



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

Volume 127

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2018

NUMBER 5972



A Sunday night President's Banquet and Program during Convention will be held at the luxury Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel.

Message From the President

128th Anniversary – 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States & Canada
August 4 – 8, 2018

As I write this message, we are very busy in the preparations for the Convention. Conventions are always a time for meeting old friends, re-living past memories, but also a time for reviewing the past four years and looking ahead to the future.

There have been changes for all of us over the past four years. There have been births, deaths, happiness and trials in our personal families as well as in our Jednota family.

The First Catholic Slovak Union during the past four years has, as I reported previously, reached record highs in surplus and assets. We expect this to continue and are continuing to work to add to those results. However, this was not achieved just by luck. It required knowledge, effort, and a lot of good, tough decisions and sound management.

We have built a surplus of over \$31 million dollars in the FCSU for a good reason. Financial strength means there is a safety net to protect our Members and attract new Members. Many of you may remember when in 1993 the First Catholic Slovak Union surplus was less than \$3 million dollars. As the saying goes, "We've come a long way, baby."



Andrew M. Rajec

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From the Office of the Executive Secretary

Dear Branch Officers/Members:

The First Catholic Slovak Union will be holding our 51st Quadrennial Convention at the Hilton Cleveland Hotel in Cleveland, OH, from August 4-8, 2018. Founded 128 years ago by Father Štefan Furedek, our Society has been the mainstay and promoter of Slovak culture and Catholic fraternal life for over a century.

We cordially invite you, your branch members, and your guests who are not delegates at the Convention to attend our Presidential Banquet and Program Sunday, August 5, 2018, at 5:00 pm.

The evening features a full-course dinner at special member pricing, as well as an evening of entertainment that reflects our rich heritage. Seating for the dinner is limited. Tickets must be ordered in advance. An order form is on page 12 of this issue.

We hope to see you there.



Kenneth Arendt

Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

2018 FCSU
National Golf
Tournament Registration
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2018 National Photo Contest Begins –
Enter Today!
See page 8 for details

Insights and Viewpoints



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

June 24, 2018 – The Birth of John the Baptist Lectionary 586

The Church celebrates the birth of Saint John the Baptist this Sunday, allowing the usual Sunday readings and prayers to give way to this saint not so much on his own account—as impressive a figure as he was—but rather because of his close connection with the life and ministry of Christ. John was the forerunner after all, the one who would go before the Lord to command



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

his people: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths” (Mark 1:3; cf. Isa 40:3).

As we mark the feast of Saint John the Baptist we marvel over how unlikely his very existence was: he was born of parents who were thought to be unable to have a child—a source of great suffering for many couples now as in the time of our Lord. John’s birth of course was announced in a dramatic way, with an angel appearing to his father Zechariah in the Temple and telling him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John” (Luke 1:13). The angel further told Zechariah that not only would their son bring joy and gladness to Zechariah and Elizabeth, but in fact “many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord” (Luke 1:13-15a).

The angel thus revealed that John had a special task to perform in his life, and later we come to know that this task was to prepare the way for the Messiah. At the same time however it is important that we carefully note the angel’s words “he will be great in the sight of the Lord.” What we see here is that John’s grandeur—the reason we honor him at Mass this day—lies not in his worldly accomplishments or in the recognition that he received from power brokers and members of polite society. On the contrary, it was the power brokers and polite society of John’s day that saw to his beheading.

Rather, John’s grandeur and holiness lay in the fact that he was “great in the sight of the Lord;” that is, his innate human dignity came from the fact that he was made in the image and likeness of the Lord, and called by the Lord, and loved by the Lord. In the sight of other people we are held sometimes in esteem, sometimes in contempt, but God sees through that pettiness and loves us—great or humble, rich or poor, famous or obscure, simply as we are, precious in his eyes if scorned in the eyes of men.

Perhaps we can take a lesson from this as to the value of human life: even an infant destined for worldly insignificance is “great in the sight of the Lord” and deserves the same welcome into life that John the Baptist received from his parents. We see a similar recognition of the preciousness of all life in God’s eyes, especially the lives of the unborn who cannot yet speak in their own defense, in the first reading today from the prophet Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you” (Jer 1:5), and in today’s responsorial Psalm: “For you are my hope, O Lord; my trust, O Lord, from my youth. On you I depend from birth; from my mother’s womb you are my strength” (Ps 71:5-6).

Mindful of John the Baptist and the “greatness” he held in the eyes of the Lord even before his birth, let us pray that all God’s children may be welcomed into life with love, for all are truly “great in the sight of the Lord.”

July 1, 2018 – Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Gospel – Mark 5: 21 - 43

There is the old saying; “there are no atheists in fox holes.” When we find ourselves in desperate and seemingly hopeless situations even the non-believer discovers God and cries out to Him for help. While we probably would not describe ourselves as a non-believer, we do have the tendency of trying to solve our own problems first. When all our efforts and plans fail, in desperation we cry out to God. This is especially true when it comes to someone being diagnosed with a serious illness. We include this petition in our usual daily prayers, search for the cure that the medical professionals tell us does not exist, when these seem to fail we storm heaven with prayers of pleading as we hang onto hope for a miracle. Miraculous healings do occur and I can testify to that from experience. There are times when the unexpected, inexplicable change for the better takes place. When these happen there is great rejoicing and prayers of thanksgiving. There are times when the healing doesn’t take place and we wonder where God is, and ask, “Why is this happening?” This Gospel from Mark gives us to accounts of healings.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

Jairus the Synagogue official comes to Jesus who is surrounded by a crowd. He pleads to Jesus, “My daughter is at the point of death, please come and lay hands on her, that she may get well and live.” It was a plea from a desperate father who did not want to see his daughter die. It is the same plea made today by desperate fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, and so many others, for God to come and intervene in some serious and tragic situation.

Jesus goes with Jairus to his home and on the way encounters the woman who has been suffering for twelve years. In a similar desperate act of faith she reaches out and touches the garment of Jesus, and she is healed. Jesus knows that power has gone out from him and asked who touched him, and when the women admitted that it was she, Jesus says, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.” Jesus lauds people for putting their faith in him. When we put our faith in Jesus we are opening our hearts to His presence. Jesus does not force himself into our lives, he comes when he is invited. Prayer is our invitation to God to enter into our lives.

Jesus and Jairus continue their journey, but before they arrive word reaches Jairus that his daughter is dead. Jairus begins to send Jesus on his way, but Jesus insists on continuing and proclaims, “The child is not dead but asleep.” They reach the house that is now filled with mourners, and Jesus goes in and restores the girl to life. Jairus invited Jesus into his home, and Jesus entered and healed his daughter. Another invitation and another reminder to us of the importance of inviting Jesus into our hearts.

Healing is a complex issue because we don’t know the mind of God. Why some people are healed and others are not is a mystery that calls on a deep faith to accept. Sometimes we are attracted to various forms or methods of healing, but the power of Jesus cannot be confined, channeled or controlled by these. His healing is a gift to us that seems to come when we open our hearts and invite him into these situations. We are called to have the faith to invite Jesus into our lives, and allow his will to be done.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

JEDNOTA

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TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18	MONDAY, JULY 9
WEDNESDAY, AUG 22	MONDAY, AUG 13
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 19	MONDAY, SEPT 11

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

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Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention “JEDNOTA”
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

Andrew M. Rajec Announces His Intent to Seek Re-election for National President

I PLEDGE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO I WILL CONTINUE TO DEVOTE MY ENERGIES AND 40+ YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN LAW, FINANCE AND INSURANCE TO BENEFIT JEDNOTA AND ITS MEMBERS.



Andrew M. Rajec

PERSONAL

- Married 45 years to Idka Rajec (Riecan – born Ruzomberok, Slovakia)
- 3 children
- President FCSU 2007 – present
- General Counsel FCSU 2003 – 2006
- President Branch 89 17 years
- Regional Director FCSU 1996 - 1998
- President Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc. 1995 – 1998

EDUCATION

- Marquette University, B.S., Accounting
- Marquette University Law School, J.D.

MILITARY

- US Army – Armor 1964 – 1966 2 years active duty
- 1st Lt. – Troop XO, Company Commander

EXPERIENCE

- Price Waterhouse - International CPA firm – Accountant
- Arthur Young - International CPA firm – Tax Accountant
- Blue Cross of Wisconsin - Assistant Vice-President
- Association Life – Vice-President & General Counsel
- The Mutual Group - Vice-President, General Counsel, Treasurer

COMMITMENT

Committed to move to Cleveland. Moved December 30, 2006. Sold home, purchased home in Cleveland suburb.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Pledged to protect the financial strength of the FCSU. With approval of the Board hired an Investment Manager. As reported in Jednota, verified by outside accountants and actuaries, FCSU reached historic records in assets, \$392,154,941, and surplus, \$31,064,811, as of 3-31-2018, despite the worst world financial crisis since the Great Depression in 2007 and 2008. The Society RBC (Risk Based Capital) is over 1000, significantly higher than most fraternal. These are increases of \$194,844,117 or 99% in assets and \$19,709,217 or 174% in surplus since I took office in 2007. Continue to offer competitive insurance and high annuity rates.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC HERITAGE

Honored our Slovak, Catholic heritage in many ways including, retaining and improving Jednota newspaper including the Slovak section; participated in many Slovak functions, locally and nationally; supported many Slovak and religious causes.

I personally visited many Districts, Branches and Slovak events across the country, many on weekends. 2010 & 2014 Conventions were tributes to our Slovak heritage, as will the 2018.

JOINT VENTURES

Continue meetings and events with other Slovak fraternal to explore common ground for joint ventures or “marriages”.

PROPERTIES

New memorial constructed in 2014. Fr. Furdek's life-size statue is being re-bronzed and moved to the Home Office.

OPERATIONS

Made many changes in operations - i.e. automatic premium payment, credit card acceptance, updated website, streamlined application approval, etc. Expenses are controlled.

MEMBERSHIP

295 new independent agents; new illustration system to sell products. Continue to recruit, continue to encourage recommenders. More agents will be added in planned, managed time frame. Instituted email campaigns and enhanced website increased new visitor traffic, leveraged latest social media tools like Facebook. Controlled, managed growth remains my goal. Financial strength attracts new members and agents.

SUMMARY

Society is strong and my plan is to get stronger. I look forward to your support at the 2018 Convention.

“HONOR THE PAST – WORK FOR THE FUTURE”.

Z Bohom!
Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Announces Intent to Seek Re-election for National Vice President

I am submitting to the delegates of the 51st Convention, my intentions to run for re-election as your National Vice-President.

It has been an honor to serve in this capacity, with the responsibility of overseeing the sales and marketing functions of our Society. I am proud to say that I, together with our Executive Committee, dedicated home office staff, hardworking field agents and top-notch recommenders have garnered many achievements during the last four years.

Here is a synopsis:

Active Recruitment of Agents

You as delegates know that membership and premium income are among the most important aspects of our Society. They are two of the mainstays of the FCSU that will keep it strong – now and for many years to come. That's why, as more of our recommenders reach retiring age and as more states tighten their licensing requirements, we have put into place proactive plans to offset any potential challenges to our fiscal well-being. We are actively recruiting insurance agents to complement the existing 295 independent agents representing us; and we have two in-house agents to help coordinate home office communications with the branches and to further strengthen our field resources, with a focus on recruiting and overseeing agents and recommenders.

An Added Personal Commitment

In addition to my duties as your National Vice-President I am also the President of Jednota INC. I hold a State of Illinois Insurance License and have continued to add my personal commitment to our Society through my own sales efforts. During my tenures, I signed 241 new members with a face value of insurance of \$3,138,000.00. I brought in a total of \$3,330,195.00 in annuities. I have also set up and chaired 78 insurance/annuity seminars.

I, along with our Executive Committee, have set up informational booths every year at the Fest in Wickliffe, Ohio; Kennywood Park; the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club; and the New Jersey Slovak Festival.

On a local level, my Branch 40 in Streator, Illinois, has 740 members. We are very active; we donate \$750.00 in scholarships annually. In addition, we have given our local Catholic grade school (St. Michael the Archangel) \$1,000 each year and have done so for the past seven years.

Finally, my executive duties extend to a seat on the Finance Committee as well, where I have worked diligently to help support our Society through the approval of new investments. I think you'll agree that the investment strategy set forth over these past four years has yielded us tremendous successes. Our assets rose to 395.9 million dollars and our surplus set a record of \$30,782,846.00. Risk Based Capital (RBC) for 2017 increased to 1,000 from 862 last year.

Our Society is going great and I look forward to keeping it strong and solid for years to come, with your support for my re-election as Vice-President at the upcoming convention. Thank you!

Until Then –
Good Luck and God Bless!



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President

Kenneth A. Arendt Announces His Intent to Seek Re-election for Executive Secretary

For the past 24 years, it's been my privilege and honor to serve as your Executive Secretary. I am now announcing my candidacy for re-election to the office.

Throughout my tenure, I've worked hard toward the betterment of our Society. Our 2017 annual results clearly speak to our sustained financial security and new successes. Specifically, as a member of the Finance Committee, I'm proud to report a record in assets of \$395,957,087.00 at the end of 2017, an increase of over \$59,525,000 or 17.7% since 2013. Our Society reached another record in surplus of \$30,782,846 – the highest ever achieved by the First Catholic Slovak Union. This represents an increase of \$8,101,236 or 35.7% over the 2013 year end.

Serving on the Membership and Marketing Committee, I've focused on effective product sales and promotions to increase premium and annuity income, which I'm happy to report is \$19,448,000 as of year-end 2017. We've added work with an outside local marketing firm to our in-house marketing team efforts to leverage the latest social media to best advantage, including product and informational videos. We launched an entirely new website, one designed to serve as a 24/7 resource for existing membership and attract new members with a new community portal positioning us as information leaders. I've directed the continual update of our computer systems to ensure that they meet and exceed all state and NAIC requirements, as well.

In 2017, while encouraging our recommenders to obtain state insurance licenses, our marketing firm began working on an interactive presentation for training seminars offered to branches/ districts. Our expanded search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products has been successful – including an email campaign with an open rate far above industry average. We are approaching 300 signed agents, and they now have access to our agent portal which allows them to view their client's accounts.

We are licensed in 27 states, and I'm in constant contact with all state Departments of Insurance to ensure the FCSU is in compliance at all times, and regularly attend seminars to keep abreast of current trends and pending state and NAIC regulations. We continue to meet all federal requirements.

Under my watch, we continue controlling operating expenses through procedural enhancements like automatic premium payments and annuity check deposits, acceptance of credit cards for premium payments, annuity deposits, and loan payments.

Finally, I continue to investigate new and innovative ways to reach our members and attract new ones. I meet in person with as many Jednotas and other fraternal as possible – representing the Society at branch and district meetings and FCSU-sponsored seminars and attend the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Convention.

My wife Theresa, our family, and I appreciate the trust you have placed in me as your Executive Secretary. I respectfully ask for your vote so we may continue to build a strong future together.

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

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

Joe Senko

Announces His Intent to Run For National Treasurer

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former FCSU Chairman of Auditors (1994 - 2006)
- Certified Public Accountant
- Certified Financial Planner
- Personal Financial Specialist
- Chartered Global Management Accountant
- Bachelors degree in Accounting (Duquesne University)
- Masters degree in Taxation (Robert Morris University)
- Treasurer – Mt. Lebanon municipality
 - Responsible for approximately 65 million dollars in annual taxes
- Treasurer – Brothers Brother Foundation
 - 34th largest foundation in the U.S.
- Treasurer – Jednota Properties, Inc.
- During my career, I have served as president/chairman of 10 non-profit organizations



Joe Senko

SLOVAK ACTIVITIES

- Slovak Honorary Consul since 1997
- Friends of Slovakia (Washington, D.C.) – Chairman
- Western PA Slovak Cultural Association – Founder and Executive Director
 - One of the most active Slovak cultural organizations in the U.S.
- Western PA Slovak Day Association – Treasurer
- Tours to Slovakia – Arranged and conducted 14 tours for approximately 300 people
- Computers – Collected, refurbished and shipped 250 computers to 43 schools in Slovakia
- Medical Supplies – Collected and shipped over \$40,000 worth of equipment and supplies to Catholic nursing homes in Svidnik and Bratislava
- FCSU – Financial Secretary of Branch 254
- Member of the following Slovak fraternal societies: FCSU, FCCLA, LPSCU, SCS, NSS
- Slovak Catholic Federation – Life Member
- Slovak League of America – Life Member
- National Slovak Societies Heritage Museum – Former Vice President
- Czechoslovak Nationality Room of University of Pittsburgh – Former Secretary
- Jankola Library – Former Board Member
- Dual citizenship – U.S. and Slovak

RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT

- Knights of Columbus – 4th Degree
- Serra Club – Past President
- Knights of the Holy Sepulchre
- Eucharistic Minister

RECOGNITION

- Presidential Medal (from the government of Slovakia)
- Slovak American of the Year (Slovak Embassy of U.S.)
- Fraternalist of the Year (Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh)
- Fraternalist of the Year (Ladies PA Slovak Catholic Union)
- Distinguished Accounting Alumnus (Duquesne University account faculty)
- Distinguished Service Award (PA Institute of CPA's, Pgh. Chapter)
- PA Accounting Advocate of the Year (U.S. Small Business Administration)
- Beta Gamma Sigma – National Business Honor Society
- Beta Alpha Psi – National Accounting Honor Society

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Joe Senko

Rudolf Ondrejco

Announces Intent to Seek Re-election for National Fraternal Activities Director

For more than thirty years, I have been an active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union and been involved in various other Slovak cultural groups and fraternal societies. Over the last four years I have had the privilege of serving as your National Fraternal Activities Director. I have continued to organize the National Bowling and Golf Tournaments, the Youth Christmas Coloring Contest, and the Photo Contest. In addition, last spring the walking program was started for the benefit of members of all ages. I believe that I can continue to make sure that these important events are well-run and enjoyable.

I was born in Košice-Poľov, Slovakia and immigrated to the United States in 1969. I completed my education with trade school in Slovakia. I have been the co-owner and operator of Rudy's Auto Service in Munhall, PA, since 1994.

Since the late 1970's, I have served as co-host and co-producer of the Western PA Slovak Radio Hour and Co-Director of The Pittsburgh Slovaks Folk Ensemble. I have been awarded two Medals of Honor from the Slovak Embassy for my contributions to the Slovak community. In addition, I served as President of Branch 2 and Fraternal Activities Director of the Pittsburgh District. At the national level, I served as a Member of the Supreme Court for sixteen years.

Through my relationships with various Slovak Cultural groups and fraternal societies, I have a strong understanding of and appreciation for the fraternal benefit system. My association and visible involvement in the Slovak Community is a positive reflection on the Jednota. Personally, it is important for me to be in a position to help our members acquire an interest in the benefits of fraternalism and respect for our Slovak Heritage. These are the reasons I am asking for your support as I seek re-election as the National Fraternal Activities Director.

