



# Jednota

THE UNION

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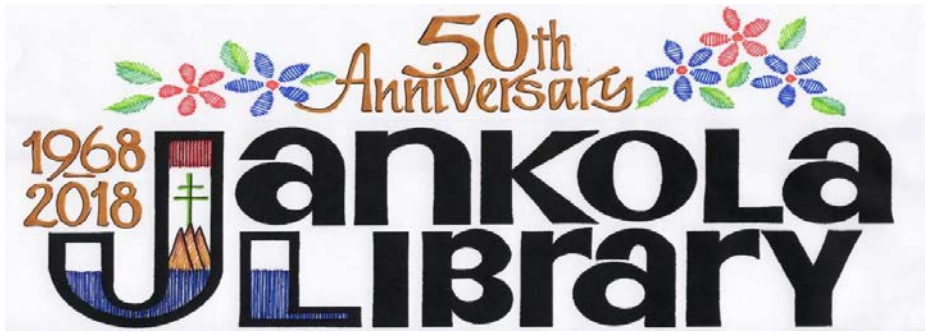


OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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NUMBER 5969



## CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, claim a unique legacy that has been entrusted to them by their founder Reverend Matthew Jankola (1872-1916), an immigrant priest from Slovakia who established the Religious Congregation of Sisters in 1909 with the purpose of promoting and preserving Slovak faith and culture. He distinguished himself as a promoter of Slovak intellectual and literary interests and inspired his American-Slovak Sisters to esteem and cherish all that relates to scholarship and multiculturalism.

On July 2, 1968 the Congregation of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius established Jankola Library and Slovak Archives Center to promote the legacy of Father Jankola and to name the Library in his honor. The concept for beginning this Library began when the congregation became the recipient of a collection of Slovak books that were valued as tools for learning and supplementary materials for teachers. As the public gradually came to know that the Sisters were interested in acquiring Slovak related materials, the collection increased in volume and worth.

### 1968-1992

Sister M. Martina Tybor, SS.C.M. an outstanding scholar, teacher, poet, translator and author was appointed to Jankola Library as its Director-Librarian from 1968 to 1992 with a mission to organize and catalogue all the valuable Slovak and English works that relate to Slovak and Slavic history, language, literature, fine arts, spirituality and learning. There was a need for a place to do this task. In 1971 the closure of the Magnificat Chapel at the Motherhouse gave space for Jankola Library.

Over the years notable scholars from home and abroad contacted Jankola Library which had become an internationally renowned research center. The services and cooperation of Jankola Library had been sought by scholars and students of at least forty-five American Universities and centers of learning as distant as Texas, California, and Hawaii, and as close by as Danville and Bloomsburg. Contacts had also been made by a number of foreign centers in places like Amsterdam, Lisbon, Padua, Rome, Munich, London, Ottawa, Bratislava, Victoria and Toronto. Information sought by researchers could only be found at Jankola Library.

During twenty-four years building and solidifying the legacy of Father Jankola, Sister Martina Tybor had laid a firm foundation for the Congregation's mission to promote and preserve the Slovak faith and culture. By 1991 Sister Martina's health declined and she needed to receive medical care at Maria Hall in Danville until August 12, 1998.

continued on page 3

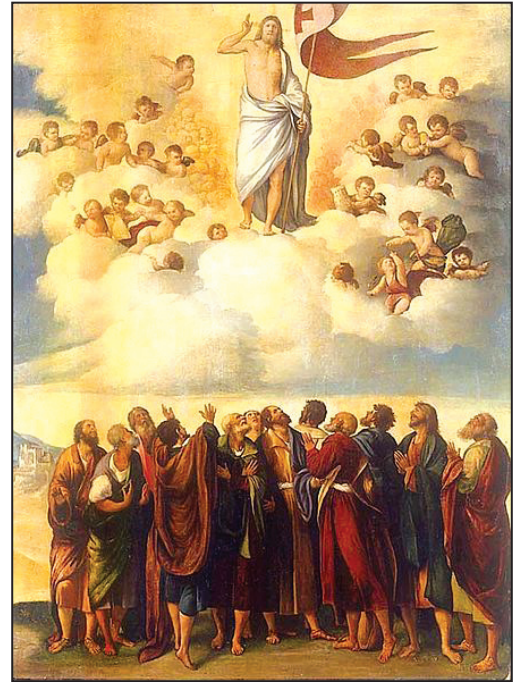
<b>Inside</b>	
Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Branch Announcements.....	14
District Announcements.....	15
Slovak .....	21-24

## Solemnity of the Ascension

At the end of His earthly life Jesus ascends triumphantly into heaven. The Church acclaims Him in His holy humanity, invited to sit on the Father's right hand and to share His glory. But Christ's Ascension is the pledge of our own. Filled with an immense hope, the Church looks up towards her leader, who precedes her into the heavenly home and takes her with Him in His own person: "for the Son of God, after incorporating in Himself those whom the devil's jealousy had banished from the earthly paradise, ascends again to His Father and takes them with Him" (St. Leo).

The ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, and the State of Nebraska have retained the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord on Thursday, May 10th, while all other provinces have transferred this solemnity to May 13th, the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

- From [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)



Ascension of Christ, Dosso Dossi, 1542

## Spring has arrived!

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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**April 29, 2018 - 5th Sunday of Easter**  
**Lectionary 53**

An appreciation for humor, irony, and laughter are authentic signs of a Christian, I believe, since we are only able to truly laugh—to laugh with joy, not the nervous bluster of the arrogant or insecure—because in Jesus Christ we see the definitive answer to the otherwise confounding inanity and tragedy that so often mark our

world. The frustrations, sufferings, embarrassments, and missteps that leave many people who have no faith despondent can be seen by Christian believers as part of the irony of human existence.

We have the chance to see a bit of “divine humor” in today’s readings when Paul, having just made one of the most dramatic religious conversions in history, from Pharisaical Judaism to Christianity, struggles to find acceptance among his new Christian fellows. “When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple” (Acts 9:26). One can hardly blame those who shunned Paul’s first inroads into the Church community; after all, till recently, he had been an energetic persecutor of these very same Christians. Still, his situation has something of a tragi-comic cast to it as he tries to meet and affirm new friends in Christ while they desperately flee from him. Some earnest intervention from Barnabas saved the day for Paul, and he eventually became a pillar of the early Christian Church.

The humor we might find in Paul’s plight in Jerusalem gives us a chance to reflect on coming into the Church and the way we are welcomed when we try to do so. Catholics are rightly proud of our home parishes and churches, our schools, our Altar Guilds, Men’s Clubs, and our CYO leagues, all of which ought to remind us of the catholicity and universality of the Church. Yet we may have experienced less than an opened-armed welcome at one point or another when joining a new parish or a group within our parish. Catholics are famous for this sort of territoriality, which is very often built on lines of ethnic identity and which can be seen in the proliferation of small Catholic churches in an ethnically rich area like our own.

A sure way to celebrate our rightful Catholic identity and to make sure that it does not become parochial or unwelcoming is to see to it that our identity is rooted first in Christ, “the true vine” (John 15:1) and then in the more particular cultural or regional expressions of our Christian identity. This proper ordering of values gives the Church its catholicity—the unity in diversity that has been part and parcel of its existence from the earliest days and which continues to strengthen the Church today.

The “mark” of catholicity (do you remember the four “marks” of the Church?) should be kept in mind both when we graft ourselves onto a new branch of the Church by joining a new parish or Catholic organization, and when we encounter others trying to make their way in the Church. If we do this faithfully we show that we properly understand the relationship between Christ, the vine, and the many branches that make up his living body, the Church. Welcoming others into the Church is eventually part of the experience of every Catholic, and doing so consciously is a sharing in the apostolic work Paul himself began with great difficulty in Jerusalem. His evangelical efforts eventually paid off in spite of his humorous misadventures, and ours will be sure to “bear much fruit” (John 15:8) if we keep our eyes centered on Christ the true vine.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

**May 6, 2018 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**John 15; 9 – 17**

This Gospel for today is part of the Last Supper Discourse of Jesus that is found in the Gospel of John. It is a lengthy instruction that covers four chapters of the Fourth Gospel. This discourse does not include all that Jesus said and did at the Last Supper but begins after the washing of the feet, the revelation that one would betray him, the New Commandment “As I have loved you, so you should love one another,” and that Peter would deny him. The discourse begins with Jesus telling them that He must go to the Father’s house, He will send the Holy Spirit, and that we are connected to Jesus as the branches of a vine are connected to the vine. After all this Jesus Returns to the commandment He began with, Love one another.

The love that surrounds us is easy to talk about. Both the word love and its meaning have been so trivialized that love has been reduced to a feeling, infatuation or craving about or for someone or something that is often merely for one’s own satisfaction. True love, which is the love Jesus speaks of, is quite different. It does more than surround us, it fills us and touches us at the very core of our being. It’s the love that consumes our heart. True love involves first and foremost our giving of ourselves totally to another without expecting anything in return. True love is given without condition. In the 23rd chapter of Saint Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians he describes love as being, patient, kind, not jealous or pompous, not inflated or rude, not selfish, quick tempered or brooding over injury, it rejoices in the truth and not wrongdoing. Love never fails.

When we hear Jesus speak of this love in the Gospel He does so while giving us the example of what true love is. Saint John describes this in his First Letter; “In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.” (1 JN 4: 10) In order to truly understand the love that Jesus speaks of and calls on us to live, we must first be open to being loved by God. One always falls short in trying to analyze and explain God’s love, for it is something that only takes on meaning when we experience it. This is the experience each of us is called to have as a beloved son or daughter of a loving, Heavenly Father. God’s love for us is not affected by our acceptance or rejection, our Godly living or sinful living for God’s love is the perfect and unconditional love that never fails.

During the Easter Season we are reminded over and over again of the great love God has for us in sending his Son, Jesus, to die for us to forgive our sins, and to rise for us so as to lead us to heaven. It’s a message we need to hear over and over again so as to continue to be open to the experience of God’s love which is unlike any other experience of love that might touch us. In two weeks we celebrate Pentecost. Let us take these final two weeks before we end the Easter Season as a time during which we prayerfully and intentionally open our hearts to receive and be renewed by a deeper experience of God’s love in our lives. It is in this way that we can truly understand and live the command Jesus gives to us to Love one another as He loves us.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
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.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6	MONDAY, MAY 29
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20	MONDAY, JUNE 11

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## 50th Anniversary

continued from page 1

### 1992 - 2007

To advance the legacy of Father Jankola, Sister M. Mercedes Voytko, SS.C.M. accepted the appointment to be the new Director of Jankola Library from 1992 to 2007. She welcomed the opportunity to promulgate the preservation of the rich culture and history of the Slovak people. Her background in history and theology as well as her ability to communicate in Slovak were invaluable assets for taking on this responsibility.

Considering that numerous holdings of Jankola Library were still in storage, Sister Mercedes realized there was a critical need for space to integrate about 10,000 books and Slovak artifacts into our resources. Subsequently, in 2000 Saint Cyril Academy allocated several available rooms to Jankola Library for expanding and maintaining the contents of the Library. The original Saint Cyril Academy Library became the main room for Jankola Library's collection of literary, historical and religious works in the Slovak language and the former Audio- Visual Aids Room was changed to be a Periodical Room where valuable Slovak magazines, periodicals, newspapers, and archival material are available for research.

The space for expanding the facilities for Jankola Library became a reality for Sister Mercedes. She set about the gigantic task of organizing and categorizing books and artifacts for display. With the generous and dedicated assistance of Sister Mercedes' sister, Ms. Catherine Voytko and the volunteers from the members of the Northeast Pennsylvania Slovak Heritage Society of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Sister Mercedes achieved her major goal of relocating and transforming the new site for Jankola Library.

Since the original area which held Jankola Library was vacant, there was space to accept a magnificent donation of many valuable Slovak items from the Slovak Museum at Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania which closed and relocated its contents to Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pennsylvania in 2002. The acquisition of many Slovak artifacts, glassware, ceramics, crystal, dolls, folk costumes on mannequins, paintings, woodcarving, and handiwork, enabled Sister Mercedes to create a beautiful Slovak Museum that is a component of Jankola Library.

For fifteen years, Sister M. Mercedes, SS.C.M. faithfully and assiduously expanded and enriched the belongings of Jankola Library and Slovak Museum. She was devoted to her Slovak heritage and performed her tasks with love for Slovak culture and traditions. In 2007 Sister Mercedes moved to Maria Hall in Danville, Pennsylvania to receive medical care until September 8, 2016.

### 2007 - 2010

Father Jankola's legacy to the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius became the focus for Sister M. John Vianney Vranak's, SS.C.M. ministry as the new Director of Jankola Library and Slovak Museum from 2007 to 2010. She wholeheartedly dedicated her time and energy to continue promoting the faith, culture and traditions of Slovak heritage. Sister M. John Vianney perceived the need to make improvements to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum.

Generous contributions from the four Slovak Catholic Fraternal Societies, namely, the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), First Catholic Slovak Ladies' Association, Ladies' Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol as well as individual donors, bequests and memorials had provided financial gifts to purchase the following:

#### Jankola Library:

Website: <http://jankolalibrary.sscm.org>  
Two air conditioners  
Large Television  
Computer Center  
Custom SolarVue Toller Window Shades  
Wooden Floor Tiles  
Archival Boxes

#### Slovak Museum:

Carpeting  
Window Drapes  
Custom SolarVue Toller Window Shades  
Three Wall Mounted Cooling and Heating Air Conditioners

### 2010 - 2018

In a spirit of gratitude and appreciation for Father Jankola's legacy, Sister M. Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. received the appointment to be the Director of Jankola Library and Slovak Museum and Sister Loretta Marie Hrubec, SS.C.M. accepted the position as Librarian for Jankola Library. Both Sisters have been missioned to this ministry from 2010 to 2018.

Legacy is about life and living. Life has been sustained at Jankola Library and Slovak Museum by many visitors who have come from the United States, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Italy, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Slovakia, Tanzania, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe to tour and to engage in research for advanced studies.

There is a living Slovak tradition among families to share Oplatky with each other during Christmas Eve Supper. Since 2010 Jankola Library has been supplying hundreds of Christmas wafers each year to continue the practice of this treasured custom.

The competent and willing service of the Sisters, who were assigned to the ministry at Jankola Library, has greatly contributed to Father Jankola's plan to preserve and promote Slovak faith, heritage, history, culture and traditions. With God's help the strong foundation for Jankola Library has endured for fifty blessed and successful years. Praise and thanks to God!

- Submitted by Sister M. Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

### Good Deeds Plant Seeds of Hope

A short film entitled "Tree" depicts a traffic jam in India caused by a large tree that has fallen across the middle of the road. People sit and wait, honking their horns in frustration and beginning to argue with each other. Police officers stand by, unable to effect any change on the situation. A dignitary is escorted from his car, beyond the tree to another car on the other side, where he continues on his way. Rain begins to fall in symbolic fashion, like tears from heaven.

Then a boy walking to school makes his way through the traffic, comes to the tree, and stops. Rather than going around the tree, he drops his school bag, puts his hands against the wet bark, and begins to push with all his might. Children from a school bus stuck in traffic smile as though amused but also understanding his gesture. Then other children from the street join him, lining up in front of the tree, trying to push it all at once. Of course, the tree doesn't budge. But then adults get out of their cars and rush to help, and soon droves of people are heaving the tree, lifting it just enough to move it out of the way. The rain stops and the sun peaks out from behind the clouds, like God smiling down on the boy and all those who joined him in this small effort to improve their world. Traffic begins to flow again, and people get on with their day.

What a beautiful message this is about the power of one person to initiate change in the world. In that moment when the boy dropped his bag and began to try to push the tree, he looked eccentric in comparison to everyone else. Have you ever felt like doing the right thing would be so contrary to people's expectations that it would make you look like an oddball?

Defying convention shouldn't be a goal in and of itself. That's nonsensical and often vain. But we must be willing to take the first step in the right direction when others seem unwilling or even ignorant of the truth. We must be willing to look like that boy pushing against the giant tree in order to show others the path God wants us to walk.

Many saints of the Church have been known for their ability to go against the tide when they felt God was calling them to a role of leadership. St. Francis of Assisi ventured across the battle lines during the Crusades to initiate peace talks with the Sultan of Egypt. Francis greeted the Sultan by saying, "May the Lord give you peace," echoing the Muslim greeting "Assalam o laikum," which translates to "Peace be upon you." Francis proceeded to share his faith in a way that did not offend the Sultan, who was impressed by his peacefulness and courage. After this encounter, the Sultan treated his Christian prisoners with greater respect and sought peace with the Crusaders.

We can never fully predict the outcome of our actions, which is a good reason to not despair before we have even tried to do what is right. Humility demands that we be willing to take the first step. There's always a chance others will see our actions and be inspired in some small way. Good deeds plant seeds of hope, and those seeds can grow into mighty movements that can change the world one person at a time.

## Join Us for 2018 Consular Tour of Slovakia & Its Neighbors

August 13 – August 26, 2018



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

tour that also includes welcome receptions by the U.S. Ambassador in Bratislava and by the Mayor of Prešov.

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

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

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

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

## 2017 Annual Report of the National Chaplain

Dear Board of Directors and Members of the FCSU:

I am pleased and honored to serve as National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

During the most recently concluded year, I attended all four Board of Directors meetings, either in person or by means of teleconference and began and closed each session with prayer. Meetings that took place at the Home Office in March and September began with Mass. President Rajec invited me to attend the March Executive Committee meeting.

I went to the Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, in April to participate in the 6th Annual United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament and to offer Mass for those attending.

In September I attended the 40th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival at Middlesex County Fairgrounds in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

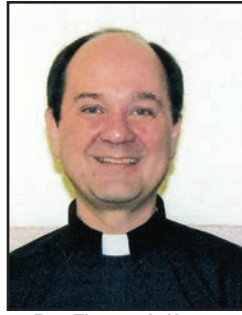
I then travelled to Youngstown, Ohio, for the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The convention elected me First Vice President, a position I was already serving. The primary responsibility of the First Vice President is to coordinate the annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The appeal raises funds to support the operating costs of the residence for priests from Slovakia pursuing post-graduate studies in Rome. I attended the April Executive Committee and Executive Board meetings at Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

In November I paid my respects to Chairperson of Auditors Karen Hunka and her family at the funeral for her mother, Florence Sprock, widow of Region 4's late Regional Director George Sprock.

Throughout the year I have written articles that were published in Jednota and have answered correspondence that was sent to me.

May our Lord continue to bless us in all our endeavors.

Fraternally,



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Reverend Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain

## 2017 Annual Report of the National Vice-President

Reverend Father, President Rajec, and members of the Board of Directors:

On behalf of my family and myself I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the FCSU members for all your thoughts, prayers, masses, condolences, and many acts of kindness during the loss of my wife, Maria, who passed away on November 1st of last year. May God bless all of you.

As always, I want to start off my report by thanking the Membership and Marketing Committee which is comprised of Brothers Andrew Rajec, Kenneth Arendt, and George Matta II, for all the time and effort they spend with me on the problems and solutions that concern membership and marketing. Each member is very concerned with the growth and success of our society.

### Membership

As you will see by our annual statement, the First Catholic Slovak Union had another good year. Our assets grew by 13.5 million dollars and our surplus increased by 2.6 million dollars to \$30,782,846. We will go into all the annuities and insurance statistics when we get into our marketing report.

Our existing sales force is doing a great job for the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Membership and Marketing Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to those recommenders who consistently recommend new or increased business during the year.

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Insurance Sold for the year 2017.

1. Sandy Cluey
2. Patricia Marmol
3. Anna Korcak
4. Andrew R. Harcar
5. Theresa R. Chupka
6. Rebecca C. Demase
7. Joseph A. Matinko
8. Edward Yench
9. Michael Eugene Lako
10. Sabina Sabados

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Annuity/IRA/Park Money brought in for the year 2017.

1. Dylan Garver
2. Sabina Sabados
3. Kenneth A. Arendt
4. Kimberly M. Meeker
5. Stephen P. Gerko
6. Johanna Oros
7. Theresa R. Chupka
8. Rosanne M. DeMarco
9. Viliam Choma
10. Robert J. Kopco

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by the Number of Insurance Contracts Sold for the year 2017.

