



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

Volume 128

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019

NUMBER 5984



Our FABULOUS
FCSU Derby Winners,
p 15



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Or possibly win it! p 14



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Golf Tournament Today!
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Get in the Game!
New FCSU contest
Starts Now: p 20

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Message from the President Father's Day 2019

Happy Father's Day to all fathers.

Most children seem to have a closer relationship with their Mother than their Father. Perhaps because of the birth bond or because most children spend more time under the care of their Mothers.

In our modern world where often both parents work, or in some cases where there is a stay-at-home dad, this relationship is changing in more instances. In any event, I urge you to honor your own Father, whether living or deceased, on his special day, in a special way.

First Quarter Financial Results

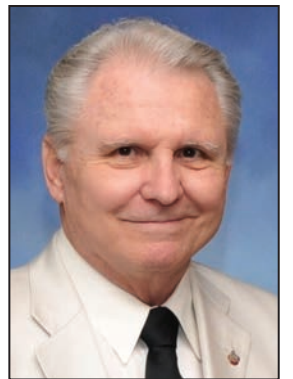
I am pleased to announce that the First Catholic Slovak Union has reported another successful quarter with assets and surplus for the period ending March 31, 2019. Assets as of March 31, 2019 were \$390,129,345 and surplus was at \$32,983,214 a record high.

As a comparison, in 2007 FCSU assets as of January 1, 2007 were \$197,310,824 and surplus was \$11,355,594.

In the last 12 years our assets have increased \$145,8 million and more importantly our surplus has almost tripled.

We continue to provide our Members with competitive insurance products and some of the best annuity rates in the fraternal and insurance world while also continuing our policy of paying dividends.

What does this mean to you, our Members?



Andrew M. Rajec

continued on page 3

GREAT RATES



PLANT Your Funds Now

3.85%

8 Year Flex deferred
Annuity or IRA
Effective August 1, 2018

3.45%

6 Year Flex deferred
Annuity or IRA
Effective August 1, 2018

3.35%

6 Year Fixed deferred
Annuity or IRA
Effective August 1, 2018

2.35%

Park 2 Annuity
Effective September 1, 2018

FCSU Financial — First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact your branch officer or the Home Office
6611 Rockside Rd, Independence, OH 44131
800.533.6682 www.fcsu.com annuity@fcsu.com



Insights and Viewpoints



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

June 16, 2019 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

This solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity is one that we celebrate after completing ninety days of Lent and Easter during which we recalled and entered more deeply into the Paschal Mystery. The mystery of the Trinity has been written about for two millennia and numerous attempts have been made to try to explain it.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

It is best to begin with the definition found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

“The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of faith.” The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men and reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin. But it is a mystery and can never be fully understood.”

While the catechism doesn’t explain the mystery it gives us a good foundation on which to build our Faith as we celebrate the mystery. We might be tempted today with getting bogged down with trying to wrap our minds around an unsolvable mystery, rather let us allow the mystery of God to wrap himself around our hearts and souls and fill us with a deeper experience and appreciation of God. There are numerous resources and Religious Education Classes that provide us with opportunities to wrestle with understanding this mystery.

Through Baptism we are all united with God and one another. The mystery of the Triune God fills us with the Love of the Father, the Peace of Christ, and the unity of the Holy Spirit. We are united with God who draws us into His family, He is the loving Father, He is the Son, our Brother, who brings us Peace, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

We first experienced the Trinity at the moment of our conception when God breathed into the act of love of our parents’ life and soul. God has been with us from our conception and remains with us forever. We were Baptized in the name of, The Father, and of The Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and became a member of God’s Family. We went on to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, and the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.

In addition to these Sacraments there are the times we encounter the Trinity in other ways. It could be the silent prayers at home or at some retreat or spiritual gathering were the words of someone, a song, or a prayer, struck the heart with the reassurance that God is with us. It could be the unexpected encounter with someone in need, whether it be a kind word and encouragement, or a simple ride somewhere, or even a loan, that we realize that we just helped Jesus. The Trinity is itself a mystery that we will never solve, and it is also a mystery how God can be so attentive to us at every moment of our lives. God is a Trinity of persons who is always with us. The mystery of the Holy Trinity is one to behold with awe and to celebrate with joy. May we experience the unity of the Most Holy Trinity in a way that unites us more closely with the three persons of our One God, and with each other.

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

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, JULY 10	MONDAY, JULY 1
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14	MONDAY, AUG. 5
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 11	MONDAY, SEPT 3

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

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

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

An American Leader

“While we have time, let us do good.” Frank Siller heard that quote, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, from his parents when he was growing up. Decades later, those words got him through the worst tragedy of his life and motivated him to become a force for good for those enduring their own brand of horrific loss and suffering. It’s the reason he won our 2019 Christopher Leadership Award – and it’s a mission that began with his brother Stephen’s death 18 years ago.

On Sept. 11, 2001, firefighter Stephen Siller got the call that a plane had hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Stationed in Brooklyn, he drove the truck to the Battery Tunnel to get into Manhattan, only to find it shut down for security reasons. So Stephen strapped 60 pounds of gear to his back and ran through the tunnel to join rescue efforts at the Trade Center. The husband and father of five was killed when the Towers collapsed.

Stephen’s six siblings were determined to keep his memory alive in a way that would help others. In 2002, they created the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, initially as a New York City-based charity run that retraced Stephen’s steps on 9/11. But under the leadership of Chairman/CEO Frank Siller, Stephen’s brother, the Foundation has grown into a national force for good.

They build specially adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured members of the military who have lost arms and legs, pay off mortgages for families of first responders who have been killed in the line of duty, pay off mortgages for Gold Star families whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country, and support a variety of community programs around the country. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised over \$125 million dollars.

During an interview on “Christopher Closeup,” Frank recalled that his parents, George and Mae, were devout Catholics who were a part of the Third Order of St. Francis. He said, “My parents had seven kids. We were very poor, but we were never too poor to do something for our neighbors. One Thanksgiving – my oldest brother, Russ, told [us] that the neighbor didn’t have anything for Thanksgiving, and [my father] took our turkey dinner and gave it to our neighbor.” Frank also remembered that his father used to visit the local hospital to talk or pray with the sick. He said, “This is the foundation of our family, of seeing these acts of kindness and love that we were all brought up with that enabled my brother to make that ultimate sacrifice.”

For Frank, his commitment to the Foundation goes deep because he relates to the people they’re helping. He concludes, “I understand each point they’re at because I lived it... After 9/11, so many people were there for our family. It lifts you to know that people care and are praying for you. This is the message that we send to all these great families... We don’t want to just pay off the mortgage or build them a smart home; we want to be part of their lives. They join us on our mission and are our greatest ambassadors because they want to pay it forward to the next person... The more they do for somebody else, the better they’re going to feel. And they do. It does lift you, it does heal you, and it does give you a great purpose that’s bigger than [yourself].”



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – July Holiday Hours

The FCSU Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4 – Friday, July 5, 2019, in observance of Independence Day.

JEDNOTA

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Message from the President

continued from page 1

First of all, financial strength is critical. Current members and new Members want to feel confident their money is safe. As I have said many times and in the many places I have visited, "Many current Members and prospective new members, especially younger people, are sophisticated investors and ask two main questions before they invest their hard-earned money:

1. Is my money safe?
2. What rate of return can I receive?"

If an organization can give a positive answer to these two questions, then the fact of Slovak kinship may be considered. It is a positive bonus.

We recognize the need to plan for the future and have taken, and will continue to take positive actions to improve the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. Some actions go relatively unnoticed. We continue with the quality content of our own Jednota, while many fraternal have reduced the number of pages and have become quarterly publications. We have enhanced and continue to update our website. We will use social media to expand our marketing. Social media presence is important, but not a panacea. We have a brand "Jednota" and we will continue to expand on it. The recent "March Madness" promotion was a great success with over 500 entries, and we expect more next year. Our current Members are our best sales men and women. Positive word of mouth is like gold.

Our recent bowling tournament in combination with the Slovak Catholic Sokols and the GCU was a great success with the combined efforts of the SCS, GCU Fraternal Activity directors and our Fraternal Activity director Kevin Collins. We look forward to future events.

We want managed, profitable growth for our Society while preserving our Slovak Catholic heritage and providing excellent and very competitive insurance and annuity products to our Members.

Father's Day also brings to mind the observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 27th. With more women in the Armed forces and some serving in combat roles, our perception is changing.

I am proud of being an Army veteran as was my Father and uncles, one of which was killed in Germany in 1945. We honor all of our veterans and thank them for their service.

Sometimes, with the elimination of the draft, we tend to take for granted the price of our freedom and our way of life and the concept of shared sacrifice.

I always give several dollars to the veterans group selling poppies at the local food store Memorial Day weekend. It helps me remember those veterans of all generations who served, especially those who were severely injured or paid the ultimate price, and the generations of families who were impacted forever.

Have a great Father's day and a tremendous summer.

S Bohom!

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
President

SAVE THE DATE

The 2019 Pilgrimage of the First Catholic Slovak Union to our Mother of Sorrows Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC, has already been arranged. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept 15, 2019, at 11:30am. Details on p 12, Branch 856.

2019 TOUR OF SLOVAKIA

YOUNGSTOWN/SPIŠSKÁ NOVÁ VES SISTER CITIES TOUR



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

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

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

We have people coming back for 7 and 8 times, so we must be doing things right. Visit family and friends, walk the streets of your ancestors, reconnect to your heritage.

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

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

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



The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Fathers and Members on Father's Day!

Thank you for keeping the traditions alive.

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

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800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



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

Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion



Register Now For 2019 N

F.C.S.U. NATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday August 16th - Sunday August 18th, 2019

Golf Registration Deadline: Friday July 19th, 2019

Location: Cedarbrook Golf Course
215 State Route 981
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
724-929-8300
www.cedarbrookgolfcourse.com

HOTEL INFORMATION: Both hotels are 5 miles from Cedarbrook Golf Course.

Hampton Inn (Mass Location)
1525 Board Ave.
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
724-929-8100
Rate: \$99.00 plus Tax
Code: FCSU
Deadline: Tuesday July 16th

Fairfield Inn & Suites Belle Vernon
189 Finley Rd.
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
724-929-2800
Rate: \$95.00 plus Tax
Code: See website for link
Deadline: Friday July 26th

Friday August 16th: Happy Hour
See website for details.

Saturday August 17th: Gold Course
7:00 am Registration
8:00 am Modified Shotgun Start
Hot Dog and bottle of water at the turn
4:30 pm Mass at the Hampton Inn
6:00 pm Dinner at Cedarbrook Golf Course
Dinner is Complimentary for Golfers
Reservation is required
Marinated Roasted Chicken, Italian Sausage,
With Onions, and peppers
Penne Marinara
Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Dressings
Rolls
Sheet Cake
Cash Bar

Sunday August 18th: Red Course
7:15 am Registration
8:00 am Modified Shotgun Start
Hotdog and bottle of water at the turn
1:00 pm Lunch
Lunch is complimentary for Golfers
Reservation is required
Hot Dogs & Hamburgers
Potato Salad
Cole Slaw
Tossed Salad and Dressings
Baked Beans
Sheet Cake

CEDARBROOK GOLF COURSE PLAYING REGULATIONS:

- 1) Proper dress/golf attire is required at all times.
Tank tops, sleeveless shirts, fish net shirts, tube tops, etc. are not permitted.
- 2) Collared shirts with slacks or suitable length shorts or skirts are required.
- 3) "Soft Spike" Golf Shoes only.
- 4) Proper conduct is expected by all players while at Cedarbrook Golf Course.
- 5) Players shall adhere to cart path rules, replace divots, repair ball marks, and rake sand traps.
- 6) Cedarbrook Leader Board will be used both days.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kevin Collins.
Please email him at kevinfcsu@outlook.com
Or feel free to call him at 813-493-1515 and he will get back to you as

First Catholic Slovak Union National Golf Tournament

Men's And Women's Official Rules and Regulations

1. The tournament is open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU).
2. United States Golf Association (USGA) and host golf course rules will govern play. Improve your lie anywhere, except for hazards. Out of bounds shot, drop where ball went out and 1 stroke penalty
3. Handicaps will be determined as follows:
 - A. All golfers will compete as determined by handicap. The golfer's first handicap will be determined after he has completed 54 holes of play in the FCSU National Golf Tournament. The handicap will be recalculated each year based on 54 holes of FCSU National Tournament play. From the latest 5 rounds, the highest and the lowest will be discarded and 90% the average of the remainder will be the handicap assigned for the tournament. 90% of an official USGA handicap may be substituted if a golfer does not have an FCSU Tournament handicap. The maximum handicap will be 40 strokes for 18 holes.
 - B. Any golfer who has not completed 54 holes of tournament play in the FCSU National Golf Tournament will be entered in a separate division using the FCSU version of the Callaway scoring system.
 - C. Male golfers, competing in the 18-hole event, age 65 or over and with a handicap larger than 10 may use the forward tees.
4. Classifications:
 - A. A medal play champion will be determined in each of the following Divisions:
 1. Men's A flight (0-10)
 2. Men's B flight (11-17)
 3. Men's C flight (17-30)
 4. Men's D flight (31 +)
 5. Women's Flight
 6. Callaway Flight
 7. Senior Flight
 - B. Winners will be determined by low net score in each flight after 36 holes of medal play.
5. The division between the men's A-D flights may be adjusted to equalize the flights. A second women's flight may be added if entries warrant such addition.
6. In case of tie for first place in any Flight, tie will be broken by match of cards using gross score starting on #1 handicap hole followed by #2 handicap hole, #3 handicap hole and so forth until the tie is broken.
7. All other ties will split the applicable prize money. (e.g., two people tied for second will split second and third place prize money. Three people tied for second would split second, third and fourth place prize money.)
8. The prize list will be determined by the tournament manager using the money contributed by the contestants and matching money contributed by the FCSU for all golfers. As nearly as possible, there will be one prize for each four entries.
9. The tournament manager will schedule pairings. Both Saturday and Sunday schedules will be e-mailed to participants prior to the tournament.

Golf Registration Deadline is Friday July 19th, 2019.



National Golf Tournament



**First Catholic Slovak Union
2019 National Golf
Tournament
August 16 – 18, 2019
Registration form**

Cedarbrook Golf Course
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Deadline for Registration is Friday, July 19th, 2019

	Happy Hour (X)	Sat. Dinner (X)	Sunday Lunch (X)	Name	Address	Phone or E-Mail	Branch Number
1							
2							
3							
4							

GOLFER FEES: (per person)

FRIDAY:	Happy Hour	Free
Saturday:	18 Holes	\$45.00
	(\$5 credit for Golf Shop)	
	Dinner	Free
Sunday:	18 Holes	\$45.00
	(\$5 credit for Golf Shop)	
	Lunch	Free
Tournament Fee:		\$10.00
Prize Fee:		\$15.00
TOTAL:		\$115.00

NON-GOLFER FEES:
Please Choose ALL that apply & indicate number attending

<input type="checkbox"/>	Will attend Happy Hour
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saturday Dinner \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunday Lunch \$40.00

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Hampton Inn 1525 Board Ave Belle Vernon, PA 15012 724-929-8100 Rate: \$99.00 plus tax Code: FCSU Deadline: Tuesday, July 16 th	Fairfield Inn & Suites Belle Vernon 189 Finley Rd Belle Vernon, PA 15012 724-929-2800 Rate: \$95.00 plus tax Code: for online registration go to fcsu.com Deadline: Friday, July 26 th
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MAKE CHECKS payable to: FCSU Activities

MAIL TO:
Kevin Collins
Fraternal Activities Director
628 Heather Brite Cr.
Apopka, FL 32712

\$ _____ TOTAL INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM

Our Annual Golf Tournament will be held Friday August 16th, through Sunday August 18th, 2019. The *Jednota* sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a dinner Saturday evening.

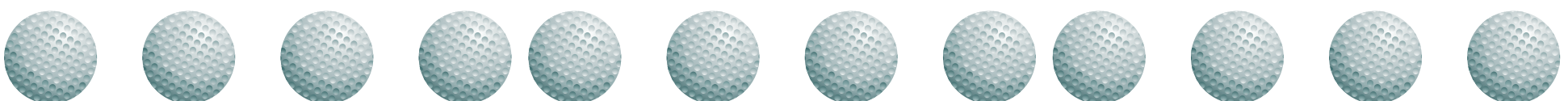
This year we are looking for skill contest sponsors: (Longest Drive, Longest Putt, Closet to the Pin on 2nd Shot, etc.).

Skill Contest Sponsor: \$100 – a sign will be placed on the hole where the skill contest will occur with your Branch, District, or Region or Company Name.

If you are interested in being a skill contest sponsor, please send:
Wording for your sign
Artwork
Logo
Etc.
On a pdf file to: kevinfcsu@outlook.com

And your check payable to “FCSU Activities” to:
Kevin Collins
628 Heather Brite Circle
Apopka, Fl. 32712

The deadline for sponsoring a hole is Friday July 19th, 2019.



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 as Regional Director. I would like to thank the Executive Board and my fellow board members for their guidance, collaboration, and support. I am eager to continue to work collaboratively to grow our society and present new ideas which can rejuvenate and revitalize the way we work.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jednota members in my region for their support, encouragement, and enthusiasm this past year. I am honored to be your Regional Director and humbled that, once again, you expressed your confidence and trust in my work by electing me for a second term. I look forward to supporting and working together with branches throughout 2019 on various initiatives and activities which are important to you.

This past year I have performed all the duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union to the best of my abilities. As part of those duties and responsibilities as a Regional Director, I've attended all Board of Directors meetings personally or via teleconference (as requested) and, in addition, participated in meetings by invitation of the President.

Moreover, I've attended all of Msgr. John E. Rura, District 4 meetings as well as District 16 meetings when possible and look forward to also visiting District 1 in 2019. I have attended all Branch 746 meetings and events. In addition, I happily contribute to the Jednota newspaper by providing articles and photos. I also have engaged and kept abreast of the activities of the branches under my region and when possible attended such events. I would like to extend my appreciation to branches for the fruitful cooperation throughout the year and the kind invitations to meetings and events.

