



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 127

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

NUMBER 5965

Message from National Chaplain

Lent 2018

The Church honors our two patrons, Saints Cyril and Methodius, each year on February 14. This year, however, their feast will not be celebrated because February 14, 2018 is Ash Wednesday.

The coincidence of Ash Wednesday coming on the feast day of the Co-Patrons of Europe, as declared by Pope St. John Paul II in 1980, leads us to reflect on a theme of the Lenten season that our two saints exhibited in their lives.

All biographical evidence about Cyril and Methodius points to one main passion they both possessed. Cyril and Methodius had an endless burning desire to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ to the uncatechized of Eastern Europe. They were evangelists in the true sense of the word. Through their teaching and preaching, these saintly brothers were instruments of conversion of many from their former ways of life to lives lived in Christ Jesus.

Lent is our annual reminder of our need to listen to the voice of the Lord who continuously calls us to conversion from sin to holiness of life. The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday are merely external signs of our intention to reform our lives, to turn away from sinful habits and desires, and to ever walk in the ways of the Lord. In other words, they announce a public proclamation that we intend, with the help of God's grace, to confess our sins, do penance, and amend our lives. Saints Cyril and Methodius, Patrons of Slovakia and Co-Patrons of Europe, pray for us, that our every thought, word and deed may be ever true to the Gospel of Christ.



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Fr. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain



LENT

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings to our Members & Their Families during this Holy Season of Lent 2018.

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

Come to the FCSU's National Bowling Tournament this April!

See pages 4 - 5 for details



2018 Jednota Scholarship

Deadline
EXTENDED
to **March 31!!!**

See page 3 for details



2017 FCSU Results - Part II

See pages 12 - 13

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

February 18, 2018 - 1st Sunday of Lent

The first Sunday of Lent begins on a reassuring note this year as we hear about God's covenant of mercy and peace with all of creation, following the destruction brought by the flood and marked by the sign of a rainbow. Every time I see a rainbow I think of this passage and of God's fidelity to his creation and to us, who are the crown of creation.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

To be sure, there is an obvious connection between the forty days of the flood recounted in Genesis, the forty years of Israel's desert sojourn, and the forty days of Jesus' temptation in the desert—the last of which was in turn the inspiration for the forty days of our Lenten journey. But since the time when the Lectionary for Mass was revised following the Second Vatican Council we have heard this excerpt from Genesis at the beginning of Lent for one critically important reason: because it speaks of God's restoration of hope to mankind and indeed all of creation after the flood, an event which is a "type" or symbolic representation of baptism.

A type is really more than a symbol, it is a person or event or object which has real meaning and value itself, yet which also points forward to someone or something which is of greater significance. In his Letter to the Romans Saint Paul actually uses the word "type"—it is the same in Greek and English—when he refers to Christ, writing of "...Adam, who is a type of the one to come" (Rom 5:14).

That the first reading provides us with a "type" of baptism through its colorful language about Noah is deeply meaningful for all Christians today as we have just begun our observance of Lent, a time devoted to repentance and a return to our baptismal purity. Even more so, this baptismal imagery is important because today the Church the world over marks the beginning of the third stage of the preparation of catechumens for initiation into the Church at the Easter Vigil, an initiation of which baptism is the primordial moment.

To commemorate this key moment in the faith life of the entire Church and her individual member dioceses all over the world will celebrate the Rite of Election today. With this in mind, and turning back to the readings for Mass, in the New Testament epistle from First Peter we hear the author directly say that baptism was foreshadowed by Noah and the flood: "He also went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water. This prefigured baptism, which saves you now" (1 Pet 3:19-21).

When the epistle speaks of "baptism, which saves you now" it is addressing both the Christian believers who first read and heard this epistle and us as well. The very same sacrament that delivered new life in the Lord to the earliest Christians does the same for us today, and the same inner conversion that led them to the waters of baptism must sustain us in our day, even if we were baptized many years ago.

The gospel reading today also reminds us of this call to conversion as a keynote of Lenten observance, with Christ himself commanding us to "repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). May Lent be a season of renewal and peace for all who trust in the Lord, those already washed in the waters of baptism and those preparing for that great moment—each one of us rejoicing with the Psalmist: "Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant" (Ps 25:10).

February 25, 2018 – Second Sunday of Lent

Gospel – Romans 8:31B – 34 Mark 9: 2 – 10

God is for us! This statement should be seen on posters, book-marks, and most importantly, imprinted on our hearts. God is with us at all times and in all situations. Echoing the vows of marriage God is with us, "in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, in rich or in poor." Unlike marriage vows that end with, "until death do us part," God's relationship with us does not end at death. That is unless we have made the conscious decision to turn away from him and choose to spend eternity without God. For those who have faithfully lived the Gospel, even if just on their deathbed, God is with us even after death. Many of us were taught that the reason God made us was to, "know Him, love Him, and Serve him in this world, so as to be happy with Him forever in the next." God's plan for us is that we get to heaven so as to be with Him forever. God is for us and desires that we never be separated from Him.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

Ten days ago we began the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. The imposition of ashes on our foreheads reminds us of three things: 1. We are sinners and the ashes are a sign of our repentance; 2. That God created us as mortal beings from nothing, dust, and that we will end our days on earth turning back to dust, and finally: 3. As we look upon others with ashes we are reminded that we are not alone, we are part of a community that journeys together. Lent is the season for us to journey together and examine our lives and with God so as to make the decision to restore or improve our relationship that relationship. We make this journey individually and with the community always keeping in mind that God is with us as we journey to the place Jesus has prepared for us in the Father's house.

What are we journeying to? In the Gospel we are given a glimpse of our destination, the Glory of God's presence. Peter, James and John were led up to the mountain where they were privileged to see Jesus Transfigured and to hear the voice of the Father. It was an experience so magnificent that it was difficult for them to understand. They were astonished and terrified. They really didn't know what to think or how to process their feelings, but in the end the voice of the Father and the presence of Jesus gave them peace. Jesus told them not to tell anyone until he had Risen. We are told that Peter, James and John kept this to themselves and it wasn't until after the resurrection that they began to understand, and told of this amazing encounter.

God is with us as we journey to experience firsthand the glory the three apostles experienced at the Transfiguration. It is a journey that at times astonishes us, and at others can be terrifying. We can experience moments when we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is with us, and there are moments when we can be in anguish over some situation, ready to give up because of our failure to resist temptation, or just don't feel God's presence. In all of these God is with us, and Lent is our time to renew our faith and to allow the Lord to renew us. Our Lenten journey is part of our lifelong journey to Heaven. May we continue our journey through Lent as if we were ascending the Mount of the Transfiguration with our eyes fixed on the Glory of God at Easter.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7	MONDAY, FEB. 26
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21	MONDAY, MAR. 12
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11	MONDAY, APR. 2

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
FAX: 216-642-4310

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 17 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries - \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST Saturday, March 24, 2018



St. Adalbert Church

160 So.15th Street, South Side

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

11:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side



** SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS **

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

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



ADMISSION FREE

Donations Gratefully Accepted

For more information call (412) 481-8380



Lent Begins Ash Wednesday

Lenten Reminder from the National Chaplain

Many couples commemorate Valentine's Day each year on February 14 by going out to a restaurant or other eating establishment to enjoy a special dinner. Please know that February 14, 2018 is also Ash Wednesday, a day of Fast and Abstinence for Catholics. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are seriously bound to restrict themselves to eat one full meal and two lesser meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics over the age of 14 are seriously bound to refrain from eating any meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. Please keep the Church's laws on Fast and Abstinence in mind if you choose to celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14.

Fr. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

HILTON CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN HOTEL
CLEVELAND, OHIO
FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018 - SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on *Friday, March 23, 2018 - Saturday, March 24, 2018.*

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

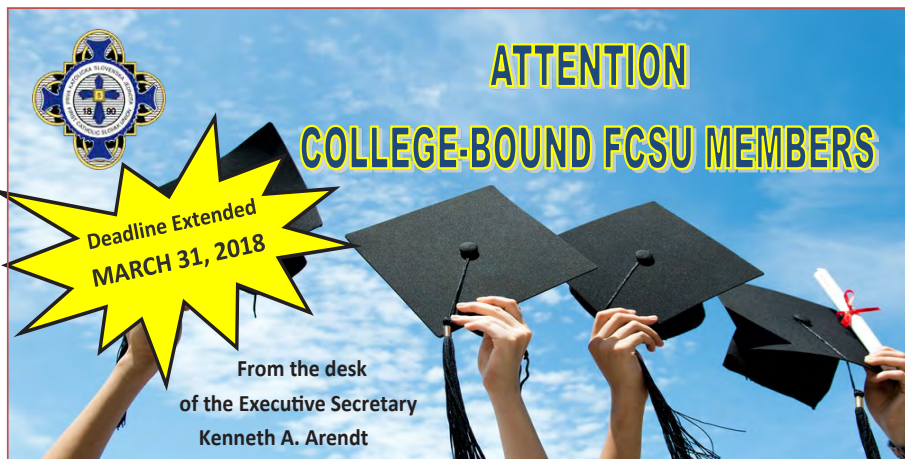
Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 16, 2018.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 16, 2018.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

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

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

For rules, requirements and applications go to

www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships

or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
March 31, 2018**



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2018, in observance of Presidents' Day.



ATTENTION JEDNOTAR BOWL



United Slovak Fraternal
7th Annual Bowling
Tournament
April 20- 21, 2018

Friday:

Teams Event – Opening Ceremonies to begin at 7:15 pm with the team event starting at 7:30 pm at Eastway Lanes.

Hospitality Night - Hospitality Night beginning at 6:30 PM at Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA. Enjoy food, refreshments, and socializing.

Hotel – The Courtyard by Marriott will be housing our guests for the weekend. The phone number to the hotel is provided below. You must identify yourself as a member of FCSU Bowling to receive the group rate: \$129/ night (plus tax)

Deadline for hotel reservations is March 20.

Courtyard by Marriott
7792 Peach Street
Erie, PA 16509
814-860-8300

Saturday:

Doubles/Singles Event - To begin at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm

Mass - will be held at 5:00 pm at the hotel.

Social - will be held in the Courtyard by Marriott. Cocktails at 6 PM and Dinner at 7 PM.

Eastway Lanes: 4110 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA (814) 899-9855

If you require additional information, please contact Rudy Ondrejco at your convenience at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal
Bowling Tournament
April 20-21, 2018
Erie, PA



Would you like to sponsor a lane?

It is only \$50.00 to have a sign placed on a lane and your generosity will go far in making this event an enjoyable weekend for all!

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please mail this form in with the wording for your sign printed below and check payable to "FCSU Activities".

Please feel free to contact Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director with any questions at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is March 3, 2018.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Branch # / District: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Yes!! We would like to sponsor a lane. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Wording for Sign: _____

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

Thank you in advance for your participation in this fraternal event.

Winter Special

EXAMPLES

	MALE	FEMALE
Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren (0 -18) and receive FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD with the certificate Features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay one premium and have fully paid-up Insurance Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more) Excellent gift for children or grandchildren Cost based on age 	NEWBORN –6 months \$5,000 for \$410 AGE 5 \$5,000 for \$475 AGE 10 \$5,000 for \$565 AGE 15 \$5,000 for \$670	NEWBORN \$5,000 for \$345 AGE 5 \$5,000 for \$410 AGE 10 \$5,000 for \$485 AGE 15 \$5,000 for \$570

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ERS: SAVE THE DATE IN APRIL



Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM			
DOUBLES & SINGLES			

2018 April 20 - 21, 2018
 Entries Close
 March 2, 2018

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

Hosted by First Catholic Slovak Union and
 National Slovak Society
 A/k/a the United Slovak Fraternal's

Eastway Lanes
 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA

Entry Fees - Members
 Prize Fee\$7.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$9.00
 Tournament Fee.....\$3.00
Total Each Event\$19.00

Entry Fees - Non-Members
 Prize Fee.....\$14.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$9.00
 Tournament Fee.....\$3.00
Total Each Event.....\$26.00

Optional Events

All Events \$3.00
 Senior Singles Event (60+) \$5.00

Social Fees

Member \$ 0.00
 Non-Member \$50.00

Total Included.....\$ _____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Team Name: _____ Captain Name: _____
 League: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ Phone: _____

All Events (X)	Attend Social (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT./POLICY NO. MUST BE FILLED IN	BRANCH/ ASSM NO.
		1.					
		2.					
		3.					
		4.					
Singles (X)	Attend Social (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)			
		1.					
		2.					
		1.					
		2.					

Friday, April 20
 Registration 6:30 PM
 Bowlers: 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 21
 Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM

Team Events

1st Doubles/Singles
 2nd Doubles/Singles

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
 COMPLETE INFORMATION

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE
 RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND
 MUST BE RESUBMITTED

Substitutes **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

The Men's and Women's 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Slovak fraternal organizations. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Erie, PA, in this tournament.

The 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Eastway Lanes, 4110 Buffalo Rd., Erie, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be held April 20-21, 2018. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, April 20, at 7:15 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 2, 2018. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ENTRY FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

In submitting this entry, the captain and the team members agree to forfeit all rights to prize money as well as the total entry fees in the event that any information listed herein should be found to be false. We are not responsible for errors in averages made in filling out this entry form. No refunds of tournament entry fee.

USBC Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union and National Slovak Society male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded.

Only members with USBC Membership Cards will be eligible for the USBC special awards in this USBC Certified Tournament. Bowlers without USBC Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Committee at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

CONSENT RULES: Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by

United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13

AVERAGES: All entrants will use their highest average of any USBC league of at least 21 games from the 2016-2017 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2016-2017 season and with at least 21 games in the 2017-2018 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on entry form by his name and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU or NSS tournaments will have their averages calculated from their three most recent tournaments. All male bowlers with no established USBC average will bowl a 175 scratch. All female bowlers with no established USBC will bowl a 150 scratch. Summer league averages will be accepted.

Any contestant whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2018, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the entry form at time of entry.

AVERAGE CHANGES: The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Committee.

It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others.

Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average.

Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

TEAMS: Mixed teams comprised of at least 1 person of the opposite gender are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least

21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every five (5) entries.

DOUBLES: Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed doubles participate. If 21 or more mixed doubles enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every five (5) entries.

HANDICAPS: The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 65 pins.

Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every five (5) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee.

Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

LINE-UP CHANGES: All participants must bowl according to where they are listed on the submitted entry form. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

ABSENTEES: To alleviate absentee problems, the Tournament Committee will provide a replacement bowler when notified of the absentee.

TARDY BOWLERS: Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed. USBC Rule 322

DELAY OF GAME: No unreasonable delay in the progress of any game is permitted. If a player or team in a tournament refuses to proceed with the game after being directed to do so by a tournament official, the game or series shall be declared forfeited.

SCORING: Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Committee within 48 hours after completion of play. Captains of Teams or Doubles Partners have the option to pick up duplicate score sheets upon completion of play.

