



Jednota

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NUMBER 5953

President's 2016 Annual Report Presented at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting Friday, March 17, 2017

Fellow Officers, Members of the Board of Directors and Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union:

First, I would like us to remember and pray for all National, District and Branch Officers and all of the Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who have reached Eternal Life since our March 2016 Board Meeting.

I want to thank our employees for their efforts and the Board of Directors for their support, and our Members for your continued interest in and support of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The general U.S. economy has shown signs of improvements with modest job growth. The nation has elected a new president but there appears to be a divided nation centered on ideology, economics and religion.

European economies are still stagnant and world-wide interest rates are very low. Stimulus is still the aim for many central banks. The European continent is threatened with the potential break-up of the common market and possibly the euro.

The price of oil has recovered, apparently stabilized in the \$45-\$60 range, subject to world events.

The Ukraine situation has not been in the headlines recently, being replaced by the news of the mass migration of potentially millions of people, many of them Muslims, from war torn countries like Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere in North Africa.

Slovakia along with Poland and Hungary have refused to participate with the EU, especially Germany, to accept their so called "quota" of potentially millions of refugees.

The most recent elections in Slovakia saw the rise of right-of-center parties with a nationalistic agenda. That found it necessary to form coalitions to form the current government. Changes could happen.

The US stock market has experienced new highs while interest rates continued to be in a low historic range with indications that rates may start to rise slowly.

This has continued to cause reduced yields on new bond investments resulting in slightly reduced overall investment yields in our bond portfolio. There has also been some "flight to quality" in the bond sector. This has caused some competing fraternalists who chased yields by purchasing lower rated and/or longer duration bonds to experience drops in RBC.

In the meantime our Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union, must prudently invest our Members' funds while also trying to grow our membership, promote Slovak culture and our Catholic Faith.

Again in 2016 we did not want to unnecessarily take added risk in our portfolio. Our number one priority is the protection of funds entrusted to us by our Members, whether it be in insurance or annuities. Some other companies, including some fraternalists, have chosen to substantially increase their annuity liabilities in a manner we believe is not in our Members' best interest in today's investment environment.

The First Catholic Slovak Union has made a conscious decision not to aggressively increase our annuity sales. In 2016 we had about \$21 million dollars in annuity sales, slightly exceeding our plan.

That being said, I am proud to report that



Andrew M. Rajec

our December 31, 2016 financial report filed as required with the State of Ohio, our state of domicile, as confirmed by our outside Actuary Ed Cowman with Miller & Newberg, and audited by the outside Auditors Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood, LLP, shows that the Society has reached another new record in total assets of \$382,391,381 compared to assets of \$366,868,306 at 12/31/2015.

In addition, and more importantly, surplus for 2016 increased by \$1,701,981 dollars to another new record of \$28,099,397 at 12/31/2016, even after giving a dividend to our Members slightly above that of 2015.

As I noted in my 2015 report we cannot expect a new record of profits and increased surplus every year. We cannot take these favorable results for granted.

As of December 31, 2016, FCSU solvency ratio was over 107%, higher than many of the 25 largest insurance companies in the United States. The solvency ratio means that there are assets of \$107 dollars for every \$100 dol-

continued on page 3

**Spring is around the corner
Grow your \$\$\$ with us!**

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FCSU Financial® - First Catholic Slovak Union
Rate guarantees & conditions vary by contract. Rates effective as of February 1, 2017.
Contact your Branch officer or the Home Office, www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com

Insights and Viewpoints



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

April 30, 2017 – Third Sunday of Easter
Gospel – Luke 24; 13 - 35

The Church celebrates Easter for fifty days, with the fiftieth day being Pentecost. During these first weeks of Easter we hear the various accounts of the Resurrection and the appearances of our Risen Lord to the Apostles and Disciples. Easter Sunday began, not as a day of joy, but a continuation of the mourning over the death of Jesus. We heard on Easter and last



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

Sunday how the Apostles came to experience the presence of the Risen Lord, and for those like Thomas it took a while for the reality of the Resurrection to sink in. Their joy and alleluias began when they realized that Jesus was no longer dead, but was Risen and truly alive. We still have thirty-six days to go in our Easter Season, and hopefully when we celebrate Pentecost the joy of Easter will continue to deepen our faith for the rest of our lives.

The Gospel for this weekend continues the accounts of what the apostles and disciples experienced on that first Easter. The two disciples left Jerusalem for Emmaus gave the Impression that after the Passion and Death of the Lord, and even after they had heard of the empty tomb, they were going home to return to business as usual. They encounter the Risen Lord and in response to his question tell him of the faith they had in Jesus, their hope that he was the Messiah, and the disappointment in his death. They even mention to him that there was a report that morning of the empty tomb and that Jesus had appeared to some of the followers. It seems that they did not yet believe that Jesus is Risen and chose to go home sad and heavy hearts. Jesus responds by going back to Moses and the prophets and explain to them all that pertained to him. Their eyes were still closed to recognize that this man who was teaching them, was himself the Jesus. In an act of kindness and appreciation they invite him to eat with them, and their eyes are opened when Jesus breaks bread, and vanishes from their sight.

For these two disciples it was Sunday Evening when their Easter began. They were so filled with joy that they reversed directions, and in the midst of the tiredness of spending the day walking to Emmaus they ran all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the Apostles that they had seen the Lord.

Have you seen the Lord? Has his presence filled you with such joy that you became renewed and re-energized in a way that you never expected would happen to you? This Gospel and the Easter Season is a good reminder to us that the Risen Lord is always with us. He is walking with us during times of great joy, as well as in our darkest moments. At times we become so caught up and distracted with what's happening in our lives that we fail to recognize his presence. Jesus doesn't give up and leave us, he continues to walk with us. Sometimes we don't realize his presence and how it is strengthening us, but it is.

During the Easter Season, as we sing the joyful songs and Alleluias, pray that our eyes might be opened to recognize the presence of Jesus. May we may do this with a renewed appreciation for the gift of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. That as we gaze at the consecrated Host, we might see Jesus our Risen Lord. As we awake each morning may we see how he walks with us throughout each day.

May 7, 2017- Fourth Sunday of Easter
Gospel John 10: 1-10

"They were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, 'What are we to do, my brothers?' Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:37-38).

The first reading startles us with the immediate response of the people in Jerusalem to Peter's preaching—it stands in contrast to the presumed way in which many of us regard our faith, even if we truly hold it dear. It is implicit and always there, and in a society that is still largely structured around Judeo-Christian principles it rarely requires us to do anything that would strike our fellow citizens as remarkable.

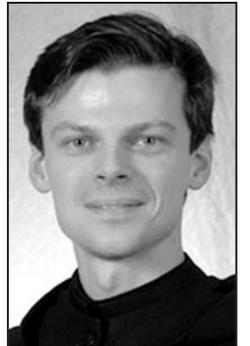
But not so with these folks gathered for Pentecost (the feast being celebrated in Jerusalem when Peter gives his speech). They are deeply moved, to the point of actually making a religious conversion: "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day" (Acts 2:41). Would we have done so? Would we have so readily heeded the call to faith in the risen Lord were it the very first time we had heard the call? It is easy to live the faith when it is part of the fabric of our culture and family, but had we stood in the assembly with Peter and the others that day in Jerusalem would we have been among those baptized?

We can only speculate really, no one can say for sure what they would have done in that setting. Nonetheless, thinking of the situation that unfolded in the first reading reminds us of the Good Shepherd whom we meet in the gospel. The same Lord whom Peter proclaimed and in whose name three thousand people were baptized that day in Jerusalem is revealed to us as a shepherd who protects his sheep, "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture," and as the shepherd who is willing to give everything for his flock: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:9, 11).

Nowhere in this gospel passage does Jesus say that he will discriminate as to whether his sheep readily accepted him in a moment of dramatic conversion or whether they only recognized him through the habits and ingrained beliefs gained through many years of life. If we are like one of the eager crowd in Jerusalem or a Christian believer of many generations he accepts us all, and guards us as a shepherd guards his flock.

The Psalm speaks of the Lord as a shepherd too, and here "the Lord" as it is spoken by the Psalmist indicates not Jesus but the Father, the Lord God of Israel. Whether in the days of Israel of old or in the time of Christian revelation God always seeks out his children, protecting and guiding them into verdant pastures and leading them to restful waters, no matter how they came to belief.

Some do not like the language in these passages which seems to compare people to sheep in an unfavorable way, as though the faithful are excessively docile or easily led like sheep. Some especially were put off by Pope Francis' remarks some time ago about priests needing "to take on the smell of the sheep". But in the final analysis this parable is not about us but about God, acting in Christ, who is truly our Good Shepherd and faithful Sheep Gate, willing to welcome into his good pasture even those who arrive at the eleventh hour.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

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, MAY 10	MONDAY, MAY 1
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14	MONDAY, JUNE 5
WEDNESDAY, JULY 19	MONDAY, JULY 10

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President's Annual Report for the year

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lars of liabilities.

The FCSU continues to fully fund its annuity reserves from the date of deposit, which means that FCSU's reserving method established annuities at full fund account value, without adjustment for surrender penalties. FCSU is one of only a handful of fraternal insurers that uses this conservative reserving method, another step to protect Member's funds.

As I have reported previously the NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) and the various State Insurance Departments have been more aggressive in monitoring the financial strength of all insurance companies and fraternal.

As a measure of an insurance company's financial health, States require each company's Actuary to run and provide what are called "Cash Flow Studies" every year. These are complex and costly to the FCSU and to all other insurance companies and fraternal.

"Risk Based Capital Calculation" (RBC) - many State regulators consider the test to be a litmus test of financial strength. A RBC ratio of under 300 is a red flag warning. Under 200, a State Insurance Department can start regulatory action, which could include forcing the company to raise capital, cease writing new business, and even liquidate. There is talk of making this ratio even more stringent.

I am pleased and proud to report that the First Catholic Slovak Union has a Risk Based Capital ratio of 860, even higher than last year, a sign of financial strength. Surplus is very important. If we want to attract young, financially savvy new Members, we must show financial stability and strength. While this can be a volatile number, we have one of the highest RBC ratios in the fraternal world.

Many insurers have had drops in their RBC with the new Calculations, including some competitor fraternal. Those fraternal with the strongest financials will survive and thrive.

An example: the FCCLA recently announced their merger with 2 Polish ethnic fraternal (@35,000 total members; one in liquidation).

While we have been criticized for stressing surplus and RBC ratios, financial strength is paramount. I have said many times it's harder to be fraternal when you don't have money to fund fraternal activities or causes.

The challenge, however, continues for us in many areas and for various reasons, which I will discuss. As I have said before, our Society wants to have a goal of attaining an A.B. Best rating of A- within five years. It will not be easy.

We have invited Joseph Annoti, President of the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA), to speak to the Board regarding developments in the fraternal industry.

2017 CHALLENGES

The challenges the Society faces in 2017 are varied and some are not new. They include the investment environment, interest rates, the number of Recommenders, new agents, existing and new Branches, membership and fraternalism.

The challenges have changed and only increased in recent years. I quote in part from an article in a 1995 issue of the Jednota written by Joseph C. Krajsa, then Editor Emeritus:

"In the last two decades we have seen the fraternal dwindling in membership and primarily urban Slovak parishes losing members to suburban ones. Why? Because the first and second generation Slovak Americans assimilated into American society in a relatively short time. Today their duties, responsibilities, and problems are vastly different from those of 50 or 75 years ago when Slovak immigrants struggled to survive the Great Depression, poor working conditions, and a language barrier.

Whereas fraternal and churches were once the only outlet for social activities, today they must compete with country clubs, video arcades, malls, instant worldwide communications, and inexpensive and readily available travel. In many ways, the fraternal and churches have successfully fulfilled their original mission of helping Slovaks. The task is finished and it was done well, often among the most trying circumstances.

Today fraternal must redefine their goals or continue to lose membership and premium income and eventually fall victim to increasing government regulation of the insurance industry until they face total extinction.

Slovak fraternal appear to have peaked in the early '60s, beginning to decline in the '70s and '80s. At present many are adrift, waiting for a wind to come along... a wind that may never come.

When I became editor of JEDNOTA in 1964, membership in the Society peaked at 105,000 members. Then the decline began. The administration's philosophy changed; the opinion was that we had enough members. Since this mid - '60s high, membership has declined more than one-third, so that now we are in the 70,000 range.

In many ways, the rolls of the Slovak fraternal have become obsolete, yet ironically that is to their credit.

The time for change has come. The founding fathers and mothers of the Slovak fraternal societies did not establish them to compete against one another, nor did they ever think for a moment that they would go out of existence. They founded them to help Slovaks.

But mergers of some Slovak fraternal are on the horizon even as we write these lines. It's a start of the demise of some Slovak fraternal that will go out of existence, just as some Slovak parishes are disappearing.

Today, increasing our membership and helping Slovaks are still the primary goals of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Only the battles of the Depression, mines, and orphans are behind us. We have won those fights; we have persevered. We have won the fight for a free Slovakia, a goal that was reached through the determination and sweat of our forefathers. The means of reaching our goals must be attuned to the '90s as well as be responsive and receptive to the mass of changes that we will encounter by the year 2000.

It is time that we sit down and put petty jealousies and perceived rivalries aside. Will we still be around ten years into the next century to inventory that which we have today, or will we find that it has dwindled away to nothing? Slovaks and Slovak fraternal must prosper now to show their strength."

INVESTMENT YIELDS

The year 2016 was another positive year for the Society. The investment climate for bonds, in which the Society by law must invest most of its assets, has continued to provide historically low yields. The Federal Reserve has provided almost unlimited dollars at historically low rates to try to stimulate the U.S. economy. The Society has had to adjust its annuity rates to maintain our "spread". You all approved the action to reduce the interest rates on 4 ½ + % annuities that have passed their maturity date. We worked closely with our professional consultants in this project and followed their advice. We will talk more about this in the Board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

We have made some strides in membership aided by our very competitive annuity rates. Our annuity rates were attractive during 2016. We slightly exceeded the budgeted amount of money we would accept. We could have sold millions more of annuities if we had wanted by raising commissions paid to independent agents. But as I have said previously, we want controlled growth to protect our Members. Our model has proved successful as evidenced by our RBC ratio and our continued surplus growth. We have heard thru our consultants that some fraternal are experiencing RBC problems. We addressed the issue of licensing PA Recommenders and are looking at a method to give a "referral fee" in all other states. We will continue to add more independent agents. We took steps starting in late 2012 to contract more independent agents. We now have over 260 independent agents, up from about 220 last year.

We all know from our own branch personal experience that many of our FCSU Branches need vitalization. We had the opportunity to talk recently with the Management Team at the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, at some length, about their branch situation and their "matching funds" program. We increased the stipends to branches and districts in 2015. Too many Branches receive the annual FCSU stipend and don't use it for membership activities. Too many Branches are not active enough to even qualify for the stipend, even some of our harshest critics.

We recently contracted with Visa Marketing, a Cleveland area advertising firm with insurance related experience. They had an initial contract of \$10,000 to review and upgrade our website, which is done. We are now focusing on our agent recruitment, including emails and mass mailing. After two meetings they are finalizing our implementation strategy. We anticipate that we may allocate up to \$100,000 during the next 12-18 months in our new multi-faceted-advertising campaign.

FRATERNALISM and HERITAGE

The Society was originally founded by Slovak immigrants in 1890 and attracted and served as means of bonding together like-minded people sharing a common language, heritage and religion in a strange new land. As time passed newer generations gradually assimilated into the American fabric and common ethnic bonds stretched, as to be expected and as experienced by all ethnic fraternal.

Branches and Districts are important and we must strive to maintain and support them, for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is fraternalism.

We have heard some criticism from a few people that we are not fraternal enough and put too much stress on financials. Fraternalism must be not only from the top down but also from the bottom up. Our Branch and District Officers and Members must be willing to make the effort to build their Branches and Districts, holding events such as Christmas parties, Vilijas, kids' events, community and church projects, etc., and attending funeral wakes for deceased Members. Other fraternal have had some success in these areas.

We have identified a Home Office employee, Barbara Sutilla, who we think is well suited and is willing to do the job to help Branches and Districts promote activity in the Branches and Districts. We hired Susanne Balak, a new employee for death claims, to take some burden off Barbara regarding claims. We are three months into Suzanne's training.

We continue to add to and change displays in our museum at our Home Office in Independence. We welcome donations of artifacts.

The delicate issue of our Convention costs has been raised with our Board members as well as with our general membership. We have already received comments from state regulators and the American Fraternal Alliance.

We also continue to publish and improve the contents of our newspaper, the Jednota, our own FCSU website, as well as support various Slovak and Catholic organizations, and causes, including the Slovak Catholic Federation, Slovak League of America as well as many others, including charities in Slovakia. I pledge to continue to support our Slovak heritage and Slovak and Catholic organizations, and causes, as well as a continuing relationship with the Slovak Republic through its Embassy in Washington, D.C. I want to thank Editor Terri Ivanec for the job she has done and also Anna Sutherland for her work on the Slovak section of the Jednota.

SEWER LINE

The sewer line serving the Jednota Building No. 2 in Middletown, Pennsylvania and that would serve additional buildings on the Jednota property, runs through land owned by a third party that is subject to an Easement Agreement signed by the FCSU in 1975. As you know the owner of that property (Linden Center) has filed suit against the FCSU regarding improvements to that easement that the owner of the property claims is the obligation of the FCSU (\$450,000).

In late 2016 I replaced the Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC law firm and retained Atty. Paul Minnich with the firm of Barley Snyder Law Firm. Requests for admissions have been served by Atty. Minnich and the Plaintiff's lawyer has expressed a willingness "to talk".

EASEMENT

As you know I had received several notices from the companies that have oil and gas pipeline easements on our Jednota Estates properties that were granted 25 or more years ago. Construction is scheduled to begin in March.

There have been several recent inquiries and offers, subject to contingencies, regarding

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2016 Annual Report of the Executive Secretary

Presented March 17-18, 2017

Reverend Father, Mr. President and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada; it is my pleasure to present this 2016 report to you, the Board of Directors of the FCSU.



Kenneth Arendt

The Society experienced continued successful operating results for the year 2016. Operating profits and net income were consistent with 2015 and continued a long string of profitable years. Net gain from operations before capital gains amounted to \$1,990,356 (-7.6%). Total asset value increased 4.2% (+\$15,511,822). There were realized capital losses of \$164,465 and \$358,567 of unrealized capital gains, primarily from common stock and other invested assets. Liabilities increased \$13,809,841 (4.1%) and surplus increased 6.4%. Details follow:

Total Operation and Capital Gains Profits for 2016	
Gain per Page 4, Line 29	\$ 1,990,356
Total Capital Gains	\$ 844,340
Subtotal	\$ 2,834,696
Deferred Capital Gains (IMR)	\$(1,008,805)
Net Gain Page 4, Line 31	\$ 1,825,891

The surplus increase of 6.4% was due to several factors in addition to the net income of \$1,825,891. Unrealized gains/ (losses) were as follows:

(a) Bond	\$ 0
(b) Common Stock	\$ 31,007
(c) Com. St. Jednota, Inc.	\$ 114,241
(d) Other Invested Assets	\$ 213,319
	<u>\$ 358,567</u>

The following additional items affected Surplus:

(a) AVR	\$(415,908)
(b) Change in Non-Admitted Assets	\$ 2,919
(c) Accrual & Asset adjustment	\$ (1,488)
(d) Increase in Post Retirement Cost	\$ (68,000)
	<u>\$(482,477)</u>

The increase in surplus resulted from the strong operating gains and realized capital gains. Insurance in force decreased \$1,766,000 in 2016. The AVR balance at the end of 2008 was only \$235,339 and now stands at \$2,607,558 and is at its current maximum.

The Society emphasizes Bonds and Stocks (90.6%) and Stocks as its main investments. The Society had almost \$24,000,000 of cash on hand at year end.

The Society, as a member, uses funds available from the Federal Home Loan Bank at very favorable interest rates to help generate interest income. The funds acquired through the FHLB are managed by an investment management company.

Since 2009, the Society has employed the services of AQS (a fraternal benefit society experienced investment management firm) to assist in guiding its investment activity.

There are no known items which would cause the financial results to be inaccurate.

Financial Position:

Our 2016 premium income is broken down as follows:

Life Insurance	\$ 1,444,113
Annuities	20,013,710
Total	\$21,457,823

Investment income for 2016 is broken down as follows.

