



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furek
Our Founder

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President's Easter Message 2017

Snow is still on the ground in Cleveland as I write this message, remains of the series of snowfalls that hit from the plains through Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and the entire East Coast.

Easter comes in mid April and I believe Easter is observed by the Roman Catholic and Byzantine Rites at the same time, a rarity. 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 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 mem-

ories 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 plan to attend and participate in Vespers with the Benedictine Monks at St. Andrew's Abbey. 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.

I hope you will attend Easter services.

In the coming months you will hear more of our proposals to insure the future of our Society.

The 2018 Convention plans are being made.

Potential candidates are already active in their pre-campaigning. If you have any questions please contact

myself or Ken Arendt at the Home Office.

Incidentally, I am pleased to report that 2016 again was a record year financially for the Society. We want to provide the best possible returns for our Members along with strong financial security. Results appear in this edition, with details upcoming in my President's Report in the next issue.

Our prayers are with you and especially those of you who have health concerns or have loved ones with health concerns.

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
President



Andrew M. Rajec



Rejoice!
He is risen!
Easter
April 16, 2017

The Resurrection, Lucas Cranach (1558)



See pages
6 & 10 of this
issue for Slovak
Easter Recipes

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2016 National Coloring Contest Winners, Part II, p12-13



Insights and Viewpoints



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

April 9, 2017 – Palm Sunday
Gospel: Matthew 26: 14-27:66

The first processional antiphon for Palm Sunday reads, "The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: 'Hosanna in the highest'". The "children of the Hebrews" are the subject of this acclamation although that phrase appears nowhere in the Bible.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

The precision of those words, and the fact that they do not come from the Bible, caught my notice and made me reflect on the journey of the "children of the Hebrews" and on our closeness to them. Two sons of the Hebrew people in particular emerge in the gospel for Palm Sunday as illustrating the possibilities that face every human person, no matter their race or nation, at the end of our earthly journey: life and death, redemption and despair, the blessing and the curse.

The gospel reading of the passion from St. Matthew describes these two men in terms of their profound betrayals of Jesus: the betrayal committed by Peter and that committed by Judas. Both men were part of God's chosen people, both were elected by Jesus to be members of his most intimate band of disciples, and both were accompanied by him on their journey of faith just as we are.

Peter and Judas walked together with Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, they dined with him at the last supper, they sinned against him in ways that stand in the spotlight of world history—and that crouch in the shadows of every person's heart of darkness. In a real sense, Peter and Judas dwell in each one of us, not only on account of our common capacity for sin, but on account of our common longing to cure the effects of sin in our lives.

Peter found resolution to the sin that marked the cardinal moment of his life by lamenting it and turning back to Christ, and thereby obtaining forgiveness and a new beginning. John tells us that Peter would later be commissioned by the risen Lord to be the chief pastor of his earthly flock and to give his life in witness to Jesus (see John 21:15-19). Judas on the other hand is so racked by the horror of his betrayal that he despairs of forgiveness and takes his own life, thinking that the only resolution to his action was death itself.

While we share with the "children of the Hebrews" in human weakness, we hold as well to the same hope for wholeness and forgiveness that they demonstrate time and time again. We believe as Catholics that this wholeness which is variously called salvation, redemption, justification, and reconciliation comes only through Jesus Christ. At the same time we believe that this treasure of divine grace which we hold in earthen vessels is found at least partially in many signs and movements of the spirit which animate our brothers and sisters who have yet to hear the gospel in its fullness.

We maintain also that the victory over sin and death in which we rejoice on Easter Sunday will in God's own mysterious design bring salvation to the "children of the Hebrews", for "if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead", and because "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" (Rom 11:15, 29).

This year, in the very same days when the Jewish people celebrate Passover we mark our own observance of the Paschal mystery. Passover represents liberation from servitude, including sin in all of its dimensions, and the beginning of the long journey of Israel with God as his uniquely chosen people.

As we begin Holy Week, let us not forget that we too are a pilgrim people, making our journey of faith in this life by walking together not just with the "children of the Hebrews" but with the children of God of all nations and all ages—ultimately tracing the footsteps of Jesus himself, who humbled himself to share in our humanity, that we might share in his divinity, and might follow him into his Kingdom.

April 16, 2017 – Easter – Mass during the Day
John 20: 1 - 9

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen! This is the greeting that we proclaim today, and the song that we joyfully sing. However, the first Easter did not begin as a joyous day. Peter and the ten remaining apostles were hiding in the upper room, both grieving the death of Jesus, and fearful of what might happen to them. Mary of Magdala goes to the tomb early in the morning to perform the burial rituals that could not be done earlier because of the Passover. She is not going there to see the Risen Lord, she is going to anoint a dead man who changed her life. She arrives at the tomb and discovers that the stone was removed and the tomb was empty. Again, it was not a moment of "yes, He did it." but one of deeper grief as she runs to the upper room to tell Peter that someone took the body from the tomb. This news gets Peter and the others moving and when they arrived at the tomb, Peter entered and he understood, for Jesus had told them that, "he had to rise from the dead." This is the moment when their mourning was turned to joy, and they began to proclaim, "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!" We can only imagine the pre-Resurrection thoughts and emotions of the apostles and followers of Jesus, but we are not called to imagine their Resurrection Joy, but rather to experience that joy that comes from our Risen Lord.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

Last June Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of the memorial of St. Mary Magdalene to the dignity of a feast, the same rank given to the liturgical celebration of the Apostles. The decree entitled The Apostle of the Apostles [Apostolorum apostola], explains the reason for the Pope's actions and the long tradition of Mary Magdala being known as the Apostle of the Apostles. She was the one who discovered the empty tomb and announced this to Peter and the others. In the other Gospel accounts she is the one who the Risen Lord appeared to first. This Gospel and the elevation of her Feast is a recognition of her important role on Easter.

During the Easter Season we will hear the Gospel accounts of the Risen Lord and how the news of his Resurrection spread. It serves as a time for us to celebrate this great event. It is the act of God's love that freed us from sin and opened for us the way to the glory and joy of eternal life in Heaven. This is a season for us to celebrate, not just the historical event of two thousand years ago, but also the reality that this event is timeless. The Risen Lord still touches and changes the hearts of men and women. One way to see this is by noting the number of people in the RCIA who entered the church at the Easter Vigil. His presence continues to draw others to know him personally, and is the call for us to lift up our hearts and souls with renewed faith and joy. Like Mary Magdala, we are the apostles of our own time who are called to run with joy to proclaim to others that Jesus is Risen. This is a joy and a proclamation that in itself speaks volumes and draws others to experience Jesus more in their lives. May it not be muted by whatever clouds surround us, but let it be an experience that casts away darkness in our lives so that the Glory of the Lord can shine forth brightly. May this Easter Season be a time for us to sing out "Alleluia!" from the depths of our hearts.

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, APR 19	MONDAY, APR 10
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10	MONDAY, MAY 1
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14	MONDAY, JUNE 5

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Easter Greeting from the National Chaplain

Every story in the Gospels concerning an appearance of the Risen Jesus mentions the reaction of all who encounter him and it is always the same. Whether it was Mary Magdalen, Peter and the other disciples, or the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, everyone who saw Jesus risen from the dead was filled with a joy that transformed their lives. They could not keep this joy to themselves; they never tired of evangelizing, of telling others what they themselves saw and heard.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Our faith in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, came to us through the preaching of these original witnesses. But if we are honest with ourselves, our joy is not on the same level as their joy.

Sure, we are happy and joyful that Jesus is risen. Yet at the same time we have too many issues and worries that are foremost on our minds that whatever joy we may have about the Resurrection becomes secondary. Our issues and worries include: threats of violence, persecution, and terror both at home and abroad; earning a living and planning for retirement; raising educating our children and grandchildren; the health and well-being of our loved ones; the closures of where we have shopped, worked, or worshipped for years. The list seems to have no end.

Perhaps this is what is inspiring Pope Francis to emphasize joy in his teachings. It is very likely no accident that the titles of two documents from our Holy Father's hand are The Joy of the Gospel and The Joy of Love. One of the reasons the Pope called for a Year of Mercy was to offer those who believed a sin they committed was beyond the forgiveness of God the joy that their sin could be forgiven.

The message of Easter is a joyous message, one that can literally fill the minds and hearts of every believer. Allowing this joy to permeate our disposition, our decision making, our very being, we can become like those original witnesses, who never tired of bearing witness to Jesus, risen from the dead. To Him be all glory and honor. Amen. Alleluia.

Happy Easter.

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.



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

On behalf of my wife, Maria, 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

Easter Greetings from the Executive Secretary

As we leave the long cold days of winter behind us, we, as Easter people, are once again filled with hope and joy. Jesus rising from the dead reminds us that suffering does not have the last word. The final word is the glorious resurrection. May the wonder of that first Easter morning fill your spirits and call you to rise with him into new life.



Kenneth Arendt

On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office staff, I wish all of our members and their families all the blessing the Easter season brings.

Kenneth A. Arendt,
Executive Secretary

Easter Greetings from the National Treasurer

Starting with Ash Wednesday, and throughout Lent, we as Christians begin to prepare for Easter - the feast of all feasts, the ultimate Christian celebration. Each of us should take the time to reflect and understand what Christ endured and went through as we participate in Holy Thursday, Good Friday and eventually Easter Sunday services. For it is through these services that we need to take the time to look at our own lives as to how we live and how we follow our Christian beliefs. For it was Christ's suffering and eventual resurrection that should act as a guide for each of us.



George F. Matta II

On behalf of my wife, Cathy and our family, we extend our prayers along with the blessings of the Risen Lord to you and your families. Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ is risen.

George F. Matta II
National Treasurer

FOR SALE

Embroidered Easter Basket Covers
Three types of basket covers are available to bring your Easter Foods to Church for blessing on Holy Saturday
Each embroidered cover is \$30 plus \$5 shipping



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"Christ is Risen"
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Fr. Ed Dougherty, M.M., The Christophers' Board of Directors

Understanding Christ's Passion

St. Augustine once said, "A single tear shed at the remembrance of the Passion of Jesus is worth more than a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, or a year of fasting on bread and water." A good way to connect with Christ's Passion during this time of year is to begin by focusing on the empathy we have for the people we know best. Christ was torn away from family and friends in the prime of life to be unjustly executed. It's the kind of tragic circumstance that would leave us reeling were it to happen to someone close to us.

Now, consider the fact that Christ laid down His life in order to connect with us in our suffering. It's hard to comprehend, but Christ simultaneously loved all of mankind and each one of us individually so as to become the best friend we could possibly imagine. How should we feel about our best friend being crucified to save us? If we place ourselves in the shoes of those closest to Christ during His lifetime, we would wish for the mob and Pilate to free Him so that He could return to His loved ones and go on living His life with us.

We can dream of how special life with Him must have been and share in the anguish of His disciples after they witnessed or learned about His crucifixion. And we can imagine being there to give Him water or tend his wounds in defiance of the mob as He carried His cross to Calvary.

In that moment, when the world despised our best friend enough to put Him to a brutal death, we would be one of the few to know how good He truly was, and we would be sad to see Him so misunderstood and so mistreated. We would be sad to lose Him and would want to put ourselves in His place. But it's something we can't do—and something we couldn't have done—even if we were there. What Christ accomplished is not something we could accomplish, because He was the only one pure enough to offer a sacrifice to God that would redeem mankind.

But the perfect nature of Christ's sacrifice has made it possible for us to unite ourselves to His suffering. The surest way to have prayers answered and the miraculous enter your life is through unity with Christ on the cross. He said, "For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

One of the most miraculous revelations mankind has ever received occurred when Christ cried out from the cross, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Our own Christopher prayer on forgiveness begins, "Forgiveness is the power of God infused in our lives," and it goes on to echo the profound truths revealed to us in the moment of Christ's redemptive sacrifice.

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate Christ's resurrection, it is important to take the time to commemorate the Passion of Christ. Remember the amazing life He lived and all He gave up in this world. Weep for His loss, offer your own sufferings up with His perfect sacrifice, forgive those who have wronged you, and the power of God's love will make all things possible in your life.



That I like Him Should Be

A tree did grow when He was young,
And grew each day as He;
They chopped it down, and there He hung:
That I like Him should be.

Near to the cross His mother stood,
In awful agony:
In union with her only Son,
That I like Him should be.

The Lord of suffering, Lord of love,
From sin and death to free,
Was hung and died upon a cross:
That I like Him should be.

- © 2016 by George Kossik, Branch 584

ANNUAL SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 8, 2017



St. Adalbert Church

160 So.15th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA

10:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Rosary (in Slovak)

11:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

12:15 p.m. -- SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS

sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)
kolbasy (sausage) paska (sweet bread) kolace (baked goods)

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA



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18th Edition of Carpathian Cookbook

Now Available



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 18th printing. The 330-page cookbook includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling (\$18.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$27.00 U.S. Postal money order

payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call (724) 208-6671 (M – F 6-8PM) for more information. You may contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office
will be closed on
Friday, April 14, 2017,
in observance of Good Friday.

Address Changes?

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



Best Foot Forward Walking Program



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

Benefits to You:

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

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

1 STEP ONE
Register: Fill out the registration form and mail to:
Best Foot Forward
FCSU Activities
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
To receive your welcome kit.

2 STEP TWO
Just START WALKING!
Log your walking minutes. The more you walk, the more prizes you can win!

Rules:

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

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





Best Foot Forward Walking Program

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

Name: _____

Branch Number: _____

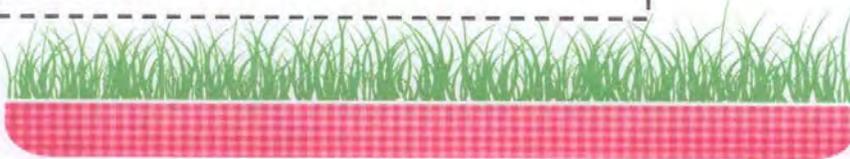
Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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



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



District 9 Election of Officers

The Frank T. Holly, Jr. District 9 Officers were elected at a meeting held at Park Inn, Uniontown, PA, on Sunday, March 12, 2017. Pictured (L – R) Front row: Kathryn Baranek, Auditor; Patty Speshock, Vice President; Dolores Marmol, Treasurer; Barbara Holly, Secretary. (L – R) Back row: Tom Kocis, auditor; James Marmol, President. Swearing in of officers was performed by Audrey Balazik.

- Submitted by District President & Region 4 Director Jim Marmol



12th ANNUAL EGG EggSTRAVAGANZA

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 2, 2017**

12:00 NOON – 5:00pm

St. John the Baptist Byzantine
Catholic Church Social Hall
201 E. Main Street
Uniontown, PA

“Experience the traditions”

- Egg artists will demonstrate, display and sell eggs
- Market place with pysanky supplies, Easter items, Easter crafts, basket covers and other ethnic items
- Children’s activities including storytelling, making Easter eggs, other projects
- Videos showing of Pysanky and Pysanky making
- Display of Easter basket covers
- Explanation of traditional Easter foods
- Pysanky jigsaw table
- Lenten Lunch Menu available for purchase
- Hands-on workshop for those interested in learning to make pysanky
- Free Admission Handicapped accessible

Sponsored by: GCU Lodge #81, Local Egg Artists,
& St. John’s Ethnic Craft Club

Branch 738: join other members and guests on Sunday, April 30, 2017, for luncheon at the fabulous Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh, PA



You and a guest are invited to an afternoon of fun and fraternalism with other members of St. Michael’s Branch 738 (your local Jednota branch) on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at Rivers Casino, 777 Casino Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15212.

