



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furek
Our Founder

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Remember Your IRA This Tax Season

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

According to a recent reports, nearly half of American families have no retirement account savings at all, while the median savings of those who do is just \$5,000.

If you or someone you know is in this situation, think IRA. Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) were designed for just that purpose – to help Americans save money for retirement. There's still time If you are looking to open an IRA, or add money to your existing account in the 2017 tax year, – but you shouldn't delay. The deadline for filing your 2017 taxes – April 17, 2018 – is right around the corner.

For help deciding which type of IRA is best for you, the chart on page 3, which is from the IRS website, may be helpful. It provides information about the two basic types of IRAs - traditional and Roth IRAs – and highlights some of their similarities and differences.

Before making your final decision, always consult your tax advisor. For guidance on the FCSU annuity products that are IRAs, call the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682 or your local FCSU branch.

Fraternally,



Kenneth Arendt

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Hurry!!!

2018 Jednota Scholarship

EXTENDED Deadline

Is **March 31st**

See page 3 for details

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Slovak 21-24



Spring Arrives March 20, 2018

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings to our Members & Their Families This Spring.

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta.....	Chaplain
Andrew M. Rajec.....	President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.	Vice-President
Kenneth A. Arendt.....	Executive Secretary
George Matta II	Treasurer

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2017 National Coloring Contest Winners, Part I, p12-13



Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 11, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

John 9: 1- 41

There's a temptation to explain why bad things happen to people as being a result of some sin in their lives. To view the bad thing as a punishment from God. This Gospel dispels this belief and teaches us to look at the sufferings of others as some-



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

thing other than punishments. The disciples asks a question that reveals his assumption that the man's blindness was a result of sin; "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" This echoes the belief that Job's friends had who were convinced that he must have done something wrong. I've met numerous people who in the midst of tragedy or sickness wonder what they did that God is punishing them. Jesus response was unexpected, "neither he nor his parents sinned." It should be reassuring to us that God is not sitting on his Heavenly Throne waiting to pounce on sinners with sickness or tragedy. If this were the case all of us would be living miserable lives of sickness for, after all, we are all sinners.

After Jesus makes it clear that is not a punishment from God for our sins, he heals the man who was born blind to the amazement of both his followers and detractors. To the followers this is another sign that they are following the Messiah. There are always those who doubt or refuse to acknowledge God's power even when it is right before them. They try to twist this around and question whether the man truly was blind. When this is quickly rebutted by the testimony of his parents and neighbors, the Pharisees acknowledge that the man was healed, but claim it is not the work of God, but of the devil. This too is without success. The formerly blind man gives his brief testimony, "One thing that I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

Why was it so difficult for the Pharisees to accept the miraculous nature of this healing? For one thing it took place on the Sabbath, and their interpretation of the Sabbath was so restrictive that it bound even the work of God. By healing the blind man on the Sabbath Jesus shows the power of God over human affliction, and the authority of God over misinterpretations of the commandments. All of this was too much for the Pharisees to see and accept. Even today, there are those who don't believe, and fail to see the miracles that take place.

One wonders, who was truly blind – the man who couldn't see or the Pharisees? The man born blind could not see the world around him, but he was able to "see" who Jesus is. He had an interior vision of God's presence and power. The Pharisees were blind to God's presence in Jesus. Unlike the man born blind who desired sight, they did not realize their blindness and so did not seek healing. Throughout the remainder of the Gospel they stumble in their blindness as they continually fail to see that Jesus is indeed Messiah and Lord.

This Gospel calls on us to rejoice with the blind man who recognized Jesus and who was healed, and it challenges us to look within ourselves to see if there is a blindness in our lives that prevents us from seeing the power and presence of God. During Lent let us be mindful of the call we received on Ash Wednesday to fast, pray and repent. In doing this may our eyes be truly open to the beauty of God's work both in Scripture and in the Church.

March 18, 2018

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

Today I focus on the readings for the "B" cycle of the Lectionary; these passages will be read at most Masses throughout our country rather than the optional texts for Masses with catechumens. Before getting to the scriptures however, we note that the period of Passiontide begins today; this is a more immediate time of preparation for Palm Sunday and the remembrance of the Lord's passion during Holy Week. In order to move us into such a spirit of penitential reflection the covering of statues is allowed beginning today, representing a sort of "fasting" for the eyes. Later, this penitential sign of longing for renewal is deepened by the removal of holy water from churches on the days of the Sacred Triduum.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

Turning to the readings, we first behold a beautiful promise made by the Lord through the prophet Jeremiah: "I will place my law within them and write it on their hearts." This promise of a new relationship with God is perceived however as something which lies on the far side of a period of suffering, as witnessed first by Jeremiah: "this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord" (Jer 31:33), and as was made clear in the second reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews: "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered" (Heb 5:8).

Christ's own acceptance of his approaching passion is clear, though colored understandably by human anxiety: "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." His angst over his own suffering is a powerful reminder to us when we are in distress that he has been there before us and knows our pain. We are able to find meaning in suffering, painful as it is, precisely because Jesus preceded us on this hard path, and our suffering is a share in his.

Our participation in his Passion is plainly forecast in the verse that is sung as the acclamation before the gospel reading: "Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be" (John 12:26). Lent and this period of Passiontide are indeed important annual reminders that we all experience a share in Christ's passion in life, though in different circumstances and to differing extents.

The story of course does not end there: Jesus first announces to his followers that the consummate moment of his ministry has arrived: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." He then instructs his disciples that they too must bear their crosses if they are to be faithful to him: "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." Finally he forecasts what will be accomplished through his own passion, giving meaning to ours: "now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

As we enter the days of Passiontide, let us unite ourselves with Christ in his hours of darkness that we might find hope and light through him in our times of suffering. Doing so, we will be true to our Lord's words "Whoever serves me must follow me" and we can rejoice in his promise "The Father will honor whoever serves me" (John 12:23ff).

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, MARCH 21	MONDAY, MAR. 12
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11	MONDAY, APR. 2
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25	MONDAY, APR. 16

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SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 24, 2018



St. Adalbert Church

160 So. 15th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA

10:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Rosary (in Slovak)

11:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA



** SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS **

paska (sweet bread) sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)

- 12 Noon --
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 - * Craft Demonstrations
 - * Cultural Displays
 - * Imported Slovak gifts
 - * Slovak "Auction" /Raffle



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Remember Your IRA This Tax Season

continued from page 1

Traditional & Roth IRAs: A Comparison Chart

Features	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA
Who can contribute?	You can contribute if you (or your spouse if filing jointly) have taxable compensation but not after you are age 70½ or older.	You can contribute at any age if you (or your spouse if filing jointly) have taxable compensation and your modified adjusted gross income is below certain amounts (see 2017 and 2018 limits).
Are my contributions deductible?	You can deduct your contributions if you qualify .	Your contributions aren't deductible.
What is the deadline to make contributions?	Your tax return filing deadline (not including extensions). For example, you can make 2017 IRA contributions until April 17, 2018.	
When can I withdraw money?	You can withdraw money anytime.	
Do I have to take required minimum distributions?	You must start taking distributions by April 1 following the year in which you turn age 70½ and by December 31 of later years.	Not required if you are the original owner.
Are my withdrawals and distributions taxable?	Any deductible contributions and earnings you withdraw or that are distributed from your traditional IRA are taxable. Also, if you are under age 59 ½ you may have to pay an additional 10% tax for early withdrawals unless you qualify for an exception .	None if it's a qualified distribution (or a withdrawal that is a qualified distribution). Otherwise, part of the distribution or withdrawal may be taxable . If you are under age 59 ½, you may also have to pay an additional 10% tax for early withdrawals unless you qualify for an exception .

As posted on www.irs.gov/retirement



Daylight Savings Time Is March 11

Daylight saving time this year begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 11, 2018, which means you'll want to turn clocks forward an hour when you go to bed Saturday night, March 10. The change is automatic for most smartphones, computers, tablets and other digital devices.

Interesting fact: Arizona, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa do not observe daylight saving time.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – March Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Friday, March 30, 2018, in observance of Good Friday.

ATTENTION
COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

Deadline Extended
MARCH 31, 2018

From the desk of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of **\$1000.00**.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of **\$1,250.00** each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of **\$1000.00** each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a **paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy**.

For rules, requirements and applications go to

www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships

or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 2018

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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.*



Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II

For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin • March 2018



Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls ages 4 thru 12 that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

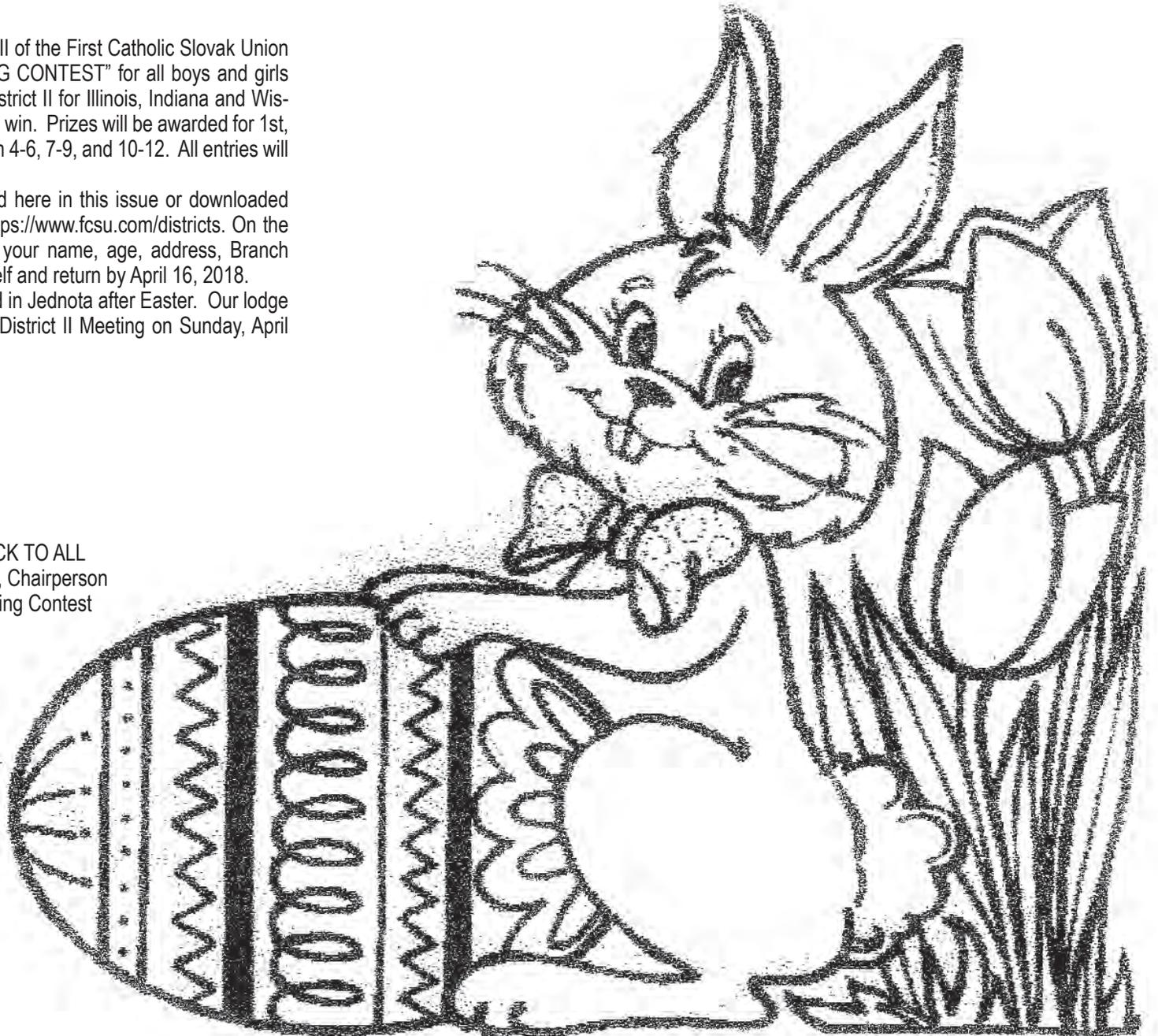
Send in your coloring page – printed here in this issue or downloaded from the FCSU website by going to <https://www.fcsu.com/districts>. On the back side of the picture, please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 16, 2018.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in Jednota after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



EXAMPLES

MALE	FEMALE
NEWBORN –6 months \$5,000 for \$410	NEWBORN \$5,000 for \$345
AGE 5 \$5,000 for \$475	AGE 5 \$5,000 for \$410
AGE 10 \$5,000 for \$565	AGE 10 \$5,000 for \$485
AGE 15 \$5,000 for \$670	AGE 15 \$5,000 for \$570

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Another Successful Sing-A-Long in Mississauga

The annual Sing-A-Long Annual event held in February at SS Cyril & Methodius Church in Mississauga, Ontario is very popular and every year we have more and more people attending from the “young at heart” to the very young. The food is always excellent and the music is too – you simply cannot resist the urge to sing-a-long and dance! A big thank you to the organizers and volunteers, many of whom are members of Branch 785.

Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



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, Jedlička 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.

No Faith In Fear Features Christian Rock from FCSU Member Greg Kester



Artist: Greg Kester
 Album: No Faith In Fear
 Street Date: September 1, 2017
 Style: Alternative Rock
 Official Site: www.gregkester.com
 Buy It: iTunes
 Buy It: AmazonMP3
 Buy It: Bandcamp

“No Faith In Fear carries a strong message with it, most notably in the title track itself. Fear is everywhere in society today, from scary movies and Facebook posts to real life events and tragedies. With the declaration that “We won't put our faith in fear,” Kester aims to encourage listeners to look to Jesus instead of their fears, and charges believers to show the world that we don't have to be afraid of anything if we have the Lord.”

- From Review date: 10/16/17, written by Scott Fryberger of Jesusfreakhideout.com

About the Artist

Greg Kester is a passionate musician, producer, and entrepreneur whose songs help listeners connect the head to the heart. Exploring themes such as guilt, grace, purpose, human longing, and existence, both Kester's lyrics and complex instrumentals strike a deep chord in the lightest and heaviest of hearts. His songs capture an American sound with influences ranging from soul to 90's alternative rock that you can easily listen to all day. Performances can vary from an acoustic songwriter to a full band including a horn and strings section. He often writes and performs with his wife, Tara, who lends harmony and solo vocal talents to much of the live and recorded production. Kester is originally from Bethlehem, PA and now resides in San Diego, CA. Greg is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 173. You can contact the artist at: greg@gregkester.com or visit his website: www.gregkester.com



(L – R) Seated: Maria Jurasi, Branch 45 Secretary; Idka Rajec, Branch 89 Member; Andrew M. Rajec, National President; and Joan Mary Skrkon, District 16 Recording Secretary/Treasurer and Branch 716 Secretary/Treasurer. Standing: Joseph Jurasi, National Supreme Court Member and Branch 45 President; Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, District 16 President and Branch 45 Vice President; Maria Zakovic, Branch 45 Secretary; Anna Korcak, District 16 Vice President and Branch 45 Member; Joseph Korcak, Branch 45 Member; and Daniel Tanzone, Branch 41 Member.

District 16's December Meeting



On Dec 1, 2017, District 16 – the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District - held its last meeting of the year in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon,
District 16 Secretary

Father Baker, pastor of St. John Nepomucene, was one of the attendees at the Dec meeting of District 16 in New York City.

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!

Address Changes?

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



Fr. Ján Ivan Mastiliak (on the right) with Pope Paul VI and Fr. Ján Hirka in Rome. Photo courtesy: Byzantine-Slovak Redemptorists.

New possible Byzantine-Slovak Saint – Fr. Ján Ivan Mastiliak, CSsR (1911-1989)

Daniel Černý

The period of Communist oppression in Central and Eastern Europe was especially hard in the life of the Church. However, after the fall of Communism, the Church in the (then) territory of Slovakia received gifts of new martyrs in the persons of Bishops Pavol Peter Gojdič, OSBM; Bishop Vasiľ Hopko, priest Metod Dominik Trčka, CSsR; priest Titus Zeman, SDB and religious sister Zdenka Schellingová. Another candidate for sainthood from this time is the first Byzantine-Slovak Redemptorist from Slovakia, Fr. Ján Ivan Mastiliak, CSsR.

