



Jednota

THE UNION

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President's Easter 2018 Message

Patches of snow are still on the ground in Cleveland as I write this message, while storms hit the East Coast.

Eventually, along with spring comes the blossom of new and reawakened life. This includes human life. The days are longer and the gloom of winter is slowly changing.

As the Catholic Church reminds us, the focus of our salvation is the Risen Christ as we celebrate the feast of Easter. This after all is the foundation of our Christian/Catholic beliefs.

Many of us who are middle aged or older have memories of Easter seasons past where Holy Saturday services were held at 6:00 A.M. not 6:00 P.M. It sometimes seems that the easier or more convenient we make things the less they are appreciated. We also take things and people for granted. This is true in many areas.



Andrew M. Rajec

The monks at St. Andrew Abbey are members of our Society.

These men have a daily routine that gives their lives, work and prayers to God through service to others. Their dedication to their vocation is admirable.

Our 2018 Convention delegates will be able to visit the Abbey during their stay. They will also be able to visit the Slovak Institute which for many years was administered by Fr. Andrew Pier, and now by Mr. Milan Kobulsky, an FCSU member, which is housed in the Abbey.

Our Society is sponsoring a video that will inform visitors to the Slovak Institute about its history and its contents.

As many of the churches originally founded by Slovaks and staffed by Slovak priests and nuns are merged or closed, many of the old traditions slowly die out in the United States. We give credit and urge you to support and participate in your church to keep and respect these traditions where and while they still exist.

Our prayers are with all of you and especially those of you who have health concerns or have loved ones with health concerns at this Easter season.

Spring is here! Happy Easter!

Christ is risen, Let us rejoice and be glad!

Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, Radujme sa!

Andrew M. Rajec
National President



Hurry!!!

2018 Jednota Scholarship

EXTENDED Deadline

Is **March 31st**

See page 3 for details

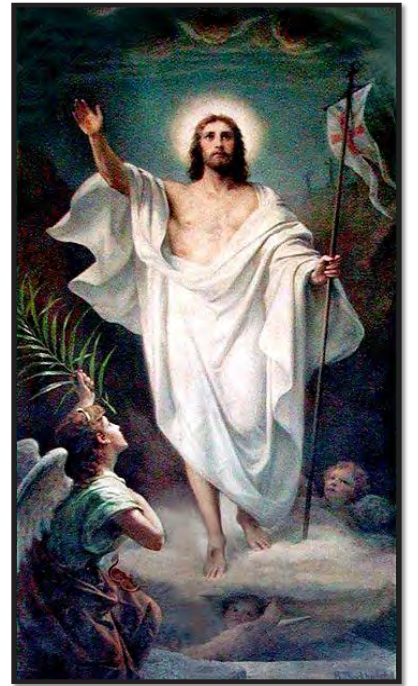
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**Christ Jesus,
Savior, Is Risen
(Pán Ježiš Kristus
Vstal z Mŕtvych)**

**Easter Sunday of
the Resurrection
of the Lord –
April 1, 2018**

Victory over the Grave, Bernard
Plockhorst (1825 – 1907)



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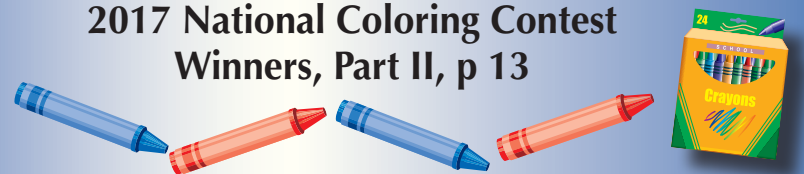
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2017 National Coloring Contest
Winners, Part II, p 13



Insights and Viewpoints



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

March 25, 2018 - Palm Sunday

Gospel: Mk 14 1 – 15:47

The Passion Reading for Palm Sunday is a three-year rotation of Matthew's, Mark's and Luke's Gospel account of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of these Gospel accounts describes the Last Supper, the arrest and trial of Jesus, his passion and death, and ends with his burial. The Divine Inspiration that produces these Gospels works through the unique perspective and



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

teaching gifts of each of the Evangelists. Three different accounts speak of the same mystery of Faith that we profess each time we take part in Holy Mass; "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again."

This year we hear the account from St. Mark. His account of the Passion, while the shortest, does not short change us on bringing various elements of the mission and ministry of Jesus into the Passion. First we hear of his visit to the house of Simon the Leper. Simon no doubt had been cured so as to be living back in the community and entertaining people. It was in the midst of this meal that a woman comes in and anoints the feet of Jesus. It's interesting that the people with Simon would become indignant at Jesus allowing this outcast to anoint him while in the house of Simon who was once an outcast. This scene cuts away to the account of Judas betraying Jesus. We then begin the account of the Last Supper that we are all so familiar with. In all of this Jesus remains focused to his mission of savior of the world. His ministry and the plots and attacks are all based on who Jesus is, and the failure of people to recognize Him.

As we enter Holy Week it might benefit us to connect what we hear on Palm Sunday with what we heard in Matthew's Gospel on Ash Wednesday, When you give alms..., when you pray..., when you fast... Jesus didn't suggest or give an invitation to give alms, pray and fast, he speaks under the assumption that we are doing these and gives an instruction on how to do so with sincerity and devotion. How have we been at our Lenten almsgiving, prayer and fasting? In the Passion account Jesus does not merely remind us, he shows us how to sincerely offer ourselves in obedience to the Father.

Jesus gave the ultimate alms when he gave himself completely to death on the cross. He gave all that he had without holding back anything. A very basic question for us is when we give alms do we merely give from our surplus or is it sacrificial in that it results in giving up doing or buying something that we really had our hearts set on. Jesus prays the ultimate prayer in Gethsemane when he says; "not as I will, but as you will." The "Thy will be done," in the Lord's Prayer is not just a nice phrase, it is the way Jesus prayed and lived. We are gifted with a free will and when we freely surrender our will to the will of the Father we find that we will be both challenged to let go and enriched by a new sense of freedom that comes in trusting God. The last point is fasting. Fasting is very often directly connected to repentance Jesus, himself, has no need to repent for he is without sin. Rather he takes on our sins and accepts the punishment for our sins so that we might truly experience the forgiveness of sins in our lives, and ultimately be happy with him forever in heaven.

April 1, 2018 - The Easter Vigil

Gospel: Mk 16: 1-7

The Easter Vigil Mass is the greatest liturgy of the year and is both the culmination of and the point of departure for the entire year that precedes and follows it. As such the way in which the Church proclaims the Scriptures at the Vigil is of great importance, since at this pivotal moment new catechumens and candidates are presented with an integrated teaching of the faith, and those in attendance who are already initiated into the sacramental life of the Church are reminded of their belief and its biblical origins.

The Easter Vigil has always been rich in Scripture, including at one time no fewer than fourteen readings. In every form it had from its earliest days, the Easter Vigil always fashioned its readings into a beautiful pedagogy that led the Christian faithful to hear, ponder, and respond to a sequence of Scriptures that illustrated the history of our salvation. The present Vigil expresses this movement of worship and catechesis over the course of a total of nine readings, which may be reduced to five "where grave pastoral circumstances demand it."

The Vigil readings start with the first chapter of Genesis (Gen 1:1—2:2). The Easter Vigil thus "begins at the beginning" and establishes the creation of all existence as the cornerstone of God's relationship with his people. This lesson in turn leads into the theme of covenant, which begins to be addressed in the story of the binding of Isaac, told in the second reading of the Vigil, also taken from the book of Genesis (Gen 22:1-18). The covenant made with Abraham is next confirmed and vindicated once more in the Vigil's third reading, which recounts the exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt (Exo 14:15-15:1).

No fewer than four readings from the prophetic books of the Old Testament grace the Vigil Mass following the exodus account, and they carry the story of salvation forward across many centuries of the history of Israel. These prophetic readings remind us that God reveals himself not only in words but also in deeds —actions anticipating God's ultimate "deed" of raising Jesus from the dead.

Capping the Easter Vigil's scriptural catechesis, the two last readings are taken from the New Testament (from Saint Paul and one of the gospels) and they set forth the primal moment of the Vigil in dramatic fashion: the church which has been shrouded in darkness for much of the liturgy is now bathed in light, a soaring triple alleluia is sung in anticipation of the Good News, and the message of the re-capitulation of all creation is announced in the gospel.

Having retraced the history of salvation, the Easter Vigil liturgy reveals to its participants a profound biblical instruction concerning creation, revelation, and redemption, themes which are not only a powerful part of Jewish scriptural piety but also which form a basis for Christian theology and spirituality. Those sharing in the Vigil are invited to relive the seminal moments in the past when God shaped the lives of his people; the arc of Easter catechesis then leads them into the rites of baptism and the Eucharist that follow the Vigil readings and which are their natural fulfillment.

From start to finish every word and gesture of the Easter Vigil liturgy is steeped in meaning. The nine readings which together form its biblical core impart lessons which steer the hearers of the scriptures on the way of salvation, preparing them to encounter the risen Lord, to recognize him, and to embrace him with the fullness of Paschal joy. Alleluia—Happy Easter!



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11	MONDAY, APR. 2
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25	MONDAY, APR. 16
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2	MONDAY, APR. 30

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Easter Message from the National Chaplain

Just as Ash Wednesday this year coincided with Valentine's Day and the feast day of our patrons, Saints Cyril and Methodius, the day on which the Church celebrates her most solemn feast this year is shared with another popular observance. April 1 this year is both Easter Sunday and April Fools' Day.

People have been telling jokes and pulling pranks on April Fools' Day since the nineteenth century. Today, all one needs to do go to an online search engine and type "April Fool" and, in an instant, countless jokes and pranks appear on the computer screen for one to try out on an unsuspecting victim. April Fools' Day gives people the chance to have a little fun and laugh at the expense of others.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to Peter and the Apostles. They saw and heard and touched him (1 John 1:1). They told others about their experience, and the word spread.

At just about the same time, however, others were conspiring to discredit the Apostles' testimony. Their work formed the foundation of some early Christological heresies. People who believe in the words of Peter and the apostles, they claimed, are simple fools.

Jesus was only divine and not human. He only pretended to be. Since this is the case, He really did not experience suffering and death. The notion that Jesus rose from the dead was just a figment of the Apostles' imagination.

Just envision the consequences if these claims were true. It would mean Peter, Paul, the Apostles, and all the original witnesses to the Resurrection lied. It would mean for the last twenty centuries Christians who endured torture and death did so in vain. It would mean the seven Sacraments, by and through which faith teaches one encounters the Risen Christ, are nothing more than meaningless and empty rituals. It would mean the foundation of our faith is based on a deception.

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. No fooling! All glory and praise to Him, now and forever.

Happy Easter.



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Fr. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain

Easter Greetings from the National Vice President

On Easter morning, we will get our Sunday's best ready to attend Mass, where we will reflect on our Lord Jesus who died so we could live. He rose again so we would believe. His Resurrection is the renewal of life; what more beautiful time to remember our Lord Jesus, than as the beauty and newness of nature is springing up around us? Spring, after all, is the beginning of new life.

On behalf of my family, and myself, may the blessings of Jesus guide you, protect you and be with you this Easter season and always.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice-President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Easter Greetings from the Executive Secretary

Easter is a time of hope and renewal. The earth starts to blossom with new life, the days are longer, neighbors are out and about, and winter is behind us. As a new season approaches, that of our Lord's Resurrection, let us all take this time to reflect on our Lord's sacrifice for us and renew our faith in Him.

On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families a Joyous Easter.

Kenneth A. Arendt,
Executive Secretary



Kenneth A. Arendt

Easter Message from the National Treasurer

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the holiest season in the church calendar. The Lenten Season represents a time in which we as Christians, spend time in fasting and prayer as we recall the Lords Forty Days in the desert.

As we approach Holy Week and spend time in reflection and prayer as we recall the suffering, crucifixion and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ, for the remission of our sins. May we realize that His sacrifice was to teach each of us that we are all responsible for the lives we live and how we show that in the actions of our daily lives? As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter morning let each of us reflect on how our Lord wants us to treat each other in these actions and words.

I wish that each of you always find peace and forgiveness in your heart during this Holy Season, and that each of you shine brightly and shed light to others in spreading this peace and forgiveness.

On behalf of my wife Cathy and the entire Matta family, we extend our prayers and thanksgiving, along with the Easter blessing to each of you and your families.

George F. Matta II
National Treasurer



George F. Matta II

ATTENTION

COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

Deadline Extended
MARCH 31, 2018

From the desk
of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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- 75 scholarships in the amount of **\$1000.00**.
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Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
March 31, 2018

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

Finding Your Path Home to God

In his Confessions, St. Augustine wrote, "You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You." This beautiful line reveals the essence of the journey we are all on to discover and embrace the joy that comes from a deep relationship with God.

Edith Stein said, "Wherever you seek truth, you seek God, whether or not you know it." This axiom reveals how essential faith is to every aspect of human life. But realizing this reality and embracing the journey can radically alter the course of our lives and lead us to progress in leaps and bounds towards living a life of joy.

The Christopher News Note "Finding Your Path Home to God" highlights stories that demonstrate the uniqueness of each individual's journey. For instance, Leah Libresco Sargeant was an atheist blogger who found her path to God through her love of dancing. In an interview with America magazine, she said:

"When I started learning to waltz, I spent a lot of time just practicing the basic waltz step – the same kind of endless repetition as the Hail Marys of the Rosary. The reason I was supposed to keep practicing was so that my feet could keep the rhythm, no matter what...I wound up thinking of the Rosary as my chance to follow a 'basic step' for prayer. My goal wasn't to produce epiphanies about the lives of Christ and Mary, but to fall into God's rhythm and to be ready to move if he led me."

Falling into a rhythm of holiness is one of the great rewards of journeying with purpose towards God. What a beautiful account of discovering this rhythm through the circumstances of one's life. This is how God works through all of our experiences to call us home to His loving embrace.

In an interview with Marcus Grodi of The Coming Home Network, Leila Marie Lawlor, who was raised by secular humanist parents, found herself drawn to the Narnia stories of C.S. Lewis. Later in life, the Christian themes of her childhood reading led her to discover the Scriptures, and through this journey she encountered Christ.

When the wife of journalist and avowed atheist Lee Strobel turned to God during a family health crisis, he undertook a hunt for facts to turn her away from a life of faith. But after interviewing scholars about the authenticity of the Gospels, he became a believer himself.

Blessed John Henry Newman spent years on his journey toward Catholicism and came to understand that, despite his towering intellect, it was only through surrender to the workings of the Holy Spirit that he would find his way home. In his poem "Lead, Kindly Light," Newman wrote: "Meantime, along the narrow rugged path / Thyself hast trod / Lead, Savior, lead me home in childlike faith / Home to my God."

It takes discernment to realize the path God is leading us along and humility to follow it. That discernment comes from recognizing the gifts we have been given and searching for ways to utilize those gifts to bring about the good in ourselves and the world around us. When we surrender to this process, we will discover the rhythm of holiness alive within our hearts. That rhythm can sustain the soul through a multitude of experiences and lead us to a way of joy that keeps us connected to God as we walk the unique path we are called to each day.

Visitors & Volunteers Welcome at the Newly Reopened Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum in Mississauga

The Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum (SCHM) is noted for its collection of authentic Slovak regional costumes and, through its active demonstrations of heritage crafts and travel exhibits, brings to life the cultural, social and historic heritage of the Slovak pioneers in Canada.

