



# Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek  
Our Founder

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## President's New Year Message ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK – HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019

Blessings and best wishes to you and your families in 2019.

I would also like to express on behalf of the First Catholic Slovak Union sincere condolences to all of you who have experienced a loss of a loved one in 2018.

Our Catholic Faith teaches us that while our time on this Earth is short we can look forward to Eternal Life with our Father.

2019 promises to be another year filled with challenges, challenges we have met successfully these past several years. I have completed my 12th year as President of our Society. I am confident about the future.

Our Congress is once again facing a "fiscal cliff" issue to fund the Government. However, the larger issue of the national budget, deficit spending and entitlements, including Medicare and Social Security, will probably be again put-off for future discussion.

The recent gyrations of the stock market have people

concerned. The Society invested carefully and with as much flexibility as possible to protect your money and the Society. Our surplus stands at record highs.

On another note, it is time for New Year Resolutions. Lose weight, don't forget your wife's or husband's birthday and other special events, don't procrastinate etc., are resolutions we all have made, probably more than once.

How about making another 2019 Resolution: getting your financial life in order? Have you started a plan for the future, whatever your age? Do you take advantage of a 401 (K) plan at your place of employment? Do you have an IRA and make annual contributions with us, the FCSU?

The FCSU offers a variety of both ROTH and regular IRA plans. Get into the habit of saving. See our notices in the Jednota. Have you ordered a copy of the FCSU Estate Planning Booklet - Your Personal Record Keeper? Just give a call, write or email us a request. There is no charge. It is an invaluable tool.

New Year Resolution time can also apply to our spiritual life. We all can improve. Maybe we can help a son or daughter or other family member in finding Christ either directly or through good example. It can work with gentle, loving persistence.

2019 will be a time for reflection and planning for our Society and for you and your future.

Happy New Year to you and may 2019 bring you peace and love.

Fraternally,



Andrew M. Rajec

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President



2018

Winners – Part I

Pages 12 - 13



Attention,  
ALL FCSU  
College-bound  
Seniors:

Don't let a scholarship opportunity fly away! The FCSU is now accepting applications for its 2019 Scholarship Program. See page 3 for details.

### Inside

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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

66 – 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time –  
January 20, 2019

Although the Church's annual cycle of worship began with Advent, some six weeks ago, today's readings re-launch the Church into the "ordinary time" of the year following our celebration of the Advent and Christmas seasons. They do so on a note of joyful missionary zeal: the first reading from Isaiah conveys a sense of the obligation that the prophet felt—and that we are to feel—to share the good news of redemption and vindication with all whom we encounter. The Psalmist furthers this theme, urging us to spread the Good News abroad: "Sing to the Lord a new song...Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds" (Ps 96:2-3).



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

Having been given the impetus to share this message far and wide, it remains to consider how we are to go about our evangelical task. Saint Paul provides some insight here through the advice he gives to the early Corinthian Christians. He writes of the "different kinds of spiritual gifts" and "different forms of service" that each believer brings to the larger community, all of which are intended to draw us closer to him. Paul emphasizes that every Christian has such a gift and every Christian is meant to take some part in the work of evangelization: "To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit" (1 Cor 12:7).

With this fervor stirred within us at mass, we then hear the story from the Gospel of John about Jesus turning water into wine at Cana, and we might ask ourselves what that has to do with Isaiah's exhortation and the Psalmist's zeal for sharing the message of salvation. The account of Mary coming to Jesus and asking him to help the embarrassed bride and groom is one we can all appreciate, and Jesus' action of taking water and not only turning it into wine but wine fine enough to receive the admiration of the head waiter strikes every reader, but its place in the current stream of scripture readings can be hard to figure out.

If we think carefully however, we recall that turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana was the very first of Jesus' seven "signs" in the Gospel of John. These signs—the evangelist uses the Greek word semeia to describe these incidents, literally meaning "sign"—are intended to reveal who Jesus was and to evoke belief in him on the part of those who observed the signs. John himself tells us: "Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him" (John 2:11).

The signs of John's Gospel unfold over the course of just over two years as Jesus goes about his ministry in Galilee and Jerusalem, and they more or less follow a course of increasing impressiveness, from the water turned into wine recounted today, to the feeding of the multitude and walking on the Sea of Galilee in the middle of Jesus' public life, to the raising of Lazarus from the dead shortly before Christ's own death and resurrection.

Now maybe we can see how the story of the wedding at Cana fits into today's schema of readings: the signs of John's Gospel are meant to elicit faith in Jesus—to bring new members to the fold and to strengthen the faith of those who already believe in him. Isaiah's joyful proclamation of the Lord's salvation came to its fullness in Christ; let us join together with the prophet, the Psalmist, Paul the apostle, John the evangelist and all our fellow believers in bringing this Good News to those whom we encounter in this new year.

January 27, 2019 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

I Corinthians 12: 12 – 30

Gospel – Luke 1: 1 – 4; 4: 14 – 21

It is common that shortly after a man is ordained to the priesthood he returns to his home parish to celebrate his First Mass, or Mass of Thanksgiving. There he is in the Church he grew up in and possible was Baptized in, received his First Communion in, and was Confirmed. He is surrounded by family, friends and neighbors who watched him grow up and supported him during his years of seminary study. He begins his priestly ministry in a place that is full of memories of his life experiences and the joy of the local people seeing him ordained a priest. The event of a priest's First Mass is very similar to what we hear in the Gospel for this weekend. We are told that after Jesus was baptized by John, and was tempted in the desert, he returned home. There is something rather touching in that of all the places Jesus could have begun his ministry, such as Jerusalem, he chose to go to his hometown. While Jesus came as Savior of the World, he never denied that he was born to Mary, and grew up in Nazareth where he learned the carpenter's trade. He returns to his hometown to his home synagogue and there reads from the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah, and preaches his first sermon.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

Jesus chose the sixty-first chapter of the Prophet Isaiah for his reading, and when he completes it he announces that this passage is fulfilled in their hearing. Jesus told them that he is anointed to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to prisoners, give sight to the blind, and set free those who are oppressed. Jesus leaves his home town and the rest of his ministry is his doing just that, he heals the sick, comforts the sorrowing, feeds the hungry, cast out demons, brings the dead back to life, and proclaims the Good News. He continues to touch each one of us with his saving presence by his personal presence in our lives and in the ministry of the Church. Just as Jesus would send out his disciples to do great things in his name, he calls us to be instruments of his mission. In First Corinthians Saint Paul tells us how we can do this. He writes of how we, the Church, are the "Body of Christ", and he makes a beautiful and detailed analogy of the human body with the members of the Church, Body of Christ. The numerous members of the Church are blessed with particular gifts and he gives a list of the individuals present in the church at his time; apostles, prophets, teachers, of their call to do mighty deeds. There is the list of the ministries that are present; healers, assistance, administration, those who speak in tongues and those who interpret. All of these gifts, so different in many ways, serve one purpose to build up the Body of Christ.

The lesson in these readings is one that calls us to follow the example of Jesus and not to be afraid to minister at home and in our own parishes and communities. Sometimes this ministry to family and friends can be challenging and difficult, but part of our call is to live our faith at home. At the same time the reading from Saint Paul can give us the comfort at knowing that we are not alone, for we are united with all members of the Church as the Body of Christ. Christ is our head and is personally involved with each of us. Whether at home or away may we use the gifts we are blessed with to live and proclaim the Good News.

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

## JEDNOTA

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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, FEB. 13  | MONDAY, FEB. 4  |
| WEDNESDAY, MAR. 13  | MONDAY, MAR. 4  |
| WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 | MONDAY, APRIL 1 |

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.

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# Fr. Furdek Heads to the Home Office This Year

In September of 1890, twelve men under the leadership of Father Štefan Furdek, gathered in Cleveland, OH to form the First Catholic Slovak Union. Father Furdek remained a guiding force for our Society throughout his life, and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland.

This year, his statue begins its journey to the Home Office in Independence, OH from Jednota Properties in Middletown, PA. Look for more coverage of Father's journey in upcoming editions of Jednota.



Father Furdek bids adieu – S Bohom – to Middletown.

The 65" statue is carefully removed from its base and will be sent for refurbishing before beginning its journey to the First Catholic Slovak Union's Home Office in Independence, OH.



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## ATTENTION COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS



From the desk  
 of the Executive Secretary  
 Kenneth A. Arendt

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

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

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

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

For rules, requirements and applications go to  
[www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships](http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships)

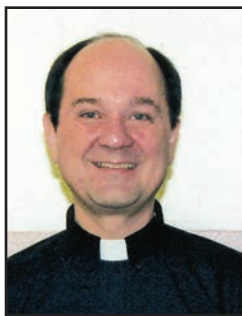
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

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

# Message from The National Chaplain

The Church in the United States observes a "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children" each January 22. Catholics are invited to observe this day through prayer and performing acts of penance.

In the days leading up to January 22, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is promoting participation in a novena called 9 Days for Life, which begins January 14, 2019. Novenas have their roots in the first two chapters of the Acts of the Apostles which tells of 120 people, including Mary and the apostles, gathered in a room waiting for the bestowal of the Holy Spirit. A summary of each day of 9 Days for Life is offered for you to unite your voices and hearts with countless others who long for the day when every unborn child may have life outside the womb. More detailed information on 9 Days for Life can be found at [9DaysforLife.com](http://9DaysforLife.com).



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

## Day One: Monday, January 14, 2019

**Intention:** For a culture of life to grow ever stronger in our communities.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** Changing a culture is a process that begins in each person's heart. It includes a willingness to be taught by Jesus and draw close to him.

**Act of Reparation:** Reflect on how God is asking you to build a culture of life in your home.

## Day Two: Tuesday, January 15, 2019

**Intention:** For all people to embrace the truth that every life is a good and perfect gift and is worth living.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** The presence of an illness or disability never diminishes the value of a human life. Every person is a gift, not because of what he or she has done or might do, but because of who he or she is, a child of God.

**Act of Reparation:** Consider using the time you would normally use to watch television or engage in social media to reflect on today's message.

## Day Three: Wednesday, January 16, 2019

**Intention:** For all who have experienced sexual abuse to receive justice, healing, and God's peace.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** Revelations in our day that sexual abuse has been taking place in our schools, churches, workplaces, offices, and homes for many years show how widespread it is. It is with prayer and hope that all victims of abuse who have suffered in silence for a long time will find the healing and justice they deserve.

**Act of Reparation:** Fast from one meal today.

## Day Four: Thursday, January 17, 2019

**Intention:** For God's peace to come upon all who travel upon the path of adoption.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** Countless challenges are faced by families hoping to adopt children and mothers considering placing their children for adoption. Pray for those in the adoption process to be filled with the hope of Christ.

**Act of Reparation:** Make an act of faith, hope, or love.

## Day Five: Friday, January 18, 2019

**Intention:** For every person suffering from the loss of a child through abortion to find hope and healing in Christ.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** God's greatest desire is to forgive, regardless how serious or how far we have strayed. It is never too late to receive the mercy and forgiveness of God through the Sacrament of Penance.

**Act of Reparation:** Abstain from meat.

## Day Six: Saturday, January 19, 2019

**Intention:** For victims and survivors of human trafficking.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** Migrants and refugees, homeless youth and runaway youth, are prime targets to be lured into situations where they are trafficked or enslaved with no means of escape. In 2016, almost half of the reported victims of human trafficking were foreign nationals.

**Act of Reparation:** Sleep tonight without a pillow to serve as a reminder the sufferings of those in our world who are enslaved.

## Day Seven: Sunday, January 20, 2019

**Intention:** For people longing to welcome a child into their family be filled with trust in the loving plan of God.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** Couples finding themselves unable to bring a child into the world through their loving union are often deeply disappointed. Yet we believe that God loves us with a tenderness and compassion that is beyond our imagination.

**Act of Reparation:** Share Christ's love with those who need encouragement the most.

## Day Eight: Monday, January 21, 2019

**Intention:** For those nearing the end of their lives to receive medical care that respects their dignity and protects their lives.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** The dying process is a sacred time, one during which a person prepares for the next life. The practice of assisted suicide sees people in their final stage of life as a problem to be eliminated.

**Act of Reparation:** Pray a decade of the rosary for your deceased family and friends, as well as for the departed who have no one to pray for them.

## Day Nine: Tuesday, January 22, 2019

**Intention:** For an end to abortion.

**Prayers:** Our Father, Hail Mary (3 times), Glory Be

**Reflection:** Today marks the 46th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton. These decisions of the Supreme Court made it legal for abortions to be performed in the United States without limitation or restriction.

**Act of Reparation:** Eat only three meals today, abstain from snacks.



## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and

Jednota Estates Office

will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019,  
in observance of Presidents' Day.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

## A Link in the Chain

Blessed John Henry Newman wrote many beautiful prayers reflecting his reverence for God and appreciation for the gift of life. One of my personal favorites – and a great one to keep in mind as we enter a new year – is entitled "The Mission of My Life" in which Newman offers a meditation on the way grace works in our lives to chart a course of profound purpose. The prayer opens: "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons."

The Christophers' 1957 film "A Link in the Chain" echoes those words. The film stars James Cagney as the elderly Professor Graham, who questions whether he has served as a positive influence on the college students he has taught in his long career. He thinks of three students in particular.

Professor Graham recalls Peter Fielding, a young man with a malformed foot who gets caught drawing a caricature of Graham in class. Graham later challenges Fielding to draw his own caricature and this exercise reveals the young man's struggle with self-hatred. Graham chides him, saying, "If you could count the gifts and talents that have been given you, if you could learn confidence in yourself and compassion for others, those hands could perform miracles."

Fielding responds by hurrying off, upset with his professor's words, but later in life he becomes a Pulitzer Prize winning artist of caricatures, known for avoiding ridicule and shedding compassionate insight on his subjects. The film then shows Graham steering a young woman away from social protest and towards personal outreach to the poor. She goes on to become a courageous missionary in service to those in need. And later, Professor Graham discovers that he has influenced the school's best athlete to turn down professional sports contracts in favor of becoming an educator.