Investment Income for 2016:

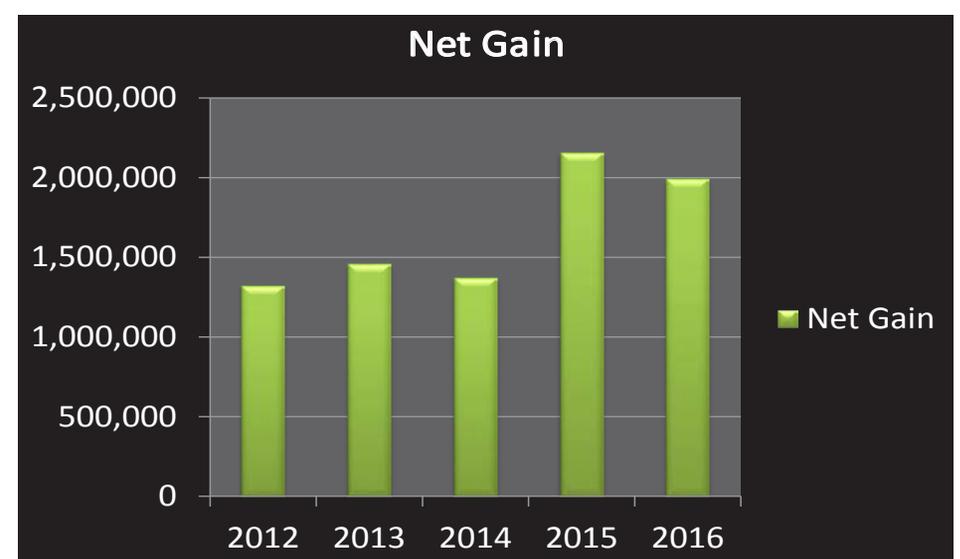
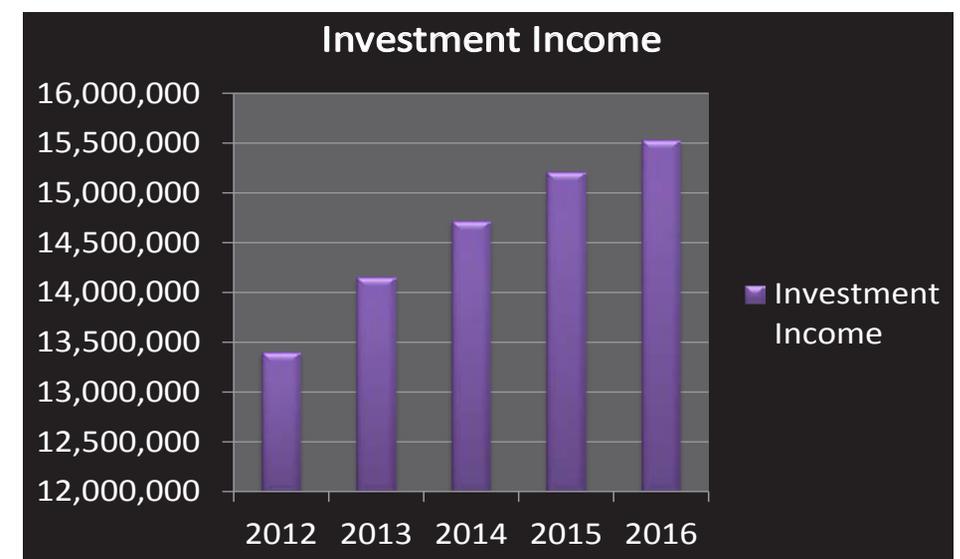
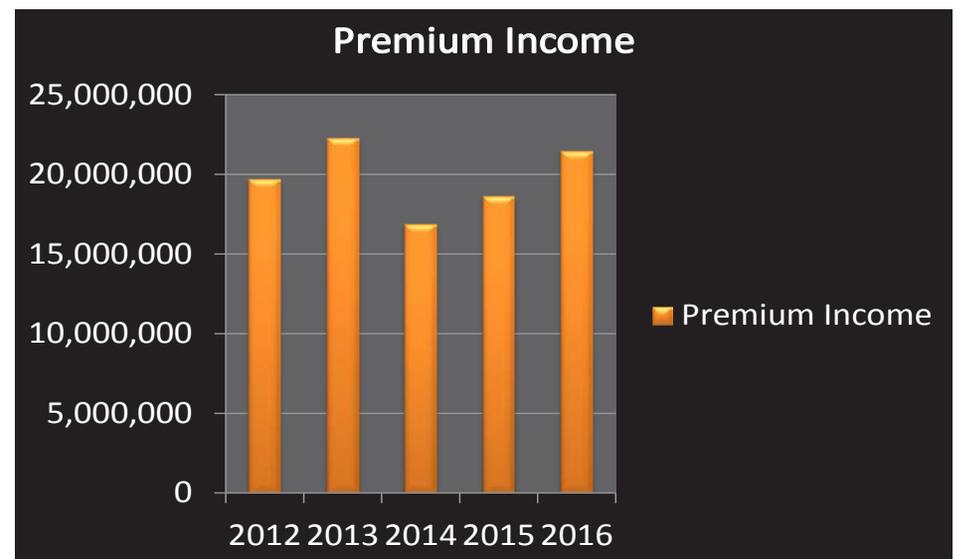
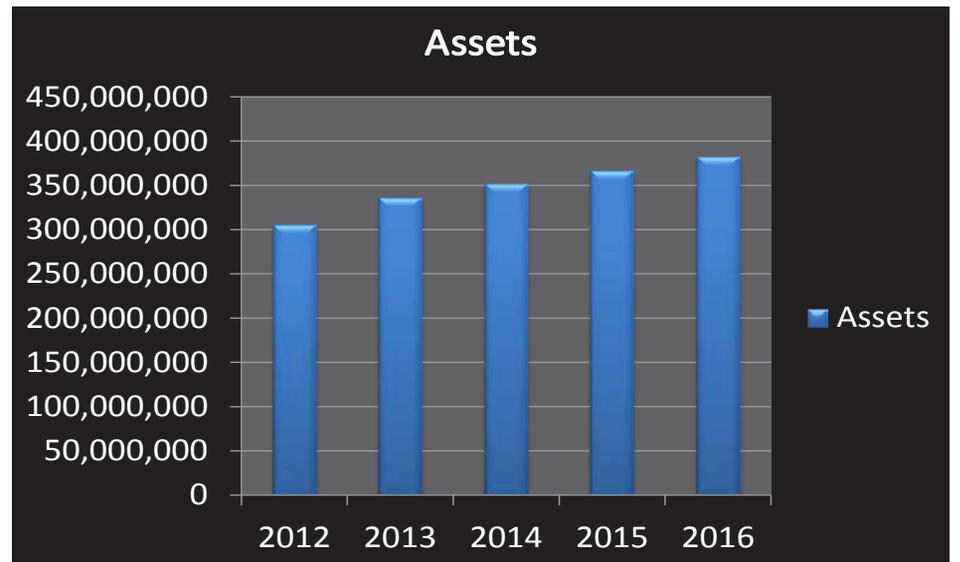
Government Bonds	\$ 854,363
Bonds	15,787,569
Common Stocks-Affiliates	60,845
Common Stock	100,000
Mortgage Loans	68,268
Real Estate	359,127
Certificate Loans	63,371
Short Term Investments	367,893
Write-ins for Investment Income	(676,207)
Total Investment Income	\$ 16,985,229

Investment Expenses:

Depreciation on Real Estate and Other	
Investment Expenses (Investment Taxes,	
License Fees, etc.)	\$(1,457,705)
Net Investment Income	\$15,527,524

Listed below is a five-year comparison of assets, premium income, investment income, net gain and surplus.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
305,479,561	336,431,292	351,426,549	366,868,306	382,380,128
19,650,874	22,216,307	16,870,446	18,573,260	21,457,823
13,393,552	14,149,981	14,710,566	15,210,048	15,527,524
1,321,333	1,455,635	1,368,485	2,153,545	1,990,356
20,646,572	22,681,610	24,149,682	26,397,416	28,099,397



Summary: Unrealized Capital Gains increased surplus by \$358,567; in addition to the net income of \$1,825,891 (includes realized losses). Surplus increased despite decreases in non-admitted assets and an asset accrual adjustment of -\$66,569, and the AVR increase of \$415,908.

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Left to right are Rudy Bernath, FCSU Director Region 7; Fr. Jamnicky; and John Jurcenko, FCSU President District 2

A copy of the FCSU resolution honoring Fr. Jamnicky



FCSU Honors Fr. Jamnicky with Resolution

Rudy Bernath, FCSU Director Region 7; and John Jurcenko, FCSU President District 2 presented Fr. Jamnicky; presentation of an FCSU resolution honoring Fr. John Jamnicky. The presentation was made in October, 2016 for Fr. Jamnicky's work for the Catholic Community.

Fr. Jamnicky is currently enjoying being a chaplain on a cruise ship.

Rudy Bernath
FCSU Director Region 7



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – FCSU Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 29, 2017, in observance of Memorial Day.

Maroš Bango is an amazing performer who has been called "The Bocelli of Slovakia". Along with his wife Alexandra, who is also blind, the couple challenge the public perceptions about what handicap artists can do. Despite their own personal challenges they attain artistic excellence and reach out to others in need of support.

Maroš Bango

in concert

Tribute to Humanity

Sunday May 7, 2017.
Saint John Nepomucene
Roman Catholic Church
411 East 66th Street
New York, NY

Tickets: \$20.00 includes lunch, youth under 12 are free
Program: Slovak Mass 10:30AM, 12:00PM lunch followed by concert
For tickets and information contact: Maria Bozekova: (347)612-1934
Lisa Calabrese: (212)734-4613 email: parishfin@eastrivercatholics.org

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Ending Hunger Via a 40-Pound Cabbage

What do a nine-year-old girl, a 40-pound cabbage, and 100 vegetable gardens have to do with ending hunger in America? Well, Katie Stagliano's story will connect the dots.

When she was a third-grader in Summerville, South Carolina's Pinewood Preparatory School in 2008, Katie's teacher gave her a cabbage seedling to plant in her backyard for a class project. She cared for that seedling, and it kept growing and growing until it reached 40 pounds. If you're like me and not particularly well-versed in normal cabbage sizes, Katie explained to me during a "Christopher Closeup" interview, "Forty pounds is ginormous for a cabbage!"

Katie noted that her father had always taught her not to waste food because there were people who went to bed hungry every night and had to rely on soup kitchens for their only meal of the day. Therefore, she decided to donate her cabbage to a local soup kitchen run by Tricounty Family Ministries. The soup kitchen's grateful director asked her to come back and help serve the cabbage.

Katie said, "I wasn't sure what to expect. But when I got there, I was so surprised at how many people were in line. The faces looked like families just like mine. You never know who the faces of hunger may be. It may be your friends, or your neighbors, or someone you see at school every day, who'd just fallen on hard times...I ended up helping to feed 275 people. And after seeing all their faces, I thought, 'If one cabbage can help to feed 275 people, imagine how many people an entire garden could help feed!'"

That was the moment that inspired the youngster to create Katie's Krops, a charity that would feed the hungry. Initially, she asked her school for a little plot of land where she could plant produce to donate to those in need. Instead, her school gave her space the size of a football field! It remains the flagship garden of Katie's Krops and produces 3,000 pounds of food a year with the help of students, staff and the community at large.

Why do so many people get involved? Katie said, "A lot of my friends come to the Katie's Krops dinners and actually get to serve the meals that they make from these vegetables to those in need in our community. And so it's really great to get to meet everyone that you're helping, to feed and grow relationships with them."

Katie's Krops has now grown into a national youth movement that aims to end hunger one vegetable garden at a time. Young people around the country are choosing to grow produce on their own to donate to local soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Katie's Krops will even provide funding grants for some of them. They have 100 gardens in 32 states—and they're still adding more!

That mission spread even further with the publication of the children's book "Katie's Cabbage" which won a Christopher Award. Katie, now age 17, concluded, "For the future of Katie's Krops, our main goal for right now is to expand to 500 gardens in all 50 states. Once we hit that, I'd definitely love to go global and try to make as big of a difference as we can. Because our overall goal is to help make a difference in ending hunger, which I know is something that's very big. But working together, we can make a huge impact."

President's Annual Report for the year

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the Middletown property. The Board passed a motion to accept offers that at least met the 2015 appraisal of the properties. No action has been taken either on acceptance of any offers nor have we made any counteroffers. Because of no consensus on selection of a broker to market the property, no agent has been retained. We need to take action while a window of opportunity exists.

MONUMENT

We have installed 15 panels with "bricks" at the Monument. Brick sales are continuing. Several more plaques have been commissioned.

I also made several visits to our properties in Middletown to meet with our Jednota Slovak Editor Anna Sutherland and the maintenance personnel of our land and properties, and oversee our investment. There will be a report on them later by Jim Marmol. Building No. 2 is fully rented at this time. However, absentee property management is difficult and does not get easier with time and complications. Building No. 2 (Piedmont lease) was up for renewal in 2016 and Piedmont continues on a rolling one year lease while the XEROX lease has been renewed, but with a 6 month opt-out under certain circumstances. We all have been reluctant to push the issue of extended renewals. I have not had any response to my letter sent to the Board on February 17, 2017.

Personally, 2016 has again been a very busy year. I have attended Branch and District meetings, picnics, Vilijas and other events in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin. I have participated in seminars with our Vice President and our Executive Secretary.

Some people have questioned the need for making personal visits and/or hold seminars and the expenses incurred. Ken Arendt and I travel together by car (with one mileage charge) wherever possible. My wife frequently travels with me and she receives no per diem or reimbursement of any kind. She does it to meet our Members and promote our Society. I still believe that the Society and myself need to be visible to our Members and potential members.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and the Board for their help and cooperation. With continuing and new challenges, 2017 will require all of our skills and efforts to continue and expand our success. This year's results show, that with the cooperation of our Home Office, the Executive Committee, and all our Officers and Board of Directors working together as a team, we can accomplish outstanding results.

Also, I want to thank our Members and especially our Branch and District officers for their continued support and commitment to our Society.

Ďakujem. Thank you. Za Boha a Národ – For God and Nation.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Annual Report of the Executive Secretary continued from page 4

The Society's IMR now stands at \$753,160, and the AVR is at \$2,607,558. The bond component of the AVR is at 90% of the 2016 maximum.

The Society's solvency ratio is 107.9%. When the IMR and AVR are combined with surplus, the solvency ratio is 109.0% (a slight increase from 2015).

The Society experienced an increase in premium income of 15.5%, up from the previous year increase of 10.1%, a positive premium income trend. Investment income increased 2.1% in spite of limited availability of high interest rate bonds.

Bonds are 90.6% (-2.6%) of the Society's assets, with an average maturity of 15 years. The Organization enjoys excellent bond quality with 96.1% of the bonds in the two highest NAIC rating classes. Common Stocks make up .6% of invested assets, and serve to provide diversity and balance to the portfolio, as well as to provide the benefit of growth potential of the market. Other assets consist of mortgages (0.2%); and all others (7.9%), including cash on hand \$23,961,405.

The most significant changes in liabilities were: policy reserves increased 5.1%; Deposit type accounts decreased 6.7%, IMR increased 128.9%; AVR increased 19.0%; Funds held as Trustee 9.4%. The AVR increase largely reflects bond re-ratings which increased the default component, but the AVR is 90% of the 2016 maximum and the common stock component is 96.4% of the 2016 maximum. The Society established \$450,000 of reserves toward its year 2018 convention. Average lapse ratio was a very favorable 3.2% over 5 years. The Society enjoys loyal membership.

The Organization's total admitted assets are \$382,380,128, a 4.2% increase. Five year asset growth is 25.2%.

Operations:

Life premium decreased 6.3%, led by a 6.6% decrease in Renewal Premium income and a 7.2% decrease in Single Premium. However, first year premium increased 28.5%. Annuity premium income increased 17.5% and totaled \$20,013,710. Overall total premium income increased 15.5%. Sales activity consists of contracted General Agencies, Independent Agents, and Member Agents. Investment income was 2.1% higher despite the current low interest rates available; portfolio repositioning and the general unfavorable economic climate. Total income for the year was 8.2% higher.

Total member benefits were 8.4% higher primarily because of a 13.2% increase in annuity benefits paid. There was a 20.4% decrease in Cash Surrenders; 7.7% decrease in Death benefits; a 6.1% increase in interest payment benefits. Life reserve demand was 5.2% lower, and annuity reserve demand was \$1,972,615 (17%) higher, consistent with the greater annuity premium production and benefit paid activity. Total Operation Expenses were 2.4% lower. Commissions were only 1.8% higher, despite the higher annuity premium. General Expenses were 3.5% lower. Management continues to monitor expenses, and expense levels in relation to income. Dividends to members were \$413,708 which is at the same level as 2015. The Society realized a gain from operations of \$1,990,356 (-7.6%) after payment of dividends. Realized capital losses were \$164,465 due to sales of common stock and Other Invested Assets.

Net Income was \$1,825,891 (+20.5%). The AVR increased by \$415,908, mainly due to re-rating of Bonds.

There are no known trends which will cause future operation results to deviate materially.

Surplus increased 6.4%. Surplus is at its highest point in the history of the Society and currently stands at \$28,099,397.

Cash Flow and Liquidity:

The items which provide liquidity are \$23,961,405 of cash, \$2,436,201 of common stock, over \$15,744,397 of bonds maturing in less than one year; over \$21,000,000 of premium income; and over \$15,500,000 of investment income. Expected outgo for benefit payments, commissions, dividends and expenses are about \$21,300,000, if the same amount of premium income and withdrawals are incurred in 2017. The Society enjoyed a \$17,700,000 positive operations cash flow in 2016.

The Society experienced level operating profits, and comparable asset growth in 2016. The net investment rate of return, although somewhat affected by the low interest rates available, will be at a competitive level. The Society markets no other major interest sensitive product other than annuities.

There are no plans for any major expenses or outlays.

Risk Based Capital:

The Risk Based Capital calculations indicate that total adjusted surplus is \$30,856,955. This does not include the \$753,160 in the IMR. The total for 50% of the calculated RBC was \$3,587,097. Our current RBC rating is 860.

The Society had no Insurance Regulatory Information System ratios outside NAIC designated ranges.

Total security trading activity was over \$87,900,000 in 2016.

Insurance in Force:

The Society recorded a decrease of \$1,766,000 in insurance in-force. Insurance in-force has decreased 0.9% since 2012.

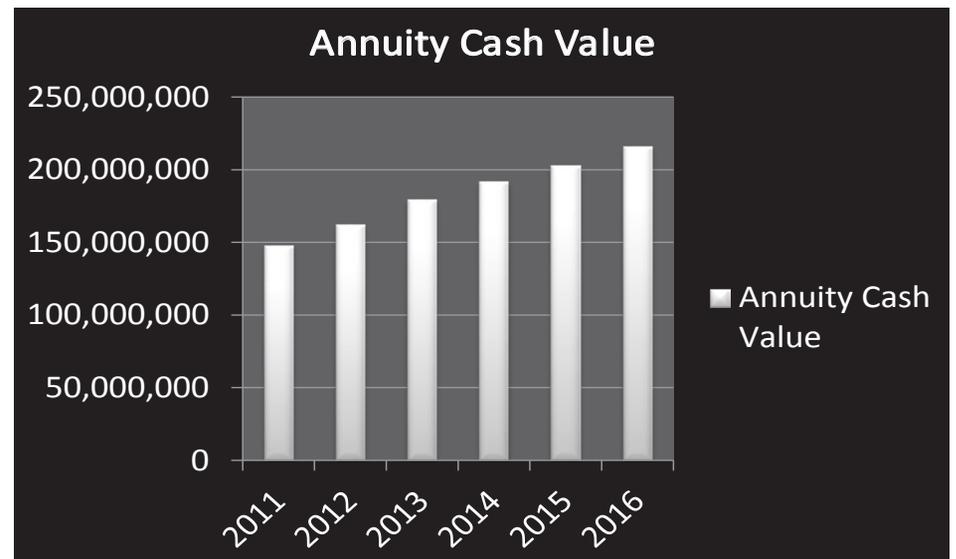
Summary:

Our 2016 financial statements, quarterly and year-end were compiled and completed on a timely basis and filed with the various states in which we are licensed to do business. We are continually in contact with the regulatory agencies of the various states regarding their requirements, which are constantly changing. We are in compliance with all of the states' and NAIC accounting regulations.

In 2016 we had a loss in insurance membership (death claims, cash withdrawals, expels,

etc.) of 877 members compared to a loss of 989 in 2015. We had a decrease in the number of life insurance certificates of 1,152 in 2016 compared to a loss of 1,331 in 2015.

As of December 31, 2016, the Society had 5,981 annuity certificates. As of December 31, 2016, annuitant membership totals 2,479 annuitant members (this total does not reflect members who have both insurance and annuity contracts). The total cash value of our annuity accounts for 2016 was \$215,956,006 compared to \$202,808,990 in 2015. Our annuity products continue to be the bright spot in our portfolio, bringing in \$68,186,287 in the last five years alone. This represents great confidence in our Society and its continued growth.



The First Catholic Slovak Union's insurance and annuity portfolio contains many products, which suit all insurance and annuity needs. The Membership and Marketing Committee, along with our actuarial firm, Miller & Newberg Inc., and our Financial Consulting Firm, ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting, LLC, continues to explore avenues to improve and enhance our existing products and develop new products.

Our expanded search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products has been successful. We are approaching 270 agents with signed contracts with our Society and they are making our products available to their clients. Our agents have access to our illustration software along with our agent portal which allows them to view their client's accounts.

We are licensed in 27 states. We are licensed in the following states: Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, Virginia, and Wisconsin. We are waiting on final approval from the state of California. This will provide an opportunity to market our insurance and annuity products and recruit new independent agents in these states.

In 2016 our marketing firm began working on a new presentation that will be used at our training seminars offered to branches and districts. These seminars are designed to educate our branch officers, district officers and recommenders not only about our existing products but also our new products and ways to present them. We believe these seminars will help stimulate the growth of our Society, develop motivation and strengthen the relationship between the Home Office, our branches and recommenders. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open among our branches, districts, recommenders and the Home Office. We encourage our district officers, branch officers and recommenders to personally discuss their thoughts and ideas with us.

In 2016 we continued to encourage our current recommenders to obtain their state insurance license. Generally, to obtain a full insurance license a person will be required to take an exam and must take continuing education classes to maintain the license. A full insurance license allows a person to solicit any amount of insurance or annuities with no restrictions. In some states a person may apply for a restricted fraternal license and not be required to take an exam or to take continuing education classes. A restricted fraternal license limits the amount of insurance or annuity products sold. We are offering an incentive plan to our recommenders and any member interested in representing the FCSU as a state licensed insurance agent an opportunity to do so with this incentive plan. The FCSU will pay 1/2 (one half) of the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the required courses and the license fee (the tuition and license fee varies by state). Based on productivity the FCSU will pay for 1/2 (one half) of the renewal. For additional information please contact our Home Office.

