

Jednota

THE UNION

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
 Volume 117 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 NUMBER 5784

Dear Members,

I am pleased to report that our Society has again reached a new record surplus of \$ 13,801,567 as of June 30, 2008 and a new record of assets under management of \$207,046,082. The Society remains very strong.

As all of you know this is a time of change in the world in general and in the Fraternal Society world in particular. Also, as most of you know, I am and have been a long - time advocate that the Slovak Catholic fraternal combine their membership and assets into one larger, stronger and more effective Society. We all are aware of the roadblocks that have prevented this from happening in the past. Some of these roadblocks or issues may have been more legitimate in the past, some have been primarily parochial.

I am pleased to report that the First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association have entered into discussions as to the advisability and the prospects of combining into one larger Society. I refer to these as a "marriage" not a merger or acquisition. There are many issues, financial, legal and frankly political that must be addressed and solved. Respective strengths, both in people and finances must be recognized and evaluated. No Society wants to be "taken over" by another Society.

As of this point both Societies have formed committees to research these issues, meet and make recommendations to their respective Boards. The F.C.S.U. committee is composed of myself, Andrew Harcar, Kenneth Arendt, George Matta and Fr. Thomas Nasta.

This process will take time, most likely many months. The bottom line is that the final result must be in the best interest of the Members of both Societies.

Any final action must be approved according to the By-laws of each respective Society. While it is very premature to say this combination will happen, the Officers of the respective Societies feel that common ground is being found. We will keep our Members informed.

In line with my vision and hope that the three Slovak Catholic fraternal combine into one large vibrant Society, the FCSU has been talking with the Slovak Catholic Sokol and have agreed to have a joint fraternal event in 2009. We are targeting a golf tournament. Plans are currently underway.

Another issue, one that is not only financial but also emotional, involves the Jednota Estates. As most of you know the FCSU directly owns @300 acres of land along with a 29,500 square foot building (formerly the Printery building) in Middletown, PA.

Through a 100% owned subsidiary (Jednota, Inc.), the FCSU also owns a 50,000 square feet commercial building on adjoining land.

About 2 months ago the FCSU received an unsolicited "Letter of Intent" from a mid-sized regional property developer to purchase the entire property for \$16,500,000.00. The Letter obviously had a number of contingencies.

In order to prepare a response to this offer,

continued on page 3



Andrew M. Rajec

Attention Members of the Pittsburgh District West Mifflin Seminar

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

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

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

See you on October 12th

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

FCSU LIFE

Accidental Death & Dismemberment

Fraternal Benefit

NEW!

"Fraternal Benefit"

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

*Single Premium Policies are eligible for the first 5 years.

Purchase a FCSU Life Insurance Policy for \$10,000 and receive \$25,000 AD&D coverage as a Fraternal Benefit.

Available August 1, 2008

Visit our website for additional information at www.fcsu.com

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



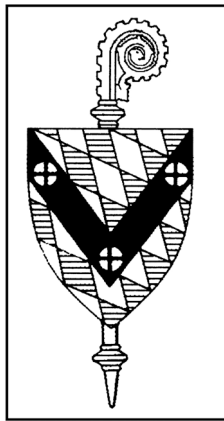
Consider our past in planning your future... Established since 1890

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

Inside

Editorial/Commentary	2
Branch/District Announcements. 7 & 13	
Obituaries.....	6
Slovak	19-24

Insights and Viewpoints

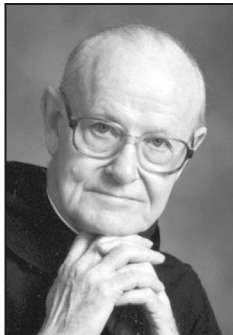


St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.D.B., Chapmion P. Gavaler, O.D.B.

September 28, 2008
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 21: 28-32

Gospel Summary

In today's gospel, Matthew shows his concern for the crisis that was caused by the message of Jesus and the consequences that result from reaction to that crisis. At a time of crisis, one must make crucial decisions, which lead in turn to fate-



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

ful consequences. In today's gospel parable, the vineyard stands for God's people and the two sons represent those who are called to care for them.

The first son represents the established religion, which was in place when Jesus came. As often happens in such cases, the religious leaders of that time paid lip-service to the God of mystery but, when Jesus came in a way they had not expected, they were unable to accept the mysterious ways of God,

The second son stands for the "outsiders," including Gentiles, who had been accustomed to saying "No" to God but, having been chastened by their experience of sinfulness, responded positively to the challenge of Jesus. They were joined by the "tax collectors and prostitutes" who, though despised by the religious types of that time, were more humble and therefore more open to the message of Jesus. The point is that pride and smugness are far greater obstacles to true conversion than a sinful past ripe for repentance.

Life Implications

Most mainstream religions have developed elaborate rituals and clear moral guidelines to help their members to establish and maintain a good and fruitful relationship with God. This is surely a responsible and praiseworthy provision since it is so easy to lose one's balance in matters of religion.

All this becomes problematic, however, when one's relationship with God is reduced pri-

continued on page 4

October 5, 2008
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 21:33-43

Gospel Summary

The parable of the wicked tenants also appears with some variations in Mk 12: 1-12 and Lk 20: 9-18. In Matthew's gospel it is the second in a trilogy of judgment parables, preceded by the parable of the Two Sons and followed by the parable of the Marriage Feast.

Jesus addresses the parable to the chief priests and elders of the people. Using the vineyard image of Isaiah 5:1-7, he tells the story of a landowner who leases his vineyard to tenants, and goes on a journey. At harvest time, when he sends servants to obtain his produce, the tenants maltreat and even kill his servants. The landowner finally sends his son. The evil tenants kill the son, hoping thereby to acquire his inheritance.

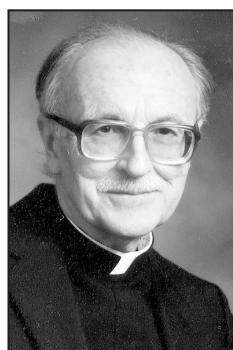
After finishing the story, Jesus asks his hearers what they think the owner of the vineyard will do. They answer that the evil tenants will be put to death, and the vineyard will be leased to other tenants who will give him the produce at harvest time. Jesus then turns their own judgment against themselves: in the same way, the kingdom of God will be taken from them and given to a people who will produce good fruit.

Life Implications

As Brevard S. Childs points out in his book *Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments*, the key to recognizing the life implications of the parable lies in its link to the Old Testament. It is a "juridical parable" in which a prophet tells a story with the intention of drawing its hearers into bringing their judgment back upon themselves. The classic example is the story Nathan told King David about the rich man who took a poor man's only ewe lamb to make a meal for a visitor. Nathan, like Jesus, waits for the hearer of the parable to make a judgment. David, of course, declares that the man who did the evil deed merits death. The prophet Nathan, alluding to David's sinful taking of Uriah's wife, says to the king: "You are the man" (2 Sam 12: 1-12).

This Sunday's homily will work if we are drawn into the extended meaning of the parable which Matthew develops. The tenants entrusted with God's vineyard, no longer in parable, but in reality, have killed many of his prophets and finally have killed his son, Jesus. What judgment will God make against these tenants? Our common sense readily makes the judgment that divine justice demands punishment for these evil deeds.

The crucial point of the homily is that Jesus, the now-vindicated Risen Lord, addresses each of us as tenants of God's vineyard today. He turns our judgment upon those who rejected him and the prophets before him back upon ourselves. Have we in fact produced the



Champion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

good fruit of justice and love? Do we at times forget that we are only tenants, and imagining ourselves as owners, we do as we please? Do we amass more of its fruit than we could possibly use while others die of starvation? Do we also act with violence against our fellow human beings, sons and daughters of God?

The prayer of our liturgy today is that we will receive the grace to open our hearts to the prophetic voice of Jesus and become a people who produce abundant good fruit in accord with God's will.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Corinth-Part I

Corinth, Greece, is still in existence on a narrow strip of land connecting the Peloponnesus (southern Greece) to the mainland. It guards the narrow isthmus between the two. Corinth likewise is between Athens and Sparta.

When Paul arrived there in 50-51 A.D. on his second missionary journey, Corinth was five times the size of Athens and a commercial center between two seaports only four miles apart. Lechaem, in the western harbor of the Corinthian Gulf was the trading port to Italy, Sicily. Cenchreae, in the eastern harbor of the Saronic Gulf was the port for the eastern Mediterranean countries. Periander in c. 625-585 B.C. cut a five foot wide rock-cut path for wheeling small ships and their cargo from one gulf to the other.

Lucius Mummius, the Roman consul, destroyed the city in 146 B.C. when Corinth the leader refused to disband the Achaian League. In 44 B.C. some 100 years later, Julius Caesar re-established the city of Corinth and populated it with conscripted Italian, Greek, Syrian, Egyptian, and Judean free slaves.

With two seaports, Corinth prospered and settlers from all over the Mediterranean came to settle and grew wealthy.

Corinth became a city with a mix of dislocated people, not bound by any tradition, without strong ethnic identities and with no dominant religious or intellectual tradition. It was in a state of extreme moral depravity that included pagan cults that practiced religious prostitution.

"When I came among you," Paul wrote in his First Letter to the Corinthians, "it was in weakness and fear, and with much trepidation." (2:3)

In Corinth, Paul went to visit Aquila and Priscilla, who had recently arrived from Italy. They were tentmakers as was Paul and he took up lodgings with them and they worked together as tentmakers. (Acts 18:2-3) He stayed with Aquila and Priscilla for 18 months. (Acts 18:11) On the Sabbath, Paul went to the synagogue and "led discussions in which he persuaded certain Jews and Greeks" about Christianity. (Acts 18:4)

Having established the church in Corinth Paul moved on.

When he was in Ephesus on his third missionary journey, Paul got bad news from Corinth.

It appeared that the Corinthian church was falling apart.

In reaction, Paul wrote a long, formal letter dealing with the problems in Corinth. "Let there be no factions; rather be united in mind and judgment... This is what I mean: One of you will say, 'I belong to Paul,' another, 'I belong to Apollos,' still another, 'Cephas has my allegiance,' and the fourth, 'I belong to Christ.'" (1 Cor, 10-12) Members of the church were choosing loyalty to pastors rather than to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember, Paul writes, "It was I who begot you in Christ Jesus through my preaching of the gospel." (1 Cor. 4:15)

continued on page 4

JEDNOTA

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From our President

continued from page 1

I appointed a six person Committee composed of Society members, four of which are also on the Board of Directors. These people are James Bacon, Regis Brekosky, Karen Hunka, Rudolf Glogovsky, George Matta and Joseph Senko. This Committee selected James Bacon as their chairman. I charged them to carefully and thoroughly research the "Letter of Intent" and prepare a recommendation to be presented at the FCSU Quarterly Board of Directors meeting on September 25 and 26, 2008. This Committee was charged to visit the property and examine and evaluate all the options. We also are obtaining a new independent, professional appraisal on the entire property.

The Committee will present their report and recommendation at the September 2008 Board of Directors Meeting. The Board will examine this issue in depth and decide what the Society will do.

The Board of Directors must decide:

- 1) should we sell the Jednota Properties in whole or a part and if this price offered is the best price or
- 2) should we try to develop the land ourselves
- 3) if we sell how will we invest the money
- 4) how can we continue to preserve our history and our Slovak/Catholic heritage.

The Committees and the Board of Directors will ask all these questions, and more, and make difficult decisions.

These are exciting times. Times of change. We must adapt with these changes.

As I have said before "Honor the past, live in the present, and plan for the future".

The potential changes that are outlined above could cause some emotional response. In times of change challenges are presented that can either be ignored at our peril or face and be prepared for the future.

I invite any and all of our Members to give me and/or any of our Board of

Directors your opinions and suggestions regarding any of these issues. Please write, fax, e-mail or call. Time is of the essence.

Z Bohom – God be with You.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

**HOME OFFICE
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-4310**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2008; 1:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M. & Friday, September 26, 2008; 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 9:00 A.M.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to September 18, 2008.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Announcement

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

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

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

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

**First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131
1-800-533-6682**

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

Attention all District and Branch Officers!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Insights and Viewpoints

Homilies

continued from page 2

marily to observing rituals and keeping rules. Such behavior is readily sanctioned by society and it is, of course, much preferred to unruly and destructive actions. But such religious behavior can remain very superficial, focusing only on external observance and appearances rather than on deep and personal conversion. The Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day certainly appeared more religious than the tax collectors and prostitutes. However, their strict observance hid a deep and fatal flaw, which was self-righteousness, expressed most often in rash judgment.

It should be obvious that Jesus is not suggesting that we ought to despise ritual and disregard moral codes. But it is just as obvious that he not only wants us to say the right things (like the first son), but also to act in a way that benefits others (like the second son). This will happen only when we are truly converted from selfish ways and become exemplary in tolerance, compassion and forgiveness.

Sometimes people are repelled by a religious observance that has no depth and is in fact accompanied by questionable behavior. However, if they look a bit more closely, they will see that there are also observant believers whose behavior is perfectly in harmony with their faith.

It is easy to be scandalized if that is what one wants. Scandal can be taken as well as given! And one may easily look for such scandal simply in order to have an excuse for not being a truly moral person. The ideal remains a faithful observance of rituals and rules accompanied the kind of motivation that is presupposed by such observance.



Youthful Folly

I heard the sound of whistles
but did not see the train
nor could I see railroad tracks
through joyous hazel eyes- due
to pouring rain...I saw black smoke
raising skyward into dark clouds
but never did I see the train
heading straight for shaken me...
quickly jumping off tracks-being only 9
alas, watching speed passing swiftly
by- it was always on time, my train.

I heard a cry on Calvary's Hill
however, did not see my sins
a soul was now carrying- yet
dared look up at Him suffering...
being forgiven all sins, once again
now I listen to His Voice- rejoicing.
Jesus full of Mercy smile down on a child
and these 'Sisters of Mercy' given me!
©- 1928 Francis X. Markley

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

The teaching of Jesus Christ came to be interpreted as a superior kind of wisdom for only a few, initiated number of people rather than for all. Paul's rebuttal was, "My message and preaching had none of the persuasive force of 'wise' argumentation, but the convincing power of the Spirit. As a consequence, your faith rests not on the wisdom of men but on the power of God." (1 Cor. 2:4-5) His preaching was designed to open all hearts to the word of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

"It is actually reported that there is lewd conduct among you of a kind not even found among the pagans- a man living with his father's wife. Still you continue to be self-satisfied, instead of grieving, and getting rid of the offender! (1 Cor 5:1-2) "Expel the wicked man from your midst." (1 Cor. 5:13)

"Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a case between one member or the church and another? Must brother drag brother into court, and before unbelievers at that? Why, the very fact that you have lawsuits against one another is disastrous for you... you yourselves injure and cheat your very own brothers." (1 Cor. 6:5-8)

"Do not deceive yourselves: no fornicators, idolaters, or adulterers, no sexual perverts, thieves, misers, or drunkards, no slanderers or robbers, will inherit God's kingdom." (1 Cor. 6:9-10)

"Shun lewd conduct. Every other sin a man commits is outside his body, but the fornicator sins against his own body. You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within- the Spirit you have received from God. You are not your own. You have been purchased, and at a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Cor. 6:18-20)



FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

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

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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



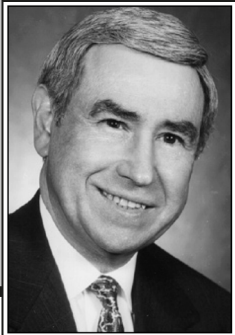
On July 24, four members of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, participated in the Senior Olympics in Park Ridge, Illinois. Dorothy Jurcenko won a Gold Medal. Liz Bernath and John Jurcenko won Silver Medals and Rudy Bernath took a Bronze Medal. Standing with their medals are L-R John Jurcenko, Dorothy Jurcenko, Liz Bernath, and Rudy Bernath

MONEY MANAGEMENT

& TAX TIPS

By Joseph T. Senko

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



Five Signs Your Finances are in Trouble

The loss of a job, a sudden illness, or another crisis can spell financial trouble for any family. Sometimes, however, people make small mistakes that add up over time to create big problems. Watch out for the warning signs that can signal potential financial pitfalls.