2018 was a commemorative year with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Czechoslovakia and the 25th anniversary of Slovak Independence. Many events were organized to celebrate these occasions, starting with a reception in January at the Library of Congress hosted by H.E. Ambassador Peter Kmec. Additionally, the 1918 "Pittsburgh Agreement" was commemorated halfway through the year with a gala reception celebrating a century of Slovak-American ties and 25 years of bilateral diplomatic relations. I was honored to have been a part of these historic events. Born in Slovakia and immigrating to the United States in the late 1980s, I feel a deep sense of pride to be a Slovak-American and have had the opportunity to see how far Slovakia has come as an independent country. I was also honored to represent the First Catholic Slovak Union at many events organized by Slovak and/or Czech non-profit organizations such as the Slovak League of America, Friends of Slovakia, Slovak Catholic Sokol, and the Slovak-American Cultural Center. I supported various Slovak church events including fundraisers and 'zabavas'(dances) as well as receptions and activities hosted by representatives of the Slovak government in the United States at the Embassy in Washington, DC, Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York, and the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations. I also attend the monthly Young Adult Masses organized by the Archdiocese of New York.

At the end of 2018, I represented the First Catholic Slovak Union at the 2018 Freedom Lecture with former Slovak Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda at the Woodrow Wilson Center organized by Friends of Slovakia with a reception dinner hosted by the newly appointed Slovak Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Ivan Korčok. At a gala ceremony at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC, Friends of Slovakia and its Chairmen were honored for their significant contributions to the development of the Slovak-American relations with a commemorative medal bearing the name of the 28th President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson. Long-time Jednota member Joseph Senko was honored at this event.

In addition to attending a slew of events throughout the year in support of the Slovak community, I have also worked to promote the Society, our products, and benefits by encouraging and eliciting new membership. Through my efforts, I have successfully brought in new members to the Society, and have been consistently recognized as a top seller of insurance and/or annuities every quarter during the Board meetings as noted in the sales reports of the Vice President.

To encourage comradery and fraternalism, and to ensure that newly merged branches have an opportunity to meet and greet, I organized two regional activities which were advertised in the Jednota newspaper and on the FCSU website. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Home Office for their support of these events:

- Regional Summer Picnic – On August 11th a regional picnic was organized at Msgr Komar Hall (changed from Al Kalla Park due to rain). Even our youngest members joined the fun by playing games and singing! The picnic was a great opportunity for members to get together, catch up with friends, and celebrate the end of summer. District 4 and 16 members attended.

- Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine – On Sept 16th Region 1 joined Branch 856 members at the annual celebratory Mass in the Jednota Chapel of the National Shrine. The celebrant was Fr. Francis Conka of the Oratory of St. Filip Neri. Region 1 branches were in attendance as well as the Slovak parish communities from Trenton, Clifton, Linden, and New York City. The Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC, hosted a luncheon reception following the Mass. District 4 and 16 members attended.

In addition, Region 1 delegates proudly represented their constituents at the 51st quadrennial convention hosted in Cleveland from August 4-8th. The days were filled with discussion and voting on important issues facing the future of our Society. In the evenings the delegates came together to sing traditional Slovak folklore songs from Eastern Slovakia. Delegates also attended a baseball game with a fireworks spectacular after the Indians won followed by a boat ride! Former US Ambassador to Slovakia, Vincent Obstnik, stopped by Region 1's hospitality room to greet his fellow friends from Linden. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Executive Board and all of the Home Office staff that worked tirelessly to make the convention a great success! It was a pleasure meeting and getting to know our fellow Jednota members from around the country.

In addition to the above, branch members from my region have supported these well-known events and activities in the tristate area:

- The 25th Annual Slovak Ball – On Feb 10th many Jednota members attended the annual Slovak Ball organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center which honored President Andrew Rajec and Daniel Tanzone for their dedication, life-time commitment, and many contributions to the Slovak community. Over 380 guests from NY, NJ, CT, PA, and Ohio attended the annual gala event which celebrated the "Fašiangy" season. Members from branch 41, 45, 716, and 746 were in attendance.

- Slovakia: Legend of the Linden book Tour – On June 10th at Holy Family Church in Linden, Jednota members from Branch 45 and 746 attended a book presentation by Dr. Zuzana Palovic and Dr. Gabriela Bereghazyova, two young Slovak women, about their recent book which revolves around the symbolism of the Linden tree, the national tree of Slovakia and the sacred tree of the Slavs. The heart shaped Linden leaf reflects not only the location of Slovakia in the heart of Europe, its ancient roots and magnificent future, but also the heartfelt nature of her people. The book is available on Amazon and via GlobalSlovakia.com

- Slovak Heritage Festival – On September 23rd many members of Region 1 attended the 41st Slovak Festival in New Jersey. The program included Holy Mass, performances by local Slovak dance groups including Lipka Academy from Linden as well as special guest performers from Slovakia. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for Slovaks to meet up, catch up and enjoy great Slovak food. The First Catholic Slovak Union also had a table where they distributed promotional materials, met members and non-members, and spread the word about our Society. Miriam Visnovsky and Terezia Rozmus represented Jednota from the Home Office and did a fantastic job engaging with those that passed by. Approximately, 5,000 people from the NJ, NY, CT, and PA areas attended the event despite the cold weather. 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.

- Slovak violin virtuoso concert - On October 15th Jednota members from Branch 746, 45, and 716 attended a concert featuring Slovak violin virtuoso Filip Pogady which was organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center in conjunction with the New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) at Drew University. Filip's performance of the Bruch Concerto was dreamy and contemplative as well as passionate and powerful. Both performances elicited prolonged standing ovations from the audience, prompting Pogady to return to the stage with encores by Bach and Kreisler. A reception followed at the historic Mead Hall. For those interested in learning more about the young violinist or his latest CD "Filip Pogady plays Tchaikovsky" visit: pogady.com.

- LUX New York – Jednota members value the contributions of LUX New York to the Slovak Catholic community. LUX New York is a Slovak Catholic media production company based out of St. John Nepomucene in New York City. The main goal is to help Slovaks living in the USA and Canada deepen their Catholic faith through its audio-visual productions. At the same time, LUX New York seeks to connect Slovak parishes and communities "across the ocean" and spread the Gospel in the realm of media. Jednota members especially from NY and NJ attend Sunday Mass at 10:15AM which is streamed live to Facebook. Two additional projects include: "American-Slovak Inspirations," a dynamic bilingual show which includes interactive interpreting and presents interesting guests, and "Reflection and Reports," short productions of reflections and words of encouragement from Bishops and priests developed to provide an avenue for Catholics to engage and inform themselves about the lives of Slovaks, Slovak parishes and communities. To learn more visit: <http://www.luxnewyork.net>.

* * *

"Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort" according to Paul J. Meyer.

I would like to congratulate all the branches in my region on their efforts to support their local parishes and communities, organize fraternal activities, and educate others about FCSU.

As previously noted, there have been several branch mergers in 2018 in District 1 and 4. I encourage members of merged branches to reach out to their new branch officers and become active!

Below are highlights of some the branches that have shared their activity reports:

Branch 41:

Calendar year 2018 saw the revival of Branch 41 through the election of all new officers. Under the leadership of new branch president Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr. an event was held on Trinity Sunday which included a Mass and breakfast with 125 people participating. Annual and semi-annual meetings were restored with all reports submitted on time to the home office. 2019 promises to be an involved year as the Branch goes into its 128th year.

Branch 45:

The year started with some indoor fun on February 17th with a soccer tournament organized at St. John Nepomucene. In August members participated in the regional picnic hosted in Linden, NJ. September was an extremely busy month with the annual FCSU pilgrimage to Washington, DC, the 41st NJ Heritage Festival in East Brunswick at the Middlesex County fairgrounds, and a Slovak Catholic pilgrimage at Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, Garrison, NY. Octoberfest was celebrated on October 21st at St. John Nepomucene with great music and delicious food celebrating the harvest season. The branch held its annual Christmas party on December 2nd followed by the traditional Vigilia on December 16th. Branch members supported various activities of the local parish including the New Year's Eve party.

Branch 290:

Branch 290 continued its charitable work by donating the local church tricky tray for its fundraiser as well as hosting a dinner most recently in December. Branch members have also been active in attending Region 1 such as the summer picnic and District 4 meetings and activities.

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Annual Report of Region 1 Director

continued from page 6

Branch 716:

Branch 716 celebrated many member birthdays this year at St. John Nepomucene including that of Andre Sulak, Anna Bilik, Maria Bozekova, Maria Gabocikova, Jan Lysak's milestone 50th birthday, Joan Skrkon and Fr. Baker. The branch provided food preparation for the celebration of the Slovak Catholic Sokol 2017 Fraternalist of the Year reception. Daniel Tanzone (Branch 41 member) was honored. Branch members attended and supported the annual meeting of Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 182 as well as organized the commemorations of the Slovak League of America which was attended by the Region 1 Director. In addition to the normal branch meetings, Branch 716 members actively supported events organized in conjunction with St. John Nepomucene including preparation of the food for the Christmas Vigil, the Bratislava Boys Choir post-concert reception, the 4th of July parish picnic, the pilgrimage to Graymoor Spiritual Life Center run by the Franciscan Friars and the 'Dozinkova zabava' - also known as the Harvest fest or Octoberfest. Branch members also attended the dedication and blessing of the new church on Roosevelt Island named St Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Branch 746:

Branch 746 successfully hosted a variety of diverse activities and events to attract member attendance and helped organize District 4 and Region 1 events. Members have actively participated in the activities organized by Slovak non-profit organizations such as the Slovak-American Cultural Center, Slovak Farmer's Club as well as events at Slovak parish communities in Clifton, Trenton and New York City. The year began with a branch and district planning meeting at Luciano's Restaurant on March 18th. In early April, the branch organized a movie night to see "Paul the Apostle" as well as hosted a book presentation discussion on the recently published memoirs of Frantisek Reves titled "Živého ma nedostanete!" The book was presented in Slovak by Msgr. Imrich Tóth, Director of Slovak Catholic Mission in Paris (Slovenskej katolíckej misie (SKM) v Paríži).

On May 13th the Slovak children's school, Slovenské centrum detí- LIPKA Academy, based at Holy Family Church in Linden organized a Mother's Day program followed by a luncheon. The program included recitation of poetry, songs, and Slovak folk dances which was performed by about sixty children who are enrolled at the weekend school. Branch 746 annually supports the school by co-sponsoring events and providing a donation.

In August, Branch 746 delegates attended the convention in Cleveland in full force sporting their FCSU logo vests with easily identifiable "Branch 746" labelled on the back. Shortly after their return from the convention, the Regional picnic was hosted in Linden. In mid-September a bus from Linden was organized attend the annual Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine. A week later, members were at the 41st Slovak Festival, an all-day event commencing with Holy Mass, which was held in East Brunswick, New Jersey. The Regional Director, National Supreme Court Officer Emilia Filak and husband Emil, Vice President of Branch 746 Joanne Polt, and Branch 746 Treasurer Mary Ann Ranahan and her entire family assisted with the promotion of our Society at the FCSU table, giving away informational flyers, newspapers and answering questions about the Society.

On a pleasant October afternoon, Branch 746 attended the performance of a young and talented Slovak violin virtuoso, Filip Pogady, at a concert at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Later in the month the group was meeting again for the Msgr. Rura District get-together which was organized by Branch 290 at Carpaccio Ristorante in Middlesex. The atmosphere was festive with delicious food and great company.

With a short break in November, the group was eager to see one another again-- on a rainy Sunday afternoon of December 2nd, members gathered to see the latest reincarnation of "Robin Hood" or as Slovaks know him "Jánošík"! The event was organized as a District outing. On December 15th the branch hosted its annual meeting and Christmas party at Luciano's Restaurant in Rahway, New Jersey. Everyone was especially happy to see Regional Director Emeritus Joe Minarovich and his lovely wife Lillian as well as other Branch 290 members. St. Mikulas brought gifts for a few lucky members that were "good all year"! The afternoon gathering concluded with singing of Slovak and English Christmas carols.

A day later, the children of Slovenské centrum detí- LIPKA Academy were surprised with a donation check at their annual Christmas show which was presented by the Regional Director on behalf of Branch 746. In attendance was Consul General of the Slovak Republic Ladislava Begec who presented the school with a distinguished award from the Slovak government. Branch 746 also distributed informational and promotional materials about FCSU and small gifts to the children performing. This year's program showcased the Slovak traditions of our predecessors. Those attending who grew up in Eastern Slovakia immediately identified some of the "old" traditions of Christmas Eve handed down from generation to generation. Congratulations to the teachers on their dedication and all that they do to teach the kids the beautiful Slovak language, history, and folk traditions.

Branch 746 was very active throughout 2018 bringing its members a diverse set of activities to enjoy. The branch also supported its local parish, Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey which financial donations. As part of the district initiative, Branch 746 members contributed to local pantries by bringing canned goods to meetings. Branch 746 members also actively visit one another as well as sick members of the branch.

* * *

As noted above, there were many opportunities in 2018 to enjoy good times together with good friends but we also shared the sadness of losing dear family and friends. We keep in our prayers those that are with the Lord. As a community we've supported one another in times of grief and provided encouragement when others were struggling with illness or deteriorating health. At these junctures in our lives, fraternity and community is most important.

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

Lastly, I thank all the members of Region 1 for your enthusiasm, dedication, and participation. I am excited about the work we've done thus far and excited for our continued collaboration in 2019! I also 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

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 2018, 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 Cleveland, OH and Independence, OH and the quarterly board meetings via teleconference. In August, I also attended the monthly Executive Committee meeting via teleconference at the invitation of the President. I also attended the special board meeting in January at the Home Office, discussing the property owned by the FCSU in Middletown, PA. In August, I attended the 51st Quadrennial FCSU Convention where I was reelected as Regional Director. I attended both of Region 2's district meetings in 2018 which were held in Hazelton, PA, in April and Egypt, PA, in October. At both meetings I provided a written update the delegates with information learned at the board meetings and other information as well.

In April, I participated in the Annual Bowling Tournament in Erie, PA, and in July, my family and I attended the Annual Slovak Day celebration at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, PA, and participated in the annual golf tournament that weekend in Blairsville, PA. In September, my wife Peggy and 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. Following that mass, we attended a luncheon at the Slovak Embassy. I do plan on participating in all those events again in 2019.

In January, my entire family attended the funeral of long time FCSU member Andrew Herman. Andy served our Society as a branch officer for Branch 857, District 8 President, member of the Supreme Court, Regional 2 Director and a member of the Board of Directors. In December, my wife, daughter and I traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, to extend our condolences to the FCSU Legal Counsel Gary Matta and his family over the loss of their daughter Devin.

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

Annual Report for Region 3

It has been a great honor to be reelected as Regional Director at the 2018 convention. I look forward to my next term. Throughout the past year I have been supportive of, involved with and contributed to, many national, regional and local activities:

- Attended, in person, all Board of Directors meetings throughout the year
 - Participated in Teleconference meetings of the Board
 - Attended special board meeting concerning the sale of the Middletown property
- Activities in our Region:
- Attended all district meetings
 - Hosted a district meeting in my area
 - Contacted branch members to assist delegates for national convention
 - Personally, contacted new members from the recently consolidated branches. This was to encourage participation in branch activities and the 2018 convention
 - Strived to involve younger members in district meetings and in branch meetings
 - Continued to present a short program at district meetings to increase member's knowledge of Slovak history and culture
 - Reported on FCSU concerns, products and programs to update district officers and branch members at district meetings and branch meetings
 - Assisted members with posting of information in Jednota paper
 - Served as branch secretary for Branch 05P
 - Assisted branch members with all of their FCSU concerns, policies, death benefits and annuities

Fraternal Activities:

- Attended Summer Picnic at SSCM Motherhouse in Danville, PA
- Participated in a Christmas Song Fest of Slovak Christmas Carols
- Promoted a dialogue with other area Slovak groups to attempt to sponsor and promote Slovak events and activities in our region
- Investigated other local avenues of advertisement for FCSU products
- Supported the Northeast Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation
- Continued efforts to increase dialogue and communication among various Slovak organizations in our region
- Working with other local ethnic organizations to promote Eastern European traditions, history and cultures
- Participated in Fraternal Societies of Northeast Pennsylvania (FSNEPA), attending meetings in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton areas
- Completed and renewed professional fraternal insurance license for Pennsylvania

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Zavada, Region 3 Director

Annual Report of Region 4 Director

Dear Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew M. 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. At the request of the president, I attended the executive board meeting held on May 17, 2018 at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott and the National Convention held August 5 through August 8, 2018 in Cleveland.

On March 11th, June 3rd and November 4th, 2018, I attended the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District (#9) meetings. On April 5th and December 16, 2018 I attended the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District (#12) meeting; on October 14th, 2018, the Jozef Cardinal Tomko District (#13) meeting and on April 29th and October 28th, 2018 the Monsignor Martvon District (#7) meeting. Some of the major topics included the conditional contracted sale of the property in Middletown, Pennsylvania and the National Convention.

I attended the Bowling Tournament Dinner held in Erie, Pennsylvania on April 21, 2018.

My wife, Patty, and I attended mass and carried the gifts before enjoying the Vilija Dinner on December 2nd, 2017 in Greensburg, PA sponsored by the George Onda District and on June 24th, we attended the District picnic at Mammouth Park.

I was present with members of Branch 162 that decorated a Christmas tree at the Union-town Hospital where the trees were raffled off for a fund raiser for a nursing scholarship fund.

I want to thank all fraternal members for their hospitality where both my wife and I were graciously welcomed. 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.

James R. Marmol, Region 4 Director

Annual Report of Region 5 Director

Dear Board Members and Mr. Rajec:

I am Michael E. Lako and I represent District 6 & 11 of the FCSU. I attended all of the okres meetings in both Districts.

