



# Jednota

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## President's 2018 Christmas Message

*Veselé Vianoce a Šťastlivý Nový Rok!*

Dear Members and Friends!

As I write this message I try to visualize the past year; the people I have met, the places I have visited and the new things I have learned. I also visualize the future of our great Society.

Yes, with dedicated members and careful, competent management the future can be positive.

One of the purposes of the First Catholic Slovak Union is to try to preserve and continue the core values handed down from our predecessors.

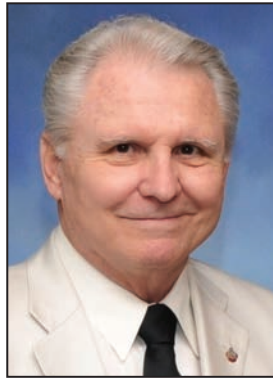
In 2019 we must remember the reason the Jednota was founded and reinforce and reenergize our mission. Almost all ethnic fraternal face declining membership. We must again become more relevant to our members and find ways to connect with younger generations. Easy to say, harder to do.

Christmas will soon be upon us, with family gatherings, Christmas Mass, the winter season and for many of us that means snow.

Time passes so quickly and we are all so busy or so distant that we often don't take the time to contact family members or old friends. I urge you to take the time to do so, especially at this Christmas time.

We thank and encourage those Branches and Districts that hold, sponsor and support the traditional Slovak Christmas dinners (Vilija or Štedrý Večer) in their areas. The Jednota newspaper provides the information. My wife and I will be attending several this year.

continued on page 3



Andrew M. Rajec

## Attention, ALL FCSU College-bound Seniors:



Don't let a scholarship opportunity fly away! The FCSU is now accepting applications for its 2019 Scholarship Program.

See page 13 for details.

## Christmas Coloring Contest



Deadline Approaches  
Hey, Kids. Don't miss out!

See page 7 for details.

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*Merry Christmas 2018*

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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

### December 25, 2018 (Midnight Mass) – The Nativity of the Lord

In reading the scriptures and prayers for the Christmas midnight Mass I couldn't help but be captured by the responsory which we sing together: "Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord." These words are adapted from the Gospel of Luke, where the angel announces to the shepherds tending their herds outside of Bethlehem:



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

"Today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Magnifying the glorious news expressed by the angel, the very word "today" lends power and relevance to its proclamation by reminding us that while the sacred event we celebrate—the birth of the child Jesus on Christmas—took place generations ago in human history, it has a very real relevance in our lives at present. Ancient history and our contemporary lives are brought together; Christ is indeed born in Bethlehem, but he is just as truly born anew in the heart of every believer here and now. This linking of history with the present moment is what we do in the liturgy every day, but it is especially apparent in this Christmas season.

What struck me next was the heaviness that is on the hearts of many Catholics "today" as the result of decades and more of the abuse of children who are the most innocent and helpless members of the Church. This has brought shame and darkness upon us, especially upon the clergy, and has caused many Catholics to no longer walk in fellowship with a Church they see as corrupt or hypocritical.

The prophet Isaiah's words resounded within me as I thought of this tragic time in our Church's life: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." In purely human terms one might say that those words betray a naive view of life, since to suggest that the pain and mistrust caused by abuse can be overcome appears far-fetched.

At the same time, in terms of our Christian faith this movement of healing is possible, for the source of hope for the people of Israel two thousand years ago is still the source of our hope "today," as we hear at mass from Isaiah once more: For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace" (Isa 9:1, 5). No matter how dark the sins of the leaders of the Church were and remain, they are ultimately overcome by the hope we have through the birth, life, death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is just as much today our "Wonder-Counselor" and "Prince of Peace."

The Letter to Titus expresses the same hope-filled thought in different words, referring more directly to Jesus as the source of our hope: "For the grace of God has appeared, saving all... he gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:11, 14).

Isaiah's prophetic expectation and Titus' confirmation of its fulfillment together represent an invitation for us to honestly acknowledge our deepest needs, whatever they may be—for forgiveness, for repentance, for healing—and to find in the Christ child whose birth we hail on this holy day the hope we need to move forward "today" and every day.

My sincerest prayers are with all of you for a peaceful and holy Christmas and a new year filled with the hope that comes from Jesus Christ.

### December 30, 2018 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3: 2 – 6, 12 - 14

Collosians 3: 12 - 21

Gospel Luke 2: 41 - 52

This celebration of the Holy Family, just a five days after Christmas, is one that puts the coming of Christ into an important context for us. When God sent the Redeemer he did not mysteriously appear from nowhere, nor did he drop down to earth from Heaven. The Redeemer is God himself, the second person of the Trinity. This second person is also the Word of God which is the creating power that made all of creation. In the Prologue of John's Gospel we are told that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." God himself as second person of the Trinity, is the Divine Word, who took on flesh and was born into the world just like those who he came to re-create. We have just celebrated his birth to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, and today we celebrate how they truly were a family.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

The Gospel has us jump ahead twelve years after Bethlehem and tells of Jesus, Mary and Joseph making the pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. The caravan of pilgrims is returning to Nazareth and Mary and Joseph both assume that Jesus is somewhere in the caravan with friends and relatives. After spending a day without success of trying to locate him, Joseph and Mary return to Jerusalem where they searched for three days before finding him in the Temple. Joseph and Mary were looking for and worrying about Jesus for four days. It's easy to imagine the worry and anguish that built up within them as each hour of unsuccessful searching passed by. When they find Jesus, and Mary asks him, why he stayed behind, his response that he must be in his Father's house, reveals to us again his identity of being not only fully human and the son of Mary and Joseph, but also fully divine and the Son of God. Jesus is a twelve year old boy, who learned a lesson about how his actions affect Mary and Joseph. He returned with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that this family, comprised of Mary, who was conceived and remained without sin, Joseph, the model of faith and justice, and Jesus, fully human and fully divine, were indeed human. What parent cannot identify with the worry, anxiety and even fear that comes from not knowing the whereabouts of their child, if even for a brief period of time? Whether the child unintentionally wandered off or intentionally ran away, the emotions that touch a parent's heart are the same. What adolescent has not thought that they were old enough to exert the authority to make their own decisions, whether out of ignorance and without malice, or out of defiance? These are situations that almost every family experiences in one way or another.

This Feast of the Holy Family presents us with two important reminders that can help us in our faith. The first is that Jesus, Mary and Joseph were the Holy Family, but not the perfect family. Like all families they had their difficult moments. We should not hesitate to take our own family situations to the Holy Family and know that they understand and help us through their intercession and intervention. The second point is that each family is called to be a Holy Family. We grow in holiness by growing in unconditional love for one another, praying for one another, and praying for each other. As Servant of God taught us, Fr. Patrick Peyton taught us, "The family that prays together, stays together."

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9	MONDAY, JAN. 2
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13	MONDAY, FEB. 4
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 13	MONDAY, MAR. 4

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## President's New Year's Message 2018

continued from page 1

I personally want to thank the many Branches and District Officers and Recommenders for their dedicated service. Please encourage your younger members to get involved and serve as Officers.

On a very important note, we were founded and exist on the principle and ideal of fraternalism. That means we have a common bond i.e. Slovak, Catholic etc., but it also means that we respect and care for each other.

In past years some of these fraternal bonds were more obvious: most Members were fluent in the Slovak language and belonged to local churches that were founded by Slovaks, many with the support of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

One of the long-standing fraternal practices of the Society was the Funeral Vigil for the deceased. Some of us can remember when the Branch Members assembled at the casket to say this special prayer for the deceased brother or sister in Slovak and gradually in English. Fraternalism in action.

I would encourage our Members to again perform this fraternal task, or if you still do so, thank you.

It has been said, "nothing is constant except change". Our challenge is to adopt to changes in a positive way and if possible be a positive catalyst for change. This is our challenge, while keeping our mission to protect and grow the assets of our members while promoting Catholic principles.

Wherever you are, North, South, East or West, I, my wife Idka, my family and everyone at our Home Office wishes you and yours a Blessed Christmas and we pray that you have a Christmas filled with peace, joy and the blessings of God our Savior.

"Make your family a Jednota family" in 2019.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Andrew M. Rajec, National President**

## Christmas Greeting from the National Chaplain

For as long as anyone can remember, Christmas and the colors red and green have gone together. A Christmas gift covered with wrapping paper doesn't seem complete without a red bow. Homes, stores, and churches are decorated with evergreens. Santa wears a red suit. Candy canes are trimmed in red and green. Just about everyone wears something red and/or green in the days leading up to Christmas.

Outside of Christmas, however, red and green symbolize a couple of common things we come across each day that are opposite. Red means stop. Green means go. Red means there is a high alert for danger. Green means safety. Also, emergency vehicles flash their red lights when responding to a call for an immediate response, while efforts to preserve the environment are called "going green."

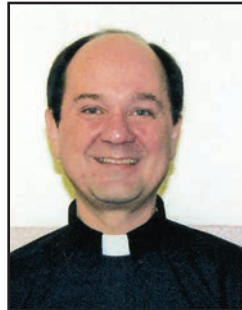
The contrasting meanings we give to red and green in everyday life are brought together in the person of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate. Jesus teaches us to stop hating and being angry with each other and gives us the go-ahead to love one another. Jesus encourages us to trust him to save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls safely to heaven, especially those in most need of his mercy. Jesus invites us to come to him with any and all our burdens and troubles, for through him and in him all creation came into being.

Red and green are the perfect colors to celebrate Christmas.

God bless you and your families now and throughout the New Year. You will be remembered in my Christmas Masses.

Merry Christmas!

**Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain**



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta



## Christmas Message from the National Vice President

The snow is falling, tree lights are sparkling and decorations line the store windows.

Once again we are in the turmoil of the Christmas shopping season. Since Halloween, I've noticed that our daily newspaper has been crammed full of circulars from various stores.

The circulars are all colorful and eye appealing. Every store is trying to outdo the others in hopes of enticing you to buy merchandise from them.

With all the commercialism, we are losing sight of the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of the Holy Christ Child, who brought new faith and hope to all the world.

Just as the wise men gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus, so should we give gifts....gifts of love, compassion and understanding to our children and loved ones.

May this Christmas bring many graces and heavenly gifts to you and to all those dear to your hearts.

On behalf of my family and myself, I will pray that the peace of Christ and His holy love be with you and your loved ones this Christmas season.

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. National Vice President**



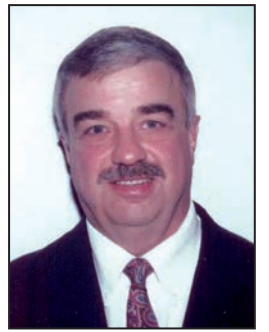
Andrew R. Harcar Sr.



## Christmas Greetings from the Executive Secretary

As we put the finishing touches on our holiday "chores" – decorating our homes and Christmas trees, wrapping presents, finishing our baking, and mailing out Christmas cards – let us not forget to thank baby Jesus for coming into our lives. Let us together prepare ourselves to welcome him into the homes of our hearts. Christmas, after all, is the perfect time to open ourselves to God and his gifts. May you be filled with His love and wrapped in His peace as we celebrate the miracle of His birth during this holy season.

On behalf of my wife Theresa, my family and myself, special wishes to you and to all those who are close to you for a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Kenneth A. Arendt



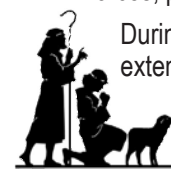
**Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary**

## Christmas Message from the National Treasurer

As we start the season of Advent and prepare ourselves for the holiest time of the year, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let each of us practice being kinder, more understanding, helpful and grateful. During the Christmas Holidays let each of us take the time to reflect on these virtues, the true meaning of Christmas and what the birth of our Savior Christ Jesus was to the world.

We as Slovaks celebrate our Christmas Eve dinner (Štedrý Večer) as a special time filled with rich traditions, special foods, family and friends. As we gather around our tables to rejoice and give thanks for the birth of our Lord, please take the time to be grateful for our families, prayer for each other's continued health and for the opportunity it gives each of us to be able to celebrate and share this special time with each other.

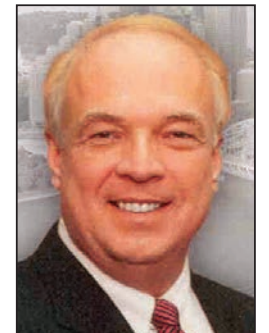
Also, as we always do, we thank our Almighty Lord for the blessing he has bestowed upon us and continue to shower his blessing on us all, watch over our loved ones in the Armed Forces, protect them and bring them home safely.



During the Christmas Season, my wife Cathy and I, and the entire Matta Family extend to all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

VESELÉ VIANOČNÉ SVIATKY A STASTLIVÝ NOVÝ ROK

**George F. Matta II, National Treasurer**



George F. Matta II

## Dorothy Petrus Honored as 2018 FCSU Fraternalist of the Year

On November 8, 2018, FCSU Executives – National President Andrew M. Rajec, National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt – paid a special visit to Dorothy Petrus to bestow upon her the 2018 Fraternalist of the Year Award. This honor is presented by the First Catholic Slovak Union to recognize a member who, through example and accomplishment, has provided outstanding volunteer service to his or her Branch, District, or our Society. Dorothy Petrus, a longtime member and president of Branch 670 in Donora, PA, is also the President of District 12, the Monsignor Andre Hlinka District. She also has regularly been recognized as a Top Gun for recommending FCSU insurance products throughout the years.

**National President Andrew M. Rajec with 2018 FCSU Fraternalist of the Year Dorothy Petrus**



**(L-R) Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt and National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. with Dorothy Petrus.**



## 8th Conference of Honorary Consuls of the Slovak Republic Held This October

Every three years, the Slovak Honorary consuls throughout the world meet in Bratislava with various officials of the Slovak government for an update on government affairs and procedures. The four day meetings took place in Bratislava and Zilina in late October. One hundred ten of the 189 consuls were in attendance. Eight of the 11 Slovak honorary consuls from the United States attended, including the FCSU's Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania.

The program of the 8th Conference of Honorary Consuls of the Slovak Republic included remarks by Andrej Kiska, President of the Slovak Republic, Miroslav Lajcak, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and State Secretaries Frantisek Ruzicka and Lukas Parizek.



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## ★ CONGRATULATIONS! ★

### From the Desk of the Executive Secretary

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Trustees of the Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc., congratulations to the 2018 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award recipients. Each of the following students will receive a one-time check for \$500.00:

Jacob Davis – Sheffield Village, OH  
Katherine Ebbert – Lehighton, PA  
Jennifer Estright – Norristown, PA  
Michael Hradesky – Cleveland Hts, OH  
Sarah Kozma – Elyria, OH

Bryan Krawiec – Clifton, NJ  
Nathan Liesen – Newark, OH  
Brianna McKeen – Delaware, OH  
Lance Todorowski – Gibsonia, PA  
Charlene Westfall – Aurora, OH

We want to thank all the applicants who participated in the program and most especially the scholarship committee for their efforts and support in making the difficult decision of selecting the winners. We wish each and every participating applicant the best of luck in their future endeavors.

## March For Life

Our Presence at the 46th Annual Right to Life March on Friday, January 18, 2019 in Washington, DC is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Union, together with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, support the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU and FCSLA will once again be offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH, for this very important trip. For the past several years we have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve two buses for the March. Our organizations are proud to encourage our members along with many young students from area Catholic High Schools to participate. It is a very rewarding experience to actively participate and help relay this very important message of supporting the Right to Life mission.

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA home Office. Her phone number is 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at [Kelly@fcsla.org](mailto:Kelly@fcsla.org) for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 15th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so do not wait until the last minute to reserve your seat. You can also go to our website [www.fcsla.org](http://www.fcsla.org) for a tentative itinerary for the trip.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online for information and transportation. Call your local church or diocese, they may be able to help.



## VILIJA The Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper

Slavic peoples throughout eastern Europe preserved their strong Catholic faith for centuries through the use of sacred signs and symbols. These symbols were used both in church and at home in various celebrations throughout the liturgical year. Slovak-Americans can rediscover the beauty and meaning of these traditions in order to renew and deepen their religious faith which is often weakened by our secular culture.

*The "Vilija" means the "Vigil" or eve of Christmas with its "bountiful supper" (Štedrý Večer). After the prayerful simplicity of the four weeks of Advent preparing for the coming of Christ, the Slovak family comes together on Christmas Eve with a generous table of assorted symbolic foods.*

Even though the various regions of Slovakia have made their own adaptations to the way Vilija is celebrated, some basic elements are common to many of them.

### Breaking the Oplatky wafer

These unleavened wafers symbolize Christ, the Bread of Life. Father and mother give each child or guest a wafer with honey on it. They may also trace the sign of the cross with honey on the forehead of the children to symbolize the "sweet burden" of following Christ's commandments. In some traditions all then embrace each other in friendship and break pieces off each other's wafers. The honey also represents our ability to see Christ in each person despite their shortcomings and faults.

### Sauerkraut Soup with Mushrooms (Kapustnica s Hubami)

The tart taste of the soup reminds Christians that the joy of Christ's birth will give way to the bitterness of Good Friday.

### Fish (Ryby)

The abstinence from meat formerly required of all Catholics on Christmas Eve reminds them of the need for self-denial in this life as they prepare for heaven.

### Bobalky, Orechovníky, and Mákovníky

The small biscuits that are scalded in hot milk and mixed with poppy-seed as well as the nut and poppy-seed rolls are sweet delicacies that remind Christians of the Infant King who brought joy into a sinful world in the same way that these sweets provide a welcome conclusion to the Advent penitential season.

### Pirohy and Halušky

These traditional foods of dough pockets stuffed with prunes, cheese, sauerkraut or potatoes and noodles with cabbage are common in Slovakia and Eastern Europe. Their simplicity reflects the fruit of the land and the hard work of the Slovak people.