The branch is hosting a luncheon in the banquet room of the casino at 12:30PM. Located on the second floor, the dining area has an incredible view of the three rivers, Heinz field, and the Science Center.

You will enjoy a cocktail and lunch – including an entrée choice of stuffed chicken breast or hanger steak – and the chance to win numerous door prizes.

After enjoying lunch with other members, you will be given a \$10 credit voucher to use towards any machine or table game at Rivers Casino. Free parking at the casino is included. A handicap option and valet services are available.

The luncheon is open to all members of Branch 738 and your guests.

The cost is \$10 per person (member or guest).

Please RSVP by April 10, 2017, with the number of attendees and entrée choice(s) to: Pat Guidish @ 412-496-0224 (phone or text) or email patguidish@comcast.net



Jednota Golf League Season Starts

Prior to the start of play, the Jednota Golf League will hold an organizational meeting on Friday April 7, 2017, at 1:00pm at the Restaurant of Knoll Run Golf Course, 1421 Struthers Coitsville Rd, Lowellville, OH 44436. Anyone interested in joining the Jednota Golf League is welcome. Please call League President Tom Morella at (330- 542-3705) or League Secretary/Treasurer Paul Ritz at (330) 501-8768 or (330) 540-0059.

- Submitted by Paul Ritz, League Secretary & Branch 260 President

An Easter Gift for My Readers: The Hrudka

By Allan Stevo

Easter is an important family holiday in Slovakia and "hrudka" - or "syrek" as it is also known - is an Easter staple in Eastern Slovakia. Despite its simple base recipe, variations are virtually endless. Anyway you make it, hrudka tastes good. Here two versions you can try at home.

Recipe: Savory Hrudka

Ingredients: 1 liter milk, 10 eggs, 1 tablespoon salt, 1 teaspoon pepper

Preparation Time: 30 minutes of cooking, 3 to 4 hours setting time.

Pour one liter of milk into a pot. Turn on low heat. Add 10 eggs to the milk. Add salt and pepper. Mix the mixture well with an egg beater, but do not beat vigorously. A double boiler is not needed for this process, just be sure not to let the mixture scorch at the bottom, but honestly a little scorching will not harm anything.

Stir constantly (about 20-30 minutes) until the mixture separates into curd-like pieces and whey-like "white water." Cook the mixture for a few minutes after the white water appears.

Pour the mixture into a strainer lined with a cheesecloth or a porous kitchen towel. Pour off the water, collect the solids. Squeeze out the liquid, being careful not to burn yourself.

Tie the cloth tightly and hang it in a place where it can drip dry. Some use a kitchen faucet for this purpose, others use a wooden spoon placed on top of a pot.

Tie the top of the towel with a string to help create a more ball-like shape. Allow the hrudka to cool. Squeeze it a few more times before the process is complete, taking effort to really squeeze the water out of it.

Place it in the refrigerator to protect from spoiling. Allow it to set for 3 or 4 hours and unwrap it. It can be stored for 2 or 3 days in aluminum foil and sometimes longer. When the hrudka has gone bad, it will be apparent that it is bad, because of the noticeable smell of rotten eggs. Until that point it is okay to eat.

The variations are unlimited. Fresh ingredients like chopped parsley or chives can be added when the white water appears and should be stirred in. Some families make very salty hrudka. Some families add a little sugar to this recipe. Some families make their hrudka very spicy.

Recipe: Sweet Hrudka

Ingredients: 1 liter milk, 10 eggs, a few pinches of salt, a cup of sugar.

Preparation Time: 30 minutes of cooking, 3 to 4 hours setting time.

The basic recipe is the same as the savory version. Pour one liter of milk into a pot. Turn on low heat. Add 10 eggs to the milk. Add salt and sugar. Mix the mixture well with an egg beater, but do not beat vigorously. A double boiler is not needed for this process, but again be sure not to let the mixture scorch at the bottom, though honestly a little scorching will not harm anything. The sugar in the sweet hrudka, for some reason, seems to make it easier to avoid scorching than when cooking savory hrudka. Stir the mixture constantly (about 20-30 minutes) until the mixture separates into curd-like pieces and whey-like "white water." Cook the mixture for a few minutes after the white water appears.

Pour the mixture into a strainer lined with a cheesecloth or a porous kitchen towel. Pour off the water, collect the solids. Squeeze out the liquid, being careful not to burn yourself. Tie the cloth tight and hang it in a place where it can drip dry. Some use a kitchen faucet for this purpose, others use a wooden spoon place across the top of a pot. Tie the top of the towel with a string to help create a more ball-like shape. Allow the hrudka to cool. Squeeze it a few more times before the process is complete, taking effort to really squeeze the water out of it. Place it in the refrigerator to protect from spoiling. Allow it to set for 3 or 4 hours and unwrap it. It can be stored for 2 or 3 days in aluminum foil and sometimes longer. When the hrudka has gone bad, it will be apparent that it is bad, because of the noticeable smell of rotten eggs. Until that point it is okay to eat.



Hanging to drip dry.

Tying the cloth tightly with string helps create the ball shape.



Finished hrudka can be stored for days.



The recipe is commonly made with 5 eggs, 10 eggs, and 15 eggs, and 0.5, 1, 1.5 liters of milk respectively.

As is the case with savory hrudka, the variations are unlimited with sweet hrudka as well. Freshly grated cinnamon, cardamom, a little ginger, a little ground clove, and a lot of freshly ground nutmeg and vanilla extract make a delicious sweet hrudka.

Sweet hrudka can also be sliced thick like a piece of cheese and enjoyed alongside other desserts at the end of a meal.

While delicious, it does not seem common in Slovakia to over-season hrudka. It seems that hrudka is generally known for its bland taste, which isn't bad at all. The simple ingredients, when of good quality, have a pleasant taste on their own.

I wish you a great Easter.

Reprinted with permission from the author from his post published April 21, 2011 on his popular 52 Weeks in Slovakia. To read more of Allan Stevo's writings, go to www.52insk.com or www.AllanStevo.com.

Treasures Tours Showcases 3-Generation of Tour Goers

It's always a thrill to have families come on our Treasures Tours but the best is when a three generation family joins us.

Treasures Tours is celebrating its 90th tour with the Treasures of Slovakia trip July 7 - 16, visiting Slovakia east to west and north to south to discover its treasures. Also offered a pre-trip gathering, a visit to Vienna and the opportunity for an add-on in Prague. And all above will be included in the 2017 tour, \$2,299 per person for the land portion. And help finding flights too.

Contact Helene Cincebeaux for a Treasures Tours flyer and day by day itineraries. It's the perfect opportunity to learn about your rich Slovak heritage, visit your ancestral village(s) and meet long-lost family. Contact Helene at 585 342-9383; e-mail helenezx@aol.com or write 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617.



A day in Vienna brought tour goers face-to-face with new friends: (L - R) Mary Mitosinka, Michigan; Diana Druback, Ohio, Paul Hadzima, Connecticut, and Ursula Stahovec, Ohio.

Music is a big part of Slovak life and our tour-goers enjoyed it including these dueling grandmas who entertained us at the Detva Folk Festival in central Slovakia.



Minnesotans Jerry Parupsky (R), his son Mark (L) and granddaughter Sydney came with us to learn about their heritage and meet long-lost family in Richvald near Bardejov.



Treasurers travelers marveled at the beautiful icons like this precious one in the Presov Greek Catholic Cathedral (eastern Slovakia).



Bread and salt comprise the traditional Slovak greeting, representing the necessities of life, enacting the custom in the village of Krakovany in western Slovakia.

Celebrating Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Mississauga

On Sunday, February 12, 2017, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Mississauga, Ontario, celebrated their annual feast of Sts Cyril and Methodius, with Mass and a luncheon afterwards. Attendance was great, and a good time was had by all.

Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



The charismatic blind singer from Slovakia - "the Slovak Andrea Bocelli" - whose masterful voice is matched by a remarkable life story



MAROŠ BANGO

In Concert May 13, 2017
**An Evening of Classical,
 Pop & Traditional Folk Songs**

Doors open: 6PM
Concert: 7PM – 9PM
DJ Denis : 9PM - 11:30PM

LOCATION St. Mary's Crystal Chalet Party Center,
 3600 Biddulph Ave, Cleveland OH 44109

TICKETS: \$20 adult; \$15/ages 16 and younger
 Limited Seating! Advanced sales only.

Ticket includes: Appetizers, Concert, Music for Dancing
 Cash Bar provided by Melendez Catering

Raffles & gift baskets available to win throughout the evening benefiting the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble. Concert proceeds benefit the St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church Building Fund.

Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Matching Funds for the Lúčina Raffles provided by First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Br. 176.

For tickets call: **Miriam Visnovsky, 440-638-9921, vismimi@hotmail.com**
Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797, tivanec@aol.com

September Small Group Tour Explores the Heart and Heartland of Slovakia

Slovakia's ever-changing countryside is even more beautiful in the fall highlighted with richly green grasslands aside the dried sunflower and corn fields; bountiful apple, plum and walnut trees along the road side; and the brightly-colored fall leaves against the green spruce of the mountains.

Celebrate the harvest this fall in Slovakia on the 2017 Slovakia Heritage Tour, September 8-17, 2017. You'll travel to the heartland of Slovakia and experience the age-old villages and way of life that our families left behind to start new lives in America. We'll explore the rich history and cultural changes that shaped this young nation at the heart of Europe, and meet the Slovak people as they transition from life in the Soviet era to the European Union.

You'll join with the Slovak people as they celebrate at the Wine and Harvest Festivals in Banska Bystrica and Modra, as well as the age-old Mining Festival in Banska Stiavnica. Relax and enjoy local music and crafts as we travel comfortably around this small but diverse country to explore picturesque villages, spectacular castles, outdoor folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral landscapes and comfortable small cities with well-preserved historic buildings, Soviet-era remnants and the vibrant life of Slovakia today.

You'll be able to arrange for personal visits to family and ancestral villages, as well as genealogical research to trace your family history as well as extend your stay in Central Europe with small-group tours to Prague, Krakow and Vienna following the Slovakia tour.

"Slovak Americans and others love our small group tours as a way to effortlessly experience the culture and history of this fascinating region," said tour organizer Judy Northup-Bennett. "Many people come to find their family roots but others, some of Polish and Ukrainian descent, come to immerse themselves in the Slavic culture of this small country that is off-the-beaten tourist path."

Slovakia Heritage Tours can also arrange small group tours for families and organizations wishing to travel at another time of the year. "I love to talk to people and help them realize their dreams to find and visit their Slovak families and learn about this beautiful country and culture," said Northup-Bennett.

For more information on the September tour or to plan your own private family tour contact: Judy Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 and slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com or visit the web site at: www.slovakiaheritage.com

OVERVIEW:

2017 SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOUR
September 8-17, 2017
www.slovakiaheritage.com
PRICE: \$2,230 complete, land-only package





Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II

For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin • March 2017



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 <http://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 10, 2017.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



Easter Day and Easter Hymns in Slovakia – Veľkonoc a Veľkonočné chválospevy na Slovensku

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



Traditionally in Slovakia, Easter was a time of rejoicing, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. His rising from the dead symbolized the conquest over death and the sins of mankind. Slovak Catholics refer to Easter as Veľká Noc (Vel-kah nots),

literally meaning "the Great Night," which stresses the miracle of that glorious morning. Greek Catholic and Orthodox Churches use the name of Pascha, derived from the Hebrew word Pesach or Pascha, referring to Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Slovaks expressed that joy in their Easter hymns (Veľkonočné chválospevy). When Slovaks celebrated, they often wished to sing. A popular Slovak expression goes, "Kde Slovák, tam spev" (Where there is a Slovak, there is a song). So it is natural that in traditional Slovak religious culture, Easter singing helped raise spirits and raise the spirits of believers.

As with most celebrations, the Slovaks made elaborate preparations and cleaned their houses thoroughly, just as they were cleaning their souls in anticipation of the most holy of Christian feast days. In addition, cooking and baking koláče went on for days before Easter. The family would paint colorful Easter eggs (kraslice, písanky, or pysanky). But no celebration would be complete without the beloved songs that heralded the Resurrection of Christ.

While most websites about Slovak Easter emphasize either the pre-Easter preparations or the ceremonial whipping and dumping of water on girls (oblievačka) that occurs on Easter Monday, most deal little with the actual celebration of Easter itself, a most solemn and joyful holy day. This article attempts to fill that gap.

Church and Holy Mass

In the Roman Catholic tradition, Easter services began during the Vigil, completing the Holy Triduum which ran from Holy Thursday and extending through Holy Saturday. The Easter season lasts for fifty days until the Feast of the Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Turíce, or Rusadlá in eastern dialect).

Easter Sunday was a big event and village people dressed in their best traditional costume (kroj) for the celebration of Holy Mass. As in the USA and Canada, the church was packed with people on this special Holy Day.

While in the USA, Slovaks typically had their baskets with food blessed on Saturdays, in Slovakia, the blessings took place in front of the church on Easter Sundays. The typical foods blessed included baránok, paska, hrudka, mazance, koláče, vajcia, and chren, víno (lamb, Easter bread, head cheese, cakes, nut rolls, eggs, horseradish, and wine). All foods were cooked on Holy Saturday, for custom forbade cooking on Easter.



The Rev. Ken Kezmarsky blessing baskets at St. Alphonsus Church in Springdale, PA

Kopanic and Feighner families after the basket blessing in 2016.



Slovak Easter Hymns

Slovak Easter hymns are joyful songs of praise, marking Jesus Christ's triumph over sin and death, and the promise of eternal life in heaven. The Mass begins and ends with ebullient singing which express the promise of a new life in Christ.

When my children were growing up, we always attended the Slovak Mass at St. Matthias Church (today called Our Lady of Sorrows parish) in Youngstown, Ohio. There were several songs that we always sang, and one most often used during the Procession starting Mass was "Základ Cirkvi je na skale" (The Church's foundation is the Stone, referring to the stone at Christ's tomb). It is number 210 in the in the Jednotný katolícky spevník. (The Standard Catholic Songbook). All the songs in the hymnbook can be found at this website: <http://www.spevník.szm.com>

The song typically features a trumpet sound, even if it was done via an organ. The rendition sung at St. Matthias was a different and more lively tune than the standard hymn in Slovakia, and I like it better, since it fits the joyful Easter season. But one may hear the typical Slovak version at these websites: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEgyJ7O2hFk> for an individual singing, or at Mass at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swVwOWu-7u8>.

1. Základ Cirkvi je na skale, nemôže byť zrušená! trvať bude neustále — pevná, nepremožená. Základ ten jej Pán Boh dáva, dodáva jej stálosti, preto ju nič nepremáha, ani zloba temnosti.