With an opening day of March 25, 2018 in a new location, the museum's roots trace back to Expo '67 in Montreal at a time when all Canadians felt proud and united. An outgrowth of that spirit was the city's post-fair invitation to ethnic groups to showcase their cultures in the pavilions on the Expo site. Twenty groups, including Slovaks, eagerly responded. It proved to be a great tourist attraction and the beginning of exhibiting multicultural traditions that continues to this day.

The Slovak pavilion's curator was Mrs. Margaret Dvorsky. She continued to keep the flame alive when she moved to Toronto and founded the Slovak Canadian National Council (SCNC) to help give Slovaks a voice and visibility within the Canadian Multicultural arena. She continued to gather Slovak historic artifacts from across Canada, developing an impressive collection which she displayed in the Heritage Room at the Slovak Cathedral of Transfiguration in Markham, Ontario. In 2003, the Markham Museum, on viewing this heritage display, invited the Slovak community to showcase the artifacts at their historic pioneer village site. The SCNC coordinated three Slovak heritage festivals at this pioneer village by transforming it into a Slovak village of olden days. This was so successful that the Markham Museum offered the SCNC exhibit space for a five-year term. That emboldened members of the Slovak community to form a formal Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum organization with a travelling exhibit. After the five year term in Markham expired, the Slovak Museum moved to a location in Oshawa.

In Oshawa, a small store front was rented in a location that was once a very Slovak neighborhood with most of the small wartime houses built by a Slovak-owned company. This location was in a very promising area with a Slovak church across the street where potential volunteers were willing to help. Unfortunately, after two years, the owners of the building decided to sell and the museum had to move. Upon extensive discussions with the museum board and members of the Slovak community, it was suggested to look for a location in Mississauga where a large Slovak community also exists.

SCHM worked with Mississauga Heritage and Mississauga Museums to find suitable space but nothing was found. While the majority of its contents had to be moved into storage, SCHM was able to continue organizing events and mounting exhibits. In 2017, the Canadian Slovak League in Mississauga approached SCHM with an offer to share their CSL Branch #7 Hall in Mississauga and to rent the upstairs space for the museum. SCHM accepted this offer and by the end of 2017 had moved in. It has been a very interesting journey



The Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum Board of Directors (L – R): Luba Henderson, Ivetka Sitina, Alena Melas, Joe Radvansky, Helen Bucic, and FCSU District 19 Recording Secretary Anne Mitro.

and the newly reopened Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum is looking forward to the future with renewed enthusiasm.

SCHM and CSL have plans to work in cooperation, providing educational events about our Slovak Canadian heritage as well as those that support good relations within our Slovak community and among other multicultural Canadian communities. As we experience this renewed growth, SCHM is looking to add two board members to its Board of Directors, and needs volunteers for its growing committees. It is an exciting time to join this worthwhile organization and help it expand its programs and workshops. Even a little bit of time from many hands can help create something that the Slovak community can really be proud of. We are a very friendly group and we would love to meet you. For more information you can call Alena Melas, the museum's president, at 416-721-7652 or e-mail her at slovakmuseum@gmail.com

The Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum welcomes everyone to view its exhibit and learn about the rich Slovak Canadian cultural heritage and its contributions to the Slovak and Canadian societies during their events. A schedule of events can be found by visiting www.fcsu/events

- Submitted by Alena Melas, President, Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum

Purple Heart Finds Its Way Back to Daughter of Career Serviceman

Lynda Firment, Branch 181, received a wonderful gift on Sunday, February 25, 2018, when her father's Purple Heart was returned to her at her Florida home by an Army Infantry Major. The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving with the U.S. military.

Her father, MSG Jesse David Yockey, was a career military serviceman, serving in both WWII and the Korean War until his untimely death in 1956. Jesse was wounded in combat on September 1, 1951, in North Korea while assigned to the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and for which he received the Purple Heart. An amazing piece of history has now been reunited with his daughter.

- Submitted by Lynda Firment, Branch 181



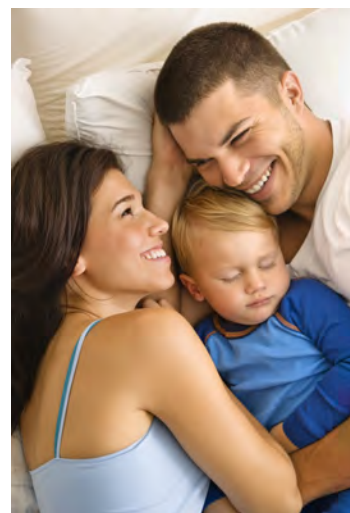
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HELP SS CYRIL & METHODIUS CELEBRATE ITS
100th ANNIVERSARY

SS Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church is seeking old photos, newspapers, articles, other memorabilia, and traditional Slovak artifacts that would show the history of the parish. We are reaching out to current & past parishioners, alumni friends, and fellow Slovaks who have been associated with church over the past 100 years. These items can be mailed to the church office, sent via email, scanned and returned, or dropped off at our parish office if the donor lives within the local area. Items will be displayed on various mediums such as display boards, banners, the church web site and on church property during the celebration year. The 100th Anniversary Planning Committee promises to take exceptional care of the items that are provided. Please contact our History Chairperson Bev Moran at bandmoran94@hotmail.com or 586-254-6534

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**Higher amounts available - please contact your
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Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II

For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin • March 2018



Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls ages 4 thru 12 that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

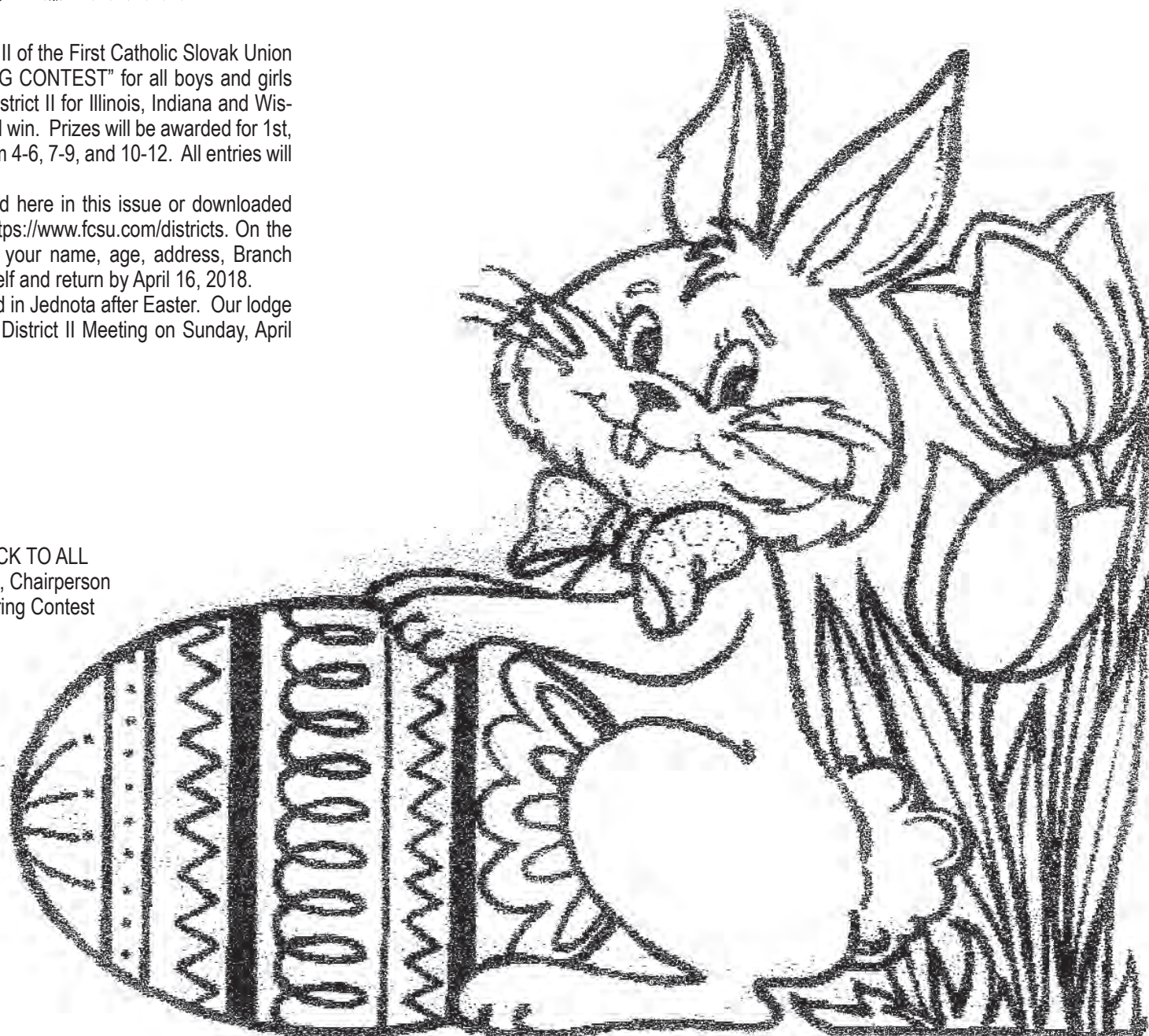
Send in your coloring page – printed here in this issue or downloaded from the FCSU website by going to <https://www.fcsu.com/districts>. On the back side of the picture, please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 16, 2018.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in Jednota after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



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Father Blazek's March Reflection – Formation of Spiritual Discernment

Father Blazek SJ—February 26, 2018



Formation of Spiritual Discernment

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

This is a very Ignatian or Jesuit intention, recognizing the importance of discerning (seeing) the will of God. It is a skill that can be taught and improved with practice. As a Jesuit, the Holy Father clearly recognizes the importance of formation in discernment of vocations and

apostolates both for individuals and in communities.

Pope Francis, as a son of St. Ignatius, is well familiar with the Spiritual Exercises developed by the founder of the Society of Jesus in the early 16th century. These guided reflections presume that spirits good and evil are influencing God's creatures by means sometimes blunt and obvious, but at others more subtle and nuanced.

Members of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, the Apostleship of Prayer, commit daily to making an examination of conscience. During this break from the ordinary busyness of the day, we reflect on how we have received grace from God, how we have moved towards him or away, and which spirits may have been motivating us towards good or evil. St. Ignatius considered this daily examination to be extremely important. He himself is said to have practiced self-examination to a heroic degree.

Friends, discernment is not merely the territory of priests or religious. All vocations are best discerned carefully, in prayer, and in dialogue with a trusted spiritual advisor. While vocations to marriage, to a profession, to religious life, or the clerical state certainly require such reflection, groups can also practice communal discernment. Religious congregations certainly do so, but also boards of trustees, civic groups, even a book club might discern God's will in spiritual conversation when considering mission, identity, or major policy decisions.

May the good Lord grant his Church and all individuals and groups within it the gift of discernment.

Points for Meditation

Do I pause to reflect, meditate and ask the Lord to guide me in the major and minor decisions of my day? In what ways has the Holy Spirit helped me to see or hear God's will in these first months of 2018? Has the bad spirit, the enemy, the tempter, been whispering deceptions to me in secret?

Scripture

Phil 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.



(L – R) FCSU Members Serfina Surlak, Marie Bozekova, Nina Holy, Daniel Tanzone, Joan Skrkon, St John Nepomucene Pastor Fr. Richard Baker, Katerina Novakova, New York Cardinal Dolan, Jan Skrkon, and St. John Nepomucene Parochial Vicar Fr. Martin Kertys

Branch 716 Members Attend New Church Dedication

On January 7, 2018, the Archbishop of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan celebrated the Dedication and Blessing of the new St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish on Roosevelt Island, New York, NY. The parish is one of the three united parishes of East River Catholics, together with St. John Nepomucene and St. John the Martyr in New York City. Members of Branch 716 were in attendance.



Dr. Michael Kopanic delivers a "crash course" in Slovak at a recent genealogical conference.

Slovak News Agency Interviews FCSU's Michael Kopanic

On February 18, 2018, the Slovak news agency TASR interviewed Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Branch 553 member and regular contributor to Jednota.

In the interview, Professor Kopanic talked about what motivated him.

"My mother did not teach me the Slovak language, so I had to learn it at the university and in Slovakia. When my children were born, I decided to speak with them only in Slovak, and we read (and prayed) in Slovak every day. They understood the language of their ancestors and I trained and maintained my Slovak language," said the professor who introduces himself to Slovaks as Michal Kopanič.

Kopanič is currently Professor of History in the Department History and Course Chair of European History at the University of Maryland University College. He specializes in the history of Eastern and Central Europe, Slovakia, and Slovak immigration into the United States. He has published many articles and is a member of the International Czech-Slovak Genealogy Society. He visited Slovakia for the first time when he was just 23 years old, and then worked on his doctoral thesis. He regularly visits Slovakia for study and on vacation.

He has taught Slovak not only to his children and grandchildren, but also many students and acquaintances. He has also taught privately, at the university, and at several churches.

"When my daughters finished college and moved away, I decided to send them a new word every day to help them further develop their knowledge of the Slovak language. Later I added sentences with the words as examples. Several years later, someone found out what I was doing and asked if I could also send it to him by email, (then yet others requested I send them that), and I'm doing to this day. About a year later, someone suggested that I publish the words on Facebook," stated Kopanic.

"I also regularly contribute to the Slovak-American newspaper Jednota, where last year, I published two articles on useful Slovak words and phrases, and in October 2017, I presented a lecture on Slovak at the CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International conference, so I continue every day to try and help people improve their Slovak," said Kopanič.

Michal Kopanič was born in Ohio to a second generation Slovak-American father, whose parents emigrated before the First World War; his mother emigrated from Slovakia during the interwar period. His parents used Slovak only when they talked to their parents, and to each other, and when they did not want their children to understand something (such as Marilyn Monroe!). They did not teach their children the Slovak language. They saw no reason for it and thought it lacked purpose, and that life in America would only make it more complicated. Michal remembers the phone calls with his grandmother (baba) - all he understood was malý Michal ("little Michael").

"It was a different time, and the knowledge of Slovak did not help you get a job, and that's why the Slovaks came here, and they themselves had to learn English. I was always curious about what they were saying, and I wanted to know Slovak," recalls Michael.

He added that at that time, it was not a popular among young people to let others know about their foreign origins. They avoided the language of their parents and grandparents and kids listened to rock 'n' roll. The change did not take place until the 1970s, when a movement revived that celebrated one's nationality and place of origin.

- TASR Collaborator Michaela H. Janotová; translation by Dr. Michael Kopanic



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – March Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Friday, March 30, 2018, in observance of Good Friday.

SS Cyril & Methodius Celebrated its Annual Feast in Mississauga

On Sunday, February 18, 2018, the largest Slovak parish in Canada, Sts Cyril and Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario, celebrated its Annual Odpust (Feast Day) – and a “feast” was indeed celebrated in the church hall after Mass. The event featured a good meal and entertainment provided by the younger dancers of the Canadian folk ensemble based out of Mississauga, Ontario, the Vychodna Slovak Dancers. Attendance was absolutely great, as well, and included many members of Branch 785.

Sts. Cyril & Methodius
Slovak Parish
ODPUST
Sunday, February 11, 2018
One Mass 10:30 am
Luncheon to follow



Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



Jednota Members Invited to Celebrate Anniversary of Pittsburgh Agreement in NYC



The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of organized Americans of Slovak ancestry, will host a special celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the signing of

the Pittsburgh Agreement on Sunday, April 15, 2018, in New York City. It was the Slovak League of America along with the Czech National Alliance, the representatives of organized American Slovaks and Czechs, which called and hosted the historic meeting in Pittsburgh in May 1918 and invited Thomas G. Masaryk to the gathering. Masaryk would become the first president of Czecho-Slovakia in October 1918. The Pittsburgh Agreement spelled out in detail the rights of autonomy for the Slovaks who would partner with the Czechs in the new state. Unfortunately, Masaryk later failed to honor the promised autonomy and instead presided over a strong centralist regime in Prague. The hyphen found in the original spelling of the new republic would disappear in 1923.