No Budget

When you have a budget, you can take stock of how much money you have coming in each month, what your expenses are, and what's left over once you've paid them. Without this assessment tool, it's easier to spend too much—often without even realizing you've done it—and harder to reach your financial goals. Budgeting is an important first step in managing your money, so take the time to itemize what you earn and what you spend each month.

You Have a Budget, but You Outspend It

If you find yourself spending far more on discretionary items such as entertainment or clothing than you budgeted, it's time to cut back. If you want to splurge, set aside some cash each week for fun, but don't spend more than this.

Minimum Credit Card Payments

Credit cards make spending easy, but they can be tough to pay off if you charge too much. If you make only the minimum payments on your debt each month, a \$1,000 debt can take 22 years to pay off. During that time, you will continue to pay interest charges well in excess of your original purchases.

If you find yourself in this position, limit future spending by holding just one card, and use it only in emergencies. Then revise your budget to increase your monthly credit card payments and begin reducing your debt.

Using One Card to Pay Off Another

This is a clear sign that spending is out of control. It's also an expensive way to manage debt, since instead of erasing outstanding balances you are simply shifting them to a new card. A related warning sign is using a credit card to pay for regular expenses—such as food, rent, or car payments. If you don't have enough cash to cover those costs, it's time to rein in spending.

No Savings

Families today are saving less and taking on more debt, according to the Federal Reserve. Without a savings cushion, it's harder to bounce back from financial setbacks and less likely that you'll be able to afford vacations and other indulgences. To fix this problem, start with small weekly deposits to a savings account. Stick with your savings plan, and you'll be amazed how your balances will add up over time.

Take Control

A special Web site has been created to help people with all their financial concerns: www.360financialliteracy.org/. The site contains many articles and tools that you can use to gain control over your financial life.

Coming Events

September 28

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District's Annual Meeting at Holy Family Church, Gibson and Washington Streets, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner and meeting.

October 5

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

October 26

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

November 2

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. **October 12**

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

October 26

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

October 26

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

November 9

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



Working the FCSU Booth are L-R National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., National President Andrew M. Rajec, and National Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt.



The FCSU Booth



Fest 2008

FCSU Informational Booth at FESFEST Celebration

Several officers and members of the First Catholic Slovak Union set up an informational booth at the annual FESFEST celebration held Sunday, August 3, 2008, at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe, Ohio. Representatives of the organization were on hand to pass out pamphlets on the FCSU and to answer questions. This booth was part of the ongoing campaign to make the FCSU more visible by attending the many festivals held during the summer months.

The FESFEST was a day-long celebration of Catholic faith, families, music, games, prayer, Mass, and fireworks that was open to the public without admission charge. It brought together over 25,000 Catholic teens and families from around the eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland. From its humble beginnings as a grassroots summer festival, the FESFEST has grown exponentially into one of the largest faith-based summer events in the country.

The FESFEST is an established event and a summer highlight for thousands of people in the eight counties that make up the Diocese of Cleveland. The day included music by national recording artists, Jeremy Camp, Stellar Kart, Matt Maher, as well as local contemporary Christian artists. There were ongoing activities for children and teens, merchandise and product displays, multiple opportunities for personal prayer and reflection, an incredible fireworks display and a truly inspirational religious service.

The FESFEST began in August 2000 as response to the hundreds of young people returning from World Youth Day in Rome. Home from Rome brought together close to 1,000 teens and families for a day of music, celebration and prayer. Out of this initial experience developed the FESFEST. The goal of the event is to use media, culture and music of our time to reach out to young people and families with the timeless message of faith, hope and charity—the values of the Gospel.

The FESFEST is an extra-ordinary event that reaches out not only to the Catholic base in the region but to the broader Christian community as well, significantly enhancing the reach and appeal.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Michael Ondechek Branch 580

Duquesne, Pennsylvania

Michael J. Ondechek, 88, of Elizabeth Township, Pennsylvania, died Monday, July 28, 2008, in UPMC McKeesport.

Born September 14, 1919, in Duquesne, he was the son of the late John and Susana (Lazar) Ondechek and wife of the late Pauline (Panoplos) Ondechek. The former owner of Ondechek Auto Service in McKeesport, he was a member of Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. He was a member of the 11th Ward Club, PNA 352, McKeesport Turners, and was a former Scout Master. He also was a member of NASCAR pit crew and body man in the 1970s, and was an avid wood worker.

He is survived by daughters, Eileen C., wife of Walter Minnick, and Patricia A, wife of Al McKinney; sons Michael G., husband of Jane Ondechek, and Ronald D., husband

of Charlotte Ondechek; a sister, Josephine Durkay; nine grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

Friends were received at the William H. Craig Funeral Home, McKeesport. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Holy Trinity Church by Rev. Joseph Grosko. Burial was in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

The officers of Branch 580 want to express their sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace. A Mass will be offered in Holy Trinity Church for Michael at the request of Branch 580.

Mary G. Perun

Ann V. Yarabinec Branch 181

United, Pennsylvania

Ann V. Yarabinec, 94, of Unity Township, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, August 14, 2008, in St. Anne Home, Greensburg.

She was born September 22, 1913, in

Udell, a daughter of the late John and Catherine (Sestock) Pavick. She was a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Greensburg, and Jednota Branch 181, United.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Yarabinec; a daughter, Dorothy Ann Yarabinec; and four brothers, Joseph, John, Michael, and Andrew Pavick.

She is survived by two sons, Thomas M. Yarabinec and wife, Donna, and Andrew J. Yarabinec and wife, Patty, and two daughters, Jane Yarabinec and Kathleen Jones, all of Unity Township; seven grandchildren, Lisa Young and husband Matt, Doug Yarabinec and wife Elaine, Tim, Todd and Holly Jones, and Ashley and Megan Yarabinec; four great-grandchildren, Kayla Young and McKenna, Avery and Brady Yarabinec; two brothers, Steve Pavick and wife, Jean, of Mt. Pleasant, and George Pavick and wife, Janet, of Latrobe; a sister, Helen Pavick of Norvelt; a sister-in-law, Peg Pavick of Latrobe; and many nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Gaut-Bacha Funeral Home, Pleasant Unity. A Panachida service was held at the funeral home followed by a Divine Liturgy in St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Greensburg, with the Rev. Regis J. Dusecina as celebrant. Interment was in St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant Township. A Parastas service was held in the funeral home.

Geraldine Hricik

Joseph B. Kubeck Branch 240P Taylor, Pennsylvania



Joseph B. Kubeck, 83, of Cranbury, New Jersey, died Sunday, August 31, 2008, at the University Medical Center at Princeton, New Jersey.

Born in Taylor, Pennsylvania, Mr. Kubeck has resided in Cranbury since 1981.

Mr. Kubeck was a Veteran of World War II, serving with the 174th Artillery Division at the Battle of the Bulge.

He was employed as an Electrical Engineer at General Electric in Scranton, PA and Schenectady, NY. He then was employed as an Associate Professor at Middlesex County College.

Mr. Kubeck was predeceased by his sister, Johanna Panek. He is survived by his sisters, Mary Schwab of Hawthorne, New Jersey and Margaret Slovenkai of Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts; and seven nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Hightstown, New Jersey. Interment followed in Holy Cross Burial Park, South Brunswick, New Jersey. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Glackin/Saul Funeral Home, Hightstown.

Memorial donations may be made to the Princeton HealthCare System Foundation, 253 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, NJ 08540.

Fraternal Activities Committee

We are looking for new members, especially from

- Ford City
- Levittstown
- West Mifflin
- Akron

Bring your ideas to plan new activities

Slovak Civic Federation
1200 Hodgkiss St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Annual Meeting

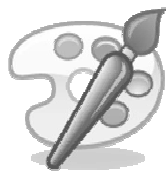
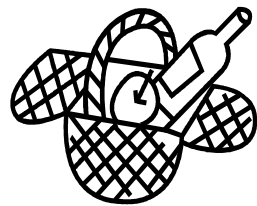
The Annual Meeting of the Fraternal Activities Committee will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2008, at the Slovak Civic Federation of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, PA. The meeting will start at 1 PM.



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



Saturday, October 11
1 PM



Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk
www.travelguide.sk
kosice.region.sk
www.slovakia.org
www.vtetry.sk
www.tatry.net
www.hotel-net.sk
www.skonline.sk
www.kultura.sk
www.snm.sk
www.savba.sk
www.government.gov.sk
www.snd.sk
www.stv.sk
www.nbs.sk

Slovakia Travel Guide
Hotel and Spa Guide
Kosice-City Travel Guide
Bratislava-Information about the City
Useful Information about the High Tatras
Complete Information on Tatra Region
Tourist Accommodation
Slovakia On-Line (general information)
Slovak cultural calendar
Slovak National Museum
Slovak Academy of Sciences
Government of the Slovak Republic
Slovak National Theater
Slovak Television
National Bank of Slovakia

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15	MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29	MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:

Anthony Sutherland, Editor

"JEDNOTA"

1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835

FAX: (717) 944-3107

Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1001 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057. Fax 717-944-3107. Email editorjednota@yahoo.com.

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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

THE JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT-HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Marcella Kopchik, Secretary

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

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

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

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT-NEW YORK

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

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in the formation room of Saint Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, Pennsylvania. Please note that this meeting is being held at an earlier date to give us more time to organize and advertise our annual Stedry Vecer. Representatives of each branch are requested to attend.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT-QUEBEC, CANADA

The Prince Rastislav District will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 12:00 noon at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. Members are urged to attend.

Anthony S. Makovsky, President

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

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

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

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

Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District are encouraged to attend this year's Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar to be held Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir, 2601 West Marquette Road, on the south side of Chicago, Illinois. The topic will be "Pictures of the Old Country". Professional film maker Susan Marcinkus will show the film she produced about her grandmother's immigration to America from Slovakia. Her 45 minute film has been shown on PBS. A buffet lunch will be served after the seminar. Admission is \$15.00 for pre-registration (by September 7), and \$20.00 at the door. For information, call John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810, or Gerry Hletko at 708/387-7812.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 5, 2008, in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in the Blessed Teresa Calcutta Church, 614 West Mahanoy Avenue, Mahanoy City. Dinner will be served at 12:30 p.m. in Gil's Catering Service, 5051 Mahanoy Street, Donation for dinner is \$13.00. The

meeting will be called to order at 1:30 p.m. Make checks payable to Branch 112 and send the check along with your credentials by September 29. Please send them back on time so I can call the caterers.

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

Helen Fiala, Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT-YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik will hold a meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.

Carlie Peshek, President

MICHIGAN DISTRICT-MICHIGAN

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

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

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

Anna Magusin, Secretary

SS. CYRIL AND METHIDIUS DISTRICT-LUZERNE & LACKAWANNA COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA AND BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at Holy Family Church, Gibson and Washington Streets, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner and the meeting. Reservations should be made with President Michael Slovenkai at 342-7562, Treasurer/Financial Secretary Dorothy Ungvarsky at 403-2067, or Vice President Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. Plan to attend and meet your fellow members and officers. Get the latest information on Jednota's activities, insurance and convention rules. Your presence can make a difference. Help to keep your district and branches alive and make the society meaningful and interesting for the young and young at heart.

The summer picnic will be held on Sunday, September 14 at McDade Park, Scranton. Call Elizabeth Slovenkai at 570/344-3854 for information and to make your reservation.

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary



Loretta Ekoniak Elected To YSC Board

Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities, Youngstown, Ohio, elected Loretta Ekoniak to its Board of Directors to fill the vacancy of Mary Babnic who passed away in June. (Mary served on the Board since the group's founding in 1991.) Loretta was recommended by Board Secretary, Bernie Demechko, who has worked with Loretta on various Slovak activities.

Loretta worked as a Registered Medical Technologist for twenty years; then received her Master's Degree in Secondary Education teaching Chemistry, Biology, and Environmental Science at Poland Seminary High School for 15 years before retiring. Since then she has devoted her volunteer time to Slovak activities serving as co-editor of the American Slovak Cultural Association Newsletter and on Parish Council of Saint Matthias Slovak Church where she also is lector at the Slovak Masses. This summer Loretta and her son, Michael, attended Slovak classes at the University of Pittsburgh. Michael is currently in Modra, Slovakia, to further his Slovak language classes at Comenius University. Upon his return he will continue graduate studies in Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech.

Loretta and her family visited Slovakia and became acquainted with relatives residing in the Zemplin and Spisska Nova Ves area (what a coincidence!)

In addition to their son, Michael, Loretta and her husband, Michael, have a son, Nathaniel, who is a Computer Engineer residing in Seattle, Washington. The Ekoniaks are members of Branch 731, Youngstown, Ohio.



Loretta Ekoniak

Bernie Demechko bdemechko@aol.com

Angel on Loan: The Story of Anthony Schwartz

By Erin Schwartz

My husband Joe and I had been married 16 months when we found out that we were going to have a baby. I was ecstatic! I called Joe at work because I couldn't wait for him to get home to tell him. This was something that we both had wanted and we were thrilled. I immediately called my OB, Dr. Elizabeth Moore of Henderson, NV and scheduled my first appointment at 8 weeks. At this appointment she told us that our expected due date would be December 15th, 2005. Over the next few months the date changed a few times but it was finally set at December 17th. To me this was perfect. I am a teacher and the 17th was the first day of winter break and the original plan was to work right up through the 16th. However, this was not Anthony's plan. At this point I was feeling great. No morning sickness or fatigue but I did unfortunately suffer from food poisoning. I was about 10 weeks when we went to a very well known French restaurant on the Las Vegas strip (which will remain nameless) for a nice dinner with a business associate of my husband. Later that evening it hit me and my initial concern was the baby. I knew how crucial these weeks were and Joe took me to the hospital. We got a glimpse of our baby which looked more like a peanut, and everything was fine. I was out of commission for 24 hours and things were back to normal. My next OB visit was scheduled for June 13th (my husband's birthday who was unfortunately out of town on business) and I was now 13 weeks. Dr. Moore did an in-office ultrasound and scheduled a more in-depth ultrasound with a specialist at Desert Perinatal with Dr. Van R. Bohman of Las Vegas. Dr. Moore routinely schedules these visits to check the development of the baby. At this appointment we would find out the sex of our baby. Would it be Anthony or Mia? We couldn't wait!

July 6, 2005

Today is the day of our appointment. I was so anxious that I could barely sleep. Joe and I got up early that morning and headed right to Desert Perinatal. Everyone back home (Cleveland, OH) was anxious too. I was leaving that very afternoon for a visit back east and my parents were picking me up from the airport. I told them that I wasn't going to call them after our appointment and they would have to wait until I landed to find out what we were having. If we were having a boy, then I would be wearing a blue shirt. If we were having a girl, my shirt would be pink. That was the plan anyway. So we're sitting in the waiting room and we finally get called back. The nurse took us right away and began the hour long ultrasound. She explained that she would tell us what she was looking at and that when she was finished the doctor would come and speak with us; all very routine. She was showing us his stomach and heart and then she showed us his face. Being first time parents, this was all very new and only half of the time could I make out what she was describing. As she was casually talking about the brain she moved down to his face and nonchalantly said, "looks like a cleft lip and palate.....by the way it's a boy." WHAT????? It didn't even register for us that we were having a boy. My mind was stuck on those few words *cleft lip & palate*. What does that mean? How did he get it? Is this my fault? Are you sure? Is it severe? We cried. I can't even remember the rest of what she said. My mind was on overload and I felt sick. I held my husband's hand as I lay on that table and just cried. Dr. Bohman came in and gave more details and spoke with us about Anthony's cleft. He briefly discussed feeding concerns and other possible special needs. He explained that they could run tests on my blood to determine other disabilities and we agreed. As he was mentioning all of the possibilities two words that no parent wants to hear were uttered, "Down Syndrome." Of all the things that he mentioned, this was the only one that I remember. With the blood work they could get a *pretty good* result but not as definite as an amniocentesis. We had a decision to make: should we or shouldn't we? We left the doctor's office that day feeling shocked and weak. This was not how we imagined the appointment to be. We held each other and cried the entire way home. My t-shirt plan at the airport was now out the window and I was

on the phone with my mom crying. I can't remember what we said to each other during our very short conversation but I do remember this, "Erin, God gives special babies to special people." These words are what got me through the next few months. As soon as we got home, Joe began doing research on the computer and brought up several illustrations and photos. I couldn't look at them. In fact, it took me two months before I could. I had debated canceling my trip that afternoon and staying home with Joe because we were both very emotional and needed each other, but he assured me that he was ok and I left for Cleveland a few hours later. At the airport I was alone and nothing is worse when you have a lot on your mind. God was watching out for me that day because a woman I work with was on the exact same flight and she let me cry on her shoulder for the entire 4 hour flight. When I landed in Cleveland I saw my mom at the baggage carousel waiting for me and I ran into her arms and wept. When we got to the car my dad was waiting for us and all of a sudden all of my tears of sadness turned to anger. Why did this happen to Anthony? Have we done something wrong? Are we being punished? Then I began to think of him growing up and I started to yell, "I don't want people to make fun of him!" Will he ever look "normal" (which I've learned is just a fallacy in your head)? By the time the day was over, I was exhausted. It felt like I had been up for days and I decided to give up and get some sleep.