Finally, at the end of his life, Professor Graham comes to understand the divine purpose at work in his own path as an educator, saying, "I, too, was but a link in the chain, a chain that was first forged with the Word, the Word of God. From Him came all the great words. Words that were given to us to be repeated endlessly until their inner meaning is understood and accepted."

No matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, we can become a part of setting in motion this amazing chain reaction of good. As Newman's prayer states: "If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about."

This certainty of God's guiding hand at work in our lives can free us to fully embrace the good. When we act on what we know is right, we become a link in the chain of God's miraculous hand at work in the universe, and there is no greater satisfaction than realizing the small part we have played in the lives of those we have been called to serve. May God guide you in 2019, and lead you to be the link in the chain that He created you to be, loving and serving Him and your neighbor.

The New Year is Full of FCSU Fraternalism

## March Madness is Coming to the FCSU!



Test your prowess in predicting one of college basketball's most unpredictable competitions. Join your fellow FCSU members in filling out the brackets. Awesome winning prizes will be available – fraternal fun guaranteed for everyone. For Contest Details & Rules, go to [fcsu.com/events](http://fcsu.com/events)

**SAVE THE DATE**

### NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Noble Lanes, Pittsburgh PA

Friday May 17 - Saturday May 18, 2019



Save the date for two days of fraternalism & fun with other bowlers from the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Greek Catholic Union, and the Slovak Catholic Sokols ... look for details in the next Jednota!

## Set Your Sails for a Complimentary Cruise with the FCSU

You can win a spot aboard the  
2019 FCSU Membership Meet Cruise – for you and a guest!

Contest details are coming in an upcoming Jednota – as well as cruise details with what fabulous destination awaits our winner. One thing's for sure, wherever you're going: it's going to be fabulous!



# Fr. Michael Artim – Slovak Missionary to Alaska

**Daniel Černý**

I was blessed to spend the summer of 2005 at the Byzantine Catholic parish in Anchorage, Alaska. Besides the stunning nature, Alaska is an interesting place with very good people and many people adhering to the eastern rite, thanks to the Russian missionaries who operated here before the land was sold to the US in 1867, and even after that. However, a Byzantine Catholic parish was established here only in 1958, with first pastor being Fr. Robert Bayusik (Bajužik - also of Slovak origin). The most famous pastor, after whom the current parish hall is named, was Fr. Michael Artim. Shortly before his arrival, the church experienced the 1964 Good Friday earthquake with a magnitude of 9.2 on the Richter scale, miraculously sustaining only one crack in the basement's concrete.

Fr. Michael Artim was born in Beaver Meadows, PA, a son of the late Michael and Mary Artim. The Artim family had several priests serving in the 19th century in what is today regions of Slovakia. Before his priestly ministry, the future Fr. Michael served with the Army Air Corps during the WWII and earned his degree as a pharmacist in 1953 from Loyola University. After studying at the St. Philip Neri seminary for late vocations in Boston, he transferred to the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Nicholas T. Elko (Il'ko) in 1963. After a short stay in Pennsylvania, Bishop Elko transferred him to Alaska in July of 1964. The Bishop was hoping to close the parish, as membership had dropped to only six families. However, he did not share this information with Fr. Artim, but rather hoped that he would get so discouraged that he would voluntarily resign. Yet, instead, Providence had prepared another miracle.

Fr. Artim proved to be a real blessing for the parish. After he discovered the parish bank account contained a mere 19 dollars and a huge debt, he rolled up his sleeves and got to work. Thanks to his previous job experience as pharmacist, he found himself a job at the local hospital, thus sparing the church money for his salary. Fr. Artim also renovated the church building, placing an onion dome on the roof and installing the traditional icon-screen inside the church. He even purchased several properties with an eye to the future expansion of the Byzantine Catholic Church in Alaska. Fr. Artim began reactivating the parish's spiritual life, as well. He organized religious education classes and sport teams for the children. From Kodiak Island in the south to Point Barrow in the north, Fr. Artim traveled around the State of Alaska celebrating the Divine Liturgy and ministering to the far-flung parishioner.

When the Eparchy of Van Nuys was created in 1981, he was the only Monsignor within the Eparchy. Fr. Artim retired from ac-



The interior of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Anchorage, Alaska in 2005. Photo credits: Author.

tive ministry in 1985 after a severe heart attack, but still continued to help at the parish. In 1995 he was the first priest in the then Eparchy of Van Nuys (now the Eparchy of Phoenix) to be awarded a miter. This solemn dignity was conferred on him by the now deceased bishop George Martin Kuzma (Kužma).

One of the people, who knew him shared a story about Fr. Artim from his youth. He confessed that after his family moved away from Anchorage he never had a chance to speak with him, but he did remember that when he blessed the Pascha baskets at Pascha we all got really soaked with Holy Water.

Only recently I had a conversation with one man who shared with me his vacation in 1997 to the Hawaiian Islands. While being there, they visited the local Roman Catholic Church, where one elderly priest concelebrated the Mass. One day, when this couple was leaving, the husband turned to his wife and told her something in Slovak and the elderly priest stopped by and said: I do understand you. The Slovak man could not believe his ears. Fr. Artim continued: My name is Michael Artim and my father was a Slovak. I was born in Pennsylvania. Fr. Artim explained to them his background, but omitted his initial difficulties. In his retirement, he was spending winters regularly in the Hawaiian Islands. A friendship formed with my Slovak friend and he always remembers the words, shared with him by Fr. Artim: The Communists in Slovakia took away from you, what even God did not dare to take away from humankind – your free will. Indeed very strong words, but very truthful.



The grave of Msgr. Artim in Pennsylvania. Source: findagrave.com

Fr. Artim remained friends with this Slovak family for the remainder of his life, exchanging correspondence with them until his death in 2001. Thus he is now fondly remembered on the both sides of the Atlantic. In his will, he left his personal chapel furniture to the church, a donation that was instrumental in founding a parish mission in the Palmer-Wasilla area. His life-long dream of establishing a second Byzantine Catholic parish in Alaska was thus finally taking place. If he had not been a man of vision and hope, none of this would have become a reality. May his memory be eternal!

*Daniel Černý (1983) was born in Košice, Slovakia. He received his PhD from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, with a thesis on the Slovak Greek Catholics in Canada. He focuses in his writings on Slovaks and their diaspora, especially those of the Byzantine rite.*



The newly elected officers for District 12 in 2019 are: (L – R) Michael Bertovich – Auditor; Cheryl Hyatt – Treasurer; Joe Tarquinio - Vice President; Frances Tarquinio – Secretary; John Curcio – Auditor; and Maureen Massafra – Auditor. Missing from photo: Dorothy Petrus - President



Fifteen Filipino priests were in attendance.



Traditional Slovak customs were also observed at the party, including performances by the Pittsburgh Slovaks.



Beth Silva, daughter of Thomas and Geraldine Hricik, and her husband of 30 years Ruben Silva.

## District 12's December Meeting

Installation of officers for the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District 12 took place at their semi-annual meeting on Dec. 16, 2018 at King's Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. The officers were sworn in by the Regional Director, James Marmol.

- Fraternaly submitted by Jim Marmol, Region 4 Director

## Branch 181 Beth & Ruben Silva Attended Annual Filipino Christmas Party

I am Beth Silva, daughter of Thomas and Geraldine Hricik. My husband of 30 years, Ruben Silva, and I attended a Filipino Christmas party with 15 local Filipino priests and their parishioners. It began with a Catholic Mass where the people brought a lit candle to the manger and Holy Family. Entertainment included games, singing Filipino priests, Filipino dancers, and gifts. It was held at St. John the Baptist Church in Delmont, PA, on December 9, 2018. This is the eighth year the party has been held.

My dad, Thomas Hricik, used to love to meet with our Filipino friends because the Catholic cultural traditions are carried on just like the Slovak people carry on our great traditions.

- Submitted by Beth Silva, Branch 181

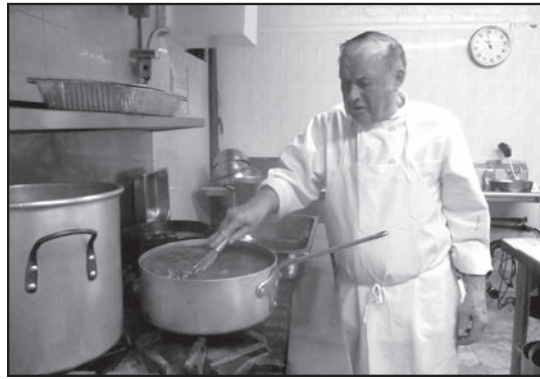
**If each member would sign up just one new member,  
we could double our Society immediately  
*THINK ABOUT IT!***



## District 16's Fall Meeting

District 16 annual meeting held on November 11, 2018 in St. John Nepomucene Rectory in New York City. Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon of Branch 716 prepared a hot lunch for everyone attending the meeting.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary



Left to Right: Ivan Korčok, current Slovak Ambassador; Joseph Senko, honoree; Ted Russell, former U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia

## Joseph Senko Receives Woodrow Wilson Award at Slovak Embassy In Washington, DC

Slovakia celebrated two important anniversaries in 2018: One hundred years since the establishment of Czechoslovakia, and twenty-five years of the existence of the Slovak Republic and of the establishment of strong and cooperation-based Slovak-American relations.

Both of these historic milestones are connected to a strong and friendly relationship between the Slovaks and Americans. The contribution of the Slovak-Americans, as well as American compatriots, including President Wilson., to the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 remains remembered and appreciated.

On this occasion, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States Ivan Korčok awarded distinguished personalities and organizations with a commemorative medal bearing the name of the twenty-eighth President so the United States, Woodrow Wilson, for outstanding contribution to the development of the Slovak-American relations. The FCSU's Joseph Senko, Branch 254, was one of the honorees. He also is the Honorary Slovak Consulate for Pennsylvania. Congratulations, Joe!



### ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA JEDNOTA MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Hockey Night in Cleveland

Saturday, March 23, 2019

7:00pm

Monsters vs. Hershey Bears  
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH



**Special Offer Includes:**

- ♦ Discounted Lower Goal End Tickets!!
- ♦ \$23 group rate per seat, with possible deeper discounts for MEMBERS ONLY through your branch
- ♦ GIVEAWAY – This is a tribute to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Moon Landing
- ♦ First 10,000 fans receive Astronaut Bobblehead

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

- ♦ Branch 1: Marie Golias, 216-338-8179
- ♦ 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 22, 2019**

**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.



## District 4's December Get-together

On a rainy Sunday afternoon of December 2nd, District 4 members gathered together for an informal get-together at the movies to see the latest reincarnation of "Robin Hood". In this version, "Jánošík" wasn't Slovak but rather Robin of Loxley played by Taron Egerton, a war-hardened Crusader, and his Moorish commander who mount an audacious revolt against the corrupt English crown in a thrilling action-adventure packed with gritty battlefield exploits, mind-blowing fight choreography, and a timeless romance. The movie was filmed in different locations in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and in Le Raincy, France. Thank you to those that came to see this classic tale!

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados. Region 1 Director

For news about Slovakia, Financial Tips, and more,  
find us on:  Facebook.

Visit [www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion)

# District 3 – the George Onda District – Sponsored a Successful Štědrý večer

The George Onda District sponsored the 26th annual Štědrý večer which held on Sunday, December 2, 2019, at the Christ, Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, PA. Over 100 district members including children attended the festive evening. Special guests attending were George Matta II, National Treasurer, accompanied by his mother, Florence Matta, James Bench, Supreme Court Member, and his wife, Kay, Greg Maurer, newly-elected National Auditor, James Marmol, Regional Director (Region 4), and his wife, Patty, and Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director. The event began with Mass in the center's chapel celebrated by Monsignor Larry Kulick. The Pittsburgh Slovaks provided the choir music. The traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner began once the children located the first star in the sky. Everyone shared garlic, honey and oplatki at the table and enjoyed the meal of mushroom soup, pierogies, bobalki, baked fish, pugach and peas. Each guest was given kolachi for dessert. Msgr. Kulick served as Master of Ceremonies and provided an explanation of the significance of each dinner item according to Slovak lore. Many beautiful door prizes were awarded. The evening concluded with The Pittsburgh Slovaks outstanding performance of the traditional Slovak Christmas play, Jaslíčkáre. This was the perfect way to begin the Christmas season.

- Submitted by Vicki Hricik, Branch 181 Secretary





## FCSU at 2018 Freedom Lecture with KeyNote Speaker Former Slovak Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda

On November 16, 2018, Former Slovak Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda was the keynote speaker at the 2018 Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture: Miracles in the Heart of Europe at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC.

The lecture was part of the 2018 celebration of the centennial of the birth of Czechoslovakia and the 25th anniversary of its peaceful separation into the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic. One of the many observations made by the Former Slovak Prime Minister who served from 1998 to 2006 during his speech involved the present-day republics of Slovaks and Czechs: "Despite the consequences of World War I, despite all the growing pains of the young post-war Czechoslovakia Republic, despite all the indignities we suffered in World War II, despite the horrors of fascism and communism, despite the brutal normalization following the 1968 invasion, despite the difficulties of the transformation period after the Velvet Revolution, despite the dissolution of the common state and creation of independent Slovak and Czech Republics, despite all of that – here we are today, the Slovaks and the Czechs, equal, fully-emancipated members of NATO, the EU, and of the entire developed international democratic society."

In addition to his service as Prime Minister, Dzurinda is the founder and leader of the Slovak Democratic Coalition (SDK) and



Former Slovak Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda speaking at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC in November as part of the 2018 centennial celebration of the founding of Czechoslovakia and the 25th anniversary of its peaceful split into two republics.

then the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union. In 2007, he was awarded the F.A. Hayek International Prize for reforms and his fight against bureaucracy. He is also a marathon runner who ran in the 2001 New York City Marathon honoring the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks, an extraordinary gesture by a visiting Prime Minister.



