



Jednota

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NUMBER 5945

National President's Message

Dear Members,

The Board of Directors held its regularly scheduled Board meeting on September 16-17, 2016 in Middletown, PA. The meeting was at Middletown so that all the Directors could visit and tour the Jednota properties there. Part of the meeting was held at the former Printery building.

An important part of the agenda was an intense discussion questioning if the Society should seek offers to sell all or part of the holdings in Middletown. It was a further discussion of the June, 2016 Board meeting at which time five individual real estate agents representing the two most prominent real estate firms in the Harrisburg/ Middletown area, NAIC/CIR and Landmark made audio/ visual and paper presentations to the Board. Based on these presentations NAIC/CIR was selected to make an in-person presentation to the Board on September 16, 2016 with three agents presenting with 50+ years of experience.

After the presentations, intense questioning and further discussion among the Board Members, without the agents present, the Board moved, seconded and adopted the following motion unanimously.

MOTION

"In its routine examinations the Ohio Insurance Department requires the Society to provide periodic appraisals of its property holdings. The properties at Middletown, PA were appraised by a qualified licensed commercial appraiser in 2008 at \$12,715,000 and 2015 at \$11,660,000.

After presentation to the Board by 5 licensed real estate brokers prominent in the Harrisburg/Middletown area the Board of Directors voted to list all or part of the properties with an as yet unselected broker at asking prices that will at least match or exceed the appraisal."

Any offers must be approved by the Board before any actual sale, but the message was clear.

This decision was not an easy one, and will be second-guessed by some Members, but as President and on behalf of the Board I must give Members the reason behind the decision.

Examinations of Society records shows some dispute as to when the original land was purchased, either 1909 or 1911 or 1914. The original (approximately) 300 acres was purchased by the Society's Officers, not Fr. Furdek himself, although he was the motivating force. The primary purpose was to build a largely self-sustaining orphanage/farm/school to provide for Slovak kids orphaned by mine and industrial accidents common at that time. Why the land in Middletown was chosen is clouded in history.

The Orphanage and other buildings were built. They included a Motherhouse for the nuns of Sts. Cyril and Methodius who staffed the orphanage/school until they moved to Danville, PA several years later.

The Orphanage was dedicated on September 19, 1914. For Fr. Furdek this was the realization of his dream and marked his final accomplishment as the leader of Slovak Catholics in the United States. He died only a few months later in January 1915.

For almost 1,000 years Slovaks were ruled by and under the domination of Hungary. In fact, Slovakia was not even recognized as a separate geographical entity until after WWI when it became part of Czechoslovakia. Previously the territory was known as Upper Hungary.

Slovaks were a subjected minority and in the 1870's the Hungarian Parliament enacted even stricter laws to force "Magarization", among other things, meaning Hungarian was the official language and the Slovak language could not be taught in schools or

used in newspapers.

This was the situation when many Slovaks immigrated to the U.S., up until WWI when the U.S. immigration laws severely restricted Slovak immigration.

This was the environment in the late 1800 and early 1900s when the Slovak language was threatened with extinction. We find this hard to believe in our modern age. The Jednota Printery was built in Middletown to print and publish books in Slovak, not only for here in the U.S. but also for Slovakia. The US became the bastion of the Slovak language and culture in those years.

After WWI the use of Slovak in Czechoslovakia was no longer illegal and gradu-



Andrew M. Rajec

ally the need for the Printery in Middletown was reduced as new generations adopted English as their primary language and the Printery became more of commercial printer. A modern new Printery was built and equipped in 1975. After several years of immense changes in the printing business it was decided to close the Printery in the mid 1990's as it was deemed no longer needed.

The Home Office was in Middletown in the early 1920's and was moved to Cleveland several years later. In the late 1980's the Convention voted between Middletown and Cleveland as to where a new Home Office would be built. In

continued on page 3

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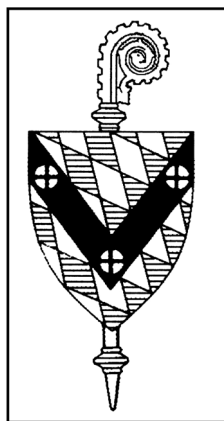
Slovak 21-24



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Insights and Viewpoints



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

October 30, 2016 – Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time
Luke 19: 1-10

The story of Zacchaeus is so easy to picture. A man climbed up a tree to get a look at Jesus, and Jesus saw him, called him down and told him he will stay at his home. This narrative is a beautiful lesson of God's love. One that is important to us as we near the end of this Year of Mercy.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

We are told that Zacchaeus is a tax collector, or in other words, a traitor to his Jewish identity. He had opted to become an agent of the occupying Roman Government, and not to remain faithful to Israel. He would have been considered a sinner and an outcast because of this. On the day that Jesus came to town something prompted him to go and see him. It could have been just curiosity about who this Jesus is, or the prompting of the Spirit to somehow encounter Jesus. Either way, something happened to him that changed the rest of his life.

Jesus saw him and called him to come down. This was no, "Hey you" but rather a very personal call. Jesus knew him by name, and invited himself to stay at his house. We are told that Zacchaeus responded by receiving Jesus with joy. For years Zacchaeus was the outcast and considered a great sinner. There seemed to be no hope of salvation for him, and

now this holy man, wants to come to his house. What a moment of grace and beauty for Zacchaeus when he joyfully received Christ in his home and experienced the love of Christ.

The Pharisees in the Gospel despise Zacchaeus for what he does, despise him for who he is, and despise Jesus for going to his house. Contrary to what Saint Augustine said, "Hate the sin, but love the sinner," there is an attitude today that would have us hate sin and sinner, and even those who associate with the sinner. Often people apply the "guilt by association" approach to those who associate with sinners. When someone visits and spends time with those who are living a life contrary to the Gospel or Church teachings they are often condemned, just as the acts of the sinner, and the sinner are condemned. Jesus shows us the opposite in the Gospel today and throughout the Gospels, he did not avoid tax collectors, adulterers, prostitutes and other sinners, he engaged them with his love and mercy. Yes, he did say at times, "go and sin no more," but only after being present and ministering to them, and giving them the opportunity to repent. Jesus teaches us that an admonition to change is much more effective and has more meaning when it comes from a person who has demonstrated that he truly loves and cares for them.

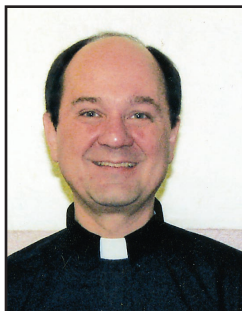
The Gospel is a lesson for us not to be judgmental toward those who associate with those we consider to be sinners, not good Catholics or Christians. We should rather pray for them that their presence might lead those struggling with faith to a deeper understanding of how to live the Gospel. At the Chrism Mass in Rome in 2013, Pope Francis said to the priests, "We need to 'go out to the 'outskirts' where there is suffering, bloodshed, blindness that longs for sight, and prisoners in thrall to many evil masters. Be shepherds, with the 'odour of the sheep. These words very much reflect the Gospel of today. Let us not judge those who have the odor of 'sheep', and let us not be afraid to be with sinners, suffering, and outcasts.

Message from the National Chaplain

This is the second of a two part summary of Pope St. John XXIII's July 1, 1962 encyclical, *Paenitentiam agere* (Doing Penance), which was written to prepare the Church for the Second Vatican Council. What Pope St. John wrote over fifty years ago applies to us today during this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

He tells of two forms of penance that are to be undertaken. Internal penance entails a hatred of sin and a firm resolution to make reparation. This is manifested by those who go to Confession, attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. External penance keeps one's body under the control of reason and faith and, at the same time, makes amends for one's own sins and those of others. It includes accepting from God the hardships, inconveniences and annoyances we face as part of living life each day. No one can escape from this penance, which helps to bring about God's mercy and forgiveness for our sins and special grace for the work of the Council. It also makes us look forward to the heavenly realm of eternal peace and joy.

John also encourages the faithful to come up with voluntary acts of penance on their own and offer them to God. He points out that many saints in the history of the church performed



Rev. Thomas Nasta

acts of mortification and they can serve as inspirations and examples.

A purpose of the upcoming Ecumenical Council, writes Pope St. John, is to render the saving work of our Redeemer more effectively in the world. In order to bring this about, the offering up to God our sorrows and sufferings as well as following Christ's teachings of self-discipline and self-denial is advocated. John believes that everyone doing his or her part in this will make Vatican II, "which is especially concerned with the refurbishing of Christian morality, an outstanding success."

The pope then goes on to encourage his brother bishops not only to do their best in persuading the faithful entrusted to them to do acts of penance, but also lead by their own example. He imagines only good things happening if all Christians were to heed his plea for prayer and self-denial in preparation for the Council. The encyclical concludes with John expressing his hope that, if his brother bishops come to Rome for the Council filled with these spiritual riches, a new era for the Catholic Church throughout the world will begin.

Fr. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain

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.

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WEDNESDAY, NOV 16	MONDAY, NOV 7
WEDNESDAY, DEC 7	MONDAY, NOV 28

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Message from the President

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a close vote Cleveland was selected and the present Home Office was built in Independence, OH.

With the declining need the old Orphanage was closed in 1969. Heavy water damage caused a large hole in the roof and a brick sidewall to collapse.

A fund was started to "save" the Orphanage but raised only approximately \$80,000 of an estimated \$1 million needed to rehab the building. The building was demolished in 1996.

Fr. Furdek passed away in 1915, over 100 years ago. We know what Furdek's dream was 100 year ago. It focused on the Slovak people and their needs, both spiritual and temporal.

Over 100 years have passed and many things have changed. The Slovak immigrants Fr. Furdek knew have passed on and left several generations of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The children of past generations have educations and reached levels of accomplishment Fr. Furdek could only dream of in 1915.

The First Catholic Slovak Union, which he helped found, has also changed, as have all fraternal societies. Since its peak membership in 1965 of about 105,000 it has experienced a slow but steady decline to about 52,000 in 2016. This despite the efforts of several Society administrations since 1965 to stem the tide. In that time however the

financial strength of the Society has risen from a surplus of only \$2.5 million in 1993 to over \$27.5 million in 2016.

Many things have contributed to the decline in membership. Hundreds of Catholic churches have been closed or merged in the past 20 years, including many Slovak churches. These parishes were the lifeblood of the Jednota, where branches held their meetings and multiple events. Several dozens of these Slovak churches were founded with the help of the Jednota.

I do not have to tell you of the decline in membership in the UFW, Eagles, American Legion, etc. Over the years virtually all ethnic fraternal societies have seen the same decline in membership. Younger people are not "joiners" as before. With both spouses working and the exponential rise in organized children's activities these days parents do not have the time.

The composition and size of families has dramatically changed. When our parents or grandparents first came to America most spoke only Slovak. Their friends were mostly Slovaks, they often married Slovaks.

Look at your own family and see the changes over the generations. The point is things change and the FCSU must adapt.

Our Society is Catholic and Slovak. This means that we will always continue our foundation in the Catholic Faith. It also means, it is my intent that we will always honor and treasure the Slovak language and culture and our roots in Slovakia. We will keep our

Slovak connection to Slovakia.

However, incidentals like property can change. We do not know exactly why Middletown, PA was selected as a site to purchase, except that it was available and centrally located in Pennsylvania. There was not a Slovak community there, no coal mines or large steel mills.

The fact that Fr. Furdek was never located in a Slovak parish, (there were half a dozen in Cleveland; he was pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, a Czech parish in Cleveland), perhaps gives some insight to buying land in Middletown, PA.

In the past the Society had many members in the Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Youngstown and Chicago etc. areas (the West) and many members in NY/NJ and Scranton/Allentown etc. areas (the East). Hence, Middletown was a "neutral" site so to speak. Thus, the site would not show favor to a specific region and cause hard feelings.

Today we are licensed in 27 states from Connecticut to Arizona and have members spread across the country.

In September 2015 we held a dedication ceremony of the Memorial on the Jednota Estates grounds attended by most Board Members and about 100 members. The site is permanently dedicated and will contain no less than 3 acres. Pictures have been published in several Jednota editions. This land will never be sold. It will be available for future Jednota events such as picnics, etc. It is located at the road leading up to the old Orphanage. The linden trees planted in Furdek's time lining the road have been retained. The linden tree is the official tree

of Slovakia.

The Board believed that with the commercial real estate market having recovered and with historically low interest rates that it was time to offer the property for sale.

The money raised will enable the Society to compete in the today's extremely competitive insurance market. It will be added to the Society's already impressive surplus for the benefit of all its members, now and for the future.

While the decision has been made to offer the property for sale there is no guarantee that it can be sold at our acceptable price.

Most of the land is presently zoned "residential" or "agricultural".

It must be re-zoned to maximize its value. It is a lengthy process. There are no guarantees.

Over the past 60 years many ideas came and went and much money was spent for plans and consultants and many administrations have served the Society but only two buildings have been built, the Printery in 1975, now functionally obsolete, and Building #2 now almost 30 years old.

History has shown the Society has difficulty making decisions, whether it comes from the diverse geographical location of its members or from the cautious Slovak character.

In any event, the Board has unanimously decided that it is time to seek offers for the Middletown property.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

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SS Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues

Fr. Thomas Nasta, Appeal Coordinator

Thank you to all who have already made a donation to the 2016 Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal, either through your local parish or directly to the Slovak Catholic Federation. As of September 14, the 2016 Appeal has raised \$35,397 from parish collections, as well as from the direct mailing to clergy of Slovak heritage, fraternal branch presidents, and individuals and member bodies of the Federation. This year's Appeal is well on its way to surpassing the \$35,650 raised in 2015.

As many of you know, most of the funds raised in this annual Appeal are sent to the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius to assist with its day to day operations. The College is the residence of priests from Slovakia who are sent to Rome by their bishops for graduate studies. After receiving their degrees, these priests return to their dioceses to work as seminary teachers, Tribunal officials, and in other ministries. Communities of men and women Religious which have a counterpart in the United States represented on the Conference of Slovak Religious are also beneficiaries of the Appeal.

If you have not made your donation to the 38th Annual Appeal, please consider doing so by filling out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated. Again, thank you for your goodness and generosity to the Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal.

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

38th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

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Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Powerball and the Road to Sainthood

You may remember that Powerball fever swept the nation earlier this year because the jackpot reached a whopping \$1.6 billion! Optimistic winner-wannabes stood in line for hours to buy a ticket as the amount kept getting bigger and bigger. The one fact everyone ignored was that the likelihood of winning was incredibly small (though I guess that didn't matter to the three people who wound up splitting the prize).

CBS News reported that you have a higher chance of getting struck by lightning than winning the Powerball. Then, they added another statistic: you have a higher chance at "achieving sainthood" than winning the Powerball billion. It's likely that CBS meant being canonized a saint, like we saw with Mother Teresa recently. But sainthood in general is far more achievable than winning the lottery because it's not a game of luck; there's actually choice involved, along with a good helping of God's grace.

As All Saints Day approaches, it's a good time to remember what we Catholics believe about the afterlife: namely, that people who've died and made it to heaven are considered saints. All of them, not just the ones who are publicly canonized. That means your mom, dad, grandma or grandpa could be a saint right now and praying for you to join them some day.

While TV and movies have often led us to believe that people become angels when they die, that's more of an entertaining storytelling device than actual theology. Angels are actually spiritual beings directly created by God. Sainthood, on the other hand, is a state toward which everyone can strive.

In a broad sense, that road to sainthood comes down to the way Jesus sums up the law of God in Mark 12:28-31: "One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, he asked Him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.'"

In other words, both faith and action are needed. They may not always be easy to live out, but nurturing a relationship with God through prayer and other means can help us along the way. And if we keep our eyes open, the grace we need will likely be there to help us, too. No canonized saint was ever perfect, and we'll never be perfect either. But when saints fall, they realize their mistake, atone for their sin, and move forward in the right direction.

For instance, there's St. Paul, who was responsible for the murder of many early Christians before his dramatic conversion experience on the road to Damascus. And St. Augustine of Hippo led a life of arrogant pride and immorality before offering his mind, heart and soul to God, thanks in part to the Letters of St. Paul and the prayers of his mother, St. Monica.

So if you plan on standing in line to buy a lottery ticket at some point, feel free. But also remember to turn your mind to the more achievable goal of sainthood. As the old saying goes, "The pay may not be much, but the retirement plan is out of this world."

Christmas Oplatky – 2016



Oplatky, the traditional Slovak Christmas wafers, will be available this holiday season from Jankola Library. Orders will be accepted from October 24 until December 16, 2016.

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 \$6.00 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.

Useful Websites

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| www.travelguide.sk | Hotel and Spa Guide |
| kosice.region.sk | Kosice-City Travel Guide |
| www.slovakia.org | Bratislava-Information about the City |
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| www.tatry.net | Complete Information on Tatra Region |
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| www.snm.sk | Slovak National Museum |
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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 both All Saints and All Souls Day, Nov 1 - 2.

Thank you for keeping the tradition alive.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Rev. Thomas A. Nasta | Chaplain |
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Mary, Queen of the Rosary

Editor's note: As October is dedicated to Mary, Jednota is running the following reprisal of a beautiful 2011 submission by Sister Maria Theresa Hronec

October is uniquely Mary's month as we honor her – Queen of the Rosary. One of my favorite hymns is "O Mária Ružencová" (Mary of the Rosary). This is my choice for prayerful review this month.

With this hymn, I am sure, many of us have fond memories. I love to recall my own acceptance as a First Communicant, into the Rosary Society of Holy Trinity Parish in Gary Indiana.

In the opening verse, we call on Mary as Mother of Jesus and our Mother, to hear and grant us the gifts of God's love and mercy. We go on to recall how through Saint Dominic, we received this gift of Rosary, like a fragrant garland of roses.

Even as a gift of flowers can cause us to smile, the joy they bring is like a tender hug. As we pray the Rosary, we connect dearly with Mary. We review intimately the joy and beauty, sorrow and glory of Mary's life as she lived it with her son, Jesus.

Ultimately, our own hope and desire is that Mary teaches us to live in union with her Son. We ask and trust her to guide and sup-



port us with maternal love and kindness as we journey home.

In this way, the Rosary can serve as Mary's lift – to elevate us – body, mind, and spirit – to the eternal joy of living in the Trinitarian bliss of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us provide for each other in this spirit of Mary, as she leads us to God.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SSCM
Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA



Holy Mary, Queen of the Rosary

Holy Mary, Queen and Maiden
of the Rosary,
To your loving care we hasten,
hold us tenderly.
As Mother of the Rosary,
hear your children's fervent plea,
May your Son, with love and mercy,
bless us graciously.