- |     |                    |    |
|-----|--------------------|----|
| 1.  | Patricia L. Marmol | 13 |
| 2.  | Anna Korcak        | 12 |
| 3.  | Edward Yench       | 8  |
| 4.  | Andrew R. Harcar   | 7  |
| 5.  | Mary C. Belechak   | 6  |
| 6.  | Sabina Sabados     | 6  |
| 7.  | Vicki Lynn Schaub  | 6  |
| 8.  | Florence K. Matta  | 5  |
| 9.  | Karen M. Sterling  | 5  |
| 10. | Joseph A. Matinko  | 4  |
| 11. | Michael E. Lako    | 4  |
| 12. | John Nalevanko     | 4  |

To each and every one who signed an insurance member and/or who sent in an Annuity/IRA/Park Money contract for the year 2017. My heartfelt thanks and congratulations for a Job Well Done!

### Marketing

This past year the Membership and Marketing Committee:

- Is continuing to add more agents – as of December 31, 2017, we have signed 41 new agents last year bringing our total to 291 agents under contract. We are instituting a program to recruit new agents in the states we are newly licensed. The home office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products.

- Attended the Bruce and Bruce Seminar in Pittsburgh. They supply us with information regarding pending state and NAIC regulations which may affect us and other important statistics.

- Continued our 2 marketing programs:

- A.) "Final Expense Insurance" – It is coverage specific to the cost of the funeral.

- B.) "Wealth Transfer – Wealth Management" – Through our single premium whole life policy the benefits avoid income tax \*avoid probate\* cash value growth.

- Advertising the IRA and Roth products in our mailings, on the website and thru email.

- At all the festival booths – Information is provided on the FCSU and its insurance and annuity products. These booths are part of the on-going campaign to make the First Catholic Slovak Union more visible.

- An informational booth was set up at the annual Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival held at St. Anthony of Padua Church Hall in Parma, Ohio.

- Still has the incentive plan started in 2013 to help our recommender become a licensed insurance agent in the state you reside in. The FCSU will pay ½ the cost to obtain a life insurance license in your state. This includes the cost of the school and fees. Depending on your productivity, the FCSU will pay for ½ of your license renewal. If interested, contact one of our in-house agents for a list of license schools in your state.

- Set up a 2017 Membership Meet – A 7-day cruise from November 12-19, 2017. The insurance meet turned out great with many agents and recommenders present.

- Attended the AQS insurance symposium in Austin, Texas on March 28, 2017.

- An informational booth was set up at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Cleveland on May 13, 2017.

- An informational booth was set up at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh on July 21, 2017.

- An informational booth was set up in East Brunswick, New Jersey on September 16, 2017.

- Any branch or district planning a fraternal activity is to please contact the home office or the editor and we will advertise the event through Facebook, email and our mailings.

- Our local marketing firm with input by our in-house marketing committee composed of Andrew P. Rajec, Beata Fedoriouk and Terri Ivanec is developing marketing strategy to better sell our products. They finished a promotional video in English and are working on one which will be available in Slovak. They are also working on ideas to improve communication between the home office and the branches to educate them on our insurance and annuity products – An extensive recruitment program to increase our number of independent agents is still in progress. Emails along with postcards are being sent to possible agents in the states we are currently licensed in. This correspondence is to inform them who we are, our rates, and the products we offer. A review of our website traffic with our marketing firm has shown that our top pages that are viewed are: Homepage, Forms, Annuities, Contacts, and Newspaper. The in-house marketing team will work with the marketing firm on increasing traffic to other pages and to increase the average number of time spent on our site. They are also working on updating our presentation that will be used at our seminars.

### Activities

Some of my activities in the year 2017 were: Attended all monthly Executive meetings as well as meetings called by the President. Wrote articles pertaining to insurance and had them published in the Jednota. Inform all Regional Directors of their districts insurance and annuity production. Attended various meetings and/or social functions. Am a director in the Indiana Fraternal Alliance and attend all their meetings. Attended the National Fraternal Alliance meeting. Also chair the Membership and Marketing Committee. Attended the AQS Insurance Symposium in Austin. Attended the annual meeting of the Indian Fraternal Alliance in Kokomo, Indiana.

At this time, I personally want to thank our Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their help and encouragement. I would also like to thank the branch and district officers for their untiring commitment to our great society. Last, but not least, I want to express my sincerest thanks to our home office staff for their excellent help and cooperation given to me throughout the year.

Until next time,  
Good Luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
National Vice President

# 2017 Annual Report of the National Treasurer

Dear Fr. Nasta, President Rajec, Executive Board Members and Board of Directors:

I am pleased to report that all financials and other reports required by the various states where the First Catholic Slovak Union is licensed to do business have all been properly filed by March 1, 2018.

The last year has not been much different than past years as each brings investment challenges in the American and World economies. Quantitative easing will continue in 2018 even though it continued at a slower pace in 2017. The stock markets have performed extremely strong since the election of 2016 posting several all time highs; as the equity markets continued to soar this past year. Commercial bond interest rates have not reacted to the rise in the Government Securities interest rates during 2017. All insurers including the FCSU are continuing to be challenged by acquiring quality bonds with moderate durations. The International economies continue to struggle in the current economic climate. The stable price of oil and oil production affected the economy in 2017. The FCSU's bond portfolio activity has changed from purchasing CMO's to divesting them from the portfolio with pay downs and sales. There were no new purchases of CMO's and GNMA's in 2017 while disposing of almost \$3,000,000. As noted in prior reports, this is in reference to the FHLB's ruling that it no longer requires only Federal Government issues securities, but that some municipal government securities are now acceptable for the purpose of retaining membership and to obtain loans. In 2017 the Society almost purchased \$30.4 million dollars in Industrial and Miscellaneous bonds, while disposing of almost \$18.5 million. Combined with the CMO and GNMA trading, investment activity resulted in the value of bonds owned increasing by over \$6,200,000 during 2017. Total Investment Assets increased over \$13.5 million. A portion of the Society assets are in cash, cash equivalents and short term investments (over \$30,800,000, which is an increase over the prior year by \$6,850,000). The level of 2017 premium income was 9.4% lower than 2016 production.

In 2017 the FCSU showed positive results as Surplus increased by almost \$2,700,000, or +9.5%, raising total surplus to \$30,782,846 and the solvency ratio increased to +108.4%. Hedge Fund investments increased in 2017 with no new purchases reporting a fund value of an increase of \$528,666. Total Hedge Fund-type investments remain well within the Ohio Insurance regulation standards.

The Society's investment portfolio remains well diversified with an emphasis on medium period maturities; and no new CMO purchases because the need for cash flow is reduced. The Executive Board is assisted by the Society's Investment Manager (AQS) in their purchase and guidance of security purchases. The Society continues to utilize low interest funds that are available as a result of the Society's membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank. The 2017 economy proved not to be a barrier and the Society's 2017 Investment Income results were favorably stable.

The net investment rate of return was almost the same as it was in 2016. The current year's income released from the IMR has been included as part of the reported net investment rate of return. The Society's net investment rate of return will rank in the middle among fraternal insurers. One of the factors contributing is due to the higher investment expenses associated with the FHLB funds. Bonds will make up 89.1% of the investment portfolio which is approximately 1.5% less than last year. Investment grade bonds (NAIC 1 & 2) are 97.0% of the bonds owned. That is slightly higher than the previous year. The Society owns no bonds in the lowest 2 rating categories, and only 0.6% are in NAIC Class 4. The Society owns no Preferred stocks and Common stocks remain at 0.7% of the investment assets. Common stocks include the Society's investment in Jednota Holding Company

(\$1,014,480, an increase of \$238,164). Cash and cash equivalent products were at 7.9% of invested assets, which are +1.6% higher than last year. The diversification of security classes, although modest in some areas, helps stabilize the investment portfolio. The Society is positioned itself to take advantage of investment opportunities by having additional cash reserves.

Realize capital losses are shown as \$151,689. The Society realized \$884,333 of capital gains on the sale of bonds, but gains were off-set by a bond write-down of \$175,212, and \$869,812 was transferred into IMR as required by the regulations. These bond gains helped to build the IMR balance, which increased to \$1,128,866 from \$753,160. The IMR funds will be released in annual increments each year. The unrealized gain on Hedge Funds was bolstered by gains in stock of \$17,570 and Jednota increase of \$238,164.

The Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR) required by regulation for purposes of mitigating market swings increased \$305,475 and reduced surplus by that amount. The increase resulted due to the increase in bonds, common stock, and hedge funds acquired. The maximum Asset Valuation Reserve for 2017 is \$2,925,222, and the Society balance for 2017 is 99.6% of the maximum. As the Society's assets and bonds grow, the AVR maximum will increase accordingly. The ADV is to guard against large swings in the economy. All components of the reserve are consistent with the 2017 requirements.

The Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR) requires that most profits and/or losses realized from bonds or preferred stocks that mature, are called, or sold must be placed in the (IMR) reserve and amortized to the original maturity date of the security. This requirement does not apply to bankrupt Bonds & some Preferred Stocks. The FCSU primarily holds bonds for income and does not actively trade these securities. The current IMR schedule provides that profits from prior years will be released to income for several years. The Executive Board reviews the IMR figures on a monthly basis. The amount currently scheduled to be released annually are shown in the Annual Statement on page 25. In 2017, \$484,088 of prior years'



George F. Matta II

bond/preferred stock profits were included as a part of the 2017 income for the Society.

The Society purchased over \$31,700,000 of securities in the 2017, while over \$24,500,000 of securities were matured, called or sold. The combined total of \$56,200,000 equals 15.9% of the 2016 invested assets. The continuing large volume of activity results from the large number of calls, especially government sponsored entities such as FNMA, FHLMC, and pay downs on GMNA's. The continuing challenge for the Society is to find replacement bonds of equal value that have high interest rates while maintaining quality. Earning sufficient investment income to support the competitive interest rates on the Society's annuity products is the challenge. The average year to maturity of bonds was 15.0 years at the end of 2017. The current volatile economic climate and large premium production has resulted in the volume of trading activities for the Society in the past year.

The Society's Executive Board and the Board of Directors are faced with constant re-investment activity and having to make the proper decisions that move the First Catholic Slovak Union of America and Canada in the right direction. Engaging certified and qualified firms to assist them in making these decisions can be viewed as a wise and prudent decision.

## Portfolio as of December 31, 2017

MAI Wealth Fund – the attached performance is through December 31, 2017 showed a positive and steady return for the month of December of +.45%. Performance numbers for the year-to-date return show a +8.77%. This reflects a positive return of \$184,404.82 for the year 2017. Based on MAI's strategy and investment guidelines this performance is well within the range that they forecasted and is very acceptable. MAI reported a performance since inception of +5.19%.

The objective of the Fund is to achieve performance through stock appreciation, dividend income, and premiums on options written. The Fund's investment strategy is to provide consistent returns, relative to the markets, generally by employing an actively managed option overlay strategy on a high quality, value based portfolio. The Fund will generally consist of about 30 underlying equities with above-average dividend yields that have consistently grown their dividends at attractive levels. The Fund expects to sell covered calls and cash secured puts. In order to avoid the use of leverage, it will maintain a significant cash and/or money market funds balance, typically 40-60% of partners' capital, in the event puts are assigned.

Clutterbuck Fund – performance numbers are through month ending December 31, 2017. AS reported through the year this particular fund had an extremely good performance record for 2017 producing a Year to Date return of +28.376 closing our 2017 with a month to date return of +2.243. The year to date net income from the Clutterbuck fund is +\$296,236. The ending balance is now \$1,340,204 which reflect a positive return for the 2017 year of \$348,458. (The yearend balance also reflects an addition allocation of \$500,000 by the FCSU in 2017)

Special Situation Fund, LP invests primarily in stressed and distressed fixed income securities and capital structure arbitrage opportunities. The fund seeks to take advantage of the broadest opportunity set, focused on public and liquid U.S. Credit markets, which its core competency areas.

The managers employ a deep value investing discipline generating attractive absolute returns while maintaining the risk of capital loss and having a low correlation to the broader capital markets. The fund has moderate diversification and turnover. There is an intense focus on risk management and protecting capital.

UBS - The UBS portfolio as of December 31, 2017 is reporting that the overall account has returned a MTD of -0.04%, and a quarter to date of +0.08%. The yearend return is reflecting a return of +1.81% and a return since inception of +0.66%. This account has a ending balance of approximately \$4,882,254.22 with a cash balance of approximately \$2,165,836.92 at closing of Dec. 31, 2017. The executive board has been in discussion with UBS to reallocate our positions within several alternative funds. This has or will take place within the first one or two months of 2018. These investment options should assist in providing a better return for this allocation of the portfolio.

The initial proposal is to reinvest approximately \$2,163,793 in a Multi-Strategy, Long/Short Equity and/or Event Driven products. Of the initial allocation there still remains approximately \$662,185 for investment. In addition authorization has been given to sell the Amber Global Opportunity Fund current at \$951,899 which should occur in late March or mid-April.

AQS has rewritten the Investment Policy Statement and Guidelines for the Board of Directors to adopt at their March Directors meeting. The Executive Board reviewed the proposed changes and made recommendations where appropriate. A copy of the proposed IPS will be forwarded to the Board members for their review prior to the meeting. It is my recommendation to adopt the IPS as stands.

I have attended seminars throughout the past year that were presented by the Fraternal Alliance, The Greater Pittsburgh Fraternal Society and AQS (the FCSU's Professional Asset Management Firm) where discussions and presentations were presented that centered on trends in both the fraternal and final aspects of the Society world.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,

George F. Matta II  
National Treasurer

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

# 2017 Annual Report of the National Director of Fraternal Activities

Fr. Nasta, President Rajec, Fellow Board Members and Members of the FCSU:

The coloring contest is the most popular activity with our youths. In 2016 we had 122 entries between the ages of 4 and 12. The entries according to region were as follows:

Region 1 – 7    Region 3 – 21    Region 5 – 18    Region 7 – 17  
 Region 2 – 9    Region 4 – 28    Region 6 – 19    Region 8 – 1    2 non-members

The winners' photos were in the Jednota paper. All winners got a certificate and a gift card to Target. \$50 for first place; \$35 for second place; and \$25 for third place. Those that entered but did not win received a letter with a \$5 gift card to Target. Their names were also listed in the Jednota paper. Congratulations to all!



Rudolf Ondrejco

The 2017 International Bowling tournament was held with the National Slovak Society at The Brunswick Zone Lanes in Belle-Vernon, PA. April 21-22, 2017. There were 124 Jednota bowlers and 32 NSS bowlers for a total of 156 bowlers. There were a total of 41 Lane Sponsors. 19 from the Jednota and 22 from the NSS.

83 people attended the banquet—30 were NSS members and 50 were Jednota members.

The 2018 tournament is coming up the weekend of April 20-22, 2018 at the Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA.

The Annual International Golf Tournament was held July 28-30, 2017 at Tam O'Shanter in Canton, Ohio. We had 63 Golfers compete in the tournament. 28 members attended the banquet, and 34 attended the barbecue on Sunday afternoon. There were many positive comments about the tournament. The golfers really enjoyed the putting contest and the hospitality night at the course. Thank you to Larry White of AQS Asset Management who donated \$1,000.00, to Ed Depersis of Endepersis who donated \$300.00 and Br. 254 who donated \$100.00. The money from the sponsors was used to sponsor the hole in one contest and for other skill prizes for the tournament. Paul Ritz, Activity Director Emeritus, donated \$50.00 to be awarded to the senior with the best actual score. It is disappointing that no other sponsors from any Officer, District, Branch, or individual was received in support of the tournament.

This year's golf tournament is set for the weekend of July 20-22, 2018 at Chestnut Ridge in Blairsville, PA. Details will be made available soon.

The 2017 photo contest had 29 entries in the 12-18 age group, and in the 18+ age group there were 90 entries for a total of 119 participants. The photos were judged by an Art Institute of Pittsburgh graduate. Letters of congratulations were sent along with checks to all the winners.

In April of 2017 The FCSU Best Foot Forward Walking Program was started. To date 36 members have started the program. By the end of October, 6 members had already reached the 3600 minute maximum milestone that was set. 2 members reached the 2700 minute mark, and 1 member reached the 1800 minute mark. None of the other members either sent in their minutes or qualified for the lowest level. All were sent the incentive gifts as advertised. The program will continue in 2018. A few changes have been made to the tracking sheets for easier tracking in 2018. Also the award levels need to be adjusted and different awards established.

In November, a meeting of the Fraternal Activities Committee was held in Donora, PA. The committee met to discuss rule changes for the tournaments, possible venues, and ways to improve attendance at our tournaments. There have been a few new members who joined the FCSU as a result of allowing non-members to participate in the tournaments one time. After some discussion it was decided to continue this practice. The committee also made a recommendation for the Home Office to subsidize the cost of the tournament banquets to encourage more attendance by the participants. The Executive Committee approved \$50 per participant who attends the banquet at the tournament.

I have given a report about the progress of activities at each board meeting. I have also prepared a financial report for each event which is sent to Secretary Arendt and the chair of the auditors as per the by-laws. Twice a year a financial report of the fraternal Activities account is prepared and given to the internal auditors for their review and audit of the account.

ACTIVITY	# of Participants	Cost to FCSU
Coloring Contest 2016	120	2747.62
Bowling Tournament 2017	124	6448.06
Golf Tournament 2017	63	3350.00
Photo Contest 2017	119	900.00
Walking Program	36	2135.11
		<b>SUBTOTAL: 15580.79</b>
Picnics: Any region who has a picnic can get \$5/Member reimbursement **		
Region 4	89	<b>445.00</b>
Region 8	40	<b>200.00</b>
		<b>SUB TOTAL: 645.00</b>
Bowling & Golf Leagues can get \$5/ member reimbursement**		
Bowling	Golf	
Akron 7	35.00	
Br. 2 34	170.00	
Mon Valley 19	95.00	
Toronto 38	190.00	
TOTALS:	490.00	<b>SUB TOTAL: 490.00</b>
Bowling: Sanction Fees	Participates in Nat'l Tournament Full sanction fee paid	DOES NOT participate in Nat'l Tournament half fee paid
Akron	52.50	
Br. 2	457.50	
Mon Valley	339.00	
Toronto	756.00	
		<b>SUB TOTAL: 1,605.00</b>
\$25 for each member on a winning bowling league team		
	Toronto 75..00	<b>SUB TOTAL: 75.00</b>

**TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT ON ACTIVITIES IN 2017: 18,395.79**

**\*\* Subject to meeting established requirements. For forms or more information contact me. Rudy.Ondrejco@gmail.com**

I have participated in the meetings of the Board of Directors either in person or via teleconference. Locally, I have attended the meetings of the Pittsburgh District, and attended the annual Father's Day Mass and Luncheon. Whenever possible, I also participate in the meetings and activities of my local Branch such as Caroling at Christmas for the Sisters and local retirement homes and hospitals and Br 2's annual skating party.

I believe it is important that our board members should be given opportunities to attend meetings/workshops held by the state and American Fraternal Alliance organizations, so that we can bring new ideas to our meetings and organization, and learn about the legal duties and responsibilities that we have as board members.

Thanks to all of you who promote and/or participate in the various activities. But, as you can see there are many regions/branches and members who do not take advantage of the fraternal activities we offer.

If you have any ideas for an event or activity please contact me.

Fraternally,

**Rudy Ondrejco  
 National Director of Activities  
 Rudy.Ondrejco@gmail.com**

## Pittsburgh Agreement Celebration Planned for May

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



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

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

A special commemorative limited edition medal has been struck for this event. See photo below. The medal and wooden stand are available for \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. They



will also be on sale at the reception. They can be purchased through the same contacts as above.

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

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

A symposium is planned for the afternoon of May 31st from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the University of Pittsburgh in room 4130 of Posvar Hall.