The next day I received a call from Dr. Moore after she had spoken with Dr. Bohman and I discussed the amnio-debate with her. She said that if we wanted one that she could do it for us, but she felt that the risk of the procedure was greater than the chance of Anthony being born with any other special need. Joe and I decided against it and put things in God's hands. The blood work showed that we had a 1 out of 22,000 chance of Anthony having Down Syndrome. The next few months were hard. As family members and friends found out about Anthony we were hit with the same advice, "Oh they can fix that," or "it could be a lot worse." What did that mean? Is this that simple? NO. This is when I got the angriest. To me, this seemed insensitive and it was the WORST thing anyone could say to us. What about the feeding? What about his weight gain? What about going through a series of surgeries? What about healing? Ridicule? Acceptance? I hung on to the advice that my mother gave me and this is where my feelings began to turn positive and I was ready to do my own research and learn as much as I could about Anthony's special need and what I could do to help him. Joe had shown me some of the things he had found on www.cleftadvocate.org and other related sites such as www.widesmiles.org and www.cleftline.org. At this point we were seeing Dr. Bohman every 6-8 weeks to check Anthony's development and also meeting with Dr. Moore every month. So far, things were looking great. Anthony was developing accordingly and the doctors were confident that his cleft lip and palate were isolated. The next step: selecting a surgeon.

We were referred to a surgeon in Las Vegas that wasn't what we were looking for. I didn't feel a connection and I felt like God was telling us that this is not the path we were supposed to take. Our search continued until my father sent me an article that changed our lives. While doing some of his own research, he came across an article posted on AOL News titled, "Surgeon Performs First Cleft Palate Surgery of Its Kind." After reading the article about Quinn Sliment and the miracles Dr. Carstens of SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis performed, we did our homework. Dr. Michael Carstens (born with a cleft lip and palate himself) did not use a bone graft to repair the cleft, but a genetically engineered protein called bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) that would stimulate bone growth and reduce the number of surgeries. My husband contacted Debbie Watters, the Nurse Coordinator of the Cleft Lip/Palate and Craniofacial Deformities Team at Cardinal Glennon and she began to send us information. By September, we had planned a consultation visit with Dr. Carstens in St. Louis to discuss Anthony's treatment plan and we would travel after he was born. Until then, we enjoyed the rest of our pregnancy and couldn't wait to meet our son.

To be continued



Interfaith Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast in Greensburg

The 14th Annual Interfaith Pro-Life Prayer Breakfast will be held Saturday, October 4, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Four Points Hotel, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The keynote speaker will be David Bereit, National Campaign Director for Forty Days For Life. David has traveled all over the United States, praying and fasting with hundreds of thousands of people for 40 days at a time., Fall 2007, Spring 2008, and now, Fall 2008.

"40 Days For Life" is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion in America. They have been instrumental in helping to close abortion clinics, especially Planned Parenthood Clinics, all over the United States. Come and hear all about his experience on how prayer and fasting can bring an end to abortion. Other presenters include The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Brandt, Bishop of Greensburg, Dr. Donn S. Chapman, Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Ministries, Export; Reverend Pastor David L. Greer, Norvelt Union Church, and Msgr. Donald J. Mondello, Moderator of Greensburg DCCW. Music will be provided by Chris Hankins, Keyboard, and Singers, Anna Marie DeFabo and Children's Choir of Greensburg.

The reservation deadline is September 27. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$8.00 for students. Make checks payable to Greensburg DCCW and mail to P.O. Box 18, New Derry, PA 15671. For more information call Leann Falbo at 724/600-0173 or Betty Nemchik at 724/668-7436.

"Park 2 Annuity" - Now Paying 4.50%

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

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

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

News From Slovakia

Slovak Olympic Results

We can be proud that Slovakia had a very successful Olympics, winning a total of six medals including three gold, two silver, and one bronze.

Pavol Hochschorner and Peter Hochschorner, twin brothers, made history by winning their third Olympic gold in (double) white water canoe. Michal Martikan won the gold medal in single canoe slalom, his first since taking the top spot on the Olympic podium in Atlanta. Elena Kaliska won the gold in women's single kayak slalom by nearly 15 seconds, successfully defending her top finish at Athens.

Michal and Richard Riszdorfer, along with Juraj Tarr and Erik Vlcek, took the silver medal in the four-man kayak 1000-meter event. Zuzana Stefecekova earned a silver in women's trap shooting.

David Musulbes earned a bronze medal in wrestling in men's freestyle 120kg.

Newsletter, Slovak-American Society of Washington, D.C.

Interest in Slovak Museums Growing, Bojnice Castle Most Popular

Bojnice Castle was the most popular museum in Slovakia in 2007, visited by 192,344 people. Slightly behind came Orava Castle with 189,336 visitors, while the 100,000 threshold was also breached by Cerveny Kamen fortified manor house with 119,946 visitors.

The list of the top twenty most popular museums was dominated by castles and museums of nature. The Museum of Natural Science of the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava was the only city museum to make it into the top twenty.

The 101 evaluated museums registered record interest last year, with 4.2 million visitors coming to see the exhibitions, beating the previous record of 4.1 million from 2004. Interest in museums has been growing gradually in recent years. Last year was also a record breaking one in terms of incomes, which reached over 141 million crowns.

To the end of 2007, the country's museums managed over 15.6 million exhibits, acquiring almost 200,000 last year alone, partly thanks to a 3 million crown grant from the Culture Ministry.

Despite falling numbers of employees over the last three years, museum activities have been growing, with the number of expositions, exhibitions, and other activities all increasing.

TASR

Trnava Celebrates 770th Anniversary of Free Royal Town Privileges

The town of Trnava marked the 770th anniversary of receiving the privileges of a free royal town with a series of cultural, social and sporting events held as part of local festivities in September.

The celebration began on September 4, with the opening of a photo exhibition on life in Trnava, which was followed by an international conference focusing on Trnava and the early beginnings of medieval cities.

The main cultural program included a rich fare of music, dance, street theater, jousting, arts and crafts and other attractions. The St. Nicholas Cathedral was the venue for an eve-



Yonkers Parish to Hold Mission

Holy Trinity Slovak Roman Catholic Church in Yonkers, New York, will hold their Parish Mission September 22-25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will offer inspiring homilies, expounding on the theme, "The Pauline Year". There will also be Mass, Confession, Benediction, processions, counseling, and fellowship. The donation of non-perishable grocery items will be very much appreciated. For further information and directions, call the rectory at 914/965-0720 before 2:00 p.m. The pastor of Holy Trinity Church and the Sodality of Our Lady invite all to take part in this Mission.

Betty G. Knudsen

ning gala-concert marking the 175th anniversary of the St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Church music organization.

The festivities also included a historical procession complete with a symbolic presentation of the charter by King Bela IV and the handing of awards to major town figures.

TASR

Slovakia to Hold NATO Meeting in 2009

Defense Ministry state secretary Daniel Duchon has become the Government Proxy for the preparation of an informal meeting of NATO defense ministers in Slovakia, it was announced recently.

Duchon was proposed by Defense Minister Jaroslav Baska and approved by the Government.

The Defense Ministers' meeting is scheduled for October 22-23, 2009, as approved by the North Atlantic Council in April. These informal meetings usually take place twice a year.

"Organizing the meeting offers a unique opportunity to present Slovakia not only within NATO but also within the wider Euro-Atlantic context," the Ministry says.

TASR



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATES

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Effective July 1, 2008

The annual yield on existing

First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium
Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual

Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity
is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity and Six Year Fixed
Rate Annuity IRA is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

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

If you have any questions about our annuities or
IRAs, please contact the Home Office at

1-800-JEDNOTA or your local Branch Officer.

*THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008*

Kenneth A. Arendt Executive Secretary

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IWO JIMA HERO RECEIVES BELATED CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE

By John Karch

On July 29, Mary Pero, younger sister of Iwo Jima flag-raiser Marine Sgt. Michael Strank, was presented the official U.S. Certificate of Citizenship posthumously on behalf of her brother by Acting Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Jonathan Scharfen, a former Marine infantry officer and legal specialist. Michael's sister Mary Pero accepted the Certificate with pride and honor.

The Strank Family

In my March 5 JEDNOTA article on Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima, I quoted Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Chester Nimitz saying in 1945 "For the Americans who served on Iwo Island, Uncommon valor was a common virtue." One of those warriors was Marine Sgt. Michael Strank, a 25-year-old immigrant who was born November 10, 1919 in Jarabina, a village in northeastern Slovakia.

His father Vasil had emigrated to the U.S., working in Franklin Borough, Pennsylvania. In 1922 he brought his family to Pennsylvania. I mentioned that Mike "learned discipline and teamwork from his father and the Catholic faith from his mother." While Mike was in high school, his father became an American citizen in 1935 (his mother Martha in 1941) and Mike "derived his U.S. citizenship through a U.S. citizen parent," his father. No Certificate of Citizenship was issued, a common practice during those years. (In my case, my father became an American citizen in 1933 and I--coming to the U.S. with my mother and brother in 1934--derived my naturalization from him and also did not receive a Certificate); I still do not possess one.)

Heroic Marine

Mike graduated from high school in 1937 and, as many others did during these depression years, joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and two years later enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was promoted to Sergeant two months after Pearl Harbor and became a "Raider" and participated during 1942-44 in the landings on Uvea, Pauvu, and horrendous Bouganville. After home-leave, he was reassigned to the 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division as Platoon Leader to land on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Five days later, he carried a larger flag to Mount Suribachi, so that it could be viewed by all combatants. On March 1, Mike was mortally wounded. The iconic flag-raising photograph, snapped by Joe Rosenthal became the basis for the famous Marine Corps War Memorial near Arlington Cemetery where Marine Sgt. Michael Strank is buried.

Citizenship Certificate

Strank's U.S. citizenship was not questioned by the IRS or its successor, the USCIS, nor by the Marine Corps. The latter even cited his birthplace as Pennsylvania. Mary said she knew Mike was a U.S. citizen but was unaware of a Certificate. All was changed earlier this year. According to Director Scharfen and his Public Affairs, USMC Gunnery Sergeant Matt D. Blais, Commander of the Marine Detachment Security Guard Detachment in Bratislava, in researching Strank's background, discovered Michael was not a natural-born citizen and had not received a Citizenship Certificate. He filed an application on Strank's behalf and Debra Zanberry, USCIS Pittsburgh Field Office Director, informed Headquarters of the special circumstances involved.

USCIS Public Affairs contacted Mary Pero and USMC Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. On July 28 its Office of Communications issued a Media Advisory: Acting Director Jonathan Scharfen to present Certificate of Citizenship to Family of Iwo Jima Flag Raiser at the Marine Corps War Memorial, Tuesday, July 29, 11:30 A.M. Unfortunately both the Slovak Embassy and this writer were unaware of these developments.

Ceremony at Memorial

Present at the Marine Corps War Memorial on July 29 were Mary Pero, her husband Frank, a daughter, son-in-law, and four grandchildren; USCIS Acting Director Scharfen with two Public Affairs officers; USMC Colonels David Lapan and Gregg Sturdevant with Public Affairs CAPT Anthony Andrious; and members of the media, including--those known to me--the ASSOCIATED PRESS, The WASHINGTON POST and MARINES. I acquired the articles they wrote. The WASHINGTON TIMES printed the AP piece, while The TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT of Johnstown, PA based its information on Staff and Wire Reports and included some local information about Sgt. Strank. Slovak news agency TASR distributed a report on the Ceremony as did the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava. A photo was usually included.

Remarks by Pero & Scharfen

Neither Mary Pero nor Mr. Schafen had prepared printed remarks; the latter had some notes, USCIS Public Affairs told me. However, all the above publications carried various comments made at the Memorial or in conversations, some of which are quoted here.

Under the heading "Flag raiser honored as citizen," the July 30 AP article by Matthew Barakat, cited Mr. Scharfen presenting "Citizenship papers" to Mary Pero and saying that the "ceremony was important to recognize Sgt. Strank's service and that of all immigrants who have served in the military," that "Sergeant Strank is part of a larger and more important history ... The rules had changed recently to make it easier for men and women in the military

to become citizens. Since the Sept. 11 attacks more than 40,000 men and women in the military have become U.S. citizens." Barakat said Mrs. Pero was "surprised" when immigration authorities called her to arrange a presentation of the Certificate, quoting her: "We didn't realize he didn't have the papers," adding that at 75 she was only 3 when her brother left home for the CCC, "so her recollections of him come largely through her siblings' stories."

However, she is "convinced" that "He wouldn't have wanted the fame. He would have said he was just doing his job."

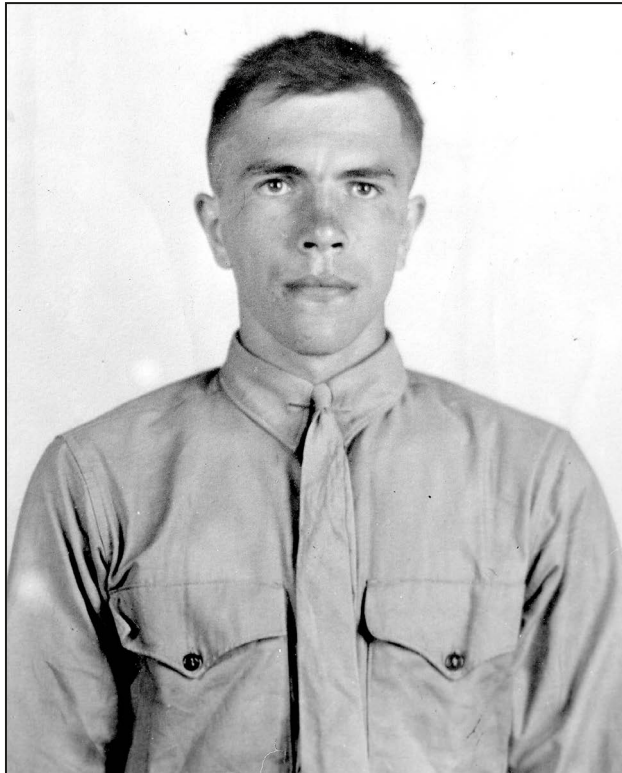
The Washington Post's Ben Hubbard reported that Mary Pero accepted the Certificate of Citizenship "smiling proudly in front of the towering bronze statue." Director Scharfen said that Strank hailed from "a long line of famous American immigrants who served their country in a time of war." Strank's family learned only after his burial that he was in the photograph of the flag raisers. At the Ceremony USCIS arranged for photos with Mary, husband Frank, and the other family members in front of the impressive Monument and for interviews with Mary. Hubbard quoted Mary saying "I feel so proud" she said, viewing the bronze face of her brother. "It makes me feel that this is history." Pointing at her 9-year grandson Tommy with a photo of Strank, Mary said "I think about as he grows and has a family, this will all still be here."

