



Jednota

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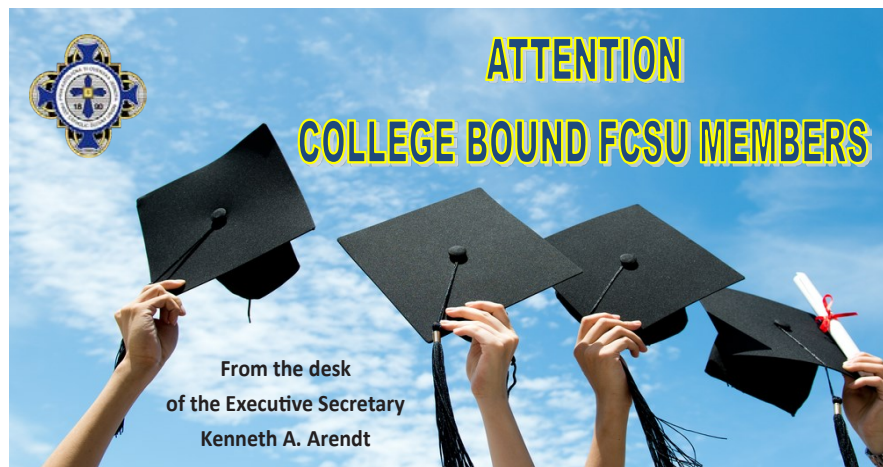


OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 126

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017

NUMBER 5961



THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of **\$1,000.00**.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of **\$1,250.00** each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of **\$1,000.00** each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Applicants must have: a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life); or minimum of \$10,000.00 JEP Policy; or minimum of \$1,000 annuity with the FCSU for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2014 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**

2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2018 at a qualifying institution. Please note that applicants should include the qualifying institution(s) to which they have applied even if they have not yet received formal acceptance from

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Slovak 17-20



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 Members on November 1 - All Saints Day.

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



8 Year Flex Deferred Annuity or IRA

3.60%

\$500 Minimum

6 Year Flex Deferred Annuity or IRA

3.20%

\$500 Minimum

6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA

3.10%

\$5,000 Minimum

Park 2 Annuity

2.10%

\$1,000 Minimum

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FCSU Financial® - First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Rd, # 300, Independence, OH 44131

Insights and Viewpoints



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

November 5, 2017

Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time
Mal 1:1b-2:2b, 8-10, 1 Thes 2:7B-9, 13,
Mat 23:1-12

A familiar sight in my hometown were the ungated railroad crossings with the signs that said; "Stop, Look, Listen." These were the instructions or maybe even the warnings to approach the crossings with caution and to use your eyes and ears to

make certain no train was coming. The readings today brought back memories of these signs and how their basic message should be very much part of our lives as Christians. It is important for us to stop, look and listen so as to be attuned to the presence and message of God in our lives. It seems that our "To Do" lists are never completed because for every item we check off two more items appear on the list. Stop and put aside the lists, clear our minds of thinking about what else must be done, and quiet our souls so that we become aware of God's presence. It is during the times when we stop and sit in stillness that we are able to look and listen to what God is saying to us and showing us. We become less focused on doing, and more aware of being.

There is the old saying, "practice what you preach," that is usually used when someone boldly and freely gives advice to others who take it to heart and work at making changes in their lives so as to follow this advice. Then, their eyes are opened and they realize that the person giving the advice is not living it themselves. This can lead to becoming disheartened and disillusioned. Jesus calls on us to keep our eyes open and not to follow the bad example, or hypocrisy we see in those who instruct, but to take their good teachings to heart. Seeing what others do is only part of the message. Look at what we are doing in our lives. Do we see what we would like to be, or is the reality different than our hopes. Jesus words about the Pharisees are words that we should be mindful of. They talked a good talk and Jesus advised the crowds to listen to their teachings, but do not follow their example. It's a word of caution to us that we can get caught up in saying the right things and giving the correct teachings, while not living them ourselves.

The first word in the Rule of Saint Benedict is; "Listen," and he goes on to say, "listen with the ear of your heart." True listening involves not only hearing what is said, but also allowing our hearts to absorb the message so as to truly listen and understand. In Mark's Gospel Jesus asked the question to the crowds who were seeking a sign, but not listening to his teachings; "Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear?" (Mark 8:18) How well do we listen? We hear the Word of the Lord in the Sacred Scriptures and if we listen with our heart something might strike us as the Lord speaking in a very personal way. It might be a word that brings us comfort during some trying time, or a word that helps put some decision we are struggling into perspective, or a word that reminds us of God's faithfulness to us at all times. There are many other ways that God's word can speak to us and guide us, but in order for this to happen we have to listen.

May we take to heart the message of these readings and take time to stop, look, and listen so as to be more attuned to God in our lives.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

November 12 - 2017

Thirty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time

In November, as the leaves fall from the trees, as the days become shorter and darker, and as we observe All Souls Day and Veterans Day, it is only natural to think about things that are of abiding value: life itself, our faith, family members present and past, the self-sacrifice of our military veterans. The same movement is afoot in the readings we hear at mass in these days: as the rhythm of the Church year draws toward its conclusion the scriptures at mass lead us to reflect on the most fundamental matters of life, ultimately bringing us to a reflection on the mystery of death, judgment and eternal life.

To this end, this Sunday we are presented with an interesting series of readings that begin in the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. In the book of Wisdom, also called the Wisdom of Solomon, we find an exhortation to seek the gift of wisdom and to practice it faithfully. We hear: "wisdom...is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her." Later the inspired author adds: "taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence, and whoever for her sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care" (Wis 6:12, 14-15).

First, this passage tells us that the sort of wisdom needed to make one's way through life is not out of reach for anyone—we have no excuse for failing to pursue it. Next it tells us that when we live according to the principles of wisdom we will be free from unnecessary concerns; that is, when a truly wise person faces life and its challenges they are filled with hope and are at peace. Though they "walk through the valley of the shadow of death, they fear no evil" (Ps 23:4).

The second reading, from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, continues this same theme. Since the Thessalonians like many early Christians expected Christ to return before the present generation had passed they were concerned that some of their loved ones had already died. Paul tells them not be shaken since whenever Christ returns both the living and the dead will share in the resurrection. A healthy dose of Paul's Christian wisdom and the hope that stems from it served to shore-up the Thessalonians' worried spirits.

The reflection on wisdom and Christian life continues in the Gospel, in the account of the wise and the foolish virgins. Together with the parable of the talents which we will hear next Sunday, this passage serves as the preface to the powerful and frightening last judgement scene of Matthew's Gospel, which we will hear at mass in two weeks' time, on the feast of Christ the King.

The ten virgins, five wise and five foolish, are attendants at a wedding banquet, responsible to greet the groom when he arrives. When the groom arrives much later than expected and it is already evening, the five foolish virgins are left without enough oil for their lamps. The five virgins who brought extra oil represent those who have heard the call of the Lord to faith and who have responded in a wise manner, preparing themselves for the task at hand. Their prudence and foresight in bringing extra oil served them well, and is intended to be an admonition to all hearing the parable to imitate their alertness and wisdom.

As we live out these pensive days of late autumn and look ahead to Advent, let us prepare ourselves by seeking the gift of wisdom so as to have no fear of death or judgement, and to live ever more joyfully the life we have at present, in firm hope of the life to come.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

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

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

Copy Date
MONDAY NOV. 6
MONDAY, NOV. 27
MONDAY, JAN. 8

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
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Scholarship Applications

continued from page 1

the institution(s) at the time of their application to the First Catholic Slovak Union.

4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch officer, the Home Office or download an application from www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/

5. Letters of recommendation with descriptive narratives that help discern the personal qualities and characteristics of the applicant are the most helpful. Please note that letters of recommendation from relatives of applicants will not be accepted.

6. Each application must be accompanied by a photo of the applicant. If possible, please provide a high quality head shot that is suitable for publication and online posting. Hi-res jpegs are most desirable and may be emailed simultaneously with your paper application to scholarship@fcsu.com.

7. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

8. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of professional educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores. Please note that applications conveying adherence to and pride in the founding tenets of the First Catholic Slovak Union such as faith, fraternalism, family, and/or ethnic heritage are highly desired.

9. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a **proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2019).

10. **Applicants must submit a completed application to:** Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2018

All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.



Check List

PLEASE COMPLETE:

(Please follow this check list to prevent mailing us an incomplete application)

- ☐ Completed and signed application
- ☐ Photo
- ☐ Official Transcript
- ☐ S.A.T. or A.C.T. test scores
- ☐ 3 Letters of recommendation

Save the Date!

Slovenská Vilija

Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Noon Mass with Vilija Following

Sponsored by Saint Andrew Abbey

the Slovak Institute and the

Cleveland Slovak Radio Club

Featuring Lučina Slovak Folklore Ensemble

Accordianist Ralph Szubski

Fabulous Basket Raffle!



Pre-sale tickets required: \$20.00
Call 216-721-5300 x 100 before
November 28th to
Order tickets. Seats are limited.
No sales at the door.



Message from the National Chaplain:

*The third and final part of the series summarizing Pope emeritus Benedict XVI's encyclical *Saved in Hope* centers on that which one can learn to have hope, namely, prayer, suffering, judgment.*

Prayer is the first essential setting Benedict states for learning hope. Proper prayer is achieved when we undergo a process of purifying our desires and hopes that brings about an openness to God and others. In prayer, we learn what we can truly ask of God. We also learn not to pray against others, and not to ask for the superficial and comfortable things we desire at the moment. Prayer of this nature is a very personal and intimate encounter with God. At the same time, it must be constantly guided and enlightened by the prayers of the Church, the saints, and liturgical prayer. Prayer always involves the intermingling of public and personal prayer.

Regarding suffering, Benedict notes the unending quest of people trying to limit or prevent it, but suffering can never be eliminated. We are healed from our suffering not by avoiding it, but rather by accepting it and finding meaning through our union with Jesus, who suffered with infinite love. Benedict points out a society unable to accept its suffering members and incapable of helping to share their sufferings is a cruel and inhuman society. He offers three fundamental elements of humanity: to suffer with the other and for others, to suffer for the sake of truth and justice, to suffer out of love and in order to become a person who truly loves. Our Christian faith has shown us that God himself, Truth and Love in person, desired to suffer for us and with us.

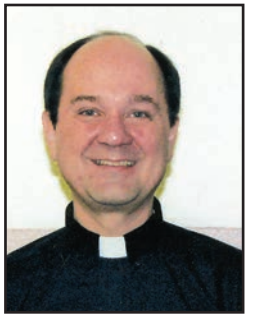
From the beginning of Christianity, the idea of a Judgment has influenced people's conscience and daily life, and at the same time their hope in God's justice. Benedict reminds us that the image of the Last Judgment is not primarily one of terror, but of hope. The overwhelming power of God's love over all the evil in the world and in ourselves is experienced at the moment of judgment.

Benedict cannot write about Judgment without saying something about Purgatory. In particular, he poses this question made by those who have a hard time with the effect of others praying for the dead: If Purgatory is simply purification through fire in the encounter with the Lord, Judge and Savior, how can a third person intervene, even if he or she is particularly close to the other?

His answer is simply this: Every person does not live in complete isolation from another. No one really lives alone or sins alone. One's thoughts, words, actions and achievements are influenced by others and others' influence oneself. This interconnectedness of Being, one's gratitude and prayer for the other, can play a small part in the purification of another's soul.

Benedict offers these reminders. It is never too late, nor is it ever in vain, to touch the heart of another. Our hope is always essentially hope for others; only thus is it true hope for ourselves, too. As Christians we should never limit ourselves to asking: How can I save myself? We should also ask: What can I do in order that others may be saved?

Fraternally,



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Tom Nasta
National Chaplain

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

The Unlikeliest Hero of Hacksaw Ridge

On Veterans Day, we salute all those who've served in our Armed Forces, and we hopefully come to appreciate the stories of how and why they served. Thanks to producer Terry Benedict and his Christopher Award-winning film "Hacksaw Ridge," the world can now learn from and be inspired by the courageous and selfless life of Desmond Doss.

During an interview on "Christopher Closeup," Benedict recalled that he read books voraciously growing up because his parents didn't have a TV in the house. His favorite story was "The Unlikeliest Hero" about Doss, who so deeply believed in the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" that he refused to pick up a gun after joining the Army during World War II. Doss was, however, willing to serve as a medic who saved lives on the battlefield.

Doss's convictions earned him intense abuse from his fellow soldiers and superiors, who branded him a coward and unworthy to serve. Yet at the battle of Hacksaw Ridge in Okinawa, Doss saved 75 lives without firing a single shot. Soon after, he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor because of praise from the same soldiers who had once persecuted him.

As a child, Benedict met Doss, and then reconnected with him years later when Benedict was working in Hollywood. The budding filmmaker knew this was a story meant to be shared with the world, so he produced a documentary about Doss called "The Conscientious Objector." Last year, he went on to co-produce the feature film "Hacksaw Ridge."

Though Doss passed away in 2006, Benedict's admiration for him hasn't wavered. He told me, "Desmond led a simple life growing up, and after the war he led a simple life. He was disabled. He lived on one lung and was deaf because the Army gave him too much of an antibiotic that made him deaf overnight. When you go through a war experience like that, you're forever changed. But the thing that remained in Desmond that was so amazing was he never became jaded. He had this innate unconditional love for humanity that was a godly kind of thing. I would call him 'the magnet' because people would go right to him. It was because of his effusiveness of love."

Benedict believes that Doss's life has special meaning in today's world. He said, "People talk about 'tolerance,' and we get so judgmental about it – 'If you don't fit into my cookie-cutter mold, then you can't be offering anything that's worthwhile.' What Desmond brought was a different ideology than what the Army was looking for. And the Army thought he was the weakest link. In fact, he became the strongest link. Just because somebody believes differently than we do, we ought not write them off. We ought to consider what they bring to the table and work in a more collaborative mode."

Doss's religious beliefs, of course, were the other key part of the story. This was a man willing to suffer insults, indignities, and even violence in order to follow God. His opponents nearly broke him, but he held onto his faith and won a victory. Benedict concludes, "All of us, on our journey of life, will usually come upon some incredibly challenging time, some tragedy. [Desmond] wanted people to know that if we lived a life that had the faith element as a priority, our faith in God could and would get us through the day. He was always a source of encouragement for me as a result of that."



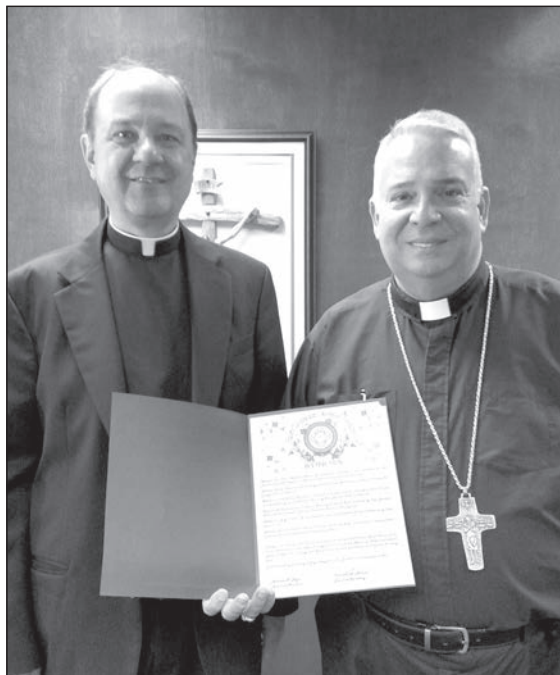
[L – R] Standing: John Jurcenko, President; Paul Chismar, Auditor; Bob Elias, Auditor; Bob Magruder, Recording Secretary; Rudy Bernath, Vice President; and Pete Turner, Sargent at Arms. Seated: Ann Buczek, Auditor; Pat Laporte, Treasurer; and Fr. Joe Kelchak, Chaplain.

Semi-Annual Meeting of District 2, the Spitkovsky District

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky, District 2 held its second meeting of the year at the Missionary Benedictine Convent in oak Forest, IL on October 8, 2017. An election of officers was held. All district officers were re-elected with the exception of Joseph Bugel who passed away on September 12, 2017. Ann Buczek was elected to his previously held position as auditor. Branches were reminded to begin looking at delegate eligibility for next year's convention in Cleveland, OH.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

The First Catholic Slovak Union Welcomes Bishop Perez to Cleveland, OH



(L – R) National Chaplain Fr. Thomas Nasta presented a Resolution of Congratulations adopted by the Board of The First Catholic Slovak Union to welcome the newly installed Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, the Most Reverend Nelson J. Perez, this summer.