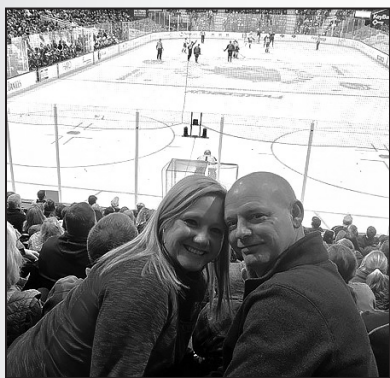
Everyone is welcome to attend. The panel will include speakers familiar with Czech, Slovak and U.S. history during years surrounding the signing of The Pittsburgh Agreement. The panelists will be Dr. Milada Polisenka from Anglo American University in Prague, Dr. Slavomir Mihalek from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Dr. Hugh Agnew from George Washington University.

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

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

# Hockey Night in Cleveland with District 10

On Saturday, March 24, 2018, at 7:00pm at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH, some 105 members and guests of District 10 of the First Catholic Slovak Union – including Branches 24, 228, 450, 553 and 855 - watched the Cleveland Monsters take on Texas Stars before a sold-out crowd. The Monsters lost it in overtime but a fun evening of fraternalism was nevertheless enjoyed by all.



# Slovak-American Cultural Center celebrates its 25th annual Slovak Ball

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 its 25th annual Slovak Ball this February. The Royal Manor, the venue for the Ball, was transformed into a Winter Wonderland with white hydrangeas, birch trees, snow-flakes, white glittering lights and even an ice sculpture to create a winter-themed atmosphere in the gorgeous ballroom. Upon entering guests were greeted with the signature "Snowflake" cocktail and by violinist Ladi Smigura who showcased his classical repertoire during cocktail hour. Later in the program he performed songs from various genres including his rendition of "Despacito."

This year's Ball marked its 25th anniversary. The inaugural event - "The Independence Ball" - was hosted in 1993, organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center to mark the new state of Slovakia. In the short period of 25 years, Slovakia has become a global player on the world stage in politics, sports, theatre, and culture. The black tie event, which draws together Slovaks from NY, NJ, PA, CT, MA, and OH, was yet another success with more than 360 attendees including special guests from Slovakia. Among the many attendees were distinguished guests from diplomatic community including: H.E. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Michal Mlynar and his lovely wife Dr. Andrea Mlynarova; Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ladislava Begec and her husband, Deputy Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nation, Güven Begec; Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York Miroslav Rames; and Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the United Nations, Miroslav Jenca and his lovely wife Helenka Jencova. Representatives of various Slovak organizations also supported the event with their presence including Daniel Tanzone, President of the Slovak League of America; Nina Holy, Secretary of the Slovak League of America; and Ester Mlch President of the Czech and Slovak Association in Boston. A very special thank you to the many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union who attended especially from Branches 24, 45, 716, and 746 and including National Officers and those from the Home Office: Mr. Andrew Rajec, National President; Mrs. Idka Rajec, wife of the President and Branch 89 Member; Karen Hunka, Chairman of Auditors; Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents and Branch 89 Member; Mrs. Miriam Visnovsky, Home Office Receptionist and Branch 24 Member and Ms. Terezia Rozmus, Home Office Claims Department and Branch 24 Member.

As the ballroom darkened, Moderators Sabina Sabados (President, S-ACC and Chairwoman of The Slovak Ball) and Peter Krajnak (Secretary, S-ACC) declared the Ball open - mimicking the opening of the Olympics after the showing a surprise video message from Slovak-American Olympic hopeful Nicole Rajicova. As she was preparing for her second appearance at the Winter Olympics representing Slovakia in Pyeong Chang, she wasn't able to attend the Ball but was represented by her parents Tom and Anna Rajic.

Alexandra Apjarova, renowned former Slovakian rhythmic gymnastics champion,



**Diplomats and representatives from various Slovak organizations were among the many distinguished guests the Slovak Ball was honored to have at this year's event.**



**SACC President Sabina Sabados (front) with the many First Catholic Slovak Union members who attended this year's event, including First Catholic Slovak Union National President & 2018 Slovak Ball Honoree Andrew M. Rajec (center).**



**The Reverend Richard Baker, pastor of St. John Nepomucene in New York City, with Slovak Ball Chairwoman Sabina Sabados, and other members of the parish community.**

dancer, and choreographer then performed a gracefully elegant floor routine. Alexandra's list of accomplishments has included performances at the Grammy's, Obama Inauguration Ball, with Cirque du Soleil, and as a cast member of Michael Jackson's "This is it" concert tour.

The invocation was given by Branch 45 member, Fr. Richard Baker, Pastor of the

united parish of St. John the Martyr, St. John Nepomucene and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. Fr. Baker has been a supporter of the work of the Slovak-American Cultural Center as well as a long-time patron of the Slovak Ball. It was wonderful to have him back to the Ball after so many years. Clergy from various Slovak and American parishes and communities were also present including

Branch 746 member Fr. Vladimir Chripko, Fr. Stefan Chanas, Fr. Roman Palečko, Fr. František Čonka, Fr. Peter Bujdoš, and Fr. Patrik Hakoš visiting from Slovakia.

Each year the community gathers to enjoy each other's company, celebrate the fašiangy (pre-Lenten) season, but also to take the opportunity to recognize and honor people of Slovak origin for their significant achievements to the Slovak community. To this end, at the 2018 Slovak Ball, the Slovak-American Cultural Center recognized the contributions of two extraordinary men that have enriched the Slovak community over the years through their dedication, commitment, and passion -- Mr. Andrew M. Rajec, President of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and Mr. Daniel F. Tanzone, President of the Slovak League of American and Editor of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Although both men were born in the US, Mr. Rajec to Slovak parents in Wisconsin and Mr. Tanzone to Slovak/Italian parents in Yonkers, each retained his Slovak ethnicity and pride in the Slovak culture, history, and language. They are leaders of and actively engaged in various Slovak organizations as well as holding prominent roles in their respective church communities. These incredible men have individually contributed to the growth and vitality of the Slovak community throughout the years.

Mr. Andrew M. Rajec is a graduate of Marquette University Law School as well as holding both a BS in Accounting. He has worked in national accounting firms like Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young and served as Sr. VP and General Counsel for the Mutual Group prior to taking up the role as National President of the First Catholic Slovak Union in 2007. Under Mr. Rajec's leadership historic levels in assets have been reached total close to \$394 million dollars -- the Society serving the Slovak community continues to grow in financial strength but, as a goal, Mr. Rajec assures that the Society is engaging with the Slovak community, supporting various activities organized by Slovak groups, supporting schools and students, as well as the clergy. Mr. Rajec is unique because even though he is at the helm of a multi-million dollar enterprise, he wants to make sure that the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) continues to promote and propagate the Slovak language, culture, heritage and faith which is evident by publication of its newspaper, the Jednota. He is a true mentor in every sense of the word and is eager to promote and encourage the work of young people which is vital to the continued success of the First Catholic Slovak Union but as well as other Slovak organizations. In 2013 he was honored by the Friends of Slovakia as "Slovak American of the Year". His holistic approach is what sets him apart from others and the reason the Slovak-American Cultural Center wanted to highlight and recognize his tireless work throughout the years.

Mr. Tanzone holds a Master's from Fairfield University and St. Mark of the Lake Seminary and a graduate of Holy Apostles Seminary College where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English. I am guessing this is where his love of literature and passion for journalism started. Many of you have also seen him capturing photos for the Sokol

continued on page 9



# Slovak-American Cultural Center celebrates its 25th annual Slovak Ball

continued from page 8

newspaper which he has been Editor for the past 38 years! As a journalist, Mr. Tanzone has contributed numerous articles over the years to a variety of publications including authoring the book "Slovaks of Yonkers, New York," as well as served on the editorial staff which produced the book "Slovaks in America - A Bicentennial Study" published by the Slovak League of America. He serves on the editorial board of "Slovakia" a scholarly journal published by the Slovak League.

Throughout his life, he has been an avid student of history. Mr. Tanzone is a legend in the Slovak community for his vast knowledge of the rich history of Slovakia and Slovak folk songs.

Mr. Tanzone holds leadership roles in a plethora of organizations too numerous to name but which include his position as President of the Slovak League of America, a society founded in 1907. He has been honored for his work in the community with the Presidential Gold Medal of Slovakia's first president, Michal Kovac, in 1995 and was awarded by Pope St. John Paul II the "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal" for the Church and Pontiff for his activities supporting various Church causes. In 2005, he was solemnly invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York by the Archbishop of New York, Edward Cardinal Egan. Most recently he was honored by the Slovak Catholic Sokol as the 2017 Fraternalist of the Year!

After the presentation of a special token of appreciation to the honorees of the evening, the band, Express led by Marek Soltis, began to play live music and the dance floor was raging. The variety of modern, pop, traditional, and of course folk music was a wonderful mix to lure everyone to the dance floor.

The evening wouldn't be complete without the famous Slovak Ball Raffle which, thanks to generous donors, included prizes such as: a private tour and coffee with H.E. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the United Nations General Assembly; a weekend stay for two at the luxurious Hotel Elysee in New York City; Dinner for eight at the private residence of H.E. Ambassador Peter Kmec; lunch for two at the United Nations Delegates Dining Room with Ambassador Mlynar; VIP tickets to the IMT Smile concert courtesy of Consul General Ladislava Begeg; an airplane ride for two over the Manhattan skyline courtesy of Richard Marko; a gift basket and \$500 gift certificate from FCSU; a weekend fishing trip for two in the Hamptons courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Hauk; private charter on Long Island Sound aboard the yacht "Epika" courtesy of Matus Culen; autographed memorabilia by legend Zdeno Chara of the Boston Bruins donated by Mr. and Mrs. Rendek; a private autographed figure skates and memorabilia by 2018 Winter Olympic figure skater Nicole Rajcova; VIP tickets to Slovak Fashion Night in NYC courtesy of +421 Foundation; and gift certificates to Czech owned restaurants in New York: La Cava, Vella, Bazar Tapas Bar and Restaurant.

After the Raffle, guests enjoyed a delicious roast pig, "pirohy", and other foods to re-energize and continue dancing until 2am!

Thank you to the generosity of all of our Raffle sponsors and to our financial donors



National President of the First Catholic Slovak Union Andrew M. Rajec receives an award for his significant achievements supporting the Slovak community at the 2018 Slovak Ball.



Daniel Tanzone, President of the Slovak League of America, accepts his award at the Slovak Ball.



Among those representing the First Catholic Slovak Union at the Ball: (L - R) Home Office Staff Terezia Rozmus and Miriam Visnovsky; Idka Rajec, wife of National President Andrew M. Rajec; Karen Hunka, National Chair of Auditors; and Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents.



H.E. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Michal Mlynar addresses the crowd



For more information, photos, and videos visit us at: [www.slovakamericanc.org](http://www.slovakamericanc.org)

Photographs courtesy of Maynard Wallace (prog4to.com)

namely First Catholic Slovak Union, Mr. Matus Culen, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hlavinka, Mrs. Etká Jendrek, and Mrs. Judith Lepko! Without their support the Slovak-American Cultural Center would not be able to continue to promote, preserve, and spread Slovak culture, history, and current events through organization of cultural, scientific, and athletic activities.

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. Congratulations to the Slovak Ball Committee-- for their pivotal role in making the Ball a reality. S-ACC hopes to continue the wonderful tradition of The Slovak Ball next year --- join us for an amazing evening filled with tradition, culture, live music, and glamour on Saturday, February 23rd, 2019!

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, President, S-ACC, Chairwoman of The Slovak Ball, FCSU Region 1 Director and Branch 746 President

## Branch 41 in Yonkers to Celebrate Patronal Feast



After a hiatus of three years – since the closing of Most Holy Trinity Parish – Branch 41 President Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr. announces that Holy Trinity, Branch 41 will resume the celebration of its Patron, the Trinity. Since Trinity Sunday falls within the Memorial Day weekend this year, our celebration of the Trinity will take place a week earlier on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th.

An 8:30AM Mass will be celebrated by Branch 41 Chaplain and former Pastor of MHT, Rev. George Oonnoony. The Mass will be celebrated in our former Church since it is now occupied by the Eastern rite Malankara's also under the Pope. A breakfast will follow at the Castle Royale (former Polish Center.) Cost of Breakfast: \$20.00; Ages 9-12, \$10.00; Children 8 & under free.

Mail check or Money order to Marilyn Montemurro, Treasurer, 80 Mohawk Rd. Yonkers, NY 10710 Deadline May 15th. For further information call 914-476-0388, and leave a message.

# The Battle of Dukla Pass, 1944

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

The 1944 Battle of Dukla Pass ranks among the least known major battles of the Second World War. Bill Tarkulich termed it "the largest battle you may never have heard about." Compendiums such as World War II: The Encyclopedia of the War Years 1941-1945 do not even mention the battle! David Glantz's study of the Soviet front affords it a mere two pages. In fact, the Battle of Dukla Pass counted more casualties than any battle ever fought on Slovakia soil. Casualties on all sides amounted over 138,000 in 50 days of intense fighting.

To obtain a perspective on the scale of losses, one might compare it to other major battles of World War II. While casualties were less than some other major battles, they were extremely high for a 50-day battle. Some have gone as far as calling Dukla "the D-Day of the Eastern Front." Here we can see some comparisons which Tarkulich provided, which contrasts the losses and days fought with other major battles.

**Casualties (Killed, Missing or Wounded)**

- 138,000 - Dukla Pass in 50 days
- 160,000 - Battle of the Bulge in 40 days
- 200,000 - Battle of Budapest in 47 days
- 400,000 - Battle of Normandy in 80 days
- 1.6 million - Battle of Stalingrad in 150 days

The 1944 Battle of Dukla Pass obviously deserves more attention than most books about the war published in the West provide.

**The Kukučka Memorial Lecture**

Bill Tarkulich presented his findings of his research at the Thomas Kukučka Memorial Lecture at the University of Pittsburgh on March 25, 2018. The Kukučka lecture is held annually as a tribute to journalist Tom Kukučka, who died in a tragic auto accident in 1988. Formerly on Ebensburg, PA, Tom had always wished to visit his ancestral homeland of Slovakia, and had been studying Slovak at the University of Pittsburgh. In his memory, his former co-workers established a fund to help students study in Slovakia, and started an annual lecture on Slovak topics. At this year's event, four Pitt students received scholarships for study in Slovakia this summer.

This year's presenter, Bill Tarkulich, has Rusyn origins and is not a historian by profession. He is one of the few ethnically conscious Rusyns living in the Boston area. A graduate of the Rochester Institute of Technology, he also attended Northeastern University and spent his career working as an engineering manager working for Hewlett Packard and several other firms. Like many of us, he maintained a curiosity about his people's past, and noted that his parents would not talk much about their origins or teach him their language; they had wanted to be Americans and fit in here.

When he traveled to Slovakia, he spent a couple of weeks living with his 3rd generation cousins and their children who wanted to learn English. In the course of learning about village life, he became curious about the Dukla battle. It has been one of his passions ever since, and he highlighted the need to look at all perspectives of the various combatants in the battle. There is very little written about it in English, and most sources are in Slovak, Czech or Russian. A contact in Moscow helped him with Russian sources, and he has continued his research full steam since then.

**Background to Dukla**

For the Soviet Red Army, the Battle of Dukla marked an important struggle to break through the Carpathian Mountain pass and was part of a larger westward Soviet offensive against the Germans known as Operation Bagration, launched by Army Group Center on June 23, 1944, spearheaded by the First and Second Ukrainian Fronts, which were moving swiftly across Belarus, Ukraine and Poland. Officially the Soviets termed the Battle of Dukla "The East Carpathian Strategic Offensive Operation".

The main thrust of the operation speared into Poland, and would push southwest toward Hungary and into Slovakia, with the aim of hooking up with Slovak partisans and soldiers who sympathized with the Allies. Particularly after the successful Normandy landing and Soviet Army advances, Slovaks realized the days of Nazi dominance were nearing an end. Thus partisans and some Slovak army contingents launched the Slovak National Uprising in late August 1944 in order to support the Allied cause and push the Germans out of Slovakia.

The Dukla Pass lies on the border between Poland and Slovakia, and is just south of the village of Dukla, which is situated in the former Lemko region of Poland (These peoples were forcibly removed from the region after the war and replaced by ethnic Poles.). In Slovakia, mainly Carpatho-Rusyns live in the region. The area features a topography with plateaus and mountains that mostly range from 1300-1600 feet elevation, with the highest standing at around 5600 feet. Until the 1940s, sheep grazed these bucolic hills that transformed into a bloody battleground hills with the thunderous sound of guns and cannon fire.

Thus defenders would have an edge if they entrenched themselves on high ground, as Germans were prone to do in both world wars, as I found out during my visits to France and Belgium. North of Dukla in Poland was Krosno, a strategic area known for its oil fields, which fueled the German war effort. The Soviets bombed the region to soften it and cut off vital fuel supplies.

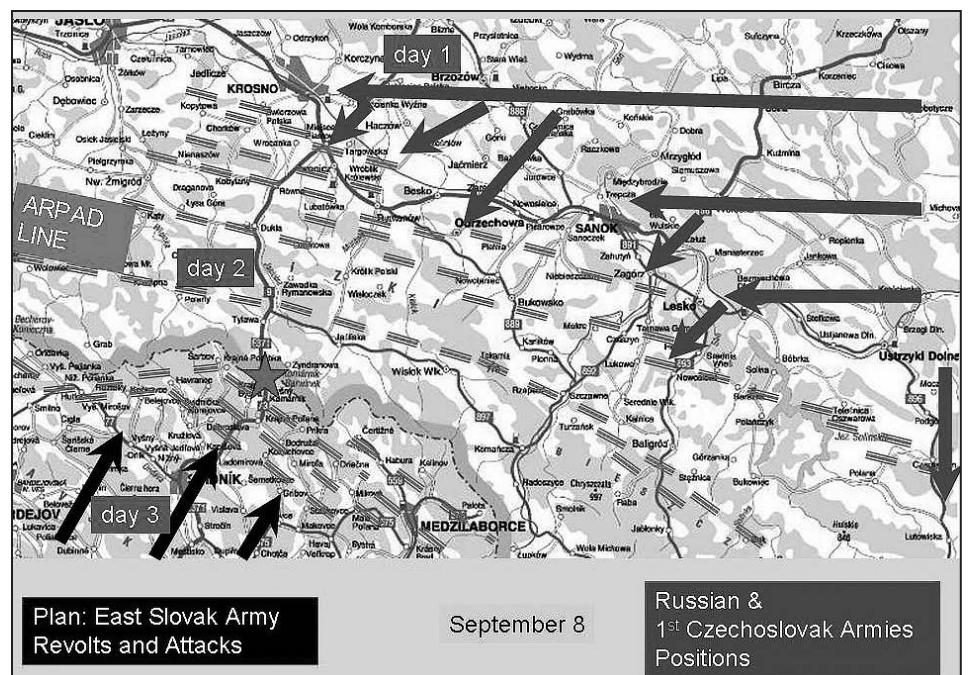
Dukla Pass had seen armies pass through before. Russian troops used the pass on their way to suppress the Hungarian Revolution in 1849. In World War I, the Imperial Russian army mounted an offensive through the pass with the aim of striking at Budapest, but that failed due to Austro-Hungarian re-



**The Dukla Battlefield Memorial**



**German defenses. Source: Slovak Genealogy Research Strategies.**



**The Dukla Pass Battle. Source: Slovak Genealogy Research Strategies.**



**(L - R) German Pz-IV J together with a Soviet T-34-85**

sistance and a horrible winter.

Tarkulich noted that the Slovak army proved lukewarm in cooperating with the Germans throughout the war, and German officers considered them to be unreliable. For instance, when Germany invaded Poland in 1939, three armies moved into southern Poland, and the Slovakia contingent just followed the Germans – with lackluster enthusiasm. Just 38 Slovak troops died in the action, and few Poles. (Slovakia's army consisted of various ethnic groups -- Rusyns, Ukrainians, Poles and Magyars (Hungarians) in addition to Slovaks).

From the perspective of my own past research, Slovaks were more interested just in obtaining back the Spiš and Orava villages which Poland had annexed from Slovakia in 1920. But during most of the war, Slovakia remained relatively quiet until the guns of August commenced in 1944.