In the publication MARINES Lance Cpl. Bryan Carfrey filed his article July 29 with the heading "Iwo Jima flag raiser posthumously receives citizenship certificate." In it he wrote that "Pulitzer Prize winning photograph ran in Pero's local paper but she didn't find out that her brother was in the picture until after his memorial service." Carfrey noted that "Pero thanked Scharfen for his kind words and said she plans to keep her brother's certificate of citizenship close by and carry on his memory." He quoted her saying "Anytime I'm at one of these services and I hear (Marines' hymn) it just gets to me. I have to shed a tear no matter where I'm at."

The Tribune-Democrat headed its July 29 article as "Local WW II vet's sister accepts posthumous citizenship papers." It reprinted the story of Cpl. Ira Hayes after his death in 1955. Hayes was one of the Marines who raised the flag on Mount Suribachi along with Strank:

"When we got to the western side, one of the men noticed men on top of the volcano. Then all of a sudden we saw a flag go up. It was pretty small, and I could hardly make it out. Then our company commander sent for Sgt. Mike Strank, my squad leader.... We got halfway up and took a break. Mike had a bulge in his jacket, and one of the fellows asked him what it was. He grinned back and showed us a flag and told us we were going to plant a large flag in place of the little one so the whole island could know the 28th had secured Suribachi. The idea was to keep a flag up all the time, so a couple of men lowered the small flag and then we raised the large one. Then we tied it down. Then a Marine hollered over to us and said our picture was taken. About 20 yards away, we saw Joe Rosenthal and a couple of others. We didn't know they were taking our picture."

The article then mentions that Strank died just days later during combat on Iwo Jima. He was 25. A bridge connecting Franklin and East Conemaugh boroughs is named the "Sergeant Michael Strank Memorial Bridge" in his honor.



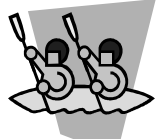
Michael Strank



Mary Pero, younger sister of Iwo Jima flag-raiser Marine Sgt. Michael Strank, was presented the official U.S. Certificate of Citizenship

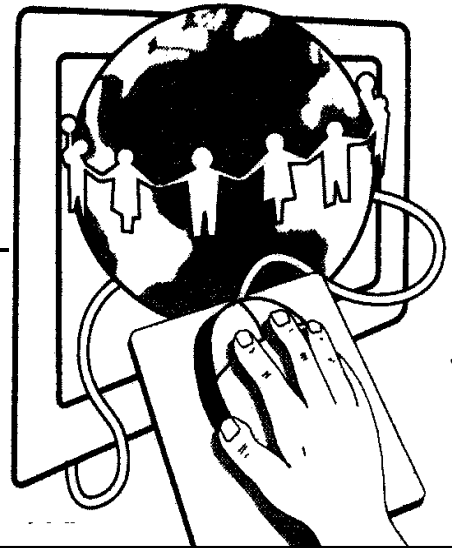


Friends ★ Events



Sports Culture Trivia Activities

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Pavol and Peter Hochschorner were born on September 7, 1979, in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia. They have won gold medals in slalom canoeing in the 2000 Sydney, 2004 Athens, and 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Whitewater Slalom is a competitive sport where the aim is to navigate a decked canoe or kayak through a course of hanging gates on river rapids in the fastest time possible. It is one of the two kayak and canoeing disciplines at the Summer Olympics.

Peter and Pavol come from a family that is heavily involved in Canoeing. Their mother and father have both represented Czechoslovakia in slalom and their sister represented Slovakia in flatwater canoeing. The twin's origins were in flatwater racing, but both found it not to their liking or the skills that they had as canoeists. They decided to change disciplines for the faster and thrilling Slalom C2 class. Even in the light of Olympic glory, the twins know that it is in their family that their strength and support comes from and not just in each other. Pavol and Peter are coached by their father, Peter Hochschorner senior and their sister, Eva, are responsible for organizing anything that the twins need related to the sport. Their mother is also a coach, spending her time training the next generation of slalom athletes. With the entire family heavily involved in the sport, there's a great deal of motivation and expectation. The support structure is deeply rooted in the family tree, providing them with everything they need to accomplish their future goals.



Pavol and Peter don't just look out for their own achievements they invest heavily in the future as well. Slalom canoeing is an incredibly popular sport in Slovakia, and the performances of the Hochschorner brothers are a proud endorsement of this growing exciting sport. Both of them graduated at the highest level as Coaches of Canoeing at Comenius University in Bratislava, showing their commitment to teaching younger generations and spreading the popularity of the sport. They realize that their sport will eventually lie in the hands of the next generation and that it's their place to guide the passions of others with the same desires as themselves.



Other Medals Won by Slovakia in the 2008 Olympics

- Slalom Kayak - Gold Elena Kaliska
- Flatwater Kayak, 1000 m - Silver Richard Riszdorfer, Michal Riszdorfer, Erik Vlcek, Juraj Tarr
- Slalom Canoe - Gold Michal Martikan
- Freestyle Wrestling, 120 kg - Bronze David Musulbes
- Trap Shooting - Silver Zuzana Stefecekova



Mail Space

Dear Ms. Ondrejco,
 Thank you very much for the prizes we won for the coloring contest. We used the duffle bag when we went camping.
 Thanks,
 Shelby and Paul Spencer



Dear Susan,
 Olivia and I were so excited when we placed first in the Jednota coloring contest. We think the duffle bags are awesome! We will be proud to take them on weekend travels. Our parents bought us each a Savings Bond with the gift of money.

Thank you.
 Sincerely,
 Rachel + Olivia Stroble
 Region 4

Activity Space

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Back to School

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3 AND BRANCH 226 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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

Joseph Matlon, Publicity Committee

BRANCH 3P- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 3P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend. Please spread the word to fellow members.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6P- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Valentine Society, Branch 6P, will hold an Election of Officers on Sunday, September 21, 2008, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the home of Edmund W. Zigmund, 1371 Main Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend and run for office.

Edmund W. Zigmund, President

BRANCH 6P- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Edmund W. Zigmund, President

BRANCH 75- SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of President and Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Penn-

sylvania. The fiscal end of the year reports and financial statements will be presented. The auditors' report will also be submitted and the nomination and election of officers for the coming year will take place. All members are requested to attend this semiannual meeting.

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

BRANCH 112- MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Karen Sterling

BRANCH 153- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The financial secretary of the St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, is searching for addresses for the following members: John Baraniak, Charles Capiak, Charles Cernicka, Andrew Dibala, Jessica Garwell, Robert Hakala, Joseph Hovanec, Linda Johnson, Thomas Keach, Andrew Klotnia, Sophia Klotnia Edward Lorence, Jo Ann Porter, Andrew Ribak, Stephen Supa, Andrew Vontorcik, Ignac Wons, and Lorraine Zenk. If you have addresses for any of these members, please contact Dorothy Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Ave., Chicago, IL 60631, Phopne: 773/763-0810.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, Sep-

tember 21, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Upcoming branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be presented. All members are invited to attend.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 1:15 p.m. at The Old Country Buffet, Town Square Mall, Vestal Parkway. The agenda will consist of Branch business and a discussion of the District meeting and picnic held in September. Members are encouraged to attend. Please call Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896. Thank you and hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, Presiden

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall at St. Elizabeth Church, Campbell, Ohio. There will be important issues on the agenda. Members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 266- HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 10:15 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 290- RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

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

Joseph F. Minarovich, President

BRANCH 510- KENOSHA, WISCONSIN

The St. Anthony Society, Branch 510, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. at Casa Capri, Kenosha, Wisconsin. On the agenda will be officers' reports, a discussion of future events, and updates on insurance and annuity programs. The FCSU has good rates to invest into to protect your personal programs. The election of officers will take place after the business meeting.

There will also be an open discussion on the new regulations regarding the \$4.00 stipend per member. Since we lack sufficient funds this stipend really kept us going. During the last few years our share was cut off due to lack of new members or policies. This hurts our future. There will be a serious discussion on funds that belong to each branch that helps it to continue to exist.

Dinner will be available to those who attend this meeting. For reservations, call President Joseph Scuglik at 262/654-7364.

Joseph Scuglik, President

BRANCH 580- WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 580, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 12:00 noon after Mass at the home of the Financial Secretary, Mary G. Perun, Outlook Drive, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Mary G. Perun, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595- MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 595, will have its first meeting of the fall on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Tatra Hall. Other meetings will be held on October 19, November 16 and December 21 (election of officers).

Several events are scheduled for this fall. There will be a Halloween dance on Saturday, October 18 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. with music provided by the Grabinski Orchestra. The Stan Morz Polka band will perform on Sunday, November 2, and The Old Time Polka Band will perform on Sunday, December 7. All dances are from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and are free with an offering at the door. Also, do not forget that there will be Breakfast served starting in September. It's time for all members to support Branch 595.

**Louis A. Kollar,
Financial Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Kosko, Presiden**

BRANCH 628- MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 628, will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at 821 Laura Avenue, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. The agenda will include a recap of branch activities during the year and a continued discussion on the status of the merger with Branch 311.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 716- NEW YORK CITY

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

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 764-WARREN, OHIO

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 764, will hold a meeting on Sunday, September 28, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, Warren, Ohio. This meeting will consist of planning our fall agenda. All members are welcome to attend.

Joanne Odom, Secretary

BRANCH 774- MERRILL-HEMLOCK, MICHIGAN

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 774, will hold a meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2008, at the home of Frank Radosa, 4084 Kane Road, Merrill, Michigan. For more information call 989/643-7592.

Irene Pacholka, Secretary-Treasurer

SHALH Plans Anniversary and Reunion

As part of its ongoing program to preserve, celebrate, and pass on our Slovak heritage, the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands is planning its main fundraiser and celebration for the year-Our Big Fat Slovak Anniversary and Family Reunion.

The anniversary and reunion will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2008, from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. at Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 413 Power Street in Cambria City, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Activities will include dinner, dancing, children's crafts, craft and bake sales, and some surprises. There will be awards for the longest married, most children and grandchildren, and other categories.

There will also be an essay contest for children 6 to 12 and 13 to 16 on the topic: My Slovak Family. Send one page handwritten or double-spaced typed, with name, age, and address to: SHALH Essay Contest, Box 203, Johnstown, PA 15907 by Friday, September 26, 2008. Winners will receive \$25 and will be published in the SHALH newsletter.

Reservations for the reunion are required. No ticket sales at the door. Reservations must be received by September 26. Tickets are \$16.00 for members, \$18.00 for nonmembers, and \$8.00 for children 5 to 11. Make your checks payable to SHALH and mail to SHALH Anniversary-Family Reunion, P.O. Box 203, Johnstown, PA 15907.

Susan Kalcik, President SHALH

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Branch 122 Members Attend World Youth Day

The Lachmanek family (Paul, Amy, Barb & Vicki) were pilgrims to the 23rd World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia joining hundreds of thousands of young (and not so young) pilgrims from 170 nations around the world. This worldwide encounter with Jesus Christ not only showed the universality of the Catholic Church, it brought the faith to the streets of a major city that, like so many others, has slid into secularism.

The theme for this World Youth Day from Acts 1:8, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and will be my witnesses.", was so appropriate for this pilgrimage to Sydney. The 13+ hour flights to Australia really is going to the ends of the Earth. Australia used to be referred to as the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. The experience began even before leaving the USA in Los Angeles International Airport. Hundreds of pilgrims gathering for flights, boldly singing Marian hymns and praying in public. After a stop in Fiji where dozens of Fiji pilgrims boarded the plane we arrived in Sydney on St. Benedict's Day, July 11th, during the Australian winter. We went to St. Mary's Cathedral that afternoon, the same day of the unveiling of the beautiful painting of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians. Saturday we drew our pilgrim backpacks and toured the Sydney Opera House. Sunday Mass was celebrated at St Columbkille's, a church built in the late 1800's for Portuguese fishermen and now only has one Mass a week, on Sunday. After visiting with the parishioners we went to the Pacific Ocean at Bondi Beach. Each day more and more pilgrims were about as evidenced by the backpacks. Monday we met pilgrims everywhere; on the Harbour ferry, at Taronga Zoo, throughout the city streets and at the Taize Prayer Service.

The major World Youth Day events began on Tuesday, July 15th. First we went to the Vocations Expo at the Sydney Convention Center where over 100 orders, congregations, lay movements, etc. had booths. Organizers estimated 1300 people per hour would pass through the Expo, but they were wrong. Over 2500 people per hour went through the Expo! In the afternoon we made our way to Barangaroo. After a lunch of Aussie pies, over 150,000 pilgrims gathered for the arrival of the World Youth Day Cross and Icon and the Opening Mass celebrated by George Cardinal Pell, Archbishop of Sydney, and bishops of the world. What an experience! 150,000 pilgrims from 170 nations all praying and responding at the same time!

Wednesday morning began with the catechesis session, opportunities for Confession, and Holy Mass. Lunch was the Great Aussie BBQ and visiting with local Sydneysiders who were volunteers at the site. The remainder of the day was spent at the Pro-Life festival at The Love and Life Site, Eucharistic Adoration and Youth Festival performances at The Domain.

July 17th was Super Thursday; the day of the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI. After the morning catechesis and Holy Mass, lunch was shared with two Belgian Salesians. Next was the long walk back to Barangaroo, the site of the Holy Father's arrival. Pope Benedict sailed into Sydney Harbour by boat-a-cade, disembarking at Barangaroo to pray with the pilgrims and deliver the first of his many inspiring addresses. The Holy Father then departed Barangaroo in the Popemobile for a motorcade thru the streets of Sydney. 500,000 turned out for Pope Benedict's arrival.

On Friday morning we made our way to the Sydney Opera House for a live broadcast of EWTN's Life On The Rock. This took place Friday morning so that the show could air at the regular time on



The Lachmanek Family.

Thursday night. After lunch with a Sydney pilgrim and her father it was another walk back to Barangaroo for the Way of The Cross. 100 actors took part in this magnificent portrayal our our Lord's passion and death. Starting at St. Mary's Cathedral, the Way of The Cross passed through the city and Darling Harbour to Barangaroo, taking Christ to the streets and the public square.

Saturday's events continued traditions of World Youth Day. First, the pilgrim walk to the site of the vigil and final Mass. In Sydney this location was at Randwick Racecourse. Randwick combined with adjoining Centennial Parklands became the Southern Cross Precinct for the weekend. Throughout Randwick there were tents where pilgrims adored Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At the same locations people lined up for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the evening Pope Benedict lead the Vigil Service and then the pilgrims settled in for the night under the southern sky.

Sunday morning started with Morning Prayer and was soon followed by the Pope's helicopter fly-over the Southern Cross Precinct and the over 400,000 who would join him for Holy Mass. His Holiness then rode in the Popemobile around the racecourse to greet the pilgrims and the pilgrims greet him. At the Final Mass some young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Holy Father. Again, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of The Mass and responding together! All present at this beautiful Mass with the Vicar of Christ really did receive the power of The Holy Spirit as we went forth to prepare for the journey home.

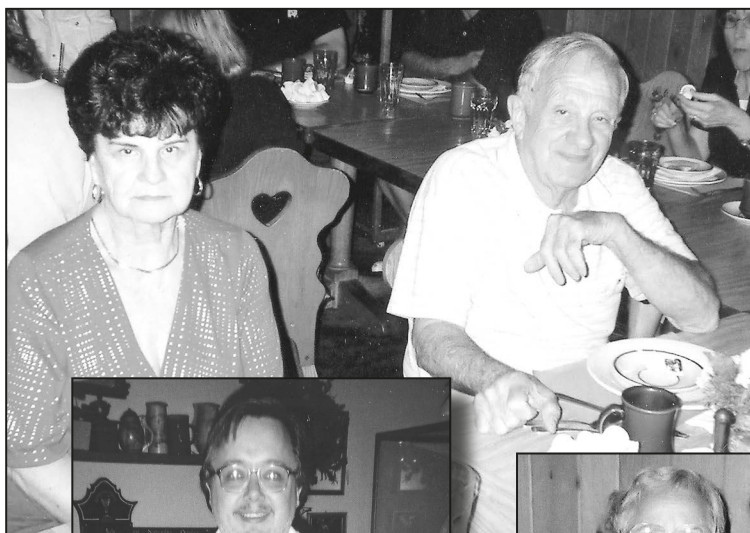
The Lachmaneks live near St. David, AZ and are members of Branch 122, Export, PA.