FCSU members attending the Miracles in the Heart of Europe Freedom Lecture and subsequent Friends of Slovakia Dinner in November: (L – R) Andrew P. Rajec, FICF, Director of Independent Agents; Former Slovak Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda; Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director; Albina Senko, Branch 254 Member; and Joseph Senko, Honorary Slovak Consul for Pennsylvania and Branch 254 Financial Secretary.

FCSU's Andrew P. Rajec, FICF, speaking at the Friends of Slovakia Fraternal dinner honoring Former Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC, November 16, 2018.



## Branch 716 Supported the 48th NY Marathon in 2018

The 48th New York City Marathon took place on November 4, 2018. The New York City Marathon has grown from a Central Park race with 55 finishers to the world's biggest and most popular marathon, with more than 52,000 finishers in 2018.

Slovak participation in the NY Marathon included preparation of food for runners and guests by FCSU Branch 716.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary



# Vilija Celebration at St. Andrew Abbey of Cleveland

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Radio Club, hosted their annual Christmas Vilija on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School on the Abbey grounds, the Vilija featured a traditional meatless Christmas Eve "feast" of oplatky, mushroom soup, fish, green peas, bobalky, pierogi, and poppy seed and nutrolls. Food was prepared by members of the Radio Club, of which Henry Horvath (Branch 855) is president. The first course (mushroom soup) was served by the monks. After the meal, entertainment was provided by the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. The troupe performed dances from Slovakia and included numbers by its children's group, Lúčinka. Lúčina's director is Branch 24's Tom Ivanec. All members of the Abbey are also members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 24. Appropriately, many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended the Vilija, included several reserved tables (44 places) for Branch 24 members, under the direction of Branch 24 President Bob Kopco. Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) attended and worked the event, including Jana Horvath (Branch 1), Barbara Sutila (Branch 855), Ann Sutila (Branch 855), Johanna Oros (Branch 24), Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450), Vlad and Maria Cvicela (Branch 24), Marie Golias, and Joseph Oros (Branch 24), Tomas Varchola (Branch 1), and Joe Elias (Branch 1).



The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad lead the crowd in singing Christmas hymns in Slovak and English.



Slovak Heritage Society's Susie Halley was among the vendors at the event.



The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland and the children of Lúčinka were among the afternoon's performers.



The monks served the first course of mushroom soup (L - R): Bro Mario, Abbot Gary, Fr. Michael, and Bro Gabriel



Forty-four members and guests of Branch 24 enjoyed the traditional Vilija meal.



Lúčina Director, Branch 24 Member and FCSU Region 6 Director Elect Thomas Ivanec



Slovak Radio Club Officers (L - R) Treasurer Donna Oros and Trustee Barbara Sutila.

*Slovak-American Cultural Center proudly presents*  
**The Slovak Ball**  
 February 23, 2019  
*featuring a performance by*  
**Pavol Hammel**  
*Cocktail hour at 7pm, Dinner & Dancing*  
*Open premium bar until 1am*  
*For more info & tickets visit:*  
**SlovakAmericanCC.org**  
**The Royal Manor**  
 Garfield, NJ

## 2019 TOUR OF SLOVAKIA YOUNGSTOWN/SPIŠSKÁ NOVÁ VES SISTER CITIES TOUR



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

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

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

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

streets of your ancestors, reconnect to your heritage.

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

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

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

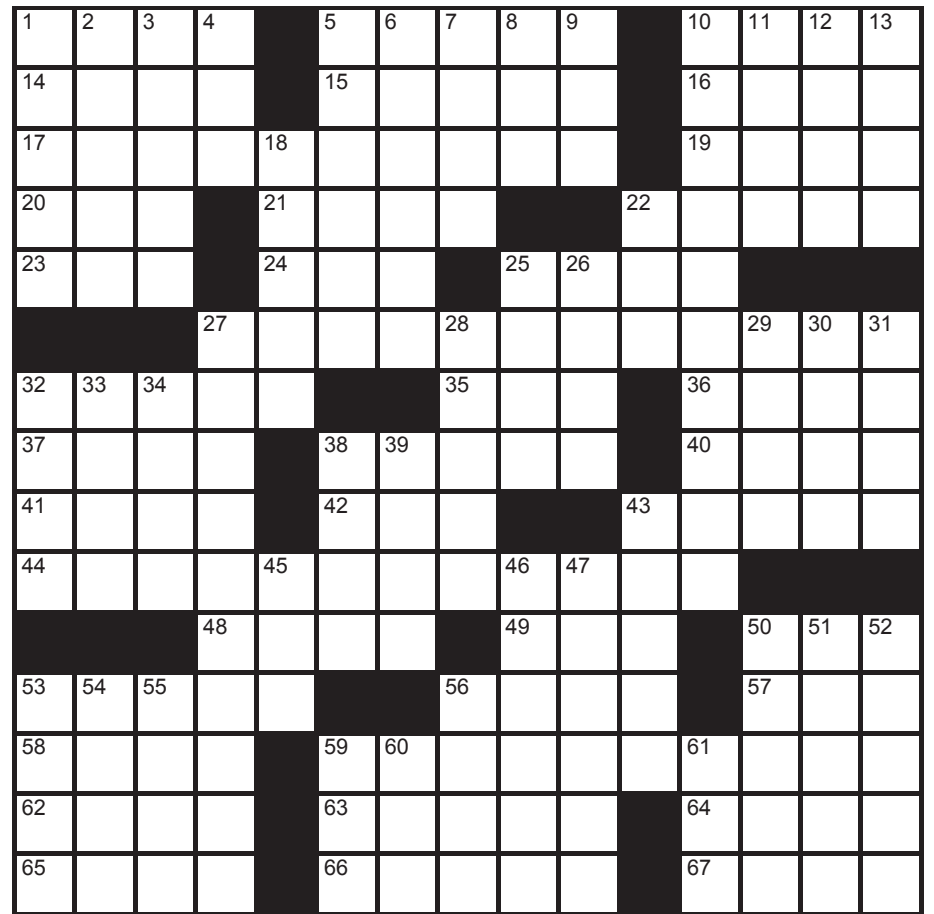
## Traditional Fašiangy (Pre- Lenten Dance) in Milwaukee in March

The Slovak League Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI is hosting its traditional Fašiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. (NOTE EARLIER START TIME) at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1800 S. 92nd Street in West Allis, WI. Donation is \$5.00 per person. Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will provide music for dancing and listening pleasure. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance at 6:30 p.m. followed by "bury the basa" (bass fiddle). We are inviting all members of Saints Mary & Joseph Branch 89 of Milwaukee to attend. For more information, contact Betty at 414-425-6137 or Ellen at 262-893-7483.

### JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2019

| Issue Date         | Deadline to<br>Receive Information        |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>February 13</b> | <b>February 4</b>                         |
| <b>March 13</b>    | <b>March 4</b>                            |
| <b>April 10</b>    | <b>April 1</b>                            |
| <b>May 8</b>       | <b>April 29</b>                           |
| <b>June 12</b>     | <b>June 3</b>                             |
| <b>July 10</b>     | <b>July 1</b>                             |
| <b>August 14</b>   | <b>August 5</b>                           |
| <b>Sept 11`</b>    | <b>Sept 3</b><br>to accommodate Labor Day |
| <b>October 9</b>   | <b>Sept 30</b>                            |
| <b>November 13</b> | <b>November 4</b>                         |
| <b>December 11</b> | <b>December 2</b>                         |

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Yokel
- 5 Winter hazard
- 10 Chick's sound
- 14 Misfortunes
- 15 Hot rum drink
- 16 Tortoise racer
- 17 Painter's tool
- 19 To be, in old Rome
- 20 Generation
- 21 One of Chekhov's Three Sisters
- 22 Keyboard key
- 23 Informer
- 24 Quiche, e.g.
- 25 Office note
- 27 Olfactory awareness
- 32 Fringe benefits
- 35 Perched
- 36 Ornamental purse
- 37 Opera highlight
- 38 Flings
- 40 Slangy denial
- 41 Dugout, for one
- 42 Miss. neighbor
- 43 Walking sticks
- 44 Auditorium
- 48 Type of signal
- 49 Bard's "before"
- 50 Barley bristle
- 53 Biblical king
- 56 Facts and figures
- 57 Forest female
- 58 Sailing
- 59 Cruise quarters
- 62 Lion's den
- 63 Pillow filler
- 64 Kind of fall
- 65 Investment item
- 66 File
- 67 Sawbucks

**Down**

- 1 Staircase part
- 2 Extreme
- 3 Sheep sound
- 4 Medium claim
- 5 Russian leader
- 6 Inns
- 7 Icelandic epic
- 8 Dutch city
- 9 Norse war god
- 10 Extraordinary
- 11 Toward sunrise
- 12 Gaelic tongue
- 13 Equal
- 18 Trots
- 22 Type widths
- 25 Castle defense
- 26 Young newts
- 27 Teen transport
- 28 Op-ed piece
- 29 Thames town
- 30 Mexican Spitfire actress Velez
- 31 Prevaricates
- 32 Sunscreen ingredient
- 33 Piccadilly Circus statue
- 34 Narrow inlets
- 38 Street fleet
- 39 Confederate

- 43 Transparent
- 45 Kind of pie
- 46 Radiator
- 47 Angioplasty target
- 50 Cherish
- 51 John Lennon hit
- 52 Retreats
- 53 Fifty percent
- 54 Jacob's twin
- 55 Check
- 56 Florida's Miami-County
- 59 Observe
- 60 Curry of Clue
- 61 Make a choice

*See Solution on Page 20*

# Part 1 of the 2018 P

## People



First Place – Erich Diehl  
Long Valley, NJ, Branch 290

“Kittyhawk, NC”



Second Place – Johanna Diehl  
Long Valley, NJ, Branch 290

“Central Park”



Third Place –  
Aleksandra Gizewicz  
St. Charles, IL, Branch 855

“Grand Haven, MI”

## Nature or Environment



First Place – Anna Catherman  
Clearfield, PA, Branch 7

“Frenchville, PA”



Second Place – Ashley Kotlar  
Monongahela, PA, Branch 670

“Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG  
Aquarium”



Third Place – Sarah Hergel  
Etobicoke, ON, Branch 785

“Gull in Flight”

**Part II to be published in the**

# Photo Contest Results

## Travel or Destinations



First Place – Sarah Hergel  
Etobicoke, ON, Branch 785

“Political Darkness”



Second Place – Allison Lake  
Columbia Station, OH, Branch 228

“2018 Cherry Blossom  
Festival”



Third Place – Maggie Salko  
Madison, NJ, Branch 132

“Point Pleasant, NJ”

## Overall Winner – Ages 12 - 18



Shane Simpson  
Donora, PA, Branch 670

“Waterfall at Ash Cave”

## FCSU Fraternal Activity



Ashley Kotlar  
Monongahela, PA, Branch 670

“Mom’s Easter Basket”



Peter Monks  
Trumbull, CT, Branch 19

“Our Lady of Czestochowa,  
The Black Madonna, Poland”

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2019, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

**Marion Rubino, President**

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2019, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. On the agenda: financial report and discussion of branch activities for the year. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special Branch 24 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7PM), March 23, 2019, Monsters hockey game at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$23. A Branch 24 member ticket is \$5. Reservations are required and available by calling Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797. Please make checks payable to Branch 24 FCSU. The deadline is February 15, 2019. These are lower goal end tickets and the Monsters are selling out games, so seating is limited. Don't delay. Order now, and join other FCSU members and guests – from Branch 24 and other branches in our Ohio District 10 – for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism [Editor's note: please see page 7 of this issue for details].

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Theresa Graves, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by January 13th in order to make reservations at Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (215) 613-8987. In the event of severe weather, or any other emergency, we will con-

duct a telephone conference meeting with those who cannot attend.

**Helena Gaydos, President**

## BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

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

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

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

Fraternally,

**Mike Novak, President**

## BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 17, 2019, at 8:30AM at the Park Inn by Radisson Restaurant, 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming year events and branch activities will be discussed. Regional Director, James Marmol, will advise us of developments from the Home Office.

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the brunch meeting. Call for reservations by March 10, 2019, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 as well as any changes for policies or address changes.

**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, March 31, 2019, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be information from the District Meeting and Branch business. Please bring any questions about life insurance or annuities for discussion at the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

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

**Arlo Meeker, President**

## BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

**Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 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 18, 2019, at 7 PM at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. 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 PM 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 by-law review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 16, 2019. At that time, we will also elect two (2) represen-

tatives 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. Ken and Theresa Arendt were re-elected to a 3-year term on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors representing our local Branch 228.

Once again, I ask that our members plan to attend our meetings whenever possible. It is pleasing to see the attendance at our monthly meetings slowly trending upward. Let's keep that trend going. Our District 10 officers are currently discussing ways to increase fraternal activities in our district. Attendance at our Branch 228 meetings can give you first-hand knowledge of items and events being discussed. All of this helps to promote comradery. 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 won't be disappointed.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

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

**Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

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

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

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

**Vivian Sedlako, Secretary**

## BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will hold its 2019 Spring meetings at 1 PM on Sunday, March 17, 2019, and Sunday, May 19, 2019. A Fall meeting is planned for November 17, 2019. The meeting on March 17 will be held at Woody's Restaurant in Versailles PA. We will be collecting information to RSVP for both the district meeting and the Father's Day Brunch. Our branch is hosting the April 7, 2019, district meeting and we will be handing out final work assignments at the March meeting.

Fraternally,

**Margaret Nasta, President**

## BRANCH 312 – BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

**Michaelene Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer**

## BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

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

**Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President**

## BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, February 3 Polka dance 3 to 6 pm: food available for purchase.

Sunday, March 3 Polka dance 3 to 6 pm: food available for purchase,

Sunday, March 17: monthly Branch 595 meeting at 2 pm.

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday are .50 off.

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

Come down and enjoy yourself. All Events Will take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth Street, Muskegon Heights, MI 49444 231-733-7525

**Cora Garcia, Secretary**

## BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen, Branch 716, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 31, 2019 after the Slovak Mass at 1:00PM in the meeting room downstairs in St. John Nepomucene Church hall in New York City. The agenda will include a financial report and discussion on upcoming activities for the Branch. All Members are invited to attend. A hot lunch will be provided after the meeting.

**Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

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

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

Fraternally yours,

**Sharon Tomas, Secretary**

## BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, Egypt, Pennsylvania, will hold their semi-annual meeting February 24, 2019. Meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m., at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the Altar Server Room, 4456 Main St, Egypt, PA. 18052. Meeting agenda will cover Delegates for the District 8 spring meeting 2019, will be selected at this meeting. Also any new business which needs to be discussed.

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

**Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold a special meeting on March 10, 2019, at 11:30AM at the Speer's Street Grill, in Belle Vernon, PA. (Charleroi side of the Speers/Belle Vernon bridge) There will be no cost for lunch for members attending the meeting.

This meeting is a special meeting to discuss changing the name of the branch.

All members are urged to attend in person or to attend by phone/Skype/facetime. If you want to attend by phone/Skype/Facetime, please contact the branch president by phone message at 412-886-6938 or by email at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com to coordinate the attendance or to make any comments.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, President**

## BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

We will hold our first meeting of 2019 to discuss upcoming events. Meeting and lunch will be held at Panera at 5090 Tiedemann Rd. on Sunday February 17, 2019, at 2:00PM. Each attendee is encouraged to bring a pair, or pairs, of new socks to be donated to the West Side Catholic Center.

All members of Branch 855 are invited to join the fun at the Monsters' Hockey Game, March 23rd! Please contact Barbara by February 15th for details on how to reserve your complimentary ticket. (email: bsutila@gmail.com) Details on page 7 of this issue. Hope to see you there!!!

**Barbara Sutilla, President**

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 276 will host the Spring Business Meeting on Sunday, April 7 at 1 PM at Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Street Extn, West Mifflin 15122. Expect a pizza party. Please RSVP by March 24 to 412-672-0379 or manasta@verizon.net.

We need host branches for Fathers' Day and the Fall Business Meeting. Please consider volunteering.

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

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

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

\*\* WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd, Mt Lebanon PA: Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events. January 7 – Sokol; February 4 – Andy Warhol; March 4 – Easter Palm Weaving.

\*\* Slovak wine tasting – April 6 – contact Joe Senko.

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

\*\* Slovak beer tasting – October 7 – contact Joe Senko.

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

\*\* Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Bozena Hilko at bozi@comcast.net. Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. Spring classes are for beginners; they start February 26. A summer class for children will start May 25, 2019.

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

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

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

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

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

\*\* The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 15-19, 2019. "Nasa Rodina," their quarterly publication, has many interesting articles on Slovak history and genealogy. See www.cgsl.org.

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

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

Fraternally,

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

### DISTRICT 7 – THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

All members of District 7, Rev John Martvon, are welcome to attend the 1st annual district meeting of 2019. The meeting will be held on April 27, 2019 at 2:00PM. It will be in Windber at St. Cyril Methodius Church. The meeting will be hosted by Branch 242. As always they will have a delicious dinner after the meeting in the church hall. We hope all can come and fellowship with friends. Attendance has been down; we need more people to get involved.

Any questions call Sharon Allison, recording secretary. 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 on Sunday, March 10, 2019, at 1:00PM at Caporella's Italian Ristorante at 90 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. The meeting will be held in their private meeting room.

Election of officers for the 2019 year will be on the agenda. Guests from the Home Office will be attending to discuss insurance issues.

All branches are invited to attend. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, March 6, 2019, by contacting President James Marmol at 724-437-0892. All members are urged to attend.

**Barbara A. Holly, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 11 – THE MONSIGNOR JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT

District 11 recently held our semi-annual meeting in Ford City, PA @ Branch 200's Social Hall. Due to the recent passing of our District Secretary, Grace Charney, who was a very active and devoted member, we are asking for members to step up to fill this position. Anyone interested, please contact me @724-763-9229 or email vschaub123@gmail.com. The District is in need of your attendance @ the 2 currently held meetings per year. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 28, 2019 @1:30pm. There was discussion on holding that meeting in the Natrona Heights area @ a restaurant. There would be NO cost to any member in attendance. RSVP's would be appreciated but not required. We are open for suggestions and welcome all who can take a couple hours out of your day to be a part of this meeting. We want to be active in all areas of our members from Branches 401 & 200.

Fraternally,

**Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary**

### DISTRICT 16 – THE MONSIGNOR KRASULA DISTRICT

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

**Joan Skrkon, Secretary/Treasurer**

### DISTRICT 19 – THE MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

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

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

**Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary**

## Branch 45's Traditional Christmas Eve Celebration

St. Matthews Society, Branch 45, celebrated a traditional Christmas Eve Dinner "Vigilia" on Dec. 16, 2018 at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall in NYC. (L – R) Standing: Jan Vasil, Rev. Richard D. Baker, Rev. Martin Kertys, Joseph Jurasi, Anton Kucharovic, and Jozef Lukacovic. (L – R) Seated: Renata Jurasiova-Vasil; our youngest member Janik Vasil; Maria Jurasi; and Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic.



- Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Jr., Branch 45 Correspondent

## Branch 6's Fall Fraternal Activity

The St. Stephen's Society, Branch 06KJ of Streator, IL, supported a fraternal activity for its members on September 9, 2018. All were invited to see the play "On Golden Pond," performed at the Center for Performing Arts at Engle Lane Theatre in Streator, IL. Tickets for the play for members were complements of the branch. A lunch was enjoyed by all attending before the play.

- Submitted by Paul Chismar,  
Branch 6 Secretary/Treasurer



(L – R) Branch 6 Officers: Secretary/Treasurer Paul Chismar, President Robert Elias, Sr., and Vice President Stella Elias.



## Is your FCSU profile up to date?

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

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

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

# 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.

| <u>Branch:</u> | <u>Name</u>         | <u>Branch:</u> | <u>Name</u>          | <u>Branch:</u> | <u>Name</u>        | <u>Branch:</u> | <u>Name</u>         |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 005P           | Robert Kopec        | 153K           | Casimer J Rzegocki   | 581K           | Catherine Santay   | 746K           | Marie Mega          |
| 005P           | Richard Olejnik     | 199K           | Anthony S Masarik    | 670K           | Linda L Smith      | 746K           | Michael Onacilla    |
| 006K           | Judith Ann Glowicki | 200K           | Francis Joseph Dinga | 682K           | John Timar         | 746K           | Mary Yovino         |
| 038K           | Edward J Hlatkey    | 200K           | Aldo L Falsetti      | 743K           | Thomas S Krempasky | 796K           | Grace J Vrablec     |
| 038K           | T Patricia McDonald | 322K           | Ralph Babarsky       | 743K           | Ronald Mager       | 831K           | Margaret A Naviglia |
| 040K           | Robert L Hombaker   | 373K           | Eileen F Cernansky   | 746K           | John J Dudsak      | 857K           | George R Buynak Sr  |
| 040K           | Richard C Pajak     | 373K           | Jerome J Solomon     | 746K           | Anna Fitzgerald    | 900K           | Anna Delores Halko  |
| 085K           | Anna Mae Bodosky    | 393K           | Philip W Kozak       | 746K           | Linda Freeman      | 924K           | Mary Ann Ritenour   |
| 112K           | Diane Sartori       | 553K           | Patricia Ann Gmerek  | 746K           | Carol Gecek        |                |                     |

\*Processed through the month of December

## OBITUARIES

### Former National Chairman of Auditors Stephen J. Luca Passed into Eternal Life December 22, 2018

Steven G. Luca, age 78, of Lorain, OH, passed away on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at Ames Family Hospice Center in Westlake, OH.

He was born on June 18, 1940 in Lorain, to Steven A. and Stella (nee Sirotar) Luca. He was a graduate of Lorain High School and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Kent State. He also served in the United States Army.

Steve was a dedicated, driven professional who loved his family and believed dearly in his community of Lorain and his Slovak heritage. A CPA by trade, he worked for the firm of Frank, Seringer and Chaney for over 40 years, serving as President until his retirement in 2009.

He believed in charity, giving both time and resources to the causes and issues that were important to him: Family, Community, his Faith and Ethnicity. Through his dedicated support of Lorain, he played an integral role in the development and revitalization of the Lorain waterfront, serving as Chairman of the Lorain Port Authority during the 1980's and 1990's. He was a founding member of the Port of Lorain Foundation, formed to preserve Lorain's Waterfront and to undertake the historic restoration of the iconic Lorain Lighthouse.

Steve spent his life supporting the Slovak community, both locally as well as internationally, through his support of the American Slovak Club in Lorain as well as serving as a National Chairman of Auditors with the First Catholic Slovak Union.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Elaine (nee Nowicki); daughter, Suzanne (Tim) Broderick, of Avon Lake; sons, Steve (Angie) Luca, of Avon Lake, and Matt (Kari) Luca, of North Ridgeville; grandchildren, Erik and Joseph Kneip, Steven and Francesca Luca, and Matthew and Stella Luca; brothers, John and Jim Luca; and his sisters, Ann Allen and Rosemary Eiden.

The Luca family received friends on January 6, 2019 in the Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center, Amherst, OH. A funeral service immediately followed visitation hours in the funeral center with Rev. Father Leonard Bacik officiating. Private family inurnment will take place at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, Lorain.



### Supreme Court Member Robert M. Magruder Passed into Eternal Life December 23, 2018

Robert M. Magruder, age 53, of Louisville, KY, formerly of Homewood, IL, passed away on December 23, 2018, in Homewood. Beloved son of the late Robert G. and Patricia Magruder and brother of the late Ron Magruder. Dear cousin of Sherrie (Ken) Peters, Wally (Christina) Olesek and Tim (Maria) Staley. Proud godfather of John Munoz and Elizabeth Colby and confirmation sponsor of Ryan Peters. Special uncle to numerous extended nieces and nephews. Very special friend of Valerie Vesely, Bill and Mary Turner, Pete Turner, Don Cummings, Wayne (Cheri) Dunker and Bob Babb.

dedicated servant of the First Catholic Slovak Union, serving as Supreme Court Member and District 2 Secretary, and Branch 493 Secretary/Treasurer. Rested at the Tews-Ryan Funeral Home in Homewood on January 5, 2019 and then to St. Kieran Catholic Church in Chicago Heights for Mass. Interment followed at Assumption Cemetery. Memorials to Jednota Scholarship Fund or Jednota Memorial in Bob's memory would be appreciated.



### Devin Stein Matta, daughter of FCSU General Counsel Gary Matta, Passed Into Eternal Life December 8, 2018

Devin Stein Matta passed in peace on December 8, 2018, surrounded by her family and close friends. She was born on November 18, 1993, in Pittsburgh, PA, and is survived by her parents, Gary and Rona Matta; her boyfriend, Nate Hall; older sister, Langley and her fiancé, Tyler Shope; brothers, Austin and Jaquan; grandmothers, Roseanna Stein and Florence Matta; and many devoted aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A life-long member of Branch 38, she not only was the daughter of the First Catholic Slovak Union's General Counsel Gary Matta, but also the granddaughter of the late National Treasurer George F. Matta and the niece of National Treasurer George F. Matta, II.

While she left this life at 25 years young, Devin has touched all our lives through her enthusiastic humor, spirited opinions, and warm compassion in all she did and accomplished. Devin leaves this world a better place for having been here. Devin graduated from Elizabeth-Forward High School, Elizabeth, PA. in 2012 and earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in both Marketing and Fashion Merchandise from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2016, while being a member of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority. Devin was awarded a full academic scholarship to Duquesne University School of Law in 2017 amidst her battle with melanoma and fought to find a cure and increase awareness of this disease, including raising funds and participating in the AIM for a Cure Melanoma Walk. Devin would have wanted us to appreciate life, smile more, laugh more, and don't get so worked up over things that are truly insignificant, and instead place that energy towards being a more positive person and look for the good in the world. Devin's life was celebrated with visitations on December 12 - 13, 2018, at Pittsburgh Cremation and Funeral Care, McMurray, PA. A religious Celebration was held on Friday, December 14, 2018, with Father Nathanael Polinski as celebrant, at the funeral home.



## BEREAVED

The sorrow in your heart speaks of love  
For loved one passed;  
But that same love will give the strength  
That will outlast  
Your heart's most bitter pain.

And when with help from higher realms  
Your tears of rain shall cease,  
There loves the hope your loved one lives  
In God's eternal peace.

© 2008 George Kossik, Branch 584



## OBITUARIES

### JAMES A. GOURASH BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

James A. Gourash, age 51, of Mars, PA, passed away on Friday morning, September 14, 2018.



Born in McKeesport, PA, on January 14, 1967, he was the son of the late Joseph and Margaret Homyak Gourash.

Jim was an engineer for Bayer Corporation in Pittsburgh. He was a member of St. Kilian Church in Cranberry Twp. Jim loved hunting, fishing and camping. He was an avid Pittsburgh sports fan, but he especially loved time spent with his family and time at his cabin.

Surviving are his wife, Linda Matz Gourash, whom he married on November 6, 1999; a son, Matthew, and two daughters, Lindsey and Sophia Gourash, all at home; a sister, Sally Kramer of Queenstown, MD; two brothers, Tom Gourash (Debbie) of Hilliard, OH, and Rich Gourash (Sandra) of Orlando, FL; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Mary Margaret Gourash.

Friends were received at the McDonald-Aeberli Funeral Home, Mars, PA, on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, from 2-4 & 7-9 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial at St. Kilian Church, Cranberry Twp, PA, was celebrated on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at 10:00 AM, with Rev. Charles Bober, pastor, officiating. Burial was in Allegheny County Memorial Park, McCandless Twp, PA.

- Submitted by Linda Gourash

### ANNA MAE E. BODOSKY BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

Anna Mae E. Bodosky, 91, of Exeter, PA, died Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018, at her home surrounded by her loving family.



Born in Exeter, PA, she was the daughter of the late John and Mary Hetro Milko. Anna Mae was a member of St. Barbara Parish at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Exeter, and worked for Consolidated Cigar Co., West Pittston, and then General Cigar Co.