Thank you for your trust and support. I would appreciate your consideration for my re-election as the National Fraternal Activities Director of the First Catholic Slovak Union.



Rudolf Ondrejco

Rudolf Ondrejco
National Fraternal Activities Director

Francis E. Pipak, Jr., Esquire

Announces His Intent to Run for General Counsel

As a third generation member, I am providing this correspondence to my fellow members as my official notice of my candidacy for General Counsel of FCSU at the convention scheduled in August of 2018.

All four of my grandparents came to the United States in the early 1900s from Slovakia, from areas not far from Bratislava. As a third generation and 50 year member, I am active in Branch 199. I hope to be able to help guide the future direction of the FCSU and to aid in the perpetuation of the knowledge and customs of our ancestors.

Having graduated from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA, with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, I proceeded to Duquesne University School of Law graduating with a Juris Doctor Degree. Since 1989 I have been a member of the firm of Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick & Raspanti, LLP in Pittsburgh.

My current practice areas involve Risk Management in the representation of employers of all types including municipalities and public entities, private employers, public held companies and various self-insured employers in a variety of business areas. I routinely represent insurance carriers and third-party administrators on issues involving State Workers' Compensation, State Occupational Disease, Federal Black Lung and Longshoremen and Harborworkers' Compensation Act matters. I am a member of the American Bar Association and its Tort and Insurance Practice Section and the Pennsylvania Bar Association Workers' Compensation Section. I am a past member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Section Council and past member of the Legislative Sub-Committee of that Council during a time when Act 57 was in the process of being drafted to include amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. I am also a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and a past chair of the Workers' Compensation Section. I speak regularly to various professional groups on employer liability and workers' compensation related topics.

I am a multiyear member of Best Lawyers in America and have been nominated in Super Lawyers. I have an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell.

With my broad experience in representation of a broad range of entities, I believe I am in a unique position to carry out the duties of General Counsel of FCSU as defined by Bylaws Section 7.09. I thank all who review this correspondence for your time and attention and I look forward to meeting and working with the delegates at the upcoming convention.

Francis E. Pipak, Jr., Esquire



Francis E. Pipak

Leonard Zilko

Announces His Intent to Run for National Chairman of Auditors

I am announcing my candidacy for the office of National Chairman of Auditors for the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. I am well versed in all aspects and duties required for this position, having served as a National Auditor for the past four years. I am a lifelong member of our Society, and currently serve as president of Branch 228 in Lorain, OH, and president of the American Slovak Club in Lorain. I also am active in other Slovak fraternal societies. I am an experienced, organized, accounting professional who takes pride in my work and project ownership. I have a proven record of working well as a key member of a team to meet timeframes and manage concurrent and interactive multiple tasks, including:

- * Month End Closing/Journal Entries
- * Inventory Control
- * Year End Closing
- * Analyzing GL Accounts
- * Project Accounting
- * Cycle Counting
- * Cash Management
- * Physical Inventory
- * Standard Costs
- * Variance Analysis
- * Standard Roll to New Costs
- * Payroll

EXPERIENCE: First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, OH
National Auditor 2014 - 2018

Robert Half, Accountemps: OM Group, Cleveland, OH
Accountant 10/04 – 10/08
Major clients included Bettcher LLP and Sparton Medical Systems

Lepley Farm Lines, Bellevue, OH
Accountant 2003
Family-owned Logistics Company. Operated 40 units primarily between Ohio and Florida. Twenty units were company owned and twenty were owner-operators.

Lear-Romec Division of Crane Company, Elyria, OH
Cost Accounting Manager 1999-2002
Manufacturer of fluid handling devices for the commercial and government aerospace industry.

Fair Publishing House Inc., Norwalk, OH
Controller 1996-1999
Manufacturer and printer of county and state fair awards and supplies for the lower 48 states.

Self-Employed Public Accountant, Amherst, Ohio Public Accountant 1992-1996
Public accounting for small firms and individuals in the area surrounding Amherst, OH

Previous Professional Experience encompasses:

- Controller, Bay Mechanical Corporation, Lorain, OH
- Assistant Corporate Office Controller, Invacare, Elyria, OH
- Accountant, Lorain Products Corporation, Lorain, OH
- Collection Manager, Lorain National Bank

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, Accounting, Baldwin Wallace College
Associated Degree, Management, Lorain County Community College



Leonard Zilko

continued from page 3

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

President, Branch 228, First Catholic Slovak Union
 President, American Slovak Club, Lorain, OH
 President, United Slovak Society, Lorain, OH
 Past President, Lake Erie Central Chapter, Institute of Management of Accountants
 Past Member National Society of Accountants
 Past Member Notary Association

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing you at the 51th Quadrennial Convention, and I hope to win your vote.

Leonard Zilko
 National Auditor

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr.*Announces His Intent to Seek Re-election
for National Auditor*

Objective: Provide High levels of Professionalism, Objectivity, Professional Ethics, and CONFIDENTIALITY as one of the National Auditors. Continue to work as part of a team helping improve the quality and depth of audits, rotating audit areas among the team members for a different look at each area. Apply objective review of practices during audits while providing recommendations for the improvement of the organization from prior knowledge and experience.

Education:

M.B.A., Accounting, March 1978:

Youngstown State University, 1975--1978. Graduate School, concentration in accounting.

Youngstown State University, 1973--1975, General business and accounting courses preparing for the MBA program.

B.A., March 1973: Youngstown State University, 1967-1973. History Major; Political Science Minor; extensive coursework in Psychology and Philosophy. Gamma Pi Chapter, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

Professional: Retired after over 30 years in governmental (over 26 years) sector and private, or corporate accounting, finance, and management.

- Completed various Auditor of State auditing and investment seminars including Commercial Paper and Banker's Acceptance; Treasurer of State continuing education investment classes.

- Audit experience includes cash, loans, collateral, fixed assets, income and expense items, checking and savings accounts, internal control reviews, embezzlement investigation, and consolidation of affiliated bank year end income statements during audits of affiliated banks.

- Adept at reading, interpreting, and applying local, state and federal statutory and regulatory laws, codes, and rules.

- Experienced in analyzing financial and trend information, and financial forecasts; determine and identify potential challenges; plan and recommend changes and alternative courses of action.

- Performed City Administrator duties nearly four years in addition to responsibilities as Director of Finance.

- Experienced in reviewing, analyzing, and negotiating contracts.

2007 – Present National Auditor, First Catholic Slovak Union

2011 – 2014 Accountant/Budget Analyst, Portage County, Ohio, Department of Budget and Financial Management, Ravenna, Ohio

2003 – 2009 Director of Finance, City Of Campbell, Campbell, Ohio

1986 – 2003 Project Accountant, Auditor of State of Ohio, Local Government Services Division

1984 – 1985 Trust Operations Officer, Second National Bank, Warren, Ohio

1982 – 1984 Accounting Manager, Woods Of America, INC., Lordstown, Ohio

1979 – 1982 Cost, Budget, Warranty Analyst, E. W. Bliss Division, Gulf + Western Manufacturing Co., Salem, Ohio

1978 – 1979 Staff Auditor, Internal Audit, Huntington Bankshares, Inc, Columbus, Ohio

Military Service: Enlisted in U.S. Army Reserves December 1969. Received an Honorable Discharge after completing twenty-four qualifying retirement years of reserve service. **Placed in Retired Status effective April 21, 2009.** Twelve years with a Petroleum Unit (six as Assistant Petroleum Operations Sergeant / Unit Training NCO). Three and a half years as Battalion (8" SP Howitzer) S1 NCO, PAC (Personnel Action Center) Supervisor; responsible for soldiers' personnel actions, strength accounting, and battalion headquarters office administration and coordination. Five years in a Quartermaster Supply Company (Petroleum Platoon Sergeant, additional duties as Mobilization NCO and Movement NCO). Instructor for two and one-half years with the 2077th USARF School and 84th Division (Training), teaching Petroleum Supply Specialist and Motor Transport Operator (Truck Driver) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Courses.

John Leskovyansky, Jr.
 National Auditor

Raymond Lako*Announces His Intent to Seek Re-election
for National Auditor*

I would like to, again, announce my candidacy for the office of auditor. I have served as an auditor for the FCSU for the last twelve years.

My background includes a B.A. from Duquesne University, 30 years of employment with Norfolk-Southern Corporation, 20 of which were in a supervisory capacity. In that position, I was responsible for force management, inventory, and payroll. In addition, I audited safety and work procedures for compliance with company and Federal regulations. I also served for eight years as Financial Secretary for the Slovak Civic Federation, where I was responsible for preparing financial statements, payroll, budget projections, and tax reports. I am currently in my third year as Treasurer for my community's Home Owners' Association.

An auditor has the responsibility of seeing that everyone does their job and insuring that the FCSU is operating as you, the Convention delegates have prescribed. Auditors have the task of looking over peoples' shoulders and questioning what is being done. I have, for the last twelve years, done this for the good of the FCSU. I performed my job with honesty and integrity and would like to continue to do so for the next four years. On my own time and initiative, I was responsible for identifying errors on our Organization's 990 documents that are filed with the IRS. These errors had escaped management, our Board, and the external auditors, who thanked me for my diligence. Thank you for taking the time to read my declaration of candidacy.

Raymond Lako
 National Auditor

Message From the President

continued from page 1

As long as I am President we will work to maintain and increase that safety net while at the same time providing the best insurance and annuities consistent with sound financial management. You, our Members, expect and deserve it.

In addition, as the number of fraternal continues to consolidate, the stronger our Society is, the more attractive we become to other fraternal societies who may want to merge with us.

Finally, I wish all of you and your families a healthy, happy summer.
 Z Bohom! God be with you!

Andrew M. Rajec
 National President

SISTERS OF SAINTS CYRIL and METHODIUS
 VILLA SACRED HEART
 DANVILLE PA

Summer Festival
 Saturday
July 14 2018
 10:30 am 5:00 pm

fun food baked goods dinner
 games flea market

Saturday Mass for Sunday 5pm Basilica

Come to the Annual Summer Festival in Danville, PA, this July

The 45th annual Summer Festival, sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA will be held on Saturday, July 14, 2018. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. and last until 5:00 p.m.

The festival will feature a large Flea Market, a silent auction, home-made baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store, Sisters' artwork, and Religious articles. There will be a variety of ethnic foods such as Holupky, Halusky and Potato Pancakes, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults plus special attractions like raffles, and bingo.

The Summer Festival has been a blessed opportunity for the Sisters to keep in touch with former students, their parents, and family members; to reconnect with friends they've made over the years, and to make new friends. The day never seems long enough for visiting with friends old and new.

Bus parking is available. The Festival will take place rain or shine, and will close with a Mass at 5:00 p.m. Tours of the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius and of Jankola Library will also be available.

For more information, please call: Sister Barbara Sable at: 570-275-3581, Ext. 302

**Is your FCSU profile up to date?**

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

Call the Home Office and Update Your Profile Today at:
 1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

Or go to <http://www.fcsu.com/update-profile>

FCSU 2018 GOLF TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET

Deadline for entry forms is June 21

Deadline for hotel reservations is June 21

Friday, July 20 -- Hospitality Night

6 - 9 PM At the Spike Bar

PUTTING CONTEST!

3 chances for \$5 Cash Prize(s)



Hotel Information

Prices have been negotiated at the following hotel:

Hampton Inn & Suites Blairsville (35 Rooms)
62 Pine Ridge Rd.
Blairsville, PA 15717
724-459-5920
Room Rates: \$116.00 + tax per night

** Cut off date June 21, 2018, for Group Rate**

** Mention FCSU Golf to receive the Group Rate **

Hotel check in time is 3 PM. Checkout time is 11 AM.

Saturday, July 21 - CHESTNUT RIDGE COURSE

7 AM Registration 8 AM Modified Shotgun Start

Responsible for your own food and Beverages throughout the day
Hole in One Contest and Skill Prizes

Mass begins at 5:00pm in Crystal Terrace Room of Hampton Inn

DINNER IS COMPLIMENTARY, HOWEVER, A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED

Buffet dinner at 6:30 PM in the Crystal Terrace Room of Hampton Inn

Bacon wrapped pork loin, flat iron steak with sweet whiskey sauce, vegetable medley, red bliss potatoes, house salad, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert, Cash Bar
Door Prizes

Sunday, July 22 - TOM'S RUN COURSE

7:30 check -in 8 AM Modified Shotgun Start

Hole in One Contest and Skill Prizes

1 PM CHESTNUT GARDENS PAVILION LUNCHEON

Sausage & peppers, 1/4 BBQ chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, cookies & brownies

Code of Conduct and Dress Code (per Chestnut Ridge Resort)

- Proper conduct is expected by players while on the golf course.
- Players should adhere to cart path rules, replace divots, repair ball marks, and rake sand traps.
- Unruly behavior, foul language, golf cart abuse, club throwing, and hitting into groups will not be tolerated.
- Proper attire required. Collared shirts preferred. No cut off shorts.
- Soft spikes are MANDATORY.

We are looking forward to a great fraternal weekend and hope that you can share it with us.
If you have any questions contact Rudy Ondrejco at (412) 421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

**First Catholic Slovak Union
National Golf Tournament**

Men's And Women's Official Rules and Regulations

1. The tournament is open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU).

2. United States Golf Association (USGA) and host golf course rules will govern play. Improve your lie anywhere, except for hazards. Out of bounds shot, drop where ball went out and 1 stroke penalty

3. Handicaps will be determined as follows:

A. All golfers will compete as determined by handicap. The golfer's first handicap will be determined after he has completed 54 holes of play in the FCSU National Golf Tournament. The handicap will be recalculated each year based on 54 holes of FCSU National Tournament play. From the latest 5 rounds, the highest and the lowest will be discarded and 90% the average of the remainder will be the handicap assigned for the tournament. 90% of an official USGA handicap may be substituted if a golfer does not have an FCSU Tournament handicap. The maximum handicap will be 40 strokes for 18 holes.

B. Any golfer who has not completed 54 holes of tournament play in the FCSU National Golf Tournament will be entered in a separate division using the FCSU version of the Callaway scoring system.

C. Male golfers, competing in the 18-hole event, age 65 or over and with a handicap larger than 10 may use the forward tees.

D. Any male golfer competing in the 9-hole event may hit from the forward tees.

4. Classifications:

A. A medal play champion will be determined in each of the following Divisions:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Men's A flight (0-10) | 5. Women's Flight |
| 2. Men's B flight (11-17) | 6. Callaway Flight |
| 3. Men's C flight (17-30) | 7. 9-hole Senior Flight |
| 4. Men's D flight (31 +) | |

B. Winners will be determined by low net score in each flight after 36 holes of medal play or 18 holes of play in the senior flight..

5. The division between the men's A-D flights may be adjusted to equalize the flights. A second women's flight may be added if entries warrant such addition.

6. In case of tie for first place in any Flight, tie will be broken by match of cards using gross score starting on #1 handicap hole followed by #2 handicap hole, #3 handicap hole and so forth until the tie is broken.

7. All other ties will split the applicable prize money. (e.g., two people tied for second will split second and third place prize money. Three people tied for second would split second, third and fourth place prize money.)

8. The prize list will be determined by the tournament manager using the money contributed by the contestants and matching money contributed by the FCSU for all golfers. As nearly as possible, there will be one prize for each four entries.

9. The tournament manager will schedule pairings. Both Saturday and Sunday schedules will be e-mailed to participants prior to the tournament.

Entries absolutely close on June 21, 2018

**Back by popular demand!
September 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018**

**1st Year Premium Waived on
Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)**



- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



FCSU FINANCIAL®
6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131
800-533-6682
fcsu@fcsu.com
www.fcsu.com

All applications must be received in the Home Office
**postmarked
by August 31, 2018.**

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

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish and Jednota present

ANNUAL PICNIC

*Join Us for
Food - Fun - Music
Games for the kids!
Performance by
Vychadna Dancers*
Sunday, July 8, 2018
Creditvale Park, Mississauga
1720 Barbertain Road, Mississauga L5M 6J2

Gates Open: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Mass: 11:00 am
For more info call:
Anne Mitro: 905-279-8154



Admission: \$10
Students 13-18: \$5
Children Under 12: Free
Food Available for purchase

**First Catholic Slovak Union
2018 National Golf Tournament
July 20 – 22, 2018**

**Chestnut Ridge and Tom's Run Golf Courses
Blairsville, PA**

Deadline for Entry Forms is June 21, 2018

	Hospitality Night (X)	Sat. Dinner (X)	Sunday BBQ (X)	9 Holes Only* (X)	Name	Address	Phone or E-Mail	Branch Number
1								
2								
3								
4								

*For women or seniors age 75+. 9-hole players must play together; no 18-hole player and 9-hole player foursomes allowed.

GOLFERS (fees are listed per person):	
18-Hole Players	\$97.00
9-Hole Players	\$50.00
Tournament Fee	\$11.00
Prize Fee	\$12.00
Saturday Dinner	\$ 0.00
Sunday BBQ	\$15.00

NON-GOLFERS:
Please Choose ALL that apply & indicate number attending
_____ Will attend Hospitality Night
_____ Guest Dinners @ \$50.00
_____ Will attend Sunday BBQ @ \$15.00

Whole Golf Package:	\$135.00
Includes: 2 Rounds of 18 holes, Tournament Fee, Prize Fee, Hospitality Night, Saturday Dinner, and Sunday BBQ	

Make Entry Fee Payable to: FCSU Activities
Mail to: FCSU Golf 234 Ilion St. Pgh. PA 15207

Room accommodations provided by

Hampton Inn & Suites Blairsville
62 Pine Ridge Rd.
Blairsville, PA 15717
724-459-5920
Room Rates: \$116 + tax per night - indicate you are with FCSU Golf
Check in time: 3 PM

\$ _____ **TOTAL INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM**

Deadline for Reservations is June 21, 2018

<p><i>Our Annual Golf Tournament will be held Friday, July 20, through Sunday, July 22, 2018. The Jednota sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a dinner Saturday evening.</i></p> <p><i>This year we are looking for skill contest sponsors: (Longest Drive, Longest Putt, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>Skill Contest Sponsor: \$100 – a sign will be placed on the hole where the skill contest will occur with your Branch, District, or Region name.</i></p> <p><i>If you are interested in being a skill contest sponsor, please send the wording for your sign and your check payable to "FCSU Activities" to:</i> <i>Rudy Ondrejco</i> <i>234 Ilion St.</i> <i>Pittsburgh, PA 15207</i></p> <p><i>The deadline for sponsoring a hole is June 30, 2018.</i></p>	
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95th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park



The 95th Annual Slovak Day will take place Thursday, July 19, 2018 at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA. It will be an exciting day for Americans of Slovak descent to celebrate their heritage with each other while enjoying colorful displays, authentic costumes, a Slovak liturgy, spectacular Slovak Folk Dance performances, scrumptious Slovak food, special children's activities as well as foot-tapping music for dancing.

