



Jednota

THE UNION

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

Volume 126

WEDNESDAY, July 19, 2017

NUMBER 5956

Applications for 2017 Jednota Benevolent Foundation Scholarships Now Being Accepted



See page 10 for details

Deadline extended for 2017 FCSU Membership Meet

See page 13 for details



Have you put your Best Foot Forward?

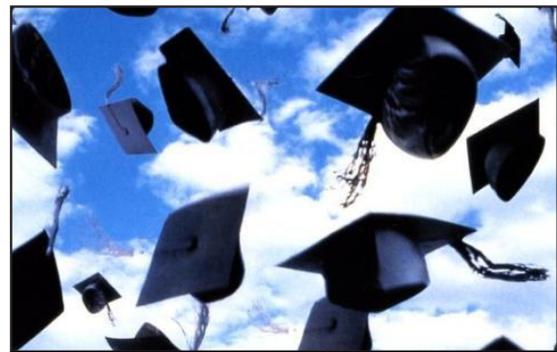


Join other FCSU members in this national exercise program today!
See page 10 for details

Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2
2016 Annual Reports.....	8 - 10
Branch Announcements.....	14 & 20
District Announcements.....	15
Slovak	21-24

The First Catholic Slovak Union Announces Its 2017 Jednota Scholarship Winners



The students pictured on pages 4 – 7 of this issue are chosen scholarship recipients by our Jednota Scholarship Committee as a result of their SAT scores, cumulative grade point average and class rank. In addition, each applicant was judged on the basis of his/her involvement in extra-curricular and volunteer activities. Emphasis was placed upon pride of being Catholic and Slovak as evidenced throughout the required essays on the applications. Finally, financial need and the cost of their chosen colleges were evaluated.



Endowing the Future:
Louis and Therese Dudas
Fund Jednota Scholarships
See page 7

May the Fourth Be With You!

8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.60%
6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA	3.20%
6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA	3.10%



Get a FREE Chewy Čuvač with a minimum deposit of \$10,000 on any one of the above products.

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Park 2 2.10%
Park Free Plus 1.50%



FCSU Financial[®] - First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact your branch officer of the home office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH 44131, 800.533.6682
www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com



Insights and Viewpoints



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

**July 23, 2017 - Sixteenth Sunday
of Ordinary Time.
Matthew 13; 24 - 43**

The Gospel today continues with some parables of Jesus. Parables are intended to cause the listener to think about them, and reflect on what Jesus meant in telling them. One can hear the same parable numerous times, and each time gain a different insight into its' meaning. The three

given to us today; the weeds among the wheat, the mustard seed, and the yeast, are about the Kingdom of Heaven. As I reflected on them the virtue that stands out is patience.

A common reaction when things in our lives don't go as planned is to quickly make changes without fully considering the consequences. When the farmer first realized that weeds were growing in the midst of his wheat he could have immediately begun to get rid of the weeds so as to protect the wheat. But as Jesus points out, pulling out the weeds would also mean pulling out the wheat. Jesus calls them to be patient. Patience is a virtue that seems to be seen less and less today. The patience to wait for the right moment to speak or act is not always easy. Waiting for God to answer our prayer can be frustrating. We expect ourselves and others to act quickly in making decisions. The pressure is on for the quick fix, not the well thought out solution or resolution.

When a child is taught how a little seed grows into a plant, it is common for the child to keep watching the soil for the plant, then to keep checking every few moments. One of the first lessons we learn when it comes to planting is that it takes time. When we plant a seed we aren't going to see the plant, bush or tree mature for quite a while, sometimes years. Like the mustard seed in the parable, the seed is so small yet grows into the beautiful flower, spreading shrub, or mighty tree. It's hard to believe when we look at the seed to envision how with patience we will see the growth. The same is true in our spiritual lives. We might have experienced some conversion and we look at our lives and realize how much we have to change. That realization can become almost overwhelming and lead us to think that it is impossible to make all these changes. When the changes don't happen right away we can become frustrated and discouraged. God is patient with us and we would do well to imitate Christ by cultivating the virtue of patience. With patience we can walk the road of conversion, and progress in the spiritual life.

Patience does seem to be lacking in society today. We like "fast food", instant news and movies via the internet, online banking, a quick response to our emails and texts. We have grown too accustomed to getting things taken care of quickly, and patience has faded into the background. A rediscovery of patience is necessary in our lives. It is patience that is needed for us to see the Kingdom of Heaven that is in our midst. God's presence slowly becomes more evident in our lives, and the answer to prayers involves our slowly uniting our prayers with the will of God. Sometimes our vision of the Kingdom is small, but as we patiently grow in faith it becomes more and more evident in our lives. The three parables teach us that the Kingdom of God is here, and will take time for it to become fully established. Meanwhile, we have the need to be patient and attentive to how God is working within us and in the world.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

**July 30, 2017 – 17th Sunday of the Year
Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52**

Listening is a skill often unpracticed today; we only need to note current political discourse, TV commentators on current events, and even observe carefully our own family communications to realize that we tend to talk a lot and listen relatively little.

In the midst of a world where there is so much chatter and so little respectful attention we hear Solomon asking God in today's first reading for the gift of "a listening heart", preferring this disposition of openness to others more than power or wealth. For his part the Psalmist extolls the virtue of listening, the wisdom books of the Old Testament insist upon it ceaselessly, and our Lord himself often begins his teaching by urging his disciples to "hear a parable..." as we heard at mass two weeks ago.

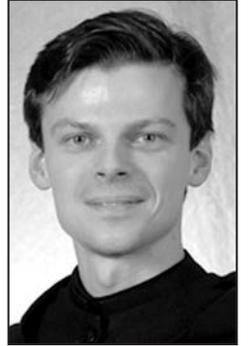
In that same passage Jesus explained why active, conscious listening was critical for those to whom he preached, and remains so for us; he says that if we do not make this effort: "they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand... they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them" (Matt 13:13, 15).

St. Benedict too, not surprisingly, gets in on the act, beginning his monastic Rule with the words: "Listen carefully with the ear of the heart...", and urging his monks to have a great esteem for silence and attentiveness. The wisdom that arises from careful listening enables us to discern what is truly important in life and in our faith; this is what Jesus was trying to explain in the parable of the buried treasure and that of the pearl of great price. We do not sell everything we have and use the proceeds to buy an object if that object is not of truly compelling worth.

Circling back to the first reading for today we behold the great Solomon, faced with a momentous choice: God has offered to give him anything he asks for, even immense wealth, victory over his enemies, prestige—anything. The way Solomon responds is instructive: "I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong" (1 Kings 3:8-9).

What is rendered in the lectionary as an "understanding" heart actually means a "listening" heart in Hebrew. Perhaps the translators sought to explain what the metaphor of a listening heart is getting at, but I believe it requires no explanation. We all know how powerful language can be even when it is figurative: when we say or hear "my heart is broken", or "I jumped out of my skin". These are ways of capturing in limited human words the visceral reality of sadness or fear...or careful attentiveness.

In any case Solomon recognized what was of real value in living his vocation as a follower of the Lord and as the King of Israel: the wisdom that only comes with "a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith" (1 Tim 1:5). In turn this wisdom only comes to those who are humble enough to listen to it quietly and peaceably. May we attune our hearts to be listening and understanding so that the Lord's precious gifts might not be lost on us, and so we may share them generously, "like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matt 13:52).



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16	MONDAY, AUG. 7
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13	MONDAY, SEPT. 5
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4	MONDAY, SEPT. 25

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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**SLOVAK CATHOLIC
PILGRIMAGE TO
MARIAN SHRINE**

174 Filors Lane
Stony Point, NY 10980

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 13, 2017
HOLY MASS AT 11 AM
Slovak Lunch at 12:30
ROSARY PROCESSION
AT 2:30 PM**

Confessions will be available before
the Mass

Pilgrimage is organized by the St. Stephen Society no. 716 of the First Catholic Slovak Union with the support of the St. John Nepomucene Church

For more information please call Mária Božeková at 1-347-612-1934 or Lisa Calabrese at 1-212-734-4613. If you are interested in going to the pilgrimage by bus, please let Lisa or Mária know as soon as possible. The cost of the bus is \$40 per adult, \$15 per child (12 or younger). This includes bus rental, tolls, tip, coffee and donuts on the bus, lunch and donation to the shrine. Bus only is \$30 for adults, \$10 for children.



Commemorate Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel in DC's National Shrine this Sept



On September 5, 1965, thousands of Slovak Catholics crowded into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC for the blessing of a chapel dedicated to their patroness, Our Mother of Sorrows. The chapel was donated by the First Catholic Slovak Union, marking the 75th anniversary of its founding, and was blessed by Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, apostolic delegate in the United States. On September 12, 2015, the First Catholic Slovak Union commemorated the Chapel's 50th anniversary.

This year, Branch 856 of the Washington DC area is inviting everyone to come join them to honor the 52nd anniversary of the most-visited chapel in the National Shrine. Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 11:00AM. See the Branch 856 listing on page 19 of this issue for details.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – FCSU Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2017, in observance of Labor Day.

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

Message from the National Chaplain:

A Summary of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's Encyclical God Is Love – Part III

This is the third of series of three articles summarizing Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's first encyclical, God is Love. The service of charity is the theme.

Every level of the entire church community has the responsibility to practice love of neighbor, which needs to be organized to be carried out practically. By calling to mind the establishment of the diaconate in the beginnings of the church, Benedict shows that the ministry of charity to which deacons were (and are) called to perform in a communitarian and orderly way became part of the basic structure of the Church.

Works of charity, along with the administration of the sacraments and evangelization, became established as essential activities of the church from the beginning. These three duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. The Church cannot neglect her works of charity any more than she can neglect the sacraments or the Word.

The Church is God's family in the world. No one in this family ought to go without the necessities of life. At the same time, agape (self-giving love) or charity extends beyond the edges of the Church.

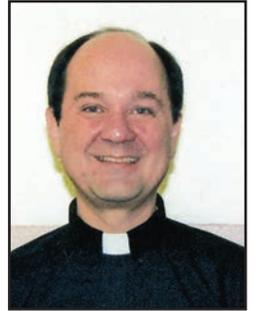
The 19th century and the influence of Marxism (the poor need justice, not charity) challenged the Church's charitable activity. Almsgiving, or charitable works, became seen as a way for the rich to appease their consciences and preserve their own status while avoid its obligation to work for justice.

Benedict notes that churches' response to these changing times was slow. He lists several papal encyclicals and apostolic letters written over the course of 100 years that gradually helped form today's Catholic social teaching. A comprehensive presentation of Catholic social teaching, The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, was published by the Pontifical Council Iustitia et Pax in 2004.

These situations are to be considered when examining the relationship between the commitment to justice and the ministry of charity. While Catholic social doctrine is intended to help form consciences in political life and to help contribute in the here and now to knowing and achieving what is just, the central responsibility for justice in society and the State is in the political realm. The State should not regulate, control, and provide everything, but rather, in accord with the principle of subsidiarity, generally acknowledge and support initiatives arising from various social forces and combine spontaneity with closeness to those in need.

Three essential elements of Christian and ecclesial charity are offered by Benedict. Immediate needs and specific situations call for a simple response. Such a response must be independent of parties and ideologies. Those who practice charity in Christ's name are never to impose the Church's faith on others.

People who carry out the Church's charitable works on the practical level should have as their motivation not an inner desire to improve the world, but rather a faith that works through love, Christ's love. Benedict calls 1 Corinthians 13 the Magna Carta of all ecclesial service, for it summarizes all his reflections on love throughout this encyclical.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

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

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6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131
PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-4310

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2017

The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on

SATURDAY, July 22, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. (telephonically).

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 22, 2017.

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to July 17, 2017.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

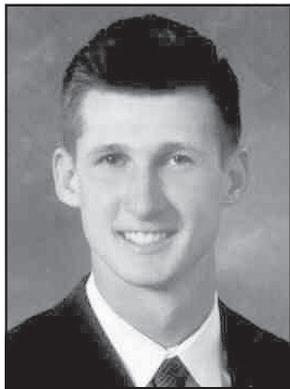
2017 Jednota Scholarship Winners

**PHILIP HROBAK
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD**

Top Male

MRAZIK, DAVID RAYMOND

Parents: Kurt & Amy Mrazik;
Branch: 038K; College: Penn State
University; Major: Civil Engineering

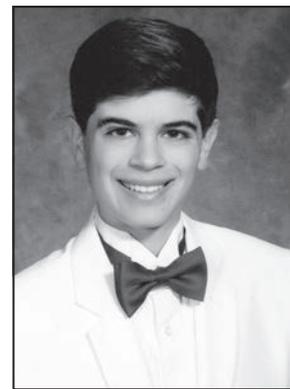


LOUIS AND THERESE DUDAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



**DAVIS, JACOB
DOUGLAS**

Parents: Peter & Beth Davis;
Branch: 855K; College : Miami
University; Major: Business



**FIGURA, ANTHONY
ALBERT**

Parents: Robert & Maria
Figura; Branch : 041K; College:
Carroll School of Management at
Boston College; Major: Business



MOXCEY, ANNA ROSE

Parents: Ursula Moxcey; Tom
& Adriana Scally; Branch: 450K;
College: Tri-C, Major: Spanish



**STEPHANIE HUSEK
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARD**

Top Female

HEYDT, JORDAN CYNTHIA

Parents: Roger & Judith Heydt;
Branch: 096K; College: Mount St.
Mary's University; Major : Biology



MOYNIHAN, JOHN T.

Parents: Joseph & Susan
Moynihan; Branch: 024K; Col-
lege: John Carroll University; Ma-
jor: Pre Med/Biology



NUESLEIN, RACHEL C.

Parents: Mark & Angela
Nueslein; Branch: 173K ; College:
University of Maryland; Major: Bi-
ology/Pre-Medicine

**JOHN A. SABOL NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
FUND NURSING AWARDS**



**MCDONALD, LOGAN
MARCUS.**

Parents: Kevin & Allison McDon-
ald; Branch: 019K; College: Univer-
sity of Connecticut; Major: Nursing



**NAJDA, LAUREN
PAULINE**

Parents: Christopher & Melissa
Najda; Branch: 855K; College:
Duquesne University; Major:
Nursing

REGULAR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**ADAMS, ANNY
ELIZABETH**

Parents: Larry & Marcy Adams;
Branch: 199K; College: West Vir-
ginia University; Major: Nursing



**BANKOVICH, SARA
ELIZABETH**

Parents: Jeffrey & Denise
Bankovich; Branch: 181K; Col-
lege: Ohio University; Major: Ac-
counting



**BARBIERI, DANIEL
FREDRICK**

Parents: Frederick & Sandra
Barbieri, Branch: 670K; College:
Thiel College, Major: Biology



VELIKY, COLE VINCENT

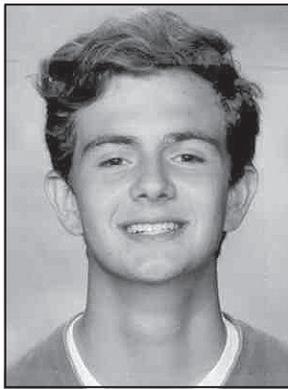
Parents: John & Jane Veliky;
Branch: 670K; College: Univer-
sity of Pittsburgh; Major: CRNA
(Certified Registered Nurse Anes-
thetist)

2017 Jednota Scholarship Winners



BARDAR, JARED THOMAS

Parents: Thomas & Lynn Bardar; Branch: 855K; College: Kent State University; Major: Digital Media Production



BARNES, NICHOLAS LAWRENCE

Parents: Lawrence Barnes & Clare Mikula; Branch: 714K; College: Miami University; Major: Finance, Actuarial Science



BEDNER, ALEXANDRA MARIE

Parents: Eugene & Tina Bedner; Branch: 670K; College: The University of Pittsburgh; Major: Communications



BUBENCHIK, LEXI BRYANNA

Parents: Richard & Lori Bubenchik; Branch: 497K; College: Texas A&M University Commerce; Major: Business and Chemistry



CERESKE, LAURIN ASHLEIGH

Parents: Thomas & Kimberly Cereske; Branch: 633K; College: Michigan State University; Major: Education



CHILTON, YSABELLA MARIE

Parents: Darren & Kathleen Chilton; Branch: 735K; College: University of Oregon; Major: Health Sciences



CLAY, JUSTIN JOHN

Parents: John & Andrea Clay; Branch: 553K; College: University of Alabama; Major: Business



COLACARRO, DANIELLE MARGARET

Parents: Jeff & Maria Colacarro; Branch: 900K; College: University of Akron; Major: Business Administration



COLLINS, KRISTEN MARIE

Parents: Gregory & Linda Collins; Branch: 002K; College: Penn State Behrend; Major: Mechanical Engineering



COLVILL, KYLIE JACQUELINE

Parents: Donald Colvill & Robyn Albani; Branch: 367K; College: Eastern New Mexico University; Major: Elementary Education



COVALESKI, ALEXANDER JACOB

Parents: Alan & Cindy Covalleski; Branch: 419K; College: Penn State; Major: Business Marketing



DOWLING-CAMPBELL, KATHRYN LEE

Parents: Kevin Dowling & Jamie Oros; Branch: 162K; College: University of Virginia; Major: Chemistry/Pre-Med



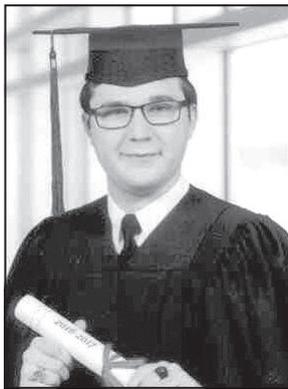
DREISTADT, AMBER LEE

Parents: Jeffrey & Melissa Dreistadt; Branch: 181K; College: Duquesne University; Major: Business



ESTRIGHT, JENNIFER MARIE

Parents: Gregory & Mary Estright; Branch: 055K; College: East Stroudsburg University; Major: Speech Pathology



GADOSY, SIDNEY TIMOTHY

Parents: Dr. Timothy Gadosy & Johanne Hebert; Branch: 810K; College: John Abott College; Major: Computer Programming



GREGA, SARAH MARIE

Parents: Thomas & Pamela Grega; Branch: 041K; College: St. John's University; Major: Biomedical Sciences



GUSCOTT, ANDREA MARY

Parents: William & Diane Guscott; Branch: 175K; College: Elizabethtown College; Major: Political Science



HANLON, DANIELLE ELIZABETH

Parents: Brian & Donna Hanlon; Branch: 004K; College: DePaul University; Major: Public Relations and Political Science



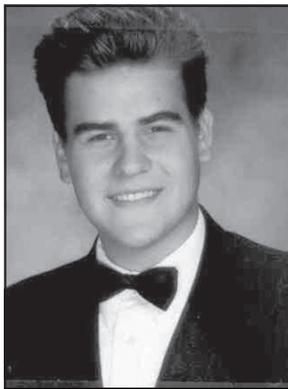
HRADESKY, LAUREN J.