Fraternally I attended Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh, PA. I participated in all activities of the Districts. I also participated in the activities sponsored by the Fraternal Activities Committee (the bowling and golf tournaments) and the banquets of each.

I also participated in the FCSU sponsored Walking Program.

Fraternally,

Michael E. Lako, Region 5 Director

Annual Report of Region 6 Director

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

It is my great honor to be elected to follow Henry Hassay as the Director of Ohio Region 6. I will do my best to continue Mr. Hassay's commitment to promote our Society.

I want to get to know our members in both District 10 and 14, so it is my intention to attend as many branch meetings as possible in my first year.

Toward that goal, in addition to regularly attending my own Branch 24 meetings, I already have attended meetings of Branch 855 and Branch 259, as well an event hosted by Branch 764 and meetings of District 14 and District 10.

I also want to focus on fraternal activities, with the goal of involving our younger members and families in our Jednota. I look forward to sharing ideas with my fellow Board members.

Fraternally,

Thomas J. Ivanec, Region 6 Director

Annual Report of Region 7 Director

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

It was an honor to be elected to represent Region 7 as Regional Director. I look forward to serving the FCSU and its members in Region 7. I'm sure following in the footsteps of Mr. Rudy Bernath will be a challenge as he was a great asset to the FCSU. May he rest in peace.

It is my intention to attend districts and branch meetings throughout the region. I will also attend Board meetings as well as Executive Committee meetings as stated in the bylaws of the FCSU.

I attended the District 2 Rev. J. Spitzovsky Annual meeting on Sunday October 14, 2018 in Oak Forest, IL and Branch #40's meeting on Sunday January 20, 2019 in Streator, IL.

I attended the orientation for new board members in Independence, OH on February 8-9, 2019.

I look forward to being an active member of the Board of Directors of the FCSU.

Respectfully,

Timothy C. Graves, Region 7 Director

Annual Report of Region 8 Director

As always, it has been a privilege and honour to Represent the First Catholic Slovak Union as a Regional Director for Region 8 for the year 2018. I have performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.

The following details are a summary of the activities and events that I participated in and represented the FCSU Region 8.

Fraternal Activities

- I have attended both the Board of Directors meeting in March and September 2018 at the Head Office. I also participated in the teleconference meetings that were held bi-annually and as well, two Executive Committee meetings by the invitation of the President.

- I attended this year's 51st Convention, which was held in Cleveland Ohio on August 4 to 8, 2018. I was re-elected once again as the Regional Director for Region 8.

- I personally attended two fraternal activities of the Jednota. They were the annual bowling tournament in April 2018, which was held in Erie PA and the annual golf tournament, July 2018 which was held in Blairsville PA.

Local Activities – District 8

- I have attended the local annual meeting of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba District 19 and Branch #785, as well as their semi-annual meetings. I also keep in touch with Alex Drobnik, President of Okres Prince Ratislav District 20 for any updates to the district and branches in the Province of Quebec.

- On March 15, 2018, I was invited as a representative of the First Catholic Slovak Union, to attend a "meet and greet" with John von Kaufmann, Chargé d'affaire for the Canadian Embassy in Bratislava, Slovakia. Mr von Kaufmann had the opportunity to be in Toronto area at this time and his intention was to meet the different heads of Slovak Organizations in the Toronto area.

- I attended the annual "Spolky Easter Communion Breakfast" which was held in March 2018 at Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church. This annual event brings together the other local Slovak Societies in the Mississauga area.

- The other fraternal activities I assisted and participated in was the annual summer Regional Picnic held July 8, 2018 in Mississauga Ontario. This event was well attended by our local members and other Slovaks. We had special guests once again come for the fun... Ken Arendt and Andrew Rajec Jr from Head Office.

- I assisted Emil Jursa with the Rama Casino Bus trip, which was organized through Branch 785.

- September 2018 was a very busy month. I attended the "Enthronement of a New Byzantine Bishop", for the Eparchy of Sts Cyril and Methodius, on Saturday Sept 15th. The Jednota sponsored a table at the celebratory dinner in the evening.

- Sts Cyril and Methodius Slovak Church were hosting a concert on Sunday Sept 16th, by a well known string orchestra group from Slovakia... 'Strieborne Struny' (Silver Strings), as it was the feast of the patroness of Slovakia, Our Lady of Sorrows. I took the opportunity and initiated that the local Jednota group would host a light luncheon before the concert. The concert was great success! About 175 people attended.

- I also attended funeral services of our deceased members in Mississauga Ontario.

Respectfully submitted

Miloš Mitro, Region 8 Director

Treasures Tours Now Booking 2019 Trip to Slovakia – the 100th Tour!



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

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

Vlkolinec.

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

The Treasures of Slovakia 2019 trip dates are July 6 - 16, 2019; the cost is \$2,299 per person with a \$599 single supplement. Once a deposit is received we go to work to find living family.

For more information, a trip flyer or the day by day itinerary, see the web sites:

www.our-Slovakia.com or www.treasuresours.com or contact Helene Cincebeaux, 7 Walt Place, Palm Coast FL 32164, 585 342-9383 or helenezx@aol.com.

Recalling the Legacy of General Milan R. Stefanik



On Sunday, May 19, 2019, the Slovak League of America along with the area's local Slovak fraternal lodges hosted a dinner commemorating the centennial of the death of the noted Slovak scientist, diplomat, politician, and co-founder of the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia, Dr. Milan Rastislav Stefanik. The celebration was held in St. John Nepomucene Parish Social Hall in New York City. Headtable guests at the dinner, shown above include those seated from the left: W. Nina Holy, Slovak League national secretary-treasurer; the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini; Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak League national president; His Excellency, Dr. Michal Mlynar, Slovakia's Ambassador to the United Nations; Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., author and historian who was the main speaker. Dr. Kopanic is a regular contributor to Jednota; and Ladislava Begeg, Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York. Standing from the left: Kenneth Bombara, Slovak League vice president for Washington, D.C. and Virginia and the Slovak League's representative to the Eastern and Central European Coalition in Washington, D.C.; the Rev. Martin Kertys, C.O., parochial vicar at the parish; Sabina Sabatos, Regional Director of the First Catholic Slovak Union and president of the Slovak American Cultural Center who offered greetings on behalf of the First Catholic Slovak Union; Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Secretary of the Slovak Catholic Sokol; the Rev. Michal Misina, pastor of Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church in Manhattan and the Rev. Anthony J. Pleho, parochial vicar at Holy Rosary Church in the Bronx, N.Y. General Stefanik was returning from Padua, Italy to the newly established Czecho-Slovak Republic which he had a hand in its creation, on May 4, 1919. His Cabroni, a single engine aircraft, crashed upon arrival at Bratislava, killing Stefanik along with his Italian flight companions who were found dead near the airport wreckage.

- Submitted by Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak League National President & FCSU Branch 41 Member



"Dr. Milan Rastislav Štefánik: The 100th Anniversary of his Tragic Death"

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

May 4th 2019 marked the 100th anniversary of the tragic death of one of the founding fathers of the first Czecho-Slovak Republic, General Milan Štefánik. He perished in a terrible plane crash in 1919 that claimed his life and that of his two Italian crewmates. To this day, Štefánik is considered one of the most important individuals in the history of the Slovak nation and its people, even though he died at the relatively young age of 38. To the point, without his hard work and connections, Czecho-Slovakia might never have existed.

In a recent contest in Slovakia about who is the najväčší Slovák, the greatest Slovak, Štefánik's name loomed to the top of the list. When the contest ended in early May, Štefánik won, followed by Ľudovít Štúr, the codifier of the literary Slovak language, and then Rev. Anton Svrholec, the Roman Catholic priest who suffered persecution under the former communist regime.

Perhaps Štefánik had an unfair advantage. With the anniversary of his death approaching, many communities across Slovakia were preparing commemoration ceremonies, and articles about Štefánik flooded the newspapers, radio talk shows, and TV commentaries.

On May 4, 2019, in a steadily pouring rain, a huge crowd from across Slovakia paraded on "a torch-lit march from (his native village of) Košariská to Bradlo, symbolizing his short life, but also the cohesiveness and unity of the Slovak nation." Slovak armed forces saluted him with an artillery salvo and performed military music. A flyover of contemporary and historical aircraft also paid him tribute.

After the fall of communism, many people in Slovakia had learned about Štefánik for the first time. They developed a genuine affection for him, even referring to him as naš Milanko (an endearing diminutive of his Christian name). There are always fresh flowers at his grave.

Štefániková ulica in Bratislava replaced Leninová ulica (Lenin Street) as a main thoroughfare from the center of town to the main railway station. I used to ride my bicycle on the street every day on the way to Slovakia's Central State Archives.

The Bratislava airport near where he died was renamed M. R. Štefánik Airport (Letisko M. R. Štefánika) in 1993.

Why was a fantastic, gargantuan monument designed by the renown Slovak architect Dušan Jurkovič, built on his mohyl (burial mound) at the top of Bradlo Mountain, above Košariská? It truly is a sight to behold and when we first visited the weed-covered site in 1983. It even impressed my wife Rebecca, who is not so easily bowled over.

There are many other monuments and statues honoring Štefánik, for instance, in Prague on Petrín Hill, where there is also an observatory named after him. Other statues or busts of him appear in many places across Slovakia, including Trnava, Trenčín, Košice, and the huge statue in front of the new Slovak National Theater on the Danube, a replica of the one which used to stand in front of the Reduta, the Slovak National Concert Hall. There is also a similar statue of Štefánik in southern France in Paulhan, and in Paris a memorial plaque at a square called "Place du Général-Stefanik".

One cannot end the statuary list without mentioning the 10 feet tall Štefánik statue which used to adorn Wade Park in Cleveland, which was moved to the Slovak Cultural Garden in nearby Rockefeller Park in 2013.

Finally, right here in the East Village of New York City, is a bronze memorial plaque to General Štefánik at St. Mark's Place and Avenue A in Tompkins Square Park. The Slovak Welfare Club Tatra dedicated the plaque on May 3, 1942, during the Second World War.

[Editor's Note: Dr. Kopanic's speech "Dr. Milan Rastislav Štefánik: The 100th Anniversary of his Tragic Death" will continue in the next issue of Jednota.]



(Standing) Branch 716 Secretary Joan Skrkon



Waiting to begin the festivities, Branch 716's Zelka Beckova-Kucharovic and husband Anton Kucharovic



Branch 716 Supports Commemoration of Štefánik

FCSU Branch 716 was instrumental in supporting the Slovakia League of America commemoration of the Centennial of the death of the Slovak Patriot, Dr. Milan R. Štefánik at St. John Nepomucene Social Hall in May – not only through attendance of its members but also with a delicious meal prepared by Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary. Photos courtesy of Joan Skrkon



Andrew P. Rajec, FICF, graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Notre Dame (Mendoza School of Business) with his Masters of Business Administration degree. Andrew was also inducted into the Beta Gamma Sigma Honors Society, for being in the Top 20 percent of his class.

Branch 746's Lois Schmidt Performs with Choral Art Society of New Jersey

A woman of many interests, Ms. Lois Schmidt, an active member of Branch 746, recently sang with the Choral Art Society of New Jersey on May 11, 2019 in Westfield NJ, with Martin Sedek as Music Director and Conductor. The Concert commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War in 1919 when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. Two major works were performed that conveyed the fear and portent of war and the universal desire for peace: Haydn's Mass in Time of War and Ralph Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem. Both works ended with the same plea for peace (pacem... pacem...). The captivated audience, which included FCSU Regional Director Sabina Sabados and Supreme Court member, Emilia Filak, were spellbound by the magnificent musical arrangements some of which were set to the poetry of the great American poet Walt Whitman.

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey was founded in 1962. The chorus is a group of avocational singers dedicated to the study and performance of the great choral masterpieces, performing works spanning many centuries and styles. Lois joined Choral Art in 2005 and sings in the Alto section. She is currently an elected Board Member fulfilling the role of Secretary. Choral Art Society of NJ funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. To learn more, visit: <http://www.casofnj.org>.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



The Choral Art Society of New Jersey performed two major works on May 11, 2019

Branch 162 Donates to Ladies of Charity Fundraiser


(L – R) Joanne Marmol, Branch 162 Vice President, presents a donation to Karen Ciez, Vice President of the Ladies of Charity at St. Mary Nativity Church, Uniontown, PA. The Ladies of Charity had a baby shower fund raiser on Mother's Day weekend to support low income expectant mothers.

- Submitted by Patricia Marmol, Branch 162



CHORAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

Martin Sedek, Music Director Mary Beth McFall, Accompanist



HAYDN VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
Mass in Time of War Dona Nobis Pacem

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019 1:00 PM
The Presbyterian Church, Westfield, NJ



Branch 746's Lois Schmidt was among the singers with the Choral Art Society

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish and Jednota present

ANNUAL PICNIC

Join Us for Food - Fun - Music Games for the kids! Performance by Uchodna Dancers

Sunday, July 7, 2019

Creditvale Park, Mississauga
1720 Barbertown Road, Mississauga L5M 6J2



Gates Open: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Mass: 11:00 am
For more info call: Anne Mitro: 905-279-8154

Admission: \$10
Students 13-18: \$5
Children Under 12: Free
Food Available for purchase

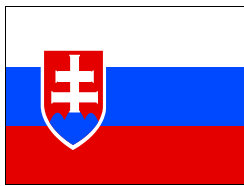
Attention Branch 200 & CU Members:



The CU Club will be giving FIVE \$1,000.00 scholarships to any 1st time student furthering their education beyond High School who resides within the Armstrong School District area. Applications may be picked up @ The Club, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City. Contact person is Vicki Schaub. Please leave a message @ 724-763-9229. Strict deadline to apply is July 20th and application must be complete.

- Submitted by Vicki Schaub, Branch
200 Financial Secretary

AMERICAN SLOVAK ZEMPLIN CLUB SPONSOR



SLOVAK PICNIC SUNDAY JULY 14, 2019

Noon until 8 PM

FREE ADMISSION

FREE ADMISSION

SLOVAK SOKOL CAMP
2069 ROYALWOOD ROAD
(BETWEEN STATE AND BROADVIEW RD.)
BROADVIEW HTS, OH

SLOVAK FOOD, BEER-PIVO, PASTRIES, MUSIC & DANCING



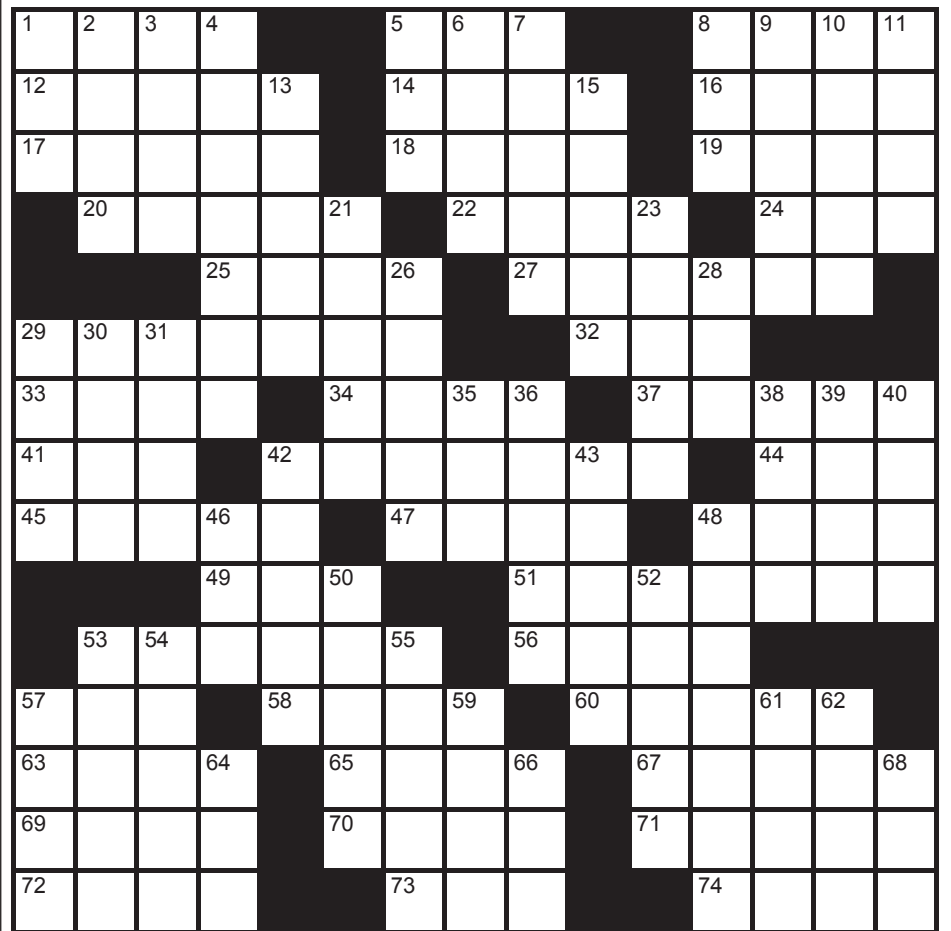
Music by the Johnny Pastirik Band

INFORMATION: 440/885-5702 440/364 - 6673 440/238-4177
216/759-8684 330/239-2256 216/337-8075

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2019

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
July 10	July 1
August 14	August 5
Sept 11	Sept 3
	to accommodate Labor Day
October 9	Sept 30
November 13	November 4
December 11	December 2

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Comic Sandler
- 5 Nabokov novel
- 8 Destiny
- 12 Fight decisions
- 14 Peddle
- 16 Food thickener
- 17 Stave off
- 18 Roof overhang
- 19 Water stoppers
- 20 School assignment
- 22 Fissure
- 24 Three-way joint
- 25 Sandusky's county
- 27 Ransacker
- 29 Waterford lass
- 32 Psyche
- 33 Aphrodite's lover
- 34 First name in jeans
- 37 Cholera
- 41 Came across
- 42 Looks up to
- 44 Sugary drink
- 45 Conundrum
- 47 Wild oxen
- 48 Auxiliary
- 49 Irritation
- 51 Nonstop
- 53 London attraction
- 56 Residence hall
- 57 Preceded
- 58 Resting on
- 60 Nonpoetic writing
- 63 Mishmash
- 65 Pitfall
- 67 Pontificate
- 69 Swill
- 70 Discharge
- 71 Fit for a king
- 72 Paving stone
- 73 Menu words
- 74 Plaything

Down

- 1 Wanted-poster letters
- 2 '93 Kevin Kline comedy
- 3 Some votes
- 4 Crumbs
- 5 Caesar's hello
- 6 Letter opener
- 7 Blacksmith's block
- 8 Craze
- 9 Banded stone
- 10 Circus performer
- 11 Highlands tongue
- 13 Rubberneck
- 15 *Roxana* author
- 21 Traffic sign
- 23 Cloaks
- 26 Hostile force
- 28 Heavy weight
- 29 Tastelessly funny
- 30 Popular cookie
- 31 Leases
- 35 ___ Appia
- 36 Annoyed
- 38 Acquire
- 39 Mythology anthology
- 40 Quaint dance
- 42 Curacao neighbor
- 43 Bar in court
- 46 Physics unit

- 48 Type of car
- 50 Actress Davis of *Mr. Skeffington*
- 52 Trial's partner
- 53 *Scarlett* O'Hara, e.g.
- 54 Dimwit
- 55 Bellini opera
- 57 Red ink amount
- 59 Beach item
- 61 Palm starch
- 62 List abbr.
- 64 Choose
- 66 Educ. group
- 68 Building wing

See Solution on Page 17

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on August 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107 for our meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, please call 216-338-8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michael's Branch 2 will be having a meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7 pm at Eat N' Park on Ohio River Blvd, 15202. Please RSVP to Joanne at 412-715-5577.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

Branch 6K will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, July 14, 2019. The meeting will start at noon at Mona's Italian Foods Restaurant, 202 N. Main Street, Toluca, IL. Following the meeting, the branch will sponsor a dinner for all Branch 6 members. On the agenda: discussing/planning future branch activities. Please call Paul Chismar at 815-822-8851 or Robert Elias Sr. at 815-672-1764 by July 12, if you plan to attend. Please join us in our fraternal gathering.