The Home Office maintains a supply of sales material, which will aid our officers, recommenders and independent agents with their presentation of our products. Some of these tools are sales kits, which contain information regarding our products (rates, application forms, etc.) and sales brochures describing our products. Our pamphlet: What is the Jednota, is available upon request. This pamphlet gives a brief history of our Society. Our highly qualified Home Office staff is also available during normal business hours to answer any questions concerning rates, completing applications, etc. To better serve our members and to increase efficiency, we offer an automatic premium payment service, which enables our members to have their premium payments automatically deducted from their bank accounts. Automatic deposit for annuity checks is also available to our annuity holders. For the convenience of our members, we are now accepting Visa and Master Card credit cards which may be used for premium payments, annuity deposits, loan payments and newspaper subscriptions.

We continue to use direct mail as a means of contacting our branches and our members, giving them information about our existing and new products. Direct mail is a necessary tool

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Annual Report of the Executive Secretary continued from page 6

in marketing our products as we can reach a vast majority of our members in a short time. We have expanded our use of social media by creating a Facebook page. Please visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion/>. Email has become one of the main ways to communicate with our members and as we expand our email base we are reaching out to more members and providing up to date information. We use email to send out information on branch activities and meetings to our members. We are encouraging our members and officers to use e-mail when corresponding with the Home Office and to provide the Home Office with members email addresses so everyone is kept informed. Please email us at fcsu@fcsu.com.

We are working with a local marketing firm, Visia to modernize our marketing efforts with innovative newspaper ads, promotions, and emails. Visia is also working with our marketing department to create education videos, and assist in designing ads for mailing.

We have expanded our marketing advertising in our Jednota, our official organ, to better inform our members about our products. Teresa Ivanec, our editor, has really worked hard to improve the appearance of our paper by adding color and additional articles to the paper. All articles should be sent to the Home Office or they may be emailed to fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com.

In 2016 FCSU launched a new web site www.fcsu.com, which contains the history of our Society and information about our products. We are continuing to update our website so that when you visit it you will not only have the latest information regarding our insurance and annuity products but also information about what is going on in the FCSU (branch meetings, district meetings, etc.). We are encouraging all branches and districts to send information about their activities to the Home Office so we may include the news on our website and in the Jednota newspaper (English and Slovak sections). The current issue of Jednota is available on our website as well as issues dating back to 2006. The site contains links to Slovak news agencies, the Slovak Embassy and other interesting topics. We continue to offer insurance quotes on our website for the convenience of all our members.

Our Slovak Editor and Home Office Editor uses the Internet daily to communicate with our members and to receive information from the Slovak Embassy and the Slovak News Agency. This information is used by our Slovak Editor to write articles about current events in Slovakia.

We are continually updating our computer system to be more efficient to ensure that it meets and exceeds all state and NAIC requirements. We strive to improve our Home Office operations. We believe a strong communication and working relationship between the Home Office, branches and recommenders is vital. Input from our members is necessary and very important to us. The Home Office always welcomes suggestions about ways to improve service to our members.

In 2016 our internal auditors and outside auditors, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, conducted their audits for the period ending December 31, 2016. Their audits consisted of a complete review of our quarterly and year-end financial statements and our Home Office operations. As a result of these audits our Society received an excellent review.

During 2016, we did an extensive review of our inactive branches and hope to merge these branches in 2017. This is an ongoing problem for our Home Office since many of our branch officers are unable to continue to service the members in their branches and not only is it difficult to find replacements for them within their branches, but it is also difficult to find other branches to merge with them.

Per FCSU bylaws the branches are still required to meet the requirements set forth by our FCSU Convention to qualify for the branch stipend. We encourage our branch officers that if they are unable to perform their duties and cannot find anyone in their branches to take over their duties, to call the Home Office. We will try to merge them with an active branch. For those branches that do not wish to merge, the Home Office can offer you guidelines as to how you can meet the requirements and receive the stipend. Throughout 2016 the requirements for the financial obligations (bylaw section 4.05) has been mailed to all branch officers and published in the Jednota newspaper as a reminder of the expectations for each branch.

The FCSU has an outstanding scholarship program, which is available to our members who meet the requirements. Members may contact the Home Office for information concerning the scholarship program. We continue to award 75 one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00, 3 Nursing one-time scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00, and 2 one-time Honors scholarship (1 male and 1 female) for \$1,250.00 each year to the highest ranking applicants.

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, which is separate from the Society's scholarship program, is available to any person pursuing post-secondary education. To be eligible for this one-time scholarship, the applicant must be of Slovak descent and Catholic faith. At this time, ten non-renewable scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each are expected to be awarded.

In 2017 the Home Office is going to establish the position of Home Office Fraternal Activities Coordinator. This person will work with the Fraternal Activities Director to help branches and districts plan activities. We are hoping this will stimulate membership growth within our branches and districts.

One of the activities that the FCSU takes part in each year is the March for Life, which is held in Washington, D.C. in January. Members of our Society join with all others who respect the rights of the unborn. We sponsor and support local activities, such as Slovak Radio and Slovak dance groups. We will continue to explore possible joint adventures with other fraternalists for the future.

In 2016 the Home Office Staff took part of a CPR training session. All staff members are CPR certified and have the knowledge to use an AED defibrillator if necessary. I have purchased an AED defibrillator that is available for the entire building.

As I have stated in the past, the economic success of our Society hinges on four factors: the effective sale and promoting of our insurance and annuity products to increase premium

income; the effective management of our investment portfolio to increase our investment income; continuing to control our operating expenses; and also investigate new ways to attract new members. New members are vital to our growth.

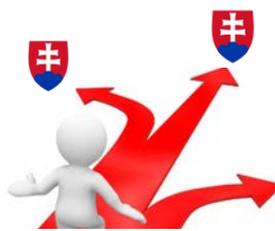
As your Executive Secretary, I represented the FCSU on the Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Slovak League as well as an Advisor of the Secretary Section of the American Fraternal Alliance. I have attended and represented the Society at fraternal functions not only within our FCSU but also other fraternal societies. I represent the society at various branch and district meetings throughout the year. Each year I attend the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Convention. I also attend many seminars, including the ENDePersis Fraternal Consulting Seminars, which are always very informative regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations that might affect the FCSU. I am in constant contact with all state Departments of Insurance to ensure that FCSU is at all times in compliance with state regulations. We continue to meet all state requirements.

My wife, Theresa, and I appreciate your trust and support as your Executive Secretary. I will continue to work and do my very best for our society. I will work towards a stronger society and address all issues with honesty and integrity. We are the First Catholic Slovak Union and I pray for our Society's continued growth. We have outstanding products with competitive rates and we all need to be involved in reaching new members and promoting our society.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of my fellow officers and board members who assisted me throughout the year. A special thank you goes to our Home Office staff, a very hard-working entity of our Society.

Fraternally,
Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Slovak U.S.A.



As a project for the Slovak Catholic Federation, Fr. Gerard Gonda, OSB, of Saint Andrew Abbey and Benedictine High School in Cleveland, OH, is trying to assemble an on-line guide to Places of Slovak Interest around the United States. Please send him information about anything connected with Slovak history or culture in your city of state (excluding Cleveland, Ohio) at: gerard@cbhs.edu.

- Submitted by Fr. Gerard Gonda, Branch 24 Chaplain

September Small Group Tour Explores the Heart and Heartland of Slovakia

Slovakia's ever-changing countryside is even more beautiful in the fall highlighted with richly green grasslands aside the dried sunflower and corn fields; bountiful apple, plum and walnut trees along the road side; and the brightly-colored fall leaves against the green spruce of the mountains.

Celebrate the harvest this fall in Slovakia on the 2017 Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 8-17, 2017. You'll travel to the heartland of Slovakia and experience



the age-old villages and way of life that our families left behind to start new lives in America. We'll explore the rich history and cultural changes that shaped this young nation at the heart of Europe, and meet the Slovak people as they transition from life in the Soviet era to the European Union.

You'll join with the Slovak people as they celebrate at the Wine and Harvest Festivals in Banska Bystrica and Modra, as well as the age-old Mining Festival in Banska Stiavnica. Relax and enjoy local music and crafts as we travel comfortably around this small but diverse country to explore picturesque villages, spectacular castles, outdoor folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral landscapes and comfortable small cities with well-preserved historic buildings, Soviet-era remnants and the vibrant life of Slovakia today.

You'll be able to arrange for personal visits to family and ancestral villages, as well as genealogical research to trace your family history as well as extend your stay in Central Europe with small-group tours to Prague, Krakow and Vienna following the Slovakia tour.

"Slovak Americans and others love our small group tours as a way to effortlessly experience the culture and history of this fascinating region," said tour organizer Judy Northup-Bennett. "Many people come to find their family roots but others, some of Polish and Ukrainian descent, come to immerse themselves in the Slavic culture of this small country that is off-the-beaten tourist path."

Slovakia Heritage Tours can also arrange small group tours for families and organizations wishing to travel at another time of the year. "I love to talk to people and help them realize their dreams to find and visit their Slovak families and learn about this beautiful country and culture," said Northup-Bennett.

For more information on the September tour or to plan your own private family tour contact: Judy Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 and slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or visit the web site at: www.slovakiaheritage.com

OVERVIEW:

2017 SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR

September 8-17, 2017

www.slovakiaheritage.com

PRICE: \$2,230 complete, land-only package

Slovak-American Cultural Center Celebration

The Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC) or as it is known in Slovak, Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SAKS), a non-profit based in New York celebrated on the red carpet its 50th anniversary at their 24th Annual Slovak Ball. With the Oscars as a backdrop for the black tie event, all those attending, a chart-topping 360 attendees, came in full force to acknowledge and honor the accomplishments of the non-profit organization. Its founding and long-time members have worked diligently since 1967 to promote, preserve, and spread Slovak culture, history, and current events through organization of cultural, scientific, and athletic activities at home and abroad as well as through financial support of various initiatives. Those honored for their dedication, leadership, and many contributions to S-ACC included: Dr. Milan Beres, Matus Culen (current Vice President), Lydia Demko (founding member), Gitka Hlavinka, Eta Jendrek, Jaroslav "Jerry" Krupa (founding member), Judith Lepko, and Ema Stasko (founding member). Recognition awards for volunteerism were given to Zuzana Krcmar (current Vice President), Stano Krcmar, Rosemary Golia (current Vice President), and Maria Sevcik who inspired the concept of the first Ball. We salute all of those honored and the current Board members for their outstanding service and commitment to the organization.

Attendees included distinguished guests from the diplomatic community including H.E. Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, Peter Kmec and his wife Monika; H.E. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to United Nations Frantisek Ruzicka and his wife, member of the board of Women's International Forum, Ingrid Ruzicka; newly appointed Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Ladislava Begec and her husband Guven Begec Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations; Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York Martin Dvořák and his wife Zuzana; and Honorary Consul and Chairman of Friends of Slovakia Joseph Senko and his wife Albina.

It was a pleasure to welcome on the red carpet the National President of First Catholic Slovak Union Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka along with Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka and her family; Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec; and home office staff Miriam Visnovsky with husband Rev. Marek Visnovsky; and Terezia Rozmus and husband Denis; along with many members from various branches including Branch 45 and Branch 746. Representatives of Slovak organizations were also present including Mrs. Nina Holy, Secretary of the Slovak League of American; John Duch Chairman of the Slovak Heritage Festival; Kenneth Bombora Vice Chairman of Friends of Slovakia; and many others. Former Miss Czech-Slovak US (2014-15), Morgan McMichen, currently pursuing her second Master's degree at the Seton Hall School of Diplomacy, enjoyed the festivities as well.

The Ball opened with a performance of the Viennese Waltz by Slovak professional dancer, Vanda Polakova and her husband Michael Choi, followed by special guest performers from Slovakia -- five-time Zlaty Slavik, superstar Peter Cmorik accompanied by renowned violinist Daniela Lovlin.

The invocation was given by long-time Jednota member and founder and Provost of the New York Oratory of Saint Philip Neri, Rev. George J. Torok and retired pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Tappan, New York. In 1997, Fr. George received the highest honor given by S-ACC, the Muse of Tatras Award, at the 5th annual Slovak Ball where he was recognized for his lifetime achievement in filming award winning documentaries in the area of religious life and values, for his religious leadership, and work as President of Hallel Communications/Institute. Clergy from various Slovak parishes and communities were also present including Jednota Branch 746 member Fr. Vladimir Chripko, Fr. Roman Palečko, Fr. Martin Kertys, Fr. František Čonka, Fr. Peter Bujdoš, Fr. Patrik Hakoš visiting from Slovakia, Fr. Jim Badeaux, and Fr. Marek Visnovsky from Ohio. Aneta Lisa represented LUX New York, a Slovak Catholic Media Production with the goal of supporting the Catholic faith among Slovaks living in the U.S. and Canada mainly through production of TV shows, news reports and documentaries.

After presentation of a special token of appreciation to the honorees of the evening, the evening was in full swing with live music by Express Band led by Marek Soltis. The variety of modern, pop, traditional, and of course folk music was a wonderful mix to lure everyone to the dance floor. Those attending also remembered Eugene Cernan, the last man to walk on the moon, of Slovak descent who passed away in January at the age of 82.

After a delicious dinner, the 360-strong crowd rocked out to Peter Cmorik's first US performance. He sang many of his famous hits including Dážd, Mám pocit, and Nemusiš sa bát! Peter Cmorik was launched to stardom after he won the 2006 national competition "Slovensko Hlada Supertar" (Slovakia's version of American's Got Talent).

The evening wouldn't be complete without the famous S-ACC

Slovak Ball Raffle which, thanks to generous donors, included prizes such as: a 7 day stay at a 6-bedroom Hamptons villa courtesy of Dr. Brian Mehling (BHI - Blue Horizon International); a round trip air ticket to Vienna; a weekend stay for two at the luxurious Hotel Elysee donated by Library Hotel Collection; Dinner for eight at the private residence of H.E. Ambassador Peter Kmec; dinner for two at the residence of H.E. Frantisek Ruzicka, Permanent Representative to the United Nations; an autographed guitar by Peter Cmorik; a traditional Slovak "Majolika" vase courtesy of Consul General of the Slovak Republic Ladislava Begec; an airplane ride for two over the Manhattan skyline courtesy of Richard Marko; weekend fishing trip for two in the Hamptons courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Hauk; a gift basket and certificate from FCSU filled with Slovak goodies; an original artwork by artist Luka Brase; 12-bottles of assorted Slovak wines by Slovak wine importer Centeur Imports; gift certificates to Czech-owned restaurants in New York: La Cava, Vella, and Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden in Astoria; and last, but certainly not least, the award-winning Goral Vodka Master, made

in Slovakia and sold in the US. Thank you to the generosity of all of our Raffle sponsors and financial donors!

The Ball's success is attributed to the many devoted members and volunteers of the Slovak-American Cultural Center that worked tirelessly to make the event possible. As chair of the Slovak Ball Committee, congratulations and thanks to my fellow Slovak Ball Committee members-- Zuzana Krcmar (SACC Vice President), Peter Krajnak (SACC Secretary), and Zuzana Maziarz (SACC Secretary) for their pivotal role in making the Ball a reality. SACC hopes to continue the wonderful tradition of The Slovak Ball-- join us for an amazing evening filled with tradition, culture, and fun at the silver anniversary of The Slovak Ball on Saturday, February 10th, 2018!

For more information about the organization, sponsors, and photographs, visit: www.slovakamericanc.org.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, SAAC President &, SAAC President, FCSU Region 1 Director, & Branch 746 President



FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec and Mrs. Idka Rajec



Jednota members (L - R) Fr. Vladimir Chripko, Emilia Filak, and Fr. George Torok



(L - R): Mrs. Nina Holy, Secretary of the Slovak League of America and Co-Chair of the Slovak Festival; Mrs. Zuzana Dvorak, Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York Martin Dvořák; Mrs. Monika Kmecova; H.E. Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, Peter Kmec; H.E. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Frantisek Ruzicka; Mrs. Ingrid Ruzicka; Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ladislava Begec; Deputy Representative of the of Turkey to the United Nations, Guven Begec; Andrew M. Rajec, National President of the First Catholic Slovak Union; Sabina Sabados, President of Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko, Regional Director for First Catholic Slovak Union, and Board of Directors FOS; Joseph Senko, Honorary Consul and Chairman of FOS; and Kenneth Bombora, Vice Chairman of FOS.

Mr. and Mrs. Korcak flanked by grandchildren Julie Ann and Rene



Members of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City

ates its 50th Anniversary at the Slovak Ball



FCSU Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka (L) and family



Consul General Ladislava Begec and husband Deputy Representative of Turkey to the United Nations Guven Begec



H.E. Frantisek Ruzicka, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the UN gives the lucky winner her dinner-for-two prize at his residence



Slovak professional dancer Vanda Polakova and husband Michael Choi



Five-time Zlaty Slavik, Slovak superstar Peter Cmorik



H.E. Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, Peter Kmec

The 2017 Slovak Ball Honorees, the Ball Committee, and special guest performer Peter Cmorik and Daniela Lovlin with the 50th anniversary cake.



Consul General of the Czech Republic Martin Dvorak



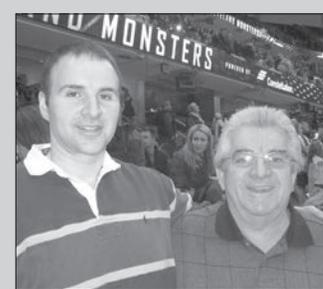
Friends of Slovak Board of Directors members (L – R) Honorary Slovak Consul & Chairman Joseph Senko, Vice Chairman Kenneth Bombora, Sabina Sabados, and Andrew P. Rajec



Photographs courtesy of Rado Lesay and Marek Lukac



On Saturday, March 18, 2017 at 7:00pm at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH, some 88 members and guests of District 10 of the First Catholic Slovak Union – including Branches 24, 228, 450, and 855 - watched the Cleveland Monsters beat the Texas Stars before an almost sold-out crowd. A fun evening of fraternalism was enjoyed by all.



Jerry Krupa Celebrates His 80th Birthday



Jerry Jaroslav Krupa recently celebrated his 80th birthday with his family and friends.

He was born February 5, 1937, in Valaska Bela, Slovakia. Most of his youth and early adulthood he spent in Bratislava.

He married Maria there and had a son Roman. He worked as the chemist until he escaped to the West, recognizing that atheistic communist ideologies Marxism and Czechoslovakism are enemies of freedom and humanity.

In 1965 he came to New York City from Italian camp of refugees. In 1968 his wife and son Roman joined him. They moved to New Jersey. While living in New Jersey, the family was blessed with the daughter Diana.

Jerry dedicated much of his free time working for Slovak

American organizations. He was active in the Slovak League of America. He co-established Slovak-American Cultural Center in New York City and served twice as its president. Jerry recently received the grateful appreciation from the Slovak-American Cultural Center, located in NYC for his 50 years of leadership, service, commitment and dedication. Jerry also co-established the Slovak World Congress and served in many leadership positions. In the historical time of 1990-1993 when the Slovak Republic was being established, he served as the president of its Political Committee. As the president of Slovak American Cultural Center he handed over the honorary Stefanik Prize to Eugene Cernan, the American astronaut of Slovak descent.

Jerry is author of hundreds of articles and poems and is an author of four books in Slovak: *Láska a myšlienky, Cesta k úspechu, Výber z poézie a prózy a Rastislavov Otčenáš.*

While he worked as the chemist for international company

Unilever Brothers Research, he studied in Thomas Edison State University. As a research chemist he earned six patents that are registered in the US, Canada, Great Britain and India. He retired from the company in 1999 and moved to Maitland, Florida, close to the Slovak Garden, Inc.

Jerry actively participated on many Slovak Garden's activities. He came up with the idea to print Golden Jubilee Book, *Pamiatnica Zlatého Jubilea*, for Slovak Garden's 50th anniversary and was its Editor-in-Chief.

He founded a singing group Tatraň, performing at several Slovak Garden cultural celebrations.

Jerry served as director of Slovak Garden and later became the President of Slovak Garden in years 2011-2014.

We wish Jerry many more Happy Birthdays! Zivjo, Zivjo!

- Submitted by Maria Krupa and Marcel Pechan, Secretary of Slovak Garden, Inc. and Editor of the Floridian Slovak

Michael Hricik Elected President of Higher Education Association

Michael Hricik, a member of Branch 181 in United, PA, was elected in 2016 as the President of the Pennsylvania Association for Higher Education (PAHE). This is the higher education group of the Pennsylvania State Education Association and he is also a member of the PSEA Board of Directors. Hricik recently did a presentation at the National Education Association Higher Ed Conference in Dallas with a colleague from his college. Michael is a Professor of English at Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood, Pa. He also serves as the President of the WCCC Professional Association (union for full-time faculty and professionals). Prior to teaching at the college, Michael was a U.S. Navy veteran stationed onboard the USS Kitty Hawk in San Diego. He attended King's College in Wilkes-Barre and holds a B.S. in Business and wrestled all four years while there. Hricik was inducted into the King's College Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2012.