Parents: Earl & Jennifer Hradesky; Branch: 900K; College: The University of Cincinnati; Major: Biomedical Studies



KNOLL, JACOB GUNNER

Parents: Greg & Kimberli Knoll; Branch: 228K; College: University of Akron; Major: Computer Engineering



KOLESAR, JASON JUSTIN

Parents: Dusan & Viera Kolesar; Branch: 746K; College: Rutgers University; Major: Biomedical Engineering



KOVAL, MICHAEL DEAN

Parents: Michael & Amy Koval; Branch: 003P; College: Pennsylvania State University; Major: Political Science



KUBENIK, DEVON CARYLE

Parents: Michael & Kelly Kubenik; Branch: 716K; College: Salem State University; Major: Accounting/Finance



LUCAS, MEGAN MICHELLE

Parents: Bob & Michelle Lucas; Branch: 857K; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Mathematics

2017 Jednota Scholarship Winners



**MODOCK, EMMA
ELIZABETH**

Parents: Nicholas & Holly Modock; Branch: 001K; College: Central Michigan University; Major: Special Education



MOHRBACH, LUCAS E.

Parents: Edward & Diane Mohrbach; Branch: 738K; College: The University of Michigan - Flint; Major: Computer Engineering



**MONKS, PATRICK
THOMAS**

Parents: Thomas & Susan Monks; Branch: 019K; College: Western Connecticut State University; Major: Creative writing/Economics



MORITZ, JULIA MARIE

Parents: James & Laurel Moritz; Branch: 484K; College: University of Arizona; Major: Business



MOTICHKA, ELLIE ANNE

Parents: Francis & Cynthia Motichka; Branch: 238K; College: Mansfield University; Major: Music Education



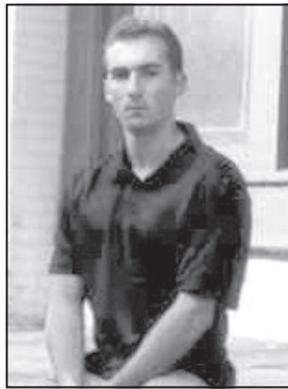
**MYSCHISIN, JESSICA
RAE**

Parents: Jason & Stacy Myschisin; Branch: 200K; College: Allegheny College; Major: Biology (Pre-Dental)



**NOWATKOSKI,
ALEXANDER MICHAEL**

Parents: Greg & Karen Nowatkoski; Branch: 856K; College: East Carolina University; Major: Business/Business Marketing



**OBERER, JOSEPH
EDWARD**

Parents: Sean & Cathryn Oberer; Branch: 714K; College: Michigan Technological University; Major: Electrical Engineering



**OKUNEWICK, CHARLES
FRANCIS**

Parents: Eric & Gretchen Okunewick; Branch: 280K; College: St. Bonaventure University; Major: Digital & Strategic Communications



PAYNE, SPENCER E.

Parents: Erik & Jill Payne; Branch: 055K; College: Kutztown University; Major: Communication Studies



PELLINO, MARIAH JEAN

Parents: Jim & Cheri Pellino; Branch: 040K; College: Clarke University; Major: Art & Communications



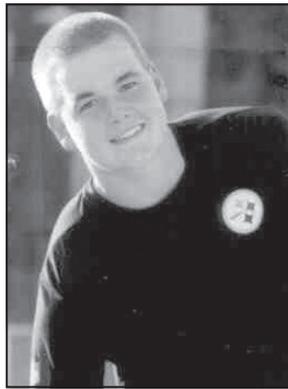
**RADWILL, RACHAEL
ANN**

Parents: George & Sandra Radwill; Branch: 019K; College: Southern Connecticut State University; Major: Education



RAY, ALLISON MARIE

Parents: Christopher & Karen Ray; Branch: 735K; College: Oregon State University; Major: Engineering



**REINKE, BRETT
ALEXANDER**

Parents: Jason & Monica Reinke; Branch: 254K; College: Virginia Tech; Major: Undecided



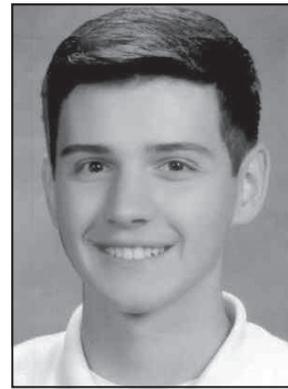
**ROHRBACH, CARRISA
ELIZABETH**

Parents: Richard & Anita Rohrbach; Branch: 157K; College: Duquesne University; Major: Nursing



**RUFFING, JOSHUA
RONALD**

Parents: Jeff & Rebecca Ruffing; Branch: 670K; College: Penn State University; Major: Undecided



**RUSZAS, JOSHUA
FRANCIS**

Parents: Joseph & Teresa Ruszas; Branch: 157K; College: Duquesne University; Major: Pre-Med



**SAMBUCINI, ALLISON
NICOLE**

Parents: Frank & Joanne Sambucini; Branch: 238K; College: Emerson College; Major: Journalism



**SKOLKA, COURTNEY
JANE**

Parents: John & Kim Skolka; Branch: 019K; College: Arcadia University; Major: Marketing/Graphic Design



**STRAKA, ASHLEY
TAYLOR**

Parents: Gregory & June Straka; Branch: 175K; College: Penn State Berks; Major: Early Childhood Education (pre-K-4)



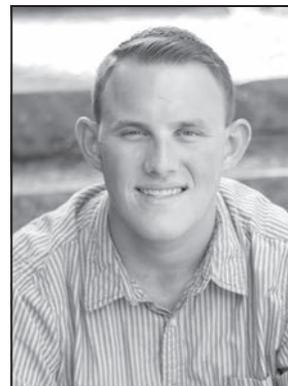
STROBLE, OLIVIA ROSE

Parents: Richard and Suzanne Stroble; Branch: 484K; College: Scranton University; Major: Biology



STRUNGA, HAYDN SHEA

Parents: Kevin Strunga & Kelly Shea; Branch: 900K; College: John Abbot College; Major: Honours Science



**TODOROWSKI,
LANCE M.**

Parents: Michael & Diane Todorowski; Branch: 002K; College: University of Dayton; Major: Mechanical Engineering



**UNGVARSKY, MICHAEL
JOHN**

Parents: John & Kathleen Ungvarsky; Branch: 173K; College: Duke University; Major: Economics

2017 Jednota Scholarship Winners



URBANEK, JACOB MITCHELL

Parents: David & Aneena Urbanek; Branch: 228K; College: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology; Major: Mechanical Engineering



VIGODA, PHILIP MARTIN

Parents: Bernard & Janine Vigoda; Branch: 112K; College: Marywood University; Major: Architecture



VON PLESS, JAMES EDWARD

Parents: David & Doreen Von Pless; Branch: 024K; College: The Ohio State University; Major: Sports Journalism/Marketing



WHEELER, BRANDON MICHAEL

Parents: Tim & Carol Wheeler; Branch: 855K; College: Kent State University; Major: Information Technology



WILHELM, KAYLA BROOKE

Parents: Damian & Stacy Wilhelm; Branch: 853K; College: Wayland Baptist University; Major: Athletic Training



WITTMAN, JAMES ROBERT

Parents: Robert & Robin Wittman; Branch: 714K; College: University of Cincinnati; Major: Construction Management



YARBROUGH, THOMAS BRYCE

Parents: Bruce & Joanne Yarbrough; Branch: 166K; College: Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences; Major: Pharmaceutical Sciences



ZITTLE, SIERRA OLIVIA

Parents: Ernie & Kimberly Zittle; Branch: 003P; College: Elizabethtown College; Major: Occupational Therapy



Endowing the Future: Louis and Therese Dudas Fund Jednota Scholarships

The First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) was founded on the tenets of faith, family, fraternalism, and heritage. Louis and Therese (Schostok) Dudas, who endowed \$10,000 to the Jednota Scholarship fund, certainly embody all four. Both sets of parents immigrated to the United States from Slovakia (then Czechoslovakia); both have been active in their parishes; both have participated in Slovak fraternal life; and both have made sure their children have been involved in all of the above.

Louis' father came to the United States in the mid-1920s from Zavadka nad Hronom, a village on the Hron River in Slovakia. His mother came from Pežinok near Bratislava. His parents met in Chicago, IL, where both had family. Louis and his siblings grew up in a robust Slovak-centric city neighborhood, attending Slovak parishes such as SS Cyril & Methodius (where his parents met and were married) and later, Sacred Heart. Almost from birth, Louis was enrolled in the First Catholic Slovak Union, as were



his father and uncle before him. Louis and Therese carried the tradition of fraternalism forward when they began their own family. Their sons Eric and Joel were enrolled in the FCSU at early ages. In addition to participating in the FCSU and other Slovak fraternals, Louis and Therese were active in their parish and made sure Eric and Joel had first-hand knowledge of their

Slovak roots. In 2001, they took their sons to visit the Slovak villages from which their paternal and maternal grandparents immigrated.

As to why the Dudas' decided to endow the Jednota scholarships: Louis remembers the scholarships he was awarded as a student at DePaul University and then the University of Chicago. He recalls that although they

may not have been large amounts, they were very important to him in attaining his degrees, and gave him the motivation to continue striving toward his goals.

So when the time came to take mandatory distribution of their IRA (which the US government requires starting at age 70 ½), Louis reveals: "My wife and I talked it over and decided to do something meaningful with the money we were required to withdraw from our account. We care deeply about education – and given our heritage and our faith - the Jednota scholarship fund made perfect sense. Our hope is that the students use this starter contribution toward their education to excel."

"I wish more members in our position would consider doing the same. These kids are our future, after all; and supporting them is in keeping with the traditions of our Catholic faith and Slovak fraternalism. Plus, charitable contributions from IRAs are tax exempt. Can't get much better than that," he adds.

National Auditors 2016 Annual Report to Management Year Ending December 31, 2016

In order to assure the accuracy and efficacy of the current practices and procedures used to safeguard the assets of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the internal audit team reviewed the fiscal year from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016. This quarterly review allows confirmation that numbers are precise and truthful, reveal any possibility of fraud, waste, or abuse, and ultimately recommend improvements to existing processes and procedures.

The audit is performed in accordance with the bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, effective January 1, 2015. The necessary information to complete this review was provided by the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Below is a list of the processes that were chosen for audit. Our responsibility is to report on the areas chosen thus our review would not necessarily disclose all weaknesses in the organizations internal controls.

THE AUDIT PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES INCLUDED, BUT WERE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Review expense vouchers submitted.
 - Ensure expense vouchers
 - contain required and relevant documentation
 - calculations are correct
 - approvals are obtained
 - checks are properly issued and documented
- Test death claims processed.
 - Ensure death claims
 - contain required and relevant documentation
 - are processed correctly according to FCSU
 - checks are properly issued and documented
- Test payroll and personnel procedures.
 - Ensure payroll and personnel
 - procedures are in place and functioning properly
 - calculations of earning, special payments, benefits, taxes and voluntary/involuntary deductions are accurate complete and timely
 - transactions are accurately reflected in the accounting system
- Test branch stipend processing
 - Ensure stipend requests
 - contain required and relevant documentation
 - Annual report
 - Financial report
 - verify at least 2 published announcements
 - submitted by February 15
 - contract(s) obtained
- Test bank reconciliation process
 - Ensure bank reconciliations
 - are performed in a timely manner
 - verify cleared and outstanding checks
 - account for deposits, transfers, withdrawals and bank fees
 - are reconciled to the accounting system
- Test certificate loan process
 - Ensure certificate loans
 - contain proper approvals and signatures
 - invoices are mailed in a timely manner
 - interest is calculated properly
- Review corporate credit card procedures
 - Verify proper internal controls are being utilized to ensure
 - relevant documentation present
 - approval follows designated chain of authority
 - mathematical calculations are correct
- Review outside agent payment process
 - Verify outside agent payments
 - are in accordance with contract on file
 - are issued only if certificates and licenses are current
 - are approved by appropriate personnel

Audit procedure programs written by the auditing team were used throughout the year to evaluate the key operations of the specific areas chosen to be audited. Issues and concerns brought forward by Board Members were also investigated. Discussion with management and staff, observations, and analytical testing was performed.

All results were presented to the President and/or Executive Secretary prior to closing the audit. Based on the results of our review, as well as concerns voiced by members of the Board, we noted two particular areas in need of attention.

1) STIPEND PAYMENT APPROVAL

There was a lack of punctuality found regarding announcements of meetings in the official organ.

Of seventy-nine branches requesting stipends to be paid in 2016, seventy-three of these were eventually granted. Several of those not paid failed to attend district meetings.

Eleven branches were approved for stipends, despite lacking mandatory requirements. Three of these branches announcements were received by the home office in a timely manner, but were not published on time. May it be noted that this tardiness was through no fault of the individual branches, as their announcements were submitted to the home office within the deadline.

Three branches published announcements more than 30 days prior to a scheduled branch activity. It was assumed members knew an official meeting was to be held after the event although this was not mentioned in the announcement.

Three branches had announcements published a week or less shy of the 30-day requirement.

One branch announced a meeting in November but was a 2016 meeting.

One branch was erroneously paid a stipend with no explanation.

In order to be fair, eight branches that were initially rejected payment because of late submissions of announcements were eventually granted payment.

RECOMMENDATION

The auditing team recommends that all questionable stipend payments be discussed closely amongst the Executive Committee before payment is granted.

That closer attention be paid by branches to the punctuality and clarity of stipend announcements.

2) EXPENSE REPORTS

A serious breach has been made regarding expense report submission. In the months of May and June, 2016 one individual submitted five reports for payment totaling \$7,344.16. In the months of August and September, 2016 another individual submitted for payment five vouchers totaling \$18,791.96. These five ranged in date between the years 2014 and 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

A small amount of leeway is acceptable, though highly discouraged, when approving reports after the 60-day time limit has expired. This short forgiveness period is to account for human error or issues with submission, and is not intended to promote neglect. Therefore, unless legitimate proof of extenuating circumstances that have prevented an expense report from being submitted can be provided, those vouchers egregiously exceeding the 60-day time period should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Hunka—Chairman
Raymond G. Lako
John J. Leskovyansky, Jr.
Leonard Zilko

2016 Annual Report of Region 1 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers, and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors:

It is my honor to represent Region 1 on the Board of Directors. Firstly, I would like to thank the Executive Board and all of my fellow board members for their guidance, collaboration, and support. I am eager to continue to learn and collaboratively work together to grow our society.

I have performed all the duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union. As part of my duties and responsibilities as a Regional Director, I've attended all Board of Directors meetings personally or via teleconference and participated in meetings on invitation of the President.

I've attended all of Msgr. John E. Rura, District 4 meetings and Branch 746 meetings. In addition, I've attended Branch 45 meeting as well as the District 16 meeting.

In 2016, I represented the First Catholic Slovak Union at various events organized by local branches, Slovak and/or Czech non-profit organizations, and events hosted by representatives of the Slovak government in the United States. To highlight a few:

- **23rd Annual Slovak Ball** – On Jan 30th, 2016 many Jednota members attended the annual Slovak Ball organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center which featured special guest performer Peter Lipa considered the "Godfather of Slovak Jazz". The event drew together older and younger generations.

- **Mary Karch's Retirement Celebration** - On Sunday, April 10th, I helped to organize Mrs. Karch Retirement party which was held in conjunction with Branch 746 and District 4 meetings. The luncheon celebrated Mrs. Karch's more than 50 years of membership with FCSU and many years of dedicated service as a member of the branch board serving as Treasurer since 2001 where she organized many Slovak dances, picnics, day trips and other activities.

- **Mother's Day Children's performance** – On May 8th the Slovak children's school, Slovenské centrum deti- LIPKA Academy, based at Holy Family Church in Linden put on a Mother's Day program followed by a luncheon. The program included recitation of poetry, songs, and Slovak folk dances. The event was attended by sixteen Jednota members. Jednota's youngest members were part of the program as they attend the Lipka Academy on Saturday mornings for Slovak language classes. At the end of the program Branch 746 surprised the children with a donation check to fund an interactive learning module. Branch 746 also distributed informational and promotional materials about FCSU to those attending and mini gift bags to the children performing. As Regional Director I am interested in continuing to collaborate with the Slovak school on future events.

- **Children's Folk Program** – On Sunday, May 8th the Slovak-American Cultural Center hosted a Children's Folklore program. All Slovak schools and dance groups in the NY and NJ areas participated. The event brought together 100+ children in the age category of 5-16 on the stage of St. John Nepomucene in New York City with an attentive audience of over three hundred people. The event was attended by Branch 45, 716, and 746 members.