1. The Church's foundation is the stone - it cannot be destroyed! It will last forever - solid, unconquerable. - It's the foundation that the Lord God gives - it adds stability - therefore nothing can overcome it, even the malice of darkness.

2. Nad smrťou už v svojej moci — Kristus slávne víťazí, ako slnko v temnej noci, svetlom svojim svet bláži. Sláva, česť a ďakovanie — tebe buď, náš Spasiteľ — za preslávne zmŕtvychvstanie, žes' nám vrátil pravý cieľ.

2. Christ has gloriously conquered death

with His power - as the sun in the dark of night - His light has brought joy to the world. Glory and honor and thanksgiving to You, our Savior - the Glorious Resurrection - that you returned us to the real goal.

My favorite song, Vstal z mŕtvych (He Rose from the Dead), is not in the standard Slovak songbook from Slovakia, but it is in the St. Matthias hymnal. I am not certain of its origins or composer, since it is not anywhere on the internet. But the song is lively, inspiring, and was usually sung during the Offertory or during Holy Communion.

Refrain: Vstal z mŕtvych, vstal z mŕtvych, vstal z mŕtvych Kristus Pán!

Vstal z mŕtvych Kristus Pán, Spievajme aleluja.

Refrain: He rose from the dead, rose from the dead, Christ the Lord is resurrected!

He rose from the dead, let us sing Alleluia.

1. Vstal z mŕtvych Kristus Spasiteľ, Všeteho, sveta Vykupiteľ, Aleluja, aleluja, aleluja!

Refrain:

1. Christ the Savior rose from the dead, for all, Redeemer of the world, Aleluja, aleluja, aleluja!

Refrain:

2. Chváľme jeho podľa písma, Lebo je to pravda istá, Aleluja, aleluja, aleluja!

Refrain:

2. Praise him according to the Scripture, For it's a certain truth. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Refrain:

3. V tieto veľkonočné časy, Chváľme jeho srdcom lásky, Aleluja, aleluja, aleluja!

Refrain:

During this Easter season, We praise his loving heart, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Refrain:

Monsignor Peter Polando would always end the Mass by singing the first line of the hymn, "Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych" (The Lord Jesus Christ Rose from the Dead). Then the choir and the faithful would

join in with a joyful reply in song.

Below are words from hymn 192 in the Jednotný katolícky spevník. The hymn summarizes the story of the three Marys finding an empty tomb at the grave as witnesses of the Resurrection, while keeping in mind the tormented death that Jesus endured to redeem us of our sins. Although it is more beautiful heard in person, the closest version I could find on Youtube was at this site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY9Fm5M3V08>.

1. Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych. — Aleluja, chváľme Boha, — Boha svojho — Aleluja, chváľme Boha, — Boha svojho!

1. The Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. -- Alleluia, Praise to God - our God - Alleluia, Praise to God - our God!

2. Na potechu všetkých hriešnych. — Aleluja atď.

2. The consolation of all sinners. - Alleluia, etc.

3. Ktorý ťažkú smrť podstúpil. — Aleluja atď.

3. Who endured an onerous death. - Alleluia, etc.

4. Aby hriešnych nás vykúpil. — Aleluja atď.

4. To redeem us sinners. - Alleluia, etc.

5. Ku hrobu tri Márie šli. — Aleluja atď.

5. The three Marys went to the grave. - Alleluia, etc.

6. Drahé masti ony niesli. — Aleluja atď.

6. They were carrying precious oils. - Alleluia, etc.

7. Anjela tam uvideli. — Aleluja atď.

7. There they saw an Angel. - Alleluia, etc.

8. Od neho sa dozvedeli. — Aleluja atď.

8. From him they learned. - Alleluia, etc.

9. Že Kristus Pán dnes z mŕtvych vstal. — Aleluja atď.

9. That Christ the Lord is risen from the dead. - Alleluia, etc.

10. Jak pred smrťou zvestoval. — Aleluja atď.

10. As He had preached before his death. - Alleluia, etc.

11. Preto plesaj vo dne v noci. — Aleluja atď.

11. Therefore, rejoice in the day and night. - Alleluia, etc.

12. Že Kristus vstal v svojej moci. — Aleluja atď.

12. That Christ rose of His own power. - Alleluia, etc.

13. Všetci teda prespevujme. — Aleluja atď.

13. Let everyone then sing. - Alleluia, etc.

14. Česť a chválu mu vzdávajme. — Aleluja atď.

14. Let us render Him honor and praise. -

continued on page 17

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 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!

Hi Kids (and all those Young at Heart):



It's me. Chewy. Here on a special mission to help my good buddy the Easter Bunny, who's crazy busy with Easter right round the corner. Yep, things are pretty hectic here in Bunnyland, all of us sitting down with the lists of good boys and girls. Your name's there alright so you can chill knowing some tasty treats are headed your way for Easter.

By the way, do you know how Easter got its name? Well, it comes from "Eastre", an ancient German goddess of Spring who was worshipped a long, long time back. My buddy, E. B. (that's the Easter Bunny to you), used to represent her and that's how he got this gig and started hopping to all of you with goodies every Eastertime.

Well, enough scribbles. I must stop and help finish packing all the baskets. Decorations are also in big demand at his Easter egg workshop. I even got this sweet set of honorary bunny ears for the occasion. I know. Nice, right?

I hope you have a very happy Easter with your folks and friends. Tell them the chocolate's on the way. In the meantime, here are some laughs to enjoy (or not;-)

Tvoj Priatel' (Your Friend)



Chewy



A Few Funny Bunnies

1. How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?
2. How did the Easter Bunny rate the Easter parade?
3. How does the Easter Bunny travel?
4. How does the Easter Bunny keep his fur neat?
5. What did the rabbit say to the carrot?
6. Why did the bunny go to the dance?
7. What kinds of books do bunnies like?
8. Why did the Easter Bunny cross the road?

Answers:
1. EGG-xercise and HARE-robics! 2. He said it was eggs-cellent! 3. By hare plane! 4. With a hare brush! 5. It's been nice gnawing you! 6. To do the bunny hop! 7. Ones with hoppy endings! 8. To prove he wasn't chicken!

Join us for our 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia and its Neighbors

July 29 -August 11, 2017



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak-born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Šaštín, Skalica, Trenčín, Bojnice, Rajecké Teplice, Rajecká Lesná, Čičmany, High Tatras, Levoča, Kežmarok, Ždiar, Stará Ľubovňa, Košice, Bardejov, Jedlinka and Prešov. As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives or

family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour.

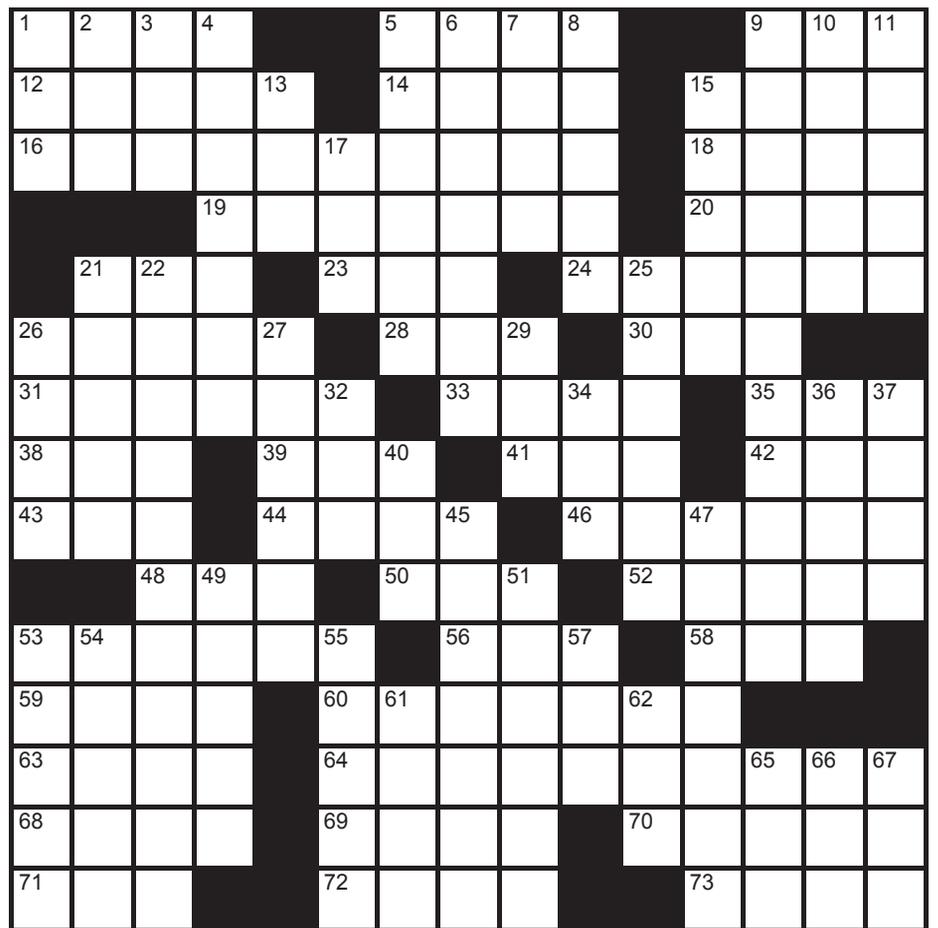
What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, and a welcome reception with the Mayor of Prešov.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of Vienna and Poland. While in Poland, we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

The total price for this complete tour is just \$3,798 per person (double occupancy). The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. For a copy of a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joe Senko, Branch 254

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Leer at
- 5 Baby doll word
- 9 Took a chair
- 12 Perch
- 14 Poetic nightfalls
- 15 Bantu language
- 16 Borneo locale
- 18 Black
- 19 Scream and shout
- 20 Clavicle, e.g.
- 21 Macaw
- 23 Wager
- 24 Feathered's pal
- 26 Bergen's dummy, Mortimer ____
- 28 Conifer
- 30 Father
- 31 Sanctioned
- 33 Aria
- 35 Author Fleming
- 38 Then (Ger.)
- 39 Dry, as wine
- 41 Triumphed
- 42 Gun org.
- 43 Human foot
- 44 Trudge
- 46 Spousal no-no
- 48 Japanese capital
- 50 Social drink
- 52 Repletes
- 53 ET items
- 56 Duffers' org.
- 58 Conducted
- 59 Eyeballs
- 60 Chewy candy
- 63 Stride
- 64 Mountains, e.g.
- 68 Fr. seasons
- 69 Snout
- 70 Pacific coast range

- 71 Thing, in law
- 72 *Tender Mercies* actress Harper
- 73 Turnstile

Down

- 1 Pay dirt
- 2 State of southwestern India
- 3 ____ Gatos, CA
- 4 River inlet
- 5 Potpourri
- 6 Takes to the sky
- 7 Encounter
- 8 Strong point
- 9 Underling
- 10 Solitary
- 11 Adjusted, like a radio
- 13 Sesame
- 15 Zoo denizen
- 17 Kernel
- 21 Leg joint
- 22 Puts together aga
- 25 Demigod
- 26 Cleanser
- 27 Tyrant
- 29 Word of admirati
- 32 Eastern state (Abbr.)
- 34 Tennis shot

- 36 Fortified
- 37 Some votes
- 40 Small bed
- 45 Dismay
- 47 Nettlesome
- 49 Secretaries
- 51 Desert plants
- 53 Grovel
- 54 Bloviate
- 55 Fragrance
- 57 Doc bloc
- 61 Burn plant
- 62 Greek letter
- 65 Harem quarters
- 66 After hair or gill
- 67 Compass pt.

United Slovak Societies of Lorain Accepting Scholarship Applications



The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, Ohio will offer \$1,000 college non-renewable scholarship awards to eligible High School seniors who are five year members of the following Lorain Lodges:

- St. John the Baptist, Branch 228, of the FCSU
- Slovak Catholic Sokol Wr. 111 & 177
- St. Mary Magdalene of the LPSCU Branch 77

National Slovak Society Assembly #160
St. Ann's Lodge of the FCSLA Branch 114

Deadline for application is May 30, 2016.

To obtain rules and application, please visit, www.americanslovakclub.com or contact Michele Mager at 440/984-3353

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

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
April 19	April 10
May 10	May 1
June 14	June 5
July 19	July 10
August 16	August 7
Sept 13	Sept 5
October 4	Sept 25
October 18	October 9
November 1	October 23
November 15	November 6
December 6	November 27

See Solution on Page 17

2016 JEDNOTA COLORING

REGION 4

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Nathan Purnell
Greensburg, PA



Second Place
Leolin Divonzo
Elizabethtown, PA



Third Place
Mason Dlugos
Latrobe, PA



First Place
Emma Nash
Parma, OH



Second Place
Jacob Owens
Fairview, PA



Third Place
Abby Dlugos
Greensburg, PA

REGION 5

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Lizzie Dlugos
Greensburg, PA



Second Place
Stephanie Novak
Rochester, NY



Third Place
Laura Kutschke
Eighty Four, PA



First Place
Cara Zemelman
Woodbridge, VA



Second Place
Kayla Fibbi
Pittsburgh, PA



Third Place
Ethan Fibbi
Pittsburgh, PA

Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Mary Hlozek
Oxford, GA



Second Place
Morgan Skoloda
Latrobe, PA



First Place
Josiah Meinert
Buford, GA



Second Place
Rachel Fibbi
Pittsburgh, PA



Third Place
Janelle Meinert
Buford, GA



REGION 6

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
John Valencik
Brooklyn, OH



Second Place
Caralyn Young
Des Allemands, LA



Third Place
Braeden Young
Des Allemands, LA



First Place
Jocelyn Misanko
Akron, OH



Second Place
Nina Sinchak
Youngstown, OH



Third Place
Kamden Dubber
Lakewood, OH



CONTEST RESULTS, PART II

REGION 7

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Faith Vale
Stow, OH



Second Place
Kailey Smith
Vandalia, OH



Third Place
Joseph Valencik
Brooklyn, OH



First Place
Ryan Riedmuller
Oak Lawn, IL



Second Place
Alexander
Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL



Third Place
John Turner
Gays Mills, WI

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Peter Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL



Second Place
Nicholas Jurcenko
Orland Park, IL



Third Place
Asha Basu
Robins, IA



First Place
Riley McAllister
Woodstock, IL



Second Place
Emma Graves
Streator, IL



Third Place
Anna Jackson
Chicago, IL

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 8

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Sarah Hergel
Toronto, ON
CANADA



Coloring Contest 2016 Honorable Mentions

REGION 1
Charles Griffis

REGION 2
Gabriel Fatula

REGION 3
Justin Pecko
Rachel Fay
Jaycob Kucko
Danica Sudo
Julia Eve Rudat
David John Rudat
Maya Pluto
Giada Carone
Gavin Carone

Allison Ehr
Paige Keiser
Grace Sochovka

REGION 4
Caitlyn Handel
Elizabeth Catherman
Katrina Mullen
sabel Owens
Emily Davis
Danielle Novak
Autumn Hillen
Anthony Matinko
Symeon Kardohely
Hunter Mohan
Garlow Marmol

Jake Handel
Eva Matinko
Valent Cervenak
Seth Catherman
Sammy Dlugos
Grace Beal
Amelia Bissell
Max Dlugos

REGION 5
Timothy Costel
Matthew Fibbi
Victoria Vinciguerra
Jane Windsheimer
William Wilson
Emma Klingensmith

Madison Stahl
Daniel Zemelman
Zachary Skoloda
Lauralei Kroniser

REGION 6
Aleksandra Gizewicz
Allison Gizewicz
Sarah Fels
Ayden Hunsicker
Ethan Argoso
Adele Misanko
Anne Miller
Sophia Carny
Jill Hilliard
Abby Gizewicz

REGION 7
Aras Basu
Regina Turner
Evan Jurcenko
Addison Gillen
Juliana Rayne Oost
Arianna Lazzara
Carter Gillen
Logan Lazzara

REGION 8
Ashlyn Gourash
Brooke Gourash

Congratulations to all our winners, including those published in the March 8 issue of Jednota

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society -Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will celebrate Mass at 9:00AM on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church (13th Avenue, NE & 2nd Street, Minneapolis) for our deceased members. After Mass, a continental breakfast will be served in Father Dargay Hall. All members and guests are welcome to join us in this fraternal activity. Remember, no parking in the school lot.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 11:00AM at the home of our President Delores J. Genosky, 1001 42 1/2 Ave, NE, Columbia Heights, MN.

