Ducha a ukazuje nám, že tak, ako šťastie, aj svätosť je vždy spojená s malými gestami... Sú to maličké gestá, ktorým sa učíme v rodine; rodinné gestá, ktoré sa strácajú v každodennej anonymnosti, ale ktoré robia každý deň iným. Sú to skutky matky, starej mamy, otca, starého otca, dieťaťa, bratov. Sú to gestá nežnosti, lásky a spolucitenia. Gestá ako teplé jedlo od toho, kto čaká s večerou, či skoré raňajky od toho, kto vie sprevádzať už od rána. Sú to rodinné skutky. Je to požehnanie pred spánkom a obljatie po príchode domov po plnom pracovnom dni. Láska sa prejavuje v malých veciach, v pozornosti na každodenné detaily, ktorých výsledkom je to, že život má vždy chuť domova. Viera rastie, keď je žitá a formovaná láskou. Preto naše rodiny, naše domovy sú autentickými domácimi cirkvami. Sú vhodným miestom, kde sa viera stáva životom a život rastie vo viere.“ Prítomným rodinám Svätý Otec zdôraznil aj dôležitosť starostlivosti o náš spoločný dom s ohľadom na budúce generácie a rodiny vyzval byť prorokmi v súčasnej civilizácii: „Kiežby sme všetci boli prorokmi! Kiežby sa každý z nás otvoril zázrakom lásky pre dobro všetkých rodín sveta, aby sme tak mohli prekonať pohoršenie úbohej a malomyselnej lásky, uzatvorenej do seba samej, bez trpezlivosti s ostatnými!“ Proroctvo dobra, ktoré predstavuje rodina žijúca v láske, presahuje všetky etnické, náboženské či geografické hranice, pripomenul Svätý Otec v závere: „Každý, kto túži v tomto svete vytvoriť rodinu, ktorá naučí deti tešiť sa z každého činu, ktorého úmyslom je zvíťaziť nad zlom, rodinu, ktorá ukazuje, že Duch je živý a koná, stretne sa s vďačnosťou a úctou, pričom nezáleží na tom, k akému národu, náboženstvu, regiónu patrí.“

Počas necelého týždňa stráveného v USA František navštívil tri veľké americké mestá - Washington, New York a Filadelfiu. Okrem stretnutia s prezidentom Obamom v Bielom dome predniesol - ako vôbec prvý pápež v histórii - prejav pred americkým Kongresom. Vystúpil tiež na Valnom zhromaždení OSN, zúčastnil sa na Vatikánskej organizovanej konferencii o rodine a stretol sa aj s prisťahovalcami, väzňami a bezdomovcami. Prvý latinskoamerický pápež počas návštevy USA, ktorá je vôbec prvou v jeho živote, predniesol veľkú väčšinu prejavov vo svojej rodnej španielčine, uviedla agentúra AP.

TK KBS/VR



FOTO: MZV SR

M. Lajčák sa stretol aj s predstaviteľmi podnikateľskej a krajskej komunity v Clevelande.

Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak met with representatives of Slovak organizations and members of the Cleveland Slovak community on September 26, 2015, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland Agreement.

Minister Lajčák na oslavách podpisu Clevelandskej dohody

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Súčasťou Dňa slovenského dedičstva v Clevelande a osláv 100. výročia podpisania Clevelandskej dohody bola aj výstava slovenských krojov a predstavenie slovenského folklóru v podaní krajského speváckeho tria Slovenské mamičky a detského krajského tanečného súboru.

V rámci návštevy Clevelandu sa minister M. Lajčák stretol aj s predstaviteľmi miestnej podnikateľskej komunity a krajských organizácií. Na pracovnom obede, ktorý zorganizoval bývalý veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Theodore Sedgwick, predstavil M. Lajčák úspešný príbeh politickej a ekonomickej transformácie a integrácie Slovenska a odpovedal na otázky týkajúce sa pohľadu SR na budúcnosť Európskej únie, na problém migračnej krízy, situácie na Ukrajine, v Sýrii a na ďalšie aktuálne témy.

Cleveland je druhé najväčšie mesto štátu Ohio. Na prelome 19. a 20. storočia bol najdôležitejším centrom slovenskej komunity v USA a mestom s najväčším počtom Slovákov na svete. V súčasnosti v ňom podľa odhadov žije viac ako 20-tisíc krajanov a ľudí hlásiacich sa k slovenským koreňom. Clevelandská dohoda, ktorú v meste podpísali presne pred 100 rokmi, bola prvý dokument, ktorý formálne vyjadril vôľu Čechov a Slovákov vybudovať spoločný štát dvoch rovnocenných národov a považuje sa za začiatok slovenských politických snáh o vytvorenie vlastného štátu mimo rámca Rakúsko-Uhorska

TASR



Na oslave narodenín Michala Kováča sa stretli slovenskí prezidenti

Všetci štyria doterajší prezidenti samostatnej SR sa 23. septembra stretli na oslave narodenín Michala Kováča. Prvý prezident Slovenska sa 5. augusta dožil 85 rokov. Blahoželal mu prišli jeho nástupcovia vo funkcii Rudolf Schuster, Ivan Gašparovič aj súčasná hlava štátu Andrej Kiska.