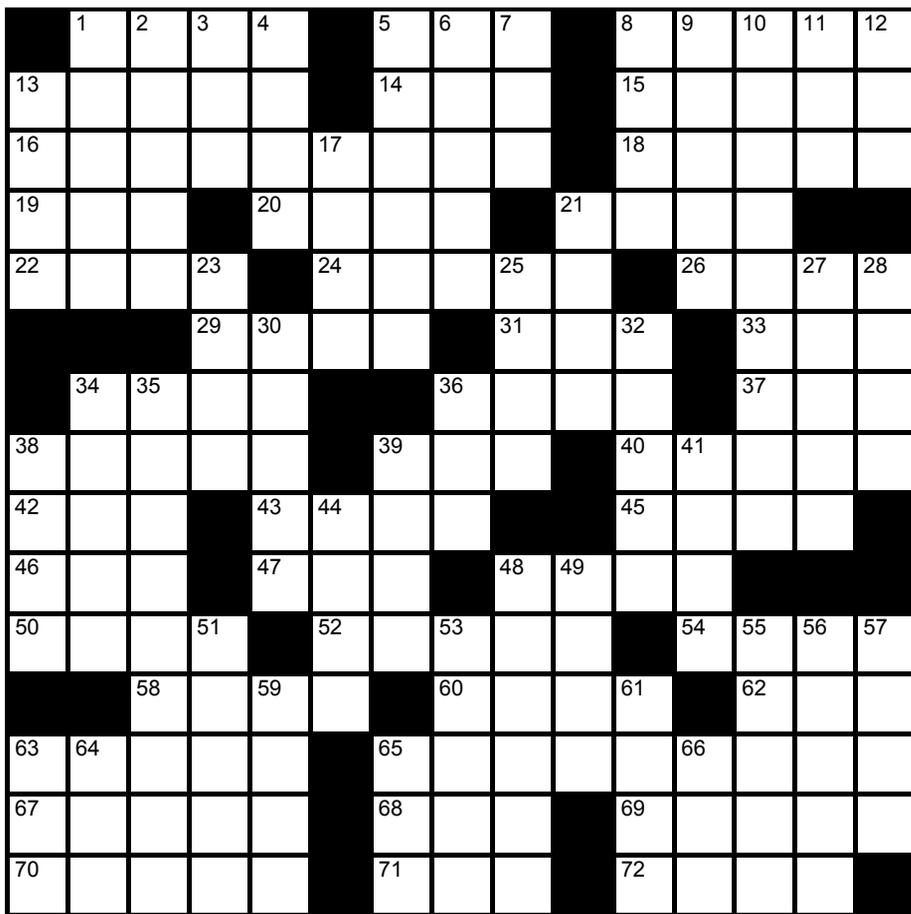


Michael Hricik with his mother Geraldine Hricik

This year marks his 25th at WCCC. Hricik has also joined the WCCC Education Foundation in 2016 as a Board member. This Board is responsible for scholarships as well as major fundraising campaigns. He was the Teacher of the Year several years back. He holds a Master of Arts in the Teaching of Writing from San Diego State University as well as a Masters of Professional Writing (MPW) from Chatham University. This summer Hricik will begin a doctorate in Higher Education Leadership at Robert Morris University. Hricik is the son of former FCSU President Emeritus Tom Hricik and Geraldine. His wife Victoria is the newly named Secretary for Branch 181. Michael and Victoria also serve in the church ministry at St. Pius X in Mt. Pleasant, PA.

- Submitted by Michael Hricik

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



United Slovak Societies of Lorain Accepting Scholarship Applications



The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, Ohio will offer \$1,000 college non-renewable scholarship awards to eligible High School seniors who are five year members of the following Lorain Lodges:

- St. John the Baptist, Branch 228, of the FCSU
- Slovak Catholic Sokol Wr. 111 & 177
- St. Mary Magdalene of the LPSCU Branch 77

National Slovak Society Assembly #160
St. Ann's Lodge of the FCSLA Branch 114

Deadline for application is May 30, 2016.

To obtain rules and application, please visit, www.americanslovakclub.com or contact Michele Mager at 440/984-3353

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

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
May 10	May 1
June 14	June 5
July 19	July 10
August 16	August 7
Sept 13	Sept 5
October 4	Sept 25
October 18	October 9
November 1	October 23
November 15	November 6
December 6	November 27

Across

- 1 Resting place
- 5 Legal org.
- 8 Bud holders
- 13 *At the Races* painter
- 14 Milk giver
- 15 Sidestep
- 16 Exactly alike
- 18 Salami choice
- 19 After Bronze or space
- 20 Profess
- 21 Pub game piece
- 22 Not as much
- 24 Come to pass
- 26 Woolen caps
- 29 Party thrower
- 31 Pinch
- 33 Nutritional figure (Abbr.)
- 34 Restrain
- 36 Inactive
- 37 Guanabara Bay city
- 38 Sword
- 39 Bustle
- 40 Main impact
- 42 Charge carrier
- 43 Big bash
- 45 Seep
- 46 Griffon, e.g.
- 47 Duffer's dream
- 48 Vipers
- 50 Scurried
- 52 Prove to be false
- 54 Hasenpfeffer, e.g.
- 58 Talk wildly
- 60 JFK postings
- 62 Jungle denizen
- 63 Gleam
- 65 Palpitated
- 67 Postal scale unit
- 68 Stately tree

- 69 Chilean range
- 70 Look of disdain
- 71 Buddhist sect
- 72 Ottoman Empire VIPs

Down

- 1 Marsh plant
- 2 S shaped moldings
- 3 Devotee
- 4 Film terrier
- 5 Highlight
- 6 Swine
- 7 Hole-making tool
- 8 Star in Lyra
- 9 Stave off
- 10 Monterey Bay tow
- 11 Old Tokyo
- 12 Expanse
- 13 Radio feature
- 17 Folk singer Burl
- 21 Bargain
- 23 Tool building
- 25 Nullify
- 27 Penobscot locale
- 28 Token taker
- 30 Greek Z
- 32 Jazz genre
- 34 Single-masted vessel
- 35 Orange relative
- 36 Cretan peak
- 38 Auction cries

- 39 Downwind
- 41 Supreme Diana
- 44 Field measure
- 48 Season
- 49 Sports figure, briefly
- 51 Charleston, e.g.
- 53 Outlaw Starr
- 55 Late
- 56 Foil relatives
- 57 Joins
- 59 Swerve
- 61 Poke holes in
- 63 Plea at sea
- 64 Barbarian
- 65 Tasseled cap
- 66 Compass pt.

See Solution on Page 19

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch 1-will hold its next meeting on August 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will celebrate Mass at 9:00AM on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church (13th Avenue, NE & 2nd Street, Minneapolis) for our deceased members. After Mass, a continental breakfast will be served in Father Dargay Hall. All members and guests are welcome to join us in this fraternal activity. Remember, no parking in the school lot.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 11:00AM at the home of our President Delores J. Genosky, 1001 42 ½ Ave, NE, Columbia Heights, MN.

Items on the agenda are our family picnic in August, a merger, and the date of our annual meeting.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will not have a March meeting because of concern for weather conditions, but will have our next meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. At our April meeting we will discuss scheduling the Margaret Evancho Award breakfast, which will be held in June 2017.

Henry Zack, Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 23, St. Joseph Society, will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 21 2017, at 1PM. The meeting will be held at VOMA HALL, 307 Chestnut St. Johnstown, Pa. If you have any policies with Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, then you are a member, and you are encouraged to come. Come to see what is new. Our meetings are informative and sometimes fun!! A light lunch will be served. Any questions please call Theresa Cassat at (814) 254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The agenda will include a financial report and a discussion of upcoming branch activities. Luncheon will be served, so please make reservations by calling Branch Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699 (after 6PM).

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's, Branch 35, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 25, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include officers' reports and a discussion of district and branch activities.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Rock Bottom 171 E Bridge Street, Homestead, PA 15120. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on 2017 fraternal social activities. 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 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

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

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 will host the Reverend Stephen Furdek District 8 Mass, luncheon and meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017 in Mahanoy City, PA. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30AM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church. The luncheon and meeting will be held at A & C Catering Hall. [Editor's note: please see the District 8 announcement on page 13 of this issue for details.]

All members of Branch 112 are invited to attend. Please call Karen at 570-640-1796 before April 16 if you would like to attend.

Karen Engle Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 132 – WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

Branch 132K will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 1:30PM at 2 Keep Street, Madison, NJ, 07940.

On the agenda will be a discussion of annuities and how we can best meet the needs of some of our young people in helping them meet the needs of their newborns with insurance products. We will be celebrating all members who have birthdays in April. The meeting will include final plans for our garage sale to be held in May and we urge all members to bring in their favorite recipes from their mothers or grandmothers for our 132K file cookbook.

Our young members who are interested in studying abroad should be aware that Slovakia has major universities, some with programs being taught in English. For example, you can go to www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/ to find out more.

We urge all members to attend our meetings and wish them all a Blessed and Holy Easter.

Susan Salko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will have its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2017. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence Avenue in Harwood Heights. All members are invited to attend. A fraternal luncheon will be served after the meeting.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 4, 2017, at 9:00AM at the Catholic War Veterans, at 1170 National Pike, Hopwood, PA, 15445.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Arrangements for annual masses for members and veterans will be scheduled and Vacation Bible School plans will be finalized. 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 meeting and have refreshments. Call for reservations by May 30, 2017, 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 23, 2017, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of District business and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 21, 2016, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to a meeting at Applebee's Restaurant, Route 30, Greensburg, PA on Thursday, May 4, 2017 starting at 5 pm. The agenda will include planning the annual family picnic to be held at Mammoth Park Pavilion #14 on Saturday, June 24, 2017. Picnic workers are especially encouraged to attend. For more information or directions, please call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to a meeting at Applebee's Restaurant, Route 30, Greensburg, PA on Thursday, May 4, 2017 starting at 5 pm.

The agenda will include planning the annual family picnic to be held at Mammoth Park Pavilion #14 on Saturday, June 24, 2017.

Picnic workers are especially encouraged to attend. For more information or directions, please call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 invites you to attend our monthly branch 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. So for the rest of 2017: May 4th, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 2nd with Nomination of Officers, & Dec. 7th with Election of Officers.

We look forward to your presence at the monthly meetings held in the banquet hall directly following the BOD's meeting at 7pm. If you are not local to attend, please send your ideas to me @ vschaub123@gmail.com as we are compiling memorabilia for our 125th Anniversary in 2020.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 holds its meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of 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 18, 2017. 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. Leonard Zilko and Kathleen Trifiletti were re-elected to a 3 year term on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors representing our local Branch 228.

The warm weather has us all anticipating Spring activities such as sprucing up the lawn, planning our gardens and shining up our golf clubs in anticipation of chasing that little white ball around. We can also anticipate the activities of our District and local lodge planning and activities as the 2018 FCSU National Convention will be here before we know it. I put out a challenge for our younger members to consider being a convention delegate and becoming even more involved in our organization. It is a great experience that is interesting, fun and gives a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are directly contributing to the future of the FCSU. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You will be happy you did.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 1:00PM at the Bedford Trails & Golf Course Restaurant, 713 Bedford Rd Coitsville, OH 44436. The next two branch meetings will be held at the same time and on the same place on the third Sunday of the month.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch # 276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday May 21, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. at St Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa. On the agenda will be general branch business. We welcome any new members to attend our meetings.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 292 - WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch 292 KJ will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA, 15963, at 12:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in conjunction with our annual celebration of our patron, St. John the Baptist. A Mass will be celebrated at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Windber, PA, Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. All members are asked to attend both events. A buffet dinner will be served.

Edward T. Surkosky, F.I.C., President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 11:00AM at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The semi-annual meeting of the St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at the home of President Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, PA. All members are encouraged to attend.

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 382 – DUNMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Branch 382 will hold its annual Spring meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at noon at VFW Post 3474 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA. The agenda will include the following: an audit report, branch donations, future plans, District 17 news, and updates for the Home Office. Light refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend. Branch officers are: Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr., President; Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President; Michael J. Czankner, Secretary; John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Financial Secretary; and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Treasurer.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 1:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 29, 2017 at 1:30PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend. Call for reservations by Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 724-425-2576.

**Geri Buchheit,
Recording & Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419 will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 7, 2017, at 12:30PM. The location is Norm's Restaurant, North Sherman St, Wilkes-Barre, PA. On the agenda: along with regular branch business, the meeting will open with suggestions to improve attendance. Plenty of ideas for nearby events/venues to attend as a branch. Bring a friend and possible new member. Lunch will be served. All are welcome.

Francis Wassil, President

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Br. 450, has rescheduled its semiannual meeting to Saturday, May 6, 2017. The meeting will be held at 11:00am, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.) All members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 25, 2017, beginning at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. All members are cordially invited to attend and to participate in a discussion of obtaining new members.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 will hold the first lodge meeting of the year on Sunday, May 7, 2017. It

continued on page 20

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 30, 2017. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. NOTE: THE MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED UP ONE-HALF HOUR FROM THE USUAL TIME. Attendees will gather at 1:00 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 1:30 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 T'apa'k Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at the Deer Lake Inn located at 7504 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI 48346. (that's Exit 93 on I-75, and just 1 mile west of I-75)

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. 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 633 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (NEW 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 \$20.00 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, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Spring district meeting will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at Holy Trinity Church Hall, 529 Grant Ave. Extn. in West Mifflin, PA. All members are welcome. A light lunch will precede the business meeting. Branch 580 will host. Please RSVP to Mary Elizabeth Polatas at 412-469-0551 or Virginia Jasek at 724-593-2715 or email jasekva1@gmail.com

Branch 2 will host the next Fall/Winter meeting. We still need a host branch for the Father's Day Brunch. Contact district president David Matta to volunteer.

The District Activities Director Annie Ondrejco has organized a Facebook group called Jednota Pittsburgh District Activities. Join the group to keep up with district events. Annie would like suggestions for additional activities.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments.

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: May 1 – Authentic Slovak Halusky, June 5 – Eastern Slovak Village Culture. Meetings resume in October. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** 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.

** Slovak Summer Language Camp for Kids starts May 6.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 20.

** 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia – Bratislava, Trencin, High Tatras, Kosice, and more: July 29 to August 11. Contact Joe Senko.

** 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.

** The Pittsburgh Slovaks have a CD of Christmas music available for sale. Contact Sue Ondrejco.

** 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/

** Prešov University in Slovakia, announces its 8th annual three-week Studium Carpato-Ruthenorum International Summer School for Rusyn Language and Culture to be held from June 4 – 24, 2017. The program is hosted by the university's Institute of Rusyn Language and Culture.

** 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.

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting on October 18-21, 2017 in Pittsburgh. Your correspondent will be giving a presentation on Slovak Alias Names. Further information can be found at 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 REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its first of two annual meetings on Sunday April 30, 2017. The meeting will be held at St. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Graham Ave. Windber, PA, beginning at 2:00 PM. Branch 292 will host the meeting. There will be a home-cooked luncheon afterwards. All district branches are invited to attend. Hope to see you there. Any questions call Sharon 814-322-1052.

Sharon Allison, Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – PENNSYLVANIA/NORTH CAROLINA
District 8's meeting will be held April 23, 2017. Mass will begin at 10:30AM at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church located at 600 West Mahanoy St., Mahanoy City, PA., 17948. There will be an area for all District 8 members to be seated together. Please let me know how many will be attending Mass (email mfabian922@gmail.com or phone 610-417-0468).

Following Mass, a dinner and meeting will be held at:

A & C Catering
505 West Mahanoy St
Mahanoy City, PA. 17948

The district meeting will convene following dinner. The agenda will be mailed out to all officers and branches prior to meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. It will be held in the meeting room of the Dairy Queen Grill & Chill located at 575 West Main Street. Branch members are invited to attend. A Dairy Queen social will take place following the meeting.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - OHIO

The Rev. Furdek District 10 will be having their first meeting on April 30, 2017 at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

If you are planning on attending please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 (home) 330-773-4978 (club office) or via email at lhanko@neo.rr.com. We would appreciate advance notice so that we may plan refreshments accordingly.

Come enjoy the fellowship and see what the District can do enhance your branch experience and learn what is new with our organization.

Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 - THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2017 Semiannual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017. The agenda will include:

- discussion of options to combine or consolidate branches to restore local support/ control of membership issues and finances.

- suggestions for activities to stimulate fraternal interaction among District 11 branches and within Region 5.

The meeting time and place: 2:00 PM at the C.U.Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. All branches should identify their representatives who will attend to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 as soon as possible. Walk-ins are welcome.

Reminders

- Per FCSU By-Laws, branch representation at one (1) district meeting per year is required to qualify for receipt of the annual branch stipend.

- Any beneficial member is welcome to represent his/her branch at district meetings; representatives need not be branch officers or formally identified /selected at a branch meeting.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – THE MSGR. ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Msgr. Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The election of officers for the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District was held, December, 2016. The results are as follows: President, Barb Hosa; Vice President, Nancy Scavina; Treasurer, Selma Bolash; Secretary, Joe Scavina; Auditor, Jackie Bobby; Fraternal Activity Director, Paul Ritz. The following dates are the scheduled district meetings for 2017: July 18, 2017; November 21, 2017; and December 19, 2017.

Joe Scavina/Secretary

DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula, District 16, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, immediately following the 10:30 Slovak Mass, in the hall of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th St. (First Ave), New York, NY 10065. On the agenda will be financial report and discussion of future activities. We urge all district branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU Branches belonging to District 16 (Branches 41, 45, 716) are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, President

DISTRICT 17 – SS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT – BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK & LACKAWANNA AND LUCERNE, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, in the Shrine Room of St. Ann's Basilica, 1250 St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA. Auditors will meet at 12:30PM

All branches are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting. District 17 encompasses Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County in New York.

Prior to the meeting, district auditors will audit the books at 1:00 P.M.

A light luncheon will be served. If planning on attending, please contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 by Monday, April 24, 2017.

Fraternally,

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV, MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The District's semi-annual meeting will be held on June 11, 2017, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall immediately following the eleven (11) o'clock Mass. Members of Branches 784 & 810 are invited to attend. A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

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The Best Foot Forward Walking Program is an exercise program that can improve overall health.

Benefits to You:

- Lower your risk of heart disease
- Reduce your stress level
- Improve your flexibility, strength, and stamina

Please note this IS NOT a race or a competition; it is just a way to get active and stay active. You participate at your own pace.

1 STEP ONE
 Register: Fill out the registration form and mail to:
 Best Foot Forward
 FCSU Activities
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207
 To receive your welcome kit.

2 STEP TWO
 Just START WALKING!
 Log your walking minutes. The more you walk, the more prizes you can win!

- Rules:**
1. The objective of the Best Foot Forward Walking Program is to reach milestones to be eligible for level awards. The pursuit of the milestones leads to a healthy way of life.
 2. Participants MUST be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
 3. A member can start the program at any time during the year.
 4. Tally sheets should be sent in periodically throughout the year.
 5. Walking minutes from January 1, 2017, and forward will be used to determine the milestones.
 6. Awards will be given in October & April.
 7. Awards will be based on the number of minutes you walked.
 8. Pedometers may be used to track steps. (20 minutes of light cardiovascular activity = 1,000 steps.

Milestone	Award
900 minutes	Hat
1800 minutes	Hip pack
2700 minutes	Water Bottle
3600 Minutes	Ice/heat bandana



Best Foot Forward Walking Program

Setting a goal to make physical activity part of your daily routine will improve your overall health.

Name: _____

Branch Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mail to:
 Best Foot Forward
 FCSU Activities
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

For additional sign up forms, tally sheet, and program details, go to <http://www.fcsu.com/events/>

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Be a Part of the Jednota Memorial



A Site Dedicated to Members & their Families

The First Catholic Slovak Union dedicated a Jednota Memorial site in September 2016 for our members and their families. The site is on a permanently dedicated 3 1/2 acres of land of Jednota property fronting on Rose-

dale Avenue in Middletown, PA. The land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Stefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed "Doughboy" statue is a key high-

light of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks are still available for purchase

1	FR. RALPH V. COLETTA ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PASTOR AKRON, OH 1987	ANDREW VICTOR KOZAK B. SPIS D. W-B, PA FCSU PRESIDENT, 1908	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MIKE AND LIBBY KRAL BRANCH 857
IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSEPH & MARY ZLATOS BY DAU. ANNE SIMONE	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE BARLEK FAMILY JOSEPH & JOHN - VETS	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS STEPHEN CATHERINE TKACH SR.	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSEPH & JULIA SUDY BETTY SUDY KOWALSKI
IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN J. NALEVANKO PRESIDENT BRANCH 393	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSEPH S. FIALA HELEN T. FIALA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE LISICKY, KULAS AND DAVIS FAMILIES	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN J. AND MARY B. RUSHAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARY & CHARLES YEVCAR BRIDGEPORT, CT	IN LOVING MEMORY OF TILLIE AND JOSEPH V. TAKACS	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSEPH J. KRAJSA MISS YOU EVERY DAY
IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS JOSEPH A. AND ROSEMARY BABIK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW, MARY, AND DREW BOLDA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF SANDOR AND VERONIKA KISS STREATOR, IL	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOMAS & ANNA HARGAR STREATOR, ILLINOIS	IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEVE LEDVA FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE E. KOVALCHECK KATHRYN I. KOVALCHECK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MICHAEL & ANNA RAGAN 784 MONTREAL, CANADA
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MEMBERS OF BRANCHES #114 #258 #332	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE BEST MOM EVER ANN DUNAWAY KAVLICK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW AND ANNA TROJCAK	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FRIEND IRENE T. KOCAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY MOTHER MARGARET MATTA PERLA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND JULIUS R. KURIMCAK JR.	IN LOVING MEMORY OF CHARLES AND VERA SCHADDER
IN LOVING MEMORY JOSEPH MATASOVSKY FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY HUSBAND AND FATHER VINCENT N. CARPENY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY GRANDPARENTS LEOPOLD-MARY WARELAK	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDMOTHER MARY GOELLER	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDFATHER TED GOELLER	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDFATHER CHARLES GREGOROVICH	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR GRANDMOTHER ANNA GREGOROVICH

3	IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE DECEASED OF THE RAJEC AND RIECAN FAMILIES ANDREW SR. & ANNA RAJEC-DUBNICA NAD VAHOM-HORNÝ MOSTENEC, SLOVAKIA JOSEPH & KATHERINE DIAN-DUBNICA NAD VAHOM, SLOVAKIA ANDREW J. & JOSEPHINE RAJEC-MILWAUKEE, WI JAN & ANNA RIECAN-HORNÉ PRŠANY-BELUŠA, SLOVAKIA		
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU. IN LOVING MEMORY NA NAŠU DRAHU IDUŠKU TILL WE MEET AGAIN MATTHEW 19:14. MOM DAD ANDY DANIKO		IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY COUSIN JOSEPH KOLLAR	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY MOTHER IN LAW PHLOMENA PIERONI	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FATHER IN LAW LIVIO PIERONI	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY HUSBAND ALFI PIERONI	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DAD AND MOM EDWARD & ANNA KOZAK
IN LOVING MEMORY OF EMMA V. CADENA MOTHER	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR PARENTS ANDY & SUE MOLCHARY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW & ANNA NASTA AND THEIR CHILDREN	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRANK AND PAULINE URBANEK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FRIEND CYRIL KREMPASKY	BARBARA J. CEKLOSKY FRIEND OF CYRIL KREMPASKY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY PARENTS JOSEPH & MARY CHARNOKI
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY BROTHERS JOHN & JOSEPH CHARNOKI, JR.	IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEPHEN J. AND MARGARET J. DOLAK	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FATHER WILLIAM E. GALDUN SR.	
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY PARENTS FRANK AND MARY JURIK	IN MEMORY OF ANDREW AND SUSAN JERDOHEK	IN MEMORY OF JOHN & MILDRED JASO	IN MEMORY OF JOHN & ROSEMARY FALATOK
IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BR. 175 READING, PA	IN MEMORY OF OFFICERS #308 HOLY NAME JESUS YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO	IMRICH ULICNY FAMILY CORAL, PA	
KLUCHO STARÝ RODIČIA JOZEP A. ŠTEFANIA Z RAJECKÉJ LESNEJ, SK	KLUCHO FAMILY ANN CECILIA MILDRED MARY AGNES CLAIRE JOSEPH.	KLUCHO FAMILY JOSEPH DEBORAH CHRIS NOEL	IN LOVING MEMORY BRANCH 112 MAHANOHY CITY, PA

It is important, however, to remember that this memorial is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans. You can remember a loved one, a branch or a district in our Society. These are just some of the completed granite panels found throughout the Memorial. All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted.

