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President's Mothers' Day Message 2018

Happy and blessed Mothers' Day to all Mothers, most especially to those who are living and deceased Members of the Jednota.

Our Catholic Faith tells us that Mothers are especially blessed and should be honored, as Christ honored his Mother Mary, the Blessed Virgin.

Mothers are not perfect, just as we all are not perfect. As we get older, and hopefully wiser, we can look back at our deceased and /or still living Mothers with deeper appreciation and love, with fond lasting memories and nostalgia.

We can remember the best of times, and in a way remember our Mothers as we did as children, the center of our universe with their unlimited love.

I extend a Happy and Blessed Mothers' Day to all Wives and Mothers, both alive with us today and in Eternity.



Andrew M. Rajec

Andrew M. Rajec
National President



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

Thank you for keeping the traditions alive.

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

FCSU National Bowling Tournament - Women's Results

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May is for Mary



May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1).

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Happy Mother's Day!

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

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

Sunday, May 20, 2018 - Pentecost

John 20: 19-23

We are told in Acts that on Pentecost the Apostles and Disciples were gathered in the upper room. The same upper room were the Apostles shared the Last Supper with Jesus, where they fled to and hid in fear after Jesus was arrested, crucified, died and was buried. It was behind the locked doors of this Upper Room where the Risen Lord appeared twice to the Apostles, greeting them each time by saying; "Peace be with you." This Upper Room that contained so many memories for them seemed to have become their refuge, and even after their experience of seeing the Risen Lord it seems like it was their tomb. They continued to return there and lock themselves away until Pentecost.

At the Ascension Jesus told the Apostles to return to Jerusalem "until you are clothed with power from on high." Luke 24; 49. Tradition has it that they returned to Jerusalem where they gathered in the Upper Room, and scripture tells us that, "they were continually in the temple praising God." Luke 24; 53. At the Ascension Jesus didn't tell them how long they were to wait until the Holy Spirit would be given to them, just to wait and to pray. I imagine that every day after the Ascension as they gathered together they wondered, "is this the day?" They did this for 49 days during which nothing extraordinary happened, and on the 50th day everything changed. This was the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, which was celebrated fifty days after Passover. Jerusalem was full of pilgrims from everywhere who came to celebrate the Feast. It was on this day that the Apostles and Disciples experienced the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It changed them instantly and they left the tomb they had made in the upper room and went out to boldly preach the Risen Lord. The Holy Spirit took away their fear and blessed them with the gifts they needed to boldly proclaim the message with great joy. This first Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the birthday of the Church, and we joyfully celebrate our birthday as church every year.

It was in the unity of the gift of the Holy Spirit that the believers faith in the resurrection of Jesus, and the love of the Father. Their experience of each person of the Triune God was life changing in such a powerful way that not only were their lives changed, but they couldn't keep their experience to themselves. They went forth to tell everyone, and - as Jesus instructed them before He ascended - they baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate this great outpouring of the Holy Spirit today it is important for us to keep in mind that the Holy Spirit that came to the early church never left the church. This Holy Spirit has been with the church for two thousand years and continues to bless us with the gifts we need and to call us to unity. In the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation we received and experienced the Holy Spirit so the gifts and power are within us. This Feast is a time for us to give the Holy Spirit permission to work more powerfully in our lives, and to call upon the Holy Spirit to take away anything that stands in the way of us experiencing his presence more in our lives. To help us come forth from whatever tombs might be holding us back. The Holy Spirit did great and marvelous things to those first Christians, and he can do great and marvelous things for us. Come, Holy Spirit and fill our hearts!



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

May 27, 2018 – Trinity Sunday

Matthew 28: 16-20

Today is Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday following both Pentecost and the entire Easter season. Through the fifty days of Easter culminating with Pentecost, we rejoice in the resurrection of Christ from the dead, the foundational event of Christian faith and the source of all authentic Christian hope. As that Easter season approached its crescendo in the days of the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, we heard a clear and consistent theme in both the scripture readings at Mass and in the prayers said at Mass that directs us to take up the mission of sharing with the whole world the Trinitarian faith we treasure as believers in the risen Lord.

Now that we pass into the long season of the Church year that is called "ordinary time"—a somewhat unfortunate name—we are urged once more by the readings to commit ourselves to the mission theme announced at the Ascension and Pentecost, and a Trinitarian catechesis launches us on our way.

The first reading today comes from Deuteronomy, and it extolls God for creating the world and all that is in it, for revealing himself to the people of Israel, and for leading them forth in triumph from their slavery in Egypt. Deuteronomy reflects at length on God's loving words and deeds as they were made know to Israel, and in one of its most profound passages teaches that there is One God only (Deut 6:4-5). This is a touchstone of both Judaism and Christianity, and for Catholics it is a critical point to recall on Trinity Sunday: we do not worship three "Gods"—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—but rather one God, revealed to us as the three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

Having learned that there is only one true God, the Psalms then teach us to call out to God not as some sort of abstract entity, but as One who genuinely loves us: "See, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness, To deliver them from death and preserve them in spite of famine" (Ps 33:18-19). Next, in today's excerpt from the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul teaches us that "we are children of God... and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ"—witnessed to by the very Spirit of God (Rom 8:16-17). Thus we are affirmed in our faith that the one true God reveals himself to us as Father, Son, and Spirit, whom we normally call the Holy Spirit—and that we are considered by God to be his children, adopted in Christ the Son.

So then we rejoice in our adopted sonship or daughterhood and set out to live in the light of this joyous mystery. To do that, we return to the theme that ran strongly through the readings for the last two Sundays, that of mission. In the Gospel reading for Trinity Sunday Saint Matthew tells us: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matt 28:19).

Strengthened by the love of God which is made visible to us in the risen Christ, let us resolve to enter into the long summertime of the Church year, living as though we truly believe that which we profess each week in the Creed, and thus helping to make the Good News of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit come alive both in our own homes and neighborhoods—and to the ends of the earth.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6	TUESDAY, MAY 29
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20	MONDAY, JUNE 11
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18	MONDAY, JULY 9

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TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Michael C. Kristofik

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Gary J. Matta, Esquire
General Counsel**

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Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion

George F. Matta II Announces His Intent to Seek Re-Election for National Treasurer

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

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

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

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

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

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

**George F. Matta II
National Treasurer**



The Immigrant Mother Revisited

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President**

The following article first appeared in the May 1, 1996 issue of Jednota. Since the positive response was so great, I periodically have it reprinted from time to time.

Several years ago, my sister gave me a copy of an article entitled "The Immigrant Mother." From the stories our parents used to tell us, the publication was indeed true to life.

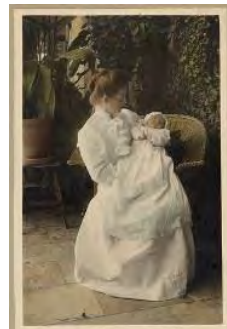
Every time I ran across the article, I would read it and start reminiscing about my own mother. She too was an immigrant. She was born in a mountain village called Vondriesel in Slovakia, and came to this country at the age of 19. She married and bore 10 children.

When I was growing up, I can remember she would never eat a meal until my fathers, brothers and sisters and I had finished eating. She wanted to make sure everyone had enough to eat before she would sit down. Many, many times she deprived herself and went without for the sake of her children.

With Mother's Day approaching, I thought it would be a fitting tribute to have this article printed in honor of all our mothers.

The Immigrant Mother

For all eternity America is indebted to the immigrant mother, whether she is Italian, Slovak, Jewish, Polish, Austrian, German, Russian, English, Greek, Bulgarian, Irish, Slovenian, or Ukrainian.



Born in the old country, she usually married at a young age the young boy with whom she worked in the fields. While still a young bride and sometimes with child, she remained and waited while her man left for America – that distant land filled with promises of a better life.

The days, months, and sometimes years, passed slowly, while she patiently waited for word from her husband. Finally, when the letter came with the passage fare for the long boat ride to America, she gathered up her few possessions and children, and boarded a ship to join her husband.

continued on page 4

The Immigrant Mother Revisited

continued from page 3

She found him working in the steel mills, brickyards, iron mines, coal mines, slate mines, and on the railroad. She found him living in a shack, shanty, railroad car, or even in a tent. But at least this was a start, a foundation for a new life. Here in America, with her husband at her side, she prepared for the years ahead.

Our country was young; it needed laborers! she gave five, six or more children from her body and of her soul. While her husband worked in the bitter cold of winter, or the blistering heat of summer, in ditches laying sewers, and deep in the ground mining coal or iron ore, the mothers worked from early morning to late at night, cooking on a coal stove, washing the clothes with a washboard, and heating the water in a big copper tub on the same coal stove. At the same time, she took care of the children, preparing breakfast, making lunches, and sending them off to school.

Now, the freshness of young womanhood is gone. By the flickering oil lamp she sews and irons clothes late into the night. She scrimps and saves to dress her children decently, while she wears an old dress and stays at home. Her children must have an education, so that they may be respected and amount to something someday.

And then at last, when her children are grown, as her cup of joy runneth over, we see how want, deprivation, and hardship have taken their toll. All worn out, her bones aching from so many ills, she lays helplessly in her sick bed, and her children gather around her. She turns to kiss them and to bless them – and then she is gone.

She is the unsung hero and pioneer of America. No statue can be built high enough with which to sculpture a fitting memorial to the immigrant mother.

She, who with her breast nurtured us, with her arms raised us, with her ideals inspired us, with her tears washed us clean, with her devotion saved us, and then on the altar of love, laid out her worn spent body. She found her place in heaven and sends down her blessing on America for what America has offered to her children in this great land.

May the people of America never forget what they owe to that sweet and blessed soul – the immigrant mother of us all.

- Author, Unknown

God love them. Until next time ... good luck and God Bless.

- invoices are mailed in a timely manner
- interest is calculated properly

- > Review corporate credit card procedures
 - o Verify proper internal controls are being utilized to ensure
 - relevant documentation present
 - approval follows designated chain of authority
 - mathematical calculations are correct

METHODOLOGY

Audit procedure programs written by the auditing team are used throughout the year to evaluate the key operations of the specific areas chosen to be audited. Discussion with management and staff, observation, and analytical testing is completed. All results are presented to the President and Executive Secretary prior to closing the audit.

OVERALL EVALUATION OF AUDITS

All auditors agree that no abuse or irregularities were discovered during the audits performed for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Controls are adequate, keeping errors to a minimum. It is my professional opinion that the home office operates effectively and with high standards.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Prior to each Convention of the FCSU, auditors are required to submit recommendations or proposals to the Bylaws Committee. Twelve recommendations were submitted to the committee in hopes of making it to the Convention floor for consideration.

SUPREME COURT HEARING

The Supreme Court of the First Catholic Slovak Union met on September 21, 2017 to rule on complaints filed by Robert Kristofik (see article on page 11 of the December 6, 2017 issue of JEDNOTA). Three of the four complaints were dismissed, with one being withdrawn by Mr. Krsitofik because of lack of merit.

While the complaint of improper and/or incomplete filing of 990 forms were, by a unanimous vote, found to be "filed and amended in good faith", it was ordered that an outside agency, selected by the Chairwomen of Auditors, be secured to audit the 990 forms for the years 2013–2016.

Bids were solicited from three accounting firms. Schneider Downs of Pittsburgh was chosen to review and report on the findings.

FINDINGS

FCSU meets all requirements and operates in a manner that is consistent with its exempt purpose in order to ensure that the IRS cannot challenge its exempt status.

There are two areas in which Schneider Downs suggests we consider amending the 990 forms, and there are items in which they suggest FCSU report differently in future years.

The agency's overall conclusion is: "As with almost any Form 990 items could be reported differently. However, we believe the returns have been consistently filed on a timely basis in a complete and accurate manner."

Respectfully submitted,

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

2017 Annual Report of National Auditors

The Internal Audit team consists of a Chairman and three Auditors elected by the Convention. Our responsibility is to conduct audits of documentation, processes and procedures of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Quarterly audits are conducted allowing confirmation that numbers are precise and truthful. This report covers the fiscal year January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

The audits are performed in accordance with the bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, effective January 1, 2015. The necessary information to complete reviews are provided by the First Catholic Slovak Union.

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

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

- > Review expense vouchers submitted.
 - o Ensure expense vouchers
 - contain required and relevant documentation
 - calculations are correct
 - approvals are obtained
 - checks are properly issued and documented
- > Test death claims processed.
 - o Ensure death claims
 - contain required and relevant documentation
 - are processed correctly according to FCSU
 - checks are properly issued and documented
- > Test payroll and personnel procedures.
 - o Ensure payroll and personnel
 - procedures are in place and functioning properly
 - calculations of earning, special payments, taxes and voluntary/ involuntary deductions are accurate complete and timely
 - transactions are accurately reflected in the accounting system
 -
- > Test bank reconciliation process.
 - o Ensure bank reconciliations
 - are performed in a timely manner
 - verify cleared and outstanding checks
 - account for deposits, transfers, withdrawals and bank fees
 - are reconciled to the accounting system
- > Test certificate loan process
 - o Ensure certificate loans
 - contain proper approvals and signatures

2017 Report of Region 1 Director

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

It is my honor to represent Region 1 on the Board of Directors. Firstly, I would like to thank the Executive Board and my fellow board members for their guidance, collaboration, and support throughout the year.

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

I've attended all of Msgr. John E. Rura, District 4 meetings and actively participated in Branch 746 meetings. In addition, I've engaged with members from Branch 41, 45, and 716 and upon invitation participated in Branch 45 as well as the District 16 meetings.

In 2017, I represented the First Catholic Slovak Union at various events organized by local branches, Slovak and/or Czech non-profit organizations, and events hosted by representatives of the Slovak government in the United States. To highlight a few:

- 24th Annual Slovak Ball – On Feb 25, 2017 many Jednota members from NY, NJ, CT, PA, and OH attended the annual Slovak Ball organized by the Slovak-American Cultural Center which featured special guest performer Peter Cmorik a famous Slovak guitarist, soloist, and composer along with violinist Daniela Lovlin. The invocation was said by FCSU member Fr. George Torok.

- Luba Gregus Mason honored by Society of Consuls in New York -- On March 2nd I had the pleasure to be present as Jednota member and Broadway star Luba Mason was awarded the prestigious award for her outstanding achievements by Consul General of the Slovak Republic Ladislava Begec.

- Mother's Day Children's performance – On May 14th the Slovak children's school, Slovenské centrum detí- LIPKA Academy, based at Holy Family Church in Linden put on a Mother's Day program followed by a luncheon. The program included recitation of poetry, songs, and Slovak folk dances. The event was attended by two dozen Jednota members from Branch 746.

Jednota's youngest members were part of the program as they attend the Lipka Academy on Saturday mornings for Slovak language classes. As Regional Director, I've encouraged and continue to support the collaboration and co-sponsorship of our local FCSU branch and the school as the school educates our youth about the culture, customs, language and values of our Slovak ancestors. Moreover, students from the Lipka Academy are also active at the Holy Family Church parish in Linden. Pastor Fr. Jozef Krajnak, PhD, a member of Branch 746 celebrates a children's Mass every 1st Sunday in Slovak where children from Lipa Academy fully participate by being lectors, serving as the choir, and bringing alter gifts.

- Children's Folk Program – On Sunday, May 21st the Slovak-American Cultural Center hosted a Children's Folklore program. The Slovak schools and dance groups in the NY and NJ area participated. The event brought together 100+ children in the age category of 5-16 on the stage of St. John Nepomucene in New York City with an attentive audience of over three hundred people. Pastor Richard Baker, member of branch 45, for his support of the event. Jednota members from Branch 41, 45, 716, and 746 were also in attendance.

- LUX New York – Holy Mass celebrated for the intention of FCSU members - On Saturday, June 10th I attended mass at Tappan, NY which was live streamed to Slovakia. The main celebrant was the Provost and founder of St. Filip Neri Oratory, Fr. Father George Torok, who has been a member of FCSU for many years. The host and director of operations for LUX New York, Aneta Lisá, interviewed Emilia Filak (Branch 746) among others. Ms. Julie Ann Gurega (Branch 45 member) read the petitions while I read the first reading in Slovak. Mr. and Mrs. Choma, also members of Branch 746 carried the gifts on behalf of the First Catholic Slovak Union. LUX communication, a Catholic Media Productions Studio, has been spreading the Gospel values in Slovakia through its audio-video productions for more than 20 years. LUX New York is a production studio with the mission and vision of connecting the Slovak Catholic Communities in the USA and Canada through its media activities. LUX New York connects Slovak Catholics through various portals including the online webpage (www.slovenskykostol.com) and via facebook (LUX New York).

- Branch 746 Picnic – On July 16th I organized a semi-regional picnic which was hosted at Al Kalla Park in Linden, NJ. The event was a great opportunity for members to get together, catch up, and celebrate their Slovak heritage. Close to fifty members from Branches 746 (Linden), 290 (Raritan), and 45 (New York) attended.

- Audience with Pope Francis in Rome – On August 9th, while in Rome for a dear friend's wedding, I had the great privilege to be able to attend the Papal Audience with Pope Francis. It was an incredible experience which I will remember for the rest of my life. Along with hundreds of other faithful servants I waited in line at the brink of dawn for an opportunity to see the Pope in person. I was fortunate to see him during his trip to New York in 2015 but I could not miss the chance to try to see him again at the Vatican. I was blessed to be able to touch his hand as he exited the pavilion.

- Pilgrimage to Marian Shrine, NY – On Sunday, August 13th, the annual Slovak Pilgrimage at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, New York took place. The main celebrant was Fr. Martin Kertys, parochial vicar at St. John Nepomucene. Fr. Richard Baker, Branch 45 member, was also in attendance and assisted in organizing the event. I have attended this event for years but this year, I was regrettably unable to attend as I was in Rome. Nonetheless, I want to take the opportunity to commend Branch 716 organizers for continuing the tradition of gathering at this holy place. About 70 people were in attendance from various parishes in our area.