To celebrate this historic document in the history of the liberation of the Slovaks and Czechs, the Slovak League, will host the gathering at St. John Nepomucene Parish located at the corner of East 66th Street and First Avenue in Manhattan. The Rev. Richard D. Baker serves as pastor of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John the Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. Slovak Mass will be celebrated at 10:15 a.m. in church and the luncheon and cultural program begins at 1 p.m. in the parish social hall located at 406 East 67th Street. Principal speaker at the luncheon will be Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., national president of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. A cultural program will feature the talent of the young tenor and star of the Metropolitan Opera, Andrew Pulver who will present an array of beloved Slovak folk songs. A spirited display of Slovak folk dances will also be presented by a local Slovak folk ensemble. Area Jednota members are invited to attend the program which includes a luncheon free of charge to all participants. An enjoyable afternoon is assured.

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- Submitted by Daniel Tanzone, President, Slovak League of America and Branch 41 Member

Throwing out Morena Customs - Ending Winter in 2018

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. Ph.D.

After a cold winter, almost everyone is looking forward to spring. How many times have we not wanted to set winter on fire, and throw it down a river to burn up and float away. That is exactly what Slovaks did!

The Slovak tradition of throwing out winter is known as the Vynášanie Moreny (The Throwing out of Morena). The older children of a village created an effigy stuffed with straw and dress it in female clothing. Then they paraded around the village, sing songs, and either set fire to it and/or just drowned it in a nearby stream or river. This often occurred around Smrtná nedeľa (Death Sunday - two Sundays before Easter) or near Kvetná nedeľa (Palm Sunday), as spring is arriving.

For Christians, the throwing out of Morena also symbolized the triumph over darkness and death caused by sin and the beginning of new life, a renewed life made possible through the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. On Kvetná nedeľa, young girls and boys would carry pussy willows (bahniatka) to symbolize this renewal of life and the hope of salvation.

Origins of Morena

Morena's origins stemmed from the Old Slavic pagan era, when she represented the ancient goddess of death, winter, and nightmares. Later Morena came to symbolize the witch of winter. In Slavic mythology, she was a young woman of about 20 years, and people hated her for bringing on cold and sickness. The ancient Slavs labeled her a host of different names, which in Slovak is associated with the words such as mor (terror or plague), or mora (nightmare): Marzanna (in Polish), Morė (in Lithuanian) or Morena (in Czech, Slovak, and Russian) and also Mara, Maržena, Morana, Morėna, Mora, or Marmora.

Other regions of Slovakia used variations, including Smrtna, Kyselica, Kaniža, Mariena, Marmuriena, Marmariena, Marmoriena, Mariena, or Muriena. If the young men took out a male figure to burn, they called it by different appellations as well, depending on the region and the time in history: Dedko, , Dadko, Kysel, chuap, Simko, or Ďädka. The 19th century Pan-Slav scholar Ján Kollár mentioned the names Dedka, Dida, and Donda as used in his time.

Some scholars claim Morena's origins stem from the Latvian goddess called Māra, who would supposedly swoop down and grab a person's body after death occurred. The 13th century Czech Christian encyclopedia, Mater Verborum, noted that Morena resembled the Greek goddess Hecate, whom the Ancient Greeks associated with witchcraft and sorcery. The 15th century Polish chronicler Jan Długosz believed Morena resembled Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture.

Other chroniclers have attributed Morena's name from the Latin word for death - mors. A few point out the Russian word mor meant "pestilence," and was often associated with plagues. Several Russian dialects use the word mara, which denotes a hallucination, phantom, or vision. Some scholars have also noted the similarity to the word mare, meaning a demonic spirit in Germanic and Slavic folklore. Regardless of the possible origins, Morena always carried a negative connotation and was associated with mortal ill fortune and death.

During the Middle Ages when the custom originated, adults and later priests would carry a figure of Morena and perform the tossing ceremony. By the 18th century, that changed and young girls of marriageable age were assigned the task of taking out Morena.

The precise date for burning and throwing Morena into a stream or river always occurred around the start of spring. In southern Slovakia, they would do so on Palm Sunday, or a day or two after it. Most often the ritual took place on the fifth Sunday of Lent, on Smrtná nedeľa (Death Sunday), also called Čierna nedeľa (Black Sunday).

In some areas of the Spiš region, people called this Sunday Súľková, and the lady of the house (gazdina) would prepare a scrumptious meal for the occasion, for it would remind the family of the kernels of grain, which symbolized an abundant harvest and a plentiful of grain for bread, etc. (Súľková was named for the use of šúľky or šúľance (a tasty Lenten treat made from strips of cut potato dough that get their name from the rolling movement (šúľanie in Slovak) during kneading. They resemble the ears of fully grown corn, and express the hope for a future bountiful harvest. Most Slovaks usually served šúľance with ground poppy seeds or some type of fruit jam. My Spiš-born mother used to make them with just sugar and butter and they were absolutely delicious! For a recipe, see: <http://www.slovakcooking.com/2010/recipes/poppy-seed-noodles/>).

The Roman Catholic Church formerly referred to the first Sunday of Lent as Passion Sunday, marking the two week period of Passiontide. Statues were all draped in purple cloth, the color of repentance, in preparation for the commemoration of Christ's suffering and death. But in 1960, the Church changed the name to the "First Sunday of Passion," even though some traditionalist Catholics, Western Rite Orthodoxy, Protestant denominations such as Lutherans and Anglicans continue to refer to it as Passion Sunday. Today the Catholic Church also terms Palm Sunday as Passion Sunday, since the Passion is read in the Scriptures on that day.

By the 20th century, most of Slovakia fixed the date for throwing out Morena around March 20-21. The folk tradition celebrated the end of winter and the start of new life. Today the folk custom still survives in some villages of the Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania, and Slovakia.

Past Customs

More typically throughout Slovakia's history, teenage girls performed the task of sending Morena to her fate. Early on Death Sunday, or the night before, the older girls would create Morena, each one donating an article of clothing. People in the village were happy to offer some old clothing for they believed that anyone lending clothing for dressing the old witch would be rewarded with tall flax (veľký ľan) during the growing season. Typically, young Slovak girls dressed up an old woman's figure (a few villages used an old man), which they made out of sticks in the shape of a cross or parts from an old broom, and stuffed it with

The burning of Morena.



A typical Morena parade.

straw. They put a dress, or in some places, torn or tattered clothes on the figure of Morena and paraded her around the village.

The girls would often bring her to the church, prop her against the wall, and attend a Mass or religious service. After the service, they would go to the upper end of town, arrange themselves into a parade with Morena in the middle, and walk to the lower end of the town to the bridge, singing as they went, usually accompanied by the young men who would shout out to the pretty girls.

In the Orava region of northern Slovakia, the girls, usually aged 14-18, would call out:

Slunko, slunečko, poj na moje líčko, dáme ti vajíčko. Otvárame vráta, dáme ti kus zlata.
Translation:

Sun, sunshine, shine on my cheeks, I am giving you an egg. We open the gate, we are giving you a piece of gold."

The girls would then go and meet some boys in the village who were carry a similar figure whom they called Ďädka. They dressed up the figure in the clothes of a young man and usually put a hat on its head. Like the girls, they also sang after the dressing up of the victim. When the girls arrived, the boys tried to get their Ďädka to give Morena a kiss, but the girls tried to prevent it. Sometimes the boys succeeded and it all made for good theater. Then the groups divided up and proceeded to a stream or river. The boys would strip their Ďädka and toss him in the water. Then the girls would sing as they disrobed Morena, before throwing her into the water. Usually much merriment and laughter accompanied this symbolic rite.

In some western Slovak villages, the girls would sing a folk song about Morena's fate in a Western Slovak dialect (the dialect is not as soft as the Slovak literary language which is based on a Central Slovak dialect). One may listen to the rhyme at this website, and read my translation below it (<http://datab.us/z9uHgMANyWw#Morena>).

Na volačej streše
holubienka nese, holubienka nese
tak ona hrkuta, tak ona hrkuta
Morenu nam pyta, Morenu nam pyta
My si ju nedame
až o Velkej noci, až o Velkej noci
bude sa vydavat, bude sa vydavat
fialkovem venci, fialkovem venci...

Translation:

On someone's roof
a dove is sitting, a dove is sitting
and it is cooing, and it is cooing
asking us for Morena, asking us for Morena
We won't give her
until Easter day, until Easter day
she will set off, she will set off
in a violet wreath...

In all Slovak regions, the pattern was similar. When they reached a bridge, a stream, or a river, they disrobed Morena, slipped her off the rod, set her afire, and tossed the blazing

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Throwing out Morena Customs

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straw lady into the water. In some villages, after Morena was thrown into the river, each girl would also throw the piece of clothing she took off from Morena into the river and eagerly watch to see which piece of clothing would be the first to float to the shore. That might portend a future marriage. Then they tied red ribbons and silk kerchiefs on the rod, reassembled their parade form and proceeded singing along their way to the house of the mayor, who would reward them with money or a free meal for ridding the town of Morena.

During the ceremony, they would prepare Morena, the old witch (stará stryga), for her fate, and as they threw the old lady (stará baba) to her liquid grave, they would sing. While in the USA, we might sing "Ding dong, the witch is dead," in Slovakia they would sing the following verse three times, as in this rendition from eastern Slovakia:

Ach Morena, Morena,
Pre koho žeš umrela?
My vieme, preto zaspievame:
Pre staré dievky,
Pre švarné dievky!

Translation:
Oh Morena, Morena,
Whom did you die for?
We know, therefore, we are singing:
For the old girls (the spinsters),
For the comely maidens!

The exact words of the song could vary from village to village, but the spirit of expelling winter and drowning of the old witch were common across Slovakia.

When studying Slavic customs, Ján Kollár recorded what the young men sang when they were tossing out Dedko:

Dedko náš, Dedko,
požrau si nám všetko,
nič si nám nenechaj,
tak si sa dobre mau.

Our Old Man Winter, Old Man Winter,
You gobbled down everything
and left nothing for us,
so you had it good.

One may view an old film version of the traditional throwing out of Morena by girls from the 1933 film *Zem spieva* (The Land Sings) at this website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozHtY2y62Pw>.

A more modern version of the ceremony from the town of Kanianka, in the Prievidza District in the Trenčín Region of western Slovakia, may be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-l7x2IOacE>. The children in the film plead for the sun to come out and mark the coming of spring (jar), and say that Easter (Veľká noc) is beckoning to arrive.

Following the ceremony, in some places, the young girls would return to their homes in silence, confident that the worst days of winter had passed and spring with its warmer sunshine was just around the corner, with the promise of a good planting season, a bountiful harvest, and end of winter colds and flu. The custom was also supposed to drive out disease, unclean forces, and death in general.

In other places, a "little queen" led the girls, and led the way with a decorated twig (called a májik or letečko) or bahniatka (catkins-willow branches). Empty egg shells, colorful ribbons, and birds made of pasta decorated the branch. They collected eggs for Easter from folks that they passed by.

Generally for all Slovaks of long ago, as it is for us today, Kvetná nedela and early spring customs associated with it symbolized a time of hope and renewal. The long winter was finally ending, and prayer with the right ritual would bring about a bountiful and happy year. As Christ rose from the dead, so would the plants and spirits of the faithful arise in a new flowery celebration of life.

Here is yet another rendition of carrying away Morena from the source,

Ludové piesne a koledy - Nesieme Morenu (Folk songs and carols - We carry away Morena).

<http://hudba.zoznam.sk/akordy/piesen/nesieme-morenu/> (Accessed March 7, 2015).

1. Nesieme Morenu, v oleji smaženú,
kde ju zanesieme, keď sa sami nevieme?
2. Na richtároch vráta, tam je veľa zlata,
richtárka dá zlatku, že má kamarátku.
3. Richtár keď ju zočí, svet sa s ním zatočí,
povie, to je krása, dá nám celú prasa.

Translation:
1. We carry Morena greased in oil,
where will we take her, when we ourselves don't know?
2. To the village leader's gate, there is a lot of gold there,
the village leader will grant us gold, so he has a friend.
3. The village leader is face to face with her, the world revolves around him,
it is said, that if she is beautiful, he will give us a whole pig.

While getting a pig as a reward for throwing out Morena was not so common, it made for

lots of fun and frolic in the acting out of the event in an age without television and movies. It offered relief from the mournful season of Lent. And for Christians, they moved on to prepare for the coming grueling days of Holy Week and the final end with the joyful Resurrection of the Lord.

Throwing out Morena in Modern Times

In Slovakia today, some youthful inhabitants take it upon themselves to enact the de-witching of the weather, or a Matica Slovenska branch might sponsor the event. Some schools even sponsor a local field trip to toss out Morena with children in primary school and even in kindergarten. The children themselves would make the effigy and dress, and could vary in size from a small puppet to a life-size dummy. The children's enactment of throwing out the winter-witch Morena has helped preserve a long tradition in Slovak history.

So the tradition does continue, and has revived more since the fall of communism. For instance, at the Humanita farm, near Kráľová nad Váhom, just about an hour east of Bratislava, Morena is thrown into the Váh River as an annual event. The Humanita farma is a children's farm which aims to help preserve nature, good health and cultural traditions.

Similarly, the hiking club in Prešov in eastern Slovakia has kept celebrating this ritual for nearly 60 years to say good riddance to the cold winter and to welcome another hiking season. Prešov students and members of various hobby clubs created several Morena figures. The Prešov hiking club even hosted a creative competition which resulted in 20 different entries. Then it gave an award to the best dressed Morena. Then the water-sportsmen toss them down the Torysa River, which symbolically unlocks the waters to flow.

If they could do it in Slovakia, they could do it in America. A few years ago, several Slovak-Americans of the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands took it upon themselves to create a Morena and tossed her into Johnstown's Conemaugh River, one famous for its spring floods.

There are many rivers in places like Pittsburgh, Cleveland, New York, and elsewhere, so Slovak-Americans might think about reviving this tradition to keep it alive for the youth. Actions inspire them, and the Cuyahoga, Allegheny, Monongahela, Ohio, Mahoning, the Hudson, the Potomac, and other rivers provide plenty of opportunities to renew this most intriguing custom of our ancestors.

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St. Matthew's Society Successful Soccer Tournament

The St. Matthew's Society, Branch 45, organized an indoor soccer and ping pong tournament at the church hall of St. John Nepomucene in New York City on February 17, 2018. The main organizers of the event were Jan Zeman, Jozef Korcak and Anton Kucharovic.

The three soccer teams that competed were: Old Boys from New York, Young Boys from Brooklyn, and Fofo from N.J. The event featured enthusiastic participants in an excellent atmosphere of good sportsmanship and fraternalism. Team Young Boys ended up being the winner; second place went to Fofo; and in third place was Team Old Boys. After the tournament, participants enjoyed refreshments and food prepared by Jan Skrkon, President of Branch 716, who also donated \$50 toward the tournament. In addition, homemade Slovak cookies were baked by FCSU's Anna Zemanova. The ping-pong tournament winner was Jozef Korcak and the winning prizes were provided by the event's sport directors. To all the participants, we truly appreciate their presence and heartily congratulate the winners.