Chicago Branch Host Meeting and Luncheon

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, held its Semiannual Meeting and Summer Luncheon on Saturday, July 26, 2008. A welcome was extended to the new members for 2008: Mary Turner, Grayson Derma, Anthony Affrunti, and Julia Affrunti. After the 2:00 p.m. meeting, the 16 attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner at Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont, Illinois. Each household took home a homemade Slovak fruit-filled kolach, compliments of the branch.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary



Emily and Joe Janusek



Sergeant at Arms Pete Turner and Tony Affrunti



Gerry James with cousin Amelia Rogalin.



Don Cummings holds his apricot kolach



Marie Affrunti



Joan Hepner with niece Melody Bobo.

Promoting Higher Education among our Youth

The Slovak League Announces 2008 Scholarship Recipients

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry founded in Cleveland in 1907, is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2008 scholarship grants program. Through the kindness and generosity of Mrs. Julia A. Demko of Bayonne, New Jersey, six one-time scholarship grants of \$750.00 each have been awarded to deserving students pursuing higher education. This year's scholarship grants are given in memory of Julia's late husband, John A. Demko, a well known area Slovak leader and strong promoter of education.

Details of this year's scholarship program were announced in releases published in the official publications of five Slovak fraternal benefit societies enjoying membership in the Slovak League of America. Each of this year's recipients, who are currently students at a university, college or professional school, enjoys membership in one or more of our Slovak fraternal organizations. Winners were selected based on essays submitted on some theme from Slovak culture and heritage.

The following have been awarded the John A. Demko Memorial Scholarship Grant of the Slovak League of America in the amount of \$750.00:

Nicholas E. Fleming of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania will be a sophomore at Penn State University in the fall where he is majoring in Industrial Engineering. He is the son of Patrick and Carol A. Cmar Fleming. At West Mifflin High School, where he was the Salutatorian of the Class of 2007, Nick was a part of its gifted program, Academic Curriculum Enrichment. He was inducted into the National Honor Society as a sophomore and enjoyed membership in both his junior and senior years in high school. In 2004, he was selected as the Student of the Month. He has been active in many parish projects at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. The title of Nick's paper was "Celebrating my Slovak Heritage." Nick and his family enjoy membership in Assembly 295 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Duquesne, PA.

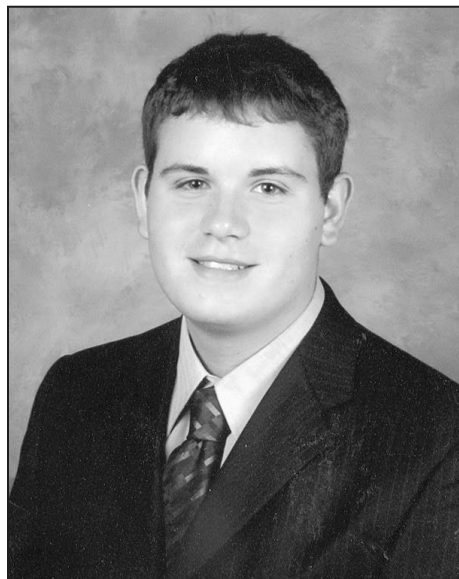
Tracy Joyce DiMarino of Parma, Ohio will be a senior in the fall at Ohio University, where she is majoring in journalism and with a minor in business and English. She is the daughter of Frank and Debra DiMarino. At Ohio University, she has been on the Dean's List for nine of the last academic quarters. She was elected to the honor fraternity, Phi Kappa Phi, which is offered to the top 10 percent of her class. Tracy is a firm believer in the need for volunteerism. She has volunteered her time and talents in a number of volunteer projects and is active at Christ the King Parish in Athens, Ohio. Tracy has been active in the Colleges Against Cancer program, and has participated in the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life. Last year, she participated in the St. Bernard Project in New Orleans where she assisted with relief efforts for one week. The title of Tracy's essay was "Slovak Culture Yesterday and Today." She and her family enjoy membership in Wreath 153 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Parma, Ohio.

Samantha Marie Stupak of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will be a student at Clarion University of Pennsylvania in the fall where she hopes to major in speech pathology. At Carrick High School, she was named to the honor roll for all four years of study. She was a gifted athlete and was a star on the school's soccer and rugby teams. She was named the Female Athlete of the Year for 2008. She is the daughter of James and Richleen Sokol Stupak. The title of her essay was "The Slovak's History." She and her family are active members of Wreath 22 and Assembly 16 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Pittsburgh.

Katherine Michelle Nace of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania will be a senior at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia in the fall. She is in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program majoring in dance performance. Her love for ballet began as a child when she was a trainee in the Richmond Ballet. She was a member of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, 1992-2005 and was active in the Eastern Christian Youth Formation Group, 1991-2004. She was a member of the National Foreign Language Honor Society at Camp Hill High School. The title of her essay was "Wooden Churches in Slovakia." Katherine is the daughter of Daryl and Gloria Wassil Nace. She and her family enjoy membership in the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Leah Jame Miklovic of St. Louis, Missouri will be a senior at St. Louis Community College-Meramec in the fall majoring in nursing. In college, she has been consistently on the Dean's List and is a gifted athlete. She was elected the school's MVP in cross country. She enjoys volunteering at adult day care centers in her area. The title of her essay was "Hosting a Relative from Slovakia." Leah recalls the very educating and enriching experience of hosting a relative of her age from Slovakia. Leah is the daughter of Joseph and Susan Schuchardt Miklovic of St. Louis. She and her family enjoy membership in the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association in St. Louis.

Michael S. Zelenak of St. Pete Beach, Florida is a graduate student at the University of South Florida pursuing a doctorate in music education. The title of his essay was "The Choral Music Heritage of Slovakia." Our Detroit native has been active in music since childhood. He currently serves as District Chairman for the Florida Vocal Association and was secretary for the Pinellas County Music Education Association. Mike hails from a well-known Slovak fraternal family in Detroit and enjoys membership in the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.



**Nicholas E. Fleming,
Penn State University**



**Tracy Joyce DiMarino,
Ohio University**



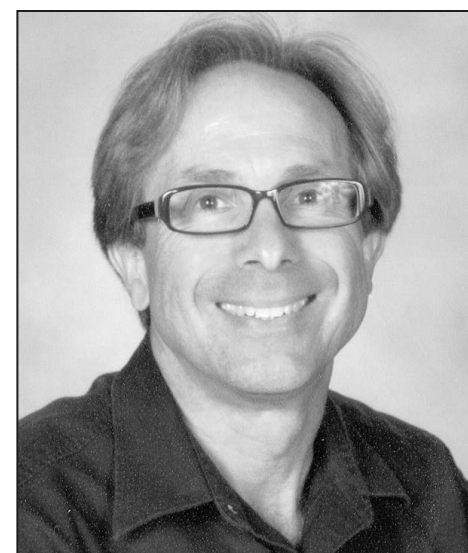
**Samantha Marie Stupak,
Clarion University**



**Katherine M. Nace,
Virginia Commonwealth University**



**Leah J. Miklovic,
St. Louis Community College**



**Michael S. Zelenak, University of South
Florida**

The Slovak League of America is pleased to assist students of Slovak ancestry achieve their educational goals. Established in 1972, the Slovak League of America Scholarship Fund, Inc. over the years has assisted hundreds of students on both the undergraduate and graduate levels of education. Tax deductible donations in support of this program may be made from making checks payable to: Slovak League Scholarship Fund and send same to Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055. All donations, however large or small will be very much appreciated.

Our congratulations and best wishes go out to this year's scholarship recipients. The Slovak League likewise expresses thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Julia Demko for her generosity in funding this year's grants program. All scholarship checks were mailed to this year's winners in August.

Statement as of June 30, 2008 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	170,474,506		170,474,506	173,196,904
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	12,022,040		12,022,040	11,022,040
2.2 Common stocks.....	1,032,948		1,032,948	1,130,626
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	2,200,006		2,200,006	2,261,390
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,261,654		1,261,654	1,288,418
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	954,538		954,538	973,785
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....12,895,760), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	12,895,760		12,895,760	7,383,627
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	776,019		776,019	746,501
7. Other invested assets.....	2,167,873		2,167,873	2,449,543
8. Receivables for securities.....	226,070		226,070	
9. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
10. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 9).....	204,574,089	0	204,574,089	201,015,509
11. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
12. Investment income due and accrued.....	2,453,180		2,453,180	2,558,414
13. Premiums and considerations:				
13.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	18,813		18,813	36,412
13.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
13.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
14. Reinsurance:				
14.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
14.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
14.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
15. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
16.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
16.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
17. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
18. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
19. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	13,265	13,265	0	0
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
21. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
22. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
23. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	29,685	29,685	0	0
24. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 10 through 23).....	207,089,032	42,950	207,046,082	203,610,335
25. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
26. TOTALS (Lines 24 and 25).....	207,089,032	42,950	207,046,082	203,610,335

Statement as of June 30, 2008 of the

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	178,309,000	176,127,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	1,459,993	1,572,184
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	250,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	369,145	311,333
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	3,081,638	3,726,188
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....		3,425
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	457,062	387,700
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	8,865	8,865
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	5,314,171	4,609,041
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	50,000	50,000
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,380,147	2,437,842
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Payable for securities.....	599,501	99,501
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	514,992	514,992
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	193,244,514	190,498,071
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	193,244,514	190,498,071
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	13,801,568	13,112,264
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	13,801,568	13,112,264
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30).....	207,046,082	203,610,335

Statement as of June 30, 2008 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

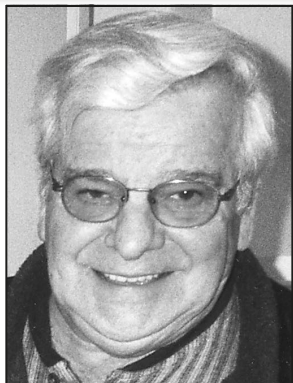
	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	4,314,235	4,164,212	5,693,973
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	6,088,821	6,039,309	12,064,200
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	148,000	150,000	300,469
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	54,310	14,701	28,603
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	10,605,366	10,368,222	18,087,245
10. Death benefits.....	1,455,528	1,343,413	2,394,166
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....	1,588	2,208	2,208
12. Annuity benefits.....	3,911,144	3,097,532	6,299,856
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0.....			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	329,513	239,314	456,455
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	117,664	107,936	218,064
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	2,182,000	3,275,000	3,667,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	7,997,437	8,065,403	13,037,749
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	47,755	58,314	97,579
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	1,420,954	1,449,948	2,287,897
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	82,830	82,938	75,113
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(159,678)	(11,357)	211,844
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	9,389,298	9,645,246	15,710,182
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	1,216,068	722,976	2,377,063
28. Refunds to members.....	114,510	139,512	461,771
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,101,558	583,464	1,915,292
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....		(7,914)	(194,342)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	1,101,558	575,550	1,720,950
SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	13,112,264	11,555,594	11,555,594
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	1,101,558	575,550	1,720,950
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	(463,350)	(69,957)	2,984
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			(45,000)
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	1,950	(14,984)	(15,159)
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	57,694	9,831	152,294
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	(8,549)	141,744	(259,398)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	689,303	642,184	1,556,671
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	13,801,567	12,197,778	13,112,264
DETAILS OF WRITE-INS			
08.301. SUBSCRIPTION INCOME , BOOK SALES, LAND RENTAL.....	3,748	4,935	8,621
08.302. MISCELLANEOUS INCOME.....	50,562	9,766	19,982
08.303.			
08.398. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 8.3 from overflow page.....	0	0	0
08.399. Totals (Lines 08.301 thru 08.303 plus 08.398) (Line 8.3 above).....	54,310	14,701	28,603
2501. PENSION DEPOSIT NET.....	(159,678)		(328,576)
2502. SETTLEMENT OPTIONS PYTS NONLIFE.....		(11,357)	540,420
2503.			
2598. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 25 from overflow page.....	0	0	0
2599. Totals (Lines 2501 thru 2503 plus 2598) (Line 25 above).....	(159,678)	(11,357)	211,844
4501. ACCRUAL & ASSET ADJUSTMENTS.....		141,744	
4502. ADJUSTMENT TO SCH BA PER NAIC ON 2006 ANNUAL STMT.....			(62,162)
4503. ROUNDING & MISC ADJ (SCH BA).....	(8,549)		2,764
4598. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 45 from overflow page.....	0	0	(200,000)
4599. Totals (Lines 4501 thru 4503 plus 4598) (Line 45 above).....	(8,549)	141,744	(259,398)

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Thru July 31, 2008



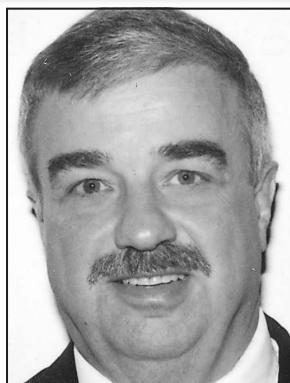
Sophie B. Pipak
First Place



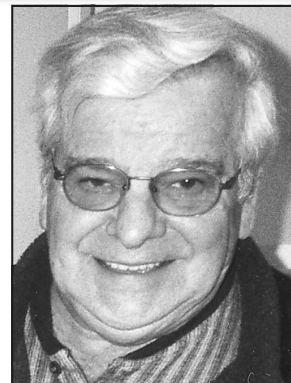
George A. Sprock
Second Place



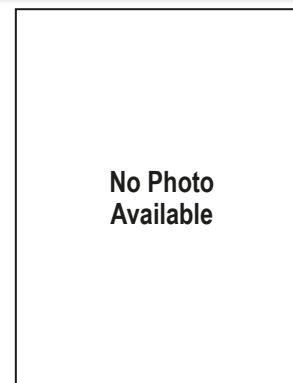
Dorothy J. Petrus
Third Place



Kenneth A. Arendt
First Place



George A. Sprock
Second Place



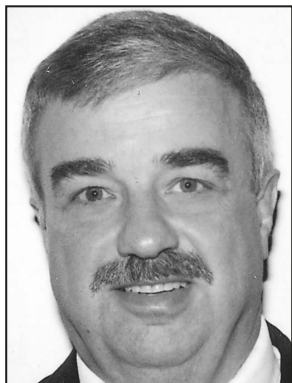
Sophie B. Pipak
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

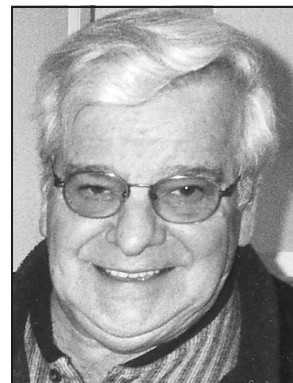
	Branch	Insurance Amount
Sophie B. Pipak, Norvelt, Pennsylvania	199	\$520,922
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$313,614
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$185,489
Michael J. Slovenkai, Scranton, Pennsylvania	382	\$150,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	320	\$120,000
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$106,000
Sabina Sabados, Linden, New Jersey	746	\$100,000
Joseph F. Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	\$95,000
Florence K. Matta, White Oak, Pennsylvania	38	\$61,413
Joseph J. Yuros, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	35	\$60,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

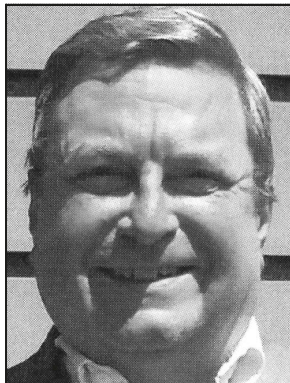
	Branch	Total Points
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	345
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	240
Sophie B. Pipak, Norvelt, Pennsylvania	199	219
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	184
Robert Joseph Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	138
Michaael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	125
Edward P. Palushock, Havre de Grace, Maryland	3	125
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	120
James R. Marmol, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	162	118
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	115



Kenneth A. Arendt
First Place



George A. Sprock
Second Place



Robert Joseph Kopco
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

	Branch	Annuities
Kenneth Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	\$346,513.35
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$147,748.35
Robert Joseph Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	\$139,410.97
Thomas M. Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$120,856.34
Al Tipul, Columbia Station, Ohio	319	\$109,905.05
Albert R. Valo, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania	587	\$66,000.00
Michael Leo Koval, Hazleton, Pennsylvania	3	\$59,706.09
Roger T. Soltis, Massilon, Ohio	410	\$59,150.39
Thomas William Hudak, Whitehall, Pennsylvania	796	\$52,139.92
Shirley A. Kallok, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$38,000



Philadelphia Parish Plans Festival

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

ATTENTION

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2008 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2008 Scholarship Program.