- **Branch 746 Picnic** – On July 10th I attended and assisted in organizing the Branch 746 picnic which was hosted at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Linden, New Jersey. Also in attendance were Branch 290 members. The picnic was a great opportunity for members to get together, catch up with friends, and celebrate the beautiful summer weather.

- **Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine, NY** – On August 14th I attended the pilgrimage to Marian Shrine in Haverstraw, NY hosted by Branch 716. The day commenced with Mass celebrated by Jednota members Fr. George Torok and Fr. Richard Baker followed by a luncheon and the recitation of the rosary.

- **Exhibit of Slovak paintings with opening by Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign & European Affairs of the Slovak Republic** – On July 13th I attended the opening of an exhibit at the United Nations with H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, the Slovak candidate for the Secretary General position.

- **Slovak Fashion Night in New York** – On Sept 8th I attended the Slovak Fashion night hosted by the Consulate General of Slovakia in New York and +421 Foundation. At the event, I was able to engage with non-FCSU members and encouraged them to check out our website and the products that we offer.

- **Pilgrims to the Basilica of the National Shrine** – On Sept 18th Branch 856 under the leadership of Katerine Nowatkoski organized the annual celebratory mass at the Shrine. Though I was not able to attend the event, Slovak communities from NJ and NY were in attendance as well as Region 1 local branch members. A bus was organized from St. John Nepomucene to transport members to the event. I commend Katerine for keeping the tradition of this pilgrimage alive for so many years, for her hard work with organizing the event and look forward to next year's pilgrimage.

- **Meeting with President of the Slovak Republic** – On Sept 20th, H.E. Andrej Kiska visited New York on the occasion of the opening of the United Nations General Assembly. The Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Frantisek Ruzicka hosted a reception at his residence with young Slovak professionals and members and leaders of various Slovak organizations. I was honored to be invited and represent FCSU at the reception.

- **Slovak Festival** – On October 2nd, I attended the Slovak Festival in New Jersey where I assisted our Vice President Mr. Harcar and Andrew P. Rajec at the table in distributing promotional materials, meeting members and non-members, and spreading the word about our society. Also assisting throughout the day were all three generations of Minarovichs – Joe, Stephen, and Adam. In attendance were approximately 5,000 people from the NJ, NY, CT, and PA areas. Despite the rain, we were able to distribute promotional materials, newspapers, and engage with those interested to learn more about our society. The Slovak Festival is one of the largest festivals organized in the US and is a perfect outlet to promote our society, draw attention to what Jednota does, and solicit new members. The day concluded with a concert by famous Slovak superstar Katka Knechtova.

- **Woodrow Wilson Freedom Lecture** – On Nov 18th, I attended the 17th annual Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture with a keynote address by Ambassador Rastislav Káčer Slovak Ambassador to Hungary who commented on U.S. relations with Central Europe. After the lecture Friends of Slovakia

hosted a luncheon for Amb Kacer, Amb Kmec, and the Board of Directors of FOS. Also in attendance were Jednota members Chairman of Friends of Slovakia and Honorary Consul Joseph Senko and his wife Albina.

• **Slovak Dances** – On Dec 1st on the occasion of the conclusion of the EU presidency, I attended a wonderful concert at Carnegie Hall by the renowned Peter Breiner who performed his compilation of classical and folk music called Slovak Dances. It was a full house and definitely a proud moment for all the Slovaks in the audience to have our own Slovak maestro perform on the world's most prestigious stage.

• **Slovak Young Professionals Networking event** – On Dec 11th I attended a networking event organized and hosted by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, DC in cooperation with the Consulate of the Slovak Republic in New York. The topics of discussion were focused on: Education, Science & Research. Some interesting ideas came about from my interactions on potential programs/projects that FCSU could engage in terms of working with Honorary Consuls, educational opportunities for our young members, highlighting Slovakia's innovation projects in our newspaper, engaging with successful Slovak companies and entrepreneurs in the US, and so on. I am happy to brainstorm, develop and pursue some of ideas with the support of the Board if they see that they would be of interest and beneficial to the society.

• **Children's Mikulas Celebrations** – On Dec 18th I attended the Slovenské centrum detí- LIPKA Academy's Mikulas (Christmas) concert/program. Children from all of the grades participated in the program which was beautifully choreographed. The performances included singing of Slovak Christmas carols, recitation of poems, and various dances. Branch 746 continues to support the Slovak school and its activities as many of our youngest Jednota members attend the school. Congratulations to the teachers on their dedication and all that they do to teach our kids our beautiful Slovak language, history, and folk traditions.

• **Jednota Christmas Party** – On Dec 18th, Branch 746 had its annual Christmas party after the Branch meeting. Members had a lot of fun with the raffle of Christmas gifts! Catering was provided by our members, Mr. and Mrs. Rada and their son, Steven. At the meeting, discussion was held on upcoming activities to be planned for 2017.

• **Consul General Jana Trnovcova's Farewell Reception** – On Jan 8th of this year, a farewell gathering was organized at St. John Nepomucene for the Consul General who, after 4.5 years of fruitful service, was leaving her post in New York. This was one of many receptions organized in her honor which is a testament to the mark that she left on those she engaged with. Later in the month I also attended another reception hosted for members of the diplomatic community at the residence of H.E. Ambassador Frantisek Ruzicka. In her years as Consul General, Jana played an integral role in bringing together the Slovak communities, engaging with Slovak organizations, and coordinating an incredible number of activities, networking events, and informal gatherings. On behalf of FCSU, I thanked Ms. Trnovcova for her dedicated service and friendship. The Consul General had an opportunity to visit FCSU home office in November when she was part of the delegation which included the Director of USZZ.

Ongoing activities:

• It is always with sadness that we say goodbye to our loved ones; this year we have lost several branch members and we continue to remember them in our prayers. When possible, I have attended wakes, funerals, and visited those that are ill.

• **TV LUX Television Broadcast** – In June 2015 TV LUX, an independent Slovak catholic television station (the Slovak version of EWTN), launched a monthly live broadcast of Slovak mass from the US. I was privileged to be a part of the very first broadcast and continue to support the mission and ministry. Long time Jednota member, Rev. George Torok, Rector of Oratory of St. Filip of Neri as well as Branch 746 members Fr. Vladimir Chripko and Fr. Jozef Krajnak, PhD serve as celebrants at these masses. The masses are available to view on the website of TV LUX through the archives portal (<http://www.tvlux.sk/videoarchiv/>). I encourage our members who are interested in documentary films, listening to Slovak masses, etc to visit their website. Throughout 2016, I was honoured to be a part of several of these live broadcasts. In December Branch 746 members donated to LUX New York which is a Slovak Catholic Media Production company based at the historic church of St. John Nepomucene with the goal of supporting the Catholic faith among Slovaks living in the U.S. and Canada mainly through our production of TV shows, news reports and documentaries. As Region 1 Director, I have been meeting with the Director of the program in New York to see how I can assist as I feel that the work that they are doing is important to support and contribute to.

• **Solicitation of new members** – This year, I met personally with families and individuals that showed interested in Jednota to introduce them to our society and encourage them to become members. Many times people don't realize that in addition to life insurance we have many other products that we offer as well as fraternal activities/benefits for members. I am happy to report that I've been successful in attracting new members who have become active in their respective branches.

• **What Is Jednota? Campaign** – I've updated the 2-page Fact Sheet on FCSU in English and Slovak flyers which I created last year to better inform the Slovak-American community about the work of the organization. I continue to use these where applicable. I also helped to promote the home offices' JEP campaign which offered a free JEP policy for \$10,000 for one year. I've shared information about this campaign and tried to inform parents about the product.

• **The Slovak Community in New York** – With the arrival of Fr. Richard Baker to St. John Nepomucene and the work that he has done with the united parishes of St. John Nepomucene, St. John the Martyr, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the Slovak community is thriving under his enthusiastic leadership and stewardship and is becoming the center of Slovak faith and culture. I have met Fr. Baker, a new member of Jednota, on several occasions to discuss the opportunities to work together. Engaging with the united parishes, in addition to the Slovak community, is a wonderful way to spread the good work of FCSU to others. I am very much looking forward to working with him and the New York branches in the coming year.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the home office staff for their support, encouragement, and administrative assistance throughout the year.

I want to thank all the members of Region 1 for their enthusiasm, collaboration, and participation. I am excited about the work we've done thus far as a team in coming up with ideas for a Regional picnic and other events in 2017! I look forward to continuing to work together with the Executive Board and Board of Directors in building and strengthening our society through growing membership and increased member participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabina Sabados
Region 1 Director

2016 Annual Report of Region 2 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors: It has once again been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 2.

In this past year, I performed all duties required of me as stipulated by the bylaws. I've attended the Annual and Semi-Annual Board of Directors meetings which were held in Independence, OH and Harrisburg, PA and the quarterly board meetings held in Independence, OH and via teleconference. In January 2016, I also attended the monthly Executive Committee meeting at the Home Office and the December 2016 meeting via teleconference at the invitation of the President. I attended both of the district meetings that my region held in Egypt, PA and Washington, DC where I updated the delegates with information learned at the board meetings.

In May 2016 I attended and participated at the FCSU bowling tournament in Columbus, OH. In July 2016 I attended Slovak Day in Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA and then participated in FCSU golf tournament in Canton, OH. I look forward to attending these events again in 2017. Prior to our district meeting in September 2016, I attended the annual mass of remembrance of the dedication of the Chapel of the Seven Sorrows at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC.

As always, I continue to keep my branches informed through my reports at the district meetings and will continue to do so in the future.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta
Region 2 Director

2016 Annual Report of Region 3 Director

It has been a privilege to serve as the Regional Director of Region 3. The past two years of my first term have been busy, as I have strived to become familiar with branch, district and national issues of the FCSU.

Activities in our Region:

- Securing my fraternal insurance license from the state of Pennsylvania
- Arranging a presentation for the district officers and members on the complex procedure for licensing
- Assisted branch members who are recommenders to secure their fraternal license
- Attended district meetings, hosting one in my area
- Involved younger members in district meeting by encouraging them to assume various roles for absent officers
- Started presenting a short program at district meetings to increase member's knowledge of Slovak history and culture
- Gave a report on FCSU concerns, products and programs to update district officers and branch members at district meetings
- Fraternal Activities
- Attended district annual picnic in Scranton, donated a 25-dollar gift basket for raffle
- Attended the opening of a museum dedicated to preserving the former Slovak Sacred Heart Church in Wilkes Barre, Pa
- Participated in a Christmas Song Fest of Slovak Christmas Carols
- Started a dialogue with the Slovak pastor and other area Slovak groups to attempt to sponsor and promote Slovak events and activities in our region
- Began planning for a food demonstration of Slovak desserts for the holiday season. Program was delayed due to kitchen reconstruction
- Arranged for advertisement of FCSU in the church bulletin
- Attended the initial meeting for the formation of a northeast Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation, participated in meeting and fundraiser
- Assisted member in application for FCSU scholarship
- Served as branch secretary for Branch 05P
- Attended and participated in the annual and semiannual Board of Directors meetings
- Participated in Teleconference meetings of the Board

One of my goals for 2017 will be to continue the dialogue and work with other Slovak groups in our area to promote Slovak events and the FCSU - e.g. an exhibit with the historical society on the numerous fraternal organizations in our region.

Martha Zavada
Region 3 Director

2016 Annual Report of Region 4 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, Executive Officers and fellow members of the FCSU Board of Directors,

This past year I've attended all board meetings by personal attendance or teleconference and the Executive Board Meeting by attendance held on May 26th, 2016 at the Embassy Suite in Pittsburgh, PA at the request of the president.

On March 13th, June 5th and October 30th, 2016, I attended the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District (#9) meetings. On September 24th, 2016, I attended the George Onda District (#3) meeting; on May 22nd, 2016, the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District (#12) meeting and on October 30th, 2016 the Monsignor Martvon District (#7) meeting.

I attended the Bowling Tournament Dinner held in Columbus, Ohio on April 23, 2016. I was present for the Membership Meet held in Las Vegas, Nevada from November 6th to the 10th, 2016.

Over the past year I was present at all four meetings of the St. Wendelin Branch 162 held on March 13th, June 12th, Sept. 18th and Dec. 4th, 2016.

My wife, Patty, and I attended a Vilija Dinner on December 4th, 2016 in Greensburg, PA which was sponsored by the George Onda District where I sat next to the honorable Bishop of the Greensburg Diocese, Bishop Edward C. Matesic thanks to the kind officers of District.

During the past year, I was involved with the potential listing of the Jednota Estates property and attended the Jednota Properties, Inc. meeting where I serve as President and Property Manager.

I want to thank all fraternal members for their hospitality where both my wife and I were graciously welcomed at all meetings and events. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the various branch and district meetings and all activities at the national level in the upcoming year. It truly is a pleasure to serve as your regional director.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at my home at 724-437-0892, on my cell at 724-970-7642 or send an email to "jrmarmol@verizon.net".

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Marmol
Region 4 Director

2016 Annual Report of Region 5 Director

Rev Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec and fellow members of the Board of Directors:

It has been a privilege to service as Director for Region 5.

In the past year, I have performed all duties required of me as per the bylaws. I have attended the meetings in Cleveland and the semi-annual board meetings. I also attended all telephone conferences. Finally, I attended all the Pittsburgh and Tiso District meetings.

I have participated in the bowling tournament and the golf tournament in Columbus and Canton respectively. I also participated in the Pittsburgh picnic and Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. Additionally, I was part of the Vilija dinners in both Latrobe and South Side.

I will continue to be an active member of all branch and district activities and work to keep them informed of all the happenings within Jednota. Finally, I will provide them with any assistance I can.

Fraternally yours,

Michael Lako
Region 5 Director

2016 Annual Report of Region 6 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Rajec, and Fellow Board Members:
 In 2016, I performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU. I attended all board meetings as Regional Director; I also attended the executive committee meeting by invitation of the President. I attended all branch and district meetings to keep them well informed. I worked at the annual Slovak/Jednota Day Picnic to promote our life insurance/annuity products. I worked with Joe Scavina selling our insurance.
 Respectfully,

Henry Hassay
 Region 6 Director

2016 Annual Report of Region 7 Director

Mr. President, Executive Committee Members, and Fellow Board of Directors Members:
 The year 2016 was a busy time for me with attendance at FCSU Region 7 meetings in WI, IL, IN, and MI as well as national meetings in OH and PA and the yearly teleconference. The highlight of 2016 for me was visiting the FCSU memorial in Middletown, PA. What a beautiful and tasteful memorial the FCSU has made there. It shows the excellent, fraternal spirit that the FCSU embodies. Our members enjoy many religious, financial, and fraternal programs as well as a great web site. I am proud to be an active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union and continue to serve our members in 2017.
 Respectfully submitted,

Rudolph W. Bernath
 Region 7 Director

2016 Annual Report of Region 8 Director

Mr. President, Executive Committee Father Nasta and Fellow Board Members,
 This is my report for the year 2016. It has been a privilege and honour to serve as the Regional Director for Region 8.
 In 2016, I have performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.
 • I have attended the annual Board of Directors meeting In March 2016 at the Head Office. Then I attended the semi-annual meeting which was held in Harrisburg Pennsylvania where we were able to tour the FCSU property In Middletown.
 • I also participated in both quarterly teleconference meetings.
 • By invitation of the President I also attended an Executive Committee Meeting.
 • I have also attended the local annual meetings of the Msgr. Michael Shuba District (Okres) and Branch 785, as well as their semi-annual meetings.
 • Jednota members spearheaded the Annual Communion Breakfast with all others Toronto Slovak organizations held in March 2016 at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall.
 • I personally participated in fraternal activities of the Jednota by taking part in the Annual International Bowling Tournament which was held in Columbus Ohio, and also attended our Annual Golf Tournament in July that was held at Canton, Ohio.
 • For our local fraternal activities I assisted and participated in our annual summer Regional Picnic held in July 2016 in Mississauga, Ontario which was well attended by our members and guests. We were very privileged to have with as the National President Mr. Andrew Rajec and his wife Idka as well as the Executive Secretary Ken Arendt.
 • I assisted and enjoyed the Casino Rama and Casino Fallsview bus trips, which were organized by Jednota Branch 785 member Emil Jursa.
 • Also I attended funeral services of our deceased members in Mississauga Ontario.
 Respectfully submitted

Milos Mitro
 Region 8 Director



ATTENTION

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2017 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2017 Scholarship Program.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who attends an Approved Post Secondary Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship.
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official college transcript of grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT or SAT scores; (if applicable)
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant;
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement;
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant;
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability;
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives;
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing.

For applications, please contact:
 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.

First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131
 Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310

E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com – Website: <http://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

*Family members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.



Best Foot Forward Walking Program

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

Benefits to You:

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

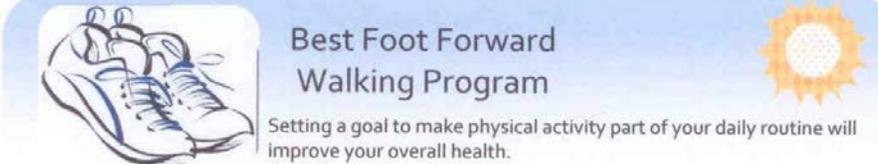
Please note this IS NOT a race or a competition; it is just a way to get active and stay active. You participate at your own pace.

- 1 STEP ONE**
 Register: Fill out the registration form and mail to:
 Best Foot Forward
 FCSU Activities
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207
 To receive your welcome kit.
- 2 STEP TWO**
 Just START WALKING!
 Log your walking minutes. The more you walk, the more prizes you can win!