- Submitted by Jozef Jurasi, Branch 45



Participants in Branch 45's indoor soccer tournament included sport directors Jan Zeman and Jozef Korcak.



Team Young Boys were the winners of the 2018 St. Matthew Soccer Tournament

A lively Ping-Pong Tournament was part of the February event.



The tournament crew enjoyed an afternoon of fraternalism at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall in New York City.

SS Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues

The 2018 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is progressing well. As many of you know, the funds raised in this annual Appeal are sent to the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius, the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries.

The Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. If you have already made your donation to the 40th Annual Appeal, thank you. If not, please consider doing so by filling out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated. As of March 7, the 2018 Appeal has raised \$6,190. Again, thank you for your goodness and generosity to the Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Donations received before November 30, 2018 will be credited toward the 2018 Appeal.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

40th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Amount \$ _____

Please make check payable to **Slovak Catholic Federation** and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
Slovak Catholic Federation
Sacred Heart Church
120 Jefferson Street
Swedesburg, PA 19405

Pittsburgh Agreement Celebration Planned for May

On Thursday, May 31, 2018, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement with a commemorative program at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The program, which will begin at 6pm, will feature presentations by various government officials from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as well as local officials. A reception will follow the formal program.

The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918, was an important occurrence in the course of events leading to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state after the First World War. The catalyst for drafting and signing of this agreement was the visit to Pittsburgh of Professor Thomas Masaryk, who later became the first President of Czechoslovakia. The agreement was also signed by leaders of local and national Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations.

Admission for this memorable event is \$35.00 per person (NO tickets will be printed). Admission can be purchased from Carol Hochman at carolh1541@aol.com or from Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000. Make checks payable to WPSCA and mail to Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220. No admissions will be sold at the door. Admission must be purchased by May 15.

A special commemorative limited edition medal has been struck for this event. See photo below. The medal and wooden stand are available for \$35.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. They will



also be on sale at the reception. They can be purchased through the same contacts as above.

A poster (11x17) of the Pittsburgh Agreement will also be on sale at this event for \$10.00 or through the contacts listed above.

Special hotel accommodations have been made with the Hampton Inn across the street from the History Center and the Homewood Suites one block away. The group rate at the Hampton is \$169.00 a night plus tax. The Hampton can be contacted at 412-288-4350 or you can book online. The rate at the Homewood Suites is \$179.00 a night plus tax. Their phone number is 412-232-0200. At either hotel, just mention you are with the Pittsburgh Agreement group. Cutoff deadline is May 2, 2018.

A symposium is planned for the afternoon of May 31st from 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the University of Pittsburgh in room 4130 of Posvar Hall.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The panel will include speakers familiar with Czech, Slovak and U.S. history during years surrounding the signing of The Pittsburgh Agreement. The panelists will be Dr. Milada Polisenka from Anglo American University in Prague, Dr. Slavomir Mihalek from the Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences and Dr. Hugh Agnew from George Washington University.

If you have any further questions, you can contact Czech Honorary Consul Carol Hochman at 412-855-6581 or Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul and Branch 254 Member

Scholarships Available Through United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH

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

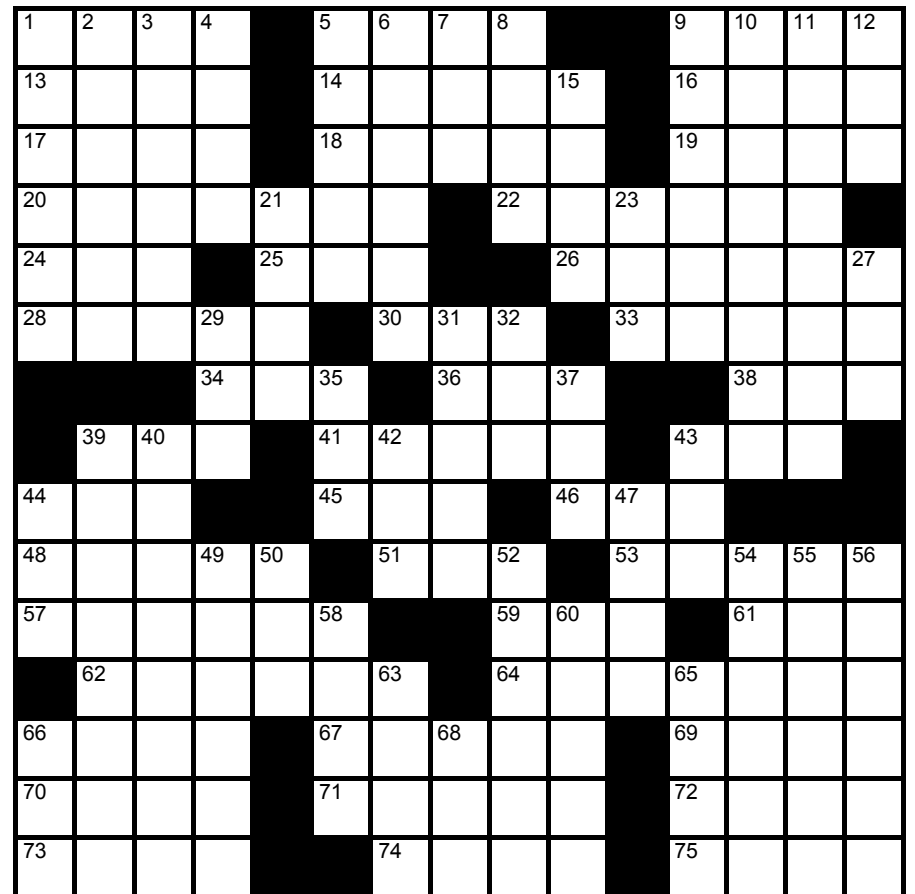


The one-time scholarship application and rules may be obtained by visiting www.americanslovakclub.com.

Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Easy marks
- 5 Auction actions
- 9 Stone
- 13 ___ of Man
- 14 Ridgeline
- 16 Race track shape
- 17 Larger ___ life
- 18 Hermit
- 19 Snowbank
- 20 Doom
- 22 Current
- 24 Miner's find
- 25 Bring to bear
- 26 Vile
- 28 Taxi ticker
- 30 Electricity source
- 33 Kitchen appliance
- 34 Silent assent
- 36 Knock
- 38 Capture
- 39 Store posting (Abbr.)
- 41 Cherish
- 43 ___ el Amarna, Egypt
- 44 Golf ball position
- 45 Sweet potato
- 46 Kind of truck
- 48 Acclaim
- 51 Slot machine symbol
- 53 Western group
- 57 Spectacles
- 59 Bard's "before"
- 61 Cowboy's moniker
- 62 Consolidates
- 64 Stretched to the limit
- 66 ___ no good
- 67 Caper
- 69 Orchard item
- 70 Espied

Down

- 71 Pageant wear
- 72 Soprano Gluck
- 73 Puts two and two together
- 74 Kind of school
- 75 Deli breads
- 1 *Friends*, for one
- 2 On the beach
- 3 Celestial body
- 4 Transmit
- 5 Unguents
- 6 Pressed
- 7 Cozy room
- 8 Flower holder
- 9 Singer Goulet
- 10 Cooked too long
- 11 Mardi Gras, e.g.
- 12 Airline to Amsterdam
- 15 God of love
- 21 Continental coin
- 23 Old PC platform
- 27 Cotillion girl
- 29 Nav. rank
- 31 Fragrance
- 32 Disfigure
- 35 Calendar square
- 37 Favorite
- 39 Had breathing spasms
- 40 Yielded
- 42 Apply gently
- 43 Low card

- 44 Bandleader Brown
- 47 Receptive
- 49 Negative particles
- 50 Asian occasion
- 52 Go to bed
- 54 Hard, like a stare
- 55 Oil source
- 56 Some role players
- 58 Plane reservation
- 60 Summation
- 63 Scissors cut
- 65 Joust verbally
- 66 Neighbor of Canada, briefly
- 68 Feather's partner

SLOVAK RADIO CULTURAL & SOCIAL CLUB FUNDRAISER

WHEN: SATURDAY: APRIL 28, 2018
WHERE: PARMA TAVERN
5680 BROADVIEW RD.
PARMA, OH
TIME: 6:00P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

ADMISSION IS BY TICKET ONLY
TICKETS ARE \$25.00 PER PERSON

For tickets, contact: Henry Horvath at 440-463-2009

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

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

See Solution on Page 16

Easter Traditions From Slovakia

Lubos Brieda, slovakcooking.com

Bear Paws (Medvedie Labky)



1 yolk, 2 cups flour, 2 sticks margarine, 100g ground walnuts, 100g powdered sugar, 1 packet of vanilla sugar

Mix all ingredients until you get a sticky dough with the consistency of play-dough. Grease and dust with flour crescent-shaped metal baking forms. Press the dough into the forms and bake for 8 minutes at 375F. Coat with powdered sugar or dip ends in chocolate.

Hearts (Srdiečka)



4 cups flour, 2 cups powdered sugar, 1.5tsp baking powder, 200g margarine, 2 eggs

Knead the dough until you get a smooth texture. Then roll out and cut out various shapes. Bake for 12 minutes at 350F. Join two matching halves with jam (raspberry and red currant work great) and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Rings (Venčeky)



250g flour, 250g margarine, 100g ground hazelnuts or almonds, bit of salt, half a spoon of cinnamon, 1 teaspoon of orange zest and juice, 1 egg, 5 spoons of white wine

Combine the ingredients to make the dough. Roll out and use dough circle cutters of two different sizes to cut out the ring. Bake for 15 minutes at 350F. Coat in powdered sugar combined with vanilla and cinnamon. Combine the cut out dough and repeat.

Rum Balls (Rumové Guľky)



2 cups powdered sugar, 2 cups ground walnuts, 1 yolk, shot of rum

Mix all ingredients together and roll into a ball. Coat in powdered sugar, chocolate, or coconut shavings. That's it, no baking required!

Walnuts (Oriešky)



Dough: 150g ground walnuts, 5 cups flour, 1.5 sticks butter, 1-2 eggs, 0.8 cups sugar, 2 tbsp cocoa

Cream 1: 4 eggs, 0.5 cups powdered sugar, 1 packet vanilla sugar. Cream 2: 1.5 sticks butter, 0.5 cups powdered sugar

Mix the dough ingredients together and bake in a greased and floured metal form for 8 minutes at 375F. Whisk ingredients for Cream 1 in a double boiler until it becomes like honey. Let cool down. Whip Cream 2 ingredients together and add to Cream 1. Use the cream to join two halves to make a delicious walnut.

Chocolate Truffles (Šuhajdy)



Chocolate: 150g chocolate, 3/4 stick of Crisco, 3 tsp cocoa
Filling: 100g of ground nuts, 150g powdered sugar, 1/2 stick of Crisco, 2 teaspoons of cocoa, 0.4 cups milk

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or on low heat. Stack paper cups on a tray and pour quarter inch of chocolate into each. Save half the chocolate for later. Let cool. Cook the ingredients for the filling on low heat. Spoon onto the chocolate. Top off with the remaining chocolate and a walnut for decoration.

You will find all these recipes along with step-by-step photo instructions at SlovakCooking.com

Fánky



2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 2 yolks, 2 tsp powdered sugar, half a stick unsalted butter, 4 tbsp cream, 2 tbsp white wine (or rum), 1/2 cup of milk

Mix the ingredients and place the dough in a fridge to cool. Then roll out to 1/6th inch. Cut into rectangles the size of your palm. Cut two slits near the short edges. Tread the ends through the slits to make bow ties. Fry in hot oil until golden brown. Top with powdered sugar.

Šišky (Donuts)

2 cups flour, one yolk, 3/4 cups milk, one packet yeast, 2 tablespoons powdered sugar, 1/5 stick unsalted butter, dash of salt. Topping: jam filling and powdered sugar



Mix all ingredients to get a smooth dough. Let rise. Then roll out on a dusted board to one inch thick. Dust the rim of a drinking glass with flour and use it to cut out circles. Fry in oil. Top with jam and sugar.

Easter Treats!



Easter Sunday

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.

As we know from the Gospels, Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day following his crucifixion, which would be Sunday. His resurrection marks the triumph of good over evil, sin and death. It is the singular event which proves that those who trust in God and accept Christ will be raised from the dead.

Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar.

- As posted on Catholic Online

2017 JEDNOTA COLORING CONTEST RESULTS, PART II

REGION 7

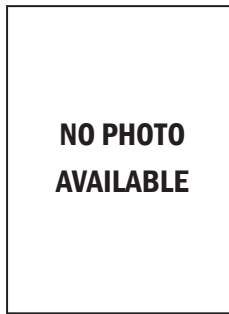
..... Age Group 4-6



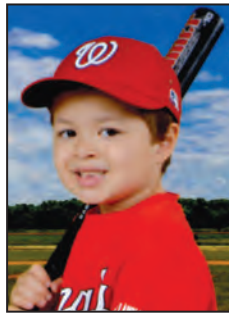
First Place
Alexander
Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL



Second Place
Carolyn
Riedmuller
Oak Lawn, IL



Third Place
Arianna Lazzara
New Lenox, IL



First Place
Ryan Riedmuller
Oak Lawn, IL



Second Place
Peter Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL



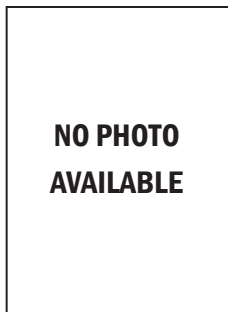
Third Place
Nicholas Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Regina Turner
Gays Mills, WI



Second Place
Jack Foley
Chicago, IL



Third Place
Julia Glogovsky
Warsaw, IN

REGION 8

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Sarah Hergel
Toronto, ON M9B
4E6 CANADA



Coloring Contest 2017 Honorable Mentions

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| REGION 1
Jet Griffis
Roan Heck
Peter Monks
Sydney Mihalko
Blaine Heck | Stephanie Novak
Danielle Novak
Autumn Hillen
Elizabeth Catherman
Caitlyn Handel
Jake Handel
Clare Ruffing
Alexandra Spivak
Tanner Rizza
Brielle Bizich
Bentley Zarnich
Garlow Marmol
Anthony Matinko
Valent Cervenak
Max Dlugos
Sam Dlugos
Seth Menarchek
Seth Catherman
Brandon Robbins | Eva Matinko

REGION 5
Mary Hlozek
Annabella Barnes
Daniel Zemelman
Lauralei Kroniser
Michael Kroniser | William Victory
Georgia Victory
Presley Holmes
Alex Brunovsky
Lukas Scally
Adele Misanko
Natalie Wascovich
Abigail Gizewicz
Kamden Dubber
Nate Brunovsky
Elliot Kandra | Macie Bobo
Brent Oost
Henry Remenar
John Turner
Carter Cave
David Reifert
Jeffery Tisak
Logan Lazzara
Maya Bobo
Carter Gillen
Birgita Hegg
Asha Basu
Juliana Oost
Jacob Albers |
| REGION 2 - NONE
Carys Smith | | REGION 6
Blake Burke
Kailey Smith
Sofia Fedoriouk
William Lemerond
Marco Rivera
Mary Wascovich
Anne Miller
Joseph Miller
Scarlet Victory | REGION 7
Emma Graves
Grace Remenar
Addison Gillen
George Remenar
Avalyn Cave
James Tisak | REGION 8 - NONE |

Congratulations to all our winners, including those published in the March 7th issue of Jednota

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint Michael Society, Branch 2, will hold its semiannual meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at Kretzler's Tavern, North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA. On the agenda will be election of delegates for the 2018 Convention. All members interested in being a delegate must attend this meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne 412 715 5577.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 9:00 A. M. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin St. Houtzdale, PA. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak President

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society Branch 85K will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411 on Church St., Jessup, PA. Election of delegates to the upcoming FCSU Convention in Cleveland this Aug will be held at this meeting. All members are encourage to attend.