**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 will attend an Approved 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 copy of applicant's high school transcript, which indicates applicant's high school grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT and SAT scores.
 - 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:

First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131

Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310

E-mail: fcsu@aol.com - Website: www.fcsu.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 3, 2008

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

Slováci chcú študovať v zahraničí

Bratislava (TASR) - Záujem Slovákov o štúdium v zahraničí v rámci programu Erasmus zatiaľ narastá. Najpočetnejšie je zastúpené štúdium národných jazykov, literatúry a prírodných vied, histórie, technických a inžinierskych vied, ekonómie, humanitných a medicínskych vied. „O filologické študijné zameranie majú záujem nielen lingvisti, ale aj nelingvisti pre zdokonalenie svojich jazykových zručností,“ uviedla pre TASR hovorkyňa Ministerstva školstva (MŠ) SR Dana Španková. Na štipendijné pobyty do zahraničia sa v tomto školskom roku hlási 387 záujemcov. „Z toho je 349 študentov, doktorandov, vysokoškolských pedagógov a 38 stredoškôľakov,“ vysvetlila. V rámci programu DAAD, ktorý organizuje MŠ, SAV a Nemecká akademická výmenná služba, zameraného na zintenzívnenie vedeckej spolupráce, bolo poskytnutých 52 štipendií. V minulom školskom roku študovalo podľa priebežných správ na zahraničných vysokých školách v rámci Programu celoživotného vzdelávania (PCŽV) a sektorového programu Erasmus 1796 študentov. Z toho bolo 1553 študentov vyslaných na štúdium a 243 študentov išlo na stáž. Presné počty študentov, ktorí v školskom roku 2007/2008 vycestovali cez program Erasmus, však budú podľa hovorkyne známe po predložení záverečných správ škôl do 31. októbra. K 14. marcu poslali slovenské vysoké školy národnej kancelárii PCŽV na školský rok 2008/2009 2004 prihlášok na mobilitu študentov a 465 študentov žiada o stáž. „Väčší záujem majú o štúdium na vysokých ako na stredných školách. V rámci celoživotného vzdelávania majú študenti oveľa väčší záujem o vycestovanie, čo však vyplýva zo samotného zamerania Erasmu, v ktorom je mobilita kľúčovou aktivitou,“ dodala Španková. Stredoškôľáci môžu študovať v Maďarsku a Francúzsku. V Maďarsku študuje v rámci výmenných pedagogických stáží 15 stredoškôľakov, vo Francúzsku je to 12 študentov na 3-ročnom štúdiu v Bordeaux a 11 študentov na 2-ročnom štúdiu na United World Colleges. Žiaci stredných škôl študujú v rámci programu Leonardo da Vinci v trvaní 2 – 39 týždňov. „Prihlášky si však nepodávajú ako jednotlivci, ale podáva ich oprávnená inštitúcia ako projekt, na ktorý musí mať aj zahraničných partnerov,“ zdôraznila. Pre študentov, budúcich učiteľov cudzích jazykov, je určená aktivita Comenius – Asistenti. V rámci programu môžu absolvovať 3- až 8-mesačné stáže na školách v krajinách Európskej únie a ostatných krajinách, ktoré sa zúčastňujú na PCŽV. „Asistenti vyučujú na školách v cudzom jazyku, ktorý nie je ich materinským jazykom. Mobilitu študentov sa uskutočňujú v zmysle medzinárodných zmluvných dokumentov a programov CEEPUS, Akcia Rakúsko Slovensko, Vyšehradský fond, DAAD, Fulbrightova komisia.



Celonárodná Mariánska púť v Nitre K sviatku Nanebovstúpenia Panny Márie

Nitra (TASR) - Tisíccky ľudí z celého Slovenska sa zišli v Nitre na celonárodnej Mariánskej púti k sviatku Nanebovstúpenia Panny Márie. Púť vyvrcholila slávnostnou svätou omšou na nitrianskej Kalvárii, celebrou nitrianskym sídelným biskupom Viliamom Judákom.

Mariánska púť v Nitre má takmer 250-ročnú tradíciu. Po prvý raz sa konala v roku 1765, kedy sa predstavitelia kráľovského mesta Nitra dohodli s biskupstvom na každoročnej púti. Tá mala pripomínať vďaka Nitranom za to, že mesto bolo zachránené pred morom a náletom kobyliek. V čase totality sa tu stretávali tisíce ľudí a púť sa postupne stala aj istým druhom protestu proti komunistickému režimu a náboženskej neslobode.

“Zlo má svoju moc, ale dobro ešte väčšiu,“ povedal aj v tejto súvislosti vo svojej kázni nitriansky biskup. Zároveň vyzval veriacich na celom Slovensku, aby sa vo svojom živote nezameriavali iba na materiálne hodnoty, ale žili viac duchovne. “Musíme sa snažiť byť lepšími. Nežijeme predsa preto, aby sme s vypätím všetkých síl pracovali iba na pozemských hodnotách. A potom, keď človek bude zomierať, zistí, že žil celkom zbytočne. Pretože všetko, čo získal, aj tak musí nechať na tomto svete,“ zdôraznil Judák.



Veľvyslanec Obsitnik navštívil Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

ÚSZZ o svojich rokovaní s krajanými spolkami v USA pred nástupom do funkcie a o ochote týchto organizácií pomáhať pri zviditeľňovaní Slovenska v USA, ako aj podieľať sa na projektoch nasmerovaných na rôzne formy pomoci Slovensku. Veľvyslanec USA a predsedníčka úradu sa ďalej dohodli na spolupráci organizovaní prezentačných podujatí zameraných na predstavenie dejín, života a kultúry našich krajanov žijúcich v USA slovenskej verejnosti, ako aj na vzájomnej výmene informácií v oblasti krajanovej problematiky.

Priateľský a ústretový duch stretnutia podčiarkol fakt, že súčasný veľvyslanec USA v SR sa narodil na východnom Slovensku a jeho rodičia neskôr odišli do USA.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Výročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

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

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

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

Henrieta H. Daitová
Tajomníčka a pokladníčka

Výročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

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

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

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

◆◆◆ Významné životné jubileum Andreja F. Hudáka, jr.

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Slovenska, by sme mohli menovať ďalšie desiatky, žiaľ na Slovensku viac-menej neznámych osobností, ktorí vatra a pochodeň slovenskej identity niesli ako novinári, spolkoví pracovníci, predsedovia spolkov i Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Jeden z nich je aj jubilujúci Andrej F. Hudák. V predvečer nástupu totalitného režimu, ako 19 ročný, odchádza za otcom do USA. Prvé kroky na americkej pôde znamenali prekonať veľa prekážok – naučiť sa anglicky, zamestnanie, zvyknúť na nové, nie vždy priateľské prostredie. Pevná vôľa a cieľavedomosť mu pomohli zvládnuť všetky nástrahy. Od svojho príchodu do Clevelandu sa zapája do slovenského kultúrneho, národného i politického života. Slovenská liga v Amerike, Svetový kongres Slovákov, Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota a ďalšie... organizácie sú pre neho priestorom na prácu “na roli dedičnej”. Neskoršie aj ako zakladateľ a majiteľ cestovnej kancelárie, orientuje jej smerovanie na približovanie Slovenska krajanom v USA a ich ďalším generáciám, aby si oživilí vlastné korene.

Keď Slovenská záhrada Slovak Garden na Floride, tento domov pre krajanov založený K. Belohlávkom, sa ocitol v kríze a v ťažkostiach, ujal sa ho vo funkcii prezidenta A. F. Hudák jr. Vybudoval z neho prosperujúcu sociálno kultúrnu a národnú inštitúciu, kde sa každoročne konali v marci veľkolepé krajanové stretnutia. Noviny Floridský Slovák, ktorý redigoval A. F. Hudák jr. sa stal angažovaným tribúnom, pre mnohých našiel rodákov. Na pôde slovenskej záhrady založil a systematicky dopĺňal slovenskú knižnicu a múzeum slovenských krojov.

Roku 1991 napísal a vydal publikáciu v angličtine Slovaks in Florida, v ktorej približuje históriu a súčasný život Slovákov na Floride. Svoje životné osudy, prácu v krajanových organizáciách i v národnopolitických aktivitách opísal v knihe Cesty životom (1995).

Cleveland bol na začiatku 20. st. mestom s najväčšou koncentráciou Slovákov v USA (až 70,000) a jedným z center slovenských národných a kultúrnych snažení (Clevelandská dohoda, sídlo slovenských spolkových organizácií, zápas proti postaveniu sochy L. Kossuthovi na hlavnom námestí atď.) Slovenskú identitu dnes reprezentuje najmä Slovenský ústav v Clevelande, ktorého riaditeľom je Andrej Hudák jr.

Aj na tomto poste vykonal náš jubilant kus záslužnej práce, najmä v súpise a evidencii bohatého archívneho materiálu a knižných fondov. Toto vzácne bohatstvo dokumentujúce dejiny jednej tretiny nášho národa sa snaží zachovať aj pre budúce generácie. Aj na pôde USA sa v súčasnosti prejavuje absencia obetavých národných kultúrnych pracovníkov, preto sa A. Hudák vážne zamýšľa nad budúcnosťou týchto písomných publikácií. Treba realizovať myšlienku vytvoriť pri niektorej slovenskej univerzite vedecké stredisko pre výskum dejín a života Slovákov vo svete. Aj v tomto smere je A. Hudák medzi súčasnými predstaviteľmi amerických Slovákov dnes už zriedkavá, ale výnimočná osobnosť!

Želáme mu veľa zdravia a síl do ďalších rokov, aby vyoral ďalšie brázdy na národnom poli medzi našimi rodákmi v USA.

Ad multos annos.

Doc.dr. František Bielik, CSc.

Mladí ľudia na Slovensku hľadajú do budúcnosti s optimizmom

Viedeň (TASR) - Príslušníci mladej generácie v krajinách strednej a východnej Európy hľadajú optimisticky do budúcnosti, sú mimoriadne flexibilní a mobilní čo sa týka práce. To sú závery z prieskumu verejnej mienky v radoch 15,000 mladých ľudí z 15 krajín strednej a východnej Európy, vrátane Slovenska, ktorého výsledky prezentoval 21. júla vo Viedni finančný ústav Bank Austria. Osobitne optimistickí sú podľa výsledkov mladí ľudia v Kazachstane, Poľsku a Rumunsku. Mladí Rakúšania sú napríklad podstatne zdržanlivejší. O mimoriadnej pestrosti výsledkov svedčí fakt, že kým mládež v Bulharsku, Poľsku alebo Srbsku netají mimoriadne veľké nádeje v súvislosti s ďalším vývojom tamojšieho hospodárstva, mladí Maďari alebo Turci sú skôr naladení pesimisticky.

Prekvapujúca je podľa slov Martina Mayra v zastúpení Market Research spomínanej banky, ktorý prezentoval v druhej polovici júla výsledky prieskumu v metropole alpskej republiky, aj vysoká miera pripravenosti na mobilitu. To platí predovšetkým o mladých ľuďoch zo Slovenska a Maďarska. Väčšina respondentov mieni v zahraničí zbierať skúsenosti, respektíve sa ďalej vzdelávať, nie však natrvalo sa vysťahovať. Úplne inak to vyzerá v radoch mladých Rakúšanov, spomedzi ktorých si iba päť percent dokáže predstaviť, že by sa presunula do zahraničia. Väčšina respondentov mieni v zahraničí zbierať skúsenosti, respektíve sa ďalej vzdelávať, nie však natrvalo sa vysťahovať. „Všeobecne si väčšina mladých ľudí želá, aby pracovali vo vlastnej krajine, v osobitnej miere to platí popri Rakúšanoch aj o Rusoch, Slovincoch a Ukrajincoch,“ odznelo nedávno podľa agentúry APA vo Viedni.

Mladí ľudia hodnotia rastúcu internacionalizáciu veľmi pozitívne. Vnímajú ju skôr ako šancu do budúcnosti, než ako ohrozenie. Práve v tejto sfére sú mladí ľudia výrazne optimistickjší v porovnaní s ich staršími krajanmi.

Týmto slovami zhrnul Martin Mayr prezentáciu výsledkov barometra nálad mladých ľudí v krajinách strednej a východnej Európy.



Matica chce zriadiť ústav podobný Goetheho inštitútu a British Councilu

Bratislava (TASR) - Matica slovenská (MS) plánuje v budúcnosti zriadiť ústav Štefana Moyzesa a Karola Kuzmányho, ktoré by boli podľa predsedu MS Jozefa Markuša podobné Goetheho inštitútu či British Councilu. Zamerané by boli na rozvíjanie slovenčiny, slovenskosti a propagovanie slovenskej kultúry. Postupne by sa budovali v rôznych krajinách sveta. Markuš pripomenul, že táto úloha je v národnom programe Matice, ale zatiaľ je iba v štádiu príprav. Jedným z problémov, ktoré túto celonárodnú kultúrnu inštitúciu trápi, je personálna poddimenzovanosť. Ide hlavne o oblasť pracoviská a Domy Matice slovenskej. Niektoré pracoviská Matice nemajú ani jedného pracovníka na celý úväzok. Matica sa chce okrem iného zamerať na rozširovanie a prehĺbovanie zahraničného členstva v MS, k čomu podľa Markuša napomáha otvorenie hraníc. Krajania mimo územia Slovenska budú registrovaní priamo v Martine, pričom v mieste svojho pobytu môžu vytvárať miestne odbory a kluby. Markuš poukázal na ďalšie úlohy v oblasti historického a literárneho výskumu, ako aj v starostlivosti o slovenčinu. „V čase globalizácie je dôležité komunikovať v cudzích jazykoch, ale zároveň si treba uchovávať svoj materinský jazyk a pestovať ho,“ domnieva sa. Zároveň je presvedčený, že sťahovanie Slovákov za prácou vedie k tomu, že si viac cenia to, odkiaľ pochádzajú a viac sa zaujímajú o svoje dejiny, tradície a hodnoty.

Jozef Markuš je na poste predsedu MS už 18 rokov, za toto obdobie si ako na jedno z najťažších spomína na roky 1990 až 1993, keď, ako uviedol, Matica pre Slovensko veľa dosiahla, na druhej strane zažila tvrdé a často podpásové útoky. Za druhé veľmi ťažké označil sedemročné obdobie od roku 1999. „Štátna moc už samostatnej SR naozaj veľmi obmedzila Maticu slovenskú po každej stránke - materiálnej, finančnej aj po stránke postavenia v slovenskej spoločnosti,“ konštatoval. Za významný úspech považuje to, že MS sa stala modernou národnou ustanovizňou, ktorá plní svoje nové i staronové úlohy na úrovni 21. storočia. Matica má podľa jeho slov na Slovensku okolo 65,000 členov, ďalších niekoľko tisíc je v zahraničí. „Matičné členstvo za predchádzajúce obdobie rapídne nevzrastá ani neupadá,“ objasnil Markuš s tým, že veľmi početnú vrstvu tvorili ľudia, ktorí vstúpili do Matice v roku 1968. Táto časť sa však prirodzeným spôsobom zmenšila. Zaznamenávajú aj prihlášky od mladších ročníkov. „Istá nechť organizovať sa je vo všeobecnosti mládeži vlastná, nedá sa na základe toho povedať, že majú nechť vstupovať do MS,“ reagoval Markuš.