Rules:

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

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



Best Foot Forward Walking Program

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

Name: _____

Branch Number: _____

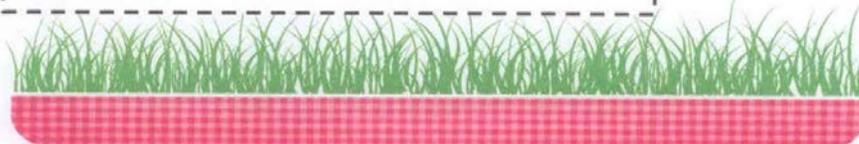
Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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



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

LIFE IS PRECIOUS

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren (0 -18) and receive a **FREE \$10.00 Gift Card**

- Features:**
- Pay one premium and have paid-up insurance
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Example:

Newborn Male	Newborn Female
\$5,000 for \$410	\$5,000 for \$345
\$10,000 for \$820	\$10,000 for \$690

Reach out to us at **800.533.6682**

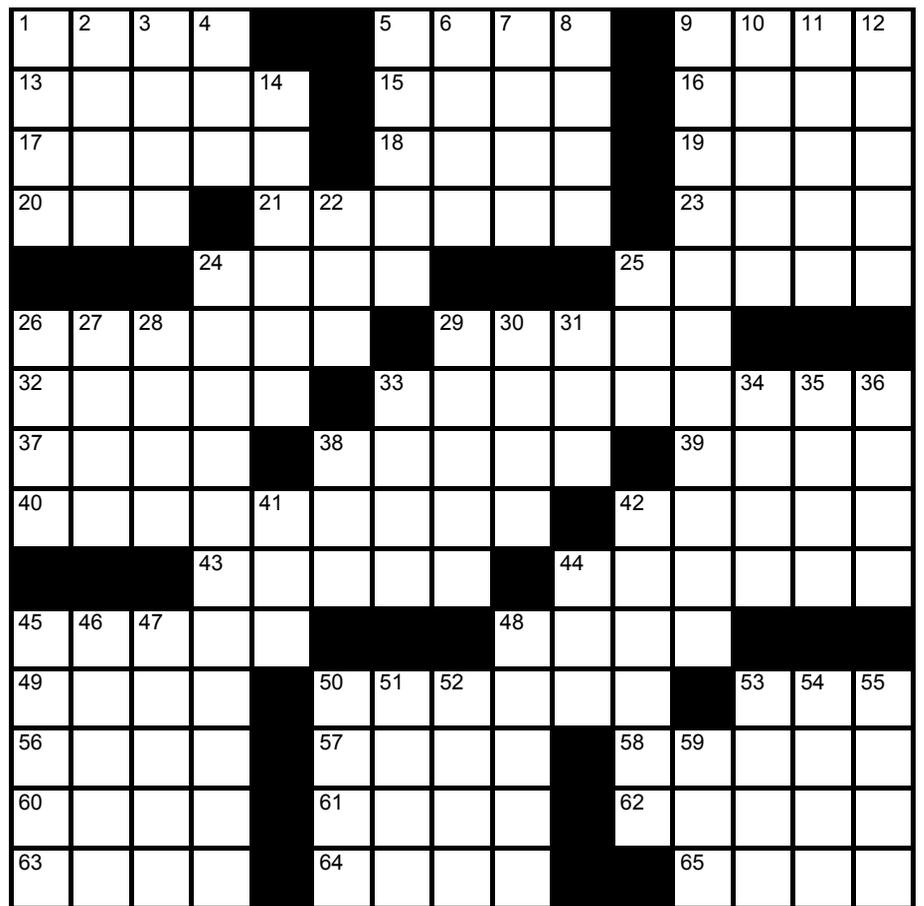


Rudy and Liz Bernath recently enjoyed a concert by Peter Oprisko, a NW Indiana singer of Slovak descent, with a repertoire of songs made famous by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Nat King Cole.

-Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



(Standing, L- R): Rado Lesay, Jan Zeman, Marian Varga, Filip Sestak, Gabriel Pjatak, Jozef Krafcik, and Jozef Korcak.

(Sitting, L – R): Martin Krafcik, Jan Krafcik, Jan Folvarsky, and Vladimir Sestak.

Branch 45 Hosted Soccer Tournament in NYC

The St. Matthew's Society Branch 45 organized an indoor soccer tournament at the church hall of St. John Nepomucene in New York City on May 6, 2017. The main organizers of the event were Jan Zeman and Jozef Korcak. Three teams competed: Fofu, Kostol, and SuperStar - with Team Fofu, the winner. Refreshments were served afterwards, a nice break after a tough tournament.

- Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Branch 45

Across

- 1 Phi ___ Kappa
- 5 Fraud
- 9 Bishop of Rome
- 13 Cherish
- 15 Nimbus
- 16 Computer image
- 17 Paper measures
- 18 Medea rode on it
- 19 Gaul
- 20 Cricket wicket
- 21 Kilt
- 23 Profits
- 24 Harmon of *NCIS*
- 25 Eclipse type
- 26 1962 James Mason, Sue Lyon flick
- 29 Unkind look
- 32 Wonderland girl
- 33 Unfinished business
- 37 Oracle
- 38 Damp
- 39 Painful
- 40 Before discharge or mention
- 42 Crouch
- 43 Organ parts
- 44 Excursions
- 45 Top dog
- 48 Wither away
- 49 Novice
- 50 Sand trap, e.g.
- 53 Commotion
- 56 Norse war god
- 57 Stout relatives
- 58 Giblets part
- 60 Supreme Court count
- 61 Goon
- 62 Straight up
- 63 Vittles
- 64 Not so much

- 65 Cupid's counterpart

Down

- 1 Empty, like a cupboard
- 2 Paradise lost
- 3 Warty hopper
- 4 Chair part
- 5 Mako, e.g.
- 6 Male deer
- 7 Aquatic plant
- 8 Phobos, to Mars
- 9 Scenic; strikingly expressive
- 10 Neptune's realm
- 11 Bohemian dance
- 12 Stage direction
- 14 Heir's concern
- 22 Celestial altar
- 24 Emcees' tools
- 25 Jeans brand
- 26 Mascara site
- 27 Dairy case item
- 28 Legal claim
- 29 Pollutes
- 30 Plane part
- 31 Extreme suffix
- 33 Brain area
- 34 Content word
- 35 Old mild oath
- 36 Tennis units
- 38 Tourist's aid

- 41 Narrow inlet
- 42 Equestrian gear
- 44 Shake up
- 45 Do penance
- 46 Russ. ballerina Lopokova
- 47 Computer command
- 48 Diets
- 50 Campus building
- 51 Lotion additive
- 52 Jupiter's counterpart
- 53 Allege as fact
- 54 Art ___
- 55 Scraps
- 59 Wrath

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
August 16	August 7
Sept 13	Sept 5
October 4	Sept 25
October 18	October 9
November 1	October 23
November 15	November 6
December 6	November 27

See Solution on Page 18

FCSU Hosts Slovak Singer Maroš Bango in New York, Cleveland

The Romany singer Maroš Bango was born in Trnava, Slovakia. Blind from birth, he has performed in concerts all over Slovakia and other countries, and has been a contestant on several national TV programs, including the Slovak Eurovision Song Contest, and the Czech Republic's Got Talent. He has gained a reputation as an extremely talented artist. Audiences often compare him to the world-famous Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli.

This year, the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) hosted Maroš in concert at two locations: on Sunday afternoon, May 7, 2017, at St. Nepomucene Church in New York, NY, sponsored by Branch 716; and on Saturday evening, May 13, 2017 at St. Mary's Byzantine Church in Cleveland,

OH, sponsored by the FCSU. The concerts featured songs by Maroš in Italian, English and Slovak interspersed by the Bangos' life story as told by their friend and concert promoter Milan Popik of Mississauga, Canada. The audiences learned how he and wife and manager Alexandra (better known as Saška) who is also blind, have overcome the many tragedies in their lives including the death of their only child Marianka due to a life-long illness at age 17.

According to Maroš Bango, he eats, sleeps and breathes his music - and enjoys sharing his love of life, good people, good food, and laughter. The audiences in both venues certainly seemed to agree.

May 7 - in New York



Father Richard Baker also lends a helping hand in the kitchen.



Jan Skrkon, Branch 716 President, preparing lunch for the Maroš Bango Concert held at St. Nepomucene Church in New York City.



Concert goes enjoying themselves.



FCSU members, guests and friends in the serving line for the luncheon sponsored by Branch 716.

Maroš Bango and his wife Saška on stage with their concert promoter Milan Popik.



(L - R) Helen Vilacky, Joseph Korcak, Anna Korcak getting lunch



May 13 - in Cleveland



FCSU Branch 24 Member and Pastor of St. Mary's Byzantine Church Fr. Marek Visnovsky says the blessing to start the evening's program.

Anita Anderko was the winner of the FCSU basket raffle, which included the Society's mascot Chewy Čuvač.



Some of the FCSU Home Office staff & guests at the concert: (L-R, seated) Branch Coordinator Robert Kopco, National President Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka, and Receptionist Miriam Visnovsky; (L - R, standing) Jednota Editor Teresa Ivanec, Claims Administrator Suzanne Balik; and Claims Administrator Barbara Sutila.



Members (L - R) Robert Kopco, Branch 24 President; Barbara Sutila (seated), Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Coordinator, Miriam Visnovsky, Branch 24 Member; Caroline Visnovsky, Branch 24 Member, and Thomas Ivanec, Branch 24 Auditor at the FCSU promotional table in the church entryway.



Maroš wows the capacity crowd of 180 during his two hour concert at St. Mary's Byzantine Church in Cleveland, OH, a performance sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union.



[L - R] Milan Popik, Andrew M. Rajec, Saska Bango, Maroš Bango, Idka Rajec, and Miriam Visnovsky, who also was the coordinator of the evening's program.

Concert goes enjoyed hearty hors d'oeuvres and beverages before the evening's performance which benefited the St. Mary's Byzantine Church Building Fund



Lúčina Slovak Folklore Director Tom Ivanec (R) receives help with a raffle benefiting the dance ensemble from some junior group members (L-R) John Chuba, Lilly Zilko and Emma Halley

Allure of the Seas 2017

**Extended deadline
AUGUST 1, 2017**



Royal Caribbean

November 12-19, 2017



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Allure of the Seas has been named Best Cruise Ship by Travel Weekly readers. Explore 7 singular neighborhoods, from the lush winding paths of Central Park to the ultimate rush of the Pool and Sports Zone with surfing, zip lining, and ice-skating options. Allure of the Seas also features 3D movies, fantastic live shows, 25 incredible dining venues, the world-class Vitality Spa, and plenty of retail therapy right on board. Plus all the extra touches you get only by cruising with the FCSU!



INTERIOR	OCEAN VIEW	BALCONY
\$999	\$1,070	\$1,349

November 12-19, 2017

This cost includes the cruise, port and government taxes, all pre-paid gratuities, transfer from Fort Lauderdale airport to the cruise ship and back, your meals and entertainment provided by Royal Caribbean.

A \$250.00 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a cabin by August 1, 2017. Call the Home Office today at 800.533.6682!

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**14305 Madison Ave
Lakewood, OH 44107
800.542.2487
paul@advintravel.com
www.advintravel.com**



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their annual family picnic on Sunday, August 20, 2017. The picnic will be from 1:00PM until 4:00PM on the Sts. Cyril & Methodius school grounds. There will be games for the children, and refreshments and food for all members.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6K, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, August 20, 2017, at 12Noon at Streator Country Kitchen, 1309 S. Park Street, Streator, IL. All members of Branch 6K are invited to attend. Activities will be provided for the children. The meeting will be followed by a luncheon for all those who attend the meeting. Please call Paul at 815-822-8851 or Bob & Stella at 815-672-1764 before August 19th if you plan on attending.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 will hold a meeting on Sunday, August 13, 2017, at 9:00 AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its next regular meeting on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at 9:30AM in the church hall of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

We will discuss our agenda for the rest of the year with our special breakfast meeting on November 12, 2017. At this meeting we will award our college-bound members with scholarships to help with their college expenses.

We cordially invite our members to attend our meetings conducted on the second Sunday of the month as follows: September 10, 2017; and November 12, 2017, with our annual meeting to be held on December 10, 2017 in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Hall.

Henry Zack, Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Attention Branch 24 members: the branch is once again offering its CHRISTMAS IN JULY MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION. For every WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE POLICY or ANNUITY you purchase or sell by November 1, 2017, Branch 24 will give you a complimentary ticket to the Vilija (Christmas Eve) Dinner sponsored by St. Andrew's Abbey every Christmas season.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 524-0952. For more information about FCSU products and to download applications or forms, go to our website at www.fcsu.com. We hope you take advantage of this great opportunity and can join us at this year's Vilija.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Society, is providing special members-only pricing for the District 10 Rubber Ducks Baseball/All-You-Can-Eat Picnic Event at Canal Park in Akron, OH, starting at 6PM on Saturday, August 12, 2017 [Editor's note: please see page 15 of this issue for details].

Ticket prices are \$10 for branch members, \$25 for non-members. Advanced tickets only. Please call Activities Director Susan Lang at 216/577-9699 to reserve your seat(s), then send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Susan Lang, 27020 Cedar Rd., Apt. 614 Beachwood, OH 44122. Please make checks payable to St. Andrew Society. The deadline is Friday, July 21, 2017.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday July 30, 2017, at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington

St. Streator, IL. All members of Branch 40 are urged to attend the meeting. Lunch will follow. Please make reservations by calling (815) 672-6682.

Maria Harcar, Secretary

BRANCH 53 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

There has been a merger between Branch 053K Bridgeport, CT and Branch 019K Bridgeport, CT. All members of Branch 053K will now hold membership in Branch 019K. This merger has taken place as of June 06, 2017.

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

JACQUELINE ANN ZACK
15 BROOKHEDGE RD
TRUMBULL, CT 06611-3212
(203) 268-4727

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given and upcoming branch activities and events will be discussed. All members and guests of Branch 162 are invited to attend the meeting. Call for reservations by September 1, 2017, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Joanne, Marmol, Vice President

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 1, 2017, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be the Election of Officers and a discussion of District and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by September 27, 2017, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 173 - GREATER WILKES-BARRE- WYOMING VALLEY AREA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, will hold its semi-annual meeting on July 16, 2017 at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, beginning at 12:00 pm.

General business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvarsky at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvarsky, President

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 invites you to attend our monthly branch meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. So for the rest of 2017: Aug. 2nd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 2nd with Nomination of Officers, & Dec. 7th with Election of Officers.

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

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 221 - TOLEDO, OHIO

Attention Branch 221 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. All branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 221 and its 41 members are greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob

Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than July 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

Branch 228 is providing special members-only pricing for the District 10 Rubber Ducks Baseball/All-You-Can-Eat Picnic Event at Canal Park in Akron, OH, starting at 6PM on Saturday, August 12, 2017 [Editor's note: please see page 15 of this issue for details].

Advanced tickets only. Please call Len Zilko at 440-988-3236 for more information and to reserve your seat(s). Please make checks payable to Branch 228. The deadline is Friday, July 21, 2017.

Tom Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 holds its meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 18, 2017. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

The 2018 FCSU National Convention will be here before we know it. I put out a challenge for our younger members to consider being a convention delegate and becoming even more involved in our organization. It is a great experience that is interesting, fun and gives a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are directly contributing to the future of the FCSU. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You will be happy you did.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 11:30 AM at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads, Mt. Lebanon, PA. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

The branch will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, August 20, 2017, at 1:00PM at Bedford Trails Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: general branch business.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

A meeting will be held of St. John the Baptist, Branch 290, on August 23, 2017 at 7:00PM. Call Joe at (908) 732-469-5256 to get the location of the meeting. Please try to attend.

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 319 – MANSFIELD, OHIO

Attention Branch 319 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. All branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 319 and its 66 members are greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than August 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday October, 2017 at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 724-425-2576.

Geri Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch #493 in Chicago, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Summer Luncheon on Saturday, July 29, 2017. Location: Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, 639 N. Blackhawk Drive, Westmont, IL 60559. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. The Meeting will start at 2:00 pm. Afterwards, the attendees will enjoy a delicious fraternal lunch, paid for by the branch. If you plan to attend, please contact the branch financial secretary at (502) 244-6643 OR (773) 558-5956 by Wednesday, July 26 so that we can give a head count to the restaurant beforehand.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Reserve the date for our Winefest on August 18, 2017, beginning at 6PM. Food will be available for purchase, no cover charge to attend. Call the office at 330-773-4978 if you want to reserve a table for your group.

And don't forget the "all you can eat" spaghetti dinner for \$8 with the remaining date of August 2.

Sandie Klucar, Secretary

BRANCH 567 – ALLEN TOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 567K Allentown, PA, and Branch 796K Egypt, PA. All members of Branch 567K will now hold membership in Branch 796K. This merger has taken place as of June 20, 2017.

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

GIRARD LLOYD
4722 ABIGAIL LN
WHITEHALL, PA 18052-1958
(610) 844-7101

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 581 - GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Gary-Whiting Branch 581, will hold its semi-annual meeting at the Lake Ridge Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., in Hobart, IN on Sunday, July 30, 2017, at 1 p.m.

The agenda will include discussions on our donations for this year, officers' reports and other business pertaining to the branch.

RSVP to Ann Buczek, 219-947-2793 or George Kelchak, 219-926-2410.

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Saturday, July 29 Hard Times Party 4pm please bring your items for auction.

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

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off. Hours are Mon-Fri 1pm - 8pm Sat. 12noon - 8pm.

Come down and enjoy yourself.

All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI 231-733-7525.

Sue Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

Peanuts, Cracker Jack and the 7th inning stretch! Branch 633 will hold its annual Branch Activity at the Detroit Tigers game against the Chicago White Sox on September 18th, 2017. The game is scheduled for a 6:10pm start. We will meet as a group at the Will Call window on Witherell Street [in front of the stadium] at 5pm. For anyone interested in joining us please call 633 Branch President Rod Meloni at least one week in advance @ 248-444-9141 to make certain we can all sit together inside Comerica Park. We are looking forward to a great evening of fun and fraternalism.