Stella Skovira, Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

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

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

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-372-8075 by April 5, 2018, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 175K - READING, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 175K Reading, PA and Branch 157K Catasawqua, PA.

All members of Branch 175K will now hold membership in Branch 157K.

This merger has taken place as of February 20, 2018.

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

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

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to a meeting at Applebee's Restaurant, Route 30, Greensburg,

PA on Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6:00pm. We extend a special warm welcome to all members of the former Branch 211 of Latrobe.

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

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

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Our meeting schedule for 2018 is as follows: Apr. 5th, May 3rd, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, Nov 1st with nomination of branch officers; and Dec. 6th with election of branch officers

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

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, holds meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's meeting for election of branch officers is December 17, 2018. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

Please attend the branch meetings to stay informed. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You will enjoy the comradery.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

The branch will hold a special meeting for election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention of the FCSU on Sunday, April, 8, 2018, at 1:00PM at Bedford Trails Restaurant, Coitsville, OH.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Marge Dickinson, President

BRANCH 315 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 315 is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than March 30, 2018.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 11:00AM at

the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since a light brunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

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

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 580 of Holy Trinity Church will hold a meeting on April 12, 2018, at 1PM at Rodney's, 557 Wendell Rd. Irwin, Pa at 1PM. All members are welcome. If interested in going please contact Virginia Jasek at 724-593-2715.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

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

Sunday, April 8: Polka Dance from 3pm-6pm; food available for purchase.

Sunday, April 15: Post 9 Steak Fry; \$15.00 per person.

Sunday, May 6: Polka Dance from 3pm-6pm; food available for purchase.

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

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday; .50 off

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

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

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 670 - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at noon at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. There will be a re-election of delegates to the upcoming FCSU Convention in Cleveland. Members of Branch 670 are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

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

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 721 - BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 756 - OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Sunday,

May 6, 2018, in the Gym of the St. Joseph School on 811 E. Oliver Street in Owosso, Mich. We are still looking for some additional paid officers. After a short meeting, we will go to the Knights of Columbus Center, on East Main St. for a delicious Chicken Dinner. All members and guests are invited. We will reimburse you for the cost, of the first 10 members. Hope to see you there to meet your friends. Please RSVP your attendance to 517-381-8358.

Stephan J. Patoprsty, President

BRANCH 831- TARANTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 831 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 831 is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than April 30, 2018.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 844 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold their Annual Slovak Palm Sunday Mass on Sunday March 25, 2018, at the Pope John Paul II Polish Center located at 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda CA. 92886. Mass will begin at 2:30 pm in Slovak. Lunch will be served after the Mass. Come and join us for an Easter Egg hunt for children.

Also, following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers' reports and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe holiday.

Fraternally Yours,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 853 members:branch members interested in attending the Slovak Mass & Easter Customs Breakfast at St Adalbert Church in Pittsburgh, PA on Saturday March 24, 2018 will meet at 10:30am near the entrance of the church. Please contact branch president Monica RodacyBoone for more information.

Branch members outside of Pittsburgh who will be attending a Easter season Slovak Customs celebration or Mass closer to them, please call (412-886-6938) or email (FCSUBranch853@gmail.com) Monica for branch information.

Branch 853 wishes all a Blessed Easter season.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 853 members: any member interested in the history of the Slovakia, may be interested in attending the Pittsburgh Agreement 100th anniversary celebration at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA, on May 31, 2018. Please contact branch president Monica Rodacy Boone at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or by calling 412-886-6938 by April 15 regarding tickets. Tickets for the event only will be purchased by the branch for Branch 853 members. Members must provide their own transportation to and from the event. Details of the event are on page 10 of this issue.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 857 - LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The next meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA, will be held on Saturday April 28, 2018. The meeting will be held at 2:00PM at The Sacred Heart Church meeting room, 120 Jefferson Street, Bridgeport, PA 19405. If you plan on attending, please call 267-795-7930 and leave a message. Election of delegates for the 2018 convention in Cleveland, OH will take place at the meeting.

Fraternally,

Nicole L Nasta, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

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

Sincerely,

Robert Ľapák Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at Roma's Back Door located at 200 East Comstock St., Owosso, MI 48867.

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. A buffet lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports and New Business.

Branch 721 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (PHONE NUMBER) 248-714-9620 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 13th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$15.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

****Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

**Dianna Rimarcik, Secretary, 4945 Wavewood Dr.
Commerce twp., MI 48382
248-714-9620**

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

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

DISTRICT 7 – THE REVEREND JOHN MARTVON

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

Sharon Allison, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – THE REV STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

District 8 will hold a meeting on April 22, 2018, hosted by Branch 3P, St. Joseph Society, Hazelton, PA. Mass, luncheon and meeting will be held at St. Joseph's Church, located at 604 North Laurel St., Hazelton, PA. 18201. Mass will be at 11:15am, luncheon & meeting immediately following in the Church basement.

The meeting agenda will include discussion about the upcoming FCSU Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH, August 2018. Election of the district delegate will take place at this meeting; if you have any suggestions for any By-Law changes or any other pertinent information you would like see discussed at the convention, please submit them at this meeting.

ALL BRANCHES are encouraged to send representatives to District 8 meetings.

***Please remember, a branch delegate must ATTEND at least one District Meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

Any questions feel free to contact Monica Fabian at mfabian922@gmail.com or President Katherine Nowatkoski at knowa000@hotmail.com.

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2018 semiannual meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018. Agenda will include:

- reports on successful Branch mergers/consolidations (Brs 164, 600, 701 into 401; Br 280 into 200) effective October-December 2017 and actions still pending to reactivate/ rejuvenate Brs 429 & 831 as soon as possible, including election of a district delegate and alternate to the convention.

- issues/concerns for FCSU Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland in August 2018 - including election of a district delegate and alternate to the 2018 FCSU convention this August

- suggestions for activities to stimulate fraternal interaction among District 11 Branches and within Region 5.

Meeting time and place are 2:00 PM at the C.U.Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. All branches should identify representatives who will attend to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 as soon as possible. Walk-ins are welcome.

Reminders

- Per FCSU By-Laws, branch representation at one (1) District meeting per year is required to qualify for a branch to be classified as active, for receipt of the annual branch stipend, and for branch eligibility to elect delegates to the FCSU Quadrennial Convention.

- Any beneficial member is welcome to represent his/her branch at District meetings with or without formal identification by the Branch or to the District secretary of intent to attend District meeting(s); representatives need not be Branch officers.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - THE MSGR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andrew Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT

Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 will conduct its Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018, in the Shrine Dining Room of the Saint Ann Shrine Basilica, 1250 St. Ann's Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Auditors will meet at 1:00 P.M. to audit the books. The meeting will convene at 1:30 P.M. Election of the district delegate to the Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will take place.

All Branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting.

Please contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 to confirm your Branch's attendance at this important meeting.

Light refreshments will be served. Please join us for an informative, fraternal and social afternoon.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

DISTRICT II ANNUAL 2018 BRUNCH & SHOW

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018, 2PM

located at:

**FOX'S PUB AND PIZZA
in Orland Park, Illinois
9655 W. 143RD ST, ORLAND PARK, IL 60462**

Please join us for our 2018 annual District 2 Brunch Outing. This year, we will be heading over to Fox's Restaurant in Orland Park for a family style brunch, then a live musical performance by Chicagoland's favorite entertainer, Peter Oprisko. His performances reminisce through legendary artists like Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Nat King Cole, with old Broadway tunes from composers like Irving Berlin and George Gershwin. Peter has also has done work in commercials and movies, entertaining for the last three decades.

(wine, soda, tea & coffee service included, there will be a cash bar)

----- ✂ ----- PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY ----- ✂ -----

District II Annual 2018 Brunch

Attendees \$28.00 x _____ = \$ _____ total

Member's Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

List names of all those attending on the back of this sheet.
Make checks payable to **Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II**
and mail together with check to: Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618.

OBITUARIES

**MARY SPODNIK GERICS
BRANCH 19 –
BRIDGEPORT,
CONNECTICUT**



Mary Spodnik Gerics, age 92, of Trumbull, CT, beloved wife of the late Joseph G. Gerics, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Born in Bridgeport, CT on June 23, 1925, she was a daughter of the late Anthony and Mary Tomascak Spodnik.

Mary graduated from Sts. Cyril and Methodius Commercial High. She worked at the Frisbee Pie Company prior to meeting Joseph Gerics, the love of her life. In 1949 they married and together raised six children. Mary was the eldress of St. Joseph Society Branch 19 FCSU and a member of the choir and Friendship Club at St. Catherine of Siena Church.

Mary and Joe strove for their children to have greater opportunities in education and in life, and sacrificed to send them to Catholic schools and colleges. A woman of deep faith, Mary was for many years a daily communicant, and had a special devotion to the Blessed Mother.

She was the glue that kept the family together. Her kitchen was the center of family life, not only for the many family meals and celebrations there, but also for untold numbers of heart-to-heart conversations in which she offered an open heart and an abundance of love, understanding and wisdom. "Baba" loved spending time with her family and had close relationships with all of her children and grandchildren, and playing pinochle with them was a favorite pastime. Extended family and friends were always welcome in her home. Mary always hoped her children would remain close with each other, and they provided special care for her during the last weeks of her life. She died at her home under hospice care, surrounded by her family.

Survivors include six loving children: Joseph Gerics and his wife Susan; Gregory Gerics and his wife Kathryn; Robert Gerics; Mary Anne Levin and her husband Gary; David Gerics; and Joanne Lorys and her husband Robert; 12 grandchildren: Joseph A. Gerics (Karina); Kristina Gerics (Mike); David and Matthew Gerics; Nicole Hisler (Pram); Michael (Dana) and Richard Levin (Selina); Tara, Cindy, Meredith, Renee and Robert Lorys; ten great-grandchildren; a sister Theresa Kuruc; as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased in death by siblings Margaret Evancho and Anthony and John Spodnik.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Trumbull with Father Joseph Marcello presiding. At a luncheon following burial, her children, their spouses, her grandchildren and others eulogized her, recalling the loving care Mary had provided them over the course of her lifetime. May she rest in peace.

- Submitted by Joseph Gerics



**JOZEF BILIK
BRANCH 716 –
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

Jozef Bilik of College Point, New York passed away on May 24, 2017, after a long illness. He was born in Zvončín, a village in the Trnava District of Slovakia, on January 17, 1935.

Jozef came to the United States in 1968 and worked for the United Nations for over 25 years as a maintenance mechanic.

He was President of Branch 716 for over 10 years. He regularly participated in District 16 activities and also held the position of Treasurer for the Slovak League of America.

After retiring in 1995, Jozef spent his leisure time in his country home in Preston Hollow, NY. He was an avid beekeeper and hunter, and he loved gardening.

Jozef always tried to uphold the traditions of Slovak culture in his adopted land and was an important member of the St. John Nepomucene Church community. He was always active in Slovak activities at the Church.

Jozef will be remembered for his honesty, kindness, goodwill, and sense of humor by those fortunate enough to have known and worked with him in the various Slovak organizations.

- Submitted by Joan Mary Skrkon,
Branch 716 Secretary

**CHARLES A. SHERLOCK
BRANCH 862 –
MENTOR, OHIO**



A Mass of Christian Burial for Charles A. Sherlock, 78, of Wickliffe, OH, was celebrated at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Wickliffe. Mr. Sherlock passed away January 21, 2018, at his residence with his family at his side. He was born January 31, 1939 in Lemont Furnace, PA, and was a Wickliffe resident for over 50 years.

Charles was an electrician who worked at Reliance Electric, National Acme and retired from Chrysler Twinsburg. He was a longtime member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). Charles was an avid fisherman and hunter; he was his grandchildren's biggest fan who didn't miss any of the activities they were involved in.

He was the beloved husband of Lois (nee Sabol); dearest father of Allen (Lisa) and Diane (John) Hopton; devoted grandfather of Megan (Matt) Piazza, Rebecca (Matt) Kelybly, Samantha, Sarah and Katelyn Hopton, Daniel and Matthew Sherlock; dear brother of Theresa Mendis; and dear uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Mary (nee Shuba); brothers, Albert and Edward (Cora); sisters, Margaret (Michael) German, Agnes (Raymond) Sadlik, Cecelia (Charles) Hurst and brother-in-law, John Mendis.

The family received friends at The Orlando-Donsante Funeral Home, Wickliffe, on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. Burial was in All Souls Cemetery in Chardon Township, OH.

- Submitted by Lois Sherlock

Branch 853 Educational Stipends Available

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

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

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

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

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

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



From the Desk of the National President

As we do every year, we have published the year-end 2017 audited financials of your Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union. They can be found on pages 18 - 20 of this issue.

The assets of the Society stand as of 12/31/2017 at \$395.96 million dollars, an all-time high for the Society. That is an increase of \$192 million dollars, 94% increase, in the last eleven years.

In addition, and even more importantly the surplus of the Society of 12/31/2017 stands at \$30.78 million also an all-time high.

This is an increase of \$17.67 million, an increase of 135% in the last eleven years.

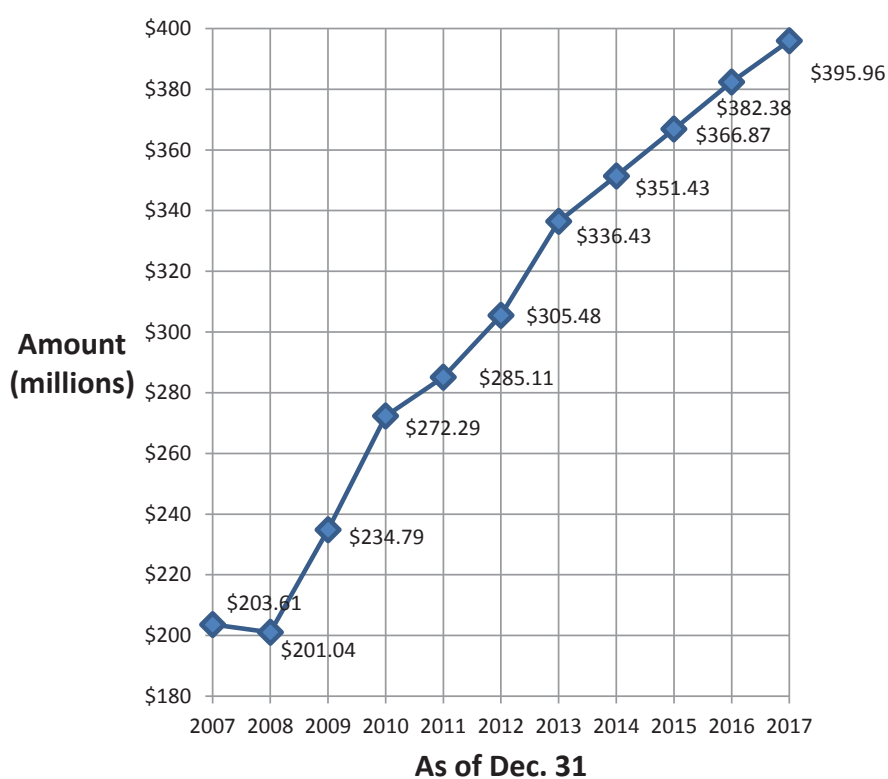
In addition our RBC (Risk Based Capital Ratio) - a measurement of strength of our assets - is an all-time high of 1,001.