Holy Rosary, heaven's blessing,
which God chose for us,
Gift received by holy Dominic
now is shared with us,
Most fragrant flow'rs, roses bright,
garland woven with delight,
Mary's life and intercession,
show us what is right.

These choice blossoms, like your caring,
draw us to your side,
Comfort us with gentle kindness,
call us to confide.
May your tender love embrace,
guard each child in every place.
Guide us home to Heaven's glory
by God's gen'rous grace.

Here on earth no other treasure
brings us peace that lasts;
Neither pearls nor gold nor silver,
Precious jewels surpass.
This our cherished Rosary,
leads us toward eternity,
Where with Jesus and His Mother
we'll live happily.

O Mária Ružencová

O Mária Ružencová,
naša patrónka!
My sa k tebe utiekama,
čistá Panenka.
Tys' Matka dobrotivá,
patrónka ružencová;
Primlúvaj sa vždycky za nás
u svojho Syna.

Ten tvoj svätý ruženeček,
ktorýs' nám dala,
Skrz svätého Dominika
nám ho poslala,
Je z krásnych rúž pletený,
v nebesiach zostavený,
Aby hriesnik bol sa zemi
nim potešený.

Tie ruže nad všetky kvety
sú spanilejšie
A v ruženci tom spojené
sú najvonnejšie;
Krásna vôňa je jeho
pre kresťana každého;
Ved' Mária nám ho dala
z trónu svojho.

Na tom svete nechcem iné
mať potešenie,
Ani perly, striebro, zlato,
Drahé kamenie;
Moje drahociny
je ružence jediný
A s nim Ježiš, ten Baránok
Boží nevinný.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec, SSCM



The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
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October 2016

Universal Intention

Journalists: *That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.*

Journalists are obligated to provide news and commentary that are truthful. To do otherwise is to sin against the eighth Commandment. The Catechism says: "By the very nature of their profession, journalists have an obligation to serve the truth and not offend against charity in disseminating information." In other words, though it is important to report news honestly, the journalist must also respect the dignity of others.

The Catechism continues: "The information provided by the media is at the service of the common good. Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, justice, and solidarity. The proper exercise of this right demands that the content of the communication be true and—within the limits set by justice and charity—complete. Further, it should be communicated honestly and properly. This means that in the gathering and in the publication of news, the legitimate rights and dignity of man should be upheld."

Like the journalists, the consumers of media also have a serious obligation. We are to be discerning in our use of media. The Catechism says: "The means of social communication (especially the mass media) can give rise to a certain passivity among users, making them less than vigilant consumers of what is said or shown. Users should practice moderation and discipline in their approach to the mass media. They will want to form enlightened and correct consciences the more easily to resist unwholesome influences."

As we pray for journalists this month we also examine ourselves and ask whether we spend an inordinate amount of time using media simply out of curiosity and an appetite for the sensational? Do we use reputable sources of information? Where do we receive our information about the Church?

Reflect

What resources are available to help me understand from a Christian perspective what is going on in the world and the Church?

Scripture

2 Peter 3: 14-18 "Be on your guard not to be led into the error of the unprincipled."

EVANGELIZATION INTENTION

World Mission Day: *That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.*

In his Message for the 90th World Mission Day which will be celebrated on October 23, Pope Francis called the work of evangelization an "immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material." He went on to say that "all of us are invited to 'go out' as missionary disciples, each generously offering our talents, creativity, wisdom and experience to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord's love."

This is what motivated Jesus, his disciples, St. Paul, and the Church throughout the centuries. It is what motivates us—an all-consuming desire for the salvation of every human soul. Pope Francis wrote: "As they travel through the streets of the world, the disciples of Jesus need to have a love without limits, the same measure of love that our Lord has for all people. We proclaim the most beautiful and greatest gifts that he has given us: his life and his love."

But how can we have such "a love without limits"? We find it when we encounter Jesus in the Scriptures and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. As the Pope wrote: "When we welcome and follow Jesus by means of the Gospel and sacraments, we can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, become merciful as our heavenly Father is merciful; we can learn to love as he loves us and make of our lives a free gift, a sign of his goodness."

Every day, we can "make of our lives a free gift" by offering its minutes and hours for the salvation of every person. In doing this we become missionaries without even leaving home and our entire life, joined to Jesus' perfect offering of himself on the cross and in the Eucharist, becomes a sign of merciful love in a world that desperately needs it.

Reflect

How is evangelization an "immense work of mercy"?

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5: 14-21 "The love of Christ impels us."



Vinobranie: Celebrating Wine in Slovakia

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

My previous articles discussed the harvest (žatva) and harvest festivals (dožinky). Another crop that was harvested were grapes, and Vinobranie was the celebration which took place once the grapes were picked and the first wines tasted.

When I was younger, I never knew that wines even came from Slovakia. I first came into contact with Slovak wines and the Vinobranie when I was living in Bratislava in 1982. A good friend of mine from Vajnory, a village on the northern tip of Bratislava, invited to taste his own fine homemade white wine and then attend the wine festival there. The festival featured wine-tasting, various amusements, and live entertainment with Slovak singing and dancing.

Why did we not know of Slovak wines in America? Many Slovak-Americans came from the poorer regions of eastern and northern Slovakia where wine was not a staple drink. There slivovica (plum brandy) and hard liquors were more popular, so many of us never tasted a Slovak wine in the New World. But even my Slovak maternal grandfather had his grapevines, but we mainly ate those grapes.

Most Slovak wines are consumed in Slovakia itself or nearby countries and very little is exported; in the post-World War II era, the communist regime made any trade with the West difficult. Even after the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Slovak wineries expanded, but most sales remained regional. Only the very sweet and thicker Tokaj wine of south-eastern Slovakia and northeast Hungary are exported and more well known. But many of the Slovak producers prefer to make it the old-fashioned way, which limits the quantity, but keeps the quality higher.

Wine-Producing Regions

Today Slovakia claims around 400 active winemakers cultivating 19,634 hectares (48,516 acres) of vineyards in 603 municipalities, 40 sub-regions, and 6 main wine regions (see map). With the exception of Orava, some wine-producing grapes are grown throughout Slovakia. The largest wine producing areas are north of Bratislava and south of Košice, in areas where the weather is warmer and the climate hospitable to grape growing.

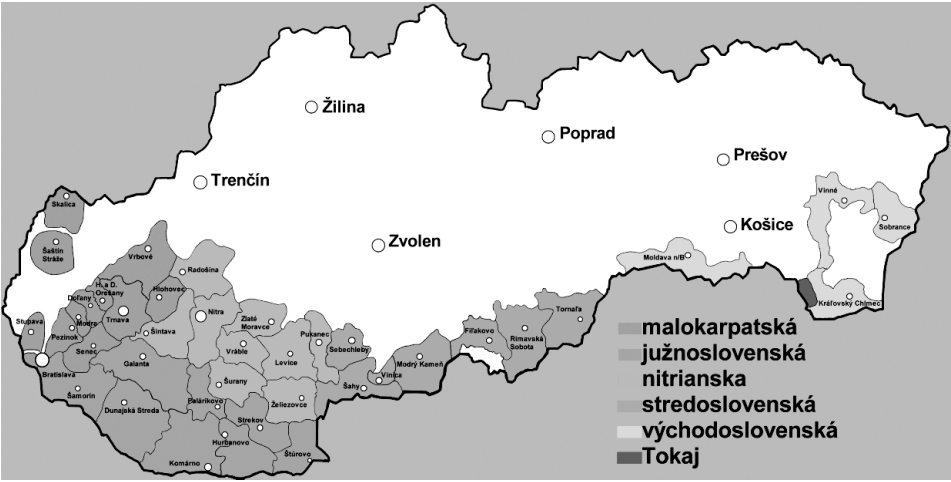
There are 6 regions which produce wine in Slovakia.

- Malokarpatská - "The Small Carpathian wine region"
- Južnoslovenská - "The South Slovak wine region"
- Nitrianska - "The Nitra wine region"
- Stredoslovenská - "The Central Slovak wine region"
- Východoslovenská - "The East Slovak wine region"
- Tokajská - "The Tokaj wine region"

Varieties of Wines

The most popular wines in Slovakia are following.

- Veltlínské zelené (Grüner Veltliner) - White
- Rizling vlašský (Welschriesling) - White
- Frankovka modrá (Blaufränkisch) - Red
- Müller-Thurgau - White
- Svätovavrinecké (St. Laurent)
- Rulandské biele (Pinot Blanc)
- Rizling rýnsky (Riesling)
- Cabernet Sauvignon - Red



The six wine producing regions of Slovakia.



During the interwar era in Slovakia, wealthy wine-growing families hired vintner workers to decorate a wreath with ribbons and flowers and the vintage wagon with the last-picked grapes.



The grape harvest festival in Pezinok features a parade from the castle to the wine shop in town, with people dressed in traditional folk dress (kroj).

A Brief History of Slovak Wines

Viticulture in Slovakia enjoys a long history, mainly in southwestern and southeastern Slovakia. Research by archaeologists



Following the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Slovak winemakers returned to old traditions of quality over quantity.



Slovak wines of today have received widespread acclaim and winning international competitions.

from the Slovak Academy of Sciences during the 1960s and 1970s found vineyard knives and a clay wine jug dating from Celtic times during the 6th-7th centuries in the area above Smolenice, around 53 km north of Bratislava. Wine-growing expanded under the Romans during the 2nd century A.D. and continued after the arrival of Slavs in the 6th-7th centuries.

Byzantine histories referred to vineyards in the area during of Slavic-Avar wars during the migration. Apparently, a Bulgarian tsar ordered that all vineyards be uprooted when one of his soldiers reported his Avar governor having bouts of drunkenness. The vineyards rebounded afterwards and records indicate their existence during Great Moravian Empire. Three Old Slavonic prayers date from this era: a prayer when planting a vineyard, a grape harvesting prayer, and one for

the proper fermentation of wine.

It appears that wine-growing continued until Tatar invasions of 1241–1242, which destroyed many of the vineyards. Wine producing recovered when the King of Hungary invited German and Italian colonizers, and Italians settled in the eastern Tokaj region. Most German wine growers settled near Bratislava, and the Danube River facilitated a lively trade. A number of Austrian and Hungarian writers noted the high quality of grapes and white wines produced in the region, on the foothills of the Low Carpathian Mountains. By the late 15th century, wine-growing guilds started up and the skills passed from generation to generation. Wine growers had to pay town councils and local lords with part of their production. And we know that the prosperous Fugger family from Augsburg, Germany and noble Thurzov family built wine cellars at Červený Kameň (the Red Stone Castle).

Historical records from the 18th century cited the production of sweet wines production, including a Vermouth type and a rose wine from blue grapes. Villages near Bratislava (Rača, Vajnory, Svätý Jur, and Grinava) produced a prized samotok wine (a juice extract from grapes), and chronicler Matej Bel (1684 - 1749) mentioned a quickly maturing variety called Viridula. Other wines could take as long as 3 to 4 years to mature.

During the 19th century, wine production continued to grow in areas north of Bratislava. For instance, in 1824, Anton Walza, a vintner from Trnava, supplied wine for the Hungarian Army. In 1825, one of Napoleon's soldiers, J. E. Hubert, established in Slovakia the first production site of champagne wines outside the France.

Viticulture in Slovakia declined in the early 20th century due to severe frosts, fungal diseases (perenospora), and phylloxera, a microscopic louse or aphid, that lives on and eats roots of grapes, which destroyed as much as 97 % of European vineyards. Wine-producing gradually got back on track in the interwar era, and had to compete with foreign sweet wines.

Vineyards started to expand again after the communist takeover of 1949. Forced collectivization led to the construction of large processing facilities in the now state-owned cooperative enterprises. As a result production of wine doubled, but quality suffered. Producing a third more than it needed for domestic consumption, Slovakia exported wine to the Soviet Union and to the Czech lands.

Following the Velvet Revolution of 1989, Slovak winemakers returned to old traditions which stressed quality over quantity. New companies and entrepreneurs started to realize the potential for marketing a better product. The 2004 admission of Slovakia into the EU opened its borders to new competition, so the stress on a quality product became ever more important.

Recently, Slovak wines have increasingly received widespread acclaim and won a number of international competitions. Slovak wines won 18 gold and 37 silver medals at the Viniales Internationales 2016 competition in Paris and more awards at competitive contests in Madrid and Tokyo. The emphasis on quality wine producing has begun to pay off.

continued on page 18

39th NJ Slovak Heritage Festival in October

The 39th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival was held on Sunday, October 2, 2016, in Holmdel, NJ, at the PNC Bank Arts Center.

An 11:00AM Mass opened the festivities, with the Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of St. John Nepomucene Church, as the main celebrant. Numerous vendors offered Slovak items along with an assortment of delicious Slovak food and baked goods for sale. At the First Catholic Slovak Union table, festival attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the Society's mission, services, and products.

At 2:00PM, a cultural program began with a Parade of Fashions, featuring Slovak folk costumes, or kroj. On the main stage, various Slovak folk music groups and dancing took place. Branch 45's Jurasi family band, Kontakty, provided Slovak music for dancing and listening pleasure throughout the afternoon. An all-day soccer tournament took place as well.

Several members of the First Catholic Slovak Union were in attendance, as well as Slovak government officials including Dr. Ján Varšo, President of the "Office of Slovaks Living Abroad" headquartered in Bratislava, Slovakia, and Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Jana Trnovcova.

★CONGRATULATIONS!★ Sandra Kocan

Winner of a \$50 gift card from the First Catholic Slovak Union

Thanks to all who stopped by the booth, visited us, and participated in the FCSU raffle held during this year's NJ Slovak Heritage Festival. The winner was randomly drawn from all participants.

(L-R) Branch 746's Joanne Polt and her mother Joan Tkach



The Kontakty Band, comprised of the Jurasi family (L – R) – Jozef Jurasi, Branch 45 Athletic Activities Coordinator; Maria Jurasi, Branch 45 Financial Secretary/Treasurer; and Joseph Jurasi, Branch 45 President and FCSU Supreme Court Member - performs for the crowds.



Representing the First Catholic Slovak Union at the 2016 Slovak Festival in NJ (L – R) Joanne Polt, Branch 746 Vice President; Stephen Minarovich, Branch 290 Secretary; Adam Minarovich, Branch 290 Member; Joan Tkach, Branch 746 Member; Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President; Emil Filak, Branch 746 Member; Emilia Filak, Branch 746 Member; Andrew P. Rajec, FCSU Director of Independent Agents, Supreme Court Member, and Branch 89 Member; Iveta Zakovic, Branch 45 Member, Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director and Branch 746 President; Maria Zakovic, Branch 45 Secretary; and Joseph Minarovich, Branch 290 President.



(L – R) Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Jana Trnovcova and Mrs. Idka Rajec, Branch 89 Member, join FCSU's National Officers Andrew P. Rajec, Sabina Sabados, and Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

(L – R) Donald and Charlotte Nasta, along with their son, National Chaplain Thomas Nasta, join fellow First Catholic Slovak Union members at the booth.



(far R) The Rev. Richard D. Baker, pastor of St. John Nepomucene of New York City, served as the main celebrant for the Mass which opened the day's festivities.

All photos courtesy of Andrew P. Rajec

Hi, Kids (and all those Young at Heart).



So here's a snap of me. Once again stuffed into this pumpkin get up. I know. It's Halloween. It's fun. And since I'm in it, I thought I'd share some pumpkin jokes I heard to help me from jumping outta my gourd (gourd, pumpkin, ha ha, get it?).

Hope you enjoy them, too. Hope to see you soon. And, hey, in the meantime, I hope you have a seriously good Trick or treat! (or as some of my Slovak buds would say, Trik alebo maškrtka).



Tvoj priateľ' (your friend)

Chewy

Pumpkin Humor

- What did one Jack-o-lantern say to the other?
Cut it out!
- What is a pumpkin's favorite sport?
Squash
- What's the ratio of a pumpkin's circumference to its diameter?
Pumpkin Pi
- What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?
Frostbite!
- How do you repair a broken Jack-o-lantern?
Buy a pumpkin patch!
- What's black, white, orange, and waddles?
A penguin carrying a Jack-o-lantern.
- Why do pumpkins never quarrel?
Because they have no stomach for fighting.



17th Edition of Carpathian Cookbook

Now Available



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 17th printing. The 330-page cookbook includes sections on Christmas and Easter customs and recipes, traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of the cookbook

is \$14.00 plus \$4.00 postage and handling (\$18.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$27.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call (724) 208-6671 (M – F 6 -8PM) for more information. You may contact us at: carpathiancookery@gmail.com.



This recording is the result of several decades in which the Pittsburgh Slovaks have spread the Slovak Christmas Spirit through their Christmas performances. The carols offered here are priceless treasures that will re-awaken cherished traditions and memories.

Includes such favorites as:

Do Hory do lesa valasi/ Povedzte nám pastierovia/Plesajte všetci ľudia/Narodil sa Kristus v Betleme./ Dnešný deň sa radujme/Tichá Noc/Silent Night and more!

Make Checks payable and mail to: **Pittsburgh Slovaks**
234 ILION St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

\$15.00 each includes postage.

SlovakAmericanCC.org

Slovak Ball

Join us for The 24th Annual Slovak Ball
Sat, Feb. 25, 2017
 The Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ

For reservations/sales contact:
 Zuzana Krcmar
 973-357-1209
 slovakamericcc@gmail.com

7pm to 1am (Open Bar)
 Live music by Express Band
 Attire: Black tie optional

Tickets available online at:
<http://slovakball2017.eventbrite.com>

For more information visit us at:
 SlovakAmericanCC.org

SAVE the DATE!



Nov Forum on Respect for Tweens, Teens & Their Parents in Parma, OH



Join St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church, in conjunction with The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist & Holy Spirit Byzantine Church, as we present The Forum on Respect on Sunday, November 13, 2016. Doors open at 11:30 am. Come and celebrate the 10:00 am liturgy at St Mary Byzantine Catholic (4600 State Rd, Parma, OH, 44134) Church and then walk over to the Crystal Chalet for this inspiring event. Lunch will be provided, as will childcare for children 11 and younger. Tickets are \$15 per adult

and \$10 per child and are currently on sale online at <http://stmarybyz.com/> and at St Mary Byzantine Catholic school office (216) 741-7979. We are called to action by our insightful speakers; Dr. Ray, Rita Basalla and John Popp. Help us change the staggering statistic that 60% of our youth will leave the church in college and never return. Let us continue to give them a solid foundation of Faith, Love for Jesus Christ and RESPECT for themselves and others. Join us as we build that foundation starting with RESPECT.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Andrew Abbey Vilija on December 4

Early in December each year, Saint Andrew Abbey Svorad offers a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal, or Vilija, on its grounds in the high school cafeteria of Benedictine High School. Prepared by members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, the St. Andrew Abbey Vilija this delicious meatless meal has truly become the start of the Holy Christmas Season for many.