Rod Meloni, President

BRANCH 714 – DAYTON, OHIO

Attention Branch 714 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017.

continued on page 19

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 1 – REV. MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – NEW ENGLAND

The Rev. Matthew Jankola District – District 1 – will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at 11:00AM at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now called the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. We will discuss our activities of the past year. We also will plan our agenda for the coming year and our participation in the 2018 National Convention.

The election of district officers for the coming year will take place at this meeting. Members of the various branches are urged to attend this annual meeting.

Laura Minese, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 2 will host the next district meeting on Sunday, November 26 at 1 PM. The meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall on Grant Street Extension in West Mifflin. We will discuss social and business activities for 2018. Officers for 2018 will be elected. Matters concerning the upcoming national convention, including election of the district delegate, will also be on the agenda.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. The April 19 issue has a list of the requirements for the Branch Stipend. The national convention is coming next year; be careful to fulfill all requirements for sending delegates.

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: Meetings resume in October. Become a member of the WPCSA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

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

** 94th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 20. Tickets available from Sue Ondrejco.

** NSS Septemberfest at the National Slovak Society Museum, 351 Valley Brook Road in McMurray PA. See the famous animated wood carving – Saturday, September 23, 11 AM – 4 PM. Parking available nearby at St Benedict the Abbot Church.

** Pittsburgh Pierogi Festival – Kennywood – Sunday, September 24, 1-6 PM. Select rides will be open.

** Slovak Heritage Day at the Pitt Cathedral of Learning – Sunday, November 5 – noon to 5. Slovak seminars, entertainment, food and vendors.

** 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.

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary
manasta@verizon.net

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

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, October 8, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. It will be held in the meeting room of the Dairy Queen Grill & Chill located at 575 West Main Street. Branch members are invited to attend. A Dairy Queen social will take place following the meeting.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

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

Joe Scavina/Secretary

DISTRICT 15 – THE PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Prince Pribina District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday July 29, 2017. It will be held at 11:00 AM at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: activities focused on our membership drive, preparation for the 2017 picnic, and the search for a kitchen sponsor for our fraternal gatherings after the Slovak Masses. All branches in our area are encouraged to attend.

Paul Skuben, District President

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

Msgr Stephen Krasula District 16 is urging all members and friends to attend the annual Slovak pilgrimage at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, NY, on Sunday, August 13, 2017 hosted by Branch 716. Call Maria Bozekova 347-612-1934 or Lisa Calabrese 212-734-4613 for more details and bus transportation to the Shrine.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Secretary



Is your FCSU profile up to date?

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



87th Annual Slovak-American Day

Sunday, July 30, 2017



Croatian Park-9140 South 76th Street, Franklin, WI
Park opens at 11:00 a.m. - Free admission

PROGRAM

12:00 Noon	Holy Mass-Fr. John Jamnicky	Children's Activities
1:00-2:30	Music for dancing-The Ed Hause Band	3:30-5:30 Music for dancing
2:30-3:30	Welcome: Ralph Hass-President Singing of the National Anthems Presentation of Slovak Dancers & Drillers	5:00 pm Raffle drawings

Tatra Slovak Dancers:	Andy Tiarks & Patty Baier-Jankowski – Youth Directors Marjorie Chepp – Teen Directress & Business Manager Andy Tiarks & Allison Hickling – Adult Directors
Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers	Tricia Radtke – Physical Directress, Lisa Hoeck – Assistant Brad Hoeck – Physical Director

~Hot food, homemade bakery & refreshments available, featuring Slovak beer
Plenty of tables and benches – park management **does not allow grills**
~For sale: Slovak/Czech handmade glass ornaments, jewelry, crafts, and artifacts
~Complimentary golf cart transportation available at the park for the "Young at Heart"

Federated Slovak Societies:

www.federatedslovak Societies.org

"Like" us on facebook: facebook.com/federatedslovak Societies

- Knights of Sts. Mary and Joseph F.C.S.U. Society Branch 89
- Our Lady of Lourdes Society Branch 23 F.C.S.L.A. and Junior Order Branch 130
- St. Ann's Society Branch 376 F.C.S.L.A. and Junior Order Branch 334
- Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 93
- Slovak League of America, Milwaukee – Assembly 20
- Tatra Slovak Dancers
- Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society
- Young Slovakia

Raffle Tickets \$1.00 - Available from Societies or at the Park

Attention Rev. Stephen Furdek Ohio District 10 Members: Food, Fun, Fireworks – And Minor League Baseball - At Canal Park in Akron, OH on August 12, 2017



On Saturday, August 12, 2017, join other FCSU members in District 10, the Rev. Stephen Furdek District, for a fun evening of minor league ball as the Akron Rubber Ducks take on the Binghamton Rumble Ponies; enjoy an all-you-can-eat picnic style buffet; and watch spectacular "Bob Seger" fireworks – plus, if you are among the first 1,000 attendees – you'll receive a tin lunchbox giveaway.

All branches in District 10 are eligible to participate, including: 1, 24, 228, 319, 425, 450, 553, 714, 754, 777, 852, 855, and 862. A \$25 value, **discounted tickets** are available for District 10 members through participating branches. Non-members are welcome at the \$25 price.

The location is the state-of-the-art minor league baseball facility called Canal Park in downtown Akron, OH. It is situated at South Main Street between State and West Exchange Streets. Designed by the same company that developed other baseball gems, including Progressive Field in Cleveland and Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Canal Park also features a beautiful picnic area along the left base line.

Come early, stay late

District 10 members will enjoy a two-hour, all-you-can-eat picnic buffet that begins when the gates open at 6:00PM. Then, from the great vantage point of the Canal Park picnic area along the left base line, you can enjoy the game that starts at 7:05PM when the Akron Rubber Ducks take on the Binghamton Rumble Ponies. The evening ends with a spectacular pyrotechnic fireworks display with a "Bob Seger" theme.

The all-you-can-eat buffet, served picnic style, includes:

- Hamburgers
- Hot Dogs
- BBQ Pulled Chicken
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Potato Salad
- Potato Chips
- Cookies
- Iced Tea/Lemonade/Water

How to Reserve Your Seats

Reservations must be made by Friday, July 28, 2017. To reserve your tickets and for more information, please contact your local branch officers* or District President Greg Petrsek at (330) 398-1888.

*All branches in District 10 and their branch contact info can be found at fcsu.com/districts/ and clicking on District 10.

August 12 Highlights:

- Date: Saturday, August 12, 2017**
- Place: Canal Park, Akron, OH**
- Gates open at 6:00PM with lunchbox giveaway to first 1,000 attendees**
- All-you-can-eat, 2-hour buffet starting at 6:00PM**
- Akron v Binghamton game, starting at 7:05PM**
- Fireworks after the game**
- Discounts on \$25 tickets through participating branches in District 10**

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Stephen W Soboslay	083K	Marian Senffner	276K	Caroline Tirpak	682K	Theresa M Tokasz
001K	Diane M Stokes	086K	William E Leshko	280K	Anna M Dombrowski	731K	Rosemary Durkin
005P	Joseph Pastva Jr	086K	Raymond Polakovsky	293K	Helen M Bartal	738K	Evelyn J Fetcho
006K	Robert Operschall	153K	Edward J Malcak	293K	Martha Gerber	743K	Gerard Allen Danko
006K	Josephine M Wondolowski	156K	Edward D Nakata	313K	Marie C Siska	746K	John Bilavsky
007K	Barbara Jean Prosser	165K	Frances M Hofmann	320K	Elaine J Johnston	746K	Mary Maly
007K	Marie C Shedlock	175K	Kathleen A Jurasinski	322K	Elizabeth Quashnock	764K	Bettie Masaitis
019K	Michael J Kreho	175K	Theresa Roeder	410K	Garnet L Malinzak	764K	Mary E Urchek
024K	Robert Lawrence	199K	Rose Marie Smolleck	410K	Dolores Ann Patterson	764K	Edward Vernarsky
024K	Howard A Shoop	228K	John M Zelina	497K	Robert Duke	780K	Edward Bruce Fech
038K	Jeffrey Paul Dulin	240P	Maryann Keppick	553K	Irene M Arnold	796K	Margaret M Booros
038K	Lois M Soltis	240P	Martha G Kumor	553K	Elmer J Danko	796K	Margaret R Fritz
040K	Andrew P Ftacek Sr	254K	Rita May Donaldson	581K	Betty E Kelchak	831K	Heather A Davidek
040K	Colleen L Ftacek	254K	Jean E Scott	584K	Albert Bernard Novotny	831K	Ann Louise Palchinsky
040K	John Charles Payne	259K	Stephen A Thomasec	628K	John Edward Bogda	888K	David L Voelker
040K	Robert J Washko	260K	Edward R Hassay	670K	Mary Ann Muha	900K	Theresa Bruzenak
075K	Amy C Gilotti	260K	Jason W Laskowski	682K	Joseph G Bialik Jr		

*Processed through the month of June

OBITUARIES

JOHN FIALKOVICH BRANCH 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

John Fialkovich passed away peacefully at his home in Yonkers, N.Y. on April 13, with his family at his side.



He was born in Youngstown, OH, on February 27, 1927. He was the son of Paul and Elizabeth (Kostelansky) Fialkovich. After the sudden death of his father, his mother returned to her family in Czechoslovakia and John was raised and educated in a village outside of Košice. At the age of 12 he became an apprentice for a local bakery owner.

John remained in Czechoslovakia during World War II. Like many Slovaks who immigrated to the United States after the war, John never spoke of the atrocities that happened there. It was only in the past decade he started sharing some of those dark memories. John was a member of an underground team that hid Jewish Slovaks as well as Jewish people from other neighboring countries and helped them escape to freedom via an "underground railroad" network. As if this wasn't daring enough, John was also a member of the resistance. Many trains, supplies, munitions etc., never made it to the Germans who were fighting at the front - thanks to his courage and knowledge of making these necessary supplies "suddenly disappear." Because of these revelations, our parish priest, Father Mastrolia referred to John as "A Soldier for Humanity."

In 1948, he returned to the United States and settled in Passaic, NJ. He then moved to Yonkers, NY, where he married Mary Chorey on May 27, 1950, at St. Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church. His wife survives.

Brother John has been active in the First Catholic Slovak Union since joining in 1950. He was a regular at the national conventions and was active in the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16. He served as President of Holy Trinity Society Branch 41 for over 40 years. Brother John had been a pillar in the Slovak Parish of Most Holy Trinity until its unfortunate closing in 2015. He was the lector at the Slovak Mass for many years and served on various parish committees. Most recently being the 120th Anniversary of the Parish and its 2015 closing. He was a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the Catholic Slovak Club and supported the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

John was a superintendent at St. Mary's Cemetery from 1968 until his retirement in 1992.

Before that he was a foreman at Anaconda Wire and Cable in Hastings, N.Y.

In addition to his wife, Mary, John is survived by his son, Paul (LT YFD) and his wife, Joanne, and two daughters, Christine Slattery and her husband Michael and Susan Fialkovich, all of Yonkers. He is also survived by five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Family and friends paid their respects to Brother John at Whalen and Ball Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on April 18 at St. Anthony's Church with Father Arthur Mastrolia officiating. Interment followed at St. Mary's Cemetery.

John was truly loved and respected by all who came to know him. He was honest, thoughtful and passionate in his beliefs. He always let you know how he stood on matters "face to face" (truly a human quality that is becoming extinct). He taught his children that there are only three things in life that truly matter and heavily reinforced that in them:

1. God 2. Family 3. Country.

John's family is proud to live by that simple teaching and John was proud to see it passed on to his grandchildren, who in turn are now passing it on to their children.

-Submitted by Paul Fialkovich,
Branch 41

JOSEPH A. FIRMINT SR. BRANCH 338 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Joseph A. "Red" Firmint Sr., 92, of Jeannette, PA, passed away Saturday, May 27, 2017, at his residence. He was born Dec. 9, 1924, in Humphreys, a son of the late Andrew and Anna Dziak Firmint. Red was employed by the former BF Goodrich Co. and retired as general manager of the former Martin Tire Co., both of Jeannette. He was a veteran of World War II and participated in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the Army. Red was a member of the VFW No. 8240, Sacred Heart Church, the Knights of Columbus Council No. 1222, all of Jeannette, and a former member of Hannastown Country Club. In addition to his parents, Red was predeceased by his first wife, Barbara Forish Firmint; two sisters, Mary Torba and Anna Ulishney; and three brothers, John, Andrew and George Firmint. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne Weatherford Schenone Firmint; his children, John Firmint, of Jeannette, Joseph A. Firmint and wife Karyn, of Turtle Creek, PA;



Suzanne Courtney and husband James, of Hidden Valley, PA; Barbara Jean Firmint and partner Kim Patuchinea, of Greensburg, PA; Sandra Gongaware and husband Robert, of Jeannette; Craig Firmint and partner Barry Veal, of Little Rock, AR.; Mark Firmint, of Allentown, PA; Michelle Jordan and husband James, of Jeannette; David Schenone and wife Gail, of Irwin, PA; and Beth Schenone and husband Chris Harpel, of Allison Park, PA; 11 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Red's family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the Excelsa Health Hospice nurses and staff for their kind and compassionate care and the VA Medical Clinic of Greensburg for their guidance and support.

Friends were received on Tuesday, May 30, 2017, and Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at the John V. Graziano Funeral Home, Jeannette. A funeral Mass was celebrated at 10AM on Thursday, June 1, 2017, in Sacred Heart Church with Fr. Paul A. Lisik as celebrant. Interment with military honors accorded by the Jeannette Combined Veterans followed in Westmoreland County Memorial Park, Hempfield Township, PA.

EMERICK A. KRAVEC BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

Emerick A. Kravec, 89, of Speers, passed away peacefully Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017, in Flo's Personal Care, Elco, with Fran, Denny and Elmo by his side.

He was born May 17, 1927, in Smilno, Slovakia, a son of Andrew and Anna Tomik Kravec. He was an American citizen by birth, as his father was born in Uniontown. In order to maintain his citizenship, Mr. Kravec had to come to the United States before his 21st birthday.

While still in Slovakia, Mr. Kravec started working on the family farm at age 11. He got up at 5 a.m. to work on the farm for two hours before going to school and then worked on the farm after he got back home. During World War II, at age 16, German soldiers took him and all the boys from Smilno to Vienna and then Germany. They kept marching from town to town to stay ahead of the Russians. Mr. Kravec didn't have boots that fit him. There wasn't enough food and they had to beg for a piece of bread and even eat grass. When the war ended, he walked, hitchhiked and finally arrived back to Smilno on the back of an army truck.

On January 25, 1948, he married his wife, Martha Jancosek. He came to the United States



later in 1948.

Mr. Kravec worked at Isabella coal mine, Thorofare Super Market, 84 Mining Complex and Interstate Paper. He had perfect attendance with Thorofare Super Market and 84 Mining Complex. He earned his GED and then sold Franklin Life Insurance part time for 12 years.

He was writer and announcer for the Slovak radio program on WESA for 11 1/2 years.

Mr. Kravec, his family and friends built the house where he lived for 37 years. Building the house was a proud accomplishment for him.

He was a member of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, Charleroi, Knights of Columbus Council 956, Charleroi, St. Vincent Development Club, Latrobe, and Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, Pittsburgh.

Mr. Kravec loved watching Pittsburgh Pirates, Penguins and Steelers games. He enjoyed listening to polkas and the Slovak radio program every Sunday. He traveled back to Slovakia three times with his wife and daughter.

Surviving are a daughter, Fran Kravec of Speers and her fiancé Dennis Ferretti of Greensburg; two sons, Emerick Kravec of Gastonia, N.C., and Emil Kravec and Lou Anne Sokolowski of Monroeville; two grandsons, Brian Kravec and Matt and wife Rachael Kravec; a great-grandson, Mikey Kravec; his best buddy and "babysitter," Elmo; his extended family at Flo's Personal Care; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Deceased are his wife, Martha Jancosek Kravec, who died November 4, 2009; a brother, John Kravec; and two sisters, Anna Kvartek and Mary Marcinek.

A private visitation was held in Leonard M. Pavlic Funeral Homes Inc., Charleroi. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Friday, April 21, 2017, in Mary, Mother of the Church, Charleroi, with the Rev. Gerald Mikonis as celebrant. Interment followed in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Coal Center. The bells at St. Stephen Church in Smilno rang Saturday in memory of Mr. Kravec.

- Submitted by Fran Kravec

MARY "ELAINE" URCHEK BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Mary "Elaine" Urchek, 76, passed away Thursday, June 8, 2017, from complications from Alzheimer's at St. Joseph Health Center.

She was born October 16, 1940, in South Pymatuning, PA, the



continued on page 19

3rd Annual Slovak Festival in Slovak, Arkansas a Rousing Success

Named by early colonists in 1894, Slovak, AR, has the distinction of being the only town in America named after denizens of Slovakia. The settlement got its name from the Slovak immigrants who came there, attracted by the promise of land ownership. It was tough going until the early 1900s when it was discovered that the square "lakes" seen everywhere were actually rice paddies. Successful rice crops were then soon cultivated.

In 2014, town residents Dan Hooks, his wife Paula, and sibling Beth Hooks Lewis, took a Treasurers of Slovakia tour led by Helene Cincebeaux. As part of the tour, the three visited the ancestral village of their great, great grandfather, Jozef Huk whose son Jan Huk (John Hook, Sr.) immigrated to America in 1882 from Oreske, Zemplin, a town in eastern Slovakia. Upon their return to the States, the Hooks decided to honor their family ancestry and that of the town with a Slovak Festival and in 2015 the inaugural event was born. In 2017, Helene was invited to attend, to witness what her tour helped inspire.