Preceding her in death were her husband, John Bodosky, in 2006; sisters Theresa Hromisin and Marlene Milko; and brothers Joseph and John Milko.

Surviving are her children: John, at home; David, of Plymouth, PA; and Susan and her husband, Edward Sherinsky, of Harding, PA; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a brother, Michael, and his wife, Gail Milko, of Lake Como, PA; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends visited September 30, 2018 at Gubbiotti Funeral Home, Exeter. Funeral services were held the next morning at the funeral home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Barbara Parish in St. Anthony of Padua Church, Exeter, with the Rev. Joseph Sibilano as celebrant. Interment was in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Schooley Street, Exeter.

### THOMAS R. "HOZO" HOLIZNA BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Thomas R. "Hozo" Holizna, 78, of Ford City, passed away on October 28, 2018, at Sugar Creek Rest. He was born Aug. 13, 1940, in Kittanning, to Andrew and Pauline Pavlik Holizna.

Tom was married to Marie Zahradnik Holizna, who passed away on Jan. 6, 2014. He retired from ATI in Vandergrift, and he also formerly worked for U.S. Steel. Tom was also a veteran of the U.S. Army as a paratrooper.

He was a former member of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 200. Tom enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing pinochle, and most of all spending time with his grandchildren and family.

Survivors include his daughter Anna Hutchinson, of Ford City; son Thomas Scott and Wendy Holizna, of Ford City; grandchildren: Thomas Holizna; Brian and Patience Holizna, Bradley Birch, PA; Melissa Hutchinson; great-grandchildren Haze, Cylas, Jakobi, Avaah, Kamden, Kadeyn, Parker, and Lillian; sister Anita and Dennis Shaw of Sharon.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Paula Birch; sister Janet Ceraso, and brothers Kenny Holizna, and Andrew Holizna.

Visitation took place October 30, 2018, at the Mantini Funeral Home, Ford City, with a service on October 31, 2018, in the funeral home. Interment was at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

- Submitted by Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary, Branch 200

### ANNE H. RYBA BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Anne H. Ryba (nee Lucas), age 77, beloved wife of 58 years to Edward A.; loving mother of Denise Loewenthal (Howard), Karole Polk and Barbara Scullin (Christopher); grandmother of Brandon and Ashton Steinhagen, Nathan Loewenthal, Kristina and Thomas Polk, and Elise and Patrick Scullin; sister of John Lucas (Mary) (both deceased), Mary Lucas (deceased), George Lucas (Mary Helen) (both deceased), Michael Lucas (Patricia) (both deceased), Joseph Lucas (Jeanne, deceased), Elizabeth Krupar (Paul) (both deceased), Stephen Lucas (deceased) (Rita), Edward Lucas (Adela, deceased) (Ann Ward), Bernadine Kapura (Edward), Thomas Lucas (Marilyn) and Vincent Lucas; beloved aunt and great-aunt of many. Anne was born in Grassflat, PA to the late Mary (nee Meyer) and George Lucas. Anne's children, grandchildren and her large family were the things she held dearest. Passed away October 25, 2018. A Funeral Mass was held October 30, 2018 at The Church of St. Clarence in North Olmsted, OH.



Anne was a native of Clearfield County, PA, and recorded her Slovak grandparents' experiences in Humble Beginnings, a potpourri of history, family saga, Slovak information and social commentary. Her research stretched back to her hometown of

Grassflat, PA. She undertook a vast amount of research for her 242-page book, complete with photos, and tables and sold over 700 copies. Her exhaustive set of resources ranged from oral interviews with older relatives, to courthouse research in the USA and research in Slovakia itself. The more she uncovered, the more she came away with

a newfound respect for the brave ancestors who came before her.

She was a proud Slovak and Jednota member and donated her grandfather's Jednota hat to the membership collection in the FCSU Home Office Museum.

- Submitted by Edward Ryba

## Focus on Heritage



(L - R) The author's daughters with Dr. Votruba and the author at a Slovak event

## The Passing of Renowned Slovak Scholar Professor Martin Votruba (1948-2018)

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.

It is with a heavy heart that I note the passing of an outstanding teacher, a dear friend and an esteemed colleague, Professor Martin Votruba. He served as the Head of Slovak Studies Program and was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Pittsburgh (Slavic Department, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences). Many considered him to be the country's leading scholar on Slovak culture. Martin died on November 23, 2018 after a short bout with lung cancer, even though he never smoked.

Martin was born the son of Radomír and Viera (Nepožítková) Votruba on March 6, 1948 in Brno, Moravia, then part of Czechoslovakia, but spent his childhood in Vyšné Hágy. His origins from a village at the foot of the High Tatra Mountains reflected his favorite avocation: mountain hiking. He received his MA in 1973 and his doctorate in 1983 (CSC) from Comenius University in Bratislava. Between degrees, he pursued further studies at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he received a diploma in English Studies (FS, 1980). As a teacher and scholar, he specialized in Slovak studies — its language, history, literature, culture, Slovak and West Slavic linguistics, and Communism and its collapse in Central Europe.

His working career began as an Assistant Professor at the Institute Translate & Interpretation in Bratislava, Slovakia, 1973-1974, and continued at Comenius University, Slovakia, 1974-1985. Upon emigrating from Czechoslovakia, he served on the editorial staff of the *Orciment Quarterly* in Los Angeles, 1985-1988 and as an editor for *Radio Free Europe*, in Munich, Germany, 1988-1990. The University of Pittsburgh appointed him to the newly established permanent Slovak Chair of the Slovak Studies Program, where he remained since 1990. Together with his diligent secretary, Christine Metil, he started and organized the ongoing Slovak Heritage Festival, which has continued to be held on the first Sunday in November each year. He designed the festival so that it appealed to the general public — folk dance groups, musicians, exhibits, and, of course, Slovak foods. But he also included scholarly lectures for those interested in more in depth information on various topics of Slovak culture.

In addition, every year he organized an annual spring event, The Thomas Kukučka Memorial Lecture, which brought to the university a prominent scholar to speak on a topic related to Slovak culture. Votruba himself often lectured at the Department of State in Washington, at academic conferences, and elsewhere on Slovak topics.

Professor Votruba served as a member of a number of significant institutions: Board of directors of the *Academia Istropolitana*, Bratislava; Evaluator of Berlitz transactions Superior vena cava syndrome, Los Angeles, since 1990; the Slovak collection committee of the Western Pennsylvania History Society, Pittsburgh, since 1990; a certified tester for the Slovak and Czech languages for the Interagency Language Roundtable protocol and training carried out by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

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## Treasures Tours Announces 100th tour – Now Booking 2019 Trip to Slovakia

Helene Cincebeaux, Branch 75

For the past 30 years we have been immersing our travelers in the rich Slovak folk culture and reuniting long lost families. We are proud of our 98% success rate in finding living family there.

In honor of this summer's Centennial Celebration we have added a day to the trip to include grand Orava castle, a village visit to a rare private local museum where we will feast on pampusky, incredible doughnuts; plus the charming mountain village of Vlkolinec.

All this in addition to our regular itinerary of Detva Folk Festival, Kežmarok International Crafts Festival, rafting on the Dunajec in glorious Pieniny Gorge, village parties that spotlight wedding customs (12), a Goral Picnic, walled medieval towns of Bardejov and Levoča; picturesque Košice, Banska Bystrica, Prešov and Bratislava; the painted homes in Čičmany and nearby the Rajec Bethlehem, learning about village life in an outdoor museum of century old homes; experiencing the royal life in Spiš and Stara Lubovna Castles.

The Treasures of Slovakia 2019 trip dates are July 6 - 16, cost is \$2,299 per person with a \$599 single supplement. Once a deposit is received we go to work to find living family. For more information, a trip flyer or the day by day itinerary, see the web sites [www.our-Slovakia.com](http://www.our-Slovakia.com) or [www.treasurestours.com](http://www.treasurestours.com) or contact Helene Cincebeaux, 7 Walt Place, Palm Coast FL 32164, 585 342-9383 or [helenezx@aol.com](mailto:helenezx@aol.com).



Last summer's trip was incredibly heartwarming with travelers ranging in age from 15 to 80. We had 7 members of the Patsiga family, 3 generations! Here is a photo of David with his daughters all dressed up in kroj!



Renee Burslem returned to bring her 15 year old son Alex - he enjoyed meeting all the teens at the village parties and never lacked for a dancing partner.

The village party was so joyful we ended up spilling outside and dancing in the village lanes. Here's Ellie Dixon and Marta Kotradiova joining in the fun.



Father and son shepherd's pin makers at Kezmarok Crafts Fair



Sarah Henrich got to be the bride in our village wedding party - she and her mother Mary Beth found family in the far eastern village of Blatne Remety.



## Online Slovak Language Courses Available January – March 2019

Interested in learning the Slovak language? Instructor Dennis Ragan is offering a Beginning Slovak language "online" course that started in January. Two-hour classes will be taught on 10 consecutive Thursdays (7:30PM to 9:30PM EST) from January 10 to March 14, 2019. Sponsored by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society Int'l (CGSI), this course will include basic Slovak vocabulary and phrases, an introduction to Slovak grammar and presentations on various Slovak cultural topics. The cost is \$200 (\$180 for members of CGSI). To see the course syllabus with more details, please e-mail Dennis at [dragan322@gmail.com](mailto:dragan322@gmail.com) or go to <https://www.cgisi.org/events/classes>

## Professor Martin Votruba

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(ACTFL) in conjunction with the Defense Language Institute. He also belonged to several scholarly organizations, including the Modern Language Association and the Slovak Studies Association.

He received numerous awards and commendations: American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages Excellence in Teaching Award (Post-Secondary), 2011; Best Academic Article Bi-annual Prize, Slovak Studies Association - Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies; the Milan Hodža Award of Honor, from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, 2014; Letter of Commendation for "dedication to education and to the preservation of the Slovak culture in the community," Mark Doyle, Member of Congress of the United States; Letter of Commendation for "educational and instructional merits and commitment," Office of the Chief Executive, County of Allegheny; Education Award "in recognition and appreciation for dedication and service to preserve and enrich the Slovak culture," Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association; Medal of Honor, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the U.S.; Faculty Honor Roll "in recognition of dedication to excellence in education," University of Pittsburgh; Letter of Commendation "for positive interaction with students," Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, University of Pittsburgh. He also helped found and advise the Pitt Students Slovak Club.

The University of Pittsburgh established the Slovak Studies Program in 1990. The generous support of Slovak-American communities in the USA funded the Slovak Endowment. It enabled the employment of a permanent Chair who could teach courses on the Slovak language and culture. Fraternal societies played a leading role in funding the Slovak Endowment, including the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and the National Slovak Society. The University of Pittsburgh is the only university in the United States that offers a Slovak studies minor.

Professor Votruba built a wonderful website with information about Slovakia, which answers many commonly held questions and includes some useful references. It often comes up in internet searches about Slovakia. As always when writing, he combined a smooth English writing style with his wealth of knowledge about Slovak culture, history, and the Slovak language. Hopefully, the university will maintain his website as a lasting legacy to a man who truly deserved to hold the chair of Slovak Studies. The Slovak Program website may be found at this address: [http://www.pitt.edu/~votruba/skprogram/Martin\\_Votruba.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~votruba/skprogram/Martin_Votruba.html)

## Branch 670 Accepting Scholarship Applications

Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2019 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to three, onetime \$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](mailto:matinko305@comcast.net))

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2019

# MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SEPTEMBER 21 – 22, 2018 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN MEETING:**

Reverend Thomas Nasta opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. by celebrating a Memorial Mass for our deceased officers and members.

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Regional Director Milos Mitro to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**READING OF THE CALL:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Rev. Thomas Nasta    | National Chaplain                       |
| Andrew Rajec         | President                               |
| Andrew Harcar, Sr.   | Vice President                          |
| Kenneth Arendt       | Executive Secretary                     |
| George Matta II      | Treasurer                               |
| Karen Hunka          | Chairman of Auditors                    |
| Sabina Sabados       | Regional Director, Region 1 (excused)   |
| Damian Nasta         | Regional Director, Region 2             |
| Martha Zavada-Wojcik | Regional Director, Region 3             |
| James Marmol         | Regional Director, Region 4             |
| Michael Lako         | Regional Director, Region 5             |
| Henry Hassay         | Regional Director, Region 6             |
| Milos Mitro          | Regional Director, Region 8             |
| Rudolf Ondrejco      | Fraternal Activities Director (excused) |
| Gary Matta           | General Counsel (excused)               |

**PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:**

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Reverend Thomas Nasta and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING JUNE 2018:**

A motion was made by Milos Mitro and seconded by Andrew Harcar, Sr., to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of June 2018, as presented. Motion carried.

**AQS REPORT:**

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2018:**Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth Arendt presented the financial summary report for the second quarter and answered the Board's questions. He also stated that the second quarter financial statement was published in the Jednota newspaper.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors which gave a complete update of the investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer reviewed the UBS Fund, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund and the Executive Secretary gave a complete transaction report for the month.

Following the reports, the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

**ACCOUNTING FIRM:**

The President stated he renewed a one-year contract with Hosack, Specht, Muetzel, & Wood, LLP. He also stated that we will solicit bids from other accounting firms in 2019.

**SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:**

The President asked James Marmol, President of Jednota Properties, to give an update on the repairs needed on the Memorial in Middletown, PA. Mr. Marmol stated that there was a major repair done due to a break in the sewer line for building #2. All repairs were completed on a timely basis.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

The Vice President's report covered membership and marketing, seminars, and agent recruitment. The Vice President stated we have over 300 active independent agents and we are continuing to recruit agents.

The Vice President stated he will begin to schedule seminars for 2019.

**CONVENTION UPDATE:**

The Executive Secretary gave a report regarding the cost of the convention held August 4-8, 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio. After the report he answered the Board's questions.

The Executive Secretary stated that he received excellent comments on the use of the electronic voting devices and how these devices sped up the voting process.