The date this year is Sunday, December 4, 2016, beginning with a noon Mass celebrated in the Abbey Church and an afternoon entertainment program. Details will follow in upcoming issues of Jednota. Save the date!

This recording is the result of several decades in which the Pittsburgh Slovaks have spread the Slovak Christmas Spirit through their Christmas performances. The carols offered here are priceless treasures that will re-awaken cherished traditions and memories.

Includes such favorites as:

Do Hory do lesa valasi/ Povedzte nám pastierovia/Plesajte všetci ľudia/Narodil sa Kristus v Betleme./ Dnešný deň sa radujme/Tichá Noc/Silent Night and more!

Make Checks payable and mail to: **Pittsburgh Slovaks**
234 ILION St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

\$15.00 each includes postage.

Branch 153 honors Member Father John Jamnicky

Several members of Branch 153 enjoyed a tour of St. Raphael the Archangel Church in Old Mill Creek, IL. It was a Jubilee of Mercy visit, as well as a time to honor Father Jamnicky who retired on June 30, 2016. Father has been a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago for 44 years. Father has a rich and varied background of professional and ministerial experience. Father John retires as the pastor of the newest Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Father Jamnicky was appointed the first pastor of St. Raphael the Archangel in 2007. He celebrated the first Mass in a temporary church on September 1, 2007. During the next seven years, with much fundraising, a new church was constructed. St. Raphael is most unique because it comes with parts from two closed Chicago parishes. The facade from St. John of God Church has been reassembled into the new church. The interior comes from St. Peter Canisius and includes stained glass windows, a marble altar and pews. The bell towers and bells will be added when additional funds are raised. A magnificent pipe organ will also be installed.

On June 28, 2014, the Blessed Sacrament was transferred from the temporary Church and Father Jamnicky celebrated the first Mass at the new St. Raphael the Archangel Church.

After an excellent tour, a luncheon was held at a local restaurant to honor Father Jamnicky who is a member of Branch 153.



- Submitted by Dorothy Jurcenko
Financial Secretary/Treasurer



There's Still Time to be a Part Of the Jednota Memorial



A Site Dedicated to Members & Their Families

As highlighted in the October 21, 2015 issue of Jednota, the First Catholic Slovak Union dedicated a Jednota Memorial site last September for our members and their families. The site is on a permanently dedicated ½ acre of land of Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue in Middletown, PA. It sits on land that 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" statute 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.

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks are Available for Purchase



It is important, however, to remember that this memorial is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans. You can remember a loved one, a branch or a district in our Society. All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" in the granite panels found throughout the Memorial will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted.

If you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to download your order form or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

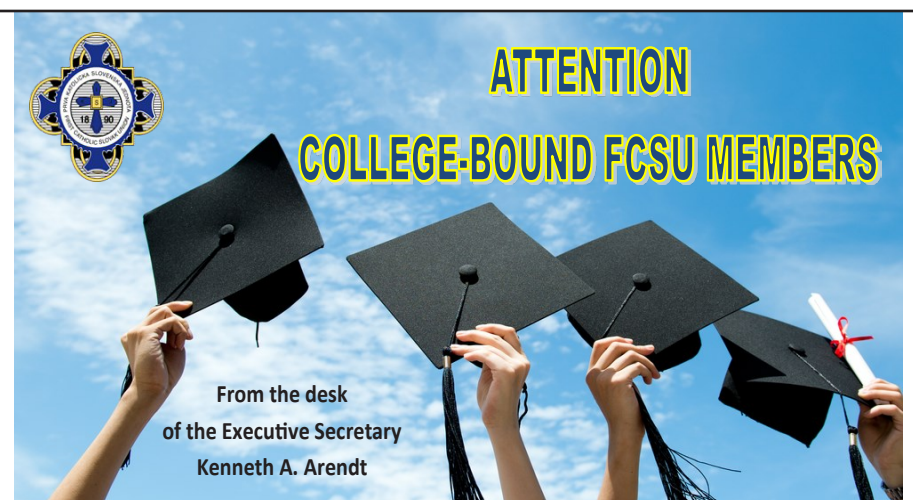
Branch 853's Charles Boone Recognized For Community Service

Charles Boone, 17, is a junior at Keystone Oaks High School, Dormont, PA. Charles' high school requires 120 hours of community service prior to graduation. By the end of Charles' sophomore year, he fulfilled that requirement plus 60 additional hours.

The Challenge Program Inc. with business partner Carpenter Powder Products recognized Charles for his commitment to the community. For his service to the community, Charles was awarded a certificate and a cash prize at a high school assembly. Congratulation Charles.

Charles, along with his parents Monica Rodacy Boone, former National Auditor and Pension Board Trustee, and Ronald Boone are all active members of Branch 853.

- Submitted by
Monica Rodacy Boone



From the desk
of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
2017 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WILL SOON BEGIN
ACCEPTING 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**.

**Look for rules, requirements and applications
in upcoming issues of Jednota**

Red Lights Flashing: A Wrap up of the 2015 Youngstown Sister Cities Tour of Slovakia

James M. Bench

Editor's Note: FCSU members Kay and Jim Bench hosted the 18th annual Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour July 13-27, 2015, where they toured many of the beautiful sites of Slovakia - from the capital city Bratislava to the decorated homes of Čičmany to historic Tichý Potok to the spa town of Sliač. The tour wrapped up with a luncheon reception with their Sister City of Spišská Nová Ves, the highlights of which this article covers.

During our 2015 sister cities tour, it was quite a challenge to wrap up activities in Trenčín, visit Terchová, home of the famous "Slovak Robin Hood" Juraj Jánošík, travel to our hotel in Tatranská Lomnica and still be on time for a combined sister cities meeting and pig roast in Spišská Nová Ves. Having the best bus driver in all of Slovakia as well as an extraordinary guide certainly helped. In addition to Youngstown, Ohio, Spišská Nová Ves shares a sister-cities relationship with a number of cities in other countries such as France, Italy, Germany, and the Czech Republic among others. Such meetings are called in order to review, evaluate, and update the established relationships. Under ordinary circumstances, two representatives from each sister cities program are invited.



A very large and beautifully presented buffet table featuring a huge roasted pig was a highlight of the combined sister cities meeting and luncheon in Spišská Nová Ves, Slovakia.

Mayor Jan Volny and Deputy Mayor Lea Greckova graciously invited our entire tour group of over twenty people to be in attendance for our program. Following the welcome ceremony, and presentations by select sister cities representatives, the group was

directed to a very large and beautifully presented buffet table with an array of multiple food choices and a centerpiece featuring a huge roasted pig. Everything was delicious. Time allowed for only limited socialization with the various representatives as we were advised that "we must hurry, they are waiting for us," and "please get the group together." Not fully comprehending who was waiting, tour members were directed to return to the bus, which was surrounded by police cars with flashing red lights. With police car lights flashing in the front and rear of the bus, we were escorted to the central part of Spišská Nová Ves, where a street fair was ongoing. Barriers which restricted vehicular access to the main section of the fair were removed allowing the bus to enter. A walking police escort was waiting as we got off the bus and skillfully guided the group through the extremely large crowd to a roped off section of chairs directly in front of a large elevated stage. As soon as we were comfortably seated, the performance began, and it was now understandable in regard to aforementioned statement, "we must hurry, they are waiting for us." What a pleasant surprise! With thousands of people standing to the rear and sides of our reserved seating it did result in a sense of uneasiness due to the privilege. The other sister cities were conspicuously absent from our arrangement.

The performing folk group Rozsutec from Žilina was outstanding, as were the accompanying musicians. Despite the heat, nearly 90 degrees Fahrenheit, the young

women - ever smiling and beautiful - were extraordinary as they floated across the stage. Their melodious voices blended and added immeasurably to the dances. The stage was bursting with grace, charm, precision and talent. Proud, strong, athletic and equally talented were the male counterparts. Their strong voices, highly evident throughout the performance reflected confidence as well as Slovak pride. Intricate, demanding and complicated dances were precise, appearing almost effortless. The heat and heavy costumes (Kroj) worn especially by the females did not deter as the males lifted the female dancers with ease. Truly this spectacular group must be among the most highly prized groups in this country of many talented groups. It is common knowledge that to be selected and perform in Rozsutec, one must have superior talent, in addition to dedication and discipline as practices and performances schedules are most demanding. Experiencing a performance of this group was a distinct pleasure, and the memory will be long lasting. One cannot help but reflect on the old Slovak saying, "Kde je Slovak, tam je pieseň," where you find a Slovak, you find a song. Words are inadequate to describe this performing group, it must be seen.

As the program was closing, a woman addressed the crowd over the public address system announcing that there were visiting Slovak Americans in front of the stage and requested the crowd to extend a Slovak welcome stating that we have finally "come home." Once again, indescribable was the emotion as the crowd generously applauded. Simultaneously, the wonderful performers, musicians and others from the Rozsutec group proceeded to the front of the stage bending and applauding, with the young female group members throwing kisses.

It is impossible to leave Slovakia without cherished memories of a gracious people. Slovak pride—definitely. "Kde je Slovak, tam je pieseň," indeed.

About the Author

James M. Bench is a Retired Professor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He is the President of the Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Program and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union Supreme Court. Both he and his wife Kay are members of Branch 181, United, PA.

The 2016 Lúčina Slovak Gala: An Evening in the Heart of Europe

Saturday, November 12, 2016

Holy Spirit Party Center

5500 W. 54th Street • Parma, OH 44129

Featuring:

The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland

Lúčinka Children's Ensemble

Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble of Detroit

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

Christine Matis-Hearn, 440-655-8244

Jenna Allen, 440-439-4119

All proceeds to benefit the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble,
celebrating their 35th Anniversary

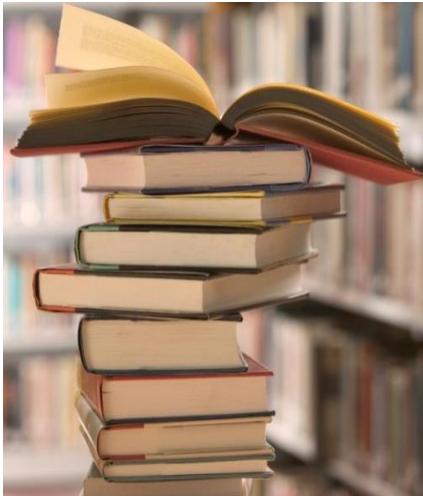


Reminder...

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The email address for articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

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

A Newly Updated Resource for Slovak-related Topics



Interested in reading more about Slovakia? Now, thanks to Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J., of John Carroll University, a central list of publications with Slovak-related topics has been newly updated for 2016.

This handy list includes ISBN numbers for those books published in Slovakia – which makes for easier identification when searching for them at the library or online. Websites for locating remaindered and used books, and where to purchase them, are included at the end of the file, as well.

Go to www.fcsu.com/resources and click on Reading to access the list.

Or, for more information, please contact Fr. Gerald Sabo at gsabo@jcu.edu.

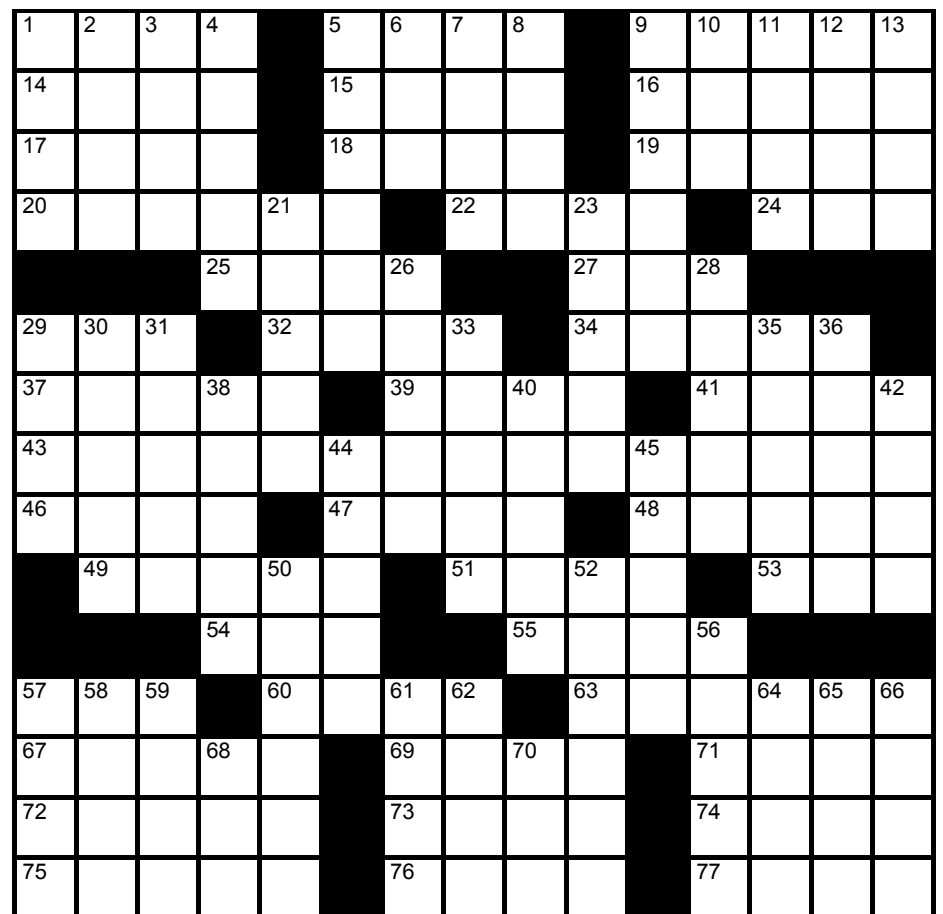
From the Office of the Executive Secretary



In observance of Thanksgiving, the Home Office and Jednota Estates will be closed:

Thursday, November 24, 2016, and Friday, November 25, 2016.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 TV rooms
5 Brainchild
9 Strong winds
14 Harrow's rival
15 Mercury and Mars, e.g.
16 Squirrel's stash
17 Dollar rival
18 Troop group
19 African equine
20 Evergreen
22 Undercurrent
24 Special gift inits.
25 Yellowfin, e.g.
27 Abate
29 Railroad stop (Abbr.)
32 Domestic
34 Viral infections
37 Reddish brown
39 Shamu, for one
41 Ionian gulf
43 Mirage, e.g.
46 Vivacious
47 Part of the Hindu trinity
48 Tick off
49 OK Corral participants
51 Gaelic tongue
53 Morning moisture
54 Refinable rock
55 Last of the Stuarts
57 NASA concern
60 Diminutive suffix
63 Peculiarity
67 Metal pin
69 Declare openly
71 Toledo's lake
72 Viewpoint
73 Christie's *Death on the* ____

Down

- 74 Shed
75 Narrow street
76 Musher's transport
77 The "A" of ABM
1 Consider
2 Ornamental purse
3 Cliff's pal on *Cheers*
4 Schnozz
5 Large lizard
6 Knotts or Ameche
7 Rewrite
8 Italian wine area
9 Garden edifice
10 Royal flush card
11 Brain section
12 Bungles
13 Ginger cookie
21 Poison plant
23 Stick-on
26 Garlicky mayonnaise
28 Bored
29 High school course
30 Home to Crazy Horse
31 Bone cavity
33 Tee off
35 Desiccated
36 Range
38 Explosion maker
40 Santa ____, Calif.

- 42 De novo
44 Black ink item
45 Flip over
50 Easy on the eyes
52 Bamboozled
56 Dropsy
57 Celestial bear
58 Satiated
59 Roundish
61 Beach shades
62 Diabolical
64 Wrinkle remover
65 Knight fight
66 Himalayan legend
68 Compass dir.
70 Vaudevillian Olsen



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

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2016

Issue Date

November 2
November 16
December 7

Deadline to Receive Information

October 24
November 7
November 28



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

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

See Solution on Page 18

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FREE

Estate Planning Booklet
from the First Catholic
Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

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All applications must be
 received in the Home Office
postmarked
by December 31, 2016.

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of St. Michaels Archangel Branch 2 will be held October 19, 2016, at Kretzlers on Babcock Blvd in the North Hills. This meeting will include election of officers and will be at 7PM. Please RSVP for reservations to 412-766-3222 or 412-421-1204.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Lako Recording Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3KJ, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Society, will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, October 30, 2016, in Minneapolis, MN. The meeting will begin at 11:30AM in Father Dargay Hall, Church of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, 13th Avenue, NE & 2nd Street.

The agenda will include officers' reports, schedule of activities for 2017, and the election of officers.

A lunch will be available after the meeting.

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 3P – HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The 2016 annual meeting of Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P, will be held at 9:30AM on Sunday November 27, 2016 in Saint Joseph's church cafeteria at 604 North Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Election of officers for 2017 will be conducted followed by a short update of local branch activities. New ideas for branch activities will be entertained and any changes of address or beneficiaries can be submitted at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and get involved.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, Pennsylvania will hold its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4, at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant, PA.

Daniel Spegar, President

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2016. A Mass will be offered by Msgr. Joseph Pekar for all our members at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. Following the Mass, our members are invited to return to the church hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

At this meeting, the John A. Zahor Scholarship will be awarded to the following college freshmen:

Julie Rose Farell
Matthew Louis Gerks
Alex Kuruc
Samantha Lello
Zachery Piroh
Joseph Connor Prince
Sara Ann Serdy

This scholarship was established in recognition of the many years Mr. Zahor served as president of the St. Joseph Society, and his commitment to the education of its young members.

Also, the Andre J. Imbro Grant will be given to the following college juniors:

Lauren Brainard
Elizabeth Bruchansky
Nicole Alyssa Cichowski
Michael Lella
Alyssa Pudill
Paul Monks
Christopher Ambrose Zahor

The branch's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT. The election of officers will take place and the distribution of our annual donations will be discussed.

We cordially invite our members to attend our meetings and enjoy seeing their friends.

Henry Zack, Secretary

BRANCH 23 – JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

"Come One! Come All" - On Sunday, November 13, 2016, at 1:00PM, Branch 23 St Joseph Society will hold its second annual meeting at Hoss's Family Restaurant, Johnstown Pa. Near Walmartin Richland on 411 Theatre Drive. Jednota: come find out what it means.