District 19 & Branch 785 December Meeting

On December 10, 2017, District and Branch 785 held their annual meeting where Anne Mitro was recognized for her long-term support of the Christian values of Sts Cyril and Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario, and the fraternal goals of Branch 785, Mississauga. Thank you, Anne!

- Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



(L - R) Emil Jursa, Ed Forma, Marilyn Jursa, Anne Mitro, Jara Regan, Jerry Siman, Helen Von Friedl, Mike Kapitan, and John Tokarsky.



(L - R) Jimmy Szabo, Jerry Siman, Sharon Tomas, Milan Zoldak, Helen von Firedl, and Ed Forma



District 19 & Branch 785 Recording Secretary Anne Mitro with her recognition award presented by Branch 785 President Milan Zoldak



The George Onda District's Successful ŠtedrýVečer

The George Onda District (3) of the First Catholic Slovak Union held its 24th Annual Štedry Vecer on Sunday, December 3, 2017. The evening began with Mass celebrated in the Chapel of the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, Pa. by our chaplain, Monsignor Larry Kulick. Beautiful accompanying music was provided by the Pittsburgh Slovaks under the direction of Sue and Rudy Ondrejko. After Mass, the 138 members and guests proceeded to the festive dining room to tables laden with fruit, nuts, candy and favors. Before the meal began, the first star in the evening sky was spotted by Stephen LaPay a 7th grade student at Mother of Sorrows in Murrysville, PA, and Paul Buczinski a 5th grade student at Maxwell Elementary in Greensburg, PA. The meal was served consisting of oplatki with honey, sauerkraut/mushroom soup, baked fish, pagach, bobalki, prunes, pierogis, peas and wine. After dinner, all were treated to a dessert of kolache. Monsignor Kulick acting as emcee introduced the following officers in attendance: National Treasurer, George Matta II and wife Cathy; National Chairman of Auditors, Karen Sprock Hunka; Supreme Court Member James Bench and wife Kay; Region 4 Director James Marmol and wife Patty; District President William Patty; District Vice-President Darlene Patty; District Secretary Linda Gonta; and District Treasurer Stephen Gonta. Also attending was Geraldine Hricik, the wife of our deceased National President Emeritus Thomas Hricik, whose dream was to have a celebration such as this. Numerous door prizes were awarded and the group returned to the Chapel for a program featuring the Jaslickari performed by the Pittsburgh Slovaks. This beautiful celebration grows every year and we have received many good comments about it. Such a custom to keep alive!!

- Submitted by Linda L. Gonta, Secretary



Father William C. Kaufman Received Papal Conferral of Monsignor

On December 3, 2017, Father William C. Kaufman, Pastor of St. Pius X Church in Broomall, PA, received the Papal Conferral of Monsignor from Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, together with eight other priests at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. Father, now Monsignor, in his gratefulness and humility shared the honor bestowed on him with the people of Saint Pius X at the Parish Mass and Reception celebrating the occasion.

The Officers and Members of Branch 55 are very proud to congratulate Monsignor on a well-deserved honor. Along with the parishioners of St. Pius X, who know him as a caring and loving pastor, the members of Branch 55 are also well aware of Monsignor's priestly ministry and of his individual service to all parishioners. Father, as well as his sister, Frances, have been members of Branch 55 since 1973 when my dad, John Gaydos, longtime President of Branch 55 signed them up, together with their father, William, who passed this life in the early 1990's.

Monsignor has, also, participated in both local Branch 55 and national activities of the FCSU. He Concelebrated the Funeral Mass for Rev. Francis G. Lendacky, our Branch Chaplain and Pastor of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church. He also concelebrated the Opening Mass of FCSU's 48th

Quadrennial Convention in 2014 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia.

Father Kaufman, 43 years a priest, served in several Philadelphia parishes including as Pastor of St. Richard before his current assignment at Saint Pius X in 2012. He was also elected Dean of Deanery 8, South Philadelphia. He has been relied upon as a mentor to seminarians and young priests, and a confidant to older priests. Father Kaufman is well known for his ministry to the elderly and the poor in his parish assignments, primarily through the Little Sisters of the Poor whose foundress Sister Jeanne Jugan was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009.

Because of his devotion to the work of the Little Sisters, Father Kaufman built a shrine in Saint Pius X Church to honor Saint Jeanne Jugan, together with our two Philadelphia Saints: Saint John Neumann and Saint Katherine Drexel.

We pray that he continues to be blessed for many years with a fruitful future in serving our Church in his priestly ministry.

- Submitted by Helena T. Gaydos, President Branch 55



Branch 55 President Helena Gaydos with Monsignor Kaufmann, also of Branch 55.

Branch 746 Vianoce!

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746 gathered together on Sunday, December 10, 2017, to discuss upcoming events for 2018 and celebrate Vianoce at Amici's Ristorante in Linden, NJ. The cheerful atmosphere and delicious food were enjoyed by all and the group even sang Christmas songs in Slovak.

To top off the festivities, special guests, National President Mr. Andrew M. Rajec and Mrs. Idka Rajec joined the meeting and subsequent Christmas party. President Rajec gave a much welcomed update on the strong financial status of FCSU, new products being offered, and encouraged our young members to continue to be active and engaged in the Society. The branch surprised President Rajec with a birthday cake to thank him for his leadership and wish him many more healthy years!

The afternoon Christmas party was a wonderful opportunity to gather together and be thankful for the many blessings of 2017. Branch 746 has organized and supported various activities throughout the year and will continue to be active in the Slovak community in Linden and the surrounding areas. This year we welcomed many new members to our branch

and we hope that those that are already members but haven't been active will be motivated to become more engaged in the coming year.

Branch 746 would like to wish all the members of Jednota all the best in 2018—much happiness, joy, peace and God's blessings! To our Slovak readership, a little *vinš*:

Nech šťastie ako diamant vo vašom svete žiari, nech každý deň je novou perlou vo vašom spomienkovom erári, nech zlatou trepezlivosťou Boh vás obdarí a zopár strieborných potešení nech vám pripraví.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



President Rajec and Mrs Rajec with Branch 746 officers: (L to R): Joanne Polt, Mary Kapitan, Idka Rajec, Andrew Rajec, Sabina Sabados, and Mary Ann Ranahan.



Join Us for 2018 Consular Tour of Slovakia & Its Neighbors

August 13 – August 26, 2018



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

and by the Mayor of Prešov.

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

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

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

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



FCSU's Miriam Visnovsky Obtains US Citizenship

On Friday, February 2, 2018, Mrs. Miriam Visnovsky was sworn in as a citizen of the United States at a ceremony in downtown Cleveland, OH. It was the final event in a process known as naturalization. Among our nation's eligibility requirements for naturalization is being a permanent resident of the United States for at least five years, which was certainly the case for Miriam.

Born and raised in Slovakia, Miriam received a degree in theology and education from Prešov University and then worked as an elementary school teacher in Košice. She came to the US in 2004 with her husband Fr. Marek Visnovsky, a Byzantine Catholic priest who was assigned to the Eparchy of Parma, OH.

Miriam is part of the support staff for the First Catholic Slovak Union, including duties as receptionist. Many members will recognize her friendly voice answering the phone or her warm smile greeting them when they visit the Home Office. Her husband currently serves as the pastor of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Cleveland, OH, where she resides with him and their three beautiful children Caroline, Elias, and Marco. Everyone in the Visnovsky family is a member of the Society.

All of us at the First Catholic Slovak Union congratulate our newest American citizen, Miriam Visnovsky!

Lent in Slovakia, 2018

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

"What did you give up for Lent?" This is a common phrase we Christians heard growing up as children during this holy season of the religious calendar. Many of us refrained from eating candy or other sweets, or refrained from some bad habit. Slovak Christians also observed Lent fastidiously and gave up virtually all things sweet, meaty, or jovial. This article will look at some of the past traditions of Slovak Christians during Lent, including religious practices and dietary changes.

For Christians in Slovakia, the holy season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, known as Popolcová streda in Slovak. It was also known as Škaredá streda, or Ugly or Dirty Wednesday. The holy day marked the solemn beginning of Lent (Pôst – pronounced "pwost"), and an extended period of fasting, prayer, and abstinence.

Prior to Lent, lively celebrations of Slovak Mardi Gras, fašiangy (Carnival - from "carne vale" meaning "a farewell to meat"), which carried on from the Feast of the Three Kings until the start of Lent. Akin to combination of our Super Bowl parties and the Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans, Slovaks dressed in outlandish costumes and consumed huge amounts of greasy and fattening foods that many diet conscious people today would abhor. They revved up the weekend before Lent, but the merriment abruptly ended abruptly with the ceremonial burying of the contrabass, a musical instrument of celebration, on Fat Tuesday night (Tučný utorok), or at least before dawn on Ash Wednesday.

In Slovak villages, the tolling of bells (zvony) on the morning of Ash Wednesday would announce that the Lenten season had commenced. It marked the beginning of fasting, an extended period of spiritual reflection on one's sins and the price that Christ paid to redeem man.

Slovaks abstained from meat for most of Lent. On the morning of Ash Wednesday, they would carefully wash themselves, so no traces of fats or meat from the fašiangy remained on their hands or body. While meat could not be consumed on Ash Wednesday, the following Thursday was considered the last day of obžerstva (gluttony). As Slovaks lived relatively poorly, they would consume the last leftovers from the fašiangy celebrations, and then resume their fasting and abstinence on Friday.

On Ash Wednesday in some places in Slovakia, the noted Slovak-American author, Edward Kováč, wrote that the appearance of a ghost (mátocha) in the streets would signify the definitive end of fašiangy and the start of the Lenten observance. The mátocha would make noises to get people's attention, warning believers that the holy period of Lent had begun and recite the following.

Užívajme, nuže, poskromne
slová pokrmov a nápojov,
spánku i žartov ...

Let us now sparingly use
words about foods and drinks
sleep and jokes...

Lent's Origins

Like many Church traditions, observances of Lent gradually started slowly and changed over time, and scholars debate the

details of its origins to this day. During early Christianity, the church father Irenaeus of Lyons (c.130-200) wrote about this season of preparing one's soul for cleansing before Easter, but the observance at first lasted a mere 2-3 days, rather than the 40 days we are accustomed to; that later expanded to the whole week before Easter, starting with the Church in Alexandria. The fasting especially aimed to prepare those anticipating Baptism as new Christians during an age of many conversions. Over time, the fast evolved into a 3 week fast in Rome, but excluded weekends. Not until 325, did the Council of Nicaea put forward the idea of a 40-day Lenten season of fasting, using the number 40 because of its symbolic significance in both the Old and New Testaments.

Soon afterwards, the custom of fasting for 40 days spread throughout the entire Church. Even then, practices varied by region, although they were quite strict and very precise in their rules. Eastern Rite Christians fasted only on weekdays, not on the weekends. The Western Roman Church's Lent lasted one week less than the Eastern, but also included Saturdays as part of Lent. Back then, fasting meant that Christians would eat only one meal per day through Lent and abstain from meat, fish, and any animal products.

Until the 7th century, Lent started on Quadragesima (the Fortieth Sunday). Pope St. Gregory the Great (c.540-604) moved it to Wednesday. He spread the custom of blessing foreheads with ashes to remind the faithful of the Biblical symbols of repentance (the sackcloth and ashes) and their mortality, reciting the well-known words in Latin: "Memento homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris." Translation: "Remember man, that you are dust, and unto dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19).

During the Middle Ages, temporal authorities helped to enforce the fast with harsh penalties. For instance, Charlemagne ordered decapitation for those who dared to break the fast. In Medieval Poland, the penalty for violating the fast was pulling out the offender's teeth!

Two centuries later, the Church modified some of the Lenten fasting rules. It allowed eating after 3 p.m., and then by the 15th century, it expanded the list of permissible food to include fish. A former history professor told me that this was a concession to the fishermen who suffered financially during Lent. After Vatican II in 1966, the Roman Catholic Church relaxed the fast days to just Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and exempted all believers over age 59. But in Eastern Orthodox churches, Lenten fasting has remained much more strict. On the other hand, Protestants completely abolished a required fast during Lent, although Luther and Calvin both still encouraged voluntary fasting and penitence.



Ash Wednesday in Slovakia

Originally, ancient Slavic pagans celebrated their New Year around the time that Lent would start. The early Slavic peoples adopted and integrated Christian customs with these former practices, as the acceptance of Christ as their Savior the beginning of a new life of faith. Practicing the faith in Lent meant following the example of Christ to enable them with His assistance to overcome sin through their own daily sacrifices during the holy season.

In Slovak villages, even a week before Ash Wednesday, religious people would start to prepare by visiting the holy altar at church in the hope of making amends for any sins or hurts they had inflicted on others. They would recite special prayers to the Sacred Heart of Jesus so that blessings would remain with them after the carnival celebrations ended.

The ashes distributed on Ash Wednesday reminded the faithful of their own mortality. Christ's death and triumphal resurrection at the end of Lent would offer the grace for every Christian to attain eternal salvation.

Ash Wednesday, known in Latin as Dies Cinerum (Day of Ashes), evolved into a regular custom in Christian Europe as early as the 8th century, when palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday were first blessed and then used to anoint the faithful. Even though attendance at Holy Mass was and is not obligatory, it has become one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar. After the Gospel readings and the sermon, the priest sprinkled the faithful with holy water and purified the congregations with incense. The receiving of ashes recognized that one is a sinner in dire need of Christ's redemptive powers. While the body would turn to ashes, the soul would live on.

Solemnity during Lent in Slovakia

Originally, ancient Slavic Pagans had celebrated their New Year around the time that Lent started. Romans reveled in their days of Bacchus, the pagan god of earthly pleasures. Some of these pagan practices merged with Christian customs when Slavic peoples adopted Christianity. Ash Wednesday for Christians marked the beginning of a new life of faith and another chance to get one's life in good order.

Like other Christians, the Slovaks recognized that because of the redemptive power of Christ, sin could be overcome with intense prayer. In Slovak and Christian culture, Lent was a time which commemorated Christ's forty days of fasting and contemplation in the desert (Matthew 4: 1-11). Some Slovaks would call the period Veľký Pôst, or Great Lent.

Although attendance at Holy Mass was and is still not obligatory, it has become one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar. Even today, the pews are often quite filled

with believers on Ash Wednesday in many Catholic churches.

The faithful in Slovakia flocked in huge numbers to church to receive blessed ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday (Kvetná Nedel'a). Following the Gospel readings and the sermon, the priest would distribute the holy ashes, a reminder of our mortality and need for repentance. As the priest made the sign of the cross on the forehead of the penitent at Mass, he would recite the well-known words in Latin prior to Vatican II. Today, the priest would say in Slovak: "Pamätaj človeče, že prach si a na prach sa obrátiš".