Slovak Catholic Federation's 59th National Convention

The 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation was held September 17-19, 2017 in Youngstown, OH. Activities began with Mass on Sunday at 4pm at the Cathedral of Saint Columba with Abbot Gary Hoover, OSB, of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland and the Moderator/Protector of the SCF as the principal celebrant. He was joined by several officers of the federation, Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V.F., SCF National President, Very Reverend Monsignor Peter M. Polando, J.C.L., Past National President and Rector of the Cathedral, Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, First National Vice President, and Reverend Monsignor Thomas A. Derzack, National Chaplain, along with numerous priests from the Diocese of Youngstown and others representing the broad geographic scope of the federation. A dinner was held at the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Hall following the Mass with more than 200 people in attendance.

The actual business component of the convention began on Monday, September 18th, with opening prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthems of the United States and Slovakia. The various committees of the Federation, bolstered by additional delegates in attendance, met during lunch and for a period of time afterwards to establish goals and action plans to be implemented in the upcoming months and years.

The specific committees are: Constitution Committee, responsible for review of the Constitution and By-laws, as revised at the 58th National Convention; Communications, responsible for devising better ways to disseminate information regarding the goals and purposes of the Slovak Catholic Federation with emphasis on the Good Shepherd/Dobry Pastier, on-going contact with the publications of the Slovak Catholic fraternal, and diocesan publication, upgrading the SCF website and regular updates of the Facebook page; Evangelization and Spirituality, responsible for the development of resources to assist pastoral ministries and make recommendations regarding future SCF Pilgrimages of Faith; Heritage and Culture, responsible for suggesting ways to celebrate Slovak heritage, especially at the local level, identifying and encouraging possible partnership with other Slovak Catholic organizations; Membership, responsible to review the membership renewal process, including layout of the brochure, the success (or limitations) of the current regional structure of the SCF, review of the success of the chapters, offer suggestions on how to increase membership; Nominating and Resolutions, responsible for presenting candidates for various offices and positions on the SCF National Board, compose and recommend formal communications from the 59th National Convention.

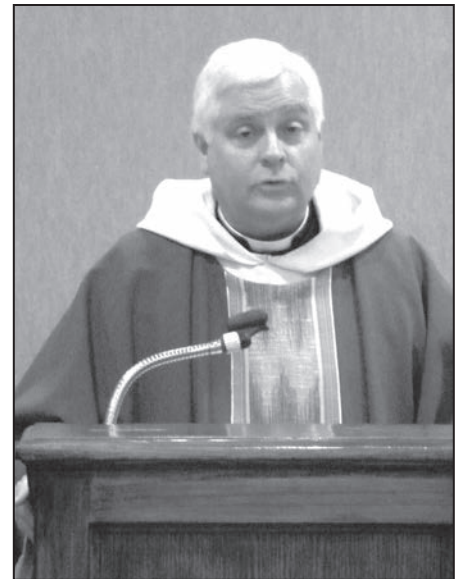
Only minor changes were proposed for the constitution, mostly related to titles, roles and terminology to better reflect the current construct of the National Board and the involvement of various officers.

The Nominating Committee created a slate of individuals to serve in the elected roles of the National Board of Directors. The entire slate was accepted by the delegates and consists of: Moderator/Protector, Rt. Rev. Gary Hoover, O.S.B.; President, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V.F.; Past President, Msgr. Peter Polando, J.C.L.; First Vice President, Rev. Thomas Nasta; Second Vice President, Ms. Marie Golias; Secretary-Treasurer, Ms. Dolores Evanko; and Spiritual Advisor, Msgr. Thomas Derzack.

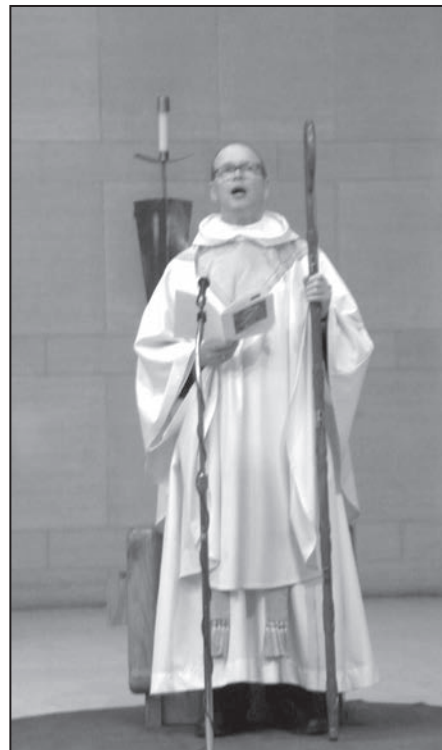
After considering several operational and procedural issues the convention adjourned. The date established for the Spring Meeting of the National Board is April 30th and May 1st, in Danville, PA, with the session being held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. The Fall Meeting will return to Youngstown on September 17th and 18th to accommodate the subsequent meeting of the Conference of Slovak Clergy.

The level of support provided by the Slovak Catholic community from the broader Youngstown area was very gratifying. From the opening Mass through the well-attended initial dinner, capped with the convention dinner on Monday night in the social hall of the Cathedral of Saint Columba, the out-of-town visitors were treated to a truly memorable and enjoyable stay. The convention attendees expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the planning, work and success of the entire endeavor involved in hosting the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

- Submitted by T. L. Wagner



Rev. Gerard Gonda, O.S.B. proclaims the Gospel during the Mass on the first day of the 59th National Convention of the Slovak Catholic Federation



Rt. Rev. Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of Saint Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, the main celebrant of the opening Mass for the 59th National Convention of Slovak Catholic Federation at the Cathedral of Saint Columba, Youngstown, Ohio extends the final blessing to conclude the service.



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

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

The 2017 Lúčina Slovak Gala: An Evening in the Heart of Europe

Saturday, November 11, 2017
Holy Spirit Party Center
5500 W. 54th Street • Parma, OH 44129

Featuring:
The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland
Lúčinka Children's Ensemble
Slovak Domovina Dancers of Windsor, Ontario
DJ Denis

Tickets: \$50/Person
\$360/Table of 8
\$40/Person under 21

Limited Seating! Only 250 seats available. Advanced sales only.
No tickets sold at the door.

Ticket includes:
Entertainment
Full-course dinner with 3 entrees & dessert
(Vegetarian and gluten-free meals available if preordered)
Open Bar
Raffles & Gift Baskets throughout the evening
Followed by music for dancing and listening pleasure with DJ Denis
*Doors open: 6:00PM ** Dinner 6:30PM ** Program: 7:30PM*

For tickets, call: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
Miriam Visnovsky, 440-638-9921

All proceeds to benefit the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble,
Celebrating their 36th Anniversary



Slovak Radio in Windsor, Ontario Still Going Strong

The Slovak Radio Program, Windsor, Ontario, has been airing from studios in the University of Windsor, CJAM, 99.1 FM since Saturday, December 16, 1989. The program offers a variety of Slovak music and song from all regions of Slovakia. Information relating to Slovakia's cultural traditions and history is broadcast each Saturday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Current events of Slovakia as well as announcements informing listeners of upcoming Slovak cultural and social events in the Windsor/Detroit Area are also highlighted during the Slovak Hour.

Veteran volunteers Ladislav, Anna, and Cyril Bagin/Dr. Michael G. Jacko (until his passing in 2013), Mary Boldizar Jacko continue to host the broadcasts. The Program Manager of CJAM recognizes the efforts of the volunteers of every radio program with an Appreciation Party.

Each year, during the first week in November, CJAM promotes a Pledge Drive to raise money to offset operating expenses which are not covered by the Public Broadcasting System. Listeners are encouraged to call in during their favorite radio program and make a financial pledge. The Slovak Radio Program has continually been in the top 10 of highest pledges received.

Slovaks in the Windsor/Detroit Area have been faithful listeners and supporters of the Slovak Radio Program during the past 27 years. Hopefully, they will continue this practice for many years to come. The present volunteer announcers look forward to passing on the torch to another enthusiastic generation of Slovak volunteers to promote SLOVAKIA on CJAM, 99.1 FM (Windsor.ca/cjam)!

Nech žije duch Slovensky!



Veteran volunteers of Slovak Radio CJAM 99.1 in Windsor, Ontario (L – R): Mary Boldizar Jacko and Anna Bagin

- Submitted by Mary Boldizar Jacko



Struthers, OH – Branch 259 Accepting Scholarship Applications

Attention Branch 259 members: a \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a member of Branch 259 who qualifies. For an application and additional information, please contact: Vivian Sedlacko at 330-755-8316 or Rosemarie Yuhas at 330-755-9048.

Applications must be submitted to: 17 Wilhelm Street, Struthers, OH, 44471. The deadline for submission of applications in December 29, 2017.
Fraternally yours,

Vivian Sedlacko

Save the Date

The Slovak-American Cultural Center presents

The Slovak Ball

25th Annual

Sat, Feb 10, 2018

For tickets:
973-357-1209
SlovakAmericanCC.org

The Royal Manor
Garfield, NJ

slovak.eu

Learn
Slovak
online
and
for free



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members



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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Joanne M Biegacki	156K	Rosemarie L Carpency	367K	Thomas R Foster	682K	Frank D Sikora
002K	Anna Demcak	156K	Robert F Hercik Sr	484K	Edward A Oswalt	702K	Julia A Sutton
003P	John T Sofianek	156K	Robert E Stofko Sr	484K	Neysa A Vresilovic	733K	Irene C Debiec
005P	Mary Jaken	173K	Ann T Johnson	497K	Margaret Ann Burik	743K	Frances T McClusky
016P	Margaret Benson	173K	Suzanne Jean Matty	512K	Michael G Braha	746K	Jesse Andrew Silva
016P	Theresa M Olshemski	181K	John J Puskar Jr	512K	Dolores A Rinier	764K	Kathryn M Haas
038K	Anna A Cmar	199K	David W Barlock	543K	Mary Karasek	796K	Mary M Lizak
038K	Shirley Mandella	292K	John P Shimko	543K	Augustine G Sawka	831K	Chester R Anuszek
038K	Paul M Pavlo	293K	Timothy J McGonigle	553K	Katherine Ann Dishauzi	831K	Elizabeth Stariha
040K	Barbara A Butzen	308K	Raymond J Kachurek	553K	Joseph A Lesho	831K	Veronica M Vitkay
040K	John R Negray	308K	John Knapick	553K	Michael G Novachek	831K	Ethel B Zarko
086K	Mary Sidlovsky	322K	Gary F Torretti	553K	Florence M Schacherer	855K	Mildred A Platko
098K	Margaret Borawski	335K	Anna M Yedinak	553K	Luke L Sveda Jr	855K	Mary Viola Stobbe
112K	Kenneth G Hopkins	348K	Shirley Ann Bosanec	618K	Ann M Kunak	890K	Victor H Ascolillo
152K	Lorraine M Navroth	358K	Thomas A Sablatura	670K	Virginia M Calderone		
153K	Robert M Bomba	362K	Cecelia B Day	670K	Eugene L Sukel		
153K	Agnes E Pastiak	362K	Clareann Slomski	682K	Geraldine M McLaughlin		

*Processed through the month of October

OBITUARIES

JOANNE M. BIEGACKI-LAVELL
BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Joanne M. Biegacki-Lavell (nee Kandra), age 72. Beloved wife of Donald J. Biegacki; former spouse of Patrick Lavelle (deceased). Joanne loved all our children as one big family. Loving mother of three plus five – Kimberly Bartholomew (Mark), Kaye Pitzen (Jeff), Patrick Lavelle (MaryJo), Thomas Biegacki (Ann), Richard Biegacki, Carl Biegacki (Lynn), Karen Biegacki, and Michael Biegacki (Elizabeth); dearest grandmother of 18; loving aunt of many; daughter of Stephen and Margaret Kandra (both deceased); dearest sister of Stephen Kandra, Jr. (Shirley) and Jacqueline Nerad (Gerald); sister-in-law of Richard and Gail Lenczewski and Mary Day; niece of Katherine Kandra (deceased). Friends called at the Ferfolia Funeral Home, Sagamore Hills, OH on Friday, September 29, 2017, from 2-4 and 6-9 PM. Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 30, 2017, at 10AM at the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11AM at St. Therese Catholic Church. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery.

- Submitted by Donald Biegacki



LORRAINE M. NAVROTH
BRANCH 152 – PLYMOUTH, PENNSYLVANIA

Lorraine M. Navroth, 74, of Nanticoke, PA, passed away unexpectedly Monday evening, Sept. 18, 2017, at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, Plains Township.

She was born in Nanticoke and was the daughter of the late John and Anna (Butchko) Elko. Lorraine was a graduate of Nanticoke High School and a member of the former St. Joseph's Church, Nanticoke, and is a member of All Saints Parish Church, Plymouth. She was employed as a secretary for St. Boniface Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA.

She is survived by her husband, Raymond; cousins, John Kosloski and wife, Pat, of Harveys Lake; Thomas Fartal, of Slova-



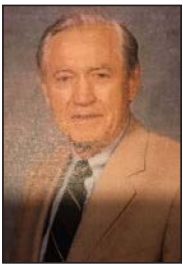
kia; godchild, Leigh Ellen, of Texas; sister-in-law, Mariann Paveletz, of Nanticoke.

Funeral services were held at 9 a.m. Friday, September 22, 2017, from the Grontkowski Funeral Home, Nanticoke, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 9:30AM in All Saints Parish, Plymouth, the Rev. Jacek Bialkowski officiating. Interment followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Nanticoke. Friends and relatives called 4 to 8PM Thursday, September 21, 2017, at the funeral home.

- Submitted by Raymond Navroth

STEPHEN C. MATULA
BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, DC

Stephen C. Matula of Falls Church, VA, passed away on Wednesday September 20, 2017 at the Inova Alexandria Hospital. He was born in Middletown, PA, on November 4, 1919. He was of Slovak descent. He attended Pennsylvania State University and graduated from George Washington University in Washington, DC. He joined the Army Air Force and served during World War II and the Korean War. He flew fighter jets in the Air Force. Mr. Matula retired as an Air Force Colonel. He continued his career and retired as a senior official with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He was a member of Branch 856 of The First Catholic Slovak Union and served as its President for over 40 years. He was also active in several other Slovak organizations in the Washington, DC area. He was preceded in death by his parents Stephen E. Matula and Mary Kopas Matula and siblings Robert, Agnes, Anne and Joe Matula. He is survived by his loving partner, Marie E. Parker; family Joan M. Toohey, Joseph A Mihalik; Kathryn Moore, Terri M. Hoover and their families; friends, Stuart Jamison, Carlos Videla, Bob Heina and other ushers from Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown. Stephen was a golfer and participated in the FCSU golf tournaments over the years. He played tennis with his friend Carlos. Visitation was held at Murphy Funeral Home in Falls Church, VA on September 26, 2017, from 4 to 7 PM. A Memorial Mass was conducted on Wednes-



day September 27, 2017, in the Chapel of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown. A gathering was held for friends and family after the Mass. Military Rites were held at the grave site services on Thursday September 28, 2017 at 1:00PM in Middletown, PA. Burial in the family plot at Saint Mary's

Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please send donations in memory of Stephen C. Matula to the Jednota Scholarship Fund, c/o First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Rd., Ste. 300, Independence, OH, 44131.

- Submitted by Katherine Nowatkoski, Branch 856 Financial Secretary

Glowing Cemeteries: All Saints and All Souls Days in Slovakia

Naomi Hužovičová



The atmosphere is hushed, despite the number of people. Families walk slowly, stopping for a moment here or there with a candle or flowers. Candles and more candles flicker in the dark, illuminating a portion of chrysanthemums or the leaves on the tree above.

"May perpetual light shine upon them ..." Prayers for the dead waft heavenward.

I'm in a cemetery. So are many others.

In the Catholic calendar, November 1st is All Saints Day and November 2nd All Souls Day. They are days specifically set aside to remember and pray for the dead.

In Slovakia, those are the busiest days on the road. They are both bank holidays, which usually means a four or five day holiday, except this year when it happened to fall on the weekend.

The roads were still busy though, as Slovaks drove home to pay homage to their ancestors.

On both those nights, Slovaks flock to graveyards with candles and flowers. Though it has religious origins, it's become a cultural tradition for everyone, religious or not.

I love this Slovak tradition, due in no small part to the aesthetics. But I appreciate, as well, the remembering of the dead as a community. Nobody is untouched by death; all of us have loved ones that have passed on.

"See, this is my aunt, Dedushko's sister," my husband tells the children. "She was very good to me."