Items on the agenda are our family picnic in August, a merger, and the date of our annual meeting.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will not have a March meeting because of concern for weather conditions, but will have our next meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. At our April meeting we will discuss scheduling the Margaret Evancho Award breakfast, which will be held in June 2017.

Henry Zack, Secretary

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 23, St. Joseph Society, will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 21 2017, at 1PM. The meeting will be held at VOMA HALL, 307 Chestnut St. Johnstown, Pa. If you have any policies with Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, then you are a member, and you are encouraged to come. Come to see what is new. Our meetings are informative and sometimes fun!! A light lunch will be served. Any questions please call Theresa Cassat at (814) 254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The agenda will include a financial report and a discussion of upcoming branch activities. Luncheon will be served, so please make reservations by calling Branch Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699 (after 6PM).

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 38 - WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Rock Bottom 171 E Bridge Street, Homestead, PA 15120. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on 2017 fraternal social activities. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend, and all visitors are welcome.

If anyone is interested in FCSU Annuities or Life Insurance, please call Florence Matta at 412-466-7460.

**Logan Haselhoff, President
Florence Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

On the agenda will be Officers' reports and discussion of upcoming events. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411 on Church Street, Jessup, PA. All members are encouraged to attend.

Stella Skovira

BRANCH 112 - MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 will host the Reverend Stephen Furdek District 8 Mass, luncheon and meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017 in Mahanoy City, PA. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30AM at St. Teresa of Calcutta Church. The luncheon and meeting will be held at A & C Catering Hall. *[Editor's note: please see the District 8 announcement on page 15 of this issue for details.]*

All members of Branch 112 are invited to attend. Please call Karen at 570-640-1796 before April 16 if you would like to attend.

Karen Engle Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 132 - WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

Branch 132K will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 1:30PM at 2 Keep Street, Madison, NJ, 07940.

On the agenda will be a discussion of annuities and how we can best meet the needs of some of our young people in helping them meet the needs of their new-borns with insurance products. We will be celebrating all members who have birthdays in April. The meeting will include final plans for our garage sale to be held in May and we urge all members to bring in their favorite recipes from their mothers or grandmothers for our 132K file cookbook.

Our young members who are interested in studying abroad should be aware that Slovakia has major universities, some with programs being taught in English. For example, you can go to www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/ to find out more.

We urge all members to attend our meetings and wish them all a Blessed and Holy Easter.

Susan Salko, 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 23, 2017, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of District business and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 21, 2016, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 - UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to a meeting at Applebee's Restaurant, Route 30, Greensburg, PA on Thursday, May 4, 2017 starting at 5 pm.

The agenda will include planning the annual family picnic to be held at Mammoth Park Pavilion #14 on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

Picnic workers are especially encouraged to attend. For more information or directions, please call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 invites you to attend our monthly branch meetings which are held the 1st Thursday of every month (except June & July) in the upstairs Social Hall, 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. So for 2017: Apr. 6th, May 4th, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 2nd with Nomination of Officers, & Dec. 7th with Election of Officers.

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

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 holds its meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious

food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 18, 2017. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This past December, incumbent officers President Leonard Zilko, Vice-President Luis Palos, Financial Secretary Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary Thomas Zuffa were re-elected to their respective offices. Leonard Zilko and Kathleen Trifiletti were re-elected to a 3 year term on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors representing our local Branch 228.

The warm weather has us all anticipating Spring activities such as sprucing up the lawn, planning our gardens and shining up our golf clubs in anticipation of chasing that little white ball around. We can also anticipate the activities of our District and local lodge planning and activities as the 2018 FCSU National Convention will be here before we know it. I put out a challenge for our younger members to consider being a convention delegate and becoming even more involved in our organization. It is a great experience that is interesting, fun and gives a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are directly contributing to the future of the FCSU. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You will be happy you did.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at 1:00PM at the Bedford Trails & Golf Course Restaurant, 713 Bedford Rd Coitsville, OH 44436. The next two branch meetings will be held at the same time and on the same place on the third Sunday of the month.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

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 30, 2017, at 11:00AM at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 382 - DUNMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Sts. Cyril & Methodius Branch 382 will hold its annual Spring meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at noon at VFW Post 3474 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA. The agenda will include the following: an audit report, branch donations, future plans, District 17 news, and updates for the Home Office. Light refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend. Branch officers are: Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr., President; Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President; Michael J. Czankner, Secretary; John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Financial Secretary; and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Treasurer.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 29, 2017 at 1:30PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend. Call for reservations by Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 724-425-2576.

**Geri Buchheit,
Recording & Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 419 - WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419 will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 7, 2017, at 12:30PM. The location is Norm's Restaurant, North Sherman St, Wilkes-Barre, PA. On the agenda: along with regular branch business, the meeting will open with suggestions to improve attendance. Plenty of ideas for nearby events/venues to attend as a branch. Bring a friend and possible new member. Lunch will be served. All are welcome.

Francis Wassil, President

BRANCH 450 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Br. 450, has resched-

uled its semiannual meeting to Saturday, May, 6, 2017. The meeting will be held at 11:00am, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.) All members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 will hold the first lodge meeting of the year on Sunday, May 7, 2017. It will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. The meeting will begin at 2pm. We invite all Bonafide members to join us for fellowship and to discover all the advantages offered to members through the First Catholic Slovak Union. Come take an active role in your fraternal organization.

Linda M Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 - ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 1:00PM.

It will be held at the home of the Recording Secretary, Loretta Dashner, 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, PA. 18109.

We will be discussing various matters pertaining to our branch.

Wishing all members a very Blessed and Happy Easter!!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 - WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 580 will hold a meeting on April 30, 2017. Mass for all living and deceased members will be said that day at the 9:30 mass. Meeting will follow at the Holy

Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Ave. Ext. West Mifflin, PA, 15122. All members are welcome. The District 6 meeting will be held on the same day. Branch 580 will host.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 587 - ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Branch 587, will have a semi-annual meeting on May 9, 2017, at 2:00PM, at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road in Aliquippa. All members are welcome to attend.

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSEKOGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, April 2 Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase.

Sunday, April 23 - Breakfast 8:30 - 12noon is all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

Sunday, May 7 Polka Dance 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase.

Sunday, May 28 - Breakfast 8:30 - 12noon is all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

** This is the last breakfast for the summer!

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

Come down and enjoy yourself.

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

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 670 - BENTLEYVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, at noon, at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 meeting will be held on April 23, 2017 at MRL Lab, at 2:30 pm. Discussion will be about upcoming events for the 2017 year. All members are encouraged to attend.

Thank you,

Joe Scavina, Vice President

BRANCH 716 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Branch 716 will hold its semi-annual meeting from 1:00PM - 3:00PM on April 30, 2017, at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY 10065. On the agenda: financial discussions as well as branch business and planning for future events in

continued on page 16

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 30, 2017. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. NOTE: THE MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED UP ONE-HALF HOUR FROM THE USUAL TIME. Attendees will gather at 1:00 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. [Editor's note: please see page 8 of this issue for details] The meeting will start promptly at 1:30 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 T'apa'k Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 23, 2017, at the Deer Lake Inn located at 7504 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI 48346. (that's Exit 93 on I-75, and just 1 mile west of I-75)

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. 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 633 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (NEW 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 \$20.00 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, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Spring district meeting will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at Holy Trinity Church Hall, 529 Grant Ave. Extn. in West Mifflin, PA. All members are welcome. A light lunch will precede the business meeting. Branch 580 will host. Please RSVP to Mary Elizabeth Polatas at 412-469-0551 or Virginia Jasek at 724-593-2715 or email jasekva1@gmail.com

Branch 2 will host the next Fall/Winter meeting. We still need a host branch for the Father's Day Brunch. Contact district president David Matta to volunteer.

The District Activities Director Annie Ondrejco has organized a Facebook group called Jednota Pittsburgh District Activities. Join the group to keep up with district events. Annie would like suggestions for additional activities.

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

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: April 3 – Wedding Customs, May 1 – Authentic Slovak Halusky, June 5 – Eastern Slovak Village Culture. Meetings resume in October. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** Slovak Wine Tasting: Saturday, April 8. Contact Joe Senko.

** Slovak Mass & Easter Customs: Saturday, April 8. St Adalbert Church of Prince of Peace Parish, South 15th St, Pittsburgh. The day starts with the recitation of the Rosary at 10:45 AM followed by Mass and an Easter breakfast.

** 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.

** Slovak Summer Language Camp for Kids starts May 6.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood: Thursday, July 20.

** 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia – Bratislava, Trencin, High Tatras, Kosice, and more: July 29 to August 11. Contact Joe Senko.

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

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

** The Pittsburgh Slovaks have a CD of Christmas music available for sale. Contact Sue Ondrejco.

** 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/

** Prešov University in Slovakia, announces its 8th annual three-week Studium Carpato-Ruthenorum International Summer School for Rusyn Language and Culture to be held from June 4 – 24, 2017. The program is hosted by the university's Institute of Rusyn Language and Culture.

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php.

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

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

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

Fraternally,

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

DISTRICT 7 – THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its first of two annual meetings on Sunday April 30, 2017. The meeting will be held at St. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Graham Ave. Windber, PA, beginning at 2:00 PM. Branch 292 will host the meeting. There will be a home-cooked luncheon afterwards. All district branches are invited to attend. Hope to see you there. Any questions call Sharon 814-322-1052.

Sharon Allison, Secretary

DISTRICT 8 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT – PENNSYLVANIA/NORTH CAROLINA

District 8's meeting will be held April 23, 2017. Mass will begin at 10:30AM at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church located at 600 West Mahanoy St., Mahanoy City, PA., 17948. There will be an area for all District 8 members to be seated together. Please let me know how many will be attending Mass (email mfabian922@gmail.com or phone 610-417-0468).

Following Mass, a dinner and meeting will be held at:

A & C Catering
505 West Mahanoy St
Mahanoy City, PA. 17948

The district meeting will convene following dinner. The agenda will be mailed out to all officers and branches prior to meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

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

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at 1:00 P.M. It will be held in the meeting room of the Dairy Queen Grill & Chill located at 575 West Main Street. Branch members are invited to attend. A Dairy Queen social will take place following the meeting.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - OHIO

The Rev. Furdek District 10 will be having their first meeting on April 30, 2017 at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311.

If you are planning on attending please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 (home) 330-773-4978 (club office) or via email at lhanko@neo.rr.com. We would appreciate advance notice so that we may plan refreshments accordingly.

Come enjoy the fellowship and see what the District can do enhance your branch experience and learn what is new with our organization.

Linda M Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 - THE MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2017 Semiannual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) will be held on Sunday, April 23, 2017. The agenda will include:

- discussion of options to combine or consolidate branches to restore local support/ control of membership issues and finances.
- suggestions for activities to stimulate fraternal interaction among District 11 branches and within Region 5.

The meeting time and place: 2:00 PM at the C.U.Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. All branches should identify their 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 receipt of the annual branch stipend.
- Any benefical member is welcome to represent his/her branch at district meetings; representatives need not be branch officers or formally identified /selected at a branch meeting.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – THE MSGR. ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Msgr. Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The election of officers for the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District was held, December, 2016. The results are as follows: President, Barb Hosa; Vice President, Nancy Scavina; Treasurer, Selma Bolash; Secretary, Joe Scavina; Auditor, Jackie Bobby; Fraternal Activity Director, Paul Ritz.

The following dates are the scheduled district meetings for 2017:

- April 18, 2017
- July 18, 2017
- November 21, 2017
- December 19, 2017

Joe Scavina/Secretary

DISTRICT 15 - PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

We cordially invite all Slovaks and friends of Slovakia to join us on Palm Sunday April 9, 2017, for Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Paul II Church, Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886. The celebration begins at 1:30 PM. After Mass will be a period of fraternal fellowship tuned to Slovak music and light diner, dessert and refreshments will be served. Children will enjoy traditional Easter Egg hunt.

Paul Skuben, Presiden

DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula, District 16, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, immediately following the 10:30 Slovak Mass, in the hall of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th St. (First Ave), New York, NY 10065. On the agenda will be financial report and discussion of future activities. We urge all district branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU Branches belonging to District 16 (Branches 41, 45, 716) are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Zelmira Beckova-Kucharovic, President

DISTRICT 17 – SS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT – BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK & LACKAWANNA AND LUCERNE, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, in the Shrine Room of St. Ann's Basilica, 1250 St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA. Auditors will meet at 12:30PM

All branches are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting. District 17 encompasses Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County in New York.

Prior to the meeting, district auditors will audit the books at 1:00 P.M.

A light luncheon will be served. If planning on attending, please contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 by Monday, April 24, 2017.

Fraternally,

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

OBITUARIES

JAMES "JIM" WARD BRANCH 35 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA



James "Jim" Ward of North Braddock, PA, died at the age 86, on Monday, January 2, 2017. Loving husband of Evelyn (Dedo) Ward for 65 years; dear father of Karen (Mark) Humphrey of North Versailles, PA; James (Pegeen) Ward of North Braddock; Patricia (Mark) Kernion of Mt. Lebanon, PA; Thomas (Kathryn) Ward of North Braddock; Richard (Mary Catherine) Ward of Cranberry Twp., PA; and Marilyn (Steven) Tluszczyk of Frederick, MD; cherished grandfather of Emily (Robert) Garofalo, Sam (Alyson) Kernion, Ben Kernion, Colin Humphrey, Kyliya, Thomas, Maura, Joseph, Gillian, Matthew and Aiden Ward, Ethan and Zosha Tluszczyk; great-grandfather of Stella Garofalo and Nate Kernion; brother of Robert (late Marie) Ward of Plum. Pre-

ceded in death by sister, Mary Jean (late Ernest) Michelangelo. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins who loved him dearly. Jim had a 40-year career at Westinghouse R&D Center where he served as fire chief for 25 years. He was a Life member of North Braddock Volunteer Fire Department where he served in many positions. He also was a member of Jednota, Branch 35 of the FCSU. Jim enjoyed spending time with friends, walking, bowling, fishing and traveling. Jim's greatest love was the time he spent with his family. Friends were welcomed Wednesday, January 4, 2017, 5-8 p.m. and Thursday 2-4 and 5-8 p.m. in the Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral Home & Crematory, East Pittsburgh, PA, where a Firemen Service also was held on Thursday, January 5, 2017, at 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, January 6, 2017, in Sacred Heart Church of Good Shepherd Parish at 10:00 a.m. Burial followed in Braddock Catholic Cemetery.