- Celebratory Mass - 10th anniversary of the founding of the Oratory of St. Filip Neri – On August 15th, on the feast of our Lady of Sorrows I attended the celebratory mass at St. Cyril and Methodius Church in Clifton, NJ, where the Slovak community gathered to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Oratory of St. Filip Neri (<http://nyoratory.org/>). Oratorian, Fr. Vladimir Chripko, Pastor of St. Paul – St. Ann Parish in Nyack/Conger, NY was also present along with many other Slovak priests. Fr. Vladimir is a Branch 746 Jednota member. The Oratorians support our society through their pastoral work and participation in various activities organized by local branches. The main celebrant of the Mass was Archbishop of Kosice Bernard Bober (Slovenska, košický arcibiskup- metropolita). On behalf of the First Catholic Slovak Union, I presented Fr. George Torok, the founder and Provost of Oratory of St. Filip Neri a congratulatory proclamation and a donation from Branch 746 whose members were in attendance.

- Slovak Fashion Night in New York - On Sept 9th I attended the Slovak Fashion night hosted by the Consulate General of Slovakia in New York and +421 Foundation. At the event, I was able to engage with non-FCSU members and encouraged them to check out our website and the products that we offer.

- A historic moment for Slovakia as it takes up the Presidency of the United Nations General Assembly – On Sept 11th, Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajčák officially accepted the position as President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. I attended his swearing in at the General Assembly hall and reception which followed.

- The Slovak Festival – On Saturday, Sept 16th, I attended the 40th annual Slovak Festival in East Brunswick, New Jersey where I assisted two energetic members of the FCSU home staff, Miriam Visnovsky and Terezia Rozmus. Local branch members that came to volunteer included: Joanne Polt (VP of Branch 746), Emilia Filak (VP of District 4), and Mary Ann Ranahan (Treasurer of Branch 746) and her entire family along with the youngest member and volunteer, Ben! Fr. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain was also in attendance. The festival began with Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy celebrated by the Most Rev. Milan Lach, SJ, along with concelebrating Slovak priests. VIP guests that stopped by the FCSU table included: President of the United Nations 72nd General Assembly H.E. Miroslav Lajcak and his, Jarmila Lajčáková-Hargašová. Ambassador František Ružička, the Chef de Cabinet to the President of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Ambassador Michal Mlynar Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations and wife Dr. Andrea Mlynarova and Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Ladislava Begec.

Throughout the day we distributed hundreds of promotional materials, informational pamphlets and informed people about the various products FCSU offers. The FCSU table was a hot spot for selfies and was visited by many children who loved the FCSU tattoos! In attendance were approximately 5,000 people from the NJ, NY, CT, and PA areas. The Slovak Festival is one of the largest festivals organized in the US and is a perfect outlet to promote our society, draw attention to what Jednota does, and solicit new members.

- Pilgrims to the Basilica of the National Shrine – A day after the Slovak Festival on Sunday, Sept 17th Branch 856 under the leadership of Katerine Nowatkoski organized the annual cel-

ebratory Mass at the National Shrine. I attended the Mass which was con-celebrated by Fr. Richard Baker and Fr. Martin Kertys. A reception followed at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC hosted by Ambassador Peter Kmec and his lovely wife Monika. In attendance was also Regional Director Damian Nasta.

- Meeting with President of the Slovak Republic – On Sept 19th, H.E. Andrej Kiska visited New York on the occasion of the opening of the United Nations General Assembly. The Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Ambassador Michal Mlynar hosted a reception at his residence with Slovak diplomats, young Slovak professionals and members and leaders of various Slovak organizations. I was honored to be invited and represent FCSU at the reception.

- Lúčnica performs at the United Nations General Assembly – The United Nations celebrated its 72nd birthday on October 24th with a UN Concert entitled "Potential in Diversity" featuring Lúčnica, the Slovak National Folklore Ballet. I attended this historic moment as the Slovakia had the opportunity to showcase its beautiful culture, heritage, and custom on the World Stage. It was a proud moment for all the Slovaks which were present.

(You can view the full concert at: <https://www.facebook.com/UNWebTV/videos/1735208606491349/>)

- Seton Hall School of Diplomacy "Prayer for Peace Concert: The Power of One Voice" – On Oct 27th, I attended the concert at New Jersey Performing Arts Center which featured Maestro Jason C. Tramm featuring works including Beethoven's 9th Symphony Opus 125, Vasks, Knoll, and Schönberg. Voices of peace reflect the power of the arts to effect change. Proceeds of the concert went to benefit a scholarship for refugees to attend Seton Hall University.

- Celebration of Fraternalism - On November 18th, I was honored to attend a special Mass at St. John Nepomucene and reception in honor of Daniel F. Tanzone, a member of Jednota Branch 41, on the occasion of being named the 2017 Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternalist of the Year. A well-deserved honoree, Mr. Tanzone, Editor of Slovak Catholic Sokol, has been a very active in a plethora of Slovak organizations including Slovak League of American and all of the fraternal societies.

- Black Tom Island at Kean University – On November 19th, I attended the staged reading of Black Tom Island by Martin Casella. Based on an actual incident that took place in Jersey City in 1916, Black Tom Island explores the first documented terrorist attack on American soil through the lens of a fictionalized Slovak immigrant and his wife who may or may not be involved in the attack.

- Jednota Christmas Party – On Dec 10th, I assisted in organizing Branch 746's annual Christmas party at Amici's Restaurant. To top off the festivities, special guests, National President Mr. Andrew M. Rajec and Mrs. Idka Rajec joined the meeting and subsequent Christmas party. President Rajec gave an update on the strong financial status of FCSU, new products being offered, and encouraged our young members to continue to be active and engaged in the Society.

- "Od Ondreja do Vianoc" – Branch 746 co-sponsors children's Christmas program – On Dec 17th, in collaboration with Lipka Academy, I was proud to co-sponsor the wonderful program organized by the teachers from Lipka Academy which 60 children performing traditional Slovak skits. The theme of this year's show were folk traditions during the Christmas period starting with the festivities of "Ondrej" which are typically attributed to Eastern Slovakia. About 200 parents, family, and friends were in attendance. The program concluded with a reception. Special guest Santa, the Snowman, and Santa's reindeer came to surprise the kids and hand out Christmas presents. Branch 746 was honored to be a part of this event. At the commencement of the event, I had the opportunity to say a few words about FCSU and the various products offered.

Ongoing activities:

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

- LUX New York – LUX New York's main vision is to help to help promote Catholic faith among Slovaks in USA and Canada by networking, live streaming Slovak Holy Masses to social media and making them available through webpage archives, and producing episodes of faith testimonies and short videos. I continued to support the live broadcast by attending masses which take place in Tappan, New York. Long time Jednota member, Rev. George Torok, Rector of Oratory of St. Filip of Neri as well as Branch 746 members Fr. Vladimir Chripko and Fr. Jozef Krajnak, PhD serve as celebrants at these Masses. The Masses are available to view on the website of TV LUX through the archives portal (<http://www.tvlux.sk/videoarchiv/>). I encourage our members who are interested in documentary films, listening to Slovak Masses, etc to visit their website.

- Solicitation of new members – Again this year, I met personally with families and individuals that showed interested in Jednota to introduce them to our society and encourage them to become members. I am happy to report that I've been successful in attracting new members by sales of life insurance, annuities, and JEP products.

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

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the entire home office staff for their assistance, support, and attentiveness throughout the year. My questions and queries are always efficiently and promptly answered.

I want to thank all the members of Region 1 for their enthusiasm and participation in the activities organized in 2017. I look forward to continuing to work together with the Executive Board and Board of Directors in building and strengthening our society through growing membership and increased member participation.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabina Sabados
Region 1 Director

2017 Annual Report of Region 2 Director

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

It has once again been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 2.

In this past year, I performed all duties required of me as stipulated by the bylaws. I've attended the Annual and Semi-Annual Board of Directors meetings which were held in Independence, OH and the quarterly board meetings via teleconference. In September 2017, I also attended the monthly Executive Committee meeting at the Home Office at the invitation of the President. I was also present at the Home Office during the Supreme Court hearing held in September, although I was not called at the hearing. I attended only one district meeting in 2017 which was held in Catasauqua, PA in October. I was unable to attend the other district meeting held in April due to recovering from surgery. At both meetings I provided a written update the delegates with information learned at the board meetings and other information as well.

I was unable to participate the annual bowling and golf tournaments in 2017, once again due to my surgery. I do hope to participate in those events in 2018. In September 2017, I and my wife Peggy attended the annual mass of remembrance of the dedication of the Chapel of the Seven Sorrows at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. Not 2 weeks later Peggy and I returned to Washington DC to attend the funeral mass for a long time Jednota member Steve Matula. In December I was asked and gave my recommendations for branch consolidations and/or mergers in my Region, some of which were accepted by the branches and completed by the end of 2017.

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

Fraternally,

Damian D. Nasta
Region 2 Director

2017 Annual Report of Region 3 Director

Once again, it is a great honor and privilege to serve as the Regional Director for FCSU Region 3. This first term has been busy, as I have tried to become more well-versed in the FCSU goals, products and interests. Many efforts have been made to become an informed, astute and contributing board member and regional director.

Activities in our Region:

- Attended all district meetings
- Hosted a district meeting in my area
- Contacted branch members to complete delegate credentials for 2018 convention
- Personally, contacted by phone, new members from the recently consolidated branches. This was to encourage participation in branch activities and the 2018 convention
- Strived to involve younger members in district meetings and in branch meetings
- Continued to present a short program at district meetings to increase member's knowledge of Slovak history and culture
- Reported on FCSU concerns, products and programs to update district officers and branch members at district meetings and branch meetings
- Assisted members with posting of information in Jednota paper
- Served as branch secretary for Branch 05P
- Assisted branch members with all of their FCSU concerns

Fraternal Activities:

- Attended Summer Picnic at SSCM Motherhouse in Danville, PA
- Attended district annual picnic in Scranton, donated a 25-dollar gift basket for raffle
- Participated in a Christmas Song Fest of Slovak Christmas Carols
- Attended Slovak Stations
- Promoted a dialogue with other area Slovak groups to attempt to sponsor and promote Slovak events and activities in our region
- Continued planning for a food demonstration of Slovak desserts for the holiday season, secured a location for the upcoming year
- Investigated other local avenues of advertisement for FCSU products
- Attended meetings for the Northeast Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation
- Continued efforts to increase dialogue and communication among various Slovak organizations in our region
- Attended, in person, all Board of Directors meetings throughout the year
- Participated in Teleconference meetings of the Board
- Attended AQS Leadership Workshop Pittsburgh – September 21st 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Zavada
Region 3 Director

2017 Annual Report of Region 4 Director

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

This past year I've attended all board meetings by personal attendance or teleconference including the special board meeting on January 23 and 24, 2018.

On March 12th, June 11th and October 8th, 2017, I attended the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District (#9) meetings. On March 25th, 2017, I attended the George Onda District (#3) meeting; on April 30th, 2017, the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District (#12) meeting; on November 5th 2017, the

Jozef Cardinal Tomko District (#13) meeting and on December 10th, 2017 the Monsignor Martvon District (#7) meeting. Some of the major topics included the reduction of high interest rate annuities, the potential sale of the property in Middletown, Pennsylvania and By-Law compliance for the delegates this upcoming convention year.

I attended the Bowling Tournament Dinner held in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania on April 22, 2017.

Over the past year I was present at all four meetings of the St. Wendelin Branch 162 held on March 19th, June 4th, Sept. 10th and Dec. 3rd, 2017.

My wife, Patty, and I attended a Vilija Dinner on December 3rd, 2017 in Greensburg, PA, which was sponsored by the George Onda District and on June 25th, we attended the District picnic at Mammoth Park. I was also present at a special meeting held on December 9th, 2017 for the purpose of electing a District delegate.

Another item that I was involved with included helping Branch 484 receive their stipend. I attended the funeral home on November 24, 2017 and the morning Mass on November 25, 2017 for Florence Sprock. She was the wife of the former Regional Director of Region IV, George Sprock, whom I have replaced and the mother of our current Chairwoman of Auditors, Karen Hunka. May her soul rest in peace. I was present with members of Branch 162 that decorated a Christmas Tree at the Uniontown Hospital where the trees were raffled off for a fundraiser for the Nursing Scholarship Fund.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Marmol
Region 4 Director

2017 Annual Report of Region 5 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Andrew Rajec, and fellow members of the Board of Directors: It has been a privilege to serve as Director for Region 5.

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

I have participated in the bowling tournament and the golf tournament in Mon Valley and Canton, respectively. I also participated in the Pittsburgh picnic and Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. Additionally, I was part of the Vilija dinners in Latrobe, Slippery Rock, and Youngstown. I have sold life insurance policies. I have attended meetings for delegates to the convention.

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

Fraternally yours,

Michael Lako
Region 5 Director

2017 Annual Report of Region 6 Director

Rev. Thomas Nasta, President Rajec, and Fellow Board Members:

In 2017, I performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.

I attended all board meetings as Regional Director; I also attended the executive committee meeting by invitation of the President.

I attended all branch and district meetings to keep them well informed.

I worked at the annual Slovak/Jednota Day Picnic to promote our life insurance/annuity products.

I worked with local branches to sell our insurance and annuity product.

Respectfully,

Henry Hassay
Region 6 Director

2017 Annual Report of Region 7 Director

Mr. President, Executive Committee Members, and Fellow Board Members!

The year 2017 was another banner year for me by attending 15 FCSU meetings spread out between Wawautosa, WI; Orland Park, IL; Hobart, IN; Lake Orion, MI; and, of course, Independence, OH. The fraternalism and agenda at these meetings continues to support and encourage FCSU members. The highlight of all this was the day that I attended two FCSU meetings in one day. I almost made three, but the third was cancelled.

The FCSU Caribbean Cruise was a refreshing change of pace. It was encouraging to see some of our FCSU agents on the cruise as well. We all enjoyed the cruise as well as the membership meeting.

Now I look forward to a lively and spirited FCSU Convention in August 2018 in Cleveland, OH.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudolph W. Bernath
Region 7 Director

2017 Annual Report of Region 8 Director

Mr. President, Executive Committee, Father Nasta, and Fellow Board Members:

This is my report for the Year 2017. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as the Regional Director for Region 8.

In 2017, I have performed all duties required of me as stipulated in the bylaws of the FCSU.

- I have attended both Board of Directors meetings in March and September 2017 at the Head Office. Also took part in both quarterly teleconference meetings as well as one Executive Committee meeting by the invitation of the President.

- I have also attended the local annual meetings of Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba District and Branch 785, as well as their semi-annual meetings.

- Jednota members spearheaded the Annual Communion Breakfast with all others Toronto Slovak organizations held in March 2017 at STS. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall in Mississauga Ontario.

- I personally attended the fraternal activities of the Jednota. They are the Annual International Bowling Tournament which was held in Belle Vernon, PA, and participated in our Annual Golf Tournament in July that was held at Canton, OH.

- For our local fraternal activities I assisted and participated in our annual summer Regional Picnic held in July 2017 in Mississauga Ontario, which was well attended by our members and guests. We were very privileged to have with us the National Executive Secretary Ken Arendt.

- I assisted and enjoyed the Casino Rama and Casino Fallsview bus trips, which were organized by Jednota Branch 785 Member Emil Jursa.

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

Respectfully submitted

Milos Mitro
Region 8 Director



Slovak fraternal leaders who were welcomed at the Centennial celebration of the Pittsburgh Agreement in New York on April 15 include: (L -R) W. Nina Holy, national secretary of the Slovak League of America; Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq., national president of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director, the First Catholic Slovak Union; Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., supreme secretary of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Daniel F. Tanzone, national president of the Slovak League of America.

New York Area Slovaks Celebrate the Centennial of the Pittsburgh Agreement

**Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak League of America
National President and FCSU Branch 41 Member**

On Sunday, April 15, 2018, the Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, hosted a program commemorating the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement at St. John Nepomucene Parish in New York City. The agreement was an important document which led to the establishment of the first Czecho-Slovak Republic in 1918. The celebration also honored the 25th anniversary of Slovakia's independence. The program opened with a Slovak Mass celebrated by the Rev. Igor Kral, S.V.D. in the majestic church. The pastor, the Rev. Richard D. Baker offered a warm welcome to the Slovak League and guests.

Following the impressive liturgy, nearly 200 guests enjoyed a dinner and cultural program in the parish social hall. Slovak League President, Daniel F. Tanzone served as the afternoon's toastmaster. The program opened with the anthems of the United States and Slovakia, led by the young tenor, Andrew Pulver. The guests then enjoyed a delicious dinner featuring Slovak culinary specialties under the direction of Jan Skrkon, Branch 716 President of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Principal speaker at the dinner was Cynthia M. Maleski, Esq. national president of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. President Maleski recalled the rich history of the Pittsburgh Agreement signed on May 31, 1918 and the role played by American Slovaks and Czechs in the liberation of Slovaks and Czechs in their ancestral homeland a century ago which led to the establishment of the first republic of Czecho-Slovakia.

Greetings were extended by Ladislava Begec, Consul General of the Slovak Republic. She lauded the work of the New York area Slovak community in helping preserve the rich history, culture and heritage of Slovakia.

Remarks were offered in the name of Assembly 1 of the Slovak League in New York by Dr.

Ladislav Korcek. Dr. Korcek, president of Assembly 182 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, also spoke on behalf of the local lodges of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. He recalled the rich history of Assembly 1 over the years.

Greetings were then offered by Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr., president of Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Yonkers, N.Y. and a former city council member there. His late uncle, the Rev. John J. Kubasek, long-time pastor of the former Most Holy Trinity Slovak Parish in Yonkers, was a signator of the Pittsburgh Agreement in his capacity as national president of the Slovak Catholic Federation at the time.

A cultural interlude then followed and included the artistry of the young tenor, Andrew Pulver who was accompanied on the piano by his mom, Tanya Ferencko Pulver. Andrew, who has performed at New York's famed Metropolitan Opera and is active in area theatre groups, offered favorite Slovak folk selections. Offering a lively selection of traditional Slovak music and dance were members of The Lipka Slovak Folk Ensemble of Holy Family Parish in Linden, N.J.