All members of Branch 23 are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call Theresa Cassat 814-254-2532.

Theresa Cassat, 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 4, 2016 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 8 of this issue].

Ticket prices are \$10 for branch members, \$20 for non-members. Reservations are required and available by calling Activities Director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 after 6:00PM. Please make checks payable to Branch 24. The deadline is Friday, November 18, 2016.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016, 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.

David Lang, Treasurer

BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

ATTENTION BRANCH 24 MEMBERS: For every WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE POLICY or ANNUITY you purchase or sell by November 1, 2016, Branch 24 will give you a complimentary ticket to the Vilija (Christmas Eve) Dinner sponsored by St. Andrew's Abbey every Christmas season.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 524-0952. For more information about FCSU products and to download applications or forms, go to our website at www.fcsu.com. We hope you take advantage of this great opportunity and can join us at this year's Vilija.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 12:30 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.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75KJ, will hold its semiannual meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 10:00AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 17872. Agenda items include: the presentation of fiscal year-end reports and financial statements; submission of the auditors' reports; nomination and election of officers for the coming year; and any additional branch business.

All interested members should make an effort to attend this semiannual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its fall meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church Street, Jessup, PA. The agenda will include election of officers for 2017.

Stella Skovira

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 extends an invitation to all members and guests to join the branch for a meeting and social, with luncheon to follow on Saturday, November 5, 2016, at Allioto's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53222. Social time is from noon until 12:30PM; the meeting is from 12:30PM to (approximately) 1:00PM, with lunch to be served directly afterwards. Lunch for members is complimentary. Guest cost is \$20.00 per person. Reservations are required and must be made by November 1, 2016, by calling Mike Novak at 414-445-5382. Please make checks payable to Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Branch 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222. Among the topics of discussion: Donations, 2017 activities.

Fraternally,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Throughout the month of November, we remember our members who have passed on to their eternal reward. Please pray for the following members who have died during the past year:

Stephen Paulov, Joseph Tybor, Anna Capiak, Marie Slifka, Charles Capiak, Jewel Glines, Helen Ibsen, Alice Kerpec, Michael Likvan, Frank Bucz, Mildred Janik, Edward Malcak, and Louis Sovcik

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 UNIONTOWN, PA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. at the Park Inn By Radisson, at 700 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Officers' reports will be given, and upcoming events and branch activities will be discussed. Election of Officers for the coming year will be held. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast. Call for reservations by November 21, 2016, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold its next meeting on Saturday November 5, 2016 immediately following the 5 PM Mass at St. Florian church in United, PA.

The meeting will be in the school hall on the church grounds. On the agenda: election of officers and finalizing plans for the Vilija to be held on December 4, 2016 at the Bishop Connare Center in Greensburg, PA. All members are welcome. Food and refreshments will be served. For more information or directions call 412-216-5527.

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 199 – HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will meet on Sunday, November 13, 2016, at 1:00 PM at Jioio's Restaurant, Latrobe, PA 15650

All members of the branch are encouraged to join for the election of officers at this luncheon meeting.

See you there.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Patula/Secretary-Treasurer

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 remainder of the year, the monthly meetings are as follows: November 3rd (with nomination of officers on the agenda), and December 1st (with the election of officers on the agenda).

The branch meeting begins directly following the regularly held 7:00PM monthly meeting of the CU Club. Please mark your calendars.

We look forward to seeing you.

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

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 held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The Branch: will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 19, 2016. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording 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 11, 2016, at 3:00PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2017, 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

Branch 260 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016, at 1:00PM at the Bedford Trails & Golf Course Restaurant. On the agenda: general branch business and election of officers for 2017 will take place at this meeting.

Fraternally,

Paul Ritz, President

BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PA

The annual meeting of Saint Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will be held on Sunday November 27, 2016 at 9:30 am in Saint Joseph's church cafeteria at 604 North Laurel Street in Hazleton, PA. Officers will be elected for 2017 and suggestions for branch activities will be discussed. Please spread the word so more of our members will attend and become involved in branch activities. Please plan to attend.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its next meeting on Sunday November 20, 2016 at St Patrick's church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa, at 1:00 P.M. Branch activities will be discussed. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of the election of officers for the New Year. We will also be hosting the District meeting on November 27, 2016 at Holy Trinity church hall in West Mifflin, Pa. All officers and members are urged to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist, Branch 290, will be holding a meeting on December 5, 2016, at 6:30PM. Please attend. An election of officers will take

continued on page 17

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT---WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District will hold its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at the newly renovated Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA. The celebration will begin with Mass at 4PM in the Chapel. We will then proceed to the banquet hall for our traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner featuring: oplatki with honey; mushroom/sauerkraut soup; baked fish; pierogis; prunes; pagach; and kolache. After the awarding of door prizes, the renowned Pittsburgh Slovaks will entertain. Please plan to attend and help preserve this beautiful custom. Tickets are: \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 3 to 11. Reserve your tickets early (they are limited) by calling Ticket Chairman, Darlene Patty at 724-537-7743. No reservations will be accepted after November 27.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 - MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 30, 2016, at the Deer Lake Inn located at 7504 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI 48346. (that's exit 93 on I-75, and just 1 mile west of I-75)

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be ELECTION OF OFFICERS, Officer Reports and the 2016/17 Budget.

Branch 633 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at (NEW PHONE NUMBER) 248-714-9620 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than October 15th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$20.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

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

Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary
NEW ADDRESS: 4945 Wavewood Dr.
Commerce twp., MI 48382
248-714-9620

Dianna Rimarcik, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 276 will host the Pittsburgh District winter business meeting on Sunday, November 27 at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in West Mifflin. A luncheon will be served at 1 PM. The business meeting will follow. Officers for 2017 will be elected at this meeting. We will also plan meetings and activities for the coming year. By the way, the Steelers play the Colts on Thanksgiving Day so there is no game on Sunday. Please RSVP by November 1 at the latest so we can finalize details with the caterer. Leave a message at 412-672-0379 or emailmanasta@verizon.net.

The District Activities Director Annie Ondrejco is organizing a Facebook group to be called Jednota Pittsburgh District Activities. Join the group to keep up with district activities. Annie would like suggestions for additional activities. Bring your ideas to the winter meeting or contact Annie at aondrejco@gmail.com.

As always, members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. Watch for information about trips to Slovakia and local Vilijas. Check out the interesting article on Slovak Harvest Festivals by Michael Kopanic.

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 7 – Show & Tell, December 5 – Slovak Christmas Customs. 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.

** Slovak Beer Tasting – October 8 – contact Joe Senko.

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

** Slovak Heritage Festival at Pitt – Sunday, 12-5, November 6 – Slovak food, cultural displays, lectures, entertainment, vendor tables – free admission – Cathedral of Learning Commons Room. Polishfest – November 13.

** 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.

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

** FCSU information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com

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

Fraternally,

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

DISTRICT 7 - THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

District 7 will hold its 2nd Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 30, 2016.

The meeting will be held at the Hoss's Seafood and Steakhouse at 1198 Wayne Avenue, Indiana PA. at 2 PM.

Branch 484KJ St. Joseph Society, will be the host of this meeting. All Branches of District 7 are asked to attend.

If you have any questions please call 814 -254 -2532.

Theresa Cassat, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 - OHIO DISTRICT

District 10 will be holding their final meeting for 2016 on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 2 pm at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. All district members are invited to attend.

This is our final meeting for the year and we will be electing officers for 2017 at this meeting. Join us for an informative meeting and fellowship.

If you are planning on attending, please call Linda Hanko at 330-773-4978 (J Club office). 330-706-0151 (home) or email me at lhanko@neo.rr.com. We would like a head count for refreshments.

Hope to see you there!

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 11 – MSGR. JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District (District 11) is scheduled for Sunday, October 23, 1:30 PM at the C.U.Club, 910 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA. When possible, Branches should designate their representatives to Grace Charney, District Secretary, at (724) 664-7185 by October 22; however, Branch members not previously identified are welcome to participate in all District meetings on a walk-in basis.

Significant Agenda Item

– Possible reallocation of responsibility for servicing policies of beneficial members of inactive/non-participating Branches within District 11

Reminders

- Per FCSU By-Laws, Branch representation at one of the two District meetings each year is required to qualify for receipt of the annual Branch stipend.

- Up-to-date payment of District dues and attendance at District meetings are requirements for Branch eligibility to send delegate(s) to the quadrennial FCSU convention.

- Branch representation at District meetings need not be by Branch officers; any beneficial member may represent his/her Branch.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

District 12 – the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District – will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 4, 2016, at 1:00PM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, PA. On the agenda will be election of officers. Members are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will have a meeting on November 15, 2016, at St. Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH starting at 6:00 pm in the cry room. Election of officers will be held at this meeting. Also, the Christmas Party will be held on December 20, 2016. Save the date.

Joe Scavina, Vice President

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT, NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, October 30, 2016, at 1:00PM at St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10065. On the agenda will be a financial report, activities, and election of officers of the district for 2017.

We urge all district branches to send their representatives to this meeting. After the meeting, refreshments will be served courtesy of Branch 716, the St. Stephen Society, NYC.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 17 – SS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT – LUZERNE AND LACKAWANNA COUNTIES, PA; AND BROOME COUNTY, NY

The District's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2016, with Mass celebrated at 12:15PM at St. John the Evangelist Church, William and Church Streets, Pittston, PA, followed by dinner at 1:30PM and a meeting immediately after.

Election of officers will take place at this meeting. You may be nominated from the floor and everyone has the opportunity to hold a position. If you are willing to contribute in the special interest of the Jednota with your talent and service, make your presence known and attend this meeting. Fraternalism must be kept alive!

Are your district dues up to date?

Encourage all branch members to attend, and we hope to see you on Sunday, October 23, 2016. Reservations and any questions you may have may be made by calling District President Michael Slovenkai (570) 342-7562.

Fraternally,

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 20 – PRINCE RASTISLAV, MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The District Annual meeting will be held on November 6, 2016 at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Hall immediately following the Eleven (11) o'clock Mass.

The Agenda will include a social calendar for 2017, as well as election of officers.

Branches 784 and 810 are urged to send representatives.

A light lunch will be served.

Alexander S. Dobrik, President

35th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration in October



St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church

Sunday, October 30, 2016

201 East Main Street, Uniontown

12:00 Noon – 6:00 p.m.

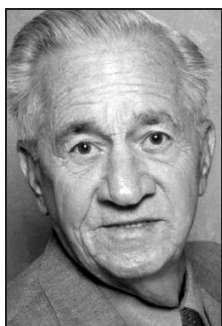
The 35th Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2016 – St. John the Baptist Church in Uniontown, PA, located at 201 E. Main Street, in the Parish Social Hall from Noon to 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy for the day will be 9:00 a.m. There will be ethnic foods such as holubki, pirohi, halushki, kolbasi and sauerkraut, soup, potato pancakes, pagach, baked goods, and much more. This annual ethnic festival will feature folk-dancing by Slavjane Folk Ensemble @ 3:00 p.m., Rusyn folk music group to entertain @ 1:00 & 4:00 p.m., a speaker or video presentation at 2:00 p.m., and speaker or video on Rusyn culture and customs @ 4:00 p.m. (Program subject to change) The Carpatho-Rusyn Society will have a display of artifacts, authentic costumes, photographs, and documents, and will assist in genealogical questions. There will be pysanky, iconography, wood burning, bobbin lace making, and folk art demonstrations, music, church tours, children's activities (including egg art, cookie decorating, coloring/craft projects, and storytelling), crafts, raffles, videos, and much more. Handicapped accessible. Admission is free.

For information call 724-208-6771 or 724-438-8412 (evenings 6-8 PM)

OBITUARIES

ALFRED J. ULENS BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

Alfred J. Ulens, 91, of Monessen, died Wednesday August 17, 2016, in Monongahela Valley Hospital Inc.



He was born on October 9, 1924 in Lover, PA, the son of the late Joseph and Blanche Verkleeren Ulens.

Alfred was a member of the Epiphany of Our Lord Roman Catholic Church and he served his country during WW II with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. He had worked for Corning Glass, American Chain and Cable Pages Division, and retired from Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Allentown Plant.

Surviving are his wife of 67 years Anna (Tkach) Ulens, son Robert (Amy) Ulens of Monessen, two daughters, Barbara (Robert) Troilo of Monessen, Beverly (William) Clark of Fallowfield Twp.; six grandchildren, Michele (Thomas) Ashcraft, Kelly (Chad) Jampedro, Amanda (Anthony) Vingas, Justin Troilo, Breann Clark, Bayley Clark; two great grandchildren, Rocco & Mia Jampedro; and by nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son Alfred M. Ulens and by four sisters, Elsie and Sylvia Ulens, Josephine Raisbeck, and Zoe Beres.

- Submitted by Beverly Clark

MARYANN PARANA BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

MaryAnn Parana, 82, of Southwest Greensburg, PA, died Sunday, July 24, 2016, in Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital, Greensburg. She was born June 13, 1934, in Saltsburg, PA, a daughter of the late Frank and Mary Magdalene (Balas) Stroker. Prior to retirement, she had been employed by A.E. Troutman Department Store and later was an in-home caregiver. She was a member of St. Paul Parish, Greensburg, Rosary Altar Society and the funeral choir of the church. She was a graduate of Green Township High School Class of 1952 and Comptometer School of Cleveland, OH, class of 1957. She was a regent of the former Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Seton No. 306. She was a member of the Penn State Suburbanite, Keystone Ladies Auxiliary, Pennsylvania Area Slovaks, SCG of Western Pennsylvania, First Catholic Slovak Union, Future Homemakers of America, PTA, NRA, and was a Girl Scout leader. Gardening was a great passion that her father gave her a green thumb for.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Francis J. Parana Sr., Aug. 3, 2010. She is survived by two sons, Andrew P. Parana Sr. and his wife, Theresa, of Ligonier, and Francis J. Parana Jr., of New Stanton; two daughters, Marie Parana, of Southwest Greensburg, and Ann F. and retired Lt. Col. Richard Futch, of Brandon, FL; eight grandchildren, Sarah Jo, Andrew Jr., Joshua, Jessica, Brandy, David, Jason and Nancy; six great-grandchildren; a sister, Elizabeth Jane Biros, of Bedford, OH; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and many special friends.

Friends were received, Friday, July 29, 2016, at the LEO M. BACHA FUNERAL

HOME Greensburg, where the Rosary Altar Society prayed the rosary in the afternoon. Prayers began at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 30, 2016, in the funeral home, followed by a funeral Mass celebrated at 10 a.m. in St. Paul Catholic Church, Greensburg. Interment followed in Westmoreland County Memorial Park.

- Submitted by Marie Parana

CATHERINE M. SOLGA BRANCH 567- ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Catherine M. Solga, beloved wife, mother and life time resident of the Lehigh Valley, PA, 98, has entered her eternal happiness on January 2, 2014. She was the precious daughter of the late Martin and Mary Zajacik, and was predeceased in life by her beloved husband Francis A Solga, (war-time Marine and Traffic Manager at Mack Trucks). Catherine was a member of St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church on Front Street. She was a member of St Johns Rosary group, the First Catholic Slovak Union, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Catherine was also an active member of St Thomas Moore Prime Time Club. Catherine was a lifetime member of the Allentown Art Museum Auxiliary and Women's Symphony Community. She was also a volunteer for Channel 39 and graciously participated in the outreach for the Lehigh Valley United Way. She was a long time member of Mack Truck Retirees.

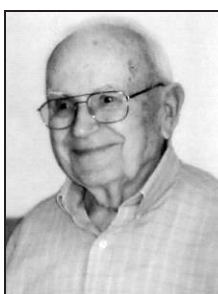
Catherine leaves three children: daughter, Bernice, wife of Dr. Paul Balson of Beverly Hills, CA, son, Dr. Francis Solga of Orwigsburg, PA, and daughter, Barbara Ann, wife of James Christopher of San Diego, CA; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her youngest grandson, Jeffrey Christopher; brothers, Martin and Frank Zajacik; and sisters Sophie Bieter, Anna Grim and Victoria Kachmar.

A viewing was held Wednesday, January 8, 2014, from 6-8 p.m. with Rosary at 7 p.m. and Thursday, January 9, 2014, 9:30- 10:30 a.m. in Kohut Funeral Home, Allentown, PA. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m., Thursday in St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Allentown, with burial following in the parish cemetery.

LUDOVIT TIRPAK BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Ludovit Tirpak, 93 of Matawan, NJ, formerly of Perth Amboy, NJ, passed away on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at his residence with his family by his side.

Ludovit was born in Michalovce, Slovakia and came to Perth Amboy in 1968 and then to Matawan for the last three years. He was employed by American Smelting & Refinery Co., Perth Amboy and Russell- Stanley Corp. as a laborer. He retired in 1988. He was a parishioner of Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish at Holy Trinity Church and a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. During his 28 years of retirement, he was an



avid gardener and enjoyed spending time at the Perth Amboy Waterfront.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife Margaret (nee Ganyo), who passed away in 2009; dear son of Jan and Margita (nee Mechanikova); loving father of Jana Tirpak who passed away in 2005 and dear brother of Magdalena Hospodarova.

He is survived by his devoted son Gabriel and his wife Margita (nee Soganova) Tirpak of Matawan; dear brother of Helen Molnar of North Olmsted, OH; adored grandfather of

Sabrina, Michael and his wife Erika (nee Faletti) Tirpak; cherished great-grandfather of Martin and Avery.

Family and friends received visitors on Sunday, September 11, 2016, at the Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home, Perth Amboy. On Monday, September 12, 2016 a funeral Mass was celebrated at Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish at Holy Trinity Church at 11 am, with interment following at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

- Submitted by Gabriel Tirpak

Remembering the Dead in Slovakia

Allan Stevo

In remembering their dead on November 1st, Slovaks make it a point to adorn their graves during the day with colorful flowers, plants, and other decorations. And in the days leading up to this holiday, the outdoor markets have their last hurrah for the year. No matter the weather, the markets will be full – full of vendors, full of flowers, full of buyers. When frost comes, the produce of the market will no longer be reliable. Just cut open an orange or a tomato that spent a December night in an unheated truck and you will learn your lesson about when to buy fruits at outdoor markets. But it is not December, and today, there's so much natural beauty in those markets – as people seek out the adornments they'll use to decorate graves – that today rivals the beauty of the market at any other time of the year.

In your travels across this country on All Saints' Day, be sure you do not end your travels before dusk. Drive into the night and you will be surprised at what happens next.