These are just four of the panels that have been completed. To view more complete panels, or if you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form. Or you can request an order form by calling the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

2	IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL, ANDREW AND GEORGE MARMOL FAMILIES BY FRANK MARMOL, MATTHEW MARMOL, ANDREW MARMOL, BERNADETTE GAYDOS AND JAMES MARMOL FAMILIES		
THE KOPCO FAMILY CLEVELAND, OHIO	WAR & VETERANS, INC. UNIONTOWN, PA HONOR ALL VETERANS	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 417KJ	STEVE & VERONA BALOG STEVE 53 YEARS 635KJ NEW BRIGHTON, PA
JAMES ROBERT WALIKIS NAVY CORPSMAN VIETNAM	JEAN KALLA ARITZ JEDNOTA HOME STUDENT RESIDENT 1952-1955	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF CHICAGO BRANCH 493	
FOR DOLORES CARLSON JOHN & CATH. JANCECH WITH LOVE, BR. 280K	ANDREW N. HARCHAR BRANCH 853 FOUNDER 1899-1980	JOE MARY BENZELLA DRAVEC SPIS ZUPA N. CAMBERIA PA 19714	REST IN PEACE MARYANN AND ANTHONY WALIKIS
TOMORROW'S GOALS SPIRITUAL FREEDOM FOREVER	JACOB SAMUEL SARAH KINGSTON YESTERDAY'S KICKS	PAPPAP-FRANK VANEK'S LOVE & GRACE PASSED INTO THE FUTURE	
MY BELOVED PARENTS STEFAN & JOHANNA UEBERLAUER - RIP	POKOJ MARY S. KOZUSKO YOUR LOVING FAMILY	THE PAULEVSKY AND HASSA FAMILIES FORD CITY, PA	GEORGE J. PETKOSH JR. B-372 BEAVERDALE, PA ARMY VETERAN WWII
DECEASED BOARD MEMBER JEDNOTA INCORPORATED JOHN J. MATTEY	MAY GOD LOVING HAND BE ON THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH & ROSE YAKO	LOVE YOU ALWAYS ANN DUNAWAY KAVLICK RJK GAK LMK	
THE YANDURA FAMILY EAST VANDERGRIFT, PA 1927	JOE BRAZINA MARTINEK SLOVAKIA OTEC MANZEL	STEVE G. & GEORGE S. STROPKI CANTON, OHIO	THE KREMPASKY FAMILY STEPHEN AND MARY STEVEN AND MARGARET
TRUST IN GOD LET GO, LET GOD MSGR. CYRIL HAVIN	TOM KRISTOVENSKY SISTER MARY MARK SCM LEBANON PENNA	MICHAEL F. MIHALKO JR. REGION V. DIRECTOR 1990-1998	
ANDREW J. & MARY A. MERKOVSKY THE BEST EVER	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 308	IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER ANN J. NEMISH	BR 173 1896 W-B PA A UNGVARSKY PRES J JANOSIK SECTY

4	BR 173 1950 W-B PA J JANOSIK PRES J.S. UNGVARSKY SECTY	EDWARD UNGVARSKY BRANCH 181 UNITED, PA	WILLIAM M. VALCVAR BORN MARCH 20, 1931 KOREAN WAR CONFLICT
DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 220, LORAIN	DEDICATED TO THE LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF BR 173 WILKES-BARRE, PA	BR 173 2014 W-B PA J A UNGVARSKY PRES D A UNGVARSKY V PRES CARL UNGVARSKY SECTY	STEPHEN F. UNGVARSKY BRANCH 181 UNITED, PA FCSU SUPREME OFFICER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY 1971-1983 A LIFELONG JEDNOTAR
REMEMBRANCE MEN AND WOMEN DIED SERVING U.S. OF AMERICA BR 764	LIVING & DECEASED HOLY TRINITY #60 MCKEESPORT, PA	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 856	IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEPHEN & STEPHANIE UNGVARSKY BRANCH 181 UNITED, PA SONS: EDWARD, TIMOTHY WILLIAM & RICHARD
IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED CANADIAN MEMBERS OF BRANCH 784 MONTREAL, CANADA	IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT 20 MONTREAL, CANADA	FONDEST MEMORIES OF LIFE IN JEDNOTA THE CAPKA FAMILY THEODORE AND MARY, ADOLPH, MARY, TED, JERRY AND DICK CAPKA	MONICA RODACY BOONE NATIONAL AUDITOR 1984-1998 PENSION BOARD TRUSTEE 1988-1991 BRANCH 853 MEMBER
FRANK & MARY HOLUB OF CHICAGO, IL SAFE IN GOD'S KEEPING	IN MEMORY OF PAST AND PRESENT MEMBERS OF BR 367 FAIRCHANCE, PA	DEDICATED TO THE LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN SOCIETY BRANCH 10K OLYPHANT, PA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN A. SABOL SUPREME PRESIDENT FCSU 1961-1977 AND HIS BELOVED WIFE CAROLINE T. SABOL
IN LOVING MEMORY OF GEORGE VALCHO FAMILY HOMESTEAD, PENNA	DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF THE VITKAY FAMILIES	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BR425 BARBERTON, OHIO	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 19

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	Daniel S Zuravel	166K	Barbara R Sirsen	324K	John Michael Kolibas Jr	731K	Frank J Kukura III
002K	Louis J Falce	166K	Paul Sirsen	333K	Veronica E Humenay	735K	Margaret Elizabeth Edmondson
005P	George E Petro	166K	William S Volcko	335K	Mary M Owens	738K	Charles M Harvan
006K	Michael James Vargovcik	169P	Joseph John Dora	367K	Richard S McConnell	738K	Agnes Sink
019K	Joseph Raslavsky	173K	Elizabeth M Ihnat	367K	Joseph C Zamiska	743K	Anna Bedra
035K	James Ward	173K	Margaret Pointek	410K	Kyle Matthew Smith	743K	Frank John Danko
038K	Louise Chorba	181K	Richard P Solomon	425K	M Narita Linn	743K	Elizabeth V Locricchio
040K	Richard G Washko	181K	Victor R Yancy	429K	Monica L Mitch	743K	Andrew Michael Planko
041K	Anastasia Ulanski	189K	Kenneth J Kozel	430K	Bernard B Burnett	743K	Joseph F Venglar
045K	John E Kocinsky	199K	Susan Veronica Pavlovcak	450K	George Javorsky	746K	Marie Rose Danchisko
055K	Helen Rensi	200K	Edward G Kunst	456K	Mary M Astore	746K	Peter Danchisko Sr
075K	Jane Louise Al-Mashat	240P	James E Kaza	465K	Margaret H Pajak	746K	Mary Elizabeth Hudasko
083K	Raymond L Lepacek	240P	George D Yakubisin	484K	Joseph D Galinsky	796K	Michael J Zastko
085K	Henry J Sterowski	254K	Rudolph A Husava	484K	Lawrence E Gresh	823K	Frank G Gansor
086K	Jane Van Aller	260K	Donald J Stasko	543K	John M Remar	831K	John B Hafera
096K	Joseph G Minarish	266K	George Michael Opilla	553K	George B Vasko	831K	Frank C Palko
096K	Catherine Passarella	270K	Charles J Andrulevich	567K	Walter Fedorak	855K	Rosalie Mary Chebra
102K	Edward M Muka	278K	Joseph Richard Capka	618K	John William Lacy	855K	Barbara Ann Digiovine
122K	Robert Wendell Pass	293K	John J Stoffey Jr	628K	Joanne V Mockbee	855K	Mary C Lucas
122K	Vincent Pass	294K	Cyril M Shickora	636K	Amelia V Boris	855K	Ladislav A Palkovic
153K	Florian Isztok	312K	Helen R Rosa	667K	Dolores A Hirschak	916K	Marjorie E Haws
153K	Kenneth Laporte	312K	Josephine M Skoff	667K	Rita L Kost	916K	Donna Kalas
156K	Andrew J Guff	313K	Joseph S Nedorost	670K	Joseph G Kacsmar	916K	Joseph R Sulan
157K	Vincent P Kulhamer	313K	Irene Sosnowski	682K	Andrew J Kolar	924K	Carl J Kutzkowski
157K	Anna M Milkovits	315K	Ursula G Stajger	700K	Emil E Yancik		
164K	Herbert A Saska	320K	John F Billy	701K	Emilia L Trogolo		
166K	Lynn Ann Ford	320K	Frank Thomas Giambattista	731K	Rosemary Durkin		

*Processed through the month of March

OBITUARIES

ETHEL 'SHELLY' A. CAPONE BRANCH 308 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO



A funeral service was held at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2017, at the Rossi Brothers & Lellio Funeral Home in Boardman, OH, followed by a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica in Youngstown, OH, with the Very Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio Jr. celebrating the Mass for Ethel "Shelly" A. Capone, 90, who passed away peacefully on Friday, March 10, 2017, surrounded by her loving family.

Shelly was born July 19, 1926, in Chicago, the daughter of Andrew and Gizella (Sholtz) Sklenar. A 1944 graduate of Ursuline High School, she was "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II, and welded tank treads for the former Truscon Steel in Youngstown. She also worked at Mackenzie Muffler, Buffalo Press Steel, and G.E. Lamp Plant. She then worked at Youngstown State University Bookstore from 1978 to 1996.

Her husband, Eugene A. Capone, whom she married June 2, 1951, passed away Oct. 23, 1990.

She was a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica and former member of Holy Name, St. Joseph Church in Youngstown, and St. Edward.

Shelly was a charter member of the North Side Coalition, and was precinct committee woman 3rd Precinct B in Youngstown. She belonged to the fraternal organizations: the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) Branch 308, the Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, and also the P.E.R.S. of Ohio.

In her spare time, Shelly enjoyed crocheting, especially baptismal gowns and angel

ornaments which she loved to share with everyone. She also enjoyed sewing, cooking, especially Slovak and Italian specialty dishes, and baking, but her greatest joy was spending time with her family, especially her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

She will always be remembered lovingly by her six children, Gina (Raymond) Staron of Bainbridge, Gary (Lori) Capone of Austintown, Mary (Robert) Fry of Sandy, Utah, Karen (Stephen) Sheer of Hudson, Angela Lamb of Boardman, and Geno (Laura) Capone of Hubbard; 13 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and five nieces; and three nephews.

Besides her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers and sisters-in-law, Lad and Helen Sklenar, and Theodore and Lucille Sklenar; parents-in-law Angelo and Mary Massacci; and son-in-law Thomas J. Lamb.

MARGARET ELIZABETH EDMONDSON BRANCH 735 – PORTLAND, OREGON

On Wednesday, February 8, 2017, with her loving family by her side, Margaret Elizabeth Edmondson departed this world. Born in her Linnton, Oregon home on November 18, 1925 to Frank and Anna Duris, immigrants from Czechoslovakia, Margaret was the youngest of three children. She grew up in a loving family and lived a simple childhood surrounded by gardens, fruit trees and chickens. Living near the Willamette River and sawmill where her father worked, her life on Front Street was influenced by a close Slovak community. As a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, she remained connected to this community throughout her life.

Margaret attended St. Patrick Catholic

grade school and graduated in 1944 from Immaculata Academy High School. She met her future husband, Howard, at the Linnton community center roller rink. They fell in love and after the war were married at St. Birgitta Catholic Church in Linnton on April 26, 1947. They lived with her parents until they built their first home in Burlington, Oregon. In 1959, with three kids in tow, the family moved into a new home in Southeast Portland. Their fourth child was born in 1960.

Margaret worked briefly as a secretary/bookkeeper, but her true calling was to be a stay at home mom. For the remainder of her life, she was whole heartedly dedicated to her family. With Margaret managing the household while Howard often worked out of town, they carved out their life together. She stressed the importance of education and she instilled her faith and values in her children. As a devout Catholic, she believed in the importance of a Catholic education and made many sacrifices to insure that her children had that opportunity. They managed to find a way to make music education a priority as well.

Margaret and Howard loved to dance, especially a jitterbug or a polka. Oktoberfest events were some of her favorite places to "cut a rug". One of her other favorite pastimes was shopping, most often for the grandkids and great grandkids. Ever the bargain hunter, she looked forward to shopping with her daughters and granddaughter

at the "senior sale" events at Meier & Frank/Macy's. Since she was always a "night owl", shopping until the stores closed or watching late night talk shows was normal for her.

After the kids were grown, she found a new calling in her role as Grandma, and later, Great Grandma. The grandkids and great grandkids called her Granny and she immersed herself in their lives often caring for them well into her mid 80s. She loved them more than life itself and they adored her. It was during this time that Margaret's health started to ever so slowly decline. Because she was such a private person, she never wanted any attention focused on herself. In spite of her multiple medical issues, she rarely complained and suffered greatly during the final months of her life. Her strong will to live was bolstered by prayer and an unwavering faith and devotion to her God and family. She was an inspiration to us all; accepting with grace whatever came her way. We feel so blessed to have had this very special and wonderful woman in our lives for so long. Knowing she has commenced a new and everlasting life in the presence of God brings us comfort as we absorb this profound loss. We are all better people for having had the honor and privilege of knowing her.

Margaret is survived by Howard, her loving husband of almost 70 years; two sons, Bob and Gary; two daughters, Susan and Debra; three grandchildren, Angela, Alex, and Andrew; and two great grandchildren, Aaron and Molly.

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

Janka Guzová (1917-1993), the Ultimate Slovak Folk Singer

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

April 4, 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Janka Guzová, the great Slovak singer who spent her life and career popularizing Slovak folk songs (ľudové piesne). Before her, Slovak folk songs received some attention from classical composers, but they differed markedly from the original village folk songs. Janka Guzová changed all that, and folk music, the music of the people, would never be the same. Today amateur singers of Slovak folk songs continue that tradition in the popular television program *Zem spieva* (The Land Sings), which is the folk equivalent to the American singing competition show "The Voice."

Unquestionably, Janka Guzová was the premier soloist of Slovak folk songs, and the first to take them to a national stage. She not only sang with a powerful and melodic voice; she also collected over 900 Slovak folk songs and helped preserve them for future generations. She became the darling of Slovakia starting in the early 1940s, famous for her delightful renditions of folk songs which aired on the radio. Though starting out in the dark times of World War II and afterwards, she brought a vivid optimism to people at a time when the world seemed to be collapsing from the threats of Nazi and communist totalitarianism. People called her "the Slovak nightingale" (slovenský slávik). What Karol Plicka recorded with photographs, and Pavol Dobšinsky did with fairy tales, she did with folk songs.

The first time I heard her voice, I was truly moved. She sang with such enthusiasm and with such a heavenly voice that one cannot help but notice; she truly captured the spirit of the Slovak people. And she often sang in her own Spiš dialect, the tongue of my ancestors. I wrote her a letter in 1992 telling how much her songs touched my Slovak-American soul. She promptly answered me with an endearing letter, expressing her appreciation and gratefulness for sharing my feelings and enthusiasm for her delightful songs.

Even though she emigrated to the USA after 1968, one will not find much written about Janka Guzová in English, except some recordings listed and a copy of her collection of songs in a book. Amazon.com still had three copies of her book when I checked. But one may still listen to the enthusiasm she expresses for Slovak folksongs in her magical recordings, some of which are on YouTube, and which I will list below. In song, Janka Guzová would in her own words, "open her heart to the world."

Beginnings

Born on April 4, 1917, Janka Guzová came from the traditional Spiš iron-ore mining village of Žakarovce. The village lies in the Gelnica district of the Košice region, located about 59 kilometers from Košice. Appropriately, her father, Andrej Guza, worked as a miner and later rose to be a supervisor. When her mother, Jana Guzová (maiden name, Jenčíková) gave birth to her, the young Janka was the fourth of seven children, one who died at an early age.

Janka related that in her village, the men worked in the mines and the women worked in the fields and the forests, carrying their youngest children with them on their backs. They were always singing.



Janka Guzová was a great Slovak singer who spent her life and career popularizing Slovak folk songs.



She was proud of her Spiš village and its pure Slovak character. She stated that she lived in a multi-national district. Gelnica was proud of its German heritage, and Krompachy was home to many Maygars (Hungarians); but Žakarovce remained an exclusively Slovak village. Song was everywhere, and men sang in the mines, women in the fields, and all sang at weddings, celebrations, and even at funerals. Janka developed a great respect for the life, morality, faith, and a sense of justice among the people of her mining village. They would provide her with a strong foundation that would remain with her throughout her life.

From an early age, song became an integral part of Janka's life. Her father also had a wonderful voice and she inherited his talents, and developed them. Janka's father became an invalid as a result of the First World War, and would die at an early age in his forties. She remembered him mainly from singing with him and he taught her many Slovak folk songs and inculcated in her a great love for folk and national music.

Her mother was a very thrifty and hard-working woman and raising the children kept her quite busy; Janka related that her mother was not inclined toward music or artistic endeavors, unlike her father. When her father died, she started singing more with her maternal grandmother, baba, whom people in the village knew as Magdalenka, and with her baba's sister, Anna Brutovská, who even wrote down songs. Her baba enchanted her with song, and at a young age, Janka

showed a vivid interest in folk songs and also decided to write down some of these on paper. Janka displayed an intense curiosity about the songs, and was always asking questions. When her baba passed away, she was drenched with tears. But she would serve them proud by going on to pursue a sparkling career that would bring life to the ideas and songs her family taught her.

Following her primary school education, she decided to pursue a teaching career, continuing her studies from 1937-1941 in Levoča and Spišská Nová Ves, graduating from the teachers' college. In school, she excelled in singing, recitations, and theater performances under the direction of her music teacher, Dezider Nágel. Upon graduation, she taught school in Kluknava, and then later in Drienové, Krásna nad Hornádom, and Košice. While working in Kluknava (my maternal grandfather's birthplace!), Janka fell in love with the local folk songs, and she termed the place a "singing village". Children would sing walking in the streets and young people would get together for evening sing-a-longs.

In an interview with *Televízie Lux*, her daughter Želmíra explained that as a teacher, her mother found some helpful co-workers among her students. She had her students listen to old folk songs from their grandparents, and told them for homework to write down the lyrics to two or three songs, and then teach them how to write the musical notes.

Working together with Janko Matuška,

she collected these songs. She would then sing them, and enjoyed her work so much, that she would embark on the path of a professional singing career.

A Star is Born

Janka Guzová's amazing singing career began soon after her first public appearance on Slovak Radio in Prešov on January 29, 1942. She had won an opportunity after the Prešov station staged a competition, and she succeeded in getting this life-changing chance. On this occasion, she sang songs from her native Žakarovce and from Kluknava. She became an instant hit and her reputation and talk of her captivating spread rapidly in eastern Slovakia. Soon she received invitations for public performances in Levoča, Krompachy, and in the High Tatras. She became a regular on Slovak Radio, and commenced a new era in the broadcast of Slovak folk music.

After the war, Janka worked a teacher in Košice (occupied by Hungary during the war), where a Folk Music Department became part of Slovak Radio there. She frequently hosted a weekly broadcast entitled "Obrázky z dedín" (Pictures from the Villages). There she worked with a musical group and the conductor, Ján Orgován.

As her reputation continued to grow, in 1949, Janko Matuška invited her to take a job as program director and singer in the newly formed Folk Music Department of Slovak Radio in Bratislava. This was her dream come true. From there on, her career blossomed. The recording studio Supraphon contacted her and she was soon making records of popular Slovak folk songs from the Spiš region, which included: *A ja taká dzivočka* (I am such a girl), *V tim kluknavským polu* (On that Kluknava field), *Hanička konala* (Anna did it), *Vodička teč* (Water flows), and *A okolo Levoči* (Around Levoča). She did about 70 recordings which remain classics in the field of Slovak music to this day, most with the accompanying music of Eugen Farkaš.

In 1949, she also went on a tour with the folk ensemble *Lučina* to Romania, where she charmed many audiences with her uplifting voice. Upon returning to Slovakia, the experience inspired her to sing at Devín Castle at the celebration of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She began working with many orchestras and folk groups, including the Bratislava Radio Orchestra and prominent musicians such as Max Tatár, Ján Orgován, Béla Piť, Štefan Buga, Ladislav Čikóš, Eugen Farkaš, Dezider Cibulka, and with a cimbal (dulcimer) band led by Juraj Móži.