In previous centuries, after attending Holy Mass on Ash Wednesday, the people of a village marched in a procession of penance. But that custom has since disappeared in most places. Lent was a time of prayers (modlitby), repentance (pokánie), and self-examination (sebazporovanie). This meant that going to Confession to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation was an obligation, and still is for practicing Catholics.

Other common observances during Lent included reciting the rosary (ruženec) and attending the Stations of the Cross (Križová cesta) on Fridays.

The tradition of following the Stations of the Cross originated during the Middle Ages, before the time of the Franciscans, whom some have credited with spreading the practice, since they sponsored Stations to recall the passion of Christ in the Holy Land. Medieval devotions focused on the sufferings of the human side of Jesus, and "centered on the sacred wounds, the precious blood, the supposed "Seven Falls," the seven last words, the crown of thorns, and the holy cross" (Koenig-Bricker). Those who could afford it and had the time would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to follow the Way of the Cross, along the Via Dolorosa. When the Ottoman Turks halted pilgrimages, Christians started making places of devotion to the way of the cross closer to home. In 1731, Pope Clement XII granted the Franciscans a monopoly on making stations for many years, but later the right would include non-Franciscan churches.

Today virtually all Catholic churches have Stations of the Cross in Slovakia, and the tradition of Friday Stations continues on Lenten Fridays.

Lenten Fasting and Meals in Slovakia

Denying the body physical pleasures was supposed to liberate the flesh so that people could contemplate the real meaning of life, their own sinfulness, and their relationship with God. Slovak devotions became far more zealous than that of most European peoples, and some historians cite the Counter-Reformation spirit of the 16th and 17th centuries as embedding this very intense religious temperament among Slovaks. Even the communist regime conceded the abstention from meat on Lenten Fridays by offering meals in schools and factories made from floury ingredients. Eating any sweets or candy would be unthinkable in former times, so a Valentine's Day on or after Ash Wednesday would have been a nightmare for candy manufacturers in today's more secular society.

In imitation of Christ's example, Slovaks denied themselves all sweets and animal

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Branch 40's January Meeting

On Sunday afternoon, January 21, 2018, Branch 40 held its first meeting of the year at Chipper's Grill in Streator, IL. In addition to conducting general branch business, branch officers were elected at the meeting, followed by a luncheon. An afternoon of fraternalism was enjoyed by all in attendance.

- Submitted by Andrew Harcar, Sr., National Vice President and Branch 40 Member. All photos courtesy of Andrew Harcar, Sr.



Branch 716 Helped the Slovak League of America Celebrate 110 Years

The Slovak League of America celebrated its 110th Anniversary at St. John Nepomucene Parish in New York City. The event was held on December 10, 2017, in the Church Hall with a luncheon prepared by Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon, with other members of the branch helping to serve.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon



(C) Slovak League of America President and First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 41 Member Daniel Tanzzone flanked by National Secretary General of Slovak League of America Nina Holy and First Catholic Slovak Union National President Andrew M. Rajec.



(L - R) St. John Nepomucene Associate Pastor Father Martin, Consul General of Slovakia in New York Ladislava Begeč, and St. John Nepomucene Pastor Father Baker



(L-R) FCSU's President Rajec with Sokol Assembly 182 President Dr. Larry Korcek




(L - R) Idka Rajac, wife of First Catholic Slovak Union National President and Branch 89 Member and First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 45 Maria Zakovicova



Attendees of the Slovak League of America's 110th Anniversary enjoyed a luncheon prepared and served by Branch 716 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.



Hi, Kids & All Those Young at Heart:
Thinking of all my good friends at the First Catholic
Slovak Union this Valentine's Day with lots o' love.
Here's some fun facts for the special day!
Tvoj priateľ (your friend),
Chewy. 
PS - Although, personally, I think the percentage in
#4 is waaaay low

10 Valentine's Day Trivia from Chewy

1. Cupid is associated with Valentine's Day because he is believed to be the son of Venus who is the Roman god of love and beauty.
2. The red rose is a symbol of Valentine's Day because it is a favorite flower of Venus.
3. The heart is associated with Valentine's Day as it is considered the source of all human emotions.
4. From the moment chocolate was discovered it was considered valuable, divine and decadent - so naturally it makes a perfect Valentine's Day gift ☺.
5. According to statistics, 73% of Valentine's Day flowers are bought by men.
6. According to a survey, approximately 3% of pet owners prefer giving Valentine gifts for their pets as pets are more grateful than humans.
7. Each year around 1 billion Valentine cards are sent across the world. After Christmas this is the single largest seasonal card-sending occasion.
8. Children between ages 6 to 10 give more than 650 million Valentine's cards to their teachers, classmates, and family members.
9. Verona, the place where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives approximately 1,000 letters every year for Juliet on Valentine's Day.
10. In the Middle Ages, people believed that the first unmarried person of the opposite sex you met on the morning of St. Valentine's Day would become your spouse.



Newly elected American-Slovak Zemplin Officers and their FCSU Branch affiliation:
Seated (L - R) Mary Chura, 2nd Vice president, Branch 450; Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Chaplain, Branch 24; Norma Ruttkay, Trustee, Branch 450; Maria Cvicela, Recording Secretary, Branch 24. Standing (L - R): Juraj Balak, 1st Vice President, Branch 855; Milan Kobulsky, Treasurer, Branch 450; George Carny, President, Branch 450; and Vlado Cvicela, Trustee, Branch 450.

American-Slovak Zemplin Club Elected Officers for 2018

The American-Slovak Zemplin Social Club, under the auspices of its President George P. Carny, held a yearly meeting on January 21, 2018, at SS Cyril & Methodius Church Hall in Lakewood, OH. The officers who were elected for the American-Slovak Zemplin Club at this meeting are also members of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

- Submitted by George P. Carny, President, American-Slovak Zemplin Social Club and Branch 450 of the First Catholic Slovak Union



FCSU Regional Director Rudy Bernath administered the oath of office to the newly elected Branch 89 officers for 2018: (L - R) Paul Novak, Recording Secretary; Joe Hlavak, Auditor; Dan Loduha, Auditor; Lou Dodulik, Financial Secretary; and Mike Novak, President.



Branch 89 members enjoyed a nice lunch after the meeting.



Branch 89's January Meeting

Branch 89 held a meeting on January 27, 2018 at Alioto's Restaurant in Wauwatosa, WI. The current officers were re-elected for another term. After the business meeting, the members were treated to a delicious lunch.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

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



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

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

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

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

We are waiting for your call!

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

Scholarships Available Through United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH

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



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

Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

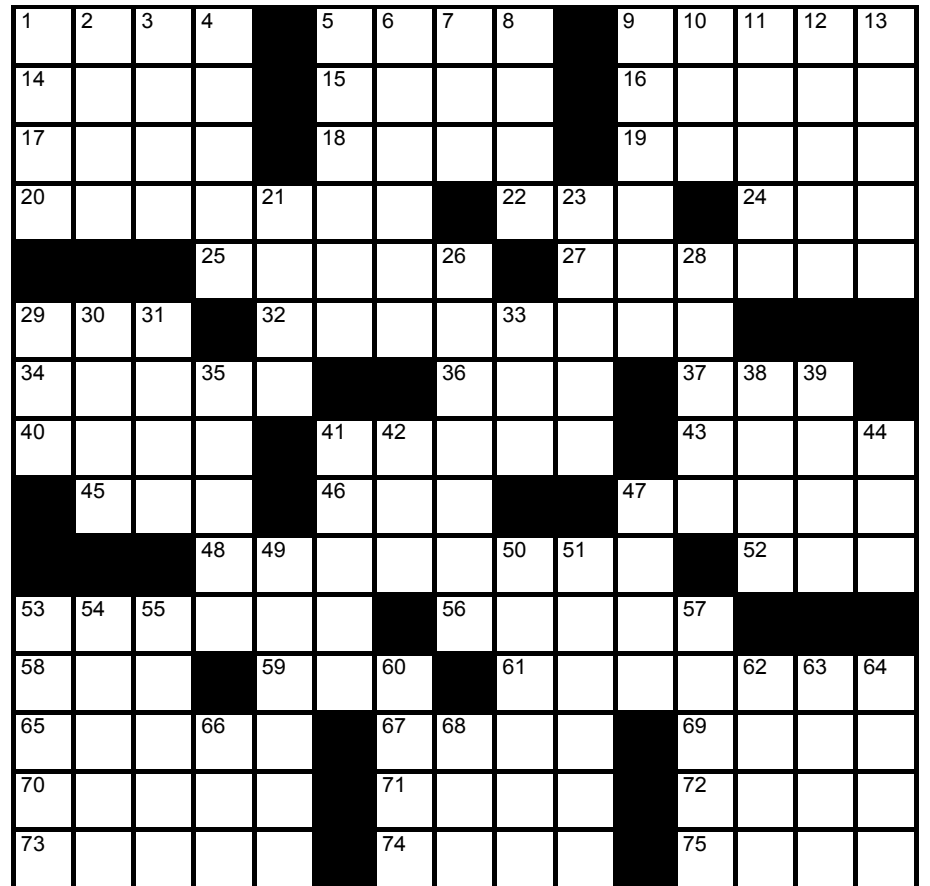
- Submitted by Michele Mager
FCSU Branch 228 Member
Secretary-United Slovak Societies
Board of Director Member,
American Slovak Club- Lorain, OH

2018 Treasurers Tours Sets Off For Slovakia This July



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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Butts into
- 5 Not up yet
- 9 Pamplona runners
- 14 Mystery writer
Ambler
- 15 Exploding star
- 16 Curacao neighbor
- 17 Capitol feature
- 18 Hidden valley
- 19 Furnace button
- 20 Defraud
- 22 Make a scene?
- 24 Compass pt.
- 25 Levels
- 27 Lifted
- 29 Cup handle
- 32 Family members
- 34 Ground cover
- 36 Criticize
- 37 Shipwreck signal
- 40 Lady's escort
- 41 Words of wisdom
- 43 Six-sided state
- 45 Commotion
- 46 Word of possibility
- 47 Neutral shade
- 48 ___ oblige
- 52 Farm mother
- 53 Eric Arthur Blair's pen name, George ___
- 56 College bigwigs
- 58 Standard
- 59 Morning moisture
- 61 Sister of Apollo
- 65 Sambuca flavoring
- 67 Suspend
- 69 Make over
- 70 Stringed instruments
- 71 Previously
- 72 Actor Lugosi

- 73 Exhausted
- 74 Roll call calls
- 75 Dance bit

Down

- 1 Cincinnati nine
- 2 Lined up
- 3 *La Bohème*
heroine
- 4 Bloodhound's clue
- 5 Fisherman
- 6 Ravel classic
- 7 First family member
- 8 *Two Years Before the Mast* writer
- 9 Kind of sauce
- 10 Bonanza find
- 11 Tricks
- 12 More than plump
- 13 Filled to excess
- 21 Claim
- 23 Brunch serving
- 26 Digressed
- 28 Matter of debate
- 29 Grade A item
- 30 Environs
- 31 *We the Living*
author
- 33 Beldam
- 35 Backgammon piece
- 38 Elevator pioneer
- 39 Palm starch
- 41 Mosey
- 42 Indian dish
- 44 Chop down
- 47 Out of shape
- 49 Senior
- 50 Spiritual session?
- 51 Some N.C.O.'s
- 53 Milky gems
- 54 Incurred over time, as a bill
- 55 Correspond
- 57 Novi Sad residents
- 60 Horse halter
- 62 Rendezvous
- 63 Not in use
- 64 It's sold in bars
- 66 Cambodian coin
- 68 "___ takers?"

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
March 7	February 26
March 21	March 12
April 11	April 2
April 25	April 16
May 9	April 30
June 6	May 29 (to accommodate Memorial Holiday)
June 20	June 11
July 18	July 9
August 22	August 13
Sept 19	Sept 10
October 17	October 8
November 14	November 5
December 12	December 3

See Solution on Page 18

Part II of the 2017 P

People



First Place – Kathryn Stover
Valencia, PA, Branch 831

“Boy Hugging
Dog”

Nature or Environment



First Place – Ryan Ranahan
East Brunswick, NJ, Branch 746

“Osprey in Flight”



Second Place – Ryan Ranahan
East Brunswick, NJ, Branch 746

“People Riding Camels in
the Sahara Desert”



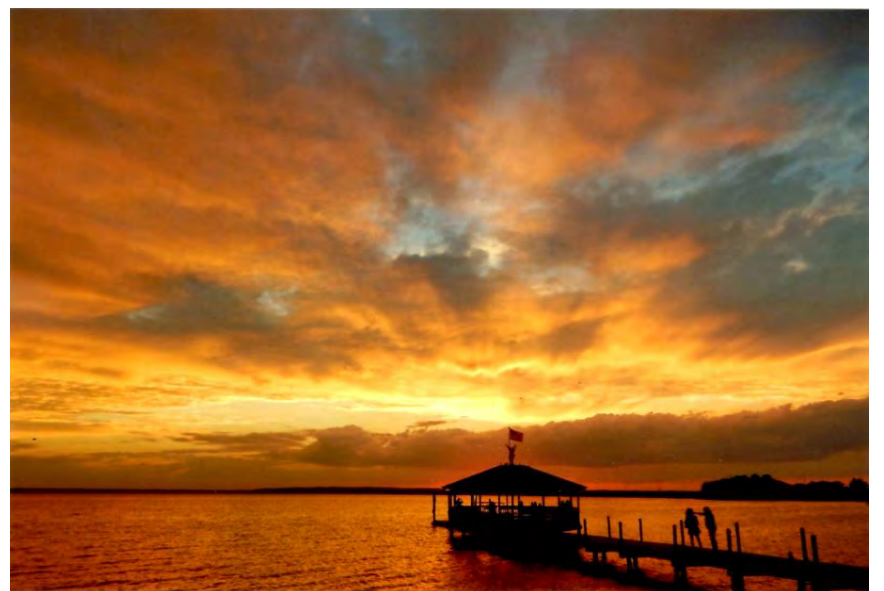
Second Place –
Lois Kristoff-Kichka
Independence, OH, Branch 1

“Cuyahoga Falls, OH”



Third Place – Andrew Kotlar
Monongahela, PA, Branch 670

“Abandon Tunnel,
Monongahela, PA”



Third Place – Mary Jo Zima
Downington, PA, Branch 567

“Sunset on Ocean City, MD”

Photo Contest Results

Travel or Destinations



First Place – Derek MacMath
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290

“Hollywood, CA”



Second Place – Audrey Zavada
Forty Fort, PA, Branch 5P

“Waterfall Chasing in Croatia”



Third Place – Rudy Bernath
Glenview, IL, Branch 153

“Kenosha, WI”

FCSU Fraternal Activity



First Place – Ryan Ranahan
E. Brunswick, NJ, Branch 746

“Embassy of Slovakia”



Second Place – Patrick Sullivan
Pittsburgh, PA, Branch 35

“Pittsburgh Pirates Acknowledge the FCSU Pgh District at PNC Park”



Third Place – Barbara Fayta
Dyer, IN, Branch 706

“Decorating the FCSU Christmas Tree”

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1- CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 11:00AM at the home of our President Delores J. Denosky, 1001 42 ½ Avenue, NE, Columbia Heights, MN. We will elect a delegate and an alternate to the 2018 National Convention of the FCSU; other items on the agenda will include our family picnic in August, a merger, and the date of our annual meeting.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, K.J., held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 10 at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA.