The recent grave of our friends' young son chokes my throat. We leave him some white chrysanthemums, he who is now beyond the sadness of this world. The children try to adjust the flowers just so, set the candle in the perfect spot.

One twin tries to smell the candles, the other has one tightly clenched in his fist until he decides it's his candle's turn to be lit. They delight in blowing out the matches.

The glow from cemeteries pass by in the dark as we drive home. I go out to another graveyard on my own after the kids are in bed. It's quieter now, only me, but the candles still stand guard. A young man comes and stands before a grave; I wonder if I should be nervous.

During the day the cemetery is transformed from quiet and eerie to a boisterous colorful garden. A few candles still soldier bravely on. I wish I could get an aerial view, it's hard to find an angle that captures all the color.

It seems fitting: dark and quiet for the sadness that loved ones are no longer with us; joyful that they are now (or hopefully soon will be) celebrating in heaven.

About the Author

Canadian-born Naomi Hužovičová lives in Slovakia with her Slovak husband and their four beautiful children. She shares her reflections on traditional food and life in Slovakia on her blog *Almost Bananas*. Go to www.almostbananas.com for more.



**Fr. Thomas Nasta,
National Chaplain**

Since November is the month traditionally dedicated for us to remember the faithful departed in prayer, it is appropriate to offer a few reminders and answer some answers questions you may have about funerals. Guidelines for funerals are generally found in the Order of Christian Funerals, the church's ritual for funerals, and the third typical edition of the Roman Missal.

The Order of Christian Funerals contains rituals for a Funeral Mass and a Funeral Service Outside Mass, which can be used if most of the deceased's family is not Catholic or does not practice the faith. The Funeral Service Outside Mass can be led by a priest, a deacon, or a lay minister and usually takes place at a Funeral Home or a location other than a church.

Two decisions that need to be made for a Funeral Mass are the choice of readings from Scripture and hymns. You may wish to make your choices known to members of your family.

The Lectionary for Mass also offers a choice of 10 Responsorial Psalms. The Responsorial Psalm is to be taken from the appropriate liturgical text and ought to be sung by the Leader of Song. Hymns that are paraphrases of psalms or based on a psalm are not appropriate.

Most parishes have an instrumentalist and a soloist provide music for a Funeral Mass. The choice of familiar hymns may encourage congregational singing at a Funeral Mass. Again, since a Funeral mass is no different from a regular Sunday Mass, songs or music of a secular nature is to be avoided.

The Viewing

It is possible for a public viewing of the body to take place in church before a Funeral Mass, provided the pastor grants permission. The viewing is to take place in an area of the church other than directly in front of the altar and sanctuary. This is so the altar, a symbol of Christ himself, remains in plain view of all who enter the church.

Three symbols present at a Baptism are also present at a Funeral Mass. The Easter Candle, which reminds us of Jesus, who conquered death by his resurrection, is lit and placed near the location of the casket. A candle lit from the Easter Candle was given to us on our day of Baptism.

Mass begins with priest sprinkling the casket with holy water, the most direct visual connection with Baptism. Family members then may assist with the placing of a white pall on the casket. The pall recalls the white garment the deceased was clothed when he or she was baptized.

The Funeral Mass does not conclude with the blessing and dismissal, as you normally find on Sundays. Rather, after the distribution of Holy Communion, the Final Commendation takes place. The priest invites the congregation to prayer and then incenses the casket. The use of incense is a twofold symbol of reverence for the earthly remains of the deceased, for those remains were a Temple of the Holy Spirit, and of our prayers for the deceased rising to God. After a brief prayer, all depart church for the place of interment.

There is no obligation for someone to speak about the deceased at a Funeral Mass or Liturgy Outside Mass. However, the Order of Christian Funerals allows for a family member or friend of the deceased to offer words of remembrance before the Final Commendation. These words should not take the form of a eulogy, whereby the deceased is given tribute and praise.

Due to several past experiences with eulogies that are longer than a homily and/or with inappropriate subject matter that is sometimes mentioned, some pastors will highly encourage families to share their stories and memories of their beloved deceased at a location other than at the Funeral Mass or Liturgy Outside Mass. Suggested places for these stories and memories to be told are at the Funeral Home during the viewing, at the cemetery following the Rite of Committal, or at the gathering following the burial.

Words of Remembrance, on the other hand, are meant to be very brief and recall the deceased's life lived in Christ Jesus. It is recommended that if Words are to be offered, they are to be spoken by one person, who reads from a one-page script that has been reviewed by the officiating priest or deacon. It is becoming commonplace for the Words of Remembrance to be offered in the church when there is a public viewing of the deceased in the church.

One ought to remember that while we remember the deceased in prayer before the Lord, the main focus at a Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass is Jesus, who by his death and resurrection promises eternal life to all who are faithful to Him.

Catholics are not required to be buried in a Catholic cemetery, but are very highly encouraged to be. Burial at a cemetery in consecrated ground or interment in a mausoleum or columbarium that is sanctified reflects our common faith and hope that on the Last Day we will as one rise with Christ to share in His gift of eternal life.

Rite of Committal

The Rite of Committal takes place at location of interment and can be led by a deacon or lay minister. The Order of Christian Funerals views the Funeral Mass (or Funeral Liturgy Outside Mass) and the Rite of Committal one continuous event. Under certain situations when neither a Funeral Mass nor Liturgy Outside Mass is celebrated beforehand, the Final Commendation and Committal can be done at the place of interment.

If the decision is made for the deceased to be cremated, the Church prefers the Order of Christian Funerals be celebrated in the presence of the body of the deceased, and then have the body taken for cremation. However, it is permitted for an urn containing the ashes to be brought into a Catholic church for a funeral. The urn is placed on a table in front of the sanctuary, without the display of photos or other mementos. A white pall is not placed on the urn.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, under the authority and with the approval of Pope Francis, issued an instruction entitled "To Rise with Christ." This October 2016 document clarifies questions people may have about cremation and contains a set of directives.

The primary principle that runs through “To Rise with Christ” is the never changing Church teaching that human remains are to be given and shown proper respect and dignity. Here is a summary of the directives for cremation:


- The Church prefers the ancient practice of burying the bodies of the deceased.
- Ashes of the deceased are to be buried in a cemetery or laid to rest in a columbarium.
- Ashes of the deceased are forbidden to be:
 - o Scattered in the air, on land, or at sea
 - o Preserved in mementos, pieces of jewelry, or in other objects
 - o Reserved in a home
 - o Reserved in a home while awaiting another person (usually a spouse) to die so both can be buried together at the same time
 - o Divided among family, friends, or others
 - o Commingled with the ashes of another person or pet.



Nov 2 marks the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (the Day of the Dead) in the Catholic Church. Artwork: William-Adolphe Bouguereau: The Day of the Dead (1859)


The Slovak-American Cultural Center
proudly presents the
2nd lecture & networking series

An Evening of Science & Music

 **Friday November 17th, 2017** 

6:00-7:00 pm Networking
7:00-9:00 pm Mini-presentations

Village Park Banquet & Catering Hall
155 Avenue A (corner of 10th Street & Avenue A) East Village, NY



RSVP: SlovakAmericanCC@gmail.com
Suggested donation: \$5

Christmas Oplatky – 2017

Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 23 until December 15, 2017.

The *Oplatky*, five in one package, are thermal-sealed and can be purchased for \$5.00 per pack. In addition, the minimum cost of shipping and handling is \$7.00 and upward depending upon the number of packets ordered and the cost of priority mailing. Customized requests can be filled to meet your needs. Payment to Jankola Library is expected before receiving an order.

For more information or to place an order contact

Sister Catherine Labouré Bresnock, SS.C.M. at 570-275-5606 or
write to Jankola Library and Slovak Museum
580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 2, will hold a meeting Tuesday January 9 for election of Delegates for the upcoming 51st convention in August 2018. The meeting will be held at Kretzlers at 7pm. Please RSVP to Joanne Lako at 412-766-3222.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 3P - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will meet at Good Shepherd Church, 87 S. Hunter highway Drums, on December 3, 2017 at 9:45 am. Election of officers for 2018 will take place as well as election of delegates and alternates for 2018 convention. Following the meeting, members are invited to enjoy a breakfast buffet prepared by the parishoners of Good Shepherd Church. Anyone needing directions can call M. Koval at 570-454-0004.

Michael Koval, Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6K, will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2018, at 12 noon at Al's Restaurant, 1603 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. On the agenda: election of officers for 2018 and election of four (4) delegates to the 51st Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union which will be held August 4 – 8, 2018, in Cleveland, OH. All members in good standing are urged to attend to be considered for an office or as a delegate. A luncheon and afternoon of fraternalism will follow the meeting. For more information, contact Paul Chismar at (815) 822-8851 or Robert and Stella Elias, Sr. at (815) 672-1764.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 9:00 A. M. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin St. Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, will hold its semiannual meeting with an audit and election of officers at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 10, at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave, Olyphant.

William F. Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society Branch 19K will hold its annual meeting at 10:00AM on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at the home of Jacqueline Zack, 15 Brookhedge Road, Trumbell, CT.

We will have election of officers at this meeting and the election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. We will distribute our annual donations to our charities.

The members of Branch 19 wish all the members of the First Catholic Slovak Union a Holy and Happy Christmas Season and a Healthy New Year.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23, St. Joseph Society, of Johnstown PA will hold our 2nd Annual Branch meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2017, at 2 PM. The meeting will be held at Denny's Restaurant, 3156 Elton Road, Richland Twp, Johnstown PA 15904. Don't Fall out of touch with what is happening. All members of Branch 23 are asked and encouraged to attend this meeting. Any questions please call Theresa Cassat (814) 254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special members only pricing for the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija Dinner Sunday, December 10, 2017 at St. Andrew Abbey 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH. Mass is at 12:00 (noon) with dinner to follow [Editor's note: please see page 3 of this issue for details].

Ticket prices are \$10 for branch members, \$20 for non-members. Reservations are required and available by calling Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-

577-9699 after 6:00PM. Please make checks payable to Branch 24. The deadline is Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

Robert J. Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Branch Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699.

Robert J. Kopco, President

BRANCH 35 – BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels, Branch 35, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at 1987 Centurion Drive, Forest Hills, PA. The agenda will include election of branch officers, discussion of branch activities and election of delegates for the upcoming 2018 FCSU National Convention.

Janet Sullivan, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2017, at 7:00 pm at 3409 Eisenhower Drive, White Oak, PA 15131. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on 2018 fraternal social activities. At this meeting, we will be electing branch officers and electing delegates to the 2018 National Convention. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend, and all visitors are welcome.

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

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

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75KJ will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 10:00AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 1782. Agenda items include: the presentation of the fiscal year-end reports: nomination and election of officers for the coming year will be held and any additional branch business will be entertained, including the 2018 National Convention. All interested members should make an effort to attend his semi-annual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its fall meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion, Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2018.

Stella Skovira, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 will hold our Fall Communion Breakfast and Meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2017. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00AM at St. Margaret Mary Parish, 3970 N. 92nd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222. Immediately following the Mass, all are invited to breakfast, which is free for all members. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own breakfast at the cost of \$15 per person. Brunch is at 10:30AM, along with the start of the meeting, at The Capitol Café, 14375 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, WI, 53005.

There will be a prize drawing during the brunch. Fraternal regards,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

St John the Baptist Branch 112 will hold an annual meeting on Sunday, December 3 at 1 PM at Palermo's Restaurant. The agenda will include: Election of officers, officers' reports, election of delegates to the 2018 convention and new business. Please call Karen Sterling 570-640-1796 by November 26, 2017, if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Karen Sterling, Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

During the month of November, we remember those members of our branch who during this past year have gone to their eternal rest. Please pray for them.

Dorothy Tesar	George Pavlak
Florian Isztok	Helen Kolodziej
Edward Bucz	Richard Grencik
Ken LaPorte	Joseph Massura
Agnes Pastiak	Stephen Kolada
Robert Bomba	

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St Stephen Branch 153 will have its annual meeting on Saturday, November 4, 2017. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am at Cucina Biagio, 7319 West Lawrence Avenue in Harwood Heights. Officers will be elected at this meeting. Charitable contributions will be discussed. All members are invited to attend. A fraternal luncheon will be served after the meeting.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, at 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Arrangements for Christmas donations will be made and election of officers will be held. Election of delegates to the 51st International Convention in Cleveland, OH, will also take place. 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 November 28, 2017, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 164 – NEW KENSINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 164K New Kensington, PA and Branch 401K North Apollo, PA. All members of Branch 164K will now hold membership in Branch 401K.

This merger has taken place as of October 12, 2017.

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

PATRICK J FRONCEK
PO BOX 178
1223 WYSOCKI AVE
NORTH APOLLO, PA 15673-0178
(724) 664-8216

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 173 – GREATER WILKES-BARRE/ WYOMING VALLEY AREA - PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, will hold its annual meeting on December 3, 2017, at Norms, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA, beginning at 12:00 pm.

General Business and activities of Branch 173 will be discussed, and insurance, annuities and fraternal activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

In addition officers will be elected for the new year and delegates will be elected from Branch 173 to the 51st convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in Cleveland, OH, on August 4 to August 8, 2018.

Please make every effort to attend and notify Dorothy A. Ungvasky at 570-403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

Fraternally,

John A. Ungvasky, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

All members of Branch 181 are invited to attend the meeting on Saturday, November 4, 2017 immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass at St. Florian R.C. Church in United, PA.

The meeting will be held in the Formation Room in the former convent.

The election of officers and finalizing plans for the Vilija are on the agenda. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or directions call 724-547-0803.

*Please note there will be a special meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017 immediately following the Vilija for the election of delegates to the 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union in Cleveland on August 4 - 8, 2018. The Vilija will be held at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, PA. Members interested in becoming a delegate should attend.

For more information or directions call 724-547-0803.

Vicki Hricik, Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold a meeting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, November 12, 2017, at Joio's Restaurant, Route 981, Latrobe, PA. Election of officers will take place at this meeting. All branch members are encouraged to attend.

Barbara Patula, Secretary

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 213 – VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 213, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 1:00PM. The meeting will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, 16059. On the agenda: election of branch officers and general branch business. All members are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, will hold an election of delegates to the 51st Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at our meeting to be held on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. The Convention will be held in Cleveland, OH, from Saturday August 4th through Wednesday August 8th, 2018, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel. We currently expect to be permitted to seat eight (8) delegates at the Convention to represent our Branch and will also elect alternates to serve if a delegate is unable to attend the Convention. We hope to have all delegates and alternates decided upon at this meeting so the certification process can begin immediately after the meeting.

Once again, I challenge our younger members to consider being a convention delegate and becoming even more involved in our organization. It is a truly special experience that is interesting, fun and gives a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are directly contributing to the operational direction taken by the FCSU for the next four (4) years. Please contact Tom Zuffa at 440-320-6523 or Len Zilko at 440-988-3236 if you are interested in becoming a convention delegate candidate and, of course, come to this very important meeting.