- Submitted by Evelyn Ward

GEORGE M. OPILLA BRANCH 266 – HAZELTON, PENNSYLVANIA



George M. Opilla, 77, husband of Irene (Mistito) Opilla, passed away in his home January 26, 2017. George was the son of the late Michael (Buck) and Elizabeth Opilla. He graduated from Foster Township High School, Bloomsburg State College and Lehigh University. He was a teacher at Emmaus High School for 30 years before retiring. He enjoyed teaching and felt a special connection to his Vo-Tech kids. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, trap shooting and connecting with friends on his computer. Survivors: In addition to his wife of 53 years, George is survived by his daughter, Christine Heffernan, son-in-law, Rich, and his precious grandson, Brady Heffernan; a niece, 4 nephews and 3 sisters-in-law. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his son, Michael, and his brother, John Opilla. Services: Private. Arrangements were by Bachman, Kulik & Reinsmith Funeral Homes, Emmaus, PA.

ROBERT HENRY MURR BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA



Robert Henry Murr's fiancé, as well as his family from the local area and Western PA, surrounded him at his bedside in St. Mary Medical Center, as he took this last breath of life on December 4, 2016. Assisting him and supporting them was Chandler Hall Hospice. He was 86 years old; just 20 days shy of his birthday.

Robert, also known as Henry, often spoke about his late mother as "Powerful Katrina" (formerly Helen M. Churley) and how he helped his late father (Henry L. Murr) to do home repairs in Pittsburgh on his "vacations" when he was married to his late wife (formerly Colett Adams of McKees Rocks, Pa.) and the father of their seven children David Murr (Kathy), Rosemarie Murr Henning (Wiley), the late Stephen Murr, Jane Murr, Tina Murr, Timothy Murr Sr. (Kara) and Jaime Murr (Robin).

Robert's two brothers, Richard (Dick & his wife Toni) and John (Jay & his wife Hedwig) preceded him in death. He is survived by his younger sister Sara (Sally) Murr Bobro. He had 12 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, 6 nieces and nephews, as well, as 3 great nieces and nephews.

His loving "Forever Fiancé," Mrs. Leah Zenker of Levittown, PA was holding his hand and sitting by his bedside, at the time of his death. Both widowed, they had been next-door neighbors. They felt blessed by God and His Plan for their lives, to have a second chance at love at this stage of their lives. Their love will never die. Leah especially loved his intelligence, dry sense of humor and quick wit. She will miss him dearly, as will each member of his immediate and extended family.

Robert (Henry) served during the Korean War Era (1950-1954). He was stationed in the Philippines. The Navy encouraged him to get a college diploma on the GI Bill. In 1958 he was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering (Electrical Engineering) from the University of Pittsburgh.

He loved his various jobs over his 38 year career starting out with Ford Aerospace-Technical Assistance Division and it provided him with many opportunities to travel internationally. In retirement, he loved to garden and canned the vegetables from his own Levittown backyard garden and was an avid bowler.

He designated his wishes to be an Organ Donor on his photo identification. He never drove a car, but managed to take public transportation, even when he went to London and other countries. He hoped to be able to enhance the lives of others. The Gift of Life Donor Program will make those determinations.

Henry's viewing was on December 8, 2016, at the James J. Dougherty Funeral Home in Levittown, PA. He was cremated and buried at Resurrection Cemetery in the family plot with his late wife and son on December 10, 2016. Following the blessings and prayers from his local parish, St. Michael's Catholic Church, he had full Military Honors for his service in the Navy.

- Submitted by Leah Zenker

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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2017. Refreshments will be served after meeting. All members are welcome and urged to attend.

Henrietta Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 735 - PORTLAND, OREGON

Branch 735KJ will hold a meeting followed by its Annual Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner on Sunday, April 9, 2017, in the church basement hall of St. Patrick's Catholic Church at NW 19th & NW Savier, Portland, Oregon 97202. The branch meeting will begin at 1:00 pm and dinner will be served at 1:30 pm. Turkey breast slices will also be available. Included with dinner will be mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, green salad with dressing, bread, coffee, tea and punch. Please bring a dessert to share. The cost for the dinner will remain the same as last year:

\$4.00 per person

\$12.00 for an immediate family of four or more

No reservations are necessary, but for more information, contact Cindy Ďuriš Hirst @

503-647-4600 (h); 503-314-5065 (c); hirst@q.com or chirst811@gmail.com.

Herbert Hirst, President

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 738 will be holding our next semi-annual meeting on Monday April 3, 2017, at 6:30 pm at the VFW on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. This meeting will include final planning for our biannual branch appreciation luncheon and ways of attracting both newer and younger members to keep our branch active. All members welcome. We hope to see you there.

Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Sunday May 7, 2017 at 10:30 am. It will be held in the Hospitality Room of the St. Joseph School, 811E. Oliver St. in Owosso, Mi. Please enter at the South East corner of the building.

Still looking for additional officers. After the short meeting, we'll go to the Knights of Columbus Center for a Chicken Dinner. Spouses or a Friend are invited.

Reminder For All Branches

Among the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend, under Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES, is the following:

14.01 General Rules

a) Branch and district meetings must be held in the close proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semiannually, one of which must be for the elections of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election. Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.

I will pay for the first 12 dinners of members,

Please RSVP your attendance to 517-381-8358. Hope to see you for a small celebration. Thank you.

Stephan J Patoprsty, President and son of deceased Frank N. Patoprsty (Former Slovak Barber)

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold a meeting on May 2, 2017, at 12:30PM at McDonald's Restaurant, North Rd & East Market St, Warren, OH 44483. On the agenda: discussion of possible summer and fall branch activities.

William Hrusovsky, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 774 - SANFORD, MICHIGAN

Attention Branch 774 members: the branch is actively seeking members to serve as officers for 2017. Currently, due to health reasons, all branch officer positions are open. These include: President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Secretary.

Your guidance and direction in the operation of Branch 774 and its 64 members is greatly needed. If you are interested in accepting an officer position or would like more information about the general duties of a branch officer, please call Branch Liaison Bob Kopco at the FCSU Home Office: 1-800-533-6682, ext. 116.

Interested persons should respond no later than April 28, 2017.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, D.C AND AREA

Branch 856K will hold its meeting on May 12, 2017, at 1:00pm at the Thomas Jefferson Library on 7415 Arlington Blvd. Falls Church, VA, 22042. On the agenda will be discussion on the district meeting that was held in Mahanoy City, PA, in April; a financial report; and activities for the remainder of the year. Also our yearly Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is scheduled for September 17, 2017 at 11:00 am in the crypt church. Please mark your calendar. All members are welcomed to attend this meeting in May. For more information call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Stephen Matula at 703-671-3013.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold their Annual Easter Mass on Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017, at Pope John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA, 92866. Mass will begin at 1:30PM. A Slovak lunch will be served after Mass along with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter.

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

Fraternally,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

ANNA ORAK BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Anna (Anka) Orak, 83, of Ithaca, NY, passed away on Tuesday, December 27, 2016. Relatives and friends attended her



funeral on Tuesday morning, January 3, 2017 in the Werson Funeral Home, Linden, NJ, followed by a funeral Mass in Holy Family R.C. Church, Linden. Interment was in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Linden. Visiting hours were on Monday, January 2, 2017 from 2-4 and 7-9 PM. Born with cerebral palsy, Anka, grew up in Linden, NJ, where her mother and family lovingly took care of her for 61 years and where she enjoyed the friendship of the area's Slovak and Slovak-American community. Upon her mother's passing in June of 1994, she moved to Ithaca, NY, with her brother John and his wife Stephanie.

She is predeceased by her parents John and Anna; her brother Andrew; her sister Susan Tkach; her brothers-in-law, John Tkach Sr. and Hector Crespo; her sister-in-law Christine Orak; and her nephews William Orak and Hector Crespo Jr. and a niece Mary Ann Rycyk. Anna is survived by her sisters Mary Petyo (John) and Rosemarie Crespo; brothers, John (Stephanie), and Edward; sister-in-law Irene Orak; six nephews; five nieces; many great nieces and nephews; and the many friends that Anka made over the last 20 years. She inspired hundreds of people throughout her lifetime. On behalf of Anka's family, we want to express our gratitude to the staff at DDSO (Tompkins Day Services), Franziska Racker Center, and the special friends in her life for their support, professionalism, compassion, and love.

- Submitted by John & Stephanie Orak

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

Easter Day and Easter Hymns in Slovakia

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Returning Home after Mass

Alleluia, etc.

Another beautiful and popular modern hymn which is often used today in Slovakia at the conclusion of Mass on Easter is "On vstal z mŕtvych" (He rose from the dead). One may follow the text of the song below (with my translation after each verse) sung by the Church choir Anima at this Youtube site: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W51Z0f4DF8I>.

R: On vstal z mŕtvych, aleluja, aleluja.

On vstal z mŕtvych, Kristus náš Pán, aleluja.

R: He is risen from the dead, alleluia, alleluia.

He rose from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, alleluia.

1. Ó, Láska, tvoj skončil sa boj, stratila smrť svoju moc.

On znovu vstal, by kraľoval, Ježiš, náš víťazný Kráľ.

1. Oh, Love your finished the fight, death has lost its power. He rose again, the king, Jesus, our victorious King.

2. Pán nad hriechom, Pán nad smrťou, satan mu padol k nohám.

Nech pokľakne a každý vyzná: Ježiš je nad všetkým Pán!

2. The Lord has conquered sin, conquered death

Satan fell at his feet.

Let everyone kneel and acclaim: Jesus is Lord over all!

3. Dnes ráno vstal Ježiš, náš Pán.

Kričte, nech každý to vie! Vyjdime z tmy a v radosti prinesme obeť chváľ.

3. This morning arose Jesus our Lord.

Shout, let everyone know!

Come out of the darkness and into the joy We will make a sacrifice of praise.

After Mass, the priest would offer the faithful holy water blessed during the Easter Vigil to take to their homes. People hurried home with the holy water and blessed foods, believing that a speedy return home would bode well for a good harvest and a steady flow of milk from the cows. If someone happened to stumble on the way home, the folk believed that was a bad omen and could presage a poor harvest.

Easter also offered young ladies a chance to grow up. If a girl of marriageable age could go to a stream and fetch some water before the rest of the family returned home, it was thought that she would marry before a year had passed. Also, families often used the Easter preparations as a chance for an adolescent girl to make her first attempt at cooking and baking for a special occasion. This was also meant as preparation for a coming marriage, when she would have her own household.

The Easter dinner after Mass was a grand meal, meticulously prepared throughout Holy Week (Pašiové týždeň). The lady of house (gazdina) would spread a white tablecloth over the dining table, as white symbolized the purity of Christ. Often this was the same white tablecloth used on Christmas Eve. Any bread placed on the table would remain there the whole day for good luck. Some would place straw under the table, as in the Nitra region, so that grain would thrive during the coming growing season.

One superstition had it that a cloth, used for gathering grass, would be placed under the table so that they might not get caught trespassing in the future by the local gamekeeper. In the region of the Upper Hron River, custom even forbade having a knife on the table.

When the family sat down to eat, after a solemn prayer of thanksgiving to our Lord, all would remain at the table through the end of the meal. The egg symbolized the new

life that Christ's Resurrection brought. The Church taught that "all life sprang from the egg." As head of the household (gazda), the father opened with a prayers and commenced the meal by dividing a blessed egg among all the family and those who might be joining in. If he had troubles with evil spirits during the year, remembering who was present at the meal was supposed to thwart any evil forces.

In contrast to the USA where ham is often a common Easter main course, poultry was used more in Slovakia, even though today ham, bacon, sausages and pork are more frequently eaten today even in Slovakia. Why? In previous times, many would not eat any meat from livestock, for a superstition had it that eating meat might cause them to lose those animals. But they did eat quite a bit, as a bountiful meal signified that they would have plenty to eat throughout the year.

After the meal, the gazdina carefully collected any crumbs, for the food was blessed. What was not consumed was then baked in the oven for other ritual uses. Besides being used for healing, Slovaks thought that sprinkling crumbs would assist them when sowing their fields, and feeding some to the chickens would ensure plenty of eggs. Any eggshells and bones were also buried in the ground to protect future crops from hailstorms. They also added much needed nutrients to the soil.

After the meal, the family shared time together. Family members who were out of town often came back to the village for the holidays. Children typically played and might enjoy any sweets they had abstained from during what seemed like a lengthy Lenten fast. Relatives and close friends would visit one another and wish each other a Happy Easter by expressing the following, or similar wishes, depending on village customs.

Pochvalený buď Pán Ježiš Kristus, ktorý vstal z mŕtvých. Aleluja, Aleluja!

Kristus z mŕtvych vstal! Skutočne z mŕtvych vstal!

Praise be the Lord Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ is risen! He has really risen from the dead!

Conclusion

The celebration of Easter in Slovak homes would continue after Sunday, with the watering of the girls (oblievačka) on Easter Monday, and then girls would get the boys back on Easter Tuesday. While many in the West misunderstand the ceremonial cleansing, these pranks symbolized the purity and cleansing that would come with Easter. It was supposed to be an occasion of fun, and a statement which young men made to show which girls they were seeking to court.

But Slovak believers never forgot the true meaning of Easter. It marked far more than the beginning of spring, but the chance for a new life because of the sacrifice and the miraculous Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Both of my parents died during the Easter season, my mother on Holy Saturday morning, and my father in early May. My mother-

in-law also died just after Easter. Because the spirit of Easter was so pervasive, and the church still decorated with white and colorful flowers, in many ways, their funeral Masses seemed more like a resurrection and cause for celebration than a moment for sorrow. Easter meant that death was not the end, but a new beginning for family members who could finally reach their goal in life that Christ made possible, the promise of salvation and eternal life with God.