**A Stout German Defense**

The Germans badly wanted to defend this area around the Dukla Pass and sent 20,000 troops there and fortified with 200 pieces of artillery. They would construct a three-tiered defensive line north of the Carpathian Mountains (in Poland) to stop any possible Soviet advance: the Hunyadi, St. Laszlo, and Árpád Lines. The strongest line of defense was the so-called "Árpád Line," which Hungarians had built hundreds of years earlier. Germans called it the Karpatenfestung ("Carpathian fortress"). The defenses were comprised of a series of military fortifications and obstacles in the northern foothills of the mountains and extended from Poland, to parts of what today lie in Ukraine. Conscripting locals in Poland for additional labor, they cut down forests, made tank traps, set wire traps, laid down thousands of mines, dug trenches, and built bunkers and lookout towers in order to present a formidable barrier to stop any Red Army offensive.

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



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

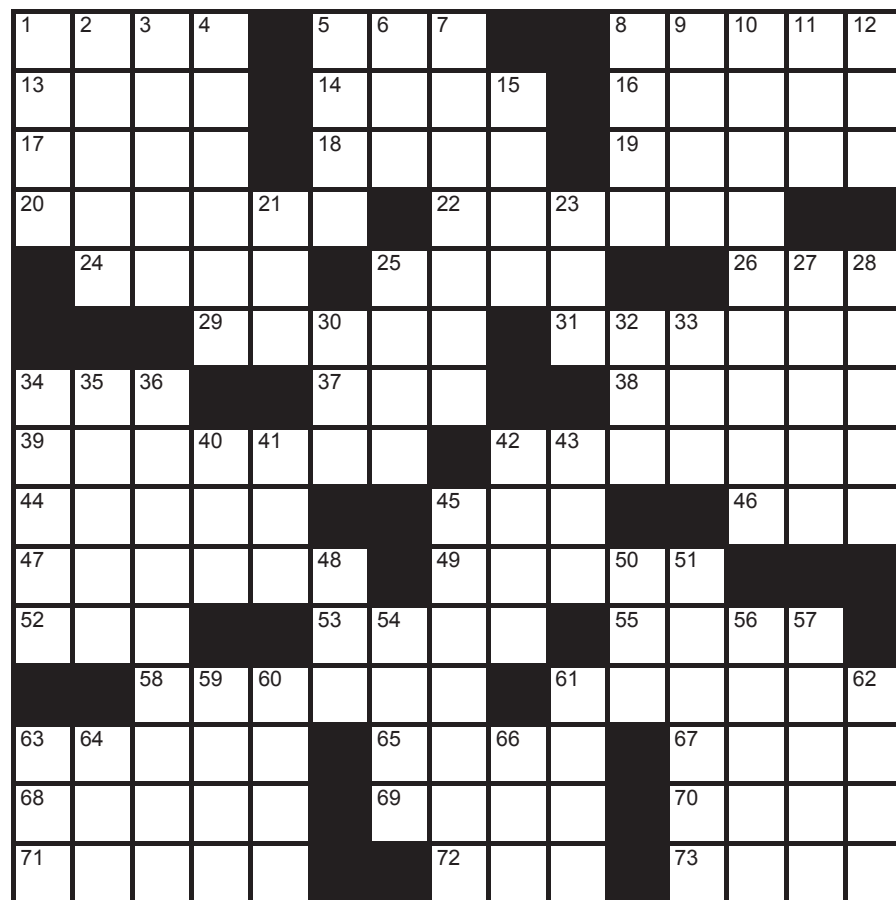
Join Jim and Kay Bench on the 20th Sister Cities tour of Slovakia. Talk to the oldest living Slovak member of your family to find where your ancestors lived in Slovakia. Think of the joy you will feel meeting long-lost relatives or just being able to walk in the village of your ancestors.

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

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

We are waiting for your call!

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle




**Across**

- 1 French friends
- 5 Female sib
- 8 Happen again
- 13 Mascara site
- 14 Exploits
- 16 Muse of poetry
- 17 Winglike
- 18 Orderly
- 19 Coincide
- 20 Elevator alternative
- 22 Game fish
- 24 Zenith
- 25 *Hunchback of Notre Dame* novelist
- 26 Rascal
- 29 Fireplace tool
- 31 Mile-High City
- 34 Summer in France
- 37 Dander
- 38 Sierra \_\_\_\_
- 39 Cancel
- 42 Allows for
- 44 Colorado resort
- 45 King topper
- 46 Twisty curve
- 47 Golf shot
- 49 Wooded
- 52 Potato feature
- 53 Carry
- 55 Music of India
- 58 1943 Bogart film
- 61 Sand dollar
- 63 Rodeo rope
- 65 Bleacher feature
- 67 Aesop's also-ran
- 68 Woodwinds
- 69 Glitch
- 70 From square one
- 71 Tablelands
- 72 Seek damages
- 73 Impudence

**Down**

- 1 "C'est la vie"
- 2 Mediterranean island
- 3 Writer Asimov
- 4 Cocktail forerunner
- 5 Without (Fr.)
- 6 Swelling reducer
- 7 Height
- 8 Gather
- 9 Hence
- 10 Bear or wolf, e.g.
- 11 Colorado native
- 12 Fish eggs
- 15 Hart
- 21 Early auto
- 23 Staff
- 25 Animal group
- 27 Patches up
- 28 Newspapers, e.g.
- 30 Relative
- 32 *The Lord of the Rings* figure
- 33 Newcomer, briefly
- 34 Wipe clean
- 35 Ill-tempered
- 36 Strong black coffees
- 40 Boardroom bigwig
- 41 Squid's squirt
- 42 Farm measure
- 43 Honorarium

- 45 Achieves
- 48 Fraternity letter
- 50 Stumble
- 51 Russian country houses
- 54 Table scraps
- 56 Lake Volta locale
- 57 Buenos \_\_\_\_
- 59 Between ports
- 60 *Bonanza* brother
- 61 Exhort
- 62 Tidings
- 63 *Pink Panther* actor Herbert
- 64 White House nickname
- 66 \_\_\_\_ de vie



**From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – FCSU Holiday Hours**

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2018, in observance of Memorial Day.

<b>JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018</b>	
<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Deadline to Receive</b>
<b>May 9</b>	<b>April 30</b>
<b>June 6</b>	<b>May 29</b> (to accommodate Memorial Holiday)
<b>June 20</b>	<b>June 11</b>
<b>July 18</b>	<b>July 9</b>
<b>August 22</b>	<b>August 13</b>
<b>Sept 19</b>	<b>Sept 10</b>
<b>October 17</b>	<b>October 8</b>
<b>November 14</b>	<b>November 5</b>
<b>December 12</b>	<b>December 3</b>

See Solution on Page 20

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

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

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

# FREE

## Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).

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# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Michael Society, Branch 2, will hold its semiannual meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Kretzler's Tavern, North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA. On the agenda will be election of delegates for the 2018 Convention. All members interested in being a delegate must attend this meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne 412 715 5577.

**Joanne Lako, Secretary**

## BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

Save the date for the next meeting of the St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, which will be held on June 10, 2018. At this meeting, we will award our 16 year old members with the Margaret Evancho Award. Please watch for details as to the time and place in an upcoming issue of Jednota.

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael, Branch 35, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Centurion Commons, 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 annual meeting on Monday, June 11, 2018, at 7:00 pm at 3409 Eisenhower Court, White Oak, PA 15131. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on the 2018 Convention as well as 2018 fraternal social activities. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend.

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 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

Holy Trinity Branch 41, Yonkers, NY will meet at 80 Mohawk Rd., Yonkers on Wed. June 6, 2018 at 7PM for its semi-annual meeting. President, Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr.; Vice Pres./Rec'd Sec'y, Dan Tanzone; Financial Sec'y/Treas., Marilyn Montemurro; Auditor, Jim Holodak; will review the past 6 months including the results of the Patronal Feast celebration of May 20, 2018. [Editor's note: see p 9 for Feast celebration details]

**Stephen J. Kubasek, President**

## BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

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

**Julie Perla, Secretary**

## BRANCH 112 - MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 Mahanoy City will host a meeting and family day on Monday, June 11, 2018 at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA.

The branch meeting will begin at noon, the agenda will include officer's reports, the convention and new business. Following the meeting members can enjoy lunch and the family amusement park.

Please contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 by June 4 if you plan to attend.

**Karen Sterling, Secretary**

## BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St Stephen Branch 153 congratulates the following members who recently received their 50 year pins:

Paul Kudlach  
Linda Leonard  
Linda Mitchell  
John Ogarek  
Jill Ramsey  
Barbara Scialabba

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2018, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

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

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the brunch meeting. Call for

reservations by June 4, 2018, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 as well as any changes for policies or address changes.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to the annual family picnic to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA on Sunday, June 24, 2017. \*Please note the picnic location is Pavilion #13 which is a change from previous years. Registration begins at noon and the picnic starts at 1:00 p.m. Each member is asked to bring their favorite covered dish. Beverages and main entrée will be provided by branch. The spectacular Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. A branch meeting will be held directly after the picnic. For more information or directions, please call 724-547-0803.

**Vicki Hricik, Secretary**

## BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 199 will meet for a luncheon meeting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at Sharky's Café, 3960 Route 30/Lincoln Highway, Latrobe, PA.

Call 724-423-4745 to confirm your reservation for lunch, provided by the branch.

We look forward to meeting you, to sharing lunch with you, and discussing ideas for 2018 summer/fall activities.

**Barbara Patula, Secretary**

## BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Our meeting schedule for the remainder of 2018 is as follows: May 3rd, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, Nov 1st with nomination of branch officers; and Dec. 6th with election of branch officers

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

Fraternally,

**Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, holds meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's meeting for election of branch officers is December 17, 2018. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

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

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2018, at 1:00PM at St. Patrick's Church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. The upcoming topic for this meeting will be the National Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH this August. Delegates for the convention were elected and should be present. We would welcome new members.

**Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

**Marge Dickinson, President**

## BRANCH 315 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Interested persons should respond no later than May 31, 2018.

**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary**

## BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 724-425-2576.

**Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary**

## BRANCH 419 - WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Stephen the Martyr, Branch 419, will hold a regular meeting on Sunday May 20, 2018, at Norms Restaurant, Sherman Street, Wilkes Barre, PA, beginning at 12:30PM. On the agenda: general branch business. All are welcome, particularly those in the former Branch 090 who now hold membership in Branch 419. We hope to see you there to help us kick off our new, grand association. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

**Francis Wassil, President**

## BRANCH 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

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

**Monica Rura, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 493 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The officers of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch #493 in Chicago, wish to congratulate our member John Paul Gromos. He recently received his 50 Year Jednota Pin. Thank you John for sticking with the FCSU for 50 years!

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

## BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

Mark your calendars. On June 24, 2018 for a 10:00 am Mass at St. John The Baptist Parish, 1034 Brown St, Akron, OH 44301. The Mass is to honor The Nativity of St. John the Baptist and all living and deceased members of Branch 553. Our Chaplain Fr. Jared Ornadoff will be a co-celebrant for this Mass. Following the Mass we will gather at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 for pastries and coffee. Come and share this special day with other Branch 553 members.

June 30, 2018 will be the Annual Kielbasa Open at Mayfair Country Club. Further details will be forthcoming.

Remember the 1st Wednesday of every month is Spaghetti Night. Come and enjoy a great meal and fellowship with others.

**Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

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

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

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday; .50 off

Hours are Mon-Fri, 1pm-8pm; Sat 12noon-8pm

Come down and enjoy yourself. All events take place at Tatra Hall, 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, 231-733-2575.

**Susan Hornik, Secretary**

## BRANCH 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 3:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

The agenda will include a discussion of upcoming events.

**Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

At the scheduled meeting of FCSU Branch 682 on March 22, 2018 the six branch delegates to attend the 51st International Convention of The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada were selected. The convention is in Cleveland from August 4th-8th. The next meeting of Branch 682 is scheduled for May 31st, 2018 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St in Struthers, OH 44471. Discus-

sion of items for consideration at the convention and branch plans for Slovak Fest at St. Matthias grounds on Sunday, August 12th will take place.

**Drew Hirt, President**

## BRANCH 706 - DYER, INDIANA

St. Anthony Society, Branch 706, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 16, 2018, at 3 pm, at the residence of Branch Treasurer, Barbara Fayta, in Dyer, IN. We will be discussing ongoing updates to the Slovakia Tree, decorated by the branch, at the Museum of Science and Industry. Also on the agenda is the Easter Coloring Contest and District 2's Spring Brunch/Show, organized by Barbara Fayta and Lynda Tanis. Please email Lynda Tanis at Lynda.tanis@comcast.net if you would like to attend the meeting.

**Lynda Tanis, Branch 706 Vice President**

## BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 716 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2018, after the Slovak Mass at 1:00 P.M. in meeting room downstairs in St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC, NY.

On the agenda will be a financial report, Discussion on Marianist Shrine Pilgrimage and FCSU Convention in August. All Members are urged to attend. Lunch will be served before the meeting and prepared by our Branch President Jan Skrkon.

**Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 756 - OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, May 6, 2018, in the Gym of the St. Joseph School on 811 E. Oliver Street in Owosso, MI. We are still looking for some additional paid officers. After a short meeting, we will go to the Knights of Columbus Center, on East Main St. for a delicious Chicken Dinner. All members and guests are invited. We will reimburse you for the cost, of the first 10 members. Hope to see you there to meet your friends. Please RSVP your attendance to 517-381-8358.

**Stephan J. Patoprsty, President**

## BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at 9:30AM at Kozy Kitchen Family Restaurant, 2723 Elm Road, NE, Warren, OH. On the agenda: a discussion of the upcoming convention and fall activities.

**William Huskovksy, Secretary**

## BRANCH 831 - TARANTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary**

## BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 853 members: any member interested in the history of the Slovakia, may be interested in attending the Pittsburgh Agreement 100th anniversary celebration at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA, on May 31, 2018. Please contact branch president Monica Rodacy Boone at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or by calling 412-886-6938 by April 15 regarding tickets. Tickets for the event only will be purchased by the branch for Branch 853 members. Members must provide their own transportation to and from the event. Details of the event are on page 6 of this issue.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, President**

## BRANCH 857 - LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The next meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA, will be held on Saturday April 28, 2018. The meeting will be held at 2:00PM at The Sacred Heart Church meeting room, 120 Jefferson Street, Bridgeport, PA 19405. If you plan on attending, please call 267-795-7930 and leave a message. Election of delegates for the 2018 convention in Cleveland, OH will take place at the meeting.

Fraternally,

**Nicole L Nasta, Recording Secretary**

# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 2 will host the Fathers' Day Brunch on June 17 at the Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. Mass is at 9:30 with brunch at 11:00. Ticket prices will be announced in the next issue. RSVP to Sue Ondrejco at [sue.ondrejco@gmail.com](mailto:sue.ondrejco@gmail.com) or call 412-421-1204. Prices for the ad booklet are: full page \$75, half page \$40, quarter page \$25. Send ads to Sue by email or mail them to 234 Ilion St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207. Checks should be made payable to FCSU Pittsburgh District.

Sue Ondrejco will have tickets for Slovak Day at Kennywood available on Fathers' Day. Slovak Day is Thursday, July 19.

There will be a very brief business meeting at the Fathers' Day brunch concerning district summer events and the upcoming convention. Expect a district delegate meeting in May or June.

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

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

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

\*\* WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: May 7 – Slovak Weddings, June 4 – the Pittsburgh Agreement. Meetings resume October 1 when Lisa Alzo will be speaking on Slovak genealogy. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

\*\* 100th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement: Senator John Heinz History Center – Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 6 PM. Contact Joe Senko regarding tickets: [jtsenko@aol.com](mailto:jtsenko@aol.com) or 412-531-2990.

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

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

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

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

\*\* Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See [www.slavic.pitt.edu](http://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/](http://www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/)

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

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

\*\* FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com). Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at [fcsu.com/resources](http://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](mailto:manasta@verizon.net)

## DISTRICT 7 – THE REVEREND JOHN MARTVON

All branches of District 7 are welcome to attend the first district meeting for 2018. The meeting will be held on April 29th, at 2 pm, at Denny's Restaurant in Richland, Johnstown, Pa. 15904. Branch 23 will host the meeting. We will elect an alternate delegate for the upcoming FCSU Convention and discuss the upcoming things to look forward to in the New Year. Please come and support your branch and enjoy a delicious dinner, and fellowship together. Any questions call Sharon Allison 814-322-1052.

**Sharon Allison, Recording Secretary**

## DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2018 at 1:00 P.M. at the Uniontown Dairy Queen Grill and Chill ,575 West Main Street. Regional Director James Marmol will brief the group on current events taking place at the Home Office.

Plans will be discussed regarding the upcoming 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada on Saturday, August 4, 2018 thru August 8, 2018. All delegates, alternate delegates and members are urged to attend. A Dairy Queen social will follow.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2018 semiannual meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018. Agenda will include:

- reports on successful Branch mergers/consolidations (Brs 164, 600, 701 into 401; Br 280 into 200) effective October-December 2017 and actions still pending to reactivate/ rejuvenate Brs 429 & 831 as soon as possible, including election of a district delegate and alternate to the convention.

- issues/concerns for FCSU Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland in August 2018 - including election of a district delegate and alternate to the 2018 FCSU convention this August

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

Meeting time and place are 2:00 PM at the C.U.Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. All branches should identify 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 a branch to be classified as active, for receipt of the annual branch stipend, and for branch eligibility to elect delegates to the FCSU Quadrennial Convention.

- Any beneficial member is welcome to represent his/her branch at District meetings with or without formal identification by the Branch or to the District secretary of intent to attend District meeting(s); representatives need not be Branch officers.

**Grace M. Charney, Secretary**

## DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT - MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The District 20 semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday June 3, 2018, at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Church hall immediately following the eleven (11) o'clock Mass.

The Agenda will include Social events for 2018, Discussion re the upcoming Convention in August 2018, possible changes to the by-laws and suggestions.

Branch 784 and 810 are encouraged to send representatives.

A light lunch will be served.

**Alexander S. Dobrik, President**

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



Celebrate the fall harvest and the beautiful culture, history and countryside of Slovakia, up close and personal, on the 2018 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 7-16, we'll explore age-old cities, medieval towns and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, the Tatry mountains and picturesque villages. We'll join in a few of the festivals that bring alive Slovakia's long music, craft and wine traditions. Optional

genealogical research, and ancestral village and family visits available. For more information: Visit [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com) or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 [slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com](mailto:slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com)

# DISTRICT II ANNUAL 2018 BRUNCH & SHOW

**SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018, 2PM**

*located at:*

**FOX'S PUB AND PIZZA  
in Orland Park, Illinois**

**9655 W. 143RD ST, ORLAND PARK, IL 60462**

Please join us for our 2018 annual District 2 Brunch Outing. This year, we will be heading over to Fox's Restaurant in Orland Park for a family style brunch, then a live musical performance by Chicagoland's favorite entertainer, Peter Oprisko. His performances reminisce through legendary artists like Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Nat King Cole, with old Broadway tunes from composers like Irving Berlin and George Gershwin. Peter has also has done work in commercials and movies, entertaining for the last three decades.

*(wine, soda, tea & coffee service included, there will be a cash bar)*



PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY



## District II Annual 2018 Brunch

Attendees \$28.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

List names of all those attending on the back of this sheet.  
Make checks payable to **Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II**  
and mail together with check to: Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618.



**SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS  
SLOVAK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Mi 48314  
[www.saintcyrils.org](http://www.saintcyrils.org)  
586-726-6911

HELP SS CYRIL & METHODIUS CELEBRATE ITS  
100th ANNIVERSARY

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

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

## OBITUARIES

### ANNA MAE (OLEY) EICHOLTZ BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA



Anna Mae (Oley) Eicholtz, age 90, of St. Anne Home, Greensburg, PA, and formerly of West Mifflin, PA, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on February 11, 2018. She was born in Braddock, PA, on April 3, 1927, the daughter of the late John and Anna Oley; and the wife of the late Arthur J. "Ike" Eicholtz. She lived in Glassport, PA, for many years before marrying Arthur and moving to West Mifflin. She was a member of Christ the Light of the World Parish in Duquesne, PA. A former member of the Christian Mothers of Holy Name Church, Duquesne Senior Citizens Council, Fellowship Club of Duquesne, and the Knights of Columbus Senior Citizens. She was the credit manager for Busy Beaver Building Projects for many years until her retirement. Anna Mae was a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and will be sadly missed. She was blessed with three children who loved her dearly, Kathryn (Jim) McMichael of Ruffs Dale, PA; Arthur Eicholtz, Jr. of West Mifflin, PA, who passed away in 2012, and Jeffrey (Suzie) Eicholtz of West Mifflin, PA. Her grandchildren were the love of her life and they loved their Grammy, Jimmy (Katie) McMichael of Greensburg, Kimberly (Travis) Snyder of Scottsdale, Sara (Jonathan) Monkalis of Youngwood, Ian (Samantha) Eicholtz of Orlando, FL, Craig Yogan of West Mifflin, and Chad Yogan of Hershey. She found so much joy in the company of her great-grandchildren, Maddox Monkalis, Henry McMichael, Brianna Monkalis, Samuel McMichael, and Jagger Eicholtz. She is also survived by her loving sister, Florence Laychak of Glassport; many nieces, nephews, and relatives. In addition to her husband and son, she was preceded in death by three brothers, John Oley, Stephen Oley of Glassport, and Lawrence Oley of Georgia, (formerly of Glassport). Family and friends were received on Wednesday afternoon, February 14, 2018, at the Maloy-Schleifer Funeral Home, Duquesne, where a Blessing Service was held the next morning followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Name Church of Christ the Light of the World Parish with Rev. Thomas Lewandowski officiating.

- Submitted by Kathryn McMichael

### JOHN E. LISICKY BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO



John E. Lisicky, 88, of Lorain, OH, died Wednesday January 31, 2018, at St. Mary of the Woods in Avon, OH, after a short illness.

He was born July 12, 1929 in Lorain and had been a lifelong Lorain-area resident.

John graduated from Holy Trinity Elementary School in Lorain and was a 1947 graduate of St. Mary Academy in Lorain where he served as class President his senior year. He attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, where he graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor's Degree in pharmacy and was a member of the Rho Chi Honor Society.

John served with the US Army during the Korean War. Afterward, he worked as an Ohio Registered Pharmacist at National Pharmacy in Lorain and at Rite Aid Pharmacy in Lorain until his retirement.

He was a member of the former Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Lorain where he served as an usher, was a member of the Holy Trinity Holy Name Society and a member of Holy Trinity Seniors. He was a member of St. Peter Parish in Lorain, member and past president of the Lorain County Pharmaceutical Society, a life member and 3rd Degree Knight with the Knights of Columbus Council #637 of Lorain, member of the Union of Poles IPNA of Cleveland, the American Legion # 30, VFW Post #451, AM-VETS Post #47 and the American Slovak Club, all of Lorain.

John enjoyed bowling and golf and was a member of Oberlin Country Club. For many years, he volunteered making sausage for fundraisers at Lorain Catholic High School. He was a very social person who loved being with his family and friends.

He is survived by his daughter Terese A. "Terri" Davis (James) of Elyria Township, OH; granddaughter Amanda R. Clark (nee Ackerman) (David) of Boynton Beach, FL; great grandson Jack Clark; sister Rosemary Kinkelaar (Richard) of Westlake, OH; sister-in-law Marilyn Lisicky of Elyria, OH; brother-in-law and sister-in-law James and Barbara Lawhead of Lorain and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years Charlotte A. Lisicky (nee Kulas) on September 9, 2007, infant son John Lisicky, parents John S. and Rose Lisicky (nee Oresky), brother Robert Lisicky and sister-in-law Jane Lisicky.

The family received friends Sunday afternoon February 4, 2018, at the Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel, Lorain. Funeral services were held Monday morning February 5, 2018, in the funeral chapel followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Peter Parish, Lorain. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Lorain where AMVETS Post #32 of Elyria conducted military honors.

- Submitted by Terese A. Davis

### JOHN ROBERT NOVOTNY BRANCH 315 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

John Robert Novotny, 93, husband of the late Agnes F. Novotny, passed away Saturday, February 17, 2018, after a long illness with his daughters at his side.

Born July 20, 1924, in Czechoslovakia, he was a son of the late past First Catholic Slovak Union Supreme Court Member John Novotny and the late Mary Mikula Novotny.

Mr. Novotny, a Bronze Star recipient, proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II stationed with Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces (SHAEF) in England and later in Paris and Berlin. After the war he received a Bachelor's in Finance from Duquesne University and then married his high school sweetheart, the former Agnes Francis Zenchu. He was called up for the Korean Conflict and trained as a paratrooper. He made his career in banking, serving the communities surrounding Homestead, PA.

As a member of SHAEF, he attended many annual national reunions, enjoying the fellowship with many of the service men and

women with whom he had served. He was a longtime member of Branch 315 and a member of Resurrection Catholic Church in West Mifflin, PA. In 2017, he moved his wife of 70 years to Simpsonville, SC, to be closer to their three children. There he became a member of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

Mr. Novotny is survived by two daughters, Jean M. Mikulla (John); and Carol A. Sapienza (Robert); one son, John A. Novotny (Judith); eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and one sister, Mary Ann Zilinskas (Victor).

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Pauline Nieding; and a brother, Frank D. Novotny.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday, February 22, 2018, at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. Entombment followed at Graceland East Memorial Park Mausoleum.

He showed by his loving example the importance of family and faith. He was much loved and will be greatly missed.

- Jean Mikulla

### VERONICA D. VALINSKI BRANCH 430 – SIMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

Veronica D. Valinski, 92, of Simpson, died Monday night, February 5, 2018, at Hospice of the Sacred Heart, Dunmore. She was the widow of Raymond Valinski, who died in 1985.

Born in Simpson, daughter of the late Albert and Kathryn Tarhanich Propeack, she was educated in Fell Twp. schools and had been employed by the Gentex Corp., Simpson.

Vernie was a member of St. Michael's Church, St. Rose Parish; the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Simpson, and was a member of the former Confraternity of Christian Women Society and Fell Twp. Golden Age Club. Vernie was an active member and cook at the former Holy Trinity Church and hall, Simpson.

The family would like to thank the staff of Hospice of the Sacred Heart for their compassionate and caring help.

Surviving are her five children, John, Simpson; Romaine and husband, Dennis Markel, Houston, Texas; Sandra Grandinetti, Honesdale; Gail Srabnoski, Clarks Summit; Lori and husband, Christopher Mattise, Archbald; eight grandchildren, Christian and Ian Markel, Mary Beth Grandinetti, Timothy Orue, Alese Srabnoski, Kaitlin, Justin and Ella Mattise; nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by five brothers, John, Stephen, Joseph, Michael and Francis Propeack; and sisters, Mary Dubill and Ann Seigle.

The funeral was Saturday, February 10, 2018, from the Joseph W. Scotchlas Funeral Home, Simpson, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Michael's Church, Simpson. Interment was in Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Friends called Friday, February 11, 2018 in the funeral home.

- Submitted by Lori Mattise

### VERONICA P. (CAMBAL) PIECKA BRANCH 401 – NORTH APOLLO, PENNSYLVANIA



Veronica P. (Cambal) Piecka, 98, of Leechburg, PA, passed away on Thursday, November 23, 2017.

A daughter of the late Andrew Cambal and Mary (Czmarik) Cambal, she was born November 25, 1918, in Arnold, PA.

Veronica was a homemaker and member of Christ the King Parish in Gilpin Twp. and the former St. Martha's Roman Catholic Church in Leechburg. She was also a member of St. Anne's Guild, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). Veronica was an avid Pittsburgh Pirates and Steelers fan who liked baking and cooking. She had still been very active with the cooking and baking for her church's functions. Veronica enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and their friends, who fondly nick-named her the "Party Gram."

Survivors included her son, Albert (Carol) Piecka Jr. of East Wenatchee, WA; her daughter, Bernadette (Edward) Bloch of Lower Burrell, PA; four grandchildren, Wendy Piecka, Jody (Jesse) Suiter, Michele Bloch and Jeffrey Piecka; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Albert B. Piecka Sr. in 1990; a brother, Andrew Cambal; and three sisters, Frances Dubovi, Margaret Sutorka and Johanna Knapke.

Friends were welcomed by her family on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at the Clawson Funeral & Cremation Center, Leechburg. Parting Prayers of Transfer were held the next morning at the funeral home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Christ the King Parish, Gilpin Twp., with the Msgr. Larry J. Kulick officiating. Interment was at St. Catherine Cemetery, Gilpin Twp. Veronica's family would like to thank Allegheny Home Hospice for their tender care.

- Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, former Leesburg, PA, resident and Branch 856 Secretary



## Is your FCSU profile up to date?

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

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

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



# The Battle of Dukla Pass, 1944

continued from page10

The Germans made a special effort to fortify oil-rich Krosno and surrounded the area with trenches, minefields, and rock houses equipped with machine-guns. They barricaded the streets of Krosno with obstacles looming 1.5 meters high, composed of stone and logs.

Stavka, the Soviet High Command, gave the order to begin the assault on September 2, 1944. Anti-German partisans had planned the Slovak National Uprising (Slovenské národné povstanie, or SNP) to begin around the same time. The Soviets had also expected the East Slovak Army Corps (Slovak State Army, 1939-1944) of 32,000 troops to defect and take part in the Dukla offensive from the south, but that never happened, for the officers got cold feet. According to the memoirs of General Konev, Stavka decided that operations would commence on September 8, 1944; and due to poor intelligence and coordination with partisans and the failure of the Slovak Army to advance, the Soviets had estimated it would take four days to punch through the Pass and move rapidly westward into Slovakia, meeting up with the SNP forces. Instead the Soviets met a formidably entrenched opponent, which would drag fighting on until October 28, when they finally liberated the town of Svidník, Slovakia.

## The Leadership

Leading the Soviet offensive was General Ivan S. Konev, the "brutal" Soviet commander of the First Ukrainian front. He would throw people into battle even if short of weapons. Commanding the Soviet 38th Army was General Kiril Moskalenko, a career officer of the Red Army since 1920. With experience in heading an Anti-Tank Brigade at the Battle of Kursk, he had also fought at Moscow and Stalingrad. In 1944, he would lead the 38th Army.

Teaming with the Soviets was the First Czechoslovak Army. It originated in late 1941, after the Soviet Union had agreed to cooperate with the London-based Czechoslovak government-in-exile. The Soviets began training a Czechoslovak Independent Battalion in Buzuluk, Russia. Many of its members consisted of Carpatho-Rusyns and Slovaks coming from the Soviet gulags, and those who had illegally crossed the border from Slovakia. Shortly after the start of the Dukla Battle, General Ludvík Svoboda had assumed command of an army of 10,000 soldiers of the First Czechoslovak Army. He replaced a less competent General Kratochvíl. Svoboda proved an excellent leader, was familiar with terrain, and inspired his troops by embedding himself with them on the front lines, much to the frustration of Soviet leaders, who often had difficulty locating him.

Leading the German army was General Gotthard Heinrici, a career officer who hailed from a family with centuries old military tradition. Commanded to head what was called Army Group "Heinrici", he headed the First 1st Panzer Army and the Hungarian 1st Army. A master of defense, Heinrici would slow the Soviet advance to a crawl. Recognizing his extraordinary talents, Hitler would later use him in the defense of Berlin itself.

The Soviets had planned to hook up with the East Slovak Corps consisting of 32,000 troops. However, the Germans considered the Slovak army unreliable, and had arrested its leader, General August Malar, disarmed the three Slovak divisions, sent them to the west, and assigned mainly labor jobs to Slovakia's soldiers. Heinrici considered the Slovak officers second rate and unreliable. Partisans provided the Soviets with some information, but poor intelligence about the strength of the Germans would thwart the original plan, as Germans doubled their forces and later moved through the Dukla Pass, undetected by the Soviets. The Soviets had banked on success using an attack on the Dukla flanks, but as Tarkulich noted, "a battle plan is only good to the first day." Then one had to adapt to the real circumstances.

## The Battle for Dukla

When the Soviets launched their attack on September 8, they preceded it with a more than 2 hour heavy artillery bombardment on the German army in Poland. Initially, the Soviets met little resistance, and advanced 14 kilometers on day one. But by dusk, the Germans intensified their resistance and had a decided advantage with its broad vistas from occupying the high ground. Communications proved difficult for the Allies and the Czechoslovak Army troops could not help on the first day due to congested roads. Fighting intensified and the Germans were standing strong.

When General Konev noticed a gap of about 2,000 yards west of the village of Dukla, he ordered a flanking attack on the night of September 12th. It failed miserably. The Germans swiftly closed the gap, encircled, and nearly trapped the Soviets, who suffered 60 percent losses as they fought hard to escape annihilation.

By September 20, the Soviets took the Polish village of Dukla and continued to advance toward the Pass. That same day, a small incursion liberated the village of Kalinov, the first Czechoslovakia village to be reached.

To address the stalled offensive, the Soviets had numbers on their side and reinforced their forces "with the 4th Tank Corps, additional Czechoslovak pilots, the 2nd parachute brigade (700 men, 104 tons equipment), and the 1st Czechoslovak fighter regiment" (Tarkulich).

By September 20, the Soviets took the Polish village of Dukla and continued to advance toward the Pass. That same day, a small incursion liberated the village of Kalinov, the first Czechoslovakia village to be reached. By September 26, the Soviets had successfully pierced the Árpád Line of defense. But the front had bogged down at Vyšný Komárnik and could not continue south of Dukla Pass. The start of heavy autumn rains in early October further hindered advances. It took until October 5 to finally take the Dukla Pass, almost a month from the start of the offensive.

The most important battle around Dukla Pass occurred on October 25-27, after the rains subsided. To this day, military strategists at West Point study the battle, for it marked the first time in history that tanks were part of a military assault over forest and mountains, and it caught the Germans by surprise. Air power and artillery supported the attack of T-38 tanks. A fierce 3 day battle ensued in what Slovaks call the Valley of Death (Údolie smrti).

**Bill Tarkulich was a featured presenter at the Thomas Kukučka Memorial Lecture, University of Pittsburgh, on March 25, 2018.**



When it had ended, 28 Soviet tanks were destroyed. Recognizing the situation had become untenable, Heinrici retreated with his army about 200 km toward the west. Soviet troops took 31,360 Germans as prisoners.

The same day that they defeated the Germans, the Soviets advanced to the town of Svidník, which was totally destroyed. But also that day, the Germans had suppressed the Slovak National Uprising, so there would be no joining of forces possible.

## The Price of Victory

The Soviets had succeeded, but paid a high price in human lives and material destruction for local civilians. Over 138,000 were dead, wounded or missing. Over 46,000 Soviet, Czechoslovak and German soldiers were killed, including 6,500 from the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps, (60% of the unit). Also, not to be overlooked was the failure of the Soviet troops to participate in the Slovak National Uprising, which resulted in the loss of at least 17,000 partisans.

The Snina region suffered the brunt of the damage. Tarkulich listed the damage.

- 918 homes were totally destroyed
- 2,217 homes heavily damaged
- 11 villages were 90% destroyed
- 14 villages 50% destroyed
- 55 bridges destroyed
- 250 civilians killed during battle
- 180 civilians seriously injured by land mines

The destruction and damage would affect the residents for years to come. Many had fled the war scene as refugees and others hid in the hope of surviving in the battle area. Following the battle, poverty and unemployment increased and poor healthcare resulted in high number of deaths among infants and their mothers. Diseases such as tuberculosis, whooping cough, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and intestinal typhoid ravaged the isolated population. Education suffered and a quarter of the population was illiterate. Bandits roamed the countryside and stole at will. Many people were still living in tents as late as 1947. Not until 1948 did the long process of rebuilding homes commence. It was a bitter pill to swallow.

## Postwar Memorials

The Dukla Pass Memorial became a site of pilgrimage which the Soviets insisted that school children memorialize every year. There exist many huge and impressive monuments to this day, and destroyed tanks still line the Valley of Death and the surrounding hillsides. Svidník built a war museum in 1965, and in 1974, the communist regime raised a high tower for tourists at Dukla. Over 9,000 soldiers lie buried in a Soviet cemetery and 2,648 Germans repose in the pristinely kept cemeteries decorated regularly with fresh flowers at Hunkovce. Another 1,137 Germans lay in repose at a cemetery in Zborov. And 565 Czechoslovak soldiers are buried at Vyšný Komárnik. A host of other smaller cemeteries in Poland and Slovakia exist which one can see a list of on Tarkulich's website.

Today the region around the Battle of Dukla is surrounded by peaceful parks, forests, and nature preserves. They are popular among naturalists and visiting hikers and tourists.

I have previously visited the area on two occasions, and plan another more extensive trip there this summer. Hiking the mountainsides, one must still take care not to step on unexploded bombs and live ammunition. But the area is still well worth a visit, and in few other places can one see tanks still emplaced on the original sites where they fought.

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## Slovak Museum Grand Opening in Canada

*It was the people that made the Slovak Museum's opening "Grand."*

On Sunday March 25, 2018, over 120 visitors came to admire the creative displays and priceless artifacts that volunteers prepared for the grand opening of the Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum (SCHM) in the Canadian Slovak League's (CSL) Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. With the age range from 3 months to 93 years, good music and tasty refreshments, everyone enjoyed the comradery and the very special music of the 'Fujara' played by Rev. Ladislav Kozak from St. Paul's Slovak Lutheran Church. Guests came all the way from Oshawa in the east to St. Catharines in the west. Many visitors also used this opportunity to bring Slovak artifacts for the museum. The SCHM is very appreciative for these contributions and would like to thank everyone for their support. Our special thanks go out to Katka Homolova who did a wonderful job of interviewing people and her camera man captured the event which will be presented on the Slovak television program Slovensky Svet.

The Opening Welcome by SCHM President Alena Melas started on time, and special guests were introduced. Mississauga's Mayor, Madame Bonnie Crombie and Councillors Ron Starr and Christine Fonseca complemented the work of the volunteers and presented the museum with two certificates of recognition. The museum presented Madam Mayor with a Modra ceramic Easter basket with a very special Easter egg.

We were saddened the past week, on March 19, 2018, when our museum's founder Mrs. Margaret A. Dvorsky had passed away. It was her dream to have a home for a Slovak Museum. Nov.1, 2017 was the first official day of the SCHM's move to the CSL's hall. We believe this cohabitation arrangement will be very good for both organizations. The CSL was looking for more activity in their hall and the museum was looking for a place to hold their workshops and other museum events. Each organization has some private space but the hall and library area are shared. For the opening, the upstairs library displays were digitized and showed on a monitor in the hall so that all guests could view the upstairs exhibits. Museum President Alena Melas announced during the grand opening that a memorial fund has been suggested by Mrs. Dvorsky's nieces to help support the Slovak Museum. Anyone wishing to donate to the SCHM can do so in Margaret Dvorsky's memory.

The past 11 years has proved to be a long journey for the museum with its first displays in the Heritage Room at the Slovak Cathedral of Transfiguration in Markham. The



(R - L): Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, Councillor Ron Starr, SCHM president Alena Melas, and Councillor Chris Fonseca.

museum then was invited to use a heritage home on the Markham Museum property where a five year term was negotiated. When this time expired, unfortunately there was not another available location and the museum's artifacts had to go into storage. Mr. Otto Rada was very generous and offered to store the museum's artifacts for one year. This gave the SCHM board of directors some time to find a location. A small store front in Oshawa that was once in a very Slovak neighbourhood was offered to the SCHM for rent for two years. The offer came with the option to purchase the property and the museum board of directors and Margaret had hoped that with a Slovak church across the road and some volunteers, enough fundraising could be done to buy the SCHM this property. She did not foresee the stroke she was about to suffer. Needless to say, without a leader the funds were not found and the lease term once again was up. The Slovak community was urging Margaret and the museum's board of directors to bring the museum closer to the larger Slovak population in Mississauga. The SCHM had approached Mississauga Heritage and Mississauga Muse-

ums in their search for an appropriate location but nothing was found. During the next four years, the SCHM participated in about 20 library exhibits, two Carassauga three-day Festivals of Cultures, annual Doors Open events in St. Catharines, Culture Days in Mississauga, and Easter and Christmas events in Richmond Hill. The highlight for the museum was the SCHM's 10th Anniversary celebration at the 'Grange' the home office building of Mississauga Heritage with a 2 months exhibit with a very special feature speaker Esther Bryan, creator of the 'Quilt of Belonging'. Not bad for working out of a small storage unit. The museum's time and efforts were noticed and the CSL offered the SCHM to share their hall. A proper agreement was drawn up and an opening celebration was planned to introduce the Mississauga and the Slovak communities to the new Home of the Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum.