Over the next couple years, she was giving performances throughout Czechoslovakia, including the Czech lands. She became a solo vocalist for the Slovak National Theater as her songs voiced her emotional love that resembled that of a mother to her children. She sang ballads, lullabies, military songs, comical tunes, and dancing songs. All loved her marvelous voice. Her popularity spread across the globe and people wrote her from abroad to tell her how much her songs touched their hearts.

She published some of her favorite eastern Slovak folk songs in 1951 under the title *Janka Guzová spieva* (Janka Guzová Sings), and another volume with Pavol

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Janka Guzová (1917-1993), the Ultimate Slovak Folk Singer

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Tonkovič and Janko Matuška entitled *Spevy nášho ľudu* (Songs of our People).

Her emphasis changed somewhat in 1952 after the birth of her daughter Želmira. Feeling a mother's love for her child, she expressed that in song, mainly through lullabies and other songs dedicated to her daughter. In order to spend more time with her daughter, and for political reasons outlined below, she resigned her full-time job and sang freelance. A mother's love won out. But she still performed on occasion and continued to make contributions to Slovak radio in Bratislava, Prešov, and Košice.

One can listen in English to an interview about her life which Slovak Radio made with her daughter Želmira in 2016 at this link: <http://enrsi.rtv.slovakia.sk/articles/all-about-radio/111984/janka-guzova>.

Problems with Communists

During the 1950s, Janka Guzová had also run into trouble when she refused to join the communist party. She really had no interest in politics and just wished to pursue her cultural interests, but the communist regime would not allow that. Communist authorities prohibited her from singing in public until 1962. Thereafter she gave occasional public performances.

During the period, the radio station destroyed over 150 of her recordings. But her daughter told her that some brave soul in the filing department took a chance, and managed to salvage some of her recordings, so at least we have some of her originals.

Guzová continued some freelance recordings after 1962, worked with Farkas and Slovak Radio again, and even performed with the ensemble L'UT and with BROLN. She went on several concert tours in Slovakia as more freedoms returned in the 1960s.

But it all stopped again later in 1968 after the Soviet-led invasion of the country. Communist authorities interfered constantly with the content of any programs she did, and hassled her. The situation troubled her terribly, and she had difficulty dealing with communist pressures.

Thing worsened in 1969. On January 16, a Czech student from Charles University, Jan Palach, set himself on fire to protest the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Pact. The very next morning, Janka Guzová sang on the radio the very sad song "V slzách matička sedela" (Mother Sat in Tears).

One of my Facebook friends in Slovakia, Ľudmila Hrušovská wrote me that she remembers that morning well. She and her father listened, and they cried. One may listen to her singing the song at this website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx6p5WbXmgU>.

Her selection of songs was not acceptable to the new hard-line communists who replaced the reform-minded Alexander Dubček. Authorities began harassing her selection of songs; in fact, they threatened to lock her up like a criminal! Finally, in March 1969, she decided to emigrate with her husband and daughter, and left her beloved country on April 16th of that year. Traveling to Vienna, she made her way to the United States and settled in New York.

Life in the New World

While enjoying the freedom of her new country, she never quite got used to the USA and had some difficulty adjusting. She stayed in touch with her countrymen who were also in exile, and tried to find solace with them. She put on some performances, and later worked with the Slovak-American folklore ensemble Limbora in New York, leading a girls singing group. Among her most significant appearances was that at the Garden State Arts Festival in New Jersey on May 29, 1976. She also performed at the 1976 Bicentennial celebration with others dressed in native Slovak costume. On the occasion, working with violinists Štefan Barej and Janko Laciak, she said that she had not heard such beautiful music since she left Slovakia seven years ago.

Guzová also made public appearances elsewhere in the USA and in Canada, doing a bus tour that went to other cities where Slovaks lived: Toronto, Hamilton, Welland, Ottawa, and Cambridge. Her appearance and singing became the highlight of every festival she performed at. While in Canada at a Festival of Slovak Youth, the Slovak Canadian League presented her with the "Cena slovenskeho srdca" (Award of a Slovak heart). In many ways, her daughter said that her mother felt more comfortable in Canada than in the USA. That may be because many '68 refugees settled in Canada, whereas more Slovak-Americans had roots before both World Wars.

After the overthrow of the communist dictatorship, Janka's reputation and music revived and was again played across Slovakia. When communism crumbled, OPUS Records in Slovakia released her first long playing LP "A ja taka dzivočka."

Finally, in the last tribute to her while she was still living, the Slovak Canadian National Council and other Slovak Canadian organizations, organized a special anniversary concert in her honor on March 29, 1992. Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of her first public performance, the concert was entitled *Spevom k srdcu naroda* (Singing to the heart of the nation). While her daughter attended in her place, poor health prevented Janka from going. She also received a letter of congratulations and recognition from the Slovak National Council, Slovak Radio, and many cultural and fraternal societies from Slovakia, Canada, and the United States.

Janka always wanted to return to visit the land of her birth, but again, poor health prevented her from doing so. She passed away in New York on February 2, 1993. Her funeral took place at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York, but she was not buried in the USA. Her family honored her wish to be buried on Slovak soil. The Matica Slovenská provided assistance and the family flew with her remains to Slovakia. Under the emblem of the Matica Slovenská and in the presence of many friends and family from Žakarovce and across Slovakia, she received a church burial complete with full ritual, many speeches, and songs in her honor. Janka Guzová was finally interred and laid to rest on July 7, 1993 at the Slovak National Cemetery in Martin, Slovakia.

Her book, *Janka Guzová spieva* (Janka Guzová Sings), was reissued in 1995, and in 1997, her own memoirs, *Piesňou otvárala srdcia* (Songs Opened Up Hearts), was published

as a lasting tribute to her magnificent contributions to Slovak folk songs. Also, every two years, a competition presents the Janka Guzová Award to a talented individual who sings Slovak folk songs. So the traditions will carry on for generations to come.

Conclusion

There is very little about her personal life in most sources. We know that she did marry a man named Dr. Becko, who became dean of the Pharmacy School at Comenius University in Bratislava, but she continued to use her maiden name Guzová. Of course, she had a daughter, Želmira Becková Kucharovic, but sources do not talk much about her husband or the child. She seems to have preferred to keep her private life private. But one gets to know her through her singing.

In concluding, it is most appropriate to quote Janka Guzová herself about how much she loved singing.

"Singing is my love. How many times my soul shakes, warms up and gets excited, it inflames my heart, it puts a glow in my eyes and brings me to tears. Often I feel that it is entirely consuming me, carrying me into a magical world of beauty, somewhere above the clouds. At that moment I am really happy."

Many feel the same way when listening to her dynamic voice, forever captured in her many beautiful recordings.

But enough of my babbling. The best way to appreciate Janka Guzová is to listen to her recordings. YouTube offers us a chance to hear some of her most popular songs, and one can do a Google search: Janka Guzová YouTube. Or click on this website, and just enjoy "A ja taka dzivočka" (I am that kind of a girl!), which most of us might popularly know from its chorus of Cingi lingy bom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhY9Mslblb0> or with the lyrics at, <http://www.karaokecexty.cz/texty-pisni/ludove-piesne-slovensko/a-ja-taka-dzivocka-458507>.

Lyrics

A ja taká dzivočka, cingi lingi bom.

Rada vijem pírečka, cingi lingi bom.

[:Rada vijem, rada dám, cingilingi bom, bom, bom,

i za kalap zakladám, cingi lingi bom.:]

Oh, I am that kind of a girl, cingi lingi bom [mimicking the sound of a bell].

I like to bind feather plumes, cingi lingi bom.

I like to bind them, to give them, cingi lingi bom, bom, bom,

and adorn the hats with them, cingi lingi bom.

A ja taká jak i mac, cingi lingi bom,

čarne oči muším mac, cingili lingi bom.

[:Čarné oči mac mala, cingi lingi, bom, bom, bom,

ja še na ňu podala, cingi lingi bom.:]

I look like my mom, cingi lingi bom.

My eyes must be black, cingi lingi bom.

My mom's eyes were black, cingi lingi

bom, bom, bom.

I took after her, cingi lingi bom.

A ty cigán dobre hraj, cingi lingi bom,
na dzivčatá nežmurkaj cingi lingi bom.

[:Na dzivčatá, na šumne, cingi lingi bom, bom, bom,
naj ňechodza po humne, cingi lingi bom.:]

And you, gypsy, play well, cingi lingi bom.

Don't wink at those girls, cingi lingi bom,

At those pretty girls, cingi lingi bom, bom, bom,

So they don't go out to the backyard [beyond the village boundaries], cingi lingi bom.

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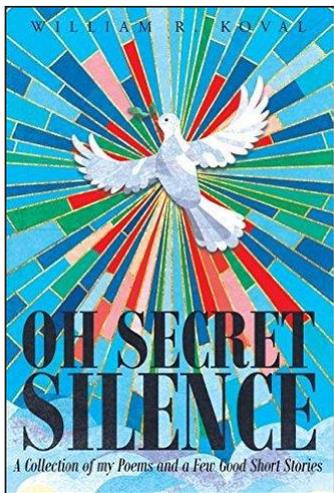
If each member would sign up just one new member, we could double our Society immediately... **THINK ABOUT IT!**



Book Corner

“Oh Secret Silence: A Collection of My Poems and a Few Good Short Stories”

– a newly released book by William R. Koval



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For additional information or inquiries about “Oh Secret Silence: A Collection of My Poems and a Few Good Short Stories” contact the



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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour.

What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, and a welcome reception with the Mayor of Prešov.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of Vienna and Poland. While in Poland, we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

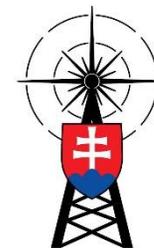
The total price for this complete tour is just \$3,798 per person (double occupancy). The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For a copy of a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joe Senko, Branch 254

SLOVAK PICNIC

SPONSORED BY:

THE CLEVELAND SLOVAK RADIO CLUB



SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

12 - 8 pm

Admission: \$4.00 (At the gate)

SLOVAK SOKOL CAMP

2069 ROYALWOOD RD; BROADVIEW HTS. 44147
BETWEEN STATE AND BROADVIEW RD

SLOVAK FOOD, BEER-PIVO, PASTRIES and DANCING



CONTACT INFORMATION:

MILAN KOBULSKY 330-239-2256



Is your FCSU profile up to date?

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

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

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. The meeting will begin at 2pm. We invite all Bonafide members to join us for fellowship and to discover all the advantages offered to members through the First Catholic Slovak Union. Come take an active role in your fraternal organization.

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

Branch 553 would like to thank everyone who supported our Lenten Fish Frys. Please don't forget our Spaghetti Dinner on May 3rd. Mark your calendars for our upcoming Kielbasa Open on July 29th cost of golf \$65

We hope to see more members attend our lodge meeting on Sunday May 7th at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandie Klucar, Secretary

BRANCH 567 - ALLEN TOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 1:00PM.

It will be held at the home of the Recording Secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, PA. 18109.

We will be discussing various matters pertaining to our branch.

Wishing all members a very Blessed and Happy Easter!!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 580 will hold a meeting on April 30, 2017. Mass for all living and deceased members will be said that day at the 9:30 mass. Meeting will follow at the Holy

Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Ave. Ext. West Mifflin, PA, 15122. All members are welcome. The District 6 meeting will be held on the same day. Branch 580 will host.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 587 - ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Branch 587, will have a semi-annual meeting on May 9, 2017, at 2:00PM, at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road in Aliquippa. All members are welcome to attend.

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSEKOGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, April 2 Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase.

Sunday, April 23 - Breakfast 8:30 - 12noon is all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

Sunday, May 7 Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase.

Sunday, May 28 - Breakfast 8:30 - 12noon is all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

** This is the last breakfast for the summer!

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, MI 231-733-7525.

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 670 - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 meeting will be held on April 23, 2017 at MRL Lab, at 2:30 pm. Discussion will be about upcoming events for the 2017 year. All members are encouraged to attend.

Thank you,

Joe Scavina, Vice President

BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Slovak tenor Maros Bango will give a concert in St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, Sunday May 7, 2017, lunch will be served at 12:00 followed by Concert. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, lunch included, children under 12 are free. Branch 716 will be involved in food preparation. For reservations, call Maria Bozekova, 347-612-1934. [Editor's note: please see page 5 of this issue for concert details]

Jan Skrkon, Acting President

BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Branch 716 will hold its semi-annual meeting from 1:00PM - 3:00PM on April 30, 2017, at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY 10065. On the agenda: financial discussions as well as branch business and planning for future events in 2017. Refreshments will be served after meeting. All members are welcome and urged to attend.

Henrietta Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 756 - OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Sunday May 7, 2017 at 10:30 am. It will be held in the Hospitality Room of the St. Joseph School, 811E. Oliver St. in Owosso, Mi. Please enter at the South East corner of the building.

Still looking for additional officers. After the short meeting, we'll go to the Knights of Columbus Center for a Chicken Dinner. Spouses or a Friend are invited. I will pay for the first 12 dinners of members.

Please RSVP your attendance to 517-381-8358. Hope to see you for a small celebration. Thank you.

Stephan J Patoprsty, President and son of deceased Frank N. Patoprsty (Former Slovak Barber)

BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold a meeting on May 2, 2017, at 12:30PM at McDonald's Restaurant, North Rd & East Market St, Warren, OH 44483. On the agenda: discussion of possible summer and fall branch activities.

William Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 774 - SANFORD, MICHIGAN

Attention Branch 774 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. Currently, due to health reasons, all branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 774 and its 64 members is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, 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 28, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, D.C AND AREA

Branch 856K will hold its meeting on May 12, 2017, at 1:00pm at the Thomas Jefferson Library on 7415 Arlington Blvd. Falls Church, VA, 22042. On the agenda will be discussion on the district meeting that was held in Mahanoy City, PA, in April; a financial report; and activities for the remainder of the year. Also our yearly Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is scheduled for September 17, 2017 at 11:00 am in the crypt church. Please mark your calendar. All members are welcomed to attend this meeting in May. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Stephen Matula at 703-671-3013.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary



Dennis and Laura Tepper celebrated a special wedding anniversary on last July's Treasures of Slovakia trip, which they first read about in Jednota. They donned Spiš wedding headdresses at a village party near Levoča.

Treasures Tours Takes Its 90th Trip to Slovakia

Dennis and Laurie Tepper, Jednota members, read about the Treasures of Slovakia tour in Jednota last spring and came on the trip to celebrate a special anniversary and meet Laurie's relatives in Spiš villages for the first time.

The Treasures of Slovakia tour July 7 - 16, 2017, will be a Celebration Tour as it is Treasures Tours 90th trip and the 29th Treasures of Slovakia trip in 29 years. Jednota member Helene Cincebeaux, a co-leader, noted special additions to the popular cultural immersion tour ... sightseeing in Vienna and a free beer and wine night, in addition to viewing Slovakia's treasures from north to south and east to west and being re-united with long lost family.

Highlights include Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Detva Folk Festival, Kežmarok's Crafts Festival, Spiš Castle, Košice's old town and Singing Fountain, Bardejov, Prešov, Levoča, Stará L'ubovňa, raft ride in scenic Pieniny Gorge, Čičmany, Rajec Bethlehem, plus wedding parties and folk entertainment in eastern, central and western Slovakia and wine tasting on the Carpathian Wine Road. Trip land cost is \$2,299 per person.

Finding lost family is a specialty with a 98% success rate. An add-on to Prague is popular with tour goers.

Contact Helene Cincebeaux for more information - phone 585 342-9383, e-mail helez@nezx@aol.com, or 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617.

- Submitted by Helene Cincebeaux, Branch 278

Helping to Serve



FCSU Acting Branch 716 President, Jan Skrkon, prepared and helped to serve lunch to a Slovak League of America event for Slovak Statehood held March 12th at St. John Nepomucene Hall in New York City, hosted by Branch 716. Branch Treasurer Maria Bozekova also helped serve.

Scenes from the Annual Slovak Mass & Easter Customs Breakfast in Pittsburgh

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, St. Adalbert Church on the southside of Pittsburgh, PA, celebrated its Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast. The rosary was recited in Slovak before the Mass; and after the Mass attendees sampled traditional Easter foods at the nearby Prince of Peace Parish Center. Photos courtesy of Dr. Michael Kopanic.



Connie Zatak leads the procession in to the church at the Slovak Mass at St. Adalbert.

Dr. Kopanic and family enjoy the April 8th Easter Custom's Breakfast.



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

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA DECEMBER 10, 2016 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

(TELECONFERENCE)**OPEN MEETING:**

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer and to pray for our deceased officers and members.

ANTHEMS:

The President asked Regional Director Rudolf Ondrejco to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly December 2016 Meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

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

All present and accounted for.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 2016:

A motion was made by Rudolf Ondrejco and seconded by Sabina Sabados to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of September 2016, as corrected. The motion carried, with a Vote of 14 for and 1 against.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the agenda with a provision to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, Inc., presented his extensive investment portfolio report by telephone and Web Ex to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. During and after the presentation, Larry White answered questions from the Board.

Larry White then led an extensive discussion on our Investment Policy. Following a further review of our existing investment policy, he presented several alternative investment possibilities and asked the Board to review them to make any possible changes.

ANNUITY RATES:

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

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% apy
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.20% apy
With the "Cash Interest" Option	2.95% apy
New Six Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.10% apy
New "Park 2 Annuity"	2.10% apy

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer George Matta II presented a written report to the Board of Directors. After the presentation, he answered the Board's questions.

The Treasurer stated the Executive Committee will be introduced to our new representative from UBS at the Executive Meeting in January to review our account and to discuss possible new investment opportunities.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER 2016:Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2016. After his report he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2016 third quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary presented the projected budget for 2017 and answered the Board's questions. A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by James Marmol to accept the budget as presented. Motion passed.

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:Executive Committee

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

Investments

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

CONVENTION UPDATE:

The Executive Secretary stated that preparations for the August 4-8, 2018 convention are going well. The dates, hotel and meeting rooms have been secured.

Fraternal Activities

Fraternal Activities Director Rudolf Ondrejco stated that coloring contest is going on now.

Director Ondrejco announced that the Bowling Tournament will be held April 21-22, 2017 in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania and that the Golf Tournament will be held July 29-30, 2017 in Canton, Ohio. He stated that all fraternal activities will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Sabina Sabados to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Sabina Sabados to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta II, Treasurer
Milos Mitro, Regional Director via teleconference
(by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the January 2017 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr. and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Monthly Disbursements

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

Disbursements for the month of January 2017:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 201,296.49
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 40,727.17
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC:

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

Larry White led a discussion regarding new investment opportunities that we may take advantage of in the future.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

The President led an extensive review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in March.

The President led a discussion about the possibility of offering a new 3 year annuity product to our members which our independent agents have inquired about. The President stated we will look into the advantages of offering this new annuity product to see if it is feasible.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a report on the investment update to the Executive Committee

and answered the Committee's questions.

The Treasurer led a review of the new investment opportunities that was presented to the Board by David A. Doll and Sean W. Hardy of UBS.

The Treasurer led a review of the investment opportunities presented by Larry White of AQS, and led a discussion about the possible investments we may want to take advantage of.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have over 264 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products, in addition to frequent phone contacts.

The Vice President said our marketing firm, with input by our in-house marketing committee composed of Andy Rajec, Jr., Beata Fedoriouk and Terri Ivanec, is developing a marketing strategy to improve the sale of our products. Our marketing firm is still in the process of updating the presentation that will be used at our seminars, as well as a developing a strategy to recruit independent agents in the targeted states we are licensed in.

The Vice President led a review concerning a possible incentive program for agents and the commissions paid to agents to increase sales. We are also looking at the possibility of giving a referral fee to be paid to recommenders, in states other than Pennsylvania, that do not have an insurance license. This will be further discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in March.

The Executive Secretary stated that a survey was emailed out to our existing independent agents to get their suggestions on how to improve our customer service, our products, and our commission schedule. We are waiting for the results from our marketing firm.

The Executive Secretary stated we are waiting on IRS approval to be a non-bank trustee for the Coverdell Fund. We are hoping to get final approval shortly so we can make this fund available to our members in 2017.

MIDDLETOWN PROPERTY:

The President gave an update on the property in Middletown. The President stated he has been in contact with a potential broker concerning our listing agreement. The broker indicated that there have been some inquiries on the property.

The President stated we have not signed a listing agreement.

The President stated he will discuss any offers with the broker and present them to the Board at the March 2017 meeting.

MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

The President stated he has invited Joe Annotti, President of American Fraternal Alliance, to our Annual Board of Directors meeting to discuss the status of fraternal in the United States.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec

Kenneth A. Arendt

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.

Branch 764 Sponsors Fellowship Gathering in Warren, OH

SS. Cyril & Methodius Social Hall, of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, in Warren, OH, was the site of a Slovak-style meal and fellowship gathering on February 18, 2017. The event was sponsored by FCSU Branch 764 in cooperation with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch 422. Dinner included stuffed cabbage, pirohy, klobasa and kraut, green beans seasoned with bacon and vinegar, pickled beets, and kolach. Around 150 diners enjoyed the meal, as well as accordion music provided by Joe Ohlin, of St. James site of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Niles Ave. kitchen.

- Submitted by William Hruskovsky, Branch 764 President



The charismatic blind singer from Slovakia - "the Slovak Andrea Bocelli" - whose masterful voice is matched by a remarkable life story



MAROŠ BANGO

In Concert May 13, 2017
An Evening of Classical, Pop & Traditional Folk Songs

Doors open: 6PM
 Concert: 7PM – 9PM
 DJ Denis : 9PM - 11:30PM

LOCATION St. Mary's Crystal Chalet Party Center,
 3600 Biddulph Ave, Cleveland OH 44109

TICKETS: \$20 adult; \$15/ages 16 and younger
 Limited Seating! Advanced sales only.

