



# Jednota

THE UNION

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## Message from the President Father's Day 2018

Happy Fathers 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 excellent year. Assets as of March 31, 2018 were \$392,154,941 and surplus was at \$31,064,811 an all-time record high.

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

In the last eleven years our assets have increased \$194,844,117 or 99% (almost doubled) and more importantly our surplus has increased \$19,709,217 or 174%.

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?

First of all, financial strength is critical. Current members and new Members want to feel confident their money is safe. 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?"



Andrew M. Rajec

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National Golf Tournament  
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June 17, 2018



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

## Summer's Almost Here! Grow your \$\$\$ with us!

Eight Year Flex Premium Annuity/IRA	<b>3.60%</b>
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**2018 National Photo Contest Begins -  
Enter Today!  
See page 8 for details**

# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**June 10, 2018**  
**10th Sunday of the Year**  
**Lectionary**

Today marks the first time the Church will celebrate a Sunday of "ordinary time" since February 11th, almost four months ago. In the meantime, of course, we have observed the seasons of Lent and Easter, and then at the conclusion of the Easter season we celebrated three other great feasts on Sundays: Pentecost, Trinity



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

Sunday, and Corpus Christi.

Following these celebrations the Church now settles into the long ecclesial summertime that leads us back to the beginning of the next liturgical year, which begins this year on December 2nd, the first Sunday of Advent. While it may seem as though the first reading today from Genesis is therefore a natural place to start our post-Easter reflections—beginning at the beginning—it is actually a coincidence, since the Old Testament readings for ordinary time cover a wide range of topics and historical eras before we hear from Genesis on this tenth Sunday of the season. The focus of the Church is much more intent and systematic on the gospel, and that brings us to the third chapter of Mark where Jesus has been preaching the Kingdom, healing many who were sick, and casting out demons.

Jesus has been exercising his ministry in the region around his home base of Capernaum, along the Sea of Galilee. Just as he relaxes briefly in the home he used another large crowd arrived including scribes from Jerusalem who assert: "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons" (Mark 3:22). These charges sound grasping and even jealous: his enemies are themselves so amazed by what Jesus has been doing that they cannot possibly deny his power; they are reduced, rather, to claiming that his power has a sinister origin. This refusal to see the hand of God at work in Jesus is the fatal mistake that will lead to their condemnation, and that will be the factor determining whether generations of people even to the present day find salvation or condemnation in him.

Jesus himself explains this immediately after he is accused of being in league with evil: he asks rhetorically, "How can Satan drive out Satan? ... if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him" (Mark 3:23, 26). In other words, anyone should be able to see that those who act against evil cannot be in alliance with evil at the same time—thus the scribes' accusation that Jesus was casting out demons by the prince of demons was ridiculous.

Seeing how his actions were badly misinterpreted by his enemies, Jesus emphasizes what it takes to be his true and faithful disciple: those who attribute his teaching and power to unclean sources have closed themselves off forever from his goodness, but those who hear his word and keep it, even if their efforts are imperfect, are the ones who find in him life, forgiveness, renewal, and redemption. As the Lord Himself taught so forcefully: "looking around at those seated in the circle he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother'" (Mark 3:34-35).

As we forge into the summertime of the Church year let it be our resolve to turn away from the pattern of sin forecast in Genesis and exemplified by the scribes in the gospel, so that with all God's holy people we might be numbered among the sisters and brothers of the Lord, saying always with the Psalmist: "With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption" (Ps 130:7).

**June 17, 2018**

**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Father's Day)**

**2 Cor 5:6-10**

**Mark 4:26-34**

Where is the Kingdom of God, and how do we see it? These are two questions that come from the Gospel this weekend. In the first Chapter of Mark's Gospel after Jesus is baptized by John and before he calls the first disciples, he says "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15) In Luke's Gospel when the Pharisees ask him about the Kingdom he responds, "The Kingdom of God is within you." (Lune 17:21) Saint Paul wrote in several of his letters, we are citizens of Heaven. The Catechism tells us; "The Kingdom of heaven was inaugurated on earth by Christ." (CCC 567) And goes on to quote a passage from the Vatican II document, the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church; "This kingdom shone out before men in the word, in the works, and in the presence of Christ." (LG 5) Simply put, the Kingdom of Heaven is here, and we are citizens of Heaven.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

Jesus gives us a lesson on how the Kingdom of Heaven takes root in in the world and in our lives. He speaks of the seed, the blade, the ear and the full grain, and tells us about the small mustard seed growing into a large plant. This is an important lesson for us because we live at a time when in which we have become accustomed to everything being fast, if not instantaneous. From fast food to instant communication get what we desire immediately. This is not how God works with us when it comes to the presence of His Kingdom in our lives. Occasionally we hear of someone who had an immediate conversion, but for most of us conversion and growth take a lifetime. Like the plants and the seed in the Gospel it must be cared for, cultivated and tended as it grows. At times we can easily become discouraged when we don't hear the booming voice, see dramatic acts, or receive an immediate response to prayer. We might find ourselves asking, "Where is God?", or even, "Is there a God?" Jesus tells us clearly by his presence and with teachings like this that, yes, there is a God, and He is in our midst. He usually moves so gently, quietly and subtly that we don't notice his presence, but he is with us. It was not long ago, on the Second Sunday of Easter, that we heard Jesus say to Thomas "You believe because you have seen, blessed are those who have not seen, and believe." We are those who are blessed because we do not see, but we believe. While we might not see the concrete presence of God, we are blessed with the faith to believe in his presence.

Saint Paul speaks of this in the Second Corinthians where he wrote, "we walk by faith, not by sight." Christ is truly present to us in the Most Blessed Sacrament, Christ is present in the Sacraments, Christ is present when we hear the Scriptures read and the Gospels proclaimed. Christ is also present whenever two or three gather in his name, when we see the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy being done by ourselves or others. It takes Faith to see Christ in all of these, but He is there, and with him is His Kingdom. In order to see the kingdom we need patience and we need faith. With these we can enjoy the kingdom knowing that it continues to grow within us and the world, and we recognize Christ and his Kingdom in the prayers and works done in his name. May we claim our citizenship in God's Kingdom and allow his Kingdom to shine forth from us.

## 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, JUNE 20	MONDAY, JUNE 11
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18	MONDAY, JULY 9
WEDNESDAY, AUG 22	MONDAY, AUG 13

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## Andrew M. Rajec Announces His Intent to Seek Re-election for National President

I PLEDGE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO I WILL CONTINUE TO DEVOTE MY ENERGIES AND 40+ YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN LAW, FINANCE AND INSURANCE TO BENEFIT JEDNOTA AND ITS MEMBERS.

### PERSONAL

- Married 45 years to Idka Rajec (Riecan – born Ruzomberok, Slovakia)
- 3 children
- President FCSU 2007 – present
- General Counsel FCSU 2003 – 2006
- President Branch 89 17 years
- Regional Director FCSU 1996 - 1998
- President Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc. 1995 – 1998

### EDUCATION

- Marquette University, B.S., Accounting
- Marquette University Law School, J.D.

### MILITARY

- US Army – Armor 1964 – 1966 2 years active duty
- 1st Lt. – Troop XO, Company Commander

### EXPERIENCE

- Price Waterhouse - International CPA firm – Accountant
- Arthur Young - International CPA firm – Tax Accountant
- Blue Cross of Wisconsin - Assistant Vice-President
- Association Life – Vice-President & General Counsel
- The Mutual Group - Vice-President, General Counsel, Treasurer

### COMMITMENT

Committed to move to Cleveland. Moved December 30, 2006. Sold home, purchased home in Cleveland suburb.

### FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Pledged to protect the financial strength of the FCSU. With approval of the Board hired an Investment Manager. As reported in Jednota, verified by outside accountants and actuaries, FCSU reached historic records in assets, \$392,154,941, and surplus, \$31,064,811, as of 3-31-2018, despite the worst world financial crisis since the Great Depression in 2007 and 2008. The Society RBC (Risk Based Capital) is over 1000, significantly higher than most fraternal. These are increases of \$194,844,117 or 99% in assets and \$19,709,217 or 174% in surplus since I took office in 2007. Continue to offer competitive insurance and high annuity rates.

### SLOVAK CATHOLIC HERITAGE

Honored our Slovak, Catholic heritage in many ways including, retaining and improving Jednota newspaper including the Slovak section; participated in many Slovak functions, locally and nationally; supported many Slovak and religious causes.

I personally visited many Districts, Branches and Slovak events across the country, many on weekends. 2010 & 2014 Conventions were tributes to our Slovak heritage, as will the 2018.

### JOINT VENTURES

Continue meetings and events with other Slovak fraternal to explore common ground for joint ventures or “marriages”.

### PROPERTIES

New memorial constructed in 2014. Fr. Furdek's life-size statue is being re-bronzed and moved to the Home Office.

### OPERATIONS

Made many changes in operations - i.e. automatic premium payment, credit card acceptance, updated website, streamlined application approval, etc. Expenses are controlled.

### MEMBERSHIP

295 new independent agents; new illustration system to sell products. Continue to recruit, continue to encourage recommenders. More agents will be added in planned, managed time frame. Instituted email campaigns and enhanced website increased new visitor traffic, leveraged latest social media tools like Facebook. Controlled, managed growth remains my goal. Financial strength attracts new members and agents.

### SUMMARY

Society is strong and my plan is to get stronger. I look forward to your support at the 2018 Convention.

“HONOR THE PAST – WORK FOR THE FUTURE”.

Z Bohom!  
Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec  
President



Andrew M. Rajec

## Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Announces Intent to Seek Re-election for National Vice President

I am submitting to the delegates of the 51st Convention, my intentions to run for re-election as your National Vice-President.

It has been an honor to serve in this capacity, with the responsibility of overseeing the sales and marketing functions of our Society. I am proud to say that I, together with our Executive Committee, dedicated home office staff, hardworking field agents and top-notch recommenders have garnered many achievements during the last four years.

Here is a synopsis:

### Active Recruitment of Agents

You as delegates know that membership and premium income are among the most important aspects of our Society. They are two of the mainstays of the FCSU that will keep it strong – now and for many years to come. That's why, as more of our recommenders reach retiring age and as more states tighten their licensing requirements, we have put into place proactive plans to offset any potential challenges to our fiscal well-being. We are actively recruiting insurance agents to complement the existing 295 independent agents representing us; and we have two in-house agents to help coordinate home office communications with the branches and to further strengthen our field resources, with a focus on recruiting and overseeing agents and recommenders.

### An Added Personal Commitment

In addition to my duties as your National Vice-President I am also the President of Jednota INC. I hold a State of Illinois Insurance License and have continued to add my personal commitment to our Society through my own sales efforts. During my tenures, I signed 241 new members with a face value of insurance of \$3,138,000.00. I brought in a total of \$3,330,195.00 in annuities. I have also set up and chaired 78 insurance/annuity seminars.

I, along with our Executive Committee, have set up informational booths every year at the Fest in Wickliffe, Ohio; Kennywood Park; the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club; and the New Jersey Slovak Festival.

On a local level, my Branch 40 in Streator, Illinois, has 740 members. We are very active; we donate \$750.00 in scholarships annually. In addition, we have given our local Catholic grade school (St. Michael the Archangel) \$1,000 each year and have done so for the past seven years.

Finally, my executive duties extend to a seat on the Finance Committee as well, where I have worked diligently to help support our Society through the approval of new investments. I think you'll agree that the investment strategy set forth over these past four years has yielded us tremendous successes. Our assets rose to 395.9 million dollars and our surplus set a record of \$30,782,846.00. Risk Based Capital (RBC) for 2017 increased to 1,000 from 862 last year.

Our Society is going great and I look forward to keeping it strong and solid for years to come, with your support for my re-election as Vice-President at the upcoming convention. Thank you!

Until Then –  
Good Luck and God Bless!



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
National Vice-President

## Kenneth A. Arendt Announces His Intent to Seek Re-election for Executive Secretary

For the past 24 years, it's been my privilege and honor to serve as your Executive Secretary. I am now announcing my candidacy for re-election to the office.

Throughout my tenure, I've worked hard toward the betterment of our Society. Our 2017 annual results clearly speak to our sustained financial security and new successes. Specifically, as a member of the Finance Committee, I'm proud to report a record in assets of \$395,957,087.00 at the end of 2017, an increase of over \$59,525,000 or 17.7% since 2013. Our Society reached another record in surplus of \$30,782,846 – the highest ever achieved by the First Catholic Slovak Union. This represents an increase of \$8,101,236 or 35.7% over the 2013 year end.

Serving on the Membership and Marketing Committee, I've focused on effective product sales and promotions to increase premium and annuity income, which I'm happy to report is \$19,448,000 as of year-end 2017. We've added work with an outside local marketing firm to our in-house marketing team efforts to leverage the latest social media to best advantage, including product and informational videos. We launched an entirely new website, one designed to serve as a 24/7 resource for existing membership and attract new members with a new community portal positioning us as information leaders. I've directed the continual update of our computer systems to ensure that they meet and exceed all state and NAIC requirements, as well.

In 2017, while encouraging our recommenders to obtain state insurance licenses, our marketing firm began working on an interactive presentation for training seminars offered to branches/ districts. Our expanded search for new independent insurance agents to sell our products has been successful – including an email campaign with an open rate far above industry average. We are approaching 300 signed agents, and they now have access to our agent portal which allows them to view their client's accounts.

We are licensed in 27 states, and I'm in constant contact with all state Departments of Insurance to ensure the FCSU is in compliance at all times, and regularly attend seminars to keep abreast of current trends and pending state and NAIC regulations. We continue to meet all federal requirements.

Under my watch, we continue controlling operating expenses through procedural enhancements like automatic premium payments and annuity check deposits, acceptance of credit cards for premium payments, annuity deposits, and loan payments.

Finally, I continue to investigate new and innovative ways to reach our members and attract new ones. I meet in person with as many Jednotas and other fraternal as possible – representing the Society at branch and district meetings and FCSU-sponsored seminars and attend the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Convention.

My wife Theresa, our family, and I appreciate the trust you have placed in me as your Executive Secretary. I respectfully ask for your vote so we may continue to build a strong future together.

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union  
website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

## Michael C. Kristofik Announces His Intent to Run for National Vice President

Over a century ago, our founder, Father Stephan Furdek gave us his inspired vision of the F.C.S.U. by summing up it nicely in the original charter signed in 1892: "The object and purpose for which the said Corporation is formed is to improve the moral, mental and social conditions of its members or their families in case of sickness or death, to uphold, preserve intact, and perpetuate the doctrines of the Holy Roman Catholic Faith, to institute, establish and control subordinate branches in and throughout the State of Ohio, the other States of the United States and the Dominion of Canada; to have a lodge system with a ritualistic form of work and representative form of government; to establish by assessment and dues, funds for the payment of sick, disability, and death benefits to members and for the care, education and maintenance of the orphans of deceased members; the care and maintenance of aged and infirm members of the Union."

Our Society has remained strong throughout many challenges over the past 126 years, but now perhaps faces its greatest threat. Are we to continue and GROW living up to Father Furdek's vision or do we abandon his vision and become a commercial company? In the President's annual report for 2017, he stated that we now have less than 50,000 members while a nearby graph shows that we have been very aggressively adding to our surplus. Why? To what end? More surplus for fewer members? That may be attractive for a commercial company, but it is a sign of serious trouble for a tax-exempt fraternal society.

We have a critical need for a turn-around executive! For this reason, I announce my candidacy for Vice President of the F.C.S.U. My goal is to reverse the trend of the past 50 years and increase membership by putting the "fraternal" back in the F.C.S.U.! We will give our youth reasons to embrace membership. We will institute a comprehensive marketing program. Past administrations worked hard, but limited their efforts to advertising, not marketing. And there is a BIG difference. Our focus must be on our chief product. And that product is our fraternal purpose.

I believe I am uniquely qualified to be that turn-around executive. I have been a member of the F.C.S.U. for over 60 years and have held many offices at the branch and district levels. I am a licensed insurance agent obtaining my license while working as secretary to former President Joseph Kristofik during most of his tenure. I have B.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics and an MBA; all from the University of Michigan. I am recently retired after 30 years with Chrysler having held a variety of management positions and within many corporate cultures. My education and experience in Business, Finance, Marketing and management give me the tools to take on today's modern business challenges.