The pastor and well-known Slovak cultural and religious activist, Father Richard D. Baker then offered remarks in which he commended the Slovak League of America for its efforts in helping to preserve our rich cultural heritage among the current generations. He thanked the local Slovak fraternal societies for their loyalty and support of the United Parish of St. John Nepomucene, St. John Martyr and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini - the East River Catholics.

The response followed offered by W.Nina Holy, national secretary-treasurer of the Slovak League of America. She thanked all who had a hand in the success of the celebration. She especially thanked our member Slovak fraternal for their continued support. In addition to Cynthia M. Maleski who represented the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, also present were Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., supreme secretary of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Sabina Sabados, regional director of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Also participating in the celebration were representatives of the Slovak Catholic Media Productions - Lux, which is headquartered at the New York Slovak parish.

The program concluded with the benediction offered by the Rev. Richard D. Baker followed by the singing of Kto za pravdu hori and God Bless America.

Reflections on the Centennial of the Pittsburgh Agreement

Daniel F. Tanzone

National President, Slovak League of America



On May 31, 1918, representatives of the Slovak League of America, the Czech National Federation and the National Alliance of Czech Catholics met in Pittsburgh with Thomas G. Masaryk to discuss the future union or federation of the Czechs and Slovaks in Europe. The important question of autonomy for the Slovaks was uppermost in the minds of the American Slovaks. The provisions of the Pittsburgh Agreement were initially considered, agreed to, and subsequently disavowed by Masaryk who would become the first president of the Czecho-Slovak Republic. The accord possessed all the elements of a contract accepted by two responsible groups.

Masaryk later told the Slovak leader, Msgr. Andrew Hlinka that the agreement was meant for America and for American conditions. In response, Hlinka said it was difficult to not laugh in the President's presence. A total of 17 Slovaks and 12 Czechs were signatories of the agreement which was signed at the Loyal Order of Moose Hall in downtown Pittsburgh. They represented Slovaks and Czechs from various parts of the United States.

The translated text of the agreement said that "Slovakia shall have its own administration, her own assembly, and her own courts. The Slovak language shall be the official language in the schools, in public offices and in public life in general. The Czecho-Slovak State shall be a republic; its constitution shall be democratic. The cooperation of the Czechs and Slovaks in the United States shall be intensified and regulated by mutual consent, according to need and changing situations. Detailed provisions relating to the organization of the Czecho-Slovak State shall be left to the liberated Czechs and Slovaks and their legal representatives...." The name of the proposed state shall be "Czecho-Slovakia," as found in the treaties and all official documents at the time of the creation of the Republic. The name of the Republic implied the idea of a "dual" republic. Sadly, none of the promises of the Pittsburgh Agreement regarding the Slovaks were realized. Instead a strong central government emerged with the Czechs commanding the upper hand. Then in 1923, the name of the republic was officially changed to "Czechoslovakia" signaling the further development of a fictional Czechoslovak idea.

The American Slovaks supported the Million Dollar Drive of the Slovak League of America which had begun in 1916 under the capable leadership of the Rev. Joseph Murgas in support of the Slovak and Czech cause abroad - in France, Russia, Italy and later in Czecho-Slovakia. More than one million dollars funneled through the Slovak League aided the new Czecho-Slovak Republic in its early years.

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.

The Patroness of Slovakia: Our Lady of Sorrows

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

Many of us know that Our Lady of Sorrows is the patroness of Slovakia, and May is a month of special devotions to the Virgin Mary. We celebrate her feast on September 15, and her feast day is a national holiday in Slovakia, with most businesses closed. But often we do not know the story of how the Virgin Mary and her sufferings came to be identified with the people of Slovakia. The identification of the sorrowful Mother with the Slovak nation stems from a miracle which occurred long ago in the 16th century.

It all started in Šaštín, a town in the Trnava region of western Slovakia; the town lies between the Myjava Hills and the Záhorie Lowland, not far from Moravia. It is about 18 km from Senica and 65 km from the Slovak capital, Bratislava. In 2001, the town was renamed Šaštín – Stráže, a city of around 5,000 inhabitants. Today it is the home of one of largest and most popular shrine for Christians - the Monastery and Church of the Seven Sorrow of the Virgin Mary (Kláštor a Kostol Sedembolestnej Panny Márie).



Source: <http://www.pragma.sk/rybyryby/index.php?lake=sastin>

Historical Background

Historians have found evidence of settlement in the Šaštín area from the second half of the 10th century until about 1250. The town's official history dates back to the early 13th century; its oldest record dates from 1218, when the Hungarian King Emeric II (Imrich, in Slovak) gifted the property of the Lebény Benedictine Monastery to the Györ family. The name of the town derived from the Magyar word "sás," (meaning šašina or trstie in Slovak), a reference to the marshy grass with solid stems in the marshy wetlands area where the town started.

In the late 14th century, Šaštín acquired the formal privileges associated with the status of a town. Aside from serving as the site of several battles and the home to a thriving craft industry, Šaštín did not have any special economic significance until the 18th century. Acquired by the emperor due to outstanding debts, Maria Theresa's husband, Francis of Lorraine, used his new estate for business purposes. He had calico textile factory (kartúnka) established that became one of largest enterprises in central Europe. By acquiring a monopoly of the business in the empire, it soon employed over 20,000 domestic spinners and foreign skilled workers. The crown sold the factory to the Viennese banker, Johann Puthon, in the 1780s. It continued to prosper until the late 19th century, when the business declined due to competition.

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary

Šaštín had no special religious significance until 1564, when the Virgin Mary, as Our Lady of Sorrows, first appeared to Angelika Bakičová, the wife of the landowner named Imrich Czobor. The apparition occurred while she was praying for help to deal with some personal trials in her life.

In thanksgiving for hearing her prayers, Pani Bakičová commissioned an unknown artist to sculpt a wooden statue at the place of the apparition. Soon word spread of her vision, and the faithful from nearby towns and villages began to visit the site as a place of pilgrimage. Before long, pilgrims from far away heard of the apparition and also started to make longer journeys to Šaštín in order to pay homage to Our Sorrowful Mother. A triangular Marian Chapel was then built to house the statue in the late 16th century.

During the Turkish wars, the statue was moved in 1654 for protection to the Chapel of St. Imrich, in a nearby manor house. It did not return to its original chapel until 1710, and soon attracted throngs of pilgrims who credited Our Lady of Sorrows for many spiritual and physical miracles of healing.



A view of Šaštín Basilika in Slovakia



A close-up of the Šaštín statue ensconced at the main altar.



The Šaštín-Stráže Coat of Arms

Official Church Recognition

Not until the early 18th century did the Church officially grant its approval for public worship of the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows. But further recognition involved an extensive official Church investigation. On August 25, 1732, the statue was moved to the Loreto Chapel of the town church. In the meantime, an official Church commission found that as many as 726 miracles were associated with the statue.

Finally, Archbishop Imrich Eszterházy in Esztergom, the center of Catholicism in Hungary, sanctioned the chapel in Šaštín as an official place of pilgrimage. The statue returned to its original location in the triangular chapel, under the care of Rev. Ján Schon. A throng of over 20,000 people gathered to celebrate the first Holy Mass at the chapel. This sealed its sanctity as place of worship for centuries to come.

Building a Basilica and Monastery

The Pauline religious order received responsibility to minister and take care of the shrine starting in 1733. Upon arriving in Šaštín, the Paulines decided to build a basilica to accommodate pilgrims and a monastery to house the clergy. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on July 16, 1736. Johann Damian and later Matej Vepý from Vienna directed its construction. The builders completed construction of the main part of the basilica and its roof in 1748, and three years later, the adjoining monastery was finished.

Once the building was finished, attention turned to the decoration of the interior. In 1757, the Austrian court painter, Jean-Joseph Chamant, adorned the basilica ceiling and the side altars with a series of colorful frescoes and murals. Another important Austrian master of the era, Johann Lucas Kracker, painted three side altars of the basilica.

During the reign of Empress Maria Theresa, the renowned Habsburg imperial architect, Franz Hildebrand, recommended additional adornments, including the construction of a main altar made of red marble and the decoration of the façade of the basilica. The donations of thousands of ordinary people of Slovakia and Maria Theresa's personal contribution funded the project. All was done to prepare for the 200th anniversary of the apparition in 1764.

The official blessing and dedication of the basilica occurred on August 15, 1764. The culmination of the ceremony featured the presentation of the statue at the main altar. In addition to the many thousands of pilgrims who came for the grand event, the attendees at the event sounded like a list of "who's who" in the Habsburg Empire – the Esztergom Archbishop Barkoczi, Empress Maria Theresa and her husband Francis of Lorraine, and many other clergy and dignitaries.

Other improvement continued in the ensuing years. Just a year later, the bells were blessed and the domes finished. In 1771, a lectern was completed, as well as a magnificent organ with 25 variations to fill the basilica with heavenly music. Gradually over time, construction workers completed the side altars and finished the project.



The basilica interior includes a ceiling adorned by the work of a painter in the Austrian court of the 1700s.

Fr. Marek Višnovský named Protosyncellus for the Eparchy of Parma, OH

Daniel Černý

On the fourth Sunday of the Great Fast (Lent), March 11, 2018, it was announced that His Grace, Bishop Milan Lach SJ, the Apostolic Administrator of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma, OH, appointed Fr. Marek Višnovský, pastor of St. Mary Church in Cleveland, OH, as the new Protosyncellus of this Eparchy. Fr. Višnovský was named Protosyncellus, effective March 9, 2018, and additionally Vocation Director as well as Syncellus for Clergy, effective March 12, 2018.

This strange-sounding title of Protosyncellus is in fact an equivalent position to the Roman Catholic title of the Vicar General, sharing the executive power of the eparchial bishop. But what are origins of this title and what does it mean for our Byzantine-Slovak priest, serving in the USA with his family? The term itself has its origins in Greek, where proto means the first one and syncellus derives from words syn (with) and kellion (a monastic cell). Originally a syncellus was a monk assigned to be obedient to the superior, to live with him in one cell and thus be a witness to his purity of the life. In our modern context, the closest analogous relationship is that of a co-worker to the ruling bishop.

The Code of Canons of Eastern Churches (Canons 245-250) stipulates that in each eparchy a protosyncellus is to be appointed, in order to assist the eparchial bishop in governing the whole eparchy. Usually the protosyncellus is to be a celibate priest, but exceptions are possible. The custom of celibacy is probably closely connected with a fact that where there is an auxiliary bishop, he automatically becomes protosyncellus (Vicar-General) of that specific bishopric – and, in the Eastern Rite, only celibate priests are eligible to advance to the level of bishop. In every case, the protosyncellus should be not less than thirty years of age and ideally should have a doctorate in theology, or at least to be an expert in some sacred discipline. The protosyncellus should be also of sound doctrine, upright, prudent and to have experience in handling matters. It is prohibited for an eparchial bishop to name any blood relatives up to the fourth degree.

Fr. Višnovský is a native of Dlhé Klčovo, near Vranov nad Topľou in Slovakia. He received his priestly formation in Prešov, where he finished his theological studies in 2004. Before his diaconal ordination he married his wife – Mrs. Miriam Višnovský, well-known to many of the Jednota readers, as she is currently member of the FCSU staff. Together they are proud parents of three. The entire family are members of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Fr. Višnovský was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Prešov by laying of hands of the now Metropolitan Ján Babjak SJ in 2004. A few weeks after his ordination, he came with his wife to the Eparchy of Parma, thanks to the interest and good-will of the then bishop of Parma, the Most Reverend John Kudrick. Since then he has ministered in Holy Spirit Parish, Parma; St. Emilian Parish in Brunswick, OH; and currently at St. Mary Church in Cleveland, OH. In 2009 Fr. Višnovský did officially transfer into the Eparchy of Parma from the Archeparchy of Prešov. Fr. Višnovský loves soccer and is a gifted iconographer, whose works adorn many of our Byzantine Catholic churches and homes on both sides of the Atlantic.

Because of this new assignment and in accordance with the local custom for a protosyncellus, Fr. Višnovský was granted the title of Mitered Archpriest and was given a miter as a symbol of his office. In the USA, one of the first priests to receive a miter was the late Fr. Eugene Chromoga, who received his miter in 1969, when the Eparchy of Parma was established and he was named its first Protosyncellus. The Miter was solemnly conferred to Fr. Višnovský by Bishop Milan Lach SJ, during the liturgy at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on Holy Thursday, March 29, 2018.

We invoke on Fr. Višnovský in his new assignment the strength and courage of the Holy Spirit, and we wish him, his wife Miriam and their children peace, health and happiness for many happy and blessed years, Christos Voskrese!

About the Author

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



Photo credit: John Popp (Horizons facebook page)



Branch 746 Ventures to the Movies

On Saturday, April 7, 2018, members of Branch 746 gathered at the Linden AMC Theatre in Linden, NJ, to view the film “Paul—Apostle of Christ” which documents the life of two men of the bible. Luke, the physician, risks his life to venture into the city of Rome to visit Paul, who is held captive in Nero’s prison. Nero is determined to rid Rome of Christians but before Paul’s death sentence can be enacted, Luke resolves to write another book detailing the beginning of “The Way” and the birth of what will come to be known as the Church. The story of the New Testament figure Paul - or Saul of Tarsus - would eventually become part of the Bible’s Luke-Acts. The actor Jim Caviezel, who starred in “The Passion of the Christ,” plays Luke while the aged and imprisoned Paul is portrayed by James Faulkner.

As one viewer put it, “this true-to-Scripture presentation should leave every Christian examining the true depth of their own faith, the grace of God and the reality of persecution of the Church through 20 centuries. This is a historical movie to encourage and challenge millions.” Seeing scriptures coming to life on the big screen truly impacted many of the members attending the movie. It was wonderful to share this experience with members of our faith community and our Jednota branch.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Branch 746 President

Saints Cyril & Methodius Sisters Speak at Vocation Awareness Day

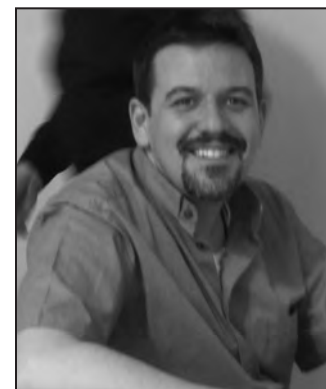


Sister Thomas More Dzurnak, SSCM, was one of six sisters and six priests who served as speakers at a Vocation Awareness Day at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata, PA. The day began with a whole-school Liturgy, then each speaker, guided by an escort, rotated through 3 classrooms. Sister Thomas More was assigned kindergarten, first grade, and third grade, and was asked questions such as, “How did she know she was called?” “How did she get started in religious life?” “What does she do now?” Thanks to at Our Mother of Perpetual Help School for sponsoring this event, and to Sister Thomas More for responding to the invitation. Sunday, April 22 was World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM



(L – R) Father Richard Baker, Maria Gobcikova, Jan Skrkon, Andrej Sulak and Maria Virostkova.



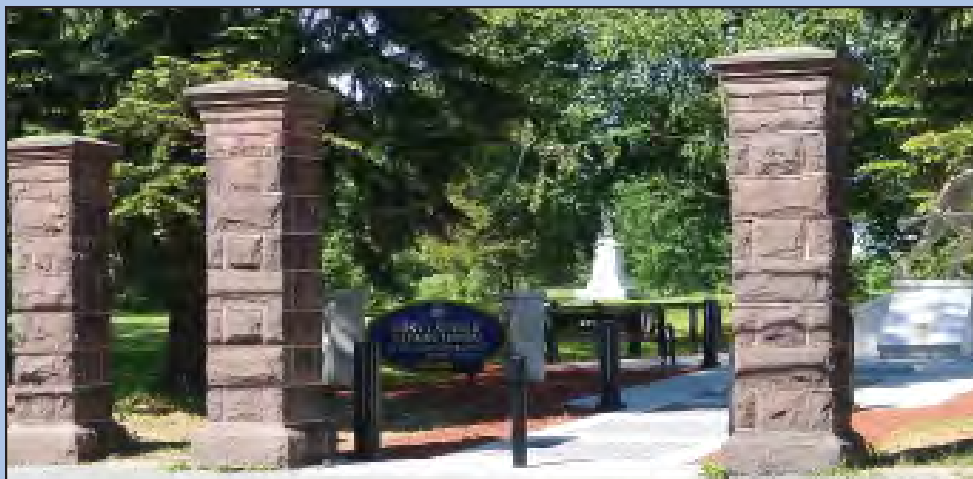
Father Igor Kral

April Celebrations for Branch 716

On April 8, 2018, members of Branch 716 in New York City marked two special occasions. The branch celebrated the birthday of one of its members Maria Gabocikova at St. John's Nepomucene Church. That same day, the branch helped welcome Father Igor Kral from Bratislava, Slovakia, who will be staying in St. John Nepomucene for two months before returning home.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

You Can Still Participate in the Jednota Memorial



The First Catholic Slovak Union dedicated a Jednota Memorial site in September 2016 for our members and their families. The site is on a permanently dedicated 3 1/2 acres of land of Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue in Middletown, PA. The land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed "Doughboy" statue is a key highlight of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

9	PAUL & MARY CUPA JURICKÝ FURDEK BARDEJOV SLOVAKIA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MICHAEL KIRCH WIFE	LOVING MEMORY OF MY WIFE VIRGINIA KIRK VOLTER OF 55YRS 2016
DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 106K		IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF LOVING PARENTS 5307 US MARINE CORPS WORLD WAR II FRANCIS J. SOLO CATHERINE M. SOLO	FRANK T. JR. ELIZABETH G. MIDDLETOWN, PA
CHARLES RODACY BOONE KEYSTONE OAKS HS-PA CLASS OF 2010	RODACE CHARLES & ELIZABETH CHARLESTON, PA	BOONE FAMILY RON MONICA & CHARLES SCOBRY & VELMA	BERTOVIČ MICHAEL & MARGARET AND FAMILY
MAY THE SACRED HEART BLESS & PROTECT THE HARCHARAK FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF WONDERFUL PARENTS FRANK & ANNA CHMELA	HOWATROSKI BERNARD KATHERINE BRANCH 056	
IN LOVING MEMORY FRANCIS AND MARY SEMLAR	IN LOVING MEMORY JOSEPH HELEN SÄMMER SCRANTON, PA BR 382	REMEMBERING MEMBERS OF BRANCH 05P PITTSBURGH, PA	TELMAR A. NELLER JR. 30 THS MARINE CORPS UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW B. DELDRES LEIKO	IN MEMORY OF GEORGE "MORGE" DORKO GERALDINE BONCHAK	IN HONOR OF JOHN P. YURICEK SR. WARREN OHIO	
JOZEF ZUZANA STANKAY BRADDOCK PENNA. ZA BOHA ZA NAROD	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELIZABETH J. GERKO AUNT BETTY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEPHEN G. GERKO ELIZABETH T. GERKO	IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD & DOROTHY A. TURCHKI FRENCH
IN GOD'S KEEPING ANTHONY & EVIE MACHAK	REMEMBERING DEPARTED MEMBERS BRANCH 721 BANNISTER, MICHIGAN		DEDICATED TO THE LOYAL MEMBERS LIVING AND DECEASED REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT #6 PA. IND. D.C.
ARTHUR J. FAYTA OUR SLOVAK HERO WORLD WAR VETERAN	IN LOVING MEMORY EMIL & VERONICA BAYUS SR. BRANCH 1	JOSEPH AND CECELIA PETRASEK AND FAMILY AKRON, OH BRANCH 553	

This is one of the completed panels. To view more complete panels, or if you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form. Or you can request an order form by calling the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.