Some 200 residents joined in the fun of the 3rd Annual Slovak Festival, held in the social hall across from the parish church dedicated to SS Cyril & Methodius. Attendees brought dishes of traditional Slovak cuisine to share, filling buffet tables with over one hundred plates and bowls. They also shared displays of treasured family memorabilia from Slovakia.

Helene gave a visual presentation on how Slovak villagers - who had little or no money - used nature and materials at hand to survive, creating enduring beauty from wood, clay, wax, wool, flax, and feathers. Her stunning Slovak folk dress display - the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection - was mounted by George Terbrack and enjoyed by all at the wonderful and heart-warming event.

- Submitted by Helene Cincebeaux, Branch 257



People enjoyed trying on the folk dress; here is the local museum director looking great in a beaded headdress from central Slovakia.



(L - R) Helene Cincebeaux, Jay Bednar who helped out and George Terbrack who set up the extensive exhibit.



Inspiring the younger generation



Historian Linda with a picture of the original church

Paula and Dan Hooks who organized the festival with Helene Cincebeaux in the St Cyril and Methodius Church with the original painting from the old church. The extensive cemetery is across the way.



Al Bednar of the Flying Fingers Band that played "old country" tunes.



Painting on glass of Saints Cyril and Methodius that Beth Lewis brought home from her trip to her ancestral home- her most favorite souvenir.



Exhibit of the Baine/Cincebeaux Collection of Slovak Folk Dress and Folk Art



George Terbrack (from Ohio) set up the exhibit with Helene Cincebeaux (from Florida) who collected the folk dress over the past 48 years.

September Meeting of Slovak Fraternal in St. Louis



The Executive Board of your Fraternal Insurance Organization – Dolores Bachesta, President; Ann Wright, Vice-President; Margaret Lyons, Treasurer; And Joseph Miklovic CPA, Secretary – prays that 2017 has been prosperous for you and yours. As has been in the past, members of the former First Catholic Slovak Union (Men's Lodge)

Branch 109KJ will jointly celebrate the Pre-Christmas Season with the Ladies' Lodges of 101, 320 and 011 by participating in our Annual, fun-filled and entertaining Membership Luncheon scheduled for Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 2:00 P.M. We will again be holding these gala festivities at St. Mary Magdalen School Hall in South City, St. Louis, MO 63109.

We will be 'honoring' Frances Miklovic our Branch's 2016 Matching Fund expeditor.

Please mark your calendar noting the date and location and please call Ann at (314-353-1062) to make your reservations by August 30, 2017 for this exciting, upcoming event. We look forward to seeing you at this very important annual membership meeting.

So, see you in September!

Very truly yours and, fraternally yours - ZA BOHAA NAROD!
Joseph Miklovic, CPA, Secretary

A Look Back at Easter Fun with Branch 595

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, the Easter bunny hopped his way to Branch 595 in Muskegon Heights, MI. The turnout was great with over 30 children participating in an Easter egg hunt and various other games with prizes awarded. The weather co-operated with sunny skies and the day ended with lunch that included hot dogs and chips. All of the kids had a fantastic time and are hoping he will make a return visit next year.

- Submitted by Rod Meloni, Branch 595 Vice President



Youngstown's 12th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest: Celebrate Your Heritage

The 12th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest will be held on Sunday August 13, 2017 on the grounds of St. Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, at 2800 Shady Run Rd, Youngstown, OH 44502. The day starts off with a Slovak/English Mass at 11:00am at St. Matthias Church (915 Cornell Ave across the lot from the festival) and continues after Mass in the parking lot and school hall until 8:00pm. Outside there will be Slovak food of all sorts available for purchase: halušky (with real dumplings), holubky (stuffed cabbage), pirohy, klobasa and kraut, roast pork sandwiches, BBQ chicken, and even hot dogs, fries and ice cream and (of course) Slovak beer, all served outside all day. Inside from noon until three we will be serving a "Taste of Slovakia" with breaded pork cutlet, klobasa, sauerkraut, holubky and halušky. (The platter menu may change slightly before August)

A great selection of Slovak baked goods will include kolače and kiffles, palacinky (crepes) along with Slovak crystal and other Slovak items for sale. There is also a great Slovak Heritage corner showing many beautiful items on display such as authentic Slovak kroj (folk costumes), maps, corn husk dolls, photos, books, embroidery and informational items. There is also a basket auction and a cash card raffle with prizes from \$50 to \$1000.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Jack Vasko and Company, at noon, and the Del Sinchak Band, at 4pm all day long. The music starts after Mass outside and continues until about 8:30pm and includes room to dance! There will also be a wonderful performance by Alexander's Harmonica Artistry (you have to see this!) inside after the dinners are finished at 3pm.

If you are only attending the polka bands, not the festival, there is a \$5.00 admission fee.

If you need more information just give me a call at 330.549.3760 or email me at loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com!

- Submitted by Loretta Ekoniak



2017 SLOVAK FESTIVAL

SPONSORED BY:

THE CLEVELAND SLOVAK RADIO CLUB



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

12 - 8 pm

Admission: \$5.00 (At the door)

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH HALL

6750 STATE RD – PARMA 44134

**SLOVAK FOOD...BEER-PIVO...PASTRIES...DANCING
FACE PAINTING...BALLOON TWISTER...MAGICIAN**



ENTERTAINMENT:

**ANTHONY CULKAR BAND
WAYNE TOMSIC BAND
RALPH SZUBSKI**

****FOR INFORMATION CALL: 440-465-6412****

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

B	E	T	A			S	H	A	M		P	O	P	E		
A	D	O	R	E		H	A	L	O		I	C	O	N		
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E	A	T	S			L	E	S	S		E	R	O	S		

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

All branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 714 and its 64 members are greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than August 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 716 is inviting all members and friends to attend the annual Slovak Pilgrimage at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, NY, on Sunday, August 13, 2017. An outdoor Mass will be celebrated, followed by lunch and recitation of the Rosary in the afternoon. A bus is available to the Shrine. For information, please call Maria Bozekova 347-612-1934 or Lisa Calabrese 212-734-4613. See our ad in this issue.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Assistant Secretary

BRANCH 748 – NILES, MICHIGAN

Attention Branch 748 (now Branch 919) members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. All branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of the Branch and its 48 members are greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than July 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 754 – ELYRIA, OHIO

Attention Branch 754 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. Currently, all branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 754 and its 199 members is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than August 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 777 – BEDFORD, OHIO

Attention Branch 777 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. All branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 777 and its 83 members are greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than August 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, July 29, 2017. The meeting will begin at 11:00AM at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Platenecia Ave, Fullerton, CA, 92831. On the agenda will be activities focused on our membership drive, preparations for the 2017 picnic, and the search for a kitchen sponsor to support the fraternal gatherings hosted by the branch after the Slovak Masses. All branches in our area are encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there.

Fraternally,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 852 – MENTOR, OHIO

Attention Branch 852 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. All branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 852 and its 39 members are greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than July 31, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Attention all members of Branch 855 Holy Name of Jesus Society. We are pleased to announce our participation in the District 10 fraternal event at the Akron Rubber Ducks game Saturday August 12th. Come join us for baseball, food, fun and fireworks! [Editor's note: please see page 15 of this issue for details].

Ticket information: Tickets are \$25.00. The branch will reimburse the ticket price of \$25.00 for the first 25 members who reserve a ticket with our Fraternal Activities Director, Barbara Sutula at 440-864-4744. Non-member ticket price is \$25.00. Deadline to reserve tickets is July 21st. Please call Barbara for details. Hope to see you there!!!

Michael Kolesar, President

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON DC AND AREA

Branch 856 will be having mass in honor of our Slovak Chapel, Our Mother of Sorrows, in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue N.E. Washington, D.C. [Editor's note: see page 3 of this issue.] Mass will be at 11:00 A.M. Sunday September 17, 2017 in the Crypt Church. This will be the 52nd anniversary since the dedication in 1965. All members are encouraged to attend and all Slovaks living in area are invited to attend. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Stephen Matula at 703-671-3013.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

Branch 853's Charles Boone Wins Citizenship Award



Branch 853 Eagle Scout Charles Boone of Dormont Pennsylvania, believes that being a good citizen should be part of our lives. The Jimmy Stewart Museum Foundation awarded Charles the James M. Stewart Good Citizenship Award. Each year, less than 125 of these prestigious awards are conferred to Boy Scouts throughout the United States.

Charles proudly describes his project: "I put the safety of my community first. At the end of a dead end street there are four poles so that you don't drive over the hill. These poles blended into the weeds and grasses. My idea was to clear the brush away from the poles, and then sand and paint the poles so that they can be seen, without the brush or through the brush. It was a very rewarding project, but it had discouraging times too.

I had to put a couple coats of paint on the poles, and when I went to spray the next coat, dirt clung to the previously pristine poles. That didn't stop me, I had to prep again and repaint. Now the poles at the end of that street are highly visible and painted in Safety Yellow. I like doing my part to make my home town a great place to live."

Charles is the son of the former Pension Board Trustee and former National Auditor Monica Rodacy Boone and Ron Boone. All are active members of Branch 853 and the District 12 - the Mgrs. Andrew Hlinka District.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President

Annual Jednota Toronto Slovak Golf Tournament Saturday September 23, 2017

Our long-running Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday September 23, 2017 at the Deerfield Golf Club in Oakville, Ontario, generously sponsored by Toronto/Mississauga's District 19 and Branch 785 of the Jednota.

All men and women ages 16+ are welcome to play. Cost is \$75 per member which includes golf and power cart, food and beverages and prizes. Non-members are also welcome to play at a slightly higher cost.

To guarantee a fun day, we will be playing a 4-person team scramble format. Numerous prizes are planned throughout the day.

Some of last year's winners were:

Team – Bill Goodyear, Robert Tokarsky and John Tokarsky (2 lb each of delicious kielbasa)

Closest to the hole – John Tokarsky (cash)

Longest drive – Bill Goodyear (cash)

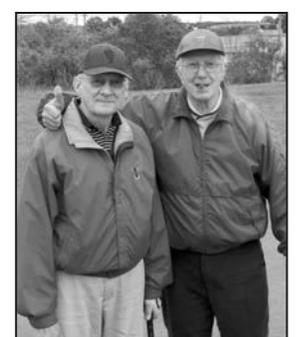
Hovno corner – John Tokarsky, Lou Jarabek, Harry Romolock, George Mergelas (cash).

Food, snacks and beverages of choice are also provided both during and after the event.

Other surprises are also planned. Come join us, we promise to make you remember again that golf is a fun game!

You can enter a 4-person team or only yourself. For questions and to book your spot: contact John Tokarsky, Fraternal Activities Director, at (416) 948-6606 or jednota-sports-toronto@outlook.com.

Scenes from the 2016 Toronto Tournament



OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

daughter of the late Charles and Grace White.

She was a graduate of Sharpsville High School. She had previously worked at Philadelphia Candies, Eileen Bridal Shop in Sharon, PA, and Packard Electric. Mary was a member of St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Cortland, OH. She enjoyed bingo, making Christmas cookies, going to casinos and going to her grandchildren's sporting events. She was also an avid Cleveland Indians Fan.

She is survived by her husband John "Jack" Urchek Jr. whom she married July 22, 1961, her three children Cynthia Marie Hunter of Cortland, John L. (Lisa) Urchek III of Massillon, and Christine (Chuck) File of Cortland, seven grandchildren John L. Urchek IV, Matthew Urchek, David, Shawna and Nicholas Hunter and Maribeth and Charles File, and four sisters Betty Lou Fess of Sharpsville, PA, her twin sister Eileen (John) Puhl of Hermitage, PA, Nancy (Bob) Scott of Sarasota, FL, and Rita Smith of Sharpsville.

She is preceded in death by her parents, four brothers Edward,

Patrick, Eugene, and Ken White and two sisters Kathleen Kimmel and Jeanette Paoletta.

Family and friends called Monday, June 12, 2017, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel, Warren, OH, and Tuesday, June 13, 2017, from 10:30 to 11:00AM at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Cortland, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00AM, with Rev. Carl Kish officiating. Burial was in All Souls Cemetery in Bazetta, OH.

- Submitted by John Urchek, Jr.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the April 2017 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by George F. Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The President asked to be excused from the meeting and turned the meeting over to Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a written report on the investment update to the Executive Committee and answered the Committee's questions.

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

The Treasurer stated that he attended the American Fraternal Alliance Executive Summit in Chicago on April 3-5, 2017. Since the President and Executive Secretary were unable to attend, the Treasurer gave a report on the Summit and stated that it was a very productive seminar.

The Treasurer stated we should take a look at other Fraternal and find out what activities they offer their members.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**Investment Updates**

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Disbursements for the month of April 2017:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 187,617.79
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 34,367.50
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

The Executive Secretary led a review of the 1st Quarter 2017 financial statements. After the review, he answered the Committee's questions and stated that the financial statements will be published in the Jednota.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**Annuity Rates:**

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting

and adding new agents, and at present have 273 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products, in addition to frequent phone contacts.

The Vice President stated he is in the process of establishing a new sales quota for the districts. Once his study is complete, he will present it to the Executive Committee for review.

The Vice President stated that we are reviewing the results of the website traffic with our marketing firm and looking for ways to improve our site.

The Executive Secretary stated we have started an extensive recruitment program to increase our number of independent agents. Emails are being sent to possible agents in the states we are licensed in to inform them who we are, our rates, and the products we offer. We are waiting to analyze the results and see how successful we are.

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

The Vice President stated that the 2017 Membership Meet will be a 7 day cruise to the Eastern Caribbean aboard Allure of the Seas and be held November 12-19, 2017. He stated information will be posted on our website, published in the Jednota, and mailed out to the branches.

MIDDLETOWN PROPERTY:

The Vice President gave an update on the property in Middletown. The Vice President stated we have received several offers which will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Secretary stated we have received a 45-60 day extension from our potential buyers so we will have time to fully review their offers.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Vice President led a discussion on the possibility of having a national picnic in 2017. After further review, and due to time restraints, it was decided a picnic this year is not possible.

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 George F. Matta II and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish Summer Festival in August



St. Matthew the Evangelist Parish, Minersville, PA, will sponsor its 10th Annual Summer Festival on Sunday, August 20, 2017, at the South Cass Fire Company Picnic Grounds, Primrose, PA, from 12noon until 9:00PM.

Entertainment will include:

12noon – 4:00PM: John Stevens' Doubleshots
5:30PM – 9:00PM: The New Individuals

The festival will feature homemade food such

as pierogi, halupki, kielbasa, halushki, bleenies, bean soup, and sausage sandwiches as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries, funnel cakes, ice cream, and more. There also will be games, bingo, basket auction, etc.

Ample, free parking is available.

Everyone is welcome!

For more information, please contact St. Matthew the Evangelist Rectory at 570-544-2211.

-Submitted by Rev. Leo J. Maletz

Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

Správy zo Slovenska

M. Lajčák vystúpi na konferencii Oslo Fórum k mediácii

Na pozvanie nórskeho rezortného partnera Borge Brendeho odcestoval minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák v polovici júna do hlavného mesta Nórska, kde vystúpil na konferencii Oslo Fórum, ktorá sa za 15 rokov svojej existencie stala uznávaným fórom mediátorov, kľúčových aktérov mierových procesov, analytikov a expertov z rôznych inštitúcií. Ústrednou témou tohtoročného fóra bolo udržiavanie mieru a vytváranie priestoru pre mediáciu konfliktov.

Porastú Slovákom dôchodky zase každému rovnako?

Rodí sa nový vzorec, podľa ktorého sa budú zvyšovať dôchodky v budúcom, ale aj v ďalších rokoch. Mal by sa v ňom zohľadniť nielen rast cien, ale aj rast miezd pracujúcich ľudí. A zároveň v ňom má byť zavedená „bezpečnostná poisťka“, ktorá každému penzistovi zaistí nárast dávky aspoň o istú minimálnu sumu. Takto uvažuje ministerstvo práce, ktoré momentálne pripravuje dôchodkový valorizačný model s výhľadom na dlhšie obdobie. V najbližšom čase sa k nemu budú vyjadrovať partneri v koalícii, tripartite aj odborníci. Národná rada SR by ho mala prerokovať v septembri.

Bratislava je nové Silicon Valley

Britský ekonomický denník Financial Times (FT) nešetril chválou na účet Slovenska a vydal článok o Bratislave. Materiál hodnotí slovenskú ekonomiku, ako aj výborné nápady Slovákov. Autori článku v FT vyzdvihli najmä rozmach automobilového priemyslu, mobilných aplikácií, úspech lietajúceho auta i firiem ESET či Sygic, ktoré pozná celý svet. Naopak, skritizovali ekonomiku, zlé podmienky pre slovenských podnikateľov a korupčné škandály.

V Štúrove usporiadali 12. ročník festivalu AquaPhone

V Štúrove začiatkom júna usporiadali jednodňový festival AquaPhone, ktorý každoročne ponúka návštevníkom kvalitný a pestrý program. Podujatie sa zakladá na zvyklostiach predchádzajúceho storočia, keď most medzi Štúrovom a Ostrihomom bol zničený a príbuzní i známi komunikovali medzi sebou cez Dunaj. „Telefonovanie pomocou vody inšpirovalo autora festivalu“, tvrdil hlavný organizátor Juraj Himmler s tým, že prvý ročník zrealizovali v roku 2005. Okrem kultúrnych programov čakalo záujemcov niekoľko sprievodných programov, ako napríklad knižné trhy, výstavy, diskusie.

Tatraci mieria na lyžiarsky areál na českom Ještěde

Turistický gigant Tatry Mountain Resort (TMR) mieria na české lyžiarske svahy. Firma si chce prenajať lyžiarsky areál pod Ještědom v Liberci na 25 rokov. Slováci sa chystajú naliať do areálu postupne 25 až 30 miliónov eur. Liberecká radnica má aj ďalšieho záujemcu – neznámu českú spoločnosť Holder ski areál, pre primátora Liberca je táto firma nedôveryhodná.