Out of the distance, over the hill will come a glow, a strange glow unknown to most eyes. It is especially unknown to eyes that are used to night being illuminated by nothing but street lights and "high beams."

What is that blaze? Just over the next hill is the glow of a cemetery lit by 1,000 candles.

In the last few weeks stores have prominently displayed these candles, from the tiny 20 cent candles housed in red and gold plastic, to the more expensive and elaborate candles in red glass cases. Family members and friends visit graves and light a candle before dusk. In unison, these tiny candles, sporadically-placed, create a calming glow. Maybe the glow is a melancholy one – it tangibly shows the many people who miss someone close to them on this night. Perhaps it's a victorious glow – it tells us that there are many people in that cemetery who've left strong impacts on others in their short time on earth. And for the outsider, this uncommon site of a candle-lit, flower-filled cemetery at dusk is something that we are lucky to witness.

Each year on this day, I go into Bratislava's medická záhrada (medical garden) and light a candle at the foot of Martin Kukučín's statue. Kukučín was a writer of Slovak realism who lived and wrote at the turn of the last century. He models part of what I aspire to be – a traveler, a writer, an observer of the space around me, a good and generous man. Kukučín came before me in my family and in my profession. I light a candle at the foot of his statue and each year am pleased to find that someone else has laid flowers there. To be forgotten is to have no one bring a flower or a candle to your grave on this day. To be remembered is to have your grave visited. On this day in Slovakia, the dead are remembered. It is their holiday.

Why do people do this? Why has it become a tradition? Of that, I have no idea. But I know it feels right. There are times when you do something and you know that you are doing something of significance. Taking a moment to remember the people who came before you makes you a stronger, more rooted person with a history. Taking a moment to remember the people who came before you helps you remind yourself that you did not arrive at this point on your own. As Isaac Newton put it, in a letter to his rival Robert Hooke, "If I have seen a little further it is by standing on [the] shoulders of Giants." On November 1, Slovaks remember the people who personally built foundations under them.

- Excerpted from All Saints' Day post on November 1, 2010 on 52insk.com.

Allan Stevo is a writer from Chicago. You can see more of his work at www.AllanStevo.com.



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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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place at this meeting. Please call Joe at (732) – 469-5256 for the location. Please leave a message.

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. John Baptist Society Branch 313 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 11:30 AM at Arrowhead Ales Restaurant 2101 Calistoga Dr. New Lenox, IL. The agenda will be a discussion of branch business and membership. A lunch will follow. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Any questions please call Branch 313 President Joseph Bugel 708-349-7873.

Joseph Bugel, President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on December 4, 2016, at 11:00AM at the home of Frances Tarquinio. In addition to conducting general business, there will be an election of officers. Please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 before November 26, 2016, and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 320 – BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

Any branch member planning on going to the FCSU Membership Meet in November, please contact Fran at 1-724-929-9788. A small stipend may be available.

Frances Tarquinio, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 372 – BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 1:00PM at the home of President Michael P. Hudak, 829 Cameron Ave, Beaverdale, PA, 15921. On the agenda: general business and election of officers for the calendar year 2017.

Respectfully,

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382K will conduct its Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 6, 2016. Branch President Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. will convene the meeting at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

The agenda will include reports from Branch officers and the Branch delegates to the District 17 meeting. Information from the Home Office will be presented. Members will also consider charitable donations and future activities.

Election of officers for 2017 will take place.

President Slovenkai reminds members that "Fraternalism is a family affair," and invites all members to attend this meeting.

Following the meeting there will be refreshments and time for socializing.

The other executive officers include Vice President Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Secretary Michael J. Czankner, Treasurer Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., and Financial Secretary John J. Slovenkai, Sr.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting at 1:00PM on Sunday, October 23, 2016, at 1:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA, 15601. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting. All members are invited. For reservations, contact Mary Ann Nalevanko at 724-834-6386.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold its quarterly meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. at Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA

Branch officers will be elected at this December meeting. All members of Branch 410 are cordially invited to attend. Call for reservations by November 28, 3016 at 724-425-2576.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 419 – MOUNTAIN TOP, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419, Saint Stephen the Martyr, will conduct a meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2016, starting at 12:30PM, at Norm's Restaurant on Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA (across from the Home Depot). Refreshments will be served. The meeting will include election of officers. All are encouraged to attend; please join us welcoming our Branch President Frank Wasil after three months in the hospital and then a physical therapy facility.

Carol Phillips, Acting Secretary

BRANCH 484- CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will hold its Annual Meeting on December 18, 2016, at the home of Treasurer Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Road, Coral, PA, 15731. The meeting will start at 2:00PM. On the agenda will be financial reports, election of officers, payment of donations, bills, and the latest district meeting. All members are welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450 will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, December 3, 2016. The meeting will be held at 1:00 PM, 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 2016 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.

Faternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

We would like to thank those who came to our Mass and breakfast Sunday Sept 25, a wonderful time was had by all.

Wine Fest is set for October 22nd. 6pm

Come join us for a fun night of wine tasting, sausage or meatball sandwiches, cheese plates, pizzelles, etc. Plus music and dancing.

Spaghetti Dinner and November 2nd 4:30 to 7pm

Our Villia is set for Dec. 11th.

Respectfully Submitted

Sandie Klucar, Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart Branch 580 will hold a meeting on November 27, 2016, after the 9:30 Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall at 529 Grant Ave ext, West Mifflin, PA. 15122. Election of officers will take place. All members are welcome. The district 6 meeting will also be held on Nov. 27th at 1 PM in the social hall also.

Virginia Jasek, Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, November 13, 2016, at Harold's Inn, 2134 Brod-

head Road, Alquippa, 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 7, 2016.

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, November 6: Polka Dance, 3pm-6pm, food available for purchase

Sunday, November 27: Breakfast, 8:30-12noon, all you can eat and the best breakfast in town

Sunday, December 18: Branch meeting with election of officers, please try 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, MI (231)733-7525

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 633 – MT. MORRIS, MICHIGAN

FCSU Branch 633 will hold its annual membership meeting on Sunday November 13, 2016 at Mr. B's Roadhouse 6761 Dixie Hwy, Village of Clarkston, MI 48346 at 1PM. We intend to hold our officer elections and encourage everyone in the branch to attend. Please prayerfully consider running for an office and help our branch grow. Please contact Branch President Rod Meloni @ 248-444-9141 with questions and RSVPs.

Rod Meloni, President

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 4, 2016, at 11:30AM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, PA. On the agenda will be election of officers. Members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Members of Saint Joseph Branch 731 Youngstown, Ohio will celebrate Mass for deceased members on December 18, 2016 at 11:00AM. The election of officers for 2017 will also be held at the annual meeting following the Mass. All the events will be held at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio."

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michaels Branch 738 will be holding our next semi-annual meeting Tuesday December 6, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the VFW on Whitaker Way in Munhall, PA. The meeting will include our celebration of Christmas and pizza will be served. We will also review the annual audit and election of officers for 2017. We invite all members to attend. Please bring any ideas or suggestions for future activities for members as well as ways to increase membership. Please join us and become involve in your branch and its future.

Pat Guidish, Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2016 financial report, approval of the 2017 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of Branch Officers 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 assistance with their policy or need to change their address or beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620

**Joseph C. Rimarcik,
President and Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Branch 756 will hold its next meeting on Nov, 20, 2016 at 12:30 pm. It will be in the Hospitality room of St. Joseph School, 811 E. Oliver St. Please enter on the South East side of the building. Still looking for additional officers. May go to lunch immediately after. May review pictures of last year's trip to Slovakia, Vienna, Prague and Krakow, Poland.

Please RSVP attendance to 517-381-8358.

Stephan J. Patoprsty, President

BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764's next meeting will be held on November 28, 2016 at 12:30 at the Covered Bridge Restaurant. The address is: 22 W Broad St, Newton Falls, OH 44444.

On the agenda will be election of officers for 2017.

All members are urged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCHES 784 AND 810 – MONTREAL QUEBEC

Both branches will hold their annual meeting on November 6, 2016, following the 11 o'clock Mass for the deceased members of Branch 784 in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Following the Mass our meeting will be held at the Parish hall. On the agenda: plans for the next season along with the election of officers for 2017.

A light lunch will be served. Please advise us of your attendance so that we may prepare an exciting lunch. It could be sandwiches, soup, steaks or more. It depends on your attendance.

Alice Dobrik, President

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold their Annual Meeting Sunday, November 13, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. The meeting will held at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 4464 Main Street, Egypt, Whitehall, PA, 18052.

All members are encouraged to attend. Agenda items will be general Branch business as well as election of officers for the upcoming year 2017. Concluding the meeting we will have a luncheon.

Monica Fabian, Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Branch 844 will hold their annual Slovak All Saints and All Souls Mass on Sunday, October 30, 2016, at John Paul II Polish Center, 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA, 92886. The Slovak Mass will begin at 1:00PM, with Fr. Pavol Sochulak, SVD, from San Bernadino, as celebrant. An afternoon of fraternal fellowship is planned directly after the Mass, with coffee, donuts and good Slovak music for your dancing and listening pleasure. We invite everyone – Slovaks and Slovak friends - to join us.

Faternally,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

Celebrating Wine in Slovakia

continued from page 6

Wine Festivals in History

Wine festivals have a long history in Western Civilization dating back to the time of the Ancient Greeks. While the Egyptians had honored their god Osiris as the patron of wine, the Greek celebrations to Dionysus, the god of wine, are the oldest historically documented festivals. They usually involved drinking, grape pressing, consuming regional foods, jovial music and some religious rituals.

The Romans heavily borrowed from the Greeks in celebrating their Bacchanalia, the festivals of Bacchus. Starting around 200 BC, these popular feasts took place throughout central and southern Italy peninsula. While we know little about the rites during Bacchanalia, the Roman historian Livy believed them as contributing to the decline of the Empire. He portrayed them as corrupt, cultish, conspiratorial, scandalous and full of wild frenzy and sexual debauchery. He associated them with the mystery cults of Rome which were threatening traditional religion and political stability in the second century A.D. In one instance, he wrote that the state arrested 7,000 participants, and executed the majority of them!

This did not stop the wine festival tradition, and they continued after Rome fell. During the Middle Ages, wine celebrations spread throughout other parts of Europe, and became especially popular in France, Germany, Spain, Hungary, and elsewhere. Today one can find grape harvest festivals throughout the world, from Australia to Argentina and the USA.

Traditional Vinobrania in Slovakia

The Vinobrania or Wine Festivals have a long history in Slovakia and usually occur in late September. The oldest one in Pezinok and dates as far back to the 13th century, but we have just a few details about those. During the Great Depression, the celebrations took place mainly in the wine cellars themselves, but today it has become a big event that has moved above ground.

For the most part, Vinobrania, the traditional feast accompanying the harvest of grapes, is a 20th century phenomena in Slovakia. During the interwar era, wealthy wine growing families hired their vintner workers to decorate a wreath with ribbons and flowers and the vintage wagon with the last-picked grapes. Similar to the Slovak harvest festivals, a parade route with people dressed in traditional folk dress (kroj) took a procession from the vineyard to the town, accompanied by singing. The participants carried a wreath (veniec) from the most beautiful vines to the owner of that prize vines. The winemaker's family prepared their yard for a feast to feed and entertain their vine workers. After a series of speeches, a sumptuous meal for all would typically include tasty meats, roast chicken, bread, and pastries. Merriment would follow with wine drinking, singing and music.

The first well-recorded wine festival in Slovakia occurred in 1934 on the feast of St. Václav (September 28) and continued the following year. The city council in Pezinok organized the event in cooperation with the vineyard guilds, the State Railways, and several municipal corporations. They used the Vinobrania not only to celebrate but to promote the local wines. After this successful event, several neighboring wine-growing towns (Modra and Svätý Jur) mimicked the custom.

The custom declined shortly after and the Second World War did away with any such celebrations. Pezinok attempted to revive the grape harvest on October 13, 1946. Government officials and journalists from Prague attended the ceremonies, and Czechoslovak Radio broadcast the events to publicize them.

The expansion of the festival continued several years later after the communists compelled the formation of the agricultural cooperatives. District authorities decided that the celebrations would be held on alternate weekends in the two largest wine-growing towns of the Small Carpathian region, Pezinok and Modra. In 1958, one of the biggest events coincided with the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the founding of Modra. More than 30,000 visitors attended.

A second vinobranie took place in Pezinok in 1959, and also coincided with commemorating the 15th anniversary of the anti-Nazi Slovak National Uprising of 1944. The communists used the event to showcase the progress of their agricultural production and machinery. Over 40,000 visitors came, including many from Bohemia and Moravia. The event expanded into a large cooperative fair in which hundreds of stalls sold all sorts of goods, including engraved cups, foods, wine, and even geese.

As many as 250 different wines were available for tasting, including the famous burčiak, a young, fermenting wine. A Slovak legend relates that every man should replace his blood every year by drinking two liters of burčiak. Since burčiak is only available only in the autumn for a few weeks, it became "the drink of choice" at any Vinobranie.

Vinobrania today

Located just 20 km northeast of Bratislava, Pezinok is an ideal place to make a day-trip when visiting the Slovak capital. In 2016, the Pezinok Vinobranie took place on the weekend of September 18-20 and featured the tantalizing tasting of locally produced young wines and plenty of live entertainment and concerts. One may combine wine trials with full meals featuring traditional Slovak foods such as cigánska (grilled pork or chicken with mustard and onion), roast goose (pečený hus), sausages (klobasy), lokša (potato dough pancakes), and or the famous trdelník, a sweet pastry made from rolled dough that is wrapped around a stick, then grilled and topped with sugar and walnut mix.

Here is an example of many programs offered at the 2016 Pezinok grape harvest festival. Festivities began at 5 pm on Friday with the first toast marking the commencement of the festivities. After a fanfare by the group Funny Fellows, there was blessing of the harvest, following by a parade from the castle to the wine shop at the town square. After some speeches at the town hall, there was a performance by the folklore group SS BIRCH, followed by the Sunny Dance group from Pezinok. Entertainment continued until 10 pm with music by Funny Fellows, Fleret from the Czech Republic, and an Abba Revival band. Similar music

took place at the foot of the castle at the same time, which included a Country Music Band, other folk music, and even a group (Poa pratensis) from Hungary performing.

The program continued on Saturday at the Grandstand at the town hall as well as in front of the castle. At the town hall, the Music School Eugen Suchoň of Pezinok put on the first live show followed by the Bon Bon Trio, MC Erik, Viva Italia from the Czech Republic, and the Pressburger Klezmer Band. In the evening, a Queen Revival group performed, finished off with fireworks and several more modern bands playing until 10 pm. The castle show focused more

Sunday events included another parade and a prevalence of brass band performances, including a group from Norway and some Cuban Salsa dancing. The program intended to have something for everyone, far beyond just a celebration of wine.

If one did not have the opportunity to go to Pezinok or the nearby towns, Bratislava itself held its own celebration in the center of the Old Town without the benefit of adjacent vineyards. In eastern Slovakia, Košice has hosted its own wine festival since 2007. It includes an array of Slovakia's best grape-growers and winemakers as well as selected foreign winemakers. The Košice event highlights the fine tasting wines from the Tokaj, Eger and eastern Slovakia. The festival includes a schedule of educational events, guided tasting sessions, lectures and workshops.

So in contemporary Slovakia, Vinobrania are annual events that have transformed into huge fairs including far more than just parading the local wines and celebrating the grape harvest. They provide a welcome release from the work week and promote traditional Slovak folk song and dance, but also have expanded to include more modern music and entertainment to attract all generations and people with diverse interests. The original concept of a wine festival has persisted, but has expanded far beyond just an interest in grapes and fine wines.

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Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

News From Slovakia

Ratification of Paris Agreement Is Diplomatic Success for Slovakia

Bratislava, October 10 (TASR) - The ratification of the Paris Agreement at the EU level last week is a huge diplomatic success for Slovakia during its Presidency of the Council of the EU, said Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer-SD) at a press conference at the Environment Ministry on this date.

Slovak Environment Minister Laszlo Solymos (Most-Hid) on behalf of Slovakia and the EU handed over the ratification documents concerning the Paris Climate Agreement to the UN depository in New York on Friday (October 7).

"Slovakia has been successful to a significant degree during its presidency. We're meeting the goals we've set," noted Fico. "We've managed to organize even this matter that many considered to be impossible. I'd like to thank the environment minister for his initiative. In this way we've contributed together towards Slovakia's diplomatic success," he stressed.

Fico expressed appreciation for the fact that there wasn't any need to employ qualified majority voting at an extraordinary session of EU environment ministers because they reached consensus. Solymos reported that this wasn't easy to achieve.

"The EU has confirmed its leading position in the fight against climate change via its ratification of the agreement," stressed Solymos.

The Paris Agreement can enter into force, as more than 55 signatories of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that produce 55 percent of the total volume of greenhouse gases have already ratified it.

"It's an issue that may be rather far from ordinary life, but at the end of the day we can feel what climate change is causing in Slovakia," noted Fico, adding that this agreement will replace the Kyoto Protocol. Fico said that every country should be allowed to preserve the right to determine its own energy mix, i.e. the combination of sources from which it produces electricity.

Fico isn't worried that Slovakia could have troubles meeting the commitments arising from the agreement. "A vast amount of electricity is produced from the core [nuclear energy] here [in Slovakia]," he explained.

The Environment Ministry has set up an Environmental Policy Institute, which should develop a domestic low-carbon strategy until 2050. This should help to determine where Slovakia could fulfil its commitments most effectively," added Solymos.

The main goals of the agreement include keeping the increase in the average global temperature well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This should significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

President Andrej Kiska Departs for Official Visit to Romania

Bratislava, October 10 (TASR) - Slovak President Andrej Kiska departed on this date for a two-day official visit to Romania to meet its President Klaus Iohannis, Prime Minister Dacian Cioloș, Senate Chairman Calin Popescu-Tariceanu and Chamber of Deputies Chairman Florin Iordache.

Apart from official meetings, Kiska, along with Iohannis, will speak at the Slovak-Romanian economic forum, and he will also pay a visit to a Slovak community that has been living in Romania for more than 200 years.

Kiska will also bestow the Order of the White Double Cross of the third class on five Romanian war veterans that took part in the liberation of Czechoslovakia during WWII.

National Mourning in Slovakia over Death of Former President Kovac

Bratislava, October 6 (TASR) - The Cabinet on Thursday decided to observe a day of national mourning for the former Slovak president Michal Kovac who became the first president of Slovakia after the country became independent in 1993, serving five years in office between 1993-98.