Fr. Ján was born November 5, 1911 in Nižný Hrabovec (district of Vranov nad Topľou). His father went to work in the USA, where he later died. Thus, Fr. Ján also represents a connection between Slovakia and its diaspora on the other side of the Atlantic ocean. As a young boy in 1922, little Ján was fascinated by the popular missionaries, even conducting a retreat in his home parish and asking to be admitted to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer - the Redemptorists. He was accepted and sent to the Juvenate, where he proved to be gifted with languages, especially Greek, French and German. In 1928 he entered the novitiate of the Redemptorist Fathers and made his profession on August 2, 1929. After studying philosophy and theology he was ordained on August 12, 1934, and then studied in Rome, where in 1941 he defended his Doctoral thesis on Vladimir Solovyov at the Pontifical Oriental Institute.

After his return to Slovakia, he served in Podolíneč. In January 1945 he became the hegumen (superior) of the monastery in Michalovce, and later that year he also served as a professor at the Redemptorist seminary in Obořište. The ruling Communist party, whose goal was to suppress all the religious life in the then Czechoslovakia, chose Fr. Mastiliak to be among a select group of so-called "enemies of the state." He was arrested by the Secret police on March 14, 1950 and was subsequently given a life sentence. While in prison, the regular interrogations he suffered were not often physical but more psychological torture methods such as being deprived of sleep and other sophisticated techniques. The persecution, which followed this special process closed down all the religious life in Czechoslovakia, in one special action of the secret service, codenamed „Aciton K“, when during the night from April 13 to 14, the secret service arrested only in Slovakia some 1180 religious persons, belonging to 76 monasteries of 15 religious orders.

After amnesty, he was released in May 9, 1965, after 15 years in prison. He settled in Prešov, still under surveillance by the Secret Service. From 1968-1981 he was the protohegumenos (vice-provincial superior) of the Byzantine Redemptorist in Czechoslovakia. He was influential in the rebirth of the Greek Catholic (Byzantine Catholic) church in 1968. Among his greatest achievements was the education of religious as well as diocesan priests. In secret, he prepared more than 30 candidates for priesthood, both of Latin and Byzantine rites. He wrote many articles and did several translations of religious books into the Slovak language. Many of these almost 100 titles circulated in the underground church called "samizdats" – published in secret, without the knowledge of the official state authorities. He served as spiritual father to both religious and to laity. He barely spoke about himself, and when he talked it was to encourage his many visitors. He is remembered as pious, humble, and a very intellectual and spiritual priest. He died on September 18, 1989 and is buried in Michalovce.

Among the many quotations he often cited were the following beautiful sayings: "Very important are prayer and self-restraint. These are the two wings of a spiritual life (plane), its engine is the love." And „ Do not read good books! Only the excellent ones. In life there is not enough time for good books."

On January 31, 2015, the first phase of his beatification process was opened in Prešov. Fr. Daniel Atanáz Mandzák, CSsR was appointed as the vice-postulator of this case. A Slovak web page about Fr. Mastiliak was launched and could be found on: www.otecivan.sk

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 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.

A New Slovak School for Children in Pittsburgh

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

A new Slovak School for children is now being conducted in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Unlike many other language classes which are for adults, this one specifically aims to teach children the language when they are at an impressionable age with the aim of helping them become bilingual. Children of ages 6 months to 18 years old may register for classes.

Beginnings

The Slovak School started in 2017 as part of the Český Svět (Czech World), which was established in 2015. Alice Ždrále and Petra Viragová organized the Czech School with the assistance of the Czech Honorary Consul Carol Hochman as part of the Friends of Via, a nonprofit organization registered in Pennsylvania.

The Czech School had already enjoyed two years of success in teaching Czech to young children. In the spring of 2017, a survey was sent out to gauge the interest for such a course for Slovak children, and the response was positive. Thus Slovak classes started in the Fall 2017 and continue each Saturday from 10am-12 noon during the school year.

Recent immigrants from the Czech Republic and Slovakia serve as volunteer teachers for the school. They have superb educational credentials and are well-versed in teaching methods for young children. Most are mothers themselves.

My daughter told me that one of the reasons they founded the school was that when they returned on visits to their former homeland, their own children could not speak the native language with grandparents and relatives.

At present, all the students are younger, ranging in age from about 6 months to 12 years old. The Czech School of Pittsburgh teaches the children to speak, sing, read, write and think in Czech and in Slovak. The teachers aim not only to teach the Czech and Slovak languages, but also help children learn about Czech and Slovak culture, history and geography. They teach using music, recitation, and art projects, as well as printed materials. The teachers also design interactive and entertaining activities for each class. Since the Czech group is larger, it has two age groups, whereas the smaller and newer Slovak class has just one for now.

The parents regularly receive information about what goes on in class and the website mentioned later in the article also shows photos and videos from the school.

In addition to conducting classes, the Czech School of Pittsburgh organizes about four social events each year that incorporate the exploration of Slovak and Czech traditions. For instance, the School sponsored a picnic in October, a Christmas party complete with St. Nick, the devil, and an angel, and a February Fašiangy/Másopust celebration (Carnival - Mardi Gras). These events are open to students, parents and other members and affiliates of the Czech and Slovak community in Pittsburgh.

The Czech School of Pittsburgh continues to work closely with the representatives and affiliates of the Czech Meet up group in Pittsburgh and the Czechoslovak Nationality Room, as well as with the Honorary Czech Consul Carol Hochman.

The Teachers (učitelky)

Alice Ždrále serves as head of the school. A native of Prague, she has lived in Pittsburgh with her husband since emigrating in 2008, and the couple has two sons. She studied International Relations and Diplomacy in the USA and earned a Master's Degree in the Department of Public Policy and Management at the University of Pittsburgh. After working for the university for several years, she now raises her children at home.

The co-founder of the school, Petra Viragová, is also a native of the Czech Republic. After completing studies at the Czech Technical University (ČVUT) in Prague, she went on maternity leave and worked as coach of children's gymnastics, and later as a swimming instructor. She moved to the USA with her husband and three children in 2002. Always interested in children, she worked as a teacher for ABC Day Care from 2006 to 2014, and then at Sunrise School.

The other Czech teacher volunteer is Jitka Benedíková. Originally from Vnorovy, a small town in southern Moravia, she is a graduate of the Institute of Chemical Technology, she worked as a research assistant in San Diego before coming to Pittsburgh with her family. She has a keen interest in teaching children to understand and appreciate the Czech language and its culture.

The instructor for the Slovak schools is Katarina Vitalis (Vitalisová). A native of Bratislava, she immigrated to Pittsburgh in April 2015. She is a graduate of the University of Vienna, Austria, and before coming to the USA, she worked in Prague for ten years. She currently has a son Grey (Kuki) about two years old who also attends the Slovak class, and has a future attendee, a newborn daughter, Emilia. She very much enjoys teaching and helping the children to have fun while they learn.

Assisting her is Erika Moravčíková, who hails from a bilingual family from southern Slovakia. She has a degree in biochemistry and took education courses in college. She has taught her specialty in high school and also lectured at a university. She very much enjoys experiencing new cultures and has lived in four countries. She always has a smile on her face, and is thrilled to work with the children.

The Czech and Slovak Schools are fortunate to have a well-rounded group of dedicated volunteers who devoted their Saturday mornings to help teach children the languages and cultures of their ancestry.

Contact Information

Český Svět (Czech World) features a website at this internet address and has an English tab for those less familiar with Czech or Slovak. <http://www.czechschoolofpittsburgh.com>. It features information about the aims of the school, events, and an online application form.

For the most updated information about classes each week and what was covered, one



The Slovak School in Pittsburgh, PA, started in 2017.

may follow news on its Český Svět (Czech World) Facebook site. One has to register to be accepted in the group: http://www.czechschoolofpittsburgh.com/online_prihlaska.html

Český Svět - Czech School of Pittsburgh (Czech and Slovak Education) - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Český-Svět-Czech-School-of-Pittsburgh/1108434919210304> or https://www.facebook.com/groups/czechschoolofpittsburgh/?multi_permalink=198077359557708%2C1980773385577029¬if_id=1518555226811410¬if_t=group_activity&ref=notif

Occasional posts about the school are also at this site, which has more in English:

Slováci v Pittsburghu, Slovaks in Pittsburgh - <https://tinyurl.com/yasum9nt>

The school e-mail address is: CeskySvet@czechschoolofpittsburgh.com.

Class Schedule and Location

The Czech and Slovak classes are conducted Saturdays from 10:00am -12:15pm at the Wightman School Community building, a former school that was converted to a community center in the Shadyside area of Pittsburgh. The address is:

5604 Solway Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15217-1264.

The schedule for classes for the 2017-18 academic year are as follow:

Fall semester: September 16, 2017 – December 16, 2017

Spring semester: January 6, 2018 - April 28, 2018

Tuition for each semester

- \$80 for children 6mo-5 years

- \$100 for children 6-18 years.

Tuition Payment

Please make checks payable to Friends of Via.

Once children are enrolled, you may pay at the class, or mail a check to the following address: Friends of Via

P.O. Box 82556

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

The school welcomes all children to learn Slovak or Czech!

The Slovak and Czech offer a unique opportunity for children in the Pittsburgh area to learn the languages. Take advantage of it.

Conclusion

Here is a brief excerpt which I recorded from a Slovak class and uploaded on YouTube from a children's nursery rhyme (riekanka pre deti), "Čížiček, čížiček," which the children sing and do motions with. A čížik or čížiček is a little bird called a siskin or a finch in English.

The text and my translation are below. The verses have the same words, except the children change one word and perform an action to symbolize what is happening. The rhyme is fun and reinforces certain words and phrases in Slovak.

Čížiček, čížiček, vtáčik maličký - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCcOdPalFso>

1. Čížiček, čížiček, vtáčik maličký, povedz mi čížiček, ako sejú mak? Aj tak, tak, sejú mak, aj tak, tak, sejú mak.

Siskin, siskin, little bird. Tell me, siskin, how do they sow poppy seed? And so, so, they do it like this, Hey like this, they sow poppy seed like this.

2. ...rastie... how does poppy seed grow?

3. ...kvitne... how does poppy seed blossom?

4. ...plejú... how do they weed poppy seed?

5. ...zreje... how does poppy seed ripen?

6. ...lámu... how do they crush poppy seed?

7. ...jedia... how do they eat poppy seed?

The song and the Slovak words may also be found on this website: <http://www.hudbaonline.sk/2015/03/slovenske-ludove-piesne-cizicek-cizicek.html>

If one wishes a more official version that is edited and has the Slovak words, see:

Čížiček, čížiček: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPNd54bjyVM>

A cartoon version that is amusing is found at this site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJpg5Lbf99Q>

I find that adults can learn a great deal from these videos as well!

Slovak Boys Band Toured Europe on Eve of War



Doug Ross

Porter/LaPorte Editor

© Northwest Indiana Times

In 1937, Europe was on the verge of World War II.

It was a dangerous time for a 15-year-old Jewish boy from Whiting to tour the continent, but David Kaplan is glad he went.

"For boys who had not had a lot of the finer things in life, because after all this was still a Depression time," the trip was "a wonderful adventure," Kaplan said.

Kaplan, 94, of St. Augustine, Florida, is perhaps the last surviving member of Father John Lach's Slovak Symphonic Band from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Whiting. The two band members younger than him have since died.

All across Europe, audiences thrilled to the American marches, Kaplan said. The all-boys band played up to seven encores at each concert.

"I think everybody's favorite ended up being the 'Stars and Stripes Forever,'" Kaplan said.

"The European audiences, they went crazy for that. A lot of times we had to play it twice. They wouldn't stop. They kept pounding and applauding."

Kaplan played oboe and English horn.

Tanya Lesinsky Carey, whose father, Adam Lesinsky, was band director, edited the book about that troop. Carey was born two years after her parents returned.

She drew heavily on her father's diary, as well as that of band member Harold Kosanke, and her mother's unfinished manuscript. The result is "Father Lach's Slovak Boys Band: 1937 European tour."

Preparing for the trip

The band sailed for Europe on June 19, 1937, but preparations began long before.

Father Lach raised money for the boys and their chaperones for the tour, not an easy task during the Great Depression. The cost was estimated at \$35,000, or \$592,090 in today's dollars.

"If you'd have asked us a year before we went, we would have all said no, we were just doing it because we liked to play," Kaplan said.

Father Lach appealed for donations from Slovaks in the United States through the Slovak newspaper Father Lach owned.

"What did people do in those days? They had raffles," Carey said. The woman who sold the most tickets would be named queen and get to accompany the band.

So accompanying the 70 boys, ages 12 to 22, were Father Lach, Lesinsky and his wife, May, and Carey's 6-year-old sister, along with nurse Anne Luptak and the queen, Elizabeth Hancar, of Bentleyville, Pennsylvania.

The European concerts were on a 60/40 basis, with the band gaining 60 percent of the proceeds and the sponsor the remaining 40.

Each band member also had to chip in \$50 — \$845.84 in 2017 dollars — toward the trip. That was difficult for Kaplan's father, a carpenter who had trouble finding work during the Depression.

"I think I had one pair of pants and a couple of shirts. That was my wardrobe, because we just couldn't afford any more," Kaplan said.

The journey begins

Kaplan counts himself as lucky for being one of the few boys who didn't get seasick.

"Father went first class, but the band went third class," Kaplan said. The cabin he shared with five other boys was near the bow of the Ile de France, a French ocean liner.

"All running through this is the unrest at Europe that happened at that time," Carey said. "They got it at borders, they got it in towns."

Border crossings often proved burdensome.

"Some places, they wanted to open every suitcase and every band instrument," Kaplan said.

The band had scheduled concerts and would often have to cross national borders to get to their next location in time.

NBC was offering advice to Father Lach about conditions in Europe at the time, "advising where they could or couldn't go."

The rest of the German trip was canceled after two concerts because of concerns about Kaplan and the other two Jewish boys in the band.

"Germany was being so miserable to the Jewish people," said Kaplan, who later became an architect. "This was in 1937. The war started in 1939. I mean, bullets were flying."

Memories lingering

One memory Kaplan said he will never forget is when the buses stopped above the snow line in the Alps and the group had a snowball fight. "That was fun," he said.

But he also remembers when the ships' crews "realized that this was not just some ragtag bunch of kids, but these kids could really play," Kaplan said. The band gave a concert during the farewell dinner for the first class passengers. Kaplan and the other younger kids went to bed afterward, but the older boys were allowed to stay and dance.

The final concert from that tour was Sept. 5, 1937, at Wicker Park in Highland, where more than 2,000 people welcomed the band back home, according to a short history by Anthony Borgo of the Whiting Public Library.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, which sent the boys, is expected to be razed this year, but Carey is trying to make sure her father's musical legacy there won't be lost in the rubble.

Lesinsky was a renowned musician and educator.

He was bandmaster in John Philip Sousa's Great Lakes D Band during World War I. Along with Joseph E. Maddy, he organized the National School Orchestra Association in 1929, and he was among the first instructors at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan.

But it was his Slovak boys band trip to Europe in 1937, shortly before World War II broke out, that his daughter has immortalized.

"It was an experience that I have remembered my whole lifetime," Kaplan said.

Reprinted in Jednota with permission from The Times of Northwest Indiana. To view the original story online go to nwi.com.

To purchase the book Father Lach's Slovak Boys Band, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7ljmsou>



Branch 670 Scholarships Available



Branch 670 of Donora, PA, is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2018 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to three, one time \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high

school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)

**ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED
BY MARCH 15, 2018**

- Submitted by Joseph Matinko, Branch 670 President and Financial Secretary



The Slovakia Heritage Tour is Taking Off in 2018: Sign Up Today

Celebrate the fall harvest and the beautiful culture, history and countryside of Slovakia, up close and personal, on the 2018 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 7-16, we'll explore age-old cities, medieval towns and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, the Tatry mountains and picturesque villages. We'll join in a few of the festivals that bring alive Slovakia's long music, craft and wine traditions. Optional genealogical research, and ancestral village and family visits available. For more information: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Albín	2 Anežka	3 Bohumil Bohumila	4 Kazimír
5 Fridrich	6 Radislav	7 Tomáš	8 Alan Alana	9 Františka	10 Branislav Bruno	11 Angela Angelika
12 Gregor	13 Vlastimil	14 Matilda	15 Svetlana	16 Boleslav	17 Lubica	18 Eduard
19 Jozef	20 Vítavoslav	21 Blahoslav	22 Benadik	23 Adrián	24 Gabriel	25 Marián
26 Emanuel	27 Alena	28 Sona	29 Miroslav	30 Vieroslava	31 Benjamín	

People in Slovakia celebrate twice a year: once on their birthday and another on their name-day (meniny in Slovak). If your name is one commonly used in Slovakia, you may also have a name day.