Photos courtesy of Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



District 2's Semi-annual Spring Meeting

The Rev John J. Spitkovsky District – District 2 - held its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at the Missionary Benedictine Convent in Oak Forest, IL. The 28 attendees voted on entries for the District 2 Easter Coloring Contest, elected the district convention delegate and alternate delegate, and voted on proposed by-law changes. The date for the district annual meeting was set for October 14, 2018.

- Submitted by Robert Ľapák Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

Photo courtesy of Robert Ľapák Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary



Join Us for 2018 Consular Tour of Slovakia & Its Neighbors

August 13 – August 26, 2018



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko has prepared a deluxe 15-day tour of Slovakia, Vienna, Poland and Hungary. The itinerary for Slovakia includes the historic towns of Bratislava, Svätý Jur, Devín, Bojnice, Tatras, Levoča, Kežmarok, Spišská Sobotka, Spišský Hrhov, Ždiar, Stará Ľubovňa, Košice, Bardejov, Jedlička and Prešov. Some of the highlights in Slovakia include six castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings and rafting. This is the only

tour that also includes welcome receptions by the U.S. Ambassador in Bratislava and by the Mayor of Prešov.

As you travel through various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit your ancestral villages and families.

At no extra cost, Joe has included two nights in Poland and two nights in Hungary. While in Poland, we will visit the shrines of Blessed Faustina and the Black Madonna. We will also tour Pope John Paul II's birthplace, the famous Wieliczka salt mine and Auschwitz. And of course, we will shop in Zakopane.

In Budapest, we will visit the ancient architectural sites including the Royal Palace, Citadella fortress and Parliament.

The total price for this fantastic tour is just \$4,300 per person (double occupancy). This includes round trip airfare from either Pittsburgh or New York, two delicious meals daily, four star hotels, free admission to all the sites, air conditioned bus, a professional guide and more. Compare this itinerary with other tour packages. For a detailed copy of the daily itinerary or more information, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – FCSU Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2018, in observance of Memorial Day.

Join Youngstown /Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities on its 20th Tour of Slovakia, July 2018



Are you ready with your passport to enjoy two weeks of excitement, fun, good food, entertainment, great people and fond memories for the rest of your life?

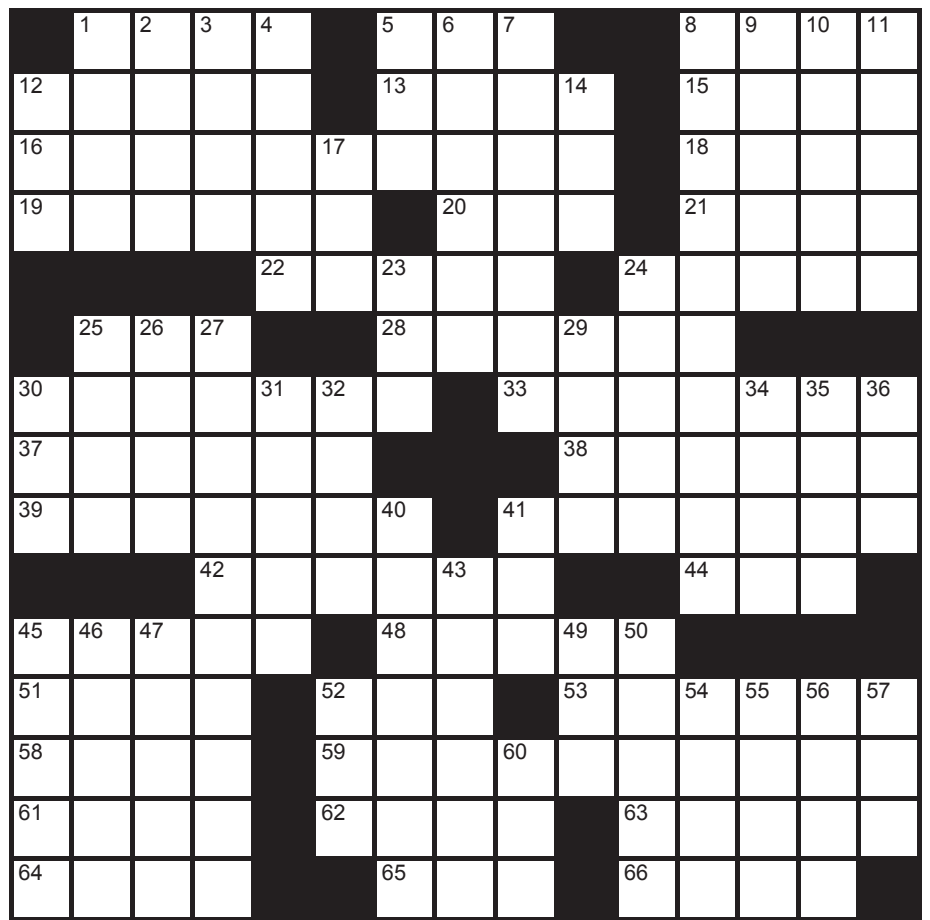
Join Jim and Kay Bench on the 20th Sister Cities tour of Slovakia. Talk to the oldest living Slovak member of your family to find where your ancestors lived in Slovakia. Think of the joy you will feel meeting long-lost relatives or just being able to walk in the village of your ancestors.

Visit historic UNESCO sites, towns and village such as Bratislava, Trenčín, Košice, Pezinok, and other towns and villages too numerous to mention. Go rafting on the Dunajec river, enjoy wine tasting, see the beautiful Tatra mountains, enjoy a grand reception with the Mayor of Spišská Nová Ves, enjoy dinner and entertainment at Kolibas [whose rustic designs reflect traditional shepherds' housing], see folk performances and form long-lasting friendships. Enjoy the comfort of traveling on a large air conditioned bus with a restroom on board.

Tour dates are July 10-24, 2018. For additional information call Jim at 724-858-5843 or Kay at 724-771-7900. Don't wait any longer. You have put it off for too long. Now is the time to go. A complete itinerary will be provided. Travel arrangements are being arranged by Paul Hudak Adventure International Travel, Cleveland Ohio 800 524 2487.

We are waiting for your call!

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Utah city
- 5 Anatomical pouch
- 8 Seaweed substance
- 12 Kind of ray
- 13 At the peak of
- 15 Skedaddle
- 16 Jocularly
- 18 Forum wear
- 19 Had a hunch
- 20 Gasteyer of *Mean Girls*
- 21 Skater Heiden or singer Clapton
- 22 Column style
- 24 Illicit rendezvous
- 25 Pricing word
- 28 Battery terminals
- 30 Spectacular ceremony
- 33 Irritates
- 37 Pass, as time
- 38 Loud speaker
- 39 Subtracts
- 41 Swagger
- 42 Type of music
- 44 Compass pt.
- 45 Intone
- 48 Old Roman port
- 51 Sitar music
- 52 Moo goo gai pan pan
- 53 Adorned, in a way
- 58 Qom home
- 59 Devotee
- 61 Cast-of-thousands film
- 62 Showroom model
- 63 Kind of boom
- 64 Physics unit
- 65 Period

66 Toward sunrise

Down

- 1 Fellow
- 2 Augury
- 3 Part of a Latin tri
- 4 Stationed
- 5 ___ Quentin
- 6 Reach
- 7 Pipe type
- 8 Lotion type
- 9 Frequent word in 42 Across
- 10 Protection
- 11 Strike back
- 12 Navigation system inits.
- 14 Myanmar monetary unit
- 17 Ruckus
- 23 Kind of race or trap
- 24 Aquarium fish
- 25 Blanched
- 26 Old oath
- 27 Horror
- 29 It's in a jamb
- 30 ___ Xing
- 31 Fancy tie
- 32 New Jersey five
- 34 Greek vowels

- 35 Went on a bus
- 36 Theater sign
- 40 Parodied
- 41 Deli order
- 43 Esquimau, i.e.
- 45 Wept
- 46 Fruit bat
- 47 "Encore!"
- 49 Despot Amin
- 50 Emerged
- 52 Roll of bills
- 54 Dwarf buffalo
- 55 Cooking utensils
- 56 Blue-pencil
- 57 Disney dwarf
- 60 Bunk



Mother of My Lord and God

Mother of my Lord and God,
Holy Mary, "full of grace,"
Hear the prayer I bring to you.
For our troubled human race.
And for others near to me,
Wipe their tears and set them free,
That they may know how much you care:
Holy Mary hear my prayer.

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JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

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

See Solution on Page 20

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

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



- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
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All applications must be
received in the Home Office
postmarked
by August 31, 2018.

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

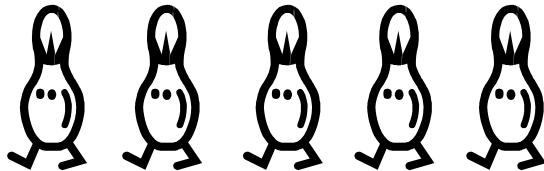
7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Women's Ten Pin Handicap Bowling Tournament Results

Place	Team Event	Total Pins
1	The Ragan Girls	2356
2	The Jems	2330
3	The Defenders	1911
4	Split Happens	1815

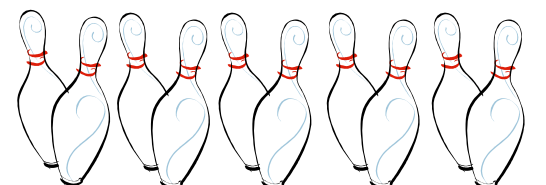
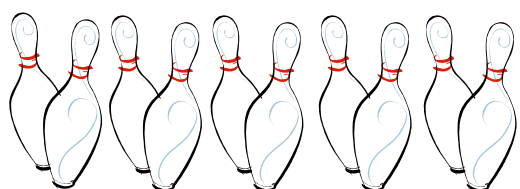
Place	Doubles Event		Total Pins
1	Rice	Lutes	1336
2	Henson	Walzl	1256
3	Ragan	Szabo	1251
4	Ragan	Mitro	1210
5	Soose	Oswald	1198
6	Fine	Bright	1177
7	Tokarsky	Ricciuti	1164
8	Carini	Ashcraft	1119
9	Nasta	Nasta	1034

Place	Singles Event		Total Pins
1	Kuvinka	Margy	668
2	Ragan	Joelyn	660
3	Walzl	Allison	654
4	Ashcraft	Debbie	643
5	Hunt	Eileen	632
6	Dunham	Kerrie	626
7	Szabo	Cathy	624
8	Soose	Sheila	615
9	Mitro	Anne	611
10	Fine	Debbie	602
11	Nasta	Nicole	597
12	Ricciuti	Denise	588
13	Kolecky	Inky	578
14	Carini	Sue	574
15	Lako	JoAnne	570
16	Henson	Melody	569
17	Rice	Nancy	562
18	Lutes	Beth	555
19	Bright	Tracey	552
20	Oswald	Bridget	531
21	Bright	Kim	520
22	Tokarsky	Christine	494
23	Bolton	Heather	473
24	Nasta	Anna Mae	421

Place	Seniors Competition		Total Pins
1	Kuvinka	Margy	668
2	Szabo	Cathy	624
3	Mitro	Anne	611
4	Maximo	Gwynn	592
5	Kolecky	Inky	578



Place	All Events Competition		Total Pins
1	Walzl	Allison	1939
2	Hunt	Eileen	1892
3	Ashcraft	Debbie	1855
4	Ragan	Joelyn	1851
5	Rice	Nancy	1849
6	Maximo	Gwynn	1827
7	Kolecky	Inky	1814
8	Mitro	Anne	1805
9	Lutes	Beth	1779
10	Fine	Debbie	1777
11	Szabo	Cathy	1773
11	Oswald	Bridget	1773
13	Nasta	Nicole	1771
13	Soose	Sheila	1771
15	Dunham	Kerrie	1755
16	Tokarsky	Christine	1753
17	Bright	Tracey	1745
18	Kuvinka	Margy	1735
19	Lako	JoAnne	1702
20	Henson	Melody	1694
21	Carini	Sue	1687
22	Bright	Kim	1682
23	Ricciuti	Denise	1633
24	Ragan	Jara	1478
25	Bolton	Heather	1417
26	Nasta	Anna Mae	1381



Look for the Men's Results in the June 6th Issue of Jednota

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, Pennsylvania invites Branch 10 members and their families to attend the annual Mass for living and deceased Branch 10 members on Sunday, June 24. The 11:00 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Church at Holy Cross Parish, Olyphant. Immediately following Mass, the semiannual business meeting will be held at the parish's Kelley Hall.

William Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, Bridgeport, CT, will hold its special semi-annual meeting on June 10, 2018, Sunday, in St. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. Mass will be offered for Margaret Evancho at 8:30AM in the church. Following the Mass, members are invited to the church hall for our breakfast meeting. At this meeting we will award our young members who have reached their 16th birthday in 2017 with the Margaret Evancho monetary award. This award was established for Margaret to recognize the many years she dedicated to the youth of the branch.

This year the award will be given to the following:

Roman Achille
Ryan Farrell
Maliya Lorys
Austin Philipp
Samantha Piroh

We hope our members will join us in this special tribute to Margaret Evancho.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018, at St. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall.

We wish all the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a successful convention in August 2018.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 35 - BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael, Branch 35, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at Centurion Commons, 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include officers' reports and a discussion of district and branch activities.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its annual meeting on Monday, June 11, 2018, at 7:00 pm at 3409 Eisenhower Court, White Oak, PA 15131. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on the 2018 Convention as well as 2018 fraternal social activities. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend.

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 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

Holy Trinity Branch 41, Yonkers, NY will meet at 80 Mohawk Rd., Yonkers on Wed. June 6, 2018 at 7PM for its semi-annual meeting. President, Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr.; Vice Pres./Rec'd Sec'y, Dan Tanzone; Financial Sec'y/Treas., Marilyn Montemurro; Auditor, Jim Holodak; will review the past 6 months including the results of the Patronal Feast celebration of May 20, 2018. [Editor's note: see p15 for Feast celebration details]

Stephen J. Kubasek, President

BRANCH 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its annual meeting Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

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

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 108 – CONNELLSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 108 will hold a meeting on May 13, 2018, at 1:00PM at 1916 Second Street, S. Conneltsville, PA, 15425. On the agenda: discussion of upcoming FCSU Convention in August 2018.

**Dolores M. Kocis, President/
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 112 Mahanoy City will host a meeting and family day on Monday, June 11, 2018 at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA.

The branch meeting will begin at noon, the agenda will include officer's reports, the convention and new business. Following the meeting members can enjoy lunch and the family amusement park.

Please contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1796 by June 4 if you plan to attend.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St Stephen Branch 153 congratulates the following members who recently received their 50 year pins:

Paul Kudlach
Linda Leonard
Linda Mitchell
John Ogarek
Jill Ramsey
Barbara Scialabba

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2018, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Any further news regarding the 51st International Convention in Cleveland, OH, will also be discussed. Regional Director James Marmol will advise us of activities from the Home Office.

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the brunch meeting. Call for reservations by June 4, 2018, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 as well as any changes for policies or address changes.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All Branch 181 members are invited to the annual family picnic to be held at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, PA on Sunday, June 24, 2018. *Please note the picnic location is Pavilion #13 which is a change from previous years. Registration begins at noon and the picnic starts at 1:00 p.m. Each member is asked to bring their favorite covered dish. Beverages and main entrée will be provided by branch. The spectacular Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. A formal meeting will be held directly after the picnic. For more information or directions, please call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 199 will meet for a luncheon meeting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at Sharky's Café, 3960 Route 30/Lincoln Highway, Latrobe, PA.

Call 724-423-4745 to confirm your reservation for lunch, provided by the branch.

We look forward to meeting you, to sharing lunch with you, and discussing ideas for 2018 summer/fall activities.

Barbara Patula, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 213 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2018, at 1:00PM at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA. On the agenda: general branch

business. All members are encourage to attend.

Joseph Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

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

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

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 276 will holds its next meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2018, at 1:00PM at St. Patrick's Church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. The upcoming topic for this meeting will be the National Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH this August. Delegates for the convention were elected and should be present. We would welcome new members.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 315 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Interested persons should respond no later than May 31, 2018.

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 724-425-2576.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 419 - WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Stephen the Martyr, Branch 419, will hold a regular meeting on Sunday May 20, 2018, at Norms Restaurant, Sherman Street, Wilkes Barre, PA, beginning at 12:30PM. On the agenda: general branch business. All are welcome, particularly those in the former Branch 090 who now hold membership in Branch 419. We hope to see you there to help us kick off our new, grand association. Lunch will be served following the meeting.