Centrum mesta sa oživí

Aj v tomto roku počas letných vikendov čakajú na obyvateľov a turistov mesta Komárno zaujímavé kultúrne a zábavné programy. Akcie Komárňanské leto a Leto Lehára už majú svoju tradíciu. Iniciatíva turistického ruchu mesta je úspešná. Jeho cieľom je prilákať deti, mládež, dospelých mesta ako aj návštevníkov. Ani v tomto roku nebudú chýbať chutné jedlá a občerstvenie. Väčšina podujatí sa uskutoční na Klapkovom námestí, ale v šiestej bašte pevnosti Komárno zorganizujú jazzové koncerty a ochutnávku vín. Počas leta budú zastúpené všetky hudobné žánre, nebudú chýbať ani tanečníci. Soboty budú vyhradené v popoludňajších hodinách hlavne pre deti a rodiny. Programy obohatia módne a tanečné prehliadky.

Ukrajinci už nebudú potrebovať víza do EÚ

Ukrajinci sa dostanú na Slovensko jednoduchšie. Nadobudne platnosť rozhodnutie Európskej únie o zrušení vízovej povinnosti pre občanov Ukrajiny. Polícia v záujme bezpečnosti a plynulosti posilní svoje zložky. Obyvatelia prihraničných obcí sa zvýšeného náporu cudzincov neobávajú.

Za prácou odchádza menej Slovákov

Počet ľudí pracujúcich za hranicami sa v prvom štvrtroku v porovnaní s rovnakým obdobím minulého roku znížil o 4,6 tisíce na 155-tisíc. Ide o pokles o 2,9 percenta. Za zmenou trendu vidia odborníci dobrý rast ekonomiky a veľký dopyt po nových zamestnancoch. Za zmenou trendu môže byť podľa prognostika Slovenskej akadémie vied Vladimíra Baláža aj brexit.

Karta vytláča gastrolístky

Gastrolístky odrazili všetky snahy o ich zrušenie. Obmene sa však nevyhli. Ich papierová podoba je nahrádzaná elektronickou stravovacou kartou, ktorú už používa značná časť firiem. V prípade elektronickej karty stravník namiesto papierového kupónu dostane od zamestnávateľa plastovú predplatenú kartu, ktorá je bezkontaktná a online ju zamestnávateľ môže každý mesiac nabíjať. Gastrofirmy si však aj tak účtujú poplatky na obidvoch koncoch, to znamená za poskytnutie kreditu zamestnancovi aj za uplatnenie kreditu zo strany reštaurácie. Kartou sa dá platiť v reštauráciách s platobným terminálom banky a tiež s uzatvorenou zmluvou s firmami, ktoré karty vydávajú.

Najmladšia konzervatoristka má len 6 rokov

Sofia Dadíková (6) je výnimočné dieťa. Hoci je len na začiatku svojej vysnívanej kariéry harfistky, už teraz ju pre veľký talent prijali na bratislavské konzervatórium. Prváčka, z muzikantskej rodiny, okrem harfy hrá aj na gitare a klavíri. Ako mimoriadny študent bude navštevovať konzervatórium. Je tu viacero detí, ktoré chodia na mimoriadne štúdium, a láska k hudbe je taká silná, že budú kombinovať dve školy.

Pekársky gigant mieria na juh Slovenska

Výrobca sladkého a slaného pečiva, grécky potravinársky holding Chipita, postaví pri Dunajskej Stredě veľkú pekáreň. Do nového závodu investuje 63 miliónov eur a zamestná vyše 600 ľudí. Firma počíta s rok trvajúcou výstavbou, ktorú by chcela odštartovať v druhom kvartáli budúceho roka. Nový závod so štyrmi výrobnými linkami vyrastie na ploche 7,5 hektára v obci Kostolné Kľačany. Na troch linkách bude produkovať croissanty a na jednej slané pečivo.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Nová mapa Bratislavy s ulicami pomenovanými podľa zahraničných Slovákov

Krajanský inštitút v Bratislave vydal mapu hlavného mesta Slovenska s ulicami pomenovanými podľa Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Obsahuje 49 ulíc i 17 pamätníkov a inštitúcií zaoberajúcich sa krajanmi.

Tešedíkova ulica v Záhorskej Bystrici je pomenovaná podľa evanjelického kňaza, pokrokového pedagóga, zakladateľa odborného školstva a pôdoznanectva v Uhorsku Samuela Tešedíka, ktorý žil v rokoch 1742 až 1820. V tejto bratislavskej mestskej časti sú ešte dve podobné ulice. Prídavkovu inšpiroval spisovateľ, novinár, politik a prekladateľ Peter Prídavok (1902-1966) pôsobiaci vo Veľkej Británii. Ulica Štefana Rosivala je podľa rímskokatolíckeho kanonika a titulárneho opáta, politika a poslanca dolnej komory uhorského parlamentu, ktorý sa narodil v Nitrianskom Hrádku (1844) a zomrel v Ostrihome (1916).

Podobne sú zdôvodnené názvy ulíc takmer v každej mestskej časti Bratislavy. Okrem všeobecne známych osobností z kultúrnej, politickej, vedeckej či cirkevnej oblasti, akými boli Michal Milan Harminc, Jozef Murgaš, Jozef Cíger Hronský, Martin Kukučín, Maximilián Hell, Aurel Stodola či svetoznáma inštiná maliarka Zuzana Chalupová zo srbskej Kovačice, sú na mape uvedení takmer neznámi muži.

Medzi najstarších patrí filozof, dramatik a teológ Izák Caban (1632-1707), ktorý v rumunskom Sibiu pôsobil ako riaditeľ gymnázia a kazateľ. Tiež básnik, prekladateľ autor autobiografickej tvorby Štefan Pilárik (1615-1693), major francúzskej armády, ktorý bojoval v Amerike za nezávislosť USA Ján Ladislav Polorecký (1748-1830), uhorský gróf a rakúsky poľný maršal Andrej Hadík (1711-1790) a iní.

Najviac - 24 ulíc je v Petržalke. Z nich jedna veľmi dlhá Dolnozemska je pomenovaná podľa územia Dolná zem (južné Maďarsko, východné Chorvátsko, sever Srbska, juhozápad Rumunsko), kam sa v druhej polovici 18. a začiatkom 19. storočia sťahovali Slováci z horného Uhorska. Vzdelávacia mapa zároveň prezrádza, kde sú umiestnené pamätné tabule Jána Ambroša, Emila Vidru, Janka Čmelíka, tiež busty a hroby iných či základný kameň pamätníka slovenského vystáhovalectva.

TASR

Štipendisti Fulbrightovho programu získajú v SR národné víza

Príchod amerických držiteľov štipendií J. W. Fulbrighta na Slovensko bude časovo a finančne jednoduchší. V budúcnosti im totiž budú udeľované slovenské národné víza. Umožní to zmena dohody medzi vládou USA a SR, ktorej koncom júna schválila vláda.

Zmenu navrhla americká strana, dôvodom bolo časovo a finančne náročné zabezpečovanie podkladov potrebných pre prechodný pobyt amerických štipendistov a ich priamych rodinných príslušníkov. Úprava súčasne umožní zjednotiť udeľovanie povolenia na pobyt pre štipendistov z oboch krajín.

Navrhovaná zmena dohody upravuje pobyt osôb v SR a v USA počas ich štipendijného pobytu. Návrh pritom vychádza zo skutočnosti, že v čase, keď bola dohoda schválená, štipendisti nemali možnosť získať v SR národné víza typu D. To sa teraz zmení. Národné vízum sa udeľuje na pobyt dlhší ako tri mesiace, najviac na jeden rok.

Dohoda medzi vládou Slovenskej republiky a vládou USA o Komisii J. Williama Fulbrighta pre vzdelávacie výmeny v SR bola podpísaná dňa 22. marca 2005 a nadviazala na predchádzajúcu dohodu z roku 1994. Jej cieľom je podporovať výmenu študentov, stážistov, výskumných pracovníkov, učiteľov, profesorov, odborníkov medzi SR a USA, rozvíjať spoluprácu medzi inštitúciami na rôznych stupňoch vzdelávania, verejnej správy, súkromného sektora a neštátnych organizácií.

Ulohou komisie je administrácia Fulbrightovho programu v SR. Za obdobie od roku 1994 - 2017 sa zúčastnilo výmenných pobytov v oboch krajinách viac než 600 slovenských a amerických odborníkov, vedeckých pracovníkov, študentov, stážistov a umelcov, konštatuje ministerstvo školstva. V priemere ich teda bolo 25 za rok.

TASR

NHL Tampa Bay Lightning predĺžil zmluvu s brankárom Petrom Budajom

Klub zámorskej hokejovej NHL Tampa Bay Lightning predĺžil zmluvu so slovenským brankárom Petrom Budajom. Podľa kanadskej televízie TSN znie nový dvojročný kontrakt na 2,05 milióna dolárov.

Tridsaťštyriročný brankár začal uplynulú sezónu v Los Angeles, odkiaľ ho floridský klub získal vo februári. Spolu odchytil 60 zápasov s bilanciou 30-21-3, priemerom 2,18 inkasovaného gólu na zápas a 91,5-percentnou úspešnosťou zásahov.



FOTO: TASR/AP

Peter Budaj

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Schôdza okresu Princa Pribinu IKSJ v Los Angeles California

Okres Princa Pribinu IKSJ bude mať schôdzu v **sobotu 29. júla 2017**. Schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe je orientácia na aktivity zamerané na získanie nových členov, príprava pre picnic 2017, a riešenie zabezpečenia pohostenia pri krajanskom posedení po sv. omšiach. Pozvaní sú členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí.

Oznámenie Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Spolok svätého Štefana číslo 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty vás pozýva na Slovenskú katolícku púť do Marian Shrine v Stony Point, NY, ktorá bude v **nedeľu 13. augusta 2017**. O informácie volajte Máriu Božekovú 347-612-1934 alebo Lisu Calabrese 212-734-4613.

Joan Mary Škrkoňová, asistentka tajomníka

„Ženská Jednota“ oslávi 125. výročie v Clevelande, OH

Prvá katolícka slovenská ženská jednota (IKSŽJ) sa dožila v januári t.r. 125. výročia jej vzniku. Toto vynikajúce jubileum oslávi **29. júla v Clevelande**, v hoteli Cleveland Marriott, v strede mesta, ktoré bolo kedysi najväčším „slovenským“ mestom na svete, lebo v ňom sídlilo viac Slovákov ako v hociktorom meste na Slovensku.

Oslava sa začne sv. omšou o 4:30 popoludní v katedrále sv. Jána Evanjelistu. Recepčia pre účastníkov bude v hoteli o 6.hod. a slávnostný banket je plánovaný na 7. hod. večer.

Nasledujúci deň, **30. júla** bude v hlavnom sídle IKSŽJ Deň otvorených dverí, kedy si návštevníci budú môcť prezrieť hlavné sídlo organizácie.

87. Slovensko-americký deň v Milwaukee, WI

Federácia slovenských spolkov v Milwaukee usporiada v **nedeľu, 30. júla** 87. výročný Slovensko-americký deň v Chorvátskom parku na adrese: 9140 South 76th Street, Franklin. O 12.00 hodine na obed bude svätá omša, ktorú odslúži Fr. John Jamnický. Neskoršie do tanca bude hrať Ed Hause Band. O 2:30 hodine začne kultúrno-zábavný program na ktorom vystúpia gymnasti Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a folklórna skupina Tatra Slovak Dancers. Pre návštevníkov budú k dispozícii predajné stánky zo slovenskými pochúťkami (vrátane slovenského piva) a rôzne pamiatkové predmety. Pre viac informácií volajte: Betty Valent, tel: 414 - 425 - 6137, alebo Ralph Hass: 262 - 893 -2972.

Slovenská katolícka púť do Marian Shrine, Stony Point

Spolok svätého Štefana č. 716 IKSJ pozýva verejnosť na Slovenskú katolícku púť do Marian Shrine v 174 Filors Lane Stony Point, 10980 ktorá bude v **nedeľu 13. augusta 2017**. Svätá omša bude o 11. hodine dopoludnia, obed o 12:30 hodine a Ružencová procesia o 2:30 popoludní. Pred svätou omšou bude možnosť pristúpiť k sviatosti zmierenia. Púť organizuje Spolok sv. Štefana Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty s podporou kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Viac informácií vám poskytnie Mária Božeková na čísle: 1- 347-612-1934 alebo Lisa Calabrese na čísle: 1 212-734-4613. Ak máte záujem ísť na púť autobusom, prihláste sa u Márii alebo Lisy čím skôr. Cena je \$40.00 pre dospelých a \$15.00 pre deti do 12 rokov. V cene je prenajatie autobusu, mýto, sprepitné, káva a šišky počas cesty, obed a milodar na svätýňu. Ak by ste iba chceli cestovať autobusom cena je \$ 30.00 pre dospelých, \$10.00 pre deti.

Ján Škrkoň, predseda

Združenie slovenských katolíkov bude mať konvenciu v septembri

Združenie slovenských katolíkov v USA a Kanade bude mať svoju 59. konvenciu v Youngstown, Ohio v **dňoch 18. a 19. septembra t.r.** ZSK vydá pri tejto príležitosti Pamätnicu. Záujemci, ktorí by chceli mať svoje meno na strane pozdravov, môžu poslať šek na adresu: Theresa M. Kluchinski, 71 South Washington St., Wilkes Barre, PA 18701 v obnosoch: platinový pozdrav \$100, diamantový \$75, zlatý \$58, strieborný \$25 a bronzový \$10. Šeky majú byť vystavené na Slovak Catholic Federation.

V Nitre zasvätili Slovensko Božskému Srdcu Ježišovmu a Srdcu Panny Márie

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

menší a všetkých spoluobčanov. „V tejto modlitbe sa chceme obrátiť na túto Kristovu lásku, zosobnenú v jeho Božskom Srdci. V storočnici fatimského zjavenia, na príhovor Panny Márie, mu chceme zveriť celý náš národ, všetkých obyvateľov našej vlasti v tejto vážnej chvíli našich národných i osobných dejín,“ píše sa v modlitbe, ktorá obsahuje 12 prosieb. „Prijmi tieto naše prosby aj na príhovor našich svätých patrónov, ktorí posvätili našu krajinu svojim verným životom a činnosťou podľa tvojho evanjelia,“ uvádza modlitba. Cyrilometodské púte v Nitre v novodobej histórii Slovenska sa začali v roku 1990, píše Nitrianske biskupstvo. Konali sa na Kalvárii nad mestom. Omšiam vtedy predsedal kardinál Ján Chryzostom Korec. Od roku 2006 sa vďaka diecéznemu biskupovi Mons. Viliamovi Judákovi púte 5. júla presunuli na Nitriansky hrad. Až v ostatných rokoch sa kvôli veľkému počtu prítomných veriacich miesto bohoslužby presunulo na Svätoplukovo námestie. Domáci biskup si každý rok pozýva iného biskupa – zo Slovenska alebo zo zahraničia -, aby predsedal svätej omši. Pamätná je národná púť z roku 2013, keď si Slovensko pripomenulo 1150. výročie príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na naše územie.

TKKBS

Nová kniha kardinála Saraha v slovenskom preklade

Sila ticha: proti diktatúre hluku

Po vydaní úspešnej knihy **BOH alebo NIČ** z pera kardinála Róberta Saraha, ktorá bola preložená behom roka do štrnástich jazykov a vo vydavateľstve Lúč vyšla po slovensky vlni (2016), vychádza v Lúči po tieto dni v slovenskom preklade ďalšia jeho kniha **SILA TICHÁ : proti diktatúre hluku**. Ako je známe, autor oboch kníh je prefektom Kongregácie pre Boží kult a disciplínu sviatostí a jeden z najbližších spolupracovníkov Svätého Otca Františka.

Emeritný pápež Benedikt XVI. v predslove knihy **SILA TICHÁ** napísal: „Kardinál Sarah je duchovný učiteľ, ktorý hovorí z hĺbky mlčania s Pánom a z vnútornej jednoty s ním, a tak má naozaj čo povedať každému z nás.“ Bližšie informácie o oboch knihách na vlákne: www.luc.sk

USSU



Matica slovenská spustá nový portál

Matica slovenská mapuje aktívnych folkloristov na Slovensku, aby im pomohla

Matica slovenská v duchu svojej tradície pokračuje v šľapajách svojich národopiscov a etnológov. Rozhodla sa tentokrát digitálne zmapovať folklórne dianie na Slovensku. V týchto chvíľach vytvára portál www.folkloreslovenska.sk, ktorý má za cieľ zmapovať folklórne skupiny, kolektívy či súbory. Informácie, kontaktné údaje či fotografie, si pritom budú folkloristi pridávať sami. Samozrejmosťou je aj link na vlastné stránky súboru. Matica slovenská prostredníctvom prehľadných stránok ponúkne verejnosti, ale aj organizátorom folklórnych či iných podujatí, aktuálny prehľad súborov, kolektívov či aktívnych nadšencov vo vybranom regióne. Cieľom je predovšetkým pre odbornú, ale aj súkromnú verejnosť, poskytnúť prehľad toho ozajstného národného pokladu, ktorý doma máme. Matica slovenská sama združuje desiatky súborov na Slovensku, avšak rada by touto svojou aktivitou pomohla celému folklórnemu hnutiu v našej krajine. „Vieme, že aktívnych folkloristov a ich zoskupení je veľa, hlásia sa k tomu, čo je pre Maticu slovenskú najcennejšie, k našej tradícii a histórii. Kto iní, ak nie my, by mal odborne zmapovať toto naše dedičstvo vo svojej živej podobe. Chceme vedieť o každej jednej babke, ale aj o jej vnučke, ak spievajú naše ľudové piesne. My máme obrovské množstvo kontaktov na organizátorov všemožných podujatí, prečo by sme im o vnučke či babke nepovedali, ak môžeme,“ vyjadrili sa čelní predstavitelia MS na tlačovej konferencii.