The President stated he will work with the newly elected Fraternal Activities Director to organize future FCSU National Picnics.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President wished the Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka, the best of luck on her new endeavor as a lay missionary in Ghana, Africa.

The President thanked Karen for her outstanding service as the Chairman of Auditors for the FCSU.

**MIDDLETOWN PROPERTY:**

The President stated that the sales agreement for the property in Middletown was signed on August 8, 2018. The purchaser will begin the process of having the property rezoned.

**PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Executive Committee

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

Investments

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

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:**

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

**ADJOURN:**

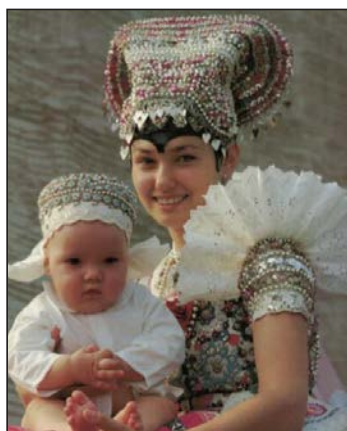
There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Karen Hunka to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

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

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

## Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum's March Exhibit



The Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum will present the most amazing collection of Slovak Heritage costumes – kroj - in North America. The exhibit - "Krojove bohatsvo Slovenska" – also will feature live demonstrations of costume sewing embroidery, weaving, and lace making.

The event takes place on Sunday, March 31, 2019, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish, 5255 Thornwood Dr. Mississauga, Ontario.

Mark your calendars! You will not want to miss this one-of-a-kind event.

For ticket information and reservations please call Magda Vacval 905-275-8529.

- Submitted by Alena Melas,  
Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum president

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 4:00 PM and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

The Executive Committee Meeting is being held in Pittsburgh following the AQS Corporate Governance Seminar which the Executive Committee attended.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the October 2018 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

The President stated that after reviewing the statements from UBS, MAI and Clutterbuck, he will invite their representatives to attend next month's Executive Committee Meeting to present a year-end review of our portfolio.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

**Investment Updates**

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

**Portfolio Review**

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

**Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages**

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

**Disbursements for the month of October 2018:**

|                                    |    |            |
|------------------------------------|----|------------|
| Death Benefits & Accumulations     | \$ | 241,298.25 |
| Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations   | \$ | 52,691.19  |
| 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.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

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

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

The Executive Secretary stated that we are in the process of converting our insurance rates to the new 2017 CSO. This should be completed in the first quarter of 2019. We will make the necessary changes in our computer system and print new brochures and pamphlets to advertise the new rates. Starting in January 2020 it will be mandatory that we use the 2017 CSO.

The President stated we are in the process of reviewing the commissions paid to our agents and will consider adjustments.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**

**Annuity Rates:**

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

**MIDDLETOWN:**

The President gave an update regarding the sale of the property in Middletown to the Executive Committee. He talked to Michael Schwab, Co-President of D&H, regarding a recent public meeting and their future actions. We continue to co-operate.

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President stated there will be a joint bowling/golf tournament with GCU, NSS, Slovak Catholic Sokol and the FCSU. There will also be a meeting with Kevin Collins, our new Fraternal Activities Director, before the end of the year to make plans for a smooth transition.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

## 1st Annual Winter Polka Party:

**COME POLKA OFF THOSE HOLIDAY POUNDS!!!**

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

January 12, 2019 from 7 to 11pm  
 The C.U.Slovak Club's Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226

Contacts: President Patrick Froncek  
 Patrickf007@yahoo.co or 724-236-4226  
 Treasurer Vicki Schaub  
 Vschaub123@gmail.co or 724-763-9229

Entertainment by: Jack Tady Bears.

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

Snacks will be provided & there will be a cash bar. The kitchen also will be open, with food available for sale.

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

- Submitted by District 11 Officers



## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

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

## Správy zo Slovenska

**Bratislava** - Deti v poslednom ročníku materských škôl budú mať obedy zadarmo od januára 2019 a žiaci základných škôl od septembra 2019. Vyplyva to z novely zákona o dotáciách v pôsobnosti Ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR, ktorú schválili poslanci Národnej rady (NR) SR. Právnu normu predložila pléna skupina poslancov koalície Smeru-SD.

**Bratislava** - Nový projekt pre vytvorenie vhodných ubytovacích podmienok ľuďom bez domova na bezpečné prežitie zimy pripravila organizácia Depaul Slovensko. Pod názvom Adoptuj si posteľ – zachrániš život sa do projektu môže zapojiť verejnosť. Vyzývame ľudí, aby finančne prispeli a stali sa podporovateľmi postelí v našich zariadeniach. Okrem nocľahu im poskytujeme jedlo, sprchu, oblečenie, zdravotnú aj sociálnu starostlivosť, zdôvodnil na prezentácii projektu riaditeľ Depaul Slovensko Jozef Kákoš.

**Bratislava** - Vojenskej policajti dostali 21 nových vozidiel pick-up v hodnote viac ako 800.000 eur. Slúžiť budú na plnenie úloh domáceho, ale aj medzinárodného krízového manažmentu. Uviedol to minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš (SNS), ktorý im ich osobne odovzdal.

**Bratislava** - Podľa polovice obyvateľov Slovenska miera korupcie v krajine za posledných päť rokov narástla, iba každý desiaty vidí jej pokles. No v porovnaní so situáciou pred rokom mierne stúpol podiel ľudí, ktorí veria, že väčšina ľudí na Slovensku by korupciu oznámila. Ukázal to prieskum agentúry Focus pre Nadáciu Zastavme korupciu pri príležitosti Medzinárodného dňa boja proti korupcii.

**Marrákeš/Bratislava** - Na konferencii Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN) v marockom Marrákeši schválili v pondelok zástupcovia zo 164 krajín globálny pakt o migrácii. Účastníci schválili pakt akklamáciou na začiatku dvojdnovej konferencie, uviedla agentúra AP. Prípravu Globálneho rámca OSN pre bezpečnú, riadenú a legálnu migráciu (GCM) dokončili v júli v OSN po 18 mesiacoch rokovaní. Voči tomuto dohovoru sa však medzitým objavili námietky a viacero európskych štátov vrátane Slovenska oznámilo, že sa k tejto iniciatíve nepripoja.

**Bratislava** - V roku 2017 sledovali slovenskí kardiológovia takmer 660.000 osôb. Najčastejšie Slovákov trápili hypertenzné choroby a ischemické choroby srdca. Informovalo o tom Národné centrum zdravotníckych informácií (NCZI).

**Bratislava** - Oblíbenosť vianočných trhov u Bratislavčanov klesá a kvalita gastronómie nestúpa. Tvrdí to nový primátor Bratislavy Matúš Vallo, ktorý chce, aby už budúcoročné vianočné trhy produkovali čo najmenej odpadu a ponúkali lepšiu gastronómiu.

**Bratislava** - Slovensko a Srbsko by mohli začiatkom budúceho roka podpísať dohodu o vyrovnaní dlhu ešte z čias Juhoslávie. Slovensko preferuje jednorazové čiastočné splatenie. Malo by ísť o sumu okolo šiestich miliónov eur. Peniaze majú ísť na podporu Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Povedal to premiér Peter Pellegrini po rokovaní so srbskou premiérkou Anou Brnabičovou.

**Bratislava** - Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu (MŠVVaŠ) SR potvrdilo, že Slovensko príde o 100 miliónov eur. Ako uviedla poslankyňa Národnej rady (NR) SR Veronika Remišová (OĽaNO), ministerka školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu Martina Lubyová (nominantka SNS) nazvala zrušenie záväzku cudzím slovom „dekomitent“, čo znamená, že Slovensko o 100 miliónov eur príde.

**Žiar nad Hronom** - Vianoce našich predkov približia vo Svätokrížskom dome v Žiari nad Hronom. Na návštevníkov čakajú tradície, opekance či perníky a koledy v podaní mužskej speváckej skupiny Sekera. Hovorca mesta Martin Baláž priblížil, že podujatie súvisí s poslaním Svätokrížskeho domu, ktorý má obyvateľom mesta približovať a pripomínať tradície a zvyky predkov, ktoré sa vo Svätom Kříži nad Hronom udržiavali.

**Košice** - Integrovaný dopravný systém, záchytné parkoviská po obvode Košíc, cyklotrasy a výstavba akvaparku sú prioritnými projektmi, na ktorých chcú spolupracovať mesto Košice a Košický samosprávny kraj (KSK). Na stretnutí sa na tom zhodli predseda KSK Rastislav Trnka a nový košický primátor Jaroslav Polaček.

**Bratislava** - Pacienti si od nového roka zaplatia za vyšetrenie, na ktoré sa objednajú. Poplatok bude vo výške maximálne 30 eur. Upozorňuje na to opozičná SaS.

**New York/Bratislava** - Slovenská republika podporila na Valnom zhromaždení OSN v New Yorku pakt o utečencoch. Potvrdil to hovorca Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Boris Gandel. „Na hlasovaní vo Valnom zhromaždení Organizácie Spojených národov sa zúčastnil stály predstaviteľ SR pri OSN, ktorý podporil uvedený dokument - rovnako ako predstavitelia ďalších 180 krajín. Globálny pakt o utečencoch podporilo 26 krajín EÚ,“ uviedol Gandel.

**Bratislava** - V porovnaní s minulými rokmi zažíva Slovensko z ekonomického, sociálneho, aj finančného hľadiska vôbec najúspešnejší rok vo svojej histórii. Podľa predsedu Smeru-SD Roberta Fica napriek tomu časť spoločnosti tieto výsledky nevníma a koncentruje sa skôr na negatíva. To, čo dokázali médiá a sociálne siete urobiť s verejnosťou a verejnou mienkou, ma mrzí. Žijeme v dvoch rozdielnych svetoch, na jednej strane výborné výsledky, na druhej strane stále nejaká nedobrá nálada.

**Bratislava** - Prezident SR Andrej Kiska poslal v piatok sústrastný telegram hlave štátu Českej republiky Milošovi Zemanovi a prezidentovi Poľskej republiky Andrzejovi Dudovi v súvislosti s následkami banského nešťastia pri Karvinej.

**Bratislava** - Minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš (SNS) a zástupcovia Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl SR sa v piatok prostredníctvom videohovoru spojili s profesionálnymi vojakmi, ktorí budú počas vianočných a novoročných sviatkov slúžiť v zahraničí. Všetkým zaželali pokojnú službu, pevné zdravie a trezivosť pri plnení náročných úloh v operáciách. Vojaci deklarovali, že si budú aj napriek sviatočnému obdobiu plniť zodpovedne všetky stanovené úlohy.

**Bratislava** - Svetové združenie bývalých politických väzňov so zármútkom a poľutovaním prijalo správu, že parlament opäť zamietol návrh novely zákona o protikomunistickom odboji. Táto právna norma z dielne OĽaNO mala bývalým príslušníkom komunistickej štátnej bezpečnosti (ŠtB) plošne zdaňovať výsluhové dôchodky a priznať jednorazový finančný príspevok politickým väzňom, ich manželkám, manželom alebo ich vdovám a vdovcom vo výške 1000 eur.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

# Slovensko 1. januára 2019 zaznamená 26 rokov svojej samostatnosti

Rozdelením Českej a Slovenskej Federatívnej Republiky (ČSFR) na dva samostatné štáty - Českú republiku (ČR) a Slovenskú republiku (SR) - vznikla 1. januára 1993 samostatná SR, keď na spoločnej schôdzi vlády SR a Národnej rady SR prijali poslanci vyhlásenie k vzniku nezávislej Slovenskej republiky. Obyvatelia Slovenska si 1. január pripomínajú ako Deň vzniku SR. V Českej republike v ten deň slávia Deň obnovy samostatného českého štátu. Rozdeleniu Česko-Slovenska predchádzalo v rokoch 1990-1992 množstvo stretnutí a rokovaní československých, českých aj slovenských politikov i štátnych inštitúcií. Dňa 21. januára 1992 Federálne zhromaždenie ČSFR neprijalo návrhy prezidenta Václava Havla - novelu ústavného zákona o referende a ústavný zákon o prijatí novej Ústavy ČSFR. Jedenásteho marca 1992 sa prerušili rokovania medzi SNR a ČNR o štátoprávnom usporiadaní a mali v nich pokračovať novozvolené parlamenty.

V parlamentných voľbách 1992 zvíťazila v ČR koalícia Občianska demokratická strana (ODS) - Kresťanskodemokratická strana a na Slovensku Hnutie za demokratické Slovensko (HZDS). Následne sa začala séria rokovaní vedúcich predstaviteľov ODS a HZDS.

Dňa 17. júla 1992 prijala SNR Deklaráciu o zvrchovanosti SR. Prvého septembra 1992 SNR prijala Ústavu SR, ktorá nadobudla platnosť o mesiac neskôr, 1. októbra 1992. Dňa 25. novembra 1992 prijalo Federálne zhromaždenie ústavný zákon o zániku ČSFR, ktorý nadobudol platnosť o polnoci z 31. decembra 1992 na 1. januára 1993.

Na poslednom zasadnutí vlády SR pred vznikom samostatnej Slovenskej republiky bol okrem iného schválený návrh Dohody vlád SR a ČR o spoločnom postupe pri prechode práv a povinností z pracovnoprávných vzťahov zo štátnych orgánov a štátnych organizácií ČSFR v súvislosti so zánikom federácie.

Na námestiach slovenských miest sa od polnoci 1. januára 1993 uskutočnili polnočné oslavy vzniku SR. V ten deň sa uskutočnila aj spoločná schôdza slovenského parlamentu a vlády SR, na ktorej prijali vyhlásenie k vzniku samostatnej SR.

Už počas prvého dňa existencie nezávislej SR ju diplomaticky uznalo 93 štátov sveta, medzi nimi aj Francúzsko, Nemecko, USA, Ruská federácia, Čína či Spojené kráľovstvo.