Francis Wassil, President

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2018, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. The agenda will include discussion of the upcoming National Convention, membership, and scholarship recipients' life insurance. Members are welcome to participate.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

Mark your calendars. On June 24, 2018 for a 10:00 am Mass at St. John The Baptist Parish, 1034 Brown St, Akron, OH 44301. The Mass is to honor The Nativity of St. John the Baptist and all living and deceased members of Branch 553. Our Chaplain Fr. Jared Ornadoff will be a co-celebrant for this Mass. Following the Mass we will gather at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 for pastries and coffee. Come and share this special day with other Branch 553 members.

June 30, 2018 will be the Annual Kielbasa Open

at Mayfair Country Club. Further details will be forthcoming.

Remember the 1st Wednesday of every month is Spaghetti Night. Come and enjoy a great meal and fellowship with others.

Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Gary-Whiting Branch 581, will hold its semi-annual meeting at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN on Sunday, June 10, at 1 PM. The agenda will include officers' reports and the upcoming National Convention in Cleveland, OH, August 4 – 8, 2018. Please RSVP to Ann Buczek, 947-2793 or George Kelchak, 926-2410.

Ann Buczek, Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 3:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

The agenda will include a discussion of upcoming events.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

At the scheduled meeting of FCSU Branch 682 on March 22, 2018 the six branch delegates to attend the 51st International Convention of The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada were selected. The convention is in Cleveland from August 4th-8th. The next meeting of Branch 682 is scheduled for May 31st, 2018 at Materials Research Laboratories, 290 N Bridge St in Struthers, OH 44471. Discussion of items for consideration at the convention and branch plans for Slovak Fest at St. Matthias grounds on Sunday, August 12th will take place.

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 706 – DYER, INDIANA

St. Anthony Society, Branch 706, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 16, 2018, at 3 pm, at the residence of Branch Treasurer, Barbara Fayta, in Dyer, IN. We will be discussing ongoing updates to the Slovakia Tree, decorated by the branch, at the Museum of Science and Industry. Also on the agenda is the Easter Coloring Contest and District 2's Spring Brunch/Show, organized by Barbara Fayta and Lynda Tanis. Please email Lynda Tanis at Lynda.tanis@comcast.net if you would like to attend the meeting.

Lynda Tanis, Branch 706 Vice President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 716 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2018, after the Slovak Mass at 1:00 P.M. in meeting room downstairs in St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC, NY.

On the agenda will be a financial report, Discussion on Marianist Shrine Pilgrimage and FCSU Convention in August. All Members are urged to attend. Lunch will be served before the meeting and prepared by our Branch President Jan Skrkon.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 731 members will meet on June 24, 2018 at Noon. The meeting is being held at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 853 - CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention Branch 853 members: any member interested in the history of the Slovakia, may be interested in attending the Pittsburgh Agreement 100th anniversary celebration at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA, on May 31, 2018. Please contact branch president Monica Rodacy Boone at FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or by calling 412-886-6938 by April 15 regarding tickets. Tickets for the event only will be purchased by the branch for Branch 853 members. Members must provide their own transportation to and from the event. Details of the event are on page 19 of this issue.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 2 will host the Fathers' Day Brunch on June 17 at the Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. Mass is at 9:30 with brunch at 11:00. Ticket prices will be announced in the next issue. RSVP to Sue Ondrejco at sue.ondrejco@gmail.com or call 412-421-1204. Prices for the ad booklet are: full page \$75, half page \$40, quarter page \$25. Send ads to Sue by email or mail them to 234 Ilion St., Pittsburgh, PA 15207. Checks should be made payable to FCSU Pittsburgh District.

Sue Ondrejco will have tickets for Slovak Day at Kennywood available on Fathers' Day. Slovak Day is Thursday, July 19.

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

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

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

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: May 7 – Slovak Weddings, June 4 – the Pittsburgh Agreement. Meetings resume October 1 when Lisa Alzo will be speaking on Slovak genealogy. Become a member of the WPCSA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

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

DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 3, 2018 at 1:00 P.M. at the Uniontown Dairy Queen Grill and Chill, 575 West Main Street. Regional Director James Marmol will brief the group on current events taking place at the Home Office.

Plans will be discussed regarding the upcoming 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada on Saturday, August 4, 2018 thru August 8, 2018. All delegates, alternate delegates and members are urged to attend. A Dairy Queen social will follow.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 20 - PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT - MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The District 20 semi-annual meeting will be held on Sunday June 3, 2018, at the Sts Cyril and Methodius Church hall immediately following the eleven (11) o'clock Mass.

The Agenda will include Social events for 2018, Discussion re the upcoming Convention in August 2018, possible changes to the by-laws and suggestions.

Branch 784 and 810 are encouraged to send representatives.

A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President



SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS
SLOVAK CATHOLIC CHURCH
41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Mi 48314
www.saintcyrils.org
586-726-6911

HELP SS CYRIL & METHODIUS CELEBRATE ITS
100th ANNIVERSARY

SS Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church is seeking old photos, newspapers, articles, other memorabilia, and traditional Slovak artifacts that would show the history of the parish. We are reaching out to current & past parishioners, alumni friends, and fellow Slovaks who have been associated with church over the past 100 years. These items can be mailed to the church office, sent via email, scanned and returned, or dropped off at our parish office if the donor lives within the local area. Items will be displayed on various mediums such as display boards, banners, the church web site and on church property during the celebration year. The 100th Anniversary Planning Committee promises to take exceptional care of the items that are provided. Please contact our History Chairperson Bev Moran at bandfmoran94@hotmail.com or 586-254-6534

Branch 41 in Yonkers to Celebrate Patronal Feast



After a hiatus of three years – since the closing of Most Holy Trinity Parish – Branch 41 President Stephen J. Kubasek, Jr. announces that Holy Trinity, Branch 41 will resume the celebration of its Patron, the Trinity. Since Trinity Sunday falls within the Memorial Day weekend this year, our celebration of the Trinity will take place a week earlier on Pentecost Sunday, May 20th.

An 8:30AM Mass will be celebrated by Branch 41 Chaplain and former Pastor of MHT, Rev. George Oonnoony. The Mass will be celebrated in our former Church since it is now occupied by the Eastern rite Malankara's also under the Pope. A breakfast will follow at the Castle Royale (former Polish Center.) Cost of Breakfast: \$20.00; Ages 9-12, \$10.00; Children 8 & under free.

Mail check or Money order to Marilyn Montemurro, Treasurer, 80 Mohawk Rd. Yonkers, NY 10710 Deadline May 15th. For further information call 914-476-0388, and leave a message.

The Slovakia Heritage Tour is Taking Off in 2018: Sign Up Today



Celebrate the fall harvest and the beautiful culture, history and countryside of Slovakia, up close and personal, on the 2018 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 7-16, we'll explore age-old cities, medieval towns and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, the Tatry mountains and picturesque villages. We'll join in a few of the festivals that bring alive Slovakia's long music, craft and wine traditions. Optional genealogical research, and ancestral village and family visits available. For more information: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 slovakiaheritagetours@gmail.com

DISTRICT II ANNUAL 2018 BRUNCH & SHOW

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018, 2PM

located at:

FOX'S PUB AND PIZZA
in Orland Park, Illinois

9655 W. 143RD ST, ORLAND PARK, IL 60462

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

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



PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY



District II Annual 2018 Brunch

Attendees \$28.00 x _____ = \$ _____ total

Member's Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

List names of all those attending on the back of this sheet.

Make checks payable to **Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District II** and mail together with check to: Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618.

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001P	Frances Polchin	086K	Mary J Jaworski	200K	Rose Mary Ursiak	636K	Jane A. Vascik
001P	John J Pusti II	086K	William E Leshko	228K	John E Lisicky	652K	Joseph F Harcar
002K	Anna A Hogan	089K	Phyllis Marie Budiac	254K	Mary E Lorince	682K	Marie Elena Matta
005P	Leonard G Kridlo	112K	Ethel D Motto	293K	Samuel Dean Conzoneri	716K	Mary Elizabeth Lazar
005P	Ann V Sabach	152K	Michelene Levandoski	315K	Charlotte R Hanchak	721K	Mary Ann Jelenek
005P	Marie R Wentzel	153K	Frank J Drinka	315K	John R Novotny	731K	Stella M Johnston
006K	Robert Zavada	157K	Rita Y Pluta	320K	Margaret A Dzimiera	743K	Joan Carolyn Fecko
019K	Agnes T Kodz	162K	William G Lukach	348K	Angeline Light	743K	Ann J Michowski
023K	Wanda Richnavsky	162K	Mary K Yurechko	348K	Michael Roman	746K	Elizabeth Garnis
024K	Mary K Beale	166K	Rita Dolhon	372K	Michael P Hudak	746K	Edward Richard Orak
024K	Frank G Pollack	166K	Mary Louise Felo	419K	Michael J Chrzanowski	746K	Theresa Schaffer
038K	Emma D Berchok	169P	Joseph A Kralik	425K	Joseph R Underation	746K	Francis Gerard Sutter
038K	Anne B Kapanak	173K	Ann Gloria Kolinovsky	430K	Veronica D Valinski	831K	Lucille Manga
038K	Thomas David Kurta Jr	181K	Joseph A Lawrence Jr	465K	Cyрил Hlozek Jr	853K	Ann Carrozza
038K	Thomas Valco	181K	Louise E Lucas	484K	Maxine T Magas	855K	Margaret M Jeri
040K	David A Baker	181K	Anna Stinebiser	510K	Joseph Milan Kopesky	855K	Joseph Sabo
040K	Margaret VanVickle	181K	Frederick J Stynchula	517K	Joseph Piatek	900K	Patricia E Sullivan
055K	Anne Marie Ferko	198P	Margaret Mishenko	553K	John W Yekel Sr	904K	Clara K Juett
075K	Dorothy B Blasko	199K	Genevieve Goodman	581K	Steven P Kuric	904K	Nancy Miller
085K	Joseph F Dixon	199K	Mary E Keefer	581K	Louise D Romanak	924K	Joseph D Lepore
085K	Patricia Gasper	199K	Charlotte Yenko	587K	John F Yencik Sr		
085K	Helen Klamovich	200K	James Bicanovsky	618K	Lawrence J Nemeth		
085K	Thomas Leach	200K	Victoria Marcinek	628K	John A Puskar		

*Processed through the month of April

OBITUARIES

AGNES T. (BENSKO) KODZ BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT



Agnes T. (Bensko) Kodz, born July 28, 1929 to Anna and Joseph Bensko in the town of Shepton, PA. Agnes was 88 years at the time of her death on Monday, January 29, 2018. She was predeceased by her husband Stanley A. Kodz. They were married for 46 years before his death. Agnes was a loving wife and mother. Agnes is survived by her two children, Cecilia Rider of Shelton, CT and Gregory Kodz, Sr. and wife Patricia N. Kodz of Shelton, CT. She has three grandchildren, Victoria L. Hubbard and her husband Damian of Norwell, MA, Michelle L. Kodz of Boston, MA and Gregory Kodz, Jr. and his fiancé Mairead Reardon of Queens, NY. Agnes was also blessed with two great-grandchildren Henry and Gwyneth Hubbard. Agnes is also survived by two sisters, Dorothy Danielczuk and Martha Radwill along with a brother-in-law Benjamin (Brownie) Bludnicki and many nieces and nephews. Agnes was predeceased by her brother Joseph Bensko and his wife Agnes; sisters Mary Kowalsky and her husband Phillip, Susan Bludnicki, Anna Antonelli and her husband Victor and Elizabeth Leszczyna and her husband John; brothers-in-law Stanley Danielczuk and Alfonse Radwill and her granddaughter Valerie Kodz.

Agnes began her adult life working in a button factory across the street from their home in Shepton, PA. Upon the families moving to Bridgeport, CT, she graduated from Warren Harding High School. After high school, she worked at General Electric and then Carpenter Steel. After marriage, she then went on to work for her brother-in-law Alfonse Radwill at Carpet Right in Fairfield, CT for many years. Moving on she worked for G. Fox in the carpet department which then became Filenes. Agnes lived in

Bridgeport and was a member of St. Patrick's Church for many years and when she moved to Shelton, she became a member of St. Lawrence Parish where she attended Mass weekly. Agnes suffered over the years from several illnesses and fought them all courageously - until now. We are so proud of her strength and perseverance through it all. A special heartfelt thanks to Grace Danielczuk who was with her daily for well over a year and all those who helped take care of Agnes over the last months of her life. Hospice care provided by VITAS was a means of care for Agnes and support for the family. Their services were extraordinary and so appreciated.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at St. Lawrence Church, Shelton, on Monday, February 5, 2018, followed by interment in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Trumbull. Family and friends called on Sunday, February 4, 2018, from 2-4 p.m. at Commerce Hill Funeral Home, Bridgeport.

ROSE MARY (HUMENIK) URSIAK BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA



Rose Mary (Humenik) Ursiak, 96, of Ford City (Manor Township) was born into eternal life on Sunday, March 11, 2018.

Rose was born in Ford City, PA, on August 28, 1921 to Michael (Matej) Humenik and Frances (Frantiska) Vatos-Vosarik, both of Hrabova, Trenčín Region, Austria-Hungary (presently Hrabové in central Slovakia).

She was a member of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Ford City where she attended Holy Trinity Parochial School. She played guitar in the school band. She was a

member of the Ford City High School class of 1940.

She married Paul Ursiak on June 22, 1946. She joined his Byzantine Rite parish, St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church of Ford City. They were married for 65 years.

Rose worked at Pittsburgh Plate Glass Ford City Works. With her husband Paul, Rose owned and operated the Sportsman Bar and Restaurant on South Jefferson Street in Kittanning for 7 years from 1954 to 1961.

Rose was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and parishioner. Her pastimes included volunteering, gardening, crocheting, learning culinary techniques, and traveling to the Appalachian Mountains. She followed current events and national affairs. She was a lifelong member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), Branch 200 KJ Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, in Ford City.

In her parish, she belonged to the rosary prayer group and Ladies Guild at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church. She enjoyed volunteering and cooking for church projects, fundraisers, funeral dinners, and bake sales. She was a "pirohi worker," who took part in the church's homemade pierogies fundraiser.

Rose was a leader in the Heilman Church 4-H Club at Emmanuel Heilman Lutheran Church and was awarded the 4-H Gold Clover Pin for ten years of volunteer service.

Of Hungarian noble birth, she is the descendant of the 13th century The Barons Hrabovsky de Hrabova, freeman nobles and barons and of the 15th century Turcanyi clan of Plevník, Royal Servants to the King Nobles and barons. She inherited the aristocratic titles, Gracious Lady and Baroness, which confer upon her descendants in perpetuity. Her mother's family came from Hrabové, Hlboké nad Váhom, Jablonové, and Plevník in the Tatra Mountains near the Váh River Valley in modern day Žilina and Trenčín Regions of northern and central Slovakia.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; infant brothers John and An-

drew; brothers Joseph, Charles, and Frank; and sisters, Mary (Mora), Ann (Battaglia), and Elizabeth.

She is survived by five brothers and sisters, Josephine, Paul, Steve, Albert, and Margaret (Boback). Her children Mary Lynn Frey of Lancaster, PA, Gerianne Lee Ursiak of Ford City, and Dr. Michael John Ursiak of Silver Spring, MD. And her grandchildren Anna Marie Frey and Elizabeth Marie Frey of Lancaster, PA. All are members of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Viewing was held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at the Mantini Funeral Home, Ford City, with a rosary service at 5:30 p.m. Viewing continued until a Paras-tas service at 7 p.m. and viewing continued until 8:30 p.m. A prayer service was held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 15, 2018, in the funeral home followed by a Funeral Liturgy at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ford City. Interment was at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cemetery in Ford City (Manor Township), PA.

- Submitted by her daughter,
Gerianne Ursiak

MIKE SEPELYAK BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA



Mike Sepelyak, 91, of Lower Burrell, PA, passed away Sunday, February 4, 2018. He was born December 2, 1926, in Creighton, to the late John and Mary (Stretavsky) Sepelyak. Mike was a graduate of New Kensington High School and lived most of his life in Lower Burrell. He was a member of St. Vladimir's Church in Arnold, PA, where he volunteered in making pierogies. Mike worked his entire career (40 years) at PPG Industries in Creighton, PA, and retired in 1984. He was a veteran of the Army, serving in World War II as an MP and was a volunteer fireman with

continued on page 17

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

the East Deer Fire Department. He was an avid Burrell and Pittsburgh sports fan, especially the Steelers. Mike is survived by his wife of 66 years, Lillian (Nicklus) Sepelyak; sons, Michael and Vicki Sepelyak of Fairfax, VA, and Robert and Diana Sepelyak, of Hockessin, DE; grandchildren, Kathryn and Jon Kirsch, Rachel and Keith Parrill, Christopher Sepelyak and James Sepelyak. He is also survived by his sister, Ann Sepelyak, of New Kensington, PA; and four nephews. Mike was preceded in death by his brothers, John and George; and sister, Mary.

Friends were received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, February 9, 2018, at the Rusiewicz of Lower Burrell Funeral Home, where Parastas services were held at 6 p.m. and where a Panichida service was held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, February 10, 2018, followed by funeral liturgy at 10 a.m. in St. Vladimir's Church by Father Yaroslav Koval. Burial with military honors by the Army followed in Union Cemetery, Arnold, PA.

- Submitted by Michael Sepelyak

**JOSEPH JOHN SABO
BRANCH 855 –
PARMA, OHIO**

Joseph John Sabo, our dear Father/Pap, went to be with his Lord and with his late beloved wife, Dorothy, of over 60 years.



"I love you; Faith in God, please keep it, use it, cherish it and pass it on. For it was this faith that was given to me."

Joseph is survived by his dedicated son, Gary (Starlett, the daughter he never had); grandchildren, Jen (Chuck), Brian (Jennifer) and great-grandchildren, Easton and Caleb.

He joins his siblings, Steven, Andrew, Mary and Katheryn, who are all with the Lord. We hold him in our hearts forever.