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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

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

Annual Statement of the year 2016 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).....	342,319,430		342,319,430	337,753,840
2. Stocks (Schedule D):				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....			0	
2.2 Common stocks.....	2,436,201		2,436,201	2,253,872
3. Mortgage loans on real estate (Schedule B):				
3.1 First liens.....	834,868		834,868	1,050,016
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate (Schedule A):				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	894,327		894,327	921,760
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	655,649		655,649	694,710
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	755,821		755,821	753,488
5. Cash (\$....13,967,918, Schedule E-Part 1), cash equivalents (\$....2,997,064, Schedule E-Part 2) and short-term investments (\$....6,996,423, Schedule DA).....	23,961,405		23,961,405	12,383,475
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	1,118,825		1,118,825	1,093,309
7. Derivatives (Schedule DB).....			0	
8. Other invested assets (Schedule BA).....	4,752,203		4,752,203	5,334,377
9. Receivables for securities.....			0	4,626
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).....	377,728,729	0	377,728,729	362,243,472
13. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
14. Investment income due and accrued.....	4,632,409		4,632,409	4,597,179
15. Premiums and considerations:				
15.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	18,990		18,990	27,655
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).....	10,703	10,703	(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).....	382,391,381	11,253	382,380,128	366,868,306
27. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
28. TOTAL (Lines 26 and 27).....	382,391,381	11,253	382,380,128	366,868,306

Annual Statement of the year 2016 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).....	302,291,581	287,620,117
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).....	41,098,805	44,046,110
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).....	60,668	55,184
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).....	753,160	329,048
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$.....0 ; accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	19,208	18,128
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued (Exhibit 2, Line 12, Col. 7).....	67,352	72,211
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	17,949
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	5,292,048	4,838,147
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).....	2,607,558	2,191,650
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.....	840,835	572,835
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	354,280,731	340,470,890
24. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 and 24).....	354,280,731	340,470,890
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.....	28,099,397	26,397,416
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (Page 4, Line 47) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts statement).....	28,099,397	26,397,416
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 28, Col. 3).....	382,380,128	366,868,306

Annual Statement of the year 2016 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).....	21,457,823	18,573,260
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
3. Net investment income (Exhibit of Net Investment Income, Line 17).....	15,527,524	15,210,049
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 5).....	584,693	485,630
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.....	56,936	498,789
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	37,626,976	34,767,728
10. Death benefits.....	2,386,321	2,585,278
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....		6,511
12. Annuity benefits.....	14,573,618	12,877,281
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts, including premiums waived \$.....0.....		
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	503,013	632,257
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contracts funds.....	154,320	145,400
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	14,671,464	12,760,117
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	32,288,736	29,006,843
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).....	273,703	268,813
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).....	2,923,796	3,031,054
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees (Exhibit 3, Line 6, Cols. 1, 2, 3 and 5).....	127,367	108,167
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.....	(390,690)	(212,353)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	35,222,912	32,202,524
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	2,404,064	2,565,204
28. Refunds to members (Exhibit 4, Line 17, Cols. 1 + 2).....	413,708	411,659
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,990,356	2,153,545
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding \$.....1,008,805 transferred to the IMR).....	(164,465)	(638,711)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	1,825,891	1,514,834
SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
32. Surplus, December 31, previous year (Page 3, Line 30, Col. 2).....	26,397,416	24,149,682
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	1,825,891	1,514,834
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	358,567	409,181
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....		
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	2,919	(13,622)
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.....	(415,908)	120,125
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.....	(69,488)	217,216
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,701,981	2,247,734
47. Surplus December 31, current year (Lines 32 + 46) (Page 3, Line 30).....	28,099,397	26,397,416

Správy zo Slovenska

“Dokazujem, že na NHL stále mám”

Hoci sezónu začínal len na farme, je hviezdou Národnej hokejovej ligy (NHL). Príbeh slovenského hokejového brankára Los Angeles Kings Petra Budaja (34) nadchýna celú Severnú Ameriku. „Som vďačný za požehnanie, že tu môžem byť a chytať. Je to pre mňa hrdosť i česť, že mám možnosť pomáhať tímu víťaziť. Samozrejme, nič v živote nie je ľahké, no na druhej strane to je aj moja zásluha. Podobne ako ďalších veľa hráčov tvrdo makám a dostávam šancu sa ukázať, že stále mám na to, chytať,“ odpovedal Peter Budaj na otázku, ako ťažko sa rodil jeho príbeh v sezóne, ktorý v zámorí považujú za zázrak.

Legandárna sieť Obuv Partizánske končí

Maloobchodná sieť Obuv Partizánske končí. V čase socializmu mala maloobchodná sieť takmer stovku obchodov. Aj po zmene režimu patrila k najväčším na Slovensku. Prevádzky mala v každom väčšom meste od Malaciek po Bardejov. Dnes definitívne končí a sa sama posielala do konkurzu. Dopláca na českú materskú spoločnosť Term podnikateľa Michala Umláška. Posledných osem predajní Obuv Partizánske zatvorili koncom roka 2016. Manažment spoločnosti Term a Obuv Partizánske koniec podnikania na Slovensku nekomentuje, len však potvrdil, že svoje obchody postupne pozatvárala a majetok firmy bude zlikvidovaný konkurznou formou.

Jaguar štartuje nábor

Nitriansky Jaguar Land Rover začína s väčšími náborami pracovníkov. Do fabriky hľadá na pracovných portáloch odborníkov. Napríklad odborníkovi na meranie súčiastok sľubuje britský investor v Nitre hrubý nástupný plat 1275 eur plus bonusy a 13 plat. Spolu za celý rok by tak priemerný mesačný plat metrológa mal vyjsť asi na 1500 eur. Dá sa odhadovať, že robotnícke profesie budú pri platoch okolo 1000 eur, aby prebili ponuky v Nitre a prípadne zlákali aj časť pracovníkov z trnavského PSA Peugeot Citroën. Tam sa robotníci sťažujú na to, že 800 eur v hrubom je málo.

Slovákovi v Rakúsku okrešú prídavky na deti

Kladie sa otázka, či stratia Slováci motiváciu pracovať v Rakúsku. Rakúsko sa totiž chystá okresať prídavky na deti rodičom z iných štátov Európskej únie (EÚ). Návrh, s ktorým prišla Rakúska ľudová strana, by znížil príspevky na dieťa zo súčasných priemerne 150 eur na 95 eur. Rakúska vláda chce platiť nižšie rodinné prídavky na deti, ktoré nežijú v Rakúsku. Toto obmedzenie sa výrazne dotkne predovšetkým zamestnancov zo Slovenska, z Poľska, Maďarska či Rumunska. Európska komisia (EK) však tvrdí, že zámer je v rozpore s európskym právom.

85 strán určí budúcnosť Slovákov vo Veľkej Británii

V Británii žije približne 100-tisíc Slovákov. Trvalý pobyt v Spojenom kráľovstve bude mať však podmienku - úplne zdokladovanú aktivitu na ostrovoch od začiatku pobytu. Ak Slovák bude chcieť mať trvalý pobyt bude musieť vypísať 85 stranový dokument a v ňom zdokladovať svoje fungovanie v krajine. Od výplatných pásov až po všetky odchody a príchody mimo Spojeného kráľovstva. Ide o jedno z opatrení, ktoré pre cudzincov so sebou priniesol brexit.

Dotácie na ekoautá nalákali stovku vodičov

Jazdím ekologicky. Takýmto mottom sa riadi čoraz viac Slovákov. Ministerstvo hospodárstva začalo len vlni v novembri rozdávať štedré dotácie na e-autá. Po necelých štyroch mesiacoch sa štátna podpora odzrkadlila vo výraznom náraste počtu ekoaut na Slovensku. Dnes sa na našich cestách preháňa tisíc elektromobilov. Už čoskoro ich počet stúpne o 106. Presne toľko záujemcov o štátnu dotáciu registruje rezort hospodárstva ku koncu februára. “Čísla dokazujú, že záujem o uvedené vozidlá je značný a zavedenie podpory má pozitívny vplyv na predaj,” povedal hovorca rezortu hospodárstva Maroš Stano. Slováci, ktorí si kúpia ekovozidlo, môžu dostať od štátu príspevok od troch do piatich tisíc eur. Vyššou sumou je podporený elektromobil, nižšou plug in hybrid. Podobná podpora funguje v mnohých iných krajinách. Napríklad Estónsko rozdáva miestnym dotáciu až do výšky 18.000 eur. Manažér Slovenskej asociácie pre elektromobilitu Jaroslav Sýkora považuje dotáciu našej vlády za dostatočne vysokú.

Slovák naučil počítač hrať poker

Opis programu umelej inteligencie a výskum, na ktorom ako prvý autor pracoval aj Slovák Matej Moravčík, uverejní prestížny vedecký časopis Science. “Je veľmi príjemný pocit mať článok v časopise Science, pretože vývoj programu zabral viac ako rok intenzívnej práce a na začiatku vôbec nebolo jasné, že bude skutočne dobre fungovať aj v praxi,” povedal Moravčík z Matematicko-fyzikálnej fakulty Univerzity Karlovej v Prahe. Ďalšími členmi tímu sa stali Martin Schmid a vedúci tímu Michael Bowling. Počítačový program DeepStack je prelomový, lebo vedel reagovať na situáciu v hre, až keď nastala. O hre teda musel uvažovať vopred.

Mzdy rástli najviac za posledné roky

V roku 2016 sa základné mzdy zvýšili takmer o päť percent - najviac za posledné roky. Firmy si uvedomili, že ak nechcú aby im zamestnancov prebrala iná spoločnosť, musia im za prácu platiť. Mzdy sa zdvihli vo viacerých sektoroch. Napríklad v oblasti IT, stavebníctve či maloobchode. Vyššie platy budú mať zrejme ľudia v automobilovom priemysle - nielen v automobilkách, ale aj v dodávateľských spoločnostiach. “Rast miezd môže byť od šiest do desiat percent,” odhaduje šéf OZ KOVO Emil Machyna.

Bratislava dostane stanicu o tri roky

Podľa dokumentov, by sa mala začať rekonštrukcia bratislavskej autobusovej stanice Nivy od júla 2017. Ďalšou novinkou projektu má byť nadzemná električná dráha, ktorá prepojí bratislavskú Petržalku, konkrétne časť neďaleko Ekonomickej univerzity a práve zónu Nivy, v ktorej sa nachádza aj autobusová stanica. “Navrhujeme vybudovať veľkokapacitný parkovací dom na petržalskej strane napojený na nadzemnú električnú dráhu, potenciálne integrovanú do systému verejnej hromadnej dopravy,” povedal výkonný riaditeľ HB Reavis Slovakia Adrián Rác. Termín realizácie by mal byť v roku 2020.

Slovensko je v hre o piatu automobilku

Japonská automobilka Mitsubishi zvažuje vybudovať svoj nový závod na výrobu motorov na Slovensku. V hre sú aj ďalšie dve krajiny, a to Maďarsko a Rumunsko, a konečné rozhodnutie má padnúť už do konca roka 2017. Favoritom je vraj Rumunsko, kde má investor vyhladené už aj konkrétne lokality a čaká na stimuly. O tom, že Mitsubishi zvažuje Slovensko informovali media ešte v roku 2013, keď japonská delegácia rokovala so slovenskou vládou na čele s premiérom Robertom Ficom.

“Stále si trúfam liečiť”

Lekárka Helena (70) zo Šarišských Michalían (okres Sabinov) odmietla policajtom skúšku na alkohol a v ambulancii skončila. Paradoxne, na jej miesto dočasne nastúpil Jozef Markoči, ktorý je ešte o 15 rokov starší. Jozef Markoči je dôchodca už niekoľko rokov, doma však nikdy nebol. Takmer neustále zastupoval svojich kolegov a pendloval medzi ambulanciami v regióne. V Prešovskom kraji totiž ordinuje 409 praktických lekárov z toho 48 lekárov je starších nad 70 rokov a 44 percent lekárov je starších ako 60 rokov.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Odovzdávanie cien Spoločnosti zahraničných konzulov v New Yorku

Spoločnosť zahraničných konzulov v New Yorku z príležitosti Medzinárodného dňa žien 2. marca 2017 odovzdala ocenenia osobnostiam z rôznych krajín za ich profesionálne úspechy a prínos do svojej komunity v USA. Toho roku bolo celkovo ocenených 18 žien a za slovenskú stranu bola nominovaná talentovaná umelkyňa slovenského pôvodu Luba Greguš Mason. Luba je známa v slovensko-americkéj komunite v New York City ako muzikálová speváčka a herečka na Broadway. Ďakujeme Eube Mason za jej vynikajúce výsledky na umeleckom poli a výbornú reprezentáciu Slovenska v New Yorku.

MZV SR



Na snímke zľava Luba Greguš Mason s novou generálnou konzulkou Slovenskej republiky v New Yorku, Ladislavou Begec.

Talented Luba Mason was recognized on March 2 for her outstanding achievements and contribution to community empowerment by the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York on the occasion of International Women's Day.

Rebríček kvality života ovládli európske mestá prvenstvo obhájila Viedeň

Zo všetkých miest sveta sa najlepšie žije vo Viedni, vyplýva z tohtoročného indexu kvality života firmy Mercer. Brusel skončil na 27. mieste a Bratislava na 83. priečke zo 450 hodnotených miest.

Rebríček kvality života ovládli tento rok západoeurópske mestá. Viedeň sa umiestnila na prvom mieste už ôsmy rok po sebe. V prvej desiatke sú aj Mníchov, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Zürich, Ženeva, Bazilej a Kodaň.

Bratislava v hodnotení oproti minulému roku klesla o jedno miesto na 83. priečku. Až šesťmiestny prepad utrpel Brusel, ktorý sa ale stále drží pomerne vysoko na 27. mieste.

Celkovo index vyhodnocoval 450 miest, ale o jednu priečku v rebríčku sa môže deliť viacero štátov. Na poslednom mieste skončil iracký Bagdad.

TASR

Veľkonočné sviatky vystihujú podstatu kresťanstva

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

používaný na vysluhovanie sviatosti birmovania (myropomazania). Ustanovenie Večere Pánovej si na Zelený štvrtok pripomínajú počas služieb Božích aj veriaci Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburškého vyznania (ECAV). Podľa tradície sa v tento deň majú jesť jedlá zelenej farby, aby sa ľudia po celý rok tešili dobrému zdraviu.

Veľkonočný týždeň pokračuje Veľkým piatkom – dňom spomienky na utrpenie, ukrižovanie a smrť Ježiša Krista. V rímskokatolíckych chrámoch sa na Veľký piatok neslúži svätá omša, oltáre sú bez chrámového rúcha. Evanjelici považujú tento deň za najvýznamnejší sviatok, pretože Syn Boží dokončil dielo vykúpenia sveta. Na evanjelických službách Božích sa čítajú a spievajú pašie, prisluguje sa Večera Pánova. Veriaci sa postia od mäsitých pokrmov a najesť do sýtosti sa môžu len raz za deň. Veľký piatok uznáva asi 40 štátov ako sviatok pracovného pokoja.

Biela sobota je podľa kresťanskej tradície dňom hrobového odpočinku Ježiša. Názov tohto dňa je odvodený od obyčaje začínať nové svetlo. V katolíckej cirkvi sa v Bielu sobotu veriaci prichádzajú pokloniť a pomodliť k Božiemu hrobu a ku krížu. Počas dňa sa nekonajú omše, až vo večerných hodinách je vigília zmŕtvychvstania Ježiša Krista, svätá omša, ktorá sa končí radosťou z Pánovho vzkriesenia. Počas Veľkonočnej vigílie sa znovu rozozvučia zvony, ktoré od štvrtka večera mlčali.

Veľkonočná nedeľa je radostným sviatkom zmŕtvychvstania Ježiša Krista. Najstarší a najväčší sviatok liturgického roka vo všetkých kresťanských cirkvách slávi sa v prvú jarnú nedeľu po splne mesiaca. Končí sa obdobie štyridsaťdňového pôstu, na hojných sviatočných stoloch v mnohých domácnostiach nechýbajú vajička, údená šunka, veľkonočný baranček či koláče.