To borrow from a familiar slogan: Let's Make the F.C.S.U. Great Again!

Michael C. Kristofik

## Joe Senko Announces His Intent to Run For National Treasurer

### PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Former FCSU Chairman of Auditors (1994 - 2006)
- Certified Public Accountant
- Certified Financial Planner
- Personal Financial Specialist
- Chartered Global Management Accountant
- Bachelors degree in Accounting (Duquesne University)
- Masters degree in Taxation (Robert Morris University)
- Treasurer – Mt. Lebanon municipality
  - Responsible for approximately 65 million dollars in annual taxes
- Treasurer – Brothers Brother Foundation
  - 34th largest foundation in the U.S.
- Treasurer – Jednota Properties, Inc.
- During my career, I have served as president/chairman of 10 non-profit organizations



Joe Senko

### SLOVAK ACTIVITIES

- Slovak Honorary Consul since 1997
- Friends of Slovakia (Washington, D.C.) – Chairman
- Western PA Slovak Cultural Association – Founder and Executive Director
  - One of the most active Slovak cultural organizations in the U.S.
- Western PA Slovak Day Association – Treasurer
- Tours to Slovakia – Arranged and conducted 14 tours for approximately 300 people
- Computers – Collected, refurbished and shipped 250 computers to 43 schools in Slovakia
- Medical Supplies – Collected and shipped over \$40,000 worth of equipment and supplies to Catholic nursing homes in Svidnik and Bratislava
- FCSU – Financial Secretary of Branch 254
- Member of the following Slovak fraternal societies: FCSU, FCSLA, LPSCU, SCS, NSS
- Slovak Catholic Federation – Life Member
- Slovak League of America – Life Member
- National Slovak Societies Heritage Museum – Former Vice President
- Czechoslovak Nationality Room of University of Pittsburgh – Former Secretary
- Jankola Library – Former Board Member
- Dual citizenship – U.S. and Slovak

### RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT

- Knights of Columbus – 4th Degree
- Serra Club – Past President
- Knights of the Holy Sepulchre
- Eucharistic Minister

### RECOGNITION

- Presidential Medal (from the government of Slovakia)
- Slovak American of the Year (Slovak Embassy of U.S.)
- Fraternalist of the Year (Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh)
- Fraternalist of the Year (Ladies PA Slovak Catholic Union)
- Distinguished Accounting Alumnus (Duquesne University account faculty)
- Distinguished Service Award (PA Institute of CPA's, Pgh. Chapter)
- PA Accounting Advocate of the Year (U.S. Small Business Administration)
- Beta Gamma Sigma – National Business Honor Society
- Beta Alpha Psi – National Accounting Honor Society

### KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES

Joe Senko

## Francis E. Pipak, Jr., Esquire

### Announces His Intent to Run for General Counsel

As a third generation member, I am providing this correspondence to my fellow members as my official notice of my candidacy for General Counsel of FCSU at the convention scheduled in August of 2018.

All four of my grandparents came to the United States in the early 1900s from Slovakia, from areas not far from Bratislava. As a third generation and 50 year member, I am active in Branch 199. I hope to be able to help guide the future direction of the FCSU and to aid in the perpetuation of the knowledge and customs of our ancestors.

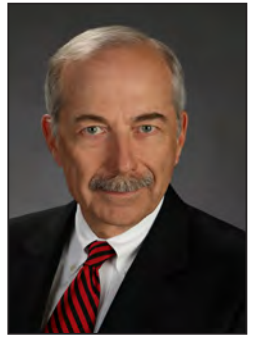
Having graduated from St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA, with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, I proceeded to Duquesne University School of Law graduating with a Juris Doctor Degree. Since 1989 I have been a member of the firm of Pietragallo, Gordon, Alfano, Bosick & Raspanti, LLP in Pittsburgh.

My current practice areas involve Risk Management in the representation of employers of all types including municipalities and public entities, private employers, public held companies and various self-insured employers in a variety of business areas. I routinely represent insurance carriers and third-party administrators on issues involving State Workers' Compensation, State Occupational Disease, Federal Black Lung and Longshoremen and Harborworkers' Compensation Act matters. I am a member of the American Bar Association and its Tort and Insurance Practice Section and the Pennsylvania Bar Association Workers' Compensation Section. I am a past member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Section Council and past member of the Legislative Sub-Committee of that Council during a time when Act 57 was in the process of being drafted to include amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act. I am also a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and a past chair of the Workers' Compensation Section. I speak regularly to various professional groups on employer liability and workers' compensation related topics.

I am a multiyear member of Best Lawyers in America and have been nominated in Super Lawyers. I have an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell.

With my broad experience in representation of a broad range of entities, I believe I am in a unique position to carry out the duties of General Counsel of FCSU as defined by Bylaws Section 7.09. I thank all who review this correspondence for your time and attention and I look forward to meeting and working with the delegates at the upcoming convention.

Francis E. Pipak, Jr., Esquire



Francis E. Pipak

## George F. Matta II

### Announces His Intent to Seek Re-Election for National Treasurer

Fellow members of the FCSU, please accept this letter to announce my candidacy for re-election as National Treasurer of our Fraternal. I was honored to receive your endorsement at the last convention. I along with many of my family members have been life-long members of the FCSU. My wife Cathy and children Brad and Brittany are active members of Branch 38 and the Pittsburgh District. I am committed to developing and promoting programs that foster Slovak heritage throughout our Society. It is important that our beliefs in religion, family and our Slovak traditions always remain a part of our Society.

I would like to share with you my qualifications, including my educational and professional experience that makes me extremely qualified to serve as the National Treasurer. I hold a BS in Business Administration from Penn State University and a MBA from St Francis University. Currently, I am the Managing Partner of Government Services with Fusion Investment Group, LLC. Fusion is a privately owned asset management firm emphasizing a global perspective to managing tactical strategies.

I have worked diligently the last four years to enhance the growth and financial stability of our Society. As a member of the Finance Committee, I have worked with our Executive Team and our professional investment manager to implement and adapt successful procedures that maintain annuity premiums at current levels while maintaining a balanced portfolio. The Society shows a surplus gain for 2017 of \$2,683,450 (+9.5%), which created the highest level in the history of the Society at \$30,782,846. Maintaining and growing surplus is necessary to support and grow new business. The Society has achieved a new record in assets for 2017 at \$395,965,421, an increase of \$13,574,040 over last year and a +12.67% gain over the last 3 years. The FCSU's solvency rate as of December 31, 2017, was over 107%, which is higher than many of the largest insurance companies in the United States.

Over the last four years, I with the Executive Board have updated the Investment Policy Statement to be in compliance. I have made recommendations to establish programs that create parameters that will increase the return on investment income within our portfolio. I continue to seek ways to make changes that decrease our investment expenses. I sought ways to ensure that financial matters are disclosed in a transparent manner to our membership.

If re-elected, I plan on working to develop programs to look at new and innovative ways to attract new members to invest with the FCSU. I will continue to aggressively market annuities while maintaining the proper spread between credited rates and net investment income and implement effective sales strategies.

My understanding of business practices, investment policies, investment procedures and investment philosophy makes me well rounded and equipped to serve the FCSU and to be your Treasurer. I humbly ask for your vote of confidence to serve the FCSU and work with you as we develop a financially strong and stable Society.

George F. Matta II  
National Treasurer



George F. Matta II



## Is your FCSU profile up to date?

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

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

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

## Gary J. Matta, Esquire Announces His Intent to Seek Re-Election for General Counsel

President Rajec, National Officers, Regional Directors, Members, and Delegates of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, please accept this letter as my official notification in accordance with the First Catholic Slovak Union bylaws section 8.02 as my publication to announce my intentions to seek reelection to the position of General Counsel of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada.

It is with extreme pleasure that I again contact all of you to announce my intent to seek reelection to the position of General Counsel. As I began to create this publication as I had done on each previous occasion of announcing my intention to seek reelection, I took the opportunity to reflect on my twelve (12) years as General Counsel. During those twelve (12) years the Society has continued to grow and prosper. The Board of Directors has worked tirelessly together as a team in the best interests of the Society. I believe that I've assisted the Board of Directors and provided the appropriate legal advice that has positioned the Society in its current favorable financial and fraternal status.

In addition to being General Counsel for the First Catholic Slovak Union, I also hold the position of partner with the law firm of Dodaro, Matta and Cambest, P.C. My firm provides legal advice and services to various public and private entities as well as individuals within Western Pennsylvania. Being a partner in my own firm provides me the abilities to service the First Catholic Slovak Union when the need arises.

I am licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I received my Juris Doctorate Degree from Duquesne University School of Law. Duquesne University is located in the City of Pittsburgh and is one of the flagship Catholic universities in the nation. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

In the past I have served the Society in various positions at the branch and district levels including President and Fraternal Activities Director.

In closing I would like to first thank the Delegates from the previous conventions for providing me the honor and privilege to serve as your General Counsel. I would also like to thank our current President, National Officers and Regional Directors for their cooperation and hard work over the past twelve (12) years. I would ask the Delegates of the coming convention for their support and vote to continue being your General Counsel. I can assure you that I will continue to strive to make the First Catholic Slovak Union the best fraternal organization it can be.

Gary J. Matta, Esquire  
General Counsel

## Leonard Zilko Announces His Intent to Run for National Chairman of Auditors

I am announcing my candidacy for the office of National Chairman of Auditors for the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. I am well versed in all aspects and duties required for this position, having served as a National Auditor for the past four years. I am a lifelong member of our Society, and currently serve as president of Branch 228 in Lorain, OH, and president of the American Slovak Club in Lorain. I also am active in other Slovak fraternal organizations. I am an experienced, organized, accounting professional who takes pride in my work and project ownership. I have a proven record of working well as a key member of a team to meet timeframes and manage concurrent and interactive multiple tasks, including:



Leonard Zilko

- \* Month End Closing/Journal Entries
- \* Inventory Control
- \* Year End Closing
- \* Analyzing GL Accounts
- \* Project Accounting
- \* Cycle Counting
- \* Cash Management
- \* Physical Inventory
- \* Standard Costs
- \* Variance Analysis
- \* Standard Roll to New Costs
- \* Payroll

**EXPERIENCE:** First Catholic Slovak Union, Independence, OH  
National Auditor 2014 - 2018

Robert Half, Accountemps: OM Group, Cleveland, OH  
Accountant 10/04 - 10/08  
Major clients included Bettcher LLP and Sparton Medical Systems

Lepley Farm Lines, Bellevue, OH  
Accountant 2003  
Family-owned Logistics Company. Operated 40 units primarily between Ohio and Florida. Twenty units were company owned and twenty were owner-operators.

Lear-Romec Division of Crane Company, Elyria, OH  
Cost Accounting Manager 1999-2002  
Manufacturer of fluid handling devices for the commercial and government aerospace industry.

Fair Publishing House Inc., Norwalk, OH  
Controller 1996-1999  
Manufacturer and printer of county and state fair awards and supplies for the lower 48 states.

Self-Employed Public Accountant, Amherst, Ohio Public Accountant 1992-1996  
Public accounting for small firms and individuals in the area surrounding Amherst, OH

- Previous Professional Experience encompasses:
- Controller, Bay Mechanical Corporation, Lorain, OH
  - Assistant Corporate Office Controller, Invacare, Elyria, OH
  - Accountant, Lorain Products Corporation, Lorain, OH
  - Collection Manager, Lorain National Bank

### EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, Accounting, Baldwin Wallace College  
Associated Degree, Management, Lorain County Community College

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

President, Branch 228, First Catholic Slovak Union  
President, American Slovak Club, Lorain, OH  
President, United Slovak Society, Lorain, OH  
Past President, Lake Erie Central Chapter, Institute of Management of Accountants  
Past Member National Society of Accountants  
Past Member Notary Association

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing you at the 51th Quadrennial Convention, and I hope to win your vote.

Leonard Zilko  
National Auditor

## John J. Leskovyansky, Jr. Announces His Intent to Seek Re-election for National Auditor

**Objective:** Provide High levels of Professionalism, Objectivity, Professional Ethics, and CONFIDENTIALITY as one of the National Auditors. Continue to work as part of a team helping improve the quality and depth of audits, rotating audit areas among the team members for a different look at each area. Apply objective review of practices during audits while providing recommendations for the improvement of the organization from prior knowledge and experience.

### Education:

M.B.A., Accounting, March 1978:

Youngstown State University, 1975--1978. Graduate School, concentration in accounting.

Youngstown State University, 1973--1975, General business and accounting courses preparing for the MBA program.

B.A., March 1973: Youngstown State University, 1967-1973. History Major; Political Science Minor; extensive coursework in Psychology and Philosophy. Gamma Pi Chapter, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

**Professional:** Retired after over 30 years in governmental (over 26 years) sector and private, or corporate accounting, finance, and management.

- Completed various Auditor of State auditing and investment seminars including Commercial Paper and Banker's Acceptance; Treasurer of State continuing education investment classes.
- Audit experience includes cash, loans, collateral, fixed assets, income and expense items, checking and savings accounts, internal control reviews, embezzlement investigation, and consolidation of affiliated bank year end income statements during audits of affiliated banks.
- Adept at reading, interpreting, and applying local, state and federal statutory and regulatory laws, codes, and rules.
- Experienced in analyzing financial and trend information, and financial forecasts; determine and identify potential challenges; plan and recommend changes and alternative courses of action.
- Performed City Administrator duties nearly four years in addition to responsibilities as Director of Finance.
- Experienced in reviewing, analyzing, and negotiating contracts.

### 2007 - Present National Auditor, First Catholic Slovak Union

2011 - 2014 Accountant/Budget Analyst, Portage County, Ohio, Department of Budget and Financial Management, Ravenna, Ohio

2003 - 2009 Director of Finance, City Of Campbell, Campbell, Ohio

1986 - 2003 Project Accountant, Auditor of State of Ohio, Local Government Services Division

1984 - 1985 Trust Operations Officer, Second National Bank, Warren, Ohio

1982 - 1984 Accounting Manager, Woods Of America, INC., Lordstown, Ohio

1979 - 1982 Cost, Budget, Warranty Analyst, E. W. Bliss Division, Gulf + Western Manufacturing Co., Salem, Ohio

1978 - 1979 Staff Auditor, Internal Audit, Huntington Bankshares, Inc, Columbus, Ohio

Military Service: Enlisted in U.S. Army Reserves December 1969. Received an Honorable Discharge after completing twenty-four qualifying retirement years of reserve service. **Placed in Retired Status effective April 21, 2009.** Twelve years with a Petroleum Unit (six as Assistant Petroleum Operations Sergeant / Unit Training NCO). Three and a half years as Battalion (8" SP Howitzer) S1 NCO, PAC (Personnel Action Center) Supervisor; responsible for soldiers' personnel actions, strength accounting, and battalion headquarters office administration and coordination. Five years in a Quartermaster Supply Company (Petroleum Platoon Sergeant, additional duties as Mobilization NCO and Movement NCO). Instructor for two and one-half years with the 2077th USARF School and 84th Division (Training), teaching Petroleum Supply Specialist and Motor Transport Operator (Truck Driver) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Courses.

John Leskovyansky, Jr.  
National Auditor

## Raymond Lako Announces His Intent to Seek Re-election for National Auditor

I would like to, again, announce my candidacy for the office of auditor. I have served as an auditor for the FCSU for the last twelve years.

My background includes a B.A. from Duquesne University, 30 years of employment with Norfolk-Southern Corporation, 20 of which were in a supervisory capacity. In that position, I was responsible for force management, inventory, and payroll. In addition, I audited safety and work procedures for compliance with company and Federal regulations. I also served for eight years as Financial Secretary for the Slovak Civic Federation, where I was responsible for preparing financial statements, payroll, budget projections, and tax reports. I am currently in my third year as Treasurer for my community's Home Owners' Association.

An auditor has the responsibility of seeing that everyone does their job and insuring that the FCSU is operating as you, the Convention delegates have prescribed. Auditors have the task of looking over peoples' shoulders and questioning what is being done. I have, for the last twelve years, done this for the good of the FCSU. I performed my job with honesty and integrity and would like to continue to do so for the next four years. On my own time and initiative, I was responsible for identifying errors on our Organization's 990 documents that are filed with the IRS. These errors had escaped management, our Board, and the external auditors, who thanked me for my diligence. Thank you for taking the time to read my declaration of candidacy.