The Vilija supper traditionally ended with the giving of gifts of fruits or nuts and the singing of Christmas carols.





## Branch 181 Awards 5 One-time Scholarships to Class of 2018 High School Graduates



The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 181 has awarded a one-time scholarship to five very worthy high school graduates of the class of 2018. Each of them were outstanding achievers in academics, community service, and leadership. The Branch Scholarship Committee and Branch #181 extend congratulations to the following recipients:

Ryan Aland of Latrobe, PA, is a graduate of Greater Latrobe Senior High School. He started his higher education studies in Mechanical Drafting at Westmoreland County Community College. He may continue his pursuits at Penn State University – Altoona. Ryan achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and has participated in Scout for Food for the local food bank. Other community service activities include volunteering at his church festival, Easter Vigil Celebration and the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Program.

Morgan Kuhla of Greensburg, PA, is a graduate of The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School. She began her studies at Westmoreland County Community College this fall with plans on transferring to California University of PA to pursue a degree in Special Education (Grades 7-12). She was named to the National Society of High School Scholars and has volunteered with various organizations including 4-H and Animal Friends of Westmoreland County. Morgan received a STEM certificate to compliment her high school studies.

Paige Lesko of Greensburg, PA, is a graduate of Greater Latrobe Senior High School. She started her studies in Communications and Political Science at Principia College in Illinois with hopes to pursue a career as a corporate lawyer/political analyst. She participated in numerous volunteer activities including a three-week Guatemala Service Trip, a member and graduate of the National Leadership Council, the Westmoreland County Food Bank, and an Art Teacher's Assistant at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art. She achieved the Silver and Bronze Congressional Medal for The Congressional Award Public Service. Paige was active in German National Honors Society, Drama Club, Show Choir, and National Forensics League.

Cameron Murphy of West Milford, NJ, is a graduate of West Milford Public High School. He is attending Penn State University - Main Campus. He plans to pursue a career in Mechanical Engineering. His community service activities include helping with the food pantry, clothing drive, custodial/ground maintenance and other duties at St. Joseph's Church. His honors include being a member of the National Honor Society and Physics League. Cameron was selected as Citizen of the Month in May 2017.

Abbey Scekeres of Mount Pleasant, PA, is a graduate of Mount Pleasant Area Senior High School. She began her studies in Kinesiology at Penn State University – Main Campus. She obtained the Gold Award, which is the highest ranking in Girl Scouting, for refurbishing three local church cemeteries. She was a member of the St. Florian Youth Ministry actively participating in community service and fundraisers. Abbey received a Diocesan Youth Award from the Diocese of Greensburg. Other activities include volunteering at the Christian Layman Church Food pantry and Relay for Life cancer walk. Abbey was a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society.

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Secretary



## District 14's November Meeting

Reverend Joseph L. Kostik, District 14, held a meeting on Tuesday evening, November 20, 2018 at the Falcon Grille in Austintown, OH. In addition to discussing plans for the district's annual Christmas party and activities for the coming year, district officers were nominated and elected. (L – R) Region 6 Director Elect Tom Ivanec administered the oath of office to the 2019 slate of district officers: Grace Kavulik, Recording Secretary; John Leskovyansky, Jr., President; Barbara Hosa, Chaplain, and Selma Bolash, Treasurer. Not pictured: Carlie Peshek, Vice President.

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

## Harvest Fest (Dožinková zábava) Held at St. John Nepomucene

A Harvest Fest (Dožinková zábava) was held on Sunday afternoon Oct. 21, 2018, in St. John Nepomucene Hall. Branch 716 supported the annual Slovak event and was responsible for the food service and preparation.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary



Branch 716 Member Lisa Calabrese with raffle giveaways

Members enjoying themselves



Jan Skrkon with the Limbora Folk Dance Ensemble from New York (Limbora Slovensky folklorny subor v New Yorku) who performed at the zábava

Branch 716's Ladislav Korcek celebrating his 80th Birthday at the Festival



Branch President Jan Skrkon welcoming Branch 41 Member, President of the Slovak League of America, and Slovak Catholic Sokol Editor Daniel F. Tanzone (L) among other guests.



Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon helping to serve typical Slovak food





# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN MEETING:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer  
 Sabina Sabados, Regional Director (via teleconference)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the September 2018 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. and seconded by George F. Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report on the investment update to the Executive Committee. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

The President stated that representatives from UBS, MAI and Clutterbuck will be asked to attend our Executive Committee Meetings before the end of the year to give an overall review of our portfolio.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Executive Committee. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 300 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products. The independent agents are also in frequent contact with Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents. Agents now produce over 70% of annuity sales. The Home Office has started an extensive Facebook ad recruiting campaign to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in. FCSU Commissions will be reviewed and compared against the competition.

We will continue to advertise our new annuity rates on our website, thru emails, and mail to all branch officers.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**

Annuity Rates:  
 The President led a review of the current annuity rates. It was decided the rates remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting in November. Agent commissions will be reviewed.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Monthly Disbursements

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

Disbursements for the month of September 2018:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 176,001.04
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 26,353.08
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

**CONVENTION:**

The Executive Secretary stated that the Bylaw Committee has approved the final draft of the Bylaws to be effective January 1, 2019. The Bylaws will be posted on our website and a hard copy will be mailed to all the districts and branches.

**MIDDLETOWN:**

The President gave a full report regarding the sale of the property in Middletown to the Executive Committee.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by George F. Matta II to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., closed the meeting with prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Andrew M. Rajec  
 President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kenneth A. Arendt  
 Executive Secretary



**District 2 Officers for 2019.**



**Branch 6 Members (L – R) Stella and Bob Elias; Paul Chismar.**

**(L – R) Ken and Sherrie Peters accept scholarship check for their son Chris from District 2 President John Jurcenko.**



**Jennifer Carlson and Marge Dickinson of Branch 313.**

**(L – R) Branch 706 Members Ed Uran, and Amber Romanowski with her husband.**



## Rev John J. Spitkovsky District 2 Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 for Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Kentucky met on October 14, 2018, at the Missionary Benedictine Convent in Oak Forest, IL.

Two Jednota Scholarship winners - Mary Fayta and Chris Peters – were awarded \$200 scholarships from the District as well. "Million Dollar Quartet" was chosen for the District Brunch/Theater Outing in 2019.

National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., have a presentation on insurance and annuity sales. Incoming Regional Director Timothy Graves introduced himself to attendees. Amber Miller reported on the 2018 Slovak Christmas Tree Display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, IL.

National Vice President Harcar chaired the election of officers for 2019. Dorothy Jurcenko was selected Spiritual Advisor, to replace the (late) Chaplain Father Kelchak. Bob Bernath replace his late brother Rudy as Vice President. The rest of the officers were elected po starom (as before).

Attendees enjoyed a delicious meal. The next meeting date was set for April 7, 2019.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, District Recording Secretary



**(L – R) National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. with incoming Region 7 Director Timothy Graves.**



# FCSU 2018 Christmas Coloring Contest

## Svätý Mikulaš – December 6

St. Nicholas, as he is known to us, was very young when he became an orphan. His parents left him all of their many possessions. Because of this, he was determined to devote his life to works of charity, using the fortune he had inherited. He became a Bishop and has been honored as a saint since the sixth century. St. Nicholas is best known as the patron saint of children.

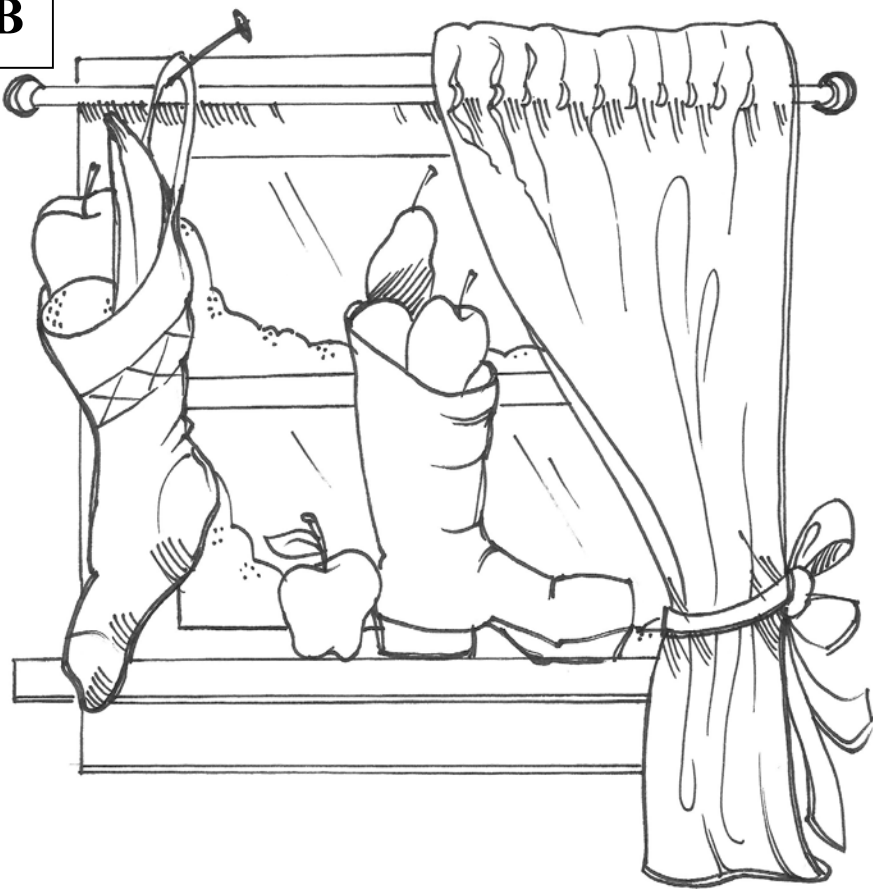
Every year, the children in Slovakia eagerly wait for a visit from Svätý Mikulaš. They put their boots or shoes out along the window sill before they go to bed on the night before his feast day. St. Nicholas travels on foot this night and visits every house. He is accompanied by an ugly, chain-rattling devil and an angel. Saint Nicholas reminds the children that Christmas is only a few weeks away and that they must behave themselves or they will not receive any presents for Christmas.

The next morning, good little children find their boots or shoes filled with candy, cookies, oranges, apples, nuts, or other fruits. The naughty children find a lump of coal or a potato left by the devil.

**A**



**B**



**C**



**PRIZES**

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Jednota Long Sleeved T-Shirt and \$25.00**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jednota Long Sleeved T-Shirt and \$15.00**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Jednota Long Sleeved T-Shirt and \$10.00**  
**Honorable Mention - \$5 Gift Card**

**RULES**

- Each age group is assigned a certain picture:  
**4 – 6 year olds – picture A**  
**7 – 9 year olds – picture B**  
**10 – 12 year olds – picture C**
- Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
- Pictures may be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
- Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
- Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
- Your child's completed entry form, colored picture, and a photo of your child must be postmarked by **December 31, 2018.**
- Mail to:  
 Kevin Collins  
 Fraternal Activities Director  
 628 Heather Brite Cr.  
 Apopka, Fl. 32712

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (MUST be filled in)  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shirt Size: Youth S M L XL Adult S M L

Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2018





# OUR FAVORITE RECIPES



## A Typical Slovak Christmas Eve Menu

- Oplatky
- Wine
- Honey
- Garlic
- Dried Peas
- Mushroom Soup
- Pagach
- Bobalky
- Stewed Prunes
- Mushroom Soup (Machanka)
- Caraway Soup
- Mushroom Stuffed Cabbage
- Bread for Christmas Eve
- Christmas Bread
- (Figs, Dates, Oranges, Apples, Tangerines)
- Mixed Nuts
- Nut Rolls
- Poppyseed Rolls
- Pirohy

## PIROHY

- 1 cup flour
- About 4 tablespoons water
- 1 egg

Mix flour and egg with enough water to make a soft dough; knead well. Roll out on floured board until thin. Cut into squares. Place 1 teaspoon filling on each square. Fold in half, making a triangle. Pinch edges well to keep filling inside. Drop into boiling salted water and cook until they rise to surface. Cook 5 minutes longer. Rinse in colander with hot water. Drain. Pour melted butter over pirohy and serve.

### Cheese Filling

- 1/2 cup dry cottage cheese
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 teaspoon butter
- pinch salt
- Mix together
- Potato Filling
- 1 large potato cooked and mashed
- 1 tablespoon butter

(Optional-grated cheese to taste)

Lekvar may be used as filling. Cooked sauerkraut may also be used as filling. Drain and rinse sauerkraut in cold water. Brown diced onion in shortening, add sauerkraut. Cook for a few minutes.

## BREAD FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1/2 cup lukewarm water
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 6 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons salad oil

Dissolve yeast in warm water with 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar. Set in warm place to rise. Sift 6 cups flour in deep bowl, add 2 cups warm water, 4 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 4 tablespoons salad oil.

Knead well and set aside to rise. When double in bulk, punch down, let rise second time until double. Punch down. Divide dough in two. Shape one part into round bread, cover and let stand 20 minutes. Punch down

and reshape. Place in greased pan. Allow to rise until double in bulk. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Note: The second part of this dough will be use for Bobalky.

## CHRISTMAS EVE BOBALKY

Use other half of above dough for bobalky. Knead and roll on floured board into rope. Cut and roll into balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place on floured pan, let rise 15 minutes. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until just slightly brown. Cook then place in deep bowl, pour boiling water over just to soak a little. Drain in colander. Then place in serving dish, heat honey with a little water, pour over bobalky.

Mix 1/2 cup ground poppyseed and 1/4 cup sugar and then add to bobalky. Let stand several hours in cool place (or refrigerator) for several hours before serving.

Note: some bobalky are served with sweet cabbage or sauerkraut. Sautee cabbage or sauerkraut with onion in salad oil, then mix with bobalky.

## NUT ROLLS

- 8 cups flour
- 2 cups milk (scalded)
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large yeast or 3 envelopes dry yeast
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1/2 pound oleo or crisco
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Dissolve yeast in 1 cup lukewarm milk. Stir well. Add sugar, shortening and salt to rest of the milk and cool. Beat egg slightly and add to mixtures, then add the yeast mixture to the rest of the lukewarm mixture. Put half of the flour in a bowl and add the above mixture a little at a time. Mix well. Add remainder of flour to make soft dough using just enough flour to knead without sticking. Cover. Let rise double in bulk.

Keep in warm place. Takes about 2 hours to rise. Knead down a little to get out puffiness. Divide into 6 parts and let stand 10 minutes. Roll out and spread with nut mixture. Roll tightly and place on greased baking sheet and let rise about 1 hour and bake in 350 degrees over 35 to 40 minutes. Brush each roll with slightly beaten egg before baking. Brush with melted butter after baked.

## NUT MIXTURE

- 4 pounds nuts (ground)
- 4 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter (melted)
- 1/4 cup milk (enough to moisten nut mixture)

## PAGAČ

- 10 cups flour
- 2 yeast cakes (or 2 packages dry yeast)
- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 tablespoons salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 1/2 cups milk (or more necessary)

Knead all together until well blended as for bread dough. Let rise double in bulk in warm place. Punch down, let rise once again. Turn

out on floured board, separate into 8 or 10 portions. Let rise until light. With rolling pin flatten enough to place about 1 cup of filling in center of each mound of dough. Bring dough up over mound and pinch together to shape a round ball. Let rest about 1/2 hour with filling then carefully roll out as thin as you want it. Place on cookie sheet. Bake until golden brown then butter on both sides. Rounds should be about 14 inches in diameter or as thin as you like them.

Filling: Fried cabbage or potato and cheese

## TWO HOUR NUT AND POPPYSEED ROLLS

- 6 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 packages dry yeast
- 1/2 cup warm milk
- 1/4 pound butter
- 1/2 cup vegetable shortening
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1 cup sour cream

Dissolve yeast in warm milk. Sift together flour, salt and sugar. Add shortening and butter. Mix as for pie crust. Add beaten eggs and sour cream. Add yeast - blend well.

Divide dough in four parts. Let rise 30 minutes. Roll each part thin as for jelly roll. Spread with one of the following fillings. Roll and place on greased pan and allow to rise for one hour or until double in bulk. Bake 35 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees.

## NUT FILLING

- 1/2 pound chopped nuts
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup scalded milk
- 1 teaspoon melted butter
- Melt butter. Add walnuts, sugar and vanilla.
- Add scalded milk. Mix well.

## POPPYSEED FILLING

- 1/2 pound ground poppyseed
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup scalded milk
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- Combine all ingredients, mix well.

## CHRISTMAS BREAD

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 cups scalded milk
- 1 cup warm water ( NOT HOT)
- 2 packages dry or compressed yeast
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 8 cups flour
- 1 cup seedless raisins

Put sugar, shortening, salt and scalded milk in a large bowl; stir until shortening melts. Cool to lukewarm. Pour warm water into small bowl; sprinkle or crumble in yeast, stir until dissolved. Add eggs and yeast to lukewarm milk mixture and blend. Add 2/3 of flour and beat until smooth. Gradually add remaining flour, mixing well after each addition. Add raisins and turn out on floured board and knead until smooth and elastic; place in greased bowl. Brush with melted shortening, cover, and let rise in warm place until it doubles (about 1 1/2 hours). Punch down divide into 3 equal portions. Shape

into 2 round loaves; let rise again until it doubles. Brush with beaten eggs. Bake in hot oven for 10 minutes at 450 degrees then turn to 350 degrees and continue baking for 45 minutes or until golden brown.