Ticket includes: Appetizers, Concert, Music for Dancing
 Cash Bar provided by Melendez Catering

Raffles & gift baskets available to win throughout the evening benefiting the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble. Concert proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Building Fund.
 Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union.
 Matching Funds for the Lúčina Raffles provided by First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Br. 176.

For tickets call: **Miriam Visnovsky, 440-638-9921, vismimi@hotmail.com**
Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797, tivanec@aol.com

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY -

BRANCH REQUIREMENTS FOR BRANCH STIPEND

The following are requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend:

Bylaw Section 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

"By the end of March of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$5.00 per member, per year, not to exceed \$8,000.00, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

(a) Published, announced and conducted two (2) semiannual meetings, one (1) of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance (sign in) sheets or copies shall accompany the reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.

(b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.

(c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.

(d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one (1) fraternal activity in the past year.

(e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.

(f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.

(g) Sent a branch representative to attend at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.

1. Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their presence at the event. No later than February 15th the District shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article "g" above.

2. The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than May 1st in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.

(h) Maintained good standing within its district by paying current fiscal year dues and any dues that may be outstanding from previous years.

(i) The requirements of this Section must be met by the branch to receive payment of any other compensation.

Bylaw Section 11.04 BRANCH REPRESENTATION AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATION:

(a) Every local branch having fifty (50) or more members and current good standing financially in its district (i.e., up to date with dues payments), may send at its own expense, one (1) of its members as a delegate to the Convention. Said delegate shall have the right to vote, but in no case, shall any delegate have more than one (1) vote. Local branches, at their own expense, which have more than one hundred fifty (150) members are entitled to two (2) delegates and one (1) additional delegate for each additional one hundred (100) members, according to the number of their members on the 1st day of February of the Convention year. Each District (Okres) shall be entitled to only one (1) district delegate.

(b) Any two (2) branches in the same district having less than fifty (50) members can combine if they total fifty (50) members or more. They can send one (1) delegate representing both branches at their own expense with one delegate vote.

(c) The delegate count shall be based on members as of February 1st in the Convention year. The maximum number of delegates per branch will be twenty (20).

(d) A local branch that has no delegate elected may request that a delegate already elected from another branch represent it. A delegate shall not represent more than two (2) branches, but has only one (1) vote. No National Officer shall represent any local branch.

(e) Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next Convention shall be published at least twice in the Official Organ prior to the date of the branch or district meeting.

(f) Any branch or district which fails to comply with article 4.05 in two (2) of the four (4) years preceding a Convention will not be permitted to send any delegates to that Convention, excluding Canada.

Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES

14.01 General Rules

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

b) The local branches are authorized to establish their own rules and regulations for the operation and control of their branch and members in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of the FCSU.

(c) Local branches may use the ritual form and prayers as contained in Section 20 of these Bylaws.

(d) Every local branch may observe the anniversary of its patron saint in a manner conforming to the Roman or Eastern churches of the Catholic Church.

(e) A Branch or District Officer who ceases to be a resident within a general area of a branch or district he/she represents is automatically disqualified from office. An exception may be granted by the President and the Executive Secretary.

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

1-800-JEDNOTA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- information you provide to us in an application or other form;
- information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others; and
- information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, Non-Public Information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

AS OF APRIL 1, 2017 THE FOLLOWING BRANCHES DID NOT MEET

ALL OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THEIR 2016 BRANCH STIPEND

PER BYLAW 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION &

PER BYLAW 14.01 RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES

| Branch # |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 001P | 169P | 327K | 484K | 704K |
| 004K | 175K | 330K | 487K | 706K |
| 007K | 189K | 333K | 497K | 714K |
| 016P | 189P | 335K | 505K | 716K |
| 041K | 198P | 348K | 510K | 729K |
| 053K | 199K | 353K | 512K | 733K |
| 064K | 211K | 353P | 514K | 735K |
| 083K | 215K | 358K | 517K | 754K |
| 086K | 221K | 362K | 543K | 769K |
| 090K | 224K | 368K | 567K | 774K |
| 096K | 226P | 372K | 571K | 777K |
| 098K | 233K | 373K | 580K | 780K |
| 102K | 238K | 380K | 584K | 823K |
| 108K | 240P | 381K | 586K | 831K |
| 110K | 270K | 388K | 591K | 844K |
| 114P | 278K | 402K | 600K | 852K |
| 121K | 280K | 403K | 615K | 858K |
| 122K | 293K | 404K | 618K | 862K |
| 124K | 294K | 414K | 633K | 888K |
| 128K | 299K | 417K | 635K | 890K |
| 132K | 308K | 425K | 636K | |
| 136K | 313K | 429K | 638K | |
| 144P | 315K | 430K | 652K | |
| 149K | 319K | 434K | 667K | |
| 152K | 321P | 456K | 686K | |
| 156K | 322K | 461K | 700K | |
| 164K | 324K | 465K | 701K | |
| 165K | 326K | 472K | 702K | |

Správy zo Slovenska

Na vzostupe je celá hromadná doprava

Doprava na Slovensku hustne a ľudia presadajú do vlakov. V roku 2014 upozornil prieskum a údaje dopravcov, z ktorých vyplynulo, že denne asi 1,5 milióna ľudí nasadá do auta, vyše 700.000 Slovákov do prímestských autobusov a 125.000 do vlaku. Podľa údajov za rok 2016 už platí, že v prímestských autobusoch je denne asi 630.000 ľudí, vo vlakoch je naopak viac, a to už 180.000 ľudí. Celá dopravná situácia sa teraz vyvinula tak, že vlaky na hlavných tratiach sú preplnené, keďže pribudlo platiacich aj neplatiacich cestujúcich a navyše súkromný prepravca odišiel z trate Bratislava - Košice.

Nápojový biznis košickej investičnej šťuky sa rozpadá

Kráľovná minerálok je v problémoch kvôli dlhu. Impérium kam patrí aj známa Kláštorňa, sa rozpadáva. Kľúčový partner vo firme je v osobnom bankrote. Ide o košickú investičnú skupinu Skyside, ktorá chcela byť lídrom v nápojovom biznise. Do nákupu a rozvoja minerálok značiek Kláštorňa či Slatina a do rožňavského pivovaru Kaltenecker investovala desiatky miliónov eur. Teraz sa jej impérium rozpadá. Pivovar v Rožňave zmenil majiteľa a zachránil sa v reštrukturalizácii, zvyšok nápojového impéria končí v krachu či likvidácii.

Silnejšia koruna prílepš

Ľudia, ktorí zarábajú v Česku, budú môcť doma viac utrácať. Česká koruna by mala zosilnieť. Česká národná banka korunu už tri roky zámerne oslabuje, ale túto jar by sa zásahy mali skončiť. Koruna by sa potom mohla posilniť aj na 25 korún za euro. V Česku pracuje odhadom 100-200 tisíc ľudí zo Slovenska. Keď niekto dostáva výplatu 30-tisíc korún, po prepočte by si polepšil o 89 eur mesačne. Zmena však pomôže ľuďom, ktorí chodia pracovať do Česka, ale mňajú na Slovensku.

Poslanci schválili zvýšenie materskej dávky

Rodičia si od mája tohto roka finančne prílepšia. Parlament schválil definitívne novelu zákona o sociálnom poistení, ktorou sa zvýši materská dávka. Prijatím novely sa zvýši percentuálna sadzba materského zo súčasných 70 % denného vymeriavacieho základu na 75 %. „Vplyvom predmetného opatrenia budú mať osoby poberajúce materské nárok na približne 100 % čistého príjmu, ktorý dosahovali pred vznikom nároku,“ skonštatovalo ministerstvo práce v predkladacej správe k novele zákona s tým, že jej cieľom zlepšiť finančnú situáciu rodín s deťmi.

Slováci získali lukratívny biznis za 25 miliónov eur

Tri slovenské firmy z gumárskeho odvetvia vyrobili stroje pre najväčšieho iránskeho producenta plášťov na pneumatiky, firmu Barez. Memorandum o 40 miliónovej zmluve, z ktorej má na Slovensko putovať 25 miliónov eur, podpísali ich zástupcovia v Teheráne. Na biznise sa podieľajú firmy Mesnac European Research and Technical Centre (Dubnica nad Váhom), Konštrukta-Tire (Trenčín) a Vipo (Partizánske).

Investícia za milióny pre top automobily

Na Slovensko mieri ďalšia firma z oblasti automotívy. Nemecký koncern Röchling, ktorý vyrába plasty do vozidiel expanduje na Slovensku. Firma do novej výroby investuje osem miliónov eur a v pláne má zamestnať 240 ľudí. Výrobná hala vyrastie neďaleko Nového Mesta nad Váhom.

Slováci kraľujú IT biznisu strednej Európy

Ponuku majiteľov bratislavského Asset Softu stať sa riaditeľom tejto IT spoločnosti najprv dvakrát odmietol. Tú tretiu pred 15 rokmi napokon prijal. Dnes je Jozef Klein šéfom firmy Assec Central Europe, ktorá vznikla z niekdajšieho Asset Softu. Pod Kleinovým vedením sa vypracovala na jeden z najsilnejších softvérových domov v strednej a východnej Európe. Práve Klein, ktorý je sám aktívnym programátorom, sa v stredu 22. marca stal držiteľom titulu EY Podnikateľ roka 2016.

Pred letom som vypil fľašu vodky

Kanadský súd nemal so slovenským pilotom Miroslavom Gronychom (37), ktorý chcel koncom minulého roka nastúpiť do služby opitý, zľutovanie. V takom stave chcel letieť s 99 pasažiermi a ďalšími piatimi členmi posádky. Pilot podľa súdu načal v hotelovej izbe noc pred službou sedmičkovú fľašu tvrdého alkoholu, podľa chyžnej išlo o vodku. Doraziť ju mal pred službou. Zamestnávateľ ho prepustil. Súd v Calgary ho uznal vinným a na vlastnú žiadosť šiel zo súdu rovno do väzby. O konečnej výške trestu sa rozhodne 3. apríla. Hrozí mu rok väzenia.

Slovensko má ôsmy najkrajší zámok v Európe

Prestížny a uznávaný mesačník National Geographic zaradil zámok Bojnice do desiatky najkrajších európskych zámkov. Ocenil jeho romantický vzhľad a označil ho za ideálny pre tých, ktorí snívajú. Vychválil aj podujatia, napríklad festival strašidiel, ktoré tu pravidelne usporiadávajú.

Slovenského medu je stále menej, je čoraz drahší

Chemické látky používané v poľnohospodárstve na ochranu rastlín spôsobujú na Slovensku obrovské škody včelstvá. Domáceho medu je preto čoraz menej, čo sa odzrkadľuje aj na cenách. Na tohtoročnú produkciu medu bude mať vplyv ani nie tak chladná zima, ako pokles včelstiev. Vláňajší pokles produkcie priniesol rast cien, ktoré radikálnejšie vzrástli v južných regiónoch, v Bratislave a jej okolí – v priemere o 0,5 až 1 euro za kilogram.

Železnice nalejú do staníc milióny

Štát opraví schátrané vlakové stanice na Slovensku. Nový investičný plán Železníc Slovenskej republiky na roky 2017 až 2019 ráta totiž s opravou 25 nádraží. Lepšej stanice sa tak dočkajú Lučenec, Ružomberok, Štrba, ale aj Hlavná stanica v Bratislave, ktorá to najviac potrebuje. Na Hlavnú stanicu pôjdu minimálne dva milióny eur.

Bujaré zábavy v uliciach či diskotéky v podzemí?

Čo bude s nočným životom v centre Bratislavy? Nedávno mali o tom rozhodnúť poslanci staromestského zastupiteľstva. Po kontroverznom návrhu, podľa ktorého mali všetky prevádzky zatvárať už o desiatej večer, starosta bratislavského Starého Mesta navrhuje rozdeliť prevádzky do kategórií ako v susednej Viedni.

Panorámu si kúpite za 17 miliónov

V ponuke realitiek sa objavil jeden z najznámejších tatranských hotelov, štvorhviezdičkový hotel Panoráma postavený na Štrbskom Plese prešiel v rokoch 2008 až 2010 rekonštrukciou. Vlastnia ho dvaja Slováci z Považskej Bystrice, ktorí ho kúpili v roku 2007. O hotel prejavili záujem z Maďarska, Ruska, Nemecka či z Kuvajtu. „Snažíme sa predaj poriadne rozbehnúť“, prezradil maklér, ktorý má predaj hotela na starosti.

Roboti ohrozia hlavne šoférov a predavačov

Pokladníčky v supermarketoch, vodiči alebo aj pracovníci obsluhujúci výrobné linky, tým hrozí, že ich v práci nahradia stroje. Dnes takýchto zamestnancov chráni, že sú lacnejší ako stroje. „Predovšetkým pre malé a stredné podniky sú náklady na obstarávanie technologických riešení zatiaľ vysoké. Súčasný nedostatok kvalifikovanej pracovnej sily môže zavádzanie automatizácie urýchliť. Vplyv nových technológií môže znamenať nové pracovné príležitosti.“

Prešov bude mať v centre svoj bronzový model

Neptúnova fontána, súsošie Immaculaty, gréckokatolícka Katedrála sv. Jána Krstiteľa, ale aj verná kópia Turínskeho plátna. Potom múzeum vín v priestoroch, kde sa predávalo víno už v 14. storočí. To sú len niektoré z atrakcií, ktoré lákajú do Prešova turistov. Už túto jeseň k nim má pribudnúť ďalšia, unikátny bronzový model historického centra mesta umiestnený bude tiež na námestí. Prešov rozšíri zoznam svojich atrakcií v rámci 770. výročia prvej písomnej zmienky, ktoré si pripomína v tomto roku. Bronzový model historického centra bude výsledkom programu cezhraničnej spolupráce INTERREG V-A Poľsko-Slovensko s poľským mestom Krosno.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Zvonár Michal Trvalec zo Žarnovickej Huty:

Tajná zákazka pre pápeža

Šikovným remeselníkom zo stredného Slovenska sa podarilo niečo, o čom sa im ani len nesnívalo. Zvonár Michal Trvalec vyrába spolu so svojim synom unikátny zvon, ktorý čoskoro poputuje do Vatikánu a to samotnému Svätému Otcovi Františkovi I. Michal Trvalec odlieva zvony už tri desaťročia. Pred zákazkou pre Vatikán však cíti veľký rešpekt.

So zvonárstvom začal Michal Trvalec starší ešte v 90. rokoch a dnes priznáva, že začiatky boli ťažké. „Každá krajina mala svojho renomovaného zvonára, ktorý sa stará o zvony a odlieva ich. Je to prestíž, len my Slováci sme dovtedy nemali žiadneho. Veľa ľudí mi zo začiatku neverilo a smiali sa mi. No čím viac sa smiali, tým viac ma to burcovalo...“ vracia sa do minulosti skúsený zvonár a vyučený hutník. „Začínal som z ničoho a od nikoho som nedostal ani cent. Vykopal som jamu, odliat malý zvon a takisto som si vyrobil vlastnú pec, ktorá ináč stojí aj tri milióny.“ Od tých čias však už vyrobil okolo tisíc zvonov a momentálne sa v jeho dielni rodí jeden pre pápeža do Vatikánu.

Zvonárstvo patrí k unikátnym remeslám, ktoré sa dedia z otca na syna, a tak zostávajú rodinnou tradíciou. Ani Trvalcovci nie sú žiadnou výnimkou. „Môj syn Michal sa pri mne v dielni motkal už ako desaťročný, pomáhal a podával mi náradie. Teraz sú z nás partneri. Aj preto sme dostali túto zákazku, lebo Svätý Otec má rád, keď sa tradície dedia z otcov na synov,“ hovorí Trvalec. Objednávateľom, ktorý všetko zaplatil, je jeden známy český pivovar. Aj keď sa odlievaniu a oprave zvonov venujú už roky a majú bohaté skúsenosti, vyrobiť zvon pre pápeža Františka I. bola pre nich obrovská zodpovednosť. „Dávame si záležať, lebo je to až príliš významná udalosť a pocta, ktorej sa nedostane len tak hocikomu. Riziko, že sa niečo nepodarí, tu je vždy. Predsa len do formy sa vylieva žieravina pri teplote 1 500 °C,“ prezrádza zvonár a ukazuje nám formu, z ktorej odlieva zvon. Jeho výzdobu aj rozmery remeselníci konzultovali v Prahe s vatikánskym veľvyslancom. „Najskôr sme chceli dať na zvon pápežovu podobizeň, ale zamietli to. Takže nakoniec je na ňom vyobrazená Bazilika svätého Petra vo Vatikáne. Hotový bronzový zvon bude mať výšku 27 cm, hmotnosť okolo 10 kíl a srdce mu vykuje umelecký kováč.“ Pápežovi zvon zašlú ako dar ešte pred Veľkou nocou.

Výroba zvonu trvá niekoľko mesiacov, keďže treba čakať aj na dôkladné preschnutie formy. My sme majstra zvonára navštívili v jeho dielni, kde nám predvedli zdobenie a neverili sme vlastným očiam. „V tejto etape pridávame do chladiacej zmesi kvôli lepšej pevnosti a priliehavosti materiálu aj pivo dvanásťku. To totiž obsahuje škrob a látky napomáhajúce sceleniu materiálu,“ prezrádza Trvalec.

Výroba zvonu vždy začína tvorbou formy. Táto fáza trvá asi mesiac až dva a zahŕňa v prvom rade návrh a vytvorenie formy pre jadro – vnútorný profil zvonu, a to zo špeciálnej hliny, ktorá musí dobre zaschnúť. Nasleduje príprava tzv. košele, niekedy nazývanej zvonom falošným. Košeľa sa vyrába tak, že sa na jadro po jeho uschnutí naniesie ďalšia, jemnejšia vrstvička hliny.

2. Na rad prichádza zdobenie, keď sa na falošný zvon prílepia všetky reliéfy a ďalšia výzdoba, ktorou chce zvonár zvon vybaviť. V priebehu cca dvoch týždňov získa postupne zvon svoju jedinečnú kompozíciu. Výzdoba zvonov je vo väčšine prípadov skôr vystúpená, ale nájdú sa aj dekorácie vyhlbené alebo vysekané do tela zvonu až po odliatí.

3. Keď je forma falošného zvonu dokončená, nanáša sa na ňu posledná časť formy, teda jej plášť – najvrchnejšia vrstva hliny. Veľmi opatrne, často ručne sa vtlačá ku košeli, aby sa výzdoba zvonu dokonale odtláčila. V tejto fáze sa do formy leje pivo, ktoré má zabezpečiť najlepšie vlastnosti zmesi – jej dokonalú priľnavosť, pevnosť a perfektné scelenie pre následné napáľovanie.

4. Sušenie a vypaľovanie už hotovej formy zvonu trvá väčšinou asi 3 dni a vykonáva sa pri teplotách dosahujúcich až 700 °C.

5. Posledná fáza celej výroby zvonov je potom ich konečné odliatie, ktoré zaberie okolo štyroch hodín. Po vychladnutí formy sa nadvihne plášť a odstráni sa košeľa. Upraví sa prípadné nedostatky, ku ktorým došlo pri vysušaní a vypaľovaní, a plášť sa starostlivo zasadí naspäť. Do predhriatej formy sa potom naleje zvonovina – zmes meď a cínu – čo je úplne finálny materiál, z ktorého bude zvon vytvorený a ktorý mu prepožičia aj svoje vlastnosti. Až teraz zvonár uvidí, po niekoľkomesačnej starostlivej práci, výsledok – keď zazvoní na zvon a zistí, či má očakávaný tón.

Zvony sú tradičným symbolom Veľkej noci. Hovorí sa, že po odznení modlitieb počas Zeleného štvrtka zvony utichajú a odlietajú do Ríma ako znamenie smútku nad ukrižovaním Ježiša Krista. Tam ich Svätý Otec požehná a ony sa potom na Bielu sobotu vracajú, aby sa slávnostne rozozvučali. V minulosti sa verilo, že dediny, z ktorých zvony neodletia, bude celý rok prenasledovať smola.



Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Jarná disco-tanečná zábava

182. Zbor S.K.S. usporiada v spolupráci s mládežou v **sobotu 22. apríla 2017** o 7.00 hodine večer Jarnú disco-tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa bude konať vo farskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 66th Street, 1st Avenue v New York City. Vstupné je \$ 45.00 v predpredaji a \$ 60.00 pri dverách. V cene je započítaná večera spolu s aperitívom. Bar bude otvorený celý večer. Do tanca bude hrať Rado Lesay. Rezervácie: Jozef Bodo 917 - 748 - 5384; Anna Korčák 201- 670 - 8162; Maja Božeková 347 - 612 - 1934.

Polročná schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v NYC

Oznamujeme členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New York City, že polročná schôdza sa bude konať v **nedeľu 30. apríla 2017**, od 1:00PM do 3:00PM vo farskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East, 66th Street, New York, NY 10065. Na programe bude predebatovaná finančná správa a príprava činnosti na rok 2017. Po polročnej členskej schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie. Všetci členovia spolku sú vítaní a odporúčame, aby sa ho zúčastnili čo v najväčšom počte.

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, č. 16 IKSJ

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, č. 16 IKSJ sa bude konať v **nedeľu 30. apríla 2017** po slovenskej sv. omši o 10:30 v hale Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th St. (First Ave), New York, NY 10065. Na programe bude finančná správa a príprava činnosti na budúce obdobie. Prosíme predsedov spolkov, ktoré patria do Okresu č. 16, aby poslali na schôdzu svojich delegátov. Všetci členovia spolkov IKSJ, ktoré patria do Okresu č. 16 (Spolok 41, 45, 716) sú vítaní. Po schôdzi bude malé občerstvenie.