We persevered in spite of the 2007-2009 financial turmoil, the severest crises in the U.S. since the Great Depression.

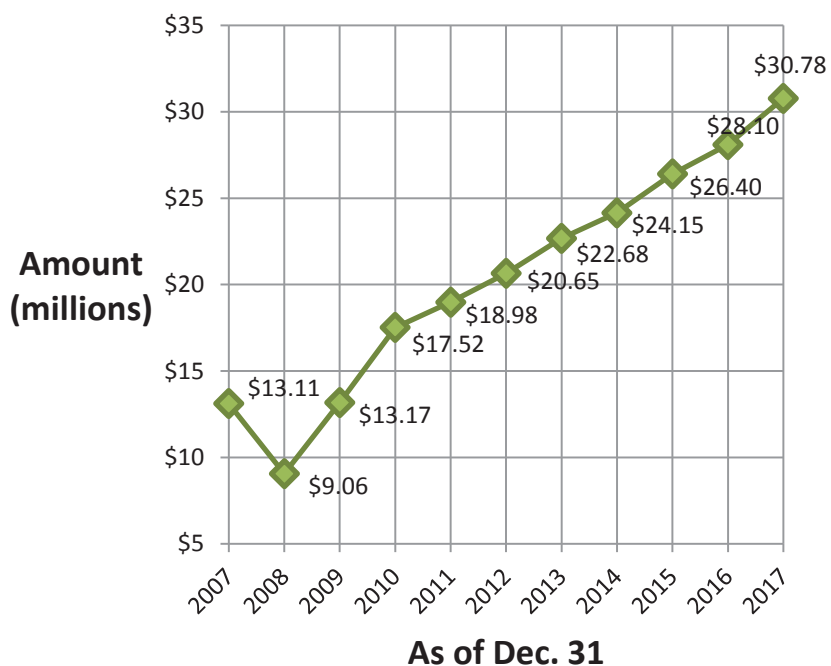
Keep in mind at 12/31/1995 the Society had assets of only \$100.3 million and surplus of only \$3.6 million.

As the old saying goes- "We've come a long way, baby!"

FCSU Total Admitted Assets 2007-2017



FCSU Surplus 2007 - 2017



Focus on Family



60th Birthday Celebration for Branch 746's Emilia Filak

On December 9, 2017, Emilia Filak celebrated her 60th birthday on a beautiful snowy night. The first snow storm of the year didn't deter family and friends traveling from near and far to come together at the beautiful Royal Manor venue in Garfield, New Jersey. Emilia, a member of Branch 746, was especially grateful for the many other FCSU members were in attendance from NJ, NY, PA, and OH. The grand celebration began with a delicious cocktail hour and later guests moved to the ballroom where the gold and black décor glistened in the candlelight flanked by beautiful white bouquets of flowers.



The evening was a tribute to Emilia's compassion, kindness, loving nature, elegance, and her dedication to her family. As with all celebrations the evening started with a prayer and a moment of reflection by Fr. George Torok. In attendance were also Fr. Richard Baker, Pastor of the Slovak church in New York City, St. John Nepomucene and member of Branch 45, Fr. Vladimir Chripko, member of Branch 746, Fr. Francis Conka, Fr. Martin Kertys, and Fr. Roman Palecko.

To kick off the festivities, Emilia was surprised with a video montage of greetings from friends and family from Slovakia. Friends from Slovakia spoke about her caring nature, her thoughtfulness, and her strong faith encouraging them along this same path. The heartfelt messages were a beautiful tribute and each person expressed their gratitude for the impact Emilia has made in their lives over the years. Throughout the evening photos of memories spanning an entire lifetime gave guests a view of Emilia's life. The video conclude with a loving toast by husband Emil:

"It is an honor for me to toast you on your special day. It is even a greater honor to call you my wife. I think I speak for everyone in this room when I say, thank you for so boldly and beautifully shining your bright light on the world. May you shine on for years and years! May the Lord continue to bless you and grant you much health, happiness and joy! Happy birthday Milka!"

Daughter Sabina provided insight into the type of mother the celebrant has been over the years with a moving tribute. She highlighted the sacrifices her mom made over the years immigrating to the US in the late 1980s and having to start all over in a new country with a new language and new career. She reminisced about how the principle of her elementary school laughed when both mother and daughter came to sign up Sabina to the 1st grade and neither spoke a lick of English. Sabina spoke about how her mother inspires her every day by her incredible achievements. Emilia started her career at a pharmaceutical company, Schering-Plough, where she worked for 18 years. She held two jobs for 30 years working part-time on the weekends for a Director of Long Island College Hospital. In her late 40s she left her position as head of Executive Dining in the Kenilworth office and changed careers. Emilia now works for Kean University in the Student Accounting Division. Interestingly, toward the end of her career she wound up in the same professional field where she first started in Slovakia—accounting.

It was evident how much Emilia has inspired her daughter by her courage, tenacity, and strength. Emilia's own personal ambitions were put aside so she could provide for her family. The message that resonated was that Emilia has taught Sabina to be resilient, passionate, and to face each day with a renewed sense of purpose, to believe in God's plan. She also shared some wonderful stories about travels together to Toronto, the Holy Land, Greece, Mexico, and Prague. In addition to the personal tributes, there was also great musical entertainment provided by the Branch 716 members Mr. and Mrs. Jurasi—Kontakty Band. Before she blew out the 60 candles on her beautiful two-tiered birthday cake, Emilia had one last surprise—Broadway star Luba Mason performed "Materinska moja rec" - Emilia's favorite song! A special prayer for the celebrant by Fr. Richard Baker of Branch 45 concluded the festivities. The evening, a splendid celebration of a very notable birthday of an incredible woman who has brought so much joy, laughter, and love into this world. Cheers to Emilia on her 60th birthday – to many, many more occasions to celebrate! May God fill your life with infinite happy moments!

-Submitted by daughter Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director, President Branch 746



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, and 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>

Annual Statement of the year 2017 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA**
ASSETS

	Current Year			Prior Year
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	4 Net Admitted Assets
1. Bonds (Schedule D).....	348,541,005		348,541,005	342,319,430
2. Stocks (Schedule D):				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,710,635		2,710,635	2,436,201
3. Mortgage loans on real estate (Schedule B):				
3.1 First liens.....	609,764		609,764	834,868
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate (Schedule A):				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	401,326		401,326	894,327
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,045,630		1,045,630	655,649
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	779,196		779,196	755,821
5. Cash (\$.....20,841,496, Schedule E-Part 1), cash equivalents (\$.....0, Schedule E-Part 2) and short-term investments (\$.....9,970,031, Schedule DA).....	30,811,526		30,811,526	23,961,405
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,094,955		1,094,955	1,118,825
7. Derivatives (Schedule DB).....			0	
8. Other invested assets (Schedule BA).....	5,280,869		5,280,869	4,752,203
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	
10. Securities lending reinvested collateral assets (Schedule DL).....			0	
11. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
12. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 11).....	391,274,906	0	391,274,906	377,728,729
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,658,595		4,658,595	4,632,409
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	23,586		23,586	18,990
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).....	7,784	7,784	0	(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 to 25).....	395,965,421	8,334	395,957,087	382,380,128
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. TOTAL (Lines 26 and 27).....	395,965,421	8,334	395,957,087	382,380,128

Annual Statement of the year 2017 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (Exhibit 5, Line 9999999) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	313,139,204	302,291,581
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (Exhibit 6, Line 16, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (Exhibit 7, Line 14, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	39,687,240	41,098,805
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, Column 1 less sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid (Exhibit 4, Line 10).....		
6. Provision 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 (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Col. 1, sum of Lines 4 and 14).....	61,288	60,668
8. 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, Line 6).....	1,128,886	753,160
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$.....0 ; accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	23,126	19,208
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued (Exhibit 2, Line 12, Col. 7).....	62,102	67,352
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 (Exhibit 3, Line 8, Col. 6).....	18,072	18,072
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	6,190,944	5,292,048
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 (AVR, Line 16, Col. 7).....	2,913,033	2,607,558
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.....		521,933
21.9 Payable for securities lending.....		
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	1,240,835	840,835
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	365,174,241	354,280,731
24. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 and 24).....	365,174,241	354,280,731
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.....	30,782,846	28,099,397
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (Page 4, Line 47) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts statement).....	30,782,846	28,099,397
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	395,957,087	382,380,128

Annual Statement of the year 2017 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**
SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Line 20.4, Col. 1).....	19,448,102	21,457,823
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
3. Net investment income (Exhibit of Net Investment Income, Line 17).....	15,764,562	15,527,524
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 5).....	485,085	584,693
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....		
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.1, Col. 1).....		
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.....	31,642	56,936
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	35,729,391	37,626,976
10. Death benefits.....	2,607,722	2,386,321
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....		
12. Annuity benefits.....	15,550,939	14,573,618
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts, including premiums waived \$.....0.....		
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	559,825	503,013
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contracts funds.....	169,629	154,320
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	10,847,624	14,671,464
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	29,735,739	32,288,736
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only) (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 31, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....	304,518	273,703
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.2, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....		
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses (Exhibit 2, Line 10, Cols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).....	3,038,946	2,923,796
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees (Exhibit 3, Line 6, Cols. 1, 2, 3 and 5).....	95,852	127,367
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.....	(192,209)	(390,690)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	32,982,846	35,222,912
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	2,746,545	2,404,064
28. Refunds to members (Exhibit 4, Line 17, Cols. 1 + 2).....	420,527	413,708
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	2,326,018	1,990,356
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	(151,690)	(164,465)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	2,174,328	1,825,891
SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
32. Surplus, December 31, previous year (Page 3, Line 30, Col. 2).....	28,099,397	26,397,416
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	2,174,328	1,825,891
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	784,400	358,567
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....		
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	2,919	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.....	(305,475)	(415,908)
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.....	27,278	(69,488)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	2,683,450	1,701,981
47. Surplus December 31, current year (Lines 32 + 46) (Page 3, Line 30).....	30,782,846	28,099,397

Správy zo Slovenska

Bratislava – Ministerka školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR Martina Lubyová (nominantka SNS) chce zlepšiť podporu športovcov so zdravotným znevýhodnením, preto pripravuje predloženie novely zákona o športe. Na tento rok rezort školstva vyčlenil pre Slovenský paralympijský výbor (SPV), ktorý zastrešuje športovcov s trvalým telesným, mentálnym a senzorickým zdravotným postihnutím, 1.958.245 eur.

Bratislava - Ministerstvo obrany (MO) SR spúšťa marketingovo-komunikačnú kampaň na podporu dobrovoľnej vojenskej prípravy. Kampaň má heslo „Naša vlasť potrebuje každého z nás – Aj Teba!“ a je zameraná na podporu zvýšenia povedomia verejnosti o dobrovoľnej vojenskej príprave.

Bratislava – Do slovenskej justície smeruje ďalšia veľká investícia. Ministerstvo spravodlivosti podpísalo s ministerstvom dopravy zmluvu o poskytnutí nenávratného finančného príspevku vo výške 9.935.967 eur. Predmetom projektu financovaného z Európskeho fondu regionálneho rozvoja je vybudovanie nového Informačného systému Obchodného registra (OR) SR.

Bratislava - Denník Pravda má nového majiteľa. Je ním spoločnosť Our Media SR a.s., ktorej stopercentným akcionárom je česká spoločnosť Our Media a.s., tú vlastní podnikateľ a senátor Ivo Valenta spolu s mediálnym magnátom Michalom Voráčkom. Our Media SR a.s. je novým vlastníkom vydavateľstva Perex, a.s., ktoré vydáva denník Pravda.

Bratislava – Cestovanie mestskou hromadnou dopravou (MHD) v Bratislave by malo byť opäť o čosi komfortnejšie. Dopomôcť má k tomu rozširovanie bezplatného wifi pripojenia, ktoré by malo byť v 266 vozidlách, čo predstavuje takmer polovicu vozového parku. Informoval o tom primátor mesta Ivo Nesrovnal a Marián Āč, riaditeľ úseku generálneho riaditeľa Dopravného podniku Bratislava (DPB).

Košice – Sudca košického krajského súdu vo štvrtok rozhodol o vzatí talianskeho podnikateľa Antonina V. do predbežnej väzby. Antonino V. je v Taliansku trestne stíhaný za drogovú činnosť a súd v Benátkach na neho vydal európsky zatýkací rozkaz. Sudca tak vyhovel návrhu, ktorý v utorok (13.3.) podal krajský prokurátor. Prokuratúra začala vykonávať predbežné vyšetrovanie o európskom zatýkacom rozkaze. Antonina V. predviedli pred sudcu ozbrojení strážcovia, pôsobil vyrovnané a na novinárske otázky nereagoval.

Bratislava – Zo stredných a vysokých škôl vychádzajú absolventi, o ktorých odbornosť nie je záujem. Na nedávnej konferencii o prognóze vývoja trhu práce v Bratislave to konštatoval minister práce Ján Richter (Smer-SD) s tým, že túto situáciu by mal zmeniť zákon o odbornom vzdelávaní, ktorý je v súčasnosti otvorený na ministerstve školstva. Ten by mal vytvoriť podmienky na to, aby školy zohľadňovali potreby trhu práce na základe prognózy jeho vývoja. Podľa Richtera je potrebné zmeniť, že vyššie územné celky (VÚC) v školstve nie vždy reagovali na potreby trhu práce.

Bratislava – Na Slovensku a v Česku budú mať ľudia prvýkrát v histórii možnosť vidieť súbor originálnych dokumentov, ktoré zohrali zásadnú rolu v dejinách Československa a osudoch jeho obyvateľov. Národné múzeum v Česku a Slovenské národné múzeum (SNM) totiž získalo súhlas na zapožičanie originálov Mníchovskej dohody, Viedenskej arbitráže a takzvaného Protokolu Hácha–Hitler, Pittsburskej dohody a československých ratifikácií zmlúv z Versailles, Saint-Germain a Trianonu. TASR informovala Ľubica Fandl Drangová zo SNM – Historického múzea.

Bratislava - Myšlienka spoločnej slovensko-poľskej kandidatúry na zorganizovanie zimných olympijských hier (ZOH) vo Vysokých Tatrách môže byť opäť reálnou témou. Po stretnutí s maršalkom poľského Sejmu Marekom Kuchcińským, ktorý bol začiatkom marca v SR na oficiálnej návšteve, to naznačil predseda Národnej rady SR Andrej Danko (SNS).

Bratislava – Slovenskí športoví reprezentanti, ktorí reprezentujú krajinu na Zimných olympijských hrách 2018 v Pjongčangu, sú financovaní z viacerých verejných zdrojov. Finančne im poskytuje národný športový zväz, rezortné športové stredisko a ďalším významným zdrojom je príspevok na prípravu reprezentanta zaradeného do takzvaného top tímu. Informuje o tom Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu (MŠVVaŠ) SR.

Bratislava – V desiatkach slovenských miest, ale i svetových metropol sa v piatok 9. marca opäť konali zhromaždenia s názvom Za slušné Slovensko. Väčšina vysokých škôl a univerzít udelila študentom na piatok rektorské alebo dekanské voľno. Organizátori požadujú dôkladné a nezávislé vyšetrovanie vraždy investigatívneho novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho snúbenice Marty Kušnírovej za spoluúčasti medzinárodných vyšetrovateľov, novú dôveryhodnú vládu, ktorej súčasťou nebudú ľudia, u ktorých existujú podozrenia z korupcie a prepojenia na organizovaný zločin.