„Bolo to obdobie ťažkého boja. Bolo to obdobie, kedy pán prezident kvôli tomu, že mal iné politické názory, trpel osobne, trpela aj jeho rodina. Všetci sme mu vtedy držali prsty. Preto som mu aj zaželal, aby si svoj zaslúžený odpočinok vedel čo najlepšie užít. Takže som mu v prvom rade zaprial veľa zdravia,“ povedal Kiska.

Gašparovič uznáva, že Kováč bol prezidentom vo veľmi ťažkom období, keď medzi sebou bojovali aj členovia vlastných strán. „Ale prežili sme a zvládli jednak ekonomicke aj medzinárodné ťažkosti a Michal sa na tom určite podieľal. Dnes mu želim zdravie, to je to, čo každý z nás potrebuje najviac,“ povedal.

Rudolf Schuster zhodnotil svoj vzťah s Kováčom ako veľmi dobrý. „Práve keď mu uniesli syna, bol v Košiciach u mňa na návšteve. Spolu sme vtedy strávili večer,“ spomínal Schuster.

Samotnej oslave predchádzala krátka omša, ktorú celebroidal arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský. Medzi hosťami sa objavila aj bývalá ministerka financií Brigita Schmögnerová, exminister medzinárodných vzťahov Pavol Demeš či niekdajší veľvyslanec v USA Martin Bútora.

TASR



Cirkev je pripravená poskytnúť ubytovacie priestory pre utečencov

Ak Slovenská republika prijme utečencov, Katolícka cirkev je pripravená pomôcť. Uviedol to predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) a bratislavský arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský na tlačovej konferencii po skončení plenárneho zasadnutia biskupov v Marianke. Cirkev je napríklad pripravená poskytnúť ubytovanie v budovách, ktoré má v správe.

Pri stretnutí s predstaviteľmi SR podľa Zvolenského biskupi opakovane vyjadrili pripravenosť cirkvi na Slovensku pomáhať v otázke utečencov. „Predstavitelia Slovenskej republiky o tejto pripravenosti Katolíckej cirkvi vedia,“ uviedol Zvolenský. Pripomenul, že v prvom rade treba čakať na to, kým Slovensko utečencov prijme. „Potom, keď budú tí, ktorí by požiadali o azyl na našom území, ochotní prijať pomoc obyvateľov, tam nastupuje činnosť cirkvi,“ dodal šéf KBS. Upozornil však, že na bývanie mimo azylových priestorov treba povolenie. Cirkev je taktiež pripravená pomáhať aj pri integrácii migrantov.

Biskupi uviedli, že sa stretli u ľudí s ochotou pomôcť utečencom. „Predostreli však aj množstvo otázok, na ktoré je potrebné hľadať adekvátne odpovede,“ dodal Zvolenský. Biskupi preto chcú zriadiť pracovnú skupinu, ktorá bude koordinovať pomoc v rámci cirkvi. Na jej čele bude bratislavský pomocný biskup Jozef Hal'ko.

TASR

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

FOTO TASR/ AP - Julio Cortez

Pápež František počas omše v Katedrálnej bazilike sv. Petra a Pavla vo Filadelfii 26. septembra 2015.

Pope Francis delivers his homily during a Mass at Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015, in Philadelphia.

Pápež František ukončil ôsme Svetové stretnutie rodín vo Filadelfii

V Spojených štátoch amerických vyvrcholila 10. apoštolská cesta pápeža Františka. Záver patril slávnostnej svätej omši, ktorá uzatvorila 8. svetové stretnutie rodín 27. septembra 2015 vo Filadelfii. Eucharistia, ktorá sa uskutočnila opäť na priestransve B. Franklin Parkway vo Filadelfii, sa začala o 16. hodine miestneho času a bola slávená v latinčine, angličtine a španielčine. Spolu so Svätým Otcom sa tu modlili státisíce členov rodín zo

Pokračovanie na str. 23



V Bratislave oslávili tisíce ľudí radosť zo života

Na Národný pochod za život do Bratislavy prišlo 20. septembra od 70.000 do 85.000 ľudí. Cieľom podujatia bolo vyzdvihnúť význam ľudského života a nutnosť chrániť ho od počatia po prirodzenú smrť. Organizátori zároveň pripravili návrhy na zlepšenie právnej úpravy ochrany života, ktoré adresujú politikom. Na Národný pochod za život, ktorý sa konal po druhýkrát v histórii Slovenska, ich do hlavného mesta pozvala Konferencia biskupov Slovenska.