Friends joined the family for visitation on Monday, January 29, 2018, from 9:30 to 11:30AM at Carlson Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Brunswick, OH. Father Bob Stec officiated at 11:30AM. Following prayers, a procession took place to St. Colette Catholic Church, Brunswick, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 1PM with Father William R. Krizner and Deacon Thomas Grasson officiating. Interment followed at Resurrection Cemetery in Valley City.

The family offers special thanks to Cypress Hospice.

- Submitted by Gary Sabo



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



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

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

Each evening of the festival features special entertainment and dinner

menus:

June 28, 2018 6:00PM – 11:00PM

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

June 29, 2018 6:00PM – 11:00PM

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

June 30, 2018 6:00PM – 11:00PM

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

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



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

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

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

The Summer Festival has been a blessed opportunity for the Sisters to keep in touch with former students, their parents, and family members; to reconnect with friends they've made over the years, and to make new friends. The day never seems long enough for visiting with friends old and new.

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

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

Join Us on a Bus Trip to:

The Simply Slavic Festival in Youngstown, OH

Sponsored by:
The Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland



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

Contact for more information:
Tom Ivanec Joe Oros Mike Anderko Susie Halley
440-668-7797 440-238-3655 407-587-5666 440-263-1573

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

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

We Invite All Jednotars to Join Us!

Our Lady of Sorrows

continued from page 8

Decline and Revival

When the reforming Emperor Joseph II (1780-90) dissolved the monasteries in the empire, the basilica became government property. The Paulines fled to Poland in 1786. The Šaštín pastor Jakub Schneider and four chaplains then closed their parish church, moved to the monastery quarters, and took over administering the basilica. The Salesian Order would later take over the ministering of the shrine when the monastery was later reopened after Joseph II's reign.

The next notable event occurred in 1864 – the 300th anniversary of the apparition. In preparation for the event, Deacon Štefan Hrebiček contracted Jozef Bárta from Hodonín to raise the two towers to their current height and renovate the basilica. A grand ceremony took place on September 8, 1864, at which 300 clergy and over 120,000 pilgrims attended. Presided over by the Esztergom Archbishop, Cardinal Ján Scitovsky, he placed on the statue a crown of gold blessed by Pope Pius IX.

Šaštín appeared in the news again when the Emperor Franz Joseph paid a visit to the shrine in 1902. But details were lacking about this historic visit.

Next mention of the shrine is during World War I, when the bells were hidden to protect them from possible damage or melting down to make weapons. After the war in 1926, the basilica had four more large bells consecrated.

Patroness of Slovakia

The greatest moment for the shrine came the following year in April 1927, when Pope Pius XI declared that Our Sorrowful Mother would be the patroness of Slovakia. In order to acknowledge the Holy See's decision, this patronage, three bishops celebrated a Holy Mass on May 22, 1927, attended by over 40,000 pilgrims.

Improvements to the basilica continued over the next couple decades: in 1929 a new national bell to Our Lady of Seven Sorrows weighed about 5,000 pounds. The next year the basilica acquired electric lighting. During World War II, renovations improved the sanctuary, the organ, and the building itself. Slovaks living in Vienna donated the Stations of the Cross for the shrine.

Communist Suppression

After the Second World War, the communist dictatorship attacked all Holy Orders and in 1950, state police forcefully expelled the Salesians from the shrine. The shrine once again came under the administration of the diocese and the local parish. Nonetheless, the pilgrims continued to flock to the shrine and a new grander organ was even completed.

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of Angelika Bakičová's apparition, Pope Paul VI declared in 1964 the church in Šaštín would be a minor basilica. Trnava's Bishop Lazik presided at the celebration Mass shortly after Christmas in that year.

When Slovak leader Alexander Dubček relaxed many of the anti-religious in Czechoslovakia during 1968, the Salesians could return temporarily to minister the shrine. While short-lived, further improvements to the bells and church included a new marble altar completed in 1975.

Another great moment in the history of the shrine was the visit of Mother Theresa of Calcutta, who made a pilgrimage to Šaštín in 1987. The then newly appointed Archbishop-Metropolitan of Trnava, Ján Sokol, hosted the occasion.

Renewal in a Free Slovakia

The fall of communism after 1989 meant the final return of the Salesians to take care of the shrine in February 1990. The Rev. Ján Malženický continued to renovate the basilica and monastery in preparation for the first national pilgrimage after years of totalitarian rule. During his sojourn to Bratislava, Pope John Paul II flew over the shrine in a helicopter during April on his first visit to Slovakia and blessed it, promising to return personally to pay homage to Our Lady of Sorrows. The faithful of Slovakia responded with a massive celebration, which counted 900 priests and many thousands of pilgrims at the May event.

The Pope fulfilled his promise to Our Lady and the people of Slovakia in 1995, when he made an afternoon visit to the shrine on July 1. Over one half million pilgrims attended for the papal visit. There he concelebrated Holy Mass with 48 high Church dignitaries, but his sermon addressed the poor, whom he said gave him strength to carry on his mission. He repeatedly mentioned how he joined with the poor in prayer. The pope also blessed 20 cornerstones from which new churches would be built across Slovakia.

The papal visit in 1995 was indeed the culmination of the revitalization of the Šaštín shrine to Our Lady of Sorrows. Since then, the annual pilgrimages continue to take place annually on September 15 and on the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius on July 5. Improvements to the basilica continue and the slow process of restoring the beautiful interior and Chamant's frescoes is ongoing.

In 1998, the Slovak Republic also issued a stamp with the Pieta statue from main altar of the Marian Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows. The picture included shows the stamp.

Visiting the Shrine

If one is interested the shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in Slovakia, the basilica holds daily Masses and devotions for pilgrims. Special ceremonies occur on special feast days such as May 24, the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians (Panna Mária, Pomocnica

kresťanov). There are also huge processions for pilgrims held on Pentecost Sunday (Turice or Svätodušná nedeľa; Greek-Catholic and Orthodox Churches traditionally called Pentecost, The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Zostúpenie Svätého Ducha). And the biggest celebration and pilgrimage occurs on September 15-16 (Our Lady of Sorrows). Special Fatima devotions regularly take place on the first Saturday of every month. All masses are in Slovak, but it might be possible for special arrangement to be made for pilgrims from abroad. The website is supposed to have an English translation tab, but it did not function when tried: <http://bazilika.sk/>.

The Jednota Chapel in Washington

Here in the United States, Slovak Americans also have remembered Our Lady of Sorrows. In 1965, our First Catholic Slovak Union contributed the funds to build the Jednota Chapel in Our Lady's honor at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Our Lady of Sorrows is also the patron of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The shrine depicts the seven sorrows of Mary in a series of bronze reliefs and a life-sized sculpture of the Mary holding the crucified Christ (most often called a "Pieta," meaning "mercy"). The theme resembles that of the famous statue by Michelangelo which rests at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Ernest Morenon sculpted the statue for the Washington shrine. The statue is notable for its simple and realistic lines, which reveal the depths of Mary's sorrows and grief at the death of her Son.

A Slovak language inscription above the altar with the statue reads:

"Our Mother of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia, pray for us."

(Matka naša Patrónka Slovenska – oroduj za nás.)

Annual Pilgrimages

Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union often gather in Washington around September 15 in order to pay homage to Our Lady of Sorrows at the chapel in the National Basilica.

Many Slovak parishes also hold special Masses each year to honor Our Lady on and around September 15. It is important that Slovak Americans continue to pay homage to Our Lady and remember her sufferings when we face our own trials in life. One such Mass and pilgrimage which this author has attended several times takes place annually at the National Shrine of our Lady of Lebanon, in North

Jackson, not far from Youngstown. Special prayers, confessions, and the Holy Rosary precede a solemn Mass said in Slovak.

The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary consist of the following events:

- 1) The prophecy of Simeon that a sword of sorrow would pierce Mary's heart (Luke 2:25-38).
- 2) Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt with Jesus to avoid King Herod's murderous plot (cf. Mt 2:13-18).
- 3) Jesus' parents search for Him in Jerusalem (Luke 2:41-52).
- 4) Mary's encounter with Jesus on the way to Golgotha.
- 5) Mary's witnessing His crucifixion (John 19:16-30).
- 6) Jesus' body placed in His mother's arms (depicted by the Pieta statue).
- 7) The burial of her Son (Luke 23:50-55).

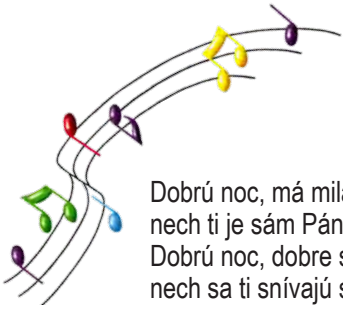
Prayer in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows

Father, as your Son was raised on the cross,
His mother Mary stood by Him, sharing His suffering.
May she, who is also our spiritual Mother and patroness in heaven,
help us to find renewed strength at the cross of Christ
and so to come to share in His rising to new life,
where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. Amen.

Sources

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Dobrá noc (Good Night)

Dobrá noc, má milá, dobrá noc,
nech ti je sám Pán Boh na pomoc.
Dobrá noc, dobre spi,
nech sa ti snívajú sladké sny!

Good night, my dear, good night,
May God himself watch over you.
Good night, sleep well,
May you dream sweet dreams!



Hi, Kids & All Those Young at Heart:

So this little ditty was the lullaby of my childhood. When I was one of the litter curled up next to my mamička (mommy), I remember hearing the lady of the house sing her children to sleep with this on many a night at our homestead up the mountains of Slovakia.

A smart person told me the melody is from some old composer dude named Dvorak as part of his Opus 73. Whatever that is! All I know is that it reminds me of my mom and the dear lady of our household. So I send it out to all moms at the FCSU. Happy Mother's Day!

Your friend (tvoj priateľ) :



Chewy



Water with Blessings

Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Elysburg, PA, partnered with the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius to provide clean drinking water to families in communities torn by war and natural disaster, in under-developed neighborhoods, in refugee camps and in villages threatened by water contamination. Sister Jeanne Ambre, SSCM, serves as Parish Visitor, and Reverend Joseph Scanlin is Pastor. Working with the Water with Blessings Program, the group crocheted more than 800 Water Filter Socks, which fit over and protect water filter units. Mothers in developing countries are trained in the use of the filters, and that mother will generally provide clean water for her own family and at least three others. The group also collected for the purchase of four of the water filter units. Thus, the work done by these volunteers at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish will help provide clean water to at least 3,200 families, protecting them from dysentery, intestinal parasites and other water-borne illnesses. For more information on the program, visit www.waterwithblessings.org

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

In Praise of Mothers

It's fitting that we celebrate Mother's Day during May, a month that we also dedicate to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Knowing a good mother opens a window onto a spiritual relationship with Mary. And for those who have not been blessed with that earthly relationship, Mary can fill the void when our hearts are open to her tender guidance.

During this month, parishes and schools around the world will honor Mary with crowning ceremonies, processions, and prayers all aimed at calling to mind her holiness. Similarly, on Mother's Day, we will honor mothers for the sacrifices they make in bringing new life into the world and nurturing that life with love and devotion.

Mary both embodies the ideals of motherhood and serves as a role model for all mothers. When the angel Gabriel announced to her that she would conceive the Son of God, her response was, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." What a profound moment of acceptance of God's will and a beautiful example of the openness to life the Church asks of all married couples as they embark on their lives together.

Every mother is representative of Mary in the moment she says "yes" to the new life entrusted to her care. When we see single mothers or mothers who we think might be facing a crisis pregnancy due to poverty or other circumstances, we should recall the Blessed Mother in the early days of her pregnancy. She stood isolated, awaiting Joseph's "yes" and fearful of the scorn of society. The "yes" of mothers in crisis pregnancies echoes the courage of Mary's "yes" in a way that should gain the respect of all people of faith.

In Jesus' youth, Mary served as protector, as seen in the "Finding in the Temple," when she frantically sought him out after he had gone missing on a journey. How often have our own mothers acted as protectors, keeping us safe and guiding us down the right path?

Mary was present for Christ's first miracle, acting as intercessor by approaching him with the concern that they had run out of wine at the wedding at Cana. Isn't that so like our earthly mothers, to be there for all of our great accomplishments and to be the one who can call upon us to use our talents for the good of all?

And Mary was one of the few people to stand by Christ in His darkest hour, when He hung on the cross. Think of all of the most difficult moments in life, such as illnesses we have faced, mistakes we have made, and moments when we have been accused, falsely or otherwise. Mothers are the first to forgive, to lend a helping hand, to point us in the right direction when we go astray.

As Mary stood beside John at the foot of the cross, Christ said to her, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to John, "Behold, your mother!" Christ extends this invitation of spiritual adoption to all people, calling us to cultivate a relationship with the Blessed Mother. When we answer that call, we will find our relationship with our own mothers deepening in respect and love.

So remember Mary this month, and on Mother's Day let's also recognize how much our earthly mothers embody the grace of the Blessed Mother, who guides their actions and inspires their loving service to the world around them.

Scholarships Available Through United Slovak Societies in Lorain, OH

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



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

Deadline for completion is May 30, 2018.

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

Pittsburgh Agreement Celebration Planned for May

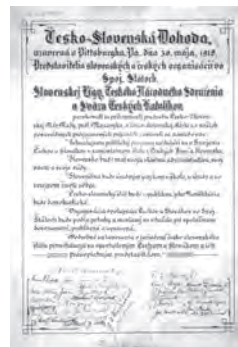
On Thursday, May 31, 2018, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement with a commemorative program at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The program, which will begin at 6pm, will feature presentations by various government officials from the Czech Republic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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018

HILTON CLEVELAND DOWNTOWN HOTEL, CLEVELAND, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 1:00 PM and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to lead the prayer. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Annual Board of Directors Meeting at the Convention site.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer
 Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain,
 (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the February 2018 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta II, and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary reviewed the written report on the investment update that was presented to the Board at the Annual Board of Director's Meeting on March 23.

The Treasurer led a review of potential new investment opportunities.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

The Executive Committee reviewed the report that was presented by Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., at the Annual Board of Director's Meeting on March 23. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of February for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

Monthly Disbursements

The Executive Secretary reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of February:

Disbursements for the month of February 2018:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 345,227.26
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 14,445.57
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave an overall review of his detailed report that was presented to the Board at the Annual Board of Director's Meeting on March 23.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, closed the meeting with prayer.

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

	M	O	A	B		S	A	C		A	G	A	R
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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.

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.**

Správy zo Slovenska

Bratislava - Napriek tomu, že Ústava SR garantuje národnostným menšinám právo na vzdelanie v ich jazyku, v praxi sa ukazuje, že toto právo sa neuplatňuje vždy tak, ako by sa malo. Uviedla to verejná ochrankyňa práv Mária Patakyová, argumentujúc pritom pretrvávajúcou segregáciou rómskych detí a faktom, že ani jedna štátna škola na Slovensku neposkytuje vzdelávanie v ich materinskom - rómskom jazyku.

Kuchyňa - K lietadlám Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR patrí aj druhé dopravné lietadlo C-27J Spartan. Viacúčelové transportné lietadlo pristálo na letisku Dopravného krídla generála M. R. Štefánika Kuchyňa. Priamo na mieste ho privítal minister obrany Peter Gajdoš (SNS) spolu s ďalšími zástupcami rezortu a OS SR. Gajdoš označil prilet druhého Spartanu za výnimočnú udalosť. „Aj tento stroj, podobne ako ten prvý, je pripravený plniť úlohy v rámci domáceho i medzinárodného krízového manažmentu,“ uviedol minister s tým, že prvý Spartan, ktorý majú vzdušné sily od konca minulého roka, už bol využitý pri preprave materiálu a výstroja slovenského kontingentu pôsobiaceho v rámci mierovej misie UNFICYP na Cypre.

Spišská Nová Ves - V spišskonovoveskej nemocnici vykonali prvú operáciu na to, aby mohli neskôr pacienta liečiť jeho vlastnými bunkami. Tým sa budú lekári snažiť odvrátiť amputáciu nohy. „Nedostatočným prítokom krvi, ktorý je spôsobený zužovaním ciev napríklad pri cukrovke alebo ateroskleróze, začnú tkanivá postupne odumierať. Nedostávajú totiž dostatok kyslíka a živín, a tak nastáva nedokrvnenie končatín, teda ischémia,“ vysvetľuje cievná chirurgička zo spišskonovoveskej nemocnice Jana Javiláková.

Bratislava - Základným životným priestorom pre Slovenskú republiku ostáva Európska únia. Debata o budúcnosti EÚ je diskusiou o nás samých. Na 18. ročníku Hodnotiacej konferencie zahraničnej a európskej politiky SR za rok 2017 to vyhlásil premiér Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD) s tým, že NATO vnímame ako základný pilier našej bezpečnosti, ktorý zvyšuje svoj význam a nemá alternatívu. Pellegrini zdôraznil, že zahraničná a európska politika sú dôležité súčasťou nášho života. „Vláda, ktorá nedávno vznikla, je vládou, ktorá chce pokračovať. A platí to aj pre oblasť zahraničnej politiky,“ uviedol.

Zahraničná politika nebola nikdy taká turbulentná, ako je teraz, a preto je potrebné hovoriť o veciach otvorene i kriticky. Uviedol to v stredu minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák pri príležitosti Hodnotiacej konferencie zahraničnej a európskej politiky SR za rok 2017 v Bratislave. Zdôraznil, že konferencia nesie názov hodnotiaci nielen preto, aby sme sa obzerali dozadu, ale aby sa Slovensko vedelo pripraviť do budúcnosti.

Nejednotné vystúpenia verejných činiteľov škodia slovenskej zahraničnej politike a vyvolávajú v zahraničných partneroch myšlienku nedôveryhodnosti. Zhodli sa na tom bývalí šéfovia rezortu diplomacie Pavol Demeš, Pavol Hamžik a Eduard Kukan na stredajšej 18. Hodnotiacej konferencii zahraničnej a európskej politiky SR za rok 2017 v Bratislave. „Je potrebné hovoriť to isté v Bruseli, Bratislave, New Yorku, Washingtone či v ruskej Dume v Moskve,“ upozornil Kukan. Hamžik taktiež vyzdvihol dôležitosť jednoznačnosti na vládnej úrovni.