Raymond Lako  
National Auditor

## FCSU 2018 GOLF TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET

*Deadline for entry forms is June 21*

*Deadline for hotel reservations is June 21*

### Friday, July 20 -- Hospitality Night

6 - 9 PM At the Spike Bar

### PUTTING CONTEST!

3 chances for \$5  
Cash Prize(s)



### Hotel Information

Prices have been negotiated at the following hotel:

Hampton Inn & Suites Blairsville (35 Rooms)  
62 Pine Ridge Rd.  
Blairsville, PA 15717  
724-459-5920  
Room Rates: \$116.00 + tax per night

\*\* Cut off date June 21, 2018, for Group Rate\*\*

\*\* Mention FCSU Golf to receive the Group Rate \*\*

Hotel check in time is 3 PM. Checkout time is 11 AM.

### Saturday, July 21 - CHESTNUT RIDGE COURSE

**7 AM Registration      8 AM Modified Shotgun Start**

Responsible for your own food and Beverages throughout the day  
Hole in One Contest and Skill Prizes

Mass begins at 5:00pm in Crystal Terrace Room of Hampton Inn

**DINNER IS COMPLIMENTARY, HOWEVER, A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED**

Buffet dinner at 6:30 PM in the Crystal Terrace Room of Hampton Inn

Bacon wrapped pork loin, flat iron steak with sweet whiskey sauce, vegetable medley, red bliss potatoes, house salad, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert, Cash Bar  
Door Prizes

### Sunday, July 22 - TOM'S RUN COURSE

**7:30 check-in      8 AM Modified Shotgun Start**

Hole in One Contest and Skill Prizes

### 1 PM CHESTNUT GARDENS PAVILION LUNCHEON

Sausage & peppers, 1/4 BBQ chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, cookies & brownies

### Code of Conduct and Dress Code (per Chestnut Ridge Resort)

- Proper conduct is expected by players while on the golf course.
- Players should adhere to cart path rules, replace divots, repair ball marks, and rake sand traps.
- Unruly behavior, foul language, golf cart abuse, club throwing, and hitting into groups will not be tolerated.
- Proper attire required. Collared shirts preferred. No cut off shorts.
- Soft spikes are MANDATORY.

We are looking forward to a great fraternal weekend and hope that you can share it with us.  
If you have any questions contact Rudy Ondrejco at (412) 421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

## 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.

D. Any male golfer competing in the 9-hole event may hit from 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)  | 5. Women's Flight       |
| 2. Men's B flight (11-17) | 6. Callaway Flight      |
| 3. Men's C flight (17-30) | 7. 9-hole Senior Flight |
| 4. Men's D flight (31 +)  |                         |

B. Winners will be determined by low net score in each flight after 36 holes of medal play or 18 holes of play in the senior flight..

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.

Entries absolutely close on June 21, 2018



## Congratulations Branch 857's Nicole L Nasta

Congratulations to Nicole L Nasta, from Branch 857 Levittown PA, who received her Associate of Science Degree in Mathematics from Bucks County Community College on May 17, 2018. Nicole is currently serving as the Recording Secretary of Branch 857 and will be attending the upcoming Convention as a branch delegate. She also participates annually in the bowling and golf tournaments. Nicole is the daughter of Regional Director Damian Nasta and his wife Peggy, sister of Supreme Court member Andrew Nasta and the niece of our National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta.

- Submitted by Damian Nasta, Region 2 Director



## February Meeting of Branch 716

Branch 716 held a February meeting for the election of Convention delegates. (L - R) Standing: Veronica Pacova, Joan Skrkon, Jan Skrkon, Maria Bozekova and Father Richard Baker. Seated: Karol Vida, Henrietta Daitova, Andrej Sulak, Serafina Sulak, Eva Lysakova, Nina Holy and Jan Lysak

**First Catholic Slovak Union  
2018 National Golf Tournament  
July 20 – 22, 2018**

**Chestnut Ridge and Tom's Run Golf Courses  
Blairsville, PA**

*Deadline for Entry Forms is June 21, 2018*

	Hospitality Night (X)	Sat. Dinner (X)	Sunday BBQ (X)	9 Holes Only* (X)	Name	Address	Phone or E-Mail	Branch Number
1								
2								
3								
4								

\*For women or seniors age 75+. 9-hole players must play together; no 18-hole player and 9-hole player foursomes allowed.

<b>GOLFERS (fees are listed per person):</b> 18-Hole Players \$97.00 9-Hole Players \$50.00 Tournament Fee \$11.00 Prize Fee \$12.00 Saturday Dinner \$ 0.00 Sunday BBQ \$15.00	<b>NON-GOLFERS:</b> <b>Please Choose ALL that apply &amp; indicate number attending</b> _____ Will attend Hospitality Night _____ Guest Dinners @ \$50.00 _____ Will attend Sunday BBQ @ \$15.00  <b>Whole Golf Package: \$135.00</b> Includes: 2 Rounds of 18 holes, Tournament Fee, Prize Fee, Hospitality Night, Saturday Dinner, and Sunday BBQ	Make Entry Fee Payable to: FCSU Activities Mail to: FCSU Golf 234 Ilion St. Pgh. PA 15207
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**Room accommodations provided by**

Hampton Inn & Suites Blairsville  
 62 Pine Ridge Rd.  
 Blairsville, PA 15717  
 724-459-5920  
 Room Rates: \$116 + tax per night - indicate you are with FCSU Golf  
 Check in time: 3 PM

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM**

**Deadline for Reservations is June 21, 2018**

*Our Annual Golf Tournament will be held Friday, July 20, through Sunday, July 22, 2018. 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, 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 name.*

*If you are interested in being a skill contest sponsor, please send the wording for your sign and your check payable to “FCSU Activities” to:*  
 Rudy Ondrejco  
 234 Ilion St.  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

*The deadline for sponsoring a hole is June 30, 2018.*

**LIGHT ONE CANDLE**

**Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers' Board of Directors**

**Foster Friendship Despite Differences**

At a 2016 World Youth Day prayer vigil in Krakow, Poland, Pope Francis told young people, "Today we adults need you to teach us, like you are doing now, how to live with diversity, in dialogue, to experience multiculturalism not as a threat but an opportunity...Have the courage to teach us that it is easier to build bridges than walls."

It was the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and Francis lamented what is too often an absence of mercy in public discourse today. He implored young people to take a different approach, saying, "We are not here to shout against anyone. We are not about to fight. We do not want to destroy. We do not want to insult anyone. We have no desire to conquer hatred with more hatred, violence with more violence, terror with more terror."

A year before the event, Francis had encouraged young people to focus on performing one corporal work of mercy a month to prepare for the gathering. It was an appropriate way to ready the soul for such an important spiritual pilgrimage, and it is also a perfect way for each of us to cultivate the disposition needed for civil

discourse.

Francis' call at World Youth Day for young Catholics to take the lead in demonstrating how to relate to people from different backgrounds and belief systems remains relevant, yet practicing civil discourse under challenging circumstances is a constant struggle. A first principle to remember when we have profound differences with others is that it is not our job to convert people by winning arguments that seem to be going nowhere. The Holy Spirit converts people's hearts. It is our job to give witness to the truth and plant seeds of the Gospel's hopeful message wherever we can.

Christ said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30) And what a light burden it is to realize we are not on our own in winning people to the truth. Christ also said to the disciples, "If anyone will not welcome you or listen

to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town." (Matthew 10:14)

One way to apply that principle to our own lives is to be willing to agree to disagree with people when a confrontation is going nowhere. This principle is particularly helpful in regard to petty conflicts where it doesn't really matter in the greater scheme of things who is right or wrong. But even in regard to larger matters, we need to be willing to walk away from a conflict and ask the Holy Spirit to work on people's hearts. Agreeing to disagree even on larger matters can facilitate friendships to remain intact despite our differences, and sometimes the friendship we offer to people and the good we do for them does more to plant those seeds of hope in their lives than any argument we might present.

This truth is exemplified in Francis' words to young people: "In the face of evil, suffering and sin, the only response possible for a disciple of Jesus is the gift of self, even of one's own life, in imitation of Christ; it is the attitude of service."

## CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be two groups: the 12 – 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

- People
- Nature or Environment
- Travel or Destinations
- FCSU Fraternal Activity



Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

- \$50 – First Place
- \$30 – Second Place
- \$20 – Third Place

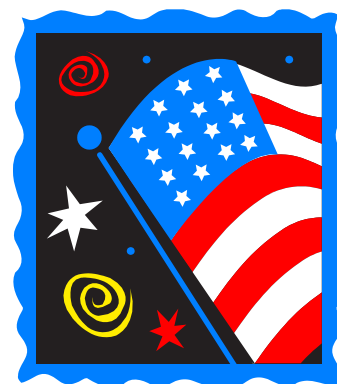
An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

**Rules:**

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, email address, Branch number, age, photo category, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a **separate sheet of paper**. **DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE**

Mail your entry to:

Rudy Ondrejco  
Photo Contest  
234 Ilion St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
postmarked by October 1, 2018.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary –  
Holiday Hours

The FCSU Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in observance of Independence Day.



Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

A great source for the latest information about our Society - and events in the greater Slovak community.

## FCSU Members Perform at July Pierogi Fest near Chicago



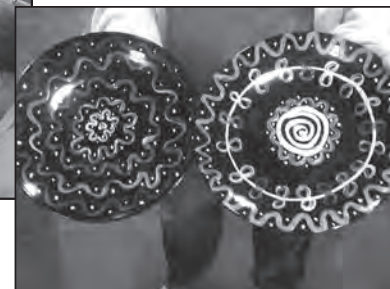
THE WHITING PIEROGI FEST is a three-day "street festival" in Whiting, Indiana, located about 20 minutes from Chicago, IL. It is presented by the Whiting Robertsedale Chamber of Commerce and has drawn over 250,000 visitors in recent years. The Pierogi Fest is held the last full weekend in July, which means this year it runs July 27 – 29, 2018, from 11AM to 10PM (Central Time) on Friday and Saturday, and from 11AM to 5PM on Sunday.

Jam packed with street vendors selling food, drinks and fun novelty items like t-shirts, the fest also features events like the Polka Dance Off, judged by Mr. Pierogi and Ms. Paczki.

Not only can you tap your toes to the live and pulsating music of polka bands each day, but you can sit and watch the beautifully costumed young men and women from different Slovak dance troupes –The Lúčina Slovak Folk Ensemble from Cleveland, OH; Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble from Detroit, MI; Veselica Slovak Folk Ensemble from Chicago, IL; and the Vychodna Slovak Dancers from Mississauga, Ontario. Many members of the dance troupes are FCSU members, including their directors. Lúčina is directed by Tom Ivanec, Branch 24; Šarišan is directed by Milan Straka, Branch 743; and Vychodna's Executive Vice President of Cultural Events Dušan Dorich is a member of Branch 785.

The dancers perform from 2 – 4PM (Central Time) on Saturday and noon – 2PM on Sunday.

For more information, visit the official Pierogi Fest website: [www.pierogifest.net](http://www.pierogifest.net) or call toll free 1-800-659-0292



## Branch 23's Painting Party

Branch 23 held a painting class/party on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the Venue of Merging Arts (VOMA) in Johnstown, PA. Approximately 15 members attended, creating designs representative of our Slovak heritage.

We learned about Slovak pottery and painted our own masterpieces on canvas or plates, bowls and mugs. We shared food, drink and fun!

- Submitted by Marian Hockycko, Branch 23 President



## Alexander & Alice Dobrik Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary in June



Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Dobrik

June 7, 2018, marks the Diamond Anniversary of Alexander and Alice Dobrik who were married 60 years ago on that date at SS Cyril and Method Church in Montreal, Quebec.

They raised two sons Stephen and Robert and now have six grandchildren.

Alice is the president for Branch 784, and Alex is the president of District 20, the Prince Rastislav District.

Congratulations! We offer you all our Best Wishes and pray that you receive many Blessings from our Lord for years to come.

From your family, John and Anne Condik and their families, and all your friends!

- Submitted by Adel Lashanik



Photo courtesy of Daniel Černý

## Reflections on the Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Pittsburgh

Daniel Černý

Recently, I came across the history of the Byzantine Catholic Cathedral St. John the Baptist in Munhall, PA. This suburb of Pittsburgh is where the main church for US Byzantine Catholics and their Metropolitan Church is located (history is available online at the cathedral web page). The current cathedral church originated from a church built in the Homestead district of Pittsburgh at the end of the 19th century. Its 100+-page history was penned by several authors and is based on eyewitness accounts and meeting minutes of parish boards from the past. Nicely done, the history includes some very interesting stories. One of them is about the creation of the first parish board. However, the editor at the time in transcribing the pages indicates only the ancient and not modern names of places of origin of the parish board members. If someone would try to search these places, probably not even the famous searching engine starting with G would be able to locate them. The names are mostly given in the vernacular, and thus it is neither modern Slovak, nor Hungarian (the then official language). Also, some of the places were renamed during the first Czecho-Slovakia (1918-1938). Anyhow, if we will follow the indications and data given in the article, we will come to an interesting conclusion.

Out of 12 original members of the first parish board - created in 1896 - only one member was from Galicia, the Western part of the present day Ukraine. All the other eleven members were from villages in present-day Slovakia. One person was from a village, which the editor or author names as Berehova, Sáros county, corresponding to Becherov in historical Šariš county, near the city of Bardejov. The remaining 10 members of the parish board were all from the Slovak speaking villages of the former Zemplín county (Zemplén in Hungarian and in the article). Three of them were from Miglesove, which is now Milhostov, near Trebišov. One was from Hardic, being the Zemplinské Hradište, again in the vicinity of Trebišov. Another man was from Ozorovco, being either Veľké Ozorovce or Malé Ozorovce (based on some research, probably Veľké Ozorovce). Another member of the board was from the city of Michalovce (Michlavova in the sketch). The remaining four were all from the Slovak villages around the present-day town of Vranov nad Topľou. Namely, two people from Poša, which is Poša. Another person from Hacove Dluhe, which we identify as Dlhé Kičovo (based also with the surname of the person), and yet another one from Vranaho Cemerdaho, which is the present-day Vranov-Čemerné. Thus, ten out of twelve people were Byzantine Slovaks. Indeed, a very interesting thing to note.

It is always a joy to find traces of the Slovak Byzantine Catholics, which were neglected for so long. Of course, nowadays the majority of the faithful of Pittsburgh metropolia identify themselves as Americans, still it is nice to know and important to share with them that they do share in the Slovak heritage as well. On the other hand, also they do contribute to the beauty and richness of the Slovak culture and heritage, when sharing it with their American neighbors. The original Eparchy of Mukačevo, which is a mother church to all the Byzantine Catholics, originating from the Union of Užhorod (1646) was always a multinational entity, as testified already in the times before the Union itself by Bishop Sergius in 1604 who, himself an ethnic Romanian testified that in his Eparchy the priests and monks were Rusyns, Romanians, Slovaks and Serbians. The same is true also for the Byzantine Catholic Church in the USA. It is sure that further research will bring more bright light to shine on the history of the Slovaks of the Byzantine rite in the USA.

May the Slovak Byzantine Catholics be proud of their famous past and may they rejoice in their faith, which they preserve, wherever they are. Mnoho rokov!

### About the Author

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

SISTERS of SAINTS CYRIL and METHODIUS  
VILLA SACRED HEART  
DANVILLE PA

# Summer Festival

Saturday  
July 14 2018  
10:30 am - 5:00 pm

fun food baked goods dinner  
games flea market

Saturday Mass for Sunday 5pm Basilica

## Come to the Annual Summer Festival in Danville, PA, this July

The 45th annual Summer Festival, sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA will be held on Saturday, July 14, 2018. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m. and last until 5:00 p.m.

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.

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

# 5 Fun Facts from Chewy for Father's Day

1 Man, he's old: Experts believe the word "dad" dates back to the 16 century.

2 Tied up: Neckties are the most popular gift for Father's Day.

3 Holiday stats: Father's Day is the fifth most popular card-sending holiday, with an estimated \$ 100 million in card sales.

4 Around the world: In Australia, the first Sunday of September is observed as Father's Day, while Finnish people celebrate the holiday on the second Sunday of November. In Thailand, Father's Day is observed on Dec. 5. [Chewy's note: for all my friends in the FCSU, in good ol' Slovakia like the US of A, it's on the 3rd Sunday of June. Just sayin' 😊]



5 A flowery holiday? Rose is the official flower for Father's Day. Wearing a red rose signifies a living father, while wearing a white one represents one who has passed away.