Officers for 2018 were elected as follows: President, Daniel J. Spegar; Treasurer, William Spegar; Secretary, William F. Nalevanko; and Auditors: Donna Mroczka, Florence M. Nalevanko, Carol Spegar and Mary Ann Spegar.

Donations in the amount of \$7,000 were approved for distribution in 2018 to the following: Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, Olyphant, Pa.; Abington Senior Center, Clarks Summit, Pa.; Dickson City Senior Center, Dickson City, Pa.; Mid Valley Senior Center, Jessup, Pa.; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund and Christmas Fund, and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, Pa.; Valley Community Library, Peckville, Pa.; Eynon Archbald Lions Club "Leader Dogs for the Blind" fund, Archbald, Pa.; and Gino J. Merli Veterans Center "Canteen Fund," St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., South Side Senior Center, and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, Pa. plus an additional one-time donation to the American Red Cross "Disaster Relief" fund.

Arrangements are being made for 2018's semi-annual business meeting following the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, Pa., on Sunday, June 24, 2018. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Finally, the officers and members of Branch 10 wish to extend best wishes to everyone for a joyful New Year!

Bill Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 16P – WEST WYOMING, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 016P West Wyoming, PA and Branch 005P Exeter, PA. All members of Branch 016P will now hold membership in Branch 005P.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

MARTHA ZAVADA WOJCIK
101 JEAN ST
EXETER, PA 18643-1513
(570) 655-4141
(570) 954-3771

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

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

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 of Johnstown PA, St. Joseph Society, will be having our 1st. Annual Meeting of 2018, on

Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 1 PM. The meeting will be held at Dennys Family Restaurant, Johnstown Pa. Near Walmart in Richland on Theatre Drive

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

Please come join us!

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

Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special **Branch 24 members-only pricing of \$5 per ticket & \$21 per ticket for non-Br 24 members** for the Saturday evening (7PM), March 24, 2018, Monsters hockey game at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH. See page 19 of this issue for details.

Reservations are required by calling Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797. Make checks payable to St. Andrew Society. The deadline is February 23, 2018. Seating is limited. Don't delay. Order now, and join us for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism.

Robert J. Kopco, President

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

Maria Jursi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 90K – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 090K Olyphant, PA and Branch 419K Mountain Top, PA. All members of Branch 090K will now hold membership in Branch 419K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

FRANCIS J WASSIL
250 GRANDVIEW AVE
MOUNTAINTOP, PA 18707-2202
(570) 790-3311

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BR 110K – DELANCEY, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 110K Delancey, PA and Branch 484K Coral, PA. All members of Branch 110K will now hold membership in Branch 484K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

MONICA R RURA
PO BOX E
819 POWER PLANT ROAD
CORAL, PA 15731-0254
(724) 479-8181

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 124K – SOUTH FORK, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 124K South Fork, PA and Branch 484K Coral, PA. All members of Branch 124K will now hold membership in Branch 484K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22,

2017.

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

MONICA R RURA
PO BOX E
819 POWER PLANT ROAD
CORAL, PA 15731-0254
(724) 479-8181

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Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BR 136K – NUREMBERG, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 156K – BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

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

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

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

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

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 5, 2018, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to a meeting at Applebee's Restaurant, Route 30, Greensburg, PA on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6:00pm.

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

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

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 189P – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 189K – GALLITZIN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 189K Gallitzin, PA and Branch 372K Beaverdale, PA. All members of Branch 189K will now hold membership in Branch 372K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

VERONICA A MASLAR
817 CAMERON AVE
BOX 15
BEAVERDALE, PA 15921-0015
(814) 487-7482

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold a luncheon meeting on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 1:00 PM at Gianelli's II Restaurant, Route 30, Greensburg, PA 15601.

The meeting will consist of a welcoming to new members of the branch as a result of a merger of Branch 388K and Branch 512K Election of delegates for the 51st Annual Convention being held in August in Cleveland will take place at this meeting. Lunch will be provided by the branch. Please leave message at 724-423-4745 to confirm attendance for the luncheon count. A warm welcome awaits all those who attend.

Barbara Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Our meeting schedule for 2018 is as follows: Mar. 1st, with election of delegates/alternates to the upcoming National Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union this August in Cleveland, OH; Apr. 5th, May 3rd, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, Nov1st with nomination of branch officers; and Dec. 6th with election of branch officers

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

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BR 211K – LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 211K Latrobe, PA and Branch 181K United, PA. All members of Branch 211K will now hold membership in

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

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

Sincerely,

Robert Ľapák Magruder., Recording Secretary

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

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

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

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

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

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

Fathers' Day is Sunday, June 17, 2018. The district Fathers' Day brunch still needs a host branch.

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

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. The national convention is coming next year; be careful to fulfill all requirements for sending delegates.

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: January 8, 2018 – Slovak Hockey, February 5, 2018 – Sights in Slovakia, March 5, 2018 – Medovníky, April 2, 2018 – Slovak Castles, May 7, 2018 – Slovak Weddings, June 4 – the Pittsburgh Agreement. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

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

DISTRICT 7 – THE REVEREND JOHN MARTVON

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

Sharon Allison, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 9-FRANK T.HOLLY, JR DISTRICT

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

Branch will be served at 12:30. Election of officers for the year 2018 will be held at this meeting.

Regional Director, James Marmol will brief the group on current events taking place at the home office.

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

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

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REVEREND STEFAN FURDEK DISTRICT

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 13 - JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT

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

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

DISTRICT 14 – THE REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Reverend Joseph L. Kostik District - District 14, Region 6 – held a district meeting on November 21, 2017, for the election of officers for 2018 as published in the JEDNOTA.

District Officers elected for 2018 are:

- President – John J. Leskovyansky, Jr.
- Vice President – Carlie Peshek
- Recording Secretary - Grace Kavulic
- Treasurer - Selma E. Bolash
- Auditor – Jacquelyn Bobby
- Chaplain – Vivian L. Sedlacko

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2018:

- Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
- Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
(Election of Officers for 2019)
- Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
(Meeting for Installation of Officers and Christmas Dinner)

Fraternally,

**John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President
Telephone (Home): (330) 549.3788**

DISTRICT 14 – THE REVEREND JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Reverend Kostik District 14 will meet at 6 pm on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell St., Youngstown, OH 44502-2765. We will be discussing activities and agenda for the year and preparation for the upcoming FCSU Convention in Cleveland this coming August.

Grace Kavulic, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 16 - THE MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, February 25, 2018 in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY, immediately following the 10:15AM Slovak Mass. The agenda will include the election of a delegate to the FCSU National Convention held in August, 2018.

Joan Skrkon, Secretary

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



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

Branch 853 Educational Stipends Available

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

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

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

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

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

Branch 181K.

This merger has taken place as of December 20, 2017.

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

DARLENE B PATTY
939 UNITY ST
LATROBE, PA 15650-8904
(724) 537-7743

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

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

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

The experience of participating in the National Convention is extremely rewarding. Look, listen, and do not be afraid to address the Convention proceedings with questions or significant comments concerning the issue being discussed. There will be attended microphones available in various areas of the convention room. Just approach the microphone attendant and request permission to speak. Your fellow Branch Delegates will help advise you if you are unsure of the procedure or the subject nature at hand. You will also want to attend the various caucuses that will occur after supper among the branches. A lot of the "nuts and bolts" are assembled in these caucuses as issues and candidate qualifications are discussed. This helps to formulate the future policies, procedures and management of our organization. The experience is absolutely amazing!

The cold and snow of this winter will eventually pass. As the weather warms up, so will the preparation activities for the Convention. Please attend the branch meetings to stay informed. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You will enjoy the comradery.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 240P – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 240P Pittston, PA and Branch 173K Wilkes Barre, PA. All members of Branch 240P will now hold membership in Branch 173K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

CARL J UNGVARSKY
15 GROVE ST
MOUNTAIN TOP, PA 18707
(570) 403-2067

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch

259, will hold a meeting on February 25, 2018, at 2:00PM at 175 Harvey Street, Struthers, OH. We will conduct our annual audit; elect delegates for the National Convention of the FCSU in August; and discuss activities for 2018.

We want to wish all of our members a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

Branch 259 would like to congratulate the following winners of its 2018 Scholarships of \$500 each:

- Mark Sedlacko
- Andrew Joseph
- Brandon Yurcin

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 270K – SLATINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 278K – ELIZABETHTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 278K Elizabethtown, PA and Branch 075K Shamokin, PA. All members of Branch 278K will now hold membership in Branch 075K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

RONALD M ANDERSON
8 S SHAMOKIN ST
SHAMOKIN, PA 17872-6028
(570) 648-7012

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 280K – NATRONA HEIGHTS, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 280K Natrona Heights, PA and Branch 200K Ford City, PA. All members of Branch 280K will now hold membership in Branch 200K.

This merger has taken place as of December 20, 2017.

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

VICKI LYNN SCHAUB
623 5TH AVE
FORD CITY, PA 16226-1030
(724) 763-9229

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

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

Joseph Minarovich, President

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

On Friday, March 12, 2018, St. Joseph Society Branch 293KJ will hold a special meeting for the

election of delegates to the FCSU's 51st International Convention in Cleveland, OH, this August. The meeting will take place at the home of the financial secretary at 6PM: Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232-2210.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 308K – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 308K Youngstown, OH and Branch 731K Youngstown, OH. All members of Branch 308K will now hold membership in Branch 731K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

JACQUELYN BOBBY
830 SOUTHWESTERN RUN
UNIT 76
POLAND, OH 44514
(330) 629-2505

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Marge Dickinson, President

BRANCH 315 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 315 is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116. Interested persons should respond no later than March 30, 2018.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 327K – POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

DAMIAN D NASTA
2 KINDLE LN
LEVITTOWN, PA 19055-2409
(267) 795-7930

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 335K – LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 335K Lebanon, PA and Branch 075K Shamokin, PA. All members of Branch 335K will now hold membership in Branch 075K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

RONALD M ANDERSON
8 S SHAMOKIN ST
SHAMOKIN, PA 17872-6028
(570) 648-7012

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 367 St. Joseph's Lodge of Fairchance, PA, will be holding its spring meeting on Wednesday,

March 14, 2018 at 4:00 PM at Bogey's at Duck Hollow Golf Course, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown,

PA. The upcoming convention and plans for this new year will be discussed. All members are invited to attend. Please call Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006 or Audrey Balazik President at 724-438-3887 if planning to attend.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 380K – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 380K Canonsburg, PA and Branch 320K Belle Vernon, PA. All members of Branch 380K will now hold membership in Branch 320K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

FRANCES TARQUINIO
209 SYLVAN DR
BELLE VERNON, PA 15012-3505
(724) 929-9788

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 388K – LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 388K Latrobe, PA and Branch 199K Hostetter, PA. All members of Branch 388K will now hold membership in Branch 199K.

This merger has taken place as of December 20, 2017.

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

BARBARA A PATULA
129 HOLLY PL
MT PLEASANT, PA 15666
(724) 423-4745

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, welcomes all members of the former Branch 823. The branch will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 4, 2018, at 1:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA, to elect additional delegates to the upcoming 2018 National Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in Cleveland, OH, based on this recent merger. All members are welcome. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nal-evanko at 1-724-834-6386 by February 22nd.

Mary Ann Nal-evanko, Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 724-425-2576.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 414K – FARRELL, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 414K Farrell, PA and Branch 764K Warren, OH. All members of Branch 414K will now hold membership in Branch 764K.

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 16

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

GEORGE J YURICEK
1190 BEECHWOOD ST SW
WARREN, OH 44485-4190
(330) 394-8249

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 419 - WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Stephen the Martyr, Branch 419, will hold a meeting on Sunday February 18, 2018, at Norms Restaurant, Sherman Street, Wilkes Barre, PA, beginning at 12:30PM. Please attend as election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH, this August will be conducted. All are welcome. Lunch will served following the meeting.

Francis Wassil, President

BRANCH 461K - BUFFALO, NEW YORK

There has been a merger between Branch 461K Buffalo, NY and Branch 382K Dunmore, PA. All members of Branch 461K will now hold membership in Branch 382K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

JOHN J SLOVENKAI SR
318 14TH AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18504-2512
(570) 347-3579

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 425 - BARBERTON, OHIO

Branch 425 will hold a meeting on March 18, 2018, at 1:00PM, to elect delegates to the 2018 National Convention this August in Cleveland, OH. The branch meeting will take place at 1371 Eastern Road, Rittman. RSVP to 330-825-3534.

Jeanette Willis, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 434K - MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

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

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 487K - CLINTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 505K - EMMAUS, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 512K - GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 512K Greensburg, PA and Branch 199K Hostetter, PA. All members of Branch 512K will now hold membership in Branch 199K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

BARBARA A PATULA
129 HOLLY PL
MT PLEASANT, PA 15666
(724) 423-4745

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Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 587 - ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Branch 587, will have a meeting on March 7, 2018, at 2:00PM at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA, 15001. There will be a business meeting and election of delegates to the upcoming National Convention in Cleveland, OH, August 4 - 8.

All members are invited to attend.

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, March 4 Polka Dance: 3pm-6pm: food available for purchase.

Saturday, March 24 Easter Egg hunt: all children are welcome.

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

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off

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

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

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 635K - NEW BRIGHTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedi-

cation and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 704K - SLOVAN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

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

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Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 716 FCSU, will hold a special Meeting on Sunday February 18th 2018 after the Slovak Mass at 1:00 PM in the downstairs hall of St. John Nepomucene Church. The agenda will include the election of delegates to FCSU Convention and planning of activities for 2018. All members are urged to attend this important Meeting. Lunch will be provided for those in attendance.

The Slovak Mass at 10:15 AM will be for deceased President Jozef Bilik of Branch 716.

Joan Skrkon, Secretary

BRANCH 721 - BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 746 - LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

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

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 796 - EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold their semi-annual meeting February 25, 2018. Meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m., at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the Altar Server Room, 4464 Main St, Egypt, PA, 18052.

The meeting agenda will include election of delegates for the upcoming FCSU National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, August 2018. If you have any proposal changes for the By-Laws, or any topics you wish to be discussed at the convention please write them down and bring them to this meeting. Delegates for the upcoming District 8 meeting on April 22, 2018 will be selected at this meeting.

All members are invited to attend, hope to see some new faces at the meeting.