As a reminder, our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are

continued on page 13

**FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS**
The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office
will be closed on the following days:

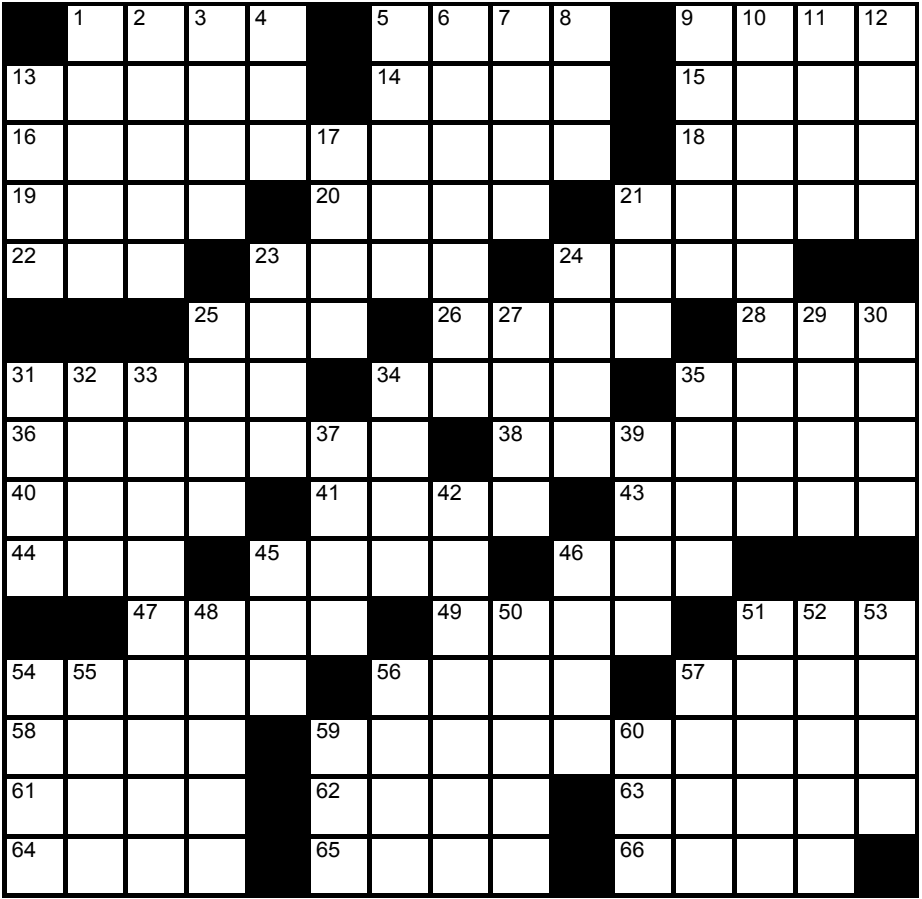


November 23 & 24, 2017 in
observance of Thanksgiving Day

December 25 & 26,
2017 in observance of
Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Newborn

5 Garbage barge

9 Cleanser

13 Military facilities

14 Earthen pot

15 Division word

16 Mollusk habitation

18 French couturier

19 Little piggies

20 Towel embroidery

21 Split to unite

22 Shack

23 Persian spirit

24 Baker's need

25 Grazing locale

26 Walking stick

28 Stitch up

31 Rhino relative

34 1975 Wimbledon winner

35 Achy

36 Diving ventilator

38 Lofty in style

40 Dwarf buffalo

41 Catch sight of

43 Stares

44 Knock

45 Scheme

46 Canny

47 Freudian topics

49 Curved molding

51 Chinese tea

54 Disgusted

56 Sheltered, at sea

57 Gangster's blade

58 Son of Seth

59 Type of strike

61 Race track tipster

62 Goals

63 Schoolbag item

64 Choir voice
- 65 *Hellzapoppin'* actress Martha

66 Chances
- Down**
- 1 Swampy lake

2 Strong point

3 Wagers

4 Compass pt.

5 Judicious

6 Clergymen

7 Auto pioneer

8 Used to be

9 Move laterally

10 Meal starter, at

11 Above

12 Sweat source

13 Not just one

17 Poseidon's mother

21 Apple picker

23 Fringe benefit

24 Unique person

25 Turkish money

27 Sailor's cry

29 River to Donegal Bay

30 Marries

31 Romanov ruler

32 Visitor to Siam

33 Fatigued

34 In addition

35 Gallows reprieve
- 37 Sushi fish

39 Gawk at

42 2nd century astronomer

45 Soft drink

46 Appear

48 Oomph

50 Ganders

51 Youngster

52 Nettle rash

53 State firmly

54 Greek cheese

55 Form of ether

56 Met solo

57 Poker variety

59 Standard

60 Favoring

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2017

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
November 15	November 6
December 6	November 27

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive
January 17	January 8
February 14	February 5
March 7	February 26
March 21	March 12
April 11	April 2
April 25	April 16
May 2	April 30
June 6	May 29 (to accommodate Memorial Holiday)
June 20	June 11
July 18	July 9
August 22	August 13
Sept 19	Sept 10
October 17	October 8
November 14	November 5
December 12	December 3

See Solution on Page 12

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

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



- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
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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.



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	MALE	FEMALE
NEWBORN	NEWBORN	
\$5,000 for \$410	\$5,000 for \$345	
AGE 5	AGE 5	
\$5,000 for \$475	\$5,000 for \$410	
AGE 10	AGE 10	
\$5,000 for \$565	\$5,000 for \$485	
AGE 15	AGE 15	
\$5,000 for \$670	\$5,000 for \$570	

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Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish

Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, November 26

After 9:00 a.m. mass until 1:00 p.m.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall
5255 Thornwood Drive,
Mississauga, ON



Pirohy, Klobasa, Cabbage Rolls, Jatarnica, Knedle, Baked Goods

Veterans Day Is November 11

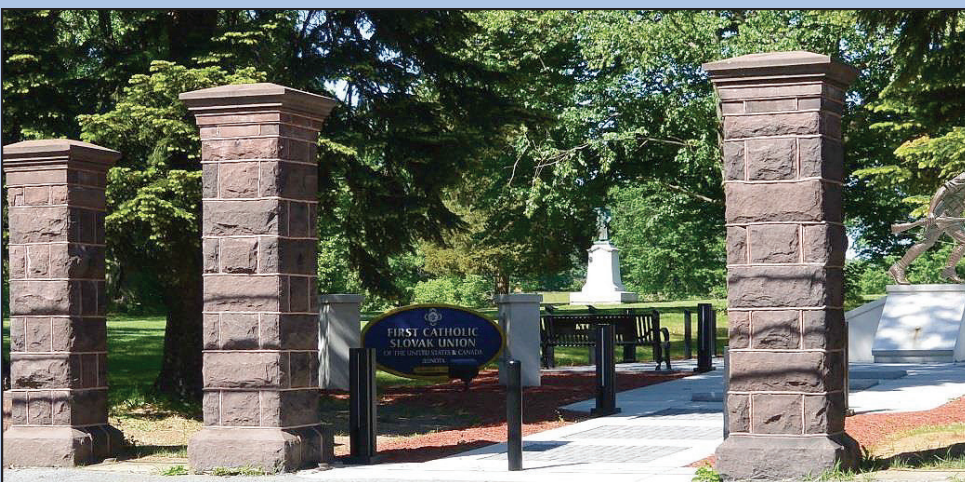


Veterans Day is an official United States holiday that honors people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, also known as veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I.

Not to be confused with Memorial Day, Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving.



Veteran's Day: A Wonderful Time to 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 ½ 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 JURICEK-YURICEK BARDEJOV, SLOVAKIA	IN LOVING MEMORY OF MICHAEL KARCH XOXO	LOVING MEMORY OF MY WIFE VIRGINIA KIRIK VOLTER OF 55YRS 2016	
	DEDICATED TO THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF BRANCH 166K	IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF LOVING PARENTS SSGT U.S. MARINE CORPS WORLD WAR II FRANCIS A. SOLG CATHERINE M. SOLG	HOLLY FRANK T. JR. ELIZABETH G. TOWN, PA	
	CHARLES RODACY BOONE KEYSTONE OAKS HS-PA CLASS OF 2018	RODACY CHARLES & ELIZABETH CHARLEROI, PA	BOONE FAMILY RON MONICA & CHARLES SCOOBY & VELMA	BERTOVIICH MICHAEL & MARGARET AND FAMILY
	MAY THE SACRED HEART BLESS & PROTECT THE HARCHARIK FAMILY	IN LOVING MEMORY OF WONDERFUL PARENTS FRANK & ANNA CHMELA	NOWATKOSKI BERNARD KATHERINE BRANCH 856	
	IN LOVING MEMORY FRANCIS AND MARY SENGLAR	IN LOVING MEMORY JOSEPH-HELEN SANKNER SCRANTON, PA BR 382	REMEMBERING MEMBERS OF BRANCH 05P PITTSBURGH, PA	TILGHMAN A. MILLER JR. 30 YRS MARINE CORPS UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN
	IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW & DELORES LINKO	IN MEMORY OF GEORGE "NORGE" 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 A. & DOROTHY A. (TURCHIK) FRENCK
	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 #8 PA. IND. D.C.
	ARTHUR J. FAYTA OUR SLOVAK HERO WORLD WAR VETERAN	IN LOVING MEMORY EMIL & VERONICA BAYUS SR. BRANCH 1	JOSEPH AND CECILIA PETRASEK AND FAMILY AKRON, OH BRANCH 553	

This is another of the latest panels to be completed. 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.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 1 – THE REV. MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT
The Rev. Matthew Jankola District 1 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 11:00AM at the home of Jacqueline Zack, 15 Brookhedge Road, Trumbell, CT. We had to move our September 10, 2017 meeting from our usual meeting place with little advance notice and we want to give District 1 members a chance to attend the District 1 meeting.
We will have election of officers for 2017-2018. We will plan our agenda for the coming year and our participation in the 2018 National Convention.
We hope to see many members at this District 1 meeting.

Laura Mineese, Secretary

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT-WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Begin the evening with Mass at 4 P.M. in the Chapel. Our traditional, festive Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner will follow in the dining room. Door prizes will be awarded and the Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. Please plan to attend and help us preserve this beautiful custom. Tickets: \$25 ages 12 & over and \$10 ages 3 to 11. Tickets are limited. Reserve early by calling Vice President, Darlene Patty at 724-493-8712 prior to November 17.
The George Onda District will hold a special meeting on Saturday, December 9, 2017 to elect a District Convention Delegate (and an Alternate) to attend the 2018 FCSU National Convention. We will meet in the Formation Room at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, PA following the 5PM Mass.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT
Branch 2 will host the next district meeting on Sunday, November 26 at 1 PM. The meeting will be held at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall at 529 Grant Avenue Extension in West Mifflin. We will discuss social and business activities for 2018. Officers for 2018 will be elected. Matters concerning the upcoming national convention, including election of the district delegate, will also be on the agenda.
As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. The national convention is coming next year; be careful to fulfill all requirements for sending delegates.
While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meetings, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:
** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: November 6 – Slovak Immigrants to America, December 4 – Slovak Show-&-Tell. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.
** 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.
** Slovak Heritage Day at the Pitt Cathedral of Learning – Sunday, November 5 – noon to 5. Slovak seminars, entertainment, food and vendors.
** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.
** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook. The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids also has a Facebook page. Check out your family's hometown in Slovakia. Even a small village may have a Facebook page.
** Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu
** If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities; some have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/
** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations. See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php. Plan a Christmas trip to see the animated, hand-carved Nativity.
** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International will hold its next meeting in Nebraska in 2019. "Nasa Rodina," their quarterly publication, has many interesting articles on Slovak history and genealogy. See www.cgsi.org.
** FCSU insurance information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com. Many interesting Slovak-related links may be found at fcsu.com/resources.
** The September 13 issue of the Jednota has an interesting account of the Senko's recent trip to Slovakia. The April 19 issue has a list of stipend requirements.

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

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary
manasta@verizon.net

DISTRICT 7-THE REV.JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT
Attention! All branches, the meeting that was scheduled for Oct.22 at 2:00 PM was rescheduled for Dec 10 at 2:00 P.M. at the St. Michael Church in Beaverdale, PA. Due to mix up with the hall. Election of officers, and election of delegates for the convention will be held. Very sorry for any inconvenience it may have caused. There is a luncheon afterward. All branches are invited to attend; any questions please call 814-322-1052.

Sharon Allison, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK
Mark your calendars our first meeting of 2018 will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, OH 44311 on January 21, 2018 at 2 pm. We will be electing delegates to the upcoming Convention. Please plan to attend and learn more about convention activities and issues we may be addressing at the convention. Our Society is only as strong as its members –take an active part and help keep our Society strong.
If you plan on attending, please call Linda Hanko @330-706-0151 or 330-690-9611. We need a headcount for refreshments. Please RSVP one week before the meeting.
Respectfully submitted

Linda Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 12 – THE MONSIGNOR ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT
On Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andre Hlinka District will be held at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. There will be an election of officers and discussions relative to district business and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH.

Members of the various branches are urged to attend. Any questions, call Joseph Tarquinio at (724) 929-9788. We from District 12 wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 13 – THE JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT
The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District, District 13, will hold its semi-annual meeting at 2:00PM on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA, 16666 (Route 53 South on Osceola Mills/ Houtzdale Highway).
All local branches belonging to the district are to send a delegate to the meeting. Call Rosemary Deliman at 814 342 5592 if you plan to attend.
There will be election of officers for 2018. Luncheon will be served prior to meeting.
Rosemary Deliman, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 14 –THE REV JOSEPH KOSTIK DISTRICT
The district will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 6PM at at our Lady of Sorrows Cry Room, St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Ave, Youngstown, OH. This will be a general meeting with election of officers for 2018. All members are encouraged to attend. The District Christmas Party will be held at 6PM on December 19, 2-017, at Rachel's Restaurant, 54 Westchester Drive, Austintown, OH. Immediately following the party, the district will hold a meeting for the election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. Call for reservations to the Christmas Party by Dec 1 to Barbara Hosa at 1-330-286-2969.

Joe Scavina, Vice President

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT
Prince Pribina District will hold Annual Meeting on Saturday November 18, 2017. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: officer reports and financial report, election of officers for the year 2018 and election of the District Convention Delegate to the 2018 FCSU National Convention. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent Annual Meeting.

Paul Skuben, President

DISTRICT 16 - THE MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT
The Msgr Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY immediately following the 10:15 Slovak Mass. On the agenda will be branch reports, financial report, election of officers and discussion of plans for future activities in 2018. We urge members of Branches 41, 45 and 716 to attend and participate in this meeting. Representatives from other Districts are also cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. The Slovak Mass at 10:15 will be in remembrance of Jozef Bilik, past President of Branch 716 FCSU.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Secretary

DISTRICT 19 – THE MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT
On Sunday Dec 10, 2017, the annual meeting for Monsignor Michael Shuba District will be held at 1:30PM, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. Address: 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario. At this meeting the election of officers for the district will be held, as well election of delegates to the upcoming Convention in August 2018.
Lunch will be available, please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111
Respectfully,

Anne Mitro, Secretary

DISTRICT 20 PRINCE RASTISLAV, MONTREAL, QUEBEC
The annual district meeting will be held on Sunday November 5, 2017 at the Sts.Cyril and Methodius Church hall immediately following the eleven (11) o'clock Mass.
The agenda will include Social calendar for 2018. Election of officers as well as discussion re: the upcoming convention In August 2018.
Branch 784 and 810 are urged to send representatives.
A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 9

	B	A	B	E		S	C	O	W		S	O	A	P
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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 8

scheduled. The Branch will hold its annual election of officers, by-law review and election of two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors at each December meeting. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You are sure to find many items of interest.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 14, 2018, at 11:30AM at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include election of officers and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their annual meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 2PM. We will have election of officers for the coming year 2018, followed by a luncheon – with reservations to be made by calling 330-755-8316.

We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

The branch will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at 1:00PM at Bedford Trails Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: election of officers and general branch business.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday December 3, 2017 at 9:45 am in Good Shepherd Church at 87 S. Hunter Highway Drums. Delegates and alternates will be elected for the 2018 convention as well as branch officers for 2018. After the meeting attendees are invited to enjoy a breakfast buffet sponsored by the Good Shepherd parishioners. Anyone needing directions can call R. Lazar.

R. Lazar, Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist, Branch 276, will hold their next meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2017, at 1:00PM at St. Patrick's Church Hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. We will be discussing coming events for the New Year and will also be having election of officers for 2018. Delegates for the National Convention to be held next year will also be elected. If you would like to become an officer please attend this meeting. We look forward to seeing new people.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

Branch 290 will hold a meeting on December 6, 2017. The meeting will start at 6:30PM. On the agenda: election of branch officers and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland. Please attend. Call Joe Minarovich as to the location at 732-469-5256. Thank you.

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 292 – WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, FCSU, Branch 292 KJ, will hold their semi-annual meeting and Christmas Party at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, December 17, 2017 at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pa. 15963. A buffet dinner will follow the meeting. All members are asked to attend these events. The Officers extend to all wishes for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St John the Baptist Branch 313 will have its annual meeting on Monday, December 4, 2017. The meeting will begin at 11:30 am at Southfork Restaurant, 14631 South LaGrange Road, Orland Park, IL. Officers will be elected at this meeting. All members are invited to attend. If there are any questions, please call me at 773 463-2686.

Ken Jurinak, Vice President

BRANCH 319 – MANSFIELD, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 319K Mansfield, OH and Branch 553K Akron, OH. All members of Branch 319K will now hold membership in Branch 553K.

This merger has taken place as of October 09, 2017. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

LINDA M HANKO
1473 RIES ST
BARBERTON, OH 44203-7625
(330) 706-0151

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 11:00AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Frances may be reached at (724) 929-9788. On the agenda will be the election of officers, along with election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. Members are urged to attend. May baby Jesus grant you the happiest of holidays.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 324 – CARTERET, NEW JERSEY

There has been a merger between Branch 324K Carteret, NJ and Branch 746K Linden, NJ.

All members of Branch 324K will now hold membership in Branch 746K.

This merger has taken place as of September 11, 2017.