Source: www.loveyoufather.com

## St. Thomas A' Becket Parish's Annual June Festival



St. Thomas A' Becket's Parish Festival is a fun-filled event for the whole family featuring a variety of music, live entertainment, delicious food, baked goods, a flea market and more. St. Thomas A' Becket's Parish Festival runs June 28 - June 30, 2018. The Parish is located at 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA 15025.

The Festival Flea Market Pre-Sale will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2018, from 8:00AM to 2:00PM, and the Flea Market will reopen for the St. Thomas A' Becket Festival days on June 28, 29, and 30.

Each evening of the festival features special entertainment and dinner

menus:

### June 28, 2018 6:00PM – 11:00PM

"Sky Jump Lottery" at 7:00PM (Rain Date – June 29)  
Musical performances by Shot of Soul from 7:00PM – 10:00PM  
Dinner special includes Stuffed Cabbage Dinner

### June 29, 2018 6:00PM – 11:00PM

Musical performances by The Soul Searchers from 7:00PM – 10:00PM  
Dinner special includes Fish Fry and Pierogi Dinner

### June 30, 2018 6:00PM – 11:00PM

Abilene Band and Gas House Annie (country music) from 7:00PM – 10:00PM  
Dinner special includes BBQ ½ Chicken Dinner

Additional food items available every evening include: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Kielbasa, Hot Sausage, French Fries, Pizza, Soft Pretzels, Homemade Donuts, Strawberry Shortcake and Ice Cream. For more information, contact Gary Burcin, Festival Chair, at 1-412-655-2885.



## 88th Annual Slovak-American Day in July

Federated Slovak Societies 88th Annual Slovak-American Day which is Sunday, July 29, 2018, at Croatian Park in the Milwaukee area (9100 S 76th St, Franklin, WI 53132) starting Holy Mass at noon. A cultural presentation featuring the Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers, Tatra Slovak Dancers will begin at 2 pm. Also new this year, we will have an international renowned Fujara musician Bob Rychlik.

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

Katherine Valent

Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee



## FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION 51<sup>ST</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION AUGUST 4-8, 2018

### TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration (all day)
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Slovak Tour of Cleveland (optional)
5:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Board Lolley the Trolley for Indians Game
7:15 pm – 10:00 pm	Indians Game
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Slovak video (for members not attending game)

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration/Office
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Opening of Convention
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Brunch
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Transportation to Mass
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Mass at Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Transportation to Hotel
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Cocktail Reception
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Dinner/Program

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2018

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration/Office
7:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am	Mass
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Convention Session
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Convention Session
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Cocktail Reception
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner/Program

#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration/Office
7:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast
7:30 am	Mass
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Convention Session
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Luncheon
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Convention Session
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Board buses for Cruise
8:00 pm – 10:30 pm	Goodtime Cruise

#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018

7:30 am	Mass
8:30 am (if needed)	Convention Session
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Farewell Brunch
	Convention Closed
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting

Back by popular demand!  
September 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018

## 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®  
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 August 31, 2018.**

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

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

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

JUNE 22 - 23, 2018

The QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on

Friday, June 22, 2018 at 9:00 AM  
Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 9:00 AM

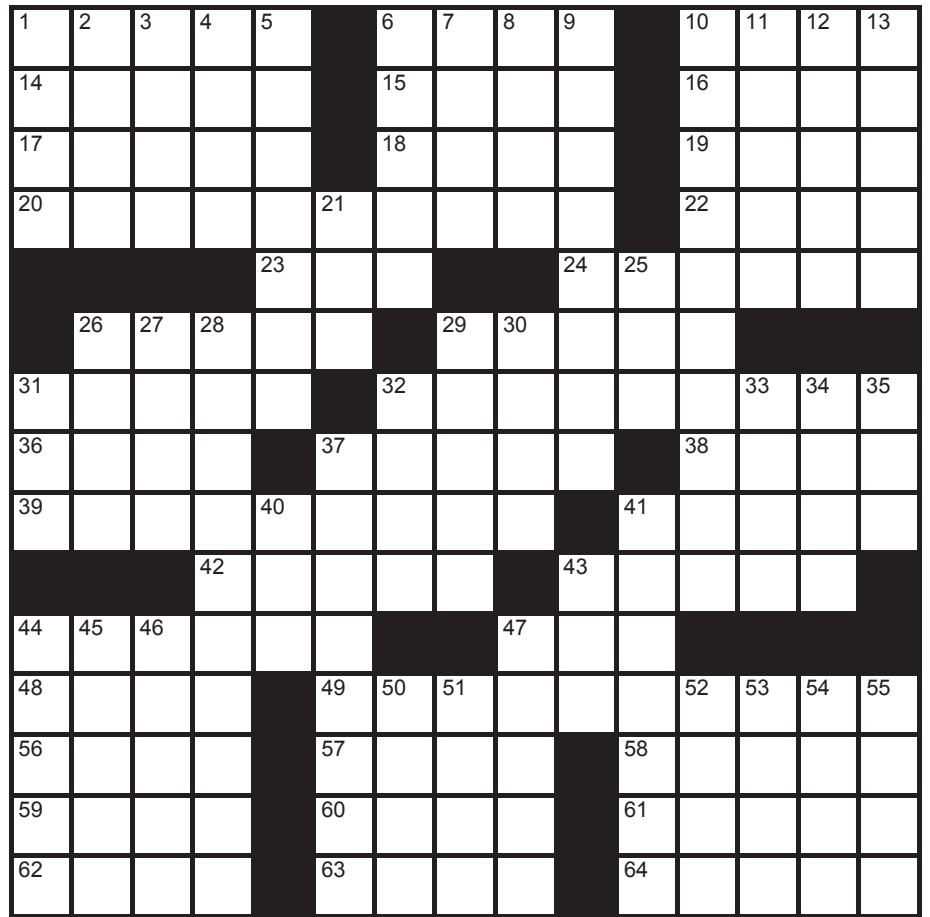
All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to June 15, 2018.

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



**Across**

- 1 Voting groups
- 6 Coagulate
- 10 Dermatologist's concern
- 14 Make good on
- 15 Latvia's capital
- 16 Kind of jet
- 17 Balances
- 18 Holly
- 19 Harvard rival
- 20 Vineyard worker
- 22 Sturdy cart
- 23 Sixth sense
- 24 Makes right
- 26 Put one's foot down
- 29 Chess moves
- 31 Some plant stickers
- 32 Dockets
- 36 Land o' blarney
- 37 Theater sections
- 38 Chills and fever
- 39 Law phrases?
- 41 Armada
- 42 Coffee shop order
- 43 Sanctify
- 44 Dispense with
- 47 Take to court
- 48 Doomsayer's sign
- 49 Yard adornment, at times
- 56 Engrossed
- 57 Catalina, e.g.
- 58 Wilkes-\_\_\_\_, Pa.
- 59 Mother of Helios and Eos
- 60 Cat's scratcher
- 61 Do penance
- 62 Country singer Tom T. \_\_\_\_
- 63 Millions of years
- 64 Rubbernecked

**Down**

- 1 Cold one
- 2 Dolly of *Hello, Dolly*
- 3 Dentist's request
- 4 Sugar source
- 5 Kind of analysis
- 6 Crunchy
- 7 Cheerful tune
- 8 Kind of arch
- 9 State and federal charges
- 10 Draft horse
- 11 Long for
- 12 Pre-entree course
- 13 Deuce toppers
- 21 Venomous snake
- 25 Chess pieces
- 26 Positive
- 27 Math subject, briefly
- 28 Decorative
- 29 Molten rock
- 30 Pub offerings
- 31 \_\_\_\_ canto (singing style)
- 32 Blackjack, in London
- 33 Matures
- 34 Regrets
- 35 Collector's goal
- 37 Black or red candy

- 40 Record
- 41 Run-down hotel
- 43 Wiretap
- 44 Scotland's Firth of \_\_\_\_
- 45 Nebraska city
- 46 Force back
- 47 Twists out of shape
- 50 Nobel Peace Prize city
- 51 Family group
- 52 Pro \_\_\_\_
- 53 Decrease
- 54 River to Donegal Bay
- 55 Exigency



## Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
Pierced upon a cross.  
Blood and water flowing:  
To wash away our loss.

Now in glory glowing,  
Shed your light Divine,  
From Your heart Most Holy:  
Be forever mine.

© 2018, George Kossik, Branch 584

## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
June 20	June 11
July 18	July 9
August 22	August 13
Sept 19	Sept 10
October 17	October 8
November 14	November 5
December 12	December 3

See Solution on Page 16

# 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal Men's Te

Place	Team Event	Total Pins
1	New and Abused	2773
2	Snake Eyes	2691
3	Aren't you Glad you ain't Us	2681
4	Sucker Punch	2626
5	The Have Nots	2624
6	Mon Valley #4	2600
7	The A Team	2539
8	Mon Valley #11	2534
9	Mon Valley #1	2531
10	Mon Valley #8	2528
11	Mon Valley #7	2512
12	Mon Valley #10	2464
13	Al's Angels	2462
14	Dads & Sons	2448
15	Going For It	2443
16	Leather & Lace	2402
17	Mon Valley #3	2364
18	Mon Valley #9	2361
19	Mon Valley #2	2335
20	Mon Valley #5	2300
21	Levittown	2296
22	Oneida Services	2279
23	FBTE	2260
24	NSS #1	2243
25	Da Losers Enhanced	2182
26	NSS #2	1981

Place	Doubles Partners	Total Pins
1	Lako Beattie	1526
2	Smith Pesi	1450
3	Silay Donovan	1428
4	Johnston Johnston	1416
5	Oswald Walzl	1402
6	Tonkovich Szabo	1375
7	LaVelle Emory	1357
8	Krasonic Krasonic	1355
9	Rice Lutes	1356
10	Walko Lako	1318
11	Barron Bakaysza	1314
12	Kapitan Zoldak	1313
13	Dorsch Lako	1294
14	Grottenthaler Silay	1288
15	Kopanic Prpich	1284
16	Hensch Sinagra	1282
17	Shick Kolecky	1278
18	Fedor Nasta	1273
19	Christy Christy	1266
20	Burkhart Hickler	1262
21	Simkovich Saul	1258
22	Henson Walzl	1256
23	Ragan Szabo	1251
23	Schwab Frolo	1251
23	Shank Shank	1251
26	Hunt Hunt	1250
27	Suhan Roebuck	1248
27	Kolecky Kolecky	1248
29	Ashcraft Ashcraft	1241
30	Parnell Fine	1233
30	Smith Smith	1233
32	Forma Jursa	1228
33	Bright Bright	1223
34	Rice Lutes	1219
35	Barton Roberts	1217
36	Regan Mitro	1210
37	Rausch Newman	1204
38	Soose Oswald	1198
39	Nasta Nasta	1178
40	Fine Bright	1177
41	Tokarsky Ricciuti	1164
41	Kuvinka Kuvinka	1164
43	Dunham Goga	1160
44	Tokarsky Gryz	1158
45	Maximo Berestecky	1156
46	Czarney Blum	1123
47	Carini Ashcraft	1119
48	Nasta Nasta	1034
49	Payerchin Bolton	977

Place	Singles Competition	Total Pins
1	Smith Vernon C.	836
2	Pesi George	834
3	Krasonic John Jr.	760
4	Nasta Fr. Tom	747
5	Rausch David	729
6	Roberts John	729
7	Newman Kyle	719
8	Emory Ed	709
9	Johnston Derek	701
10	Grottenthaler John	699
11	Kolecky Michael	692
12	Lutes Don	689
13	Gryz Greg	688
14	Lako Ray	685
15	Oswald Howard	684
16	Tokarsky John	681
17	Sinagra Dave	679
18	Szabo Jim	676
18	Lako Mike	676
20	Bakaysza Nick	675
21	Christy Dave Jr.	674
22	Schwab Randy	672
23	Hensch Jeff	665
24	Jursa Emil	660
24	Fine Dan	660
26	Forma Ed	659
26	Christy Dave Sr.	659
28	Blum Greg	657
28	Smith David I.	657
30	Fedor Al	655
31	Kolecky Don Sr.	653
32	Silay Ron	647
33	LaVelle Matt	645
34	Kuvinka Eric	641
35	Tonkovich Rick	638
36	Silay Tom	636
36	Donovan Dom	636
38	Barron Joe	630
38	Kapitan Mike	628
40	Zoldak Milan	625
41	Beattie Jeff	624
42	Goga Nick	622
42	Shank Clarence Sr.	622
44	Ashcraft Harry	621
45	Walko Danny	620
46	Hickler George	619
47	Dorsch Bill	617
48	Roebuck Wally	613
48	Smith Justin	613
48	Prpich Jack Jr.	613
51	Suhan Jon	612
52	Parnell Dwayne	609
53	Krasonic John Sr.	608
53	Kopanic Robert	605
55	Nasta Ed	602
55	Simkovich Paul	602
57	Ashcraft Alan	597
58	Rice David	595
59	Nasta Damian	592
59	Maximo Gwynn	592
61	Frolo Robert	590
62	Saul James	581
63	Walzl Paul	580
64	Czarney Mike	572
64	Bright Rick	572
66	Berestecky Fred T.	566
67	Barton Dave	558
68	Shank James	553

Place	Seniors Competition	Total Pins
1	Smith Vernon C.	836
2	Krasonic John Jr.	760
3	Nasta Fr. Tom	747
4	Lako Ray	685
5	Szabo Jim	676
6	Bakaysza Nick	675
7	Jursa Emil	660
8	Forma Ed	659
9	Fedor Al	655
10	Kolecky Don Sr.	653
11	Kuvinka Eric	641
12	Kapitan Mike	628
13	Zoldak Milan	625
14	Beattie Jeff	624
15	Shank Clarence Sr.	622
16	Prpich Jack Jr.	613
17	Krasonic John Sr.	608
18	Kopanic Robert	605
19	Berestecky Fred T.	566
20	Barton Dave	558
21	Johnston Lynn	542
22	Shick Earl	540

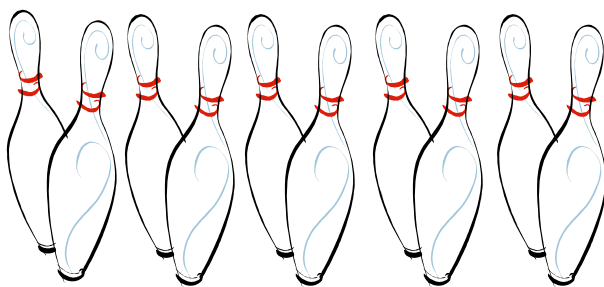
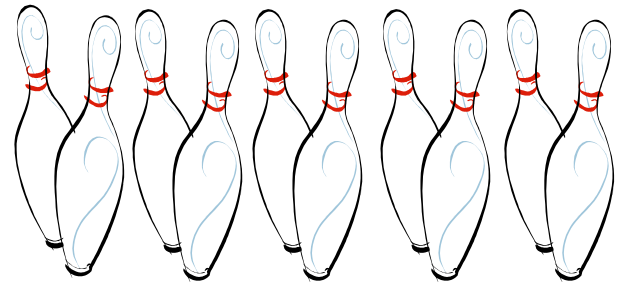


# Men Pin Handicap Bowling Tournament Results

Place	All Events Competition	Total Pins
1	Pesi George	2260
2	Lako Ray	2132
3	Dorsch Bill	2127
4	Szabo Jim	2099
5	Donovan Dom	2090
6	Christy Dave Jr.	2082
7	Johnston Derek	2080
8	Bakaysza Nick	2074
9	Smith Vernon C.	2068
10	Roberts John	2060
11	Nasta Fr. Tom	2035
12	Krasonic John Jr.	2031
13	Oswald Howard	2020
14	Emory Ed	2018
15	Kolecky Michael	2017
16	Smith David I.	2016
17	Hickler George	1995
18	Tonkovich Rick	1993
18	LaVelle Matt	1981
20	Saul James	1974
21	Kapitan Mike	1971
22	Kopanic Robert	1969
22	Newman Kyle	1969
24	Shank Clarence Sr.	1966
24	Zoldak Milan	1966
26	Silay Ron	1959
27	Fine Dan	1957
28	Silay Tom	1946
28	Lako Mike	1944
30	Walko Danny	1942
31	Walzl Paul	1941
32	Hensch Jeff	1940
33	Suhan Jon	1936
33	Forma Ed	1936
35	Lutes Don	1934
36	Tokarsky John	1927
37	Rausch David	1921
38	Grys Greg	1910
39	Kuvinka Eric	1903
39	Ashcraft Harry	1903
41	Beattie Jeff	1902
42	Barron Joe	1885
43	Barton Dave	1880
43	Smith Justin	1879
45	Bright Rick	1877
46	Fedor Al	1875
47	Sinagra Dave	1866
48	Johnston Lynn	1864
49	Krasonic John Sr.	1855
50	Schwab Randy	1854
51	Christy Dave Sr.	1852
52	Simkovich Paul	1839
53	Jursa Emil	1832
54	Roebuck Wally	1827
55	Shick Earl	1816
56	Ashcraft Alan	1814
57	Prpich Jack Jr.	1811
58	Goga Nick	1797
59	Hunt Zach	1787
60	Kolecky Don Sr.	1779
61	Rice David	1758
62	Parnell Dwayne	1754
63	Frolo Robert	1750
64	Shank James	1716
65	Czarney Mike	1704
66	Nasta Ed	1688
67	Berestecky Fred T.	1683
68	Payerchin John	1505



Place	Singles Competition Cont.	Total Pins
69	Johnston Lynn	542
70	Shick Earl	540
71	Hunt Zach	510
72	Payerchin John	488
73	Migliore Ronald	437





# DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 2 will host the traditional district Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 17 at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. Mass is at 9:30 with brunch to follow. A notice was emailed to all branches where possible. Tickets are \$13; children \$7. RSVP by Monday, June 11 to Sue Ondrejco at sue.ondrejco@gmail.com or call 412-421-1204. Prices for the ad booklet are: full page \$75, half page \$40, quarter page \$25. Make checks payable to FCSU Pittsburgh District. Send ads and ticket fees to Sue at 234 Iliion Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. You must RSVP; NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Sue Ondrejco will have tickets for Kennywood Slovak Day available on Fathers' Day. Prices are \$25 (under 55), \$15 (55-69), \$11 (70+). Make checks payable to W PA Slovak Day.