Želmíra Becková-Kucharovic, predsedníčka

Spolok č. 716 IKSJ oznamuje koncert Maroša Banga v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NY

Slovenský tenor Maroš Bango bude mať koncert v hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East, 66th Street, New York, NY 10065, v **nedeľu 7. mája 2017**. Marián Bango je slovenský nevidiaci umelec, spevák. Prezývajú ho slovenský Bocelli. Obed sa bude podávať o 12.00 hodine po ktorom sa začne koncert. Lístky sú \$ 20.00 pre dospelých a deti do 12 rokov majú vstup zdarma. Vo vstupnom je započítaný aj obed. Spolok č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty bude zodpovedný za prípravu obedu. O bližšie informácie a lístky volajte Máriu Božekovú: 347-612-1934.

Ján Škrkoň, výkonný predseda

Vernisáž výstavy Danuty a Pavla Bindera vo Washingtone, DC

Zastupiteľský úrad SR vo Washingtone 6. apríla 2017 zorganizoval vernisáž výstavy Danuty a Pavla Bindera "Slovak art across the ocean". Výstavu pripravil v spolupráci s Michaelou Kollárovou, neterou manželov Binderovcov. Podujatie moderovala a hudobne sprevádzala slovenská speváčka Marcella Molnárová.

Danuta a Pavol Binder patria k umelcom, ktorí sa aj napriek totalitnému režimu rozhodli tvoriť slobodne. Ich tvorba tvorí kultúrne a intelektuálne premostenie medzi demokratickým Československom pred 2. svetovou vojnou a Československom po páde komunizmu v roku 1989. Obaja patria k predstaviteľom slovenského abstraktného a konštruktívneho umenia. Tvorba Pavla Bindera je charakteristická drôtenými sochami

spájajúc slovenskú tradíciu s európskym modernizmom. Danuta Binderová, narodená v Poľsku, patrí od konca 60. rokov k stálym a dôležitým predstaviteľkám abstraktnej geometrie na Slovensku. Aj počas nepriaznivého obdobia sa nevzdala svojho umeleckého smerovania. Vystavovala sporadicky a to len vtedy, ak to nebolo v konflikte s jej politickými a umeleckými hodnotami.

MZV SR



Ján A. Holý oslávil 95 rokov

Dňa 8. februára 2017 oslávil vzácne životné jubileum - 95 rokov, novinár, organizátor slovenského, národného, kultúrneho a politického života, amerických Slovákov Ján A. Holý.

Na Slovensku pracoval ako redaktor vysokoškolského časopisu Borba a v rokoch 1945- 47 ako redaktor Spravodajskej agentúry Slovenska. Po uväznení od októbra 1947 do januára 1948 sa napokon v tom istom roku dostáva do emigrácie. Už v nemeckom utečeneckom tábore v Ludwigsburgu sa stal redaktorom časopisu Slobodné Slovensko. Novinárskej práci, redigovaniu novín a časopisov sa venoval aj po príchode do Ameriky v roku 1949. V rokoch 1950- 54 pracoval ako výpomocný redaktor novín Katolícky Sokol, v rokoch 1952- 54 v redakcii Dobrého pastiera. Potom inicioval založenie politickej revue Rozhľady (1956- 59), ktoré aj redigoval.

Stovky článkov publikoval aj v ďalších americko- slovenských novinách, kalendároch a zborníkoch. Redakčne sa podieľal na monografickej publikácii (ako spoluredaktor) o amerických Slovákoch The Slovaks in America (1977) a je spoluautorom knižky Slovenská Amerika- Slovak America, ktorá vyšla na Slovensku (1999).

Vyššie 50 rokov sa Ján Holý venuje aj organizačnej, národno- kultúrnej a politickej práci. Bol spoluzakladateľom Slovenského sociálneho výboru, ktorý mal na starosti získať finančnú podporu pre utečencov.

Ďalej bol činný v Slovenskom demokratickom bloku a Slovenskom študijnom stredisku, pracoval v predsedníctve americkej pobočky Slovenskej národnej rady v zahraničí a viedol miestny organizačný výbor v New Yorku pri zakladaní Svetového kongresu Slovákov. V rokoch 1975 až 2002 bol generálnym tajomníkom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Slovenská republika si uctila prácu tajomníka Slovenskej ligy a vydavateľa novín Slovák v Amerike udelením niekoľkých vysokých vyznamenaní. Ján Holý je ženatý. Jeho manželka Nina Holá je tajomníčkou Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Vychovali dve dcéry – Luby Mason a Jane Konzelman. Obe sú aktívne v slovenskom živote. Majú tiež troch vnukov, jednu vnučku a jednu pravnučku. Ján Holý bol dlhoročným členom a tajomníkom 282. Zboru Slovenského katolíckeho sokola v Passaicu NJ a je čestný podpredseda 182. Zboru v New Yorku. Do ďalších rokov jeho plodného života mu prajeme ešte veľa síl a zdravia, aby mohol aj naďalej pokračovať v národnej práci.



Ján A. Holý

Mariána Hossu nominovali na prestížnu Mastertonovu trofej

Slovenský hokejista Marián Hossa je jedným z tridsiatky hráčov nominovaných na Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy. Prestížne ocenenie každoročne udeľujú v zámorskej NHL za vytrvalosť, športového ducha a oddanosť hokeju.

Novinári pokrývajúci jednotlivé kluby profiligy majú právo navrhnúť z každého tímu jedno meno na ocenenie, z tridsiatky hráčov potom vzišlo trio finalistov. Držiteľ trofeje určí Asociácia profesionálnych hokejových novinárov (PHWA). Hossu nominovala na ocenenie chicagská pobočka PHWA.

Útočník Chicaga Blackhawks sa po minulej menej výraznej sezóne dokázal v tomto ročníku opäť rozstrielať a vo veku 38 rokov stále patrí medzi ťahúňov tímu. Najmä úvod sezóny ho zastihol vo výbornej forme, v celkovo 66 dueloch vsietil 24 gólov a pridal 18 asistencií.

Väčšinou nastupoval na pravom krídle druhého či tretieho útoku „jastrabov“.

V doterajšej histórii NHL získali Mastertonovu trofej dvaja hráči Blackhawks - Pit Martin (1969/70) a Bryan Berard (2003/04). Berard sa dokázal vrátiť do profiligového diania po siedmich operáciách oka. Zranenie mu v marci 2000 neúmyselne spôsobil práve Hossa, keď ho ešte ako hráč Ottawy čepelou hokejky nešťastne trafil do tváre.

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FOTO TASR/AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast

Útočník Chicaga Ryan Hartman (v strede) oslavuje svoj gól so slovenským útočníkom Chicaga Mariánom Hossom (vľavo) a Brentom Seabrookom v zápase zámorskej NHL Vancouver Canucks - Chicago Blackhawks 21. marca 2017 v Chicagu.

Chicago Blackhawks' Ryan Hartman (38) celebrates his goal with Marian Hossa (81) and Brent Seabrook during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Vancouver Canucks Tuesday, March 21, 2017, in Chicago.

Osadu Vlkolíneec, zapísanú v UNESCO, navštívil vlni rekordný počet ľudí

Pamiatková rezervácia ľudovej architektúry Vlkolíneec, ktorá je od roku 1993 zapísaná do Zoznamu Svetového dedičstva UNESCO, prilákala vlni takmer 60.000 platiacich návštevníkov. „Predpokladáme, že ďalších približne 15.000 ľudí do osady zavítalo bezplatne. Môžeme preto potvrdiť, že minulý rok Vlkolíneec zaznamenal pravdepodobne najvyšší počet návštevníkov vo svojej histórii,” informoval o tom Martin Hromada, vedúci oddelenia regionálnej politiky ružomerského mestského úradu.



Vlkolíneec, ilustračné foto:TASR

Návštevnosť Vlkolínca, mestskej časti okresného mesta Ružomberok, podľa neho už niekoľko rokov po sebe stúpa. „Kým v roku 2011 sme zaznamenali 40.695 ľudí, v roku 2013 to už bolo 52.688 turistov. Výnimkou bol len rok 2015, kedy tam prišlo 46.007 návštevníkov. To však má svoj logický dôvod. Vtedy sa totiž niekoľko týždňov v sezóne rekonštruovala prístupová cesta v Bielom Potoku,” doplnil.

Osada UNESCO zaznamenáva najväčšiu návštevnosť najmä počas letných mesiacov. Len v júli a auguste prišlo takmer 30.000 návštevníkov. Hlavnými lákadlami boli okrem stálych expozícií ručne tkaný Koberec národov s vlastnoručne vyrobenými stužkami, na ktorých sú názvy krajín a podpisy návštevníkov a maketa Domu Unesco, na ktorú turisti pripievňovali šindle so svojím menom, krajinou a dátumom návštevy. Do oboch aktivít sa v rámci tvorivých dielní mohli zapojiť všetci návštevníci Vlkolínca.

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Legendárny veľtrh Trenčín Mesto Módy oživa

S ambíciou nadviazať na svoju slávnu tradíciu a odprezentovať širokej verejnosti to najkvalitnejšie, čo v oblasti módy ponúka domáci a český trh, sa po rokoch vracia veľtrh Trenčín Mesto Módy (TMM). Jeden z najznámejších veľtrhov v bývalom Československu sa po takmer desaťročnej odmlke predstaví od 22. do 23. septembra na výstavisku Expo Center v Trenčíne. Návštevníci sa môžu tešiť na prezentácie vychytených značiek, uznávaných módnych návrhárov, ale i malovýrobcov či šikovných hand-made tvorcov.



Na snímke zľava módný návrhár Boris Hanečka, koordinátorka projektu Daniela Lelkes a organizátorka projektu Jana Jankovičová počas tlačovej konferencie organizačného tímu veľtrhu Trenčín mesto módy (TMM) v Bratislave 4. apríla 2017.

História veľtrhu, vďaka ktorému prischla Trenčín prezývka Mesto módy, siaha do roku 1963. Vtedy sa veľtrh organizoval pod názvom Výstava výrobkov trenčianskeho textilného a odevného priemyslu a prezentovali sa tu len dve spoločnosti, firmy Merina Trenčín a Odevné závody Trenčín. Postupom rokov sa veľtrh stal na Slovensku fenoménom s bohatou návštevnosťou a so stovkami vystavovateľov. Veľtrh prežil i zmenu režimu, no v roku 2008 zanikol. Obnoviť sa ho rozhodla Trenčanka Jana Jankovičová, ktorá sa s myšlienkou znovuzrodiť veľtrh pohrávala dlhší čas. Do projektu sa pustila s jeho hlavnou koordinátorkou Danielou Lelkes.

K rozhodnutiu prinavrátiť módnej akcii zašlú slávu a usporiadať 45. ročník veľtrhu viedlo organizátorky i presvedčenie, že sa zmenil postoj Slovákov k domácim výrobkom. „Slováci sa vracajú k tradíciám. Po rokoch, kedy o kúpe tovaru rozhodovala cena a náš trh bol zaplavený nie vždy kvalitnými výrobkami z Ázie, si ľudia začínajú všimáť dôveryhodnosť značky, preferovať domácich výrobcov,” myslí si Jankovičová.

Lákadlom pre vystavovateľov je podľa organizátorky i fakt, že v dnešných neosobných časoch, kedy sa množstvo tovaru nakupuje prostredníctvom internetu, chýba priamy kontakt výrobcu so zákazníkom, prípadne obchodným partnerom.

Jeho súčasťou ostáva hlavné ocenenie Zlatá Fatima, ktoré sa udeľovalo módnym tvorcom či talentom pôsobiacim v módnom priemysle a podľa Lelkes ho Slováci vnímali ako Oscara. Tento rok sa bude súťažiť napríklad v kategóriách Najlepší výrobok roka, Hand-made výrobca roka či Top odevná firma roka. Porote, ktorá bude vyberať mladého dizajnéra roka, bude predsedať módnym návrhár Boris Hanečka.

Úlohu ambasádorky TMM prijala herečka Karin Haydu. „Som patriot, mám rada Slovensko, slovenské výrobky, sama mám rada ručné práce, tvorbu, a viem, čo stojí za tým vytvoriť kreatívny výrobok. Som pyšná na Slovákov, ktorí dokážu niečo vyrobiť a v ťažkých časoch sa na slovenskom trhu presadiť,” komentovala účasť v projekte herečka s tým, že bude tiež moderovať záverečný galavečer TMM, ktorý sa bude konať 23. septembra na Trenčianskom hrade.

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Vyhlásenie MZVaEZ SR k podpisu Rímskej deklarácie

Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR víta podpísanie Rímskej deklarácie pri príležitosti 60. výročia Rímskych zmlúv, ktorým lídri 27 členských štátov potvrdili záujem pokračovať v spolupráci pri budovaní bezpečnejšej, odolnejšej a ekonomicky silnejšej Európskej únie poskytujúcej ešte viac prínosov a istôt pre svojich občanov.

Európska únia čelí v súčasnosti bezprecedentným vnútorným aj vonkajším výzvam – Slovenská republika sa hlási k ideí riešiť tieto výzvy rýchlo sa meniaceho sveta spoločne s cieľom poskytnúť občanom bezpečnosť a nové príležitosti. V nadväzujúcich desiatich rokoch chceme v súlade s deklaráciou bezpečnú, prosperujúcu, konkurencieschopnú, udržateľnú a sociálne zodpovednú Úniu, s vôľou a kapacitou byť kľúčovým svetovým hráčom a formovať globalizáciu. Chceme Úniu, v ktorej majú občania nové príležitosti na hospodársky, sociálny aj kultúrny rast. Chceme Úniu otvorenú pre európske krajiny, ktoré rešpektujú naše hodnoty a zaviazajú sa tieto hodnoty podporovať.

Slovenská republika je pripravená aktívne - v spolupráci s ostatnými členskými štátmi - pristúpiť k naplneniu tejto vízie tak, aby bola Európska únia bezpečnejšia so zabezpečenými vonkajšími hranicami, prosperujúcejšia s pracovnými príležitosťami a rozvíjajúcim sa jednotným trhom, sociálna a súdržná bojujúca proti nezamestnanosti, diskriminácii, sociálnemu vylúčeniu a chudobe a aj silnejšia na globálnej scéne. Hlásime sa k myšlienke, že našim životným priestorom je EÚ a sme pripravení urobiť všetko pre to, aby sme boli naďalej akceptovaní ako dôveryhodný partner v Únii.

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FOTO: TASR/AP

Pápež František (uprostred) pózuje s lídrami EÚ počas spoločnej audiencie lídrov členských krajín Európskej únie vo Vatikáne 24. marca 2017 pred summitom EÚ pri príležitosti 60. výročia podpisu Rímskej deklarácie.

On March 24 Pope Francis posed with Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and other representatives of the EU during an audience before the EU Summit marking the 60th anniversary of the Roman Declaration.

Letný letový poriadok prinesie najkratšie spojenie so Severnou Amerikou

Letisko Košice zavádza od nedele 26. marca letný letový poriadok na rok 2017. Z metropoly východu sa bude na pravidelných linkách lietať do deviatich destinácií, pričom v ponuke bude vyše 60 pravidelných odletov týždenne. Informoval o tom hovorca Letiska Košice Juraj Toth.

„Viacero leteckých spoločností s príchodom nového letového poriadku zvyšuje počet letov na existujúcich linkách. Austrian Airlines zvyšuje počet letov z a do Viedne z desať na 12 týždenne. Wizz Air bude z a do Londýna lietať osemkrát týždenne, v nedeľu dvakrát denne,” vysvetlil Toth.

V rámci letného letového poriadku sa bude z Košíc lietať do Viedne, Bratislavy, Prahy, Kyjeva, Londýna, Doncaster Sheffieldu, Bristolu, Varšavy a Istanbulu.

Najvýraznejším pozitívom, ktoré letový poriadok prinesie, je podľa jeho slov zvýšenie počtu letov na linke Košice – Varšava. Od júna 2017 budú Poľské aerolinie LOT prevádzkovať okrem šiestich ranných aj tri popoludňajšie lety. „Vďaka tomu získajú cestujúci, začínajúci svoju cestu v Košiciach, prístup k širokej sieti spojení LOT-u nielen v rámci Európy, ale aj k diaľkovým letom do Severnej Ameriky. Napríklad celková dĺžka letu z Košíc do New Yorku bude len 11 hodín a desať minút,” priblížil Toth.

„Letný letový poriadok prináša cestujúcim viac letov. Na palube štyroch sieťových dopravcov je stále dostupných vyše 500 destinácií po celom svete s odletom z Košíc a jediným prestupom. Vďaka spoločnosti LOT bude napríklad cesta do Severnej Ameriky kratšia ako kedykoľvek predtým,” tvrdí výkonný riaditeľ a predseda predstavenstva Letiska Košice Michael Tmej.

„Podľa aktuálne dostupných informácií budú s odletom z Košíc dostupné tieto dovolenkové destinácie: Antalya, Barcelona Girona, Burgas, Catania, Corfu, Heraklion, Hurghada, Lamezia Terme, Monastir, Palma de Mallorca, Rijeka, Rodos, Thessaloniki, Tirana a Varna,” doplnil Toth.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník Jednota



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

Ročník 126

STREDA, 19. APRÍLA 2017

Číslo 5953



FOTO: TK KBS/ Peter Zimen

Slovenská delegácia predstaviteľov kresťanských cirkví a židovských náboženských obcí na návšteve Ríma 5. apríla 2017.

Representatives of Slovak Christian churches and Jewish communities met with Pope Francis in Rome on April 5, 2017.

Pápež František sa stretol s delegáciou kresťanov a židov zo Slovenska

Na generálnej audiencii pápeža Františka 5. apríla vo Vatikáne sa zúčastnila slovenská delegácia predstaviteľov kresťanských cirkví a židovských náboženských obcí, ktorá bola v dňoch od 4. do 7. apríla na spoločnej návšteve Ríma. So Svätým Otcem Františkom sa v závere generálnej audiencie stretli bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Stanislav Zvolenský, predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska, prešovský arcibiskup metropolita Ján Babjak SJ, hlava Gréckokatolíckej cirkvi sui iuris na Slovensku, košický arcibiskup metropolita Bernard Bober, predseda Ústredného zväzu židovských náboženských obcí na Slovensku Igor Rintel, rabíni Josh Ahrens a Miša Kapustin a ďalšie osobnosti. Zástupcovia Trnavskej univerzity Svätému Otcovi odovzdali významné teologické dielo, ktorým je čerstvo vydaný odborný biblický komentár ku knihe Žalmov ako výsledok dlhodobej práce tímu slovenských odborníkov v biblických vedách. Knihu pápežovi Františkovi odovzdal dekan Teologickej fakulty Trnavskej univerzity v Bratislave P. Miloš Lichner.

TKKBS/SJ. -jb-

Pápež vymenoval za apoštolského nuncia na Slovensku G. G. Ottonella



Pápež František vymenoval za apoštolského nuncia na Slovensku arcibiskupa Giacomu Guida Ottonella, doterajšieho apoštolského nuncia v Ekvádore.

V úrade apoštolského nuncia na Slovensku nahradí Maria Giordanu, ktorý v úrade končí pre dosiahnutie kánonickým právom predpísanej vekovej hranice.

„Svätý Otec František vymenoval za nového apoštolského nuncia v Slovenskej republike Giacomu Guida Ottonella, titulárneho arcibiskupa sasabského a doterajšieho apoštolského nuncia v Ekvádore,“ informovala nedávno Apoštolská nunciatura na Slovensku.

Giacomo Guido Ottonello sa narodil 29. augusta 1946 v Masone (Janov - Taliansko). Kňazskú vysviacku prijal 29. júna 1971 a bol inkardinovaný do diecézy v Acqui. Získal doktorát z teológie. Do diplomatických služieb Svätej Stolice vstúpil 25. marca 1980. Následne pôsobil na pápežskom zastúpení v Pakistane, Salvádore, Libanone, vo Francúzsku, v Španielsku a Poľsku. Za apoštolského nuncia v Paname ho vymenovali 29. novembra 1999 a potom v Ekvádore 26. februára 2005. Ovláda francúzsky, španielsky a anglický jazyk.

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Štátny tajomník I. Korčok s americkým veľvyslancom

Štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Ivan Korčok prijal 7. apríla 2017 mimoriadneho a splnomocneného veľvyslanca Spojených štátov amerických v SR Adama Sterlinga na jeho žiadosť.

Americký veľvyslanec informoval o aktuálnom vývoji situácie v Sýrii a dôvodoch uskutočnenia nedávneho leteckého útoku USA na sýrsku vojenskú základňu Šajrát. Štátny tajomník I. Korčok v reakcii uviedol: „Je nespochybniteľné, že v Sýrii došlo v uplynulých dňoch k použitiu chemických zbraní, ktoré spôsobili smrť desiatok nevinných ľudí vrátane detí.“ Slovenská republika ostro odsudzuje akékoľvek použitie chemických zbraní. V tomto kontexte preto štátny tajomník zdôraznil: „Slovenská republika chápe zásah USA na vojenskú infraštruktúru pod kontrolou sýrskej vlády ako úsilie o predchádzanie ďalšiemu použitiu takýchto zbraní v Sýrii.“

S odkazom na potrebu zastavenia násilia a hľadania politických východísk I. Korčok na záver dodal: „Aj situácia, ktorej sme dnes svedkami, zdôrazňuje nevyhnutnosť intenzívneho diplomatického úsilia, ktorého cieľom musí byť najsť politické riešenie sýrskeho konfliktu a ukončiť utrpenie nevinných ľudí.“



Štátny tajomník Ivan Korčok (zľava) a veľvyslanec USA A. Sterling počas prijatia.

Slovak Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ivan Korčok (left) met American Ambassador to Slovakia Adam Sterling on April 7, 2017 to discuss recent international events.

MZV SR



FOTO: TASR – Martin Baumann

Na snímke veľkonočné trhy chránených dielní, ktoré sa začali 3. apríla 2017 v priestoroch Ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (MPSVR) SR v Bratislave.

An Easter fair was held on April 3, 2017, in the Ministry of Labor in Bratislava.