Bratislava - Slovensko bude kandidovať na Predsedníctvo Rady Organizácie pre hospodársku spoluprácu a rozvoj (OECD) na ministerskej úrovni (MCM). Preto personálne posilní svoju stálu misiu pri OECD a riadiaci odbor, ktorý pokrýva agendu OECD v ústredí. Zároveň vytvorí medzirezortný orgán, ktorý bude predsedníctvo koordinovať. Vyplýva to z materiálu, ktorý v stredu schválila vláda.

Slovenskou prioritou v oblasti bilaterálnych medzinárodných zmlúv je zamedzenie dvojitého zdanenia slovenských podnikateľov aj zahraničných investorov a ochrana investícií v krajinách mimo EÚ. Vyplýva to z materiálu Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR, ktorý v stredu schválila vláda. Medzi ďalšie priority patrí napríklad dosiahnutie dohôd o cezhraničnej železničnej doprave s ČR, Poľskom a Maďarskom alebo dohoda o vzájomnom uznávaní dokladov o vzdelávaní s Cyperskou republikou a Svätou stolicou.

Európsky súd pre ľudské práva v Štrasburgu rozhodol v roku 2017 celkovo v 41 prípadoch týkajúcich sa Slovenska. V 12 rozsudkoch, ktoré zahŕňali celkom 18 sťažností konštatoval, že SR porušila Dohovor o ochrane ľudských práv a základných slobôd. Informuje o tom zástupkyňa SR pred týmto súdom Marica Pirošiková, jej správu vzala vláda v stredu na vedomie.

Bratislava - Verejnosc na Slovensku najviac dôveruje v pozícii lídra prezidentovi SR Andrejovi Kiskovi (67 percent) a najmenej Marianovi Kotlebovi z LSNS (76 percent). Vyplýva to z aprílového prieskumu agentúry AKO. Druhým najdôveryhodnejším politikom sa stal premiér Peter Pellegrini zo Smeru-SD (41 percent), na delenej tretej priečke sú Béla Bugár z Mosta-Híd a Richard Sulík zo SaS (oba 37 percent).

Bratislava - Vyšetrovatelia Policajného zboru (PZ)SR nepretržite konajú vo veci objasnenia vraždy novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho družky. „Chceme zdôrazniť, že vyšetrovatelia PZ SR vo veci priebežne nepretržite konajú a vykonávajú procesné úkony za účelom odhalenia a potrestania páchatela, páchatelov tohto trestného činu. Zo zrejmých dôvodov nie je možné procesné úkony v súčasnosti špecifikovať,“ uviedla v stredu médiám hovorkyňa Úradu špeciálnej prokuratúry Jana Tökölyová.

Londýn/Bratislava - Siedmich členov slovenského gangu, ktorý si urobil „rodinný podnik“ z privádzania bezdomovcov zo Slovenska a Česka do Spojeného kráľovstva, uznal britský súd tento týždeň za vinných z toho, že obchodovali s ľuďmi a nútili ich pracovať v otrockých podmienkach. Členovia slovenskej rodiny žijúcej v meste Newcastle na severovýchode Anglicka kupovali a predávali svoje obeť za sumy dosahujúce niekedy len 200 libier, vyplýva zo žaloby, ktorú posudzoval korunný súd v meste Middlesbrough.

Bratislava - Na starom koryte Dunaja sa bez odbornej diskusie a v tichosti pripravuje zámer na prehradenie starého koryta Dunaja vodnými dielami. Tvrdia to vodáci, ochranári i niektorí komunálni politici. Poukazujú pritom aj na čerstvý výrub brehových porastov Dunaja. Proti zámeru je už spustená petícia, pod ktorú sa doteraz podpísalo vyše 3600 ľudí. Splnomocnenec vlády však považuje tieto obavy za neadekvátne.

Bratislava - V minulom roku mohlo pracovať takmer 6600 slovenských väzňov z necelých 11.000 odsúdených a obvinených osôb. Priemerný počet obvinených vo výkone väzby a odsúdených vo výkone trestu bol v minulom roku 10.270 osôb. V porovnaní s priemernými počtami za rok 2016 je to nárast o 154 osôb (nárast obvinených o 38 osôb a odsúdených o 116 osôb), uviedol riaditeľ Kancelária generálneho riaditeľa Zboru väzenskej a justičnej stráže (ZVJS) Adrián Baláž.

Bratislava - Predstavitelia kresťanských cirkví a židovských náboženských obcí na Slovensku píšú premiérovi Petrovi Pellegrinimu. V otvorenom liste odmietajú korupciu a zdôrazňujú potrebu vyšetrovania úkladnej vraždy novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho snúbenice Martiny Kušnírovej. „Pre zachovanie dôvery obyvateľov Slovenska v právny štát a v demokraciu je dôležité, aby táto úkladná vražda bola čím skôr vyšetrená a aby jej páchatelia boli potrestaní,“ uvádzajú v liste predstavitelia kresťanských cirkví a židovských náboženských obcí.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Máj – mesiac Panny Márie a sv. Jozefa

Slovenský kardinál Jozef Tomko:

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Matky deťom oživila ducha viery a zbožnosti. Pri tom sú známe aj ozajstné obrátenia, ktoré sa odohrali v duši niektorých ľudí Fatima začína takmer prevyšovať počtom pútnikov druhej známe mariánske mestočko, francúzske Lourdes (Lourdes). Niektoré cestovné spoločnosti sa snažia aj spojiť návštevu do Lourdes a do Fatimy do jednej púte. Cieľom týchto púti nie je nejaký zárobkový „svätý turizmus“, ale posilnenie viery u pútnikov. Potvrdzujú to aj Cirkvou schválené spoločné modlitby veriacich.

Pri liturgickej spomienke Božej Matky vo Fatime prosíme Boha, „aby všetci veriaci pocítili mocný príhovor Panny Márie, Matky Cirkvi“. Fatimskí pútnici prosia tiež nebeského Otca týmito slovami: „Panna Mária ukázala deťom hrôzy pekla; ochraňuj ľudstvo od mravnej skazy a obráť ho na cestu svätosti“. V ďalšej modlitbe vyzývajú Boha Otca: „Panna Mária sa zjavila spolu s anjelom; pošli svojich anjelov priviesť k pravej viere hriešnikov, ktorí znesväcujú Oltárnu sviatosť“. Prosia tiež o „silu k vytrvalej a vrúcnej modlitbe“, lebo „Panna Mária si želala, aby sme sa modlili ruženec“; „ona povedala deťom, že prídu do neba“, preto sa vo fatimskej spomienke pripája modlitba o večný odpočinok pre našich zosnulých. Kňazi môžu takto a podobne osviežiť ľubovoľnou spomienkou pri oltári eucharistickú liturgiu, na osov veriacich aj vlastnej mariánskej zbožnosti.

Keď začíname mesiac máj, ktorý často nazývame aj ako „mariánsky“, rád by som upozornil na inú možnosť duchovného vzrastu a osvieženia. Je to osoba sv. Jozefa. Jeho postava sa ľahko stráca pred veľkosťou a poslaním Panny Márie, tým viac pred Ježišom. Svätosť človeka sa meria jeho blízkosťou k Bohu. Ježiš Nazaretský aj ako človek je najsvätejší, lebo je to vtelený Boh, teda Boho-človek. Jeho matka, Mária z Nazaretu, je presvätá, lebo z nej a iba z nej dostal Boží Syn Ježiš, nazývaný Kristus, svoju ľudskú prirodzenosť. Tu sa pohybuje v oblasti Božieho tajomstva, ktorý si takto otvoril cestu vtelenia, keď – podľa slov evanjelistu – „Slovo (NB. to je Boh) sa stalo telom“, čiže človekom, dieťaťom. Tak malý Ježiš ako aj Mária potrebovali ochranu pred ľudskými zákonmi, ktorú mal poskytnúť Jozef. Jemu odhalil Boh tajomstvo Kristovho vtelenia a ustanovil ho za strážcu Svätej rodiny a on prijal túto obetavú úlohu: stal sa pred zákonom a pred ľuďmi ženíchom Panny Márie a legálnym otcom Ježišovým.

Jozef bol povolaním tesár, ako nám to prezrádza kronikár evanjelista Matúš, keď opisuje údiv nazaretských spoluobčanov, keď prijímajú a počujú mladého Ježiša v synagóge: „Skade má tento takú múdrosť a zázračnú moc? Vari to nie je tesárov syn? Nevola sa jeho matka Mária?“ (Mt 13, 54-55). Ježiš, Mária a Jozef vytvárajú teda robotnícku rodinu tesára. Klasickí svätopisci a umelci predstavujú Jozefa ako starca pri mladučkej Márii a malom Ježiškovi, čo však nemá nijaký historický podklad.

Priznám sa, že som dlho hľadal obraz Svätej rodiny so sv. Jozefom v mladistvom alebo plnom veku, ktorý by azda viac zodpovedal skutočnosti. V Cirkvi sa rozšírila k nemu úcta najmä pod vplyvom kanadských horľitov v minulom storočí, ktorí sa pričínili, aby sa meno sv. Jozefa dostalo do liturgických textov ešte pred inými svätými, ako to poznáme zo sv. omše. Liturgickú slávnosť k jeho úcte oslavujeme dňa 19. marca. K tomu si ho uctie-vame ľubovoľnou spomienkou ako vzor robotníkov dňa 1. mája, keď sa dôstojne pripomína deň práce. Rozširuje sa aj úcta k sv. Jozefovi ako patrónovi dobrej smrti, pravdepodobne v náručí Ježiša a Panny Márie. Liturgia nám ho predstavuje najmä v spomínanej slávnosti dňa 19. marca ako ženicha Panny Márie a strážcu Svätej rodiny.

Dve oblasti nášho života si teda pripomíname v mesiaci máji: rodinu a prácu. Spomienka na sv. Jozefa nám pripomína jednu i druhú. Liturgické čítania a spoločné modlitby nám ponúkajú aj vhodné krátke prosby k Bohu na príhovor tohto mlčanlivého, starostlivého ochrancu. Vybral som pre vás nasledovné: „Pre zásluhy svätého Jozefa, vzor robotníkov, nauč nás usilovne plniť si svoje pracovné povinnosti.“

„Požehnaj našich otcov a daj, aby so svojimi manželkami boli svojim deťom prvými svedkami viery.“

TK KBS, RV

Trnavská arcidiecéza bude mať na svojom území druhú baziliku

Slávnostné vyhlásenie povýšenia farského Kostola sv. Ondreja na baziliku minor. sa uskutočilo v Chráme sv. Ondreja v Komárne v nedeľu 22. apríla. K vyhláseniu tohto daru Svätej stolice pre Trnavskú arcidiecézu prídne na základe dekrétu Kongregácie pre Boží kult a disciplínu sviatostí s názvom „Tyrnaviensis“, skrze ktorú prefekt kongregácie kardinál Robert Sarah v mene Svätého Otca Františka povýšil doterajší farský Kostol sv. Ondreja na baziliku. Bude mu tak prislúchať titul „Basilica minor“, informoval Arcibiskupský úrad v Trnave a Róbert Kiss, dekan v Komárne.

Slávnostnému vyhláseniu s prečítaním dekrétu predsedal trnavský arcibiskup Mons. Ján Orosch. Na slávnosti sa zúčastnil aj apoštolský nuncius v Slovenskej republike Mons. Giacomo Guido Ottonello.

Prvým takýmto chrámom v Trnavskej arcidiecéze je od roku 2008 Bazilika sv. Mikuláša v Trnave. Postavenie baziliky minor (menšej) umožňuje používať pápežský znak skrížených kľúčov na zástavách chrámov, chrámovom náradí a pečiatke.

Kostol svätého Ondreja je jednou z dominant mesta Komárno. Bol postavený v rokoch 1723-1734, na jeho výstavbu použili materiál z novozámockej pevnosti. Svätostánok mal neľahký osud, v roku 1848 počas veľkého požiaru mesta horel tri dni a sedem zvonov vo veži sa roztopilo a odtrhlo. Ďalšie škody napáchalo ťažké bombardovanie v roku 1849 a ľadochod. Obnova kostola trvala dvanásť rokov a skončila vysvätením ostrihomským arcibiskupom Jánosom Sczitovským. Interiér kostola bol obnovovaný v roku 1975 a strecha v rokoch 1990-1992. Na pamiatku veľkého zemetrasenia z roku 1763 sa každý deň o 15. hodine rozozvučia jeho zvony. Kapacita kostola je viac ako 7000 veriacich.

Arcibiskupský úrad v Trnave / TASR



Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Spomienkova oslava storočnice od podpísania Pittsburghskej dohody

Oslava v Pittsburghu, PA

Oslava v Pittsburghu, PA bude vo štvrtok **31. mája 2018** o 6.00 hodine večer v Heinz History Center. Vstupné je \$35.00. Vstupenky sú na predaj do 15. mája u Carol Hockman, e-mail: carolh254@aol.com alebo honorárneho konzula SR Jozefa T. Senko, e-mail: jsenko@aol.com tel. 412 956 6000.

Slovenská liga pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na túto významnú spomienku, ktorá sa zapísala do dejín slovenského národa. Slovenské organizácie, združené v Slovenskej lige v Amerike podpísali spolu s Českým národným združením v USA a s Tomášom G. Masarykom tento historický dokument 31. mája 1918. Dokument zaručoval identitu a samosprávu slovenského národa v budúcom spoločnom štáte, ktorý mal vzniknúť po skončení 1. Svetovej vojny. Je to Magna charta slovenského národa. Slovenská liga uložila original Pittsburghskej dohody v prestížnom Heinz History Center v Pittsburghu, PA.

Hľadanie svätosti v každodennosti. Tak znie motto slovenskej katolíckej produkčnej spoločnosti LUX New York so sídlom na Manhattan. Prostredníctvom audiovizuálnej tvorby chce Slovákom žijúcim v USA a v Kanade pomáhať prehľbovať katolícku vieru a zároveň prepájať slovenské farnosti a komunity "za oceánom". LUX New York už viac než šesť mesiacov vysiela naživo **sv. omše v slovenčine** z Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku. Každú druhú sobotu o 10.00 hod. odiaľ vysiela naživo pre TV LUX slovenskú omšu, ktorá je otvorená pre širokú verejnosť (najbližšie bude 12. a 26. mája a 9. júna 2018). Okrem prenosov liturgie ponúka pravidelné **zamyslenia biskupov a kňazov**. Vladyka Milan Lach SJ sa napríklad vo svojich krátkych videách venuje témam, akými sú hriech, pôst či modlitba. Počas svojho marcového pobytu v USA nahral sériu zamyslení pre LUX New York aj bratislavský pomocný biskup Mons. Jozef Haľko. Tvorbu slovenskej katolíckej produkčnej spoločnosti doplnia pravidelná utorková **relácia "Spojení oceánom"** z nového štúdia na Manhattan, ktorá ponúka pôsobivé svedectvá viery. Jedným zo zaujímavých hostí so slovenskými koreňmi bol v minulosti aj prezident Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty Andrew M. Rajec. V neposlednom rade, LUX New York ponúka **krátke reportáže zo života slovenských farností** a komunít, do ktorých sa aktívne zapájajú aj členovia Jednoty. Viac informácií o projekte ako aj o tom, ako môžete LUX New York podporiť finančne, nájdete na www.luxnewyork.net.

LIVE prenosy sv. omši v slovenčine
Z Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku prinášame



priame prenosy nedeľných sv. omší v slovenčine, ktoré môžete sledovať na LUX New York. Každú druhú sobotu o 10.00 hod. EDT vysiela naživo pre TV LUX slovenskú omšu, na ktorú vás srdečne pozývame (najbližšie 12. a 26. mája a 9. júna 2018).

Relácia Spojení oceánom

Každý utorok si tiež môžete pozrieť **reláciu Spojení oceánom**, v ktorej vám predstavíme zaujímavého hosta a jeho svedectvo viery. Niektoré časti vysiela od januára tohto roku **NAŽIVO** priamo z nášho newyorského štúdia na Manhattan. Ak sa chcete dozvedieť, kto bude ďalším hosťom, sledujte nás na Facebooku.

Zamyslenia a povzbudenie

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

LUX New York je **slovenská katolícka produkčná spoločnosť** so sídlom na Manhattan. Naším hlavným cieľom je prostredníctvom audiovizuálnej tvorby pomáhať **Slovákom žijúcim v USA a v Kanade** prehľbovať **katolícku vieru** a tiež navzájom prepájať jednotlivé slovenské farnosti a komunity "za oceánom".

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V New Yorku slávil Slováci Veľkú noc s kardinálom Dolanom a s biskupom Haľkom

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

USA, New York - Tohtoročná Veľká noc bola pre Slovákov žijúcich v New Yorku a v okolitých amerických mestách výnimočná. Farnosť sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Manhattan navštívil vo Veľkonočnom týždni bratislavský pomocný biskup Mons. Jozef Haľko. Predseda Rady pre pastoračiu Slovákov v zahraničí Konferencie biskupov Slovenska sa medzi rodákmi v USA cítil ako doma. "Sme povolani k tomu, aby sme boli ľuďmi zmŕtvychvstania, aby sme povedali druhým, že aj v tej najtmavšej slepej uličke je kľučka k dverám, ktoré vedú do Svetla," povzbudil veriacich pred Veľkonočným trojdním prostredníctvom slovenského katolíckeho produkčného štúdia LUX New York biskup Haľko. V slovenskej newyorskej farnosti slávil liturgiu Zeleného štvrtku a obrady Veľkonočného piatku. Na Veľkonočnú sobotu v ranných hodinách navštívil Kostol sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku kardinál Timothy Dolan. Newyorský arcibiskup v preplnenom chráme požehnal za účasti biskupa Jozefa Haľka a miestneho farára Richarda Bakera zo Spolku č. 45 IKSJ desiatky košíkov, ktoré slovenskí veriaci naplnili tradičnými veľkonočnými dobrotami. "Je to úžasná tradícia, o ktorej by sme bez vás v Spojených štátoch ani nevedeli. Pripomína nám, že Ježiš je Chlieb Života, že Boh sýti naše telá a Ježiš naše duše," uviedol pre LUX New York kard. Dolan. Bývalý predseda Konferencie biskupov USA osobitne pozdravil zhromaždených a v priestoroch fary si tiež pochutnal na pravých slovenských haluškách, ktoré mu pripravila pani Eva zo skupiny 716. Sobotnú vigíliu v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého viedol biskup Haľko, ktorý svoj pobyt v USA zakončil slávením liturgie na Veľkonočnú nedeľu v slovenčine. Čas v New Yorku využil aj na točenie série krátkych "Manhattanských zamyslení", ktoré každý štvrtok do polovice júna nájdete na www.luxnewyork.net. Veľkonočné obrady pod vedením biskupa Haľka ako aj požehnanie veľkonočných jedál kard. Dolanom sledovali na sociálnej sieti Facebook vďaka živým prenosom LUX New York tisíce Slovákov nielen v USA a v Kanade, ale aj na Slovensku.