Kovac, 86, died of heart failure in Saint Michael's Hospital in Bratislava on Wednesday evening, October 5, 2016.

Slovak cabinets have declared a national mourning eight times in their history. The last time they did so was on December 23, 2011 due to the death of the last Czechoslovak president Vaclav Havel.

According to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, former president Michal Kovac was a real European who understood that the future of his country as a democratic and free state lies in Europe, said on this date.

"It was with great sadness that I learned about the death of the former president of Slovak Republic. We will all remember Michal Kovac for qualities he brought to public life: moral integrity, civic dedication and political commitment," said the EC President.

According to Juncker, Kovac served as the head of state in difficult times and his courageous defense of democracy and the rule of law helped bring Slovakia back on the European path. "The best way how to pay respects to Michal Kovac is to stay true to his legacy and continue his work," added Juncker.

Slovak Officials Honor Heroes of Carpatho-Dukla Operation

Vysny Komarnik, October 6 (TASR) - Slovakia's top officials attended a commemoration event marking the 72nd anniversary of the Carpatho-Dukla operation and 'Dukla Pass Victims Day' that took place at Dukla Pass (Presov region) on the Slovak-Polish border on this date.

The event is organized annually to pay tribute to the victims and soldiers who laid down their lives in nearby woods during some of the fiercest fighting of the Second World War.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Robert Fico said that he sees Dukla as a place of great courage but also an example of what a war rampaging can bring. "I would recommend to anyone who engages in sabre-rattling rhetoric today and to anyone who talks about increasing military spending with such ease, (...) to visit similar sites as Dukla. He or she won't make such statements afterwards," said Fico.

"We have an interest in good and friendly relations with every state in this world. We have an interest in good and friendly relations with the Russian Federation," he added. According to Fico, it's a big mistake to try to make an enemy of someone at all costs. The premier noted that nobody will ever change the historical fact that it was Soviet soldiers who liberated Slovakia, Bohemia and Moravia.

Defense Minister Peter Gajdos, also present at the commemoration event, said that the Carpatho-Dukla operation was one of the toughest and most important operations in our history.

Gajdos also noted that mainly the younger generation should commemorate these events, as they're forgetting about how difficult it was to ensure freedom and how many lives and blood it cost.

"I'm convinced that young people, schools, children, grandchildren, students as well as young people should visit such commemoration sites in order to know what they represent and what they represented," he added.

The commemoration service at Dukla was also attended by representatives of the Slovak Armed Forces, guests from neighboring countries and eye-witnesses of the Carpatho-Dukla operation.

The Carpatho-Dukla offensive involved the biggest and bloodiest battle of the eastern front on Slovak territory. Troops of the Red Army and the Czechoslovak Army encountered strong resistance from the Germans.

The offensive operation was aimed at uniting rebel forces of the Slovak National Uprising with Soviet troops. It lasted from September 8 to October 28, 1944.

Slovakia to Host 21 EU Parliamentary Leaders and EP Chairman Schulz

Bratislava, October 4 (TASR) - Slovakia will host a summit of EU parliamentary chairpersons plus European Parliament Chairman Martin Schulz in Bratislava between October 6-7, TASR learnt on this date.

As many as 21 EU parliamentary chairs, including the Slovak one, and the EP chairman have so far confirmed their participation on an event organized by Slovak Parliamentary Chairman Andrej Danko, who would like to present Slovakia as a country that brings nations together.

"The summit of EU parliamentary chairpersons will present Slovakia as a cosmopolitan country that has been bringing not only nations together ... but is also proud of its people and its culture," said Danko's spokesperson Eva Kliska.

Kliska reported that Slovakia will welcome the chairpersons of parliaments from such countries as the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Belgium, Estonia, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Sweden as well as Malta that will succeed Slovakia in the Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Most of them will arrive on Thursday to attend a gala dinner at Bratislava castle. The castle will be lit up in the colors of flags and national symbols of EU-member states.

Music, art, cuisine and wine will try to acquaint the participants with the Slovak culture. Chairpersons will be also given statuettes made of tin representing Slovak national symbols.

The second part of the summit will focus on challenges the EU is currently facing. "Some of them, such as security, stability, roles of national parliaments and social securities of our citizens, will be discussed during the joint session on Friday," said Danko.

Contemporary Art Festival White Night Lights Up City of Kosice Again

Kosice, October 1 (TASR) - The White Night festival taking place in Kosice on this evening and night offers visitors contemporary art not only in galleries, but mostly in the streets and public places, TASR learnt on the same day.

Impressive visual and interactive installations made by Slovak and foreign artists attracted thousands of people who set up for an evening walk throughout Kosice's city centre.

Visitors to the seventh edition of White Night can see a total of 34 artistic projects created by authors from ten different countries.

"The route leads as usual from Tabacka Kulturfabrik to Barracs Culturepark. As it's a multi-genre festival of contemporary art, every visitor can find in it something for himself or herself," said White Night's artistic director Zuzana Pacakova.

One of the main attractions of this year's festival is a digital display of fireflies made by Canadian-French artist Maotik. It's created by using a special laser technology and thousands of light bulbs filled with water and milk.

Moreover, the Kosice State Philharmonic Orchestra is participating in the festival for the first time by staging two musical projects combined with silent films.

Meanwhile, in order to ensure the organisation of the rather costly event also in the future, the festival has been partially charged for the first time. A five-euro ticket gives access to some 15 artworks exhibited in the galleries.

A week later, on October 8, the festival moves to Bratislava.


Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at
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Albright Visit Surprises Attendees at Slovak American Society Fundraiser

Ken Bombara

For several years, the Slovak American Society of Washington DC (SASW) has held a fundraiser to benefit its scholarship fund for students at VSM/City University in Slovakia. This year's event was held on the evening of September 8, at Bistro Bohem in Washington, a small restaurant featuring eastern European specialties. The evening featured music by Orchester Prazevica, a popular local Slovak gypsy jazz group.

The packed room of Slovak-Americans and recent emigres was enjoying the music, food, and camaraderie, when former Secretary of State Madeline Albright dropped by for a visit! The surprised attendees were thrilled to see such a famous national figure; many attendees took photos and had a brief chat, with some posting to social media. Secretary Albright made a few brief remarks at the event, commenting that while she was from Prague and identifies as a 'Czechoslovak,' when she was a young girl the folk clothing she wore on special occasions was from the Piestany region. She seemed thrilled to be interacting with her ethnic 'cousins'.

Secretary Albright's visit to the event was serendipitous, as Ken Bombara, SASW member and a member of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), where he represents the Slovak League of America, was attending a meeting of the CEEC with Ms. Albright. He casually mentioned to her that the SASW fundraiser was being held nearby, and to his surprise she said, "I think I'll go!" Her visit helped make it a memorable evening, and the proceeds will benefit students in Slovakia. The fundraiser was organized by SASW board members Ray Luca and Helen Fedor, under the direction of SASW President Brian Belensky. For more information on SASW's VSM/City University scholarship fund, visit www.dcslovaks.org.

If each member would sign up just one new member,
we could double our Society immediately

THINK ABOUT IT!

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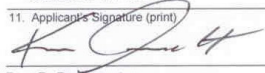
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BRATISLAVA REGION

Fall Festival in the Bratislava Region

Date: 9/1/2016 - 12/31/2016

The annual "Župná jeseň" series of cultural and social events will offer a wide variety of songs, flavors, aromas, and experiences that are typical of the Bratislava Region. From September to December, you can look forward to various wine harvest festivals, annual fairs, music festivals, markets, and other interesting events.

Source: Bratislava Region Tourism
Web: www.gob.sk

Jack O'Lanterns Abound in Bojnice Castle

Date: 10/28/2016 - 10/31/2016

The Slovak National Museum - Museum Bojnice is offering a non-traditional castle tour at night accompanied by autumn-themed decorations and glowing pumpkins. Located in the central part of the country, this medieval castle in Bojnice, Slovakia is a Romantic castle with some original Gothic and Renaissance elements built in the 12th century. Bojnice Castle is one of the most visited castles in Slovakia, receiving hundreds of thousands of visitors every year and also being a popular filming stage for fantasy and fairy-tale movies.

Now, in October, carved, menacing pumpkins are featured throughout, highlighting a tradition that dates back to the time of our ancestors when jack o'lanterns were carved based on the Celtic mythological belief that the souls of the departed come back to Earth on the last day of October, trying to gain control of all living things. Light – even in the form of coals glowing inside a carved pumpkin resembling a scary face – would serve as a protection against these returning souls.



28. - 29. 10. a 31. 10. 2016 o 19:00 h

Zámok Bojnice
Jednotné vstupné 8 €
Tešíme sa na vás

Awesome Autumn in Slovakia

Správy zo Slovenska

Od decembra môže byť viac vlakov

Na železničnej trati Bratislava – Komárno spoločnosť RegioJet plánuje nasadiť viac vlakov. Potrebuje však na to súhlas Ministerstva dopravy. Počet sťažností cestujúcich sa denno-denne zvyšuje. Tvrdia, že vlaky sú preplnené, veľakrát ani na státie nie je miesto. Spočiatku boli žlté, modernejšie vlaky veľmi obľúbené, cestovanie bolo pohodlné. V súčasnosti je nárast cestujúcich neúnosný, hlavne v raňajšej a večernej špičke a v piatok, keď pracujúci a študenti cestujú z hlavného mesta domov. Spoločnosť rokuje s ministerstvom, ale dohoda zatiaľ nedošlo. Podľa budúceho ministra rezortu Árpáda Érseka v špičke by mali premávať dlhšie vlakové súpravy.

Zamestnanci v slovenskom Volkswagene zvažujú štrajk

V halách slovenského Volkswagenu rastie nespokojnosť zamestnancov. Ľuďom s niekoľkoročnou praxou sa totiž nepáči, že vedenie podniku dáva novým zamestnancom také výhody, aké ich starší kolegovia nemajú. Medzi staršími robotníkmi sa stále viac hovorí o štrajku. Odbory v polovici septembra chystali zatiaľ dvojhodinový oficiálny protest, ktorý by bol mal ukázať, aká veľká je nespokojnosť kmeňových zamestnancov.

Bude sa musieť cestový ruch uskromniť

Propagácia Slovenska v zahraničí je v budúcom roku ohrozená. Podľa návrhu štátneho rozpočtu na rok 2017 dostanú organizácie cestovného ruchu 7,5 milióna eur, kým v roku 2016 to bola suma 11,2 milióna eur. Ministerstvo dopravy, pod ktoré rezort patrí však verí, že rezort financií návrh rozpočtu prehodnotí. "Stále prebiehajú intenzívne rokovania zamerané na navýšenie tejto sumy, keďže so znižujúcim sa rozpočtom sa aj propagácia Slovenska ako turistickej destinácie stáva v podstate nekonkurencieschopnou," uzavrel tlačový odbor rezortu dopravy.

Gigantom sa končí daňové eldorádo

Európska komisia chce zatočiť s praktikami, keď giganty berú miliardové zisky, ale neplatia takmer žiadne dane. Pri riešení problému únikov daní ide doslova o budúcnosť Európskej únie (EÚ). Mnohé produkty si kúpia aj Slováci. Veľký výrobca zarobí, ale daň z príjmu do slovenskej štátnej kasy neodvedie. "Na Slovensku pôsobí mnoho nadnárodných firiem, ktoré pomocou daňových rajov v Európe vyvážajú zisky bez toho, aby sa na ne uvalila daň. Nie sú to len finanční žraloci, ale i rôzne technologické spoločnosti či firmy produkuje spotrebný tovar," hovorí ekonóm spoločnosti Finlord Boris Tomčiak.

Dôchodkový strop bude musieť mať aj Slovensko

V susednom Česku pripravujú zavedenie dôchodkového stropu. Diskusia o podobnom probléme zasiahne aj Slovensko. Zvyšujúci sa vek odchodu do dôchodku vyvoláva totiž v spoločnosti mnohé otázky. Najčastejšie sa ľudia pýtajú, ako vydrží robotník podávať trhom diktované tvrdé pracovné tempo vo veku 67 rokov. "Diskusie o možnosti zavedenia stropu prebiehali aj na Slovensku pri schvaľovaní takzvaného apolitického a automatického modelu odchodu do penzie, ktorý začína byť aktuálny od budúceho roka. V porovnaní s inými krajinami, ktoré pristupovali k zvyšovaniu dôchodkového veku skôr, preto ešte nebola téma natoľko aktuálna a vyžaduje si sociálny aj politický dialóg. Ako je známe už dnes pripravujeme koncepciu takzvaného preddôchodku, teda skoršieho odchodu do penzie bez zníženia výšky budúceho starobného dôchodku najmä pre fyzicky ťažko pracujúcich ľudí, teda rizikové kategórie zamestnancov," povedal hovorca ministerstva práce Michal Štuška.

Pri štadióne Kmotrík postaví 334 bytov

Prešlo len pár dní, čo podnikateľ Ivan Kmotrík poklepal základný kameň Národného futbalového štadióna v Bratislave, a už jeho firma Tehelné, a.s. spustila predaj luxusných bytov, ktoré budú stáť v jeho bezprostrednej blízkosti. Štadión má vybudovať spoločnosť Strabag koncom za 60 miliónov eur. Rovnako ako rezidenčný projekt Tehelné pole by mal byť dostavaný takmer roka 2018. Luxusné bývanie bude pozostávať z dvoch základných častí, a to vyššej 24-podlažnej a nižšej 9-podlažnej budovy, celkovo s 334 bytmi. Zástupkyňa investora Ivana Tittelová povedala, že náklady na výstavbu znáša iba súkromný investor, ktorého projekt vyjde zhruba 25 miliónov eur. Projekt s bytmi v minulosti narazil na protest prokurátora. Územný plán mesta totiž túto oblasť definuje ako určenú na šport a voľný čas.

Nábytok potiahol Ikea zo Záhoria medzi top firmy

Na Slovensku sa robí aj svetový biznis. Dôkazom je napríklad spoločnosť Ikea Components z Malaciek, ktorá ako jediná v Európe vyrába kovania pre švédsky gigant Ikea. Producent zo Záhoria sa dostal do rebríčka Deloitte CE Top 500 najväčších firiem regiónu. Za minulý rok dokázal vygenerovať tržby takmer 496 miliónov eur. Slovensko má podľa maloobchodného analytika Ľubomíra Drahovského potenciál na to, aby firmami ako Ikea Components bolo viac. Napriek zlepšujúcemu sa podnikateľskému prostrediu a úspechom ďalších slovenských biznisov máme podľa analytikov na Slovensku čo doháňať. "Región strednej a východnej Európy ešte stále patrí k nadpriemerne rastúcim regiónom v porovnaní so západnou Európou, čo má pozitívny vplyv na ekonomické prostredie ako také a teda aj na rozvoj firiem," hovorí Vladimír Masár, prezident Deloitte Slovensko.

Letecká tragédia: už piaty pád vrtuľníka jednej firmy

V roku 2016 si popradská vrtuľníková spoločnosť Air-Transport Europe (ATE) pripísala už piate letecké nešťastie. Doteraz zahynulo 15 ľudí. Štyria v stredu v noci neďaleko Banskej Bystrice. Vrtuľník Bell 429 od amerického výrobcu Bell Helicopter bol v portfóliu spoločnosti nový. Firma ho pustila do prevádzky 17. augusta tohto roka a jeho cena bola 6,2 milióna eur. Celkovo si Popradčania kúpili štyri stroje. Zvyšné tri sú zatiaľ u výrobcu v Prahe. ATE ich nasadí koncom roka. Poslednú tragickú nehodu mala firma v júli. Zomreli pri nej štyria ľudia. Odborník na civilné letectvo Petr Kolmann tvrdí, že riziko sa pri záchranných akciách zo vzduchu nikdy nedá eliminovať. "Existuje vždy. Prípady je však príliš čerstvé a informácií máme zatiaľ málo", doplnil Kolmann.

Svadba na dvakrát

Jedna nevesta, dve svadby. Prezident SR Andrej Kiska ženil v Starom Smokovci syna. Manželkou Andreja Kisku ml. sa stala Irma Chmelová, dcéra exministra kultúry a bývalého podpredsedu vlády Rudolfa Chmela. Mladý pár si povedal svoje "áno" už vlni 18. septembra v Prahe. Mladomanželia už vtedy avizovali, že majú v pláne aj poriadnu veselicu. Manželský obrad sa konal druhýkrát 17. septembra v Starom Smokovci.

Raz bude mať každý to svoje

V Londýne (Spojené kráľovstvo) otvorilo Slovenské centrum dizajnu výstavu súčasných slovenských dizajnérov, ktorých príbehy a výrobky ukazujú, že kreativita nie je závislá od fungujúceho priemyslu. Výstava sa volá Dialógy SK s podtitulom Malé a väčšie témy slovenského dizajnu. Medzi vystavujúcimi sú napríklad Markéta Nováková, Mira Podmanická či Richard Seneši. Z Londýna sa výstava presunie do Viedne (Rakúsko), potom do Varšavy (Poľsko) a končiť bude v Bratislave.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Bratislava

Motto: Bratislava mesto krásne, plné krásy je ,každý, kto v nej žije, verne ju miluje; prežívala časy slávne, aj časy smutné, striasla hrdinsky jarmo ukrutné.



Bratislavský hrad.



Socha francúzskeho vojaka.



Prezidentský palác.



Primaciálny palác.

Bratislava, hlavné mesto Slovenska, označovaná ako krásavica na Dunaji, ležiace v Podunajskej nížine, na južnej časti Malých Karpát a Záhorskej nížiny, na oboch stranách Dunaja, je sídlom celoslovenských kultúrnych aumeleckých inštitúcií a centrom najdynamickejšie sa rozvíjajúceho regiónu Slovenska.

Územie, na ktorom sa nachádza, bolo osídlené už 4000 rokov pred našim letopočtom. V 2. – 1. storočí pred n. l. tu razili strieborné mince - biateky, v 4. st. tu mali Rimania vojenské opevnenia a tábory.

Prvá zmienka o meste spomínanom ako Brezlauespurc pochádza z r. 907, v ktorej sa spomína porážka Slovanov Maďarmi. V 1. storočí n. l. vzniklo na ľavom brehu Dunaja veľkomesto Carnuntum, čo dosvedčujú zvyšky rímskych táborov v Devíne, Stupave a v Borinke. Najstaršie pamiatky na Slovanov sú z obdobia Veľkomoravskej ríše z 9. st., keď bola jej významným strediskom. V r. 1526 – 1848 bola snemovým a v r. 1531 -1784 korunovačným a hlavným mestom Uhorska. V Dóme sv. Martina korunovali 9 uhorských kráľov a 8 kráľovien, medzi nimi aj M. Teréziu. A v r. 1848 požadoval tu na sneme významný národovec Ľ. Štúr, ako poslanec za mesto Zvolen, zrušenie poddanstva.