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

MARY J KAPITAN
166 ECHO AVE
EDISON, NJ 08837-2631
(732) 225-2658

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 326 – FREDERICKSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 326K Fredericksburg, PA and Branch 856K Washington DC, VA.

All members of Branch 326K will now hold membership in Branch 856K.

This merger has taken place as of October 03, 2017.

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

KATHERINE NOWATKOSKI
806 BLACKFRIARS LOOP
CARY, NC 27519
(919) 651-0363

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph's Branch 367 will be holding its next meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. The meeting will be held at O'Gillies Pub, 200 E. Askren Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, at 2 PM in the afternoon. All members are invited. Election of 2018 officers and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention will be held. If planning on attending please call Audrey Balazik, President at 724-438-3887 or Kathryn Baranek, Secretary at 724-569-1006. To all our members and their families we wish you a blessed and happy holiday season.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 372, St. Joseph Society, will hold its annual meeting at the home of President Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave., Beaverdale, PA, on Sunday, November 26, 2018, at 2:00PM. Election of officers for 2018 and other important agenda items will be discussed.

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 381 - PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

There has been a merger between Branch 381K Passaic, NJ and Branch 746K Linden, NJ. All members of Branch 381K will now hold membership in Branch 746K.

This merger has taken place as of September 12, 2017.

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

MARY J KAPITAN
166 ECHO AVE
EDISON, NJ 08837-2631
(732) 225-2658

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382, will conduct its annual fall meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2017. Officers and members will gather at noon in the VFW, 1100 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers and representatives to District 17 events (the annual summer picnic and the semi-annual meeting). Members will also discuss future branch activities. Information from the Home Office will be disseminated including information regarding the 2018 Quadrennial Convention.

Election of officers for 2018 will be held.

Refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is branch president. Other officers include: Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; Michael J. Czankner, recording secretary; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

Elizabeth Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 19, 2017, at 1:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA. On the agenda: election of branch officers, and election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention. All members are welcome. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 1:30 PM at 411 Oak St. West Mifflin, Pa. Call Pat Guidish at 412-496-0224 if directions or ride needed. All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend.

Election of officers for the year 2018 will be held at this meeting. Those who are interested in being a delegate to the 51st International Convention being held in Cleveland, Ohio, from Saturday, August 4 to August 8, 2018 are requested to attend this meeting. Election of delegates to the convention will be voted on and completed at the Dec. 14th meeting.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 724-425-2576.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 425 – BARBERTON, OHIO

St. Marks Society, Branch 425, will be holding its annual meeting on Sunday, November 26, 2017, at the home of Paul Slota, 1371 Eastern Road, Rittman, OH. The meeting will take place at 1:00PM. Election of officers will take place. To RSVP please call 1-330-825-3534.

Jeannette Willis, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450, will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM at Holy Spirit

Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129. (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.)

On the agenda will be officers' reports, the 2017 financial report, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the branch. The election of branch officers will take place at this meeting.

All members are urged to attend. Refreshment will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2017, 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 financial reports, election of officers, payment of bills, donations, membership, etc. All members are cordially invited to attend and to participate in the discussion of obtaining new members.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, will hold its Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Election of FCSU 2018 Convention delegates, and Christmas Luncheon on Saturday November 25, 2017.

Location: Mabenka Restaurant, 7844 S. Cicero Avenue, Burbank, IL 60459. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments. The meeting will start at 2:00PM. Afterwards, attendees will enjoy a Christmas luncheon.

If you plan to attend, please contact the Financial Secretary by Wednesday, November 22, so that we can give the restaurant an accurate head count. Call Bob at (773) 558-5956 or (502) 244-6643.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 514 – PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY

There has been a merger between Branch 514K Perth Amboy, NJ and Branch 746K Linden, NJ. All members of Branch 514K will now hold membership in Branch 746K.

This merger has taken place as of October 2, 2017.

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

MARY J KAPITAN
166 ECHO AVE
EDISON, NJ 08837-2631
(732) 225-2658

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

The branch will hold its next meeting on November 19, 2017, at 2PM at the J club 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, OH. On the agenda: election of branch officers. If anyone is interested in running for office please send your name and what office you would like to hold to Grace Bacot at 485 Morgan Ave, Akron 44311.

Other events at the J Club:

Spaghetti Dinner - Wed. Nov 1 and Wed. Dec 6 from 4:30PM to 7:00PM

Watch party for Ohio State vs Penn State - October 28; come and join in the festivities, starting at the 3:00PM game time. If you wish we will have presale tickets for a \$15 Steak Dinner to be served at halftime. You do not have to purchase a dinner to participate in watching & cheering on your team.

Sandie Klucar, Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart of Jesus Branch 580 will hold a meeting on November 19, 2017, after the 9:30 Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall, 529 Grant Ave Ext. West Mifflin, PA, 15123.

Election of officers will take place. All members are welcome.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 581 – GARY-WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel, Branch 581, will hold

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a meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2017, at 1PM at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 East Old Ridge Rd., Hobart, IN. The agenda will be election of officers, election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH, insurance premiums for children to be paid for the first year, and the upcoming play.

RSVP Ann, 219-947-2793 or George, 219-926-2410

Ann Buczek, President

BRANCH 587 – ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 12, 2017, at Harold's Inn, 2134 Broadhead Road, Aliquippa, PA, at 2:00PM. Election of officers will be held. All members are welcome to attend. Please make reservations by calling (724) 375-2287 before November 6, 2017.

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, November 5 Polka Dance - 3pm-6pm; food available for purchase.

Sunday, December 3 Polka Dance - 3pm-6pm; food available for purchase

Saturday, December 9 Kid's Christmas Party - 1pm; please call Tatra Hall to sign up your child, this is a free event.

Sunday, December 17 Monthly Branch Meeting - 2pm; election of officers will take place, please make sure to attend.

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off

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

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

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 600 – VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 600K Vandergrift, PA and Branch 401K North Apollo, PA. All members of Branch 600K will now hold membership in Branch 401K.

This merger has taken place as of October 16, 2017.

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

PATRICK J FRONCEK
PO BOX 178
223 WYSOCKI AVE
NORTH APOLLO, PA 15673-0178
(724) 664-8216

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 3:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. The agenda will include the future convention and corresponding election of delegates; also a discussion of events during the current year.

**Sylvia J. Vehc
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at noon at Kings Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. There will be an election of officers along with election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. Members are urged to attend. Any questions, call Joseph Matinko at (724) 747-7332. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 701 – VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 701K Vandergrift, PA and Branch 401K North Apollo, PA. All members of Branch 701K will now hold membership in Branch 401K.

This merger has taken place as of October 17, 2017.

If you should need any service on your policy, or

new or additional insurance, please contact:

PATRICK J FRONCEK
PO BOX 178
223 WYSOCKI AVE
NORTH APOLLO, PA 15673-0178
(724) 664-8216

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Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 706 – DYER, INDIANA

St. Anthony Society, Branch 706, will hold its second semi-annual meeting on Saturday, December 16, 2017, at the residence of Branch Secretary, Lynda Tanis, at 3:00PM. On the meeting agenda, we will discuss: the Slovakia Christmas Tree at the Museum of Science and Industry, coordinated by Chairman, Mark Fayta, and Co-Chairman, Amber Miller; the Easter Coloring Contest, organized by Barbara Fayta; and the Spring District 2 Outing, arranged by Lynda Tanis. Members of the Branch, including members of Branch 40, previously met on November 4 at the Museum of Science and Industry to setup the Slovakia Tree for the 2017 Christmas Around the World Exhibit. Amber Miller purchased new garland for the tree and Barbara Fayta and Lori Seida handmade new candy ornaments. Mark Fayta gave directions to update some of the older wooden sled ornaments to portray some of Slovakia's castles, reflecting more of Slovakia's Heritage. Members of the Branch also attended the Museum's Dinner on November 21, an appreciation event for the volunteers who've helped setup the Christmas trees. In addition, we will be praying for those who we have lost in our District, especially the well-respected and loved, Joseph Bugel. He will be greatly missed.

Please email Lynda Tanis at: Lynda.tanis@comcast.net by Monday, December 8, if you would like to attend or would like to send any information to be reviewed at the meeting.

Lynda Tanis, Branch Secretary

BRANCH 714 – NEW CARLISLE, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 714K New Carlisle, OH and Branch 553K Akron, OH. All members of Branch 714K will now hold membership in Branch 553K.

This merger has taken place as of October 10, 2017.

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

LINDA M HANKO
1473 RIES ST
BARBERTON, OH 44203-7625
(330) 706-0151

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Due to the NYC Marathon on November 5th, the annual meeting of St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, has been postponed from November 5th to November 12th. The November 12th meeting will start at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY. The agenda will be the election of Branch 716 officers for 2018, a financial report for the Branch and planning of future events for next year. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Also, the November 5th Sunday Slovak Mass at 10:15 AM will be for our deceased Branch 716 President Jozef Bilik. All members are urged to attend the Mass.

Fraternally,

Joan Mary Skrkon, Acting Secretary

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

Branch 721 will have its winter meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 2:00PM. It will be at the home of Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary. His home is located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be held. All members are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 will celebrate Mass at 11:00 am on December 17, 2017 for

deceased members of our branch. The election of officers for 2018 will be held at this annual meeting following the Mass. Also on the agenda is the election of delegates for the 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Mass and annual meeting will be held at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will be holding our semi-annual meeting on Monday, December 4, 2017, at 6:30PM at the VFW on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. The meeting will include a celebration of Christmas and a review of the annual audit. Also we will have election of officers for 2018. We will begin discussion about delegates for the next National Convention in August of 2018, as well. All members are invited to attend. Please join us and become involved in your branch and its future.

Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officers' Reports, a 2017 financial report, approval of the 2018 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of 2018 Branch Officers and the election of 2018 Convention Delegates in advance of the 2018 FCSU National Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH, will also take place.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

The annual meeting will follow the Slovak Mass in the Church Social Hall.

Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members.

Members who need policy assistance in regards to a change of address or to change a beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620.

I can also provide you a no obligation quote for insurance coverage for any family member including grandchildren with just a birth date.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at AMICIS RISTORANTE, 1700 W. Elizabeth Avenue in Linden, NJ at 3:30pm. The agenda will include election of officers, as well as discussion of plans for next year's activities, including election of Convention delegates. A Christmas holiday dinner will follow the meeting. Please call Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by December 1st if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 754 – ELYRIA, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 754K Elyria, OH and Branch 228K Lorain, OH. All members of Branch 754K will now hold membership in Branch 228K.

This merger has taken place as of October 11, 2017.

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

LISA ANN TRIFILETTI-PALOS
1736 URBAN CIR S
LORAIN, OH 44053-3306
(440) 960-2111

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

On Sunday Dec 10, 2017, the annual meeting for Jednota Branch 785 will be held at 2:30PM, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall.

Address: 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario.

At this meeting the election of Officers for the Branch will be held, as well election of delegates to the upcoming National Convention in August 2018.

Lunch will be available, please RSVP to Milan Zoldak 647-350-0604

Regards,

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2017, at 10.30 am. It will be held in the Hospitality Room of the St. Joseph School, 811 East Oliver Street, Owosso, MI. We're still looking for additional officers. After a short meeting, we'll go to The Knights of Columbus Center for a Chicken Dinner, at 12:00 NOON. I will reimburse for the cost, for the first 12 members.

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

Stephan J. Patoprsty, President

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold its next meeting on December 10, 2017, at the home of Rosemary Heald, 379 Quarry Lane, NE, Warren, OH, 44483. The meeting will start at 4:00PM, with election of branch officers and a discussion of the February 2018 Feast Day Dinner at the church on the agenda. For more information, contact William Hrusovsky at 330-372-1948 or at hrusovskyy@embarqmail.com.

William Hrusovsky, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 777 – BEDFORD, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 777K Cleveland, OH and Branch 024K Cleveland, OH. All members of Branch 777K will now hold membership in Branch 024K. This merger has taken place as of October 04, 2017. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact:

DAVID A LANG
19425 VAN AKEN BLVD
APT 207
SHAKER HEIGHTS, OH
44122-3516
(216) 751-7010

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCHES 784 AND 810 – MONTREAL, QUEBEC

Both branches will hold their annual meeting on November 5, 2017, following the 11 o'clock Mass. This Mass is for the deceased members of Branch 784 in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Montreal.

On the agenda, plans for the next season, along with the election of officers for 2018.

A light lunch will be served. Please contact any of the officers to let us know if you plan to attend.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

On Sunday Dec 10, 2017, the annual meeting for Jednota Branch 785 will be held at 2:30pm, at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. Address: 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario.

At this meeting the election of Officers for the branch will be held, as well election of delegates to the upcoming National Convention in August 2018.

Lunch will be available; please RSVP to Milan Zoldak 647-350-0604

Regards,

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 796 will have its annual meeting November 12, 2017. Meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, located at 4102 South Church St. Egypt, PA 18052. Meeting will be held in the basement at 1 pm.

Meeting agenda will cover Election of Branch Officers for 2018, as well as discussion for delegates for the upcoming Convention, slated for August 2018, in Cleveland OH. Also, discussion for the upcoming District 8 meeting to held in the spring of 2018.

Our Branch 796 has merged with Allentown Branch 567. We encourage all members from both Branches to attend and are welcomed to the meeting.

Concluding the meeting, we will enjoy the fraternalism of Sokol Assembly 255, and enjoy some delicious

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District 2 Decorates Slovak Christmas Tree at Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry Christmas Around The World 2017 Exhibit

District 2, the Rev John J. Spitkovsky District is preparing for its 22nd year of decorating the Slovak Christmas tree for Chicago's Museum of Science & Industry Christmas Around the World Exhibit. A tradition since 1942, the Museum's exhibit features (55) Christmas trees from around the world. The exhibit runs from November 18, 2017, through January 7, 2018. The Museum of Science & Industry has a mission of "Inspiring the Next Generation of Innovators". To partner with the museum, our decorating committee from Branch 706 and Branch 6 has upgraded many items and ornaments to help inspire our children. Some of the changes included: newly updated nativity scene case, new Slovak traditional candy ornaments, spectacular new garland, ornaments depicting the famous castles of Slovakia and a host of ornaments that pay tribute to our Slovak Inventors. We are in the completion stages of ornaments honoring the following famous Slovak Inventors & Engineers:

Ján Bahýľ, invented and patented the helicopter in 1895 which flew 14' high in 1905. He also had 16 additional patents.

Štefan Banič, patented the parachute in 1913 and successfully demonstrated the parachute in Washington DC. He donated his patent to the US Army.

Ivan A Getting, was a Physicist & Engineer who helped develop GPS. Ivan was also head of Radar R & D for the US Dept.



A depiction of Bojnice Castle, a 12th century medieval castle in Bojnice, Slovakia, and one of the most visited castles in Slovakia that also serves as a popular filming stage for fantasy and fairy-tale movies.

of Defense and the founder of the Aerospace Corp.

Jozef Murgaš, helped develop mobile communications and wireless transmission of the human voice. He had 15 radio patents and was nicknamed "The Radio Priest".

We are very proud to add these additions to our Slovak Christmas tree. In keeping with Slovak heritage these new additions will surely add to the excitement at the Museum. This year we changed out all our flicker candle light bulbs, real traditional candles are not allowed for obvious reasons! If you're in Chicago during the holiday season, please stop by the Museum of Science and Industry to see our Slovak tree. At Branch 706 and Branch 6 we are always looking for new suggestions and donations for our tree and to keep our Slovak heritage tradition & inspire our next generation of inventors.

- Submitted by Mark Fayta, Branch 706 President



Two of over 30 pieces of handmade candy replicas.

A depiction of Bratislava Castle, the main castle of Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia that stands directly above the Danube River as a dominant feature of the city for centuries.



The ornaments, which have the GPS coordinates of the Museum and also of Bratislava, are part of the museum's inventions display.



The newly upgraded nativity scene, handmade in 2002 in Slovakia.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Slovak foods.

Any questions or concerns feel free to contact Monica Fabian at 610-417-0468.

Fraternally,

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its Annual Meeting on November 18, 2017, at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Meeting will start at 11:00 AM with agenda as follows: Membership Drive with focus on benefits cherished from FCSU, Financial Report, election of Branch 844 officers for 2018 as well as the Branch Convention Delegate for the 2018 FCSU National Convention.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 11am at Regos Restaurant in Charleroi, PA. All members attending will be treated to lunch. Non-branch members cost of the lunch will be \$16. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at 412-341-1577 with your name, phone number, and how many branch, and non-branch members will be

attending.

Along with celebrating the birth of Our Lord, we will hold a meeting after lunch. Election will take place for the branch officers for 2018 as well as the election of delegates for the 2018 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU.