There will be a very brief business meeting at the Fathers' Day brunch concerning district summer events and the upcoming convention. Expect a district delegate meeting in June or July

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

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. The April 11 issue has a list of requirements for branch stipends on Page 17.

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: June 4 – the Pittsburgh Agreement. Meetings resume October 1 when Lisa Alzo will be speaking on Slovak genealogy. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

\*\* 100th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement: Senator John Heinz History Center – Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 6 PM. Contact Joe Senko regarding tickets: jtsenko@aol.com or 412-531-2990.

\*\* Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 19, 2018. Get your tickets from Sue Ondrejco.

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

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

\*\* The Western PA Slovak Radio Hour dinner dance will be on Sunday, September 16th this year once again at Westwood Golf Club in Duquesne.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary  
manasta@verizon.net

## DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Reverend Joseph L. Kostik, District 14, Region 6, Youngstown, OH, will hold the first of its semi-annual meetings on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at 6PM at St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Ave, Youngstown, OH. We will be discussing the upcoming Slovak Fest in August and the 51st Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, OH. All delegates please make a point to attend. Thank you.

Grace Kavulic, Secretary

## DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

Join us on Sunday, July 8, 2018, for the annual Monsignor Michael Shuba District/Region 8 picnic. Food – fun – music games for the kids, plus a performance by the Vychodna Dancers.

The event is located at Creditvale Park, 1720 Barbertown Rd, Mississauga L5M 6J2. Gates open from 9AM to 7PM. Tickets: adults \$10.00, students \$5.00, children under 12 years free. Mass to be celebrated at 11AM in the park.

Call Anne Mitro at 905-279-815 or Mike Kapitan at 416-621-1534 for any details. [Editor's note: see flyer below on this page for additional information].

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish and Jednota present

# ANNUAL PICNIC

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

**Sunday, July 8, 2018**  
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



## SLOVAK J CLUB ANNUAL KIELBASA OPEN RETURNS!!



**WHERE:**

**Mayfair Country Club**  
2229 Raber Road  
Uniontown, OH 44685

**WHEN:**

**Saturday June 30, 2018**  
Shot Gun Start at 8:00 AM

**\$70.00 PER PERSON OR \$280.00 PER FOURSOME**

**BREAKFAST BUFFET: 6:30 am – 8:00 am**

**KIELBASA at the Turn**

**PRIZES & STEAK BUFFET @ J CLUB AFTER YOUR ROUND!**

**PLEASE CALL 330-786-9972 TO MAKE RESERVATIONS/ OR  
LEAVE MESSAGE FOR RESERVATIONS!**

**PLEASE PAY FEE BY JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> TO SECURE YOUR SPOT**

**PRIZES AND GIFTS! 50/50 RAFFLE!!!!**




**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!**



*Join Us on a Bus Trip to:*

## The Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH

Sponsored by:  
**The Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland**



**When:** Saturday, June 16, 2018  
**Departs At:** 1:00 pm from St. Anthony of Padua School-Back Parking Lot  
6800 State Rd., Parma  
**Leaves Youngstown At:** 9:00 pm  
**Cost:** (includes bus trip, admission to festival)  
\$20 for members  
\$25 for non-members  
\$15 for kids 12 and under

Contact for more information:

Tom Ivanec	Joe Oros	Mike Anderko	Susie Halley
440-668-7797	440-238-3655	407-587-5666	440-263-1573

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland or pay with Zelle through your banking app (send money to slovakheritagesociety@gmail.com)

## We Invite All Jednotars to Join Us!

# 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	Bernice E Reardon	181K	Cynthia Marie Kapura	484K	Rudolph S Rura Sr	831K	Anthony C Kuniak
002K	Michael J Lorinc	200K	Marcella Cayavec	493K	Lorraine M Brown	855K	Mary Ann Strand
003P	Bernard G Rebarchak	200K	Michael C Vojna	553K	Michael S Hritsko	855K	Mary Ann Surtz
005P	Joseph G Severnak	228K	William J Sipkovsky	553K	James R Lischak	856K	Eileen Welkie
023K	Stephanie Ann Boyles	254K	Stephen R Sandor	553K	Michael E Saloiye	900K	Elizabeth Bartek
040K	Delfina R Baez	294K	Michael Schwika	571K	Arthur C Coleman	900K	Frank R Suchar
086K	Josephine Vikartosky	321P	Joseph M Omasta	580K	Jeanne Trice McCracken	919K	Clarence Decker
122K	Genevieve Lachmanek	368K	Elnora Zarenski	682K	Joseph T Scavina	924K	William D Fischer
173K	Thomas Kavulich	410K	Thomas A Kopacko	746K	Thomas D Seaman	924K	Joseph D Lepore
		450K	Marjory Grabowski	796K	Aloysius J Makovsky		*Processed through the month of May

## OBITUARIES

### THOMAS A. KOPACKO BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Thomas A. Kopacko, age 83, passed away on Monday, January 1, 2018, at this residence in North Royalton, OH. He was born on March 7, 1934 in Republic, PA, to George and Helen (nee Kupets) Kopacko (both deceased).

Thomas was the beloved husband of Judith A. (nee Baughman), deceased, and the dear brother of Joseph Kopacko, Helen Stiner, and the following deceased: Edward Kopacko, George Kopacko, Robert Kopacko, Andrew Kopacko, and Dorothy Solomon. He was the beloved father of Thomas, Theodore, and Diane; grandfather and great great grandfather; and uncle to numerous nieces and nephews.

Thomas was laid to rest next to his beloved wife Judith at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery in Southgate, MI.

### ELIZABETH BARTEK BRANCH 900 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Elizabeth Bartek, 92 of Rock Springs, WY, passed away Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at Sageview Care Center.



She was born in Rock Springs on December 16, 1924, the daughter of William Joseph Bartek Sr. and Elizabeth Klik Bartek and step-mother Mary Copjan Bartek.

Ms. Bartek attended schools in Rock Springs and was a 1943 graduate of Rock Springs High School. She also attended business-banking school. She was employed by North Side State Bank as a banker for 57 years, and later retired January 2000.

Ms. Bartek was a member of the Holy Spirit Catholic Community and was actively involved with several church groups. She was well known in the community, and helped many people including Slavic immigrants.

Survivors include one brother Paul Bartek of Orange, CA. She was preceded in death by her parents William Joseph and Elizabeth Bartek and step-mother Mary Bartek, three brothers: Bill Bartek, Clarence Bartek and Joseph Andrew Bartek.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 19, 2017 at Saints Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, Wyoming. A vigil service with rosary was recited on July 18, 2017 at the church. Interment was in the Rock Springs Municipal Cemetery.

## Focus on Faith

**Fr. Placid Pientek, OSB** – the oldest monk among the 700 monks of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictine monasteries – passes into Eternal Life on May 6, 2018

On May 6, 2018, our beloved senior community member, Fr. Placid (Francis) Pientek, OSB, died at 6: 10 AM, with the consolation of the sacraments, from complications after battling pneumonia at Regina Health Center in Richfield, OH, where he had been in residence since 2013. On Wednesday, May 2, the community of monks traveled to Regina and sang the Regina Coeli and the Ultima at his bedside. His funeral Mass was celebrated at the abbey on Friday, May 11, preceded by a wake.

At the time of his death, Fr. Placid was the oldest monk among the 700 monks of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictine monasteries being three months shy of his 100th birthday. He was also the longest professed monk (78 years and 9 months) and longest ordained (73 years and 9 months) in the congregation. He reached the highest age of any member of our community in its 96 year history.

Fr. Placid's long life began on July 26, 1918 when he was born to Slovak immigrant parents in lower Manhattan in the shadow of Wall Street. His parents were Ignatius and Helen (Jakubjak) Pientek and he had two brothers, Steve and Joseph and a sister Helen Zajac (all deceased).

Although his home parish was St. John Nepomucene Slovak Church, he began his education at the historic St. Peter's School in lower Manhattan (founded in 1800). When Monsignor Stephen Krasula opened St. John Nepomucene School in 1926, Francis Pientek was one of the first students to register. It was Msgr. Krasula who later suggested to him in eighth grade that he consider attending Benedictine High School that the Slovak Benedictine monks opened in Cleveland in 1927.

Upon arriving as a boarding student in Cleveland in 1932, Francis pursued his intellectual and athletic challenges with vigor and success; and after graduation, he began preparations for entering the Benedictine order by attending St. Procopius Benedictine College in Lisle, IL. He formally entered the community of Saint Andrew Abbey in 1938 and was sent for novitiate training to Saint Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, KS, where his novice master was the noted Benedictine spiritual writer Fr. Bernard Sause, OSB. Francis received the religious name of Placid, which was the name of one of the first two disciples of Saint Benedict. Fr. Placid professed his first vows on July 11, 1939



and on September 23, 1944, he was ordained by Bishop Edward Hoban at St. John's Cathedral in Cleveland.

As a young priest Fr. Placid energetically joined the staff of Benedictine High School as a teacher of Latin and religion and as a tennis and basketball coach. He later served as the Athletic Director from 1944 to 1950 during which time Chuck Noll, later a four-time Super Bowl championship coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers, played football at Benedictine.

At the call of the late Abbot Theodore Kojis, OSB, Fr. Placid traveled to Rome in 1952 where he studied for two years at the Monastic Institute of the International Benedictine College of Sant' Anselmo. When he returned to Cleveland, he was named the novice master of the abbey directing men in their first year of formation as monks including Bishop Roger Gries, OSB, auxiliary bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland and former abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey.

In the early 1960's, Abbot Theodore again summoned Fr. Placid to new responsibilities as head of a successful capital campaign. Fr. Placid was then named treasurer of Benedictine High School in 1964, a position he would hold for most of the next 18 years. His only interruption came when his good friend, Fr. Jerome Koval, OSB, was elected as the third abbot of Saint Andrew Abbey in 1966 and asked Fr. Placid to serve as his prior for two years. From 1972 to 1982, Fr. Placid actually directed the finances of both the high school and the monastery, positions formerly held by two separate treasurers. He remained as the abbey treasurer through a second successful capital campaign.

During his retirement, Fr. Placid kept busy assisting his three successors as abbey treasurer: Fr. Gary Hoover, OSB (who is our current abbot) and Fr. Albert Marflak, OSB and Brother Theodore Girard, OSB, both of whom preceded him in death. Fr. Placid was always conscientious about representing the abbey at funerals of benefactors and visiting sick alumni, friends, and clergy in the hospital. He was a member of many Slovak fraternal organizations –including Branch 24 of the First Catholic Slovak Union – and faithfully attended their conventions and meetings.

May the long line of monks, alumni, benefactors and friends whose lives were touched by Fr. Placid in his many roles of apostolic service in this world, now welcome him to Eternal Life where he will not be disappointed in the hope of Christ's promises to which he totally gave his long life.

- Submitted by Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, OH

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 11*

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



# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN MEETING:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the March 2018 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta II, and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., 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 and answered the Committee's questions.

The Treasurer led a review of potential new investment opportunities.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

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

**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.

**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 Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions and the Committee discussed the reports.

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 2018:		
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	315,548.04
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	52,338.47
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. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 295 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products. The independent agents are also in frequent contact with Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents. Agents now produce over 70% of annuity sales. The Home Office has started an email campaign to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in.

The Vice President stated he is in the process of setting up training seminars and is encouraging branches and districts to contact him for available dates.

The Executive Secretary stated that our outside marketing firm is working on updating our presentations and reviewing all our marketing material.

The Executive Committee decided to continue the first year free on the JEP program until August 31, 2018.

**CONVENTION:**

The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office is receiving Delegate forms for the Convention and they are in the process of being certified. There are several branches who sent in their delegate forms late according to Bylaw 11.03(c) and are considered invalid.

The Executive Secretary stated that the first Delegate packet with information regarding hotel registration, parking and events will be sent out in May. A second Delegate packet with bylaw changes and the agenda will be sent out in July.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN:**

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
 Executive Secretary

## Message from the President

continued from page 1

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

I can confidently say, and our financial results prove, that we are doing the job. I know many of you remember less than twenty five years ago when our surplus was less than \$3 million and our assets only \$100 million. Our Executive Committee with the support of the Board of Directors, has operated under the guideline that we must be a solid financial organization in order to provide fraternal benefits for our Members. We control expenses. We invest wisely. Our expense ratio is one of the lowest of all fraternal. We also continually review and adjust our investment programs as well as review and improve our marketing program.

Turning around the trend of slowly declining membership is a task that I take very seriously and is being addressed, however, as we all know, there is no magic bullet. Our current Members are a large part of the solution.

Incidentally, this trend has been going on for over 40 years in our Society. Almost all the ethnic fraternal, and I include our other Slovak fraternal, are facing the same issues.

A very few people falsely claim that the Society is doing nothing. Unfortunately, some of these same people have done nothing themselves for their own Branch or local Slovak parish for years.

We recognize the future and have taken and continue to take positive actions to improve the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. Some actions go relatively unnoticed, i.e. the dramatic improvements we made in obtaining medical information for insurance applicants through our new blood testing procedures, the changes we made in the content of our own Jednota, enlisting over 290 independent agents to sell for the FCSU while at the same time retaining our valued Recommenders, or having a program to contact and help local Officers to revive their Branches or help them to merge with nearby Branches if possible, etc. The list could go on and on. We have enhanced and updated our website. We will use social media to expand our marketing. We will use social media to expand our marketing presence. Social media presence is important but not a panacea. We have a brand, "Jednota", and we will continue to expand on it. Our current Members are our best salesmen. Positive word of mouth is like gold. Likewise, efforts by a few to harass and discredit our Society and its Officers do nothing to improve the Society, its goals and its fraternalism. We have built the Society during the past decade with dedication and cooperation.

A few people claim they have all or most of the answers to solve all our membership issues. They have very simplistic answers to very complex issues. Do they suggest we change the ideals of our Society?

How do we maintain our Slovak, Catholic identity, ideals and culture in a challenging world?

I have researched these issues and have worked with and are working with our actuaries, asset manager and others, including our Members, to implement solutions. We have also held discussions with other Slovak fraternal regarding our common issues, including membership, and possible strategic actions.