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 823 - YOUNGWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 823K Youngwood, PA and Branch 393K Greensburg, PA. All members of Branch 823K will now hold membership in Branch 393K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

MARY ANN NALEVANKO
459 FRONT ST
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
(724) 834-6386

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold its next meeting on Saturday February 24, 2018 at 11am at the Speers Street Grill, Belle Vernon PA (underneath the Speers-Belle Vernon bridge, Speers side). Discussions will take place regarding a branch team for the Bowling Tournament and the Convention. Members are urged to attend. If a member cannot attend but wants to be on the Branch 853 bowling team, please call about your branch participation. Reservations are required for a chair count for the meeting. Call 412-341-1577 and leave your name, phone number and how many branch members will be attending.

Have a Happy 2018 from Branch 853.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 invites all of our members to come join the fun at the Monsters' Hockey Game, March 24th! Please call Barbara by Feb 23rd for details on how to reserve your complimentary ticket. *Details on page 19 of this issue.* Hope to see you there!!!

Barbara Sutilla, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

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

Katherine Nowatkoski Financial Secretary

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	Thomas Kascak	060K	Albert G Uhrin	382K	Dorothy S Jarembek	493K	Nancy Louise Lutz
005P	Raphael M Kudela	102K	Irma H Salamandra	401K	Veronica Piecka	738K	Ruth M Gill
005P	Frank Lewis Sabach	157K	George J Check	410K	Robert E Markutsa	743K	Andrew W Kremposky
006K	Kenneth W Neumann	162K	Stephen Charles Rabatin	419K	Cyril S Kochanevich	764K	Elizabeth Fitzgerald
006K	Rose Marie Zueck	173K	Ronald Karalunas	419K	Regina B Zygmunt	796K	Joseph S Micek
010K	James E Hanichak	173K	Elizabeth Kavulich	429K	Joseph E Brincko Jr	796K	Linda L Nemchik
038K	Dolores M Green	199K	Blase Andrew Urban	450K	Mary Ann Shearer	857K	Andrew C Herman
038K	Joanne R Micklos	228K	Margaret Ann Moro	484K	Christina Filippini	900K	Peter Paul Tomkah
041K	John A Kubicsko	254K	Michael C Sabol	484K	Joseph Edward Rura	926K	Margaret Ragus

*Processed through the month of January

OBITUARIES

**FLORENCE M. SPROCK
BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA**



Florence M. Sprock, 80, of Unity Township, PA, died Tuesday, November 21, 2017, at her home. She was born May 11, 1937, in Pleasant Unity, PA, a daughter of the late John Mizenko and Barbara L. (Shuster) Mott, and wife of Past Regional Director of the First Catholic Slovak Union George A. Sprock, as well as mother of Chairman of Auditors for the First Catholic Slovak Union Karen M. Hunka. Prior to retirement, she worked more than 30 years at Latrobe Area Hospital, was a tax preparer at H&R Block then had her own tax service from her home. Florence was a member of St. Florian Catholic Church and its Altar Society, and she with her husband, George, received the Discipleship award in 2010. She started the LAH Federal Credit Union, was active in St. Florian School PTO, where she is remembered for organizing roller skating and hot lunches for students, and was a past president of American Field Service of Latrobe High School. She served as financial secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 181, was a member of VFW Post 8643 Ladies Auxiliary and was also active many years as a Unity Township Democratic committee person. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, George A. Sprock; son, George F. Sprock; and her stepfather, Steve Mott. She is survived by two daughters, Barbara A. Spencer and husband, James, of Frederick, MD, and Karen M. Hunka, of Unity Township; her daughter-in-law, Wendy L. Sprock, of Pleasant Unity; 11 grandchildren, Katharine, Matthew, Anne, Joshua, Jacob, Trevor, Anna, Katie, Jonathan, George and Sarah; a great-grandson, Aliqui; two stepsisters, Melanie Rinaldi and Rebecca Thomas; two stepbrothers, Stephen and Michael Mott; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were received Friday, November 24, 2017, at the Leo M. Bacha Funeral Home, Pleasant Unity. Prayers began Saturday morning, November 25, 2017, in the funeral home followed by a funeral Mass celebrated in St. Florian Catholic Church, United, with the Rev. John A. Sedlak as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Florian Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant Township, PA.

- Submitted by Karen Hunka, Chairman of National Auditors

**EVELYN JEAN KUBLIN
BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA**

Evelyn Jean Kublin (nee Cheslock), age 89, passed away peacefully in hospice at the Slovene Home in Cleveland, OH, on November 29, 2017. Beloved wife of 63 years to Edward; loving mother of Todd (wife Roberta); cherished daughter of the late Frank and Anna (nee Kanyuch) Cheslock; dearest sister of Dorothy Thomas (husband Bo, deceased); dear aunt of many. A Celebration of Life Service was held Monday, December 4, 2017 at 11 AM at the DeJohn-Flynn-Mylott Funeral Home of Willoughby Hills, OH, where family received friends to pay tribute to and celebrate the life of Evelyn earlier that same morning. Burial followed at Western Reserve Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Chesterland, OH.

- Submitted by Roberta Kublin

**ANDREW WILLIAM KREMPOSKY
BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN**

Andrew W. Kremposky passed away at home on October 28, 2017, at age 93. He and his beloved wife Helen had been married for 69 years. Andrew was the loving father of Andrew D. Kremposky, Elaine Kremposky, Barbara (Allen) Rose, Mary Ellen (Ed) McArdle, Angela (Robert) Legge and his late infant son, John Kremposky. He was the proud grandfather of Elizabeth (Eric Von Blon) Villiard, Paul Villiard and Bobby Legge, and great grandfather to Ashley and Keira Von Blon. Andrew was deeply loved by them all and will be greatly missed.

Andrew was a great family man who also had a deep faith in God. He was a World War II veteran, and past President for the Michigan District of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He was also active in the Knights of Columbus. In addition to spending time with family, he enjoyed gardening and tending to his fruit trees hiking and hunting up north in Michigan. And walking along the beaches in Florida.

- Submitted by Helen Kremposky

**JOHN BALOG
BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON DC & AREA**



John was born in New Brighton, PA on August 11, 1923 and died November 6, 2017. He was preceded by his beloved wife of 65 years, Mildred Strobel Balog; his father, Steve Balog;

his mother, Verona Balog; and two sisters. He was a devoted father to Celeste Balog (Wes Miller), Stephen Balog (Joan), Gary Balog, and Joseph Balog (Cheryl). He took great pride in his eight grandchildren: Alyssa (Shawn MacDonald), Travis (Alyson), and Thomas Rosenbloom; Marcus (Mandy) and Valerie Balog; and Alison, Andrew, and Brooke Balog. He took special joy in his great-granddaughter, McKinley Rosenbloom. John proudly served in the Navy during WWII as Yeoman First Class, serving both as a gunner and payroll clerk on the USS Anthony, a destroyer which was instrumental in the battle for Okinawa. He earned his bachelor's degree in Business from Benjamin Franklin (now George Washington) University. He retired as a systems analyst in the Farmers Home Administration

within the federal Department of Agriculture. He also managed a tax preparation business for over thirty years, finally retiring at age 82. He and Mildred made their home in northern Virginia for 60 years before moving to Wichita to be close to family. John was a long-time member of Branch 856 of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Washington, DC. He led by example, showing through his actions the importance of faith and family. He will be forever missed by all who knew him, including his extended family and lifelong friends. Reciting of the rosary followed by a Funeral Mass on, Monday, November 13, at St. Elizabeth Chapel at Catholic Care Center.

- Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856

Branch 670 Scholarships Available



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

For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2018

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

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 11:30 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, via teleconference
Rudolf Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director,
via teleconference (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

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

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

The Executive Committee reviewed the report from Larry White, AQS Management, Inc.

Larry White gave an extensive report at the Board of Directors Meeting and answered the Board's questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a full written report on the investment update at the Board of Director's Meeting and answered the Board's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of November 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 November:

Disbursements for the month of November 2017:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 140,485.27
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 46,907.60
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.

The Executive Secretary led a review of our 3rd Quarter Financial Statement at the Board of Director's Meeting and answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 3rd Quarter Financial Statement will be published in the Jednota.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents at the Board of Director's Meeting. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 291 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 almost 70% of annuity sales.

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the IRS approval for FCSU to act as a passive or non-passive nonbank trustee or custodian of health savings accounts and as a passive or non-passive nonbank custodian of Coverdell education savings accounts. The Home Office is ready to accept applications for Coverdell and plans to promote the plan through mailings, email and on our website.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Rudolf Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, gave a report from the Sports Committee Meeting. The report included a recommended for the FCSU to help offset the cost of the bowling banquet by paying \$50 per person. It was agreed upon by the Executive Committee to do so in hopes to increase the attendance of the banquet.

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 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., 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



ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA JEDNOTA MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Hockey Night in Cleveland

Saturday, March 24, 2018

7:00pm

Monsters vs. San Diego Gulls
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH

**Special Offer Includes:**

- Discounted Lower Goal End Tickets!!
(\$37 game day value)
- \$21 per seat, with possible deeper discounts for MEMBERS ONLY through your branch
- GIVEAWAY – This is a Purple Game, benefiting the American Cancer Society
- First 10,000 fans receive Purple Rally Towel
- Fans encouraged to wear purple to show support for those affected by all cancers
- Food drive: donate canned goods or other non-perishable foods to donate to local food banks

To get your branch discount and order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:

- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
- Branch 228: Len Zilko, 440-988-3236
- Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- Branch 553: Greg Petrasek, 330-398-1888
- Branch 855: Barbara Sutilla, 440-864-4744



*Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch.
Contact your branch officer for details!!*

Deadline to order: Friday, February 23, 2018
Seating is Limited: First Come, First Serve, So Don't Delay

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

From your branch officer or by pick up at the Q's will call (located near box office), if arrangements are made in advance through your branch.

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in Quicken Loans Arena. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

Lent in Slovakia, 2018

continued from page 16

products during Lent, with the above exception noted on the Thursday after Ash Wednesday. This included full abstention from all meats and any dairy products such as milk, cheese, etc., and even eggs. Although Catholics may consume these today, they remain on the abstention list for Orthodox Christians to this day. Ironically, though Slovaks could not consume milk, they could imbibe moderate amounts of beer, brandy, and wine.

In the past when dairy products were banned, Slovaks often cooked to make a drink or a soup called *kysel* (*kyselica*), made from fruit juice or a condensed thick drink form of starchy meal. Typically, those observing a strict diet refrained as well from using any animal fats such as bacon grease or lard in cooking. Instead Slovaks used mainly vegetable oils from flax, hemp, and sunflowers.

A typical Slovak meal on Ash Wednesday consisted of some type of Lenten soup and some pasta mixed with poppy seeds, known as *válčiky* or *zemiakové šúľance*, a potato dough formed into a truncated cone roll. Pea, bean, or garlic soup were also common at meals. On Ash Wednesdays and Fridays, people fasted by having only one full meal per day. On Sundays in Lent, Slovaks typically ate a dish made with *cestoviny* (noodles). Other common foods during *pôst* included potatoes, cabbage, beets, spinach, crushed barley groats, various ground meals from grains, and sometimes rice when available. Cabbage or

potato pancakes (*kapustové* alebo *zemiakové placky*) were also popular. Dried or canned fruit served as a dessert. For breakfast, a cornmeal mush (*kukuričnú kašu* or *kukurydzanku*) was common in some villages.

Slovaks did eat fish (*ryba*) and other cold blooded animals such as frogs and crabs during Lent, but nothing warm-blooded. A typical Lenten meals might consist of cooked frog legs in cabbage. (Adults and even many children caught frogs (*žabky*) in the backwaters of rivers and streams.) And as popular with Slovak-Americans, Slovaks could eat *pirohy* (stuffed dumplings) filled with potatoes, cabbage, sauerkraut, or prunes.

Some variation of foods depended upon which part of Slovakia one lived in, and of course, if one was Catholic or not. In southern Slovakia, *opatanca* was commonly eaten, which consists of a *halušky* fried in oil and sprinkled with cottage cheese curds (*tvaroh*). In northern Slovakia, *pučky* (young sprouts, vegetables) were more widespread in meals. In southwestern Slovakia, housewives often prepared *kalkíš* or *kalkýš*. It was a slightly sweet mashed dish made from germinated cereals. The cook would add water and flour to the sprouted grains and then bake it. It looked something like baked Farina and was a favorite among children because of its sweeter honey taste. Instead of rolls or regular rye bread with a meal, they ate a form of corn resembling *pukance* (popcorn), consisting of small dough balls made of corn and flavored with greens.

Slovaks also abstained from eating any very large meals for the entire period of Lent. Parties, weddings, loud music, and any forms of merriment were forbidden. Breaking the fast or any proscribed activities was also believed to be an omen of bad luck, and could lead to a poor harvest, less fertility, and sickly livestock. Any music played had to be sacred and somber, stressing one's sinfulness and repentance.

A Somber Lent in Slovakia

The Slovak interpretation of Lent became most solemn and very somber. Until Easter arrived, a household remained in a virtual state of continual mourning for their own sins, and for the terrible price Jesus Christ had to pay for redeeming man's sins. As a sign of this grieving, in the past, all women dressed only in black for the entire Lenten season. People generally wore darker colors such as black and purple, with very little decoration or adornment. Ash Wednesday marked a prolonged period of mourning for Christ.

Although some of these customs have modified over the years, Lent remains an intensely spiritual time for practicing Catholics as well as Lutherans and Calvinists throughout Slovakia. When one visits, especially the villages in Slovakia, one has a sense of the sacredness and sorrow of the season that has diminished in many American parishes since Vatican II.

In a practical sense, our ancestors in Slovakia also benefited from their strict fasting, for perhaps they intuitively understood the physical as well as mental and spiritual benefits of self-denial. They realized that the body required some time to regenerate itself and its normal metabolism. Refreshing air and fresh water would cleanse the body, and they could catch up on some much needed rest and sleep as the winter tailed off.

But there is one very real result of the intense Lenten period sacrifice – the joy of Easter is that much greater. For the faithful, Christ's Resurrection represented and still today, signifies the triumph of good over evil, and the promise of eternal life in heavenly paradise.

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Feb 14th: A Good Day to Remember the Altar of St. Cyril in Rome and the American Slovaks

Daniel Černý

Not many know that February 14th is not only St. Valentine's Day, but also the day St. Constantine – Cyril passed, one half of the celebrated missionary duo Ss. Cyril and Methodius, proudly called Apostles to the Slavs. Even fewer are aware that a visible sign of the strong connection between St. Cyril and the Slovak diaspora in America exists in Rome.



Photo courtesy of Prof. Emilia Hrabovcov

June 5, 1952: Solemnity with Archbishop Evreinov.