## MUSHROOM CABBAGE

- 1 head cabbage (about 3 pounds)
- 1 large can sauerkraut
- 1 cup ground mushrooms (either canned, dry or frozen)
- 1 cup rice (uncooked)
- 2 tablespoons oleo
- 1 medium onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- For Sauce and Brown Gravy
- 1 tablespoon shortening
- 1 tablespoon flour

Cut core out of cabbage to loosen leaves. Place cabbage into boiling water for a few minutes. Remove leaves, cut away the thick rib from cabbage leaves. Fry the onions in the oleo until soft, add to mushrooms, rice. Season to taste. Place about 1 teaspoon in each cabbage leaf and roll. Drain sauerkraut, use about half the kraut in the bottom of the pot. Arrange rolls over the kraut, cover the remaining kraut. Fill pot with water, to top off the rolls. Cook slowly for about 2 hours.

Sauce: Brown flour in shortening. Add about a cup of water. Bring to boil, then pour over the cabbage rolls. Cook for just about 5 more minutes.

## MUSHROOM SOUP (MAČANKA)

Wash dried mushrooms. Soak overnight. In morning cook mushrooms in the water. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cook slowly for 2 hours or more.

Zapraška (Soup thickening)

Brown 1 chopped onion in 2 tablespoons salad oil, add browned onion to mushroom soup. To remaining oil add 2 tablespoons flour slowly, brown and then add to mushroom soup to thicken. Cook for a few minutes and serve hot.

## MUSHROOM SOUP

- 7 cups fresh mushrooms (chopped)
- 3 quarts water
- 1 quart sauerkraut juice
- Salt and pepper (to taste)
- 1 small onion
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons flour

Cook mushrooms in water about 1 hour. Brown butter onion; add flour and brown well. Add sauerkraut juice and boil this for 5 minutes. Add to soup and boil 1/2 hour longer.

## CARAWAY SOUP

- 3 tablespoons oleo
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 3 cups water
- 3 tablespoons flour

Melt shortening in heavy saucepan. Add chopped onion and cook over low heat until lightly golden. Add salt, flour and caraway seeds. Blend into 3 cups cold water and bring to boil, stirring constantly, until mixture is slightly thickened. Serve at once.



# Insights and Viewpoints

## Slovak History's Repeating Year

**Stanislav J. Kirschbaum,  
Branch 785**

This fact is a mere coincidence but knowing that there is in Slovakia an eventful repeating year does make it easy to remember important and interesting historical events. It involves years that end in 8. This coincidence is caught on an information board in historic Devín Castle, just outside Bratislava. A text describes which years ending with 8 played an important part in Slovak history: 1848; 1918; 1938; 1948; and 1968. I would add 1988 and consider equally important some years ending in 9, usually in the wake of what happened the year before: 1849; 1939; 1969; and 1989. Let us briefly look at each one to assess their importance in modern Slovak history and to ask whether they deserve to be commemorated or celebrated as national public holidays.

**1848-49:** The first Slovak political demands. The year 1848 was significant in Central Europe; historians refer to it as the year of the "Spring of Nations." It was a continuation of the challenge to the feudal system that had started with the French Revolution in 1789. It focused on national self-determination and self-government in the Habsburg Empire. The Slovaks, under the leadership of Ľudovít Štúr, Michal Miloslav Hodža, and Jozef Miloslav Hurban, pushed for decentralisation through the reorganisation of the Kingdom of Hungary into nationally defined administrative units, representation in the Diet, and the respect of all national languages. In addition, they demanded their own parliament. The Slovak leaders created a Slovak National Council, sought support from other nationalities at the Slavic Congress of June 1848 in Prague, and, in the end, took up arms against the Hungarians.

They failed to achieve their objectives because of events beyond their control – among others was the defeat of the Honvéd (Hungarian army) at Világos on 11 August 1849 by Austrian and Russian forces, which reinstated imperial rule. As a result, the year 1849 became significant: On 17 October, Slovakia was divided into two administrative regions with centres in Bratislava in the west and Košice in the east. This arrangement was part of the reorganization of Hungary, which put the entire country under military control. Slovakia did not achieve self-government, rather was propelled into a period that saw a serious struggle for survival as Hungary proceeded with a policy of Magyarisation towards the Slovaks. It lasted until 1918.

**1918: The creation of Czecho-Slovakia.** It is by leaving Hungary and entering a new state that the Slovaks finally had the possibility to be on the road to self-government. However, this process became shrouded in controversy, starting with the date of the creation of the common state of the Slovaks and Czechs. The proclamation by the Czech National Committee on 28 October in Prague is considered the founding act of common state. Yet Slovak consent was not given until 30 October when the Slovak National Council met in Turčiansky Svätý Mar-

tin and issued the Martin Declaration, which signalled independence from Hungary and Slovakia's unification with the Czech lands as part of the new state of Czecho-Slovakia. In terms of Slovakia's political development, this was a step forward; however, it did not unfold as expected. The Slovak nation benefited greatly in economic, social, and political terms from Central Europe's only democracy of the inter-war years, yet its domestic politics clearly indicated that the arrangement between Slovaks and Czechs was far from satisfactory for the former. How Czecho-Slovakia developed as the state of the Slovaks and Czechs is a complicated and complex story of broken promises, the pursuit by the central government of the ideology of "Czechoslovakism," unexpected internal and external developments, and involuntary but logical solutions. This led to the granting of autonomy to Slovakia in the wake of the Munich Conference in October 1938, an event that presaged somber developments a few months later that launched the Slovaks into another struggle for survival.

**1938: The Žilina Agreement.** The weight of Slovak politics throughout the twenty years of the First Czechoslovak Republic, as the common state was officially known, focused on the autonomy of Slovakia promised in a document called the Pittsburgh Agreement. It had been signed in 1918 by American Czech and Slovak leaders in Pittsburgh and included the signature of the leader of the Czech national movement abroad, Tomáš G. Masaryk. He reneged on it when he became President of Czecho-Slovakia (the spelling used until 1920). The Slovak People's Party, under the leadership of Andrej Hlinka, made the Pittsburgh Agreement its main political platform, drawing more votes than any other Slovak party in elections in Slovakia except for the first one, but never a majority. Again, there is a complex chain of events that led to the Czechoslovak National Assembly granting Slovakia autonomy on 6 October 1938, which was proclaimed publicly in Žilina. The Slovak Assembly that had been created in 1927 when Czechoslovakia was reorganized along provincial lines but that had no legislative powers became the provincial parliament of Slovakia. It received full executive and legislative powers in matters of Slovak competence except in financial matters where the central government had precedence. Elections were held on 18 December 1938. Slovakia had finally achieved a form of self-government, which, however, external events modified six months later.

**1939: The First Slovak Republic.** Voted by the Slovak Assembly on 14 March, historians will likely debate for a long time whether Slovakia's declaration of independence was logical, accidental, or imposed. It does not really matter; rather what is important is the role it plays in Slovak history. For six years, the Slovaks, under the leadership of Jozef Tiso, governed themselves in their own state under difficult circumstances, especially external pressure. They partook in one of the greatest tragedies in Western civilization, the Holocaust, were allied to Germany and fought on her side in the Soviet Union, but

also avoided until the very last moment total involvement in the world war that was raging around them to pursue social, economic, and cultural development. Most Slovak historians have yet to examine these aspects of this complex period, preferring (as they did during the Communist period) to focus on the negative side of the balance sheet. The fact is that this short-lived independence marked Slovak society profoundly as its subsequent deliberate and total silencing clearly suggested. The loss of independence in 1945 was not a choice the Slovaks made but rather the result of the interplay of international decisions. Slovakia was back in Czechoslovakia; in return for the loss of statehood, those who launched the 1944 uprising promised that this action would give Slovakia self-government and equality with the Czechs in the renewed common state. As it turned out, they only achieved a diluted form of autonomy for Slovakia, which became meaningless within three years when another momentous event influenced its history.

**1948: The Communist regime.** The Communist Party was strong in the Czech Lands but not in Slovakia, where it was soundly beaten in the 26 May 1946 elections when the non-Communists obtained 62 percent of votes. But that did not matter; in Prague, they formed the government and, in the end, took total power in a coup on 25 February 1948 that put Czechoslovakia in the Soviet orbit during the Cold War. They imposed on the Czech and Slovak people a radical social, economic, ideological, and political experiment that transformed the country, but that also deprived its citizens of the basic political and human rights Western democracies enjoy. Slovakia was totally subordinated to the policies of the Prague government in a one-party system that demanded compliance. Nominally Slovakia had a form of autonomy, yet the regime also pursued a new form of "Czechoslovakism" whose unstated purpose was to ensure that the Slovaks would never ever again separate and form their own state. The history of the first Slovak Republic was thrown into an "Orwellian memory hole" except for the 1944 uprising whose history was reinterpreted to validate the regime's determination to keep Slovakia in check. Yet, what the Communist leaders in Prague could not eradicate completely was the pursuit of the objectives that the Slovak Communist leaders of the 1944 uprising had fought for: a federal state of two equal nations. The vagaries of Communist politics in the Soviet bloc, namely Stalin's death in 1953 and destalinization in 1956, made it possible for this objective to be achieved within a generation.

**1968-69: Liberalisation and federalisation.** This period is associated with the name of Alexander Dubček, the first Slovak to become first secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. He supported the liberalisation movement that appeared in the 1960s whose aim was to transform the Communist experiment into one of "socialism with a human face." The response of the Soviet Union to this modification of the political and ideological system it had im-

posed on Central Europe was to send Warsaw Pact armies to Czechoslovakia on 21 August to put an end to it. What it did not end, however, was the Slovak drive to federalize the common state of the Slovaks and Czechs. Dubček had been first secretary of the Communist Party of Slovakia from 1963 to 1968 and during that time made it possible for the Communist leaders of the 1944 revolt, in particular Gustáv Husák, who had been imprisoned on charges of "bourgeois nationalism," to challenge the official version of that event and to seek to achieve the objectives they had fought for in 1944. On 28 October 1968, half a century after its creation, a constitutional law was signed that turned centralized Czechoslovakia into a federal state composed of the Czech Socialist and Slovak Socialist Republics.

The situation changed in 1969. Husák, a lawyer, had been during liberalisation the prime mover of the constitutional amendment that federalized Czechoslovakia. On 1 January 1969, the federation came into effect and on 17 April Husák became the second Slovak to occupy the post of first secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. He imposed a policy of "normalization" that turned Czechoslovakia into one of the most conservative and repressive states in Eastern Europe. Federalisation was also the victim of this policy; a true federal system of power distribution was not implemented, rather its centralising tendencies were strengthened. This situation lasted two decades. On the other hand, Slovakia had a state administration that the Slovaks controlled and that served after 1993 as the basis for state-formation when Czechoslovakia broke up on 31 December 1992.

**1988-89: The Bratislava demonstrations.** When Mikhail Gorbachev, who became the secretary general of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1985, launched his country on a path of economic and political reform, the message was not lost on the populations of Eastern Europe. The people were wary, however, about how to react to it: previous attempts to make changes to the regime, in Berlin in 1953, in Poland and especially in Hungary in 1956, in Czechoslovakia in 1968, and in Poland in 1980-81 had been suppressed by armed force. Nevertheless, a first step had to be taken and it came from Slovakia: A silent religious candlelight demonstration in favour of religious freedom in Bratislava's Hviezdoslav Square on 25 March 1988 led by two Slovak dissidents, Ján Čarnogurský and František Mikloško, was repressed by the police. This response by the authorities deepened the divide between the political leadership and the population and, given what was happening in the Soviet Union with Gorbachev's policies of perestroika and glasnost, this demonstration was the first shot across the bow of all conservative (and repressive) Communist regimes in Eastern Europe to let them know that change was inevitable. Within a year, these regimes disappeared; in Czechoslovakia the trigger came

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## Lúčina Slovak Folklore Event in Greater Cleveland

On Saturday, November 11, 2018, the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland held a Slovak Gala "An Evening in the Heart of Europe." The sold-out event was held at the Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma, OH. Doors opened at 6:00PM, followed by a three-course dinner and an entertainment program that featured the Lúčina Slovak Folk Ensemble, the group's children's ensemble, Lučinka, and special guest artists Veselica Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Chicago. After the program, raffle winners were announced for the many gift baskets and a 50/50 raffle. Music for dancing and listening pleasure was provided throughout the evening by DJ Denis Rozmus.

Tom Ivanec, Lúčina Director, Region 6 Director Elect, and Branch 24 Member, thanked the crowd for supporting the continuation of Slovak heritage through dance, particularly noting the excellent response from the Slovak fraternalists. The FCSU Home Office and virtually all of its area-wide organizations attended and/or contributed to the success of the evening, including: Branch 1, Branch 24, Branch 228, Branch 450, Branch 553, Branch 855, and District 10.



Members of the FCSU in attendance included: (L – R) Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, Administrative Assistant to the President and Branch 24 Member; Dorota Pietraszewski Support Staff; Terezia Rozmus, Annuity Department and Branch 24 Member; Karen Davis, Former Assistant to the Executive Secretary and Branch 855 Member; Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary and Branch 228 Member; Theresa Arendt, Branch 228 Member; Andrew M. Rajec, National President and Branch 89 Member; Teresa Ivanec, Jednota Editor and Branch 24 Member; Idka Rajec, Branch 89 Member; Joseph Mitrik, Accountant and Branch 24 Member; Miriam Visnovsky, Support Staff and Branch 24 Member; Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents and Branch 89 Member; and Thomas Ivanec, Regional 6 Director Elect and Branch 24 Member.



The evening's entertainment included performances by the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble, its children's group Lučinka, and guest artists Veselica Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Chicago.



## Slovak History's Repeating Year

continued from page 9

from Slovakia in November 1989.

In the history of the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia, little if no mention is made of a student demonstration in Bratislava, which, for all intents and purposes, lit the fuse that brought the regime down before the end of the year. The demonstration of 16 November was a Bratislava-specific event. It was organized that afternoon by a group of university students who sought to show their opposition to a proposed law on higher education and, in the process, also press for academic freedom. In addition, it was intended to support International Student Day that students in Prague were marking the next day (17 November). It was not an organized demonstration; rather it began as a gathering that grew spontaneously over a couple of hours to about 200 people, including high school (gymnasium) pupils, who marched through downtown Bratislava, ending in front of the Ministry of Education. Throughout the march, a police detachment was present but at no time was it ordered to disperse the demonstrators. They broke up peacefully after a meeting with a Communist official. What is important to note is the fact that the demonstration could take place and that no attempt was made to disperse the participants; this indicated that something had changed in the political life of Czechoslovakia. It gave the students in Prague the necessary confidence the next day to press for regime change and the end of communism for the Slovaks and Czechs. The Bratislava demonstration on 16 November marked the beginning of the "Gentle Revolution" in Slovakia while the date for the start of the "Velvet Revolution," the Czech definition of the regime change, is 17 November.

2018: The centenary of the creation of Czecho-Slovakia. Should Slovakia commemorate it? Permanently, or only if appropriate? Indeed, should not all the events outlined here be the object of a commemoration or a celebration? The answer is usually given by the country's political leaders who link their choice to the ideological and political currents of the time. Just as a society changes, the focus on its history also changes. The Czechoslovak Communist regime celebrated the Communist take-over of 25 February, May day (1 May), and the October (Bolshevik) Revolution, although the last two were totally disconnected to the history of that state. In 2018, we find on Slovakia's official calendar 16 national public holidays and 17 commemorative days (they do not qualify as public holidays). From the previous period, only 1 May among the national public holidays was retained, called "Labour Day," (it is also designated as a commemorative day – Slovakia becoming a member of the European Union) while two historical events from those examined above became national public holidays: The Creation of Czecho-Slovakia (30 October) and the Struggle for freedom and democracy day (17 November rather than 16 November). Also included are 1 January (Day of the establishment of the Slovak Republic), 8 May (Day of victory of fascism), 29 August (Slovak National Uprising anniversary), and 1 September (Slovak Constitution day). The other national public holidays are religious ones, like the one on 5 July that celebrates St. Cyril and Methodius. It is fitting to commemorate and/or celebrate historical events that resonates in a society's political life because they serve as a reminder of past struggles, successes, and the need for change, but also the values of the nation. The question is whether the appropriate ones are chosen.

2018 is a centennial year commemorating the creation of Czecho-Slovakia in 1918. It was important in the history of the Slovak nation, a milestone of modern statehood and a stage towards today's. Slovakia's political leadership decided to commemorate it this year, after years of public discussion. Many other events examined above as one of Slovakia's repeating year ending in 8 and 9 also deserve public recognition. Future generations may indeed give them their due.

## Branch 493's Valerie Vesely Honored

Valerie M. Vesely, Branch 493 Recording Secretary, was recently honored by her employer for 30 years of service. Val has worked as a bagger at Jewel Food Stores in Homewood, IL, for her entire career. Jewel is the largest grocery store chain in the Chicago area. She received a 30-year pin to wear proudly on her uniform, and a new four-piece luggage set. A luncheon was held to celebrate all employees celebrating anniversaries.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary



Today is born our Savior,  
Christ the Lord.

For Christ the Lord is Given  
A Babe is born in Bethlehem,  
A star shows bright in heaven;  
The angels sing and shout for joy:  
For Christ the Lord is given!

\*\*\*

Rejoice! Rejoice! God's only Son,  
Incarnate One Most Holy:  
Descends to free from sin's dark  
death  
The humble and the lowly.

\*\*\*

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
The Light has dawned:  
For Christ the Lord is given!  
The Father's word who leads to life,  
And endless bliss in heaven.



# 2019 TOUR OF SLOVAKIA YOUNGSTOWN/SPISSKA NOVA VES SISTER CITIES TOUR



Mark your calendars—July 15-29, 2019, pack your bags, grab your passports and get ready to fly to Slovakia for the time of your life.

We are one big family on our tours. Everyone watches out for each other.