Just having a fancy marketing slogan does not guarantee success. Remember the "NEW COKE"?

Our Management Team has addressed these issues and are continually addressing more as we proceed. 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.

Just a short update on the 2018 Convention. Look for more detailed information and planning in the upcoming Jednota issues or on our website [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com). We plan a productive and enjoyable Convention.

Z Bohom!

Fraternally,

**Andrew M. Rajec**  
**National President**

Statement as of March 31, 2018 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**  
**ASSETS**

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	348,508,181		348,508,181	348,541,005
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,743,748		2,743,748	2,710,635
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	551,885		551,885	609,764
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	394,262		394,262	401,326
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,026,939		1,026,939	1,045,630
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	779,196		779,196	779,196
5. Cash (\$.....16,570,234), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....8,909,418).....	25,479,652		25,479,652	30,811,526
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,073,510		1,073,510	1,094,955
7. Derivatives.....			0	
8. Other invested assets.....	6,811,744		6,811,744	5,280,869
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets.....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	387,369,117	0	387,369,117	391,274,906
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,756,092		4,756,092	4,658,595
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	22,127		22,127	23,586
15.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
15.3 Accrued retrospective premiums (\$.....0) and contracts subject to redetermination (\$.....0).....			0	
16. Reinsurance:				
16.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
16.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
16.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
17. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
18.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
18.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
19. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
20. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
21. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	7,055	7,055	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).....	392,154,941	7,605	392,147,336	395,957,087
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. Total (Lines 26 and 27).....	392,154,941	7,605	392,147,336	395,957,087

Statement as of March 31, 2018 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**  
**LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS**

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	314,007,400	313,139,204
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	34,436,053	39,687,240
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	53,842	61,288
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	1,336,505	1,128,886
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	17,566	23,126
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	102,471	62,102
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	18,072	18,072
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	6,227,912	6,190,944
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	9,511	9,511
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,882,358	2,913,033
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized and certified (\$.....0) reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Derivatives.....		
21.8 Payable for securities.....		
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	1,290,835	1,240,835
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	361,082,525	365,174,241
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	361,082,525	365,174,241
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	31,064,811	30,782,846
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	31,064,811	30,782,846
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	392,147,336	395,957,087

Statement as of March 31, 2018 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**  
**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	3,962,534	6,781,180	19,448,102
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	4,030,490	3,685,131	15,764,562
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	113,384	106,189	485,085
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	247	1,230	31,642
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	8,106,655	10,573,730	35,729,391
10. Death benefits.....	794,261	776,000	2,607,722
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....			
12. Annuity benefits.....	4,775,189	4,994,283	15,550,939
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0.....			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	161,532	135,835	559,825
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	44,719	40,109	169,629
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	868,196	3,164,107	10,847,624
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	6,643,897	9,110,334	29,735,739
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	63,175	119,705	304,518
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	1,117,221	934,872	3,038,946
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	30,191	30,629	95,852
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(154,904)	(54,700)	(192,209)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	7,699,580	10,140,840	32,982,846
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	407,075	432,890	2,746,545
28. Refunds to members.....	72,959	71,092	420,527
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	334,116	361,798	2,326,018
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of .....0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	10,384		(151,690)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	344,500	361,798	2,174,328
<b>SURPLUS ACCOUNT</b>			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	30,782,846	28,099,397	28,099,397
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	344,500	361,798	2,174,328
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	(99,485)	221,211	784,400
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	729	730	2,919
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized and certified companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	30,675	(68,150)	(305,475)
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	5,546	(9,076)	27,278
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	281,965	506,513	2,683,450
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	31,064,811	28,605,910	30,782,846

## Správy zo Slovenska

**Bratislava** - Keď bude Slovensko predsedať Vyšehradskej štvorke (V4), predseda Národnej rady SR Andrej Danko (SNS) pozve na stretnutie predstaviteľov Belgicka, Holandska a Luxemburska. „Aby sme si od štátov Beneluxu zobrali to najlepšie v oblasti kontrolných mechanizmov,“ povedal Danko po pracovnej návšteve na Najvyššom kontrolnom úrade (NKÚ) SR.

**Viedeň/Bratislava** - Slovensko nesúhlasí s rakúskym návrhom zákona, podľa ktorého sa majú rodinné prídavky pre rodičov pracujúcich v Rakúsku prispôbiť výške životných nákladov v domovských krajinách. Ak niekto platí rovnaké dane a odvody, mal by požívať rovnaké sociálne výhody, uviedol predseda slovenskej vlády Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) po stretnutí s rakúskym kancelárom Sebastianom Kurzom začiatkom mája vo Viedni.

**Bratislava** - Raný kapitalizmus sa na Slovensku neosvedčil. Vo svojom stanovisku to uvádza strana NAJ. Zavedený kapitalizmus považuje pre väčšinu ľudí za nevýhodný, pretože sa im žije horšie ako v minulosti. Strana preto plánuje zaviesť štátny kapitalizmus. Podľa NAJ bol socializmus pre väčšinu ľudí lepší ako kapitalizmus.

**Bratislava** - Zdravotné poisťovne skončili minulý rok so ziskom vyše 58 miliónov eur. Všeobecná zdravotná poisťovňa (VšZP) dosiahla zisk 35,9 milióna eur, Dôvera približne 17 miliónov eur a Union zdravotná poisťovňa približne šesť miliónov eur. Údaje poskytli zdravotné poisťovne.

**Bratislava** - Mamičky začali od konca mája dostávať v pôrodniciach Zubný preukaz dieťaťa. Vytvorila ho Slovenská komora zubných lekárov (SKZL) v spolupráci so zdravotnými poisťovňami a slúži na zápis informácií pre odborníkov i rodičov o tom, či je dieťa v pravidelnom ošetrovaní zubného lekára a ako je dodržiavaná prevencia zubného kazu. Zároveň radí rodičom, ako sa starať o zdravé ústa ich detí.

**Bratislava** - Úrad pre dohľad nad zdravotnou starostlivosťou (ÚDZS) dostal aj vlni stovky podnetov na poskytovanie zdravotnej starostlivosti. Celkovo ich riešil 2449, vlni dostal 1749 podaní, zvyšné boli nedoriešené prípady z predchádzajúceho roku. Úrad vlni ukončil 1781 podaní, ako opodstatnené vyhodnotil 175 z nich, 356 prípadov postúpil vecne príslušným orgánom, vyplýva zo správy ÚDZS

**Košice** - Z rúk riaditeľky Európskeho dobrovoľníckeho centra Gabrielly Civico prevzali začiatkom mája košičskí viceprimátori Martin Petruško a Renáta Lenártová za prítomnosti bývalého primátora Košíc a súčasného podpredsedu vlády SR Richarda Rašiho certifikát Košice – Európske hlavné mesto dobrovoľníctva 2019. Zástupcovia oboch strán zároveň podpísali memorandum, v ktorom sa dohodli na podpore dobrovoľníctva na miestnej úrovni v Košiciach a v širšom okolí, ak to kapacity mesta dovoľia.

**Trenčín** - Škodu za 1,4 milióna eur len na dani z pridanej hodnoty (DPH) mala spôsobiť zamestnankyňa trenčianskej predajne s automobilmi, ktorá od roku 2013 vystavovala fiktívne odberateľské faktúry a ich úhrady cez registračnú pokladňu za služby ako sprostredkovanie, prenájom či opravy. Na podvod prišli colníci z Kriminálneho úradu finančnej správy (KÚFS), na prípade pracovali dlhšie obdobie.

**Bratislava** - Slovenský syndikát novinárov (SSN) chce byť silnou oporou pre žurnalistov, ktorí sú čoraz viac vystavovaní rôznym tlakom a perzekúciám, súdnym procesom a iným problémom. Na druhej strane chce posilniť zodpovednosť samotných novinárov. „Musia rešpektovať určité etické pravidlá a musia sa držať určitých etických kódexov, ktoré sú určujúce pre prácu novinára,“ povedal Jozef Tinka zo SSN.

**Bratislava** - Migračné informačné centrum (MIC) Medzinárodnej organizácie pre migráciu (IOM) v SR otvoril 15. mája v Bratislave a 4. júna v Košiciach ďalší cyklus Otvorených kurzov slovenského jazyka pre cudzincov z krajín mimo Európskej únie (EÚ). Bezplatné vzdelávacie lekcie sú určené pre začiatokníkov i mierne pokročilých.

**Bratislava** - V Cannes sa nedávno konal známy filmový festival. Na jeho filmovom trhu Marché du Film malo Slovensko po 15. raz svoje zastúpenie v spoločnom pavilóne s Českom. Na filmovom trhu sa odprezentovali aj tri slovenské nové alebo pripravované filmy. Slovenským reprezentantom v networkingovom programe Producers on the Move je tento rok producent Peter Badač. V poradí 71. ročník festivalu trval do 19. mája.

**Bratislava** - Ku koncu minulého roka sa v slovenských väzniciach nachádzalo dovedna 219 cudzincov. Vyplýva to z najnovšej ročenky Zboru väzenskej a justičnej stráže (ZVJS) za rok 2017. Medzi cudzincami v slovenských ústavoch bolo v minulom roku 77 obvinených a 142 odsúdených.

**Bratislava** - Slovensko neuspelo ani so svojim tretím kandidátom na post dodatočného sudcu Všeobecného súdu EÚ v Luxemburgu. Sudca Najvyššieho súdu SR Ivan Rumana neprešiel posudzovaním poradného výboru Rady EÚ. Po rokovaní vlády to potvrdil štátny tajomník ministerstva zahraničných vecí Ivan Korčok.

**Bratislava** - Všetky materské, základné a stredné školy, ktoré sú zaregistrované v programe eTwinning a s partnerskou školou zo zahraničia realizujú spoločný projekt, sa môžu prihlásiť do súťaže o najlepší eTwinning projekt na Slovensku. Informuje o tom rezort školstva na svojom webe.

**Bratislava** - Bratislava si v stredu 9. mája pripomenula Deň Európy, teda symbolické narodeniny Európskej únie. Pre obyvateľov i návštevníkov hlavného mesta bol pri tejto príležitosti pripravený na Hlavnom námestí celodenný program. Jeho súčasťou bolo nielen kultúrno-hudobné vystúpenie v slovenčine a ďalších európskych jazykoch, ale tiež kvízy a rôzne súťaže súvisiace s EÚ. Nechýbali ani stánky s informáciami o jednotlivých členských krajinách Únie.

**Košice** - Univerzitná nemocnica L. Pasteura (UNLP) Košice vykonáva ako jediné pracovisko na Slovensku unikátnu operáciu očí. Ide o zákrok s názvom 27 gauge vitrektómia, ktorý má pre pacientov mnohé výhody, ako napríklad absenciu stehov či rýchlejšiu rekonvalescenciu. Informovala o tom nedávno hovorkyňa nemocnice UNLP Ivana Stašková.

**Bratislava** - Prezident SR Andrej Kiska je najdôveryhodnejším najvyšším ústavným činiteľom, dôveruje mu 46,2 percenta opýtaných. Vyplýva to z najnovšieho aprílového prieskumu agentúry Focus. Na druhom mieste skončil premiér Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD), ktorému verí 34,7 percenta opýtaných a trojicu najdôveryhodnejších politikov uzatvára predseda Národnej rady SR Andrej Danko (SNS) s 31,2-percentnou dôveryhodnosťou.

**Bratislava** - Prezident SR Andrej Kiska nebude kandidovať v budúcoročných prezidentských voľbách. Oznámil to 15. mája v Prezidentskom paláci s tým, že na jeho rozhodnutie vplývalo viacero okolností. Ako vyplýva z jeho vyjadrení, z politiky sa úplne stiahuje neplánuje. Minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák (nom. Smer-SD) nebude kandidovať na prezidenta SR a nič na tom nezmení ani rozhodnutie súčasnej hlavy štátu Andreja Kisku o jeho politickej budúcnosti.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

# Slovensko je súčasťou Európskej únie 14 rokov

## Výhody prevyšujú nedostatky, tvrdia politici

Slovensko je už 14 rokov súčasťou polmiliardovej Európskej únie. Hoci toto najvyspelejšie ekonomické zoskupenie na svete má aj svoje problémy, pozitíva výrazne prevažujú.

Mnohí si nevedia predstaviť, že by sme súčasťou Európskej únie neboli. Na druhej strane, tí starší si ešte pamätajú hranice, prehnajú byrokraciu či intenzívne prehliadky. Slovensko tak pri bilancovaní musí priznať, že vstupom do Európskej únie veľa získalo.

Pri porovnaní toho, čo sme vložili do vstupu do Európskej únie a čo sme od nej získali, sme výrazne v pluse. „Vidíme nové cesty, zrekonštruované materské škôlky, parky alebo obnovené domy. Ak vidíme akúkoľvek investíciu, ktorá sa v meste alebo v obci nachádza, tak je na 80 percent pravdepodobné, že bola financovaná z Európskych fondov,“ povedal podpredseda vlády pre investície Richard Raši.

„Pre mňa je Európska únia symbolom slobody. Slobody pohybu, slobody možností sa rozbiť, slobody v tom zmysle, že zavádzame do právneho poriadku posilnenie právneho štátu, demokracie,“ uviedol minister spravodlivosti Gábor Gál.

Niektorí si ale uvedomujú, že stále existujú aj problémy. „Môžeme cestovať, pracovať aj žiť v Európskej únii a za tých 14 rokov sme v Únii aj usadili. Zároveň ale vieme, že musíme vyriešiť aj tie veci, ktoré nefungujú, ako napríklad zneužívanie eurofondov na Slovensku a ochrana vonkajších hraníc Európskej únie,“ poslanec Miroslav Beblavý.

www.noviny.sk



## UNLP Košice ako jediná na Slovensku vykonáva špeciálnu operáciu očí

Univerzitná nemocnica L. Pasteura (UNLP) Košice vykonáva ako jediné pracovisko na Slovensku unikátnu operáciu očí. Ide o zákrok s názvom 27 gauge vitrektómia, ktorý má pre pacientov mnohé výhody, ako napríklad absenciu stehov či rýchlejšiu rekonvalescenciu. Informovala o tom v stredu hovorkyňa nemocnice UNLP Ivana Stašková.

Očné oddelenie nemocnice disponuje podľa nej skúseným personálom a kompletným inštrumentárium na to, aby mohol daný zákrok vykonávať. Ide o najtenšie a pre oko najšetrnejšie nástroje na túto operáciu, ktorá slúži pacientom s ochoreniami sklovca a sietnice oka.

„Ide najmä o krvácanie do sklovca, odlúpenie sietnice, o diery v makule, epiretinálnu membránu či úrazy oka s cudzím vnútroočným telesom. Štandardne sa vo svete v dnešnej dobe vykonáva 23 gauge vitrektómia, pri ktorej sa používajú nástroje 0,72 milimetra hrubé a pri ktorých je väčšinou nutné zašit' skléru a spojovku oka. Pacienta tak po operácii trápia stehy v oku a následne jazvy, ktoré pacient dlhodobo vníma ako cudzie teleso na povrchu oka,“ uviedla lekárka očné oddelenia Katarína Perduková.

Pri tejto metóde je v ojedinelých prípadoch pacient ušetrený aj od nepríjemnej injekcie na znecitlivenie oka a oko sa znecitliví len kvapkami. Používajú sa nástroje hrubé len 0,4 milimetra. Pacient tak po operácii nemá žiadne stehy ani jazvy na oku a doba liečenia je teda výrazne kratšia.

TASR

## Slávnostné otvorenie Honorárneho konzulátu SR v Lafayette, Louisiana, USA

Za účasti podpredsedu vlády SR László Solymosa a veľvyslanca SR v USA Petra Kmeca sa 28. apríla uskutočnila slávnostná ceremónia otvorenia Honorárneho konzulátu so sídlom v meste Lafayette s konzulárnou pôsobnosťou pre štát Louisiana.

Novo zriadený honorárny konzulát bude viesť honorárny konzul Zoltán Gombos, ktorý si počas slávnostnej ceremónie prevzal konzulský patent vystavený ministrom zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslavom Lajčákom. Súčasťou podujatia bola aj prezentácia veľvyslanca Kmeca o obchodnom a inovačnom potenciáli Slovenska pre skupinu vysokých predstaviteľov štátu Louisiana, mesta Lafayette a členov konzulárneho zboru akreditovaných pre štát Louisiana.