Eva Jánošíková, výkonná riaditeľka, LUX New York
Príspevok zaslala Sabina Sabados, regionálna riaditeľka IKSJ



Kardinál Dolan si vymenil zucchetto za goralský klobúk.



Člen spolku 45 IKSJ s mladými dievčatami zo súboru Limbora.



Skupinová fotografia s folklórnym súborom Limbora, v zadnom ľavom rohu kardinál Dolan máva rukou v prostriedku regionálna riaditeľka IKSJ, Sabina Sabados.



Na snímke zľava je členka Spolku 716 IKSJ, Eva Lysáková a Ludmila Hlinková, ktorá pripravila pre kardinála pravé slovenské halušky.



Pred kostolom sv. Jána Nepomuckého duchovní zľava: biskup J. Haľko, kardinál T. Dolan, M. Kertys a R. Baker.



Svätenie veľkonočných košíkov v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého.

Svätosť



Naozaj si svätý, Otče, ty prameň všetkej svätosti – tieto slová Eucharistickej modlitby vyjadrujú dve základné pravdy: Božiu a našu svätosť. Božia svätosť je absolútna; tá naša je účasťou na Božej. Je akoby svetlom mesiaca, ktoré odráža žiaru slnka. Serafini v nebi volajú: Svätý, svätý, svätý je Pán zástupcov, celá zem je plná jeho slávy (Iz 6, 3).

Slovom svätý sa vyjadruje absolútna odlišnosť Pána Boha od všetkého stvoreného: Komuže ma teda chcete prirovnat? Budem mu podobný? – vraví Svätý, veď som ja Boh, a nie človek, Svätý uprostred teba (Iz 40, 25; Oz 11, 9).

O Ježišovi archanjel Gabriel povedal Panne Márii, že Duch Svätý zostúpi na ňu a jej dieťa bude sa volať svätým, bude to Boží Syn (Lk 1, 35). Skúsenosť a poznanie apoštola Petra je nasledujúce. Vraví Ježišovi: My sme uverili a spoznali, že Ty si Boží Svätý (Jn 6, 69). Morálne dokonaly, plný dobroty, pravdy a lásky.

Prítomnosť Ducha Svätého umožňuje človeku byť svätým. Skutky apoštolov potvrdzujú, že na Turíce všetkých naplnil Duch Svätý (Sk 2, 4), ktorý s veriacimi zostáva naveky a prebýva v nich (Jn 14, 16; Rim 8, 9).

Svätosť sa stáva vlastnosťou všetkého, čo má úzky súvis s Bohom, čo bolo Ním dotknuté alebo Jemu zasvätené, venované. Písmo hovorí, že miesto okolo horiaceho kríka je zem svätá (Ex 3, 5), že chrám je svätý (Ž 5, 7), sväté piesne sú tie, ktoré sa spievajú pred Božím zákonom (Múd 18, 9). Svätý Boh teda umožňuje človeku účasť na svojej svätosti, ba vyzýva ho k nej: Buďte svätí, lebo ja, Pán, váš Boh, som svätý! (Lev 19,2; 1Pt 1, 16).

Čo to znamená pre nás? Svätosť veriacich je úplne založená na Božej svätosti a z nej pramení. Je prítomnosťou posvätného dobra, ktoré je nezlučiteľné so zlom a hriechom. Byť svätý znamená byť dokonaly a milosrdný ako je dokonaly a milosrdný nebeský Otec (Mt 5, 8; Lk 6, 36), byť bez úhony vo svätosti pred Bohom, byť živou, svätou a Bohu milou obetou, zapojený do služby a budovania Kristovho tela (1Sol 3, 13; Rim 12, 1). Príliš náročné? Určite náročné, ale nie nemožné, ako nás o tom presvedčajú mnohí svätí a sväté – naši nebeskí patróni. Božia svätosť je nedosiahnuteľná, preto o Bohu vyznávame: iba Ty si svätý.

Na druhej strane ide o dobrodružstvo, na ktoré nás Boh vyzýva, ba umožňuje mať účasť na jeho svätosti. Netreba sa toho báť; skôr sa denne usilovať žiť dokonalejšie a byť milosrdnejší. Prinajmenšom takmer denne si povedať: Chceme byť svätý.

ARCHÍV 2016/11 Terasa farnost.sk

Detské kardiocentrum sa radí s odborníkmi z Philadelphie

Detské kardiocentrum pri Národnom ústave srdcových a cievnych chorôb v Bratislave konzultuje niektoré medicínske postupy s jednou z najvýznamnejších detských nemocníc sveta vo Philadelphii (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). Vo štvrtok 26. apríla si preto na bratislavských Kramároch slávnostne pripomenulo piate výročie začiatku projektu medicínskych telekonzultácií s týmto zdravotníckym zariadením.

„Ide o jediné pracovisko svojho druhu na Slovensku, preto je spolupráca so zahraničnými pracoviskami veľmi dôležitá pre udržanie špičkovej úrovne starostlivosti o pacientov,“ povedala Jana Kadlečíková z Nadácie Detského kardiocentra (DKC). Na slávnostnej videokonferencii, sa zúčastnili aj americký detský kardiológ Paul Stephens i veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Adam Sterling.

Súčasťou spolupráce oboch nemocníc sú aj klinické stáže slovenských lekárov vo Philadelphii a odborné návštevy amerických špecialistov v bratislavskom centre formou seminárov aj klinických lektorských pobytov.

TASR

Národnú slávnosť na Devíne pripravila Matica slovenská s dôrazom na mládež

Matica slovenská (MS) a Evanjelická cirkev augsburského vyznania na Slovensku pripravili nedávno Národnú slávnosť na hrade Devín. Tradičné podujatie sa uskutočnilo v zmenenej podobe - vrátilo sa k pôvodnej myšlienke vychádzky študujúcich štúrovcov v roku 1836, a preto bolo určené predovšetkým pre mládež a stredoškóľakov.

Slávnosť na hrade pri ich pamätnej tabuli sa začala slovenskou hymnou Nad Tatrou sa blýska a pokračovala ekumenickým duchovným programom. Gréckokatolícky, rímskokatolícky a evanjelický kňaz okrem pokojných prosieb a modlitieb za tých, ktorí spravujú krajinu, pripomenuli význam štúrovskej vychádzky na Devín pred 182 rokmi, ale i vierozvestcov Cyrila a Metoda a iné dejinné udalosti. Spevom a literárnym pásmom prispeli evanjelické mládežnícke zbory z Bratislavy, Martina a Banskej Bystrice. Nechýbala poézia od Ľudovíta Štúra, Janka Kráľa, Jána Smreka a ďalších slovenských autorov, ktorí v Uhorsku burcovali Slovákov za svoj národ.

Dejinný význam hradu Devín a štúrovcov v kultúrnom a národnom povedomí pripomenul aj predseda MS Marián Gešper: „Je to ikonické miesto. Hrad Devín má významné špecifikum v našej histórii, kde štúrovci osobnou prisahou vyjadrili svoj vzťah k slovenskému národu, sú nám vzorom. Zanechali nám spisovnú slovenčinu a veľké kultúrne dedičstvo.“

Položením venca k pamätnej tabuli a zaspievaním hymnickej piesne Kto za pravdu horí ukončili slávnosť. Podľa Gešpera je to začiatok novej tradície národnej slávnosti, ktorej podobu na žiadosť členskej základne odsúhlasilo predsedníctvo MS.

„Výnimočný odkaz štúrovskej generácie chceme dať viac do duší školskej mládeže. Táto generácia je formujúca sa naša občianska a národná spoločnosť,“ pre TASR zdôvodnil predseda MS.

TASR

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materiálnu a politickú pomoc amerických, národných a fraternalistických organizácií, ktoré prispeli v tomto boji.

V ďalšom programe vystúpil veľmi úspešne Andrej Pulver, ktorý očaril prítomných spevom slovenských i klasických piesní. Rovnako úspešné bolo aj milé vystúpenie mladých tanečníkov a spevákov populárneho folklórneho súboru Lipka z Linden, NJ.

Účastníkov slávnosti potom pozdravil Štefan J. Kubašek, ktorého strýko, o. Ján J. Kubašek bol spolupodpisovateľom Pittsburghskej dohody. Zhromaždenie pozdravila aj generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku, Ladislava Begec.

Záverečný príhovor mala v slovenčine generálna tajomníčka SLvA, Nina Holá, ktorá hovorila o tom ako sa Pittsburghská dohoda ťažko rodila, keď Masaryk a Beneš neuznávali existenciu slovenského národa a hovorili a písali len o Českom štáte. Spomenula napätú debatu na zasadnutí deň pred podpísaním dohody, v ktorej SLvA hrozila zastavením finančnej podpory Československému národnému výboru v Európe, hodenú Masarykom a Benešom, keď Štefánik bol v čase v Rusku na čele čs. légii. Masaryk nakoniec prijal požiadavky Slovákov a nasledujúci deň podpísal dohodu spolu s asi 20 predstaviteľmi slovenského života v Amerike. Oslavu zakončil záverečnou modlitbou, farár slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomúckeho v New Yorku, otec Richard Baker. Nakoniec obecenstvo zaspievalo hymnické piesne God Bless America a Kto za pravdu horí.



Predstavitelia fraternalistických organizácií zľava: gen. tajomníčka SLvA W. Nina Holá, predsedníčka IKSŽJ, Cynthia M. Maleski, regionálna riaditeľka IKSJ, Sabina Sabados; gen. tajomník Slovenského katolíckeho sokola, Scott T. Pogorelec; predseda SLvA, Daniel F. Tanzone.

Okrem Cynthia M. Maleski na slávnosti boli prítomní hlavný tajomník Slovenského katolíckeho sokola, Scott T. Pogorelec a regionálna riaditeľka Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Sabina Sabados, ako aj zástupcovia slovenských spolkov v New Yorku a v okolí.

Na Bratislavskom hrade výstava k 100. výročiu založenia Československa

Bez znalosti historického zázemia ľudia len ťažko porozumejú premenám, ktorých sú svedkami. Pripomenul to vo štvrtok 26. apríla slovenský prezident Andrej Kiska pri príležitosti otvorenia výstavy k 100. výročiu založenia Československa. Spoločne s ním sa otvorenia výstavy zúčastnili i slovenský premiér Peter Pellegrini a jeho český partner Andrej Babiš.

Kiska zároveň poznamenal, že na hodinách dejepisu sa väčšinou dejinám Československa nevenuje dostatočná pozornosť. Práve výstavy ako táto preto majú veľký prínos. „Osvojenie si, precítenie a pochopenie histórie môže pomôcť súčasným generáciám lepšie uvažovať o prítomnosti a budúcnosti a primerane tomu robiť zodpovednejšie rozhodnutia,“ povedal Kiska.

Český premiér hovoril najmä o budúcnosti spolupráce. „Sto rokov je určite veľmi dôležitých, ale myslím si, že ešte dôležitejšia je naša budúcnosť,“ konštatoval Babiš. Podľa neho je úlohou Česka aj Slovenska spoločne bojovať za bezpečnosť občanov a za to, aby sa zachovala európska kultúra. „Som presvedčený, že tu sme na jednej lodi,“ povedal.

Pellegrini vyzdvihol príkladné vzťahy aj po rozdelení spoločného štátu. „V dnešnom svete zmietanom regionálnymi konfliktmi, občianskymi vojnami a plnom separatistických hnutí je náš vzťah čímsi príkladným. Výročia v tomto osmičkovom roku sú príležitosťou posilňovať toto pozitívne vnímanie našich vzťahov nielen doma, ale aj v zahraničí,“ poznamenal. Dodal, že v týchto zložitých časoch sa Česko a Slovensko navzájom veľmi potrebujú.

Kiska na záver svojho prejavu vyjadril podporu mladým ľuďom, ktorí na Slovensku organizujú protesty. „Organizátori výstavy sa vyslovili, že chcú predstaviť príbeh ako sa spočiatku nereálny projekt Československa stal skutočnosťou. Dnešní mladí ľudia na slovenských námestiach tiež možno nerealisticky požadujú zásadnú zmenu, obnovu krajiny, túžia po slušnom Slovensku. Verím, že niekto raz v budúcnosti urobí výstavu o tom, s akým nasadením a energiou sa do toho pustili, aké ťažkosti pri tom prekonávali a čo ich úsilie prinieslo,“ povedal.

Výstava na Bratislavskom hrade mapuje život Čechov a Slovákov v spoločnom štáte, zobrazuje úspechy a radostné momenty, ale aj krízy a ťažké chvíle vzájomného spoluzitia. Na Slovensku si ju návštevníci môžu pozrieť do konca septembra, potom sa premiestni do Historického budovy Národného múzea v Prahe.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 127

STREDA, 9. MÁJA 2018

Číslo 5970

Želáme všetko najlepšie ku Dňu Matiek



Za Tvoju nehu mamička,
za Tvoju veľkú lásku,
za starosť, bozky na líčka,
za každú pribudnutú vrásku,
na Tvojej tvári, na dlaniach,
čo zrobené sú celé,
nech táto malá básnička,
tlmočí vd'aky tisícere.



Máj – mesiac Panny Márie a sv. Jozefa

Slovenský kardinál Jozef Tomko:

Máj obyčajne označujeme ako „mariánsky“ mesiac. Mariánski ctitelia sa v tomto mesiaci venujú s väčšou horlivosťou modlitbám k Božej Matke ako je obľúbená modlitba sv. ruženca, loretánske litánie, niektoré antifóny a iné prejavy kresťanskej zbožnosti.

Kňazi si nájdu v rímskom misáli aj na 13. mája ľubovoľnú spomienku Preblahoslavennej Panny Márie Fatimskej.

Ako vieme, vo Fatime sa Panna Mária zjavila deťom a vyzvala k modlitbe a obráteniu. Toto malé mestečko v Portugalsku sa stále viac stáva obľúbeným pútnickým miestom, kam prichádzajú veriaci z rôznych krajín, aby si pri spomienke na zjavenie a výzvu Božej

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V New Yorku slávil Slováci Veľkú noc s kardinálom Dolanom a s biskupom Haľkom



Členovia súboru Limbora s biskupom Jozefom Haľkom, kardinálom Timothy Dolanom, (v prostriedku) Fr. Richard Baker (zľava) a Fr. Martin Kertys (v prvom rade sprava) počas Požehnania veľkonočných košíkov na Veľkonočnú sobotu v kostole Sv. Jána Nepomúckeho v New York City.

Members of the ensemble Limbora with Bishop Jozef Halko, Cardinal Timothy Dolan (center), Father Richard Baker (left), and Father Martin Kertys (first row right) during the blessing of Easter baskets on Holy Saturday in St. John Nepomucene Church, New York City.

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Pápež František prijal predsedu 72. valného zhromaždenia OSN Miroslava Lajčáka

Pápež František 30. apríla prijal na osobitnej audiencii predsedu 72. valného zhromaždenia OSN, slovenského diplomata Miroslava Lajčáka spolu so sprievodom. Po stretnutí so Svätým Otcom o 10. hodine nasledovalo stretnutie delegácie s predstaviteľmi vatikánskeho Štátneho sekretariátu.



On April 30, 2018, Pope Francis received UN

Slovak ambassador Miroslav Lajcak and his wife on the occasion of the UN 72 General Assembly.

TK KBS, RV



Zástupcovia slovenských spolkov v New Yorku a na okolí. Zľava sediaci: gen. konzulka Ladislava Begeg; gen. tajomníčka SLvA, Nina Holá; predsedníčka IKSŽJ, Cynthia M. Maleski; predseda SLvA, Daniel F. Tanzone a členka revíznej rady SLvA, Marta Catalano.

Slovenská liga oslávila okázale 100. výročie Pittsburghskej dohody

Oslava sa konala v New Yorku v hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomúckeho, kde slávnostnou rečníčkou bola predsedníčka Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Ženskej Jednoty, Cynthia M. Maleski. Oslava sa začala slovenskou svätou omšou, kde otec Igor Kral, S.V.D. privítal predstavenstvo Slovenskej ligy a hostí.

O 12:00 hodine naobed bol podávaný obed a po ňom sa začal program, v ktorom popri 100. výročí Pittsburghskej dohody bolo oslávené aj 25. Výročie terajšej Slovenskej republiky.

Program otvoril predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, (SLvA) Daniel F. Tanzone, ktorý konferoval aj ďalší program. Najprv predstavil 15-ročného operného speváka Andreja Pulvera, ktorý napriek mladému veku už vystupoval v známej Metropolitan opere. Andrej zaspieval americkú a slovenskú hymnu.

D. Tanzone potom v krátkosti hovoril o účasti SLvA v storočnom boji za uznanie existencie slovenského národa a jeho práva na samostatnosť. Tento cieľ bol dovršený 1. januára 1993.

Dr. Ladislav Korček pozdravil prítomných za 1. Zbor SLvA v New Yorku a potom nasledoval prejav predsedníčky Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Ženskej Jednoty (IKSŽJ) Cynthia M. Maleski. Hovorila o spolupráci amerických Slovákov a Čechov v snahe vytvoriť spoločný štát na troskách Rakúsko-Uhorskej monarchie. Zdôraznila tiež veľkú

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