Aktivita na portáli www.folkloreslovenska.sk môže súborom pomôcť dostať sa na rôzne festivaly či do programu stoviek a stoviek podujatí, ktoré sa organizujú u nás či v zahraničí. Portál bude bezplatný. Portál je už pripravený slúžiť svojim užívateľom, prebiehajú testovacie práce, ktorých súčasťou môže byť každý jeden aktívny folklorista. Zároveň sa o všetkých podujatiach Matice slovenskej dozviete z webovej stránky www.matica.sk, v strede stránky - pod titulkom Celoslovenské pozvánky a pozvánky jednotlivých krajov.

Ivana Poláková

Nový apoštolský nuncius - arcibiskup Giacomo Ottonello už je na Slovensku

Na Slovensko koncom júna pricestoval Mons. Giacomo Guido Ottonello, ktorého Svätý Otec František vymenoval za nového apoštolského nuncia v našej krajine. Nastúpil po Mons. Mario Giordanovi, ktorý v úrade skončil po dosiahnutí kánonického veku (75 rokov).

Arcibiskupa Giacoma Guida Ottonella, doterajšieho apoštolského nuncia v Ekvádore, privítal na pôde Apoštolskej nunciatúry v Bratislave Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita, predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska, spolu s viacerými ďalšími slovenskými biskupmi.

Naposledy pôsobil ako apoštolský nuncius v Ekvádore. V blízkej budúcnosti by mal prezident Slovenskej republiky Andrej Kiska prijať apoštolského nuncia, ktorý mu odovzdá poverovacie listiny a oficiálne tak začne svoju diplomatickú misiu na Slovensku.

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

Arcibiskup Ottonello okrem rodnej reči ovláda francúzsky, španielsky a anglický jazyk. Za apoštolského nuncia na Slovensku bol vymenovaný 1. apríla 2017.

TK KBS

Vysviacka slovenského dreveného kostolíka na Islande

V islandskom Reydarfjördure nedávno katolícky biskup pochádzajúci zo Slovenska, kapucín Dávid Bartimej Tencer vysvätil jedinečný drevený kostolík. Na slávnosti bol prítomný aj slovenský premiér Robert Fico, minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Miroslav Lajčák a minister financií Peter Kažimír.



A church made of wood from Slovakia was consecrated recently on the island nation of Iceland by Reykjavik Bishop David Bartimej Tencer. Also present were Slovak Premier Robert Fico, Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák and Slovak Finance Minister Peter Kazimir.

Drevený kostolík má tvar františkánskeho kríža sv. Damiána a je vysoký 12 metrov. Postavili ho v Hriňovej a použili naň drevo z Podpoľania. Následne ho rozobrali a previezli na Island. Kostolík je na Islande unikátny, pretože drevo je na tomto kamenistom ostrove vzácné.

Slovenský biskup z Reykjavíku Tencer je najvyšším predstaviteľom katolíckej cirkvi na Islande. Miestnu farnosť v Reydarfjördure spravuje komunita troch bratov kapucínov zo Slovenska na čele s Petrom Kováčikom.

„Po komunikácii s otcom biskupom sme trochu pomohli, urobili sme to cez slovenskú katolícku cirkev. A mňa preto teší, že takýto kus Slovenska z Hriňovej, vrátane otca biskupa, takisto zo Slovenska, tu môže na Islande pôsobiť,“ uviedol Fico a pripomenul, že špecifikom Islandu sú veľké vzdialenosti, ktoré musia kňazi kvôli veriaciim prekonávať.

TASR



FOTO TASR - KP SR

Na snímke dole vpravo prezident SR Andrej Kiska a piaty sprava americký prezident Donald Trump počas spoločného fotografovania na vrcholnej schôdzke predstaviteľov dvanástich krajín Iniciatívy troch morí (Baltské, Jadranské a Čierne more) vo Varšave 6. júla 2017.

Slovak President Andrej Kiska (right) poses with American President Donald Trump during a meeting of representatives of the 12 Countries Initiative of the Three Seas (Baltic, Black Sea, Adriatic) in Warsaw on July 6, 2017.

Prvé dva vrtuľníky Black Hawk sú už na Slovensku

Modernizácia, po ktorej sa roky ozbrojených síl volalo, sa nedávno stala realitou. Na letisku v Prešove pristáli prvé dva viacúčelové vojenské vrtuľníky UH-60M Black Hawk, ktoré budú súčasťou výzbroje Vzdušných síl OS SR.

Ich preprava na Slovensko bola zmluvne zabezpečená v rámci kontraktu. Z USA boli prepravené loďou do Bremerhavenu v Nemecku, odkiaľ ich už na Slovensko previezli zmiešané slovensko-americké posádky. Slávnostné odovzdanie vrtuľníkov sa uskutoční aj za účasti zástupcov médií vo štvrtok 6. júla 2017.

V Spojených štátoch amerických už boli vo výcvikových zariadeniach amerických ozbrojených síl vycvičené štyri posádky na nové stroje, pričom výcvik ďalších, naďalej prebieha. Do konca roka 2017 by malo byť pripravených pilotovať nové stroje šesť posádok. Nové vrtuľníky UH-60M Black Hawk budú dislokované v priestoroch Vrtuľníkového krídla generálplukovníka Jána Ambruša v Prešove. Ministerstvo obrany SR nakúpi celkovo deväť viacúčelových vrtuľníkov v celkovom objeme 261 miliónov amerických dolárov. Nákup sa zrealizoval prostredníctvom amerického vládneho programu FMS (Foreign Military Sales).

TASR

Seminár Matice slovenskej v Martine

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Nina Holá. Vyslovili poďakovanie usporiadateľom a hlavne Krajskému múzeu, ktoré tento seminár pripravilo organizačne i spoločensky.

Pracovné rokovania seminára odborne viedli riaditeľ Slovenského historického ústavu MS Ivan Mrva a pracovník Slovenského literárneho ústavu MS Pavol Parenička.

Prvý príspevok mala prof. M. Dobrotková z Trnavskej univerzity, ktorá referovala o počiatkoch slovenského prisťahovalectva do USA až po založenie SLvA 26. mája 1807 v Clevelande, ktorý bol v tom čase najvýznamnejším centrom slovenského života v Amerike.

Následoval prof. R. Letz z Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave, ktorý venoval svoj referát účinkovaniu SLvA v rokoch tzv. ľudovej demokracie (1945-1950), kedy SLvA intenzívne lobovala u západných vlád za zachovanie samostatnosti Slovenska alebo za skutočnú federáciu a nastolenie demokratického režimu. Prof. Letz sa tiež zaoberal aktivitami po februárového slovenského exilu a jeho spoluprácou so SLvA. Prof. Letz je autorom knihy Dejiny Slovenskej ligy na Slovensku.

M. Majeriková-Molitoris zo Spolku Slovákov v Poľsku sa zaoberala aktivitami SLvA v záujme navrátenia Slováckmi obývaného územia na Spiši k Slovensku, ktoré po skončení 2. svetovej vojny Benešovo Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí prostredníctvom Delimitačnej komisie vymenilo za tešínske územie s bohatým obsahom čierneho uhlia.

F. Vrabel z Ústavu politických vied Slovenskej akadémie vied dokumentoval počet slovenských legionárov počas 1. svetovej vojny, ktorý sa v médiách nepodáva objektívne.

Podpredseda SLvA Dr. Mikuláš Halko, prečítal príspevok neprítomného člena Výkonného výboru SLvA a čestného gen. tajomníka Jána Holého o aktivitách Slovenskej ligy v rokoch 1988 – 1993 a o lbovaní v záujme prijatia SR do NATO.

O referátoch sa vyvinula zaujímavá diskusia, ktorá potvrdila, že existencia a činnosť Slovenskej ligy v Amerike významne ovplyvnila smer histórie slovenského národa. Ako zdôraznila gen. tajomníčka SLvA Nina Holá, hlavný cieľ existencie Slovenskej ligy sa naplnil vznikom druhej Slovenskej republiky a jej začlenením do Európskej Únie. To bol sen a program generácií slovenských národných pracovníkov a bojovníkov na dvoch kontinentoch.

Slovenská liga vyslovuje vďaka a uznanie Krajskému múzeu MS a aj vedeniu MS za usporiadanie tohto seminára.

- JH-



Prvý podpredseda SLvA Mikuláš Halko (vľavo) ďakuje predsedovi MS M. Tkáčovi za usporiadanie seminára.



Predseda MS Marián Tkáč odovzdal gen. tajomníčke SLvA Nine Holej záslužnú medailu ako ocenenie mnohých aktivít SLvA v záujme Slovenska.

Nový web o prvkoch tradičnej ľudovej kultúry je významným prínosom

Za významný prínos v aktivitách uchovávať a prezentovať rozmanitosť kultúrneho dedičstva Slovenska považuje minister kultúry SR Marek Maďarič (Smer-SD) sprístupnenie nového portálu Fondu tradičnej ľudovej kultúry. Web www.fondtlk.sk prináša textové, ale aj audiovizuálne materiály, pochádzajúce z výskumov Centra pre tradičnú ľudovú kultúru i z archívov fyzických a právnických osôb, ktoré centrum získalo prostredníctvom inventarizácie tradičnej ľudovej kultúry v rokoch 2008-2017.

Používatelia si môžu prostredníctvom vyhľadávania vypočuť nahrávky pôvodných ľudových piesní z rôznych regiónov, pozrieť videozáznam o tradičných regionálnych tancoch či obrázky typických predmetov ľudových remesiel, to všetko aj s bližším popisom a vysvetlením.

„Teda už nielen elektronická encyklopédia, ale aj nový web prispievajú k tomu, aby ten, kto má seriózny záujem spoznať rôznorodosť tradičnej ľudovej kultúry, mohol pohodlne načerpať informácie prostredníctvom internetu“, skonštatoval minister.

Význam týchto nových možností a digitalizáciu nehmotných pamiatok dokumentujúcich tradície a históriu Slovenska považuje minister kultúry za obzvlášť dôležité preto, lebo z reálneho života postupne miznú nositelia zvykov a tradícií a slabne aj prenos tradícií z generácie na generáciu.

Nový portál predstavili zástupcovia Centra pre tradičnú ľudovú kultúru na podujatí 9. - 10. júna Folk Expo Slovakia 2017 - nová platforma pre folklórny priemysel, ktorý sa konal v bratislavských Rusovciach. Súčasťou podujatia bolo aj sympóziu s názvom Uchovávanie a sprístupňovanie tradičnej ľudovej kultúry v súčasnosti. Dnes v sídle SLUK-u prezentujú projekty a ukážky tradičnej ľudovej kultúry, rovnako premietnu i filmy s folklórnou tematikou.

TASR

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Starobylá Nitra 5. júla privítala niekoľko tisíc veriacich, ktorí prišli na národnú púť k svätým solúnskym bratom Cyrilovi a Metodovi.

FOTO TASR - Henrich Mišovič

On July 5, 2017 thousands of the faithful gathered in Nitra for the national SS. Cyril and Methodius pilgrimage. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated on an outdoor altar on Svatopluk Square by Reykjavik Bishop David Bartima Tencer.

V Nitre zasvätili Slovensko Božskému Srdcu Ježišovmu a Srdcu Panny Márie

Slávnostnú svätú omšu na poľnom oltári celebrouval za prítomnosti viacerých biskupov reykjavický biskup Mons. Dávid Bartimej Tencer, pôvodom Slováč. Na Svätoplukovom námestí sa na liturgii zúčastnili aj predstavitelia politického a spoločenského života na čele s predsedom vlády SR Robertom Ficom. Hlavným bodom bohoslužby bolo zasvätenie Slovenska Najsvätejšiemu Srdcu Ježišovmu a Nepoškvrnenému Srdcu Panny Márie, tak ako to urobil pred 70 rokmi vtedajší nitriansky arcibiskup Karol Kmeťko.

V akte zasvätenia Slovenska vtedajší biskupi vyjadrili nádej, že Božské Srdce Ježišovo a Nepoškvrnené Srdce Panny Márie bude posilou v týchto neľahkých časoch. „Dnes síce žijeme v spoločnosti, ktorá nám navonok zaručuje vyznávať a praktizovať našu vieru, avšak nachádzame sa v situácii, keď sme ohrození z viacerých strán. Ideologický materializmus padol so systémom, ktorý bol diktatúrou a na jeho miesto nastúpil materializmus pragmatický, zameraný na pohodlie, zábavu a pôžitok. Nášmu správaniu nič nevnučuje, nevedie s nami názorové spory. Avšak kvalitu svojho života meriame tovarom. V takomto myšlienkovom svete nie je miesto pre náboženstvo,“ uviedli v liste biskupi.

V modlitbe zasvätenia, ktorá zaznela 5. júla na púti v Nitre, oslovili biskupi všetkých veriacich, predstavitel'ov verejnej sféry, príslušníkov náboženských a národnostných

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Pápež vymenoval slovenského biskupa za správcu eparchie Parma v USA

Slovenský biskup Milan Lach sa stane administrátorom eparchie Parma v USA. Rozhodol o tom pápež František. Lach doteraz zastával post pomocného biskupa Prešovskej archieparchie. Lach bude spravovať túto uprázdnenú eparchiu ako apoštolský administrátor s právami sídelného biskupa. „Teda nateraz nebudem riadnym eparchiálnym biskupom. Apoštolský administrátor sede vacante znamená, že tam idem z poverenia Svätého Otca do času, ktorý nie je natrvalo, a on môže neskôr vymenovať riadneho eparchiálneho biskupa,“ uviedol v rozhovore pre Tlačovú kanceláriu Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (TK KBS). Eparchia Parma pokrýva 14 štátov severnej a strednej časti USA s veľkomestami ako Chicago či Detroit.

Milan Lach sa narodil 18. novembra 1973 v Kežmarku. Teologické štúdium ukončil na TF TU v Bratislave v roku 2001. Z rúk terajšieho košického eparchiálneho biskupa vladku Milana Chautura prijal 11. novembra 2000 diakonskú a 1. júla 2001 kňazskú vysviacku. Dňa 19. apríla 2013 ho pápež František vymenoval za prešovského pomocného biskupa. Biskupskú vysviacku mal 1. júna 2013 v Lutine. Plynuce hovorí po taliansky, aktívne komunikuje anglicky a rusky, pasívne francúzsky.



Biskup Milan Lach

TASR



Účastníci vedeckého seminára v Martine.

Seminár Matice slovenskej v Martine venovaný 110. výročiu Slovenskej ligy v Amerike

Krajanské múzeum Matice slovenskej (MS) v spolupráci s vedením MS usporiadalo 7. júna t.r. seminár pri príležitosti 110. výročia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike (SLvA). Seminár sa konal v historickom Dome Jozefa Cigera Hronského v Martine.

Otvorili ho krátkymi príhovormi predseda MS Marian Tkáč a riaditeľka Krajanského múzea Zuzana Pavelcová. Privítali šesť účastníkov z USA, všetkých prednášateľov a hostí.

Za SLvA pozdravili účastníkov 1. podpredseda Mikuláš Halko a gen. tajomníčka

Pokračovanie na str. 23

Na Mariánskej hore v Levoči si pripomenuli viaceré výročia

Na Mariánskej hore v Levoči sa zišli tisíce katolíckych veriacich z celého Slovenska i zo zahraničia. Slávnostnou svätou omšou tam 2. júla vyvrcholila najstaršia púť na východnom Slovensku. Celebroval ju hlavný pápežský penitenciár, kardinál Mauro Piacenza.

Veriaci si pripomenuli 770. výročie púti na levočskú Mariánsku horu, ako aj 70. výročie zasvätenia spišskej diecézy Nepoškvrnenému srdcu Panny Márie zo strany biskupa Jána Vojtašáka. „Potom je to 100. výročie fatimských zjavení, takže aj z toho titulu je táto púť slávnostnejšia,“ povedal spišský biskup Štefan Sečka.

Putovanie na Mariánsku horu kardinál Piacenza priravnal k návšteve Panny Márie u príbuznej Alžbety, ktorej priniesla, ako povedal, ten najväčší dar, samotného Krista.

„Tak aj my, keď sme vystúpili na túto horu, šli sme nielen v Máriiných šľapajach a nasledovali sme jej púť plnú viery a lásky, ale z moci nášho krstu sme boli a stále sme nositeľmi Krista, svedkovia viery a služobníci lásky. Táto pekná stáročná tradícia musí byť zachovaná a posilňovaná ako to najlepšie z tradícií vašej krajiny. Vydržala počas stáročí a odolala všetkým útokom, dokonca aj násilnému prenasledovaniu ateistického režimu minulého storočia,“ povedal v kázni Piacenza, ktorú v slovenčine predniesol biskup Sečka a vyzval ku šíreniu pokoja a odpustenia.

V závere slávnostnej svätej omše dekan levočského dekanátu František Dluhoš predniesol poslanstvo adresované pápežovi Františkovi do Ríma. „Slovenský národ sa duchovne utváral vďaka svojej nebeskej patrónke. Pod jej milostivou ochranou prežil ľud pod Tatrami a na Spiši časy náboženského útlaku. Mariánska tradícia nás posilňuje v odhodlaní nasledovať mučeníkov a svedkov viery,“ odznelo v poslanstve.

„Videl som život a vieru. Videli ste tu život cirkvi, takže až spontánne sa žiada spievať Velebí duša moja Pána, čo je chválospev Panny Márie,“ zhrnul svoje dojmy po svätej omši kardinál.



TASR