For the future, it was Margaret's hope to capture the history of the Slovaks in Canada. Those that have immigrated to Canada can leave a legacy so that their children and grandchildren will know where their parents, grandparents and great grandparents came from. Coming to a new country is not easy for anyone. Some struggles may be similar but every ones' story is unique. The SCHM's genealogy committee had prepared a questionnaire to help people write their family history. It is a two-part document. The first is the facts, the names, dates and places. The second is for the personal stories of joys, sorrows, struggles and accomplishments. It is these stories that define us as Slovak people in a multicultural society and our stories need to be heard. If you would like help from the SCHM to guide you in writing your family history you may get this questionnaire by contacting a member of the museum's board of Directors: Luba Henderson, Helen Bucic, Joe Radvansky, Mary Sirotnik, Anne Smith, Anne Mitro, Rev. Marek Novicky or Alena Melas.

The Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum's opening was a big success because people with good hearts came to celebrate this occasion. It is a museum for all Slovaks. We hope to continue for many years to share and showcase the contributions that Slovaks have made to Canada our new homeland.

Before we knew it, it was time to collect the flags, take down the tent and roll up the red carpet! The Opening Celebration was complete, and was a big success. The visitors were happy, the comments were all positive and we hope to see you all again at the next SCHM event.

- Submitted by Alena Melas  
President SCHM

## Branch 853's Charles Boone Holds World Record

Charles Boone of Dormont, PA completed another item from his 'bucket list'. In being a member of the Class of 2018 at Keystone Oaks High School, Charles senior year is proving to be exciting.

Charles is now a World Record holder.

Guinness confirmed that Charles is the Guinness World Records Title Holder for the Longest Chain of Carabiners.

Charles is an Eagle Scout and credits starting his collection of carabiners during his years in Boy Scouts. As a scout, Charles attended many local camps and also out-of-state high adventure camps in which he used various types of carabiners for events – thus his collection innocently started.

On Sunday February 25, 2018, Charles linked together his carabiners, one by one, all 1856 of them. The chain reached 250 feet, 10 ½ inches long. Connecting all of the carabiners took 2 hours and 10 minutes.

Striving for an official world record is a feat that requires documentations, verifications and working within the very specific guidelines of Guinness including witnesses with specific qualifications. Charles asked neighbors and educators for their assistance. Retired corrections officer and neighbor Jeff Neiport and Keystone Oaks High School accounting educator Beth Smith, served as two witnesses for the event. Charles also needed a qualified person to measure the finished chain. Charles asked Parkway West Career Center educator Kevin Lewis. Charles picked Mr Lewis as the person for this feat because he knew

the best person for measuring the chain would be someone who teaches the precision of measuring as a career trade. Charles' parents photographed and video the event. Longtime friend Barb Otoole assisted Charles by placing 20 carabiners at a time in a basket, so that Charles can take them out one, by one to be attached.

Walmart in Carnegie, PA also assisted Charles in his adventure. They sectioned off a portion of their parking lot to help Charles accomplish his World Record. The completed carabiner chain stretched from the building, across the parking lot, all the way to the other side.

Charles thanks all who helped him achieve this World Record.

With the record confirmed, Charles generosity will not forget how he started his collection. He will give the majority of the carabiners to the Boy Scouts to distribute them to other scouts at day camp or summer camp.

Congratulations Charles Boone on your World Record of the Longest Chain of Carabiners.

Charles is an active member of Branch 853 and is an auditor for the Hlinka District. He will attend the 51st International Convention of the FCSU as a first time delegate. Charles is son of former National Auditor and Pension Board Trustee Monica Rodacy Boone and Ron Boone of Dormont, PA.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone,  
Branch 853 President





Fr. John Joseph Gonchar, OSF, of Holy Family Friary, celebrated the Holy Liturgy in Slovak at 11:00 a.m.



Connie Zatek leads the offertory procession into the church

(L - R) Branch 2 Members Sue Ondrejco and daughter Susan Ondrejco



(L - R) Branch 553 members Michael Kopanic, with daughter Milenka and her two children, Mila and Pavol.



All photos courtesy of Michael Kopanic

## Scenes from the Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast in Pittsburgh, PA

On March 24, 2018, the 28th Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast was celebrated on Pittsburgh's South Side. The morning began at 10:45AM at St. Adalbert Church with recitation of the Holy Rosary in Slovak, followed by an 11:00AM Mass. All prayers, hymns and responses were sung in the beautiful Slovak language, led by Gerri Walters, Prince of Peace organist and choir director. Father John Joseph Gonchar of the Holy Family Friary in Avalon, PA, celebrated the liturgy in Slovak, and offered his homily in English.

After Mass, worshippers gathered at the nearby Prince of Peace Parish Center to sample a traditional Slovak Easter breakfast of sunka (ham), paska (bread), sirez (cheese), kolbasy (sausage) and pysanki (died eggs).

Also featured as part of this mini-heritage festival were a number of cultural displays depicting the folk culture, village life and kroj (traditional dress) of our Slovak ancestors.

The Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast is made possible by the volunteers of the Slovak Customs Group of Prince of Peace Parish in partnership with a number of local benefactors. Proceeds benefit two charities in Slovakia: the elderly Franciscan sisters in Žilina, and the Barlička Center in Prešov, which provides training for young adults with physical and mental disabilities, care for the elderly ill, as well as instruction for new parents and developmental care for young children.

FCSU Members were among the many attendees participating in and enjoying the event.



(L - R) Henretta Daitova, President Jan Skrkon, Secretary Joan Skrkon



## Branch 716 Supports Meeting of Slovak Catholic Sokols

On Sunday, March 18, 2018, the annual meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol's Assembly 182 was held after the Slovak Mass in the upstairs hall of St. John Nepomucene in New York City. A lunch was served to those attending, adding to the enjoyment of the afternoon social affair.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

## 2018 Treasures Tours Sets Off For Slovakia This July



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

## 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@aol.com](mailto:FCSU@aol.com).

## M. Mark Stolarik Reached Major Milestone

On April 22, 2018, M. Mark Stolarik, of Ottawa, Ontario, will celebrate his 75th birthday.

Marián (Mark) Stolarik was born in the picturesque central Slovak town of Turčiansky Svätý Martin to Imrich and Margita Stolárik. As the Russian front approached in the winter of 1945, Mark's parents decided to evacuate with their family of six children into Austria along with thousands of other Slovaks, to escape the fighting and possible retribution by Communists who were persecuting supporters of the first Slovak Republic (1939-1945). The refugees then languished in one room in Austria until 1950. In 1951 they immigrated to Canada, first settling in Hull, Quebec and later in Ottawa, where Mark grew up and graduated from the University of Ottawa with honors in history (1965) and with an M.A. in history (1967). He subsequently published his M.A. thesis on *The Role of American Slovaks in the Creation of Czecho-Slovakia, 1914-1918*, in the annual *Slovak Studies*, 8, 1968.



After graduating from the University of Ottawa, Mark decided to enroll in the Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota. There in 1963 his professor Timothy L. Smith had established the first Immigrant Archives in the USA. Mark helped Smith collect archival materials from Slovak communities in the USA and Canada while working on his dissertation, *Immigration and Urbanization: The Slovak Experience, 1870-1918* (Ph.D., 1974). The dissertation was published by AMS Press in New York with the same title in 1989.

Mark Stolarik's professional career began as a Lecturer in History at the Cleveland State University (1972-1974), and as an Assistant Professor (1974-1976) at the same university. In 1976 he decided to return to Canada, to work for the National Museum of Man (later the Canadian Museum of History). During this period he visited many Slovak communities in Quebec and Ontario, collected numerous material artefacts pertaining to Slovak history and culture and deposited them into the collections of the Museum, the National Library and the National Archives. He also interviewed on tape such Slovak pioneers as Ján Frajkor, Štefan Hreha, Štefan Jesenáč, Hermína Kráľovicová Andrej Potocký, Michal Sinčák, Jozef Tokár and others. In 1977, while at the National Museum of Man, Mark also established the Slovak Studies Association, which attracts scholars in the USA and Canada into one organization that sponsors scholarly presentations at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic, European and Eurasian Studies. The SSA also issues an occasional Newsletter informing its members of their activities. Stolarik served as the Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter editor for the first ten years of this organization, which still exists.

In 1979 Mark returned to the United States to become Executive Director (later President) of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia. It was a library, museum and education centre dedicated to collecting, displaying and interpreting material artifacts, library and archival collections on all of America's ethnic groups. While there he established three departments, increased the staff from seven to 25 and recruited 50 volunteers. During his thirteen years as head of the Institute, Stolarik raised millions of dollars from various individuals, corporations and foundations in order to fund the Institute's operations, exhibits and programs. The trustees of the Institute were so satisfied with his work that they told him that he could stay on until he decided to retire. While in Philadelphia Stolarik also joined the Slovak community and he and his family became active members of the Slovak parish of St. Agnes-St. John.

Meanwhile, in the 1980's the Slovak community in Canada and the USA raised \$500,000, which the Canadian government matched with another \$400,000 in order to establish a Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa. The Chair was formally inaugurated in the History Department in May of 1990. After a competition for the position of Chairholder was announced, Mark Stolarik was among those who applied and he won the competition. In January of 1992 Stolarik began his career as Professor and Chairholder of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa. Since then he has regularly taught courses on the history of the Slovaks, on Central European history and on the history of Immigration to North America. In addition, he has established a Slovak Archives at the University with collections from prominent Slovak personalities and institutions in the USA and Canada. With additional funds raised in the last twenty-six years, Stolarik has established seven scholarship funds at the University, to promote the study of Slovak history, to allow outside scholars to do research in the Slovak Archives, and to invite guest speakers to address matters of interest to the scholarly and local Slovak community. He also organized three major international conferences at the University, one of which (in 2002) was opened by the President of the Slovak Republic. The papers of all three conferences have been published. Altogether Stolarik has published ten books and over sixty articles in scholarly journals pertaining to Slovak or immigrant history. His most recent publication is: *The Czech and Slovak Republics: Twenty Years of Independence, 1993-2013* (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2016).

In addition to his professional interests, Stolarik continues to actively participate in North American Slovak communities. Besides being a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the National Slovak Society and the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Stolarik has been a member of the Canadian Slovak League since 1958. In 1993 he was elected National President and served for two terms. In 2007 he was elected President of Branch 63 in Ottawa, a position which he still holds. In 2016 he was re-elected National President of the Canadian Slovak League.

Officials in Slovakia have recognized Mark Stolarik's achievements with various awards. In 1992 the Matica slovenská gave him its silver medal. In 1998 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic awarded him its silver medal. The President of the Slovak Republic awarded Stolarik the Presidential Medal in 2002. Finally, in 2013 the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic inducted Mark Stolarik as a "Goodwill Envoy" of the Slovak Republic.

Mark Stolarik is married to the former Anne Ivančo of Oshawa and has two sons: Andrej and Matthew.

Ad multos annos!

- Submitted by Anne Stolarik



(L – R) Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director; and John Jurcenko, Branch 153 President.

Some of the members of Branch 153 enjoying the afternoon luncheon.



## Spring Meeting of Branch 153

St. Stephen Branch 153 held its meeting on April 7, 2018 at the Cucina Biago Restaurant in Harwood Heights, IL. Delegates for the upcoming FCSU Convention were chosen. After the business portion of the meeting, members enjoyed a delicious luncheon.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

## Scholarships Available Through United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH

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



The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting [www.americanslovakclub.com](http://www.americanslovakclub.com).

Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

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

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

## Správy zo Slovenska

**Bratislava** – Z rúk ministerky školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR Martiny Lubyovej (nominantka SNS) si v utorok v Bratislave prevzali pedagógovia a odborníci z oblasti školstva z celého Slovenska ocenenie. Veľké i malé medaily sv. Gorazda a ďakovné listy dostalo celkovo 61 učiteľov a pracovníkov v školstve. Ministerka školstva vo svojom príhovore vyzdvihla význam a poslanie učiteľského povolania. „Slovensko je krajinou, ktorej úspech závisí od ľudského kapitálu, a preto potrebujeme dobrých učiteľov, odborníkov, akými ste vy,“ povedala Lubyová.

**Bratislava** – Spoločnosť Uber musí prestať prevádzkovať taxislužby na Slovensku prostredníctvom osôb a vozidiel, ktoré nespĺňajú zákonné požiadavky. Rovnako nesmie sprostredkovať taxislužby osobám, ktoré nevyhovujú podmienkam kladeným na vodiča taxislužby. Rozhodol o tom v polovici februára Okresný súd Bratislava I v konaní o návrhu na nariadenie neodkladného opatrenia. Znamená to, že spoločnosť bude musieť svoju aplikáciu na Slovensku, ktorá funguje zatiaľ len v Bratislave, vypnúť.

**Žilina** - Žilinský samosprávny kraj (ŽSK), Žilinská univerzita (ŽU) a mesto Žilina podpísali Memorandum o spolupráci pri rozvoji Letiska Žilina, v ktorom deklarujú snahu zachovať prevádzku letiska, obnoviť pravidelnú linku a naštartovať jeho ďalší rozvoj. Informoval riaditeľ odboru informácií a zahraničných vzťahov Úradu ŽSK Lukáš Milan.

**Bratislava** - Dovolanie českého premiéra v demisii Andreja Babiša v spore s Ústavom pamäti národa (ÚPN) o tom či bol, alebo nebol agentom ŠTB sa na Najvyššom súde (NS) SR v blízkej budúcnosti neuzavrie. Spis a dovolanie Babiša sa totižto stále nachádza na Okresnom súde Bratislava 1 a nebol postúpený na NS SR.

**Bratislava** - Roman Chocholáč si za dvojnásobnú vraždu svojej tety Ivety Čubňovej a sesternice Ivany Krčulovej z novembra 2009, ktorá sa odohrala v katastri obce Kotešová – Oblazov, odpýka definitívne doživotný trest odňatia slobody. Rozhodol o tom v utorok trojčlenný senát Najvyššieho súdu (NS) SR, ktorý tak zamietol jeho dovolanie. „Formálne podmienky na podanie dovolania splnené boli, ale neboli splnené podmienky, aby sa dovolaniu vyhovel,“ uviedol predseda senátu NS SR. Chocholáčovo dovolanie obsahovalo takmer 50 bodov a prísediaci sudca ich čítal približne hodinu. Proti rozhodnutiu NS SR nie je prípustný opravný prostriedok.

**Bratislava** - Slovenskí vojaci, policajti a ďalší experti sa v roku 2017 zúčastnili 20 aktivít v oblasti medzinárodného krízového manažmentu. Najviac z nich vyplývalo z členstva v EÚ a Organizácii pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe (OBSE), ďalšie organizovalo NATO a OŠN. Informuje o tom správa, ktorú nedávno vlada vzala na vedomie. Slovensko - súhlasí, aby všetky členské štáty prispievali do rozpočtu EÚ viac ako v súčasnosti. Bude sa však zasadzovať o to, aby sa pravidlá pre realizáciu projektov spolufinancovaných z rozpočtu EÚ zjednodušili. Vyplýva to z materiálu, ktorý schválila vláda.

**Budapešť/Bratislava** - Krajiny regiónu strednej Európy sú v téme obrany a bezpečnosti jednotné, zaznelo v stredu v Budapešti na rokovaní ministrov obrany krajín Stredoeurópskej obrannej spolupráce (CEDC). Hovorkyňa Ministerstva obrany SR Danka Čapáková uviedla, že šéfovia rezortov obrany Česka, Chorvátska, Maďarska, Rakúska, Slovenska, Slovinska a Poľska ako pozorovateľskej krajiny tejto spolupráce sa dohodli na pokračovaní ďalšej spolupráce s dôrazom na posilňovanie reakcií schopnosti a prevenciu vzniku bezpečnostných hrozieb.

**Bratislava** - Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu (MŠVVŠ) SR splnilo iba desať cieľov zo 118, ku ktorým sa zaviazalo. Vyčíslil to nezaradený poslanec Národnej rady SR Martin Poliačik (Progresívne Slovensko), ktorý o tom hovoril na tlačovej konferencii v parlamente. Prácu rezortu školstva hodnotí známku nedostatočná a odporúča, čím by učiteľom reálne pomohol.

**Bratislava** - Zamestnávateľa a stredné odborné školy (SOŠ) nie sú spokojné so vzdelávaním v oblasti informačných a komunikačných technológií (IKT). Budúcnosť prináša výzvy v tejto oblasti, na ktoré pracovný trh na Slovensku nie je pripravený. Poukázali na to na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave zástupcovia zamestnávateľov a škôl, ktorí zároveň predstavili niektoré návrhy na riešenie tejto situácie.

**Bratislava** - Každý rok stúpa počet pacientov, ktorým nádej na zdravý život prináša transplantácia krvotvorných buniek. Klinika hematológie a transfúziológie v Univerzitnej nemocnici Bratislava (UNB) vlni transplantovala vyše 100 pacientov, čo lekári považujú za úspech, zväčša ide o nepribuzenské transplantácie. Pred približne desiatimi rokmi to bolo vyše 25 transplantovaných pacientov.

**Bratislava** - Deklarovaný oficiálny termín dokončenia nového futbalového štánku na bratislavskom Tehelnom poli ostáva nezmenený – koniec roka 2018. V rámci kontrolného dňa výstavby Národného futbalového štadióna (NFS) to oznámil predseda predstavenstva akciovej spoločnosti NFS Pavel Komorník.

**Bratislava** - Desať rodín, ktoré sa ocitli v núdzi, dostali od prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku po 478,60 eura. Rozdelil im svoj plat. Prezident vybral adresátov pomoci na základe návrhov neziskových organizácií, ktoré sa dlhodobo venujú ľuďom v núdzi – Plamienok, Úsmev ako dar, Liga proti rakovine, Dobrý anjel a Organizácia muskulárnych dystrofií v SR. Robí tak každý mesiac.

**Viedeň/Bratislava** - V súčasnosti sa nachádza vo väzbe v rakúskej metropole Viedni až 18 mladých Slovákov v kauze mladých prostitútov, ktorí páchali aj rozličnú inú závažnú trestnú činnosť. Uviedol to hovorca viedenskej polície Harald Sörös. Podľa jeho slov sú všetci títo väzobne stíhaní mladí Slováci z okolia Lučenca. Obvinení sú okrem sexuálnych deliktov, krádeží, lúpežných prepadnutí a majetkovej trestnej činnosti aj z vraždy v štádiu pokusu. Ako uviedol hovorca, prípad by mohol byť uzavretý za týždne až mesiace a niektorým hrozí trest až do 15 rokov odňatia slobody.

**Bratislava** - Zámer zavedenia zákonného percenta domácich hudobných diel vo vysielaní slovenských rozhlasových staníc sa naplnil, v éteri je naozaj počuť viac pôvodnej slovenskej hudby. Myslí si to nová ministerka kultúry Ľubica Laššáková (Smer-SD). Za každú cenu konzervovať súčasný stav však nemieni. „Diskusii na túto tému sa nebránim,“ uviedla v súvislosti s pripomienkami časti rozhlasových vysielateľov, ktorí napríklad upozorňujú, že zavedenie kvót „nepřípustným a neodôvodneným spôsobom retroaktívne zasiahlo do vlastníckych práv vysielateľov rozhlasovej programovej služby“.