A highlight of Slovak Day is the con-celebration of the Slovak Liturgy in the Main Pavilion #5 directly behind "Garfield's Revenge" at 4:00 pm. The Celebrants will be Catholic priests from the Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Johnstown-Altoona Dioceses. Immediately following will be the vibrant repertoire of Slovak music, songs and dances presented by the "Pittsburgh Slova-

kians" and the "Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble" (PAS).

Tantalize your taste buds at the Slovak Kitchen where you will be able to enjoy holubky (stuffed cabbage), haluski (sweet cabbage and noodles), pirohy and kolbasy. Your sweet tooth can be satisfied with the homemade favorite – ceregi and Paska. Enjoy this delicious dinner or ala- carte foods and relax amid the echoes of Slovakia, as the strolling musicians play all the "Slovak favorites". Food will be served in Pavilion #4 behind the ride "Garfield's Revenge" from 12:30 p.m. until the food is sold out.

In Pavilion # 3 you will be able to see a "Slovak Living Museum" prepared by the "PAS" Jr. and Maly Ensembles. The exhibit will include Slovak heirlooms of folk treasures that show the incredible skill and artistry found in the Slovak villages.

In the Main Pavilion # 5 there will be Slovak Cultural Displays provided by the Slovak Fraternal's. New this year is a Slovak Marketplace where one can shop for unique items from Slovakia and other Eastern European countries. Items include Christ-

mas ornaments, embroidered aprons, Slovak cookbooks and much more. Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union will be on site to meet and greet attendees, and provide information on our Society, as well.

A special youth area will include games and treats beginning at 12:30 pm by the Main Pavilion. Every child participating in these activities will receive a free treat.

From 1 to 4 pm, one can sit back and enjoy the music or kick up your heels dancing, grab a partner and twirl to traditional Slovak music of the George Batyi Ensemble at the Kitchen Pavilion.

The cost of tickets is \$25 for Fun Day General Admission, \$15 for those 55 years of age and over, plus a Super Senior Tickets (ages 70+) \$11.00. Tickets are available by contacting Sue Ondrejco at (412) 421-1204 or Mary Lou Wagner at (412) 462-1957.

For general information contact Chairwoman Mary Lou at (412) 462-1957

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be two groups: the 12 – 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

- People
- Nature or Environment
- Travel or Destinations
- FCSU Fraternal Activity

Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

- \$50 – First Place
- \$30 – Second Place
- \$20 – Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, email address, Branch number, age, photo category, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a separate sheet of paper. **DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE**



Mail your entry to:

Rudy Ondrejco
Photo Contest
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
postmarked by October 1, 2018.



From the Desk of the
Executive Secretary –
Holiday Hours

The FCSU Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in observance of Independence Day.



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

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

Branch 2 Bowlers Complete Another Season

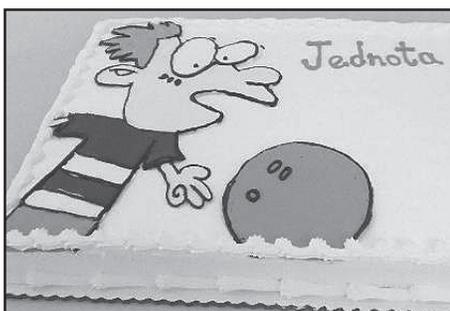
It wasn't just another bowling night when the Branch 2 Jednota bowlers gathered on Saturday, May 19th. They left their bowling balls and shoes at home as they gathered at Seib's Banquet facility to celebrate the end of another season. Eighty-five bowlers plus their guests enjoyed a buffet dinner, after which awards were presented for their accomplishments during the season and to encourage others to keep trying. Dancing and door prizes created a fun-filled evening.

Thanks to the banquet committee who did a wonderful job in planning the event. And to the league officers and team captains who keep things rolling smoothly throughout the season.

The league will also be holding a picnic on Saturday, July 21, 2018 in North Park.

Anyone who would like to join the league for the 2018-2019 season should contact: Dave at 412 366 4598.

- Submitted by
Sue Ondrejco, Branch 2



Join Youngstown /Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities on its 20th Tour of Slovakia, July 2018



Are you ready with your passport to enjoy two weeks of excitement, fun, good food, entertainment, great people and fond memories for the rest of your life?

Join Jim and Kay Bench on the 20th Sister Cities tour of Slovakia. Talk to the oldest living Slovak member of your family to find where your ancestors lived in Slovakia. Think of the joy you will feel meeting long-lost relatives or just being able to walk in the village of your ancestors.

Visit historic UNESCO sites, towns and village such as Bratislava, Trenčín, Košice, Pezinok, and other towns and villages too numerous to mention. Go rafting on the Dunajec river, enjoy wine tasting, see the beautiful Tatra mountains, enjoy a grand reception with the Mayor of Spišská Nová Ves, enjoy dinner and entertainment at Kolibas [whose rustic designs reflect traditional shepherds' housing], see folk performances and form long-lasting friendships. Enjoy the comfort of traveling on a large air conditioned bus with a restroom on board.

Tour dates are July 10-24, 2018. For additional information call Jim at 724-858-5843 or Kay at 724-771-7900. Don't wait any longer. You have put it off for too long. Now is the time to go. A complete itinerary will be provided. Travel arrangements are being arranged by Paul Hudak Adventure International Travel, Cleveland Ohio 800 524 2487.

We are waiting for your call!

Reminder For All Branches

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

14.01 General Rules

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

District 2's Annual Spring Outing

On Sunday, May 20th, District 2 held their annual Spring luncheon and show at Fox's Restaurant in Orland Park. Members were served a family-style luncheon while listening to the musical performer, Peter Oprisko. A Slovak himself, he's originally from the Chicagoland area but travels nationwide for various performances all year round. During the luncheon, he sang several Broadway tunes and serenaded with songs from Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Elvis Presley, and Tony Bennett. Everyone really enjoyed his performance and talent while a few of us even sang along.

This article is in memory of Rudy Bernath, District 2 Vice-President. His dedication to the organization and his sense of humor will greatly be missed.

- Submitted by Lynda Tanis, District 2 Co-Director of Fraternal Activities



June 2, 1968: the first public liturgy in Košice at Calvary. Photo courtesy of Fr. Martin Mráz.

The Re-birth of the Byzantine Catholic Church in Slovakia: 50 Years in the Making

Daniel Černý

Communist rule in Central Europe was very hard for the Church and its faithful. The Byzantine Catholic Church was liquidated in Romania, Transcarpathia, as well as in Slovakia, which at that time was part of Czecho-Slovakia. The Eparchy of Prešov, which in 1950 had jurisdiction over all the Byzantine Catholics throughout Czecho-Slovakia, was liquidated on the pseudo-synod, held under the direction of the Communists on April 28, 1950. The Union with Rome was abolished, the Church was liquidated, and all the faithful and property became Orthodox. Bishops and priests were arrested, or in some cases deported, with their families far away from their faithful and for a long 18 years the Church was illegal. Also many lay people suffered persecutions due to their firm support for their abolished Church.

Changes in the political climate in the second half of the 1960s encouraged clergy and the faithful of the oppressed Byzantine Catholic Church to raise their voices in support of the Church's rebirth. Encouraged also by their brethren and sisters in diaspora, these voices in 1968 demanded legalization of the Church and restitution of its former property. Many of the priests were at that time already released from prisons and were living (due to job opportunities) in the city of Košice, the second largest city of Slovakia. They started to gather and organized informal meetings in order to emerge from the underground. On March 29, 1968, an article was published in a local newspaper, informing the public about the desperate situation of this persecuted church. Among the most active members were fathers Ján Murín, Ivan Ljavinec, Štefan Lazor and Jozef Knežo. Important was also the support of His Excellency, František Tomášek, Archbishop of Prague and future Cardinal.

On April 18, one hundred and thirty three of the former Byzantine Catholic priests gathered with some 64 lay persons at the Roman-rite chancery of the then Diocese of Košice, together with Bishop (now blessed) Basil Hopko and created so called "Action committee," which formulated an official petition to the government to legalize the Byzantine Catholic Church. Support on the part of the faithful was enormous. Local action committees were formed and a petition with thousands of signatures was sent to the government, demanding in a peaceful way the restoration of basic human rights of this faithful. The government, due to the "Spring of Prague," was open to correcting the wrongdoing of the past and agreed on June 13, 1968 to legalize the Byzantine Catholic (Greek Catholic) Church in the then Czecho-Slovakia. It is interesting to note that Mr. Stephen B. Roman, industrialist, patriot and Byzantine-Slovak from Canada, was present at the first liturgy in the Byzantine Catholic Church in Košice (celebrated in the present day Cathedral) in 1968.

The euphoric joy of the spring and summer of 1968 was to be drastically challenged. Due to the intervention of foreign powers in August 1968, the reformation processes in Czecho-Slovakia were halted. The rebirth of Byzantine Catholic Church was only realized in 2000 when, helped by the government, the final agreement with the Orthodox Church was reached and all the propriety issues were considered resolved.

About the Author

Daniel Černý was born in Košice, Slovakia, in 1983. He received his PhD in 2014 from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, with a doctoral thesis on The History of the Slovak Greek Catholics in Canada before the creation of their own Eparchy. He continues writing in his spare time, focusing on Slovaks and their diaspora, especially those of the Byzantine rite. His articles have been published by the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Jan Stanislav Institute of Slavistics), and can be found in numerous other publications and on web pages, both home and abroad – most recently in the 2017 Slovakia, published annually by the Slovak League in America.





2018 Easter Coloring Contest Winners

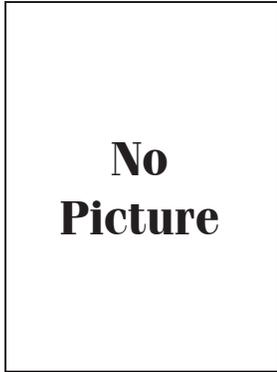


The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II For Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin

The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II has announced the winners of the 2018 Easter Coloring Contest. Prizes were awarded for First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention for ages 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. We wish to thank all of our young branch members for their participation and creative drawings. The winning entries were chosen by the members of the Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II.

Winners

Ages 4-6



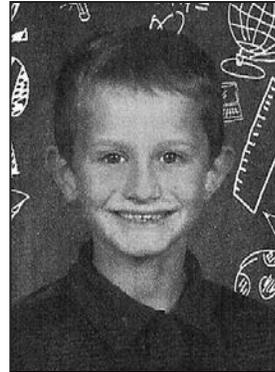
1st PLACE
Carolyn Riedmuller,



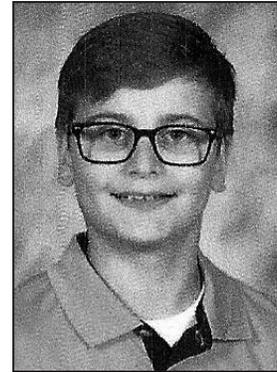
2nd PLACE
Rylin Bobo



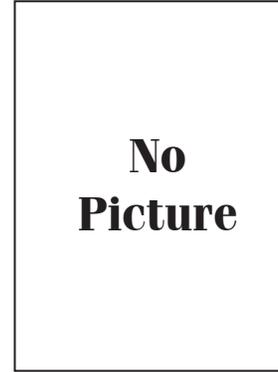
and Macie Bobo
(tie)



3rd PLACE
Carter Gillen



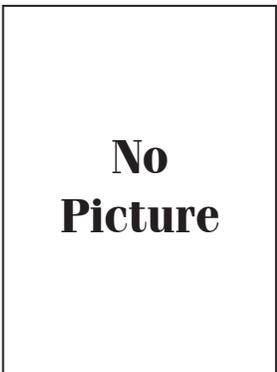
1st PLACE
Peter Jurcenko



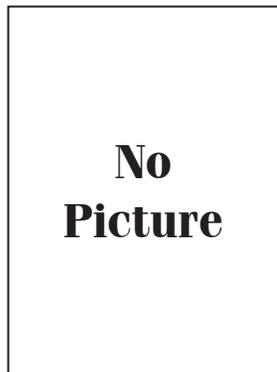
2nd PLACE
Logan Lazzara

Winners

Ages 7-9



3rd PLACE
John Turner



1st PLACE
Addison Gillen



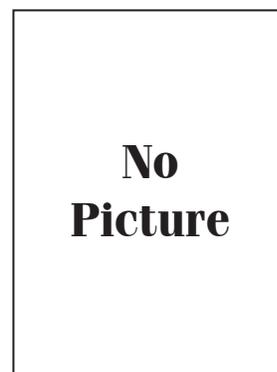
2nd PLACE
Julia Glogovsky

Honorable Mentions

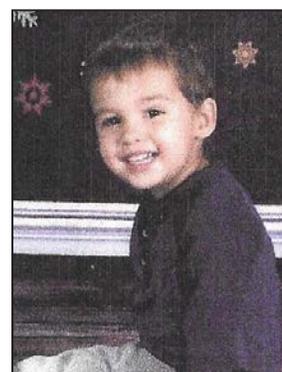
Ages 4-6



Alexander
Jurcenko



Arianna Lazzara,



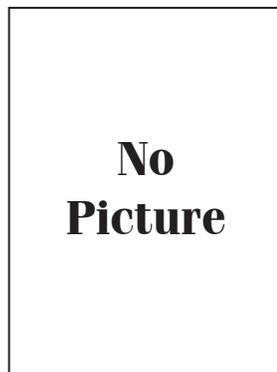
Brent Oost

Honorable Mentions

Ages 7-9



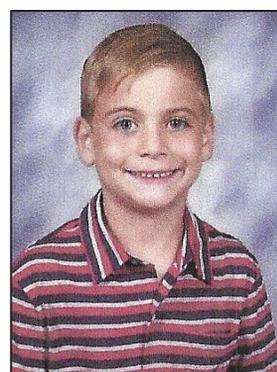
Asha Basu



Ryan Riedmuller



Maya Bobo



Nicholas Jurcenko



Juliana Oost

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Barbara Fayta, Chairperson, Easter Coloring Contest

Join Us for 2018 Consular Tour of Slovakia & Its Neighbors

August 13 – August 26, 2018



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko has prepared a deluxe 15-day tour of Slovakia, Vienna, Poland and Hungary. The itinerary for Slovakia includes the historic towns of Bratislava, Svätý Jur, Devín, Bojnice, Tatras, Levoča, Kežmarok, Spišská Sobota, Spišský Hrhov, Ždiar, Stará Ľubovňa, Košice, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Prešov. Some of the highlights in Slovakia include six castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings and rafting. This is the only tour that also includes welcome receptions by the U.S. Ambassador in Bratislava and by the Mayor of Prešov.

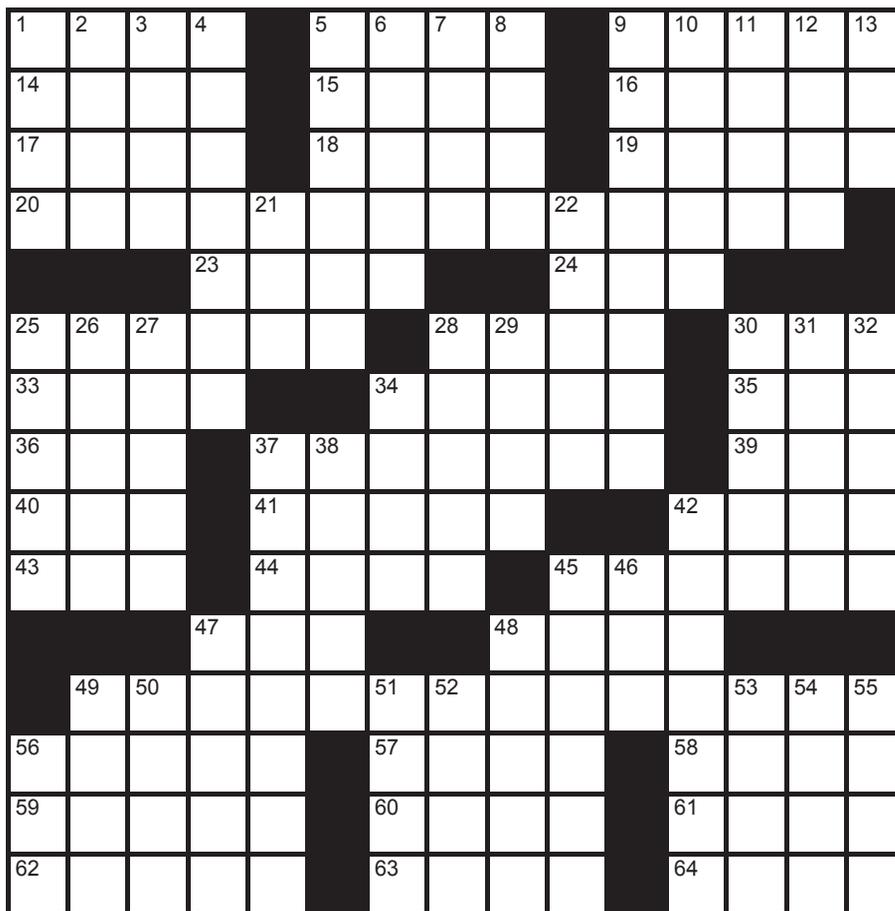
As you travel through various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit your ancestral villages and families.

At no extra cost, Joe has included two nights in Poland and two nights in Hungary. While in Poland, we will visit the shrines of Blessed Faustina and the Black Madonna. We will also tour Pope John Paul II's birthplace, the famous Wieliczka salt mine and Auschwitz. And of course, we will shop in Zakopane.

In Budapest, we will visit the ancient architectural sites including the Royal Palace, Citadella fortress and Parliament.

The total price for this fantastic tour is just \$4,300 per person (double occupancy). This includes round trip airfare from either Pittsburgh or New York, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. Compare this itinerary with other tour packages. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Bridge word
- 5 Seasoned sailor
- 9 Configuration
- 14 Horseback game
- 15 Malay outrigger
- 16 Partitions
- 17 Maple genus
- 18 '54 Hitchcock classic, ___ Window
- 19 Roughly
- 20 Small horses
- 23 Itty bit
- 24 Mil. transport
- 25 Clenches
- 28 Extinct bird
- 30 Append
- 33 Intense anger
- 34 Broaden
- 35 Observe
- 36 Roadhouse
- 37 Drizzling
- 39 Dog command
- 40 Bakery item
- 41 Comic DeGeneres
- 42 Tennis's Sampras
- 43 Feminine suffix
- 44 Heaters, to Capone
- 45 Joan of Arc, for one
- 47 Go public with
- 48 Soybean paste
- 49 Achievement
- 56 Wernher von ___
- 57 Bank posting
- 58 Brainstorm
- 59 Busybody, in Israel
- 60 Concluded
- 61 Wood cutters
- 62 Artist's stand
- 63 Julie Andrews part, ___ Poppins

64 CPR pros

Down

- 1 Luxurious resorts
- 2 ___ Fyne, Scotland
- 3 Safe, nautically
- 4 Type of joint
- 5 Small herrings
- 6 Boxing venue
- 7 Mutual fund fee
- 8 Canvas cover
- 9 Last hurrah
- 10 Addiction
- 11 Natural balm
- 12 Advantageous
- 13 Time zone
- 21 Cut off
- 22 Antiquated
- 25 Bellyache
- 26 Hindu princesses
- 27 Moorehead of *Bewitched*
- 28 Has supper
- 29 Norse war god
- 30 Strong point
- 31 Mars or Mercury e.g.
- 32 Dissuade
- 34 Droop
- 37 Territorial

- 38 Eyeopener?
- 42 Oath
- 45 Stephen King novel
- 46 Cigar residue
- 47 Critical
- 48 Kind of box
- 49 Field of study
- 50 Fires
- 51 Formal dance
- 52 Hot rock
- 53 Dutch cheese
- 54 Triton
- 55 Russia's Itar-___ news agency
- 56 "See ya!"