First class hotels, great food, entertainment, large roomy air-conditioned bus with rest room—best tour guide and bus driver in all of Slovakia.

We have people coming back for 7 and 8 times, so we must be doing things right. Visit family and friends—walk the

streets of your ancestors, reconnect to your heritage.

Previous tour participants are willing to talk with you regarding the tour and their experiences.

For further information contact Kay and Jim Bench. This will be their 19th trip to Slovakia. Tour arrangements are being made by Paul Hudak, Adventure International Travel Inc. Phone 216 228 7171—800 542-2487 Jim Bench, Phone 723-858-5843 or Kay Bench Phone 724-771-7900.

Don't wait, space is limited, be ready for a fantastic time.



### Is your FCSU profile up to date?

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

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

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

## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2019

**Issue Date**

**Deadline to  
Receive Information**

**January 9**

**January 2**  
to accommodate New Year's Day

**February 13**

**February 4**

**March 13**

**March 4**

**April 10**

**April 1**

**May 8**

**April 29**

**June 12**

**June 3**

**July 10**

**July 1**

**August 14**

**August 5**

**Sept 11`**

**Sept 3**

to accommodate Labor Day

**October 9**

**Sept 30**

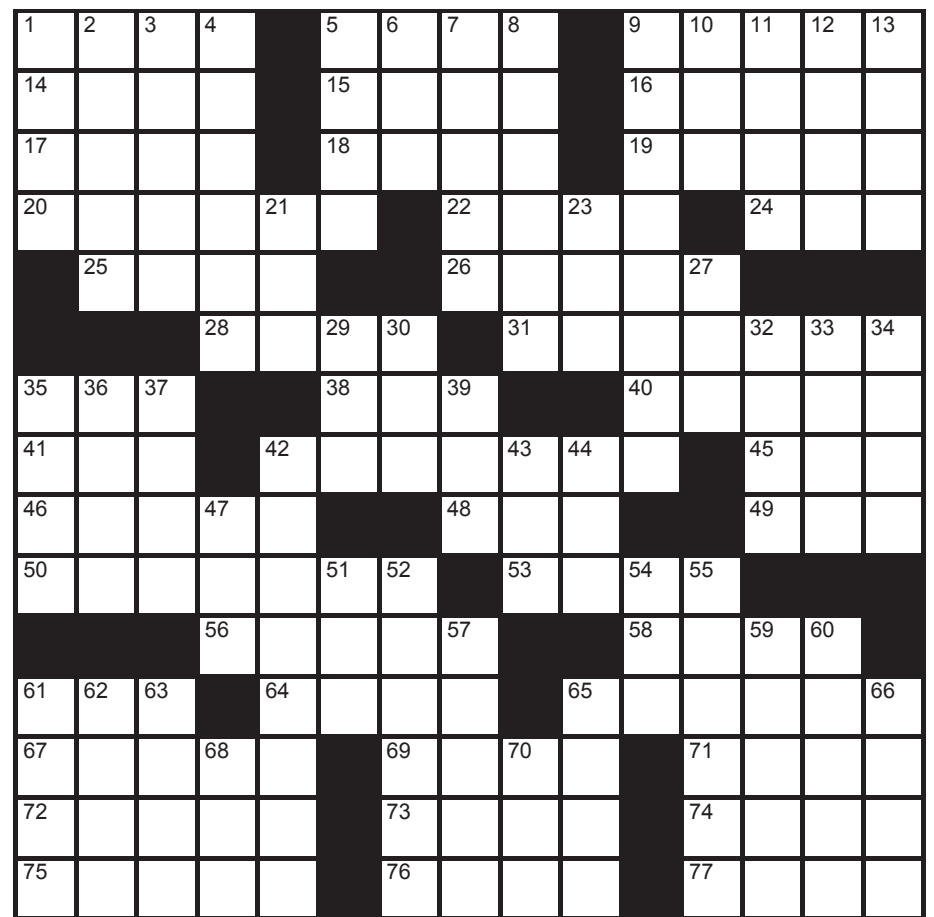
**November 13**

**November 4**

**December 11**

**December 2**

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



### Across

- 1 Back talk
- 5 Band bookings
- 9 Twosomes, in song
- 14 Stew bean
- 15 Lightly cooked
- 16 Cove
- 17 Rainbow goddess
- 18 Shortly
- 19 Alabama city
- 20 Modus operandi
- 22 Belgrade native
- 24 Mole
- 25 Cast off
- 26 Diving duck
- 28 Elephant Boy of 30's film
- 31 Where a ship can run
- 35 Pothook shape
- 38 Explorer's org.
- 40 Sp. title
- 41 The old college cheer
- 42 *Are We There Yet?* star
- 45 Bank offering, for short
- 46 Assumed name
- 48 Ref's ruling
- 49 Children's game
- 50 Secured, as sheets of paper
- 53 Physical
- 56 Diviner's deck
- 58 Short golf shot
- 61 Sci-fi figures
- 64 Likable
- 65 Soap, e.g.
- 67 Vogue
- 69 Ship part
- 71 Locks in a barn?
- 72 Collapsible shelter
- 73 Lab item

- 74 Encourage
- 75 Fur capitalist
- 76 He and she
- 77 Mantas

### Down

- 1 Slender
- 2 Buenos \_\_\_
- 3 Mormon Church founder
- 4 Casements
- 5 Alum
- 6 Golfer Woosnam
- 7 Income type
- 8 Nero's tutor
- 9 Pay out
- 10 Article in Le Monde
- 11 Building additions
- 12 Office fill-in, briefly
- 13 Hang out
- 21 Harem room
- 23 Piano piece
- 27 *Lenore* poet
- 29 UK cable channel
- 30 Consume
- 32 Military group
- 33 One of Asta's masters
- 34 Downer
- 35 Historic periods
- 36 Preserve, in a way
- 37 LaBeouf of *Transformers*
- 39 Play the part
- 42 Bali resident
- 43 Small guitar
- 44 After shoe or shadow
- 47 On target
- 51 Verdi's "\_\_\_ tu"
- 52 Court agenda
- 54 Mimic
- 55 Indistinct sound
- 57 Choppers
- 59 Coronet
- 60 Sharp-tasting
- 61 Kett of old comics
- 62 "\_\_\_ int'essant"
- 63 Fall mo.
- 65 Do in
- 66 Popular jeans
- 68 Modern (Prefix)
- 70 Compass dir.

See Solution on Page 17



# Chewy's Ultimate SANTA CLAUS Guide

## WHO IS SANTA CLAUS?

### ST. NICHOLAS



Date: AD 270  
Origin: Lycia

Santa is based on a real-life priest named St. Nicholas who was born in modern-day Turkey. He was known for helping children, the poor, and for giving gifts.

### ODIN



Date: AD 500s  
Origin: Germanic Regions

Santa was heavily influenced by the Norse god, Odin, who wore a cloak, sported a long, white beard, delivered gifts, and rode a flying 8-legged horse.



### KRIS KRINGLE

Date: 1600s  
Origin: Protestants

Religious Protestant leaders tried to replace the very Catholic St. Nicholas with the angel baby Christkind (Christ child). Kris Kringle, or Christkind would fly around to houses and quiz children on the Bible.

### SINTERKLAAS



Date: 1600s  
Origin: Sinterklaas is the Dutch spelling and pronunciation of Saint Nicholas.

Dutch immigrants brought his story to America. Sinterklaas is the primary source of the modern Santa. He wears a bishop's hat and robes. On December 6th he rides his white horse to deliver gifts to children.



### FATHER CHRISTMAS

Date: 1600s  
Origin: England

Father Christmas wore a long white beard and long green cloak. He was not associated with giving gifts to children but was rather concerned with adult feasting and merry-making.

### SANTA CLAUS



Date: 1860s  
Origin: United States

The popularized Santa Claus of the United States is an amalgam of history, tradition, commercialization, advertising, and myth.



## WHAT ARE THE LOGISTICS OF SANTA'S CHRISTMAS EVE FLIGHT?



If all 2 billion children Santa visits left a glass of milk (8oz) for him, Santa would need to drink **4 MILLION** gallons of milk every hour, or about **137 MILLION** gallons of milk over night.

Santa will need to make around **700 MILLION** stops on Christmas Eve to deliver gifts to nearly **2 BILLION** children.

Assuming each household in the whole world leaves out two chocolate chip cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve, he would eat **374 BILLION** calories, **33,000** tons of sugar, **157,000** tons of fat in one night.

Santa's sleigh would weigh over **400,000** tons if it carried enough toys for all the children in the world. To carry that much weight, Santa would need over **360,000 REINDEER.**

## THE HISTORY BEHIND SANTA'S MOST WELL-KNOWN PROPS

### NORTH POLE:

German-born American illustrator Thomas Nast placed Santa's home in the North Pole during the 1800s, a time when scientific exploration to the region were increasing.

### SANTA'S SUIT:

Santa's suit is a combination of bishop robes, capes, and the mitre of St. Nicholas.

### ELVES:

Historically, Santa was followed by little black devils, which have morphed into cute elves.

### SANTA'S LIST:

The Norse god Odin had two black ravens who listened near people's chimneys to see if they were naughty or nice.

<https://www.factretriever.com/santa-claus-facts>

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on the following days:



December 24 & 25, 2018 in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day



December 31, 2018 & January 1, 2019 in observance of New Year's Day



## Branch 162's Christmas Tree Project Helps Support Hospital Fund Raiser

The officers and members of Branch 162 once again decorated a seven-foot Christmas tree in the lobby of the Uniontown Hospital as part of its annual fundraiser known as the "Festival of Trees." The Branch 162 tree is one of many that adorn the lobby every November with various themes and decorated by organizations within the hospital and the surrounding community.

Please call Joanne Marmol for more information about the Nursing Foundation fund raiser at the Uniontown Hospital. Her phone number is 724-437-1839.

- Submitted by James Marmol, Region 4 Director



Branch 162's final decorated seven-foot Christmas tree displayed in Uniontown Hospital lobby as part of its 2018 fundraiser.



Branch 162 Officers in front of the branch's 2018 Christmas tree (L - R): Mark Marmol, President; Joanne Marmol, Vice President; Patty Marmol, Treasurer; Dolores Marmol, Secretary; and Frank Marmol, Auditor.

All of the Branch 162 members who decorated the tree: First row (L - R): Betty Rozzell, Joanne Marmol, Bette Holloman, Dolores Marmol and Frank Marmol. Second row (L - R): Mark Marmol, Jim Marmol, Patty Marmol and Rudy Holloman.

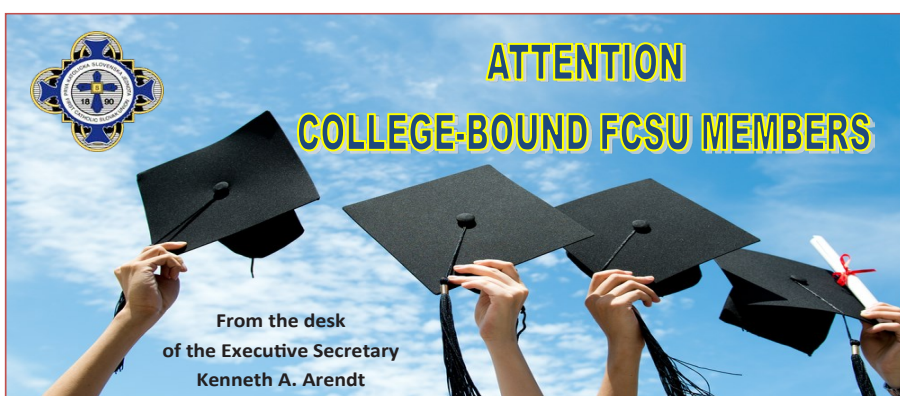




# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year . . . . From All of Us to All of You!



The FCSU Home Office Team: (L – R) Barbara Sutilla, Claims Department; Kim Kuzminski, Annuity/IRA Department; Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents; Robert Kopco, Branch Coordinator/Agents; Miriam Visnovsky, Support Staff/Benevolent Scholarships; Rosanne Johaneck, Annuity/IRA Department; Suzanne Balak, Life Insurance Cash Value/Surrenders & Medical Assistance Information; Joseph Mitrik, Accountant; Marge Szczepaniak, Life Insurance & Billing Department, Medicals/Reinsurance; Dorota Pietraszewski, Support Staff; Adriana Scally, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Secretary; Julie Cherryholmes, Member Service Department; Teresa Ivanec, Jednota Editor/Branch Meeting Notices; Amber Germ, Loan Department; Andrew M. Rajec, National President; Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary; Beata Begeniova-Fedorouk, Administrative Assistant to the President; Terezia Rozmus, Annuity/IRA Department.



## THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2019 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Ninety (90) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

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

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

For rules, requirements and applications go to  
[www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)  
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,  
February 28, 2019**

We at the Home Office wish you and your family peace, joy, and prosperity throughout the Christmas season and the coming year. At this special and holy time, we give thanks to our members and all those who support and promote the values of our Society: faith, family, heritage, and fraternalism.

Thinking warmly of each of you and looking forward to moving into 2019 together.





# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michaels Branch 2 will hold a meeting on Tuesday December 18 at 7pm at Kretzlers on Babcock Blvd to discuss upcoming fraternal activities and have election of officers. Please plan on attending this meeting, and RSVP to Joanne at 412-715-5577.

**Joanne Lako, Secretary**

## BRANCH 3P – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday December 16, 2018, at 9:30AM in the church basement of Saint Joseph Church at 604 N. Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Refreshments will be served. Election of officers for 2019 will be conducted as well as plans for future activities for our branch. Please make an effort to attend.

**Mike Koval, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels, Branch 35, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2019, officer reports, a Convention report from delegates and discussion of branch and district activities.

**Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members of Branch #40 are urged to attend the meeting. Election of officers will take place. Lunch will follow. Please make reservations by calling (815) 672-6142 before January 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

**Theresa Graves, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

Holy Trinity Society Branch 41 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday December 18, 2018, at 7:00 PM at 80 Mohawk Rd., Yonkers, NY, 10710. The agenda will include: an overview of this past year's revival of the branch; election of officers; a discussion about the 2019 Patronal Feast day; a financial report; and other branch business.

**Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr., President**

## BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2019, at 12:00 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, January 20, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the President in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Mass will be held at Wesley Hall at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch.

Elections will be held for Branch Officers and Delegates and their Alternates to the District 8 meetings. Please call the President at 215.613.8987. Elections of District 8 Delegates and their Alternatives for the year 2019 will also take place.

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

Attention! Any high school or college student

that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's recently published book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. Joe, a multi-faceted entrepreneur, is a member of the FCSU, who shares his insights and experience in building a successful career centered in the field of music. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by January 13th in order to make reservations at Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (215) 613-8987. In the event of severe weather, or any other emergency, we will conduct a telephone conference meeting with those who cannot attend.

**Helena Gaydos, President**

## BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Dear Members: please join us for our meeting and election of officers on Saturday, February 9, 2019. In addition to the election of branch officers, topics for discussion will include: a discussion of 2019 donations and activities as well as insurance dividends.

The meeting will be held at Alliot's Restaurant, 30141 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI, and will run from 11:15AM to 1:00PM, approximately. Lunch is to be served at 12:30, and is complimentary for members. Guest cost is \$20.00. Make checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail checks to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Reservations must be made by February 1, 2019 in order to give the restaurant the number of people attending. To reserve your place, please call Mike Novak at 414-445-5382.

Fraternally,

**Mike Novak, President**

## BRANCH 157 – N.CATASAUQUA PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 157 is having a meeting in the upstairs hall.5th & Grove N.Catasauqua, PA. The date is December 16, 2018, at 11:00AM. The meeting will be the update of the convention, and the past District meeting. Also, there will be election of officers. Following the meeting will be the Christmas party for the children. Sign up by calling the Social Club @ (610)264-0740 the ages are 0 To 10 years of age. Another meeting will be on Wednesday December 19, 2017 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to the meeting bring new ideas. Branch 157 wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving. If we don't see you at the meetings, we wish you a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe while driving during the Holiday season. We liked to welcome the merger Branches of Slatinton, Bethlehem and Reading.

**Greg Harakal, Financial Secretary**

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, March 31, 2019, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be information from the District Meeting and Branch business. Please bring any questions about life insurance or annuities for discussion at the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by March 26, 2019, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

**Arlo Meeker, President**

## BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch Number 173, located in Northeast Pennsylvania Area, will hold its annual meeting on December 16, 2018, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, beginning at 12:00 pm. General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. In addition officers will be elected for the new year.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-4032067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

**John A. Ungvarsky, President**

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 wants to extend a very happy, healthy, blessed holiday season to all members of the FCSU. May God bless you and keep you safe!

We invite all members to attend Branch 200's meetings held in the upstairs Social Hall @ 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. The Officers and Board of Directors meet @7:00PM with the members to meet directly following. The meeting dates for 2019 are as follows: 01/03/19, 02/07/19, 03/07/19, 04/04/19, 05/02/19, 08/01/19, 09/05/19, 10/03/19, 11/07/19 with Nomination of Officers, and 12/05/19 with Election of Officers. There are no meetings in June or July.

We are asking our members to attend the meetings and we welcome any involvement you are willing partake.

Branch 200's 125th Anniversary is coming in 2020.

**Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 213 – VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at 1:00PM. It will be held at 2063 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA 16059. Election of officers will be held. Our Branch wishes everyone a blessed and joyful Christmas and a Holy and Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,

**Joseph W. Belechak, 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 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 13, 2019, at 11:30am at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads, Mt. Lebanon, PA. The meeting will include election of officers and a report of activities as well as a financial report. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

**Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 24, 2019, at 2:00PM at 175 Harvey Street, Struthers, OH.

We will conduct our annual audit and discuss the activities for 2019. Members are encouraged to attend.