V ďalších hodinách a v prvých januárových dňoch roku 1993 sa SR stala členom významných svetových organizácií a inštitúcií: napríklad Svetovej banky, Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN), UNESCO. Aj v ďalších mesiacoch roku 1993 sa SR stávala členom významných inštitúcií a organizácií: od marca bola členom Stredo európskeho združenia voľného obchodu (CEFTA), ďalej Rady Európy (RE) a ďalších. Od prvých dní existencie sa SR usilovala integrovať do európskych a atlantických štruktúr.

So vznikom SR začala svoju činnosť aj Armáda SR, ktorá sa neskôr transformovala na terajšie Ozbrojené sily SR. Od 8. februára 1993 začala na území samostatnej SR platiť nová mena - slovenská koruna (Sk). Nahradila dovtedajšiu česko-slovenskú korunu. Aj slovenská koruna 1. januárom 2009 ustúpila do minulosti, keďže ju na území krajiny nahradilo euro ako nová národná mena na Slovensku. V čase od 1. januára do 16. januára 2009 platil na slovenskom území duálny obeh oboch mien. Od 17. januára 2009 sa slovenská koruna začala sťahovať z obehu. Dňa 15. februára 1993 poslanci zvolili za prvého prezidenta demokratickej povojnovej SR kandidáta HZDS Michala Kováča. Od roku 2004 je SR členským štátom Európskej únie a NATO, od decembra 2007 je členom schengenského priestoru.

Dňa 1. januára 2009 sa SR stala členom eurozóny. Prijatím eura za bežné platidlo sa zavŕšil integračný proces do EÚ. Pri príležitosti sviatku Dňa vzniku SR udeľuje prezident krajiny štátne vyznamenania osobnostiam spoločenského, kultúrneho a politického života.

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## Unikátna bankovka prilákala do Štiavnice zberateľov z celého Slovenska

Pred Bankou lásky v Banskej Štiavnici stáli už od rána desiatky zberateľov, ktorí netrepežlivo čakali na spustenie predaja zberateľskej 0-eurovej bankovky s motívom najdlhšej ľúbostnej básne sveta. Výnos z jej predaja chcú použiť na financovanie záchrany historického Domu Maríny, v ktorom sa Banka lásky nachádza.

Bankovka vyšla v náklade 10.000 kusov, z toho 8000 kusov je dostupných v Dome Maríny. Sú na nej zobrazení Marína a Andrej Sládkovič, ktorých stvárnil herci Táňa Pauhofová a Robert Roth.

Podľa Ondrejovej záujem verejnosti o bankovky veľmi prevybil. V radoch čakali na začatie predaja už od skorých ranných hodín. Prišli ľudia z celého Slovenska, aj zo vzdialenejších regiónov, ako z Popradu či Košíc.

Banka lásky je jedinou bankou na svete, kde si páry, jednotlivci, ale aj rodiny môžu uschovať svoj príbeh lásky. Je vytvorená z 2900 veršov oficiálne najdlhšej ľúbostnej básne sveta a nachádza sa tam takmer 100.000 schránok lásky. Každá reprezentuje písmeno, znak alebo medzeru Sládkovičovej Maríny.

Za prvý rok navštívilo túto banskoštiavnickú atrakciu približne 20.000 ľudí. V uplynulých dňoch v nej pribudlo nové „nebo lásky“, ktoré slúži ako poďakovanie tým, ktorí si zakúpili schránku lásky a stali sa tak šíriteľmi básne Marína. Ide o nádvorie domu, kde je inštalované nebo v podobe srdiečok, ktoré si personalizovali majitelia schránok.

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Foto: TASR – Jana Vodnáková

**Spustenie predaja 0-eurovej bankovky s motívom Najdlhšej ľúbostnej básne sveta pri príležitosti 1. výročia otvorenia Banky lásky v historickom dome, kde žila Sládkovičova Marína, v Banskej Štiavnici 19. decembra 2018. Na snímke vystavená 0-eurová bankovka s motívom Najdlhšej ľúbostnej básne sveta.**

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

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

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

**Mária Jurášiová – pokladníčka**

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

Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko vás všetkých srdečne pozýva na už 26-ty Slovenský Ples, ktorý sa uskutoční v sobotu **23. februára 2019** v The Royal Manor v Garfield, NJ. Gala večer začne kokteilom o 19 hod., pokračovať bude hlavným programom od 20 hod., ktorý bude plný hudby so skupinou Express, chutných jedál, a chýbať nebude bohatá tombola. V rámci večera vystúpi Pavol Hammel, jedna zo žijúcich legiend slovenskej hudobnej scény. Bar bude otvorený celú noc a tancovať sa bude až do rána. Viac informácií + zakúpenie lístkov nájdete: [www.SlovakAmericanCC.org](http://www.SlovakAmericanCC.org), alebo volajte Zuzka 973-357-1209 (Slovak) 908-377-2446 (English). Tešíme sa na vás!

**Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka**

### Polročná schôdza Okresu č. 16 Msgr. Krasul'u IKSJ

Polročná schôdza Okresu č. 16 Msgr. Krasul'u IKSJ sa uskutoční v **nedel' 24. februára 2019** na fare kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého bezprostredne po slovenskej svätej omši o 10:15 hod. Program bude obsahovať diskusiu a plánovanie budúcich aktivít v okrese č. 16 IKSJ a v nasledujúcom roku 2019. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať ľahké občerstvenie.

**Joan Skrkon, tajomníčka**

### Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

20. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Milwaukee, WI usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v **sobotu 2. marca 2019** v Knights of Columbus Hall, 1800 S. 92nd Street v West Allis, Wisconsin. Začiatok bude o 5.00 hodine večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 6:30 hodine večer. Vstupné je \$5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Bližšie informácie: Betty, tel. č. 414-425-6137 alebo Ellen, tel. č. 262-893-7483.

**Kathy Valent, tajomníčka**



## Slávnostné odovzdávanie cien Woodrowa Wilsona na Veľvyslanectve SR vo Washingtone

V stredu 12. decembra 2018 odovzdal veľvyslanec SR v USA Ivan Korčok vo Washingtone cenu Woodrowa Wilsona významným osobnostiam, ktoré sa pričínili o rozvoj slovensko-amerických vzťahov. Cena je spoločným projektom Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone a Veľvyslanectva USA v Bratislave, pričom je súčasťou podujatí pripomínajúcich si významné výročia našej histórie. Hostami na podujatí boli aj príslušníci Národnej gardy Indiany, ktorá bola Veľvyslanectvom USA v Bratislave ocenená na jeseň tohto roka.

Ako uviedol veľvyslanec SR v USA Ivan Korčok, „Končiaci rok 2018, v ktorom sme si pripomínali významné historické míľniky bol príležitosťou uviesť si, že naša vlastná história sa nepísala izolovane od veľkých udalostí a osobností svetovej politiky. Dejiny sme spolutvorili a má obrovský význam sa k nim hlásiť.“

I. Korčok v tejto súvislosti uviedol, že dobré vzťahy medzi štátmi, ktoré sú aj prípadom Slovenska a Spojených štátov, sa vyznačujú vzájomnou inšpiráciou: „Pre mňa osobne napríklad v tom, ako sa Američania hrdo hlásia k vlastným osobnostiam a histórii. Vidíte to na nespočetných monumentoch či malých historických tabuliach, pri ktorých čakajú tisíce ľudí, aby vzdali úctu.“

„Myslím si, že v tomto je hlavná myšlienka ceny Woodrowa Wilsona, ktorú sme tohto roku odovzdali spoločne s veľvyslancom USA na Slovensku osobnostiam v USA a u nás doma. Oceňovali sme tých, ktorí tu zanechali výraznú stopu a cez ktorých tu naša krajina dáva o sebe vedieť. Za to si túto cenu zaslúžia a verím, že oni budú inšpirovať ďalších.“

Platí to o úžasnom príbehu manželov Vilčekovcov, ktorí opustili svoju krajinu pred 50 rokmi, aby sa uplatnili na poli umenia a vedy, a následne sa o svoj úspech podelili filantropiou. Rovnako tak to platí o Mary MacPherson, ktorá absolvovala nespočetné množstvo ciest na Slovensko, aby podporila mladé firmy v oblasti inovácií a moderných technológií.

S pokorou cenu prijal aj slovenský hokejový reprezentant a hviezda NHL Peter Bondra, ktorý bol zvyknutý na pozitívne emócie fanúšikov. Spolu s generáciami úspešných športovcov, ktorých mená sa v USA dodnes skloňujú s veľkým rešpektom prispel k tomu, že sa takej obrovskej krajine, akou sú Spojené štáty, o Slovensku vie.

Luboš Pástor, slovenský profesor financií, ktorý pôsobí na jednej z najlepších škôl svojho druhu, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, je uznávaný v rámci americkej akademickej špičky a svojím výskumom prispieva k šíreniu dobrého mena Slovenska.

Ocenenou bola tiež Cecilia Rokusek, riaditeľka Národného českého a slovenského múzea a knižnice v Cedar Rapids v štáte Iowa, ktorá dlhé roky napomáhala rozvoju spolupráce medzi slovenskými a americkými univerzitami v oblasti medicíny a farmácie. Rozbehla úspešné výmenné programy študentov a výskumníkov.

Organizácia Friends of Slovakia s jej dlhoročnými vedúcimi predstaviteľmi, prvým veľvyslancom USA v SR, Theodorom Russelom a honorárnym konzulom SR Josephom Senkom, bola ocenená za prínos k rozvoju politickej, ekonomickej a kultúrnej spolupráce, ako aj dlhoročnú podporu Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone.

MZV SK

## Všetkým našim členom IKSJ želáme

*Šťastný a úspešný Nový rok 2019*

## Vianočný koncert v New Yorku

Hostí privítali farár otec Richard Baker a generálna konzulka Ladislava Begeč, ktorá sa v svojom príhovore poďakovala všetkým priaznivcom Generálneho konzulátu SR v New Yorku a popriala príjemné sviatky. Desaťročná Ariana Matolak spolu s rodičmi očarili divákov vianočnými koledami, ktoré spievali slovensky, rusinsky a anglicky. Po koncerte sviatočná atmosféra pokračovala pri tradičnej vianočnej kapustnici a vianočnom pečive.

Mzv.sk

Generálny konzulát SR v New Yorku uviedol 10. decembra 2018 v slovenskom kostole Sv. J. Nepomucene v New York City skupinu Lem Joy Trio na Vianočnom koncerte „Folk Family Christmas.“

The Slovak General Consulate in New York prepared a Christmas concert in St. John Nepomucene Church featuring the Lem Joy Trio.



## Novoročný príhovor 2019 prezidenta Andreja Kisku

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

V roku 2018 sme si museli zložiť ružové okuliare pri písaní úspešného príbehu našej vlastnej krajiny, aby sme boli schopní čeliť znechuteniu, nedôvere a strate nádeje v lepšiu budúcnosť. Obstáli sme v tejto skúške? Bolo by trúfalé vynášať akési definitívne historické verdikty. Napriek tomu odpoviem. Áno, obstáli sme. Verím, že do roku 2019 vstupujeme ako silnejšia a odolnejšia spoločnosť. Vďaka vám, vďaka všetkým ľuďom, ktorí rozhorčenie, hnev aj strach premenili na poctivú snahu o lepšiu krajinu.

Som presvedčený, že ľudia, ktorých — na námestiach i mimo nich — dokáže spojiť záujem o „slušnosť a spravodlivosť“, sú a vždy budú schopní slobodu a demokraciu rozvíjať a chrániť. V roku 2018 sme dozreli v spoločnosť, ktorá aj na tie najhoršie pravdy o sebe samej dokáže odpovedať zdravou túžbou po zmene. A ochotou o ňu bojovať — slušne, ale dôrazne. Presvedčili sa o tom viacerí mocní a kedysi nedotknuteľní, čo si arogantne mysleli, že slušnosťou a spravodlivosťou budú môcť pohrdáť navždy. Veľkou výzvou zostáva hľadať a ponúkať také riešenia, aby časť našej spoločnosti nevidela východisko z hnevu či beznádeje v extrémnych riešeniach a politikoch, ktorí demokraciou a slobodou pohrdajú. Táto hrozba, často živovaná nenávisťou, je skutočná. Budeme jej čeliť aj v nadchádzajúcich prezidentských voľbách, či vo voľbách do Európskeho parlamentu.

Chcem ešte raz posmeliť všetkých, ktorým záleží na našej krásnej krajine, aby pokračovali v snahe o slušné a spravodlivé Slovensko. Aby ste sa nedali odradiť tým, že veci sa nemenia tak rýchlo, ako by sme si želali. Nedajte sa znechutiť tým, že mnohým politikom iba pomaly dochádza, čo sa v roku 2018 stalo. Demokracia nepozná konečné víťazstvá ani konečné prehry. Demokracia je proces. Demokracia je práca. V roku 2019 nás čaká veľa práce. (Text mierne skrátený)

Želám vám, vašim rodinám, vašim milým a blízkym zdravie a lásku, želim vám dni plné nádeje, radosti a hrdosti. Šťastný nový rok 2019.“

TASR





Ocenenie J. Rydlovi (zľava na snímke) odovzdal predseda Historického odboru MS Prof. Róbert Letz a JUDr. Štefan Martinkovič.

## Cenu Daniela Rapanta na rok 2018 dostal J. Rydlo

Cenu Daniela Rapanta udeľuje Historický odbor Matice slovenskej od roku 1997 ako svoje najvyššie ocenenie za prínos k rozvoju historických vied, za zásluhy o poznanie slovenských dejín a života Slovákov doma aj v zahraničí. Medzi jej laureátmi nájdeme plejádu slovenských historikov, napr. Belo Polla, Richard Marsina, Milan Durica, Valerián Bystrický, Anton Hrnko, Matúš Kučera, Peter Ratkoš, Ján Lukačka či Ivan Mrva.

Za rok 2018 Cenu Daniela Rapanta dostal p. Jozef Rydlo, člen Slovenského ústavu, niekdajší poslanec NRSR a dlhoročný tajomník Slovenského ústavu v Ríme, ktorý patrí k významným predstaviteľom slovenského politického exilu po roku 1968.