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JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
July 18	July 9
August 22	August 13
Sept 19	Sept 10
October 17	October 8
November 14	November 5
December 12	December 3

See Solution on Page 16

Countdown to FCS

51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2018 - Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown.



Convention Memorial Service

A memorial service will be conducted during the 51st Quadrennial Convention to remember our members who entered eternal life, especially those who died since our last convention in August 2014. If you wish to have a loved one remembered at the memorial service, please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to Fr. Nasta as soon as possible. Notices need to arrive by July 31 in order to have the names to be included in the Memorial Service.

51st Quadrennial Convention Memorial Service

Name of Deceased _____

Requested by _____

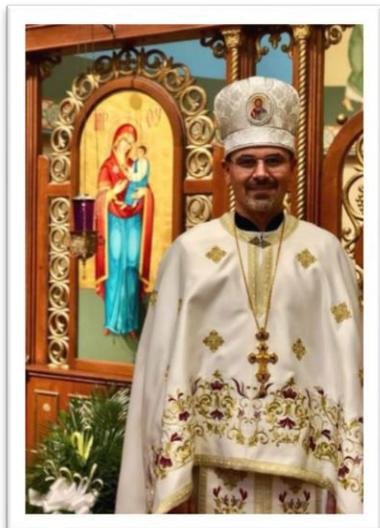
Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please mail to:
 Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain
 First Catholic Slovak Union
 Sacred Heart Church
 120 Jefferson Street
 Swedesburg, PA 19405

Sunday Night Keynote speaker



The Very Reverend Marek Višňovský is protosyn-cellus of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, OH, a position equivalent to a Roman Catholic Vicar General. He also serves as vocation director of the Eparchy, and pastor of St. Mary Byzantine Church of Cleveland, OH. He also is a gifted iconographer whose works adorn many Byzantine Catholic churches and homes on both sides of the Atlantic.

A native of Dlhé Klčovo, Slovakia, Fr. Višňovský was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Prešov prior to coming to the Cleveland area with his wife Mrs. Miriam Višňovský in 2004. They – along with their three beautiful children – are members of the First Catholic Slovak Union.



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION 51st QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION AUGUST 4-8, 2018

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration (all day)
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Slovak Tour of Cleveland (optional)
5:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Board Lolley the Trolley for Indians Game
7:15 pm – 10:00 pm	Indians Game
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Slovak video (for members not attending game)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration/Office
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Opening of Convention
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Brunch
1:15 pm – 2:15pm	Transportation to Mass
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Mass at Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Transportation to Hotel
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Cocktail Reception
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Dinner/Program

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2018

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration/Office
7:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am	Mass
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Convention Session
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Convention Session
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Cocktail Reception
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner/Program

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration/Office
7:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am	Mass
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Convention Session
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Convention Session
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Board buses for Cruise
8:00 pm – 10:30 pm	Goodtime Cruise

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018

7:30 am	Mass
8:30 am (if needed)	Convention Session
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Farewell Brunch
	Convention Closed
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION 51st QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION SUNDAY DINNER/PROGRAM CELEBRATION Hilton Cleveland Downtown, 100 Lakeside Ave East, Cleveland, OH August 5, 2018 * 5:00 pm

Adult Tickets - \$45.00 Children Tickets - \$22.00

_____ Number of adult tickets X \$45.00 = \$ _____

_____ Number of children tickets X 22.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

***** ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY ***
DEADLINE: July 20, 2018**

Return this form with your check to:
 First Catholic Slovak Union
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
 Independence, OH 44131
 OR

To pay by credit card, please call 1-800-533-6682, ext 110

U Convention 2018

51st Quadrennial Convention Highlights

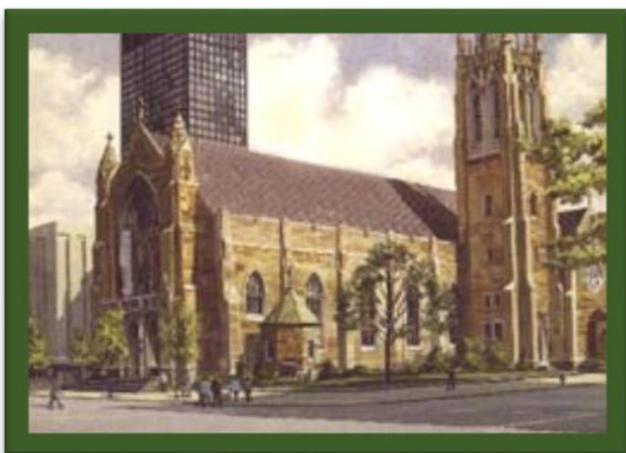
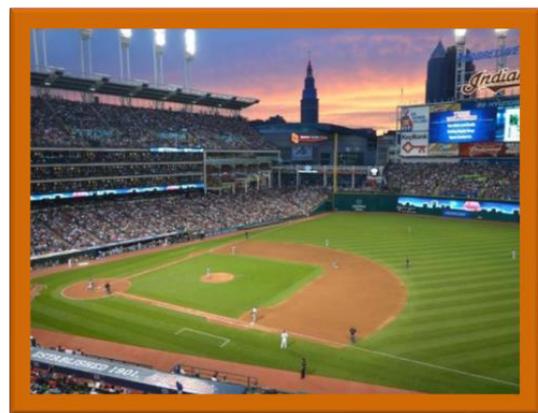


8/4 Saturday Afternoon Slovak Tour

Delegates & guests can sign up for an optional Slovak tour to the Home Office Slovak Museum, the Slovak Institute and the beautiful and unique Slovak Gardens. Tours depart at noon and 2:00PM from the hotel.

8/4 Saturday Evening – Indians Baseball Game

Delegates & guests have the option of attending an American League Baseball game as the Indians take on the Angels at Progressive Field in downtown Cleveland at 7:15PM. Transportation to the game from the hotel begins at 6:30PM



8/5 Sunday Morning Mass

Delegates & interested guests are invited to celebrate the opening day of convention with an 2:30PM Mass at the Cathedral of St. John in downtown Cleveland. Transportation to Mass from the hotel begins at 1:30PM.

8/5 Sunday Evening Program

Delegates and guests will be treated to a full course dinner followed by entertainment reflecting our rich Slovak heritage. The event starts at 5:00PM in the hotel ballroom, and is open to delegates, guests, and any FCSU members who sign up to attend.



8/7 Tuesday Evening Cruise

Delegates & guests are invited aboard the fabulous Goodtime III, a large luxury liner designed for smooth sailing on Lake Erie and along the Cuyahoga River. Sign-up is mandatory.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their family picnic on Sunday, August 19, 2018, on the school grounds of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, from 1:00PM to 4:00PM. There will be games for the children, and food and refreshments for all members.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6 -- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen's Society, Branch 06K, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, July 29, 2018, at 1PM. We will meet at Chix's Restaurant, 621 E. Main St., Streator, IL. Branch 06K will sponsor a fraternal activity for its members on September 9, 2018, Sunday 2PM at Engle Lane Theatre, 1012 Columbus Road, Streator, IL. The members will watch the comedy/drama On Golden Pond. If you plan on attending, please call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764 for tickets before August 31, 2018. We look forward to you attending the semi-annual meeting and branch-sponsored activity. We wish all the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a safe and successful convention in Cleveland, OH.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 7 -- HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold a meeting on Sunday, August 12, 2018 at 9:00 A. M. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin St. Houtzdale, PA 16651. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 10 -- OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, Pennsylvania invites Branch 10 members and their families to attend the annual Mass for living and deceased Branch 10 members on Sunday, June 24. The 11:00 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Church at Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant. Immediately following Mass, the semiannual business meeting will be held at the parish's Kelley Hall.

William Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 24 -- CLEVELAND, OHIO

Attention Branch 24 members: the branch is once again offering its CHRISTMAS IN JULY MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION. For every WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE POLICY or ANNUITY you purchase or sell by November 1, 2018, Branch 24 will give you a complimentary ticket to the Vilija (Christmas Eve) Dinner sponsored by St. Andrew's Abbey every Christmas season.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 524-0952. For more information about FCSU products and to download applications or forms, go to our website at www.fcsu.com. We hope you take advantage of this great opportunity and can join us at this year's Vilija.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 40 -- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday July 22nd at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, IL. All members of Branch 40 are urged to attend the meeting. Lunch will follow. Please make reservations by calling (815) 672-6142 (Leave a message) before July 18, 2018.

Theresa Graves, Secretary

BRANCH 55 -- PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, July 22, 2018 at 1:00 P.M. at the residence of the President in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Mass will be held at Wesley Hall at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch.

Temporary appointments will be made to replace Josephine E. Gerba, who died on April 8, 2018, Divine Mercy Sunday, who served as Secretary-Treasurer. Those appointed will serve as Acting Secretary and Acting Treasurer until our Annual Meeting when we elect Officers.

Regular business will also be conducted. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid for Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's essential book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT, for those interested in building a successful career. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by Friday, July 20 in order to make reservations at Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (215) 613-8987.

In the event of severe weather, or any other emergency, we will conduct a telephone conference meeting with those who cannot attend.

Fraternally yours,

Helena T. Gaydos, President

BRANCH 75 -- SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 75KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, July 8, 2018, at 10:00AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin St., Shamokin, PA 17872-6028. Agenda items will be those normally associated with our semi-annual meeting. All interested members should make an attempt to attend this meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 181 -- UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to the annual family picnic to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA on Sunday, June 24, 2018. *Please note the picnic location is Pavilion #13 which is a change from previous years. Registration begins at noon and the picnic starts at 1:00 p.m. Each member is asked to bring their favorite covered dish. Beverages and main entrée will be provided by branch. A branch meeting will be held directly after the picnic. For more information or directions, please call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 -- FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 extends a warm "welcome" to those in the former Branch 280 who now hold membership in Branch 200. We hope to see you at our meetings, which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226.

Our meeting schedule for the remainder of 2018 is as follows: Aug. 2nd, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, Nov 1st with nomination of branch officers; and Dec. 6th with election of branch officers

We look forward to your presence at the monthly meetings directly following the BOD's meeting at 7pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone: 724-763-9229 or email: vschaub123@gmail.com

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 200 -- FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Slovak CU Club will be accepting scholarship applications now through July 28th deadline. To receive an application leave a message for Vicki Schaub @ 724-763-9229 or pick one up @ the Club located @ 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA, after 11:00AM. Anyone living in the Armstrong School District may apply providing you have graduated high school, are accepted to a college, university, trade school, nursing program, etc. This must be the 1st time you are furthering your education beyond high school. The Committee will review the applications and present them to the Board of Directors @ the Thursday, August 2nd meeting. All applicants will be notified via email.

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 -- LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, holds meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January,

February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's meeting for election of branch officers is December 17, 2018. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

Please attend the branch meetings to stay informed. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You will enjoy the comradery.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 290 -- RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a meeting on July 6, 2018 starting at 6:30PM. We will discuss the upcoming FCSU Convention and the members that will be attending the Convention as delegates. Please call Joe Minarovich at 732-469-5256 as to the location of the meeting. Thank you.

Joseph F. Minarovich, President

BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold a meeting on Sunday, July 8, 2018, at 2 PM for the delegates elected to the National Convention. Plans for attending the convention will be discussed. The meeting will be held at the home of Patty Speshock 11 Ash Street, Fairchance, PA 15436. All members are also invited. Please call Patty Speshock at 724-564-5764 if planning to attend.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 401 - EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 401 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday July 8, 2018, at 1:30PM. Meeting location will be the East Vandergrift Slovak Club, 304 McKinley Ave., East Vandergrift, PA, 15629. A warm welcome is extended to our new Br. 401 members from the former Branches 600 (Leechburg) and 701 (North Vandergrift). Parking can be found along side the club or across the street. On the agenda will be Treasurer's report and information update for the 51st Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU of the US and Canada being held in Cleveland, OH, August 4-8, 2018. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided following the meeting. Please plan to attend and help to brighten the legacy of our forefathers!

Peace and fellowship,

Patrick Froncek, Secretary

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 30, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 724-425-2576.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 484 -- CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2018, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. The agenda will include discussion of the upcoming National Convention, membership, and scholarship recipients' life insurance. Members are welcome to participate.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 -- CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch #493 in Chicago, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Summer Luncheon on Saturday, August 11, 2018. Location: Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, 639 North Blackhawk Drive, Westmont, IL 60559.

Attendees will gather at 1:30PM for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. The meeting will start at 2:00PM. After the meeting, everyone will enjoy a delicious meal courtesy of the branch. If you plan to attend, please contact the branch Financial Secretary at (502) 244-6643 or (773) 558-5956 by Wednesday, August 8th so we can give an accurate head count to the restaurant beforehand.

**Robert T'apa'k Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 553 -- AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist Branch 553 invites all Branch 553 members to attend the 10 am Mass on June 24, 2018, at the St. John the Baptist Parish, 1034 Brown St., Akron, Ohio 44301. The Mass is in honor of St. John the Baptist Feast Day and all living and deceased members of Branch 553. Our Chaplain, Fr. Jared Orndorff will be a co-celebrant at the Mass. NOTE: Following the Mass we will gather in the St. John's Social Hall to share a meal and music with other Parish members. A covered dish or a donation at the door of the Parish Hall will be appreciated.

If you plan to attend this event please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 (home), 330-690-9611 (cell) or email me at lhanko@neo.rr.com. We will have a designated seating area to fellowship together – head count needed to reserve tables.

June 30th is the Annual Kielbasa open at Mayfair County Club. Log on the FCSU website; go to the Events icon to see the flyer. Funds must be paid by June 16th to reserve your spot.

Visit the Slovak J Club the 1st Wednesday of every month to enjoy the BEST Spaghetti Dinner in Akron.

Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 628 -- MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel, will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2018 at 3:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. The agenda will include the future convention and an update on our branch's activities.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 731 members will meet on June 24, 2018 at Noon. The meeting is being held at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 -- WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 738 will be holding its semi-annual meeting Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at 411 Oak Street West Mifflin, PA. The meeting will include discussion about the upcoming convention and to discuss transferring Branch 738. All members encouraged to participate.

Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 856 -- WASHINGTON, DC & AREA

Branch 856 has again scheduled a Mass in honor of the 53rd Anniversary of the Jednota Chapel, our Mother of Sorrows, in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington, DC. Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, September 16, 2018, at 11:00AM.

We would like to see more members of Branch 856 in attendance. Looking forward to seeing all the faithful who travel by bus or car coming from New York and New Jersey for this beautiful celebration.

Once again all in attendance have been invited to a luncheon at the Slovak Embassy by Ambassador Kmec. Last year's event was enjoyed by all.

For more information, call Marion Mistrík at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 38 will host the Fall Meeting at a date to be determined, probably after publication of the 2018 Steelers schedule.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. The April 11 issue has a list of requirements for branch stipends on Page 17.

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

** WPCSAW monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: Meetings resume October 1 when Lisa Alzo will be speaking on Slovak genealogy. Become a member of the WPCSA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 19, 2018. Get your tickets from Sue Ondrejco.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners. Children's classes in the summer.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

** The Western PA Slovak Radio Hour dinner dance will be on Sunday, September 16th this year once again at Westwood Golf Club in Duquesne.

** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.

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

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

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php. Plan a trip to see the animated, hand-carved Nativity.

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting in Nebraska in 2019. "Nasa Rodina," their quarterly publication, has many interesting articles on Slovak history and genealogy. See www.cgsi.org.

** FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.

If anyone knows of additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice, they should email information to the secretary.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary
manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Reverend Joseph L. Kostik, District 14, Region 6, Youngstown, OH, will hold the first of its semi-annual meetings on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at 6PM at St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Ave, Youngstown, OH. We will be discussing the upcoming Slovak Fest in August and the 51st Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH. All delegates please make a point to attend. Thank you.

Grace Kavulic, Secretary

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

Join us on Sunday, July 8, 2018, for the annual Monsignor Michael Shuba District/Region 8 picnic. Food – fun – music games for the kids, plus a performance by the Vychodna Dancers.

The event is located at Creditvale Park, 1720 Barbartown Rd, Mississauga L5m 6j2. Gates open from 9AM to 7PM. Tickets: adults \$10.00, students \$5.00, children under 12 years free. Mass to be celebrated at 11AM in the park.

Call Anne Mitro at 905-279-815 or Mike Kapitan at 416-621-1534 for any details. [Editor's note: see flyer on page 6 of this issue].

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary



88th Annual Slovak-American Day in July

Federated Slovak Societies 88th Annual Slovak-American Day which is Sunday, July 29, 2018, at Croatian Park in the Milwaukee area (9100 S 76th St, Franklin, WI 53132) starting Holy Mass at noon. A cultural presentation featuring the Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers, Tatra Slovak Dancers will begin at 2 pm. Also new this year, we will have an international renowned Fujara musician Bob Rychlik.

All Knights of Sts. Mary & Joseph Branch 89 members are invited.

Katherine Valent

Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee

2018 Treasures Tours Sets Off For Slovakia This July



Treasures Tours will offer their 29th annual Treasures of Slovakia Trip from July 5 – 15, 2018, with the option of a Prague add on. For info and day-by-day itinerary contact Helene Cincebeaux, 7 Walt Place, Palm Coast FL 32164, call 585 342-9383 or e mail: helenezx@aol.com. For more info, visit:

www.our-Slovakia.com

Branch 716's Jan Lysak Celebrates 50 Years



Jan Lysak celebrated his 50th Birthday on Sat. June 9, 2018, with his family and friends, including many other members of the branch.