St. Cyril died during a trip to Rome in 869 where, together with his brother St. Methodius, he succeeded in defending the liturgical language they had prepared for the Slavs. The intention of St. Methodius was to bring the body of his beloved brother back to the Byzantine Empire; however, the pope insisted on burying this holy and wise man in Rome. Finally, an agreement was reached to bury the saint in the Basilica of St. Clement. St. Clement was a pope from the first century, whose relics the holy brothers found during their journey to Crimea and brought with them to Rome, to the above-mentioned basilica. After the Napoleonic wars, the relics were considered to be lost and were re-discovered only in the mid-20th century and buried again in the basilica.

So that is where our dear "equal-to-the-apostles" (as the Byzantine liturgy calls him) St. Cyril had his final resting place. Yet over time, the grave of this great saint became neglected. In 1950 Fr. Lacko SJ, a Byzantine-Slovak Jesuit, encouraged the Slovak diaspora to do something about it in a sermon given at this holy place, in the underground of the St. Clement Basilica. The response was stunning, and all the funds needed to construct a white marble altar in the Basilica of St. Clement soon collected by Slovak Catholics of America and Canada.

The altar was consecrated on June 5, 1952, by the Byzantine-rite Archbishop Alexander Evreinov (1877-1959). Archbishop Evreinov was a real hero of the Russian Catholic Apostolate, living in Rome at the Pontifical Russian Collegium – "Russicum". His presence was of great importance and encouragement especially for the Byzantine-rite Slovaks, persecuted in their homeland and emerging in the world and in the Vatican.

Fr. Lacko, SJ, delivered the homily during this solemn liturgy. His main message contained words from the troparion (a Byzantine hymn) in honor of Ss. Cyril and Methodius: to confirm us

in faith and in unity of heart. In this way, Father underscored the fact that Slovaks were indeed keeping their faith uncorrupted – and thus honoring the most glorious inheritance of the holy brothers.

Sometimes people in America think that they are very distant from their roots. However, this altar – constructed by both Latin and Byzantine Slovak Catholics from USA and Canada during times when the Church in Slovakia was persecuted – is a beautiful testimony to how we are still very much connected to our ancestors through our shared faith, regardless of how far we may live from one from another. The original tomb is now adorned with many commemorative plaques of various Slavic nations. But only one altar itself bears name of only one nation – that of the Slovaks.

This February 14th, may our hearts be lifted up to the Lord in thanksgiving not only for our loved ones as well as for St. Cyril, who brought us many gifts: culture, a written language, law and order, and most especially and above all, faith.

About the Author

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

Správy zo Slovenska

Bratislava – Slovensko sa už takmer tri roky pokúša nájsť rešpektovaného právnik, ktorý by sa mohol stať dodatočným sudcom na Všeobecnom súde Európskej únie v Luxemburgu. Súdna rada absolvovala na konci januára v poradí už štvrtý pokus zvoliť kandidáta na tento medzinárodný súdny post. Tentoraz je zrejme v najlepšej situácii. Vrcholný orgán súdnictva hľadá tretieho kandidáta po tom, ako dvaja predošlí kandidáti - Mária Patakyová a Radoslav Procházka neuspeli a boli odmietnutí poradným výborom Rady EÚ. Teraz bude vyberať spomedzi trojice uchádzačov Ján Mazák, Ivan Rumana a Michal Kučera. Prví dvaja sú prihlásení už po tretí raz.

Banská Bystrica – Aj po 20-ročnej spolupráci a vyše 30 turné po Japonsku sa vždy do tejto krajiny tešíme. Je to pre nás zmena, iný svet a pre človeka, ktorý má rád poriadok, systém, je ako stvorená a cíti sa tam dobre. Uviedol to v stredu riaditeľ Štátnej opery v Banskej Bystrici Rudolf Hromada v súvislosti s udelením prestížnej Ceny ministra zahraničných vecí Japonska pre rok 2017 za zásluhy pri prehľbovaní vzájomného porozumenia medzi Japonskom a Slovenskom prostredníctvom hudby. Opera si významné ocenenie prevzala 16. januára 2018 na pôde japonského veľvyslanectva v Bratislave. Od roku 1999 koncertuje Štátna opera v Japonsku každoročne. Hlavnou filozofiou spolupráce je vzájomné spoznávanie oboch kultúr, propagácia slovenskej kultúry v Japonsku a naopak.

Bratislava – Päť zo šiestich cirkevných osemročných gymnázií v Bratislave nebude môcť otvoriť prvú triedu. Upozorňuje na to OLaNO, podľa ktorého to bude viesť k likvidácii cirkevných škôl v Bratislave. „Neprekvapuje nás, že sa o likvidáciu cirkevných škôl usiluje strana Smer, ale je prekvapujúce, že sa cirkevné gymnáziá likvidujú práve vtedy, keď rezort školstva riadi SNS,“ povedala na tlačovej konferencii líderka OLaNO Veronika Remišová.

Bratislava - Všeobecní lekári sa na Slovensku stávajú „podpultovým tovarom“. Upozorňuje na to šéf Asociácie súkromných lekárov (ASL) SR Marián Šóth. Lekári podľa jeho slov opúšťajú ambulancie, ich vekový priemer označil za katastrofu. Riešenie vidí v posilnení statusu všeobecného lekára aj minimálnej platbe pre riadne fungujúcu ambulanciu vo výške aspoň 5500 eur.

Zlaté Moravce – Dôchodkyňa zo Zlatých Moraviec prišla o 5000 eur. Peniaze vložila na neznámy účet po telefonáte neznámej ženy, ktorá sa predstavila ako zdravotná sestra z nemocnice. Tá v polovici januára dopoludnia 82-ročnej seniorky oznámila, že jej vnuk spôsobil nehodu, pri ktorej bolo zranené dieťa. „To následne v telefóne potvrdil aj mužský hlas, ktorý tvrdil, že je lekár. Rodina zraneného dieťaťa údajne žiada od vinníka nehody 5000 eur, inak oznámi vec na políciu,“ informovala hovorkyňa Krajského riaditeľstva Policajného zboru v Nitre Renáta Čuháková. Vylakaná dôchodkyňa preto o pár hodín zašla do bankovej inštitúcie a vložila na účet požadovanú finančnú hotovosť. Keď zistila, že ide o podvod, obrátila sa na políciu. „Momentálne je v tomto prípade vedené trestné stíhanie za zločin podvodu a na jeho objasnení pracujú nitrianski kriminalisti,“ skonštatovala Čuháková.

Bratislava - Európske centrum pre práva Rómov (ERRC) žaluje Ministerstvo vnútra (MV) SR pre diskriminačné praktiky polície. Nepáčia sa mu avizované opatrenia na riešenie rómskej kriminality. „Plánovaná legislatíva by totiž mohla byť ľahko zneužitá na prenasledovanie už bez tak marginalizovaných komunít,“ píše sa v stanovisku, ktoré poskytol Michal Zálešák z ERRC.

Washington/Bratislava – Americký kongresman Rod Blum predložil 19. januára Snemovni reprezentantov návrh zákona pripomínajúceho 25. výročie vzniku samostatných štátov - Slovenskej a Českej republiky. Dokument zároveň zdôrazňuje silné partnerstvo a priateľstvo medzi Washingtonom a Bratislavou a uznáva prínos Slovenska pre NATO, Európsku úniu, a Organizáciu Spojených národov. Dokument rovnako spomína aj Českú republiku.

Bratislava – Do osláv 100. výročia vzniku Československa sa zapoja aj Francúzske veľvyslanectvo na Slovensku a Francúzsky inštitút na Slovensku. Prvé z ich podujatí určených pre širokú verejnosť sa uskutočnilo 23. januára. Tlačový atašé veľvyslanectva Didier Rogasik vysvetlil, že cieľom bolo pripomenúť aktívnu podporu Francúzska demokratickým a liberálnym ambíciám slovenského a českého národa, ktoré vyústili do vzniku Československej národnej rady v roku 1916 v Paríži, vzniku Československej armády v júni 1918 vo francúzskom Darney a napokon vzniku samostatného Československa na základe mierových zmlúv.

Bratislava - Zákon o štátnom občianstve pripravil doteraz (od 17.7. 2010 do 19.1. 2018) o slovenský pas 2130 ľudí. Najčastejšie stratili slovenské občianstvo prijatím českého (550). Vyplýva to zo štatistik Ministerstva vnútra (MV) SR. O slovenský pas prišli aj osoby, ktoré prijali občianstvo nemecké (502), rakúske (312), britské (204), maďarské (100), americké (97), nórske (51), švajčiarske (42), holandské (38), austrálske (37), belgické a írske (po 35), kanadské (31), talianske (24), fínske (15), francúzske (13), švédské (12), luxemburské (osem), ruské (päť), čínske a poľské (po tri), dánske, islandské, novozélandské a ukrajinské (po dve), izraelské, španielske, srbské a singapurské (po jednom) a jedno je nezistené.

Bratislava – Počas roku 2018, keď si pripomíname storočnicu Československa a štvrtstoročie samostatnej Českej a Slovenskej republiky, aj Slovenský dom v Prahe zorganizuje sériu spomienkových podujatí. Uviedol to predseda svetového združenia Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vladimír Skalský v štúdiu TABLET.TV. „Pripravujeme asi 12 podujatí priamo v Slovenskom dome v Prahe. Od vedeckej konferencie až po koncerty. Zorganizujeme literárno-vedeckú konferenciu s názvom Prieniky českej a slovenskej literatúry,“ uviedol v relácii SVET Tu a teraz.

Bratislava – Druhý ročník slovensko-rakúskeho Plesu susedov, ktorý sa konal 20. januára opäť v Bratislave, prispel k utuženiu vzťahov medzi Slovákami a Rakúšanmi z prihraničných obcí neďaleko hlavného mesta Slovenska. Uviedol to niekdajší slovenský emigrant Vlado Mlynár. „Sme tu už po druhý raz, lebo sme fascinovaní touto myšlienkou a chceme aj s manželkou podporovať takéto aktivity, ktoré utužujú vzťahy medzi nami, a keďže minulý rok sa nám tu veľmi páčilo, tak sme tu opäť,“ povedal Mlynár, ktorý má s prípravou plesov osobné skúsenosti. Vo Viedni ich organizoval 15 rokov.

Poprad – Prvý slovenský plne elektrický autobus bude jazdiť v testovacej prevádzke v rámci mestskej hromadnej dopravy v Poprade. Premiéru mal na výstavbe BUSWORLD 2017 vlani v belgickom meste Kortrijk a pod Tatrami ho neďavno predstavili. Vozidlo funguje plne na elektrický pohon, vnútorné priestory sú vykurované prostredníctvom zvyškového tepla, ktoré sa používa na chladenie elektropohonov. Nabíja sa štyri hodiny, predpoklad je, že na jedno nabitie dokáže prejsť 200 kilometrov.

Bratislava - Od 1. mája tohto roka by si mohli zamestnanci finančne priliepať. Vláda súhlasí s novelou Zákonníka práce, ktorou sa majú zvýšiť príplatky za nočnú a sviatočnú prácu, ako aj zaviesť príplatky za prácu v sobotu a v nedeľu. Právnu normu pripravila trojica poslancov Ján Podmanický, Martin Glváč a Ľubomír Petrák (všetci Smer-SD). Od 1. mája tohto roka pri všeobecnej práci má ísť príplatoč hore na 30 % minimálnej mzdy za hodinu a v ďalšom roku bude zvýšenie predstavovať 40 %.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Druhého februára slávia veriaci na Slovensku Hromnice

Kresťanský sviatok Obetovania Pána, ľudovo nazývaný Hromnice, oslavujú veriaci v 2. februára. Je to deň spomienky na obetovanie Ježiša v chráme a slávi sa na 40. deň po jeho narodení.

V katolíckych kostoloch sa na sviatok Obetovania Pána koná obrad požehnanja sviec, liturgia svetla ako symbol očisty a procesia. Posväteným sviecam nazývaným Hromničky sa podľa tradície pripisovala ochrana pred hromom a bleskom. Na vidieku ich v minulosti zapalovali počas búrok a dodnes sa používajú pri pohrebných obradoch.

V gréckokatolíckej cirkvi sa Hromnice nazývajú Stretnutie Pána Boha a Spasiteľa Ježiša Krista.

V Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania (ECAV) si 2. februára pripomínajú Predstavenie Pána, udalosť, keď Jozef a Mária prišli do jeruzalemského chrámu, aby predstavili Ježiša. V niektorých evanjelických cirkevných zboroch sa na Hromnice konajú služby Božie.

Korene kresťanského sviatku Obetovanie Pána siahajú do 5. storočia nášho letopočtu. Názov Hromnice je odvodený od posvätených sviečok, ktoré veriaci pokladali za symbol Ježiša Krista. Pápež Gelasius v roku 494 zaviedol v cirkvi tradíciu sprievodu okolo kostola s horiacimi sviečkami, špeciálne požehnanými pre tento účel, aby tak nahradil sprievod so sviečkami, ktorý bol súčasťou pohanskej slávnosti.

Hromnice sa považovali za prechodné obdobie medzi zimou a jarou. Sú tiež symbolom pribúdajúceho svetla, o čom svedčia aj ľudové príslovia, napríklad: Na Nový rok o slepačí krok, na Tri krále o krok ďalej, na Hromnice o hodinu viace. Na Slovensku sa k tomuto sviatku viazali tiež rôzne ľudové zvyky: gazdiné v tento deň varili dlhé cestoviny, aby rastliny narástli dlhé, v niektorých oblastiach platil zákaz pracovať v lese a iné. Hromnice znamenali takisto dôležitý deň pri predpovediach počasia. Podľa ľudových pranostiek teplé počasie na tento sviatok bolo neželané, lebo signalizovalo dlhú zimu, slabú úrodu a chudobu. Naopak, zima na Hromnice znamenala skorý príchod jari. Svedčia o tom viaceré ľudové porekadlá, napríklad Radšej vidí bača na Hromnice vlka v košari ako sedliaka v košeli alebo Raduje sa gazda, keď na Hromnice dve pre zimu musí obliecť kabanice - príde skorá jar.

TASR

Storočnicu vzniku prvej ČSR pripomínajú aj aktivity francúzskych inštitúcií v SR

K tohtoročným oslavám 100. výročia prvého spoločného štátu Čechov a Slovákov sa pripojilo v23. januára aj Francúzsko. Veľvyslanectvo Francúzskej republiky v SR a Francúzsky inštitút v Bratislave spustili sériu podujatí pripomínajúcich jeden z najvýznamnejších dejinných míľnikov v histórii Slovenska.