The Convention will be held in Cleveland, OH, from Saturday August 4th through Wednesday August 8th, 2018, at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown Hotel.

Branch 853 extends to all, wishes for a safe, happy and Holy Christmas Season.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention all Branch 853 members:

Branch 853 members who are paying for an education program are eligible for the yearly Branch Educational Stipend.

If you are interested in receiving an application, please email FCSUBRANCH853@gmail.com with your request or mail for an application for the stipend at Branch 853 Educational Stipend, 2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. All requirements for the stipend must be fulfilled and provided by the applicant and be submitted by mail.

Stipend will not be greater than the cost of the course.

Branch 853 encourages all types of educational enrichment to apply for the stipend - from formal

classroom costs to adult fun enrichment classes (i.e. - cooking classes, yoga classes, or other types of fun learning).

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

The meeting will be held at 1:30PM at St. Charles Borromeo Church Parish Activity Center [Borromeo Room], 5891 Ridge Road; Parma, Ohio 44129.

The agenda includes the election of officers and discussion of activities for 2018. The election of delegates and alternates will also be held at this meeting. Anyone interested in serving as a delegate or alternate, please contact Linda at 440-886-0206 prior to the meeting.

Please contact Linda Kolesar at 440-886-0206 by November 24, 2017, if you plan to attend.

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 will hold an officer's and general meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 2:00PM at the residence of Branch Financial Secretary Michael Kolesar at 7917 Whitehaven Drive, Parma, OH, 44129. The agenda includes a discussion of the upcoming 2018 Convention and a newly elected officer orientation, and development of a strategic plan for the Branch.

Fraternally,

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 857 - LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2017. The meeting will be held at 7:30PM at 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, PA. At that meeting there will be the election of officers for 2018 as well as the election of delegates to the 2018 Convention.

Fraternally,

Damian D Nasta, Recording Secretary

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

Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion



Branch 6 Helps Support Local School

The St. Stephen's Society, Branch 6, in Streator, IL, recently donated \$200 to St. Michael's the Archangel School for the purpose of upgrading student computer programs.



Branch 853's Charles Boone Helps Hurricane Animal Victims

Charles Boone, Branch 853, believes in helping others. As he watched the horrific hurricane destruction of the south, Charles saw that the Allegheny County Police Headquarters, in conjunction with the local Pittsburgh animal shelters was collecting items for the pet victims of the hurricanes.

Charles knew he had to do something. So it began. He used his paycheck and bought cleaning supplies and an array of other needed items for the animals. He looked around the house for towels and blankets which weren't being used at home. Then the marathon week of crocheting pet beds began. During that time, Charles enlisted his mother, Monica Rodacy Boone, to help. They used dozens of skeins of yarn, every ounce of yarn they had - and they crocheted. When the week was done, they finished 43 beds.

Charles is a senior at Keystone Oaks High School. He is the son of Monica Rodacy Boone and Ron Boone of Dormont, Pennsylvania. All are Branch 853 members.

Thank you Charles for doing so much to help the animal victims of the hurricanes.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853

News From Slovakia

Britain's Prince Edward to Visit Slovakia in November

Bratislava, October 22 (TASR) - Britain's Prince Edward, the youngest of the four children of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, is set to visit Slovakia for the first time in early November.

Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, will present awards to more than 50 Slovak pupils who have successfully completed the DofE educational program, which is aimed at young people who set an objective and then meet the goal step by step under the guidance of an adult tutor.

As part of his visit to Slovakia the Earl of Wessex, 53, is set to hold talks with Slovak President Andrej Kiska on why the elite should help young people to achieve their goals. In addition, he'll hold discussions with students and teachers from all over Slovakia who have participated in the DofE program.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was founded in the UK in 1956 by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who has been its patron since then. As many as 1.3 million young people ages 14-24 from 140 countries participate every year.

The DofE's National Office in Slovakia has been in operation for two years. There are currently more than 1,000 young people, 600 volunteers and more than 150 secondary schools and institutions involved in the program in Slovakia.

Prince Edward also took part in the program when he was young.

Record Number of Investors Means Good Business Environment in Slovakia

Nitra, October 21 (TASR) - A record number of investors is coming to Slovakia, a fact thanks to which the unemployment rate has been decreasing in the country and the real salaries are forced to go up, stated Economy Minister Peter Ziga at a governing Smer-SD party conference, which took place in Nitra on this date.

According to Ziga, the investors' interest proves that Slovakia has a good business environment. "It has been proven by the fact that new investments make up 50 percent, while another 50 percent are companies that want to expand their business in Slovakia. The fact that we have a suitable business environment here is also proven by the arrival of such investors as Amazon, who came without any state support," said Ziga.

The economy minister went on to say that the Government has prepared several measures aimed at simplifying the life of companies and employers. These include, for example, reducing red tape, prolonging the deadline on registering new employees and monitoring the effectiveness of certain laws.

Furthermore, the Government also wants to deal with the implementation of various EU regulations. "It's often the case that much stricter rules are being introduced in the country than it's imposed by the EU. We'll address this issue and make sure that our rules aren't more complicated than European legislation," said Ziga.

Upcoming Events at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH

The United Slovak Societies at the American Slovak Club located at 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain, OH, 44055 will host the following events:

Stedry Vecer, Traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Dinner

Sunday December 3rd 5:30p.m.

cocktails, 6:00p.m. dinner

Entertainment by Ed Klimczak

Advanced Tickets only \$20 the event is open to the public, cash bar

Contact Len Zilko at 440/988-3236



Save the Date and stay tuned for further details

Silvester Steak Fry

Sunday December 31st 5-9p.m.

The United Slovak Societies is comprised of the members of the local lodges in Lorain OH.

These Lodges include; St. Ann's Branch #114 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, St. John the Baptist Lodge #228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, National Slovak Society Assembly 160, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111 and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union Branch #77.

- Submitted by Michèle S. Mager

Member, FCSU Branch 228

Secretary, United Slovak Societies

Member, Board of Directors, American Slovak Club

Správy zo Slovenska

TASR prehlbuje spoluprácu s nemeckou agentúrou DPA

Tlačová agentúra (TA) SR rozširuje spoluprácu s nemeckou agentúrou DPA. Okrem textových správ tak bude pre klientov prinášať aj fotografie z tejto agentúry. Projekt je v testovacej fáze. Potvrdil to generálny riaditeľ TASR Vladimír Puchala. „V intenciách môjho projektu posilňujeme spoluprácu so silným a dôveryhodným partnerom. Ide o recipročný proces spolupráce, keďže DPA bude odoberať naše fotografie, s dôrazom na politické udalosti a zahraničné investície. Chceme obohatiť servis o fotografie z európskej scény, prioritou sú špičkové športové udalosti či politické témy,“ uviedol Puchala.

Podľa každoročného prieskumu, ktorý zastrešuje Európska aliancia tlačových agentúr (EANA), je Deutsche Presse Agentur (DPA) najväčšia nemecká agentúra. Zamestnáva 1200 ľudí a jej ročný obrat je 133 miliónov eur.

Cesta medzi Bratislavou a Košicami sa skráti

Železnice si požívajú desať nových rušňov. Ešte tento rok bude môcť štátna Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko využívať nové elektrické rušne Vectron od nemeckej spoločnosti Siemens. Prenajímať si ich bude od lízinguovej spoločnosti S Rail Lease. Železničná spoločnosť si požičiava desať rušňov na desať rokov a vrátane údržby za ne zaplatí 58,7 milióna eur.

Slovensko pri vlakoch zaostáva za Európou

Slovenský cestujúci využije vlak podľa Európskej rady pre výskum železníc ERRAC podľa prognózy na rok 2020 priemerne šesťkrát ročne, lídrom v Európe je Švajčiarsko, kde sa každý obyvateľ odvieze vlakom 47-krát ročne. Po zavedení bezplatného cestovného vzrástol priemerný počet jízdy vlakom na Slovensku na 12,8. Najvyťaženejší vlak ide z Humenného cez Košice do českej Prahy. Stúpa vyťaženosť nočných spojov s lôžkovými a ležadlovými vozňami.

Krajiny V4 plnia vodcovskú úlohu v otázke rozširovania EÚ

Krajiny Vyšehradskej štvorky (V4) plnia vodcovskú úlohu v otázke rozširovania Európskej únie. Na budapešťanskom zasadnutí ministrov zahraničných vecí krajín V4 a západného Balkánu to nedávno povedal štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Ivan Korčok. Informovala o tom agentúra MTI. Korčok zdôraznil, že otázka rozširovania sa nesmie dostať na perifériu záujmu Únie. Členské krajiny V4 zaručujú, že štáty západného Balkánu budú vždy súčasťou Európy. Na stretnutí organizovanom maďarským predsedom vo V4 boli prítomní aj zástupcovia Estónska ako predsedajúcej krajiny v Rade EÚ, Bulharska, Rumunska, Slovinska a Západobalkánskeho fondu.

Slovenský výtvarník Roman Ondák vystavuje v múzeu umenia v Paríži

Slovenský výtvarník Roman Ondák je jedným z umelcov, ktorý vystavuje svoje diela v parížskom múzeu umenia Nadácie Louisa Vuittona. Výstavu s názvom Being Modern: MoMA in Paris otvorili v októbri pre verejnosť, ktorá môže obdivovať výnimočnú kolekciu 200 známych aj menej známych diel z newyorského Múzea moderného umenia (MoMA). Práce Romana Ondáka sa tak ocitli medzi dielami takých veľikánov ako Pablo Picasso, Paul Cézanne, Gustav Klimt, René Magritte, Willem de Kooning či Jasper Johns. Návštevníci majú možnosť vidieť aj po prvý raz vo Francúzsku vystavované Warholove obrazy konzerv Campbellových polievok. Slovenský výtvarník často zahŕňa do svojich diel verejnosť a do Európy teraz prináša svoju široko oceňovanú inštaláciu Measuring the Universe.

Michal Kováč mladší na výsluchu pre 25 rokov starú kauzu

Michal Kováč mladší sa ocitol na výsluchu pre 25 rokov starú kauzu Technopol. Ústavný súd SR totiž zrušil amnestie aj milosť bývalého prezidenta SR Michala Kováča. Zrušením amnestii sa obnovilo konanie prípadu spreneverenia 2,3 milióna dolárov fiktívnou transakciou z roku 1992, v ktorom bol Kováč ml. v roku 2000 definitívne oslobodený súdom v Nemecku. Michal Kováč mladší musí celú kauzu opäť vysvetľovať. Už sa podrobil výsluchu na slovenskej prokuratúre, kde sa rozhodne, či prípad pôjde k súdu.

Na slovenské diaľnice čakajú aj v Európe

V Európe sa tovar najčastejšie prepravuje po ceste. Vyplýva to z údajov Eurostatu, podľa ktorých tvorí cestná preprava až 75 percent z celej nákladnej dopravy. Platí to aj pre Slovensko. Trend je pritom taký, že celkové množstvo nákladu, ktorý putuje po slovenských cestách, sa každý rok zvyšuje. Ozajstný nápor Slovensko však čaká až po dobudovaní celej cestnej siete. Počíta sa s tým, že Slovensko sa stane súčasťou viacerých medzinárodných koridorov.

Vo Viedni zadržali Slováka, ktorý prepichol pneumatiky 8 automobilov

Rakúska polícia zadržala v druhej polovici októbra vo Viedni dvoch mužov, ktorí poškodili celkovo 44 zaparkovaných motorových vozidiel. Informácie priniesla tlačová agentúra APA s odvolaním sa na policajné zdroje. Podľa nich bol jedným zo zadržaných 35-ročný slovenský občan, ktorý v štvrti Penzing prepichol pneumatiky ôsmich automobilov. Činil tak kuchynským nožom, ktorý muži zákona zaistili. Ďalší 37-ročný zadržaný je rakúskym občanom a v podnapitom stave poškodil kopaním najmenej 36 vozidiel zaparkovaných v štvrti Brigittenau.

V Žilinskej pôrodnici som rodila na WC

V Žilinskej pôrodnici hovorí o problémovom pôrode pacientka. Personál Fakultnej nemocnice s poliklinikou v Žiline ju samu poslal vykonať pred pôrodom hygienické úkony. Zúfalý krik pacientky nik nepočul. Dieťa nakoniec sama porodila. Pacientka je rozhodnutá podať podnet na Úrad pre dohľad nad zdravotnou starostlivosťou.

Šoféri opatrovateliek driemu

Bývalá opatrovatelka z Prešova pracujúca v Rakúsku Angelika Horňáková povedala, že agentúry, ktoré sprostredkujú prácu v zahraničí, často zneužívajú svoje postavenie. Klientky agentúram platia zbytočné poplatky a vodičov zasa núti jazdiť takmer bez prestávok. Ľudia sa podľa nej boja sťažovať zo strachu o prácu.

Šarišská Imuna má top biznis. Onkolieky pre USA

Farmaceutická spoločnosť Imuna Pharm Šarišské Michaľany rozbieha spoluprácu s americkým špecialistom na onkológiu Athenex Incorporation. Výrobcovi liečiv z portfólia košických podnikateľov Juraja Kamarása a Ladislava Krajňáka sa otvára cesta na lukratívny zámorský trh. Východniari budú pre nemocnice v Spojených štátoch amerických dodávať špeciálne infúzne roztoky. Od začiatku roka Američania vykonávali kontrolu výrobných podmienok a kvality. Všetky lieky, ktoré vstupujú na americký trh, preveruje federálna agentúra U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Vydražte si lacnejší plyn

Historicky prvá aukcia cien plynu sa na Slovensku uskutoční 3. novembra 2017. V iných krajinách si ľudia bežne dokážu vydražiť lacnejšiu cenu plynu. Aukcia funguje na princípe hromadných zliav. Čím viac spotrebiteľov sa do aukcie prihlási, tým bude výsledná cena od dodávateľa nižšia.

O koľko zvýšia dôchodky

Parlament len nedávno schválil návrh, aby sa niektoré penzie priznané pred rokom 2004 prepočítali, a teraz rozhoduje o tom, ako sa všetky dôchodky budú valorizovať, ako si penzisti polepšia, čo sa pre jednotlivé skupiny poberateľov dôchodkov zmení a koľko im pridajú. Vianočný príspevok tento rok dostane každý, kto má dôchodok, alebo dôchodky do sumy 547,20 eura mesačne.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Ženské rehole na Slovensku



Sestry božského vykupiteľa.



Premonštrátky na seminári.

Na stránkach Jednoty mali čitatelia možnosť oboznámiť sa s mužskými rehoľami a kláštorami na Slovensku. Možno povedať, že bok po boku s nimi, takmer paralelne, začali vznikať aj ženské rehole, činnosť ktorých bola do istej miery odlišná od mužských.

Názvy niektorých sú odvodené od mužských. Všimnime si, kde všade majú svoje domovy a kláštory na Slovensku.

Františkanky (podľa zakladateľa sv.

Františka z Assisi), ktoré majú kláštor v Bratislave

Milosrdné sestry podľa zakladateľa sv. Vincenta – vincentky (podľa zakladateľa sv. Vincenta) majú sídlo v Ružomberku

Satmárky. Spoločnosť založil satmársky biskup Ján Hám v duchu sv. Vincenta de Paul. Do Bratislavy prišli v roku 1857.

Dominikanky blahoslavenej Imeldy (podľa zakladateľa Dominika Guzmána) majú kláštor v Bratislave

Premónštrátky (názov podľa mesta Premontre) sa nachádzajú v Trnave a vo Vrbovom

Sestry sv. Alžbety – alžbetinky (názov podľa zakladateľky sv. Alžbety) sa ubytovali v Bratislave

Sestry sv. Uršule – uršulinky (podľa zakladateľky sv. Uršuly) nájdeme v Bratislave

Sestry sv. Bazila Veľkého – bazilianky (podľa sv. Bazila) so sídlom v Prešove

Terciárky sv. Rodiny sú doma vo Zvolene

Sestry kapucínok najsv. Srdca Ježišovho – kapucínky sa usadili v Rohožníku a v Bratislave

Karmelitanky Preblahoslavenej Panny Márie – bosé – (podľa pohoria Karmel v Palestíne)

nájdeme v Detve a v Košiciach

Klarisky našli svoj domov v kláštore v Kremnici

Redemptoristky (podľa hebrejského Joachánán) sú v Kežmarku

Niektoré rehole majú pomenovanie podľa náboženských symbolov ako: Svätý Kríž, Božský

Vykupiteľ, Najsvätejší Spasiteľ, Duch svätý, Panna Mária, Cyril a Metod, apoštol... napr.:

Sestry božského Vykupiteľa v Spišskej Novej Vsi

Milosrdné sestry Sv. Kríža v Trnave

Sestry najsvätejšieho Spasiteľa v Bratislave

Iné majú pomenovania vyjadrujúce ich konkrétne aktivity ako:

Školské sestry sv. Františka v Žiline a v Novom Meste nad Váhom

Sociálne sestry v Košiciach

V období I. a II. ČSR pracovali ako zdravotné sestry v nemocniciach, ako ošetrovatelky v ústavoch pre telesne a duševne postihnutých, ako odborné učiteľky na školách, a vychovávateľky v internátoch...