Matica slovenská oslávila 4. augusta 145. výročie svojho vzniku, keď sa v Turčianskom Svätom Martine konalo zakladajúce valné zhromaždenie MS. Rovnako si pripomenula 40. výročie spontánneho obnovenia svojej členskej základne.

Spomienkové stretnutie pri príležitosti 70. výročia úmrtia Anreja Hlinku

Andrej Hlinka nie je stále dostatočne docenený

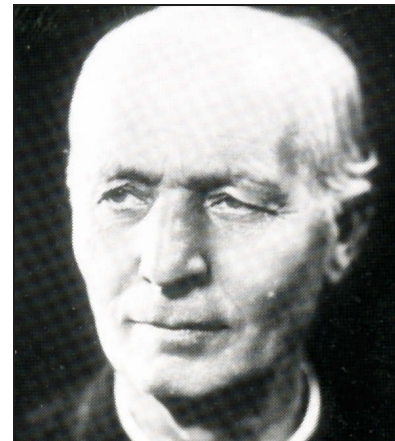
Bratislava (TASR) - Andrej Hlinka nie je stále dostatočne docenený. Domnieva sa predseda Spoločnosti Andreja Hlinku (SAH) František Ondrejčok.

„Svojím konaním, životom a činnosťou zabezpečil prebudenie v letargii existujúceho slovenského národa, ktorý bol v časoch Rakúsko-Uhorska zaznávaný, nevzdelaný,“ povedal 16. augusta počas spomienkového stretnutia pri príležitosti 70. výročia jeho úmrtia.

Ako dodal, Hlinka prebudil u slovenského národa povedomie a z toho vyplývajúce dosiahnutie samostatnosti a nezávislosti, čo je do veľkej miery aj jeho dielo. Pripomenul, že kontroverzne o ňom zmýšľajú tí, ktorí sa nedokážu odtrhnúť od čias Rakúsko-Uhorska, keď sa o Slovákoch hovorilo dehonestujúco. „Akosi to na nich zostalo, nevedia sa toho celkom zbaviť a neopránene spochybňujú pôsobenie Hlinku,“ konštatoval.

Slovenský historik a technik František Vnuk v príhovore vyzdvihol zásluhy a konanie Hlinku. Zároveň ho označil za jedného z najväčších synov slovenského národa a najsvetlejších postáv slovenských dejín. „Jeho pohreb bol udalosťou, akú Slovensko dovtedy nevidelo. Bola to mohutná manifestácia vďačného ľudu, ktorému bol Hlinka vodcom a ocom,“ podčiarkol. Poukázal na to, že tento katolícky kňaz bol predmetom potupy a znevažovania. „Keď ho nemohli vyhodit' so slovenských dejín, pokúšali sa ho predstavovať v tých najčiernejších farbách,“ uviedol Vnuk. Ako ďalej pokračoval, jeho nepriatelia a všetci, ktorí mu upierajú zásluhy za slovenský národ, sa postupne stratia v prepahlisku dejín. „Hlinkova veľkosť spočíva v tom, že všetky svoje sily a schopnosti dal do služieb cirkvi a národa,“ zdôraznil. Na spomienkovom stretnutí, ktoré sa konalo pri pamätníku Hlinku v parku bratislavskej mestskej časti Ružinov, sa zúčastnila i prednostka miestneho úradu Ingrid Ožvoldová, tajomník Matice Slovenskej Peter Mulík, herečka Eva Kristínová, ako aj autor pamätníka Stanislav Májek. Odhalený bol v júni minulého roka a autorsky sa na ňom podieľal i Teodor Baník.

Slovenský katolícky kňaz, politik, publicista, prekladateľ, jedna z vedúcich osobností slovenského národného hnutia na začiatku 20. storočia sa narodil 27. septembra 1864 v Černoveji. V tejto obci zomrel 16. augusta 1938. Vyštudovaný teológ a vysvätený kňaz popri svojom kňazskom povolání redigoval a vydával Ľudové noviny a prispieval aj do iných periodík. Usiloval sa o zlepšenie sociálnych pomerov zakladaním spolkov a organizovaním prednášok. Založil peňažný ústav Ľudová banka (1907), písal a prekladal náboženské diela. Prihlásil sa k myšlienke spoločného štátu Čechov a Slovákov a bol jedným zo signatárov Martinskej deklarácie v októbri 1918.



Andrej Hlinka

TRI EPIGRAMY

O jednote

Prútami Svätopluka sa oháňame,
jednotu vždy a všade na ústach máme,
kde-komu ju silou-mocou núkame,
my, ako pliahy chrániť sa jej známe.

Všade boli

Matrikových Slovákov tu veľa,
s'ľa na smetisku prázdnych makovic.
Všade boli, všetko znajú,
len o svojej málo dbajú.
Ich práca veľká kopa ničoho,
no rýpať vedía do všetkého.

Zo schôdze

Na mítingu spolkový úrad volili.
Janka z Dubovca za predsedu zvolili.
Fígľov fúru zná i dve reči ovláda:
jednu hutorácku, tú druhú vpravácku.

Štefan Hreha
(Zo zbierky Hrst' epigramov).

V Dóme sv. Martina v Bratislave je vzácna Klenotnica a iné pamiatky

Bratislava (TASR) - V Dóme svätého Martina v Bratislave, ktorý sa tento rok stal katedrálom novozriadenej Bratislavskej arcidiecézy, otvoril nedávno arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský za účasti predstaviteľov SR, hlavného mesta Bratislavy a ďalších hostí vzácnu Klenotnicu. Nachádza sa v ľavej zadnej časti chrámu a návštevníci tam môžu vidieť skvosty, ktoré sa nazbierali za viac ako 555 rokov existencie katedrály a majú vysokú umeleckú, historickú a kultúrnu hodnotu. Medzi najvzácnejšie pamiatky patrí 109 centimetrov vysoká gotická monstrancia a celý rad bohoslubných predmetov vrátane kalichov, ďalej sú to biskupské berly, relikviáre, bohoslubné rúcha, mitry či pontifikálne črievice zdobené bohatou ručnou výšivkou. Sú tam aj vzácne maliarske diela, napríklad gotické tabuľové maľby pochádzajúce z obdobia okolo roku 1480. Katedrála sv. Martina ponúka okrem nedávno otvorenej Klenotnice aj iné vzácne pamiatky. Známa je socha sv. Martina na koni, ktorá bola pôvodne na hlavnom oltári a dnes sa nachádza v rohu južnej lode chrámu. Toto barokové dielo vytvoril v roku 1735 Georg Raphael Donner (1693-1741). Majster Georg Raphael Donner je autorom aj ďalšieho skvostu Katedrály sv. Martina - barokovej Kaplnky sv. Jána Almužníka (alexandrijského patriarchu), kde je uložená Najsvätejšia oltárna

sviatosť. V tejto kaplnke sa nachádza zamrežovaná strieborná sklenená rakva s ostatkami sv. Jána Almužníka. V pravej časti kaplnky je socha arcibiskupa Imricha Esterházyho, ktorý vyjadruje večnú úctu Kristovi vo svätostánku aj ostatkom sv. Jána Almužníka. Samotný arcibiskup Esterházy je pochovaný v krypte pod podlahou kaplnky. Ďalšia kaplnka v katedrále je zasvätená sv. Anne a nachádza sa v nej okrem iných pamiatok náhrobok prepošta Juraja Schomberga, kancelára Academie Istropolitana za vlády Mateja Korvína. Šesť metrov pod podlahou kostola je jediná sprístupnená krypta, rozvetvená do štyroch chodieb, tzv. arcibiskupská krypta. Je tam pochovaný okrem iných osobností aj autor prvého slovenského románu Jozef Ignác Bajza (1754-1836), ktorý bol kanonikom bratislavskej kolegiálnej kapituly. Pozlátený vrchol veže Katedrály sv. Martina vo výške 85 metrov zdobí zväčšená kópia uhorskej kráľovskej koruny, ktorá pripomína, že v rokoch 1563 až 1830 bol korunovačným chrámom. Korunovali v ňom 11 kráľov a osem kráľovských manželiek. Ako prvý bol korunovaný Maximilián v roku 1563, ako posledný Ferdinand v roku 1830. Známu panovníčku z rodu Habsburgovcov Máriu Teréziu korunovali v roku 1741.



Olympiáda v Pekingu bola najúspešnejšou v samostatnej histórii Slovenska

Kaliská sa stala v Pekingu olympijskou víťazkou v súťaži kajakárov

Peking (TASR) - Slovenská vodná slalomárka Elena Kaliská sa stala v Pekingu olympijskou víťazkou v súťaži kajakárov s obrovským náskokom 14.30 s pred Austrálčankou Jacqueline Lawrenceovou. Zverenka trénera Petra Mráza obhájila zlato z Atén 2004 a podčiarkla dominanciu slovenských slalomárov, ktorí vylovili v areáli Šunji tri najcennejšie kovy. Vďaka úspechom Kaliskej, deblistov Pavla a Petra Hochschornerovcov i singlistu Michala Martikána je už teraz isté, že olympiáda v Pekingu bola najúspešnejšou v samostatnej histórii Slovenska.

Bratia Hochschornerovci zavŕšili zlatý hetrik v C2

Peking (TASR) - Slovenskí vodní slalomári bratia Pavol a Peter Hochschornerovci sa stali v Pekingu suverénnym spôsobom olympijskými víťazmi v súťaži deblistov výsledným časom 190.82. Bratislavské dvojčiky v areáli Šunji úspešne zavŕšili unikátny zlatý hetrik, keď nadviazali na úspechy z Atén 2004 i Sydney 2000. Od Slovenského olympijského výboru (SOV) si vyslúžili prémie vo výške jeden milión Sk. Dvojnásobní majstri sveta sa v Pekingu nezmazateľne zapísali do olympijskej histórie a stali sa najúspešnejšími vodnými slalomármi pod piatimi kruhmi. Hochschornerovci „obrali“ o tento primát ich krajana singlistu Michala Martikána, ktorý má po pekingskom triumfe na svojom konte dve zlaté a dve strieborné medaily.

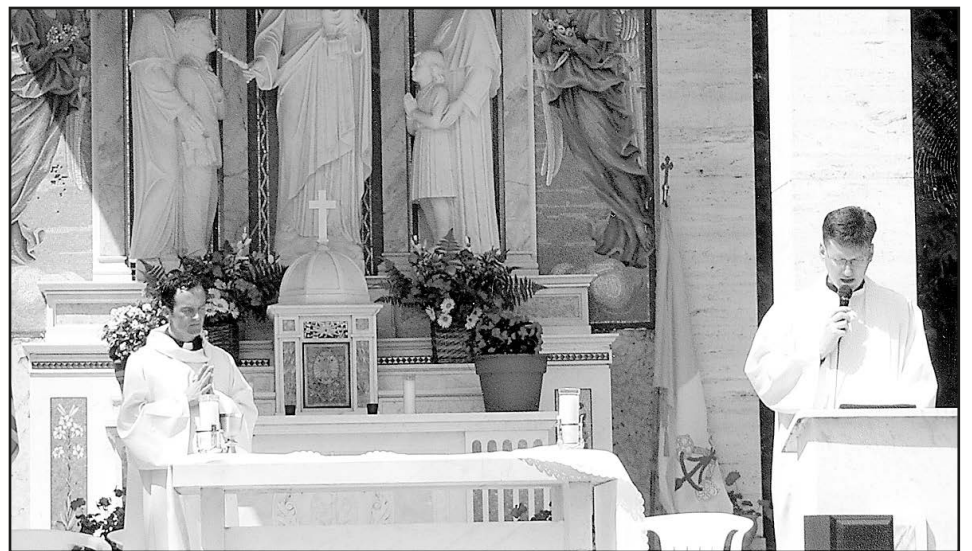
Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico zaslal blahoprajné telegramy

Bratislava (TASR) - Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico zaslal blahoprajné telegramy ďalším úspešným slovenským športovcom – kanoistom Michalovi a Richardovi Riszdorferovcom, Erikovi Vlčekovi a Jurajovi Tarrovi, ktorí na olympijských hrách v Pekingu získali striebornú medailu a zápasníkovi Davidovi Musulbesovi za bronzovú medailu. V telegramoch ocenil ich výkony a vyjadril radosť z výrazného úspechu, ktorý dosiahli, čím prispeli k dobrému menu slovenského športu vo svete. Slovenským športovcom vo svojom mene i v mene celej vlády poďakoval za výnimočnú reprezentáciu krajiny a do nasledujúcej športovej kariéry im zaželel veľa zdravia, elánu a ďalšej tréningovej pohody. Súčasne im tlmočil želanie, aby aj v budúcnosti zopakovali obdobné výkony a celú slovenskú športovú verejnosť potešili ďalšími športovými úspechmi.

Naučme sa od Pavla

„Naučme sa od Pavla, že konanie Ducha nasmerúva náš život k veľkým hodnotám lásky, radosti, spoločnosti a nádeje. Je na nás, aby sme každý deň získavali túto skúsenosť a pomocou apoštolovho osvieteného vedenia dokázali rozlišovať a poslúchať vnútorné podnety Ducha.“

Benedikt XVI.



Počas svätej omše zľava otec František Čonka a sprava otec Štefan Chanas.



Ďalší záber na účastníkov tohtoročnej vydarenej Slovenskej katolíckej púte.

Slovenská katolícka púť do Marian Shrine vo West Haverstraw, N.Y.

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

organistu len umocnil sviatok našej Nebeskej Matky, ktorú sme si touto púťou vo Svätyni West Haverstraw prišli uctiť.

Po svätej omši nasledoval v areáli Marian Shrine obed, ktorý pripravili ochotné pracovníčky pod vedením otca Richarda Mc Cornicka. Na záver katolíckej púte sa uskutočnila ružencová pobožnosť.

Za plynulý priebeh podujatia vďaka patrí predovšetkým našim ochotným spoluorganizátorom a hlavne našim pútnikom, ktorí sa tak v hojnom počte zúčastnili Slovenskej katolíckej púte, každoročne usporiadanej našim spolkom sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

Pochválený buď Ježiš Kristus.

Henrieta H. Daitová
tajomníčka spolku IKSJ

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Získať nové vedomosti a novinársku prax bolo zámerom šiesteho ročníka Letnej školy žurnalistiky, ktorá bola určená pre krajanov pracujúcich v zahraničí. Devätnásť študentov a mediálnych pracovníkov zo siedmich krajín (Ukrajiny, Srbska, Maďarska, Švédska, Nemecka, Rumunska a Čiernej Hory) sa od 11. augusta v priebehu jedného týždňa zúčastnila na prednáškach a praktických cvičeniach zo základných žurnalistických žánrov. Návštevníci sa dozvedeli aj to, ako sa robia noviny, podiskutovali o žurnalistickú etiku a počas ateliéru Desktop publishing tvorili novinárske prejavy a celky. Okrem toho navštívili múzeum, hrad Devín a ďalšie kultúrne podujatia. Nadobudnuté skúsenosti a vedomosti mali zhrnúť v záverečnej práci. Výstupom bol certifikát o ich účasti na kurze. Počas minulých rokov sa na kurze zúčastnilo okolo sto ľudí, vrátane dvoch Afgancov, ktorí absolvovali tretí ročník. Žiadne špeciálne podmienky na prijatie do školy, okrem znalosti slovenského jazyka, nie sú. Keďže sa organizátor prednášky a exkurzie snaží každý rok obmieňať, záujemcovia sa môžu prihlásiť aj viackrát.

Výrobu komponentov a montáž ucelených baliacich a paletizačných liniek pre potravinársky a strojársky priemysel plánuje realizovať v novom výrobnom areáli v Sokolovciach firma Imec Slovensko s.r.o. so sídlom v Piešťanoch. Za zhruba 120 miliónov Sk (3.98 milióna eur) chce do konca budúceho roka postaviť výrobu, kde bude realizovať aj program na presné opracovanie oceľových rúrok a profilov pre montáž liniek. V oboch prípadoch ide podľa spoločnosti o vysokokvalifikovanú strojársku výrobu s príležitosťou pre zamestnanie kvalifikovaných pracovných síl. Investor uvažuje o výstavbe výrobnéj a montážnej haly a rekonštrukcii administratívnej budovy. Produkciu bude vyvážať do krajín Európskej únie. Predpokladaná ročná produkcia má byť okolo 150 ton výrobkov.