Paul Chismar, Secretary

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 is participating in an Ohio Region 6 event on June 29 at Blossom which features a showing of the Harry Potter movie on giant outdoor screens while the Cleveland Orchestra plays the movie score. Adult members of Branch 24 who attend the event will be reimbursed \$10 towards the Blossom lawn ticket price of \$26; Blossom offers 2 free kids' tickets (17 and younger) with each adult lawn ticket purchase. For details on the event, see p 18 of this issue. For more info on Branch 24's involvement, call Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797.

Branch 24 encourages branch members to attend the July 14 Zemplin Club picnic at the Slovak Sokol Campground, 2069 Royalwood Rd., Broadview Hts., Ohio. See page 11 of this issue for picnic details. Adult members of Branch 24 will receive \$10 in food/beverage tickets and children 12 and under will receive \$5 in food/beverage tickets. Contact Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 for further details.

Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 55 – PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-Annual Meeting of St. Joseph Society Branch 55 K is scheduled to be held on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 1:30 P.M. at the residence of the President in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Mass will be held at Wesley Hall at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch.

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

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's essential book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT, for those interested in building a successful career. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by Friday, June 2nd in order to make reservations at Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (215) 613-8987.

In the event of severe weather, or any other emergency, we will conduct a telephone conference meeting with those who cannot attend.

Fraternally yours,

Helena T. Gaydos, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAOY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112, Saint John the Baptist, will hold a semi-annual meeting and family day at Knoebels Grove in Elysburg, PA, on Friday, June 21 at noon. The agenda will include officers' reports and a discussion of branch and district activities. Following the meeting members will be able to enjoy lunch and the rides and shows in the park.

Please call Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 by June 17 if you plan to attend.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Home Office and the Branch are unable to contact the following members because we do not have their current addresses:

John Baraniak

Linda Johnson

Joseph Bishop
James Carbonneau
Audrey Cermak
Peter Cortez
Dennis Dean
Susan Donis
Susan Doyle
Robert Hakala
Joseph Hovanec
Richard Hudziak

Thomas Kerch
Edward Lorence
Joseph Makurat
Mary McGibbon
James Morvay
John Nuter
Chun Pesko
Joann Porter
Stephen Supa
Rob Tomasek

Anyone with information, please contact me at (773) 763 0810.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St Stephen Branch 153 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 11:30 am. The meeting will be at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence Avenue, Harwood Heights, IL. A complimentary fraternal luncheon will follow the meeting. For directions, please call Dorothy at 773 763 0810.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166K, will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, October 6, 2019, at 2:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, NY. 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 28, 2019, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members and guests are invited to the annual family picnic to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA at Pavilion #13 on Sunday, June 30, 2019. Registration begins at noon and the picnic starts at 1:00 p.m. Each member is asked to bring their favorite covered dish. Beverages and main entrée will be provided by branch. Fun activities are planned for children.

A branch meeting will be held directly after the picnic. For more information or directions, please call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Branch 200's 125th Anniversary is coming in 2020. Please join others in District 11 for Aug Pirates Game. Details on p 13.

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, has meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings start at 7PM and are held at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 16, 2019. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Once again, I ask that our members plan to attend our meetings whenever possible. It is pleasing to see the attendance at our monthly meetings slowly trending upward. Let's keep that trend going. Our District 10 officers are currently discussing ways to increase fraternal activities in our district. Attendance at our Branch 228 meetings can give you first-hand knowledge of items and events being discussed. All of this helps to promote comradery. Please attend the branch meetings to stay informed. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch #292 KJ will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 23, 2019.

The meeting will be held at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pa. 15963 at 12:30 p.m. This meeting will be in conjunction with our annual celebration of our patron, St. John the Baptist. A Mass will be celebrated at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Roman Catholic Church, Windber, Pa. 15963 (see church bulletin for date and time). All members are asked to attend both events. A buffet dinner will be held.

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

BRANCH 401 – EAST VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Anthony of Padua, Branch 401 of East Vandergrift, PA, invites all branch members to attend the semi-annual meeting to be held at 2 pm on Sunday July 21 at Around Back restaurant located at: 1155 Wildlife Lodge Road Unit 4, New Kensington, PA, 15068. Members are asked to please attend meetings as your input is vital and welcomed. Member involvement is encouraged. General branch business will be discussed. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Please join others in District 11 for Aug Pirates Game. Details on p 13.

Fraternally,

Patrick Froncek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 2:30 at the Texas Roadhouse, 666 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Please call for reservations by Friday, July 12, 2019 at 724-425-2576. Members are encouraged to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 23, 2019, at 2:00PM, at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA. Discussions will include scholarship applications, increased interest in annuities, "March Madness" results, and more. Information from the April district meeting will be shared.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St John the Baptist, Branch 553 has scheduled the following events:

- June 29: Kielbasa Open at Mayfair Country Club. \$70 per golfer/\$280 for foursome. Call the club at 330-786-9972 to reserve your spot. Suggest you call after 3 pm Monday-Saturday.

- 1st Wednesday Every Month – Spaghetti Dinner serve from 4:30pm – 7:00 pm

Thank you to our numerous, dedicated volunteers and patrons for making our Lenten Fish Fry's another successful event. Thank you for your continuing support.

Linda M Hanko, Financial 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, June 23, at 1 pm. 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 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2018 in Kennywood Park immediately following the Mass under the Pavilion in the back to the right as you enter Kennywood through the tunnel. It's right next to the Slovak kitchen!

The agenda will include an update on our branch's activities.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

Branch 633 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 1pm at Kruse's Deer Lake Inn, 7504 Dixie Highway, Village of Clarkston, MI 48346. At this

meeting we will hold officer elections. We ask all branch members to prayerfully consider taking a leadership role. In order to ensure we have enough tables set aside, please rsvp no later than Sunday May 12th with Branch 633 Treasurer Rod Meloni at 248-444-9141. We look forward to a great fraternal gathering!

Rod Meloni, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The next meeting of Branch 682 is scheduled for Noon on Thursday, July 18, 2019 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St in Struthers, OH 44471. Discussion of participation in the Slovak Fest on August 11th at Shady Run Pavilion in conjunction with St. Matthias Church groups will be held. We will again be cooking for the event and any volunteers are welcome.

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 706 – DYER, INDIANA

St. Anthony Society, Branch 706, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 15, 2019, at the house of Branch Treasurer, Barbara Fayta, in Dyer, Indiana. The meeting will start at 4pm, followed by dinner. Please email Lynda at lynda.tanis@comcast.net by May 31 if you wish to attend.

Lynda Tanis, Vice President

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will meet on Sunday, June 23, 2019. This meeting will be at 4:00 pm at the Cafe422, 8586 South Avenue, Boardman, Ohio. We hope to see you then.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

St. Joseph the Guardian Branch 756 will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 10:30 am at Tim Horton's, 323 W. Main Street, Owosso. The agenda will include officers' reports and a discussion of upcoming branch activities. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Gary Gregoricka, President

BRANCH 780 – SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780, will hold a meeting on July 21, 2019. For more information, members may call the Financial Secretary, Catherine Karlsen, at 989-280-4916.

Have an enjoyable summer!

Fraternally,

Catherine Karlsen

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC AND AREA

Branch 856 has again scheduled a Mass in honor of the 54th anniversary of the dedication of the Slovak Chapel Our Mother of Sorrows. Mass will be in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue N.E. Washington, DC. Mass will be celebrated Sunday September 15, 2019 at 11:30 (Please note change in time). Would like to see more members of Branch 856 in attendance. Looking forward to seeing all the faithful who travel from New York and New Jersey to attend this celebration. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 919-651-0363.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 888 – WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888, will hold its next two meeting on Sunday July 7, 2019 and Sunday, October 7, 2019. Both meetings will be at 6:00 pm at 6921 Isla Vista Drive, West Palm Beach, FL, 33412. Contact David Rafaidus, President at (561) 776-0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com for directions and information.

On the agenda for the meetings will be the discussion of future Branch activities, treasurer report, nomination/election of officers, and items of mutual interest to the membership. All branch members are invited to attend.

David Rafaidus, President

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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

District 6 – The Pittsburgh District

The Pittsburgh District will host the annual Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 16 at the Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Street Extn, West Mifflin. Doors will open at 11:30 and food will be served at noon. You must RSVP – no tickets will be sold at the door. Ad booklet prices remain the same. A notice with prices for the brunch and ad booklet was emailed to branch officers.

Branch 60 will host the Fall Business Meeting on December 8 at the Holy Trinity Social Hall. The meeting will include planning of events and election of district officers for 2020.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. This notice is also posted on the FCSU District 6 web page.

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd, Mt Lebanon PA. Meetings resume October 7 with a discussion of Slovak genealogy. Become a WPSCA member to get newspaper listing of all events.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood Park – Thursday, July 18, 2019; Tickets are available from Sue Ondrejco. You can see her at the Fathers' Day Brunch.

** SeptemberFest at the NSS museum in McMurray – Saturday, September 28. Free admission. Vendors, music, Slovak food.

** Slovak beer tasting – Saturday, October 12 – contact Joe Senko.

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

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

** "Notes of Slovakia" has programs in English and Slovak on Facebook or at notesofslovakia.com.

** 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.

** The Carpatho Rusyn Society maintains a web page at <http://www.c-rs.org>.

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

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

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php. Plan a trip to see the hand-carved Bethlehem scene with 80 animated figures.

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, October 15-19, 2019. "Nasa Rodina," their quarterly publication, has many interesting articles on Slovak history and genealogy. See www.cgsi.org. The 2019 Eastern European Family History Conference will be held August 5-9 in Salt Lake City. See feefhs.org.

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

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

Fraternally,

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

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY, JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District of Uniontown, Pa will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 30, 2019, at 1:00 P.M. at the Dairy Queen Grill & Chill at 575 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. Regional Director, James Marmol, will brief the group on current events taking place at the Home Office. A Dairy Queen social will follow. All branch members are urged to attend.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 19 - MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

On July 7, the Annual District 19 Picnic will be held at SCCS Grounds, 1720 Barbertown Rd in Mississauga. Everyone is welcome to attend this lovely event. Food & Bar will be available for purchase.

Anne Mitro, Secretary



LET'S go out to a BALLGAME



Charter Bus trip to PNC Park Saturday, August 3rd
Sponsored by FCSU District 11's Branches 200 & 401
1st 56 members/guests

Cost \$20.00 @ time of sign up & is nonrefundable

Pick up 4:30pm @ Club in Ford City &
5:15pm @ Walmart in Natrona Heights

This includes the bus, a hat, \$10.00 payback @ the game,
seating in the Infield Grandstand & Zambelli Fireworks.

BYOB limited to 1 6pk. or bottle per passenger. Snacks provided.

Contact Vicki Schaub 724-763-9229 or
Patrick Froncek 724-236-4226

Come to the Annual Summer Festival in Danville this July

The 46th annual Summer Festival, sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Activities will begin at 10:30AM and last until 5:00PM.

The festival will feature a large Flea Market, a silent auction, home-made baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store, Sisters' artwork, and Religious articles. There will be a variety of ethnic foods such as holupky, halusky and potato pancakes, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults plus special attractions like raffles, and bingo.

This Festival will mark a special celebration: the 100th Anniversary of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville. The Summer Festival has been a blessed opportunity for the Sisters to keep in touch with former students, their parents, and family members; to reconnect with friends they've made over the years, and to make new friends. The day never seems long enough for visiting with friends old and new.

Bus parking is available. The Festival will take place rain or shine, and will close with a Mass at 5:00 p.m. Tours of the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius and of Jankola Library will also be available.

For more information, please call: Sister Barbara Sable at: 570-275-3581, Ext. 302
Sister Barbara Sable.

JEDNOTA PLANS A TRIP TO THE FESTIVAL

- The First Catholic Slovak Union - Jednota Districts 4 and 16 - are planning a trip to the Summer Festival in Danville, PA. On Saturday, July 13th the bus will leave from St. John Nepomucene in New York City at 8AM and make a stop at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ, at 9AM. The bus will return to NYC via Linden the same day in the evening. The cost of the bus is \$10 for FCSU members and \$15 for non-members. The event is all day with picnic food, activities, and Holy Mass at the Basilica at 5PM. To make reservations for departure from St. John Nepomucene please contact Maria Bozekova at 347-612-1934. If you would like to depart from Linden please contact Mary Ann Ranahan at 732-251-6035. **Payment must be made at the time of reservation.** Seating is limited.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville PA

Celebrating
100
Years in Danville
1909-2019

Summer Festival 2019

Saturday July 13th

10:30 am – 5:00 pm

fun · food · games · dinner · baked goods · flea market

Saturday Mass for Sunday · 5:00pm Basilica



CRUISE WITH the FCSU

Fort Lauderdale - Grand Turk - La Romana - Curacao - Aruba



**Nov 9-17
2019**

Rainforests, crystal-clear waters, white-sand beaches are a few of the exotic treasures you'll experience on an 8 - Night Carnival Magic cruise. Price includes all port taxes, roundtrip airport transfer, prepaid gratuities, 2 nights of cocktail hours, afternoon at the beach, on board credit per cabin.

CABINS

INTERIOR

\$959*

BALCONY

\$1,299*

A \$250 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a cabin by May 31, 2019. Final payment due by August 17, 2019. *Cost per person, double occupancy.

BONUS

SIGN UP a NEW MEMBER and you and the new member each will be ENTERED into a DRAWING to WIN this CRUISE.

Minimum \$1,000 deposit on 6 - or 8 - Year Annuity, \$5,000 Whole Life Insurance Policy, \$25,000 Term Life Insurance (Excludes JEP Policy). Begins February 1, 2019 and applications must be postmarked by August 31, 2019.

CONTACT

To book the cabin call the Home Office today at **800.533.6682** or visit www.fcsu.com. For travel arrangements call Paul at Adventure International Travel Service, Inc. at **800.542.2487**





1st Annual ANNUAL FCSU Kentucky Derby Hat Photo Contest Winners

Dear FCSU Members:

Thanks to all those who participated in the first FCSU Kentucky Derby Hat Contest. The judging took place during the FCSU National Bowling Tournament on Friday, May 17, 2019 with judges from among those bowlers and Board of Directors in attendance from the First Catholic Slovak Union and the Sokols. Congratulations to our winners!