(L - R) Eva and Jan Lysak are members of Branch 716. Jan also serves as the branch Sergeant-At-Arms. They are shown here with their daughters Simona and Emily.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

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OBITUARIES

Eternal Rest



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

FCSU Region 7 Director Rudolph William Bernath Passes into Eternal Life –May 28, 2018



Rudolph William Bernath, 82, of Glenview, IL, passed away May 28, 2018. Beloved husband for 18 years of Elizabeth Bernath and the late Therese Bernath; loving father of John (Late Joyce) Bernath, Elizabeth "Betty" (Robert) Jackson, Barbara (Michael) Foley, Bonnie Chatel and Tina (Dave) Yurik; cherished grandfather of John and Emily Bernath, Anna and Rachel Jackson, Grace and Jack Foley, Amanda Chatel, Mary, David, Anne Marie and John Yurik; dear brother of Robert

(Peggy) Bernath. Rudy was a graduate of Lane Tech High School, Wright Junior College and the University of Chicago. He was a veteran of the US Army. Rudy was an active member of the American Chemical Society for over 50 years, The Chicago Chemist Club, and the Illinois State Geological Survey. He was also very active with the First Catholic Slovak Union serving on the National Board of Directors as Region 7 Director, and also on a more local level as District 2 Vice President and Branch

153 Vice President. He enjoyed photography, golf, classical music, travel, and fine dining with family and friends. Visitation was held Thursday, May 31, 2018 from 3 to 9 pm at N.H. Scott & Hanekamp Funeral Home, Glenview. A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday, June 1 at 11:30 am at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Glenview. Entombment followed in All Saints Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Sr. Paulanne's Needy Family Fund, C/O OLPH, 1775 Grove St., Glenview, IL 60025.

JOSEPHINE ELIZABETH GERBA BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Josephine Elizabeth (nee Gaydos) Gerba, age 89, of Philadelphia, PA, passed away on April 8, 2018 Divine Mercy Sunday. She was predeceased by her Beloved Husband of 66 years, Steven Jacob Gerba. Loving Daughter of the late John and Mary Gaydos. Loving Mother of Steven John Gerba. Favorite Sister of Mary Golden, Helena Gaydos, Annarose Payne, Cyril (Kate) and John (Amy) Gaydos. Loving Aunt to numerous Nieces and Nephews, who all loved her dearly and recognized her kind concern. Loving Aunt-In-Law to Maryann Washco, Alice (Walter) Strine, Alec (Helen) Washco, and Elaine Maloney. Cousin of Catherine (Gajdos) Litwinowicz, her Kovach and Jencik cousins in McKees Rocks, Joey (Lynn) Trojczak in Middletown, and many relatives in Slovakia.



her self-giving character, Josephine spent the next 10 years of her retirement serving the terminally ill as a Holy Redeemer Hospice Home Healthcare Aide. Josephine remained faithful to her Slovak heritage as a lifetime member of the FCSU Branch 55KJ, and served as its Secretary-Treasurer for 25 years.

Josephine was an amazing person. Her niece, Rosemarie, said of her: "Aunt Jo lived a beautiful life. She loved, laughed, prayed, and most of all she gave. Even if it meant denying herself, she gave relentlessly of her heart, her time, and her love" Her devotion to her parents was most evident in the example she set by the help she gave them in every way. Not only did she set the standard for her siblings in academia, she set the standard for congeniality-- as she was much loved by everyone for her graciousness.

The Divine Mercy was the last Novena prayed by Josephine before she died on Divine Mercy Sunday. It was a most awesome moment at the viewing (held at the T.J. Fluehr Funeral Home just before Mass) when everyone sang this Novena for her. It was led by John and Ann Marie Madrigal, Host on the IHSN program, and Joe Veltri, host of the Holy Souls Ministry—both on Catholic Radio WTMR.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Calvary Church in Philadelphia, PA on April 14, 2018 followed by Internment in Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon.

- Submitted by Helena T Gaydos, Branch 55 President

WILLIAM M. "BILL" SOLLY BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

William M. "Bill" Solly, 93, of Uniontown, PA, died on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the Uniontown Hospital. He was born on April 19, 1924 In Uniontown, son of the later Jacob Solly, Sr. and Mary Ann (Ilcin) Solly.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 50 years, Teresa M. (Pace) Solly; and brothers, Andrew, Jake, infant Robert, Frank and Charlie Solly.

He is survived by his daughter, Cynthia Solly of Michigan; a sister, Dorothy Chuey, a brother, Raymond Solly; and several nieces and nephews and their families.

Bill was a devoted husband, a lifelong member of St. Mary (Nativity) Roman Catholic Church, member and gifted soloist with St. Mary's Choral Group for over 50 years, and also member of the Knights of Columbus for 50 years. He retired from the Uniontown Hospital Maintenance Dept. and prior to that was a truck driver for Tristate Drug Company.

A Memorial Service was held at the Stephen R. Haky Funeral Home, Uniontown, on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 11AM, with Rev. Father Peter L. Peretti officiating. Interment was private at Oak Lawn Cemetery.

- Submitting by Dorothy A. Chuey

MARY A. KUSY BRANCH 581 – GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

Mary A. Kusy age 84, peacefully passed away on Friday, March 30, 2018 with her lov-

ing husband by her side. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, John J. Kusy; son, Johnny Kusy; brother, Daniel Szmuto; many nieces and nephews and dear friends and neighbors, Ken and Audrey Conley. Mary was born on March 28, 1934, in East Chicago, IN, to the late Alex and Elizabeth Szmuto who were born in Austria. She attended East Chicago Washington High School and worked for the Calumet Drugstore in East Chicago, IN. On October 25, 1958, she married the love of her life, John J. Kusy, and together they raised one son. Mary enjoyed bird watching and helping John in the garden. Mary was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother and friend and will truly be missed by all whose lives she touched. Burial services were held privately by the family.

- Submitted by John J. Kusy

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

S	L	A	M		S	A	L	T		S	H	A	P	E
P	O	L	O		P	R	O	A		W	A	L	L	S
A	C	E	R		R	E	A	R		A	B	O	U	T
S	H	E	T	L	A	N	D	P	O	N	I	E	S	
					I	O	T	A		L	S	T		
G	R	A	S	P	S		D	O	D	O		A	D	D
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P	I	E			E	L	L	E	N			P	E	T
E	S	S			G	A	T	S		M	A	R	T	Y
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E	A	S	E	L			M	A	R	Y		E	M	T

40th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues

Donations to the 2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal continue to come in. As many of you know, the funds raised in this annual Appeal are sent to the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries.

The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you to all who have already made their donation to the 40th Annual Appeal. If you have not already done so, please fill out your information in the box at the bottom of this article and mail it along with your check to the address listed. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated. As of May 20, the 2018 Appeal has raised \$15,121. Again, thank you for your goodness and generosity to the Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Donations received on and after December 1, 2018 will be credited toward the 2019 Appeal.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

- Submitted by Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain

40th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

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State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

*Please make check payable to **Slovak Catholic Federation** and mail to:*

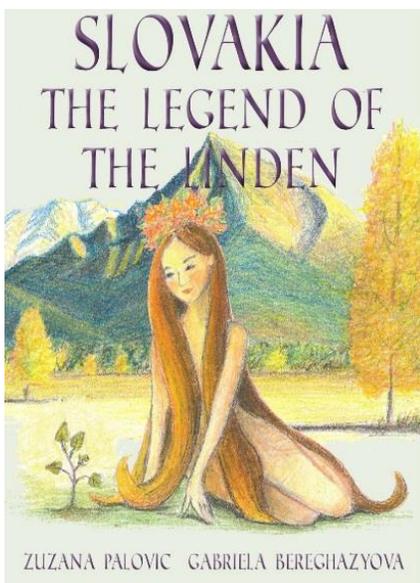
Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
Slovak Catholic Federation
Sacred Heart Church
120 Jefferson Street
Swedesburg, PA 19405



Book Corner



Slovakia: A Journey into Freedom Marked by the Linden Tradition



Slovakia: The Legend of the Linden offers a beautiful, emotive and fresh take on Slovakia's tumultuous journey into freedom. The dramatic story, full of twists and turns spans across two millennia and reveals many intrigues and secrets.

Far from being a boring exploration of rusty historic facts, this book grips your heart and elevates your soul as you turn the pages to understand why seemingly little Slovakia is such a giant and champion. The well-researched book is written in an accessible manner, each page is full of rich and exciting information matched with equally evocative images. Together they help to powerfully communicate the many centuries of Slovak struggle and jubilation.

The book revolves around the symbolism of the Linden tree, the national tree of Slovakia and the sacred tree of the Slavs. The heart shaped Linden leaf reflects not only the loca-

tion of Slovakia in the heart of Europe, its ancient roots and magnificent future, but also the heartfelt nature of her people. Slovaks truly are a people of generous heart, which is why they have chosen The Linden insignia to represent them at every step of modern Slovak life.

From government ministries to public monuments, from Slovak passports to the national seal of the country and from folklore all the way to spirituality, the Linden follows Slovaks at every step.

Behind this ground-breaking publication is the personal drive of two young and talented Slovak scholars. Dr Zuzana Palovic and Dr Gabriela Bereghazyova first met while completing their PhDs in the United Kingdom. It was abroad they discovered that every great nation has a story, and every great country has as symbol to represent what it stands for. The time has come for Slovakia to codify its story and this is exactly what the authors masterfully achieved.

Zuzana is the daughter of Slovak emigrants who fled the communist regime to become naturalized citizens in Canada. Zuzana grew up in North America, first completing her primary education up north, before graduating from university in the United States. From there on, she set out to explore the world. Having had the privilege to experience life in multiple countries across four continents, did nothing to erode her love and passion for Slovakia. On the contrary, it strengthened Zuzana's thirst to know more about her homeland, which drew her back to Slovakia to explore, study and document the heritage of her native soil.

Gabriela grew up in the quaint region of Zahorie, Western Slovakia, surrounded by rolling hills and rich Slovak traditions. Sitting under the widespread branches of majestic Linden trees, Gabriela first fell in love with Slovak fairy tales and the valuable lessons they communicated. However, it was not until she began to live, work and study abroad that she truly

began to understand Slovakia and appreciate it as a treasure trove of wisdom for the entire humanity. While conducting her doctorate in the United Kingdom, she made a commitment to help Slovaks share their legacy with the world.

Slovakia: The Legend of the Linden represents the well-balanced perspectives of the up and coming international writing duo. This book is dedicated to celebrating Slovaks. Its intention and hope is to awaken a healthy sense of pride for Slovakia among Slovaks by re-narrating their remarkable story. At the same time, the book helps to raise the profile of the country, by introducing Slovakia's history to a new and foreign audience. Slovakia: The Legend of the Linden makes for a unique personal and representational gift. It is a must have for every Slovak household anywhere in the world.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy please visit, www.globalslovakia.com

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



Thirty days that shook Slovakia in 2018:

The Murder of Journalist Ján Kuciak and its Consequences

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

On February 21, 2018, events took place which would rock Slovakia –the murder of journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová. Found several days after their gangland type assassination, the dastardly act would shake the Slovak political scene to its core and call into question the morality of the politicians who have been ruling Slovakia. Tens of thousands of Slovaks would take to the streets in the largest protests since the fall of communism in November 1989. Interestingly, the activism was most pronounced among the youth of Slovakia, who had never experienced the demonstrations of 1989.

The incident and the reaction of the people of Slovakia would garner worldwide attention. World-wide media coverage appeared in the press, on the internet and TV, ranging from the New York Times to the Manchester Guardian, and CNN news. This was the first time that a journalist had been slain since the founding of the Slovak Republic in 1993. The swift and unequivocal reaction of the people of Slovakia showed their commitment to democracy and rooting out the corruption which has lingered in their country since the fall of communism.

The reaction to the demonstrations would ultimately result in the resignation of Prime Minister Robert Fico and several other key ministers. The ministers resigning included Viliam Jasaň, the Deputy Secretary of the State Security Council, and PM Fico's chief state adviser, a former nude model Mária Trošková, who had also had ties with the mafia when she lived in Italy. But the struggle to maintain a media free of the shackles of harassment from officials remains an ongoing issue.

Background

I first learned of the murder of Kuciak on Saturday, February 24, when I received an instant message from a relative in Slovakia. It read as follows: Michal, veľmi smutné správy na Slovensku... Demokracia v ohrození! (Michael, very sad news in Slovakia ... Democracy is in danger!) The reactions were similar across Slovakia, and people decided to act. They quickly organized and the first of weekly Friday demonstrations started on March 2, 2018. The first protest garnered 25,000 people in Bratislava, but the size of the crowd swelled each week, and spread quickly to other cities across Slovakia and around the world.

Ján Kuciak was a 27 year-old investigative reporter who worked for the online news website, Aktuálny.sk. At the time of his murder, he was investigating tax fraud and money laundering of businessmen who maintained connections to Italian mafia and some leading Slovak politicians. The case he was researching involved evidence he was uncovering to show that the Italian mafia was embezzling EU funds targeted for agricultural development in eastern Slovakia.

The couple was found murdered on February 26, in Veľká Mača, a village about 65 km northeast of Bratislava with a population of around 2,600. He was apparently shot twice in chest, and the assailants shot his fiancée Martina once in head. The police received an alert about them when Martina's mother had repeatedly tried to call her daughter on her cell phone since February 21, with no answer. The mother and daughter had customarily spoken to each other daily on the telephone, so her mother had suspected something was wrong and notified authorities. It obviously was a case of blatant murder.

Why murder Kuciak?

Ján Kuciak had acquired a reputation for exposing corruption and proved very adept at performing detailed research in his investigative reporting. He had last published an article on February 9, 2018, about businessman Marián Kočner. In 1998, Kočner had tried to take over the private television news network TV Markíza with the help of the State Intelligence Service (SIS). TV Markíza was one of the few private television broadcasters in Slovakia, and it could take an independent stand on issues without the political pressures the government might place on public Slovak TV stations. Kuciak found Kočner to have been involved in an elaborate VAT (value added tax) fraud scheme. He was reportedly buying and selling luxury apartments to himself, sometimes for as little as one euro (\$1.20). Despite the obvious possibility of elaborate fraud, no police officer was ever assigned to the case. Kuciak's research showed that Interior Minister Robert Kaliňák had covered up tax fraud suspicions about Ladislav Bašternák, a businessman associated with Kočner. Thus Kuciak's investigation had extended to uncovering the activities of associates of both the prime minister and interior minister.

Kuciak had suspected and found foul play, and published his findings. There obviously was a fear



The murders mark an important milestone in Slovak history, including the birth of a new movement – Za slušné Slovensko (For a Decent Slovakia) – that calls for change at the very highest levels of government with posters such as these sayings (L – R) Please give us a decent Slovakia and There Have Already Been Enough Lies, Now Is the Time for Decency.



As part of the widespread public outcry over the murder of the couple, shrines with candlelight memorials were set up across Slovakia to remember and pay tribute to them.

A makeshift memorial outside the home of slain journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová outside their home in the small village of Veľká Mača, about 65 km northeast of Bratislava, Slovakia.



that he would soon release a similar stinging report on the corruption he was investigating in eastern Slovakia, which showed links to high government officials.

Several media sources published Kuciak's unfinished work on February 28, leading to heightening tension and popular disgust. His findings revealed that 14 years earlier, the Italian Carmine Cinnante arrived as an agricultural entrepreneur in the town of Michalovce, the seat of a district with 25% unemployment, and enjoying generous EU subsidies. A suspicious policeman stopped Cinnante's car and found a black wooden briefcase with a gun, 50 bullets, and a magazine. While the case came to the district court in Michalovce, the judge just sentenced him to two years on probation.

Cinnante had connections with mafia leader Antonino Vadala, who had faced charges in Italy that were dismissed for lack of evidence. The two men cooperated in a farm co-op between the villages of Dvorianka and Parchovany in the district of Trebišov. At the State Security Council, Jasaň had given Vadala high level security clearance despite his questionable background, and Mária Trošková had been working in his office before becoming Fico's close adviser.

A two year investigation led to Vadala facing prosecution by the Trebišov district court for the crime of extortion. Prosecutor Peter Prokopovič said that Vadala allegedly threatened to shoot dead a company's manager and threatened the tractor driver, stating "he will shoot dead with his gun anyone who will work on his field and set the tractor on fire." But the judge ruled that the prosecution relied solely on testimonies of the witnesses, not enough to convict Vadala.

In addition, Vadala was also allegedly involved in a tax evasion scheme, claiming exemption with the right to deduct 80,000 euros of VAT owed. He had connections with the Ndrangheta mafia organization which makes a business of money laundering abroad. The mafia uses clean money and tries to make its business appear legitimate. In Slovakia, it used fictitious third party owners of companies and artificially overpriced foreign trade in goods to pressure competitors.

In sum, the Italian mafia was setting up dummy businesses to siphon off EU agricultural funds. It was intimidating any rival legitimate businesses with threats, and avoiding paying taxes.

The Government Response

Prime Minister Fico called for a full police investigation of Kuciak's murder. He created an inter-agency task force which included the General Prosecutor's Office, the Special Prosecutor's Office, the Interior Ministry and the State Intelligence Service (SIS) to solve the case. Early on, authorities detained 7 people but had to release them for a lack of evidence.

On Friday, March 2, he also met representatives of three international media freedom organizations, Reporters Without Borders, OSCE, and the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF). Fico told them: "We do not have to prove our democratic credentials ... Help us and let us know what you [the international organizations] can offer. Let us see what the penal code allows us to do. [...] It is my primary interest and priority to investigate this case, and we will not allow [it] to be drawn into political battles".

Fico asked the opposition parties not to "link innocent people to a double homicide without any evidence". As a sign of commitment to finding the culprits, Fico offered a 1.2 million euro reward for information that would lead to the capture of the murderers.

The head of the Slovak police, Tibor Gašpar, had originally stated that the murder showed connections with Kuciak's journalistic work. But he later noted the police were looking at several reasons for the killings. Slovakia's Ministry of Interior said it was cooperating with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Scotland Yard in the investigation. Interior Minister Kaliňák defended the authorities' track record and stated "the system of checks and balances in Slovakia is amongst the strongest in Europe." He went on to state that "we quarrel with the media, and we believe that journalists draw

continued on page 19

Murder of Journalist

continued from page 18

wrong conclusions, but I think this is part of democracy. I don't remember myself pressing charges against any journalists".

But journalists and the popular outcry wanted a fully independent body to investigate the crime. Slovakia's President Andrej Kiska and opposition party expressed their discontent with the government response and called for more far reaching measures. It would take significant public pressure to push the government to take more action.

Media Relations

Relations between Slovakia's journalists and the government have a history of tense relations since independence. During the 1990s, former Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar had carried on a verbal war with journalists, even using profanities at times. In May 1996, the United States-based Committee for the Protection of Journalists included Mečiar on its list of the ten "worst enemies of the press."

The uneasy press-government relationship has continued over the years, even though it has mitigated during Prime Minister Dzurinda's tenure somewhat compared to the Mečiar era. But conflicts with the Fico government have escalated in recent years. On November 23, 2016, Prime Minister Fico even referred to journalists as "dirty, anti-Slovak prostitutes". The tart reply came when he was questioned about allegations that public procurement rules had been broken for cultural events marking Slovakia's European Union presidency. Fico, the leader of Smer, the Social Democratic Party of the Left, is a populist power broker, and his main goal has been staying in power. His party has secured a plurality in the last two parliamentary elections, but his party's popularity has been shrinking. His government consisted of an odd alliance of his left party with the rightist Slovak National Party and the Hungarian Most-Hid Party.

The President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, asked Slovakia to "launch a thorough investigation with international support if needed" and "the European Parliament will not rest until justice is done".