Zlom v tejto ich činnosti nastal po zániku demokracie v Československu a nastolení totalitného socialistického štátu, ktorému aktivity rehoľných sestier boli v rozpore s jeho politickým programom, a preto boli zrušené. Po Barbarskej noci z 13. na 14. apríla 1950 nasledovala akcia „R“ 28. – 31. augusta 1950, kedy bolo násilne vyvezených 1962 rehoľných sestier a umiestnených v rôznych kláštoroch v bývalej ČSR. Niektoré z nich mladšie, zdravé a schopné telesnej práce, boli rozmiestňované na poľnohospodárskych usadlostiach, štátnych majetkoch, a pracovali ako chovateľky a ošetrovatelky hospodárskych zvierat alebo v rastlinnej a živočíšnej výrobe, či v závodných jedálňach, kde pracovali ako kuchárky alebo ich pomocníčky. Boli izolované od kostolov a znemožňoval sa im výkon náboženských obrádov.

Tento neblahý stav trval až do zániku totalitného socialistického štátu (1991), do rehabilitácie rehoľí a obnovenia ich činnosti. V súčasnosti už rehoľné sestry, ľudovo nazývané mnišky, nepracujú v nemocniciach a v ústavoch pre mentálne a duševne postihnutých, ale sa venujú výchovno-vzdelávacej činnosti na cirkevných školách, v internátoch, pôsobia v charitatívnej oblasti, v misiách pri šírení kresťanstva v rozvojových krajinách (Afrika, Ázia, Južná Amerika, Čína...) často aj v obtiažnych podmienkach.

Na Slovensku pôsobi pomerne veľa ženských rehoľí. Rehoľníčky môžeme stretnúť v mnohých mestách, ale aj vo viacerých obciach. Líšia sa od sebe farbou odevu, jeho časťami alebo doplnkami. Podobne ako mníši aj ony sa zriekli svetského spôsobu života zasvätiac ho Bohu. Žijú v pokore, cnosti a skromnosti.

Ich počet (okolo 50) poukazuje na skutočnosť, že katolícka cirkev na Slovensku, najpočetnejšia spomedzi ostatných, má u nás silné zázemie, dobré pozície a podmienky aj pre rehoľníctvo.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliac

Slovenská ekonomika od vstupu do EÚ vzrástla o 60 %

Slovenská ekonomika od vstupu do EÚ vzrástla o 60 %. Uviedol to 16. októbra na brífingu na Ekonomickej univerzite v Bratislave (EUBA) podpredseda Európskej komisie (EK) pre Energetickú úniu Maroš Šefčovič, za účasti rektora EUBA Ferdinanda Daňa, v rámci konferencie „60 rokov európskej integrácie: úspechy a výzvy“.

Pripomenul, že Slovensko je mimoriadne priemyselná krajina, ktorá väčšinu produkcie vyváža do krajín EÚ. „Pomohla by preto lepšia spolupráca napríklad v oblasti boja proti daňovým únikom, karuselovým podvodom, či rôznemu zneužívaniu cezhraničnej spolupráce,“ zdôraznil. Odstránenie týchto neuhov by podľa jeho slov bolo na prospech ako ekonomike SR, tak aj ekonomike EÚ.

„Presadzovanie takejto politiky vytvára pre našich absolventov väčšie príležitosti a možnosti uplatniť sa nielen na slovenskom, ale aj na celoeurópskom trhu práce. Pokiaľ by dochádzalo k približovaniu a vytváraniu jednotlivých politík, nám to vytvorí priestor na to, aby sme v spolupráci s inými, možno zahraničnými vysokými školami dokázali pripraviť študijné programy pre študentov tak, aby tí boli schopní pracovať v celoeurópskom priestore,“ doplnil Daňo.

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Galavečer súboru Lúčina v Parma, OH

Slovenský folklórny súbor Lúčina usporiada v **sobotu 11. novembra** galavečer pod názvom *Večer v srdci Európy*. Podujatie bude v Holy Spirit Party Center, 5500 W. 54th Street v Parma, OH. Začiatok bude 6.00 hodine, o 6.30 hod. bude podávaná večera a kultúrny program začne o 7.30 hodine. V kultúrnom programe sa predstavia: folklórny súbor Lúčina a detský súbor Lúčinka z Cleveland, OH, tanečný súbor Domovina z Windsor, Ontario, CN. Vstupné je \$50.00 za osobu, \$360 za stôl pre osem ľudí a \$40.00 za mládež do 21 rokov. V cene je započítaná večera, dezert a nápoje. Nakoľko je počet osôb limitovaný na 250, lístky sú k dispozícii len v predpredaji. Pri dverách na predaj nebudú. Rezervácie vstupeniek: Tom Ivanec, tel. č.: 440-668-7797, alebo Miriam Visnovsky, tel. č.: 440-638-9921. Počas večera bude hrať hudba - DJ Denis.

Výročná schôdza okresu Princa Pribinu - Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať výročnú schôdzu v **sobotu 18. novembra 2017**. Výročná schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe sú správy funkcionárov a finančná správa, voľba funkcionárov na rok 2018 a delegáta okresu Princ Pribina na Konvenciu FCSU v roku 2018. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučuje sa základným organizáciám v Distrikte FCSU vykonať súčasne výročné voľby.

Paul Skuben, predseda

Ročná schôdza Spolku č. 844 IKSJ v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Oznamujeme členom, že ročná schôdza Spolku č. 844 IKSJ v Los Angeles bude v **sobotu 18. novembra 2017**, v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Schôdza začne o 11:00 hod. Na programe je finančná správa, voľby úradníkov na ďalšie obdobie a plán činnosti na rok 2018 ako aj zvolenie delegáta na Konvenciu IKSJ v roku 2018.

Milan Konkol, tajomník

Ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKS

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v **nedeľu 3. decembra 2017** o 12:00 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo Vás žiadame, o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi. Ďakujem s pozdravom,

Maria Jurasi, pokladníčka

Aktivity v Slovenskej záhrade vo Winter Park, Florida

Slovenská záhrada (SZ) v mestečku Winter Park, v blízkosti Orlanda, je v tomto čase jediným centrom slovenského života vo Floride. Každoročne usporiada niekoľko kultúrnych a spoločenských podujatí, ktoré prilákajú Slovákov aj zo vzdialenejších miest vo Floride, ba aj z iných amerických štátov.

Na **sobotu, 9. decembra** pripraví vedenie SZ bohatú predvianočnú večeru (viliu) s tradičnými štedrovečernými pochúťkami. Začiatok o 2. hod. popoludní. Slovenská záhrada pozýva na tieto podujatia širšiu slovenskú verejnosť, vrátane sezónnych návštevníkov zo „severu“. Informácie o týchto podujatiach a o členstve v SZ možno dostať na tel. č. 407-677-6894, alebo cez e-mail: slovakgarden@centurylink.net

Výročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Krasuľu č. 16

Výročná schôdza okresu Mons.Štefana Krasuľu č. 16 sa bude konať v **nedeľu 10. decembra 2017** na fare Kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 E 66th Street, New York, NY, hneď po slovenskej sv. omši o 10:15. Na programe budú hlásenia spolkov, finančná správa, voľby úradníkov na ďalšie obdobie a plán činnosti na rok 2018. Pozývame všetkých členov spolkov 41, 45 a 716, aby sa zúčastnili tejto schôdze. Zástupcovia iných Okresov sú tiež vítaní. Po schôdzi bude občerstvenie. Slovenská sv. omša o 10:15 bude za Jozefa Bilíka, bývalého predsedu spolku č. 716 FCSU.

Slovenský ples v Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ.

Slovensko-americké kultúrne centrum vás srdečne pozýva na podujatie roka - 25. výročný slovenský ples v **sobotu 10. februára 2018** v The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ. Koktejlová hodina začína o 19.00 hod., po ktorej nasleduje večera a tanec. Živá hudba orchestra Express Band. Organizátori pripravujú zaujímavý program a bohatú tombolu. Vstupenky na tel. číslo 973-357-1209. Bližšie informácie na adrese: slovakamericanc.org

Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka

Jankolova knižnica opäť ponúka tradičné Vianočné oplátky

Tradičné slovenské vianočné oplátky sú opäť k dispozícii túto sviatočnú sezónu od Sestier SS. Cyrila a Metoda v Jankolovej knižnici a Slovenské múzeum v Danville, Pa. Objednávky prijímajú od 23. októbra do 15. decembra 2017. Oplátky stoja \$5.00 za balík. Okrem toho, za manipuláciu a poštovné je \$7.00. Ďalšie informácie sú k dispozícii v Jankolovej knižnici alebo u Sestry Catherine Laboure Bresnock, SS.C.M., riaditeľka tel. 570-275-5606 alebo napíšte do Jankola Library and Slovak Museum, 580 Railroad Street, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

Slovenská spisovateľka Jana Beňová v New Yorku

V piatok 6. októbra 2017 sa v New Yorku uskutočnil večer so slovenskou spisovateľkou Janou Beňovou, víťazkou Ceny Európskej únie za literatúru. Moderátor večera Christopher Harwood, ktorý vyučuje na Českej a Slovenskej sekcii na Columbia University v New Yorku, predstavil publiku J. Beňovú. Úryvok z preloženej knihy za knihu Café Hyena (Plán odprevádzania) čítala herečka slovenského pôvodu Katarína Vizina. Spisovateľka J. Beňová odpovedala na otázky publika. Spoluorganizátormi večera boli Delegácia Európskej únie pri OSN v New Yorku, Generálny konzulát Estónska (súčasná predsedníčka krajina EÚ) a Generálny konzulát SR v New Yorku.

MZV SR



Úvahy o rozširovaní V4 len svedčia o jej sile

To, že sa v Rakúsku po voľbách opätovne hovorí o chuti pridať sa k Vyšehradskej štvorke (V4), len svedčí o sile tohto zoskupenia a ukazuje, že V4 ide „správnu cestou“. Myslí si to slovenský premiér Robert Fico (Smer-SD), ktorý sa takto vyjadril vo štvrtok, 19. októbra krátko po svojom príchode na zasadnutie Európskej rady v Bruseli.

Predseda vlády SR zároveň zdôraznil, že by nebolo dobré meniť originálnu fungujúcu značku. Do úvahy teda podľa neho pripadá formát V4+, rozhodne však nijaké V5.

„Pokiaľ ide o rozširovanie V4, my chceme zachovať unikátny formát V4, ale sme pripravení ísť do formátu V4+. My sme predsa preukázali množstvami stretnutí, že lídri iných štátov sú pripravení s nami komunikovať. Zostávame ale na formáte V4, maximálne V4+“, odpovedal Fico na otázku o možnom rozšírení V4 o Rakúsko, ktorá zaznela na tlačovom brífingu v Bruseli.

Fico ďalej zdôraznil, že sila a jednota V4 sa prejavila aj na stredajšej (18.10.) pracovnej večeri lídrov V4 s predsedom Európskej komisie (EK) Jeanom-Claudom Junckerom. Tam sa totiž podľa jeho slov ukázalo, že lídri V4 zachovávajú v principiálnych otázkach zahraničnej politiky „absolútne jednotné stanovisko“.

O možnom rozšírení V4 sa v Rakúsku začalo opäť diskutovať po nedeľňajších (15.10.) parlamentných voľbách. Je totiž možné, že predseda víťaznej Rakúskej ľudovej strany (ÖVP) Sebastian Kurz zostaví vládu s euroskeptickou a populistickou Slobodnou stranou Rakúska (FPÖ), ktorej líder Heinz-Christian Strache sa za vstup Rakúska do V4 vyslovil ešte vlni.

TASR

Úroveň digitálnych zručností Slovákov rastie

Slováci potvrdili záujem zdokonaľovať sa v digitálnych zručnostiach. Od minulého leta sa ich len vďaka vzdelávaciemu programu Digitálna garáž, ktorú Google spustil v rámci svojej iniciatívy Pomáhame Slovensku rásť, vyškolilo vyše 27.000. Uviedli to nedávno na stretnutí s novinármi predstaviteľia spoločnosti Google na Slovensku.

Na základe údajov majú najväčší záujem o získanie týchto znalostí ľudia z Bratislavského, Košického a Žilinského kraja. Najsvedomitejšie k štúdiu pristúpili ľudia z Trnavského kraja. Počas jednej návštevy online platformy Digitálna garáž si prezreli najväčší objem študijných materiálov a samotným štúdiom strávili v priemere aj najdlhší čas.

Práve digitálne zručnosti budú v budúcnosti podľa odhadov Európskej komisie vyžadované pri výkone až 90 % pracovných pozícií. S využitím internetu je navyše oveľa jednoduchšie a menej rizikové uskutočniť svoj podnikateľský sen či nájsť odbyt pre svoje produkty. Internet totiž otvára priestor a poskytuje možnosti na podnikanie pre každého. Aj vďaka online sa na Slovensku podarilo oživiť a podporiť mnohé slovenské tradície a remeslá a dostať ich opäť do povedomia verejnosti.

V súčasnosti sa úroveň nezamestnanosti na Slovensku pohybuje okolo 7,6 %, avšak v skupine mladých je až na úrovni 17,6 %. Spoločnosť Google preto vlni v júni spustila vzdelávací program Digitálna garáž, ktorý je súčasťou širšej iniciatívy Pomáhame Slovensku rásť. Tento program zahŕňa online školenia aj prednášky, vďaka ktorým najmä mladí ľudia získajú cenné poznatky o tom, ako funguje napríklad webová analytika, komunikačné nástroje, vyhľadávanie, mobilný marketing a tiež ďalšie vedomosti z oblastí ako online predaj a propagácia.

TASR

Kardinála Korca, ktorý zomrel pred dvomi rokmi si pripomenuli v Bratislave

V deň, kedy sme si pripomenuli dva roky od odchodu do večnosti kardinála Jána Chryzostoma Korca 22. októbra, si túto osobnosť pripomenuli v Bratislave. V Kostole Najsvätejšieho Spasiteľa v Bratislave (u jezuitov) sa konala zádušná svätá omša za kardinála a akadémiu.

V hodinovom programe vystúpil hovorca KBS Martin Kramara, ktorý vo svojom príhovore priblížil poslucháčom osobnosť kardinála a aj jeho veľmi pozitívnu osobnú skúsenosť s ním, keďže bol dva roky na nitrianskom biskupstve jeho osobný tajomník. Akadémia pokračovala čítaním veľmi aktuálnych výberom myšlienok z diel kardinála Korca v podaní nášho popredného recitátora Jozefa Šimonoviča. Po ňom vystúpil Daniel Dián, ktorý predstavil druhé vydanie knihy Jána Chryzostoma Korca O Eucharistii. Hovoril tiež veľmi osobne, spomínal na stretnutia s kardinálom i na to, čím ho na celý život obohatili. V závere Martin Kramara všetkým poďakoval a vyjadril želanie, aby sme na otca kardinála pamätali.



TK KBS

T-Systems je pýchou Slovenska

Rozvoj východo-slovenského regiónu a mesta Košice v oblasti informačno-komunikačných technológií (IKT) bol témou stretnutia prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku s vedením a zamestnancami spoločnosti T-Systems v Košiciach v polovici októbra.

Podľa Kisku je T-Systems pýchou Slovenska. Ako povedal, je to druhý najväčší zamestnávateľ na východnom Slovensku a druhý najväčší IT zamestnávateľ. „Pôsobí v 22 krajinách po celom svete, má viac ako 42.000 zamestnancov. Tu na Slovensku má 4000 zamestnancov. Keď som sa riaditeľ T-Systems pýtal, ako je spokojný na Slovensku v porovnaní s inými krajinami, tak povedal tú vetu, ktorú ako prezident najradšej počúvam, a to, že na Slovensku sú úžasní ľudia a táto pobočka tu na Slovensku patrí medzi najúspešnejšie z celého sveta,“ povedal Kiska.