V Bratislave sa nachádza 264 kultúrnych a 7 národných kultúrnych pamiatok, medzi nimi aj vzácne mauzóleum s hrobkou židovského rabína Chatama Sofera. Medzi najpríťažlivejšie časti patrí urbanistická štruktúra historickej Bratislavy.

Jej centrom je najhustejšie zaľudnené Staré Mesto, ktoré s priľahlými štvrťami tvorili jeho predmestia. Jeho neodmysliteľným symbolom je Michalská veža, no z jej pôvodných štyroch strán, cez ktoré sa vstupovalo do opevneného mesta, sa zachovala iba brána na Michalskej veži.

Bratislava je poznačená silnou religiozitou. Je tam 51 kostolov a značný počet kláštorov, najstarší kostol je Františkánsky kostol Zvestovania Pána z roku 1297, najnovší je pravoslávny Chrám sv. Rastislava na Tomášikovej ulici v Ružinove.

Ktoré pamätihodnosti a zaujímavosti teda by turisti mali vidieť? Predovšetkým aspoň:

- Sochu francúzskeho vojaka, symbolizujúceho Napoleonovu armádu
- Bratislavský hrad nad Dunajom, ktorý bol obývaný už v neolitickej, hallštatskej a rímskej dobe. V r. 1431 – 34 bol kráľovským sídlom a vojenskou pevnosťou. Najväčší význam však mal počas panovania M. Terézie v r. 1751 -1760. V r. 1811 vyhorel. Obnovovať ho začali až v r. 1953. V súčasnosti má svoju pôvodnú tvár.
- Hrad Devín, na sútoku Moravy a Dunaja, ktorý bol rímskou pevnosťou. V r. 1809 ho Napoleonove vojská zničili a odvtedy je ruinou. Je však symbolom stretávania sa štúrovcov a národného uvedomovania čs. vzájomnosti.
- Humanistickú univerzitu Academia Istropolitana, prvú vysokú školu na území dnešného Slovenska, ktorú v r. 1465 založil kráľ Matej Korvín.
- Evanjelické lýceum (názov niekdajšej strednej školy), ktoré sa stalo po príchode Ľ. Štúra na strediskom národného povedomia a vlastenectva.
- Primaciálny palác, v ktorom v r. 1805 uzavrel Napoleon s rakúskym cisárom Františkom I. mier.
- Korunovačný Dóm sv. Martina, ktorý je najvýznamnejším kostolom v Bratislave a jedným z najväčších na Slovensku a františkánsky kostol, v ktorom slúžil omšu pápež Ján Pavol II. počas návštevy Slovenska.
- Slovenské národné múzeum, ktoré obsahuje viac ako 3.8 mil. zbierkových predmetov a spravuje niekoľko desiatok objektov.
- Ostrov kormoránov, ornitologickú lokalitu, s rezerváciou o rozlohe 110 ha.
- Prezidentskú záhradu s areálom stromov, ktoré zasadili hlavy zahraničných štátov pri návštevách nášho prezidenta.

- Prezidentský palác s čestnou strážou v krojovaných dobových uniformách.

Najkrajší výhľad na mesto poskytujú: Návršie Slavín, Bratislavský hrad, televízna veža s vyhlídkovou reštauráciou nad Mostom SNP na Dunaji,

Po II. sv. vojne sa mesto rozrástlo a na pravej strane Dunaja vyrástla Petržalka, jeho najväčšie sídlisko, s početnými kultúrnymi, priemyselnými a obchodnými inštitúciami.

Andrej Štelmák, Sliac, Slovensko

V Cliftone, NJ vyvrcholila štvordňová misijná obnova pre Slovákov

V Cliftone, New Jersey 25. septembra vyvrcholila štvordňová misijná obnova pre Slovákov. Viedli ju P. Martin Huk a P. Rastislav Dluhý. Pred večernými svätými omšami, aj po nich, bola možnosť rozhovoru, modlitby a sviatosti zmierenia. Počas troch večerov sa veriaci s misionármi modlili Cestu milosrdenstva. Sväté omše boli v kostole sv. Cyri-la a Metoda a v kostole Najsvätejšieho srdca Ježišovho. Veriaci prichádzali z okolia Cliftonu, z dvoch so sebou susediacich štátov New Yorku a New Jersey. Na niektorých misijných obnovách sa zúčastnili aj kňazi, ktorí pôsobia v tejto oblasti

TKKBS/redemptoristi.sk

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Slovenský Oktoberfest v NY bude 23. októbra v kostolnej hale

Farnosť sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku v spolupráci s International Chef s Assn (NY Chapter) pozývajú slovenskú verejnosť na tradičnú októbrovú zábavu – slovenský Oktoberfest. Bude sa konať v **nedeľu 23. októbra** od 1. do 6.30 hod. vo veľkej a renovovanej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nep. (66th Street and 1st Ave) Bude sa podávať predjedlo, večera s bohatým výberom zo slovenskej a nemeckej kuchyne, slovenské a nemecké pivo, koláče, káva a čaj. Do tanca bude hrať kapela Kontakty. Vstupné je \$40 za osobu, v čom je zahrnuté jedlo a nápoje. Informácie a rezervácie: fara 212-734-4613 (Lisa), J. Škrkoň 718-626-0195, H. Daitová 201-641-8922, M. Božeková 347-612-1934.

Výročná členská schôdza okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu č. 16

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu č.16, že výročná členská schôdza sa bude konať v **nedeľu 30. októbra 2016** o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v malej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C. Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho okresu, aby poslali svojich delegátov. Program schôdze: podanie finančnej správy; plán práce na budúce obdobie a voľba výboru Okresu na rok 2017. Po výročnej schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v **nedeľu 20. novembra 2016** o 12:30 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 potom 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 Jursi, pokladníčka

Jozef a Dodo Ivaška budú spievať v Pittsburghu a v Tennessee

Slovenskí operní a kabaretní speváci Jozef Ivaška a jeho syn Dodo Ivaška budú vystupovať **5. novembra 2016** t.r. na Festivale Pittsburskej univerzity a **12. novembra 2016** na gala programe v Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Jozef Ivaška má rezidencie v Bratislave a v Rakúsku. 20 rokov spieval v Baden Operetta Theater v Rakúsku a okrem toho vystupoval na mnohých koncertoch a kultúrnych programoch v 30 krajinách. Jeho syn Jozef žije v Amerike. Je operným spevákom ale tiež vystupuje aj na rôznych kultúrnych a hudobných programoch. Obaja vystupovali spoločne i samostatne na populárnych festivaloch slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey.

O ich profesionálnej kariére vyšla nedávno v Bratislave kniha Život na hrane. Kniha tiež obsahuje kariéry slovenských spevákov, ktorí sa uplatnili vo svete.

Informácie o ich vystúpeniach v novembri možno získať u Heleny. Cincebeaux“ tel. 585-342-9383.

Slovensko sa zaviazalo, že poskytne 550 vládnych štipendií cudzincom v núdzi

Summit o migrantoch, ktorý sa konal 21. septembra organizovaný prezidentom USA Barackom Obamom bol úspešný. Povedal to v New Yorku na summite minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák, ktorý v mene slovenskej vlády uzavrel okrem iného záväzok poskytnúť vládne štipendium vyše 500 ľuďom, ktorí museli utiecť zo svojej vlasti.

„Ďalší konkrétny výsledok je, že sa zdvojnásobí počet ľudí, ktorým v takej alebo inej forme bude umožnený prístup do iných krajín. Rovnako tak milión ľudí dostane prístup k vzdelaniu a ďalší milión ľudí dostane prístup na trh práce. Čiže, toto sú konkrétny výstupy z dnešného summitu. Považujem za veľký úspech, že Slovensko bolo pozvané,“ skonštatoval minister zahraničných vecí.

Ako ďalej uviedol, filozofia organizátorov summitu bola založená na princípe dobrovoľnosti; to znamená, že krajiny, ktoré chcú pomáhať, pomáhajú spôsobom, ktorý je im najbližší, vlastný a kde vedia byť najefektívnejšie.

„V prípade Slovenska som oznámil finančné príspevky. My sme už ku dnešnému dňu do rozličných agentúr OSN aj EÚ, ktoré sa venujú problému migrácie, dali viac ako 12 miliónov eur a do roku 2021 sa ten objem finančných prostriedkov zvýši až na 19 miliónov. Druhá vec, dal som záväzok, že prijmem 550 štipendistov, to znamená, že poskytneme 550 vládnych štipendií pre mladých ľudí, ktorí budú môcť prísť na Slovensko študovať na našich vysokých školách,“ uviedol minister, ktorý to považuje za istú formu investície do budúcnosti.

Podľa jeho slov bude Slovensko ponúkať vládne štipendiá po dobu piatich rokov, pričom ich prvá časť je určená už pre rok 2017. Vyberať sa bude z ľudí, ktorí nielen prejavia záujem, ale aj spĺňajú predpoklady na to, aby úspešne študovali na vysokých školách. Pôjde o ľudí, ktorí boli nútení opustiť svoje domovy. Prevažná väčšina z nich by podľa Lajčáka mala byť zo Sýrie.

Keďže vybraní uchádzači budú vládnymi štipendistami, vylučuje sa to s tým, aby boli azylantmi. „Budú mať možnosť študovať, vzdelávať sa, a našim zmyslom je, aby sa po ukončení štúdia vrátili do svojich krajín. Treba si uvedomiť aj to, že niekto musí pracovať na tom, aby sa tie krajiny pozviechali, aby začali normálne fungovať a najlepšia kategória ľudí sú práve mladí vzdelaní ľudia. Myslíme si, že je to investícia do konkrétnych ľudí, ale aj do budúcnosti tých krajín, ktoré sú dnes zmietané vojnovým konfliktom,“ uviedol.

Ponuka sa podľa ministra týka počtu štipendií, avšak o aké študijné odbory pôjde, bude jasné až v spolupráci s ministerstvom školstva. „Samozrejme, aby to boli tie odbory, o ktoré je záujem a ktoré sme aj schopní vyučovať v angličtine,“ dodal šéf slovenskej diplomacie.

Domnieva sa, že štipendisti sa po ukončení štúdia budú môcť vrátiť do svojich krajín a podieľať sa na ich obnove.

Slovensko však za to nedostane nič, ale podľa ministrových slov to ani nebolo cieľom. „Nežiadali sme o to, aby sme niečo dostali. Pre nás je dôležité demonštrovať, že nestojíme bokom, že migrácia je naozaj jav, ktorý nezmizne ani o mesiac, ani o rok. Všetko nasvedčuje tomu, že istým spôsobom bude pokračovať, ale treba ju regulovať. Treba jasne odlišovať utečencov od ekonomických migrantov, treba samozrejme pomáhať ľuďom, ktorí bojujú o svoj život. Pre mňa je nesmierne dôležité to, že nikto nemôže povedať, že Slovensko sa tvári, že sa nás to netýka,“ skonštatoval minister Lajčák.

TASR

Zomrel bývalý rektor Katolíckej univerzity v Ružomberku

Vo veku 70 rokov zomrel kňaz Tadeusz Zasepa, bývalý rektor Katolíckej univerzity (KU) v Ružomberku. Vysokoškolský profesor, katolícky kňaz a publicista Tadeusz Zasepa bol medzinárodne uznávanou vedeckou autoritou v oblasti masmediálnej komunikácie. Pohreb bývalého rektora Katolíckej univerzity v Ružomberku prof. Tadeusza Zasepu, ktorý zomrel v **nedeľu 18. septembra 2016**, sa uskutočnil v **nedeľu 25. septembra 2016** v Ružomberku.

Tadeusz Zasepa sa narodil 23. apríla 1946 v Radziechowiciach v Poľskej republike. V rokoch 1962 – 1965 študoval na gymnázium v Częstochowej, pokračoval v Kňazskom seminári diecézy Częstochowa v Krakove. Do roku 1974 pracoval ako kaplán aj pre nepočujúcich vo farnosti Svätého Ducha Wieruszów. Neskôr pokračoval vo vzdelávaní na Katolíckej univerzite v Lubline (1974 – 1977), absolvoval aj viaceré študijné stáže na The Catholic University of America vo Washingtone, na University of Geneva v Ženeve a na Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore v Miláne.

Doktorát z pastorálnej teológie dosiahol v roku 1983 na lublinskej Katolíckej univerzite, v roku 1987 bol habilitovaný v odbore pastorálna teológia – mediálne vzdelávanie. V roku 1995 sa stal mimoriadnym profesorom a v roku 2001 riadnym profesorom. Oblasťou jeho vedeckého záujmu bola teória masmediálnej komunikácie, teória a dejiny žurnalistiky a súčasné formy odovzdávania viery, v ktorých publikoval desiatky monografií, vedeckých štúdií a prác.

V roku 1993 založil v Poľsku Katolícke Rádio Lublin a stal sa jeho prvým riaditeľom. V rovnakom roku založil lublinskú edíciu týždenníka Nedeľa, kde pôsobil aj ako redaktor. Od roku 1998 začal prednášať pre poslucháčov postgraduálneho štúdia žurnalistiky na Trnavskej univerzite v Trnave. V roku 1999 založil Lubelsku Szkołę Biznesu – Szkołę Wyższą (neskôr Lubelska Szkoła Wyższa im. Króla Władysława Jagiełły) v Lubline a do roku 2008 v nej pôsobil vo funkcii rektora.

Tadeusz Zasepa hovoril aktívne 10 cudzími jazykmi, ovládal aj posunkovú reč. Pôsobil ako člen viacerých medzinárodných vedeckých rád, redakčných rád vedeckých časopisov, profesijných spolkov a združení. Za svoje dielo bol niekoľkokrát ocenený domácimi a zahraničnými inštitúciami. V roku 2004 mu Slovenská akadémia vied udelila prestížne ocenenie Medzinárodnú cenu SAV za príspevok k rozvoju spoločenských a humanitných vied, kultúry a umenia na Slovensku, Prešovská univerzita v Prešove ho v máji 2008 ocenila čestným titulom doctor honoris causa. Od roku 2013 bol členom prestížnej Európskej akadémie vied a umení so sídlom v Salzburgu, od mája 2013 pôsobil aj vo vedení Európskej federácie katolíckych univerzít (Fédération des universités catholiques Européennes – FUCE), bol čestným občanom obcí Lúčky, Švošov a mesta Ružomberok. Od júla 2008 do júna 2014 pracoval ako rektor Katolíckej univerzity v Ružomberku, kde pôsobil aj ako profesor na katedre žurnalistiky (zdroj životopisu: Vladimír Buzna, bývalý hovorca KU v Ružomberku).

TKKBS



Medzi hosťami boli aj (z ľava) predseda Slovenskej ligy Daniel F. Tanzzone, bývalý veľvyslanec USA v Bratislave Theodore Sedgwick, tajomníčka SLvA Nina Holy, farár slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého o. Richard Baker a Jane Konzelmann.

ústavných činiteľov a vyše 150 prítomných Slovákov a hostí z okruhu OSN a tiež bývalého veľvyslanca USA v Slovenskej republike Theodora Sedgwicka.

Prezident Kiska a minister Lajčák mali krátke príhovory, po ktorých nasledovala na spiestenie večera hudobná vložka, v ktorej sa predstavil koncertný huslista Filip Pogady. Na klavíri ho doprevádzal pianista Mathew Graybil.

Po programe nasledovala recepcia so slovenskými pochúťkami. Medzi hosťami boli aj slovenský veľvyslanec vo Washingtone Peter Kmec, generálna konzulka Jana Trnovcová, ďalej predseda Slovenskej ligy v Amerike Daniel Tanzzone, generálna tajomníčka Nina Holá a člen Výkonného výboru Milan Čuba a tiež farár slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého otec Richard Baker a predsedníčka Slovensko-amerického strediska Sabina Sabadoš.



Z ľava: predsedníčka Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska Sabina Sabadoš, bývalý veľvyslanec USA v SR Theodore Sedgwick, kabaretná speváčka a herečka Luba Mason a farár slovenského kostola v NY o. Richard Baker.

Ján Holy

Svetožár Hurban Vajanský

Rok 2016 vyhlásila Matica slovenská za rok Svetožára Hurbana Vajanského, ktorého meno je Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí, a to najmä krajanom na Dolnej Zemi, dobre známe. Rok čo rok sa stretávajú pri pamätných tabuliach a bustách, kde tejto obrovskéj osobnosti – ktorá urobila hlbokú stopu nielen do slovenského politického života, ale i do našej slovenskej literatúry, vzdávajú úctu.

Svetožár Hurban Vajanský sa narodil v roku 1847 v Hlbokom do národne uvedomelej rodiny ako syn Jozefa Miloslava Hurbana a Aničky Jurkovičovej. Slovenskej verejnosti je známy najmä ako autor poézie, prózy i publicistiky, matičiarom je známy ako ideológ a politik a ako popredná osobnosť slovenskej kultúrnej a politickej scény 19. storočia. Vzdelanie získal nielen na území dnešného Slovenska, ale i v hornorakúskom Oberschutzene a pruskom Stendale. Svoju kariéru sprvoti zamerl na právo, ktoré študoval v Banskej Bystrici a Budapešti.

Vo svojom prvom zamestnaní (pracoval ako koncipient) sa prílišne neuchytil. Prestíž získal až ako redaktor Národných novín, prvých slovenských politických novín, ktoré vychádzali v periodicite tri až šesťkrát týždenne.

Študujúca mládež jeho meno dáva do súvislosti najmä s jeho poetickým a prozaickým umením. Na jeho tvorbu mali vplyv nielen štúrovci, ale i zahraničná literatúra. Jeho diela radíme do prvej vlny realizmu, niektorí literárni kritici však poukazujú aj na modernistické tendencie v jeho diele, s akými sa stretávame v medzivojnovnej literatúre. Témy, ktorých sa dotýka sú nielen spoločenské, ale i čiastočne orientované na jednotlivca vo vtedajšej spoločenskej situácii. V hodnotení jeho diel literárnymi kritikmi často nájdeme tvrdenie, že sa „ani o jednom spisovateľovi nevyslovilo toľko protirečivých názorov ako o S. H. Vajanskom“.