„Ústrednou myšlienkou týchto aktivít je pripomenúť aktívnu podporu Francúzska demokratickým, liberálnym ambíciám a nezávislosti slovenského a českého národa, ktoré sa pretavili do vzniku Československej národnej rady v roku 1916 v Paríži, Československej armády v júni 1918 v Darney vo Francúzsku a napokon i ku vzniku samostatného Československa na základe mierových zmlúv po prvej svetovej vojne,“ informoval tlačový atašé francúzskeho veľvyslanectva Didier Rogasik. Poukázal v tejto súvislosti i na úlohu, ktorú v celom procese zohral generál M. R. Štefánik, významná osobnosť v histórii Slovenska i Francúzska. V utorok predpoludním zástupcovia veľvyslanectva, Misie 100. výročia prvej svetovej vojny i Ministerstva školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR vyhlásili výzvu na predkladanie pedagogických projektov na tému Aby sme mohli spoločne budovať, je dôležité pripomínať si. „V rámci tejto výzvy, ktorá je určená všetkým slovenským i francúzskym školám, odmeníme najlepšie iniciatívy týkajúce sa 100. výročia vzniku ČSR,“ uviedol Rogasik.

Program mal pokračovať v bratislavskej Univerzitnej knižnici prednáškou o vzniku československých légii v prvej svetovej vojne. V priestoroch Francúzskeho inštitútu sa uskutočnilo i slávnostné otvorenie výstavy venovanej tejto téme. Neskôr výstavu predstavia Francúzske aliancie v Banskej Bystrici a Košiciach.

O podujatiach a aktivitách pri príležitosti 100. výročia vzniku Československej republiky, ktoré bude organizovať, resp. na ktorých bude participovať francúzska strana, bude informovať aj špeciálna rubrika na webe Francúzskeho veľvyslanectva v SR. Na stránke sprístupnia v elektronickej podobe aj dobové dokumenty, ktoré priblížia osobnosť a činnosť generála M. R. Štefánika.

TASR

Oslavy 25. výročia nezávislosti Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone, DC

Zastupiteľský úrad SR vo Washingtone zorganizoval 19. januára 2018 pri príležitosti osláv 25. výročia vzniku Slovenskej republiky slávnostnú recepciu v priestoroch Knižnice Kongresu USA.

Veľvyslanec Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone, Peter Kmec, vo svojom príhovore vyzdvihol viaceré významné výročia, ktoré si Slovensko v tomto roku pripomína, vrátane 100. výročia podpísania Pittsburskej dohody a 25. výročia nadviazania diplomatických stykov medzi SR a USA.

Hostom sa počas recepcie prihovorili aj spolupredsedia skupiny priateľstva so Slovenskom v Kongrese USA, Rod Blum a Peter Visclosky, ako aj námestník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí USA pre európske záležitosti, Mathew Palmer.

Rod Blum (R-Iowa), spoluzakladateľ a spolupredseda kongresovej skupiny priateľstva so Slovenskom, predložil, spoločne so spolupredsedom skupiny priateľstva Petrom Visclosky (D-Indiana), ako aj spolupredsedami kongresovej skupiny priateľstva s Českou republikou, návrh uznesenia Kongresu, ktorý pripomína 100. výročie vzniku Československa, 25. výročie nezávislosti Slovenskej republiky a Českej republiky, a vyzdvihuje silné spojenectvo a priateľstvo medzi USA a našimi republikami. Peter Visclosky ocenil osobitne dlhodobé partnerstvo medzi Národnou gardou štátu Indiana a Ozbrojenými silami SR a spoluprácu v oblasti výcviku a pri nasadení v misiách krízového manažmentu v zahraničí.

Na recepcii sa zúčastnil generálmajor Courtney Carr, veliteľ Národnej gardy štátu Indiana, predstavitelia diplomatického zboru, Kongresu USA, Ministerstva zahraničných vecí USA, Slovensko-americkéj rady pre obchod a inovácie (SABIC), či hostia z krajanskej komunity.

Po skončení recepcie sa na pôde veľvyslanectva konala každoročná porada honorárnych konzulov, ktorých má Slovensko v USA jedenásť, najviac spomedzi všetkých štátov sveta. Počas stretnutia veľvyslanec Peter Kmec odovzdal honorárnemu konzulovi SR v Denveri Gregovi J. Fasingovi pri príležitosti 25. výročia nezávislosti SR ocenenie ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR. Pri príležitosti životných jubilej prepžali ocenenia aj honorárny konzul SR v Bostone Peter Mužila (50) a honorárny konzul SR v Kansas City Ross P. Marine (80).

MZV SR



Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

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

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

Mária Juráši - pokladníčka

Redaktor SKS Daniel F. Tanzone odišiel do dôchodku



Vo štvrtok 21. decembra sa v Hlavnom úrade Slovenského katolíckeho sokola v Passaicu, NJ konala rozlúčka s redaktorom Danielom F. Tanzone, ktorý po 38 rokoch plodnej práce odišiel do dôchodku. Daniel F. Tanzone sa narodil 1. apríla 1947 v Yonkers, NY. Jeho rodičmi boli Daniel J. Tanzone a Mary A. Yancus. Rodičia jeho matky pochádzali z Fričovíc na východnom Slovensku a do Yonkers prišli v roku 1895. Aktívnym členom Slovenského katolíckeho sokola bol od roku 1964. Zastával viaceré funkcie.

V marci 1979 začal pracovať ako asistent vtedajšieho redaktora Jána C. Sciranku. Po jeho smrti v októbri 1980 začal vykonávať funkciu redaktora časopisu Slovenský katolícky sokol. V tejto funkcii zotrval 37 rokov. Počas 32. konvencie bol menovaný za čestného hlavného úradníka. Daniel Tanzone je aktívny vo viacerých fraternalistických spolkoch a organizáciách. Bol predsedom New York a New England Fraternal Alliance. Je predsedom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, členom Výkonného výboru Združenia slovenských katolíkov, kde zastával funkciu predsedu pre východnú oblasť. Aktívne pracoval aj vo svojej farnosti Najsvätejšej trojice v Yonkers, NY, ktorá bola zatvorená v roku 2015. Bol pokladníkom a predsedom farského výboru. Toho času pôsobí ako člen finančnej komisie vo Farnosti Sv. Jána Nepomuckého, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini v Manhattan, NY. Je členom Prvej katolíckej slovenskej jednoty a Prvej katolíckej slovenskej ženskej jednoty. Za svoju prácu dostal niekoľko ocenení. V roku 1980 bol poctený za svoju prácu na Festivale slovenského dedičstva. V roku 1995 mu vtedajší prezident Slovenskej republiky Michal Kováč udelil zlatú medailu prvého prezidenta SR. V roku 1996 mu pápež Ján Pavol II. na základe odporúčania Združenia slovenských katolíkov udelil vyznamenanie "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifici ce Medal". V roku 1999 ho sestry Sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Danville, Pa. poctili vyznamenaním Saint Cyril and Methodius Award for Evangelization and Inculturation of Peoples. V tom istom roku bol poctený Man of the Year of the Pulaski Police Association vo Westchester County. V roku 2005 ho v Katedrále Sv. Patrika v New Yorku vtedajší kardinál Egan menoval Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jeruzalem. 18. novembra 2017 mu Slovenský katolícky sokol udelil ocenenie Fraternalista roku. Okrem toho dostal viaceré vyznamenania za svoju prácu vo svojej komunite v Yonkers, NY. Svojimi článkami prispieval do viacerých publikácií. Bol členom redakčného výboru žurnálu Slovakia, ktorý vydáva Slovenská liga v Amerike. Daniel F. Tanzone odišiel do dôchodku koncom decembra minulého roku a od januára 2018 pôsobí ako konzultant.

Slovenský katolícky Sokol

Ocenenie za mimoriadne zásluhy o rozvoj priateľských vzťahov so SR

Pri príležitosti 25. výročia vzniku Slovenskej republiky Generálny konzulát Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku, v spolupráci so Stálou misiou Slovenskej republiky pri OSN v New Yorku, zorganizoval 12. januára 2018 na pôde rezidencie Stáleho predstaviteľa SR pri OSN slávnostný galavečer pre zástupcov slovenskej komunity v USA, ktorí svojou oddanosťou a zapálenosťou v oblasti filantropie výraznou mierou prispeli k šíreniu dobrého mena a povedomia o Slovensku. Počas večera, sprevádzaného hudobným programom špičkového umelca Petra Breinera a jeho hudobných hostí, predseda Valného zhromaždenia OSN a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák využil historický moment 25. výročia vzniku SR na odovzdanie ocenenia štyrom významným osobnostiam v USA za ich mimoriadne zásluhy o rozvoj priateľských vzťahov so SR. Laureátmi ocenenia sú John Palka, Juraj Sipko a Ján a Marica Vilček.

MZV SR



“Od Ondreja do Vianoc”

Vianočné vystúpenie detí Lipky Academy s podporou Spolku č. 746 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty

“Šťastie, zdravie pokoj svätý, vinšujeme Vám...” Vianoce a príprava na ne sa v Lipke Academy vždy nesie v radostnom duchu. Učiteľky a deti vždy ťažko pracujú na tom, aby svojím programom potešili rodičov, hostí. Ani toho roku to nebolo inak. Nezabudli ani na zdobenie medovníkov či na výmenu darčiekov. Detské oči žiarili šťastím. Veľký deň nastal 17. decembra, kedy sa zišlo v hale Msgr. Komara v Linden, N. J. cez 200 hostí. Svojou prítomnosťou nás potešila aj regionálna riaditeľka Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Sabina Sabados, ktorá Lipke Academy odovzdala šek ako dar od našej miestnej pobočky a v príhovore zdôraznila dôležitosť rozvoja a udržania slovenského ducha v USA. Niektorí členovia Lipky Academy sú zároveň členmi Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

60 detí z Lipky Academy sa zapojilo do programu, ktorý sa niesol v duchu slovenských vianočných zvykov a tradícií “Od Ondreja do Vianoc”.

Deti program otvorili spoločnou piesňou- Vianoce, Vianoce prichádzajú... a pokračovali Ondrejovskými zvykmi ako je varenie halušiek s lístočkami, liatie olova či trasenie plotom. Škôlkári ukázali ako si čistia čižmičky, keď čakajú na Mikuláša a ako sa nemôžu dočkať Vianoc a Ježiška. Svoje vystúpenie obohatili piesňami a modlitbičkou:

Ježiško ty drahý náš, ty nám všetko dobre dáš. Modlitbičky prijmi vrele, aj srdiečko naše celé. Ty Ježiško na nebi, hlások náš ťa velebí. Všetci teba radi máme, učíme sa, poslúchame. Modlíme sa každý čas, ó Ježiško vyslyš nás.

Program ukončili Betlehemci, ktorí svojou suverénosťou oznámili narodenie Ježiša Krista. Počas programu nechýbala radosť a spokojnosť rodičov z výkonu ich ratolestí. Spoločnou večerou a blízkosťou rodín sme sa spoločne tešili, že slovenská komunita vďaka slovenskej škole Lipka Academy je živá a aktívna aj v USA. Rozvíjaním slovenčiny prispievame k rozvoju slovenského ducha našich detí, ktorého jedného dňa budú považovať ako súčasť svojej osobnej identity. Ďakujeme všetkým, ktorí nás podporujú a veríme, že výsledky hovoria za všetko.

Učiteľky si nikdy neudávajú svoj kredit, ktorý si naozaj zaslúžia. Preto na záver sa žiada zdôrazniť, že celý program s choreografiou tancov zostavila riaditeľka Akadémie Lipka, Marianna Fecová s pomocou učiteľov, ktorí venovali deťom nespočetné hodiny skúšok s cieľom rozdeliť sa s rodičmi a prítomnými o radosť a skutočnú zážitky z vianočnej atmosféry.

Článok zaslala
Sabina Sabados,
riaditeľka Regiónu 1 IKSJ



Na snímke spolu so sv. Mikulášom zľava: riaditeľka Akadémie Lipka, Marianna Fecová a sprava: predsedníčka Spolku č. 746 a riaditeľka Regiónu 1 IKSJ, Sabina Sabados.



M. Lajčák nebude kandidovať za prezidenta Slovenskej republiky

Minister zahraničných vecí SR a predseda Valného zhromaždenia OSN Miroslav Lajčák (nominant Smeru-SD) nebude v roku 2019 kandidovať za prezidenta Slovenskej republiky. Deklaroval to v rozhovore pre denník Pravda s tým, že má rešpekt k úradu prezidenta a rovnako si váži každého, kto súkromne alebo verejne vyslovil názor, že by práve on nemusel byť zlým kandidátom na túto funkciu.

„Chcem však jasne a jednoznačne povedať, že nebudem kandidovať za prezidenta SR. Nikdy som o tom neuvažoval. Chcem sa ďalej venovať zahraničnej politike, ktorá ma naplňuje,“ vyhlásil s dôvetkom, že toto jeho rozhodnutie sa nezmení. Lajčák však predsa len pripustil, že o tejto ponuke premýšľal. „Zamyslel som sa nad tým a výsledkom bolo len potvrdenie mojej pozície, že naozaj nie. Mnoho ľudí ma povzbudzuje a oslovuje. Ale sú aj takí, ktorých táto predstava znervózňuje. A začali očierňovať mňa aj rezort, na čele ktorého stojím. Verím, že týmto vyjadrením sa skončia akékoľvek špekulácie a budem sa môcť plne sústrediť na svoju prácu,“ povedal.

Lajčák zároveň avizoval, že po skončení na čele Valného zhromaždenia OSN sa vráti na ministerstvo. „Slovensko čaká v roku 2019 predsedníctvo v Organizácii pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe. Aktívne sa na to pripravujeme. Je to zahraničnopoliticky veľmi zaujímavá príležitosť. A zároveň je to veľmi dôležitá a zodpovedná funkcia,“ poznamenal.

Kto by mohol byť kandidátom Smeru-SD na prezidenta, nevie. „Nezúčastňujem sa na týchto debatách. Nebolo by vhodné, aby som mediálne špekuloval. Som presvedčený, že Smer-SD postaví kandidáta,“ dodal Lajčák.



TASR

V čilejkárskych dedinách na Slovensku boli bohaté fašiangové slávnosti

V čilejkárskych dedinách v regióne Tekov, medzi ktoré patria Čajkov, Gondovo, Hronské Kľačany, Hronské Kosihy, Nová Dedina, Podlužany, Rybník nad Hronom, Starý Tekov, Tlmače a Veľké Kozmálovce v okrese Levice, od Troch kráľov po Popolcovú stredú tradične oslavujú fašiangy. Počas nich organizujú veselice, svadby, krštenia, zabíjačky, tance, mátohy na páračkách a podobne.

V Novej Dedine sa fašiangy začínali už od zimného obdobia priadkami a pokračovali páračkami. „Priadlo sa konope a pred či počas fašiangov sa robili páračky, čiže sa páralo perie. Do jedného domu sa zišlo viac žien a počas spoločného párania dievky spievali. Potom nám chlapi púšťali vrabcov do peria,“ spomína dôchodkyňa Anna Pániková s tým, že počas páračiek sa ako pochutiny najčastejšie robievali varená kukurica a varené víno.