In the official Slovak calendar, each day of the year has been assigned a name. Name days are similar to birthdays, but gen-

erally considered to be less important. However, in Slovakia, there are always more people who know your name day than those who remember your birthday.

The above are the name days for March. Do you see yours?
From information posted on www.slovakrepublic.org

Become a Contestant in the 2018 Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant

The Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant searches for young woman who love their heritage and want to promote the Czech and Slovak culture across the US. In reward for contestants' passion and time, the pageant awards over \$10,000 in cash scholarships.

Contestants must be between the ages of 16-26, single and unwed female and of Czech, Moravian, Slovak, Rusyn or Silesian descent. Contestants must compete in all four competition categories. Contestants must be present for all three days of competition and comply with the official rules and regulations.

The Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant is held the first weekend in August in Wilber, NE. At-large contestants must be approved by May 1 and all final pageant entries are due by June 1.

Throughout the national pageant over 25 year history, we have proudly awarded scholarships to help support and preserve our Czech and Slovak culture. We shape the future through our passion and personality. Our national queens have continued on to have successful careers in the medical field, modeling, and social services to mention just a few.

If you are interested in competing in the only national Czech and Slovak pageant where an ethnic costume (kroj) is a must and personality reigns supreme please contact Alexandria Cerveny, Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant Director:

Email: missczechslovakus@gmail.com
Phone: (402) 631-9517
Mail:
Alexandria Cerveny
Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant Director
5610 N. 18th Street
Lincoln, NE 68521

Scenes from Branch 716's Christmas Eve Dinner in St. John Nepomucene in New York City this December



Branch 716 Members with President Jan Skrkon (standing) waiting for dinner



(L - R) Eva Lysakova, Henrietta Daitova and Joan Skrkon



Photos courtesy of Joan Skrkon and Eva Lysakova



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, and 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>

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

Scholarships Available Through United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH, announces 2018 scholarship availability to graduating high school seniors who are entering college and are five-year members of our local lodges that include: First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 228; National Slovak Society Assembly 160; Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111; First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch #114; and Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union #77.

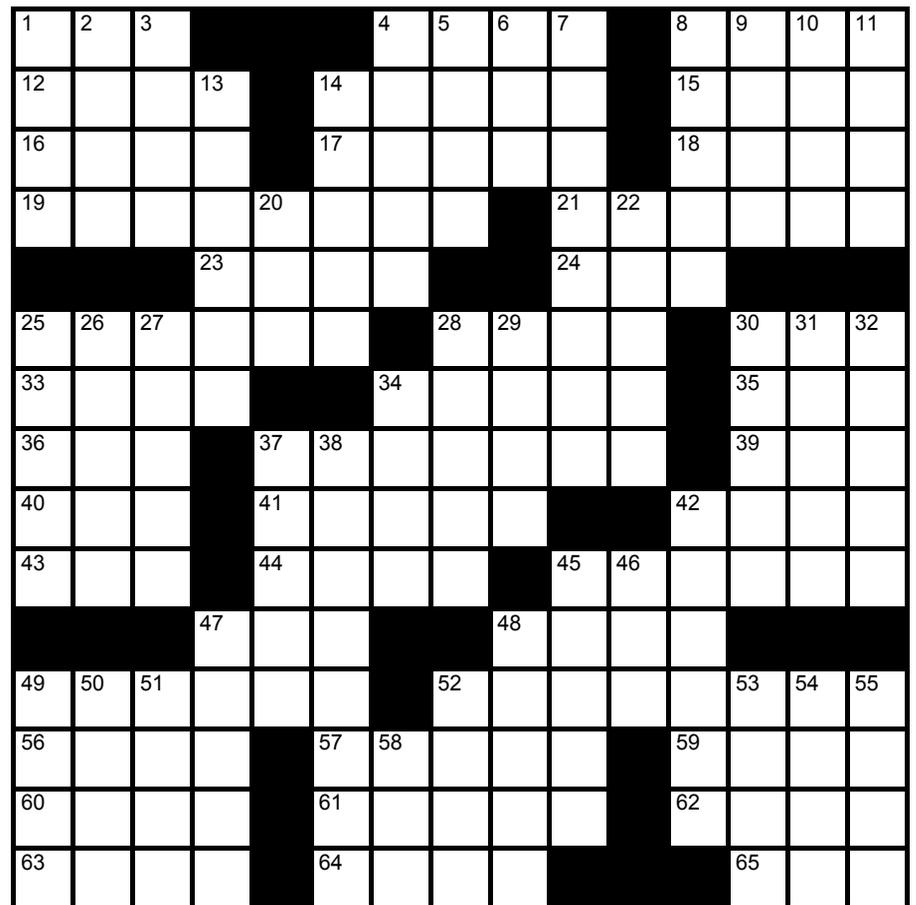


The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting www.americanslovakclub.com.

Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Final (Abbr.)
- 4 Disease cause
- 8 Sums (Abbr.)
- 12 Printer's amount
- 14 Creepy
- 15 Chess piece
- 16 Hindu wrap
- 17 It's a gas
- 18 Hideous
- 19 Clapping
- 21 Steamed Mexican dish
- 23 Mosaic piece
- 24 Rascal
- 25 Frolic
- 28 Biblical pronoun
- 30 Rx approver
- 33 Prayer's end
- 34 Zoo inhabitants
- 35 Fleur-de-___
- 36 Golden, in France
- 37 Catch sight of
- 39 Poison ___
- 40 Carpet
- 41 New money on the Continent
- 42 Corn cake
- 43 Before, in verse
- 44 Headliner
- 45 Annoyed the eardrums
- 47 Baseball bat wood
- 48 Winter wear
- 49 Move with stealth
- 52 Wallaby kin
- 56 Mix
- 57 Washer cycle
- 59 Gold medalist Lipinski
- 60 Property claim
- 61 Vote to accept
- 62 Peepers

- 63 Challenge
- 64 Pinches
- 65 Drunkard

Down

- 1 ___ Major
- 2 Vault
- 3 Waterproof cover
- 4 Honkers
- 5 Donegal Bay feeder
- 6 Popular vacation spot
- 7 References
- 8 The Donald
- 9 Forum wear
- 10 Hang out
- 11 Hebrides isle
- 13 English poet John ___
- 14 Rejoice
- 20 It's mostly nitrogen
- 22 Entertain
- 25 Inner circle
- 26 French romance
- 27 Brink
- 28 Indonesian island
- 29 Brewers' needs
- 30 Elevator stop
- 31 Cheers role
- 32 Appealed
- 34 Turkish money
- 37 Painting surface
- 38 Church group
- 42 Gourmet's sense
- 45 Lisa of *The Cosby Show*
- 46 Record keeper
- 47 Do penance
- 48 Stinging insects
- 49 Tattled
- 50 Hip bones
- 51 Dock
- 52 Door feature
- 53 Tanners catch them
- 54 Creme cookie
- 55 Brewer's kiln
- 58 Gilbert & Sullivan princess

SLOVAK RADIO CULTURAL & SOCIAL CLUB FUNDRAISER

WHEN: SATURDAY: APRIL 28, 2018
WHERE: PARMA TAVERN
5680 BROADVIEW RD.
PARMA, OH
TIME: 6:00P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

ADMISSION IS BY TICKET ONLY
TICKETS ARE \$25.00 PER PERSON
Look for more details in the next Jednota!

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
March 21	March 12
April 11	April 2
April 25	April 16
May 9	April 30
June 6	May 29 (to accommodate Memorial Holiday)
June 20	June 11
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 20

2017 JEDNOTA COLORING

REGION 1

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Shea Griffis
Land O'Lakes, FL

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Ashton Lewis
Perth Amboy, NJ



Second Place
Nicholas DeSopo
Passaic, NJ

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Violet McNamara
Point Pleasant, NJ



Second Place
Owen White
Perth Amboy, NJ



Third Place
Luke Griffis
Land O'Lakes, FL

REGION 2

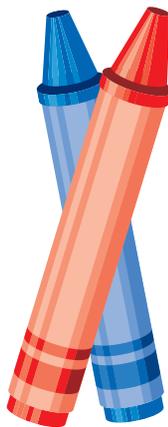
Age Group 4-6



First Place
Olive Keller
Pacifica, CA



Second Place
Stella Herman
Bel Air, MD



REGION 3

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Paige Keiser
Cary, NC



Second Place
Zack Keiser
Cary, NC



Age Group 7-9



First Place
Matthew Pafford
North Royalton, OH



Second Place
Noah Hummel
Plains, PA



Third Place
Bridget Fay
Nicholson, PA

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Maya Pluto
Elgin, IL



Second Place
Elizabeth Pittsman
Mayfield, PA



Third Place
Danica Sudo
Pittston, PA

REGION 4

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Asher Noone
Circleville, OH



Second Place
Symeon Kardohely
Clearfield, PA



Third Place
Mason Dlugos
Latrobe, PA

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Zachary Rozzell
Uniontown, PA



Second Place
Abigail Dlugos
Greensburg, PA



Third Place
Jacob Owens
Fairview, PA



CONTEST RESULTS, PART I

REGION 4

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Chiara Mongelluzzo
Greensburg, PA



Second Place
Lizzie Dlugos
Greensburg, PA



Third Place
Laura Kutschke
Eighty Four, PA

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Zachary Skoloda
Latrobe, PA



Second Place
Cara Zelman
Woodbridge, VA



Third Place
Allyson Perry
Bethel Park, PA

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Morgan Skoloda
Latrobe, PA



Second Place
Sophia Gearhart
Warren, OH



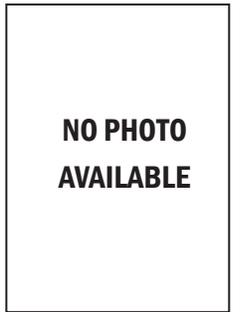
..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Josiah Meinert
Buford, GA



Second Place
Janelle Meinert
Buford, GA



Third Place
Alaina Okunewick
Cheswick, PA

REGION 6

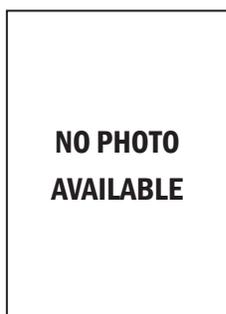
..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Ethan Argoso
Lakewood, OH



Second Place
Katherine Walko
Poland, OH



Third Place
Valerie Kandra
Aurora, OH

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Artem Fedoriouk
Seven Hills, OH



Second Place
John Valencik
Brooklyn, OH



Third Place
Jocelyn Misanko
Akron, OH

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Joseph Valencik
Brooklyn, OH



Second Place
Jack Wascovich
Waxhaw, NC



Third Place
Allison Gizewicz
St. Charles, IL

Congratulations to all our Coloring Contest Winners, including those to be published in Part II in the next (March 21st) issue.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph's Society, Branch 1, will have their election of delegates for the 51st National Convention of the FCSU at the meeting of March 14, 2018. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. If you have any questions, please call 216.228.8179. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michaels Branch 2 will hold a meeting for the delegates going to the convention in August to discuss bylaws and convention business. The meeting will be held at Kretzlers on Wednesday April 11 at 7pm. Please RSVP to Joanne 412-715 5577.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 11:00AM at the home of our President Delores J. Denosky, 1001 42 1/2 Avenue, NE, Columbia Heights, MN. We will elect a delegate and an alternate to the 2018 National Convention of the FCSU; other items on the agenda will include our family picnic in August, a merger, and the date of our annual meeting.

James T. Genosky, Financial 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, April 8, 2018 at 9:00 A. M. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin St. Houtzdale, PA. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak President

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold a special meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at the home of Jacqueline Zack, 15 Brookhedge Road, Trumbull, CT, at 10:00AM. At this meeting we will have election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. All interested members should attend, and all members are welcome.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 of Johnstown PA, St. Joseph Society, will be having our 1st. Annual Meeting of 2018, on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 1 PM. The meeting will be held at Dennys Family Restaurant, Johnstown PA. Near Walmart in Richland on Theatre Drive.

All members of Branch 23 are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be discussing future activities of the Branch, and also the election of delegates to the National Convention. Hope all of our Members have a blessed Year.

Please come join us!

If you have any questions please call Theresa at 814-254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 38 - WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold a special meeting on Monday, March 19, 2018, at 7:00 pm at 3409 Eisenhower Drive, White Oak, PA 15131. The agenda will include election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend, and all visitors are welcome.

If anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

**Logan Haselhoff, President
Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 12:00 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. The agenda will include election of delegates to the 51st Convention in Cleveland, OH. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society Branch 85K will hold its

semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411 on Church St., Jessup, PA. Election of delegates to the upcoming FCSU Convention in Cleveland this Aug will be held at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Stella Skovira, Secretary

BRANCH 136K - NUREMBERG, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 136K Nuremberg, PA and Branch 112K Mahanoy City, PA. All members of Branch 136K will now hold membership in Branch 112K.

This merger has taken place as of January 30, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

**KAREN M STERLING
384 BEACON CIRCLE
BOALSBURG, PA 16827
(570) 640-1796**

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will have its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, April 7, 2018. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence Avenue, Harwood Heights, IL. Delegates to the convention will be elected at this meeting. A complimentary fraternal luncheon will follow.

Please call Dorothy 773 763 0810 if you have any questions.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 156K - BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 156K Bethlehem, PA and Branch 157K Catasawqua, PA. All members of Branch 156K will now hold membership in Branch 157K.

This merger has taken place as of January 29, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

**GREGORY M HAKAKAL
1521 FERNWOOD RD
SLATINGTON, PA 18080-1118
(484) 908-9200**

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Any further news regarding the 51st International Convention in Cleveland, OH, also will be discussed. The annual report to the Home Office will be read by Secretary Dolores Marmol, and Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of activities from the Home Office.

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the brunch meeting. Call for reservations by March 5, 2018, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 8, 2018, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of Branch business and the election of delegates to represent the Branch at the 51st International Convention of the FCSU in Cleveland, Ohio, held August 4 - 8, 2018. All members are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-372-8075 by April 5, 2018, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 175K - READING, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 175K Reading, PA and Branch 157K Catasawqua, PA.

All members of Branch 175K will now hold membership in Branch 157K.

This merger has taken place as of February 20, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

**GREGORY M HAKAKAL
1521 FERNWOOD RD
SLATINGTON, PA 18080-1118
(484) 908-9200**

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to a meeting at Applebee's Restaurant, Route 30, Greensburg, PA on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6:00pm. We extend a special warm welcome to all members of the former Branch 211 of Latrobe.

The agenda will include planning for the family picnic in June and the FCSU Convention in August. Picnic workers and convention delegates are encouraged to attend.

For more information or directions, contact Vicki Hricik at 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 189P - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 189P Pittsburgh, PA and Branch 002K Pittsburgh, PA. All members of Branch 189P will now hold membership in Branch 002K.

This merger has taken place as of January 31, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

**MICHAEL EUGENE LAKO
1 GAMBLE DR
PITTSBURGH, PA 15212-1011
(412) 766-3222**

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive 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 2018 is as follows: Apr. 5th, May 3rd, 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 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. 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 election meeting is December 17, 2018. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This past December, incumbent officers President Leonard Zilko, Vice-President Luis Palos, Financial Secretary Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary Thomas Zuffa were re-elected to their respective offices. Luis Palos and Lisa Trifiletti-Palos were re-elected to a 3 year

term on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors representing our local Branch 228.

The election of delegates and alternate delegates to the 2018 FCSU National Convention was also held at our December 2017 meeting. I am very happy to announce that 25% of our elected delegate and alternate delegates are from our younger member generations. Their participation and increased involvement in the FCSU will help solidify and prolong the strength and growth of our organization as an ongoing concern.