**Bratislava** - Zúženú mozgovú tepnu začali v Bratislave operovať modernejšie a bezpečnejšie ako doteraz. Ide o novú metódu, zákrok už úspešne podstúpili prví pacienti. Operácie trvajú kratšie ako predtým, špeciálna zdravotnícka pomôcka, ktorú na to lekári používajú, je hradená zdravotnými poisťovňami.

**Bratislava** - Slovensko prejavilo solidaritu so Spojeným kráľovstvom v súvislosti s útokom nervovoparalytickou látkou na bývalého ruského špióna Sergeja Skripaľa a jeho dcéru Juliju a v otázke adekvátnej reakcie na tento čin sa správa zodpovedne a uvážlivo. V rozhovore pre Hospodárske noviny to uviedol minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák (nominant Smeru-SD).

**Banská Bystrica** - Prevencia nadváhy a obezity je témou tohtoročného Svetového dňa zdravia, ktorý si pripomíname 7. apríla. K aktivitám tejto celosvetovej kampane sa pridáva aj Regionálny úrad verejného zdravotníctva (RÚVZ) v Banskej Bystrici. Jeho pracovníci obyvateľom poradia, ako predchádzať obezite.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

## A.Kiska: Krajina bude ekonomicky úspešná, ak investuje do vzdelania

Na to, aby krajina patrila k najvyspelejším ekonomikám sveta, je potrebná investícia do vzdelania, do mladých ľudí a do inovácií. Prezident SR Andrej Kiska tak reagoval na otázku, o čom sa s juho-kórejským partnerom Mun Če-inom počas stretnutia rozprávali.

„Pred 50 rokmi bola Južná Kórea jednou z najchudobnejších krajín sveta. Dnes patrí medzi 11 najvyspelejších ekonomik sveta. Veľa sme diskutovali o tom, ako sa to dá dosiahnuť,“ spresnil.

Zároveň zdôraznil, že Južná Kórea je pre Slovensko nesmierne dôležitý partner. „Viac ako 50 percent investícií z mimoeurópskych krajín prišlo práve z Južnej Kórey. Bolo investovaných viac ako 2,5 miliardy eur a viac ako 100 spoločností vytvorilo tisíce pracovných miest. Veľmi dôležité je, že aj Slovensko je tu vnímané ako veľmi úspešná krajina a ako krajina, o ktorú sa môže Južná Kórea opierať,“ konštatoval Kiska.

V otázke blížiaceho sa medzikórejského summitu, ktorý sa uskutoční 27. apríla, sa Kiska a Mun zhodli na tom, že dialóg je nesmierne potrebný a prospešný. „Nie zastrašovanie, ale dialóg a nachádzanie mierových riešení,“ uzavrel slovenský prezident.

Mun počas rokovania ocenil, že v krátkej histórii bilaterálnych vzťahov ich Slovensko a Južná Kórea konzistentne rozvíjali. Vyjadril potešenie nad tým, že mnoho kórejských firiem, vrátane Kia Motors a Samsung Electronics, aktívne podnikajú v domovskej krajine, pričom dosahujú spoločne prospešné výsledky taktiež na Slovensku.

„Slovensko po vstupe do NATO a EÚ bolo schopné dosiahnuť politickú stabilitu a prudký ekonomický rast. Dostali ste prezývku ‚Tatranský tiger‘, vaša krajina taktiež prispieva k medzinárodnej mieru a bezpečnosti,“ uviedol juhokórejský prezident, pričom poukázal na slovenské predsedníctvo v Rade EÚ a na súčasného predsedu Valného zhromaždenia OSN Miroslava Lajčáka.

Následne si Andrej Kiska na Národnom cintoríne v Soule uctil prostredníctvom ceremónie kladenia vencov vojakov padlých v kórejskej vojne.

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## V Košiciach sa začali prípravy slávnosti blahorečenia Anny Kolesárovej

Napriek tomu, že termín blahorečenia Anny Kolesárovej z Vysokej nad Uhom v okrese Michalovce ešte nie je známy, prípravy na slávnosť s tým spojenú sa už začali.

Podľa hovorca rímskokatolíckeho Arcibiskupského úradu v Košiciach Jaroslava Fabiana sa už konalo viacero oficiálnych porád, zostavil sa prípravný tím slávnosti blahorečenia a zbierajú sa návrhy sprievodného programu.

„Vytvorila sa a spustila stránka [www.annakolesarova.sk](http://www.annakolesarova.sk), na ktorú sa budú postupne pridávať informácie pre farnosti, dobrovoľníkov, kňazov i bezpečnostné pokyny a odporúčania. V stredu podvečer 11. apríla 2018 sa v aule Teologickej fakulty v Košiciach uskutočnilo prvé informačné stretnutie so zástupcami košických farností, reholí, organizácií i spoločenstiev, na ktorom riaditeľ koordinačného výboru priprav slávnosti blahorečenia Ján Urban oslovil kňazov, rehoľníkov ale aj laikov s prosbou o aktívne zapojenie sa do priprav a oslovovaním dobrovoľníkov zo svojich farností a spoločenstiev predovšetkým z Košíc a okolia,“ uviedol Fabian.

Rektor Pastoračného centra Anny Kolesárovej, kňaz Pavol Hudák povzbudil k spojeniu sa v modlitbe za celý čas priprav aj za samotnú slávnosť, kedy, ako uviedol, očakáva otvorené nebo, z ktorého budú plynúť milosti pre toho, kto po nich zatúži.

„Odkaz Anny Kolesárovej je robiť správne rozhodnutia, zakladať zdravé manželstvá a šťastné rodiny, kde sa bude žiť v harmónii, láske a kultúre zdravých hodnôt,“ doplnil Fabian.

Anna Kolesárová sa narodila 14. júla 1928 vo Vysokej nad Uhom v okrese Michalovce. Jej život poznačilo rozhodnutie, ktoré si sama zvolila - radšej smrť než stratu panenstva. V závere druhej svetovej vojny ju zastrelil sovietsky vojak, ktorému sa odmietla podvoliť. Zomrela 22. novembra 1944 vo svojej rodnej obci, kde je aj pochovaná.

Vo farskej kronike v Pavlovciach nad Uhom sa o jej smrti nachádza zápis z roku 1944, ktorý urobil tamojší farár - dekan Anton Lukáč. Svedectvo podpísalo päť svedkov. Pri tomto hrdinskom čine ju podľa zápisu posilňoval eucharistický Kristus, lebo predtým pristúpila k svätej spovedi a k svätému prijímaniu. Jej hrob je dodnes cieľom pútnikov z celého Slovenska, najmä z radov mládeže.

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## Európska komisia vyčíta Slovensku najmä korupciu

Za posledný rok Slovensko v boji proti korupcii nedosiahlo žiadny viditeľný pokrok. Vyplýva to z najnovšej Správy o Slovensku z dielne Európskej komisie (EK).

„Zatiaľ vidíme, že sa nemení vnímanie korupcie medzi občanmi. Súčasne sa znížila reálna fyzická kapacita špeciálnej prokuratúry na riešenie korupčných prípadov, ktorých pritom bolo v trestnom stíhaní menej. Z toho vychádza to hodnotenie, že tam nebol dosiahnutý žiadny viditeľný pokrok. Uvidíme, či opatrenia, čo vláda prijala, budú mať nejaký efekt na hodnotenie v nasledujúcom roku,“ uviedol vedúci Zastúpenia EK na Slovensku Ladislav Miko.

EK podľa správy nie je spokojná ani so závislosťou šéfa polície a policajnej inšpekcie od ministra vnútra. Zároveň radí zlepšiť ochranu pri nahlasovaní korupcie. Pozitívne naopak vníma zapojenie mimovládnych organizácií do monitorovania korupcie.

Správu EK potvrdzuje aj prieskum Eurobarometru. Ukazuje, že vnímanie korupcie v niektorých oblastiach je na Slovensku výnimočne vysoké. Ide napríklad o korupciu v zdravotníctve, na policii, súdoch, úrade prokuratúry či v sektore vzdelávania. Vnímание korupcie v politike je vysoké vo všetkých krajinách EÚ.

„Správa o Slovensku 2018 - Slovensko očami Európskej komisie“ je nezávislý analytický dokument, ktorý opisuje stav krajiny vo viacerých oblastiach. Na základe správy a stretnutí s predstaviteľmi krajiny EK v máji uverejní svoje odporúčania pre členský štát.

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## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### Spomienkova oslava storočnice od podpísania Pittsburskej dohody

#### Oslava v Pittsburghu, PA

Oslava v Pittsburghu, PA bude vo štvrtok 31. mája 2018 o 6.00 hodine večer v Heinz History Center. Vstupné je \$35.00. Vstupenky sú na predaj do 15. mája u Carol Hockman, e-mail: carolh254@aol.com alebo honorárneho konzula SR Jozefa T. Senko, e-mail: jsenko@aol.com tel. 412 956 6000.

Slovenská liga pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na túto významnú spomienku, ktorá sa zapísala do dejín slovenského národa. Slovenské organizácie, združené v Slovenskej lige v Amerike podpísali spolu s Českým národným združením v USA a s Tomášom G. Masarykom tento historický document 31. mája 1918. Dokument zaručoval identitu a samosprávu slovenského národa v budúcom spoločnom štáte, ktorý mal vzniknúť po skončení I. Svetovej vojny. Je to Magna charta slovenského národa. Slovenská liga uložila original Pittsburskej dohody v prestížnom Heinz History Center v Pittsburghu, PA.

## Letná univerzita slovenského jazyka v Bratislave

Dovoľujeme si Vás krajanov pozvať na Letnú univerzitu slovenského jazyka a kultúry 2018, ktorú naša inštitúcia - Jazyková a odborná príprava cudzincov a krajanov (JOP) organizuje už od roku 1990.

Budeme „SPÁJAŤ SVET SLOVENČINOU“ v dňoch 1. – 20. júla 2018 v hlavnom meste Slovenska - v Bratislave.

Zúčastnenci sa môžu prihlásiť na jeden z troch programov:

- Kurz slovenského jazyka a kultúry
- Kurz slovenského jazyka a kultúry pre krajanov
- Kurz slovenského jazyka a odborných predmetov pre krajanov - maturantov

Počas 3-týždňového intenzívneho kurzu slovenského jazyka a kultúry budú mať účastníci možnosť získať alebo si prehĺbiť komunikačnú kompetenciu v slovenskom jazyku a rozšíriť poznatky v oblasti slovenskej lingvistiky, literatúry, histórie a kultúry.

Pripravené sú jazykové kurzy na všetkých úrovniach znalosti jazyka ako aj bohatý program mimoškolských aktivít. Viac informácií: <http://cdv.uniba.sk/ujop/letna-univerzita/>

Prihlášku je potrebné podať do 16. júna 2018.

Pri zaplacení poplatkov do 30. apríla 2018 poskytujeme zľavu 10% zo školného.

Kurzy pre krajanov a krajanov - maturantov sú hrazené zo štipendia MŠVVaŠ SR.

Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť na Letnej univerzite slovenského jazyka a kultúry 2018! Prosím, distribuujte túto ponuku Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí (krajanom), ako aj všetkým, ktorí majú záujem o výučbu slovenského jazyka.

**Mgr. Tatiana Ilavská, PhD., manažérka marketingu**

## Kalendár podujatí pre krajanov

Vážení a milí krajanovia,

chceli by sme Vám dať do pozornosti, že **kalendár podujatí pre krajanov na rok 2018** bol na základe výsledkov koordinačnej porady a rozhodnutia ministerky školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR **schválený**.

Vzdelávacie programy pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí s dotáciou MŠVVaŠ SR, organizované Centrom ďalšieho vzdelávania Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave (ČDV UK), sú uverejnené na portály pre vzdelávanie Slovákov v zahraničí Eduabroad.sk a môžete sa začať na ne prihlasovať.

V prípade akýchkoľvek otázok, kontaktujte prosím, manažérku vzdelávania pre krajanov ČDV UK Mgr. Ludmilu Ábelovú, tel.: +421 2 50 11 77 19, mobil: +421 911 730 039, e-mail: abelova@cdv.uniba.sk.

V prípade záujmu o štúdium slovenského jazyka, pripomíname, že vzdelávacie programy slovenčiny ako cudzieho jazyka nájdete na stránke Jazykovej a odbornej prípravy cudzincov a krajanov ČDV UK.

Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

**Mgr. Tatiana Ilavská, PhD.  
manažérka marketingu**

## Slovenskí biskupi podporili snahu verejnosti o slušnejšie Slovensko

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Podľa pražského kardinála Dominika Duku je tak ako na Slovensku aj v Čechách situácia v spoločnosti turbulentná. „U nás sa politická scéna rozdrobila na množstvo strán a je pre mňa záhadou, ako je možné, že sú v demokratickom parlamente strany, o ktorých média hovoria, že sú fašistické alebo pronacistické,“ uviedol Duka. Podľa jeho slov by pri takýchto podozreniach mali konať príslušné orgány a tieto strany zakázať. „Ale keď im dávame dokonca možnosť zostavovať vládu, tak sa pýtam, kde je pravda a aký by mal byť postup do budúcnosti? My môžeme pokojne povedať, že cirkev sa nikdy nestotožnila s nacizmom ani s fašizmom, ale ani s marxizmom a komunizmom. To sú skutočnosti, na ktorých musí cirkev stáť, aby mohla byť skutočným hlásateľom slobody a rovnosti všetkých ľudí,“ zdôraznil kardinál.

Predstavitelia slovenskej a českej biskupskej konferencie okrem toho rokovali aj o výsledkoch niekoľkoročnej práce na revízií Kódexu kánonického práva z roku 1983, do ktorého boli vložené dodatky vydané pápežmi sv. Jánom Pavlom II., Benediktom XVI. a Františkom. Zaoberali sa tiež elektronizáciou cirkevných procesov, prípravou na nové legislatívne pravidlá pri ochrane osobných údajov a vypočuli si správu o aktuálnej situácii Pápežského slovenského kolégia svätých Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme. Zaoberali sa aj aktivitami Slovenskej katolíckej charity i príprave Národného stretnutia mládeže P18, ktoré sa uskutoční na konci júla v Prešove.

TASR



## Metodické centrum UMB pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí dvadsaťpäťročné

MC UMB pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí začalo písať svoje dejiny 1.1.1993. Za jeho autorským konceptom stáli vtedajší pedagógovia UMB, ktorí predložili víziu centra Ministerstvu školstva. Ešte v tom istom roku vysokoškolskí učitelia z katedry slovenského jazyka a literatúry rozbehli činnosť MC a uskutočnili prvé tri metodické kurzy pre krajanov.

Centrum pri jeho vzniku podporovalo aj MZV v spolupráci s Maticou slovenskou, prostredníctvom Domu zahraničných Slovákov. Prvé aktivity MC UMB boli zamerané na vysielanie učiteľov medzi krajskými pedagógov. V krajských komunitách viedli metodické kurzy zamerané najmä na oblasť výučby slovenského jazyka. Prvým hmotným výsledkom práce bola učebnica slovenského jazyka pre nedeľnú školu Slovenského kultúrneho spolku v Buenos Aires.

V roku 2005 MC UMB bola udelená akreditácia a od roku 2009 začalo realizovať výjazdové didaktické kurzy, ktoré boli „šité na mieru“ danej komunity, vďaka čomu si získali nemalú obľubu.

MC UMB sa transformovalo na moderné, progresívne pracovisko, ktoré realizuje množstvo aktivít najmä pre krajskú mládež. Pripravuje školy v prírode, špecializované vzdelávacie aktivity, súťaže, letné a športové tábory a školy slovenského jazyka, folklóru či tradičnej kultúry.

Dňa 12.4.2018, v Aule Rotunda EF UMB v Banskej Bystrici sa uskutočnil slávnostný ceremoniál pod názvom „Korene a krídla“ venovaný 25. výročiu MC UMB pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

V hľadisku sedeli tí, ktorí zasvätili pracovný život metodickému centru, tí, ktorí s ním spolupracujú, ale i vzácni hostia, ktorí jeho činnosť podporili rozličným spôsobom. V auditórii nechýbali ani zástupcovia najvýznamnejších organizácií krajanov zo Srbska, Poľska, Rumunska i Ukrajiny. Spomínalo sa, hodnotilo a oceňovalo. Bilancovalo sa i plánovalo... No najmä – oslavovalo sa.

Matica slovenská, blahozelá ocenením a vyslovuje MC UMB úprimné želanie: veľa tvorivých nápadov, silnú podporu zo strany štátu, šikovných zamestnancov a mnoho krásnych rokov ďalšej prospešnej práce.

**Zuzana Pavelcová**

## Na UK bude v letnom semestri študovať 115 nových študentov

Na Univerzite Komenského v Bratislave bude v rámci letného semestra akademického roka 2017/2018 študovať 115 nových študentov prostredníctvom programu Erasmus+. Ako uviedla prorektorka UK pre medzinárodné vzťahy Daniela Ostatníková, študenti pochádzajú z 19 krajín Európy.

Najviac ich prichádza z Portugalska. Za nimi nasledujú študenti z Turecka, Francúzska a Talianska. „Najväčší počet zahraničných študentov bude študovať na Fakulte managementu UK, ale aj na Filozofickej fakulte a Právnickej fakulte,“ skonštatovala Ostatníková. Dodala, že v ostatných rokoch vidieť výrazný nárast študentov, ktorí prichádzajú študovať na Slovensko. Okrem študentov z krajín EÚ, do Bratislavy pricestovali aj študenti z Ukrajiny a Srbska v rámci rôznych projektov. Letný semester sa začína v pondelok 19. februára, dovtedy sa budú mladí ľudia zo zahraničia s krajinou zoznamovať a zvykať si na nové podmienky.

„Môj priateľ bol na Slovensku a páči sa mi váš jazyk,“ povedala Cornelia z Viedne s tým, že sa chce slovenčinu aj naučiť. Podľa jej ďalších slov na Slovensku bola už pred tromi rokmi na prázdninách. „Na UK prišiel študovať aj Sebastian z Nemecka, ktorý sa chce tiež naučiť niečo po slovensky a okrem štúdia chce aj cestovať. „Chcel som mať trochu viac času na cestovanie a spoznať Slovensko lepšie. Lákala ma aj Bratislava ako mesto a blízkosť Rakúska a Maďarska,“ uviedol Dávid z Českej republiky, ktorý prišiel študovať do Bratislavy geografu. Slovensko si vybral na základe odporúčania kamaráta, ktorý študoval v hlavnom meste vlni.

„V zimnom semestri študovalo na UK 350 zahraničných študentov,“ povedala Ostatníková. Z nich zhruba sto zostáva v Bratislave na celý akademický rok. „Mnohí z tých, ktorí prídu k nám na jeden semester, si to rozmyslia a požiadajú aj o ďalší semester pobytu,“ vysvetlila prorektorka. Opačným smerom idú študenti z UK. V tomto akademickom roku je ich 600, najviac mladých ľudí do zahraničia vyslala Fakulta managementu.

TASR

## Jediné, čo zatiaľ na Slovensku nie je dobré, je politika

Na to, aby sme posunuli krajinu dopredu, potrebujeme, aby politici brali svoje povolanie ako službu. Podniky na Slovensku nachádzajú najvyššiu kvalitu a najlepších ľudí, jediné, čo nie je dobré, je politika. Na utorkovom podujatí Forbes 30 pod 30 v Bratislave to zdôraznil prezident SR Andrej Kiska.

Podľa neho treba hovoriť o tom, aké chceme Slovensko v tom okruhu, na ktorý máme dosah. Ak chceme posunúť SR dopredu, politici by mali brať svoje povolanie ako službu a nebrali to ako svoju pozíciu pre získavanie moci, dodal.

Na otázku, či bude opäť kandidovať za prezidenta SR, priamo neodpovedal. „Určite spravím všetko pre to, čo je v mojich silách, aby bolo Slovensko krajinou, kde stojí za to žiť,“ deklaroval.