Veľkonočný pondelok je z hľadiska ľudovej tradície významným dňom veľkonočných sviatkov. Neodmysliteľne k nemu patrí šibačka a oblievačka. Už niekoľko dní vopred si chlapci chystajú korbáče a dievčatá kraslice – vajička zdobené rôznymi výtvarnými technikami. Kraslice patria k najstarším a esteticky najpôsobiliejším veľkonočným umeleckým prejavom. Rozmanité spôsoby ich zdobenia v minulosti odrážali spôsob života ľudí v jednotlivých spoločenských vrstvách či v rôznych slovenských regiónoch. Okrem toho, že krásne zdobené vajička boli odmenou pre šibačov, symbolizovali plodnosť, nepretržitosť života a znovuzrodenie. V súčasnosti sú chlapci obdarúvaní tiež vajičkami vyrobenými zo sladkej čokolády. Šibačka bola v minulosti pre mladých ľudí dlhoočakávanou udalosťou. Dievčatá túžili po čo najvyššom počte šibačov a oblievačov, pretože verili, že po vyšibaní budú svieže, zdravé a opeknejú. Najčastejšie sa šibalo korbáčmi z vřbového prútia, ktoré je symbolom jarnej prírody. Ich dotyk vraj omladzuje, prináša silu a krásu. Rovnaký účinok sa prisudzuje aj polievaniu vodou. V 50. rokoch 20. storočia bolo však polievanie vodou čiastočne nahradené kropením voňavkami.

Veľká noc nie je len oslavou zmŕtvychvstania Ježiša Krista, ale i oslavou príchodu jari. Sú to akty súvisiace s odchodom zimy a s vítaním jari ako životodarného ročného obdobia. Na území Slovenska sa lúčili so zimou na Smrtnú nedeľu vynášaním Moreny, ktorú znázorňovala figúra dievčaťa vyrobená zo slamy. Zapálenú ju hádzali do potoka. S vítaním jari - príchodom Vesny súviseli aj ďalšie kultové obrady, ktoré mali zabezpečiť dobrú úrodu v nasledujúcom období. V tomto čase sa napríklad čistili príbytky či zhotovoval sa nový odev.

TASR

S-AKS oslavovalo 50. výročie na Slovenskom plese v New Jersey

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Dňa 25. februára sa uskutočnil doteraz najväčší a najúspešnejší Slovenský ples, ktorý organizuje Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko (S-AKS) pôsobiace v New Yorku. Pod vedením predsedníčky, slečny Sabiny Sabados a členov výboru sa na tomto veľkolepom podujatí zúčastnilo 360 hostí.

Na tohtoročnom červenom koberci sa v Royal Manor v Garfield, NJ stretli nielen Slováci, ale aj iné národnosti, známe osobnosti z diplomatickej i umeleckej oblasti. Svojou prítomnosťou pocítila všetkých hostí Jeho Excelencia slovenský veľvyslanec Peter Kmec s manželkou Monikou, Jeho Excelencia stály predstaviteľ SR pri OSN František Ružička s manželkou Ingrid, novo-vymenovaná pani generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku Ladislava a jej manžel, Güven Begec zástupca stáleho predstaviteľa Turecka pri OSN; a generálny konzul ČR v New Yorku, Martin Dvořák s manželkou Zuzanou.

Plesu sa zúčastnili aj členovia rôznych slovenských organizácií pôsobiach v USA, najmä prezident Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty (IKSJ) pán Andrew M. Rajec s manželkou Idkou, predsedníčka dozorcov Karen Hunka, honorárny konzul pre Pennsylvániu, Joseph Senko s manželkou Albinou, a riaditeľ vonkajších vzťahov Andrew P. Rajec. Z Jednoty prišli ples podporiť aj Fr. Marek a Miriam Visnovski, pán a pani Denis Rozmus, aj členovia spolkov č. 746 a č. 45. Organizáciu Friends of Slovakia zastupoval podpredseda pán Kenneth Bombara. Podporiť slovensko – americkú komunitu prišiel aj pán John Duch, predseda Festivalu slovenského dedičstva; pani Nina Holy, tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Nechýbali ani predstavitelia duchovného života z Oratória Svätého Filipa Neriho v Tappan, NY, Fr. George Torokom (dlhoročný člen Jednoty), ktorý bol v roku 1995 ocenený S-AKS-om cenou Tatranská múza, člen Jednoty spolku č. 746 Fr. Vladimír Chripko, Fr. Roman Palečko, Fr. Martin Kertys, Fr. František Čonka, a Fr. Peter Bujdoš. Takisto Fr. Patrik Hakoš zo Slovenska a Fr. Jim Badeaux z Highstown. Prítomná bola aj Aneta Lisá zo slovenskej katolíckej produkčnej spoločnosti LUX New York, ktorá svojou audio-vizuálnou tvorbou podporuje katolícku vieru Slovákov žijúcich v USA a Kanade. Plesu sa zúčastnila aj bývalá miss Československa Morgan McMichen.

Na úplnom začiatku zazneli tóny Viedenského valčíka, za sprievodu ktorých tanečná dvojica Vanda Polaková a Michael Choi otvorili program. Hostí privítali moderátori večera Sabina Sabados spolu s Petrom Krajňákom (tajomník S-AKS). Po úvodných prihovoroch sa opäť predviedol profesionálny tanečný pár s úchvatnou choreografiou na skladbu „Time of My Life“, ktorá navodila tú správnu tanečnú atmosféru. Do tanca hrala známa kapela Express pod vedením Mareka Soltisa.

Témou večera bola najmä oslava 50. výročia existencie neziskovej organizácie S-AKS. Pri tejto príležitosti boli predstavení a ocenení zakladajúci členovia organizácie: Dr. Milan Beres, Matus Culen, Lydia Demko, Gitka Hlavinka, Eta Jendrek, Jerry Krupa, Judith Lepko, Ema Stasko. Ocenenie za dlhoročnú dobrovoľnú prácu v organizácii prijali od predsedníčky S-AKS aj manželia Stanislav a Zuzana Krcmarovi, pani Rosemary Golia a pani Maria Sevcik. Za všetkých



Pracovníčky z hlavného úradu IKSJ v Clevelande, OH zľava: Fr. Marek, Miriam Visnovski a Terezia Rozmus s manželom Denisom.



Zľava Peter Cmorik, Sabina Sabados, Peter Krajnak, a huslistka Daniela Lovlin.



Dlhoročný člen IKSJ a zakladateľ Oratória Svätého Filipa Neriho v Tappan, NY, dôstojný otec Fr. George Torok, ktorý bol tiež v roku 1995 ocenený S-AKS-om.



Na snímke mladí jednotári pózujúci pri tombole Goral Vodka Master - jeden zo sponzorov podujatia.



Pri sviatočnej torte stoja poctení členovia S-AKS-u, ktorí stáli pri jeho založení pred 50. rokmi ako aj členovia výboru Slovenského plesu.

ocenených sa poďakoval pán Matus Culen a poprial ešte mnoho úspešných rokov a skvelých podujatí v podaní S-AKS.

Zlatým klincom večera bolo vystúpenie vzácného hosťa zo Slovenska, jedného z najlepších spevákov na slovenskej hudobnej scéne, päťnásobného Zlatého slávika - Petra Cmoríka. V roku 2006 sa stal víťazom Slovensko hľadá Superstar, hneď potom vydal debutový album Nádherný deň, ktorý získal platinovú platňu. Skladby ako Dážd, Mám pocit, Nemusíš sa báť sa stali hitmi roka. V roku 2008 vyhral s piesňou Mám pocit medzinárodnú súťaž v Poľsku. Nedávno vydal svoj prvý The best of album a absolvoval turné k 10. výročiu na scéne. Peter sa presadil aj na divadelných doskách, kde si zahral v muzikáloch Štyria mušketeri, Krysar, Rómeo a Júlia a dodnes hrá rolu Ježiša v muzikáli Jesus Christ Superstar. Peter pricestoval do USA pozdraviť rodákov a zároveň potešiť svojich fanúšikov jeho najznámejšími skladbami. Hudobný doprovod mu robila významná huslistka Daniela Lovlin.

Popri skvelej zábave a zaujímavom programe si hostia mali možnosť odniesť atraktívne tombolové ceny (spiatočnú letenku do Viedne, víkendový pobyt s rybačkou v Hamptons, víkend strávený v luxusnom hoteli Elysee v NYC, týždňový výlet v Hamptonskej vile, vyhládokový let lietadlom, večeru so slovenskými diplomatmi v USA, obraz od renomovaného slovenského maliara Luka Brase, výber slovenských vín a iné hodnotné ceny. Nechýbala ani Slovenská vodka - Goral Vodka Master.

Za úspechom dvadsiateho štvrtého plesového ročníka stojí mnoho hodín dobrovoľníckej práce členov organizácie, vrátane členov plesového výboru: slečny Sabiny Sabados (predsedníčka S-AKS), pani Zuzany Krcmar (podpredsedníčka S-AKS), pani Zuzany Maziarz (pokladníčka S-AKS) a pána Petra Krajňáka (tajomník S-AKS).

Najväčšia vďaka však patrí plesajúcim hosťom, z blízka a zďaleka, ktorí podporili organizáciu svojou prítomnosťou. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť na strieborné výročie Slovenského plesu, ktorý sa uskutoční 10. februára 2018!

Kompletný zoznam sponzorov plesu a ďalších akcií organizovaných S-AKS nájdete na webovej stránke: www.slovakamericanc.org. Ďakujeme za krásne spomienky: Marek Lukac Photography a Rado Lesay Photography

Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka S-AKS a riaditeľka oblasti-1 IKSJ

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Veľkonočné raňajky v Pittsburghu, PA

V sobotu 8. apríla 2017 budú tradičné Veľkonočné raňajky v Pittsburghu, PA. Sponzorom podujatia je Slovak Custom Group/Cultural Diversity Committee of Prince of Peace Parish. O 11. hodine doobeda bude v kostole sv. Adalberta 160 South 15th Street slovenská svätá omša, po ktorej budú v Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) Slovenské veľkonočné raňajky. Vstupné je dobrovoľné.

Usporiadatelia pripravujú výstavu o slovenskej kultúre, živote a tradíciách na slovenskej dedine. Na predaj budú rôzne dovezené výrobky, ručné práce a domáce koláče. Prítomní sa budú môcť oboznámiť so slovenskými veľkonočnými zvykmi, dekoráciou kraslíc, prípravou veľkonočných špecialít a podobne. Zisk z podujatia bude venovaný na charitatívne účely na Slovensku. Pre Františkánske sestry v Ružomberku a Barlička Center v Prešove. Bližšie informácie: Connie Zatek telefónne číslo: 412 - 657 -6364.

Jarná disco-tanečná zábava

182. Zbor S.K.S. usporiada v spolupráci s mládežou v sobotu 22. apríla 2017 o 7.00 hodine večer Jarnú disco-tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa bude konať vo farskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 66th Street, 1st Avenue v New York City. Vstupné je \$ 45.00 v predpredaji a \$ 60.00 pri dverách. V cene je započítaná večera spolu s aperitívom. Bar bude ot-

vorený celý večer. Do tanca bude hrať Rado Lesay. Rezervácie: Jozef Bodo 917 - 748 - 5384; Anna Korčák 201- 670 - 8162; Maja Božeková 347 - 612 - 1934.

Polročná schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v NYC

Oznamujeme členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ v New York City, že polročná schôdza sa bude konať v nedeľu 30 apríla 2017, od 1:00PM do 3:00PM vo farskej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East, 66th Street, New York, NY 10065. Na programe bude predebatovaná finančná správa a príprava činnosti na roku 2017. Po polročnej členskej schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie. Všetci členovia spolku sú vítaní a odporúčame, aby sa ho zúčastili čo v najväčšom počte.

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, č. 16 IKSJ

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, č. 16 IKSJ sa bude konať v nedeľu 30. apríla 2017 po slovenskej sv. omši o 10:30 v hale Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th St. (First Ave), New York, NY 10065. Na programe bude finančná správa a príprava činnosti na budúce obdobie. Prosíme predsedov spolkov, ktoré patria do Okresu č. 16, aby poslali na schôdzu svojich delegátov. Všetci členovia spolkov IKSJ, ktoré patria do Okresu č. 16 (Spolok 41, 45, 716) sú vítaní. Po schôdzi bude malé občerstvenie.

Želmíra Becková-Kucharovic, predsedníčka

Báseň na Velkonočnú nedeľu

Vzkriesenie

Vstal, a je ráno, presvitá deň siedmy.
Zas vidí Otec ako po stvorení
čas ovenčený zeleňou a kvetmi
a Kristov bok, raz navždy otvorený,
navždy je bránou, ktorá vydobýja
zo smrti život. Bdelý kohút Petrov
vyzobal hviezdy; svitá z cibória
a do neba je na pár kilometrov
a na pár nediel. Cesta do kostola

ešte vždy síce vedie pri márnici,
ale tá jar a v srdci Božia vôľa!
Na Veľkú noc sme všetci modleníci.
Mária vie, že vstal a zdrvil prelom,
čo vyrúbala pradedičná vina,
a že je v takej Káne hostiteľom,
kde svadobníkom neubúda vína.

Karol Strmeň

Amazon na Slovensku pri Seredi otvára logistické centrum

Amazon chce v areáli Mountpark Sered' otvoriť prvé centrum reverznej logistiky, v ktorom počas nasledujúcich troch rokov vytvorí viac ako 1000 nových pracovných miest. Centrum s plochou viac ako 60.000 štvorcových metrov by malo byť otvorené v treťom kvartáli tohto roka a zameria sa na európskych zákazníkov. Jeho pracovníci budú posudzovať stav produktov, ktoré nemohli byť doručené alebo boli do Amazonu vrátené.

Podľa informácií Amazonu prispelo k rozhodnutiu o investícii do nového logistického centra úspešné pôsobenie spoločnosti v bratislavskom centre. To zamestnáva viac ako 850 pracovníkov, najmä finančných manažérov, analytikov, manažérov pre kontakt so zákazníkmi, ľudské zdroje a podporu predaja.

Viceprezident Amazonu v Európe Roy Peticucci objasnil aj ďalšie dôvody rozhodnutia spoločnosti. „To, že budujeme naše logistické centrum na Slovensku dokazuje, ako veľmi v investície na tomto trhu veríme. Určite tu nájdeme množstvo zamestnancov, ktorí budú otvorení novým možnostiam a skúsenostiam v spoločnosti, pre ktorú kľúčovým faktorom rozvoja je neustále zlepšovanie služieb klientom a inovácia,“ povedal Peticucci. Zároveň ocenil podporu štátnych aj regionálnych inštitúcie, ktorá robí zo Slovenska atraktívne miesto pre investovanie.