The cold and snow of this winter will eventually pass. As the weather warms up, so will the preparation activities for the Convention. 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 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

The branch will hold a special meeting for election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention of the FCSU on Sunday, April, 8, 2018, at 1:00PM at Bedford Trails Restaurant, Coitsville, OH.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 270K - SLATINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 270K Slatington, PA and Branch 157K Catasawqua, PA. All members of Branch 270K will now hold membership in Branch 157K. This merger has taken place as of January 30, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

**GREGORY M HAKAKAL
1521 FERNWOOD RD
SLATINGTON, PA 18080-1118
(484) 908-9200**

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold their next meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 1:00PM at St. Patrick's Church Hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. On the agenda will be a discussion of the upcoming National Convention in Cleveland, OH, this August. We welcome new members and would like to see them at this meeting.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

Branch 290, St. John the Baptist, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, to discuss general branch business and prepare for the upcoming National Convention of the FCSU this August. For the location of the meeting to be held by Joseph Minarovich, please call (732) 469-5256. Thank you.

Joseph Minarovich, President

BRANCH 293 - LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

On Friday, March 12, 2018, St. Joseph Society Branch 293KJ will hold a special meeting for the election of delegates to the FCSU's 51st International Convention in Cleveland, OH, this August. The meeting will take place at the home of the financial secretary at 6PM: Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232-2210.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Branch 313, St. John the Baptist, will be holding a Semi-Annual meeting on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 11:30 am. The meeting will be at Southfork Restaurant, located at 14631 South LaGrange Road, Orland Park IL. Branch members are welcome to attend. This meeting will include the electing and voting of Delegates to represent our Branch at the 51st Convention, for The First Catholic Slovak Union. The meeting will be followed by a complimentary fraternal luncheon. For further information, please contact Marge at 708 226 8157.

Marge Dickinson, President

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018. We will elect the district's Convention Delegate and alternate delegate. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

Sincerely,

Robert Ľapák Magruder, Recording Secretary

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

The George Onda District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 6:30PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Route 30, Greensburg, PA. On the agenda will be the upcoming National Convention, our past very successful Stedry Vecer and news from our branches. We look forward to a great turnout.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT – NEW JERSEY

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District will be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 3:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Luciano's Restaurant, 1579 Main Street, Rahway, NJ. Please note that parking behind the restaurant is limited – there is some street parking, and valet parking is available as well. Convention delegate (and alternate) for the August 2018 Convention will be elected at this meeting. Dinner will be served (\$30.00 for non-members) at the conclusion of the meeting. Kindly RSVP to Joanne Tkach-Polt @ 732-762-3148 by March 11th if you plan on attending. Please bring non-perishable food items for donation to a local food pantry.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at Roma's Back Door located at 200 East Comstock St., Owosso, MI 48867.

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. A buffet lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports and New Business.

Branch 721 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (PHONE NUMBER) 248-714-9620 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 13th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$15.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

****Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

**Dianna Rimarcik, Secretary, 4945 Wavewood Dr.
Commerce twp., MI 48382
248-714-9620**

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 35 will host the next district meeting on Sunday, April 8, 2018, at 1 PM. The meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 529 Grant Avenue Extension in West Mifflin. We will discuss social and business activities for 2018. Matters concerning the upcoming national convention will also be on the agenda. Expect announcements concerning delegates' meetings.

Fathers' Day is Sunday, June 17, 2018. The district Fathers' Day brunch still needs a host branch. 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 national convention is coming next year; be careful to fulfill all requirements for sending delegates.

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: April 2, 2018 – Slovak Castles, May 7, 2018 – Slovak Weddings, June 4 – the Pittsburgh Agreement. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** 100th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement: Senator John Heinz History Center – Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 6 PM.

** 95th Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 19, 2018.

** 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.

** 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 Christmas 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, District Secretary, manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 7 – THE REVEREND JOHN MARTVON

All branches of District 7 are welcome to attend the first district meeting for 2018. The meeting will

be held on April 29th, at 2 pm, at Denny's Restaurant in Richland, Johnstown, Pa. 15904. Branch 23 will host the meeting. We will elect an alternate delegate for the upcoming FCSU Convention and discuss the upcoming things to look forward to in the New Year. Please come and support your branch and enjoy a delicious dinner, and fellowship together. Any questions call Sharon Allison 814-322-1052.

Sharon Allison, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – THE REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

District 8 will hold a meeting on April 22, 2018, hosted by Branch 3P, St. Joseph Society, Hazelton, PA. Mass, luncheon and meeting will be held at St. Joseph's Church, located at 604 North Laurel St., Hazelton, PA. 18201. Mass will be at 11:15am, luncheon & meeting immediately following in the Church basement.

The meeting agenda will include discussion about the upcoming FCSU Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH, August 2018. Election of the district delegate will take place at this meeting; if you have any suggestions for any By-Law changes or any other pertinent information you would like see discussed at the convention, please submit them at this meeting.

ALL BRANCHES are encouraged to send representatives to District 8 meetings.

***Please remember, a branch delegate must ATTEND at least one District Meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

Any questions feel free to contact Monica Fabian at mfabian922@gmail.com or President Katherine Nowatkoski at knowa000@hotmail.com.

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 9-FRANK T.HOLLY, JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting at 1:00 P.M. at the Uniontown Country Club at 25 Bailey Lane on Sunday, March 11, 2018.

Branch will be served at 12:30. Election of officers for the year 2018 will be held at this meeting. Regional Director, James Marmol will brief the group on current events taking place at the home office.

Plans for the 51st International Convention will be discussed and election of the district delegate and alternate will be held. All branches are invited to attend. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 for brunch.

Reservations need to be by Wednesday, March 7, 2018, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-437-0892.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REVEREND STEFAN FURDEK DISTRICT

Rev Furdek, District 10 will meet at 2PM on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, OH 44311. The purpose of this meeting is to elect an Alternate Delegate to the upcoming convention. If you are interested in being an Alternate to represent the District be at the meeting. We will also be discussing how we can generate better attendance and interest in District Meetings.

If you plan on attending, please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or email me at lhanko@neo.rr.com. We need a head count for refreshments. Your cooperation would be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 12 - THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 13 - JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT

District 13 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2018, following a complimentary luncheon. Time 2:00PM at Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA, 16666, Route 53 South from Philipsburg, PA 16866. Members from District 13 branches are requested to attend. District dues are due. Please call or fax Rosemary Deliman at 814-342-5592 if you are able to attend.

**Rosemary Deliman, Secretary/Treasurer
203 Dogwood Dr, Philipsburg PA 16866
e-mail;rosemarydeliman@me.com**

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT

Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 will conduct its Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018, in the Shrine Dining Room of the Saint Ann Shrine Basilica, 1250 St. Ann's Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Auditors will meet at 1:00 P.M. to audit the books. The meeting will convene at 1:30 P.M. Election of the district delegate to the Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will take place.

All Branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting.

Please contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 to confirm your Branch's attendance at this important meeting.

Light refreshments will be served. Please join us for an informative, fraternal and social afternoon.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

Branch 853 Educational Stipends Available

Branch 853 members who are paying for an education program are eligible for the yearly Branch 853 Educational Stipend. If you are interested in receiving an application, please send a request for an application for the stipend to: Branch 853 Educational Stipend, 2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216.

All requirements for the stipend must be fulfilled and provided by the applicant and be submitted by mail. Stipend will not be greater than the cost of the course. Branch 853 encourages all types of educational enrichment to apply for the stipend - from formal classroom costs to adult fun enrichment classes (i.e. – cooking classes, yoga classes, or other types of fun learning).

A new way for branch 853 members to receive the stipend has been introduced by the branch. If you are a high school senior and are applying for the FCSU scholarship, you too are eligible for the branch stipend. Please send your request to take advantage of this new branch 853 stipend to the above address.

Branch 853 encourages its branch members to continue to learn throughout their lives. Branch 853 encourages all members to learn something new today.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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BRANCH 315 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 315 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 315 is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than March 30, 2018.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 11:00AM at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since a light brunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 327K – POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 327K Pottstown, PA and Branch 857K Levittown, PA. All members of Branch 327K will now hold membership in Branch 857K. This merger has taken place as of January 25, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

DAMIAN D NASTA
2 KINDLE LN

LEVITTOWN, PA 19055-2409
(267) 795-7930

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 367 St. Joseph's Lodge of Fairchance, PA, will be holding its spring meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 4:00 PM at Bogey's at Duck Hollow Golf Course, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA. The upcoming convention and plans for this new year will be discussed. All members are invited to attend. Please call Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006 or Audrey Balazik, President at 724-438-3887 if planning to attend.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 382 - SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018. Auditors will check the books and records at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA. The meeting will follow.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers as well as the Annual Report to the Home Office, future branch activities, and the 2018 Quadrennial Convention set for Cleveland. Election of delegates to the 2018 Quadrennial Convention will be held at this meeting.

Light refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr., is branch president. Other officers include Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; Michael J. Czankner, recording secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

Elizabeth Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 1:30 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, March 20, 2018 at 724-425-2576.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

Branch 425 will hold a meeting on March 18, 2018, at 1:00PM, to elect delegates to the 2018 National Convention this August in Cleveland, OH. The branch meeting will take place at 1371 Eastern Road,

Rittman. RSVP to 330-825-3534.

Jeanette Willis, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 434K - MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 434K Mckees Rocks, PA and Branch 254K Pittsburgh, PA. All members of Branch 434K will now hold membership in Branch 254K. This merger has taken place as of January 31, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

ALBINA SENKO
230 THORNBERRY CIRCLE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15234-1025
(412) 343-5031

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at 11:00 A.M., at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH, 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Roads).

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and the election of delegates /alternates to represent the branch at the upcoming 51st International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, August 4th - 8th, 2018.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Rd, Coral, PA, 15731. The agenda will include discussion of plans for the branch for 2018, and the election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention of the FCSU to be held in August in Cleveland, OH.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 487K – CLINTON, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 487K Clinton, PA and Branch 587K Aliquippa, PA. All members of Branch 487K will now hold membership in Branch 587K.

This merger has taken place as of January 31, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

EDITH LOUISE VALO
1835 BROADHEAD RD
ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001-5009
(724) 375-2287

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 505K – EMMAUS, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 505K Emmaus, PA and Branch 796K Egypt, PA. All members of Branch 505K will now hold membership in Branch 796K.

This merger has taken place as of January 30, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

MONICA FABIAN
4137 WILSON ST
WHITEHALL, PA 18052-1615
(610) 417-0468

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 580 of Holy Trinity Church will hold a meeting on April 12, 2018, at 1PM at Rodney's, 557 Wendell Rd. Irwin, Pa at 1PM. All members are welcome. If interested in going please contact Virginia Jasek at 724-593-2715.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, March 18: Branch meeting at 2pm
Saturday, March 24: Easter Egg hunt, all children are welcome.

Sunday, April 8: Polka Dance from 3pm-6pm; food available for purchase.

Sunday, April 15: Post 9 Steak Fry; \$15.00 per person.

Sunday, May 6: Polka Dance from 3pm-6pm; food available for purchase.

Food Day is all day each Tuesday and Thursday! Come on down and see what's on the menu!

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday; .50 off

Hours are Mon-Fri, 1pm-8pm; Sat 12noon-8pm
Come down and enjoy yourself. All events take place at Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights 231-733-2575.

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 635K – NEW BRIGHTON, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 635K New Brighton, PA and Branch 587K Aliquippa, PA. All members of Branch 635K will now hold membership in Branch 587K.

This merger has taken place as of January 31, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

EDITH LOUISE VALO
1835 BROADHEAD RD
ALIQUIPPA, PA 15001-5009
(724) 375-2287

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 670 - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at noon at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. There will be a re-election of delegates to the upcoming FCSU Convention in Cleveland. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 will hold a meeting on March 22, 2018, at noon in the conference room at Materials Research Laboratories located at 290 N Bridge Street in Struthers, OH. On the agenda: general branch business and election of delegates to the 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in August of this year in Cleveland, OH. All interested members should attend. If you have any questions or need more information prior to the meeting, please contact Branch President Drew Hirt at drew@hirt.com or 330-750-0776.

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 704K – SLOVAN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 704K Slovan, PA and Branch 254K Pittsburgh, PA.

All members of Branch 704K will now hold membership in Branch 254K.

This merger has taken place as of January 31, 2018.

If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

ALBINA SENKO
230 THORNBERRY CIRCLE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15234-1025
(412) 343-5031

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have a special meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2018, at the home of Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary, located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. It will be at 2:00PM. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate and elect a delegate and alternate to the National Convention in August of 2018 in Cleveland, OH. All those members who may be interested, please attend the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Branch 731 will celebrate the feast day of our patron saint, Saint Joseph, with Mass at 11 am on Sunday, March 18, 2017. Liturgy will be at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Please join us in the celebration."

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 18, 2018, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:30 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch Secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr, Commerce Twp., MI 48382 or phone 248-714-9620.

No obligation insurance quotes are free and simple, all that is required is date of birth and gender.

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

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Luciano's Restaurant (1579 Main Street, Rahway, NJ). The agenda will include election of delegates (and alternates) to the 51st National Convention in Cleveland, OH. We will also be discussing future events for the branch. Okres meeting will follow at 3:00 PM. Dinner will be served at the conclusion of the meetings (\$30.00 for non-members). Please note that parking behind the restaurant is limited -- there is some street parking, and valet parking as well. Kindly RSVP to Joanne Tkach-Polt @ 732-762-3148 by March 11th if you plan on attending. Please bring non-perishable items for donation to a local food pantry.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 831– TARANTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 831 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 831 is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than April 30, 2018.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold their Annual Slovak Palm Sunday Mass on Sunday March 25, 2018, at the Pope John Paul II Polish Center located at 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda CA. 92886. Mass will begin at 2:30 pm in Slovak. Lunch will be served after the Mass. Come and join us for an Easter Egg hunt for children.

Also, following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe holiday.

Fraternally Yours,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856 will hold a meeting on March 17, 2018 at 1:00 pm at the home of Marion Mistrik at 4513 Gladwyne Drive Bethesda, Md. 20814. At this meeting will be election of officers for 2018. A discussion of the upcoming convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union and election of delegates to the convention in August will be held at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. Branch 856 would like to welcome members of Branch 326 and urge to attend this meeting. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski Financial Secretary

News From Slovakia

Slovakia to Cooperate with South Korea in Education Sector

Bratislava, February 22 (TASR) - Slovakia and South Korea are interested in closer cooperation in the field of education, as Slovak Education, Science, Research and Sport Minister Martina Lubyova and her Korean counterpart Kim Sang-gon signed a Memorandum to this effect on Wednesday (February 21).

The two education ministers at a meeting in South Korea spoke about mutual cooperation in the form of student and researcher exchanges. They also agreed on cooperation between Korean and Slovak science teams in terms of joint projects.

Lubyova and Sang-gon also discussed the possibility of boosting the teaching of the Slovak language at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul along with the teaching of Korean in Slovakia.

The memorandum was inked as part of Lubyova's visit to the ongoing 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Government Okays Trade Agreement between EU and Canada

Bratislava, February 21 (TASR) - At its regular session on Wednesday, the Cabinet okayed the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and recommended Parliament to approve it, too.

The agreement facilitates the trading of goods and services by removing duties and trade barriers. According to the Economy Ministry, it is the most ambitious free-trade agreement the EU has achieved with an important G7 partner.

The European Parliament approved CETA on February 15, 2017, and it took effect provisionally as of September 21, 2017. It still needs to be ratified by individual member states in order to take effect completely.

The Economy Ministry said that duties for products exported from the EU to Canada should be completely removed after seven years of CETA being in place. The agreement will make it easier for European firms to enter the Canadian market and will create better conditions for developing investments. It will establish new trading and investment opportunities for both EU and Canadian companies.

CETA will remove duties, end limitations for accessing public orders, open the market for services and provide predictable conditions for investors. The agreement also contains guarantees preventing economic profits from being achieved at the expense of fundamental rights, social standards, the government's right for regulation, environmental and health protection and the safety of consumers.

The EU and Canada will remove duties for 98 percent of customs items as of the first day of CETA's implementation, which is the best result ever achieved by the EU in negotiating a free-trade agreement. Duties in the industrial sector will be fully liberalized, which will save about €470 million annually for EU exporters.

The Economy Ministry estimates CETA's effect on the Slovak economy to equal 0.013 percent of GDP on average. Meanwhile, the ministry expects the agreement's impact on job creation in Slovakia to be 0.012 percent of total employment.