On behalf of all our officers, we want to wish all members a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary**

## BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

The branch will hold a meeting on December 15, 2018, at 12:20PM at Savatore's Italian Grill, Austintown, OH. On the agenda: election of branch officers for 2019.

Fraternally,

**Carlie M. Peshek, Vice President**

## BRANCH 266 – HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Peter and Paul Society Branch 266 will

hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at 9:30AM in the church basement of Saint Joseph Church at 604 N. Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Refreshments will be served. Officers will be elected for Branch 266 for 2019. Plans for future activities of the branch will be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

**R. Lazar, Secretary**

## BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch #292 KJ, will hold their annual meeting and Christmas Party at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, December 16, 2018 at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pa 15963. A buffet dinner will follow the meeting. All members are asked to attend these events. The Officers extend to all wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

## BRANCH 312 – BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its annual meeting with election of officers on Sunday, January 27, 2019. The meeting will start at 1:00PM and will be held at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Dr, Latrobe, PA 15650.

We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

**Michaelene Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at 11:00AM at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. There will be an election of officers, and the Convention, along with general business, will be discussed. Since a light brunch will be provided, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

## BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph, Branch 367, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2018, at 2 PM. All members are invited to attend. The meeting will be held at O'Gillies Pub, 200 E. Asken Street, Uniontown, PA 15401. Election of officers for 2019, the 51st FCSU convention in Ohio and activities that were completed for the year will all be discussed. Any member planning on attending please call President, Audrey Balazik 724-438-3887 or Secretary, Kathryn Baranek 724-569-1006. We would like to wish our members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fraternally,

**Kathryn Baranek, Secretary**

## BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, March 3, 2019, in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA. Auditors will meet at 12:30PM to check the books and records. The meeting will convene at 1:00PM.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and auditors. Members will also discuss future branch activities. Information from the Home Office will be disseminated.

A copy of the annual report to the Home Office will be presented.

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

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

**Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President**

## BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Br. 401, East Vandergrift

continued on page 15



## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 276 will host the Spring Business Meeting on Sunday, April 7 at 1 PM at Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Street Extn, West Mifflin 15122. The district needs host branches for Fathers' Day and the Fall Meeting. Please consider volunteering.

Heavy rain from Hurricane Gordon ruined our plans to attend an afternoon Pirates baseball game in September. We will reschedule in the spring, possibly May 31. Your tickets from September will be honored. You can get additional tickets – contact Annie Ondrejco. Bring your suggestions for other district activities to the April meeting.

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

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

\*\* WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd, Mt Lebanon PA: Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

\*\* Slovak Day at Kennywood Park – Thursday, July 18, 2019; Tickets will be available from Sue Ondrejco.

\*\* Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt – Sunday, November 3, 2019 – Noon to 4 PM. Free admission. Lectures on Slovak culture, Slovak entertainment, Slovak food, & many vendors.

\*\* Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners. A summer class for children will start May 25, 2019.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary**  
manasta@verizon.net

### DISTRICT 11 – THE MONSIGNOR JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT

District 11 recently held our semi-annual meeting in Ford City, PA @ Branch 200's Social Hall. Due to the recent passing of our District Secretary, Grace Charney, who was a very active and devoted member, we are asking for members to step up to fill this position. Anyone interested, please contact

me @724-763-9229 or email vschaub123@gmail.com. The District is in need of your attendance @ the 2 currently held meetings per year. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, 2019 @1:30pm. There was discussion on holding that meeting in the Natrona Heights area @ a restaurant. There would be NO cost to any member in attendance. RSVP's would be appreciated but not required. We are open for suggestions and welcome all who can take a couple hours out of your day to be a part of this meeting. We want to be active in all areas of our members from Branches 401 & 200.

Save the Date!!! There are plans to have a "1st Annual Winter Polka Party" Sunday, January 12, 2019. Details will follow in the near future.

Fraternally,

**Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary**

### DISTRICT 12 – THE ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, December 16, 2018, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. The Convention and other general business will be discussed; and an election of officers will be held. Members of the district are urged to attend.

**Frances Tarquinio, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 14 – REV. JOSEPH KOSTIK DISTRICT

District 14, Region 6, Rev. Joseph Kostik District will be holding its Annual Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at 6 pm at Rachel's Restaurant, 54 Westchester Drive in Austintown, OH. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. Reservations must be made by December 1, 2018, by calling Sue Carney at (330) 770-6810. There will be no meeting, just an enjoyable evening with all members and guests of our Okres.

**Grace Kavulic, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT – LOS ANGELES

The Prince Pribina District will hold an annual meeting on Saturday, December 15, 2018. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: officer reports and a financial report; election of officers for 2019; and a discussion of possible 2019 activities. All branch members in our area are encouraged to participate and attend their concurrent annual meeting.

**Paul Skuben, President**

### DISTRICT 16 – THE MONSIGNOR KRASULA DISTRICT

A semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Krasula District 16 will be held on Sunday, February 24, 2019 in the rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church immediately following the 10:15 AM Slovak Mass. The agenda will include a discussion and planning on future activities for District 16 in the coming year 2019. All members from District 16 are cordially invited to attend this meeting. Light refreshments will be served immediately after the meeting.

**Joan Skrkon, Secretary/Treasurer**

### DISTRICT 19 – THE MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

On Sunday January 13, 2019, the annual meeting for Monsignor Michael Shuba District will be held at 1:30pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. Address: 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario.

At this meeting the election of Officers for the District will be held, financial statements reviewed, and any new business discussed. Lunch will be available; please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111

**Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### continued from page 14

will hold its Annual Meeting on December 30, 2018 at noon. Location for this event is the Slovak Club of East Vandergrift, 304 McKinley Ave., E.V. Pa. 15629. On the agenda will be Election of 2019 Officers, a report from the 51st Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, and a discussion on mew/pending District and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend. A special appeal is extended to the newly incorporated inactive branches from N. Vandergrift (701), Leechburg (600), New Kensington/Arnold (164) for a member to attend to give input/direction regarding where meetings could be held in these newly adjoined geographic areas. Over all plans to rotate our meetings to every inclusive area cannot be achieved without this information; so PLEASE past officers and/or members, help us to keep the F.C.S.U. alive and vibrant in your area! Immediately following the meeting a "Social Gathering" will be held until 5:00 PM. At which time we will also watch the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Cincinnati Bengals game! (if the time is not changed) Hors d'oeuvres and liquid libations of pivo, wine, coffee and tea will be provided for attendees. Thank you and I hope to see you there!

**Patrick Froncek, Secretary**

### BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 2:30 at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 724-425-2576

Members are encouraged to attend.

**Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary**

### BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

Branch 425 will be holding its annual meeting on Sunday, December 23, 2018, at 1:00PM. Election of officers will take place. Location: 1371 Eastern Road, Rittman, OH. RSVP to 330-825-3534.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jeannette Willis, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at 2:00PM in the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA 15731. The agenda will include election of officers, reports, payment of bills, donations, membership and general discussion of branch issues. May all enjoy a beautiful and colorful fall, and a very Blessed and Faith-filled Christmas.

**Monica Rura, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 581 – GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will meet on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN. The agenda will be election of officers, the upcoming play in Munster and discussion of our trip to the convention. RSVP Ann Buczek, 219-947-2793 or George Kelchak, 219-926-2410.

**Ann Buczek, Secretary**

### BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, December 16 - quarterly meeting, election of officers will take place. Meeting will begin at 2pm. All branch 595 members are encouraged to attend.

Monday, December 31 New Year's Eve Party.

Please call Tatra Hall for details.

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday are .50 off.

Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm-8pm, Sat 12noon-8pm. Come down and enjoy yourself. All events will take place at Tatra Hall 252 Sixth Street, Muskegon Heights, MI 231-733-7525.

**Susan Hornik, Secretary**

### BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, December 23, 2018 at 3:00 PM at Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Road, Penn Hills, PA. The agenda will include the election of new officers for 2019 and a summary of events and issues during 2018.

Sincerely,

**Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2018, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. There will be election of officers. In addition, the Convention, along with other general business, will be discussed. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

**Dorothy Petrus, President**

### BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The next meeting of Branch 682 members will take place at the District 14 Christmas party on December 18, 2018 at 6pm. The party will be held at Rachel's Restaurant & Catering, 54 Westchester Dr. in Austintown, OH 44515. As we have the

highest level of attendance at this function we will be holding election of branch officers for the 2019 fiscal year.

The next regular meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Thursday, January 3, 2019, at Materials

Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St. in Struthers, OH 44471. The meeting will include the assembly of the branch annual report.

**Drew Hirt, President**

### BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On December 16, 2018 members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate Mass at 11AM for our deceased branch members. The election of officers for 2019 will be held at an annual meeting following the Mass. The Mass and annual meeting will be held at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Avenue, Youngstown, OH.

**Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 1:00 PM in the Tuscan room at Luciano's Restaurant (1579 Main Street, Rahway, NJ). The agenda will include election of officers, including the new position of Branch Fraternal Activities Director. There will also be discussion and planning for next year's activities. A Christmas luncheon will follow the meeting (\$35.00 for non-members). Please note that Luciano's has a new parking lot which is located at 107 Monroe Street, around the corner from the restaurant, about a block away (a sign is posted). Kindly call Mary Ann Ranahan @732-251-6035 by December 7th if you plan on attending. Please bring non-perishable

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# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Dennis Michael Wolk	153K	Arlene M Jaguszewski	221K	John Ronald Pastorek	581K	Frank M Lukas
003K	Kathleen Ann Mullen	157K	Cyril D Neupauer	260K	Michael Jaros	595K	Harold L Arnold
004K	Robert V Martrano	162K	Eugene Painley	290K	Michael Wozniak	743K	Margarette Tribula
005P	Alberta A Kridlo	166K	Joseph Hubik	290K	Agnes Zagari	746K	Michael Ulaky
005P	Sophie Kridlo	166K	Miles J Ondecko	292K	Paula M Tomko	764K	Margaret H Koshar
006K	Earl E Howell	173K	Eugene Walko	293K	John T Maruscak	764K	Thomas J Kralovich
023K	Leonard William Fenimore	173K	Catherine Yudichak	293K	John G Mihalko	764K	Robert Medallis
024K	Edward F Miller	199K	Dolores Marie Horansky	367K	Michael George Petro Jr	796K	Anna Kotowski
038K	James R Matthias	199K	Mary S Macey	393K	Helen M Koynok	796K	Dolores Luetgen
040K	Donald G Pouk	199K	Helen I Rapach	450K	Joseph E Swartz	796K	Stella F Nederostek
060K	James A Gourash	199K	Robert J Sedlacko	493K	Helen Jelinek	796K	Margaret Weber
075K	George E Knovich	199K	George E Trout	497K	Robert D Kozub	831K	Margaret Planavsky
075K	Mary Migatulski	200K	Twila J Anthony	581K	Michael J Kelchak	900K	Francis Leroy Parizon
108K	Bernard J Hudock	200K	Karen Morrow	581K	Urban Latta	916K	Kenneth Gauger Sr

\*Processed through the month of November

## OBITUARIES

### MARGARET C. GOURASH BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA



Margaret C. Gourash, of Mars, PA and formerly of West Mifflin, PA, passed away on Saturday, April 28, 2018, at age 90. Wife of the late Joseph Gourash; beloved mother of Thomas Gourash (Deborah), Richard William Gourash (Sandra), Sally Kramer, James Gourash (Linda), and the late Mary Margaret; grandmother of Christopher, Jessica, Eric, Ashlyn, Brooke, Dillan, Calvin, Matthew, Lindsey, and Sophia; great-grandmother of Jackson; and sister of John Homyak and the late Edward Homyak, Ann Rady, Mary Bartko, and Helen Madeja. Friends were received at the McDonald - Aeberli Funeral Home, Mars, PA, on Friday, May 4, 2018, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Kilian Church, Cranberry Twp., PA, on Saturday, May 5, 2018, at 10 a.m. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, West Mifflin.

### JOSEPH FRANCIS HUDZIK BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph Francis Hudzik, 72 of Jessup, died Saturday morning, August 4, 2018, at the Gardens of Green Ridge after a lengthy illness.

Born in Jessup, PA, he was the son of the late Stephan and Anna Simansky Hudzik. He was a graduate of Jessup High School and Johnson Trade School. He was employed as a woodworker at C+S Wood Products in Throop for many years until his retirement. He was a member of St. Michael's Church, Queen of Angels Parish and was an avid model train collector. He took pride in the layout of his annual Christmas train display.

He is survived by a brother Francis Hudzik and wife Joan, Jessup; a brother in law, James Grano, Scranton, PA; a niece Maria Mack and husband John; a nephew Richard Grano and wife Anette, and 2 great-nephews Nick and Jake. He was preceded in death by

a sister, Marie Grano.

Friends were received, August 7, 2018 at the Louis M. Margotta Funeral Home, Jessup. Funeral services were held, August 8, 2018, at the funeral home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10am at St. Michael's Church, Jessup. Interment was in Cathedral Cemetery, Scranton.

- Submitted by Francis Hudzik

### TWILA J. (DUNMIRE) ANTHONY BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA



Twila J. (Dunmire) Anthony, 80, of Ford City, died, October 9, 2018, in her home.

Born September 1, 1938, in Iselin, PA, she was a daughter of the late Walter and Laura (Hartman) Dunmire.

Twila was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church, Manorville. She was belonged to the Ford City Eagles Auxiliary, the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota).

She was a licensed practical nurse, and retired from Armstrong County Memorial Hospital after 47 years of service.

She is survived by her four daughters, Vicki (David) Schaub, Ford City; Deborah (Rob) Fennell, Ford City; Lisa Sobkiewicz, Ford City, and Karen (Gary) McCullough, Ford City; her grandchildren, Jeffrey Pauline, Cristin Cicco, Eric Pauline, Sara Oliver, Andrew Rupert, Justin Rupert, Caitlin Mudd, Valerie Hanford, and Nathan Cousins; 15 great-grandchildren; two brothers, James Dunmire, New Brunswick, NJ; and Richard Hancock, Ford City; and her dear companion, Howard Hopper, Ford City.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William J. Anthony in 1993; a great grandson; brothers, Harry and John Dunmire; and sisters, Lois Sirochman, Phyllis Croyle, and Margie Sober.

Friends were welcomed October 11 & 12, 2018, in the Welch Funeral Home, Ford City. Funeral Services were held there October 13, 2018, with Rev. Jack Delk officiating. Interment followed in Ford City Cemetery.

- Submitted by Vicki Schaub

### FRANCIS JOSEPH DINGA BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA



Francis Joseph Dinga, 90, of Middletown, PA, passed peacefully into the loving arms of the Heavenly Father on Friday, October 5, 2018. Francis (Frank or Prink) was born on October 11, 1928, in Ford City, PA, and was raised there by his late parents, Tomas and Johanna Dinga.

He graduated from Ford City High School, and was a proud member of the Class of '47. He joined the Air Force in 1948, and served our country for 20 years. Following his military career, he was a Personnel Manager for Orr & Sembower in Middletown, and Merchant's and Businessman's Mutual Insurance Company in Harrisburg, PA. After retiring, he worked as a part-time driver for Cramer Auto. He was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) and the American Legion.

He met the love of his life, Mary Catherine Petrovsky, in Ford City, and they married in 1952. They enjoyed 62 years of marriage together and were blessed with six children. Frank dearly missed Mary Catherine since she passed away in 2014. In addition to his parents and six siblings, he was predeceased by his only son, Francis J. Dinga, Jr who passed away in 1981. Frank is survived by his five daughters: Mary Albers (Ken), Middletown, PA; Joan Lane, Placentia, CA; Madonna Reider (Roger), Middletown; Loretta Kiedrowski (Jamie), Bloomingdale OH; and Yvonne Horner (Russ), Alexandria, VA. Frank leaves behind 18 loving grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and countless people he "adopted" into his family. He is survived by many loving nieces and nephews as well.

Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on, October 13, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, Middletown. The celebrant was Reverend Ted Keating, with Reverend Eric Dinga, Frank's grand-nephew, concelebrating. Viewings were held on, October 5, 2018, with Recitation of the rosary and on, October 6, 2018, at the Matinchek Funeral Home, Middletown. Burial followed at St. Mary's Cemetery, Middletown.

- Submitted by Vicki Schaub

### MARY ANN (GNOZA) LEVAN BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA



Mary Ann (Gnoza) Levan, 77, widow of Ronald B. "Bird" Levan, Sr. of Pottstown, PA, passed away on Monday, May 28, 2018 at her residence. Born in Pottstown, she was the daughter of the late Anthony and Frances (Dezura) Gnoza. Mary was an avid Bingo player. Surviving are two sons Anthony F. Levan, Sr. and Ronald B. Levan, Jr. (Cynthia). She is also survived by two daughters Therese L. Stapleton (Dean) and Rhonda K. Shumaker (Bobbie). She is survived by nine grandchildren: Anthony, Kelli, Heather, Kierstin, Amanda, Kaylee, Ronald III, Kelsey and Angelle; six great-grandchildren Logan, Jasta, Brody, Wyatt, Joshua and Charlotte. She is also survived by a brother John Gnoza (Julie) and a sister Remy Conicelli. Funeral services were held on June 1, 2018 from Warker-Troutman Funeral Home, Pottstown, with the Rev. Thomas Craver, Chaplain of Pottstown Memorial Medical Center officiating. A viewing was held that same day at the funeral home. Interment was in Highland Memorial Park, Pottstown.

- Submitted by Rhonda Shumaker

### Professor Martin Votruba (1948 - 2018)



Professor Martin Votruba passed away Nov 23, 2018. Head of the Slovak Studies Program & Senior Lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh, the university will host a memorial service in his honor Jan 13, 2019 at 2PM in the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium. Contact the university (412) 624-4141 for details, and look for a tribute to this renowned Slovak scholar by Dr. Michael Kopanic in an upcoming Jednota.