Jeho život a dielo je spojené aj s prvým vedeckým časopisom v novej slovenčine – so Slovenskými pohľadmi. Keď ich vydávanie bolo prerušené, spoločne s Jozefom Škultétyom sa zaslúžil o ich obnovenie v roku 1881. V čase meruôsmych rokov bojoval za ukotvenie novej slovenčiny, vehementne podporoval snahy štúrovcov, stál pri základoch tvorby kultúry a literatúry v novej spisovnej slovenčine, ideologicky podporoval martinské centrum i Národnú stranu. Za svoje snahy bol odsúdený i väznený.

Hurbanovi častokrát prisudzujeme epiteton „patriarcha Slovákov“. Bol neoblomný v názoroch, celoživotne bojujúci za slovenskú svojbytnosť, rusofil a literát. Svoj život politika, literáta, kritika i národovca dožil v Martine, kde 17. augusta 1916 zomrel. Presne na 100. výročie jeho úmrtia mu Matica slovenská v Martine odhalila bustu v parku sv. Cyrila a Metoda na matičnom nádvorí.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Sviatok všetkých svätých a Pamiatka zosnulých

Na začiatku mesiaca november slávime dva sviatky: 1. novembra je Slávnosť všetkých svätých a 2. novembra slávime spomienku na všetkých verných zosnulých.

Slávnosť všetkých svätých je sviatok, ktorý môžeme nájsť v dejinách Cirkvi už v 4. stor. V tradícii Cirkvi postupne narastal počet tých, ktorí boli zapísaní do zoznamu svätých.

Čím sme ďalej od založenia Cirkvi, tým ich počet pribúda. Sú to všetko vzory konkrétnych ľudí, ktorí svojím životom jednak ukázali vernosť svojej viere, evanjeliu Ježiša Krista, samotnému Kristovi i Kristovej Cirkvi, ale každý aj nejakým iným, svojským, originálnym spôsobom.

A aj v dnešnej dobe sa rozširuje tento počet svätých. Ak by sme zalistovali v dejinách Cirkvi, tak nájdeme známe i menej známe osobnosti. Niektoré sú zaradené do liturgického kalendára celej Cirkvi a v rámci celého liturgického roka si na nich spomíname počas slávenia sv. omši. Niektoré sú zaradené len do miestnych liturgických kalendárov, čo znamená, že všetky uvedené formy slávenia sú len napr. v cirkvi jedného národa, odkiaľ uvedený svätec pochádzal, alebo kde pôsobil, žil.

Samozrejme, že nielen ten je svätý, kto bol oficiálne vyhlásený za blahoslaveného alebo svätého. Ale v celých dejinách Cirkvi žilo veľa veriacich, ktorí si tiež zaslúžia nazývať sa svätými, pre spôsob života, ktorý viedli. A tak sviatok Všetkých svätých je práve preto, aby sme v celom slávení Cirkvi nezabudli aj na tých, ktorých mená sa počas liturgického roka nespomínajú. Za dvetisíc rokov existencie Cirkvi nie je len 365 svätých ľudí. Len predchádzajúci pápež Ján Pavol II. počas svojho pontifikátu vyhlásil 482 svätých a 1 338 blahoslavených. Preto v deň Všetkých svätých sa skutočne slávi spomienka či oslava všetkých tých, ktorí sa stali svätými v celých dejinách Cirkvi.

Zoznam oficiálnych svätých nájdeme v knihe, ktorá sa nazýva martyrológium. Posledné martyrológium vyšlo v roku 2004 a je v ňom oficiálne uznaných 6 658 osôb, ktoré boli pozdvihnuté k úcte oltára. Ďalších 6 881 je síce bez mena, ale uvádza sa miesto a rok ich mučeníckej smrti. Rímske martyrológium vyšlo už v druhom vydaní, má 844 strán v latinskom jazyku a pripravila ho Kongregácia pre Boží kult a správne vysluhovanie sviatostí. V tomto zozname okolo 20 percent tvoria ženy. Čo sa týka mien, prvenstvo patrí menu Ján (331), medzi ženami si prvenstvo udrzuje Mária.

K druhému sviatku - **Pamiatke všetkých zosnulých** - treba povedať, že podľa učenia Cirkvi rozlišujeme tri stavy, kam sa môže človek dostať po skončení pozemskej púte. Nebo, peklo a očistec. Očistec je stav, ktorý nie je trvalý, ale je prechodným stavom a z neho sa človek dostáva do neba. Práve za tých, ktorí ešte nedosiahli nebeský stav, sa modlí celá Cirkev na druhý sviatok - v deň Pamiatky zosnulých. Aby práve modlitbou, a nielen súkromnou, ale aj spoločnou vyprosila dosiahnutie trvalého nebeského stavu.

Je zaujímavé pozrieť sa práve v tento deň na naše cintoríny. Ako dokážeme vyzdobiť hroby, pomníky svojich blízkych. Na jednej strane zápasíme s vierou, na druhej strane vidíme, že aj po mnohých rokoch veríme, máme nádej, dúfame... v iný život. To sú naše modlitby pri hrobách, naše rozhovory s nimi... Tento deň má v sebe akúsi tajomnú silu, ktorá poukazuje na iný, večný život.

Nech teda prežijeme obidva sviatky v ich hĺbke. V úcte ku všetkým tým, ktorí sú už svätí, ale aj v pomoci cez modlitbu voči tým, ktorí ju ešte nedosiahli, zamyslení a zahĺbení sa aj do seba samého o otázke a zmysle večného života.

Farnosť Banská Bystrica



Na mape opernej interpretácie dosiahol Peter Dvorský tie najvyššie méty

Operný spevák Peter Dvorský patril od polovice 70. rokov minulého storočia celé dve desaťročia k užšej špičke tenoristov svetovej úrovne s dominanciou talianskej romantickej a veristickej opernej tvorby v repertoári. V nedeľu 25. septembra sa dožil 65 rokov.

Svoje interpretačné majstrovstvo prezentoval okrem Slovenského národného divadla (SND) v Metropolitnej opere v americkom New Yorku, vo Veľkom divadle v ruskej Moskve, vo viedenskej Štátnej opere v Rakúsku, v milánskej La Scale v Taliansku a v londýnskej Covent Garden v Spojenom kráľovstve. Peter Dvorský ako jeden z najpoprednejších svetových tenorov propagoval slovenskú interpretačnú školu a Slovensko tak zviditeľňoval tým najpozitívnejším spôsobom. Na začiatku 80. rokov 20. storočia bol oficiálne zaradovaný do štvorice najlepších tenoristov sveta vedľa Plácida Dominga, José Carrerasa a Luciana Pavarottiho.

Rodák z Partizánskeho, kde sa narodil 25. septembra 1951, absolvoval štúdium spevu na bratislavskom Konzervatóriu (1969-1973). Ešte počas štúdia ho ako mimoriadny talent angažovali do Opery Slovenského národného divadla (SND) v Bratislave, kde debutoval v roku 1972 ako Lenský v Eugenovi Oneginovi. V roku 1973 zvíťazil v speváckej súťaži Mikuláša Schneidera-Trnavského a v roku 1974 sa stal laureátom medzinárodnej súťaže Petra Iljiča Čajkovského v ruskej Moskve. O rok neskôr nasledoval študijný pobyt v Taliansku v milánskom Teatro alla Scala. Štartom jeho hviezdnej medzinárodnej kariéry bolo hosťovanie Opery SND v Rakúsku vo viedenskom Volksoper v roku 1976. V roku 1977 už vystupoval na najpoprednejších zahraničných operných scénach a bol už stálym hosťom Štátnej opery vo Viedni.

Významným prelomom v bohatom umeleckom živote Petra Dvorského bol rok 1979, keď našťudoval vo švajčiarskom Zürichu Werthera v rovnomennej opere Julesa Masseneta. V tom istom roku sa prvýkrát predstavil v opere Bohéma v milánskej La Scale. Predstavenie malo obrovský úspech a Dvorský sa stal najžiadanejším slovenským umelcom na najvýznamnejších operných scénach sveta. Spieval po boku najslávnejších operných sólistov a dirigentov. Dvorský bol partnerom legendárnej Montserrat Caballé, Edity Gruberovej, Mirelly Freni, Renaty Scotto a javiskovým sokom Piera Cappuccilliho či Renata Brusona. Hosťoval na viac ako 60 scénach v 25 krajinách celého sveta.

Okrem spievania v opere sa venoval aj koncertnej činnosti. Angažuje sa tiež mimo operných javísk. V roku 1991 založil nadáciu a rehabilitačný ústav Harmony na podporu detí s diagnózou detskej mozgovej obrny. Dobrovoľne pomáha aj v ďalších početných projektoch. Často zasada v porotách speváckych súťaží doma i v zahraničí. Od roku 2010 do leta 2012 bol riaditeľom Opery SND v Bratislave.

V roku 1984 udelili Dvorskému titul národný umelec a o dva roky neskôr (1986) mu Viedenská štátna opera udelila titul Kammersänger. Bývalý prezident Českej republiky (ČR) Václav Havel mu na svojej vôbec poslednej zahraničnej návšteve vo funkcii prezidenta v Bratislave v januári 2003 odovzdal štátne vyznamenanie ČR - Medailu za zásluhy I. stupňa za vynikajúce umelecké výsledky. V roku 2000 dostal Krištáľové krídlo v kategórii hudba za úlohu Ondreja v Suchoňovej opere Krútnava a za jeho doterajšie úspechy a reprezentáciu na Slovensku i v zahraničí. V januári 2013 sa Peter Dvorský stal laureátom Pribinovho kríža I. triedy za mimoriadne významný celoživotný prínos do slovenskej kultúry a umenia, osobitne v oblasti operného spevu.

TASR



Do Košíc sa vracia unikátny koncert - pripomenie svätého poľského pápeža

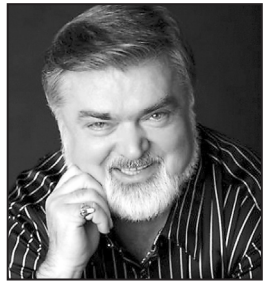
Metropola východu zažije po roku opäť unikátny koncert. Pripomenie odkaz dnes už svätého Jána Pavla II. Jedinečná spomienka spojená s vystúpením viacerých sólistov, viac ako 40-členného zboru a 60-členného orchestra opery Štátneho divadla Košice sa uskutoční už o tri mesiace - 19. decembra 2016 o 18.00 hod. v Steel Aréne v Košiciach. Záštitu nad vyše dvojhodinovým multimediálnym projektom, ktorý po prvýkrát prilákal vyše šesťtisíc návštevníkov, prevzali opäť košický arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Bernard Bober a košický eparcha Mons. Milan Chautur.

“Pontifikát Jána Pavla II. je neodmysliteľne spojený aj so Slovenskom. Navštívil nás trikrát. Košice si navždy zapamätajú 2. júl 1995, kedy Ján Pavol II. vyhlásil troch košických mučeníkov Marka Križina, Štefana Pongráca a Melichara Grodeckého za svätých.” hovorí Igor Havrila, generálny manažér Steel Arény, ktorý prišiel s myšlienkou pripraviť toto dielo. Scenár k nemu pripravili kňaz Jozef Leščinský spolu s riaditeľom Štátneho divadla Košice Petrom Himičom. Režisérskom akcie je Ján Sabol, hudobnú dramaturgiu chystá dirigent Igor Dohovič. Jeden z dôvodov, prečo pripraviť tento koncert, bolo výročie návštevy pápeža Jána Pavla II. na Slovensku.

Dielo sa skladá z dvoch častí. V prvej ukážu organizátori pápežov život, rodinu, školu, záujmy, vojnu a prvé kňazské roky. Druhá časť bude o službe a posolstve. Diela svetových skladateľov budú popretkávané televíznymi zábermi, fotografiami, či reportážami zo života sv. Jána Pavla II. V spomienkach na poľského pápeža nebudú chýbať úsmevné príhody. Zaznie hudba Verdiho, Mozarta, Pucciniho, či Schuberta, ako aj obľúbená pieseň svätca v podaní 30-členného detského zboru opery Štátneho divadla Košice “Pán zastavil sa na brehu”. Zaznie aj melódia z westernu Vtedy na Západe od Ennia Morriconeho, či Dobytie raja od Vangelisa.

Umelecké stvárnenie zboru a orchestra umocní videoprojekcia na troch veľkoplošných LED obrazovkách so svetelnými a laserovými efektami. Videoobrazom si pripomenieme kardinála Jozefa Tomka, či dnes už zosnulého kardinála Jána Chryzostoma Korca. Vstupenky na multimediálny koncert si môžu záujemcovia kúpiť v sieti ticketportal.sk. Cena lístkov sa začína od 15,75 € pri akcii 3+1. V prípade záujmu väčšieho množstva lístkov poskytnú organizátori individuálnu zľavu podľa dohody. Viac informácií je možné nájsť na stránke www.steelarena.sk a na profile Multimediálny koncert - Spomienka na Jána Pavla II. na Facebooku.

TK KBS



Peter Dvorský



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 125

STREDA, 19. OKTÓBRA 2016

Číslo 5945

Slováci v New Yorku vítali prezidenta Andreja Kisku



Slovenskí diplomati s prezidentom (z ľava): gen. konzulka SR v New Yorku Jana Trnovcová, veľvyslanec SR pri OSN František Ružička, prezident Kiska, o. Richard Baker a veľvyslanec SR vo Washingtone Peter Kmec.

Stála misia SR pri OSN usporiadala 20. septembra t.r. recepciu na počesť prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku, ktorý bol v tom čase v New Yorku, kde sa zúčastnil na Generálnom zhromaždení Spojených národov. Prezident Kiska a minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák mali na zasadaniach OSN prejavy a absolvovali viaceré stretnutia s prezidentmi a vládnymi predstaviteľmi viacerých štátov.

Recepcia sa konala v priestoroch rezidence slovenského veľvyslanca pri OSN Františka Ružičku, ktorý privítal slovenských

Pokračovanie na str. 22



Prezident SR Andrej Kiska pri prejave. Vpravo je veľvyslanec SR pri OSN František Ružička.



V SR bude prvýkrát-medzinárodne koordinovaná kampaň

“40 dní za život”

Na Slovensku sa od 28. septembra do 6. novembra 2016 po prvý raz uskutoční najväčšia medzinárodne koordinovaná prolife mobilizácia v histórii s názvom “40 dní za život”. Jej cieľom je ohlasovať pravdu o existencii života od počatia. Ľudia všetkých vierovyznaní sú pozvaní zapojiť sa do modlitieb, pôstu a všetkých sprievodných aktivít, informovala Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (TK KBS) v Bratislave. Počas 40-dňovej kampane sa miestne komunity modlia a postia, a súčasne prosia za ochranu počatého života. Pred klinikami či nemocnicami, kde sa vykonávajú potraty, sa koná vigília, na mnohých miestach modlitby trvajú aj 24 hodín denne. Kampaň obvykle dopĺňajú rôzne sprievodné akcie.

Kampaň “40 dní za život” sa začala ako jednorazová akcia v roku 2004 v USA, v Texase, v mestečku Bryan /College Station. Neskôr sa do tejto iniciatívy zapojilo mnoho ďalších miest. Prvú národne koordinovanú kampaň sa podarilo uskutočniť na jeseň 2007. Odtedy sa projekt rozšíril do viac ako 30 krajín sveta a zapojilo sa doňho už vyše 700.000 dobrovoľníkov. V USA je kampaň 40 Days for Life financovaná kombinovaným spôsobom milodarov a účastníckych poplatkov.

Na Slovensku sú financie na organizovanie kampane hradené výlučne z milodarov. Sumou 300 eur podporila realizáciu tejto iniciatívy nezisková organizácia Kanet prostredníctvom verejnej zbierky Národného pochodu za život cez Pro-Life StartUp, informovala TK KBS.

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Spojené štáty majú po ročnej prestávke na Slovensku opäť veľvyslanca

Spojené štáty majú na Slovensku po viac než ročnej prestávke znovu veľvyslanca. Theodora Sedgwicka, ktorý odišiel vlani začiatkom leta, nahradil pred niekoľkými týždňami Adam Sterling. Pred príchodom na Slovensko bol Sterling zástupcom vedúceho misie a dvakrát chargé d'affaires na ambasáde v Holandsku (2013-16) a predtým zastával rovnaké funkcie v Azerbajdžane (2010-13).

Na Slovensku, ktoré je jeho prvým pôsobiskom vo funkcii veľvyslanca, nechce podľa vlastných slov deliť svoju pozornosť medzi politické a ekonomické priority, keďže medzi nimi neexistujú jasné deliace čiary.

Pred vymenovaním za veľvyslanca na Slovensku pôsobil Adam Sterling na šiestich amerických ambasádach. „Pred príchodom do krajiny sa snažím dozvedieť o nej čo najviac, hovorím s odborníkmi a podobne. V súčasnosti najmä zisťujem, ako sa Slováci pozerajú na svet,“ poznamenal. Absolvoval podľa vlastných slov už stretnutia s prezidentom Andrejom Kiskom, premiérom Robertom Ficom a ministrom zahraničných vecí Miroslavom Lajčákom, ako aj s podnikateľmi i bežnými občanmi. S manželkou Veerle, ktorá pochádza z Belgicka, majú dve deti - dcéru Elku a syna Brama. Dcéra krátko po príchode na Slovensko odišla do Kalifornie, kde začína vysokoškolské štúdium. Manželka a mladší syn však ostávajú na Slovensku a podľa veľvyslancových slov sa ako zaničení horskí turisti tešia na víkendy v slovenských horách. „V ostatnej dobe sme neboli v krajine s dobrými horami,“ vysvetlil.



Adam Sterling

TASR

Generálny tajomník NATO Jens Stoltenberg v Bratislave



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke vpravo generálny tajomník NATO Jens Stoltenberg a vľavo vysoká predstaviteľka EÚ pre zahraničné veci a bezpečnostnú politiku a podpredsedníčka EK Federica Mogheriniová prichádzajú na neformálne zasadnutie ministrov obrany krajín EÚ 27. septembra 2016 v Bratislave. Spolupráca medzi NATO a Európskou úniou je bližšia ako kedykoľvek predtým. A je rovnako dôležitá pre obe zoskupenia. Pri príchode na neformálne zasadnutie ministrov obrany členských krajín EÚ v Bratislave to uviedol generálny tajomník NATO Jens Stoltenberg.

NATO General Secretary Jens Stoltenberg and representative of the EU for foreign affairs and security Federica Mogherini arrived in Bratislava on September 27, 2016 for informal talks with ministers of defense from member countries.