"Adopting CETA will have a positive impact on bilateral trade between Slovakia and Canada, chiefly thanks to expected positive effects in the automotive industry," stated the ministry. Removing customs hurdles should result in an 8-percent increase in Slovakia's exports to Canada, and it might even be 18 percent if there is a strong reaction to a fall in prices.

President Presents Credentials to Three New Slovak Ambassadors

Bratislava, February 20 (TASR) - President Andrej Kiska presented credentials to three new Slovak ambassadors on this date, according to information the President's Office published on its website on the same day.

Jaroslav Blasko was appointed to head Slovakia's diplomatic mission to Spain, Rudolf Michalka was appointed as the Slovak ambassador to Georgia and Karol Mistrik will head the country's diplomatic mission to Romania.

Austrian and Slovak Presidents Launch New Cultural Train Line

Vienna/Bratislava, February 19 (TASR) - Slovak President Andrej Kiska and his Austrian counterpart Alexander Van der Bellen today launched a project in Vienna called T.R.A.M. - a special train operating between Bratislava and Vienna that will familiarize passengers with the historical and cultural proximity of the two countries.

An unconventional gallery of contemporary art will be featured in the train line connecting the main railway stations of Vienna and Bratislava eleven times a day until November.

The two presidents signed the train's carriages, while concurring that the project is a symbolic expression of the friendly relations and strong ties between Austria and Slovakia.

Passengers will be able to see various contemporary art exhibits on the train. Music and theatre festivals will enliven their travel, too. There will also be an area for discussions, presentations and lectures by personalities in the field of art, culture and diplomacy. The lectures should take place every Wednesday evening.

The T.R.A.M. project's mission is to support cultural mobility and offer an unconventional artistic experience that will enrich travel through unexpected encounters with contemporary art.

The project's name refers to the Vienna tram launched in 1914 that connected Vienna and Bratislava. Vienna residents used it to go for coffee or to the opera in Bratislava, just as Bratislava residents used it to get to Vienna.

The idea behind the project originates with several significant anniversaries to be marked in 2018 and on the occasion of the 25 years of bilateral cooperation between Austria and independent Slovakia. The project was initiated by the Austrian Embassy in Bratislava and implemented thanks to cooperation between Slovak and Austrian railway companies.

Pittsburgh Agreement Celebration Planned for May

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement with a commemorative program at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The program, which will begin at 6pm, will feature presentations by various government officials from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as local officials. A reception will follow the formal program.

The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918, was an important occurrence in the course of events leading to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state after the First World War. The catalyst for drafting and signing of this agreement was the visit to Pittsburgh of Professor Thomas Masaryk, who later became the first President of Czechoslovakia. The agreement was also signed by leaders of local and national Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations.

Admission for this memorable event is \$35.00 per person (NO tickets will be printed). Admission can be purchased from Carol Hochman at carolh1541@aol.com or from Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000. Make checks payable to WPCSA and mail to Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220. No admissions will be sold at the door. Admission must be purchased by May 15.

A special commemorative limited edition medal has been struck for this event. See photo below. The medal and wooden stand are available for \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. They will also be on sale at the reception. They can be purchased through the same contacts as above.



A poster (11x17) of the Pittsburgh Agreement will also be on sale at this event for \$10.00 or through the contacts listed above.

Special hotel accommodations have been made with the Hampton Inn across the street from the History Center and the Homewood Suites one block away. The group rate at the Hampton is \$169.00 a night plus tax. The Hampton can be contacted at 412-288-4350 or you can book online. The rate at the Homewood Suites is \$179.00 a night plus tax. Their phone number is 412-232-0200. At either hotel, just mention you are with the Pittsburgh Agreement group. Cutoff deadline is May 2, 2018.

A symposium is planned for the afternoon of May 31st from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the University of Pittsburgh in room 4130 of Posvar Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The panel will include speakers familiar with Czech, Slovak and U.S. history during years surrounding the signing of The Pittsburgh Agreement. The panelists will be Dr. Milada Polisenka from Anglo American University in Prague, Dr. Slavomir Mihalek from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Dr. Hugh Agnew from George Washington University.

If you have any further questions, you can contact Czech Honorary Consul Carol Hochman at 412-855-6581 or Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

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

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Marian Theresa Mescan	108K	Jason M McClanahan	292K	Michael E Knapp	670K	Mary D Mayernik
002K	Patricia J Pavlot	108K	Pauline Frances Staszal	292K	John P Shimko	670K	John A Radic
002K	Daniel Anthony Solinsky	128K	James Lee Swetlik	293K	William F McWilliams	682K	Anna Rosa
003P	Robert Sundra	153K	Irene M Hutnik	312K	Joan Caroline Ridilla	729K	Frank Pagac
005P	William Adamcak	156K	Bernard Burda	315K	Frank D Novotny	729K	Mary Trubachik
005P	Joseph R Kleback	157K	Caroline R Kurtz	367K	Delores E Takoch	743K	George P Ferkovic
005P	Elizabeth Lorusso	157K	George P Peffel Jr	372K	Joseph J Dill	746K	Margaret Johnson
005P	Ann F Morris	157K	John R Shupp Jr	373K	Mary Burskey	746K	Michael R Lesko
005P	Agnes E Ryan	162K	Margaret Ann Coburn	393K	Michael Nalevanko	746K	Theodore Rybakiewicz
006K	Dennis Perhach	162K	William G Krishan	410K	Michael Popson	746K	Anne Marie Yourstone
007K	Josephine M Wetherson	162K	Wendell Painley	419K	Joseph G Pramick	764K	Mary Roberta Lavella
010K	Mary Vladika	166K	Brandon Paul Matthews	425K	Michaelene Sarver	796K	Daniel P Klase Sr
023K	Joyce A Zilch	181K	Richard A Magyar	497K	George Panchak	796K	Josephine M Kovalchik
024K	Robert V Miller	181K	Debora J Vadas	553K	Irene M Hill	796K	Catherine E Snyder
024K	Br Richard Edward Richmond OSB	198P	Helen Walker	553K	Mary Ann Plsek	831K	Evelyn M Bresuciak
041K	Diane M Skripko	200K	Harriet J Stolitz	587K	Barbara Anne Lopez	831K	Richard D McHenry
055K	Francis J Fierko	221K	Theodore J Csizak	587K	John Yenchik Jr	831K	Lawrence Truckley
055K	Angeline Vitello	259K	William E Sedlacko	633K	George Yancho	855K	William J Stolarik Sr
075K	Michael J Marcinek	259K	Rev Gabriel Yablonsky	670K	Bernard Adamek	857K	John G Jakub
075K	Anthony T Marko	260K	Thomas E Sefcik	670K	Evelyn Kublin	857K	James R Orandosh
083K	Mary Lou Ervin						

*Processed through the month of February

OBITUARIES

DR. DANIEL A. SOLINSKY BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Dr. Daniel A. Solinsky passed away on Sunday, December 31, 2017; Lifelong friend of Joseph R. Wilyot III; son of the late Michael and Margaret (Kralovensky) Solinsky; brother of Betty Ann (late Paul) Yoezle, Michael (Rebekah) Solinsky, Lawrence (Cathy) Solinsky, and Audrey (Nicholas) Saleik; also survived by several nieces and nephews. Daniel held a Doctorate in Public Health and retired as a Consultant with United Health Care. There will be no public visitation. A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 310 Mansfield Avenue, Greentree, PA 15220 on Saturday, March 10, 2018.

- Submitted by Joseph R. Wilyot, III

FRANCES JAKUBISIN (MACHALEK) BRANCH 102 – TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Frances Rose Jakubisin, 94, of Ewing, NJ, entered into God's care Saturday, December 23, 2017 at Samaritan Hospice in Mt. Holly, NJ, with her loving family by her side.

Born in Cementon, NY, raised in Binghamton, NY, she resided in Ewing most of her life.

Mrs. Jakubisin was formerly employed with Ewing Township School System as a cafeteria assistant and more recently with ETS Testing Service in Ewing, prior to her retirement.

Frances was a longtime parishioner of Incarnation Catholic Church, Ewing Twp, NJ, belonging to its Altar Rosary Society and a member of the Ewing Township Senior Citizens Club. In her leisure time, Frances loved to paint, read and enjoyed bowling, but her greatest love was being with her family.

She was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Predeceased by her parents, Stephen



J. and Elizabeth (Kolar) Machalek, her brothers, Steven, Thomas, Walter, Victor Machalek, four sisters, Betty Oswald, Marie Sasinek, Ann Ontko and Johanna Machalek, her loving husband, Joseph J. Jakubisin and her son, Joseph S Jakubisin, she is survived by her children, Carole Fort and husband Kevin and Ronal Jakubisin and wife Jami; her daughter-in-law, Patricia Jakubisin; two sisters, Carolyn Skiba and Jacqueline Sanneman; one sister-in-law, Alice Machalek; her cherished grandchildren, Jessica Luz and husband Greg, Bryan Fort and wife Tamara, and Ronal Jakubisin, Jr. and Patrick Foley; five great grandchildren, Maxwell, Cooper, Myles, Olivia and Elizabeth; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at Incarnation Church, with calling hours earlier that same day at the Parkside Brenna Cellini Funeral Home, Ewing. Burial followed in Ewing Church Cemetery, Ewing.

- Submitted by Carole Fort

WILLIAM E. SEDLACKO BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

William E. Sedlacko, 91, formerly of Struthers, OH, died peacefully on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at Vista Center at the Ridge, Mineral Ridge, OH.

He was born on May 3, 1926 in Youngstown, OH, the son of the late John and Mary (Bolha) Sedlacko.

He was a graduate of Struthers High School and Youngstown State University.

William was a member at Holy Trinity Church.

He worked at the Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company and served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

He was a member of the VFW Post #7538, the Jednota Lodge and Branch 259, Struthers, OH, of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU).

William is survived by his son, Gary Sedlacko of Boardman; his daughter, Arlene (Henry) Nespeca of Boardman; daughter-in-law, Karolyn Sedlacko of Akron; a sister,

Vivian Sedlacko of Struthers, and a granddaughter, Susan Sedlacko.

In addition to his parents, William was preceded in death by his wife, Maryann (Glass) Sedlacko, whom he married on June 6, 1953, she died December 28, 2001; his son, Gregory Sedlacko; two brothers, Richard and Robert Sedlacko and a sister, Dorothy Gogaware.

Arrangements were handled by the Kirila Funeral Home. There were no calling hours or services.

The family would like to thank the staff at Vista Center at the Ridge and Buckeye Hospice for their support and wonderful care given to William.

- Submitted by Vivian Sedlacko,
Branch 259 Secretary/Treasurer

MARY D. MAYERNIK BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Mary (Dzsubak) Mayernik, age 90, of White Oak, PA, passed away on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at Jefferson Regional Medical Center in Jefferson Hills, PA.

She was born January 28, 1927 in McKeesport, PA the daughter of the late John and Anna (Seman) Dzsubak.

Mary was a homemaker for most of her life and an active member at the former St. Dominic Church and the Christian Mothers (past Secretary), the Slovak Club, and Rosary Society. Mary was a member of Branch 670, Donora, PA, of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). She enjoyed working with other parishioners to help the church by baking nut rolls, apple strudel and cabbage rolls.

Mary and her husband enjoyed their travels to Slovakia with the fraternal organization Jednota and the Jednota conventions.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 50+ years Nicholas G. Mayernik who died December 27, 1998; and a sister, Ann Bagay.

Mary and her late husband raised three daughters, Maryann (David) Rossi of Elizabeth PA, Patricia (James) Matta of Fort Mill, SC and Susan (Richard) Borchilo of Mead-

ville, PA.

Mary is survived by her daughters and their husbands; six grandchildren, Dana, Steven, Julie, Brian, Angela and Ashley; and seven great grandchildren, Nicholas, Lily, Grant, Luke, Colson, Anderson and Scarlett; also a niece, Virginia Bagay.

Arrangements were handled by Anthony L. Massafra Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Donora, where in accordance with Mary's wishes private family visitation was held, Wednesday morning, January 3, 2018, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at Our Lady of the Valley Church with Rev. Fr. Pierre M Falkenhan officiating.

- Submitted by Mary Ann Rossi

JOSEPH T SCAVINA BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:00 AM on Friday, February 16, 2018 at St. Luke Parish celebrated by Fr. Zachary Coulter for Joseph T. Scavina, 85, who passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Sunday, February 11, 2018.

Joseph was born January 8, 1933 in Youngstown, OH, a son of the late Matthew and Mary Dovica Scavina. Joseph graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and then enlisted in the United States Army during the Korean War.

Joseph worked as a motor inspector for the former Republic Steel and later in the maintenance department at both Masco and the Tippecanoe Country Club.

Joseph was active at St. Luke, including in the Holy Name Society and helping out at bingo. He was also active with the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), where he held various officer positions at the district and branch level, such as financial secretary and convention delegate.

He was very active and loved sports of all kinds. He was an avid golfer and bowler and

continued on page 19



Travelers Enjoyed Treasures of Slovakia Tour Last Year

A merry band of travelers immersed in the Treasures of Slovakia on the 28th Treasures Tour last summer. Highlights included visiting historic towns, Detva Folk Festival, Kezmarok's International Crafts Festival, and experiencing traditions and folk culture in village gatherings. But best of all was finding long-lost family and ancestral villages. Sampling traditional foods and quaffing Slovakia's excellent beer and wines added to the ambiance.

The 29th Treasures of Slovakia Tour is coming up July 6 - 15 and will revisit treasures from east to west and north to south. We specialize in finding long-lost family and are proud of our 98% success rate.

Also offered - the opportunity to add on several days in Prague or other nearby places. The trip land cost is \$2299 and the Prague add on is \$399. Glad to aid in finding flights.

For information on the 2018 trip in July and a day by day itinerary contact Treasures Tours, Helene Cincebeaux, 7 Walt Place, Palm Coast FL 32164, or call 585 342-9383, e mail helenezx@aol.com or check out the web site www.our-slovakia.com or Facebook.

- Submitted by Helene Cincebeaux, Branch 75



Tour goers enjoyed highlights of historic cities - the incredible statue of beloved St George killing the dragon in the courtyard of the Primatial Palace



A visit to the Litmanova pilgrimage site was incredibly moving...Anne Zohorsky says a prayer. She came on the trip with her mother Margaret.



Everyone loved Slovak zmrzlina - Elaine Walter and Kathy Skarda found a king sized cone!



A highlight of Bratislava: (L - R) Anne Zohorsky, Chris Tufte and Margaret Zohorsky.



Elaine Walter danced a cardas at our village wedding re-enactment.



Enjoying Slovak folk crafts - Anne and Margaret Zohorsky



Mary Lou and Jim Maletta enjoyed a cool drink in Banska Bystrica's historic square

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

According to a recent article in TIME magazine the cost of a funeral is between \$6,000 and \$15,000 with an average of \$7,775?

Don't leave a financial burden for your family or loved ones.

Inquire today about FINAL EXPENSE INSURANCE

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OBITUARIES

continued from page 18

in 2001, he bowled a 300 game. He cheered for all Ohio sports teams, from the Browns, Cavaliers, and Indians to Ohio State and even was a season ticketholder for the YSU football and basketball teams. He would often be found cheering his son, and later his nieces and nephews on during their various sports activities.

He leaves behind to cherish his memories, his beloved wife of almost 62 years, the former Nancy Cozza, whom he married June 2, 1956, his children, Denise Scavina Dutton of Boardman and Robert "Bob" (Jo Ann) Scavina of Columbus, his grandchildren, Charlie Joe (Katie) Vest, Sarah (Kevin) Holmes, and Ryan (Missy) Dutton, his great grandchildren, Josie, Charlotte, Presley, and Peyton, his brother-in-law, Frank Mazzarino, his sister-in-law Audrey Scavina, as well as

many special nieces and nephews and their families, along with numerous dear friends.

Other than his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved daughter Diane, his brothers, Michael, Charles, and John Scavina, and his sisters, Mary Jacobs, Ann Cooper, and Helen Mazzarino.

The family entrusted Joseph's care to the Kubina-Yuhasz-Wasko Funeral Home, where they received friends on Thursday, February 15, 2018 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and again one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church.

Joseph's family would like to extend special thanks to MVI Hospice, and all the medical professionals who helped care for Joseph in his time of need, especially his nephew, Dr. Michael Scavina.