Ocenenie mu odovzdal predseda Historického odboru MS Prof. Róbert Letz a JUDr. Štefan Martinkovič, predseda Dozorného výboru MS. Laureáta pozdravil osobitným listom predseda Národnej rady SR JUDr. Andrej Danko.

Medzi hosťami bol nitriansky sídelný biskup Mons. Viliam Judák, predseda Rady KBS pre históriu, vojenský biskup Mons. František Rábek, predseda Rady KBS pre vedu, vzdelanie a kultúru či emeritný arcibiskup-metropolita Ján Sokol.

Podujatie kultúrnym programom obohatilo Trio Ad Libitum a spevak Ivan Ožvát, člen opery Slovenského národného divadla. Pri tejto príležitosti mesto Vrbové laureáta poctilo svojou jubilejnou medailou, ktorú mu odovzdala jeho primátorka Dr. E. Maggiová.



Nitriansky biskup Judák blahoželá laureátovi Ceny Daniela Rapanta 2018 Jozefovi Rydlovi.

## Od Štedrého dňa vychádzajú do ulíc tisíce koledníkov Dobrej noviny

Od pondelka 24. decembra vychádzajú do ulíc tisíce koledníkov Dobrej noviny. Nadviažu tak už po dvadsiatyštvrtý raz na dávnu ľudovú tradíciu koledovania, polazovania či vianočných hier.

Koledovanie ako ľudová tradícia bola vždy viazaná na konkrétny región, ktorého špecifika a jedinečnosť sa odrazili aj vo forme samotného koledovania. Jednotným motívom zostalo ohlasovanie radostnej zvesti o narodení Ježiša Krista, ktoré sa v rámci koledníckej akcie Dobrá novina rozšírilo o rozmer solidarity a spolupatričnosti s núdznými v chudobnejších krajinách.

Koledníkov Dobrej noviny spoznate podľa toho, že budú mať označené pokladničky oficiálnymi nálepkami s označením verejnej zbierky. Za priebeh koledovania v každej farnosti je zodpovedná konkrétna osoba, ktorá sa na vyžiadanie môže preukázať osobitným poverením na vykonanie zbierky, ktoré je adresované na jej osobu a vlastnoručne podpísané riaditeľom Dobrej noviny, Mariánom Čaučíkom.

Koledníci si v súlade s vnútornými zásadami Dobrej noviny nenechávajú žiadne finančné prostriedky pre seba, všetky finančné dary na záver koledovania zrátajú, zapisujú do oficiálnej zápisnice za prítomnosti aspoň dvoch dospelých osôb a pošlú na oficiálny účet verejnej zbierky. Koledovanie bude prebiehať v dňoch 24. decembra až 6. januára po celom Slovensku. Symbolickým ukončením 24. ročníka bude Trojkráľový sprievod ulicami Bratislavy, ktorý sa uskutoční v nedeľu 6. januára 2019 vôbec po prvýkrát.

Ako tomu býva zvykom, so začiatkom roka býva spätá aj tradičná návšteva prezidentského paláca. Prezident SR Andrej Kiska prijme 8. januára tri kolednícke skupinky z Brusnice, Kysuckého Nového Mesta a z Podunajských Biskupíc, ktoré mu zaspievajú a zavinišujú všetko dobré do Nového roka.



## Patróni a patrónky kostolov na Slovensku

Prvé storočie nášho letopočtu znamená u našich predkov isté rozhranie. Žili ešte pastierskym a kočovným životom, ktorý postupne opúšťali a začali sa usadzovať, stavať si obydlia, chovať dobytok, obrábať pôdu, pestovať obilniny... Vznikali tak osady, obce a z niektorých aj mestá, prevažne za panovania Ondreja II. (1205 – 1235).

Príchod kresťanstva na Slovensko spôsobil, že sa začali stavať kríže a kaplnky, v obciach a mestách aj kostoly spájajúce sa s menami svätcov a svätíc a stali sa tak po vysvätení ich patrónmi (patrónkami). Spomeniem niektoré:

Radoma : kostol Ružencovej Panny Márie

Sliach : kostol sv. Mikuláša a v areáli kúpeľov kaplnka sv. Hildegardy (dala ju postaviť v r. 1855 – v klasicistickom slohu v parku pod kúpeľmi v Rybároch (Sliachi) rakúska arcikňažná Hildegarda, manželka rakúskeho arcikniežaťa Albrechta, ako prejav vďaky za zlepšenie svojho zdravotného stavu počas pobytu v sliackych kúpeľoch)

Staré Hory: kostol Navštívenia Panny Márie

Mariánka: Bazilika Narodenia Panny Márie (najstaršie pútnické miesto na Slovensku)

Spišská Kapitula: katedrála sv. Martina

Prešov: kostol sv. Mikuláša, gréckokatolícky Chrám svätého Jána Krstiteľa, Chrám svätého Alexandra Nevského...

Lučenec: kostol Navštívenia Panny Márie...

Levice: kostol sv. Mikuláša...

Trstená: kostol sv. Martina

Detva: kostol svätého Františka z Assisi

Zvolen: kostol sv. Alžbety, evanjelický kostol svätej Trojice...

Banská Štiavnica: kostol Nanebovzatia Panny Márie...

Levoča: kostol sv. Jakuba (s najvyšším oltárom na svete – 18.6 m)...

Šaštín: Bazilika Sedembolestnej Panny Márie

Nitra: kostol sv. Petra a Pavla, kostol sv. Gorazda, Bazilika svätého Emeráma...

Tmava s 12 kostolmi nazývaná slovenský Rím: Bazilika svätého Mikuláša, kostol sv. Heleny, kostol sv. Jozefa...

Bratislava s 51 kostolmi: Dóm sv. Martina (bola tu korunovaná uhorská panovníčka Mária Terézia), kostol sv. Sebastiana, chrám sv. Rastislava, kostol Zvestovania Pána...

Košice: Dóm sv. Alžbety (považovaný za najkrajší na Slovensku), kostol Božieho Milosrdenstva, kostol Kráľovnej pokoja, kostol sv. Gorazda, Gréckokatolícka cerkev Narodenia Panny Márie...

Bardejov: Chrám sv. Egídia...

Banská Bystrica: kostol Nanebovzatia Panny Márie, kostol svätej Alžbety...

Skalica: kostol sv. Františka Xaverského, kostol sv. Michala archanjela, kostol Najsvätejšej Trojice...

Prívlastok „svätý“, „svätá!“ prenikol v tom období aj do názvov niektorých obcí a miest. Počas komunistickej totality bol však odstránený (priečilo sa to politike a ideológii jeho systému) a stal sa tak ich ochrancom – patrónom, napr.:

Svätý Jur - Jur pri Bratislave

Svätý Anton - Antol

Svätý Beňadik - Beňadik

Liptovský Svätý Mikuláš – Mikuláš

Turčiansky Svätý Martin – Martin...

Nuž ťažké to boli roky. Komunistický totalitný systém nepovolil počas svojho 50 ročného vládnutia postaviť ani kríž, ani kaplnku ani kostol, hoci zo strany kresťanov bola taká požiadavka. Po zániku totalitného režimu a obnovení demokracie a náboženskej slobody opäť kostoly na dedinách: Hronsek, Vlkanová, Kováčoviá..., v mestách a sídliskách: Zvolen, Petržalka...

Tak ako sa vo svete rozpadávajú komunistické režimy, rozpadol sa aj niekdajší na Slovensku. Andrej Štelmák, Sliach



Kostol Navštívenia Panny Márie Staré Hory.



Dóm sv. Alžbety v Košiciach.



Bazilika Narodenia Panny Márie v Mariánke.



Bazilika Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Šaštíne.



Chrám sv. Jakuba v Levoči.



## Tak víkali Nový rok 2019 v centre Bratislavy

Polnočný ohňostroj na Dunaji bol spojený so svetelnou a hudobnou šou so scenériou dunajského nábrežia. Centrálnou zónou silvestrovských osláv v meste bolo Námestie Ľudovíta Štúra, Hviezdoslavovo námestie a Rázusovo nábrežie. Ešte predtým však nechýbal tradičný silvestrovský beh cez bratislavské mosty. Ohňostroj bol odpálený z plavidla uprostred rieky Dunaj s hudobnou kulisou na motívy slávneho valčíka Johana Straussa - Na krásnom modrom Dunaji.



FOTO TASR – Pavel Neubauer

Pohľad na ohňostroj počas novoročných osláv 1. januára 2019 v Bratislave.

## Novoročný príhovor 2019 prezidenta Andreja Kisku

Stalo sa peknou tradíciou, že v prvý deň nového roka sa vám prihovám ako hlava štátu.

Želám všetko najlepšie vám — ľuďom, ktorí na Slovensku žijú, tým, ktorým je blízke ako aj všetkým našim rodákam po celom svete. Želám všetko najlepšie Slovensku — krajine, ktorej mám tú česť slúžiť a ktorá dnes oslavuje 26 rokov od svojho vzniku.

Ako prezident Slovenskej republiky sa vám na Nový rok prihovám posledný raz. Chcem zdôrazniť, opäť a úprimne, aká vzácna je pre mňa možnosť stráviť s vami takto aspoň niekoľko minút dnešného sviatočného dňa. A podeliť sa s vami o myšlienky, ktoré považujem za dôležité a možno i naliehavé.

Želám vám k Novému roku veľa zdravia, lásky a porozumenia. Želám vám rok plný úspechov, šťastia a pohody vo vašom rodinnom aj profesionálnom živote. Prajem vám, aby ste našli dostatok inšpirácie, odvahy a vnútornej sily na zvládnutie všetkých výziev, ktorým na ceste rokom 2019 budete čeliť. Želám vám veľa dobrých volieb a správnych rozhodnutí, ktoré vám prinesú radosť a spokojnosť.

Keď som sa prihovárал takto vlni, predpokladal som, že v roku 2018 budeme viac než inokedy spomínať a bilancovať. Mal to byť rok osláv okrúhlych výročí. Mala to byť príležitosť pripomenúť si symboliku osmičkových rokov, ktoré v našich dejinách zohrali mimoriadnu úlohu. A — v dobrom či v zlom — nás sformovali ako štát aj ako spoločnosť, akou sme dnes.

V roku 2018 sme mali spolu s priateľmi v Českej republike dôstojne osláviť nesmierny význam hodnôt slobody, demokracie, rešpektu k ľudským a občianskym právam, ktoré nám pred sto rokmi priniesla spoločná Československá republika.

Mali sme si so zdvihnutým varovným prstom pripomínať 70 rokov od nástupu totalitného režimu, ktorý nám na dlhé desaťročia slobodu a demokraciu vzal. Aj s pomocou tankov a vojakov armád Varšavskej zmluvy, ktorí pred 50 rokmi prišli zastrašiť túžbu ľudí po spravodlivejšej spoločnosti.

Mali sme s hlbokou úctou spomínať na odvahu veriacich, ktorí sa pred 30 rokmi postavili proti komunistickému režimu na Sviečkovej demonštrácii. V roku 2018 uplynulo presne dvadsať rokov, odkedy ľudia v parlamentných voľbách porazili mečiarizmus — cynický pokus zneužiť samostatnosť Slovenskej republiky na sebecké mocenské a ekonomické ciele.

Toto všetko sme minulý rok robili. Žiaľ, poznačení smútkom a hnevom. Pretože všetko bolo inak. Sám rok 2018 sa zaradil do histórie Slovenskej republiky ako ďalší prelomový „osmičkový“ rok. Taký, v ktorom nestačilo spomínať, nestačilo pripomínať si symboliku dejinných udalostí a vysvetľovať ich význam pre našu súčasnosť i našu budúcnosť. Vražda Jána Kuciaka a Marty Kušnírovej zmenila rok osláv a spomienok na rok, ktorý si budeme pamätať ako rok zápasu o slušnosť a spravodlivosť.

Vražda dvoch mladých ľudí a jej dôsledky nás prinútili pozrieť sa priamo na seba. Pozrieť sa priamo na spoločnosť, v ktorej žijeme. Pozrieť sa priamo na štát, ktorý tvoríme a rozvíjame. Stratili sme nárok sklopiť zrak a uhnúť pohľadom.

Pokračovanie na str. 22



EASYFOTO TASR - Jaroslav Bublinc

Na snímke prezident SR Andrej Kiska (tretí vpravo) odovzdáva pápežovi Františkovi dar zo Slovenska - štyri vianočné gule, ktoré vyrobili ľudia zo sociálne znevýhodnených skupín, počas audiencie 14. decembra 2018 vo Vatikáne.

On December 14, 2018 in the Vatican President Andrej Kiska presented Pope Francis ornaments made by handicapped children in Slovakia.

## A. Kiska bol u pápeža, odovzdal mu vianočné gule zo Slovenska

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska v piatok absolvoval audienciu u pápeža Františka. Odovzdal mu dar zo Slovenska - štyri vianočné gule, ktoré vyrobili ľudia zo sociálne znevýhodnených skupín.

Pápež pri preberaní vianočných guľ Kiskovi povedal, že ich nechá zavesiť na vianočný stromček v Dome svätej Marty, kde bude slúžiť omše až do Vianoc.

Po jednej vianočnej guľi pre pápeža vyrobili hendikepované deti a ich rodičia v košickom centre Liberta, deti a mladí dospelí v Detskom domove Turzovka, ľudia bez domova v bratislavskom centre Resoty Antona Srolca a žiaci základnej školy v Spišskom Hrhove, do ktorej chodia aj rómske deti.

Slovenský prezident v mene svojich krajanov pozval hlavu katolíckej cirkvi aj na návštevu Slovenska. Pápež na pozvanie odpovedal, že v princípe ho prijíma, avšak jedným dychom upozornil, že má nabitý program.

TASR

## Prehliadka betlehemských skupín



FOTO TASR - Lenka Krošláková

Na snímke Betlehemci z obce Lom nad Rimavicou počas prehliadky betlehemských skupín s názvom Pastierske hry vianočné, ktorú v dedine organizujú už po devätnásty raz. V Lome nad Rimavicou okres Brezno 29. decembra 2018.