Masovej akcii predchádzal päťdňový sprievodný program v celom meste. Bratislavský pochod za život nadväzuje na rovnaké podujatie v Košiciach, ktoré sa uskutočnilo v roku 2013. Vtedy do metropoly východu prišlo okolo 80.000 ľudí.



FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškás

Na snímke účastníci Národného pochodu za život v Bratislave 20. septembra 2015.

Tens of thousands attended Bratislava pro life march, September 20, 2015.

TASR

Minister Lajčák na oslavách podpisu Clevelandskej dohody

Podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák sa v sobotu 26. septembra 2015 v Clevelande, Ohio zúčastnil na oslavách 100. výročia podpisu Clevelandskej dohody. Oslavy boli súčasťou Dňa slovenského dedičstva, ktorý sa konal v priestoroch Prírodovedného múzea v Clevelande za účasti početnej krajskej komunity ako aj predstaviteľov politického, ekonomického a spoločenského života štátu Ohio.

“Slováci, ktorí v roku 1915 podpísali Clevelandskú dohodu, by dnes na Slovensko boli hrdí. Naša cesta k naplneniu cieľov, ktoré si vytýčili v tomto dokumente, bola dlhá a nie vždy jednoduchá, ale dnes predstavujeme úspešný príbeh,” zdôraznil minister M. Lajčák vo svojom príhovore. V tejto súvislosti ocenil úlohu amerických Slovákov a tiež tradičné väzby medzi Slovenskom a USA.

“V minulosti prichádzali Slováci do Spojených štátov za základnou obživou a vyhliadkou na lepší život. Dnes sem chodia podnikat, venovať sa výskumu, alebo športovej kariére. Som presvedčený, že najsilnejším kapitálom Slovenska je práve rôznorodosť talentov našich ľudí,” zdôraznil minister M. Lajčák. Poukázal pritom na známeho slovenského fotografa Filipa Kuliševa, ktorý v clevelandskom Prírodovednom múzeu práve predstavuje výber svojich fotografií z cyklu Amazing Planet.

Pokračovanie na str. 23



FOTO: MZV SR

Miroslav Lajčák bol privítaný v Clevelande tradične – chlebom a soľou.

Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak was welcomed in Cleveland with the traditional offering of bread and salt.



Peter Sagan vybojoval historické zlato

Slovák Peter Sagan dosiahol obrovský úspech, keď sa v nedeľu stal novým majstrom sveta v cestnej cyklistike - pretekoch s hromadným štartom mužov elite. Dvadsaťpäťročný jazdec sa presadil odvážnym únikom asi 2,5 km pred cieľom. Pre rodnú krajinu vybojoval historické zlato v najvyššej kategórii.

Sagan tak dosiahol jeden z najväčších úspechov vo svojej kariére a celú budúcu sezónu smie nosiť dúhový dres pre majstra sveta. „Je to najväčšie víťazstvo v mojej kariére. Som veľmi šťastný. Posledné týždne som pre to veľa obetoval. Je to pre mňa neuveriteľné,“ povedal v prvom televíznom rozhovore. Sagan zároveň dodal, že motiváciu vyhrať mu dala aj neutešená politická situácia vo svete: „Chcel som vyhrať aj preto, aby som tu mohol povedať, že ako ľudia vo svete sa musíme zmeniť. Dúfam, že spolu dokážeme zmeniť svet.“

Pokračovanie na str. 23

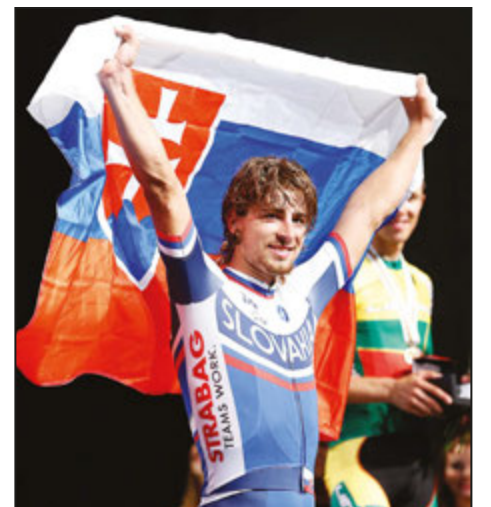


FOTO TASR/AP - Steve Helber

Slovenský cyklista Peter Sagan so slovenskou vlajkou reaguje po tom, čo zvíťazil v pretekoch mužov Elite s hromadným štartom v rámci majstrovstiev sveta v cestnej cyklistike 27. septembra 2015 v americkom Richmonde, VA.

Peter Sagan, of Slovakia, celebrates winning the UCI Elite Men's Road World Championship Cycling race in Richmond, Va., Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015.