Beata Balogova, editor of the English language newspaper the Slovak Spectator, stated that "despite verbal attacks against journalists and the prime minister's rudeness towards the media, there had been no murders of journalists until now."

The Public Response

People responded with a large outcry, and shrines with candlelight memorials were set up across Slovakia to remember and pay tribute to the slaughtered couple. The first large demonstration occurred on Friday, March 3, 2018, as 30,000 assembled in the center of Bratislava. As in 1989, the protesters were clinking keys and calling for reform and changes. The public in Slovakia escalated its protests as more information was becoming public. Mass protests emerged every Friday, the last workday of the week, when people had more free time. On Friday, March 9, as many as 60,000 gathered in Bratislava's SNP Square, the largest protest since 1989. The former Speaker of Parliament and ex-presidential candidate, František Mikloško delivered a moving speech which stirred the crowd. He exclaimed, "The revolution started by the parents has to be finished by their children". A new movement was born -- Za slušné Slovensko (For a Decent Slovakia). It called for changes at the very highest levels of government.

Demonstrations spread to Košice and virtually all Slovak cities, as well as abroad in cities where Slovaks live -- Prague, Brno, Berlin, Barcelona, Paris, London, Dublin, etc. In all, the protests occurred 34 cities in Slovakia, and 25 cities abroad.

As a result of the protests, the controversial Interior Minister Robert Kaliňák resigned on March 12. But that did not suffice to allay the demands for more far-reaching changes. Finally caving into pressure from other parties and the president, Prime Minister Fico himself resigned on March 15. But his Smer Party was still heading a coalition with the Most-Hid Hungarian minority party and the right Slovak National Party.

In an interview in Bratislava, one Filip Vagac stated what the Slovak public was feeling: "A resignation no longer suffices. It has to be them (government politicians) leaving public life. Go away. Enough."

The Slovak Spectator featured an editorial which voiced a similar view: "For the younger generation, this has been a month of accelerated history and instruction in politics, a subject which many of them had hitherto neglected. These were lessons in politics, but so strangely Slovak -- with the great hopes of civic society marred by the cynicism of the powers that be! Where does Slovak society stand? Robert Fico and Robert Kaliňák -- the former prime minister and interior minister, respectively -- are gone, but their departure seems only for show. They won't give up easily and without a struggle."

The protests continued and even grew. On March 22, President Andrej Kiska appointed a new Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini, from Banská Bystrica. The former Minister of Finance and Vice President of Parliament was in the Smer Party. The new Interior Minister, Tomáš Drucker, was a former health minister with extensive experience of crisis management. But he would later resign his position. These changes still kept Smer in power, and as party head, Fico could impact policies and have influence behind the public eye. The protesters wanted a new government and new elections ahead of schedule.

Protests would continue every Friday in March, but were more muted on Good Friday, March 31, a religious holy day and state holiday. They have occurred on Fridays since March, but the crowds have been smaller and more concentrated in the larger Slovak cities. Energy has a way of running out of steam with time, but the discontent remains, and the movement Za slušné Slovensko continues to press for more far-reaching changes, including demands for a popular referendum calling for new elections.

As mentioned earlier, PM Peter Pellegrini had previously nominated Tomáš Drucker as Interior Minister, and President Andrej Kiska confirmed the appointment. But on April 18, Tomáš Drucker chose to resign after only 26 days at the job.

The ruling Smer Party preferred to find an insider in the party and with Peter Pellegrini's approval, selected Denisa Saková to replace Drucker as the new interior minister. The selection raised eyebrows among Transparency watchdog organizations, since Robert Kaliňák himself had chosen her for the post of state secretary (deputy minister) in 2016. Assigned the job of public administration reform, Saková will have plenty to prove.

Skeptics such as Zuzana Wienk of NGO Fair Play Alliance had already stated a sly reference of askance regarding Saková on March 16, 2018: "We demand that the new minister be more than just a jacket of Robert Kaliňák."

This appears to have been a play on words, as some feared her appointment, for "sako" means "jacket" in Slovak. Much of the public still distrusts the political leaders in power.

Ongoing Issues Threatening Journalists

When doing his research, Kuciak was collaborating with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), an English language publisher based in Sarajevo.



Demonstrations spread to virtually all Slovak cities such as this one in Košice and, as well as abroad in cities where Slovaks live --in all, the protests occurred 34 cities in Slovakia, and 25 cities abroad.

In more recent developments on May 15, 2018, officers of Slovakia's National Crime Agency interrogated the Czech journalist Pavla Holcová, who had been working with Kuciak on his reports before his murder. Slovak authorities reportedly confiscated her telephone and did so with a warrant that a prosecutor had issued. Based in Prague, Holcová had founded the Czech Center for Investigative Reporting, and was working with the OCCRP. She had traveled to Bratislava to meet several agents for what she thought would be "a friendly discussion about the investigation into Kuciak's death." Instead it turned into a grueling 8 hour interrogation.

Officials tried to download information from her mobile phone with special equipment, but failed to do so. Then they allegedly threatened Holcová with a 1,650 euro fine if she did not cooperate and give them her password. After the download failed, the authorities confiscated her phone and were trying to hack it.

Holcová thought the questions of the officers went far beyond the scope of the Kuciak murder investigation. She said police wanted to obtain information about OCCRP internal communications, her methods of working, and an explanation of the intentions of other media reporting corruption. She claimed her phone contained no information about Kuciak other than what she had previously turned over to the police.

The OCCRP claimed it had already cooperated with the investigation by supplying relevant information. It has demanded the immediate return of Holcová's phone and has initiated legal action on her behalf. The Slovak National Crime Agency declined to comment on the affair. But the scandal involving the Kuciak murder appears to be far from over.

Conclusion

How the Ján Kuciak affair will play out in the long run remains to be seen. But gauging the strong reaction by the people of Slovakia, it appears that many are committed to protecting their young democracy, and the youth particularly seems bent on curbing a tradition of corruption among government officials. The Kuciak murder just might be the spark that could lead to some long-term and lasting changes in the Slovak political scene. But for that to happen in a practical way, opposition parties will have to put aside their differences and focus on issues that really matter in building a free and civic democratic society.

The murder of Ján Kuciak and his fiancée mark an important milestone in Slovak history, for it shows that large numbers of the people of Slovakia maintain a firm commitment to democracy and a free press and media. The fact that other journalists have experienced police harassment shows that the problem of corruption and government interference with the media remain ongoing issues. But for long-term solutions, the people may have to wait until parliamentary elections to make their voices not just heard, but acted on with more gusto. And opposition parties will have to put aside their differences in the interest of uprooting corruption and protecting freedom of information.

Sources

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ÚLUV: 70 Years Preserving Slovakia's Craft Traditions

Judith Northup-Bennett, Branch 918

Traveling on the Slovakia Heritage Tour this past September, I noticed an increased interest in Slovak traditional crafts, clothing, dance and music as we visited festivals, and even in the souvenir and local stores. This year, more than others, displays of intricately embroidered blouses, carved household items, wire work, pottery and other crafts were everywhere and people were making them a part of their lives. I was surprised to find that one of the most popular shows on television was Zem Spieva (The Land Sings), an American Idol-type competition for Slovak traditional dance and music groups.

This wasn't always the way. During the difficult days after World War II, many of the traditional crafts were in danger of being lost. In 1945, the new Czechoslovak government created ÚLUV (Ústredie Ľudovej Umeleckej Výroby), also known as the Center for Folk Art Production. The new state agency was given the mission of documenting and archiving the rich heritage of Slovak handicrafts. As a result, ÚLUV today has an extensive collection of original crafts in its Museum of Folk Art Production in Stupava. The collection is open to academics, student designers, and craftspeople wanting to study the designs and processes. But today, ÚLUV is more than an archive.

ÚLUV's story is a story of Slovakia rooted in the handicrafts that brought beauty to the demanding lives of our ancestors. Despite long days in the fields, the people somehow managed to carve, sew, embroider, make lace, paint eggs and create the colorful crafts from every day materials to beautify their homes and celebrate life.

Today ÚLUV preserves these traditional crafts by supporting craftspeople and educating the public through classes and exhibits. ÚLUV has four stores and craft centers around Slovakia where ÚLUV's craftspeople from all over Slovakia can sell their work, and people can learn a craft. In addition, ÚLUV maintains a database of 1,873 traditional craftspeople.

Jana Ferrari, the head of marketing at ÚLUV says that ÚLUV has seen an increased interest in learning a craft. "People working with computers in corporations want to do something creative and artistic, slow down, and use all ten fingers." In the regional craft centers in Košice, Banská Bystrica and Bratislava, Slovaks are signing up to take classes in pottery, woodcarving, leather work, wire work (drotier/tinkering), bobbin lace making, weaving, and many other crafts.

Ferrari explains that starting from the beginning, ÚLUV realized that it couldn't just archive crafts in order for traditions to survive. The government-supported organization decided to hire designers to create unique, more contemporary designs based on traditional crafts that people would want to purchase and have in their homes.

ÚLUV plays an important role in guaranteeing the quality



A visit to a weaver working in her home in Tichy Potok.

of crafts sold in its stores and maintaining a high standard for Slovak crafts with a strong jury system. Twice a year, craftspeople seeking ÚLUV certification send their products to a committee of ethnologists, designers, and technicians for review. If approved, the craftspeople are certified to sell in ÚLUV stores and attend national and international events and exhibitions.

Ferrari points out that ÚLUV continues to support the evolution of traditional designs through its Rings In Water program that provides opportunities for creative designers and craftspeople "to courageously put new ideas into crafts."

ÚLUV has also seen an increased interest in its craft exhibits in Bratislava and its regional centers. Slovaks are once again embracing their folk lore traditions. Ferrari tracks this appreciation to several trends that support local products. "Over the past couple of years, there's been a fashion trend that incorporates folk art traditions," Ferrari explains. "Slovak people started remembering that we have our own heritage and they wanted to see these traditions and designs in clothing and every day, useful objects."

"There's been a trend in Europe...a reaction to cultural globalization...to rediscover national traditions and buy local, natural products," continues Ferrari. "ÚLUV also needs to educate the public about the long craft processes and why it's worth it to pay a little more for a local, hand-made, long-lasting product."

Slovak Americans can support the work of ÚLUV and its craftspeople by visiting ÚLUV craft centers when traveling in Slovakia. Maintaining a catalogue of its products on its website, ÚLUV is also ready to help craft collectors connect with a craftspeople who could create a specific piece for them. People can check out the web site www.uluv.sk or contact ÚLUV directly at craft@uluv.sk. They can also travel to Slovakia on August 25-26 when Bratislava comes alive with more than a hundred craftspeople, music, dance and workshops for ÚLUV's Master Craftsmen Days Festival.

Like cooking family dishes handed down from our grandmothers, bringing Slovak folk crafts into our homes and daily lives, celebrates and keeps alive our rich and colorful heritage.



A Špania Dolina lace maker who sells lace and gives demonstrations from her kitchen window.

About the Author

Judith Northup-Bennett helps Slovak-Americans connect with Slovak crafts, history, and culture on the September Slovakia Heritage Tour. See all the details about this year's September 7-16 tour at www.slovakiaheritage.com or call or email at 978-544-5144 or slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com



From the Úl'uv gallery, an exhibit of a contemporary clothes designer who is using the traditional indigo dyeing techniques in her stylish clothing line.



A gallery exhibit of a sculptor using the traditional drotier/tinkering techniques.



A tourist kiosk in Bratislava offering only handcrafted, local products...a sign of the resurgence in demand for traditional folk art.

Správy zo Slovenska

Bratislava - Prezident SR Andrej Kiska nebude kandidovať v budúročných prezidentských voľbách. Oznamoval to v polovici mája v Prezidentskom paláci s tým, že na jeho rozhodnutie vplývalo viacero okolností. Ako vyplýva z jeho vyjadrení, z politiky sa úplne stiahol neplánuje.

Bratislava - Výročná správa o členstve Slovenskej republiky v EÚ, Správa o plnení úloh zahraničnej a európskej politiky Slovenskej republiky v roku 2017 a jej zameranie na rok 2018, ale aj Správa o činnosti Výboru Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky (NR SR) pre európske záležitosti za roky 2016 a 2017. To sú témy, ktoré v úvode štvrtého rokovacieho dňa 31. schôdze NR SR zamestnávajú poslancov NR SR.

Ministerstvo obrany SR vybuduje penzión pre vojnových veteránov v hoteli na Zemplínskej šírave, ktorý je v súčasnosti v správe rezortnej spoločnosti HOREZZA. Novelu zákona o vojnových veteránoch, ktorá jeho vybudovanie umožňuje, schválila koncom mája Národná rada SR. Informovala hovorkyňa ministerstva obrany Danka Čapáková.

Slovensko bude mať novú trestnoprávnú úpravu v oblasti boja proti terorizmu. Zmeny v Trestnom zákone odobril nedávno parlament 106 hlasmi. Novela preberá okrem iného európske pravidlá týkajúce sa procesných záruk pre deti, ktoré sú podozrivé či obvinené v trestnom konaní. Z ich výsluchu sa má z dôvodu zabezpečenia ochrany vyhotovovať obrazovo-zvukový záznam.

Možnosť zapojenia Slovenska do únosu vietnamského občana z Nemecka a možné zneužitie slovenskej vládnej letky na tento účel sa ukázali ako málo pravdepodobné. Po rokovaní parlamentného výboru pre obranu a bezpečnosť, na ktorom vystúpila ministerka vnútra Denisa Saková (Smer-SD) a policajný prezident Tibor Gašpar, to vyhlásil jeho predseda Anton Hrnko (SNS).

Zdravotnícki asistenti by sa po novom mali volať praktické sestry. Navrhne to deväť z 11 poslancov parlamentného zdravotníckeho výboru v pozmeňujúcom návrhu k novele zákona o zdravotnej starostlivosti. „Názov praktická sestra zodpovedá ich kompetenciám a zaradeniu,“ vysvetlil predseda výboru Štefan Zelník (SNS). Výbor sa pri návrhu inšpiroval Českou republikou, kde už táto zmena platí.

Bratislava - Slovenská republika je na biatlonistku Anastasiu Kuzminovú neskutočne hrdá, toľko radosti ako ona dokázala tomuto národu priniesť iba málokto. Vyhlásil to predseda Národnej rady (NR) SR Andrej Danko (SNS), ktorý na Bratislavskom hrade hostil obedom úspešnú slovenskú olympioničku. Kuzminová na februárovej zimnej olympiáde v juhokórejskom Pjongčangu získala jednu zlatú a dve strieborné medaily.

Bratislava - Summit EÚ a západného Balkánu nebude o rozširovaní EÚ, nebudú prijímané takéto rozhodnutia, rokovania sa budú pohybovať skôr v technickej rovine, budú o prepojení s krajinami západného Balkánu. Mal by byť vyslaný jasný signál, že Unia vidí budúcnosť týchto krajín v EÚ. Premiér Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) to uviedol nedávno na Výbore Národnej rady SR pre európske záležitosti. Predstavil na ňom stanoviská, s ktorými bude reprezentovať SR na summite v bulharskej Sofii.

Slovenská republika vyšle maximálne 152 príslušníkov ozbrojených síl na územie Lotyšskej republiky. Slovenskí vojaci budú pod velením Kanady s možnosťou nasadenia aj na území Litovskej republiky, Estónskej republiky a Poľskej republiky na základe spolupráce s ich ozbrojenými silami a ozbrojenými silami iných členských krajín NATO. Vyslanie 116 hlasmi odobril poslanci Národnej rady SR.

Bratislava - Začleňovanie cudzincov do spoločnosti na Slovensku nenapreduje. Niektoré rezorty si totiž plnia svoje úlohy týkajúce sa integračnej politiky len okrajovo, alebo vôbec. Unia miest Slovenska, Združenie miest a obcí Slovenska (ZMOS), ani samosprávne kraje, okrem Košického kraja, nerozpracovali regionálne integračné plány. Vyplýva to zo správy rezortu práce za minulý rok, ktorú vzala na vedomie vláda.

Bratislava - Minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš na bratislavskom výstavisku Incheba v polovici mája slávnostne otvoril 7. ročník veľtrhu obranného priemyslu IDEB 2018. V príhovore zdôraznil, že Slovensko sa po rokoch môže pochváliť aj novinkami, napríklad vrtuľníkom UH-60 M Black Hawk či lietadlami Spartan.

Bratislava - Aktuálny plán Rakúska vyplácať pracujúcim na deti žijúcim na Slovensku znížené prídavky je príkladom iniciatívy, akou sa staršie členské štáty Európskej únie (EÚ) snažia získavať zdroje na úkor nových. V diskusii na TABLET.TV to povedal prvý podpredseda SNS Jaroslav Paška. Zdroje v Európskej únii sa podľa neho rozdeľujú disproporčne a staršie členské štáty profitujú z vyšších dotácií na poľnohospodárstvo, z presunu kvalifikovaných pracovných síl z východnej Európy do centier v západných štátoch, ale aj zo zdaňovania ziskov vyprodukovaných z investícií v nových členských štátoch. „Naši občania pracujú na zvýšení životnej úrovne v týchto krajinách,“ uviedol Paška.

Bratislava - Krajiny strednej a východnej Európy sú v súčasnosti geopoliticky najzraniteľnejšie od roku 1989. Vyplýva to zo správy GLOBSEC Megatrends 2018, ktorá identifikuje najvýraznejšie trendy ovplyvňujúce bezpečnosť a politiku vo svete. Podľa tohto dokumentu slovenského bezpečnostného inštitútu GLOBSEC má na súčasnú zraniteľnosť regiónu strednej Európy vplyv viacero faktorov. Ide napríklad o narastajúcu zmätenosť medzi Stredoeurópanmi. Nevedia sa rozhodnúť, či ich krajina smeruje viac na Západ alebo na Východ. Nie sú si istí, či je členstvo v NATO alebo v Európskej únii pozitívne pre ich krajinu alebo nie.

Bratislava - Viac ako 400 súkromných firiem sa zaviazalo pomôcť oznamovateľom korupcie, ktorí prídu v dôsledku svojho podnetu o prácu. Svoju pomoc spoločnosti deklarovali pripojením sa k výzve Stojíme za odvážnymi, ktorú iniciovalo Transparency International Slovensko (TIS) v spolupráci s Nadáciou Pontis a Klubom úradníkov dobrej vôle. „Úradníkom, ktorí v dôsledku nahlásenia korupcie prídu o prácu, ponúknu buď pohovor v ich firmách pri zhode pracovného profilu a obsadzovanej pozície, alebo zabezpečia koučing, poradenstvo a rekvifikáciu v ďalšej kariére,“ ozrejmila formu pomoci koordinátorka iniciatívy Zuzana Hlávková z TIS. Práve TIS bude sprostredkovateľom, preverí nahlásené prípady a okolnosti a po potvrdení relevantnosti prípadov bude s pomocou siete firiem pomáhať nájsť prácu pre oznamovateľov.