Ceremonii slávnostného otvorenia predchádzali stretnutia a rokovania predstaviteľov Slovenskej republiky s vice-governérom štátu Louisiana Billy Nungesserom, ministrom obchodu štátu Louisiana Donom Piersonom a doyenom diplomatického zboru - honorárnym konzulom Islandu v štáte Louisiana Gregom Beuermanom, s ktorými boli posúdené možnosti rozvoja spolupráce Slovenska a štátu Louisiana v oblasti inovácií, poľnohospodárstva, ochrany životného prostredia, turizmu, inteligentných miest a start upov. Predstavitelia Slovenskej republiky mali taktiež možnosť oboznámiť sa s prevádzkou terminálu na prekládku skvapalneného plynu do námorných plavidiel v prístave Lake Charles. Terminál Magnolia LNG sa stáva významným dopravným uzlom umožňujúcim export skvapalneného plynu do celého sveta, vrátane európskych destinácií.

MZV SR



## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### LUX New York: Hľadanie svätosti v každodennosti

Hľadanie svätosti v každodennosti. Tak znie motto slovenskej katolíckej produkčnej spoločnosti LUX New York so sídlom na Manhattane. Prostredníctvom audiovizuálnej tvorby chce Slovákom žijúcim v USA a v Kanade pomáhať prehľbovať katolícku vieru a zároveň prepájať slovenské farnosti a komunity "za oceánom". LUX New York už viac než šesť mesiacov vysiela naživo sv. omše v slovenčine z Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku. Každú druhú sobotu o 10.00 hod. odtiaľ vysiela naživo pre TV LUX slovenskú omšu, ktorá je otvorená pre širokú verejnosť (najbližšie bude 9. júna 2018). Okrem prenosov liturgie ponúka pravidelné zamyslenia biskupov a kňazov. Vladyka Milan Lach SJ sa napríklad vo svojich krátkych videách venuje témam, akými sú hriech, pôst či modlitba. Počas svojho marcového pobytu v USA nahral sériu zamyslení pre LUX New York aj bratislavský pomocný biskup Mons. Jozef Haľko. Tvorbu slovenskej katolíckej produkčnej spoločnosti dopĺňa pravidelná utorková relácia "Spojení oceánom" z nového štúdia na Manhattane, ktorá ponúka pôsobivé svedectvá viery. Jedným zo zaujímavých hostí so slovenskými koreňmi bol v minulosti aj prezident Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty Andrew M. Rajec. V neposlednom rade, LUX New York ponúka krátke reportáže zo života slovenských farností a komunít, do ktorých sa aktívne zapájajú aj členovia Jednoty. Viac informácií o projekte ako aj o tom, ako môžete LUX New York podporiť finančne, nájdete na [www.luxnewyork.net](http://www.luxnewyork.net).

### LIVE prenosy sv. omší v slovenčine

Z Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku prinášame **priame prenosy nedeľných sv. omší v slovenčine**, ktoré môžete sledovať na [LUX New York](http://LUX New York). Každú druhú sobotu o 10.00 hod. EDT vysiela naživo pre TV LUX slovenskú omšu, na ktorú vás srdečne pozývame (najbližšie 9. júna 2018).

### Relácia Spojení oceánom

Každý utorok si tiež môžete pozrieť **reláciu Spojení oceánom**, v ktorej vám predstavíme zaujímavého hosťa a jeho svedectvo viery. Niektoré časti vysiela od januára tohto roku **NAŽIVO** priamo z nášho newyorského štúdia na Manhattane. Ak sa chcete dozvedieť, kto bude ďalším hosťom, sledujte nás na [Facebooku](https://www.facebook.com).

### Zamyslenia a povzbudenie

LUX New York pre vás zároveň pripravuje **zamyslenia a povzbudenie** biskupov a kňazov. Aj naďalej pokračujeme v zamysleniach **vladyku Milana Lacha SJ**. Jednou z noviniek sú aj "Manhattanské zamyslenia" bratislavského pomocného biskupa **Mons. Jozefa Haľka** z New Yorku, ktoré budeme prinášať pravidelne každý štvrtok do polovice júna tohto roku.

## Letný tábor vo Vysokých Tatrách

Matica slovenská aj v tomto roku pripravila pre naše ratolesti letný tábor vo Vysokých Tatrách.

Využiť môžete týždňový pobyt a to v termíne od **1. - 8. júla** alebo od **8. - 15. júla**. Cena týždňového pobytu je 190.- Eur. V cene je zahrnuté ubytovanie, strava, technické zabezpečenie, kompletný program vrátane vstupov na atrakcie a nákladov na celodenný výlet.

**Pod'te s nami zažiť vzrušujúci týždeň v Tatrách! A čo k tomu potrebujete? Stačí len:**

- **vybrať si termín, ktorý Vám vyhovuje,**
- **starostlivo vyplniť prihlášku a zaslať nám ju mailom na adresu [tabor@matica.sk](mailto:tabor@matica.sk)**
- **zobrať si batoh a dobrú náladu**

Tábor sa už tradične (je to už 27. ročník) koná v Škole v prírode Detský raj v Transkej Lesnej, ktorá je momentálne po rekonštrukcii a ponúka nám ubytovanie v 2-3 lôžkových izbách s vlastným sociálnym zariadením, chladničkou a televízorom. Škola v prírode má aj nový wellness s vírivkou a jednou parnou a jednou suchou saunou.

**Viac na [www.matica.sk](http://www.matica.sk) Kontaktné údaje na organizátora:** Matica slovenská, P. Mudroňa 1036 01 Martin; Tel: +421 43 3812840, +421 905 275 286 E-mail: [tabor@matica.sk](mailto:tabor@matica.sk)

Tešíme sa na stretnutie s Vami!

## Študenti sa u amerického veľvyslanca stretli s manažérmi

Viac než 40 študentov vysokých škôl zo Slovenska, ale i Viedne a Londýna, absolvovalo vo štvrtok 10. mája večer v rezidencii amerického veľvyslanca v Bratislave rozhovory o podnikateľských skúsenostiach s manažérmi dvoch desiatok slovenských a medzinárodných firiem v rámci projektu „Mentor Network Program“. Informovala o tom Jana Illéšová z tlačového oddelenia amerického veľvyslanectva.

Mentorský program pre študentov vysokých škôl pochádza z amerického St. Louis, kde ho zastrešuje podnikateľská asociácia Regional Business Council. Na Slovensku projekt funguje od roku 2007, v rámci neho dostávajú študenti praktické rady od generálnych riaditeľov a manažérov firiem.

„Program poskytuje jeho účastníkom jedinečnú príležitosť rásť a budovať svoju kariéru pomocou kontaktov s profesionálmi,“ povedal americký veľvyslanec na Slovensku Adam Sterling.

Podľa jedného z vľahších účastníkov programu sú mentori otvorení v odovzdávaní svojich skúseností. „Dozvedel som sa, aké chyby mentori počas svojej kariéry urobili, ako sa pripraviť na pohovor alebo to, že vedomosti zo školy, prax a celoživotné vzdelávanie idú ruka v ruku s úspešnou kariérou,“ zhodnotil študent.

TASR

*On May 19, 2018 Zilina Bishop Tomas Galis blessed the statue of the Blessed Mother-Mother of Mercy during the pilgrimage to Butkov.*



**Kamenná socha Panny Márie – Matky milosrdenstva, ktorú 19. mája 2018 počas púte do Skalného sanktuária Božieho milosrdenstva na hore Butkov, požehnal žilinský biskup Tomáš Galis.**

## Najväčšia mariánska socha na Slovensku vyrástla na hore Butkov

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

jej rozprestretých rúk sa zmesíme všetci, nech sme z ktoréhokoľvek regiónu. Hovoríme s ňou, aby sme sa naplnili útechou a nádejou. Matka nepotrebuje mnoho slov. Netreba, aby sme sa príliš namáhali jej vysvetľovať, čo sa s nami deje, ona to vie. Stačí znovu a znovu zašepkať: Zdravas Mária, si matka milosrdenstva, si moja mama,“ povedal v slávnostnej homílii biskup Galis.

Sochu Panny Márie vytvoril v rokoch 2017 – 2018 z kamennej hmoty, ktorej podstatu tvorí cement a mletý vápenc, akademický sochár Vladimír Višváder z Bratislavy. Šesť metrov vysoká socha je umiestnená na trojmetrovom podstavci s textom z Dennička sv. Faustíny „Som nielen Kráľovnou neba, ale aj Matkou milosrdenstva a tvojou matkou.“ Pamätník dopĺňa ruženec ako symbol jednej z najmocnejších modlitieb, ktorými nás Matka Božia priťahuje k jej Jednorodnému Synovi.

Anton Barčík, generálny riaditeľ miestnej cementárne v Ladcoch pri poďakovaní všetkým pracovníkom, ktorí sa zúčastnili budovania Skalného sanktuária. „Dokázali ste, že každý z nás môže v plynucom čase, ktorý nám bol darovaný, meniť svet tam, kde žije a pracuje. Ďakujem vám, že ste na tejto hore zanechali jedinečnú duchovnú stopu aj pre budúce generácie. Prispeli ste k verejnému poukazovaniu na kresťanské korene Slovenska a Európy.“ Osobitne poďakoval autorovi sochy Vladimírovi Višváderovi: „Vytvoril si originálne dielo, ktoré nadchne nielen mariánskych cititeľov, ale rozšíri ohlasovanie Božieho milosrdenstva a Božej milosrdnej lásky z hory Butkov. Preto ti odovzdám darček: kameň z tejto hory. Tento kryštalický vápenc vytvoril tvorca tvorcov, umelec umelcov a darca talentov aj pre teba,“ uviedol.

Doplnením sochy Panny Márie k doterajším sakrálnym dielam na hore Butkov (kaplnke Božieho milosrdenstva, pamätníkom sv. Faustíny a sv. Jána Pavla II., jedinečnej kamennej križovej ceste, k piatim novým kaplnkám svätcov, ktoré dopĺňajú areál úcty Panny Márie, ako aj kostola Božieho milosrdenstva v Ladcoch) má Skalný sanktuár Božieho milosrdenstva tie najlepšie predpoklady stať sa jedným z najživších pútnických miest na Slovensku.

TK KBS informoval Peter Toman

## Súťaž v prednese slovenskej poézie a prózy



**Pod záštitou generálnej konzulky L. Begeç sa dňa 17. marca 2018 konala súťaž v prednese slovenskej poézie a prózy na pôde Lipka Academy v Lindene, NJ. Študenti súťažili v dvoch vekových kategóriách. Všetkým recitátorom úprimne gratulujeme a tešíme sa na ďalší ročník!**

## 99. výročie tragického úmrtia generála M. R. Štefánika

Celoslovenská spomienková slávnosť bola pripravená na 5. mája v obci Košariská a v meste Brezová pod Bradlom pri príležitosti 99. výročia tragického úmrtia generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika, informovali portál obce Košariská aj mesta Brezová pod Bradlom.

Štefánik (21.7.1880 - 4.5.1919) sa stal významným astronómom, vojenským pilotom, francúzskym generálom a jedným z prvých Slovákov, ktorí viackrát vystúpili na najvyšší vrch Álp a západnej Európy Mont Blanc.

Výrazne sa zaslúžil o vznik medzivojnovej Česko-slovenskej republiky, keď spolu s Tomášom Garriguem Masarykom a do určitej miery i Edvardom Benešom bol jej najvýznamnejším zakladateľom. Jeho závrtnú a úspešnú životnú cestu ukončila 4. mája 1919 tragická letecká nehoda pri pristávaní na rodnom území súčasného Slovenska.

Pracoval v meudonskom observatóriu neďaleko Paríža s francúzskym astronómom a fyzikom, profesorom Pierrom Julesom Césarom Janssenom (1824 - 1907). Počas svojich astronomických výskumných ciest navštívil strednú Áziu, Alžírsko, Tahiti, Nový Zéland, USA i Južnú Ameriku. Francúzskym občanom sa stal v roku 1912 a o dva roky ho za jeho činnosť vymenovali za rytiera Čestnej légie.

Cez vojnu spolupracoval s Masarykom a Benešom a cieľavedome sa usiloval realizovať spolu s nimi víziu spoločného československého štátu. Štefánik trval na československej jednote vzhľadom na vtedajšiu situáciu Slovákov v Uhorsku a na vojnové ciele veľmoci. To však ešte neurčovalo vnútorné usporiadanie budúceho československého štátu. Štefánik uvažoval o spojení Čiech, Moravy, Sliezska a Slovenska, pričom každé z týchto území, teda i Slovensko, malo mať vlastný krajinský (zemský) snem. Tieto zatiaľ málo konkretizované predstavy neboli vzdialené od úmyslov niektorých slovenských politikov.

Po príchode zo Sibíri sa Štefánik počas mierovej konferencie v Paríži v marci 1919 kriticky vyjadril o malom počte Slovákov vo vláde, ale aj o Pittsburskej dohode a niektorých Benešových krokoch v oblasti zahraničnej politiky.

Štefánik bol jedným z iniciátorov a signatárov tzv. kyjevského zápisu z 29. augusta 1916. Uvádza sa v ňom, že „Česi a Slováci sú si vedomí, že sú úzko spätí navzájom tak životnými záujmami, ako i pokrvnými zväzkami. Želajú si vyvinúť sa v jednotný, politicky nerozdielny a slobodný národ pod záštitou a protekciou štvordohody“. Nebola to proklamácia etnického a jazykového čechoslovakizmu, ale prihlásenie sa k politickému národnému spoločenstvu, čiže vyjadrenie vôle utvoriť spoločný štát zdôrazniac zároveň, že sa neuvažuje o dvojfederácii konzervujúcej kritizovaný rakúsko-uhorský dualizmus. Minister vojny ČSR Štefánik 4. mája 1919 odletel z talianskeho mesta Udine do Bratislavy na dvojplášňiku Caproni Ca.33 spolu s dvoma talianskymi letcami a mechanikom. Zomrel pri leteckej nehode v Ivanke pri Dunaji, ktorú neprežil ani jeden z členov posádky.

Prezident SR Rudolf Schuster udelil Štefánikovi 7. mája 2004 hodnosť generála Ozbrojených síl Slovenskej republiky in memoriam. Generálovi Štefánikovi udelili 21. júla 2004 preukaz vojnového veterána s číslom 0001. Stalo sa tak na slávnosti v Košariskách pri príležitosti 124. výročia jeho narodenia.

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## Matica slovenská v plnení potrieb krajanov

Stanovami Matice slovenskej deklarovaný, najvyšší poradný orgán MS pre krajskú problematiku, Rada pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri MS zasadá na matičnej pôde spravidla raz ročne. Z ostatného rokovania (jeseň 2017) bola prijatá takmer desiatka záverov, ktoré i napriek tomu, že majú odporúčací charakter, Matica slovenská počas roka postupne naplňa. Jedným zo spoločne prijatých záverov bol aj bod, kde zástupcovia z ôsmich krajín sveta a predseda SZSZ odporučili Matici slovenskej, aby oslovila slovenské univerzity s požiadavkou realizácie výskumov „Ako ďalej Slováci...“

Krajské múzeum MS odposlalo na slovenské univerzity návrhový list, na ktorý zareagovali tri univerzity a jedna akadémia (PU PO, TU KE, UMB BB a Akadémia umení v BB), ktoré prejavili záujem a vyžiadali si spresňujúcejšie informácie. Ústredným problémom spustenia realizácie výskumov sú financie, ktoré sa MS snaží získať z dostupných relevantných zdrojov.

Matica preto iniciovala stretnutie na MZVaEZ SR.

Delegácia MS bola prijatá 18.4.2018 riaditeľom kancelárie štátneho tajomníka Lukáša

Parížka, Ladislavom Ballekom a podpredsedom ÚSZZ, Petrom Procháckom. Správca MS, Maroš Smolec, informoval o činnosti MS smerom ku krajanom. Tá stojí najmä na vedeckej práci (ročnica Slováci v zahraničí, príprava odborných seminárov, účasť na medzinárodných konferenciách, lektorské posudky, príprava výstav), prevádzkovaní dokumentačného strediska a poskytovania bádateľských a výpožičných služieb (knihnica a archívy KM MS), osvetovej a stykovej činnosti (publikovanie článkov MS v krajských periodikách, obojstranné návštevy a stykové podujatia) a tiež v plnení záverov RSZZ pri MS. Na rokovaní bolo definované s akými požiadavkami krajanov sa MS stretáva a akým spôsobom sa ich snaží v rámci svojich možností naplňať. Diskusia smerovala aj k možnosti čerpania grantov MZVaEZ SR práve na účel realizácie výskumov univerzít krajskej problematiky.