-Submitted by Drew Hirt, Branch 682 President



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact Branch Officer or the home office

6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,
www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com





13th EGG EggSTRAVAGANZA

Tentative
SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018
12:00 NOON – 5:00pm

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall
201 E. Main Street Uniontown, PA

“Experience the traditions”

- Egg artists will demonstrate, display and sell eggs
- Market place with pysanky supplies, Easter items, Easter crafts, basket covers and other ethnic items
- Children’s activities including storytelling, making Easter eggs, other projects
- Videos showing of Pysanky and Pysanky making
- Display of Easter basket covers
- Explanation of traditional Easter foods
- Pysanky jigsaw table
- Lenten Lunch Menu available for purchase
- Hands-on workshop for those interested in learning to make pysanky
- Free Admission Handicapped accessible

Sponsored by: GCU Lodge #81, Local Egg Artists, & St. John's Ethnic Craft Club
For more Information Contact: 724-438-6027 (M-F 9AM-3PM - Leave message)

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers’ Board of Directors

Patience Keeps Us Connected to God

Helen Keller once said, “We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world.” After contracting an illness in childhood, Keller was left deaf and blind for the rest of her life. With the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, she broke through the isolation that her condition imposed upon her and went on to become a writer and lecturer. Her amazing resilience is a testament to the power of the human spirit to remain patient throughout a lifetime of struggle.

Patience is one of those intangible virtues that we can only gain through perseverance in the face of trials. Keller’s line about suffering providing opportunity to build character traits such as bravery and patience demonstrates how much she came to value the strength of spirit she cultivated in taking on personal challenges. Patience provides endurance amidst suffering and the wisdom to know how and when to take action.

The early Christian theologian Tertullian once said, “Hope is patience with the lamp lit.” What beautiful insight into the path that patience can lead us along when we allow the fire of the Holy Spirit to kindle within our hearts. That fire can direct our thoughts towards God in spite of the hardships of life, resulting in a heart filled with the hope of Christ.

Life often does not go the way we want it to, and we all face moments of profound frustration and disappointment. It takes patience to remain connected to God throughout the trials we face in order to be guided along the path we are intended to follow. The Christophers have a beautiful meditation on patience that highlights the importance of this virtue. It reads:

“Patience is a stillness that reaches deep within the human soul. It connects us with God by allowing us to pause and reflect on our actions. A patient heart waits for the resurrections that Christ effects in our lives, reviving us to a life of joy. Patience is the tender reaction of one heart to another. It is the essence of love.”

The patience we cultivate in waiting on God to guide us through difficult times prepares us to reach out to others in a loving manner. This mercy that we extend to the world is one of the great fruits of the Holy Spirit. God wants to work through us to bring good into the world, and it is only through patience that we are able to recognize the needs of others and realize the call to serve.

Patience enables us to deepen the bonds of friendship, family, and community life. These are the treasures that await all who have a clean heart in their interactions with others. Christ said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

We store up treasures in heaven when we put the good above all else, and it takes patience to do that in this world where temptation and adversity await us at every turn. So remember to be patient amid the struggles of life so that we can recognize the treasures of heaven and allow God to guide us along the path of true and lasting joy.



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HELP SS CYRIL & METHODIUS CELEBRATE ITS
100th ANNIVERSARY

SS Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church is seeking old photos, newspapers, articles, other memorabilia, and traditional Slovak artifacts that would show the history of the parish. We are reaching out to current & past parishioners, alumni friends, and fellow Slovaks who have been associated with church over the past

100 years. These items can be mailed to the church office, sent via email, scanned and returned, or dropped off at our parish office if the donor lives within the local area. Items will be displayed on various mediums such as display boards, banners, the church web site and on church property during the celebration year. The 100th Anniversary Planning Committee promises to take exceptional care of the items that are provided. Please contact our History Chairperson Bev Moran at bandfmoran94@hotmail.com or 586-254-6534

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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

U	L	T				G	E	R	M		T	T	L	S			
R	E	A	M			E	E	R	I	E		R	O	O	K		
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Správy zo Slovenska

Bratislava - Pokiaľ si Ozbrojené sily (OS) SR chcú udržať vysokú, viac ako 70-percentnú dôveryhodnosť verejnosti, musia mieniť prostriedky na svoju modernizáciu transparentne, koncepčne a efektívne. Prezident a vrchný veliteľ Ozbrojených síl SR Andrej Kiska to uviedol pri príležitosti štvrtkového veliteľského zhromaždenia náčelníka Generálneho štábu OS SR generála Milan Maxima. Na hodnotení výcvikového roka 2017 Kiska pripomenul, že armáda SR dostala na ďalšie obdobie obrovské prostriedky na modernizáciu a skvalitňovanie ozbrojených síl.

Bratislava - Sumu 44,76 milióna eur rozdelilo Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu (MŠVVaŠ) SR medzi športové zväzy. Vlni im rezort školstva poskytol príspevky v celkovej výške zhruba 36,32 milióna eur. „Ešte do konca tohto týždňa budú mať športové zväzy peniaze na svojich účtoch. Ide o dohodnuté zvýšenie rozpočtu na šport vďaka nárastu odvodu z prevádzkovania lotériových hier. Verím, že tohtoročný rozpočet sa pozitívne odrazí na fungovaní zväzov a podpore športových talentov,“ uviedla ministerka školstva Martina Lubyová (nominantka SNS).

Bratislava - Dodávateľia zdravotníckych pomôcok a špeciálneho zdravotníckeho materiálu združení v asociácii SK+MED sa pre koncepciu oddelenia slovenských nemocníc obrátili tento týždeň so sťažnosťou na Ústavný súd (ÚS). Plán oddelovania dlhodobo kritizujú a odmietali ho. Prvé kolo oddelovania má prebehnúť v prvom štvrtroku. Dodávateľia v sťažnosti namietajú porušenie základných práv a slobôd garantovaných ústavou.

Bratislava - Problém školstva nie je len na Slovensku, ale pretrváva v každej krajine. Podľa Róberta Chovanculiaka z INESS - Inštitútu ekonomických a spoločenských analýz existujú dva spôsoby reformovania školstva. Jedným je centralizovaný, ktorý platí aj na Slovensku, a druhý je decentralizovaný, poznamenal Chovanculiak počas seminára v Bratislave. Zároveň navrhuje, aby sa prešlo na Slovensku k decentralizovanej reforme školstva.

Bratislava - Poskytnutie desiatich miliónov eur a rovnakej sumy bez garancie nie je splnením sľubu premiéra SR Roberta Fica (Smer-SD) z roku 2015, ale iba slabá náplasť na alarmujúci stav internátov v krajine. Pre TASR to uviedol predseda Študentskej rady vysokých škôl (ŠRVŠ) Bálint Lovász po tom, čo v stredu (31.1.) koalíční lídri sľúbili, že okamžite uvoľnia na rekonštrukciu vysokoškolských internátov desať miliónov eur. Ak sa bude ekonomike dariť, v druhom polroku tohto roka by na tieto účely mohla ísť rovnaká suma.

Bratislava/Košice - Lekárske odborové združenie (LOZ) vyzýva na odhalenie a potrestanie vinníkov v súvislosti s kauzou na Klinike plastickej chirurgie Univerzitnej nemocnice Louisa Pasteura (UNLP) v Košiciach. Vedenie nemocnice primára kliniky odvolalo. Dôvodom mal byť problém s operáciami zahraničných pacientov. LOZ odsudzuje konanie na klinike.

Brusel/Banská Bystrica - Svoju prvú návštevu Bruselu vo funkcii predsedu Banskobystrického samosprávneho kraja (BBSK) chce Ján Lunter využiť na zorientovanie sa v problematike Európskej únie a na zistenie toho, ako môže jeho kraj pomôcť spolupráca s európskymi inštitúciami. Lunter prišiel do Bruselu na neformálnu debatu s mladými Slovámi v rámci projektu „Od Tatier k Schumanu“ a svoj pobyt v metropole EÚ sa snažil využiť aj pracovne, keď sa stretol s niektorými europoslancami a navštívil slovenského veľvyslancu v Belgicku Stanislava Valla.

Banská Bystrica - Moderný autobusový terminál v Banskej Bystrici poskytuje cestujúcej verejnosti všetky služby v štandardnom režime a jeho prevádzka je zabezpečená na ďalších desať rokov. Informoval o tom vo koncom januára banskobystrický primátor Ján Nosko. Dodal, že cesta k dohode medzi investorom, spoločnosťou Primum, a prevádzkovateľom - Dopravným podnikom mesta Banská Bystrica nebola jednoduchá a mesto bolo niekedy až nevyberaným spôsobom atakované. Obe strany sa napokon dohodli na dlhodobej nájmovej zmluve v trvaní desať rokov.

Košice - Zástupcovia dvadsiatky košických športových klubov združujúcich takmer 3800 ich členov - športovcov, v druhej polovici januára otvoreným listom oslovili primátora Košíc Richarda Rašiu a mestských poslancov. Žiadajú o podporu koncepcijnej výstavby športovísk v zamýšľanom projekte Paseo park na Sídlišku KVP. „Mali sme možnosť podrobne sa zoznámiť s plánovaným projektom spoločnosti PASEO Development, ktorý okrem bytovej a občianskej zástavby prinesie do Košíc aj multifunkčný športový komplex na európskej úrovni. Pre nás športovcov to znamená, že vzniknú nové športoviská vychádzajúce v ústrety našim potrebám,“ uvádza sa v otvorenom liste, pod ktorým sú podpísané aj športové osobnosti reprezentujúce mesto ako hokejisti HC Košice Ladislav Nagy a Gabriel Spilar či basketbalistky Good Angels Košice Barbora Bálintová a Anna Jurčenková.

Bratislava - Pri nákupe stíhacích lietadiel sa ministerstvo obrany rozhoduje už len medzi dvoma ponukami. Do úvahy prichádzajú americké lietadlá F-16 a švédske JAS-39 Gripen. „O nákupe nových nadzvukových lietadiel ruského typu súčasné vedenie ministerstva obrany nikdy neuvažovalo a ani neuvažuje,“ uviedla hovorkyňa rezortu Danka Capáková.

Bratislava - Ministerstvo obrany SR zastavuje tender na nákup 3D radarov, ktorý je bez víťaza. Ako prvý o tom informoval RTVS na svojom profile na sociálnej sieti. Medzinárodnú súťaž spustilo ešte bývalé vedenie rezortu obrany v roku 2015, v prvom kole boli štyria záujemcovia. Predpokladaná hodnota zákazky bola podľa RTVS 60 miliónov eur bez DPH.

Nitra - Manažéri spoločnosti Jaguar Land Rover ponúkli Súkromnej strednej odbornej škole polytechnickej v Nitre podporu pri naštartovaní výučby v odbore mechatronik. Škola, ktorej zriaďovateľom je od minulého roka slovenská vzdelávacia spoločnosť Deutsch-Slowakische Akademien (DSA), začne od septembra vychovávať mechatronikov pre britskú automobilku.

Bratislava - Každú jednu faktúru, ktorú predložia rektori a študenti za rekonštrukciu internátov do 31. decembra 2018, preplatia. Na pondelkovej tlačovej konferencii na Ministerstve financií SR to uviedol premiér Robert Fico (Smer-SD) po tom, čo ponuka desiatich miliónov eur na tento zámer bola predmetom kritiky.

Bratislava - Fakulta informatiky a informačných technológií Slovenskej technickej univerzity (FIIT STU) v Bratislave je jedinou fakultou v SR a ČR s akreditáciou britskej IET. O získaní medzinárodnej akreditácie od organizácie, ktorá udeľuje profesionálne inžinierske tituly v Británii, Škótsku i Severnom Írsku, informovala fakulta nedávno na tlačovej besede v Bratislave.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Profesor Kopanič: V minulosti nebola v USA slovenčina v móde

Profesor Michael J. Kopanic je v súčasnosti profesorom histórie a vedúcim kurzov na katedre európskej histórie na Marylandskej univerzite. Hoci mama ho slovenčinu nenaučila, on sa od mlada zaujímal o svoje korene a slovenčinu napokon vyštudoval na univerzite. Dnes hovoria po slovensky jeho dcéry aj vnúčatá a on slovenčinu učí. Napríklad aj tak, že každý deň zverejní na Facebooku jedno slovenské slovo alebo frázu a vysvetlí jej význam v angličtine. Profesor Michael J. Kopanic porozprával o tom, čo ho k tomu motivuje.

“Moja matka ma neučila slovenčinu, musel som sa ju naučiť na univerzite a na Slovensku. Keď sa mi narodili deti, rozhodol som sa, že budem s nimi hovoriť len po slovensky. Každý deň sme spolu čítali po slovensky. To pomohlo im aj mne. Oni porozumeli jazyku svojich predkov a ja som si precvičoval a udržoval svoju slovenčinu,“ povedal profesor, ktorý sa Slovákom sa predstavuje ako Michal Kopanič.

Kopanič na katedre európskej histórie na Marylandskej univerzite špecializuje na históriu východnej a strednej Európy, Slovensko a slovenskú imigráciu do Spojených štátov. Publikoval množstvo článkov a je členom Medzinárodnej česko-slovenskej genealogickej spoločnosti. Na Slovensku bol po prvý raz ako 23-ročný len tak zo zvedavosti, potom tu rok pracoval na dizertačnej práci, dnes sem chodí na návštevy a dovolenky. Slovenčinu naučil nielen svoje deti a vnúčatá, ale aj mnohých študentov a známych. Učil súkromne, na univerzite aj v kostoloch.

“Keď sa dcéry osamostatnili, rozhodol som im poslať každý deň jedno nové slovo, aby som im ďalej pomáhal so slovenčinou. Časom som pridal vety. Po niekoľkých rokoch niekto zistil, čo robím, a opýtal sa ma, či mu emailom tiež môžem posilať to, čo dcéram. A robím to dodnes. O rok neskôr mi niekto navrhol, aby som slová zverejňoval na Facebooku,“ uviedol Kopanič.

V nedeľu sa zamerl na aktuálnu tému - lyžovanie. “Kľzavý = sliding, gliding. Sliding disciplines are downhill and super-G. Kľzavé disciplíny sú zjazd a super-G,“ napísal na sociálnej sieti. Deň predtým sa venoval Národnému parku Slovenský raj a k slovíčkam pridal aj video našej prírodnej pýchy. Okrem vlastného konta prispieva aj na konto “Slovenčina ako cudzí jazyk”.

“Tiež mám novinový stĺpček v slovensko-amerických novinách Jednota, kde som vlni publikoval aj dva články na tému užitočné slovenské slová a frázy. V októbri som mal tiež prednášku o slovenčine na konferencii CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International. Takto pokračujem každý deň a pomáham ľuďom zdokonaľiť si slovenčinu,“ povedal Kopanič.

Michal Kopanič sa narodil v štáte Ohio Slovákom, ktorí emigrovali pred prvou svetovou vojnou a v medzivojnovom období. Rodičia používali slovenčinu, len keď hovorili so svojimi rodičmi a medzi sebou, keď nechceli, aby im deti rozumeli. Deti slovenčinu neučili. Mysleli si, že to nemá význam a že život v Amerike by im to len skomplikovalo. Michal si spomína na telefonáty so starou mamou - jediné, čo jej po slovensky rozumel, bolo “malý Michal”.

“Boli to iné časy. Znalosť slovenčiny vám nepomohla získať prácu a práve kvôli tej sem vtedy Slováci prišli. A oni sami sa museli učiť angličtinu. Pamätám si, že ako som vyrastal, moja mama sa stále snažila vylepšiť si svoju výslovnosť. Každú nedeľu sme chodievali k starým rodičom. Všetci dospelí hovorili po slovensky a deti po anglicky. Na sviatky môj dedo púšťal slovenské piesne a spieval. Vždy som bol zvedavý, čo hovoria, a túžil som vedieť slovenčinu,“ spomína Michal.

Dodal, že v tých časoch ani nebolo medzi mladými ľuďmi populárne prihlasovať sa k svojmu zahraničnému pôvodu. Vyhýbali sa jazyku svojich rodičov a prarodičov a počúvali rock ‘n’ roll. K zmene došlo až v 70. rokoch, keď ožilo hnutie oslavujúce národnosť a pôvod.