Bratislava - Záujem výrobcov generických liekov vstúpiť na slovenský trh klesá. Ukazujú to najnovšie dáta z medziročného porovnania podaných žiadostí na vstup nových generík do systému úhrad od zdravotných poisťovní. „Významný pokles žiadostí nových generík do kategorizácie bude viesť k poklesu ich dostupnosti pre pacientov v budúcnosti,“ povedal Ivan Kraszko, podpredseda Asociácie generických výrobcov liekov GENAS.

Trenčianske Teplice - Medzinárodný filmový festival Park film fest v Trenčianskych Tepliciach sa tento rok zmení na multizánrový s názvom Art in park, v rámci ktorého budú mať rovnocenné zastúpenie viaceré formy umenia. V kúpeľnom meste si od 21. do 24. júna v rámci programu pripomenú i 100. výročie založenia Československej republiky či nedávno zosnulého režiséra Miloša Formana.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Matica slovenská zverejnila dobovú báseň slovenským legionárom z Ameriky v deň storočnice Pittsburskej dohody



Na audiencii u guvernéra newyorského štátu v decembri 1935. Zľava: kapitán Jadson, reverend J. Zázdora, Dr. J. Mrázek, guvernéra štátu a priateľ Slovákov Herbert Lehman, Ľudevít Polák, J. Cincík, K. Čulen, J. C. Hronský a K. Plicka.



Delegácia MS pred odchodom do Ameriky v roku 1935. Na obrázku dole zľava: Karol Plicka a Jozef Cíger Hronský. V druhom rade zľava: Konštantín Čulen a Jozef Cincík.

Matica slovenská sa rozhodla verejnosti predstaviť nikdy nepublikovanú báseň slovenským legionárom z Ameriky v kontexte pripomenutia si 100. výročia vzniku prvej Československej republiky. Práve americkí Slováci mali obrovský podiel na osamostatnení sa slovenského a českého národa od Rakúska – Uhorska, čo sa odzrkadlilo v podpísaní Pittsburskej dohody, ktorá dnes oslavuje presnú storočnicu.

Príležitostná báseň Jána Babušku Dobromerského s názvom „Slovenským Legiam z Ameriky. Smelý Sokoliku.“ sa ukrýva v Archíve Matice slovenskej (MS) v Martine od roku 1936. Spolu s ďalšími vzácnymi dokumentmi ju v tom roku na Slovensko priviezla matičná delegácia v zložení Jozefa Cígera Hronského, Karola Plicku, Konštantína Čulena a Jozefa Cincíka, ktorá sa do Spojených štátov Amerických vydala na sedemmesačnú cestu po krajských centrách na prelome rokov 1935 – 1936. Báseň ilustruje boj slovenských legionárov v rámci česko-slovenských légii za národnú a štátnu slobodu Slovákov v tragickom období prvej svetovej vojny. „Viacero archívnych dokumentov z tejto výnimočnej kultúrnej misie za krajanmi v USA potvrdzuje, aké veľké úsilie vyvíjali vystaňovaní Slováci a ich potomkovia v boji za práva slovenského národa v pôvodnej stredoeurópskej domovine. Išlo nielen o deklaračné a agitáčné prejavy, ale aj o finančné zbierky na vznik samostatného štátu či organizovanie sa v česko-slovenských légiiach,“ vysvetľuje riaditeľ Archívu MS Pavol Madura.

Súčasťou matičných archívnych zbierok je aj zaujímavý list z roku 1915 od predsedu Národného slovenského spolku v USA Alberta Pavla Mamateja, ktorý spolok žiada o 300 dolárov na advokáta pre mladého slovenského robotníka Jozefa Gajdu z Pittsburgu. Ten sa dostával do potýčok s robotníkom maďarskej národnosti, ktorého podľa predsedu v sebaobrane zabil. Dobový list dokladá prenášanie národnostných trení ďaleko za hranice mnohonárodnostného Uhorska v čase veľkého krvavého konfliktu.

„Matica slovenská dodnes udržuje vzťahy so Slováckmi žijúcimi v zahraničí a v rámci svojich možností sa snaží o kultúrnu spoluprácu a podporu. Chceme, aby verejnosť na Slovensku bližšie spoznala aktivity amerických Slovákov v dobe, kedy sa rozhodovalo o budúcnosti nášho národa. Slovenskí legionári či Pittsburská dohoda sú svedkami týchto udalostí, ktoré vyústili do vzniku prvej Československej republiky. Napokon, pre samotnú Maticu to znamenalo jej obnovenie v roku 1919,“ priblížil druhý podpredseda MS pre slovenské zahraničie a jazykovo zmiešané územia Marek Nemeč.



Radnica mesta Milwaukee privítala delegáciu MS vysvieteným nápisom v angličtine s prekladom Vítaj, Matica slovenská.

Pri príležitosti storočnice Pittsburskej dohody sa 31. mája 2018 v matičnej knižnici slovenskej štátnosti na Grösslingovej ulici 23 v Bratislave uskutočnilo vedecké kolokvium Slovenského historického ústavu MS a Historického odboru MS s názvom Pittsburská dohoda a vznik ČSR. Diskutovalo sa o nej z historického, právneho, ale aj politického a krajského hľadiska. Predtým matičiari položili veniec k pamätnej tabuli s vyobrazením originálu dohody pri pamätníku M. R. Štefánika v Bratislave.

IÚ MS Veronika Matušková



Balenie kníh pred budovou MS pre Slovákov v Amerike v roku 1935.

Autentický prepis básne v jazykovo neupravennej podobe.

Slovenským Legiam z Ameriky. Smelý Sokoliku

Smelý Sokoliku, podaj milej rúčku,
pridaj jej vrelý bosk, že to na rozlučku.
Smelý Sokoliku, podaj bratom rúčku,
a pripni na prsia, troch barev masličku.
Už smelý Sokolík, sedí na koničku,
berie kver na plece, ku boku šablíčku.
A za širiak klade, hviezdnatu zástavu,
a ide bojovať za Otčinu svoju.
Pod tú že zástavu, chce plávať prez more,
a stadiť údatne, na Slovensko svoje.
Na Slovensko svoje, do jeho rodiska,
kde kedysi stála, i jeho koliska.

A keď tam zaletíš, smelý Sokoliku,
pomsti že sa pomsti, za krivdu veľikú.
Tým čo veľmi dávno, ba už tisíc ročia,
Slovenský rod triznia, surove otročia.
No, že len Sokolík, maj sa smeje, k veci,
pri čom Kolumbia, chce ti vypomoci.
Uchop sa na krídla, prelet šyré more,
a vimož slobodu, rodinóčke tvojej.
Nech ty je pút šťastná, kam kolvek zaletíš,
nech, čo výtaz zase, ku nám sa navrátiš.
Sprúži svoje sili, chitaj do ruki meč,
veď že čo vykonaš, bude to tvoja česť.
Já ti rúčku dávam, a volam na Slávu,
daj že Bože daj že, všeckým mnoho Zdaru.
Amen.

Ján Babuška Dobromerský

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

LUX New York: Hľadanie svätosti v každodennosti

Hľadanie svätosti v každodennosti. Tak znie motto slovenskej katolíckej produkčnej spoločnosti LUX New York so sídlom na Manhattane. Prostredníctvom audiovizuálnej tvorby chce Slovákom žijúcim v USA a v Kanade pomáhať prehlbovať katolícku vieru a zároveň prepájať slovenské farnosti a komunity "za oceánom". LUX New York už viac než šesť mesiacov vysiela naživo sv. omše v slovenčine z Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku. Každú druhú sobotu o 10.00 hod. odtiaľ vysiela naživo pre TV LUX slovenskú omšu, ktorá je otvorená pre širokú verejnosť. Okrem prenosov liturgie ponúka pravidelné zamyslenia biskupov a kňazov. Vladyka Milan Lach SJ sa napríklad vo svojich krátkych videách venuje témam, akými sú hriech, pôst či modlitba. Počas svojho marcového pobytu v USA nahral sériu zamyslení pre LUX New York aj bratislavský pomocný biskup Mons. Jozef Hal'ko. Tvorbu slovenskej katolíckej produkčnej spoločnosti dopĺňa pravidelná utorková relácia "Spojení oceánom" z nového štúdia na Manhattane, ktorá ponúka pôsobivé svedectvá viery. Jedným zo zaujímavých hostí so slovenskými koreňmi bol v minulosti aj prezident Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty Andrew M. Rajec. V neposlednom rade, LUX New York ponúka krátke reportáže zo života slovenských farností a komunít, do ktorých sa aktívne zapájajú aj členovia Jednoty. Viac informácií o projekte ako aj o tom, ako môžete LUX New York podporiť finančne, nájdete na www.luxnewyork.net.

LIVE prenosy sv. omší v slovenčine

Z Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku prinášame priame prenosy nedeľných sv. omší v slovenčine, ktoré môžete sledovať na LUX New York. Každú druhú sobotu o 10.00 hod. EDT vysiela naživo pre TV LUX slovenskú omšu, na ktorú vás srdečne pozývame.

Relácia Spojení oceánom

Každý utorok si tiež môžete pozrieť reláciu Spojení oceánom, v ktorej vám predstavíme zaujímavého hosťa a jeho svedectvo viery. Niektoré časti vysiela od januára tohto roku NAŽIVO priamo z nášho newyorského štúdia na Manhattane. Ak sa chcete dozvedieť, kto bude ďalším hosťom, sledujte nás na Facebooku.

Zamyslenia a povzbudenie

LUX New York pre vás zároveň pripravuje zamyslenia a povzbudenie biskupov a kňazov. Aj naďalej pokračujeme v zamysleniach vladyku Milana Lacha SJ. Jednou z novinek sú aj "Manhattanské zamyslenia" bratislavského pomocného biskupa Mons. Jozefa Hal'ka z New Yorku, ktoré budeme prinášať pravidelne každý štvrtok do polovice júna tohto roku.

LUX New York je slovenská katolícka produkčná spoločnosť so sídlom na Manhattane. Naším hlavným cieľom je prostredníctvom audiovizuálnej tvorby pomáhať Slovákom žijúcim v USA a v Kanade prehlbovať katolícku vieru a tiež navzájom prepájať jednotlivé slovenské farnosti a komunity "za oceánom". LUX New York | 411 East 66th Street, New York

Nová kampaň má prilákať do hlavného mesta viac turistov zo Slovenska pod heslom „Bratislava je aj Tvoje hlavné mesto“

Hlavné mesto chce prilákať na návštevu okrem zahraničných aj viac domácich turistov. Počas aktuálnej letnej sezóny preto spúšťa najväčšiu kampaň zameranú na návštevníkov z ostatných končín Slovenska pod názvom Spoznaj svoje hlavné mesto.

Primátor Bratislavy Ivo Nesrovnal na utorňajšej tlačovej konferencii prízvukoval, že Bratislava sa stále viac a viac stáva atraktívnou destináciou pre zahraničných návštevníkov. Poukázal pritom aj na to, že špecifika metropoly SR pre turistov zvýraznili aj renomované zahraničné prieskumy, ktoré napríklad zaradili Bratislavu medzi najzelenšie mestá sveta, ocenili tiež lesopark či vianočné trhy. „Kým však zahraniční turisti spoznávajú Bratislavu ako moderné mesto s bohatým kultúrnym a historickým potenciálom, ľudia na Slovensku vnímajú Bratislavu stále najmä ako mesto práce a vzdelania. Toto chceme otočiť,“ povedal primátor.

Prostriedkom k tomu má byť nová kampaň, ktorá bude k návšteve motivovať pod heslom Bratislava je aj Tvoje hlavné mesto. „Bratislavu chceme predstaviť ako ideálne miesto pre víkendový pobyt a zábavu s jedinečnou atmosférou, pričom kampaň upozorní na prítlačivosť Bratislavy v oblasti gastronómie, histórie a umenia či korunovačných dejín, ale aj ako miesto kultúrnych podujatí a adrenalínových zážitkov,“ uviedla predsedníčka predstavenstva mestskej organizácie cestovného ruchu Bratislava Tourist Board (BTB) Alžbeta Melicharová. „

K väčšiemu komfortu návštevníkov by mali prispieť aj novinky vo wifí pripojení po meste, ktoré po novom ponúka nielen prístup na internet, ale aj informácie o Bratislave. Pripomenul, že počas letných mesiacov má byť spustený i bikesharing, ktorý umožní pohyb na bicykloch po centre a jeho širšom zázemí.

TASR

Na Slovensko príde tím amerických vojenských expertov

Na Slovensko príde tím amerických vojenských expertov, ktorých úlohou bude zabezpečenie výcviku a poradenstva. S ich prítomnosťou na území SR vyjadrila 23. mája súhlas vláda, ktorá schválila návrh ministra obrany Petra Gajdoša (SNS).

Cieľom pôsobenia Civil Affairs tímu je zvýšenie vzájomnej interoperability, ako aj rozvoj spôsobilosti civilno-vojenskej spolupráce v rámci Ozbrojených síl Slovenskej republiky, informoval vládu Gajdoš. Tím bude pozostávať z maximálne štyroch príslušníkov Ozbrojených síl USA a maximálne dvoch kusov vojenskej techniky.

Tím bude počas svojho pôsobenia dislokovaný v Martine. Pôsobiť tu bude 18 mesiacov s predpokladaným začiatkom 1. júla 2018. Rotácia bude zabezpečená po uplynutí deviatich mesiacov. Náklady spojené s pôsobením tímu hradia Spojené štáty americké.

TASR

Príchod Legendy Lipy do svojho amerického domova

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

krajinu a jej významné výročia, publikujú tento rok tri prelomové knihy, z ktorých každá je iná, ale všetky sa venujú Slovensku.

Prezentácia knihy Slovensko: Legenda Lipy, ich prvého diela, nebola ničím menej ako nádhernou oslavou koreňov slovenskej kultúry a civilizácie. Pri káve a koláčoch sa predstaviteľia Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska spolu s autorkami a farníkmi pustili do skúmania roly, ktorú odohrala lipa v minulosti aj v súčasnosti kresťanského Slovenska. Niekoľkoročný výskum priviedol Zuzanu a Gabrielu k odhaleniu nečakaných súvislostí. Starodávne mýty a historické fakty spriadli do unikátneho a precízneho príbehu lipy a Slovenska, ktorý by nemal chýbať v žiadnej slovenskej domácnosti v Amerike. Viac informácií nájdete na web stránke: www.globalslovakia.com

Kedysi dávno bola lipa posvätným totemom starobylých Slovanov. Po príchode na Veľkú Moravu na túto tradíciu nadviazali Cyril a Metod, ktorí dnešnému Slovensku dali do daru miesto v kresťanskej Európe, ale i prvú slovenskú abecedu a možnosť zapísať sa do histórie svojou vlastnou rečou. V centre diania Európy a Veľkej Moravy v tomto nevyspytateľnom čase nájdeme Lipu. Ako poznamenal kňaz Jozef Krajňak, duša farnosti, bolo to práve pod lipami, kde Cyril a Metod obrátili na kresťanstvo mnohých Veľkomoravanov, aspoň podľa nejednej maľby a reliéfu.

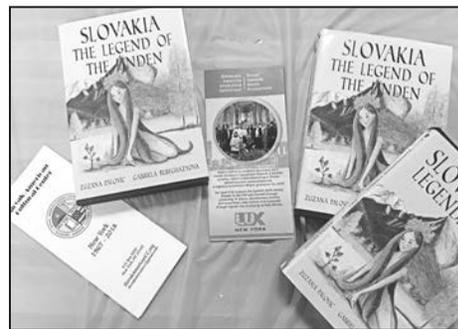
Nikoho teda neprekvapilo, keď autorky Zuzana Palovic a Gabriela Bereghazyova potvrdili, že nové svätostánky skutočne vyrástli v najprv v posvätných lipových hájoch Slovanov. Pri ďalších sa vysadili lipy, aby otvorili Veľkomoravanom srdcia a mysle dokorán. Dodnes mohutné lipy chránia kostoly a kaplnky po celej krajine. Každá jedna je spomienkou na dedičstvo sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Kdekoľvek na Slovensku ste, stačí sa porozhliadnuť. Lipa nikdy nie je ďaleko.

Posolstvo lipy však siaha ešte o čosi hlbšie. Lipa už od čias veľkomoravského úsvitu symbolizovala nežnosť, lásku, mier a starostlivosť, teda vlastnosti, ktorých nositeľkami sú ženy. V pohanskom svete Slovanov bola ich stelesnením Lipa, v kresťanskom kráľovstve túto úlohu prebrala Panna Mária. Nie je náhodou, že práve na Slovensku má jej kult najviac uctievaťel'ov, rovnako ako nie je náhoda, že mierumilovný slovenský národ si za svoj symbol zvolil srdcovitý lipový list stromu pokoja. Bolo tomu tak pred tisíc rokmi a je tomu tak aj teraz.

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko vďačne sponzorovalo návštevu Zuzany a Gabriely v rámci svojej misie zblížovať slovenskú a americkú komunitu. Tak isto členovia Spolku č. 746 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty (IKSJ) boli prítomní na prezentácii knihy, ako aj LUX New York, (slovenská katolícka produkčná spoločnosť) prišla podporiť toto podujatie.

Predstavenie Legendy Lipy v Linden a bezpočetné úsmevy na tvárach zúčastnených vypovedali viac, ako sa zmestí do slov, o oddanosti ich organizácie myšlienke spájania národov.

**Príspevok zaslala Sabina Sabados
Predsedníčka S-AKS a Spolku č.746 IKSJ**



Obálka prezentovanej knihy: Slovakia The Legend of the Linden .



Zľava: Dr. Palovic, Sabina Sabados a Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova.

Letný tábor vo Vysokých Tatrách

Matica slovenská aj v tomto roku pripravila pre naše ratolesti letný tábor vo Vysokých Tatrách.

Využiť môžete týždňový pobyt a to v termíne od **1. - 8. júla** alebo od **8. - 15. júla**. Cena týždňového pobytu je 190.- Eur. V cene je zahrnuté ubytovanie, strava, technické zabezpečenie, kompletný program vrátane vstupov na atrakcie a nákladov na celodenný výlet.

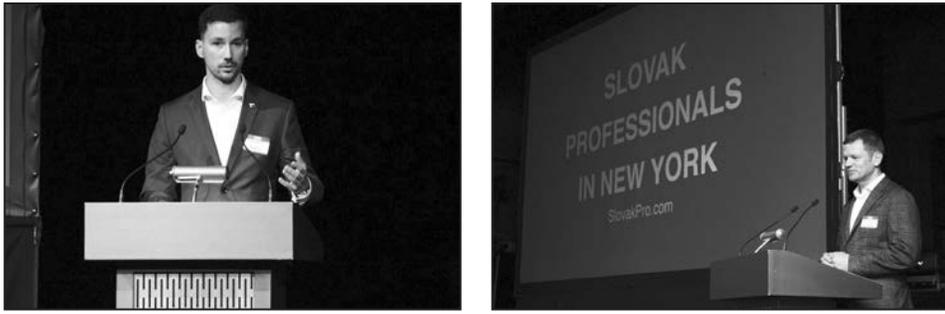
Pod'te s nami zažiť' vzrušujúci týždeň v Tatrách! A čo k tomu potrebujete? Stačí len: vybrať' si termín, ktorý Vám vyhovuje, starostlivo vyplniť' prihlášku a zaslať' nám ju mailom na adresu tabor@matica.sk

Tábor sa už tradične (je to už 27. ročník) koná v Škole v prírode Detský raj v Tatranskej Lesnej, ktorá je momentálne po rekonštrukcii a ponúka nám ubytovanie v 2-3 lôžkových izbách s vlastným sociálnym zariadením, chladničkou a televízorom. Škola v prírode má aj nový wellness s vírivkou a jednou parnou a jednou suchou saunou.