## Focus on Faith

### REMEMBERING REV. JOSEPH M. KELCHAK

**"GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO I," MANTRA OF PRIEST WHO LOVED HIS VOCATION**

Rev. Joseph M. Kelchak, a retired priest of the Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin passed away on November 9, 2018, at the age of 92.

A native of Gary, IN, Father Kelchak was born in Gary in 1926 and attended Holy Trinity Grammar School before entering St. Procopius College Prep and Seminary in Lisle, Illinois, followed by St. Francis Seminary in Wisconsin, receiving valedictorian honors at every level of education.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1950, at St. Thomas parish in Kenosha, Wisconsin by Bishop Albert G. Meyer. For the next 40 years, Father Kelchak served in numerous parishes and Catholic organizations throughout the Diocese of Superior as assistant pastor and pastor. He also served as chaplain to Holy Family hospital, Cathedral High School, and the Motherhouse of Sisters of St. Joseph, all in the Superior area, and was Chaplain of Queen of all Angels, Council 12154, of the Knights of Columbus.

In his years before retirement, Father Joe, as he was most often called, assumed duties as the regional director for the local Apostolate of Vocations, was director for Vocations and Family Life for Hayward deanery with the Superior diocesan Liturgical Commission, the Diocesan Indian Commission, Presbyterial council, pastoral council, was dean and vicar of the Forane, East deanery, and was named assistant vocations director for the diocese. He served 9 years on the Permanent Diaconate Board and was a director for continuing education for priest and deacons for 14 years. As part of his ministry to the Indian population in northern Wisconsin, Father Joe was responsible for helping to bring running water, wild rice co-ops and electricity to the Chippewa reservations.

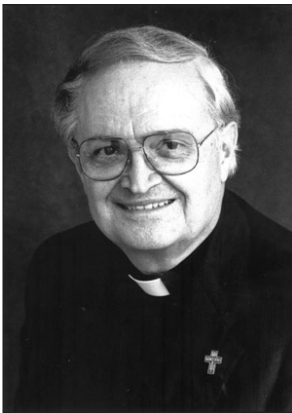
Going above and beyond his duties in the parishes he served, Father Kelchak also assumed duties on the priests' senate, the Clergy Continuing Education Committee and the Christian Formation Advisory Board.

During the 1960s Father Kelchak wrote and published numerous books on the liturgy, family and marriage counseling. He also conducted workshops in personal profiles, positive thinking and psychology and was a speaker for retreats and days of recollection, ranging on topics from Native American spirituality to art, Scripture and the Bible. He was a great lover and collector of art. Fr. Joe led tours in the 1960's and 1970's to the Holy land, Greece and Rome. His collaboration with international artist Bill Mack is well documented producing his vision of the "Madonna With Child" sculpture.

Following his 65th birthday, Father Kelchak retired from active ministry in Wisconsin in 1991 and returned home to his family in Northwest Indiana. However, "retired from active ministry" was foreign to Father Joe, who told anyone who would listen how much he loved being a priest.

Father Kelchak offered sacramental assistance for local parishes for many years, where he earned the deep love and respect of parishioners, especially with his trademark, "God loves you, and so do I" will remain in our hearts forever. He was chaplain for the FCSU Branch 581, and the Spitzkowsky District 2. Father Kelchak served in over 53 parishes, St. Mary's Hospital as chaplain, and multiple nursing care facilities during his 68 years as a catholic priest.

"The way he lived his life as a priest for 68 years made that clear. He loved the church. Those



four words sum up his priestly life. Fr. Joe had a positive self-image of who he was as a priest of the church. Never did he compromise his priesthood or the church, not once. His enthusiasm for the church made him a great salesman for the Lord and for the church" his sister, Ann Buczek, indicated.

His Holy Spirit prayer cards have been distributed around the country and Latin America. They are printed in English and Spanish. He called the Holy Spirit the forgotten God, and so tried to make sure he was not too forgotten.

"We all compared Fr. Joe to the Energizer Bunny." Father Maletta recalled. "He would update us on his age, only to say he had been blessed with all those years, but still had a lot more left in him. "He would say he intended, the good Lord willing, to die in active ministry as a priest." He said. "And God granted him that prayer, because even though he recently moved to the Albertine Home (in Hammond), he still was able to celebrate Mass there. We all loved Father Joe, and he will be greatly missed."

Father Joe is preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Mary Kelchak, his sister, Marge Simko, brother, Dr. Michel Kelchak, brother-in-law, Ernest Buczek, sisters-in-law Sandra Kelchak and Betty Kelchak. He is survived by his brother, George Kelchak and sister, Anna Buczek, brother-in-law John Simko, and many nieces and nephews.

Rite of Reception took place at 2PM. Evening prayer was at 7:30PM. Morning Prayer was at 9:30AM. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on November 14, 2018, at St. John the Evangelist Church, St. John, IN at 10AM.

- Submitted by Ann Buczek, Branch 581

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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food items for donation to a local food pantry.

**Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

### BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

On Sunday, January 13, 2019, the Annual Meeting for Branch 785 will be held at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Mississauga, Ontario. Discussions on upcoming activities and well as Election of Officers for Branch 785 will take place at this meeting. Lunch will be available at 1:30 p.m. Meeting will follow. Please R.S.V.P. Milan Zoldak (647-350-0604) if you will attend.

The executive would like to extend best wishes to all members for and Very Merry Christmas. We hope to see everyone in the New Year!

Fraternally yours,

**Sharon Tomas, Secretary**

### BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, December 15, 2018, at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. The meeting will start at 11:00 AM with an agenda as follows: officer reports and a financial report; election of officers for 2019; a discussion of possible 2019 activities; and initiating a membership drive with a focus on highlighting benefits of joining the FCSU. All members in our area are encouraged to participate.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

### BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 11:30am at Speers Street Grill in Belle Vernon, PA.

All members attending will be treated to lunch. Non-branch members cost of the lunch will be \$25. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at 412-341-1577 by Dec 13, with your name, phone number, and how many branch, and non-branch members will be attending.

Along with celebrating the birth of Our Lord, we will hold a meeting after lunch.

Election will take place for the branch officers for 2019.

Branch 853 extends to all, wishes for a safe, happy and Holy Christmas Season.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, President**

### BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Sunday December 16, 2018. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 2 Kindle Lane, Levittown, PA.

Branch 857 wishes all members a safe and Blessed Christmas holiday.

Fraternally,

**Nicole L Nasta  
Recording Secretary**

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

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

## 1st Annual Winter Polka Party: COME POLKA OFF THOSE HOLIDAY POUNDS!!!

District 11 along with Branch 200 & Branch 401 are inviting ALL Members and Guests including all other Districts in Western PA to this FREE event to be held:

January 12, 2019 from 7 to 11pm

The C.U.Slovak Club's Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226

Contacts: President Patrick Froncek

Patrickf007@yahoo.co or 724-236-4226

Treasurer Vicki Schaub

Vschaub123@gmail.co or 724-763-9229

Entertainment by: Jack Tady Bears.

Visit Jack Tady's website @www.polkaplace.com. Check out his accomplishments on the internet such as his induction into the Cleveland-style Polka Hall of Fame. He was the UMPAPA Man of the Year in 1996, POPP Man of the Year in 1968, & crowned WPA Polka King in 1968.

Snacks will be provided & there will be a cash bar.

Great event to meet or socialize with our members & guests. Whether you polka or just enjoy the music, we look forward to seeing you and making a tradition for years to come.

- Submitted by District 11 Officers





Statement as of September 30, 2018 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**  
**ASSETS**

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	354,686,306		354,686,306	348,541,005
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,767,353		2,767,353	2,710,635
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	432,479		432,479	609,764
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	380,134		380,134	401,326
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,002,062		1,002,062	1,045,630
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	785,946		785,946	779,196
5. Cash (\$.....5,659,484), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....6,902,208).....	12,561,692		12,561,692	30,811,526
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,062,868		1,062,868	1,094,955
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	7,685,580		7,685,580	5,280,869
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	381,364,420	0	381,364,420	391,274,906
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,946,155		4,946,155	4,658,595
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	16,007		16,007	23,586
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$.....0) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$.....0).....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	5,595	5,595	0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25).....	386,332,727	6,145	386,326,582	395,957,087
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	386,332,727	6,145	386,326,582	395,957,087



Statement as of September 30, 2018 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**  
**LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS**

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	314,010,000	313,139,204
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	29,120,170	39,687,240
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	44,902	61,288
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	1,265,447	1,128,886
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	7,752	23,126
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	85,792	62,102
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	18,072	18,072
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	6,031,706	6,190,944
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,476,078	2,913,033
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....		
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	390,835	1,240,835
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	354,160,265	365,174,241
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	354,160,265	365,174,241
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	32,166,317	30,782,846
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	32,166,317	30,782,846
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	386,326,582	395,957,087



Statement as of September 30, 2018 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**  
**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	9,087,319	14,993,448	19,448,102
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	12,106,812	12,021,839	15,764,562
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	346,302	300,000	485,085
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	2,151	4,992	31,642
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	21,542,584	27,320,279	35,729,391
10. Death benefits.....	2,052,953	2,026,270	2,607,722
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			
12. Annuity benefits.....	13,428,499	12,208,176	15,550,939
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0.....			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	439,533	409,710	559,825
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	137,955	125,564	169,629
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	870,796	7,799,419	10,847,624
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	16,929,736	22,569,139	29,735,739
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	132,002	234,896	304,518
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	3,229,516	2,474,800	3,038,946
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	81,829	72,083	95,852
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	200,789	(38,238)	(192,209)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	20,573,872	25,312,680	32,982,846
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	968,712	2,007,599	2,746,545
28. Refunds to members.....	301,621	301,673	420,527
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	667,091	1,705,926	2,326,018
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of .....0 (excluding \$.....482,864 transferred to the IMR).....	90,932	91,392	(151,690)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	758,023	1,797,318	2,174,328
<b>SURPLUS ACCOUNT</b>			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	30,782,846	28,099,397	28,099,397
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	758,023	1,797,318	2,174,328
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	175,679	215,071	784,400
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	2,189	2,189	2,919
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	436,954	(202,145)	(305,475)
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	10,625	553	27,278
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,383,470	1,812,986	2,683,450
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	32,166,317	29,912,383	30,782,846



## Správy zo Slovenska

**Bratislava** - Verejní funkcionári by mohli mať po novom absolútne zakázané podnikanie. Počíta s tým návrh novely zákona o ochrane verejného záujmu pri výkone funkcií verejných funkcionárov (tzv. zákon o konflikte záujmov), ktorý má upraviť aj majetkové priznanie verejných funkcionárov vrátane otázok darov či majetkových prírastkov.

**Bratislava** - Favoritom na prezidentského kandidáta je pre vicepremiéra a podpredsedu Smeru-SD Richarda Rašiu a ďalších zo Smeru-SD stále šéf slovenskej diplomacie Miroslav Lajčák. Uviedol to pre novinárov Raši, ktorý naďalej tvrdí, že jeho meno sa v žiadnych debatách sociálnych demokratov o prezidentskom kandidátovi neobjavilo. Smer-SD stále kandidáta nepredstavil.

**Bratislava** - Najpočúvanejšou rozhlasovou stanicou na Slovensku naďalej ostáva Rádio Expres, nasledované Rádiom Slovensko a Fun rádiom. Vyplýva to z prieskumu Radioprojekt, ktorý robila spoločnosť Median SK od 23. júla do 14. októbra. V prieskume odpovedalo 3821 respondentov vo veku od 14 do 79 rokov. Rádio Expres počúva 33,7 percenta, Rádio Slovensko 26,7 percenta a Fun rádio 23,9 percenta poslucháčov. Nasleduje Rádio Europa 2 s počúvanosťou 18,1 percenta a Rádio Jemné, ktoré počúva 15,2 percenta poslucháčov. Rádio Vlna si naladilo 15,1 percenta poslucháčov a Rádio Regina si vybralo 11,3 percenta poslucháčov.

**Bratislava** - Opozičné strany SaS a OĽaNO kritizujú plán ministerstva obrany pokračovať v prevádzke lietadiel MiG-29 až do dodania stíhacích lietadiel F-16. SaS tvrdí, že rezort zrušil dohodnutý nákup švédskych Gripenov len preto, aby mohol predĺžiť abonentnú zmluvu na údržbu ruských MiG-ov a s ňou spojené „nekalé“ kšefty.

**Bratislava** - Úspešní žiaci a študenti, ktorí dosiahli významné úspechy na medzinárodných predmetových olympiádach, umeleckých či športových súťažiach v uplynulom roku, si prevzali ocenenie Pamätný list sv. Gorazda. Štátny tajomník Ministerstva školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR Peter Krajčák pri príležitosti 17. novembra ako Medzinárodného dňa študentstva, ako aj Dňa boja za slobodu a demokraciu ocenil na pôde Ekonomickej univerzity v Bratislave 30 žiakov z celého Slovenska.

**Martin** - Minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš privítal nedávno v priestoroch Opravárenského práporu v Martine 25 profesionálnych vojakov, ktorí sa vrátili z výcvikovej aktivity NATO v Iraku. Zároveň sa rozlúčil s 34 vojakmi, ktorí odchádzajú plniť úlohy v rámci operácie Resolute Support v Afganistane.

**Bratislava** - Malá korupcia je na Slovensku naďalej na ústupe. Za ostatné tri roky zaplatilo úplatky vo verejných službách len 12 percent Slovákov. Klesá však počet ľudí ochotných korupciu nahlásiť. Vyplýva to z prieskumu, ktorý pre Transparency International Slovensko (TIS) koncom septembra uskutočnila agentúra Focus.

**Bratislava** - Ak by sa prezidentské voľby konali v novembri, ľudia by najviac volili ministra zahraničných vecí Miroslava Lajčáka, získal by 32,3 percenta. Za ním by nasledoval vedec Robert Mistrík (11,7 percenta) a sudcu Najvyššieho súdu SR Štefana Harabina (10 percent). Vyplýva to z prieskumu, ktorý na vzorke 1012 respondentov robila agentúra Focus 7. až 14. novembra. Prezidentské voľby budú na jar, oficiálni kandidáti ešte nie sú známi.

**Bratislava** - Predsedníčka Najvyššieho súdu (NS) SR Daniela Švecová podala návrh na začatie disciplinárneho konania proti sudcovi Najvyššieho súdu SR Štefanovi Harabinovi. Dôvodom je podľa Švecovej jeho konanie v trestnej veci Róberta L. a spol. Navrhuje preloženie Harabina na súd nižšieho stupňa a zníženie platu o 70 percent. Informovala o tom hovorkyňa NS SR Alexandra Važanová.

**Viedeň/Budapešť/Brusel** - Lietadlo so slovenskou europoslankyňou Annou Záborskou museli 20. novembra evakuovať po tom, ako na jeho palube vypukol oheň. K incidentu došlo tesne pred odletom pravidelného ranného spoja o 7.05 h z Viedne do Bruselu. Oheň sa však nerozšíril a cestujúci ani posádka neutrpeli zranenia.

**Bratislava** - Európsky parlament (EP) zrejme ešte do konca svojho volebného obdobia rozhodne, či sa zruší každoročné striedanie letného a stredo európskeho času. Potom by malo nasledovať dvojročné prechodné obdobie, počas ktorého sa budú musieť členské štáty EÚ dohodnúť, ku ktorému času sa priklonia. A ak by sa priklonili k času letnému, bude to príležitosť otvoriť otázku, či majú deti chodiť do školy aj naďalej na ôsmu, alebo by sa vyučovanie mohlo začať neskôr. V prvom vydaní relácie Tablet.TV s názvom Pohľad na oblohu to povedala poslankyňa EP Anna Záborská z Kresťanskodemokratického hnutia (KDH).

**Bratislava** - Prezident Andrej Kiska je znepokojený „konfliktom“ vo vláde Petra Pellegriniho (Smer-SD) a hroziacou demisiou ministra zahraničných vecí Miroslava Lajčáka (nominant Smeru-SD). Predseda vlády Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) dúfa, že na stredajšom 21. novembra zahraničnom výbore Národnej rady (NR) SR sa politici dohodnú, akým spôsobom bude Slovensko tmočiť svoje výhrady ku globálnemu paktu OSN o migrácii. Slová ministra zahraničných vecí Miroslava Lajčáka (nominant Smeru-SD) o novej demisii premiéra podľa jeho slov prekvapili, zatiaľ však podľa neho ide o hypotetickú situáciu.

**Košice** - Kontraband s viac ako 240.000 kusmi cigariet rôznych značiek pašovaných v nákladnom vlaku zaistili colníci na východe Slovenska. Všetky boli balené v spotrebiteľských baleniach bez platnej kontrolnej známky. „Unik na spotrebnej dani predstavuje viac ako 23.700 eur,“ informovala v utorok TASR hovorkyňa Colného úradu Košice Katarína Daňková.

**Bratislava** - Do Bratislavy pricestuje organista Baziliky svätého Petra vo Vatikáne Gianluca Libertucci (1967). Vystúpi na koncerte Dives in misericordia, ktorý sa uskutoční v pondelok 3. decembra vo františkánskom kostole. Na koncerte zaznejú klasické diela od Georga Friedricha Händla, Felixa Mendelssohna-Bartholdyho či Johanna Sebastiana Bacha aj sakrálna organová hudba 20. storočia.