Slovenská agentúra pre rozvoj investícií a obchodu (SARIO) začala projekt Made in Slovakia a pod touto značkou mieni prezentovať Slovensko. „Skôr, než začneme exportovať tovary a služby, exportujme značku Slovensko. Vďaka narastajúcej globálnej súťaži sa na svetovom trhu čoraz intenzívnejšie presadzuje viac národných špecifik, vďaka ktorým reputácia krajiny vo vzťahu k investorm či partnerom v oblasti zahraničného obchodu má vyššiu hodnotu,“ vysvetlila hovorkyňa agentúry Jana Murínová. Ekonomické a hospodárske prostredie Slovenska v posledných rokoch výrazne formujú zahraničné investície. „Náš štát je krajinou, v ktorej pripadá na jedného obyvateľa najväčší počet novovyrobených áut na svete. Vďaka nedávnomu príchodu ďalšieho strategického investora, spoločnosti Samsung, sa zase hovorí o Slovensku ako o Mekke LCD televízorov. To je základ, na ktorom sa dá stavať značka Made in Slovakia,“ doplnila.

Mincovňa Kremnica vyrazí okrem 500 miliónov kusov euromincí aj špeciálne mince pre numizmatikov. Prvou vydanou mincou bude pri príležitosti 10. výročia založenia Hospodárskej a menovej únie pamätná minca s nominálnou hodnotou 2 eurá (60.25 Sk). Emisia tejto mince by mala byť v januári 2009. V poradí druhá bude nasledovať strieborná zberateľská minca nominálnej hodnoty 10 eur (301.26 Sk) pri príležitosti 150. výročia narodenia Aurela Stodolu, ktorej emisia je naplánovaná na apríl 2009. V júni 2009 by mali vydať aj mincu nominálnej hodnoty 20 eur (602.52 Sk) pod názvom Ochrana prírody a krajiny – Národný park Veľká Fatra. Poslednou zatiaľ plánovanou mincou je pamätná dvojeurová minca venovaná 20. výročiu 17. novembra - Dňa boja za slobodu a demokraciu, jej emisia je naplánovaná na november 2009. Štátny podnik Mincovňa Kremnica vyrazí a dodá 500 miliónov kusov euromincí všetkých nominálnych hodnôt na objednávku Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS). Razba týchto mincí sa začala 19. augusta tohto roka. (1 EUR = 30.1260 SKK)

Vo vysokohorskom prostredí Tatier sa pohybovalo počas jediného augustového dňa takmer 17,700 turistov. Najviac z nich, 2,773 sa vyviezlo pozemnou lanovkou zo Starého Smokovca na Hrebienok. Vyplývalo to z tohtoročného spočítavania turistov, ktoré uskutočnili Štátne lesy (ŠL) TANAPu v spolupráci so Správou TANAPu. Turisti uprednostňujú tie miesta národného parku, ktoré sú dostupné lanovkou, napríklad Solisko, kam sa vyviezlo 1,306 návštevníkov. Lákajú aj turistické chodníky zatienené zelenými stromami. Patrí k nim červeno značkovaný chodník zo Štrbského Plesa na Popradské pleso, ktorým prešlo počas monitorovacieho dňa 1,682 turistov. Spomedzi tatranských vrcholov si prvenstvo udržali Rysy, kde bolo 865 turistov. V Západných Tatrách patrí k najobľúbenejším chodníkom vedúci Roháčskou, Látanou a Jaloveckou dolinou. Zaujímavý bol vysoký počet turistov (8,257), ktorí sa pohybovali v Prielome Dunajca v Pieninskom národnom parku. Väčšina z nich, 5,850 využila miestnu atrakciu - splav na pltiach po rieke Dunajec. Štátne lesy TANAPu spočítavajú turistov v Tatranskom i Pieninskom národnom parku od roku 1972 s cieľom zmapovať zaťaženosť územia.

V silnej konkurencii súborov z ôsmich štátov sa tanečný súbor Slovenského ľudového umeleckého kolektívu (SEUK) na Medzinárodnej súťaži profesionálnych tanečných súborov pod názvom Dance of Joy Grand-Prix umiestnil na druhom mieste. Na súťaži, ktorá sa konala koncom augusta 2008 v Budapešti, sa zúčastnili tanečné súbory z Bulharska, Fínska, Chorvátska, Maďarska, Rumunska, Srbska a Turecka. Víťazom súťaže sa stal domáci štátny súbor, tretí boli Fíni. Cieľom súťaže bolo hľadať moderné spôsoby javiskového uvádzania tradičných tancov z rôznych krajín Európy. SEUK vystúpil s tancom V parku v choreografii svojho umeleckého vedúceho Ľubomíra Vargu. V priamom vysielaní niekoľkých zahraničných

televíznych staníc slovenskí tanečníci pred medzinárodnou porotou, zástupcami veľvyslanectiev všetkých zúčastnených krajín a vypredaným hľadiskom Millenia parku v Budapešti zožali búrlivý aplauz. Podľa dramaturga Vladimíra Kyseľa to je významný medzinárodný úspech kolektívu v predvečer osláv jeho 60. narodenín, ktoré si pripomenie v roku 2009.

Eurokalkulačky, ktoré majú ľuďom pomôcť pri prechode na euro a ktoré už onedlho dostanú občania SR do schránok, sú vyrobené v Číne. Na Slovensko najväčšia časť dorazí loďou, menšia lietadlom. Výroba, doprava i distribúcia vyjde približne na 40 miliónov korún. Kalkulačka prepočítava automaticky konverzný kurz 30.126, ktorý je do nej pevne naprogramovaný.

Líder na slovenskom automobilovom trhu Škoda Auto Slovensko má v pláne upevniť si ešte výraznejšie svoju pozíciu. Vývoj kurzu koruny oproti euru zohľadnila spoločnosť už v máji, teraz však prichádza s ešte výhodnejšími cenami. V niektorých prípadoch môže zákazník na kúpe automobilu tejto značky ušetriť aj viac ako 100-tisíc korún. Keďže automobilový trh sa riadi predovšetkým cenami konkurencie, je možné zníženie cien aj u iných predajcov.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



FOTO TASR – František Iván

Z ruín bývalého košického pivovaru vyrastá moderné biznis centrum s administratívnou budovou a centrom obchodu a služieb – Cassovar Business Center I., ktoré bude súčasťou obchodno administratívneho komplexu Cassovar. Dominantou komplexu bude starý 60 metrový pivovarský komín, ktorý sa investor rozhodol ponechať. Komplex bude obsahovať rezidenčnú časť pre približne 400 bytov, hotel s 250 lôžkami a administratívnu časť. Pribudne približne 1,000 parkovacích miest. Na snímke vľavo vizualizácia komplexu, vpravo nová výstavba, 20. augusta 2008.



Podľa mladých je viera v ich živote veľmi dôležitá

Nemecko (TK KBS/RV) – Podľa výskumov nemeckej nadácie Bertelsmann je viera pre mladých ľudí v ich živote veľmi dôležitá. Podľa štúdie je až pre 85 % mladých vo veku od 18 do 29 rokov ich presvedčenie dôležité, pričom 44 % z nich svoju vieru aj hlboko prežíva. Len 13 % mladých označuje svoju vieru za vlačnú. Podľa výskumníka Martina Riegera tak výsledky popierajú názor, že cit pre duchovné veci z generácie na generáciu slabne.

Výskum, do ktorého sa zapojilo 21 tisíc ľudí priniesol veľa zaujímavostí, napríklad, že mladí v islamských a v rozvojových krajinách prežívajú svoju vieru viac ako ich rovesníci v Európe. Práve v Európe sa za hlboko veriacich označilo len 25 % z nich, zatiaľ čo v ostatných krajinách je to 68 %. Zaujímavosťou tiež je, že viera je veľmi dôležitá pre asi 35 % mladých, ktorí sa pritom nepovažujú za „veriacich“.

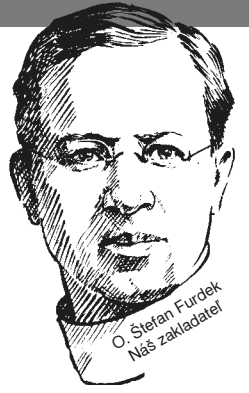
Aj v rovine praktizovania náboženstva, sú veľké rozdiely medzi krajinami. Kým v rozvojových krajinách sa denne modlí 90 % mladých, v európskych krajinách je to v niektorých z nich dokonca len 9 až 7 % a napríklad v USA 75 % mladých hovorí, že sa modlí každý deň.

PRAKTIZUJTE FRATERNALIZMUS



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtyždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 117

STREDA, 17. SEPTEMBER, 2008

Číslo 5784



Zúčastnení pútnici pre oltárom Marian Shrine vo West Haverstraw, N.Y., 10. augusta 2008.

Slovenská katolícka púť do Marian Shrine vo West Haverstraw, N.Y.

Motto: Zdravas Mária, milosti plná ...

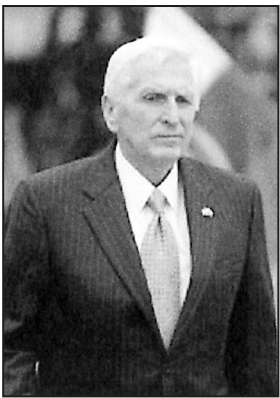
Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ aj toho roku usporiadal 10. augusta tradičnú Slovenskú katolícku púť do Marian Shrine vo West Haverstraw, New York. Konala sa za krásneho slnečného dňa a účasti vyše 90 pútnikov z Connecticut, New Jersey a New Yorku. Slávnostnú svätú omšu z príležitosti sviatku Nanebovzatia Panny Márie odslúžil otec Štefan Chanas za koncelebrácie otca Františka Čonku.

Program svätej omše na túto púť pripravil už v minulosti organista John Budiš. Spevák Rado Lesay svojím krásnym spevom piesne "Ave Mária" za doprodu

Pokračovanie na str. 22



Veľvyslanec Obsitnik navštívil Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí



Vincent Obsitnik

Bratislava (TASR) - Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) navštívil 21. augusta veľvyslanec Spojených štátov amerických v Slovenskej republike Vincent Obsitnik. Návštevu prijala predsedníčka úradu Vilma Prívarová.

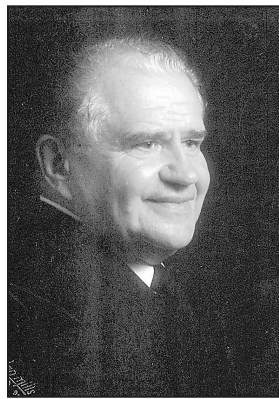
Predsedníčka ÚSZZ veľvyslancu informovala o poslaní úradu, o jeho úlohách vyplývajúcich zo zákona a o starostlivosti SR o svojich krajanov roztrúsených po celom svete. Obsitnik sa zaujímal o podporu, ktorú Slovenská republika venuje slovenským spolkom a organizáciám v zahraničí a tiež o grantový systém, ktorý zabezpečuje úrad. Témou rozhovoru bola aj záchrana kultúrneho dedičstva, ktoré sa nachádza v archívoch slovenských spolkov v USA a v písomnostiach a pozostalostiach významných osobností, ktoré v rôznych obdobiach odišli do USA.

Veľvyslanec USA prisľúbil svoju osobnú pomoc a pomoc svojho veľvyslanectva pri záchrane slovenského kultúrneho dedičstva v USA a o jeho prípadnom darovaní Slovenskej republike prostredníctvom ÚSZZ. Obsitnik oboznámil predsedníčku

Pokračovanie na str. 20

Významné životné jubileum Andreja F. Hudáka, jr.

(22. augusta 1928, Kecerovce pri Košiciach)



Andrej F. Hudák jr.

"Jestli moja práca vzbudila v niekom zápal pre posvätnú vec môjho národa, vtedy nežil som nadarmo", tieto výstižné slová a ich skutočnú hĺbku vystihuje zmysel celoživotného úsilia a obetavej práce nápis na pomníku popredného národnokultúrneho pracovníka a spolupodpisovateľa Pittsburskej dohody Ignáca Gessaya. Tento významný organizátor národných a kultúrnych pohybov z radov amerických Slovákov odišiel do večnosti v roku, keď sa náš jubilant narodil. Jeden ukončil svoju pozemskú púť, druhý akoby do životného vienu dostal pokračovať v diele za posvätnú vec svojho národa. V týchto súvislostiach, osobitne s vedomím slovenskej identity, ma zaujal názor môjho krajana Drahošlava Machalu, keď v Literárnom týždenníku (č. 21-22) konštatoval, že ... "Bývalo typické, že nízke vedomie slovenskej identity mali osobitne ľudia z východného Slovenska. Keďže zväčša nevedeli, kto sú, aké majú korene, teda ani kam patria..." Možno vo všeobecnej rovine to má svoje opodstatnenie, ale ďalej uvádza viac pozitívnych príkladov vzdelaných a vlastenecky konajúcich Slovákov z východného Slovenska. Je však zaujímavé, a do určitej miery aj v kontraste s týmto tvrdením, že práve z radov slovenských vystaňovalcov a neskoršie i politických emigrantov pochádzali obetaví a uvedomelí národnokultúrni pracovníci, ktorých korene siahajú do Zemplína, Šariša, Spiša – Št. B. Roman, Jozef kardinál Tomko, Št. Blaško, Michal Bosák, Milan S. Ďurica, Michal Lacko, Ján Eliáš, Fr. Fuga, Andrej Grutka, Filip A. Hrobák, (rodičia zo Spiša), Ján J. Lach (rodičia zo Spiša), E. Tuleya, Št. Rejšeter, Michal Rusnák, Gorazd Zvonický, Ed. Behunčík, Mikuláš Šprinc, Ľudo Pavlo.

Do tejto plejády národných a kultúrnych pracovníkov, rodákov z východného

Pokračovanie na str. 20



Medzinárodný kongres Rodina a médiá v Ružomberku

Ružomberok, TK KBS – Veriaci všetkých rímskokatolíckych farností na Slovensku mali už od 20. augusta možnosť poznať informácie o medzinárodnom kongrese Rodina a médiá. Organizátori kongresu pod záštitou predsedu KBS J. E. Františka Tondru ich rozoslali každému správcovi farnosti. Kongres rodiny bol vzácnu príležitosťou vyjadriť podporu ochrane rodiny v spoločnosti a zasadiť sa za jej protežovanie, povedal generálny sekretár kongresu Peter Olekšák. „Veriaci, ktorým dnes rodina nie je ľahostajná, sa prostredníctvom kongresu mohli do boja za základné hodnoty zapojiť veľmi aktívne,“ dopĺňa Olekšák.

Viac než 400 účastníkov od 5. do 7. septembra na Filozofickej fakulte Katolíckej univerzity v Ružomberku (FF KU) diskutovali o vplyve médií na rodinu i o vnútorodnej komunikácii o médiách. Približne 30 prednášajúcich zo 16 krajín zároveň ponúkovalo riešenia, ako využiť médiá na posilnenie rodiny. Kongres Rodina a médiá bol 23. ročníkom svetových kongresov rodiny, tohtoročná téma vzájomného vzťahu rodiny a médií bola vybraná z dôvodu narastajúcej potreby mediálnej výchovy v spoločnosti. FF KU organizoval konferenciu na požiadanie World Organisation for the Family z Washingtonu a nadácie Familie de Demain so sídlom v Bruseli. Kongres rodiny sa organizuje od roku 1981. Jeho prvé ročníky sa konali v Latinskej Amerike, prvý európsky kongres rodiny sa uskutočnil v roku 1986 v Paríži. Poslednými hosťovskými mestami boli Moskva, Lublin a Kyjev, na Slovensku sa podujatie konalo po prvýkrát.