Praha/Bratislava - Český prezident Miloš Zeman vo svojom druhom funkčnom období navštívi ako prvú krajinu Slovensko. Uviedol to vo štvrtok 8. marca jeho hovorca Jiří Ovčáček. „Návšteva pána prezidenta je plánovaná na začiatok apríla,“ doplnil Ovčáček. Zeman zložil vo štvrtok svoj druhý prezidentský sľub a ujal sa úradu na ďalších päť rokov.

Bratislava - Minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák (Smer-SD) končí vo funkcii. Oznámil to v pondelok 12. marca vo vyhlásení pre médiá. Kaliňák chce aj týmto krokom zachovať stabilitu na Slovensku. Vražda novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho snúbenice je pre Kaliňáka vec, s ktorou sa dá podľa jeho slov veľmi ťažko vyrovnáť.

Bojnice - Viac ako 20 rôznych námetov, desiatky účinkujúcich, rovnako desiatky kostýmov a desaťtisíce návštevníkov charakterizujú Medzinárodný festival duchov a strašidiel na zámku v Bojniciach. Na prelome apríla a mája vstúpi podujatie Slovenského národného múzea (SNM) - Múzea Bojnice do svojho jubilejného 25. ročníka.

Bratislava - Výstava Majster Pavol z Levoče. Ruky a zlato v službe ducha, inštalovaná v SNM - Historickom múzeu v Bratislavskom hrade od decembra minulého roka, sa blíži ku koncu. Výstavu majú návštevníci možnosť vidieť do nedele 18. marca. Výstava završuje kultúrne aktivity, ktorými si verejnosť pripomína 500. výročie ukončenia prác na hlavnom oltári v Chráme sv. Jakuba v Levoči. Predstavuje osobnosť Majstra Pavla z Levoče a jeho tvorbu v širšom dobovom kontexte. Rozdelená do troch sekcií ponúka prierez Pavlovým dielom, počnúc prácami, ktoré majú korene v neskorostredovekej zbožnosti, ďalšie ukazujú na jeho stretnutie s humanizmom a renesanciou a v závere aj s myšlienkami reformácie. Prezentované sú aj vzácné archívne výtvarné práce k Pavlovej práci a nábožensko-spoločenskej situácii.

Košice/Bratislava - Ministerstvo, respektíve štát nie sú zamestnávateľom opatrovateľiek a opatrovateľov, napriek tomu robia všetko pre zvyšovanie kvality a dostupnosti sociálnych služieb prostredníctvom legislatívy a ďalších opatrení. Tvrdí to rezort práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny. Zareagoval tým na tvrdenie člena predsedníctva Asociácie poskytovateľov sociálnych služieb v SR a riaditeľa Arcidiecéznej charity v Košiciach Cyrila Korpesia, podľa ktorého opatrenia v sociálnej oblasti pripravené minulý rok štátom nezaplatia podnikatelia, ale prijímatelia sociálnych služieb a ich rodinní príslušníci.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Postavme sa za slušné Slovensko

V desiatkach slovenských miest, ale i svetových metropol sa v piatok 9. marca 2018 konali zhromaždenia s názvom Postavme sa za slušné Slovensko. Organizátori požadujú dôkladné a nezávislé vyšetrovanie vraždy investigatívneho novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho snúbenice Marty Kušnírovej za spoluúčasti medzinárodných vyšetrovateľov, novú dôveryhodnú vládu, ktorej súčasťou nebudú ľudia, u ktorých existujú podozrenia z korupcie a prepojenia na organizovaný zločin.



FOTO TASR –

Na snímke zhromaždenie s názvom Postavme sa za slušné Slovensko na Námestí SNP v Bratislave 9. marca 2018.

Thousands assembled in Bratislava demanding a thorough investigation of the murder of the young journalist and his fiancée.

Na snímke drevené vyrezávané kríže na Podpoľaní, ktoré boli zapísané do Reprezentatívneho zoznamu nehmotného kultúrneho dedičstva Slovenska v Bratislave 6. novembra 2017.

Wooden carved crosses in Podpoľany were selected for the Cultural Heritage list in Slovakia in November 2017.



FOTO TASR - Marko Erd

Na Slovensku a v Česku vystavia Pittsburskú i Mníchovskú dohodu

Na Slovensku a v Česku budú mať ľudia prvýkrát v histórii možnosť vidieť súbor originálnych dokumentov, ktoré zohrali zásadnú rolu v dejinách Československa a osudoch jeho obyvateľov. Národné múzeum v Česku a Slovenské národné múzeum (SNM) totiž získalo súhlas na zapožičanie originálov Mníchovskej dohody, Viedenskej arbitráže a takzvaného Protokolu Hácha–Hitler, Pittsburskej dohody a československých ratifikácií zmlúv z Versailles, Saint-Germain a Trianonu. Informovala o tom Ľubica Fandl Drangová zo SNM – Historického múzea.

Všetky dokumenty budú prezentované v Bratislave a Prahe na Česko-slovenskej / Slovensko-českej výstave, ktorú pripravujú národné múzea Českej a Slovenskej republiky pri príležitosti 100. výročia vzniku spoločného štátu Čechov a Slovákov. Národné múzeum a SNM k 100. výročiu založenia Československa spoločne pripravujú mimoriadny výstavný projekt, mapujúci dejiny spoločného štátu.

„Výstava bude prezentovaná najskôr na Bratislavskom hrade od 26. apríla do 9. septembra a následne sa presunie do Prahy ako výstava, ktorou sa otvorí novozrekonštruovaná Historická budova Národného múzea v Prahe. Pre verejnosť bude sprístupnená symbolicky 28. októbra,“ priblížil SNM.

Získať na výstavu tak dôležité a ikonické predmety považuje generálny riaditeľ SNM Branislav Panis za veľký úspech. „Na základe týchto dokumentov vznikali a zanikali štáty, milióny obyvateľov sa v jednej chvíli stali obyvateľmi iných štátov, a žiaľ, na niektorých mali aj fatálne dôsledky,“ podotkol. Zo Spojených štátov amerických, Nemecka a Francúzska budú zapožičané dokumenty ako Pittsburská dohoda, Ratifikačné protokoly z Versailles, Saint-Germain a Trianonu, Mníchovská dohoda, Viedenská arbitráž či Protokol Hácha–Hitler. Vystavené budú za mimoriadnych bezpečnostných opatrení.

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Slovenská sv. omša a veľkonočné raňajky v Pittsburgh, PA

V sobotu 24. marca vo farnosti Knieža Pokoja v Pittsburgh, PA bude veľkonočné podujatie, ktoré farnosť usporiada každý rok. Slovenská sv. omša bude v St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th Street. O 10.45 dopoludnia začne modlitba slovenského sv. ručenca a omša začne o 11.00 hodine. Po omši budú v Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) podávané veľkonočné raňajky (šunka, paska, syr, klobása a vajíčka). Vstup je bezplatný, usporiadatelia však budú vd'ачní za finančné dary. Účastníci podujatia budú mať možnosť si prezrieť výstavu o ľudových tradíciách na Slovensku. Na predaj budú výrobky dovezené zo Slovenska a ručné práce. Atrakciou bude aj ukážka pletenia palmových listov a maľovanie veľkonočných vajec. Na predaj budú makové a orechové koláče, palacinky a pečivo. Zisk z podujatia bude venovaný františkánskym sestram v Žiline a detskému Centru Barlička v Prešove, ktoré poskytuje lužby mentálne postihnutým deťom a stará sa o starších chorých ľudí. Bližšie informácie: Connie Yatek, telefónne číslo: 412-657-6364.

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

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

Mária Juráši – pokladníčka

Púť do Svätej Zeme

Kňazi Oratória sv. Filipa Neri v New Yorku pripravujú v dňoch od 11. do 23. apríla púť do Svätej Zeme. Poplatok je \$3.300 za osobu. V cene je započítaná letenka, poplatky za víza, ubytovanie v hoteloch, poplatky za sprievodcu, raňajky, obed a večera, poplatky za návštevu atrakcií, preprava autobusmi, exkluzívny výlet po Galilejskom mori, výlet do púšte spojený s večerou a dvojdňová návšteva Dubai. Bližšie informácie na fare, tel. č.: 845-268-4464 alebo Lisette, tel. č.: 646-234-05343.

Historické železničky v Miškovci a Košiciach chcú vzájomne prilákať turistov

Historické úzkorozchodné železničky v maďarskom Miškovci a Detská železnica Košice spoločne zabodovali v konkurencii takmer dvesto projektov a získali financie na svoj ďalší rozvoj. V Košiciach plánujú dostavbu staničnej budovy, rekonštrukciu koľajiska či opravu dvoch rušňov. V Miškovci zrekonštruujú jednu zo staníc a do prevádzky uvedú úplne nový osobný vagón. Spoločný projekt Detskej železnice Košice a úzkorozchodnej železnice v Miškovci získal finančnú injekciu z medzinárodného grantového programu Interreg.



FOTO TASR – František Iván

Na snímke historická úzkorozchodná železnička uprostred Ľubomír Letotský (Detská železnica Košice) v maďarskom Miškovci 7. marca 2018.

Niekoľko slov na povzbudenie k lepšiemu prežívaniu veľkonočného trojdnia

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

skupiny a spoločenstvá. Malé skupiny svojim duchovným a rodinným životom sa vbudujú do rytmu Veľkonočného trojdnia. Sú prepojené s cirkvou. Spoločenstvá v týchto dňoch sa zapájajú do liturgie hodín spolu s cirkvou. Môžu sa aj spolu pripraviť na lepšie pochopenie a prežívanie posvätného trojdnia.

Paschálne trojdnie je časom veľkých duchovných cvičení Cirkvi. Tieto duchovné cvičenia sa majú prežívať v spojení s cirkvou. Veď celá podstata kresťanstva je vyjadrená v liturgických znakoch Posvätného trojdnia. Je to čas na duchovnú obnovu cirkvi a každého spoločenstva. Je možné povedať, že aká je obnova Veľkonočného trojdnia, taká je aj obnova cirkvi.

Z myšlienok otca Blachnického o príprave na slávenie veľkonočného trojdnia vo farnosti a rodine

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Dňa 17. februára 2018 spolok sv. Matúša číslo 45 zorganizoval tradičný každoročný halový a ping-pongový turnaj. Športoví referenti Ján Zeman, Jozef Korčák a Anton Kucharovič boli hlavnými organizátormi športového podujatia. Súťaže sa zúčastnili tri tímy: Old Boys z NYC, Young Boys z Brooklyn a Fofo z NJ. Víťazným tímom sa stal Young boys, na druhom mieste skončil tím Fofo a tretie miesto obsadil tím Old Boys. Absolutným víťazom v ping-pongu sa stal Jozef Korčák. Športoví referenti zabezpečili ceny a občerstvenie pre všetkých súťažiacich a zúčastnených hostí. Pohostenie pripravil Ján Škrkoň, ktorý zároveň prispel \$50. Domáce Slovenské koláče napiekla Anna Zemanová.

Všetkým účastníkom súťaže ďakujeme za pekné športové výkony a víťazom srdečne blahozeláme.

Jozef Juráši, člen spolku č. 45 IKSJ



Športoví účastníci.



Účastníci halového futbalového turnaja so športovými referentmi Ján Zeman a Jozef Korčák.

Slovensko má novú blahoslavenú

Pápež František schválil dekrét, ktorým potvrdil mučeníctvo šestnásťročnej Slovenky Anny Kolesárovej z Vysokej nad Uhom, vďaka čomu sa otvorila priama cesta k jej blahorečeniu. V stredu 7. marca o tom informovalo tlačové stredisko Svätej stolice v Ríme.

"S hrdosťou som prijal správu o procese, ktorý pozitívne skončil v prospech Anky Kolesárovej, Božej služobnice, ktorá pochádza z našej arcidiocézy, z Vysokej nad Uhom. Očakávali sme túto správu. Pripravovali sme najprv proces v diecéze a potom, od 2011, sme ho posunuli do Ríma. Sledovali sme každý krok napojení na postolátora, ktorý pochádza z Talianska. Dnes, keďže toto úsilie, dalo by sa ľudsky povedať, nebolo márne, tak tešíme sa z toho, pretože máme jeden krásny vzor a okrem toho veľkú pomocnicu v nebi," uviedol košický rímskokatolícky arcibiskup-metropolita Bernard Bober s tým, že sa tešia na jej vyhlásenie, ktoré plánujú ešte v tomto roku.

Anna Kolesárová sa narodila 14. júla 1928 vo Vysokej nad Uhom v okrese Michalovce. Jej život poznačilo rozhodnutie, ktoré si sama zvolila - radšej smrť než stratu panenstva. V závere druhej svetovej vojny ju zastrelil sovietsky vojak, ktorému sa odmietla podvoliť. Zomrela 22. novembra 1944 vo svojej rodnej obci, kde je aj pochovaná.

Vo farskej kronike v Pavlovciach nad Uhom sa o jej smrti nachádza zápis z roku 1944, ktorý urobil tamojší farár - dekan Anton Lukáč. Svedectvo podpísalo päť svedkov. Pri tomto hrdinskom čine ju podľa zápisu posilňoval eucharistický Kristus, lebo predtým pristúpila k svätej spovedi a k svätému prijímaniu. Jej hrob je dodnes cieľom pútnikov z celého Slovenska, najmä z radov mládeže.



FOTO TASR - Roman Hanc

Na snímke pamätník v nadživotej veľkosti symbolizujúci dievčenskú čistotu prešovského sochára Mariána Urbana pred cintorínom vo Vysokej nad Uhom 9. marca 2018.

Presov sculptor Marian Urban carved a larger than life-size statue symbolizing purity of women for the cemetery in Vysoká nad Uhom.

Kríž – symbol kresťanstva a znak duševných emócií

Motto: Ach kríž svätý, ty strom vzácny, sladký nesieš plod krásny.

Kríž, symbol kresťanov, s ktorým sa v bežnom živote pomerne často stretávame a prichádzame do styku na rôznych miestach a pri rôznych príležitostiach. Kde je jeho pôvod? Aby sme pochopili, vrátime sa do dávnej i nedávnej minulosti.

Po narodení Ježiška v Betleheme sa začalo kresťanstvo šíriť

postupne aj do iných krajín a kontinentov. Aj do Európy. Na Slovensko ho priniesli z Grécka dvaja solúnski bratia – vierozvestcovia Konštantín a jeho brat Metod. Touto misiou ich poveril byzantský cisár Michal III. na základe požiadavky veľkomoravského kniežaťa Rastislava, ktorý chcel, aby mu poslal učiteľov, ktorí tu budú šíriť kresťanstvo a vzdelanosť.

Kríž sa stal takto postupne symbolom kresťanstva aj na Slovensku. V obciach a mestách sa objavovali prvé kríže, neskôr aj kaplnky, ktoré dali postaviť niektorí zámožnejší občania na znak vďaka za uzdravenie člena svojej rodiny z ťažkej choroby. Postupne pribúdali v obciach a mestách aj kostoly s krížom na veži.

Ukrižovaný Ježiš po namáhavej Krížovej ceste pribýť na kríž patrí medzi jeho prvotné a charakteristické symboly.

No kríž je aj symbolom nešťastia, nehody, spomienky na mŕtvych a úcty k nim. Pri cestách sa s krížom stretávame, niekde aj so sviečkou, po tragickej nehode na ceste. Množstvom krížov s pomníkmi sú posiate cintoríny, a je aj symbolický cintorín turistov na brale Vysokých Tatier, ktorí tam zahynuli.