Prvá návšteva MS na pôde MZVaEZ SR sa pretavila do pozvania Matice slovenskej na zasadanie Rady vlády pre krajské otázky (RVKO). Vznik RVKO v roku 2016 iniciovali minister zahraničných vecí, Miroslav Lajčák a predseda ÚSZZ, Ján Varšo. Jej úlohou je strategické usmerňovanie výkonu štátnej politiky smerom ku krajanom. Má medzirezortný rozmer. Je to stály poradný a koordinačný výbor vlády v oblasti krajskej problematiky. Jej členmi sú štátni tajomníci MZV, MK, MŠ, MV, MF a predseda a podpredsa ÚSZZ. Na svoje 4. rokovanie RVKO prvýkrát pozvala aj hosti: predsedu Matice slovenskej, Mariána Gešpera a riaditeľku KM MS, Zuzanu Pavelcovú. RVKO sa zaoberala grantovým systémom ÚSZZ a jeho navýšením pre krajské potreby, osvedčeniami Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, rozdeľovaním dotácií krajanom v roku 2018 a pripravovaným podujatím v oblasti krajskej problematiky. V závere rokovania predseda MS, Marián Gešper, informoval RVKO o činnosti MS smerom ku krajanom a víziách budúcej práce MS v prospech Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Rokovanie RVKO viedol štátny tajomník, L. Parížek, ktorý uviedol: „Oceňujem záujem nového vedenia Matice slovenskej o úzku spoluprácu v oblasti starostlivosti o našich krajanov“

Zuzana Pavelcová



## Deň otcov môže zúročiť radosť z otcovstva

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

*Puto s dieťaťom jestvuje navždy a je skalopevné*

V čase choroby som sa vnútorne živil čítaním kníh. Ako otca troch synov i ako pedagóg ma dojal poučný príbeh učiteľa Dennisa Manneringa. Ide v ňom o nádherné, podnetné obnovenie vzťahu medzi otcom a synom. V istej triede zadal učiteľ študentom tretieho veku zaujímavú úlohu. Do týždňa mali niekoho navštíviť a povedať mu, že ho majú radi. Po týždni sa učiteľ spýtal, či by chcel niekto rozpovedať svoje zážitky. V triede ostalo ticho. Napokon sa odváhal vystúpiť istý urastený päťdesiatnik. Povedal: „... ozvalo sa vo mne svedomie. Našepkávalo mi, že presne viem, komu mám povedať, mám ňu rád“. Viete, pred rokmi sme sa s otcom veľmi pohádali a odvtedy naše vzťahy nikdy neboli v poriadku. Vyhýbali sme sa vzájomným stretnutiam. Teraz som však presvedčil sám seba, že záujem k otcovi a poviem mu, že ho mám rád. Toto rozhodnutie akoby mi z chrbta sňalo ťažký balvan. Zatelefonoval som domov a spýtal som sa otca: „Otec, môžem sa dnes podvečer u teba zastaviť? Musím ti niečo povedať.“ Otec zareagoval podráždene, ale napokon súhlasil. Zazvonil som pri dome mojich rodičov a modlil som sa, aby práve otec prišiel otvoriť dvere. Našťastie prišiel on, a nie matka, a vtedy som mu povedal: „Otec, prišiel som ti len povedať, že ňu mám rád.“ Otec akoby sa v tom momente zázračne premenil. Črty tváre mu zmäkli, vrásky akoby zmizli, ba pustil sa do plaču. Načiahol sa, aby ma objal, a šepkal: „Ja ňu tiež mám rád, syn môj, ale nikdy som nebol schopný povedať ti to.“ Ešte chvíľu sme sa s otcom držali v objatí a potom som odišiel. Už dlho som sa necítil tak fantasticky.“

*S prejavmi priazne a dôvery netreba otáľať*

Ešte niečo podstatné treba dodať k predchádzajúcemu príbehu. Podľa autora knihy Dennisa Manneringa údajne dva dni po tomto zmierení sa otca so synom dostal otec infarkt a v bezvedomí ho previezli do nemocnice. Tento múdry syn nám odkázal: neodkladajte veci, o ktorých viete, že ich musíte urobiť. Využite čas, urobte, čo treba, a urobte to teraz, aj čo sa týka upevnenia vzťahu s otcom. To je kresťanský princíp, múdry prístup: odpúšťať si navzájom a milovať jeden druhého, a to už dnes, v Deň otcov, lebo zajtra by už mohlo byť naozaj neskoro.

KN 24/2010

## Radíme: O vysokom krvnom tlaku treba predovšetkým vedieť

Vysokému krvnému tlaku (artériovej hypertenzii) sa v medicíne hovorí aj tichý vrah. Jeho prejavy sú často málo výrazné a zvyknú sa pripisovať iným ochoreniam. Pokiaľ sa však vysoký krvný tlak cielene nesleduje a nelieči, môže sa prejaviť až cievnou príhodou vo forme mozgovej porážky alebo srdcového infarktu či vážnym poškodením obličiek, varuje nezisková organizácia Únia pre zdravšie srdce.

Podľa nej neexistuje žiadna iná choroba, ktorá by bola tak ľahko rozpoznateľná a pritom tak často nepoznaná alebo nesprávne liečená. Za najdôležitejšie preto považuje pravidelné meranie tlaku. Za hypertenziu sa považuje opakované alebo pretrvávajúce zvýšenie krvného tlaku - podľa definície na hodnoty 140/90 Torrův a vyššie.

„Ak vysoký krvný tlak nie je dostatočne kontrolovaný, postupne stúpa. Neliečená alebo nesprávne liečená hypertenzia ohrozuje hypertoniakom množstvom potenciálnych komplikácií, ktorým je možné predísť, ak krvný tlak kontrolujeme,“ hovorí prezidentka Slovenskej hypertenziologickej spoločnosti Slavomíra Filipová.

Upozorňuje však, že lieky nestačia a potrebná je aj zmena životného štýlu. „Ľudia s vysokým krvným tlakom nemajú zakázaný aktívny pohyb, práve naopak,“ konštatuje. Hypertoniakom odporúča najmä nesúťažné športy ako beh, chôdza alebo plávanie. Zároveň radí vyhnúť sa negatívne stresu a fajčeniu. „Ak ide o fajčiara, prestať fajčiť predstavuje najúčinnejší bod v zmene životného štýlu,“ hovorí.

Okrem toho radí dodržiavať tri jednoduché rady, ktoré vychádzajú zo stravy obyvateľov Stredomoria. „Každý deň sa hýbať, jesť ovocie, zeleninu, strukoviny, obilniny. Raz týždenne ryby, biele mäso, vajčka, sladké. Sem-tam k tomu červené víno, ale s mierou. A len raz mesačne červené mäso,“ menuje. Zároveň pripomína, že najlepšie sú čerstvé potraviny, nie spracované.

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# Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

# Jednota



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

Ročník 127

STREDA, 6. JÚNA 2018

Číslo 5971

## Nikdy sme nežili v takom neistom čase ako v súčasnosti

Svet je v súčasnosti plný paradoxov a nikdy sme nežili v takom neistom čase ako v súčasnosti. Uviedol to minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák na otváracom brífingu 17. mája bezpečnostnej konferencie GLOBSEC 2018 Bratislava Forum.

Šéf slovenskej diplomacie vyzdvihol tri trendy, ktorým musí podľa neho spoločnosť momentálne čeliť. Jedným z nich je neistota. „Nevieme, či sa ráno nezobudíme a nebudeme musieť čeliť jadrovému útoku,“ povedal. Podľa jeho ďalších slov taktiež nevieme, ako sa vyvinie situácia v Sýrii, okolo brexitu, či nás nezasiahne teroristický útok.

Ďalšou z výziev súčasnosti sú neobmedzené možnosti. Technológie a digitálna éra spoločnosti podľa Lajčáka umožňujú robiť veci, ktoré boli doteraz nemožné. „Technológia je však aj plná rizík,“ upozornil šéf slovenskej diplomacie. „Vieme, ako nás môže ohroziť kybernetický útok,“ zdôraznil.

Svet je podľa Lajčáka v súčasnosti plný paradoxov, a to je tretí trend, ktorému spoločnosť musí čeliť. Nikdy sme nemali taký prístup k informáciám ako v súčasnosti a napriek tomu v spoločnosti prevláda zmätenosť v rôznych otázkach, domnieva sa Lajčák. Preto sú podľa neho dôležité také konferencie, ako je GLOBSEC, kde sa môžu „formovať názory na podobné výzvy“ a môžeme sa na ne pripraviť.

Medzi hlavnými tematickými celkami tohtoročného bezpečnostného fóra GLOBSEC 2018 figurovala budúcnosť Európskej únie, ale aj otázky tradičnej bezpečnosti v súvislosti so summitom NATO, ktorý sa uskutoční v júli v Bruseli, boj proti terorizmu a vnútorná bezpečnosť či budúcnosť vzťahov Ruska. Ďalšie témy sa týkali kybernetickej bezpečnosti, technológií a inovácií vrátane umelej inteligencie. Na programe bola i debata o spravodlivej globalizácii a budúcnosti svetovej ekonomiky.

Organizátori GLOBSEC-u očakávali účasť približne 140 vystupujúcich z rôznych sektorov, čo je najviac v jeho doterajšej histórii. Naplánované boli tri súbežné programy v samostatných sieňach, ako aj vyše 40 sprievodných podujatí v spolupráci s medzinárodnými partnermi vrátane svetových think-tankov. Celkovo mal GLOBSEC 2018 privítať približne 1000 hostí zo 60-70 krajín sveta.



FOTO TASR - Marko Erd

**Na snímke minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák reční počas Medzinárodnej bezpečnostnej konferencie GLOBSEC 2018 v Bratislave 17. mája 2018.**

**Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak spoke at the international security conference Globsec 2018 in Bratislava on May 17, 2018.**

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## Deň Európy v Bratislave

Bratislava si 9. mája pripomenula Deň Európy, teda symbolické narodeniny Európskej únie. Pre obyvateľov i návštevníkov hlavného mesta bol pri tejto príležitosti pripravený na Hlavnom námestí celodenný program. Jeho súčasťou boli nielen kultúrno-hudobné vystúpenia v slovenčine a ďalších európskych jazykoch, ale tiež kvízy a rôzne súťaže súvisiace s EÚ. Nechýbali ani stánky s informáciami o jednotlivých členských krajinách únie.

„Pre Slovákov, ako pre všetkých Európanov, je 9. máj spoločný sviatok. Pripomína nám, hneď po dni víťazstva v druhej svetovej vojne, čo sa stalo v roku 1950, keď pán Schuman prišiel s deklaráciou, ktorá navrhla raz a navždy ukončiť odvekú rivalitu vedúcu k toľkým vojnám a vytvoriť nový model Európy. Model založený na mieri, na spolupráci a na dobrom živote,“ hovorí Ladislav Miko, vedúci Zastúpenia Európskej komisie (EK) na Slovensku. Podľa riaditeľa Kancelárie Európskeho parlamentu (EP) na Slovensku Roberta Hajšela sa Európska únia stala pre štáty ako Slovensko zárukou istoty a obyvateľom otvorila nové šance a väčší priestor.

Organizátorom Dňa Európy v Bratislave bolo Zastúpenie Európskej komisie na Slovensku a Európsky parlament - kancelária na Slovensku. Partnerom podujatia sú Úrad vlády SR, Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky (MZ-VaEZ SR) a hlavné mesto Bratislava.

Dňa 9. mája 1950 predstavil francúzsky minister zahraničných vecí Robert Schuman návrh na vytvorenie európskeho úradu pre uhlie a oceľ, ktorý by dohliadal hlavne na výrobcov týchto strategických surovín a prispel tým k zabezpečeniu mieru v Európe. V tom čase sa kontinent spamätával zo zničujúcich následkov dvoch svetových vojen a oceľ bola hlavnou surovinou pre zbrojársky priemysel. Tento návrh, známy ako Schumanova deklarácia, je považovaný za začiatok budovania Európskej únie.

Pôvodnými zakladajúcimi členmi EÚ boli Belgicko, Francúzsko, Nemecko, Taliansko, Luxembursko a Holandsko. Prvé rozšírenie nastalo v roku 1973. Slovensko vstúpilo do EÚ v roku 2004. Zatiaľ posledné rozšírenie únie bolo v roku 2013, kedy sa jej 28. členom stalo Chorvátsko.

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## Najväčšia mariánska socha na Slovensku vyrástla na hore Butkov

Monumentálnu kamennú sochu Panny Márie – Matky milosrdenstva požehnal v sobotu 19. mája 2018, počas tradičnej púte do Skalného sanktuária Božieho milosrdenstva na hore Butkov v Ladcoch žilinský biskup Mons. Tomáš Galis. Viac ako 6000 pútnikov zo všetkých regiónov a diecéz Slovenska, ďalej z Poľska, Čiech a Rakúska, za účasti desiatok kňazov a rehoľníkov v „predvečer“ sviatku Zoslania Ducha Svätého vystúpilo na horu Butkov. Stali sa priamymi účastníkmi požehnanja monumentálnej kamennej sochy Panny Márie – Matky milosrdenstva, slávnostnej svätej omše a sprievodných duchovných akcií.

„Dnešným dňom akoby symbolicky dopĺňame výjav z Golgoty. Aj sem na Butkov prichádza ku krížu Mária. A podobne ako sa pri Ježišovom kríži stala Jánovou matkou, tak je v istom zmysle prítomná pri kríži každého z nás... Milí pútnici, prichádzajme na toto miesto stretnutia s nebeskou Matkou. Tá socha je úmerná veľkosti nášho Slovenska. Do

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**Viac ako 6000 pútnikov zo všetkých regiónov a diecéz Slovenska, Poľska, Čiech a Rakúska sa stali priamymi účastníkmi požehnanja monumentálnej kamennej sochy Panny Márie – Matky milosrdenstva.**

## Deň otcov môže zúročiť radosť z otcovstva

Aj tohto roku v nedeľu 17. júna oslávime Deň otcov. Úcta k mužom, ktorí prevzali na seba úlohu otca a zodpovednosť za otcovstvo, sa slávi už od roku 1910. V súčasnosti však treba pozdvihnúť identitu a postavenie otca v rodine. Z histórie sa dozvedáme, že o zavedenie Dňa otcov sa zaslúžila Sonora Smartová Doddová z mesta Spokane v americkom štáte Washington. Inšpiroval ju k tomu Deň matiek, ktorý slávime v druhú májovú nedeľu. S. Smartová chcela, aby sa oslavovali takí vzorní otcovia, akým bol jej vlastný otec William Smart. Bol vojnovým veteránom. Zomrela mu manželka, keď jeho dcéra Sonora mala šesťnásť rokov. Otec sa vtedy postaral nielen o ňu, ale aj o jej päť súrodencov. Tento príbeh akoby chcel pripomenúť, že aj dnešní muži potrebujú nachádzať vzor otca.

**Otec je silný pojem v prirodzenej i duchovnej rovine**

V tretiu júnovú nedeľu majú teda otcovia svoj sviatok. Vždy, keď počujeme toto silné slovo – otec, môže sa nám v širšom kontexte vybať viacero interpretácií. Väčšine z nás kresťanov napadne aj spojenie: Boh Otec, Svätý Otec, otec biskup či duchovný otec. V súčasných komplikovaných časoch mnohí hľadajú skutočný model muža a pozitívne vzory otcovstva. Viacerí z nás, ktorí sme si zamilovali zosnulého pápeža Jána Pavla II., si možno spomenú, ako on vnímal vlastného otca. Karol Wojtyła viac ráz spomínal, že v jeho pamäti navždy zostal jeho otec ako pokorný, pracovitý muž plný bázne. Bol to chlap, ktorý často kľučal pod krížom, aby vyprosoval pomoc aj pre svojho syna. Dnes už vieme, ako sa tieto modlitby zúročili. Veď jeho syn, označovaný ako veľký pápež, za štvrtstoročie výrazne ovplyvnil takmer každú oblasť života.

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