Na Slovensku podľa Kisku podniky nachádzajú najvyššiu kvalitu a najlepších ľudí. „Jediné, čo zatiaľ nemáme stále dobré, je, žiaľ, politika,“ poznamenal prezident. Krajina podľa neho musí byť viac v rukách ľudí, „nie v rukách zopár vyvolených“.

„Každý jeden, kto chce zmeniť Slovensko, by mal začať s tou zmenou okolo seba,“ skonštatoval prezident s tým, že takýmto spôsobom sa môže SR posunúť. Pripomenul však, že Slovensko už úspešne je a za posledných 25 rokov má za sebou obrovský kus cesty.

TASR

## Zahraničná politika nikdy nebola taká turbulentná ako v súčasnosti

Zahraničná politika nebola nikdy taká turbulentná, ako je teraz, a preto je potrebné hovoriť o veciach otvorene i kriticky. Uvedol to minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák pri príležitosti Hodnotiacej konferencie zahraničnej a európskej politiky SR za rok 2017 v Bratislave.

Zdôraznil, že konferencia nesie názov hodnotiaci nielen preto, aby sme sa obzerali dozadu, ale aby sa Slovensko vedelo pripraviť do budúcnosti. „Hodnotíme hlavne preto, aby sme sa dokázali pripraviť na náročné obdobie. Viac ako kedykoľvek predtým potrebujeme hovoriť realisticky, otvorene aj kriticky, keďže zahraničná politika nebola nikdy taká turbulentná,“ povedal Lajčák. „Svet nikdy nebol taký plný paradoxov ako dnes,“ doplnil.

Pripomenul tiež, že na jednej strane počet konfliktov vo svete klesá, na druhej strane však už siedmy rok sledujeme jeden z najhorších konfliktov v Sýrii. „Obliehanie Aleppa alebo východnej Ghúty trvá dlhšie než obliehanie Leningradu či Sarajeva,“ uviedol.

Upozornil tiež, že svet je v súčasnosti najbohatší v histórii, ale stále „mnoho ľudí žije pod hranicou chudoby“.

Na 18. ročníku konferencie sa na paneli s názvom 25 rokov zahraničnej politiky SR zúčastnia aj bývalý minister medzinárodných vzťahov SR Pavol Demeš, bývalí ministri zahraničných vecí SR Pavol Hamžík a Eduard Kukan. Na konferencii sa bude hovoriť aj o prioritách slovenskej zahraničnej a európskej politiky či nástrojoch a komunikácii slovenskej zahraničnej a európskej politiky.



TASR

## Americká zbrojovka prezentovala v Bratislave stíhačky F-16

Ponuku na nákup stíhacích lietadiel F-16 pre Slovenskú republiku prezentovali 10. apríla 2018 v Bratislave zástupcovia amerického zbrojárskeho a leteckého koncernu Lockheed Martin. Spresnili, že ak sa SR pre ich ponuku rozhodne, prvé stíhačky by mohli dodať koncom roka 2022.

Na Slovensku sa už dlho hovorí o potrebe vymeniť ruské stíhačky MiG-29 za flotilu modernejších bojových lietadiel. Jednou z možností sú stíhacie lietadlá F-16, verzia BLOCK 70, ktoré ponúkajú Spojené štáty a ďalšou možnosťou sú švédске stroje Gripen.

Predstavitel' americkej zbrojovky Michael Kelley priblížil, že cena ponúkaných stíhačiek „bude konkurencieschopná švédskym gripenom a bude súčasťou celého balíka, ktorý zahŕňa výcvik i zbrane,“ no presnú sumu povedať nechcel, pretože o predaji sa stále rokuje.

Zástupca Lockheed Martin taktiež neuviedol presné náklady za letovú hodinu. Spresnil, že gripeny môžu mať na jednej strane náklady nižšie, no menšia bude v porovnaní s F-16 aj ich životnosť.

Termín dodania nebude skôr ako v roku 2022, dôležitá je príprava infraštruktúry na Slovensku. „Plánované dodanie je pred koncom roka 2022,“ spresnil Kelley s tým, že v tom čase by na Slovensko mali dodať prvé štyri stroje. Niektoré pre výcvik personálu ostanú v USA, dodal.

Ponuka by mala zahŕňať i tréningový program pilotov. „Keďže proces predaja je ešte len v procese riešenia, je ťažké stanoviť presný čas tréningu.“ Craig Dalle, bývalý pilot vzdušných síl USA, ktorý lietal na F-16-kach podľa vlastných skúseností to odhadol na tri roky. Zdôraznil, že dôležitý je aj výcvik technického personálu, ktorý bude vykonávať údržbu.

Stíhacie lietadlá F-16 BLOCK 70 má v súčasnosti v prevádzke 25 štátov, ku ktorým patrí napríklad Taliansko, Nórsko či Poľsko.

Nadzvukové lietadlá F-16 sú podľa Kelleyho „najúspešnejšie stíhačky na svete, čo je overené aj v bojových podmienkach“. Tieto stíhacie lietadlá majú lepšiu dobu strehu vo vzduchu, vyššiu maximálnu nosnosť lietadla a taktiež dlhšiu životnosť, tvrdí predstaviteľ Lockheed Martin. „Modernizácia konštrukcie zaisťuje, že F-16 budú lietať minimálne do roku 2045“.

Zdôraznil, že jednou z najväčších devíz týchto stíhačiek je radar typu AESA, ktorý ponúka lepší rozsah detekcie a umožňuje sledovanie viac ako 20 cieľov naraz. Rovnako je schopný snímať väčšie objemy dát a používa sa aj v lietadlách 5. generácie.

Kongres Spojených štátov amerických začal 4. apríla na základe požiadavky Ministerstva obrany SR s procesom schvaľovania ponuky na nákup stíhacích lietadiel F-16 pre Slovenskú republiku (tzv. Letter of Offer and Acceptance) v rámcovej sume 2,91 miliardy amerických dolárov.

Slovenský rezort obrany vysvetlil, že finančná čiastka je navýšená o približne miliardu eur z dôvodu, aby sa v prípade ďalších potrieb objednávateľa nemusel opätovne realizovať proces schvaľovania.

Ministerstvo obrany SR zároveň upozornilo, že ak Kongres ponuku schváli, v žiadnom prípade to neznamená, že vedenie rezortu už rozhodlo o nákupe tohto typu stíhacích lietadiel. Po zväžení ponuky, tak z americkej, ako aj zo švédskej strany, predloží minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš najefektívnejšie riešenie vláde SR, a to najneskôr do 29. júna 2018.

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## Prezentácia memoárov F. Revesa v kostole Sv. Rodiny, New Jersey

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

kňazom a podieľala sa na organizovaní ich útekov za hranice. V roku 2011, v roku nedežitej storočnice tejto skromnej slovenskej rehoľničky, vyšlo aj slovenské vydanie knihy pod názvom Útek sestry Cecílie. Sestra Cecília po pôsobení v Oaklande v Kalifornii sa v roku 1956 presťahovala do Gary v štáte Indiana, kde 20. januára 1985 zomrela.

MUDr. Františka Šubika, básnickým menom Andrej Žarnov, zachránil Reves aj s rodinou. Šubík bol jeden z prvých profesorov patológie na Slovensku a stal sa členom vyšetrovacej komisie Červeného kríža, ktorá v roku 1943 vyšetrovala masaker v Katyňskom lese. Reves pomohol utiecť aj Jozefovi Bábikovi, ktorý v rokoch 1954-1964 pôsobil medzi krajanmi v Cleve-lande, neskôr v Slovenskej katolíckej misii v Londýne.

Príspevok zaslala Sabina Sabados  
Regionálna riaditeľka IKSJ

## Peter Sagan triumfoval na pretekoch Paríž – Roubaix

Slovenský cyklista Peter Sagan triumfoval na treťom monamente sezóny, 116. ročníku Paríž - Roubaix 8. apríla 2018 v Roubaixe. Sagan zvládol 257 km dlhú „Kráľovnú klasík“ z Compiègne do Roubaix za 5:54:06 h a triumf spečatil v šprinterskom súboji dvojice na velodróme. V dramatickom finiši zdolal Švajčiara Silvana Dilliera z AG2R.



FOTO TASR/AP

Slovakia's Peter Sagan poses after winning the 116th edition of the Paris-Roubaix cycling classic, a 257 km (160 mile) one day race, with about 20 percent of the distance run on cobblestones, at the velodrome in Roubaix, northern France, Sunday, April 8, 2018.

TASR

## Slovensko kandiduje na predsedníctvo v Rade OECD

Slovensko chce byť v roku 2019 krajinou, ktorá na ministerskej úrovni predsedá Rade Organizácie pre hospodársku spoluprácu a rozvoj (OECD). Kandidatúru musí odobriť vláda, ktorá to má v programe stredajšej schôdze. V poradí tretia významná kandidatúra Slovenska za sebou je podľa ministerstva zahraničných vecí potvrdením záujmu byť aktívnou krajinou na medzinárodnej scéne.

OECD je prestížnou organizáciou, ktorá pravidelne vypracováva a publikuje odborné štúdie a ekonomické analýzy pomáhajúce realizovať reformy a politiky hospodárskeho rozvoja. Kandidatúra Slovenska na čele jej rady prichádza potom, ako SR v druhom polroku 2016 predsedalo v Rade EÚ a následne sa rozhodlo aj o predsedníctve SR v Organizácii pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe (OBSE) v roku 2019.

Kabinet v stredu uskutoční i výmenu zástupcov štátu v Hospodárskej a sociálnej rade SR v súvislosti s rekonštrukciou vlády. Predsedom rady ostane minister práce Ján Richter (Smer-SD). Opúšťajú ju exministri Robert Kaliňák (Smer-SD), Lucia Žitňanská (Most-Híd) a bývalý podpredseda vlády pre investície a informatizáciu Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD), ktorý sa stal premiérom. V rade ho nahradí podpredseda vlády Richard Raši (Smer-SD), pribudne v nej však i nový minister spravodlivosti Gábor Gál (Most-Híd).

Ministri budú mať na stole rad informačných správ. Ministerka kultúry Ľubica Laššáková (Smer-SD) predkladá štvrtú správu o používaní štátneho jazyka na území SR. Vláda jej uloží úlohu prijať opatrenia na zlepšenie úrovne ovládania štátneho jazyka v regionálnom školstve. Školskí inšpektori napríklad zistili, že na prvom stupni ZŠ s vyučovacím jazykom maďarským učiteľia slovenčiny nedostatočne dbali na správnu výslovnosť. Ustny prejav bol u väčšiny žiakov jednoduchý, u niektorých sa prejavovala komunikačná bariéra.

Ministerstvo hospodárstva pripravuje druhý antibyrokatický balíček na zlepšenie podmienok pre podnikateľov na Slovensku. Uvádza sa to v Správe o stave podnikateľského prostredia v SR. Pri vypracovaní balíčka sa rezort opiera o viac ako 150 podnetov od podnikateľov a ministerstiev. V balíčku, ktorý chce rezort predložiť v priebehu druhého štvrťroka, chce reagovať aj na najnovšie výsledky ankety Byrokratický nezmysel za rok 2017. Opatrenia budú pokrývať predovšetkým oblasti elektronizácie, zjednodušovania procesov či získavania povolení a znižovanie byrokracie.

Na využívanie elektronických služieb štátu by nemusela byť potrebná takzvaná čítačka eID v takej miere, ako je tomu dnes. V informačnej správe o plnení Národnej koncepcie informatizácie verejnej správy na Slovensku to uvádza podpredseda vlády Richard Raši. Prihlasovanie a vyjadrovanie vôle pomocou eID čítačky označil za poslednú bariéru po tom, ako je od začiatku roka možné platiť kartou za elektronické služby verejnej správy. Na zjednodušení používania čítačky eID sa podľa správy „intenzívne pracuje“.

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## Štátny tajomník Ivan Korčok vystúpil na pôde George Washington University

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Na podujatí sa zúčastnili študenti, profesori, predstavitelia diplomatického zboru, mimovládnych organizácií a think tankov a zástupcovia médií. V následnej diskusii sa zaujímali o politický vývoj na Slovensku, stav rokovaní o brexite, ale aj o modernizáciu ozbrojených síl a záväzok SR zvýšiť obranné výdavky.

Počas pracovnej návštevy Spojených štátov rokoval štátny tajomník s námestníkom Ministerstva zahraničných vecí USA pre Európu a euroázijské záležitosti Wessom Mitchellom. I. Korčok sa tiež stretol s predstaviteľmi Slovensko-americkej rady pre obchod a inovácie (SABIC) vo Washingtone, ktorej členmi sú významné slovenské a americké spoločnosti ako Honeywell, AT&T, ESET, Virtual Reality Media a Lockheed Martin. Predstavitel'ov SABIC zaujímalo najmä vytvorenie konkrétnych príležitostí pre podporu rozvoja slovenských inovačných firiem a startupov v USA. Napokon sa I. Korčok stretol s predstaviteľmi viacerých popredných washingtonských think tankov ako Brookings Institution, Centre for European Policy Analysis a Atlantic Council.

Veľvyslanectvo SR vo Washingtone

O. Štefan Furdek  
Náš zakladateľ

## Štátny tajomník Ivan Korčok vystúpil na pôde George Washington University

„Slovensko a Spojené štáty sú strategickí partneri. Sme hodnotovo a ekonomicky prepojení,“ povedal štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Ivan Korčok 27. marca 2018 na pôde prestížnej americkej univerzity George Washington University. Na podujatí pod názvom „Talking EU and Transatlantic Relations“ I. Korčok vyjadril jednoznačné presvedčenie, že Európsku úniu a Spojené štáty spája dlhá história úzkej spolupráce, ktorá bola dôležitá v minulosti, ale dnešný rozkolísaný svet ešte výraznejšie podčiarkuje jej nevyhnutnosť.

Vystúpenie štátneho tajomníka na univerzite sa symbolicky koná v deň 15. výročia od schválenia pristúpenia k Sverootlantickej zmluve vládou SR (27. marca 2003). V tomto roku si tiež pripomínáme viaceré výnimočné výročia: 25 rokov vzniku samostatného Slovenska a nadviazania diplomatických vzťahov medzi Slovenskou republikou a Spojenými štátmi, ako aj storočnicu založenia Československa. V tejto súvislosti I. Korčok vyzdvihol aktívnu úlohu Spojených štátov pri budovaní moderného a demokratického Slovenska - od prezidenta W. Wilsona pri zakladaní spoločného štátu s Čechmi až po transformačnú pomoc po vzniku samostatného Slovenska. Cez jednoduché poslanstvo „Európa celistvá, Európa slobodná a Európa mierová“, si Spojené štáty zadefinovali obsah svojej misie v 90. rokoch na Slovensku a v celej strednej Európe. Podľa Korčoka však tento slogan nestražil význam ani dnes. Dnes je Slovensko plne integrované v euroatlantických štruktúrach. „Naša orientácia na Západ je náš slovenský záujem. Členstvo v EÚ a NATO posilňujú náš vplyv a postavenie vo svete,“ konštatoval I. Korčok.

Pokračovanie na str. 23

**State Secretary of the Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Ministry Ivan Korcok speaks at George Washington University on March 27, 2018 on the EU and transatlantic relations.**



Na snímke zľava spoluorganizátor podujatia Fr. Jozef Krajňák, PhD spolu s niektorými členmi Spolku 745 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a účastníkmi Prezentácie memoárov v kostole Svätej Rodiny v Linden, New Jersey 13. apríla 2018.

*The memoirs of František Reves, „Živého ma nedostanete“ was presented at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey on April 13, 2018.*

## Prezentácia memoárov F. Revesa v kostole Sv. Rodiny, New Jersey

Prezentácia knihy Memoáre Františka Revesa „Živého ma nedostanete!“, sa konala v piatok 13. apríla 2018 v kostole Sv. Rodiny 210 Monroe St. Linden, New Jersey, o 7.00 PM, ktorú viedol Msgr. Imrich Tóth, rektor Slovenskej katolíckej misie (SKM) v Paríži. Vyšlo už druhé, rozšírené vydanie knihy, ktoré sa stretlo s veľkým záujmom. Po slovenskej sv. omši nasledovala prednáška s videoprojekciou a diskusiou, kde prítomní si mali možnosť zakúpiť toto dielo a podporiť SKM v Paríži. Podujatie zorganizoval Fr. Martin Kertys, ako aj na viacerých miestach v New Jersey, v New Yorku a Washington DC.

Téma prednášky: „Živého ma nedostanete!“, František Reves bol ústrednou postavou ilegálnych útekov kňazov, bohoslovcov i laikov cez hranice do slobodného sveta v časoch komunistickej totality v Č-SR na začiatku 50. rokov 20. Storočia. Neskôr F. Reves takmer 40 rokov pôsobil ako misionár na SKM v Paríži.

Niektoré osobnosti, ktoré Reves zachránil, pôsobili aj v USA, či inde na americkom kontinente. napr. Fr. Juraj Torok, C.O. zakladateľ „New York Oratory of St Philip Neri“ a v súčasnosti pastoračne pôsobí v diecéze New York, a kňaz Alojz Pestún, ktorý taktiež pôsobí v USA, v Kalifornii.

V 50. rokoch minulého storočia zviditeľnila Slovákov v USA rehoľná sestra Cecília. Aj ju zachránil František Reves. Bola to odvážna žena, ktorá aj sama pomáhala prenasledovaným

Pokračovanie na str. 23



## Zomrel expredseda NR SR a niekdajší podpredseda Smeru-SD P. Paška

Kolegovia z NR SR sa zapisovali do kondolenčnej knihy v súvislosti s úmrtím bývalého predsedu NR SR Pavla Pašku v priestoroch Národnej rady SR v Bratislave 6. apríla 2018. Pavol Paška zomrel na infarkt vo veku 60 rokov. Skonal v piatok dopoludnia 6. apríla 2018 v areáli Železničnej nemocnice s poliklinikou Košice. Paška bol predsedom parlamentu dvakrát. Svoje druhé funkčné obdobie však ukončil predčasne v roku 2014 v súvislosti s kauzou predraženého piešťanského CT prístroja. Vo funkcii predsedu parlamentu Paška nahradil práve terajší premiér Peter Pellegrini. Do roku 2016 bol aj podpredsedom Smeru-SD.



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

**Former President of the Slovak Parliament Pavel Paška died April 6, 2018**

## Slovenskí biskupi podporili snahu verejnosti o slušnejšie Slovensko

V Nitre sa 11. apríla 2018 skončilo 89. plenárne zasadnutie Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS), ktoré bolo spojené aj s plenárnym zasadnutím Českej biskupskej konferencie (ČBK). Od 9. apríla sa na ňom zúčastňovalo 14 slovenských biskupov, ktorí sa spolu s českými hodnostármi zaoberali nielen vnútornými záležitosťami cirkvi, ale aj súčasnou vnútropolitickou situáciou v oboch krajinách.

Podpora snáh o spravodlivejšiu spoločnosť a boj proti korupcii sa dostali aj do spoločného záverečného vyhlásenia. „Spája nás spoločná minulosť, počas ktorej sme zápasili aj za náboženskú slobodu a občianske práva. Na útlak a obeť mnohých kresťanov nesmieme zabudnúť. Táto skúsenosť nás naučila vážiť si slobodu, rozpoznať nové ideológie a brániť skutočné hodnoty. Poslušnosť voči evanjeliovým hodnotám nás vyzýva k zápasu o skutočne slušnú spravodlivú spoločnosť, v ktorej odmietame korupciu a nespravodlivosť a usilujeme sa o úctu a pomoc starým, chorým a cudzincom,“ konštatuje sa okrem iného vo vyhlásení.

Bratislavský arcibiskup a predseda KBS Stanislav Zvolenský potvrdil, že odpoveďou cirkvi na aktuálnu situáciu v spoločnosti je podpora celospoločenského hnutia, ktoré sa usiluje o slušné Slovensko. „Je to vyjadrené v našom vyhlásení, že sa usilujeme o slušné Slovensko i slušnú Českú republiku a, samozrejme, že na prvom mieste je to odmietnutie korupcie a podpora všetkých aktivít zameraných na to, aby sa miera korupcie znížila,“ povedal arcibiskup.

Pokračovanie na str. 22