Kríž sa nachádza aj v domoch a bytoch niektorých hlboko veriacich kresťanov a je obľúbený aj vo forme medailónika s retiazkou na krku. Je znakom aj pri modlení (prežehnávanie), symbolom pátričiek (ruženca) a titulov náboženských kníh. Pri náboženských obradoch je na odevoch (ornátoch) ich služobníkov... Nachádza sa aj na pohľadniciach veľkonočných pozdravov znázorňujúcich Zmŕtvychvstanie, na poštových známkach...

Naše staré mamy pri odkrajaní krajca z bochníka chleba ho najskôr prežehnali. Pri žatve gazdovia na poli pokosenú raž a pšenicu viazali do snopov a kládli ich na seba do tvaru krížov. Zdobí aj slovenské jedno a dvoj eurové mince zobrazujúcej Konštantína a Metoda s krížom. Slovenský červený kríž je symbolom významnej celospoločenskej organizácie pôsobiacej v oblasti zdravotníctva a charity.

Slovo kríž sa objavuje aj v názvoch priezvisk, napr.: Kríž, Krížik, Križo, Križko, Križiak, Križan, Križanský... a v názvoch miest a obcí ako: Svätý Kríž nad Hronom (teraz Žiar nad Hronom), Kríže, Svätý kríž, Križovany nad Dudváhom..., či v pomenovaní hôr: Krížna...

Sú známe viaceré tvary kríža. Líšia sa od seba iba tvarom: kríž – dvojkriž, trojkriž, ... Kríž je aj logom slovenskej politickej strany Naše Slovensko a chvályhodné je, že je aj súčasťou nášho štátneho znaku.

Existujú aj príslovia o kríži, napr.:

Koho Pán Boh miluje, toho krížom navštevuje.

Každý človek musí niesť svoj kríž.

Kto sa vyhýba krížu, vyhýba sa životu.

Svet sa bojí kríža ako čert svätej vody

Kríž sa vyskytuje aj v umeleckej tvorbe v piesňach, maliarstve, sochárstve, napr.: v knihe Ivana Kríža:

Krížová cesta, v piesni Mariky Gombitovej: *Kríž*

Kríž vyjadruje aj utrpenie, bolesť, úctu, vďaka, pokoru...

To všetko svedčí o význame kríža a jeho poslanstve, ktoré je veľmi silné a stále aktuálne aj na Slovensku.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliač, Slovensko



Cyriľ a Metod.



Ježiš na Golgote.



Kríž pravoslávnych.



Kríž v znaku Slovenskej republiky.



Trojkríž.



Slovenská verzia euromincí.



FOTO TASR - Marko Erd

Veľkonočný dar pre pápeža Františka tvorí v týchto dňoch umelecký kováč zo Slovenska. Medené vajce - symbol plodnosti, života, vzkriesenia a znovuzrodenia vyrába Jozef Tomčala z obce Lehnice. Na snímke umelecký kováč Jozef Tomčala počas výroby netradičného darčeka pre pápeža - medeného veľkonočného vajíčka. V Lehniciach, 28. februára 2018.

Jozef Tomcala of Lehnice finishes a symbolic Easter egg made of copper as a gift for Pope Francis.

Slovákovi už v Prahe začali transplantovať pľúca

Fakultná nemocnica v pražskom Motole už začala s transplantáciami pľúc pre slovenských pacientov. Tým doteraz takýto zákrok robili lekári v Rakúsku.

Slovenka absolvovala v Prahe úspešnú operáciu 5. marca. V súčasnosti je 42-ročná žena v špecializovanej pooperačnej zdravotnej starostlivosti v Česku. Pacientku potom prevezú do Univerzitnej nemocnice Bratislava, lekári jej tam poskytnú potrebnú posttransplantačnú starostlivosť.

„V Motole sa ročne spoločne pre Čechov a Slovákov zabezpečia desiatky transplantácií, čo je už úroveň európskej špičky,“ uviedol minister zdravotníctva Tomáš Druker (nominant Smeru-SD).

Transplantáciu pľúc lekári na Slovensku nevykonávajú. Tento technicky najkomplikovanejší transplantačný výkon robili Slovákom doteraz v Rakúsku, a to od roku 1998. Rakúsko však nedávno oznámilo, že už nemá dostatočné kapacity prijímať nových pacientov zo Slovenska, naša krajina sa preto na spolupráci dohodla s Českom.

Obe krajiny majú aktuálne spoločný zoznam čakateľov na transplantáciu. Momentálne sú na čakacej listine traja slovenskí pacienti, ďalší dvaja sú v predtransplantačnej vyšetrovacej príprave. Transplantovať pľúca potrebuje ročne asi desať Slovákov.

Rezort zdravotníctva chce, aby sa pľúca transplantovali aj na Slovensku. V rámci projektu novej Univerzitnej nemocnice Bratislava (UNB) preto uvažuje o zriadení transplantačného centra pľúc.

Pacientov v súčasnosti na Slovensku na transplantáciu pľúc „iba pripravujú“, v UNB manažujú starostlivosť pred a po.

TASR

Rok 2017 v Košickom kraji bol počtom ubytovaných rekordný

Cestovný ruch v Košickom kraji má za sebou zatiaľ najlepší rok. Svedčia o tom štatistiky za rok 2017, podľa ktorých sa v kraji ubytovalo rekordných 366.142 návštevníkov. Ich počet medziročne vzrástol o viac ako päť percent. Informovala o tom organizácia Košice Región Turizmus.

Návštevnosť Košického kraja stúpauž tri roky po sebe. Rok 2017 bol podľa ubytovacích štatistík rekordný a v počte návštevníkov prekonal dosiaľ najlepší, predkrízový rok 2008. Ubytovacie zariadenia v kraji zaznamenali 762.490 prenocovaní, viac ich bolo už iba v rokoch 2008 a 2002. Krajská organizácia destinačného manažmentu v minulom roku stavila pri marketingu, ale aj rozvojových aktivitách, na značku UNESCO na dosah. „Odzrazilo sa to nielen v ubytovacích štatistikách, ale tiež v údajoch návštevnosti jednotlivých lokalít a pamiatok UNESCO. Rekordnú sezónu má za sebou Spišský hrad, Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa a určite aj drevený Chrám Prenesenia ostatkov sv. Mikuláša v Ruskej Bystrici,“ konštatovala riaditeľka organizácie. Práve tento drevený kostol, v ktorom sa vlni organizácii Košice Región Turizmus podarilo v spolupráci s obcou sprevádzkovať kvalitnejšie služby sprievodcu, si aktuálne pripomína desiate výročné zápisu na Zoznam svetového dedičstva UNESCO.

Prioritou je podľa predsedu Košického samosprávneho kraja (KSK) Rastislava Trnku snaha o ďalší rozvoj a zvyšovanie atraktívnosti regiónu. „Zároveň chceme nadväzovať na už rozbehnutý systematický manažment cestovného ruchu, a to aj cez podporu kultúrnych podujatí prepojených s ďalšími aktivitami tak, aby návštevníci mali dôvod zotrvať v našom kraji viac dní. Realizovať sa to dá napríklad cez podporu nových a zaujímavých atrakcií či produktov, zvyšovaním kvality podujatí alebo vytváraním mechanizmov skvalitňovania služieb cez značku kvality,“ povedal Trnka na margo pozitívnych štatistických ukazovateľov za minulý rok.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník Jednota



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

Ročník 127

STREDA, 21. MARCA 2018

Číslo 5967

Velká noc 2018



*Radujte sa, ó kresťania, v srdciach Vašich plesajte.
Z mŕtvych povstal náš Spasiteľ aleluja spievajte.*

Katolíci počas dňa spomínajú na mŕtveho Krista, večer slávia Veľkonočnú vigíliu

Katolícki veriaci na Bielu sobotu počas dňa spomínajú na mŕtveho Krista, prichádzajú do kostolov k modlitbám a poklone pri Božom hrobe alebo pri sv. Kríži. Vo večerných hodinách sa však už radujú zo slávania jeho zmŕtvychvstania.

Obrady Bielej soboty sa začínajú večer po zotmení v rámci tzv. Veľkonočnej vigílie (bdenia). Podľa pradávnej tradície je táto noc očakávaním Pána, noc, keď cirkev bdie a očakáva Kristovo zmŕtvychvstanie. Katolícka cirkev slávi vigíliu už ako radostnú slávnosť vzkriesenia, znovu sa rozozvučia zvony, ktoré od štvrtka večera mlčali.

Veľkonočná vigília bola pôvodne veľmi dlhá bohoslužba, ktorá sa začínala v sobotu večer, trvala celú noc a končila sa v nedeľu ráno krstom katechumenov (dospelých čakateľov na krst). V súčasnosti sú bohoslužby skrátené, obrad vigílie však zostáva liturgicky veľmi bohatý.

Liturgia Veľkonočnej vigílie sa začína posvätením ohňa a veľkonočnej sviečky - Paškálu. Táto sviečka je stredobodom veľkonočnej slávnosti. Od nej sa zapália sviečky, ktoré si prinesú veriaci. Procesia s Paškálom pripomína slová samotného Krista: „Ja som svetlo sveta, kto mňa nasleduje, nebude chodiť v tmách, ale bude mať svetlo života“.

Súčasťou liturgie slova sú potom čítania zo Starého zákona pripomínajúce veriacim dejiny od stvorenia sveta až po narodenie Ježiša Krista. Súčasťou obradov je posvätenie krstnej vody a obnovenie krstných sľubov, svätá omša s veľkonočnými spevmi a na záver slávnostná procesia zmŕtvychvstania Pána. Vo viacerých chrámoch sa počas Veľkonočnej vigílie vykonáva krst alebo birmovka dospelých.

Pondelok baránka

Po Veľkej noci nasleduje v Katolíckej cirkvi osemdňová oktáva Kristovho zmŕtvychvstania, ktorá sa končí Nedeľou Božieho milosrdenstva - je to prvá nedeľa po Veľkej noci. V Kresťanských kostoloch sa aj na Veľkonočný pondelok konajú bohoslužby na oslavu zmŕtvychvstania Ježiša Krista. Tento deň sa zvykne nazývať i "Pondelkom baránka", na pamiatku toho, čo sa udialo v prvý deň po sobote. Vtedy totiž anjel dodával odvahu ženám, ktoré na úsvite priblíhli k hrobu a boli vydesené a znepokojené, keď ho našli prázdny. "Neľakajte sa," povedal im. "Vstal z mŕtvych. Niet ho tu. Ale choďte a povedzte to učeníkom", dodal.

Posledný deň veľkonočných sviatkov je na Slovensku i v okolitých krajinách známy šibačkou, oblievaním dievčat a žien vodou, rozdávaním maľovaných či čokoládových vajčiek alebo zajačikov. Sú to však ľudové zvyky, nie cirkevné. Ale je tu symbolika - Veľká noc spojená s obmývaním vodou - sviatok krstu.

Veľkonočné obdobie - obdobie veľkonočnej slávnosti trvá 50 dní. Začína sa na Bielu sobotu večer a končí sa na sviatok Zoslania Ducha Svätého (Turíce).

TASR

Niekoľko slov na povzbudenie k lepšiemu prežívaniu veľkonočného trojdnia

Potrebná je zodpovedná príprava, ktorá by sa mala sústrediť na tieto body:

1) Pojem Veľkonočné trojdnie by mal vstúpiť do povedomia veriacich ako jednoliaty uzavretý časový termín, ktorý začína večer na Zelený štvrtok a končí sa večer na veľkonočnú nedeľu. Je to jeden čas, kedy slávnostne oslavujeme tajomstvo nášho vykúpenia. Jeden sviatok tri dni trvajúci.

2) Centrálnu a vrcholnú pozíciu má PASCHÁLNA VIGÍLIA ako liturgické slávenie Pánovho zmŕtvychvstania. Preto pojem BIELA SOBOTA je potrebné vylúčiť, ak máme na mysli veľkonočnú vigíliu. Pretože Veľká (Biela) Sobota je jediný neliturgický deň v roku. Paschálna alebo veľkonočná vigília je oslava veľkej noci zmŕtvychvstania. Je možné použiť aj termín obrad vzkriesenia. Preto hodina začiatku vigílie má byť až po západe slnka, keď skutočne zapadne slnko a nastane súmrak.

3) Obrad vzkriesenia spojený s procesiou slúži ako vonkajšia forma manifestovania veľkonočnej radosti.

4) Paschálne trojdnie začína večer na zelený štvrtok na sv. omši pri spomienke na poslednú večeru. Spoločenstvo vykúpenej rodiny božích detí sa zhromažďuje okolo stola. Tento deň je deň zmierenia. Je potrebné pastoračne viesť ľudí ku všeobecnému zmiereniu všetkých farníkov. Aby eucharistia sa stala skutočným znakom jednoty a spoločenstva. Vtedy eucharistia bude znakom, ak všetci prítomní v kostole prijmu sv. prijímanie a ak sv omša sa stane ozaj Pánovou večerou.

5) Odporúčanie, aby sv. zmierenia sa uskutočnila pred paschálnym trojdním a nie počas tridua. Aby hneď na začiatku farnici boli zmierení a mohli pristupovať k sv. prijímaniu. Aby aj kňazi počas trojdnia mohli byť patrične pripravení viesť liturgiu. Ide tu aj o dobro celého spoločenstva.

6) Podmienka na dobré prežitie paschálneho trojdnia v kresťanských rodinách je snaha skôr ukončiť predsviatočné poriadky a pratanie ešte pred obradmi veľkého štvrtku. Aby to bol čas na duchovnú obnovu. Sväté trojdnie je Trojdním duchovnej obnovy.

7) Veľký štvrtok môžeme prežiť ako deň zmierenia a lásky. Je možné zorganizovať agape v rodine podľa spôsobu štedrej večere. Rodina po večernej sv omši je okolo stola s bielym obrusom a sviecami. Otec číta úryvky z rozlúčkovej reči Ježiša Krista.

8) Odporúča sa, aby rodina išla do chrámu na bdenie s Ježišom do Getsemanskej záhrady, ktoré do polnoci má mať slávnostný ráz alebo v piatok (sobotu) k božiemu hrobu na (nočné) bdenie. Veľká sobota je dňom ticha.

9) Ak je dobre pripravená liturgia Pánovej smrti spolu s adoráciou kríža, tak je o hodne hlbšie prežitá než pobožnosť Krížovej cesty alebo iné paraliturgické pobožnosti. Spokojne je možné upustiť od pobožnosti, ktoré sú počas pôstneho obdobia, aby sme náležite prežili hlavnú liturgiu dňa. Stále je možné sa stretnúť s tendenciou skracovať liturgiu tohto dňa v prospech paraliturgickej pobožnosti.

10) Povzbudzujeme liturgickú službu a spevákov i hudobníkov, aby sa náležite pripravili na Paschálne trojdnie. Je to vrchol ich celoročnej služby.

Pre každé kresťanské spoločenstvo Posvätné trojdnie je centrálny bod liturgického života. Aj pre každú farnosť ako miestnu cirkev to platí, aby sa do slávania zapojili všetky

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Veľkonočné tradície pretrvávajú



V Piešťanoch a v Strečne sa konali sprievodné programy k nadchádzajúcim veľkonočným sviatkom. 10. apríla 2017. Folklorný súbor Žito predstavil tradičné ľudové zvyky spojené s vynášaním Moreny priamo na Námestí slobody v Piešťanoch.

Traditional Slovak Easter customs still continue in Piestany and Strečno.

Foto TASR Stanislava Ivánková