Po kostole, keď išli ľudia domov, pred krčmou už vyhrávala muzika. Tam sa všetci zabávali, spievali, tancovali, vyobliekani a vycifrovani do sviatočných krojov. Starí, mladí, celá dedina spievala o fašiangoch. Organista, učiteľ aj richtár so ženou sa zastavili, pozdravili zábavu, pobežovali s prítomnými. Mládenci rezko dievčence vykrúcali, pričom zábava trvala až do večera, potom prešli do krčmy a tam zábava pokračovala až do rána.

S morenou sa chodilo za dedinu a spievalo sa. „Po obci sme chodievali spoločne v krojoch aj s harmonikou a trúbkou, veľa sa spievalo a tancovalo aj tri dni. Bol to taký spoločný sprievod. Poobliekanú Morenu sme potom spoločne pustili dolu potokom,“ uviedla Pániková.

Čo sa týka fašiangových domácich špecialít, najobľúbenejšie boli fánky. „Volali sme ich chrapne. Okrem toho sme radi robievali aj šišky. Samozrejmosťou boli takmer v každom dome tradičné zabíjačky. Fašiangy sa končili v utorok pred Škaredou alebo Popolcovou stredou veľkou zábavou, takže od soboty až do utorka sa ľudia zabávali, pričom hrala takmer stále cigánska hudba.“

Okrem toho počas fašiangov po dedine chodievali muzikanti, ktorí navštevovali každý dom. „Chodievali vyhrávať počas pondelka a utorka, pričom so sebou nosievali také dlhé palice. Na ne im ako výslužku nastokávali slaninu alebo varené vajcia. Pamätám sa, že sme sa na to veľmi tešili a nevedeli sme sa dočkať,“ ukončila Pániková.

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Originálne tašky a kabelky vyrába G. Kaštierová aj z pôvodnej modrotlač

Okolo 150 originálnych tašiek a kabeliek z modrotlač vyrobí za rok majsterka ľudovo-umeleckej výroby Gabriela Kaštierová zo Žiaru nad Hronom. Praktické, ale aj dekoratívne výrobky z novej aj pôvodnej modrotlač vyrába ako jedna z mála na Slovensku.

„K šitiu ma to ťahalo už od detstva, tašky a kabelky vyrábam, ale iba ostatných sedem rokov,“ hovorí. Očarujúce vzorované tašky vychádzajú spod jej rúk najmä uplynulé dvadsiť rokov, kedy modrotlač po zápise do Reprezentatívneho zoznamu kultúrneho dedičstva Slovenska, zaznamenala oživenie a rozmach.

Originálne „kúsky“ modrotlačových látok získava nielen od súčasných slovenských výrobcov - Mateja Rabadu a Petra Trnku, ale aj z dvoch českých dielní v Strážnici a Olešnici, ako aj zberom od ľudí, ktorí v skriniach tieto látky ešte majú, ale chcú ich predať.

„Nedávno som takto získala niekoľko metrov vzácnej originálnej modrotlač z bansko-bystrickej prevádzky, ktorá v Radvani fungovala ešte začiatkom 70. rokov 20. storočia,“ priblížila.

Každá taška a kabelka vychádzajúca spod jej rúk je originálom. Aplikuje na ne totiž paličkovanú čipku, často desiatky rokov starú, farebné výšivky s folklórnymi motívmi, na tašky z plátna maľuje vlastné vzory, alebo na ne pridáva nevšedné obrazce z farebných nití.

Keďže sa zúčastňuje na najväčších remeselných trhoch a jarmokoch na Slovensku, na ktoré prichádzajú aj ľudia spoza hraníc, jej výrobky sú nielen vo vlastníctve tunajších žien, ale aj záujemcov o originálnu ručnú prácu zo zahraničia.

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oddaný vládnucej dynastii. Posolstvo nenašlo odozvu u pápeža, ale kladne naň reagoval byzantský cisár Michal III. Na Veľkú Moravu vyslal dvoch vierozvestov. Na misiu išli Konštantín a Metod. Pochádzali zo Solúna, v okolí ktorého v tom čase žila početná slovanská menšina a jej jazyk obaja ovládali.

Konštantín ešte pred odchodom na misiu vytvoril písmo, hlaholiku, prispôbené pre slovanskú reč a preložil základné state súvisiace s kresťanskou vieroukou: výber evanjeliových čítaní - Evanjeliár. Po takejto príprave prišli obaja zvestovatelia viery v roku 863 na Veľkú Moravu. Obyvateľstvo spolu s miestnou vládnucou mocou byzantskú misiu prijalo. Východofranskí mocenski predstavitelia a ich klérus sa na to pozerali s nevládou.

Po trojročnom pôsobení na Veľkej Morave na spiatocnej ceste do Byzancie oboch šíriteľov Kristovho učenia zastihlo v Benátkach pozvanie pápeža Mikuláša I. do Ríma. Vo Večnom meste ich už však vítal nový pápež Hadrián II., pred ktorým obhájili svoje dielo. Dosiahli kodifikovanie slovanskej reči ako ďalšieho liturgického jazyka, v ktorom možno vykonávať kresťanské obrady. Chorľavý Konštantín ostal v Ríme, kde sa utiahol do kláštora, prijal meno Cyril a v roku 869 skončil.

Slovanské knieža v Panónii Koceľ krátko po Cyrilovej smrti požiadal pápeža, aby sa Metod vrátil ako učiteľ. Druhý z vierozvestov sa vracia na Veľkú Moravu. Pri návrate v Blatnove v Panónii, kde vládol Pribin syn Koceľ, sa zastavil a na základe jeho žiadosti o obnovenie panónskej diecézy (s vedomím Rastislava i Svätopluka), sa vracia späť do Ríma. Pápež ho vo Večnom meste vysvätil za panónskeho, respektíve moravsko-panónskeho arcibiskupa a pápežského legáta pre kraje ovládané Rastislavom, Svätoplukom (Nitriansko) a Koceľom okolo roku 870. Metod sa už ako arcibiskup vracia na Veľkú Moravu. Počas cesty ho zajali Frankovia. Po necelých troch rokoch ho intervenciou pomohol vyslobodiť pápež Ján VIII., pravdepodobne na žiadosť Svätopluka I. V roku 873 sa Metod ujal správy cirkvi na Veľkej Morave. V roku 880 v Ríme opäť obhajoval svoje pôsobenie a uspel. Po jeho smrti v roku 885 však postupne získava rozhodujúci vplyv latinský klérus a Metodovi žiaci, ktorí obhajovali slovanskú liturgiu, museli z Veľkej Moravy odísť. Usadili sa najmä na území vtedajšej Bulharskej ríše.

TASR

Bojnický zámok vlni navštívilo takmer 200.000 ľudí

Klasické prehliadky, tematické, ale i výstavy boli súčasťou vlnajšej ponuky Slovenského národného múzea (SNM) - Múzea Bojnice. Minulý rok ho navštívilo dovedna 196.174 ľudí, informovala jeho kultúrno-propagačná manažérka Petra Gordíková.

Popri klasických denných i nočných prehliadkach mala vlni verejnosť na zámku v Bojniciach možnosť' vzhliadnuť i tradičné inscenované podujatia. Tematické prehliadky počas Valentína na zámku, Medzinárodného festivalu duchov a strašidiel, Rozprávkového zámku, Bojnického svetlonosa na zámku či Svätého Mikuláša a Vianoc na zámku absolvovalo dovedna 49.949 ľudí. Múzeum minulý rok zrealizovalo pre svojich návštevníkov i sedem výstavných projektov.

Rôznorodý program pripravilo SNM - Múzeum Bojnice aj tento rok. „Zamilovaným budú vo februári patriť špeciálne nočné prehliadky. V júni si zase pripomenieme 110. výročie úmrtia posledného šľachtického majiteľa Bojnického zámku, grófa Jána Františka Pálffyho. Medzinárodný festival duchov a strašidiel zase vstúpi koncom apríla do svojho jubilejného 25. ročníka, počas ktorého návštevníkom priblížime príbeh Vládcu času,“ načrtla Gordíková.

Detským smiechom a rozprávkovými príbehmi sa komnaty zámku podľa nej naplnia v júni, a to na Medzinárodný deň detí, ako aj počas Rozprávkového zámku, jeseň zase prinesie nočné prehliadky v rámci akcie Bojnický svetlonos na zámku. „Celoročný program uzatvorí v decembri tradičné podujatie Vianoce na zámku, ktoré prinesie slávnostnú atmosféru a voňavú výzdobu,“ dodala.

TASR

Svetový potravinársky veľtrh international Grüne Woche v Berlíne

Slovensko malo po 11 rokoch znova zastúpenie na jednom z najväčších podujatí svojho druhu - Svetový potravinársky veľtrh International Grüne Woche v Berlíne. Na výstavnej ploche 118.000 m² vystavovalo viac ako 1650 vystavovateľov zo 67 krajín sveta. Na najväčšej akcii svojho druhu vystavujú národné expozície, výrobcovia, dodávatelia a obchodníci z celého sveta.



FOTO TASR - Marko Erd

Na snímke potravinársky vystavovateľ Putifar - výroba mäsových výrobkov s obsahom diviny v slovenskom stánku na veľtrhu International Grüne Woche 19. januára 2018 v Berlíne.



Z histórie o Cyrilovi a Metodovi

Na území dnešného Slovenska bolo kresťanské učenie rozšírené už pred príchodom Cyrila a Metoda. Kresťanstvo do tejto oblasti preniklo v období Rímskej ríše, čo dokazujú viaceré archeologické nálezy, napríklad z Bratislavy-Rusoviec, alebo odkrytie ranokresťanskej kaplnky na Devíne pochádzajúcej zo 4. storočia.

Príchod Slovanov na súčasné naše územie sa datuje minimálne na začiatok 6. storočia. Kresťanstvo začína výraznejšie prenikať medzi Slovanov žijúcich na území súčasného Slovenska v prvej tretine 9. storočia. Už jeho

relatívne zakorenené pozície dokazoval kostol v Nitre vysvätený v roku 828 salzburským biskupom Adalrámom, kde vládlo pohanské knieža Pribina. Okolo roku 833 dobytím Nitrianskeho kniežatstva moravským Mojmirom I. vznikla Veľká Morava.

Učenie Ježiša Krista nadobúdalo medzi Slovanmi čoraz významnejší dosah. Kresťanský panovník Veľkej Moravy Rastislav ponímal toto náboženstvo ako silný fenomén, ktorý bude schopný podporiť existenciu ranostredovekého štátu. Veľkú Moravu stále ohrozovala rozpínavosť Frankov. V ich službách boli aj duchovní preferujúci latinskú liturgiu. Viacerí z nich chceli svojou činnosťou oslabiť Veľkú Moravu a dostať ju do priameho područia Východofranskej ríše. Obmedzili by tým postavenie Rastislava. Ten sa obrátil na pápeža, aby mu poslal učiteľa, ktorý by uprednostňoval šírenie kresťanskej viery v reči, akou hovorí jeho ľud. Učiteľ by mal ďalej vychovať miestny klérus a bol by

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25. výročie biskupskej služby arcibiskupa-metropolitu Bernarda Bobera

Košický rímskokatolícky arcibiskup-metropolita Bernard Bober si pripomenul 25. výročie svojej biskupskej služby d'akovnou svätou omšou v Dóme svätej Alžbety v Košiciach v utorok 30. januára 2018. Zúčastniť sa jej mal apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku Giacomo Guido Ottonello i kardinál Jozef Tomko, ktorý bol hlavným svätiteľom arcibiskupa Bobera pred 25 rokmi. Celkovo by sa podľa riaditeľa - moderátora Arcibiskupského úradu v Košiciach Jána Urbana slávnosti malo zúčastniť približne 400 hostí.

Za najťažšie zo svojej pastoračnej služby považuje biskupské začiatky. „Pretože to bolo práve v zmenených podmienkach, kde všetko vrelo na Slovensku, kde aj cirkev chcela ukázať, že v niečom, čo sa jej bránilo, si teraz chce svoje práva uplatňovať,“ povedal Bober.

„Tie krajšie roky sú, keď je človek zdravý a práca mu takpovediac ‚prishne‘, keď ju rád robí a permanentne robí, tak má k nej návyk už a ak vidí aj výsledky, že ho ľudia vítajú a radi ho počúvajú. To boli také tie najkrajšie roky, po desiatich rokoch,“ doplnil Bober. Jednou z vecí, ktorým sa chce do budúcnosti venovať, sú rodiny a ľudia na periférii.

„Nie je tu nejaký neokomunizmus, ktorý by bol útočný a hľadal spôsob v našom prostredí, až tak nejak zasahovať. Skôr je tu možno výzva ľudí, ktorí sa pýtajú, že čo budeme robiť s rozvodmi, s ľuďmi, ktorí prepadávajú do chudoby a nedosiahli ešte dno svojej viery a ako im pomôcť. Potom je tu ešte vlastný cirkevný problém, že čo urobiť, aby ľudia neodchádzali z kostolov, z cirkvi, aby kňazi neodchádzali zo svojej služby,“ skonštatoval Bober s tým, že je potrebné byť v diani medzi mladými, veriacimi a kňazmi, kde je možné načúvať ich problémom.

„Z príležitosti výročného roku pre nás sa budú konať dve púte. Prvá bude v máji, od 8. do 10., keď navštívime Lurdy a druhá púť bude v októbri a tam navštívime Svätú zem,“ priblížil Urban.

Košický arcibiskup-metropolita Bernard Bober sa narodil 3. novembra 1950 v Zbudskom Dlhom v okrese Humenné. Za kňaza bol vysvätený 8. júna 1974 v Bratislave. Následne pôsobil v Humennom, Snine, Zborove, Kecerovciach a v roku 1991 sa stal generálnym vikárom. Svätý otec Ján Pavol II. ho 28. decembra 1992 menoval za titulárneho biskupa Vissalského a košického pomocného biskupa. V katedrále svätej Alžbety v Košiciach ho 30. januára 1993 Jozef kardinál Tomko vysvätil za biskupa. Za košického arcibiskupa bol menovaný 4. júna 2010 a 10. júla v tom istom roku kánonicky prevzal úrad arcibiskupa-metropolitu Košickej arcidiecézy.

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Sľub slovenskej olympijskej a paralympijskej výpravy



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska počas olympijského sľubu, ktorý zložili do jeho rúk slovenská olympijská a paralympijská výprava pred odchodom do Pjongčangu v Bratislave 30. januára 2018.

President Andrej Kiska greeted the Slovak Olympic team in Bratislava before their departure on January 30, 2018 to Pjongchang.

Na generálnu audienciu Svätého Otca Františka prišiel aj Peter Sagan



FOTO TASR/AP

Trojnásobný majster sveta v cyklistike Slovák Peter Sagan daroval pápežovi Františkovi podpísaný dres majstra sveta na pravidelnej generálnej audiencii na Námestí sv. Petra vo Vatikáne 24. januára 2018.

Three-time cycling World champion Peter Sagan presents Pope Francis with a World Champion rainbow jersey, during the pontiff general audience, in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018.