Kevin J. Collins
Fraternal Activities Director

FEMALE

40 – over:



1st Place –
Patricia Marmol,
Branch 162

16 – 39:



1st Place –
Morgan Murphy,
Branch 831



2nd Place –
Irene Collins,
Branch 112



2nd Place –
Sabina Sabados,
Branch 746



3rd Place –
Dolores Kocis,
Branch 108

MALE

16 – 39:

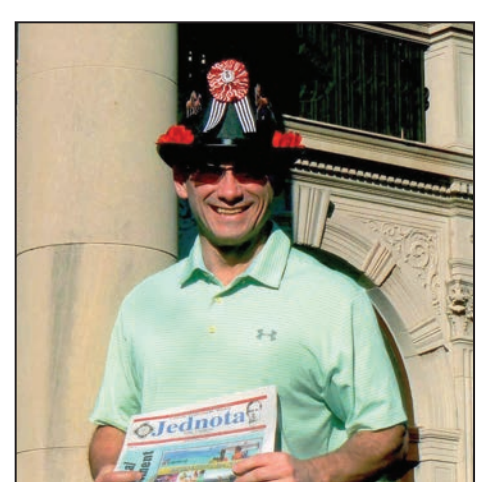


1st Place -
Sean Murphy,
Branch 831

40 – over:



1st Place –
Andrew Marmol,
Branch 162



2nd Place –
Mark Marmol,
Branch 162

FAMILY



1st Place – Branch 162 Family
(L – R) Joanne Marmol, Betty Rozzell, Patty Marmol,
Dolores Marmol, Andrew Marmol, Mark Marmol, James
Marmol, Frank Marmol



3rd Place –
Frank Marmol,
Branch 162

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	George M Gregus	173K	Marion V Baloga	320K	Andrew John Simko	731K	Rosemarie V Yohman
001K	Robert Mandley	173K	Carol Edwards	333K	Constance Surovec	743K	Bernard Ivin
001K	Helen Vertock	173K	Anna Marie Mehalick	372K	Veronica A Maslar	746K	Elizabeth Hydo
002K	Joseph Simarik	173K	Anthony G Stredny	382K	Norbert R Lafko	746K	Russell A Palochko
003P	Marcella Yeakel	181K	William A Kuhar Sr	401K	Rudolph J Kardos	746K	Charles Sharo
005P	Stanley J Grontkowski	181K	Theodore M Novak Sr	410K	Janet M Carte	746K	Sylvia Totin
006K	Joan M Masley	181K	Regina Smail	410K	Frank Malinzak	769K	Denise J Martinkovic
023K	Helen Abel	181K	Robin Louise Wagner	419K	Ann Mary Camuso	796K	Paul P Krempasky Sr
023K	Helen J Nelson	181K	Kathryn Whisdosh	419K	John P Slusser	831K	John A Kocur
024K	Frank R Finan	199K	Velma Kubecki	425K	Josephine Bravchok	855K	Helen E Chabek
024K	Ethel M Whipkey	199K	John R Poklembo	429K	Anthony J Furka	855K	Joseph G Ondo
038K	George M Monzak	200K	Agnes Monti	450K	Roseanne Mindick	855K	John J Schurdak
040K	Lucille Churney	215K	Rita Prekopa	450K	Anna T Stropkay	855K	Barbara Supra
041K	Robert York	215K	Ethel Simasek	553K	Andrew Falatok	856K	Charles Lawrence Manik Sr
045K	Caroline Krutosik	228K	Jeffrey Kata	553K	Sandra Lynn Leipold	900K	Michele J Daley-LaFlame
085K	Helen A Fulmer	259K	Dorothy A Kuharich	553K	Frank M Vance	900K	Joanne K Marlowe
112K	Albert Joseph Wolk	260K	Joseph S Bartos	553K	Betty Ann Walker	900K	Mary C Quinn
128K	Charles M Yancik	260K	Mary E Bishop	571K	Mary P Wisz	918K	Waldo Bakke
132K	Susan Lynn Franke	266K	Irene Velky Salata	580K	Albert John Ragan	921K	Junior P Bowman
153K	Charles A Bilka	293K	Joseph F McGonigle	721K	Most Rev Joseph Adamec		
153K	Lita Helen Reitmeier	293K	Anna Swedar	729K	Ethel A Beauchamp		
162K	Paula M Wardzella	320K	Timothy Paul Polansky	731K	Diane Javorsky		

*Processed through the month of May

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH ANDREW KRONEK KRAJNAK BRANCH 3 – HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph Andrew Kronek Krajnak, was born June 24, 1921 to Mary Balent Prikopa-Tulek and Jozsef Varicha-Krajnak in Minneapolis MN. Formerly of Columbia Heights and Northeast Minneapolis, he left this world at the age of 97 on Feb. 21, 2019 while a resident of Shawnee, KS. Joe attended Columbia Heights High School. Leaving school early to participate in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs), he finally received his diploma in 2006. Prior to leaving for the Army Air Corp, he was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCCs) working in northern Minnesota. Joe proudly served during World War II with the 354th Pioneer Mustang Fighter Group. He was a Crew Chief who worked on P-51 Mustangs during the war and was stationed in England, France, Germany and Belgium. His unit was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation and the Croix de Guerre medal for service while serving in Europe. He married his beloved Frances Dziejewick (Gewedik/Dziejewick) on May 29, 1948. They were married for over 57 years before her death in 2004. Joe worked for many years at both Superior Plating and Excel Metal Finishing. He was an avid golfer and golfed at many golf courses in Minneapolis and across the USA. His passion led him to work at the Columbia Golf Course Learning Center, following his regular retirement up to his stroke in 2012. Joe was also very active at the Church of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Northeast MN. He served as a member of the financial team, was active in many church activities and a Trustee. He was a great cribbage player, loved working on jigsaw puzzles and playing cards. He was preceded in death by his wife

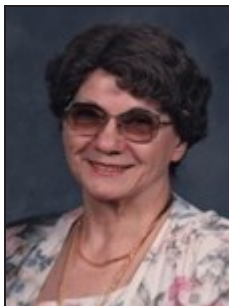
Frances, his parents, several step brothers and sisters. He is survived by his daughter, Linda (RJ) Black. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews; and cousins in Slovakia.

- Submitted by Linda Black

HELEN A. ABEL BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Helen Ann (Kubanda) Abel was born on February 23, 1924 in Johnstown, PA, to Philip and Catherine (Kolesar) Kubanda. She married Clifton G. Abel on March 15, 1945 in Johnstown, and later moved to many cities and towns in Minnesota. In her early married years, she enjoyed working on the "farm" in Pelican Rapids, MN and in her middle years was often babysitting for families in Bagley and Eagan, MN. Helen was a very special "Grandma" to all her grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Helen loved church, children, travel, playing bingo, and being surrounded by her family. She was a member of St. Joseph's Parish and Christian Women. Helen and Clifton were married for 60 years until his death in 2005. Helen will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother, aunt, sister-in-law and friend.

Survivors include her children: Pauline Porter (Dennis) of Lawton, OK; Rosemary Martin (Bill) of Mora, MN; Robert (Mary) of Fergus Falls, MN; and Richard (Kari) of Bagley, MN; 14 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; one great-great grandchild;



brother: William of Johnstown, PA; sisters-in-law: Louise Kubanda of San Diego, CA; and Nellie Holm of Ulen, MN.

She was preceded in death by her husband Clifton; parents; brothers John, Phillip, Michael, and Andrew; and sister Pauline.

- Submitted by Rosemary Martin

ROBERT J. "BOB" YORK BRANCH 41 – BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK

Robert J. "Bob" York, with his loving family by his side, went home to be with our Lord on Friday, February 1, 2019.

Born in Yonkers on May 30, 1935 to John Benjamin and Agnes (Vlasaty) York, Bob graduated from Commerce High School in 1953, and then proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, earning a National Defense Service Medal during the Korean War.

Bob met Marcia, the love of his life, and they were married on August 15, 1959. He worked for NY Telephone/NYNEX/Verizon before retiring. Bob served in the Knights of Columbus; 4th Degree and Past Grand Knight in the Our Lady of Lourdes Council #5890, Washingtonville, NY, a member of the American Legion, the Elks, the Eagles, AOH, and was a Little League Umpire for many years.

A kind, quiet, gentle man, who enjoyed family and friends; he will be sorely missed by all. Bob endured undeserved suffering with dignity through God's grace. In recent years, he attended the Polish Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Monroe.

Survived by his loving, devoted wife of 59 ½ years, Marcia at home; three daughters: Donna York (and Ed), Robin (and Alan) Masiero, and Carol (and Robert) Blachetta; one son: James (and Judy) York; three grandsons: Richard (and Rachael) Dieckmann, Robert (and Gina) Dieckmann, and Ryan



Dieckmann; two great-grandchildren: Ryder and River Dieckmann; one brother, John (and Karen) York; sister-in-law, Lynda (and Allen) Morris, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Robert was predeceased by his parents; his in-laws, Royel and Marguerite (Crosby) Ross; one brother and sister-in-law, Anthony and Barbara (McCue) York; niece, Colleen (York) Hudson; and his beloved dog, Cherry.

- Submitted by Marcia York

ELIZABETH SLIVOSKY BRANCH 169P – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Elizabeth, "Betty" M. Slivosky, Westmont Boro., passed away January 30, 2019 at Conemaugh Hospital. Born November 8, 1926 in Johnstown, daughter of Andy and Anna (Zidik) Mley. She is the last survivor of her immediate family. Preceded in death by parents, husband Joseph J. Slivosky; infant brother, Joseph; brothers, Andrew Mley Jr. and Charles Mley; infant sister, Margaret; and sister, Anna M. Stanko. Survived by loving son, Richard married to the former Linda Roethlein of Mars, PA. Also survived by grandchildren Andrew and Lauren Slivosky, both of New York; sister-in-law, Bernie Mley and numerous nieces and nephews. She loved her grandchildren very much and enjoyed taking them on family vacations. Betty's love of fashion provided her a storied career in retail, having worked for Penn Traffic Co. and Hesss. She also enjoyed lunch and dinner dates with her lady friends and was a member of Our Mother of Sorrow Catholic Church.

- Submitted by Richard Slivosky



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

continued on page 17

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

**RUDOLPH J. KARDOS
BRANCH 401 –
NORTH APOLLO, PENNSYLVANIA**

Rudolph J. Kardos, 92, of Parks Township, passed away Saturday, March 30, 2019. He was born Aug. 23, 1926, the son of the late Joseph and Mary (Bolega) Kardos. Rudy was a veteran of the Navy, and retired from Allegheny Ludlum's Bagdad plant where he was a crane operator. He was a member of Our Lady Queen of Peace in East Vandergrift. His greatest joy was spending time with his family, riding his Gold Wing motorcycle, and traveling to the mountains. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Clara Klingensmith Kardos; a daughter, Lori (Allen) Leard, of Parks Township; a brother, Paul (Paulette) Kardos, of Florida; and two cats, Red and Puss. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Charles, Frank, Joseph, and Steve; and sisters, Velma, Klaric, and Lil Cesario, as well as siblings, John and Carmella, who died in infancy.

- Submitted by Clara Kardos

**HELEN
GARANCOVSKY
BRANCH 731 –
YOUNGSTOWN,
OHIO**

Helen Garancovsky, 90, passed away December 29, 2018.

Helen was born July 8, 1928, in Youngstown, a daughter of the late Michael J. and Mary A. Jakubko Beney.

Helen graduated in 1946 from Chaney High School. She worked for G.M. McKelvey Company and also for the Home Mortgage Company. She then became a



full time homemaker. Helen leaves behind to cherish her memory, her son, Mark, and several nieces and nephews. Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Frank A. Garancovsky, whom she married July 14, 1949, and who passed away on Jan. 13, 2016; her brothers, Stephen, Michael, and Paul Beney; and her sisters, Margaret T. Beney and Mary Ann Loncar.

Helen's family wishes to send a special "Thank You" to Dr. Sudershan Garg, Dr. Armand Minotti and Dr. Sahadev Reddy, along with the staffs of both Mercy Health ICU at St. Elizabeth Boardman Campus, and Beeghly Oaks Center for Rehabilitation and Healing for their compassionate care of Helen in her time of need.

- Submitted by Mark Garancovsky

**MARGARET M.
WITKOWSKI
BRANCH 855 –
PARMA, OHIO**

Margaret M. Witkowski, 93, formerly of Cleveland, OH, passed away January 21, 2019, in Peoria, IL. Margaret was the beloved wife of Edward Witkowski (deceased); loving mother of Kathleen McKilip (Terry), Marlene Staley, Elizabeth Good (Robert) and infant son Edward (deceased); grandmother of Sarah, Monica (deceased), Christopher and Caitlin; sister of Steve (deceased), Joseph (deceased), Bernadette Reitz and Elizabeth Roberts, and aunt of many nieces and nephews. Margaret worked as a secretary, bookkeeper and homemaker. She enjoyed bowling, playing cards, gardening and trips to Las Vegas.

- Submitted by Marlene Staley



Focus on Heritage

Coming to America

Our family story begins in July 1929, when my grandfather, Lucian Gregoricka, having an opportunity to travel to America to seek out a better life to support his family, boarded a train to Cherbourg, France, from his home in Podedim, Slovakia [Editor's note: Podedim is a village and municipality in Nové Mesto nad Váhom District in the Trenčín Region of western Slovakia]. It was in France that he booked passage on the SS Aquitania, sailing to America. From New York City, after Ellis Island, trains again transported him to his final destination in Owosso, MI.



He traveled alone because that was all he could afford. His wife and five children remained in Slovakia until enough money was saved and sent back for their passage. It took five years during the U.S. Depression to save enough so that the family could be reunited. Finally, in February 1934, my grandmother sold all her worldly possessions except for the luggage needed to transport the family's clothes. The trip to America with her children followed on the SS Berengoria.

My grandfather worked a number of odd jobs during his time in Michigan. His goal was to buy a small farm. When he worked in Slovakia, he was – in essence – a migrant farm worker, working the fields in (what is now) Slovakia, Moravia, and the Czech Republic. Once in America and reunited with his family, he saved every penny he could and eventually purchased a small 60-acre farm in the 1940s.

My grandfather's children all became successful. His oldest daughter married an auto worker. The second daughter married a farmer. His oldest son fought in WWII, then owned a bakery until his retirement. The youngest son bought the family farm and continued his father's legacy of successful farming. And my father, Cyril, started as an engineer and eventually started his own manufacturing business, which his four sons still operate today.

Because one man dared to cross the globe for a better life for his five children – and eventually 17 grandchildren and over 30 great-grandchildren – all were blessed with an abundance from his adopted country, the United States of America.

The FCSU has been a part of our extended family for as long as I can remember. My grandfather and father were both officers in Branch 756, District 5, in Michigan. Although there are fewer and fewer native Slovak speakers left in our locale, it is with pride that we continue the tradition of this great organization.

Moze Boh je s vami,

Gary Gregoricka, Branch 756 President

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

You are invited to the
**REGION 1
PICNIC**
Sun, Aug 4th at 1pm
Al Kalla Park
2801 Highland Ave
Linden, NJ
RSVP by July 30th to
Mary Ann at 732-251-6035
Members free!
Non-members \$15

Mother's Day with Branch 716



Branch 716 Secretary Joan Skrkon is flanked by (R) Andrea Mlynar, wife of Slovak Ambassador to the United Nations, His Excellency, Dr. Michal Mlynar and a guest at a Mother's Day luncheon on May 12th

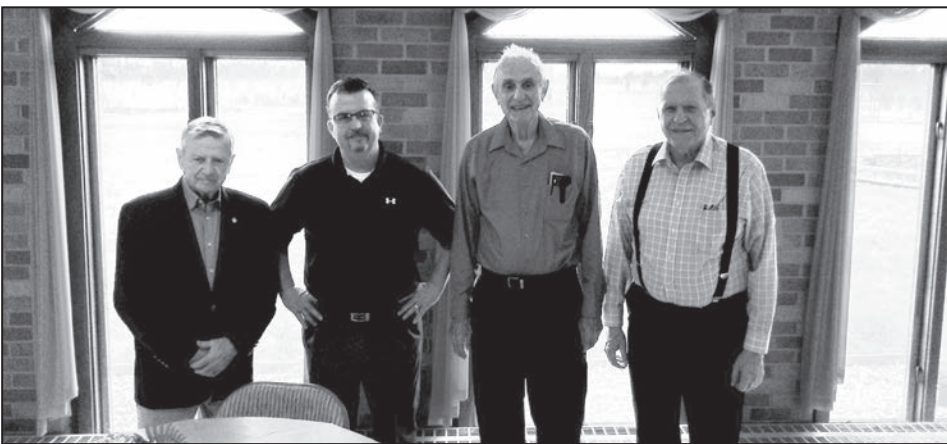


Among the attending was His Excellency, Dr. Michal Mlynar Slovak Ambassador to UN, and his wife Andrea.



Branch 716 provided food service to the Slovak Lutherans for Mother's Day luncheon at Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church in NYC. A heartwarming event!

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary



District 2, Region 7 and National Officers (L - R): National Vice President Andrew Harcar, Regional Director Tim Graves, District President John Jurcenko and District Vice President Robert Bernath.

District 2's Annual Spring Meeting

The District 2, Region 7 Annual Spring Meeting was held, Sunday April 7th, 2019 at The Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict Convent in Oak Forest, IL. At this meeting, we officially welcomed our new Regional Director, Tim Graves! Once our meeting had concluded, we enjoyed a fraternal meal of Salad and Pizza...which has become a tradition at our Spring meetings!

- Submitted by District 2, Region 7 Recording Secretary Jennifer Carlton



District 2, Region 7 members attending the Annual Spring Meeting and enjoying fraternal fellowship.



Ohio Region 6: Enjoy the Magic of Membership June 29th at Blossom Music Center

Join others in Region 6 – which includes District 10 & District 14 – for a spectacular evening of music, movies, and the magic of fraternalism. On Saturday evening, June 29, 2019, you, your family & friends can enjoy the acclaimed Cleveland Orchestra perform a live version of composer John Williams' notable score during a (giant!) screening of the first Harry Potter film.

DATE:	Saturday, June 29, 2019
PLACE:	Blossom Music Center, 1145 W Steels Corners Rd, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223.
COST:	\$26 per adult ticket for lawn seating; 2 free children's tickets (17 and younger) per 1 adult purchase.
TIME:	Performance starts at 7:00PM

We will be gathering on the lawn near the Blossom Grille starting at 4:30PM and (if you'd like) picnic together before the show. You can purchase food at Blossom or bring your own.

To get a map of the venue and learn more about what you can bring, go to:

<http://www.clevelandorchestra.com/plan-your-visit/blossom-music-center/> and <https://www.clevelandorchestra.com/plan-your-visit/blossom-information/> (Guide to Blossom).

TO ORDER: Order lawn tickets up to the day of the concert directly from the Blossom Box Office at 330-920-8040 or go to <https://www.livenationvenue.com/blossom-music-center>

WEATHER: All Blossom Music Center events are performed rain or shine. Lawn ticket holders are welcome to sit in the General Admission areas in the covered Pavilion. These seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

NOTE: After the show, save your ticket(s)! Special members-only deeper ticket reimbursement may be available through your branch. Contact your branch officer to learn if you may be reimbursed. If you do not know your branch officer, call Region 6 Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797 to find out your branch contact name and number.