**Myjava** - Tradičné myjavské obradové cestoviny vianočného obdobia, „hrtánky“, sa budú v Myjave vyrábať na pôvodných náradiach. Hrtánky vychádzajú z tradícií pytlíkarských rodín a ich pôvod siaha do obdobia rozmachu tkáčskeho a pytlíkarskeho remesla. „Keďže v minulosti nič nevyšlo nazmar, ženy pytlíkárov využívali kratšie narezané časti paprstkov ako formy na výrobu cestovín, ktoré tvarom pripomínali hrtan,“ vysvetlila Čmelová. Vyvárené cestoviny sa jedli v morčacej alebo slepačej polievke. Dodnes viacerí potomkovia pytlíkarských rodín udržiavajú túto tradíciu.

**Bratislava** - Predsedom KBS bude na ďalšie štyri roky bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský. V Šaštíne - Strážach o tom rozhodli na 91. plenárnom zasadnutí členovia KBS. Arcibiskup Zvolenský bol za predsedu KBS zvolený štvrtýkrát po sebe. V tajných voľbách hlasovalo 14 prítomných biskupov.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

## Prípravy na otvorenie Tatranského ľadového dómu vrcholia

Najväčšiu atrakciu zimnej sezóny vo Vysokých Tatrách, Tatranský ľadový dóm, 23. novembra oficiálne sprístupnia širokej verejnosti. Tatranci tak pomyselne odštartujú zimnú turistickú sezónu. Riaditeľka tamojšej oblastnej organizácie cestovného ruchu Veronika Littvová informovala, že špeciálne chladenie pod kupolou na Hrebienku v súčasnosti ukrýva 225 ton ľadu v 1800 kusoch ľadových blokov.

„O precízne detaily pri tvorbe ľadového chrámu v štýle Baziliky Sv. Petra v Ríme spolu s Berniniho kolonádou, sa postará už tradične Adam Bakoš s tímom slovenských, českých, poľských, anglických a amerických sochárov,“ uviedla s tým, že s výstavbou na Hrebienku začali aj napriek tomu, že na horách stále prevláda nadpriemerne teplé počasie.

Práce na Tatranskom ľadovom dome začali tento rok koncom septembra prvým návozom materiálu na Hrebienok. „Od 22. októbra sa ľadové kocky premieňajú na unikátnu ľadovú baziliku pod rukami hlavného staviteľa Adama Bakoša a pätnástich sochárov a s výstavbou pomáhajú ďalší jedenásti ľudia,“ ozrejmla Littvová s tým, že chrám postavia na Hrebienku šiestykrát. V Berniniho kolonáde bude situovaných celkovo 84 stĺpov po oboch stranách. „Zaujímavosťou je, že len na samotné ľadové stĺpy o výške cez 3,5 metra, bez podstavcov a hlavíc, je použitých 3,5 kamióna ľadu, čo predstavuje 630 kusov ľadových blokov. Celková výška stĺpov je do piatich metrov a na ich vrcholoch budú umiestnené sochy,“ konkretizovala Littvová.

Samotná hlavná kupola bude mať rekordnú výšku až 11,5 metra, čo je maximálna možná výška v rámci celkovej expozície. Originálne majstrovské ľadové dielo je v kupolách doplnené umeleckými výplňami. Tie sú pretransformované do vitráže modernou technológiou tavenia skla. Ich autorom je Achilleas Sdoukos, slovensko-grécky sklár a dizajner.

Prácu stavbárom značne komplikuje teplé počasie, teploty sa často pohybujú na úrovni desať stupňov Celzia. Kupolu však dokážu dostupnými metódami ochladiť. „Tatranský ľadový dóm bude otvorený denne od 9.00 do 16.30 h, pričom počas hlavnej zimnej sezóny a vianočných sviatkov budú otváracie hodiny predĺžené. Vstup do unikátnej ľadovej baziliky je pre návštevníkov bezplatný. Okrem toho počas celej hlavnej zimnej sezóny chystáme pre návštevníkov pravidelne množstvo koncertov a hudobných vystúpení,“ upozornila Littvová s tým, že priestor môžu záujemcovia využívať aj na svadby, či zásnuby. Tatranci veria, že počet návštevníkov atrakcie aj tento rok porastie.

TASR

## V Košiciach odštartovali oficiálne Rok svätých košických mučeníkov

V sobotu 1. decembra sa veriaci Košickej arcidiecézy stretli v košickej katedrále pri oslave svojho diecézneho patróna svätého Ondreja. Táto slávnosť zároveň odštartovala prípravný rok na 400. výročie Troch svätých košických mučeníkov. Sú nimi traja kňazi: Štefan Pongrác, Melichar Grodecký a Marek Križin, ktorí 7. septembra 1619 počas povstania Gabriela Betlena zomreli v Košiciach mučeníckou smrťou. Keďže išlo o prvú sobotu v mesiaci, pred odpustovou svätou omšou sa košický pomocný biskup Marek Forgáč pomodlil pobožnosť fatimskej soboty.



Arcibiskup Bernard Bober súčasne počas sobotnej slávnosti požehnal dva relikviáre s ostatkami košických mučeníkov. Tie počas celého Roka sv. košických mučeníkov budú putovať po jednotlivých farnostiach košickej arcidiecézy, kde budú vystavené k verejnej úcte.

Svätý Ondrej je patrónom košickej diecézy od roku 1804. Na odpustovej svätej omši sa v rámci celodieceznych rekolekcií zúčastnili i kňazi Košickej arcidiecézy. Aj im boli adresované slová homílie košického arcibiskupa a metropolitu Bernarda Bobera. „To, čo robí Boh, robí v tichosti. Nerobí to s veľkým vytrubovaním s veľkým tímom, ale všetko, čo robí, robí v tichosti. Pochopiteľne, že počíta vždy aj s našou účasťou, našou pomocou a predovšetkým s otvorenosťou nášho srdca. K tej spolupráci si vybral svojich učeníkov a medzi nimi bol predovšetkým prvopovolaný sv. Ondrej, náš patrón. O ňom sa dá povedať, že je taký ľudí k Ježišovi, pretože, keď bol sám povolaný, zavolať aj svojho brata šimona Petra, ktorý sa tiež stal prvým medzi ostatnými 12 apoštolmi, a ďalších bratov. Ale do cirkvi sú povolaní všetci ľudia, nielen kňazi a zasvätení, ale všetci laici. Od krstu su povolaní nasledovať ježiša Krista. Takže všetci sme učeníci.“

Sobotná slávnosť zároveň odštartovala prípravný rok na 400. výročie Troch svätých košických mučeníkov. Ako uviedol pomocný košický biskup Marek Forgáč, títo traja umučení kňazi sú veľkým príkladom vernosti cirkvi, Svätému Otcovi, svojmu povolaniu a viere. Ako ďalej dodal, Rok svätých košických mučeníkov bude sprevádzať množstvo aktivít: „Napríklad aula Teologickej fakulty v Košiciach bude pomenovaná po svätých košických mučeníkoch, chceme dať vyhotoviť aj ich nový obraz. V pláne sú aj aktivity orientované smerom ku kňazom, keďže mučeníci boli kňazmi. Chceme otvoriť novú kapitolu permantnej formácie pre kňazov našej arcidiecézy. Takisto máme pripravené aktivity zamerané smerom k rodinám a k manželom. Chceme pozvať na svätú omšu do košickej katedrály jubilujúcich manželov, strieborných a zlatých, aby sme tak zvýraznili vernosť, ktorú si zachovali v manželstve. Teda tých aktivít je naozaj požehnané.“

TK KBS informovala Mária Čigášová



## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### Výročná schôdza okresu Princ Pribina, Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princ Pribina bude mať výročnú schôdzu v sobotu **15-teho decembra 2018**. Výročná schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe sú správy funkcionárov a finančná správa, voľba funkcionárov na rok 2019 a plán aktivít na rok 2019. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučuje sa základným organizáciám v Okrese IKSJ vykonať súčasne výročné voľby.

Paul Skuben, predseda

### Výročná schôdza Spolku číslo 844 IKSJ, Los Angeles Kalifornia

Spolok číslo 844 IKSJ v Los Angeles, Kalifornia usporiada výročnú schôdzu v sobotu **15. decembra 2018** v Slovensko-americkom centre 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Schôdza sa začne o 11:00 hod. Na programe sú: správy úradníkov a finančná správa, voľba funkcionárov na rok 2019 a plánovanie aktivít na rok 2019. Vyzývame všetkých členov v našom okrese, aby zúčastnili tejto schôdze.

Milan Konkol, tahomník

### Jankolova knižnica ponúka tradičné Vianočné oplátky

Tradičné slovenské vianočné oplátky, sú opäť k dispozícii túto sviatočnú sezónu od Sestier SS. Cyrila a Metoda v Jankolovej knižnici a Slovenské múzeum v Danville, Pa. Objednávky prijímajú od 22. októbra do **14. decembra 2018**. Oplátky stoja \$5,00 za balík. Okrem toho, za manipuláciu a poštovné je \$7,50. Ďalšie informácie sú k dispozícii v Jankolovej knižnici alebo u Sestry Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M., riaditeľka tel. 570 275-5606 alebo napíšte do Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

Sestra Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M.

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu **20. januára, 2019** o 12:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdze.

Mária Jurášiová – pokladníčka

### Slovenský ples v Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ

Slovensko - Americké Kultúrne Stredisko oznamuje konanie "Slovenského plesu", ktorý sa uskutoční v sobotu, **23. februára, 2019**. Organizátori pripravujú zaujímavý program a bohatú tombolu. Bližšie informácie na adrese: slovakamericanc.org; Vstupenky na tel. čísle Zuzka: 973-357-1209; Tanya: 908-377-2446.

Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka

## Minister Miroslav Lajčák rokoval s americkým rezortným partnerom M. Pompeom

Minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák (nominant Smeru-SD) odcestoval v utorok 13. novembra na dvojdnú pracovnú návštevu Spojených štátov amerických (USA). Hlavným bodom návštevy bolo rokovanie s americkým ministrom zahraničných vecí Michaelom R. Pompeom. Partneri okrem bilaterálnych záležitostí prediskutovali aktuálne obranno-bezpečnostné a zahraničnopolitické témy. Tiež otázky týkajúce sa Organizácie pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe (OBSE) s akcentom na Ukrajinu.

Počas svojho pobytu minister absolvoval sériu ďalších stretnutí s predstaviteľmi americkej administratívy zameraných na politicko-bezpečnostnú agendu a prezentáciu priorit nadchádzajúceho slovenského predsedníctva v OBSE. S osobitným vyslancom pre Ukrajinu Kurtom Volkerom minister diskutoval o vývoji na Ukrajine, v strednej Európe a na západnom Balkáne.

Lajčák podpísal vo Washingtone D. C. bilaterálne Memorandum o porozumení medzi vládou USA konajúcou prostredníctvom rozvojovej agentúry USAID a MZVaEZ SR v oblasti medzinárodnej rozvojovej spolupráce. Podpisom dokumentu sa naštartovala praktická spolupráca s USA prostredníctvom spoločných projektov v regióne západného Balkánu a v krajinách Východného partnerstva.



FOTO TASR/AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana

**Americký minister zahraničných vecí Mike Pompeo (vpravo) a slovenský minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Miroslav Lajčák počas stretnutia 14. novembra 2018 vo Washingtone.**

**Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shakes hands with Slovakia Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak at the Department of State Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, in Washington D.C.**

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**Z ročnej schôdze sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ, ktorá sa konala 2. decembra 2018 v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Na snímke zľava: Maria Zakovic, Antonia Krajkovic, Jan Zeman, Anna a Jozef Korcak, otec Lou Scurti, Maria Juras, otec Richard D. Baker, Anton Kucharovic, Helen Brchnel, a Joseph Juras.**

**The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, held its annual meeting on December 2, 2018, at St. John Nepomucene church in New York City. Pictured left to right are Maria Zakovic, Antonia Krajkovic, Jan Zeman, Anna and Jozef Korcak, Father Lou Scurti, Maria Juras, Father Richard D. Baker, Anton Kucharovic, Helen Brchnel, and Joseph Juras.**

## Ples v opere pomáha už 10 rokov

Ples v opere každoročne poukazuje na celospoločenské problémy, ktoré si zaslúžia pozornosť širokej verejnosti. Toto významné podujatie už desať rokov nesie prívlastok dobročinné. Príspevky hostí putovali každý rok v plnej výške na naplnenie jeho charitatívneho poslania. Na poslednom 18. ročníku Plesu v opere podporili hostia jeho dobročinný účel rekordnou sumou 254.620 eur. Ochota pomáhať prostredníctvom tohto významného podujatia pretrváva a táto prestížna akcia sa aj tento rok teší veľkej pozornosti zo strany svojich podporovateľov.

Ples v opere už desať rokov v našej spoločnosti otvára verejnú diskusiu o témach, ktoré si zaslúhujú špeciálnu pozornosť a svojím výtlačkom podporuje dôležité oblasti života. „Nesmierne si vážime, že s pomocou hostí a podporovateľov Plesu v opere sa v uplynulých rokoch podarilo na dobročinné účely vyzbierať už takmer 1,8 milióna eur. Vďaka tejto úctyhodnej sume sme mohli podporiť viaceré deficitné oblasti,“ priblížila Andrea Cocherová, riaditeľka Plesu v opere.

Vyzbierané finančné prostriedky v plnej výške putovali na podporu Detského kardiocentra, pomohli vzniku šiestich perinatologických centier, ktoré sa špecializujú na starostlivosť o predčasne narodené deti, a tiež na zlepšenie vybavenia detských kliník anesteziológie a intenzívnej medicíny. Svojou aktivitou Ples v opere významne prispel k vzniku troch centier včasnej intervencie v Banskej Bystrici, Košiciach a Trenčíne.

Slovenská herečka, renomovaná pedagogička Emília Vášáryová a členka Čestného plesového výboru je zároveň od roku 2016 aj ambasádorkou dobročinného poslania. Ako nositeľka a širitelka dobročinných myšlienok plesu pomáha naplniť jeho charitatívny rozmer.

„V živote je dôležité všimnúť si osudy druhých ľudí, poznať ich každodenné boje a podať im pomocnú ruku. Sú príbehy, ktoré si obzvlášť zaslúhujú našu pozornosť a je potrebné o nich v našej spoločnosti hovoriť hlasnejšie. Pomáhať tam, kde je to najviac potrebné, je aj hlavným poslaním Plesu v opere. Som hrdá, že toto významné podujatie už desiatkrát nesie prívlastok dobročinné a na Slovensku každým rokom otvára dôležité celospoločenské témy,“ povedala Emília Vášáryová.

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## F. Ružička hovoril s americkým veľvyslancom A. Sterlingom o predsedníctve v OBSE

Spolupráca Slovenska a USA prináša obojstranne výhodné výsledky, napríklad podporu Slovenska v predsedníctve v medzinárodných organizáciách, vrátane nadchádzajúceho v OBSE. Po pondelkovom rokovaní s americkým veľvyslancom Adamom Sterlingom to uviedol štátny tajomník rezortu diplomacie František Ružička. TASR o tom informoval tlačový odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí (MZVaEZ) SR.

„Spojené štáty americké sú naďalej kľúčovým zahraničnopolitickým a bezpečnostným spojencom Slovenska a som rád, že naša spolupráca má praktický rozmer,“ poznamenal štátny tajomník. Ako ďalšie príklady úspešnej spolupráce uviedol obranné modernizačné projekty, výmenu informácií a posilnenú angažovanosť pri realizácii spoločných projektov v oblasti rozvojovej spolupráce.

Partneri podčiarkli tiež dôležitosť strategickú komunikáciu. „Oceňujem širokú škálu kultúrnych, spoločenských a vzdelávacích aktivít veľvyslanectva USA na Slovensku realizovaných pri príležitosti tohtoročných významných dejinných výročí. Takáto činnosť bezpochyby prispieva k dnes tak potrebnej osвете nielen o dôležitosti transatlantického partnerstva, ale najmä o výsledkoch a hodnotách, na ktorých je založené,“ doplnil Ružička.

Ružička prijal aj veľvyslanca Brazílskej federatívnej republiky Luísa Antonia Balduíno Carneira, s ktorým hovoril napríklad o nástupe novej vlády v Brazílii alebo dosahoch venezuelskej krízy. „Aj napriek geografickej vzdialenosti existuje medzi našimi krajinami politická a kultúrna blízkosť,“ zhodnotil Ružička. Obidvaja predstavitelia tiež prejavili záujem o uskutočnenie bilaterálnych návštev na najvyššej politickej úrovni.

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## Mikulášovi Dzurindovi vo Washingtonu udelili Medailu cti

Bývalý premiér Slovenskej republiky Mikuláš Dzurinda vystúpil 16. novembra 2018 v prestížnom Woodrow Wilson Center vo Washingtonu s výročnou prednáškou. Po vystúpení si prevzal Medailu cti (Medal of Honor) z rúk zakladajúceho predsedu Friends of Slovakia (Priatelja Slovenska) FOS a prvého veľvyslanca USA na Slovensku Teda Russella a súčasného predsedu FOS Joea Senka.

Dzurinda sa na začiatku poďakoval predstaviteľom Friends of Slovakia za pozvanie vystúpiť s prednáškou o ceste Slovenska k slobode. Prednášal o Slovensku, ale aj v československom kontexte, a to pri príležitosti osláv 25. výročia vzniku Slovenskej republiky, ale aj pri príležitosti 100. výročia vzniku Československej republiky.

Teraz.sk



FOTO pre TASR Pavol Demeš

Bývalý premiér Slovenskej republiky Mikuláš Dzurinda (vpravo) prevzal Medailu cti (Medal of Honor) z rúk zakladajúceho predsedu FOS a prvého veľvyslanca USA na Slovensku Teda Russella (vľavo) a súčasného predsedu FOS Joe-a Senka. Washington, 16. novembra 2018

On November 16, 2018, former Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda delivered the annual lecture at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. After the lecture Dzurinda (right) was presented a Medal of Honor by the founder of the Friends of Slovakia and the first ambassador to Slovakia Ted Russell (left) and the chairman of Friends of Slovakia Joseph Senko.