Viac na: www.matica.sk Kontaktné údaje na organizátora: Matica slovenská, P. Mudroňa 1036 01 Martin; Tel: +421 43 3812840, +421 905 275 286 E-mail: tabor@matica.sk

Tešíme sa na stretnutie s Vami!

Slovenská krajanská komunita v USA hovorí o novej etape vzťahov



Slovenská delegácia vedená štátnym tajomníkom Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Lukášom Parížkom sa stretla 2. júna 2018 v New Yorku s mladými Slovákami, ktorí úspešne podnikajú v USA a aktívne budujú krajanskú platformu novej generácie. Na stretnutí predstavili svoje nápady, inovácie a riešenia úspešní podnikatelia v oblasti IT bezpečnosti, marketingu, smart cities riešení a virtuálnej reality.

Networkingové stretnutie v Bohemian National Hall zorganizoval zastupiteľský úrad SR vo Washingtone s krajanskou skupinou The Slovak Professionals in New York. Skupina vznikla v roku 2001, aktívne komunikuje a organizuje stretnutia s cieľom pomáhať členom s profesionálnou kariérou v USA získaním nových kontaktov a zapájaním do spoločenského života. Stretnutia sa zúčastnila takmer stovka profesionálov, pričom cez sociálne siete boli spojené viac ako dve tisíce Slovákov žijúcich v New Yorku a okolí.

„Za ostatné desaťročia sme svedkami úspešných biznis príbehov Slovákov v zahraničí. Všetky svedčia o ich schopnosti, kreativite a sebadôvere,“ uviedol Lukáš Parížek, štátny tajomník MZVaEZ SR. „Slovenskí podnikatelia prinášajú riešenia tretieho tisícročia, ktoré sa úspešne uplatnili na vysoko konkurenčnom americkom trhu. Je to dôkaz, že inovativnosť sa už nespája iba s technológiami. Je o prístupe k životu a k práci – robiť každý deň veci lepšie, byť ohľaduplní k životnému prostrediu a rešpektovať osobnosti.“

Zastupiteľský úrad SR vo Washingtone priebežne komunikuje so slovenskými profesionálmi žijúcimi v USA, aby ich zapojil do aktivít so Slovenskom. Vzniká tak moderná komunikačná platforma s účasťou vedcov, podnikateľov, finančníkov a umelcov na udržiavanie kultúrnej a jazykovej identity krajanov a zároveň generuje potenciál na podporu ekonomického a sociálneho rozvoja Slovenska.

Z iniciatívy veľvyslanca SR v USA Petra Kmeca vznikla v roku 2016 aj Slovak American Business and Innovation Council (SABIC) – platforma súkromného a verejného sektora na



podporu obchodných a investičných bilaterálnych aktivít a rozvoj startupového ekosystému na Slovensku. Ďalšia nezisková organizácia so sídlom v USA, Slovak American Foundation dlhodobo podporuje výmenné vzdelávacie programy, inovácie, startupy a podnikanie v SR.

MZ SR

Veľvyslanectvo USA v SR oslávilo 100. výročie Pittsburskej dohody

Sté výročie podpisu Pittsburskej dohody oslávilo v Bratislave 31. mája Veľvyslanectvo Spojených štátov amerických v SR premiérou krátkeho filmu s názvom História americko-slovenských vzťahov v jednom zrnku.

Hlavnou myšlienkou videa, premietaného na pôde Univerzitnej knižnice v Bratislave, „je povedať príbeh o priateľstve medzi Slovenskom a USA, ktoré viedlo k viacerým kľúčovým momentom v dejinách Slovenska. K nim patrí vznik prvej Československej republiky, ktorého základom bol i podpis Pittsburskej dohody,“ uviedol pre TASR hovorca amerického veľvyslanectva Griffin Rozell.

Doplnil tiež, že trojminútovým videom chcú „nielen oživiť často zabúdanú históriu slovensko-amerického priateľstva, ale zdôrazniť, že puto medzi krajinami stále trvá“.

Premiérou tohto videa americkí diplomati akreditovaní v SR zároveň odštartovali sériu udalostí, ktorými si plánujú pripomenúť výročia vzťahov Slovenska s USA. Jedným z nich bude aj roadshow Amerika na kolesách, v rámci ktorej americkí diplomati plánujú v auguste v karavane navštíviť 26 slovenských miest.

„Zastavíme sa predovšetkým v menších mestách, ako Bytča, Dobšiná či Sabinov. Chceme sa rozprávať s ľuďmi, pýtať sa na ich názor na slovensko-americké vzťahy, na ich očakávania,“ spresnil Rozell. Na stretnutiach s občanmi sa budú premietajú rôzne americké filmy. Jedným z nich bude aj dokumentárny film Free To Rock, ktorý zachytáva, ako sa Rock&Roll počas studenej vojny stal symbolom slobody a ako prispel k jej ukončeniu.

Ďalším podujatím bude aj odovzdávanie vyznamenaní niekdajšieho amerického prezidenta Woodrowa Wilsona. „Ceny dostanú osobnosti, ktoré významne prispeli k budovaniu americko-slovenských vzťahov,“ priblížil Rozell s tým, že výber kandidátov na ocenenia ešte prebieha.

Pittsburská dohoda patrí k základným kameňom vzniku niekdajšieho Československa. Bola to politická dohoda, ktorú 30. mája 1918 v americkom Pittsburghu podpísali zástupcovia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Českého národného združenia a Zväzu českých katolíkov s budúcim československým prezidentom Tomášom Garrigueom Masarykom. Pittsburská dohoda je dokument o súhlase s politickým programom spojenia Čechov a Slovákov v spoločnom štáte. Dohoda schvaľovala spojenie Slovákov a Čechov v samostatnom štáte, v ktorom malo mať Slovensko vlastnú administratívu a snem.

TASR

Sté výročie Pittsburskej dohody si pripomenuli aj v mieste jej podpisu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24



Honorárny konzul SR v Pittsburgu Joe Senko.



Pamätník venovaný Pittsburskej dohode odhalený v októbri 1989.

„Prešli sme obrovský kus cesty. Sto rokov je iba malý úsek v histórii Európy, ale je to o histórii našej štátnosti a vážime si ju. Obzvlášť sme hrdí na ostatných 25 rokov samostatnosti a hospodárskeho rastu,“ dodal štátny tajomník.

Pritomným sa prihovorili aj zástupcovia krajanských komunít, predstaviteľov štátu Pensylvánia i starosta mesta Pittsburgh William Peduto.

Stretnutie organizovali honorárni konzuli Slovenskej a Českej republiky v spolupráci so zastupiteľskými úradmi oboch krajín vo Washingtone a s účasťou slovenskej a českej komunity.

Účastníci slávnostného podujatia si mohli pozrieť originál Pittsburskej dohody a spoločnú reprezentatívnu výstavu WWI Centennial Exhibition, ktorú pripravili Historický ústav Slovenskej akadémie vied a český Vojenský historický ústav.

Slovensko-americká komunita vznikla v procese hromadného vyst'ahovalectva najmä v druhej polovici 19. storočia a v prvej polovici 20. storočia. Podľa výsledkov sčítania obyvateľstva z roku 2010 sa k slovenskému pôvodu hlásilo 560.000 obyvateľov USA, odhad krajanov je 750.000.

V posledných rokoch má odchod mladých Slovákov do USA vzostupnú tendenciu. Sociálna štruktúra migrantov je charakteristická vyšším vzdelaním a tvoria ju najmä mladí ľudia.

Zvyšuje sa počet Slovákov predovšetkým v amerických štátoch Florida a Kalifornia. Mestami s najväčšou koncentráciou Slovákov sú Pittsburgh, Cleveland, New York, New Jersey, Buffalo, Chicago, Miami, Sarasota, Los Angeles a San Francisco.

Pittsburská dohoda patrí k základným kameňom vzniku niekdajšieho Československa. Bola to



Národné hymny Českej a Slovenskej republiky zaspievali deti z Pittsburgu.

politická dohoda, ktorú 30. mája 1918 v americkom Pittsburghu podpísali zástupcovia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Českého národného združenia a Zväzu českých katolíkov s budúcim československým prezidentom Tomášom Garrigueom Masarykom. Pittsburská dohoda je dokument o súhlase s politickým programom spojenia Čechov a Slovákov v spoločnom štáte. Dohoda schvaľovala spojenie Slovákov a Čechov v samostatnom štáte, v ktorom malo mať Slovensko vlastnú administratívu a snem.

TASR

Transatlantické vzťahy prechádzajú svojou najťažšou fázou

Transatlantické vzťahy prechádzajú svojou najťažšou fázou od 90. rokov. Podstatné však je, aby odlišné záujmy USA a Európy nevedli k ohrozeniu vzájomného partnerstva. Po „veľmi obsažnom a dôležitom“ rozhovore s námestníkom amerického rezortu diplomacie pre európske a eurázijské záležitosti Wessom Mitchellom to povedal štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí (MZVaEZ) SR Ivan Korčok.

Podľa Mitchellových slov sú americké kroky, s ktorými Európa nesúhlasí, nutné. Ide napríklad o hroziace clá na dovoz európskej ocele a hliníka do USA, výčitky amerického prezidenta Donalda Trumpa, že niektorí členovia NATO neprispievajú na spoločnú obranu toľko, čo by mali alebo odstúpenie USA od dohody s Iránom. „Ak tieto veci nebudeme riešiť, podkopávame tým dlhodobé zdravie západného spojenectva,“ povedal Mitchell. To je podľa neho v súčasnosti kľúčové.

„To je aj náš postoj k Iránu - stojíme pred veľkou výzvou a nepomáhame si, keď problém nechávame stáť na poličke a neriešime ho,“ vyhlásil americký diplomat. Korčok ohľadom takzvanej jadrovej dohody s Iránom, od ktorej USA odstúpili, zdôraznil, že transatlantické spojenectvo sa musí pohnúť z bodu, keď jedna aj druhá strana opakuje svoje odlišné postoje, a sústrediť sa na to, na čom sa zhodnú. „Spoločný postoj je vo vnímaní aktivít Iránu v regióne Blízkeho východu,“ naznačil Korčok.

Ohľadom výdavkov na obranu Korčok Mitchella ubezpečil, že Slovensko má jednoznačný plán, ako svoje záväzky v NATO naplniť. „Máme záväzok potvrdený Národnou radou SR na postupné zvyšovanie obranných výdavkov. V roku 2020 to bude 1,6 hrubého domáceho produktu,“ povedal s tým, že to Slovensko nerobí len kvôli záväzkom, ale najmä pre svoju bezpečnosť.

Slovenská a americká strana sa zhodli v otázke konfliktu na Ukrajine. Korčok ocenil, že USA prostredníctvom špeciálneho vyslanca Kurta Volkera vstúpili do procesu tamojšieho mierového vyjednávania. „Musíme sa konečne pohnúť, aby sme garantovali stabilitu a územnú celistvosť Ukrajiny,“ vyhlásil Korčok. S tým podľa neho súvisí aj energetická bezpečnosť. „Do tohto kontextu patrí aj postoj k projektu Nord Stream 2, voči ktorému majú SR aj USA zásadné výhrady,“ pripomenul.

Korčok tiež Mitchellovi spomenul prebiehajúce oslavy 100. výročia vzniku spoločného štátu Čechov a Slovákov, ako aj 25. výročie vzniku samostatnej Slovenskej republiky. „Chcem, aby rok 2018 bol rokom intenzívnej výmeny, keď si pripomenieme dôležitú úlohu, akú USA zohrali pri formovaní Československa,“ povedal Korčok, ktorý verí, že sa oslavy prejavia aj na počte návštev amerických predstaviteľov.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník Jednota



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

Ročník 127

STREDA, 20. JÚNA 2018

Číslo 5972

Sté výročie Pittsburskej dohody si pripomenuli aj v mieste jej podpisu

Slávnostné podujatie pri príležitosti stého výročia podpísania Pittsburskej dohody sa za účasti štátneho tajomníka Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Lukáša Parízka konalo 31. mája v americkom Pittsburghu. Informoval o tom riaditeľ kancelárie štátneho tajomníka Ladislav Ballek.

Slávnostné podujatie sa začalo kladením vencov pri pamätnej tabuli k Pittsburskej dohode na prizemí budovy EQT Plaza. Pokračovalo v Senator John Heinz History Center v Pittsburghu.

„Pred sto rokmi sa v tomto meste a možno v podobnom čase stretlo 29 mužov, aby spojili sily a schopnosti v službe nového vznikajúceho štátu. Ich domovina bola vzdialená tisícky míľ, pochádzali z rôznych rodín, ale spájala ich viera v budúcnosť dvoch národov,“ uviedol Parížek.

Pokračovanie na str. 23



FOTO: TERAZ.SK

Česká a slovenská vládna a parlamentná delegácia a hostia pri pamätníku Pittsburskej dohody po položení vencov. Na slávnostnom podujatí v "Senator John Heinz History Center" v Pittsburgu sa zúčastnilo asi 250 hostí.

A delegation of Czech and Slovak government officials placed a wreath at the Pittsburgh Pact Memorial to mark the centennial of this document. A reception for 250 guests followed at the Senator John Heinz History Center.

V Skopje bola vernisáž výstavy fotografií

„Po stopách sv. Cyrila a Metoda“

V priestoroch Národnej a univerzitnej knižnice sv. Klimenta Ochridského v macedónskom Skopje sa 22. mája 2018 uskutočnila vernisáž výstavy fotografií Pavla Demeša pod názvom "Po stopách sv. Cyrila a Metoda". Jej hlavným organizátorom bolo slovenské veľvyslanectvo v Macedónskej republike.

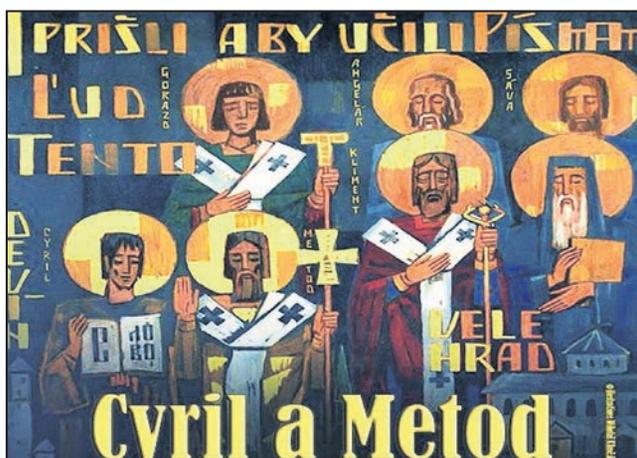
Demešova kolekcia predstavuje fotografické Curriculum vitae slovanských vierozvestcov, ktorých vyhlásil pápež

Ján Pavol II. v decembri 1980 za spolupatrónov Európy. Osobnosti sv. Cyrila a Metoda predstavujú významné historické, náboženské a kultúrne puto medzi Slovenskom a Macedónskom najmä prostredníctvom ich žiakov – sv. Klimenta Ochridského a sv. Nauma, ktorí tu pôsobili.

Výstava je rámcovaná 25. výročím vzniku Slovenskej republiky a Európskym rokom kultúrneho dedičstva. Slávnostne ju otvoril prezident Macedónskej republiky Gorge Ivanov.

Na podujatí sa zúčastnili predstavitelia macedónskej pravoslávnej cirkvi na čele s jej hlavou, vladykom Stefanom, arcibiskupom ochridským a macedónskym, osobnosti spoločenského a kultúrneho života, ako aj veľvyslanci v Macedónskej republike. Hostami boli aj zástupcovia Žilinského samosprávneho kraja na čele s jeho podpredsedom Milanom Laurenčíkom, predstavitelia obce Terchová, v ktorej sa nachádzajú ikony sv. Cyrila a Metoda darované miestnemu kostolu mestom Ochrid.

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Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku pripravilo prezentáciu knihy Slovensko: Legenda Lipy 10. júna 2018 v kostole Svätej Rodiny v Linden New Jersey. Na snímke pózuju autorky knihy Dr. Zuzana Palovic (zľava v prostriedku) a Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova (sprava v prostriedku); predsedníčka S-AKS Sabina Sabados (v prostriedku); gen. tajomníčka SLvA Nina Hola (tretia zľava) ako aj funkcionári S-AKS a členovia Spolku č. 746 IKSJ.

Príchod Legendy Lipy do svojho amerického domova

V nedeľu 10. júna 2018 Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SAKS v New Yorku) s nesmiernou hrdosťou predstavilo slovenskej komunite mesta Linden v New Jersey výnimočnú knihu Slovensko: Legenda Lipy. S otvorenou náručou a úprimnou zvedavosťou ju privítalo slovenské katolícke spoločenstvo v Kostole Svätej Rodiny.

V mene Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska, predsedníčka Sabina Sabados privítala prítomných a predstavila mladé a talentované autorky knihy Dr. Zuzanu Palovicovu a Dr. Gabrielu Bereghazyovu, ktoré prišli zo Slovenska. Málokto vie, že stáročiami, prekážkami a úspechmi našu krajinu odjakživa viedla láskavá lipa. Rok 2018 je výnimočným časom pre Slovensko a ideálnou príležitosťou poohliadnuť sa a zaspomínať si na doby dávne i nedávne. V tomto roku si pripomíname sté výročie podpísania Pittsburskej dohody, ktorá stála na počiatku existencie slobodnej Slovenskej republiky v srdci Európy – Československa. Oslavujeme i 25 narodeniny nezávislého Slovenska.

Tak ako pre Slovensko, i pre autorky a ich neziskovú organizáciu Global Slovakia, predstavuje rok 2018 dôležitý míľnik (www.globalslovakia.com). Aby poctili svoju rodnú

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Obnova Trenčianskeho hradu



FOTO TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Projekt obnovy Trenčianskeho hradu odštartovali slávnostným poklepaním základného kameňa, 5. júna 2018 v Trenčíne. Najväčší tohtoročný investičný projekt obnovy Trenčianskeho hradu prinesie novinku v podobe nového vstupu cez Južné opevnenie (na snímke) od Čerešňového sadu.

The renovation of the Trenčín Castle was begun on June 5, 2018. This is the largest investment project of its kind in Slovakia for 2018.