Deadline Extended to June 30, 2019

1st Year Premium Waived on Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)



- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



FCSU FINANCIAL®
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131
800-533-6682
fcsu@fcsu.com
www.fcsu.com

**All applications must be
received in the Home
Office postmarked
by June 30, 2019.**

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

85th Anniversary Celebration of Sts Cyril & Methodius in Mississauga

On May 12, 2019, Sts Cyril & Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario, celebrated its 85th Anniversary. In attendance were His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Reverend Marek Novicky, Chancellor of the Eparchy of Sts. Cyril & Methodius of the Byzantine Rite, His Excellency Vit Koziak, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, Father Paul Hancko and Deacon Milan Popik.

Many members of the FCSU were also in attendance, including Anne Mitro, President of Parish Council, and an officer of both FCSU District 19 and Branch 785. Anne and Maria Vacval, Master of Ceremonies, opened the banquet. Entertainment and the luncheon was great and thanks go to our own chefs Jana and Marta and their faithful assistants.

- Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins



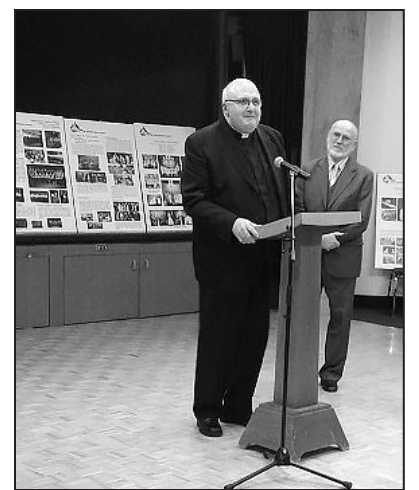
His Excellency Vit Koziak, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Canada



Reverend Marek Novicky



Father Grzegorz Nowicki



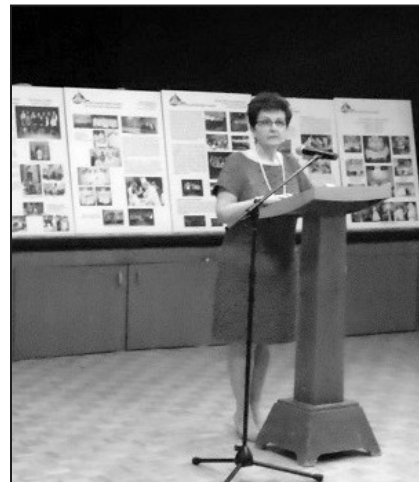
Father Paul Hancko and Milan Popik



Vychodna Slovak Dancers. Photo courtesy of Ondrej Mihal.



Maria Vacval, Master of Ceremony



Anne Mitro, Parish Council President



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the March 2019 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., and seconded by George F. Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White and Stephen Gonzalez, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report by telephone and WebEx to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Mr. White and Mr. Gonzalez also led a discussion of the new investment opportunities that we may take advantage of. Following the report, Mr. White and Mr. Gonzalez answered the Committee's questions.

The President reported that the FCSU sold two equity positions for realized profit of \$25,000 on the recommendation of UBS. Mr. Matta stated that he was not informed prior to this transaction but voiced no objection to the trade.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Disbursements for the month of March 2019:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	105,628.09
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	56,891.60
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Executive Committee. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have over 300 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products. The independent agents are also in frequent contact with Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents. The Home Office continues an extensive Facebook ad recruiting campaign to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in.

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the referral program for recommenders. He hopes to have this program ready in July or August 2019.

The Executive Secretary stated that the 2019 Membership Meet will be held November 9-17, 2019 aboard Carnival Magic. The 8 day cruise will depart from Fort Lauderdale and stop at Grand Turk, La Romana, Curacao and Aruba. More information will be published in the Jednota and posted on the fcsu.com website. The Executive Secretary stated that there are still cabins available.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:Annuity Rates:

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

MIDDLETOWN:

The President stated there are no updates on the property at this time. The President will keep the Committee updated on any developments.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President gave an update on the joint bowling tournament with the Greek Catholic Union and the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The tournament will be held May 17-18, 2019. Details of the event will be published in the Jednota and posted on the fcsu.com website.

The President stated that the FCSU golf tournament will be held at Cedarbrook Golf Course on August 17-18, 2019 in Belle Vernon, PA.

The President stated that the March Madness Contest was well received and that over 500 entries were submitted. The winners were posted on the website and in the Jednota newspaper.

The President stated that Kevin Collins has received many inquiries regarding the Kentucky Derby Hat Contest. Contest rules are posted on the website and in the Jednota newspaper.

The President stated they are working on the details for a matching funds program for districts and branches to take advantage of. We hope to have this in place by the end of the year.

The President stated he is exploring the idea of getting the Society rated by one of the following agencies, Kroll Bond or AM Best. He has received proposals from the rating companies and they are being reviewed.

The President gave an update on the holding company concerning our two tenants in building #2.

The President stated he received a request from Sunoco for an extension for temporary easement rights on our property in Middletown. The President is reviewing their request.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth A. Arendt and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Come to the 89th Annual Slovak-American Day in Milwaukee Area



Federated Slovak Societies 89th Annual Slovak-American Day which is Sunday, July 14 at Croatian Park in the Milwaukee area starting Holy Mass at noon. A cultural presentation featuring the Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers, Tatra Slovak Dancers will begin at 2:30 pm.

All Knights of Sts. Mary & Joseph Branch 89 members are invited.

**- Submitted by Kathy Valent, Representative,
 Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee**

**The First Catholic Slovak Union is now accepting
 VISA, Mastercard and Discover credit cards
 as newspaper subscription payments.**

**Contact the Home Office for details:
 1-800-JEDNOTA or info@fcsu.com.**



PLAY THE LOSER'S POOL

2019 with the FCSU

PRIZES:

1st Place - \$750

2nd Place - \$500

3rd Place - \$250

RULES:

- 1) Each player picks one NFL Team they think will lose that week.
- 2) All picks are "Straight Up" and are not using any point spread.
- 3) If your pick (team) loses that week, you advance to the following week.
- 4) If your pick (team) wins, you are eliminated from the pool.
- 5) You can only pick a team once to lose thru the entire season and the playoffs.
You will need to pre-plan your projections thru the season and playoffs.
- 6) Games that end in ties will count as your team winning and you will be eliminated.
- 7) If you forget to pick a team one week, you will be eliminated.
- 8) If you miss the deadline to enter your team for that week, you will be eliminated.
- 9) Deadline for submitting your team will be TBD each week depending on when the first NFL game is being played.
- 10) Mail to: Kevin Collins, Fraternal Activities Director, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, Fl. 32712
- 11) **Must preregister by Monday, August 19th, 2019**

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ Player Name: _____

Certificate Number: _____ Branch : _____ Email Address: _____

Street Address: City, State, Zip: _____ Phone number: _____



Statement as of March 31, 2019 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	355,341,815		355,341,815	353,011,701
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	3,032,546		3,032,546	2,987,141
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	309,054		309,054	371,258
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	367,256		367,256	373,070
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	981,860		981,860	991,961
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	785,946		785,946	785,946
5. Cash (\$.....14,738,118), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....984,854).....	15,722,972		15,722,972	15,831,904
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,102,677		1,102,677	1,107,398
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	7,620,927		7,620,927	7,210,059
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	385,265,053	0	385,265,053	382,670,437
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,838,978		4,838,978	4,627,912
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	20,629		20,629	21,785
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$.....0) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$.....0).....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	4,135	4,135	0	
22. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
23. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
24. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
25. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	550	550	0	0
26. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 12 through 25).....	390,129,345	4,685	390,124,660	387,320,134
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	390,129,345	4,685	390,124,660	387,320,134

Statement as of March 31, 2019 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts \$.....0 less \$.....0 included in Line 6.3 (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	317,386,479	315,165,261
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	28,477,516	28,783,032
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Policyholders' dividends/refunds to members \$.....0 and coupons \$.....0 due and unpaid.....		
6. Provision for policyholders' dividends/refunds to members and coupons payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Policyholder's dividends/refunds to members apportioned for payment (including \$.....0 Modco).....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Policyholder's dividends/refunds to members not yet apportioned (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
6.3 Coupons and similar benefits (including \$.....0 Modco).....		
7. Amount provisionally held for deferred dividend policies not included in Line 6.....		
8. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	55,382	47,645
9. Contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
9.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
9.2 Provision for experience rating refunds, including the liability of \$.....0 accident and health experience rating refunds of which \$.....0 is for medical loss ratio rebate per the Public Health Service Act.....		
9.3 Other amounts payable on reinsurance, including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
9.4 Interest Maintenance Reserve.....	927,465	1,030,876
10. Commissions to agents due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	19,706	14,273
11. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
12. General expenses due or accrued.....	77,429	76,626
13. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves, net of reinsured allowances).....		
14. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued, excluding federal income taxes.....	18,683	18,683
15.1 Current federal and foreign income taxes, including \$.....0 on realized capital gains (losses).....		
15.2 Net deferred tax liability.....		
16. Unearned investment income.....		
17. Amounts withheld or retained by reporting entity as agent or trustee.....	5,817,950	5,791,613
18. Amounts held for agents' account, including \$.....0 agents' credit balances.....		
19. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
21. Liability for benefits for employees and agents if not included above.....		
22. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
23. Dividends to stockholders declared and unpaid.....		
24. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
24.01 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,855,042	2,783,323
24.02 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
24.03 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
24.04 Payable to parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
24.05 Drafts outstanding.....		
24.06 Liability for amounts held under uninsured plans.....		
24.07 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
24.08 Derivatives.....		
24.09 Payable for securities.....	296,591	100,013
24.10 Payable for securities lending.....		
24.11 Capital notes \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
25. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	499,692	424,693
26. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 25).....	357,141,446	354,945,549
27. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
28. Total liabilities (Lines 26 and 27).....	357,141,446	354,945,549
29. Common capital stock.....		
30. Preferred capital stock.....		
31. Aggregate write-ins for other-than-special surplus funds.....	0	0
32. Surplus notes.....		
33. Gross paid in and contributed surplus.....		
34. Aggregate write-ins for special surplus funds.....	0	0
35. Unassigned funds (surplus).....	32,983,214	32,374,585
36. Less treasury stock, at cost:		
36.10.000 shares common (value included in Line 29 \$.....0).....		
36.20.000 shares preferred (value included in Line 30 \$.....0).....		
37. Surplus (Total Lines 31 + 32 + 33 + 34 + 35 - 36) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	32,983,214	32,374,585
38. Totals of Lines 29, 30 and 37.....	32,983,214	32,374,585

Statement as of March 31, 2019 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year to Date	2 Prior Year to Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	4,209,928	3,962,534	12,068,358
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	3,854,911	4,030,490	15,936,994
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	101,734	113,384	461,105
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous Income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	1,105	247	13,273
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	8,167,678	8,106,655	28,479,730
10. Death benefits.....	732,476	794,261	2,642,835
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			
12. Annuity benefits.....	3,785,524	4,775,189	17,516,462
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts.....			
14. Coupons, guaranteed annual pure endowments and similar benefits.....			
15. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	119,748	161,532	572,287
16. Group conversions.....			
17. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	42,182	44,719	179,936
18. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
19. Increase in aggregate reserves for life and accident and health contracts.....	2,221,218	868,196	2,026,057
20. Totals (Lines 10 to 19).....	6,901,148	6,643,897	22,937,577
21. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	63,730	63,175	166,490
22. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
23. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	1,064,257	1,117,221	3,721,729
24. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees, excluding federal income taxes.....	31,770	30,191	106,341
25. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
26. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
27. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(169,035)	(154,904)	(409,342)
28. Totals (Lines 20 to 27).....	7,891,870	7,699,580	26,522,795
29. Net gain from operations before dividends to policyholders and federal income taxes (Line 9 minus Line 28).....	275,808	407,075	1,956,935
30. Dividends to policyholders and refunds to members.....	74,435	72,959	422,699
31. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and before federal income taxes (Line 29 minus Line 30).....	201,373	334,116	1,534,236
32. Federal and foreign income taxes incurred (excluding tax on capital gains).....			
33. Net gain from operations after dividends to policyholders, refunds to members and federal income taxes and before realized capital gains or (losses) (Line 31 minus Line 32).....	201,373	334,116	1,534,236
34. Net realized capital gains (losses) (excluding gains (losses) transferred to the IMR) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding taxes of \$....(1,677) transferred to the IMR).....	41,175	10,384	97,832
35. Net income (Line 33 plus Line 34).....	242,548	344,500	1,632,068
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
36. Capital and surplus, December 31, prior year.....	32,374,585	30,782,846	30,782,846
37. Net income (Line 35).....	242,548	344,500	1,632,068
38. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	438,722	(99,485)	(162,804)
39. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
40. Change in net deferred income tax.....			
41. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	730	729	2,919
42. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
43. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease.....			
44. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	(71,719)	30,675	129,710
45. Change in treasury stock.....			
46. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
47. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
48. Change in surplus notes.....			
49. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
50. Capital changes:			
50.1 Paid in.....			
50.2 Transferred from surplus (Stock Dividend).....			
50.3 Transferred to surplus.....			
51. Surplus adjustment:			
51.1 Paid in.....			
51.2 Transferred to capital (Stock Dividend).....			
51.3 Transferred from capital.....			
51.4 Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
52. Dividends to stockholders.....			
53. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	(1,652)	5,546	(10,155)
54. Net change in capital and surplus (Lines 37 through 53).....	608,629	281,965	1,591,738

Správy zo Slovenska

Bratislava - Rakúsky kancelár Sebastian Kurz prekračuje svoje právomoci. Tvrdí to slovenský premiér Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD). Reagoval tak na vyhlásenie kancelára, ktorý chce všetkými prostriedkami zabrániť dostavbe jadrovej elektrárne Mochovce. Pellegrini vníma tieto slová so znepokojením a deklaruje, že nedovolí, aby sa príslušník iného štátu pokúšal zasiahnuť do suverénnych rozhodnutí Slovenska. Predseda vlády to uviedol na tlačovej konferencii s tým, že Kurza pozýva na Slovensko.

Banská Bystrica - Za veľkú výzvu, ale aj obrovský záväzok označil nedávno banskobystrický primátor Ján Nosko zorganizovanie Európskeho olympijského festivalu mládeže (EYOF), ktorý sa má uskutočniť v lete 2021 v meste pod Úrpínom. Po tom, ako sa Košice vzdali organizácie tohto sedemdnňového podujatia, záujem prejavila Banská Bystrica a vyšla spomedzi iných slovenských miest ako najlepší hosťiteľ prestížneho športového podujatia.

Bratislava - Kampaň Do práce na bicykli zaznamenala na začiatku mája rekordnú účasť, aktívne ju podporilo 12.687 zamestnancov. V porovnaní s rokom 2018 je to o 1626 ľudí viac, ktorí na cestu do práce zvolili ekologický spôsob dopravy. Informovalo Ministerstvo dopravy a výstavby (MDV) SR. Hovorkyňa rezortu Karolína Ducká avizovala, že v polovici mája sa začne i kampaň určená pre žiakov a študentov.

Bratislava - Slovensko je voči hybridným hrozbám značne zraniteľné. Tvrdia to tvorcovia najnovšej publikácie neziskovej organizácie Globsec, ktorej výsledky prezentovali na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave pracovníci programu Strategická komunikácia Globsec-u. Prijatie Konceptie boja proti hybridným hrozbám vládou Slovenskej republiky minulého leta je prvý a dôležitý krok, máme však v tejto oblasti ešte veľa medzier,“ uviedol vedúci programu Strategická komunikácia Globsec-u, analytik Daniel Milo.

Zvolene - Vedieť sa postaviť zlu, nebáť sa ho pomenovať, bojovať s ním a nelegalizovať zlo spoluprácou s ním, tak ako sa to napríklad teraz deje v parlamente, je náš záväzok voči ľuďom, ktorí nám vybojovali slobodu. Uviedol to pri príležitosti 74. výročia ukončenia druhej svetovej vojny vo Zvolene v príhovore prezident SR Andrej Kiska.

Bratislava - Predseda Národnej rady (NR) SR a SNS Andrej Danko ocenil gesto Slovenského zväzu ľadového hokeja (SZLH) v súvislosti s dresmi slovenských reprezentantov na svetovom šampionáte. Zväz avizoval, že slovenskí hokejisti sa predstavia v dresoch so štátnym znakom. Fanúškimi obľúbené logo bude na ramenách.

Bratislava - Prezident SR Andrej Kiska sa pripája k výzve 21 prezidentov pred voľbami do Európskeho parlamentu. „Európa potrebuje silný hlas národov. Preto vás vyzývame, aby ste uplatnili svoje právo voliť. Ide o našu spoločnú európsku budúcnosť,“ uviedol Kiska na sociálnej sieti. Kiska doplnil, že Európska únia čelí viac než kedykoľvek predtým vážnym výzvam. Medzi tie zahrnul túžbu časti obyvateľstva EÚ zvrátiť jeden alebo viaceré integračných krokov. Takisto spomína brexit a na druhej strane hlasy volajúce po väčšej integrácii.

Bratislava - U Slovákov vidieť v súčasnosti oveľa väčší záujem o voľby do Európskeho parlamentu (EP) ako pred piatimi rokmi. Pri príležitosti Dňa Európy to povedal zastupujúci riaditeľ Kancelárie EP na Slovensku Dionýz Hocheľ. Podľa neho možno na Slovensku stále hovoriť o tzv. európskom parodoxe, pri ktorom je väčšina Slovákov spokojných s členstvom Slovenska v Európskej únii a v eurozóne, no voliť nejdú. „Máme nádej, že tieto voľby prinesú obrát. Aj podľa prieskumu Eurobarometra je 20 percent Slovákov presvedčených, že pôjdu voliť a 19 percent občanov to silne zvažuje. Vidíme aj väčší záujem strednej a staršej generácie a vysokoškolsky vzdelanej populácie,“ povedal Hocheľ.