## Deti môžu písať listy Ježiškovi už dve desaťročia

Vianočné želania napísalo Ježiškovi počas 19 ročníkov Vianočnej pošty viac ako 1,8 milióna detí z celého sveta. Po otvorení 20. ročníka Vianočnej pošty to v stredu v Rajeckej Lesnej povedal generálny riaditeľ Slovenskej pošty Peter Helexa.

„Za minulý rok dostal Ježiško takmer 105.000 pohľadníc a listov. Boli nielen od slovenských detí

žijúcich v zahraničí. Veľmi silnú odozvu máme z Taiwanu. Pohľadnice prichádzajú v slovenskom jazyku, ale aj v rodnom jazyku detí. Dokonca sme zažili milé spojenie tradičnej pošty a modernej doby. Niektoré deti použili internetové prekladače, aby listy Ježiškovi preložili z rodnej reči do slovenčiny. Ježiško, samozrejme, odpisuje, pokiaľ deti pripoja aj spiatočnú adresu, nielen v slovenčine a angličtine, ale aj v Braillovom písme,“ povedal Helexa.

Doplnil, že prvý tohtoročný list prišiel Ježiškovi už 22. mája od Kevina z Rimavskej Soboty. Celkovo dostal Ježiško do Rajeckej Lesnej, kde má oficiálnu poštovú schránku, takmer 500 listov zo Slovenska i zahraničia – Českej republiky, Nemecka, Ruska, Švajčiarska, Taiwanu, HONGKONGU, Malajzie, Bieloruska a Japonska. „Deti si okrem darčiek, zachytili sme napríklad bicykel, želajú aj duchovnejšie veci. Aby bol v rodine pokoj, aby bolo v rodine šťastie, zdravie. Ale tiež, aby dostávali dobré známky,“ uviedol generálny riaditeľ Slovenskej pošty.

Novinkou jubilejného ročníka Vianočnej pošty je možnosť poslať pohľadnicu Ježiškovi z mobilu či počítača prostredníctvom aplikácie Moja pohľadnica. „Stačí si zvoliť pohľadnicu zo šablóny Vianočná pošta, napísať správu Ježiškovi a zadať objednávku. Slovenská pošta pohľadnicu vytlačí a doručí. Detom, ktoré uvedú aj spiatočnú adresu, Ježiško pošle odpoveď a vďaka generálnemu partnerovi Vianočnej pošty, Poštovej banke, pribalí aj milý darček,“ vysvetlil Helexa.

V Bazilike Narodenia Panny Márie v Rajeckej Lesnej predstavili aj špeciálnu vianočnú poštovú známku, ktorú uviedol do života slovenský reprezentant vo vodnom slalome, niekoľkonásobný majster sveta a olympionik Michal Martikán. Námetom známky je obrázok Lindy Mészárosovej zo Základnej školy (ZŠ) Rozmarínová v Komárne, ktorá nakreslila anjela. Motív na FDC, Mikuláša, nakreslil Christopher Peter zo Spojenej školy Hradná v Komárne a kresbu vianočného kapra ako podklad pre výtvarný návrh FDC pečiatky zhotovila Viktória Csábiová zo ZŠ Rozmarínová v Komárne.

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## Vianoce na Zamagurí

Prišiel posledný mesiac v roku, kedy všetko zaváňa vianočnou atmosférou. Ľudia sa pripravujú na tieto najkrajšie sviatky už nejaký ten čas dopredu. Mamičky pripravujú koláče, ockovia varia kapustnicu a naprávajú zauzlené sviečky na stromček, deti okolo nich s radosťou pobehujú a snažia sa so všetkým pomáhať. Ako však trávili tieto sviatky naši predkovia? Aké tradičné jedlá pripravovali na Štedrý deň? V nasledujúcich riadkoch sa pokúsime túto otázku zodpovedať.

V našej zamagurskej krajine sa vianočné sviatky spájali s pomenovaním gody. Na Viliju, ako sa u nás nazýval Štedrý večer, sa už od skorého rána gazdiné starali o prípravu štedrej večere, ktorá bola charakteristická svojim obradným významom. Konzumovalo sa viac druhov jedál, čo malo zabezpečiť hojnosť v domácnosti po celý nasledujúci rok. V každej zamagurskej obci však nachádzame rozdiely v pripravovaných jedlách. Napríklad, začiatok štedrej večere vo Veľkom Lipníku predstavoval kúsok chleba s cesnakom, po ňom nasledovali bobalky. Ako tretia prišla na rad horočova polievka s gríbamí a slifčanka (uvarené zemiaky s uvarenými slivkami). Ďalej si Lipničania pochutnali na pôstnej kapustnici so zemiakmi a ako posledné jedli pečené bobalky, z ktorých mali zjesť koľko vládali, aby mali peňazí ako maku. V ostatných zamagurských obciach sa pripravovali rezanki s makom, haluški, pirohy s lekvarom, fizolo na kvašno, zočurka s juhom a nechýbali ani rozličné druhy koláčov. Piekli sa obradné koláče – paska, kuh a taktiež kysnuté ľekvarníky, tvarožníky, makovníky, kapušníky, gruľovníky a podobne. O tom, že jedlu pripisovali Zamagurčania veľký význam, svedčí aj to, že časť z jedla zanesli aj dobytku a hydine, aby „dobro zerli po čili rok“ (Veľký Lipník). V Spišských Hanušovciach dali sliepkam jedlo do železnej obruče, aby „vajcia netrtili a držali sa pokope“. Takisto Hanušovčania kúsok z jedla hodili do studne.

Naši zamagurskí predkovia dbali aj o úpravu stola. Vo Veľkom Lipníku sa na stole nachádzali tri chleby, cesnak a obilie. V Spišských Hanušovciach sa obilie ukladalo pod obrus. Pod stolom ležala slama a v kúte bol uložený snop ovsu. Zamagurčania si svoje príbytky skrášili zelenou halúzkou z jedle, na ktorej boli farebné stužky a papierové kvety. Takáto ozdoba nazývaná podlažnícka mala ochraňovať ľudí od všetkého zla. Vianočným stromčekom sa mohli pochváliť len majetnejší ľudia a celkovo sa rozšíril až po 2. svetovej vojne. Vianočný jezulan krásili jabĺčka, orechy, šišky a podobne. Po tom, čo sa vianočný stromček rozšíril do všetkých domácností, darčeky sa začali ukladať pod stromček, čo nebolo do tej doby v Zamagurí rozšírené.

Zamagurčania vykonávali rôzne zvyky s vierou, že im to zabezpečí úspech a hojnosť v hospodárstve v nasledujúcom roku. Taktiež prevládalo veštenie, ktoré malo odhaliť skutočnosti budúceho roku. Tieto veštby predpovedali život alebo smrť, veľmi obľúbené boli veštby predpovedajúce vydaj mladého dievčaťa. Vo Veľkom Lipníku sa mala dievka vydať, keď našla v slifčanke páry počet kôstok. Dievky z Veľkej Frankovej sledovali zapichnutý prút pod oknom. Na ktorú stranu padal tieň, v tú stranu sa mala obzerať po budúcom manželovi. Osturnianske dievčatá sa ponáhľali z polnočnej omše domov, ale tak aby sa s nikým cestou nerozprávali. Doma si pod vankúš uložili časť mužského oblečenia a ktorý chlapec sa im zjavil vo sne, toho si mali zobrať za muža. Svoju funkciu vo veštení zohrávali aj jedlá podávané na Štedrú večeru. Napríklad, zlého muža mala mať tá dievka, ktorá mala kyslé jablko. O tom koľko detí bude mať, rozhodoval počet jadierok v jablku. Nezabúdalo sa ani na deti. Ak našli lyžicu, ktorú rodičia skryli pod obrus, znamenalo to, že budú dobrými pastiermi kráv. Nakoniec sa všetci vybrali do lesa, aby si tak zabezpečili zdravie po celý rok.

Vianočné sviatky nepochybne sprevádzalo vinšovanie. Vinše mali taktiež pôsobiť na úspechy a skutočnosti budúceho roka. Vinše mali krátku formu a ich obsahom bolo pranie úspechov do budúceho roka. Vinšovníci neodišli na prázdno a za svoje vinše boli odmenení koláčmi alebo peniazmi. Vo Veľkej Lesnej sa vinšovalo takto:

*Vinsujem, vinsujem, na ščenšče, na zdravie, na to bože narodeže, že bi mi še docekal'i drugogo bozego narodeže, v mňejšif gríhraf, ve vienšif miloščaf, v hojňejšif a urodňejšif rockaf, jako mi doteroz přezili. Pochval'en Pan Ježiš Kristus !*

O polnoci bola v Zamagurí polnočná omša. Vo Veľkom Lipníku, ešte pred samotnou omšou, nabral člen rodiny z potoka vodu hneď pri prvom zazvonení. Táto voda slúžila na umytie všetkých členov rodiny, aby boli všetci zdraví a čerství, ako je tá voda. V Spišských Hanušovciach verili, že o polnoci sa z vody stane víno a preto si šli po omši nabráť za vedro vody zo studne. Obyvatelia Osturne si mincou potierali tvár, aby mali po celý rok peknú pleť. Rozšírené bolo aj chodenie s betlehemkom, s ktorým mladí chlapci navštevovali od rána každý jeden dom. Za ich ochotu im Zamagurčania dali peniaz, koláče alebo sladkosti.

Zamagurské noviny

## Miroslav Lajčák prijal honorárnych konzulov pôsobiacich na Slovensku

Minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák dnes (20. novembra 2018) prijal honorárnych konzulov pôsobiacich v SR. V tejto súvislosti uviedol, že takýto typ stretnutia vníma ako vhodnú platformu na zdieľanie informácií o témach spoločného záujmu. Zároveň informoval honorárnych konzulov o svojom ročnom pôsobení vo funkcii predsedu 72. Valného zhromaždenia OSN. Predmetom diskusie bola aj aktuálna situácia v rámci EÚ, vrátane odchodu Spojeného kráľovstva Veľkej Británie a Severného Írska z „európskej rodiny“. „Sme v záverečnej fáze celého procesu. Podarilo sa vyrokovať text, ktorý je najlepším možným scenárom pre obe strany, pretože minimalizuje negatívne dopady na občanov a podnikateľov na oboch stranách,“ dodal na margo brexitu M. Lajčák. Pokiaľ ide o európsku budúcnosť Slovenska minister akcentoval, že v našom záujme je držať sa v integračnom a hodnotovom jadre EÚ. Šéf slovenskej diplomacie ďalej informoval honorárnych konzulov o hlavných úlohách rezortu v najbližšom období, medzi ktoré okrem iného zaradil blížiac sa predsedníctvo SR v OBSE, v ministerskej rade OECD ako aj aktuálne predsedníctvo vo V4. M. Lajčák taktiež zdôraznil, že ministerstvo venuje permanentne systematickú pozornosť konzulárnej agende v rámci asistencie našim občanom v zahraničí, pričom aktuálna bezpečnostná situácia kladie zvýšené nároky na zahraničnú službu v tomto smere. Zároveň dodal, že slovenská diplomacia pripravuje personálne posilnenie konzulárnej služby v tých štátoch, ktoré predstavujú potenciál pre príchod pracovnej sily na Slovensko v odvetviach, v ktorých je jej nedostatok.

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# Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

Ročník 127

STREDA, 12. DECEMBRA 2018

Číslo 5978

*Sláva Bohu na výsostiach a na zemi pokoj ľuďom dobrej vôle!*



*Na okná už mráz nám kreslí,  
Vianoce k nám pokoj vniesli.  
Pod stromčekom darček malý,  
nech Vám srdce šťastím žiari.*

*Prajeme všetkým krásne Vianoce a šťastný Nový rok*

## Pozvanie k priateľstvu

Mladého kňaza pozvali kázať na stretnutí mládeže. Prijal to hneď a s nadšením. Až neskôr si uvedomil, čo ho čaká. Išiel saporadiť k svojmu biskupovi: *Pán biskup, o čom by som mal kázať?* *Pán biskup mu odpovedal: Káz o Pánu Bohu a hovor im dvadsať minút.*

Čo však povedať o Pánu Bohu? Odpoveď čakajú zvlášť tí, ktorí nemajú istotu, či ich Boh dokáže prijať, lebo ich minulosť... Dobre poznajú svoje utajené skutky, o ktorých nikto na svete nevie, okrem Pána Boha. A tak sa pýtajú: *Prijme ma Boh s otvoreným náručím alebo ma odmietne, pretože vie, aký som?*

Keď stretnete človeka, nevíete, čo sa v ňom odohráva. Všetci vieme, ako upraviť svoj zovňajšok, ako sa obliecť, usmievať. Navonok môžeme vyzeráť šťastne, vnútro môže slziť až krváčať.

V Betlehemskej noci anjel povedal ustráchaným pastierom: *Nebojte sa. Zvestujem vám veľkú radosť, ktorá bude patriť všetkým ľuďom: Dnes sa vám v Dávidovom meste narodil Spasiteľ Kristus Pán.* Poznáme tieto slová, a napriek tomu mnoho ľudí sa nachádza v zmätku a turbulencii, bez pokoja v duši a bez vnútornej radosti. Neschopnosť radovať sa produkuje neschopnosť milovať, a to vedie k žiarlivosti, lakomstvu, závidi a všetkým tým nedostatkom, ktoré ničia život jednotlivcov a sveta. Azda ešte nepočuli, že Boh je dobrý, láskavý, milosrdný, odpúšťajúci, a že ich pozýva k priateľskému vzťahu takých akí sú? Alebo azda sme im to ešte nepovedali?

Ježišovo pozvanie je pre každého: *Podťe ku mne všetci, ktorí sa namáhate a ste preťažení, a ja vás posilním. Podťe za mnou a dám vášmu životu väčší zmysel a cieľ.*

Nepoznám lepšie miesto na vzájomné stretnutie Boha a človeka, než je kostol, než sú sviatosti, modlitba a liturgia. Všetkých úprimne pozývam a povzbudzujem k spoločenstvu s Kristom. *Požehnaný a duchovne obohacujúci Advent.*

Archív/terasafarnost.sk



*This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Christmas carol "Silent Night," first sung at St. Mikuláš Chapel in Oberndorf near Salzburg, Austria.*

## Vianočná pieseň "Tichá noc, Svätá noc" oslavuje

Pieseň, ktorá svojou jemnou melódiou a utešujúcim textom čarovne pôsobí takmer po celé dve stáročia. Pieseň, ktorá sľubuje útechu a nádej. Prekročila hranice, prekonala krízy, a to bez ohľadu na pôvod, vek alebo vierovyznanie. Spája nás s časom, kedy vznikla.

Na Vianoce 2018 to bude presne 200 rokov, kedy po prvý raz zaznela v kaplnke sv. Mikuláša v Oberndorfe pri Salzburgu. Tamojší kňaz Joseph Mohr a učiteľ Franz Xaver Gruber pochádzajúci z Horného Rakúska ju práve tu, v tejto krásnej, malej kaplnke, uviedli do života. Pôvodne to bola báseň Josepha Mohra, ktorú na jeho požiadanie zhudobnil Franz Xaver Gruber. Pieseň mala veľký úspech a prostredníctvom speváckej rodiny z doliny Zillertal sa o niekoľko rokov neskôr rozšírila nielen do celého Rakúska, ale aj do celej Európy. Odvtedy sa „Tichá noc, Svätá noc“ spieva vo viac ako 300 jazykoch po celom svete.

Výročie tejto piesne si tento rok uctia nielen v Salzburgu, ale aj v Hornom Rakúsku a v Tirolsku. Záujemcov budú pozývať na cestu po stopách vzniku tejto očarujúcej piesne, a to v trinástich lokalitách.

Počnúc rokom 2017, ale predovšetkým v jubilejnom roku 2018, inštalujú výstavy, budú sa konať príležitostné podujatia tematicky zamerané na dobu vzniku tejto piesne. Organizovať sa budú turistické cesty do malebných miest spojených s tradíciou vianočných trhov a s históriou vianočnej piesne. Nebude chýbať ani receptár bohatých miestnych špecialít, spojených s tradíciou Vianoc.

Ďakujeme obom pánom, za nádhernú pieseň, ktorá aj pre nás jednoducho znamená Vianoce!!

## Výroba jednej z vianočných gúľ pre pápeža Františka

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska odovzdá pápežovi Františkovi 14. decembra 2018 na audiencii vo Vatikáne dar, ktorý bude pozostávať zo štyroch vianočných gúľ, vyrobených ľuďmi zo sociálne znevýhodnených skupín. Dar pre pápeža budú vo štvrtok 29. novembra vyrábať rodiny so zdravotne hendikepovanými deťmi v košíckom centre Liberty a žiaci základnej školy v Spišskom Hrhove, na ktorej študujú aj Rómovia. „Tretiu guľu vytvoria deti a mladí dospelí v piatok 30. novembra v detskom domove v Turzovke. Štvrtú guľu vytvoria ľudia bez domova v bratislavskom centre Resoty Antona Srholca v čase, ktorý bude spresnený,“ doplnili z Kancelárie prezidenta SR.

Kiska bude mať 13. decembra pracovnú návštevu Talianska. Hlavným bodom cesty bude rokovanie s prezidentom Sergiom Mattarellom.

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FOTO TASR – František Iván

**Na snímke výroba jednej z vianočných gúľ zdravotne hendikepovanými deťmi v košíckom centre Liberty. Košice, 29. novembra 2018.**

*Handicapped children from Kosice prepare a Christmas decoration that will be presented by President Andrej Kiska to Pope Francis in Rome.*