Spolupracovníčka TASR Michaela H. Janotová

Severný Spiš a Pieniny uspeli v ankete o najlepších v cestovnom ruchu

Hlasujúci aj tento rok vybrali najlepšie osobnosti, zariadenia, zamestnancov a produkty, ktoré prispievajú k rozvoju cestovného ruchu v Prešovskom kraji. Región severného Spiša a Pienin ocenili ľudia hneď v štyroch kategóriách. “Jednotlivé ocenenia neberieme ako samozrejmosť, ale ako znak toho, že svedomitá práca prináša svoje ovocie. V našom regióne sa snažíme neustále zlepšovať nielen služby v oblasti gastronómie a ubytovania. Chceme, aby sme boli pre návštevníka ideálnou destináciou, ktorá poskytuje nielen nezameniteľné prírodné krásy, ale aj možnosti na aktívny oddych podčiarknutý profesionálnym prístupom,“ uviedla na margo ocenení výkonná riaditeľka Oblastnej organizácie cestovného ruchu Severný Spiš - Pieniny Erika Šalátová.

Región uspel jednak vďaka singletrailom v Lechnici, adrenalínové chodníky určené horským cyklistom si získavajú popularitu aj za hranicami regiónu a kraja. Najlepšou reštauráciou v kraji sa stal Salaš u Franka v Starej Lubovni, ktorá je obľúbená nielen u ľudí, ktorí prechádzajú hlavným ťahom medzi Starou Lubovňou a Popradom, ale aj medzi členmi štátnych návštev a diplomatov. V gastronómii sa uznania dočkal aj Milan Sipko, ktorý sa stal najlepším zamestnancom.

Blízky vzťah k svojmu rodisku, jeho krásam a dedičstvu vyjadrili žiaci Strednej odbornej školy Jarmočná v Starej Lubovni. Ich video Osudy vpísané v dreve o skanzene pod hradom Lubovňa ocenili hlasujúci v kategórii naj produkt cestovného ruchu. Snahu o popularizáciu skanzenu si všimol aj minister dopravy a výstavby. Vyhlásovateľom ankety Najlepší v cestovnom ruchu Prešovskom kraji je Krajská organizácia cestovného ruchu Severovýchod Slovenska. Do hlasovania sa okrem odbornej poroty mohla zapojiť aj verejnosť cez internet.



Foto: TASR/Oliver Ondráš

Prístavisko plí Pod Lipami počas otvorenia pltnickej sezóny na Dunajci v Červenom Kláštore.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Slovenská sv. omša a veľkonočné raňajky v Pittsburgh, PA

V **sobotu 24. marca** vo farnosti Knieža Pokoja v Pittsburgh, PA bude veľkonočné podujatie, ktoré farnosť usporiada každý rok. Slovenská sv. omša bude v St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th Street. O 10.45 dopoludnia začne modlitba slovenského sv. ručenca a omša začne o 11.00 hodine. Po omši budú v Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) podávané veľkonočné raňajky (šunka, paska, syr, klobása a vajíčka). Vstup je bezplatný, usporiadatelia však budú vd'ачní za finančné dary. Účastníci podujatia budú mať možnosť si prezrieť výstavu o ľudových tradíciách na Slovensku. Na predaj budú výrobky dovezené zo Slovenska a ručné práce. Atrakciou bude aj ukážka pletenia palmových listov a maľovanie veľkonočných vajec. Na predaj budú makové a orechové koláče, palacinky a pečivo. Zisk z podujatia bude venovaný františkánskym sestrám v Žiline a detskému Centru Barlička v Prešove, ktoré poskytuje lužby mentálne postihnutým deťom a starajú sa o starších chorých ľudí. Bližšie informácie: Connie Yatek, telefónne číslo: 412-657-6364.

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční polročná schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedeľu 15. apríla 2018** o 12:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Program schôdze bude zameraný na výber delegátov 51. konvencie IKSJ v Clevelande, Ohio. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši – pokladníčka

Púť do Svätej Zeme

Kňazi Oratória sv. Filipa Neri v New Yorku pripravujú v dňoch **od 11. do 23. apríla** púť do Svätej Zeme. Poplatok je \$3.300 za osobu. V cene je započítaná letenka, poplatky za víza, ubytovanie v hoteloch, poplatky za sprievodcu, raňajky, obed a večera, poplatky za návštevu atrakcií, preprava autobusmi, exkluzívny výlet po Galilejskom mori, výlet do púšte spojený s večerou a dvojdná návšteva Dubai. Bližšie informácie na fare, tel. č.: 845-268-4464 alebo Lisette, tel. č.: 646-234-05343.

V najväčšom katolíckom vydavateľstve vychádza bestseller "Otče náš"

V najväčšom katolíckom vydavateľstve Spolok svätého Vojtecha vychádza uprostred Pôstneho obdobia knižný bestseller pápeža Františka Otče náš. Pontifex v knihe verš za veršom vysvetľuje modlitbu Pána na základe otázok, ktoré mu kladie Marco Pozza, katolícky teológ a väzenský kaplán v Padove. Katechézy vo forme rozhovorov minulý rok odvysielala talianska katolícka televízia TV2000.

Pápež František postupne rozoberá jednotlivé vety Otčenáša prostredníctvom nenútených odpovedí. Nepredkladá iba biblické súvislosti, ale modlitbu aplikuje na aktuálne témy dneška. Hovorí o rodinách trpiacich neprítomnosťou otca, o našej povinnosti starať sa o chudobných či o chlebe, ktorý sa nemá vyhadzovať. Nie je teoretikom, čo potvrdzuje osobnými skúsenosťami a príkladmi z vlastného života.

Publikácia vychádza vo veľmi elegantnom a reprezentatívnom grafickom stvárnení s modlitbou Otče náš napísanou rukou pápeža.

„Knihu sme zámerne pripravili práve v Pôstnom období, pretože je to naša ponuka, ako sa duchovne pripraviť na Veľkú noc,“ hovorí riaditeľ Spolku svätého Vojtecha Ivan Šulík a dodáva, že „Svätý Otec predstavuje mimoriadne prít'azlivú a autentickú interpretáciu modlitby Otče náš, ktorá zaiste neupúta iba veriacich“.

„Modliť sa Otče náš chce odvahu. Hovorím vám, aby ste povedali 'otcko', aby ste naozaj verili, že Boh je Otec, že je so mnou, odpúšťa mi, dáva mi chlieb, je pozorný na všetko, o čo ho prosím, oblieka ma lepšie ako poľné kvety. Veriť je aj veľké riziko: a čo ak to nie je pravda? Osmelme sa, osmelme sa, modlime sa všetci spolu. Preto je veľmi pekné modliť sa spoločne, lebo si navzájom pomáhame osmelieť sa,“ pozýva pápež František v knihe Otče náš.

Titul je dostupný v obchodnej sieti Spolku svätého Vojtecha, v internetovom obchode eVojtech.sk aj u ďalších knihkupcov.

TK KBS

Slovenský bál oslávil 25. výročie

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

námestníka generálneho tajomníka OSN pre politické otázky s pani manželkou Helenou; pani generálna konzulka Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku Ladislava Begec s pánom manželom Guvenom Begecom a pán generálny konzul Českej republiky v New Yorku Miroslav Rameš.

Slečna Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka S-AKS a zároveň predsedníčka plesového výboru spolu s pánom Petrom Krajňákom, spolumoderátorom večera a tajomníkom S-AKS, slávnostne privítali prítomných hostí. Potom sa im prihovoril duchovný otec Richard Baker pôsobiaci pri farnosti Sv. Jána Nepomuckého a Sv. Františky Xavier Cabrini v New Yorku.

S netradičným programom sa predstavila bývalá slovenská športovkyňa Alexandra Apjarová. Alexandra sa venuje rytmickej gymnastike, choreografii, tancu a akrobacii. Od roku 1994 pôsobí v Spojených štátoch. V rámci svojej úspešnej umeleckej kariéry sa môže pochváliť vystúpením pri odovzdávaní cien Grammy, taktiež v Cirque du Soleil a zúčastnila sa aj koncertného turné Michela Jacksona „This is it“. O spríjemnenie večera s dynamickým hudobným číslom sa postaral mladý, talentovaný česko-americký huslista, Ladi Smigura. Ladi sa venuje rôznym hudobným štýlom. V roku 2008 vydal album a viacero singlov.

Pri príležitosti oslavy 25. výročia usporadúvania bálu sa organizačný tím rozhodol poctiť si významných amerických Slovákov, ktorí svojou dlhoročnou prácou a úspechmi prispievajú k udržiavaniu slovenskej komunity a jej aktivít. Jednu z cien si prevzal čestný hosť pán Andrew M. Rajec, prezident Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty (od roku 2007). Skôr než sa ujal vedenia organizácie, pôsobil v nej mnoho rokov vo viacerých významných funkciách (Generálny poradca 2003 – 2006; predseda spolku č. 89 IKSJ - 17 rokov; Regionálny riaditeľ 1996 -1998; prezident Jednota Inc. Jednota Properties, Inc. 1995-1998; v Slovenskom kostole Sv. Štefana – doživotný člen a pokladník).

Svoje vzdelanie získal na Marquette University. B.S. – účtovníctvo; Právnicka škola Marquette University, J.D; US Army (1964-1966) 2 roky aktívnej služby – veliteľ.

Spočiatku pracoval v Price Waterhouse, medzinárodná spoločnosť CPA – účtovník; Arthur Young, medzinárodná spoločnosť CPA – daňový účtovník; Blue Cross of Wisconsin - asistent podpredseda; Association Life – viceprezident a generálny advokát; The Mutual Group – podpredseda, generálny právnik, pokladník.

Pán Rajec pochádza z Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Je 45 rokov ženatý s Idkou Rajec, rodenou Riečan (Ružomberok, Slovensko) a majú troje detí. V decembri roku 2006 sa stal bratskej organizácie Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty s 50,000 členmi. Váži si svoje slovenské a katolícke dedičstvo, podporuje mnohé slovenské a náboženské organizácie, kde zastáva rôzne funkcie. Pod jeho vedením Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota dosiahla historické výsledky majetku a organizácia rastie čoraz silnejšie.

Čestným hosťom večera bol aj pán Daniel F. Tanzone, prezident Slovenskej ligy v

Amerike (od roku 2006). Jeho celoživotná tvorba sa kreatívne premieta aj vo funkcii editora novin Slovenský Katolícky Sokol, ktorú vykonáva úctyhodných 38 rokov. Za svoju žurnalistickú prácu dosiahol mnoho úspechov a ocenení. Okrem iných ocenení je držiteľom medaily „Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal“ (1996) a Prezidentskej zlatej medaily, ktorá mu bola udelená v roku 1995 prvým slovenským prezidentom Michalom Kováčom.

Prostredníctvom videonahrávky pozdravila všetkých hostí olympijská reprezentantka v krasokorčuľovaní Nicole Rajic. Nicole sa narodila a vyrastala v Spojených štátoch. Tohto roku úspešne reprezentovala Slovensko na olympiáde v PyeongChengu, kde obsadila v silnej konkurencii vynikajúce štrnásté miesto.

S-AKS má pre svojich hostí každoročne pripravenú bohatú tombolu. Na tohtoročný ples budú spomínať jej výhercovia, pretože si odniesli nielen pekné spomienky, ale aj atraktívne a hodnotné ceny. Medzi inými víkendový pobyt s rybačkou v Hamptons, víkend strávený v luxusnom hoteli Elyse v NYC, vyhlídkovú plavbu loďou, vyhlídkový let lietadlom nad Manhattanom, večeru so slovenskými diplomatmi v USA. Športoví nadšenci mali možnosť získať podpísané cenné suveníry od hokejistu Zena Cháru a krasokorčuľárky Nicole Rajic.

Na tohtoročnom plese sa stretli hostia z rôznych miest Spojených štátov za jedným účelom, a to spoločne osláviť svoj pôvod. Za úspechom dvadsiateho piateho plesového ročníka stojí mnoho hodín dobrovoľnej práce členov organizácie, vrátane členov plesového výboru: slečny Sabiny Sabados, pani Zuzany Krcmar, pani Tanyi Pulver a pána Petra Krajňáka. Vďaka však patrí predovšetkým oceneným, všetkým zúčastneným hosťom, umelcom i sponzorom.

Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko vás už teraz srdečne pozýva na ďalší ročník Slovenského bálu, ktorý sa uskutoční v sobotu 23. februára 2019!

Úplný zoznam sponzorov bálu a ďalších akcií organizovaných S-AKS nájdete na webovej stránke: www.slovakamericanc.org.

Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko
Článok zaslala Sabina Sabados,
predsedníčka S-AKS a regionálna riaditeľka IKSJ



Rok slovenskej štátnosti predstaví dejinnú cestu Slovákov

Historický podiel na vzniku súčasnej Slovenskej republiky majú aj známe i menej známe osobnosti spojené s Maticou slovenskou (MS). Ustanovizeň si v roku 2018 pripomenie výročia viacerých z nich sériou tematických podujatí, seminárov a konferencií.

„Cesta Slovákov k vlastnej modernej štátnosti nemohla byť úspešná bez tých, ktorí dennodenne pracovali na zlepšení postavenia nášho národa. Veľa sa hovorí o Štúrovi či Štefánikovi, ale už málokto vie, čo dosiahol doživotný správca Matice slovenskej Jozef Škultéty alebo Andrej Kmeť, zakladateľ Muzeálnej slovenskej spoločnosti, ktorou prakticky nahradil činnosť zrušenej Matice. Tento rok tak máme jedinečnú možnosť predstaviť verejnosti významné udalosti a zaujímavé osobnosti, z ktorých mnohí boli matičiari,“ uviedol predseda MS Marián Gešper v súvislosti s vyhláseným Rokom slovenskej štátnosti. Ten sa začal novoročným koncertom vo Zvolenskej Slatine a pokračovať bude po celom Slovensku v rôznych matičných pracoviskách.

Kultúrne a literárne podujatia, ako aj odborné semináre a konferencie sa tematicky zamerajú predovšetkým na Slovenské povstanie z meruôsmych rokov, Pittsburskú dohodu a Martinskú deklaráciu z roku 1918 či Manifest slovenského národa, ktorý viedol k autonómii v roku 1938. Venovať sa budú tiež Dubčekovmu obrodnému procesu a zákonu o federácii z roku 1968, ako aj Sviečkovej manifestácii pred troch desaťročí.

Všetky tieto dôležité udalosti majú spoločné číslo osem a spájajú sa s nimi okružle výročia osobností, aj vďaka ktorým mohla neskôr vzniknúť moderná Slovenská republika. Matica slovenská chce verejnosti vysvetliť nielen ich význam pre súčasnosť, ale tiež predstaviť zaujímavé fakty z ich životov.

„Je známe, že napríklad Jozef Škultéty bol pre svoju pronárodnú činnosť väznený až šesťkrát. Rovnako aj Martin Rázus bol pre svoje politické presvedčenie tŕňom v oku uhorského režimu, no ľahké to nemal ani po roku 1920,“ načrtnol riaditeľ Slovenského historického ústavu Ivan Mrva. V piatok 19. januára uplynulo od smrti Jozefa Škultétyho presne 70 rokov.

V knižnici slovenskej štátnosti v Bratislave sa v stredu popoludní uskutočnilo odborné kolokvium s názvom 25 rokov od vzniku Slovenskej republiky 1. januára 1993, na ktorom sa hovorilo o okolnostiach rozdelenia Česko-slovenskej federatívnej republiky a vzniku samostatného Slovenska.

TASR informovala Veronika Matušková, hovorkyňa Matice slovenskej

V Európe i na Slovensku poukážu na potenciál kultúrneho dedičstva do budúcnosti

Kultúrne dedičstvo je nielen odkazom minulosti, ale aj cenným zdrojom pre budúcnosť. Túto myšlienku bude rozvíjať Európsky rok kultúrneho dedičstva (ERKD) 2018, ktorého aktivity sa budú realizovať i na Slovensku.