Bratislava - Predseda parlamentu Andrej Danko (SNS) otvoril výstavu venovanú 100. výročiu tragickej smrti generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika s názvom Veriť, milovať, pracovať. Výstava je inštalovaná vo vestibule Národnej rady SR. „Slováci takú osobnosť, akou bol Milan Rastislav Štefánik, vo svojom čele potrebovali. Osobnosť, ktorá bola komplexná, bol človekom, ktorý mal dvere otvorené, a to najmä preto, že bol všade bezprostredný. ...Bol človek, ktorý bol v spoločnosti a v kolektíve veľmi rýchlo obľúbený. Nadväzoval známosti, ktoré potom prispeli k tomu, že mohla vzniknúť Československá republika. O jeho charizme, ľudskosti svedčí aj to, že dokázal presvedčiť množstvo ľudí, ktorí mohli žiť v komforte ďalej, aby išli v rámci légii bojovať za Československú republiku,“ pripomenul Danko.

Bratislava - Na bezpečnosť počas majstrovstiev sveta v ľadovom hokeji bude v Bratislave a Košiciach dohliadať viac ako 100 profesionálnych vojakov a vojenských policajtov. Uviedla to hovorkyňa rezortu obrany Danka Čapáková. Vojaci budú v prípade potreby pomáhať príslušníkom Policajného zboru s „udržiavaním bezpečnosti, verejného poriadku, ochranou života, zdravia a majetku, ako aj v rámci boja proti terorizmu a organizovanému zločinu“, spresnila Čapáková.

Trnava - Trnava obhájila svoju kandidatúru a v roku 2020 poniesie titul Európske mesto športu. Toto ocenenie jej udelila hodnotiaca komisia ACES Europe (Federácia európskych hlavných miest a miest športu) pri Európskej únii v Bruseli. O výsledku rozhodnutia komisie samosprávu informoval prezident ACES Europe Gian Francesco Lupattelli.

Bratislava - Dosluhujúci prezident SR Andrej Kiska prijal nedávno v Prezidentskom paláci nastávajúcu hlavu štátu Zuzanu Čaputovú. Obaja diskutovali o prebraní úradu a deklarovali vzájomnú kooperáciu. Čaputová sa podľa vlastných slov momentálne pripravuje na inauguráciu, ktorá bude 15. júna, buduje si tím poradcov a plánuje prvé zahraničné cesty.

Bratislava - Medzinárodná asociácia lekárov na Slovensku bude pomáhať lekárom z krajín tretieho sveta uplatniť sa v slovenskom zdravotníctve. Ako tvrdí, radi by v SR pracovali, no stojí proti nim legislatíva, ktorá komplikuje situáciu s uznávaním nadobudnutého vzdelania na zahraničných univerzitách. V susednom Česku takýto problém nemajú. Na na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave na to upozornili lekári z krajín tretieho sveta.

Hanušovce nad Topľou - Projekt Európskej únie (EÚ) je pre Slovensko prínosom a vďaka nemu sa rozvíjajú aj najvýchodnejšie časti Slovenska. V Hanušovciach nad Topľou, kde sa v utorok 14. mája konalo výjazdové rokovanie vlády, to povedal premiér Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD).

Vysoké Tatry - V rámci ukončenia slovenského predsedníctva vo Vyšehradskej štvorke (V4) sa v Tatranskej Lomnici zišli na pozvanie náčelníka Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR Daniela Zmeka na pravidelnej konferencii generáli z Českej republiky (ČR), Poľska a Maďarska. Počas spoločného vyhlásenia Zmeko symbolicky odovzdal predsedníctvo vo V4 českému kolegovi a obaja deklarovali pripravenosť spoločnej bojovej skupiny Európskej únie v rámci V4, ktorá bude od 1. júla v pohotovosti na nasadenie.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Ryanair začal lietať na linke Košice – Londýn Southend

Košice majú od utorka 2. apríla 2019 už dve pravidelné letecké spojenia s Londýnom. Nízkonákladová letecká spoločnosť Ryanair spustila linku spájajúcu letiská Košice a Londýn Southend. Prevádzkovať ju bude v rámci letného letového poriadku trikrát týždenne - v utorok, štvrtok a sobotu, a to lietadlom typu Boeing 737-800 s kapacitou 189 sedadiel. Na snímke privítanie lietadla vodnou bránou spoločnosti Ryanair po prilete z londýnskeho letiska Southend.



FOTO TASR - Roman Hanc

M. Šefčovič hovoril s D. Trumpom o plyne, aj o vzťahoch USA so strednou Európou

Podpredseda Európskej komisie (EK) pre energetickú úniu Maroš Šefčovič bol prvým cudzím štátnym príslušníkom, ktorý bol pozvaný na palubu amerického prezidentského špeciálu Air Force One počas úradovania prezidenta Donalda Trumpa.

Šefčovič spolu s prezidentom USA absolvoval v utorok cestu z Washingtonu do mesta Hackberry v štáte Louisiana, kde sa nachádza terminál na vývoz skvapalneného zemného plynu (LNG) do Európy.

„Európska únia a USA sú partnermi a spojencami, pričom otvorením LNG terminálu v Louisiane štartujeme novú etapu v našej strategickú spolupráci,“ vysvetlil Šefčovič v správe pre médiá. Spresnil, že terminál Cameron LNG má prispieť k vyššej energetickej bezpečnosti Európskej únie (EÚ), vrátane Slovenska, pretože sa touto cestou obohatí ponuka dovozu plynu.

Slovenský eurokomisár zdôraznil, že energetická bezpečnosť, vrátane diverzifikácie dodávok v oblasti zemného plynu, je jeden z kľúčových cieľov energetickej únie, za ktorú zodpovedá v exekutive EÚ. Cieľom eurokomisie je, aby každý členský štát EÚ mohol nakupovať plyn priamo alebo nepriamo z niektorého LNG terminálu na území Únie. Komisia potrebnú infraštruktúru doteraz podporila sumou okolo 656 miliónov eur.

„Cez novú infraštruktúru, či už ide o plynovody, alebo o LNG terminály na skvapalnený plyn, zvyšujeme konkurenciu na trhu, od čoho si sľubujeme aj nižšie ceny plynu. Toto bolo osobitne dôležité pre strednú a juhovýchodnú Európu, kde sme podporili aj projekty, ako plynové prepojenie medzi Poľskom a Slovenskom alebo LNG terminál na severe Poľska. Takže aj Slovensko by vďaka tomu malo mať tri rôzne zdroje plynu: ruský plyn prúdiaci cez Ukrajinu, nórsky plyn prúdiaci cez baltický plynovod a skvapalnený plyn prichádzajúci cez Poľsko,“ zhodnotil situáciu Šefčovič, podľa ktorého si nikto v EÚ neželá zopakovanie energetickej krízy z roku 2009, keď došlo k prerušeniu dodávok ruského plynu do Európy.

Šefčovič tvrdí, že strávil na palube Air Force One približne šesť hodín, čo mu umožnilo otvorene sa pozhovárať o viacerých dôležitých témach priamo s Trumpom a aj s členmi jeho tímu. „Vážim si veľkorysú privítanie prezidentom Trumpom na palube Air Force One. Jeho prístup bol veľmi bezprostredný a otvorený, rád diskutuje, zaujíma sa o názory okolia. Vďaka tejto atmosfére sme mohli prediskutovať celý rad aktuálnych otázok,“ uviedol.

Podľa jeho slov sa počas rozhovorov dotkli aj témy intenzívnejších vzťahov americkej administratívy so strednou a východnou Európou, a to aj v kontexte nedávnej úspešnej návštevy predsedu vlády SR Petra Pellegriniho (Smer-SD) v Bielom dome.

Pracovný program podpredsedu EK v stredu pokračoval sériou stretnutí vo Washingtonu. Šefčovič mal najskôr na programe prejav na pôde Centra pre strategické a medzinárodné štúdiá (CSIS) na tému geopolitickej dimenzie energetiky. Následne bolo naplánované stretnutie so zástupcami obchodnej komory a v priestoroch Bieleho domu bolo dohodnuté prijatie u Trumpovho hlavného ekonomického poradcu Larryho Kudlowa.

TASR



FOTO TASR/AP

Podpredseda Európskej komisie (EK) pre energetickú úniu Maroš Šefčovič (vpravo) a americký veľvyslanec pri EÚ Gordon Sondland odpovedajú na otázky novinárov na palube amerického prezidentského špeciálu Air Force One v utorok 14. mája 2019.

U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland, left, listens as European Union Vice President Maros Šefcovic speaks with reporters about trade as he travels with President Donald Trump, Tuesday, May 14, 2019, aboard Air Force One.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Jednota plánuje výlet na Letný festival v Danville, PA

Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota - Okresy č. 4 a č.16 – plánujú výlet na Letný festival v Danville, PA. V **sobotu 13. júla** odchádza autobus z kostola St. John Nepomucene v New Yorku o 8:00 hodine ráno a zastaví sa v kostole Svätej rodiny v Lindene, NJ, o 9:00 hodine. Autobus sa vracia do NYC cez Linden v ten istý deň večer. Cena autobusu je \$ 10 pre členov IKSJ a \$ 15 pre nečlenov. Celodenná akcia je spojená s piknikom, s jedlom, aktivitami a svätou omšou v Bazilike o 5:00 hodine poobede. Ak si chcete zarezervovať odchod z kostola Svätého Jána Nepomuckého, kontaktujte, prosím, Mariu Božekovú na tel. čísle: 347-612-1934. Ak by ste chceli odchádzať z Lindenu, kontaktujte Mary Ann Ranahan na tel. čísle: 732-251-6035. Platba musí byť vykonaná v čase rezervácie. Sedenie je obmedzené.

Sabina Sabados, regionálna riaditeľka IKSJ

Vyšlo ďalšie číslo Slovák

Začiatkom roka 2019 vyšlo tlačou nové číslo historickej publikácie Slovenskej ligy v Amerike – Slovakia 2019. Publikácia obsahuje mnoho zaujímavých článkov, hlavne z čias, keď sa rodila druhá Slovenská republika. Slovakiu 2019 si možno objednať za \$10.00 (vrátane poštovného) na adrese: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison Street, Passaic, NJ 07055.

Konvencia slovenských organizácií

V roku 2019 budú mať svoje štvorročné konvencie dve slovenské organizácie. Slovenský katolícky Sokol bude mať svoju 33. Konvenciu v dňoch **3. až 7. augusta 2019** v hoteli Cleveland Airport na adrese 4277 W. 150th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44135. Na konvencii sa zide približne 200 delegátov z miestnych spolkov.

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association (Ženská Jednota) bude mať svoju štvorročnú konvenciu v dňoch **3. až 6. októbra 2019** v hoteli Tampa Marriot Waterside Hotel & Marina, 700 S Florida Ave, Tampa, FL 33602. Na konvencii sa zide približne 300 delegátov z miestnych spolkov. Sídlo organizácie je na adrese 24950 Chagrin Blvd. Cleveland, Ohio, 44122.

SLOVÁCI ŽIJÚCI V ZAHRANIČÍ!

Ak máte záujem priamo v parlamente Slovenskej republiky hovoriť o svojich problémoch, potrebách a požiadavkách, zúčastnite sa nasledujúceho pripravovaného podujatia. **NECH TO NIE JE O VÁS BEZ VÁS** Pri príležitosti pamätného dňa Slovenskej republiky Dňa zahraničných Slovákov pripravujeme odborné podujatie venované problematike vzťahov Slovenskej republiky a slovenskej diaspóry vo svete. Podujatie sa bude konať v predvolebnom roku parlamentných volieb 2020 ako odraz na otázky, ktoré v posledných rokoch rezonujú medzi Slovákmí v zahraničí, ku ktorým patrí spravodlivý a technicky jednoduchý systém uplatnenia ich volebného práva, a to tak pri voľbách do parlamentu, ako aj pri voľbách prezidenta SR. Chceme tak nadviazať na tradíciu okrúhlych stolov venovaných slovenskému zahraničiu, ktoré sa konajú od roku 2002. V tomto roku bude v poradí už desiaty, jeho pracovným názov je: „SLOVENSKÝ PARLAMENT A SLOVÁCI V ZAHRANIČÍ – AKO ĎALEJ PO VOĽBÁCH 2020“ a uskutoční sa pod záštitou ANNY VEREŠOVEJ, predsedníčky Výboru Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky pre ľudské práva a menšiny dňa 4. júla (štvrtok) 2019 v rokovacej miestnosti výboru v budove NR SR, v areáli Bratislavského hradu – pri Mikulášskej bráne na 2. poschodí. Výsledky pracovného rokovania budú obsiahnuté v záveroch, ktoré účastníci v podobe odporúčaní predložia Národnej rade Slovenskej republiky, vláde Slovenskej republiky a inštitúciám, ktoré majú v náplni svojej činnosti problematiku Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Dovoľujeme si Vás pozvať na pripravované odborné podujatie. Bude pre nás čťou, ak prijmete naše pozvanie.

Prípravný výbor

Maticie a inštitúcie slovanských národov sa zídu na štvrtom kongrese

Štvrtý kongres matic a inštitúcií slovanských národov sa uskutoční od 4. do 7. júna v Martine. Matica slovenská privíta zahraničné delegácie vedcov v Turčianskej galérii, v prvej a druhej maticnej budove. Informovala o tom hovorkyňa Matice slovenskej Veronika Matušková.

Doplnila, že o význame, fungovaní, ale aj o minulosti a prítomnosti matic a známych slovanských inštitúcií bude reč v odbornej časti kongresu. „Maticie ako kultúrne spolky sú unikátnym fenoménom slovanských národov, u iných národov v Európe nemajú obdobu. Boli to spolky utlačaných národov, ich úloha bola národno-obranná. Zároveň sa zaslúžili o rozvoj kultúry, literatúry, vedy, vydavateľskej činnosti a celkových národných hnutí,“ ozrejmil predseda Matice slovenskej Marián Gešper.

Do Martina prídu vedci zo Srbska, Slovinska, Bulharska, Čiernej Hory, Českej republiky, Nemecka, ale aj Ukrajiny, Ruska či Rumunska. „Slovenské maticné hnutie bude zastupovať Matica slovenská a tiež Matica slovenská v Srbsku a Oblasťná kultúrno-osvetová organizácia Matica slovenská na Zakarpatsku. Zároveň si budú môcť pozrieť program Slovenskej jari v Martine, ktorý potrvá od 4. do 6. júna,“ uviedla Matušková.

„V súčasnosti sa z niektorých matic stali národné knižnice, literárne archívy a múzeá či biografické pracoviská. Vo všetkých maticiach zostala a ďalej sa rozvíja spolupráca so slovanskými kultúrnymi spolkami a organizáciami. Osobitne sa starajú aj o krajanov v zahraničí,“ dodala hovorkyňa Matice slovenskej.

TASR

Deň matiek v Lipke Academy, Linden NJ



Byť matkou je vzácny dar ... Každý rok sa druhá májová nedeľa nesie v znamení osláv všetkých mamičiek. Je to oslava materstva, obetavosti a lásky matiek voči svojim deťom. Vzdať úctu mamkám môžeme rôznymi spôsobmi. Deti z Lipky Academy (Linden, NJ) si zvolili spôsob, ktorý je vzácny hlavne tu v Amerike. V túto nádhernú nedeľu vystúpili s hodinovým programom, ktorý mal názov "Od detstva k svadbe". Nedeľa sa začala slovenskou svätou omšou na ktorej boli aktívne aj deti Lipky Academy. Svojím spevom, básňou a modlitbami obohatili svätú omšu. Po omši sme sa všetci premiestnili do Msgr. Komar Hall, kde bolo vystúpenie spojené s obedom. Počas programu sme sa ocitli v období našich starých mám, kedy sa ako deti hrali na lúke, neskôr chodili na tancovačky a obhliadky budúcich manželov a program sme ukončili svadbou, ktorá bola tradičná, slovenská. Veríme, že fotky hovoria za všetko. Ej, ale bolo pekne a hlavne veselo! Sme radi, že aj v Amerike môžeme zažívať a spomínať na naše bohaté tradície. Vďaka bude vždy patriť aj členom Prvej Slovenskej Katolíckej Jednoty, Branch 746, ktorí nás vždy podporia a zúčastnia sa vystúpenia detí Lipky Academy. Vďaka ich skvelému tímu na čele s ich regionálnou riaditeľkou Sabinou Sabados sa tešíme ich podpore a vzájomnej spolupráci. Ďakujeme tiež našim mamám, že dávajú tak veľa a svoju obetavosť a láskou prispievajú k lepšiemu životu.

Všetky kvety do rúk mamy, skladám ako drahokamy. Za jej lásku, plnú nehy, za zelené detské brehy. Za jej štedrosť, starosť v hlave, za dni šťastné, za dni hravé, za rozprávky nad kolískou, za to, že vždy stojí blízko. Za všetko vrúcne - ďakujem!

Autor článku: Marianna Fecova, riaditeľka Lipky Academy



Tour of California Okolo Kalifornie

Na snímke slovenský cyklista Peter Sagan (Bora-hansgrohe) máva divákovi v žltom drese lídra pretekov po víťazstve v 1. etape pretekov Okolo Kalifornie v Sacramento 12. mája 2019.

Peter Sagan, of the Bora-hansgrohe team, waves to the crowd after receiving the yellow jersey for winning the first stage of the Amgen Tour of California cycling race Sunday, May 12, 2019, in Sacramento, Calif.



FOTO TASR/AP

Slovenský premiér Pellegrini u prezidenta Trampa v Bielom dome

Predseda vlády SR Peter Pellegrini a americký prezident Donald Trump na rokovaní v Bielom dome 3. mája 2019 ocenili vzájomné bilaterálne vzťahy. Americký prezident ocenil nákup stíhačiek F-16 a partnerstvo oboch krajín v NATO. „Naše vzájomné vzťahy sú veľmi dobré. Toto je prvá návšteva slovenského premiéra v Oválnej pracovni,“ uviedol americký prezident.



FOTO TASR - Michal Svítok

Na snímke slovenský premiér Peter Pellegrini (vľavo) a americký prezident Donald Trump diskutujú počas stretnutia v Bielom dome vo Washingtone 3. mája 2019.