Spokojnosť s rozširovaním pôsobenia Amazonu vyslovili aj vládni predstavitelia. „Okrem nesporného prínosu pre ekonomiku a zamestnanosť považujem za dôležité, že projekt bude fungovať aj bez investičnej podpory štátu, zdôraznil minister hospodárstva Peter Žiga (Smer-SD). Minister financií Peter Kažimír (Smer-SD) ocenil, že jeho rezort zohral kľúčovú úlohu pri úvodnej aj záverečnej fáze rokovanií, kedy boli definované špecifické podmienky projektu. „Slovensko tak môže privítať jednu z najdynamickejších a najinovatívnejších svetových spoločností,“ uviedol Kažimír.

Novú investíciu privítal primátor Serede Martin Tomčányi. „Sme radi, že taká inovatívna globálna spoločnosť ako je Amazon si vybrala za miesto svojich investícií našu Priemyselnú zónu Sered' - Juh. Verím, že to bude mať rozsiahly pozitívny dosah na rozvoj nášho regiónu, hlavne z ekonomickej perspektívy,“ povedal.

Amazon plánuje v seredskom centre zamestnať celú škálu profesionálov od prevádzkových manažérov a technologov až po manažérov ľudských zdrojov, finančných manažérov, technologov a odborníkov na IT. Nábor na pozície, ktoré nevyžadujú prax, začne v už polovici leta.

TASR

Rakovina hrubého čreva ročne zabije 1700 Slovákov

Ročne zomiera na rakovinu hrubého čreva a konečníka asi 1700 Slovákov. Za toto obdobie ju však lekári diagnostikujú asi 3700 ľuďom. Smrť je pritom mnohokrát zbytočná, pacienti chodia za lekármi často neskoro. Zabrániť nešťastiu dokáže včasná diagnostika, rizikové skupiny ľudí však musia myslieť na prevenciu. Poukazuje na to patientska organizácia Europacolon Slovensko.

Naša krajina sa v úmrtnosti na toto ochorenie zaraďuje na popredné priečky rebríčka. Slovensko je po Českej republike krajinou s druhým najvyšším výskytom kolorektálneho karcinómu v Európe, v úmrtnosti mužov rebríček dokonca vedie. „K dispozícii máme pritom efektívny a zdravotnými poisťovňami preplácaný skriningový test na okultné krvácanie v stolici. Zúčastňuje sa ho však len približne desať percent rizikovej populácie. Ide o ľudí nad 50 rokov,“ upozornila Patrícia Kramárová z organizácie. Rakovina hrubého čreva pritom pri skorej diagnostike patrí medzi najlepšie liečiteľné onkologické ochorenia.

Europacolon Slovensko chce na to verejnosť v marci upozorňovať. Zdôrazňovať plánuje najmä dôležitosť prevencie. Marec je totiž známy ako Európsky mesiac osvetly o kolorektálnom karcinóme. „Na ceste za menším počtom úmrtí však iba osvetové aktivity nestačia,“ hovorí Jana Pifflová Španková zo združenia. Volá po systémových zmenách v onkológii. „Na Slovensku stále nemáme prijatý Národný onkologický plán, ktorý by stanovil opatrenia na centralizovaný pozývaci skrining, to môže byť nástrojom na ceste k úspechu,“ povedala Pifflová Španková.

Europacolon Slovensko funguje už desať rokov. Cez semináre učí ľudí rozpoznať prvé príznaky rakoviny hrubého čreva i pankreasu a predchádzať jej. Dlhodobu spolupracuje s odborníkmi z oblasti onkológie. Pacienti sa môžu s pracovníkmi združenia poradiť prostredníctvom linky 0800 800 183 či v poradenskom centre Národného onkologického ústavu a Východoslovenskom onkologickom ústave. Bližšie informácie možno nájsť aj na stránke europacolon.sk.

TASR

Dokument o tatranských nosičoch ocenili aj v Kanade

Dokumentárny film o tatranských nosičoch Sloboda pod nákladom si odniesol ďalšie významné ocenenie z Kanady. V dňoch od 10. do 19. februára sa vo Vancouveri konal jubilejný 20. festival filmov o horách, horskej kultúre a športe (VIMFF), na ktorom snímke Pavla Barabáša udelili titul Best Mountain Culture Film.

„Vynikajúci obrazovo aj tempom - tento film nám otvára oči a ukazuje tradíciu, ktorá sa napriek moderným metódam zachovala. Film nás sprevádza krok po kroku, zažívame poznanie, počúvame zvuky aj ticho a oceňujeme nesmiernu krásu cesty,“ uviedla Joni Cooper zo štvorčlennej festivalovej poroty na margo slovenského filmu, ktorý vybrali spomedzi 98 titulov z celého sveta.

Dokument Pavla Barabáša o netradičnom remesle z Vysokých Tatier získal v krátkom čase svoje jedenáste medzinárodné ocenenie. Zároveň sa teší aj priazni domáceho publika - v kinách ho doposiaľ videlo viac ako 15.000 divákov a stal sa najnavštevovanejším filmom v distribúcii Asociácie slovenských filmových klubov (ASFK) za rok 2016.

TASR

Baba z ľadu bude súťažiť na prestížnom festivalu Tribeca v New Yorku

Nový film českého režiséra Bohdana Slámu Baba z ľadu, ktorý 2. marca vstúpil do slovenských kín a v Bratislave otvoril 24. Medzinárodný festival filmových klubov Febiofest, si budú môcť pozrieť čoskoro aj návštevníci prestížneho newyorského festivalu, ktorý založil herec Robert de Niro. Snímku, v ktorej si hlavnú úlohu zahrala Zuzana Kronerová, vybrali do medzinárodnej súťaže (International Narrative Competition) festivalu Tribeca. Baba z ľadu sa predstaví v New Yorku od 19. do 30. apríla medzi filmami z celého sveta.

Festival Tribeca založili v roku 2002 Robert de Niro, Jane Rosenthal a Craig Hatkoff s cieľom dostať život späť do štvrti Tribeca po útokoch na dvojčiky v roku 2001. Podujatie každoročne navštívia asi tri milióny ľudí.

Koprodukčnú česko-slovensko-francúzsku snímku Baba z ľadu, ktorá rozpráva o tom, že zmeniť život, nájsť lásku a byť šťastný je možné v každom veku, uvedie v New Yorku osobne režisér Bohdan Sláma a hlavná predstaviteľka Zuzana Kronerová. Informovala o tom Martina Pašteková z Asociácie slovenských filmových klubov (ASFK), ktorá film distribuuje na Slovensku.

TASR

Politický triler Únos vyvolal rekordný divácky záujem na Slovensku

Rekordný divácky záujem na Slovensku vyvolal začiatkom marca slovenský politický triler Únos. Film inšpirovaný autentickými udalosťami 90. rokov si prišlo do slovenských kín pozrieť 67.369 divákov. Spolu s predpremiérami ho tak doteraz videlo 69.354 divákov.

„Film Únos režisérky a scenáristky Mariany Čengel Solčanskej sa dostal na prvú priečku vo víkendovej návštevnosti slovenských a českých filmov v našich kinách. Prekonal tak megahit Všetko alebo nič alebo film Červený kapitán či Bathory Juraja Jakubiska,“ informoval Emil Zvarík z distribučnej spoločnosti Continental film.

Ako ďalej uviedol, súčasne sa Unos dostal do rebríčka TOP 10 najlepších otváracích víkendov podľa návštevnosti v slovenských kinách a z ôsmeho miesta za sebou zanechal kinohity Fantastické zvery a ich výskyt, všetky diely Harryho Pottera či bondovku Spectre.

Politický triler Únos sa inšpiroval skutočnými udalosťami únosu prezidentovho syna a atmosférou polovice 90. rokov. Mafia prepletená s tajnými službami, moc, ktorá sa neštíti najhorších praktík a naivní dobráci, ktorí si myslia, že spravodlivosť predsa musí existovať. Lenže mafia sa neštíti smrti. Vyrieši mladá novinárka záhadný a krutý odkaz - bratovu hlavu pohodenú v igelitovej taške? Vyrieši vyšetrovateľ prípad, ktorý vyzerá jasne, avšak jeho výsledky by podľali nohy najmocnejším...? V hlavných úlohách účinkujú: Rebeka Poláková, Maroš Kramár, Milan Ondřík, Dano Heriban, Ingrid Timková, Tomáš Hanák, Juraj Hřečka a ďalší.

Film vstúpil do kinodistribúcie 2. marca. Realizoval sa v produkcii spoločnosti JMB FILM & TV PRODUCTION Milana Stráňavu, v spolupráci s RTVS a Štúdiom 727. Finančne ho podporil Audiovizuálny fond.

TASR



Mesto Levoča 500 ROKOV DIELA MAJSTRA PAVLA

Tento rok si pripomenieme 500. výročie dokončenia hlavného oltára v Bazilike sv. Jakuba v Levoči. Vrcholné dielo Majstra Pavla z Levoče.

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the completion of the main altar in the church of Saint James in Levoča by Master Paul.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 126

STREDA, 29. MARCA 2017

Číslo 5952

Ohlasujme veľkonočnú radosť

V poludňajšom príhovore na Námestí sv. Petra v Tretej veľkonočnú nedeľu, sa Svätý Otec František zamerá na tretie zjavenie sa zmŕtvychvstalého Ježiša učeníkom na brehu Galilejského jazera, s opisom zázračného rybolovu (porov. Jn 21, 1 – 19). Povedal pritom, že v zvolaní apoštola Jána: „To je Pán!“ (v. 7) je celé nadšenie veľkonočnej viery plnej radosti a úžasu. „Prítomnosť vzkrieseného Ježiša premieňa všetko: tma je premožená



svetlom, neužitečná práca sa stáva nanovo plodnou a sľubnou, pocit únavy a opustenosti prenecháva miesto novému oduševneniu a istote, že on je s nami.“ Ako povedal, odvtedy rovnaké pocity hýbu celou Cirkvou. „Ak sa z povrchného pohľadu neraz zdá, že temnoty zla a únava každodenného života majú prevahu, Cirkve s istotou vie, že v tých, čo nasledujú Pána Ježiša, sa skvie svetlo Veľkej noci, ktoré viac nezapadá. Veľkolepá zvesť o vzkriesení vlieva do srdca veriacich vnútornú radosť a neporaziteľnú nádej. Kristus naozaj vstal z mŕtvych!“ Toto poslanstvo sú, podľa pápeža, všetci kresťania povolaní komunikovať osobitne tým, ktorí trpia, sú osamelí alebo v chúlостivej situácii, chorým, utečencom, odsunutým na okraj. „Všetkým umožnime zachytiť lúč svetla vzkrieseného Krista,“ nabádal František. Pripojil ešte želanie: „*Nech Pán obnoví aj v nás veľkonočnú vieru... Nech nás naplní svojím Duchom Svätým, aby sme s podporou Máriinho príhovoru s celou Cirkvou mohli ohlasovať veľkosť jeho lásky a bohatstvo jeho milosrdenstva.*“

–VRSK–

Minister M. Lajčák pracovne navštívi Washington a New York

Minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák sa v stredu 22. marca zúčastní vo Washingtone, D.C., na stretnutí ministrov zahraničných vecí partnerov 68-člennej Globálnej koalície proti Daiš, ktoré organizuje americký šéf diplomacie Rex Tillerson.

Ide o prvé zasadnutie Globálnej koalície v plnej zostave od decembra 2014 a zároveň prvé na úrovni ministrov zahraničných vecí od júla 2016. Hlavná téma diskusie bude zameraná na to, ako urýchliť postup proti Daiš, ako čo najúčinnejšie stabilizovať oslobodené územia a zmieriť kritickú situáciu mobilizáciou humanitárnej pomoci. Účastníci stretnutia zosumarizujú dosiahnutý pokrok kampane proti Daiš a ďalší spoločný postup v boji proti tejto teroristickej organizácii.

Minister M. Lajčák následne odcestuje do New Yorku, kde vo štvrtok 23. marca vystúpi na pôde Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN) na podujatí na vysokej úrovni ku klimatickým zmenám, ktoré organizuje predseda 71. Valného zhromaždenia OSN Peter Thomson. Počas predsedníctva v Rade EÚ v druhej polovici roka 2016 Slovenská republika presadila dokončenie ratifikácie Parížskej dohody o klimatických zmenách všetkými štátmi EÚ, čím sme významne prispeli k vstupu Dohody do platnosti v rekordne rýchlym čase, prakticky rok od jej prijatia.



Miroslav Lajčák

MZV.Sk

Veľkonočné sviatky vystihujú podstatu kresťanstva

Veľká noc je najstarším a najvýznamnejším sviatkom kresťanského cirkevného roka, počas ktorého si kresťania pripomínajú umučenie, smrť a vzkriesenie Ježiša Krista. Termín Veľkej noci nie je stály, každoročne sa mení, pripadá však na prvú nedeľu po prvom jarnom splne mesiaca po 21. marci.

Veľkonočný týždeň, nazývaný aj tichý, svätý alebo veľký, sa začína Kvetnou nedeľou. Tento deň pripomína slávnostný príchod Ježiša Krista do Jeruzalema. Názov sviatku je odvodený od kvetov – palmových ratolestí, ktorými ľud Ježiša nadšene vítal. Na Slovensku majú podobu vŕbových prútikov - bahniatok. V katolíckych kostoloch ich kňazi počas Kvetnej nedele posvätiť, čím halúzky podľa ľudovej tradície získavajú veľkú moc. Traduje sa, že bahniatka potom dokážu ochrániť dom a jeho obyvateľov od chorôb, zásahu blesku, pred požiarom či inými pohromami.

Štvrtok pred Veľkou nocou sa podľa kresťanského kalendára nazýva Zeleným štvrtkom údajne podľa sviežej zelene Getsemanskej záhrady, kde prišlo k zatknutiu Ježiša Krista. Podstatou Zeleného štvrtka je spomienka na ustanovenie sviatosti oltárnej i sviatosti kňazstva. V tento deň sa v katolíckej cirkvi slávia sväté omše na pamiatku poslednej večere Ježiša so svojimi učeníkmi. Sú známe obradom umývania nôh dvanástim mužom. V gréckokatolíckej cirkvi sa počas svätej liturgie na Zelený štvrtok predpoludním posväčuje myro - olej

Pokračovanie na str. 21

S-AKS oslavovalo 50. výročie na Slovenskom plese v New Jersey



Viacerí jednotári zo spolku č. 45 a č. 746 IKSJ a hlavní úradníci prišli podporiť jubilejný ročník S-AKS-u: piaty zľava hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrew M. Rajec s manželkou Idkou; v zadnom rade v prostriedku predsedníčka dozorcov, Karen Hunka a pri nej Andrew P. Rajec, mladší.



Zľava: Veľvyslanec Českej republiky v New Yorku, Martin Dvořák; Jeho Excelencia slovenský veľvyslanec, Peter Kmec; Jeho excelencia stály zástupca SR pri OSN František Ružička; Generálna konzulka SR v NY, Ladislava Begec; Hlavný predseda IKSJ, Andrew M. Rajec; Predsedníčka Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska a riaditeľka oblasti-1 IKSJ, členka Zboru riaditeľov (FAS), Sabina Sabados; honorárny konzul pre Pensylvániu a predseda (FAS), Joseph Senko, Podpredseda (FAS), Kenneth Bombara, V prostriedku: tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holy.

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