Ako prezidenta ho príjemne prekvapilo, za čo všetko je 4000 ľudí vo firme zodpovedných. „Sú zodpovední za to, aby napríklad Shell nemal problémy v dodávke, ťažbe nafty, aby Mercedes plynulo vyrábala autá, aby Heineken plynulo vyrábala pivo a ďalšie a ďalšie,“ vysvetlil Kiska.

„Na prístupe tejto spoločnosti k regiónu, na tom, ako myslí na spoluprácu s vysokými školami vidieť, že táto spoločnosť myslí na tento región. Je úlohou aj vlády myslieť na to, aby v tomto regióne pomáhala takýmto zamestnávateľom, aby myslela na školstvo, na zdravotníctvo a na celý život tu v tomto regióne,“ uviedol prezident SR.

Výkonný riaditeľ T-Systems Slovakia Daniel Giebel povedal, že za 11 rokov pôsobenia v Košiciach sa im podarilo vybudovať silnú základňu. „Vyrástli sme z firmy, ktorá začínala s 22 ľuďmi na firmu, ktorá má v súčasnosti viac ako 4000 ľudí. Tak, ako pán prezident povedal, zabezpečujeme kritické služby, ktoré sú kritické pre fungovanie mnohých firiem po celom svete. Práve preto si myslím, že asi ten najsilnejší pocit, ktorý ja osobne mám a myslím si, že ho majú aj členovia môjho tímu, lebo som sa s nimi o tom rozprával, je tá hrdosť, že nám niekto vyjadril uznanie za dobrú prácu, ktorú odvádzame,“ skonštatoval Giebel.

Na otázku, či je ľahké nájsť dostatok kvalifikovaných odborníkov v tomto regióne odpovedal, že vždy sa ich snažia hľadať hlavne v regióne. „Musím priznať, že v súčasnosti je to čoraz náročnejšie, ale aj tak si myslím, že tím ľudí, ktorý tu máme, robí úžasnú prácu, aby k nám pritiahol tých najlepších,“ dodal výkonný riaditeľ T-Systems Slovakia.

TASR

Ocenenie pre Oravskú Polhору v súťaži Dedina roka 2017

V súťaži Dedina roka 2017 zvíťazila najsevernejšia obec Slovenska, Oravská Polhora. Jej starosta Michal Strnál si z rúk ministra životného prostredia SR Lászlóa Sólymosa, generálneho riaditeľa Slovenskej agentúry životného prostredia (SAŽP) Mateja Ovčiarika a ostatných organizátorov súťaže 19. októbra prevzal ocenenie v Kultúrnom dome obce. Slávnostný ceremoniál zorganizovala víťazná obec spolu s SAŽP. Predchádzal mu sprievod pozvaných hostí dedinou spolu s prezentáciou všetkých ocenených obcí.

Víťazná obec preukázala podľa národnej hodnotiacej komisie najkomplexnejšie naplnenie princípov a požiadaviek súťaže v zmysle motto „myslieť dopredu“. „Snažíme sa realizovať množstvo rozvojových projektov pre zlepšovanie kvality života v našej obci. Možno práve to bolo tým zaujímavým, čo oslovilo komisiu,“ povedal starosta. Ako uviedol, v najsevernejšej dedine Slovenska prechováva množstvo unikátnych záležitostí. „Máme veľmi významnú gajdošskú kultúru, ktorá bola zapísaná do Svetového kultúrneho dedičstva Unesco,“ ozrejmil. Pre Strnálu sú však najväčšou devízou obce práve ľudia. „Rodí sa nám tu 60-70 detí ročne, čo je krásne číslo. Toto je pre mňa tým naj v Oravskej Polhore,“ uviedol.

Okrem Oravskej Polhory, ktorá získala právo v budúcom roku reprezentovať Slovenskú republiku v súťaži o 15. Európsku cenu obnovy dediny, si ocenenie prevzalo aj ďalších 12 obcí. „Chcem zagratulovať všetkým, ktorí sa zúčastnili,“ povedal minister Sólymos. Súťaž má podľa jeho slov predovšetkým povzbudiť obyvateľov k aktívnej účasti na rozvoji svojho domova s ohľadom na tradície a ducha dediny. „A hoci víťaz môže byť len jeden, ani snaha ďalších by nemala byť prehliadaná,“ ozrejmil.

Do 9. ročníka súťaže Dedina roka sa zapojilo 20 obcí. Tie si zmerali sily v prezentácii výsledkov dosiahnutých pri ich obnove a rozvoji. Cieľom je prezentácia krás, jedinečnosti a úspechov vidieka a prestíže slovenských obcí.

Súťaž Dedina roka 2017 vyhlásili Ministerstvo životného prostredia SR, SAŽP, Spolok pre obnovu dediny a Združenie miest a obcí Slovenska 21. marca 2017. Záštitu nad aktuálnym ročníkom prevzal minister životného prostredia László Sólymos. Ocenené obce získavajú, okrem vecných cien od vyhlasovateľov súťaže a spolupracujúcich organizácií, aj finančné prostriedky od generálneho partnera viazané na realizáciu projektu pre podporu rozvoja a obnovy obce.

TASR

Minister P. Gajdoš rokoval s americkým veľvyslancom A. Sterlingom

Minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš 13. októbra na pôde rezortu obrany rokoval s veľvyslancom Spojených štátov amerických Adamom Sterlingom. Hovorili o aktuálnych témach vzájomnej spolupráce.

Šéf slovenského rezortu obrany informoval amerického veľvyslanca o strategických dokumentoch, ktoré smerujú do Národnej rady SR. „Záleží nám na tom, aby modernizácia ozbrojených síl bola systémová a systematická a nie na báze ad hoc rozhodnutí. Dlhodobý plán rozvoja predstavuje plán investícií až do roku 2030,“ uviedol Gajdoš.

Témou spoločného stretnutia boli aj výdavky na obranu, minister potvrdil záväzok zo summitov vo Walese a vo Varšave a oboznámil veľvyslanca s navýšením rozpočtu už aj pre budúci rok. Hovorili spolu aj o vyslaní slovenských vojakov do Iraku, ktorí majú na výcvikovú aktivitu odísť ešte v tomto roku. V tejto súvislosti Gajdoš ubezpečil amerického veľvyslanca, že boj proti terorizmu patrí medzi priority Slovenska. Informácie poskytla hovorkyňa rezortu Danka Capáková.

TASR



UK v Bratislave sa umiestnila medzi 2,4 percentami najlepších univerzít sveta

Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave (UK) sa podľa rebríčky CWUR (Center for World University Rankings) zaradila medzi 2,4 percentami najlepších univerzít sveta. V rankingu, ktorý hodnotil 27.700 svetových univerzít, obsadila 658. miesto.

Najlepšou univerzitou v rebríčku sa stala americká Harvardova univerzita, ďalšie dve priečky obsadili tiež americké školy, a to Stanford a Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Na štvrtej priečke je Cambridge, piaty skončil Oxford. UK, ktorá obsadila 658. miesto, sa tak zaradila medzi 2,4 percenta najlepších univerzít sveta. V rebríčku išlo o jediného slovenského zástupcu. Spomedzi českých univerzít najlepšie dopadla Karlova univerzita v Prahe, skončila na 255. mieste.

Hodnotenie prebiehalo na základe ôsmich indikátorov, a to kvality vzdelávania, kvality pedagógov, zamestnania absolventov, publikácií, vplyvu, citácií, dosahu a patentov.

Rebríček CWUR meria kvalitu vzdelávania a prípravy študentov, ako aj kvalitu výskumu, nezávisle od prieskumov a dát dodaných univerzitami. Je jedným z viacerých medzinárodných rebríčkov, ktoré hodnotia univerzity po celom svete. Prvýkrát bol publikovaný v roku 2012.

TASR

Matičné národné slávnosti 2017 tradične i moderne

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

„školu fantázie“ a školu remesiel, pripravila besedy s vydavateľmi kníh, vyhlásila ďalší ročník Matičnej eseje a pripravila matičný futbalový turnaj. V Dome kultúry Matica slovenská inštalovala niekoľko výstav: Vydavateľská činnosť Matice slovenskej, Produkcia tlačiarne Neografia, a. s., Masky a maškary v ľudovej kultúre, Cesta slovenskou Amerikou, Sláva národa hodná je obetí: Dvestoročnica Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana a Predstavuje sa Krajanské múzeum Matice slovenskej.

Program zabezpečilo viac ako 50 folklórnych súborov, ktoré zaplnili priestor Trojičného námestia i City Arény. Krajanské súbory v tomto roku prišli z Chorvátska a Ukrajiny. V sobotu vo večerných hodinách MNS vyvrcholili galaprogramom, v ktorom sa prelínal odkaz minulosti s dôrazom na významné slovenské osobnosti Trnavského kraja, s folklórom i moderným umením. Vzácnymi hosťami podujatia boli činovníci Matice chorvátskej a Matice slovenskej zo Záhrebu, ktorí dostali ocenenia za celoživotnú pronárodnú činnosť a dielo. Počas slávností dostalo priestor i divadlo, a to v podaní hry Jána Palárika: Dobrodružstvo alebo zmierenie pri obžinkoch.

Počas MNS prebiehal aj IX. Národný zraz Mladej Matice, na ktorom krajanskú mládež reprezentovala delegácia mládežníkov z Poľska a Rumunska.

Slávnosti boli aj v tomto roku tradične zakončené službami božími a slávnostnou omšou, po ktorých nasledovalo pietne zhromaždenie pri soche M. R. Štefánika a položenie vencov pri reliéfe Štefana Moysesu.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Graves were decorated for All Souls Day at the historic Saint Rosalia Cemetery in Kosice.



Foto: TASR/Milan Kapusta

Na snímke hroby na cintoríne sv. Rozálie na Sládkovičovej ulici v Košiciach. Cintorín vysvätili v roku 1715 na počesť svätej Rozálie – ochrankyne pred morovou nákazou. Epidémia moru sa rozšírila v Košiciach a okolí v roku 1709. Asi polovica obyvateľstva Košíc podľahla tejto smrteľnej chorobe. Na najstaršom fungujúcom cintoríne sú viaceré staré historické honosné hroby, ktoré doplnili aj novšie hroby.

Slovensko sa pripravuje na Dušičky

Sviatok všetkých svätých a Dušičky

Katolícka cirkev si 1. novembra tradične pripomína prikázaný Sviatok všetkých svätých a 2. novembra Spomienku na všetkých verných zosnulých, ľudovo nazývanú Dušičky. Obidva tieto dni charakterizujú spomienky na tých, čo už nie sú medzi nami, návštevy cintorínov, zapalovanie sviečok na hrobách blízkych a ich zdobenie kvetmi.

Od roku 1994 je 1. november v Slovenskej republike dňom pracovného pokoja. Cirkev a veriaci si v tento deň spomínajú a modlia sa za všetkých svätých, ale aj za našich predkov, ktorí neboli vyhlásení za svätých, ale žili statočným a čestným životom a vedeli sa obetovať za iných. Cirkev oddávna spája s týmto sviatkom nádej na vzkriesenie. Duchovní obvykle pripomínajú, že tento deň má byť dňom radosti a nádeje a nie strachu či smútku.

Na Sviatok všetkých svätých sa okrem sv. omši v kostoloch konajú aj omše a pobožnosti za zosnulých na viacerých cintorínoch.

Sviatok všetkých svätých sa prvýkrát slávil v Ríme 13. mája 609, keď pápež Bonifác IV. prebral od cisára Fokasa pohanský chrám všetkých Bohov, tzv. Panteón a zasvätil ho Panne Márii a všetkým svätým mučeníkom. Neskôr pápež Gregor III. (731-744) zmenil slávenie všetkých svätých z 13. mája na 1. november, keď v Bazilike sv. Petra slávnostne posvätil kaplnku k úcte všetkých svätých.

Na Sviatok všetkých svätých nadväzuje deň Pamiatky všetkých verných zosnulých, známy aj pod názvom Dušičky, ktorý pripadá na 2. novembra. V roku 998 opäť Odilo v benediktínskom kláštore Cluny zaviedol tradíciu 1. novembra večer vyznávať a spievať žalmy za mŕtvych a na druhý deň slúžiť veľkú zádušnú omšu. Tento zvyk sa čoskoro rozšíril v celej západnej cirkvi. Na znak nesmrteľnosti duší a Božieho milosrdenstva sa na cintorínoch zapalujú sviečky.

TASR

Slovenskú republiku zvolili do Rady OSN pre ľudské práva

Slovenskú republiku 16. októbra zvolili počas 72. zasadnutia Valného zhromaždenia OSN v New Yorku za člena Rady OSN pre ľudské práva na obdobie rokov 2018–2020. Informoval o tom Tlačový odbor Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR.

Rada so sídlom v Ženeve je najvýznamnejším ľudskoprávnym orgánom systému OSN, v ktorom je zastúpených 47 štátov volených Valným zhromaždením OSN na základe regionálneho kľúča. Rada rokuje a hlasuje o ľudskoprávnej situácii v krajinách a o ľudskoprávných témach. Prostredníctvom svojich mechanizmov napomáha prevencii konfliktov vo svete. Slovenská republika podporuje ich efektívne a včasné využívanie.

Zvolenie SR do rady je výsledkom aktívneho pôsobenia slovenskej diplomacie, ako aj ocenenie predchádzajúceho členstva Slovenskej republiky v rade v rokoch 2008 – 2011.

Prioritami členstva Slovenskej republiky v rade bude najmä boj proti všetkým formám rasizmu, xenofóbie, aktívna implementácia cieľov udržateľného rozvoja, vrátane podpory práv detí a podpora náboženského vyznania alebo viery a náboženskej tolerancie.

TASR

Matičné národné slávnosti 2017 tradične i moderne

Ambíciu vytvoriť z Matičných národných slávností tradičné, ale i divácky pritažlivé podujatie sa počas druhého septembrového víkendu snažili matičiari naplniť v meste Trnava. Paralelne s Trnavským jarmokom sa v malom slovenskom Ríme usporiadali ďalšie ročník Matičných národných slávností v odkaze duchu Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana.

Slávnostný otvárací program sa uskutočnil 7. septembra 2017 symbolickým sadením matičnej lipky pri pomníku Antona Bernoláka, za účasti významných osobností slovenského kultúrneho a politického života. Akcent vážnosti MNS dostali vďaka dvom vedecky orientovaným podujatiam: konferencii *Slovensko v súradniciach času* a prezentácii vedeckých ústavov a odborných pracovísk na pôde Univerzity sv. Cyrila a Metoda.

Konferenciu pozdravil aj bývalý prezident SR, Ivan Gašparovič, ktorého list adresovaný podujatiu prečítal predseda Trnavského samosprávneho kraja, Tibor Mikuš. Jedným z bodov konferencie boli aj názory osobností slovenského národného života na členstvo SR v EÚ a tiež na činnosť Matice slovenskej v dnešnej dobe.

Pre mládež Matica slovenská pripravila tradičnú

Pokračovanie na str. 19



Lúčnica prvým reprezentantom slovenskej kultúry na pôde OSN v New Yorku

Umelecký súbor Lúčnica nedávno odcestoval na turné do Severnej Ameriky. V rámci neho sa predstaví i na najvýznamnejšom festivale v Latinskej Amerike - Festival Internacional Cervantino, známom aj ako El Cervantino, ktorý sa koná od roku 1972 v meste Guanajuato. Turné po viacerých mexických mestách vyvrcholí dvoma predstaveniami v Mexico City v Palacio de Bellas Artes, kam sa lúčničari vrátia po 44 rokoch. Jedným z vrcholov bude aj spoločné predstavenie súboru s Ballet Folklórico de Mexico.

Folkloristi dostali pozvanie i na oslavu Dňa OSN 24. októbra v New Yorku, kde vystúpia v hlavnej sále Valného zhromaždenia OSN pri príležitosti 72. výročia vzniku tejto inštitúcie. „Lúčnica sa tak stane prvým reprezentantom slovenskej kultúry na pôde OSN od jeho založenia v roku 1945. Tento rok je výnimočný tým, že predsedom Valného zhromaždenia OSN je minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák,“ informovala Štefánia Bartošová.

Po návrate z turné sa legendárny umelecký súbor predstaví slovenským divákom 17. a 18. novembra v bratislavskom Istropolise s reprezentačným programom. Predstavenie zachytáva rozmanité umelecké prejavy bohatej ľudovej tradície v tanci, v hudbe a kroji, od jemných ženských tancov, cez hravé a vtipné, až po temperamentné párové a virtuózne mužské tance.



Folklore ensemble Lucnica received an invitation to perform at the United Nations in New York on October 24, 2017. The group also completed a tour in Mexico.

TASR