Slovak premier Peter Pellegrini (left) and American president Donald Trump held discussions during their meeting in the White House on May 3, 2019

Pellegrini bol podľa vlastných slov veľmi rád, že mohol stráviť deň v Bielom dome.

„Myslím si, že načasovanie je skvelé, keďže tento rok oslavujeme

30 rokov slobody,“ povedal Pellegrini.

„Som veľmi rád, že dnes môžem povedať, že USA a Slovensko sú stabilnými partnermi a spojencami. Uviedol, že Slovensko má za sebou skutočne úspešný príbeh. V súčasnosti sa na Slovensku vytvárajú tisíce nových pracovných miest a v histórii má najnižšiu úroveň nezamestnanosti,“ povedal. Rovnako zagratuloval prezidentovi Trumpovi k podobne dobrým číslam.

Slovenský premiér spomenul taktiež, že slovenskej ekonomike sa darí aj v rámci EÚ. Ocenil, že americká ekonomika je taktiež v dobrej kondícii. Pellegrini je rád, že Slovensko robí viac aj v otázke obrany. „Môžem povedať že dve percentá HDP dosiahneme skôr, ako sme plánovali, a to v 2022 budeme to schopní naplniť,“ konštatoval slovenský premiér.

Slovenský premiér dodal, že to nie je len česť pre neho, ale pre krajinu, že môže byť v Bielom dome. Americký prezident uviedol, že by raz rád prišiel na Slovensko, bližší termín však nekonkretizoval.

Návšteva premiéra Pellegriniho prebiehala na pozvanie amerického prezidenta aj príležitosti 30. výročia Nežnej revolúcie a 15. výročia vstupu Slovenska do NATO. Z oblasti strednej Európy tento rok už absolvovali návštevu Bieleho domu rakúsky kancelár Sebastian Kurz a český premiér Andrej Babiš. Americký minister zahraničných vecí Mike Pompeo bol na Slovensku vo februári.

TASR

Slovenskí lekári upozorňujú na akútny nedostatok lekárov a sestier

Asociácia súkromných lekárov (ASL) upozorňuje na akútny nedostatok lekárov a sestier v ambulanciách a ďalšie problémy ambulantného sektora. „Keby dnes všetci lekári v dôchodkovom veku išli do penzie, viac ako pol milióna detí by nemalo zabezpečenú zdravotnú starostlivosť,“ priblížil na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave pediater Martin Olej.

Podľa ASL dochádza k rušeniu ambulancií, a to nielen na vidieku, ale už aj vo veľkých mestách. Podľa štatistík Národného centra zdravotníckych informácií medzi rokmi 2012 a 2017 v celom ambulantnom sektore ubudlo 1160 lekárov. „Počet ambulantných lekárov klesá a počet vyšetrených pacientov stúpa,“ hovorí prezident ASL Marián Šóth. Jeden lekár musí podľa neho denne vyšetriť o tri až päť pacientov viac. „Čas, ktorý môže lekár venovať jednému pacientovi, sa skraca. Máme zdokumentované, že je to priemerne osem minút u všeobecného lekára pre dospelých a 12 minút u pediatra,“ doplnil. Ministerstvo zdravotníctva podľa neho problém bagatelizuje.

V jednej pediatickej ambulancii podľa Oleja vyšetria za deň priemerne 30 detí. V čase vyššej chorobnosti ich môže byť 60 až 80. „Priemerný vek všeobecných lekárov pre deti a dorast je dnes 58,8 roka a keďže často pracujú aj nad rámec svojich ordinačných hodín, už sú preťaženi,“ hovorí Olej.

„Čo sa týka špecializovaných ambulancií, na neurologické vyšetrenie sa v niektorých ambulanciách čaká radovo tri až štyri mesiace,“ tvrdí Šóth. Mladí lekári podľa neho pre zlé podmienky nemajú záujem o prácu v ambulanciách.

Preto ASL v súčasnosti realizuje kampaň Musí nás byť počut – Lekári bojujú aj za pacientov. V rámci nej požadujú spravodlivosť v odvodoch zdravotného poistenia. Štát totiž prispieva na svojich poistencov, teda deti, nezamestnaných či dôchodcov, výrazne nižšou sumou ako ekonomicky aktívni občania. Odvodová sadzba pre nich je 14 percent z vymeriavacieho základu, kým štát v súčasnosti prispieva iba 3,2 percenta a od júla by to malo byť 3,44 percenta. Úhrady za zdravotnú starostlivosť podľa lekárov nezodpovedajú reálnym nákladom a situáciu by umožnilo riešiť zvýšením platieb za poistencov štátu. Podľa lekárov by ambulantný sektor v roku 2019 potreboval celkové dofinancovanie 50 miliónov eur na stabilizáciu zdravotnej starostlivosti v ambulanciách všeobecných lekárov pre dospelých aj pre deti, gynekológov aj ďalších špecializovaných lekárov.

Ďalšou požiadavkou ASL je zníženie administratívnej záťaže lekárov a poskytovateľov zdravotnej starostlivosti. Tiež vytvorenie stabilného legislatívneho prostredia, v ktorom sa jednotlivé predpisy nebudú novelizovať niekoľkokrát ročne, a efektívny systém špecializačného vzdelávania.

TASR

Kópia Turínskeho plátna je na Slovensku

*Na Bojnickom zámku
vystavili jediný exponát svojho druhu*

Slovenské národné (SNM) - Múzeum Bojnice sprístupnilo v priestoroch zámockej kaplnky kópiu Turínskeho plátna. Do expozície mu ju zapožičal súkromný zberateľ z Českej republiky. Exponát má byť jedinou hodnovernou kópiou Turínskeho plátna na svete a na Slovensku ho vystavujú po prvý raz.

Výroba kópie Turínskeho plátna za niekoľko miliónov českých korún, ktoré má šírku 111 centimetrov a dĺžku 436 centimetrov, trvala takmer päť rokov

a podieľalo sa na nej niekoľko desiatok ľudí. „Pre nás to bola výzva, pretože vlastnime výstavu mučiacich nástrojov a jej súčasťou je i ukrižovanie. Pretože jednou z relikvií je Turínske plátno, chceli sme túto časť výstavy obohatiť, preto sme sa rozhodli, že vytvoríme akúsi jeho kópiu,“ povedal majiteľ kópie Turínskeho plátna Robert Pospíchal.

Tvorcovia si podľa neho začali postupne zisťovať informácie o plátne a pretože ich bol nedostatok, zisťovali viac a dostali sa k tomu, že vytvorili identickú kópiu Turínskeho plátna. „Kópia je urobená skutočne podľa originálu, ktorý je od roku 1578 uložený v Turíne. Vytvorená je podľa štruktúry, skenu plátna, ktorý bol vytvorený, keď ho skúmali. Je na ňom každý odtlačok, detail, záplata, prepálená diera, identická s originálom. Dokonca je tam i krv, ktorá je skupiny AB ako na origináli plátna,“ priblížil.

Výroba plátna nebola podľa jeho majiteľa jednoduchá, keďže jeho tvorcovia k nej potrebovali kompletnú dokumentáciu. Nakoniec sa im podarilo získať dokumentáciu od tímu, ktorý pracoval na výskume na origináli plátna. „Problémy boli od začiatku až do konca a v podstate so všetkým, s informáciami, stavom, na ktorom by sa plátno utkalo, materiálom z Egypta. Bolo to skoro päť rokov práce, než sa nám to podarilo dotiahnuť do konca,“ podotkol.

Kópiu Turínskeho plátna má byť na svete asi 40, podľa Pospíchala však ide o maľby autorov v priebehu niekoľkých storočí podľa ich predstavivosti. „Toto je jediná kópia na svete, o ktorej sa dá povedať, že je identická a iná neexistuje,“ vyhlásil.

O originále Turínskeho plátna existujú domnienky, že z obdobia ukrižovania Ježiša Krista nepochádza, a teda na ňom nie je on. „Je to otázka, na ktorú nie je jednoduché odpovedať, pretože nebolo preukázané, že to je on a tiež nebolo vyvrátené, že to je on. Pokiaľ toto nikto nevyvráti, tak sa môžeme domnievať, že skutočnosť, že na plátne je Ježiš, je možná. Prebehli rôzne výskumy, ale žiadny zatiaľ s určitou nedokázal povedať, nie je to on,“ vysvetlil Pospíchal.

Originál Turínskeho plátna mal podľa ďalších tvrdení namaľovať Leonardo da Vinci. „Hovorí sa, že Leonardo mal motív, prostriedky, že to mohol vytvoriť, mal i znalosti. Z môjho pohľadu sú tam nejaké nezrovnalosti. Zaoberáme sa touto otázkou, spustili sme projekt, ktorý by na to mal odpovedať,“ dodal majiteľ kópie plátna.

Kópiu Turínskeho plátna, ako i rúsku z Ovieda a relikvie, ktoré súvisia s ukrižovaním Krista, si návštevníci SNM- Múzea Bojnice môžu pozrieť od 23. mája do 31. júla v rámci galerijného okruhu na zámku. Múzeum nevyučuje, že výstavu predĺži, ak o ňu bude záujem.



ÚSZZ v roku 2018 podporil dotáciami 543 projektov krajanov v zahraničí

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) v roku 2018 podporil 543 projektov krajanov dotáciami vo výške 1.137.889 eur. Úrad o tom informuje v Správe o štátnej politike vo vzťahu k Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí o poskytnutej podpore krajanovských komunit.

Najviac podporených projektov sa týka oblasti kultúry (328 projektov z 21 krajín podporených sumou 776.688 eur), v oblasti vzdelávania, vedy a výskumu poskytol úrad 250.451 eur na 147 projektov krajanov v 25 štátoch sveta. Vydavateľskú činnosť podporil ÚSZZ sumou 81.500 eur, ktorú prerozdelením medzi 53 projektov v 17 štátoch. Dotáciami vo výške 33.450 eur prispel i na realizáciu 18 mediálnych výstupov tlačových i elektronických médií.

Najviac podporených projektov v každej zo spomínaných oblastí pochádza z činnosti krajanovskej komunity v Srbsku, v prípade kultúrnych, vzdelávacích a vydavateľských aktivít to bola viac ako tretina všetkých podporených projektov (v oblasti kultúry 123 z 328, v oblasti vzdelávania 51 zo 147, pri vydavateľskej činnosti 18 z 51 podporených projektov).

Práve v súvislosti so Slovákami v Srbsku konštatuje ÚSZZ „vážny zásah do podstaty slovenskej národnostnej menšiny vo Vojvodine“. Poukazuje pritom na fakt, že pretrvávajú záujem Slovákov z Vojvodiny o vydanie osvedčenia Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí (v roku 2018 bolo pre nich vydaných najviac, 1708 osvedčení), s čím súvisí migrácia za prácou na Slovensko. Osvedčenie totiž jeho držiteľovi umožňuje v SR požiadať o prechodný pobyt a získať prácu bez ďalších administratívnych povolení. „Podľa sčítania v roku 2011 žilo v Srbsku 52.750 osôb slovenskej národnosti, aktuálne odhady hovoria o poklese približne o 7000 osôb,“ informujú predkladatelia správy.

Podľa oficiálnych údajov žije v zahraničí približne 1.070.000 ľudí hlásiacich sa k slovenskej národnosti, odhady samotných krajanov hovoria o tom, že je ich približne o 600.000 viac. Ide o autochtónne slovenské národnostné menšiny v krajinách strednej a východnej Európy, slovenské komunity v zámorí a slovenské komunity v západnej Európe formované hlavne v dôsledku novodobej emigrácie. Z týchto troch skupín v súčasnosti podľa zistení ÚSZZ narastá počet slovenských imigrantov v zámorí (najmä v USA), ktorí tam prichádzajú za prácou či štúdiom.

TASR



Jednota



O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 128

STREDA, 12. JÚNA 2019

Číslo 5984

Kresťania slávia sviatok Zoslania Ducha Svätého

Sviatok Zoslania Ducha Svätého, známy aj pod názvom Turíce, slávia kresťania na Slovensku i vo svete. Počas slávnostných bohoslužieb si veriaci pripomínajú udalosť, keď na 50. deň po Kristovom zmŕtvychvstání a desať dní po jeho Nanebovstúpení Duch Svätý zostúpil v podobe ohnivých jazykov na apoštolov zhromaždených v Jeruzaleme. Duch Svätý bol zoslaný, aby ich posilnil a usmernil, ako majú šíriť národom svedectvo o Ježišovi Kristovi. Duch Svätý bol zároveň zjavný ako tretia božská osoba Svätej Trojice.

Následne po Zoslaní Ducha Svätého apoštol Peter predniesol v Jeruzaleme kázeň, na základe ktorej sa dalo pokrstiť asi 3000 ľudí. Preto je dnešná Svätodušná

nedeľa aj pamätným dňom založenia prvého kresťanského zboru v Jeruzaleme. Svätodušné sviatky sú po Vianociach a Veľkej noci tretie najvýznamnejšie kresťanské sviatky cirkevného roka.

Duchovní počas týchto sviatkov veriaci pripomínajú, aby sa viac spoliehali na Ducha Svätého, na jeho dary. Duch Svätý aj dnes posilňuje cirkev a veriacich.

Sväté písmo chápe Ducha Svätého ako tvorivú silu všetkého života. Podľa učenia cirkvi je Duch Svätý poslaný do sveta ako Oživovateľ, aby neustále oživoval osobu, slovo a dielo Ježiša Krista. Duch Svätý je tretia božská osoba Svätej Trojice a vzdáva sa mu tá istá poklona ako Otcovi a Synovi.

Veriaci si počas svätodušných sviatkov pripomínajú sedem darov Ducha Svätého - Dar múdrosti, Dar rozumu, Dar rady, Dar sily, Dar poznania, Dar nábožnosti a Dar bázne Božej.

Pri príležitosti sviatku Zoslania Ducha Svätého sa na Slovensku konajú tradičné turické púte. V gréckokatolíckej cirkvi sa v túto Nedeľu Päťdesiatnice, vo sviatok Zostúpenia Svätého Ducha, slávi v chrámoch svätá liturgia.

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Slávenie sviatku Dňa otcov

O zavedenie Dňa otcov do kalendárov sa postarala Sonora Smartová Doddová zo Spokane v americkom štáte Washington a prvýkrát sa slávil 19. júna 1910. Tento deň pripadá na tretiu júnovú nedeľu.

Sonora Louise Smartová Doddová (1882-1978) sa v roku 1909 do počula, že existuje Deň matiek, ktorý sa slávi z iniciatívy Anny Marie Jarvisovej (1864-1948). Smartová Doddová bola presvedčená, že mala mimoriadneho otca. Henry Jackson Smart bol veteránom občianskej vojny. Keď jeho žena po pôrode zomrela, sám vychoval šesť detí. Podľa Doddovej bol jej otec odvážny, obetavý a milujúci muž.

Otec Smartovej Doddovej sa narodil v júni, preto voľba na oslavy prvého Dňa otcov v meste Spokane pripadla na 19. júna 1910. Jednotlivé štáty USA a organizácie začali robiť nátlak na Kongres, aby oficiálne vyhlásil Deň otcov so zámerom sláviť ho každý rok. V roku 1924 americký prezident Calvin Coolidge z tejto myšlienky urobil celonárodnú záležitosť, aby vznikli užšie vzťahy medzi otcami a ich deťmi a upozornil otcov na plnenie si záväzkov voči ratolesťam.

Sviatok nadobudol oficiálny charakter za 36. amerického prezidenta Lyndona Johnsona (1908-1973). Politik, ktorý prezidentský úrad zastával v rokoch 1963-1969, podpísal v roku 1966 výnos, ktorým zaviedol oslavy v tretiu júnovú nedeľu. Avšak 37. americký prezident, v rokoch 1969-1974, Richard Nixon (1913-1994) v roku 1972 potvrdil trvalé slávenie Dňa otcov na celonárodnej úrovni v tretiu júnovú nedeľu zákonom.

TASR

Vo Vysokých Tatrách stretnutie ministrov zahraničných vecí účastníckych štátov OBSE

V polčase tohtoročného slovenského predsedníctva v Organizácii pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe (OBSE) sa 9. júla uskutoční vo Vysokých Tatrách neformálne stretnutie ministrov zahraničných vecí účastníckych štátov OBSE. Toto podujatie je príležitosťou na zhodnotenie prvého predsedníckeho polroka a zároveň na určenie smerovania pre ďalších šesť mesiacov predsedníctva. Na záver tohto stretnutia nadviaže decembrová Ministerská rada OBSE, ktorá bude zároveň vrcholným predsedníckym podujatím.

Hlavnou témou neformálneho ministerského stretnutia bude „From the action to the future prevention: the OSCE's niche in fostering stability in Europe and beyond“ - „Od minulých aktivít k prevencii v budúcnosti: miesto OBSE v zaisťovaní stability v Európe a za jej hranicami.“ Slovenské predsedníctvo plánuje uskutočniť v rámci tohto podujatia rozsiahle konzultácie s účastníckymi štátmi. Na schôdzku pricestujú zástupcovia 57 účastníckych štátov organizácie, ako aj predstavitelia OBSE. Dejiskom konferencie je Grand Hotel Kempinski High Tatras na Štrbskom Plese. Oficiálna tlačová konferencia bude za účasti úradujúceho predsedu OBSE Miroslava Lajčáka a generálneho tajomníka OBSE Thomasa Gremingera a bude otvorená pre všetkých zástupcov médií.

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Vysoké Tatry sa stali najvýznamnejšou letnou európskou destináciou



FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Na snímke hostia sa kochajú výhľadmi z Lomnického štítu vo Vysokých Tatrách počas odovzdávania ocenenia známeho cestovateľského sprievodcu Lonely Planet v kategórii 10 najlákavejších svetových destinácií pre rok 2019, vo Vysokých Tatrách 21. mája 2019.

The Lonely Planet travel guide has proclaimed the High Tatras as the most significant summer destination in Europe.