Predmetom záujmu a propagácie aktivít bude kultúrne dedičstvo vo všetkých jeho formách – hmotnej, nehmotnej i digitálnej. Národná koordinátorka ERKD 2018 Zuzana Ondrejková na nedávnej tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave informovala, že cieľom celoeurópskych aktivít je prostredníctvom kultúrneho dedičstva posilniť spájanie a spolupatričnosť k európskej spoločnosti, zároveň pozdvihnúť povedomie o kultúrnom dedičstve. „Keď o ňom budeme mať vedomosť, budeme ho poznať, vytvoríme si k nemu citovú väzbu a tak je oveľa väčší predpoklad, že budeme mať tendenciu ho ochraňovať, prezentovať i zachovávať pre ďalšie generácie,“ ozrejmila. V rámci tém, ktoré sa budú rozvíjať prostredníctvom štyroch tematických oblastí nadnárodných projektov, sa preto iniciatívy zamerajú aj na otázky zmien, ktorými prechádza kultúrne dedičstvo, a taktiež hrozieb a rizík, s ktorými je konfrontované.

Medzi oficiálne aktivity ERKD môžu svoje projekty prihlásiť aktéri na národnej, regionálnej i miestnej úrovni, ministerstvá, štátne kultúrne inštitúcie, ale aj spolky a združenia z mimovládneho sektora, rovnako i odborníci v oblasti kultúrneho dedičstva. Prihlásiť svoje aktivity možno prostredníctvom webu Ministerstva kultúry SR. „Registrujeme značný záujem, oficiálne máme zatiaľ prihlásených desať aktivít,“ informovala Ondrejková. „Jednou z nich je aj medzinárodná konferencia, ktorá sa bude konať 13.-14.2. vo dvorane ministerstva kultúry a ktorá bude zameraná na tému obnovy hradov,“ dodala.

Tému ERKD bude do svojich aktivít implementovať aj Zastúpenie Európskej komisie na Slovensku. „Myšlienky ERKD budeme rozvíjať prostredníctvom kampane na sociálnej sieti, ale takisto aj v rámci podujatí, ktoré organizujeme, alebo sa minimálne podieľame na ich konaní, tak ako napríklad súťaž Junior internet alebo festivaly ako Kremnické gagy či Cirkul'art,“ informoval vedúci Zastúpenia EK na Slovensku Ladislav Miko. Verí, že ERKD podnieti a bude inšpirovať ľudí aj k tomu, aby sa zaujímali i o slovenské tradície a zvyky.

Medzi inštitúciami, ktoré sa už ku kampani ERKD pripojili, je aj Slovenská národná galéria (SNG). „Nie je to však formou výstavy, ale prostredníctvom digitalizácie kultúrneho dedičstva a nášho Webu umenia poskytujúceho byť aj v pohodlí domova v priamom dotyku s kultúrnym dedičstvom,“ uviedla generálna riaditeľka Slovenskej národnej galérie (SNG) Alexandra Kusá.

Na vyhlásenie roka 2018 za Európsky rok kultúrneho dedičstva sa na základe návrhu EK dohodli členské štáty a Európsky parlament. Oslavy ERKD 2018 sa oficiálne začali už v decembri 2017 na Európskom kultúrnom fóre v talianskom Miláne. Na národnej úrovni otvorilo ERKD na konci novembra 2017 podujatie Fénix, na ktorom odovzdávali Cenu ministra kultúry za najlepšiu obnovu národnej kultúrnej pamiatky.

TASR

Výtvarná súťaž „Putovanie dejinami s Cyrilom a Metodom“

Žiaci na Slovensku i v Česku sa môžu zapojiť do výtvarnej súťaže Putovanie dejinami s Cyrilom a Metodom. Súťaž vyhlasuje medzinárodné združenie Európska kultúrna cesta sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ktorého členom sú okrem Nitrianskeho samosprávneho kraja aj ďalšie regionálne i obecné samosprávy, kultúrne a vzdelávacie inštitúcie na Slovensku i v Českej republike, spolu s gréckym mestom Solún.

Ako informovali organizátori súťaže, školská mládež môže výtvarne spracovať svoj vzťah k cyrilo-metodskému odkazu na tému Na počiatku bolo Slovo – Konštantín s Metodom naučili našich predkov čítať a písať a Kto prahne po takých mužoch - Cyrilo-metodský odkaz (nielen pre dnešný svet). Na umelecké spracovanie tém môžu žiaci využiť maľbu, kresbu, koláž, keramickú mozaiku, textil, prírodné materiály i počítačový grafiku.

Súťažné práce treba poslať do 18. mája 2018 do Slováckeho múzea v Uherskom Hradišti. Výsledky budú vyhlásené 21. septembra v Pamätníku Veľkej Moravy v Starom Meste. Súbor najkrajších prác bude tvoriť putovnú výstavu, ktorú si bude možné pozrieť v Starom Meste, Mikulčiciach i Nitre.

TASR



Vznikla Expertná komisia Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a odborníkov zo Slovenska Matica slovenská v nej má zastúpenie

Stála konferencia Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí sa usporadúva v dvojročnom časovom intervale od r. 1999. Jej hlavnou témou je oblasť štátnej politiky Slovenskej republiky smerom ku Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí, ktorá sa realizuje prostredníctvom Zákona č. 474/2005 Z. z. o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí. Zasadá najmä z potreby novelizácie zákona v kontexte doterajších skúseností a novej Koncepcie štátnej politiky Slovenskej republiky vo vzťahu k Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí na ďalšie obdobie. Vytvára priestor aj pre komunikovanie skúseností krajanov z rozličných krajanových komunít s cieľom zlepšiť ich podmienky.

Na sklonku roka 2017 zasadala v Bratislave po prvý raz novokreovaná expertná komisia, ktorú zriadilo Svetové združenie Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí v spolupráci s ÚSZZ, s cieľom bilancie priorit štátnej krajanovej politiky. Finančná podpora na vznik komisie bola čerpaná z fondu Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR. Na zasadaní sa zúčastnili experti z 8 krajín sveta (Srbsko, Česká republika, Maďarsko, Írsko, Nemecko, Rumunsko, Švédsko, USA) a odborníci zo Slovenska, ktorých za Maticu slovenskú reprezentovala riaditeľka KM MS, Zuzana Pavelcová. Nosnou témou rokovania bola najmä finančná podpora Slovenskej republiky vo vzťahu ku krajanom, metodika prerozdelenia zdrojov, ich opodstatnenie, prioritné sektory, špecifika krajanových komunít a ich osobité potreby. V dialógu sa opäť pertraktovala téma navýšenia objemu grantových financií na podporu krajanových komunít, ale i téma aktuálnych problémov krajanov v oblasti školstva, kultúry, vedy, médií, informácií a krajanového života, vznik Centra slovenského zahraničia v Bratislave či príprava nepovinného predmetu pre študentov slovenských škôl na našom území – *Slováci vo svete*.

Na zasadanie expertnej komisie nadväzovalo zasadanie Generálnej rady Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí, ktoré určilo ako krajinu konania Dní slovenského zahraničia v roku na rok 2018, Rakúsko.

Posledným rokovanim bolo zasadnutie Programovej konferencie SZSZ, kde sa riešili opäť otázky financií, ako aj aktuálne otázky ukrajinského školského zákona, či ďalšie témy, ktoré sa odvíjali zo záverov zasadania expertnej komisie.

Zuzana Pavelcová

Prezidenti Rakúska a SR spustili nové umelecké vlakové spojenie

Projekt T.R.A.M. - špeciálne upravené vlakové spojenie medzi Bratislavou a Viedňou, ktorého úlohou je cestujúcim priblížiť historickú a kultúrnu blízkosť oboch krajín - odštartovali v pondelok 19. februára 2018 vo Viedni prezident SR Andrej Kiska a jeho rakúsky kolega Alexander Van der Bellen.

Netradičná galéria súčasného umenia bude do novembra premávať v pravidelnom vlakovom spojení medzi viedenskou a bratislavskou hlavnou stanicou jedenásťkrát denne.

Obaja prezidenti sa na vagóny umeleckého vlaku aj podpísali a zhodli sa na tom, že tento projekt je symbolickým vyjadrením priateľských vzťahov a silných väzieb medzi Rakúskom a Slovenskom.

Vo vlaku si cestujúci budú môcť prezrieť rozličné výstavy súčasného umenia. Cestovanie obohati i hudobný či divadelný festival. Nebude v ňom chýbať ani priestor na diskusie, prezentácie a prednášky významných hostí z oblasti umenia, kultúry a diplomacie. Tie by mali prebiehať každú stredu večer.

Poslaním projektu T.R.A.M je podporiť kultúrnu mobilitu a ponúknuť netradičný umelecký zážitok, ktorý cestovanie obohati o prekvapivé stretnutia so súčasným umením.

Názov projektu sa viaže na viedenskú električku, ktorá od roku 1914 spájala Viedeň a Bratislavu. Viedencania na nej chodili na kávu a do opery do Bratislavy, Bratislavčania zase do Viedne.

Myšlienka vytvorenia tohto projektu vznikla pri príležitosti viacerých významných výročí roku 2018 a pri príležitosti 25 rokov bilaterálnej spolupráce Rakúska a Slovenska. Projekt iniciovalo veľvyslanectvo Rakúskej republiky v Bratislave a vznikol v spolupráci slovenských a rakúskych železníc.

TASR

Kresťania na Slovensku aj v zahraničí slávia prvú pôstnu nedeľu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

miest a obcí či iných priestranstvách sa v období pôstu konajú pobožnosti krížovej cesty ako spomienka na Kristovo utrpenie. Vážnosť pôstneho obdobia pripomína aj fialová farba chrámového rúcha a rúcha kňazov.

Aj v Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania (ECAV) na Slovensku slávia prvú pôstnu nedeľu - Invocavit, ktorej názov je odvodený od biblického textu - Bude ma vyzvať. Evanjelickí duchovní v čase pôstu nenosia biele kamže, počas služieb Božích používajú len čierne luteráky, čiernej alebo tmavofialovej farby je aj oltárne rúcho. V ECAV sa v období pôstu konajú modlitbové stretnutia veriacich, pôstne stretnutia pri slove a hudbe a mnohé koncerty.

Postenie, v zmysle odriekania sa istých pokrmov v určité dni, je v ECAV dobrovoľné a pôstne predpisy nie sú také prísne ako v katolíckej či pravoslávnej cirkvi. Evanjelickí duchovní však veriacim odporúčajú, aby sa v období pôstu snažili zbaviť rôznych zlozvykov, napríklad, aby menej času trávil pri televízii či počítačoch a viac sa venovali rodine, deťom, alebo navštívili chorých. Najdôležitejšie je obrátenie sa človeka k Bohu, rozpoznanie a priznanie si vlastných omylov a hriechov, oľutovanie a prosby o ich odpustenie.

V období pôstu je šesť pôstnych nediel. Najznámejšia je posledná, šiesta pôstna nedeľa, známa aj ako Kvetná či Palmová nedeľa alebo Nedeľa utrpenia Pána.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník Jednota



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

Ročník 127

STREDA, 7. MARCA 2018

Číslo 5966

Slovenský bál oslávil 25. výročie



Skupinová fotografia členov a funkcionárov IKSJ: prezident IKSJ, Andrew M. Rajec s manželkou Ildkou, (na snímke v zadnom rade v prostriedku) a regionálna riaditeľka IKSJ, Sabina Sabados (v prvom rade v prostriedku) počas jubilejného 25. výročia Slovenského bálu, ktorý sa konal 10. februára 2018 v The Royal Manor v Garfield, New Jersey.

Nezisková organizácia so sídlom v New Yorku, Slovensko – Americké Kultúrne Stredisko (S-AKS) začalo s organizovaním plesov pre slovensko – americkú verejnosť v roku 1993. Vtedy po prvýkrát touto spoločenskou udalosťou oslávili jej členovia samostatnosť Slovenska. Tohtoročnú druhú februárovú sobotu si vyše 350 hostí pripomenulo jubilejné 25. výročie Slovenského bálu.

Po štvrtýkrát sa Slovenský bál konal v elegantnom podniku The Royal Manor v Garfield, New Jersey. Už tradične sa táto spoločenská akcia niesla v slávnostnom plesovom duchu. Aj tentokrát ju svojou prítomnosťou poctilo mnoho významných hostí a diplomatov. Nechýbali Jeho Excelencia stály predstaviteľ SR pri OSN veľvyslanec Michal Mlynár s pani manželkou Dr. Andreou Mlynárovou; pán Miroslav Jenča, zástupca

Pokračovanie na str. 22



Na snímke predsedníčka plesového výboru, Sabina Sabados odovzdáva cenu prezidentovi IKSJ, Andrew M. Rajecovi.

Kresťania na Slovensku aj v zahraničí slávia prvú pôstnu nedeľu

Prvú pôstnu nedeľu v období Pôstu pred Veľkou nocou slávia katolíci, evanjelici a kresťania z ďalších cirkví. Je to čas stíšenia, pokánia, modlitieb a pôstu, kedy sa veriaci duchovne pripravujú na veľkonočné sviatky.

Cieľom obdobia pôstu je, aby ľudia skutkami sebazaprenia a kajúcivosti pracovali na sebe a smerovali k vyššej kvalite svojho života. Cirkvi odporúčajú veriacim, aby viac času ako inokedy venovali v tomto období modlitbám, čítaniu Božieho slova, aby konali dobré skutky a pomáhali ľuďom v núdzi.

V Katolíckej cirkvi sa dnes koná tradičná celocirkevná zbierka na podporu Slovenskej katolíckej charity, ktorá poskytuje sociálne a zdravotnícke služby starým, chorým a ľuďom v núdzi. V kostoloch, na kalváriách

Pokračovanie na str. 23



FOTO TASR/AP

Slovenský kardinál Jozef Tomko (vpravo) značí znak križa popolom na čelo pápeža Františka (vľavo) počas omše v bazilike svätej Sabíny na Aventínskom pahorku v Ríme na Popolcovú stredu 14. februára 2018.

Cardinal Jozef Tomko puts ashes on Pope Francis' forehead, at the Basilica of Saint Sabina in Rome Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018.

GLOBSEC sa stal partnerom Mníchovskej bezpečnostnej konferencie

Medzinárodná bezpečnostná konferencia GLOBSEC uzavrela partnerskú spoluprácu s tohtoročnou Mníchovskou bezpečnostnou konferenciou. Stáva sa tak prvým stredoeurópskym think-tankom svojho druhu, ktorý vstúpil do úzkej spolupráce s týmto prestížnym nemeckým podujatím, aby svoje myšlienky zdieľal s viac ako 450 vplyvnými osobnosťami. Informovala o tom nedávno Monika Ševčíková z GLOBSEC-u. „Sme hrdí na to, že Mníchovská bezpečnostná konferencia sa obrátila na GLOBSEC v súvislosti s hlavnými bezpečnostnými výzvami, ktorým momentálne čelia Európa i celý svet,“ povedal prezident GLOBSEC-u Róbert Vass. „Je to ďalší významný signál toho, že medzinárodná dôveryhodnosť GLOBSEC-u a jeho tematických výstupov rastie. Taktiež vnímame našu účasť na tomto významnom fóre ako signál toho, že sú GLOBSEC a stredná Európa stále viac vnímaní ako dôležití hráči na medzinárodnom poli,“ dodal.

GLOBSEC bude na konferencii viesť diskusiu, počas ktorej vysokým politickým predstaviteľom a akcionárom odprezentuje hlavné zistenia Iniciatívy GLOBSEC pre adaptáciu NATO (GNAI) a rozoberie projekt Stálej štruktúrovanej spolupráce Európskej únie (PESCO).

Spolupráca tiež zahŕňa partnerstvo Mníchovskej bezpečnostnej konferencie s GLOBSEC fórom 2018, pričom bude figurovať vo viacerých hlavných diskusiách.

TASR

Slovensko má olympijské zlato Postarala sa o to zázračná Kuzminová



Slovak biathlete Anastasia Kuzminova dominated the last women's individual discipline at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games. She won her first gold at this year's Olympics after completing the Women's 12.5km Mass Start. Slovak biathlete Anastasia Kuzminova came second in the 10-kilometres pursuit race at the Winter Olympics in Pyeong-Chang on February 12.

FOTO TASR – Dano Veselský

Na snímke slovenská olympijská medailistka v biatlone zo ZOH 2018 Anastasia Kuzminová pózuje s medailami počas tlačovej konferencie po jej návrate zo ZOH v Pjongčangu, 23. februára 2018 v Bratislave. Kuzminová získala tri medaily - zlatú medailu v pretekoch s hromadným štartom na 12,5 km, striebornú medailu vo vytrvalostných pretekoch na 15 km a striebornú medailu v stíhacích pretekoch žien na 10 km a stala sa najúspešnejšou biatlonistkou olympijskej histórie.

