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President's New Year Message ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK – HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018

At the start of 2018 I happened to see an interesting TV show on PBS. The show highlighted POLIN, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The Museum is not intended to be a Holocaust museum but rather the exhibits strive to make the case that Polish history and Jewish history have been inextricably bound together. The exhibition is divided into seven galleries spanning the years 960 AD to the present. The centerpiece of the core exhibition is the reconstructed wooden synagogue in Gwozdziec, Poland originally built in 1650 and destroyed in WWI.

How does this relate to the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada?

"A Miracle of Faith"

Many of the over 200 Catholic and Byzantine rite churches were founded and /or supported by members of our Society. Unfortunately many of these churches have been closed/merged/renamed and too often torn down.

As with the Jews of Poland, I believe it is our obligation to preserve the memory, history and as much of the artifacts related to these churches and our Society as possible.

Why? Many modern Americans and others ask "why"? Live for today and maybe the future, but the past is past. Others reply in various words: "you cannot know yourself if you don't know your past" or "if you don't know history you are doomed to repeat it."

If our Society does not try to preserve the history of our Slovak immigrants, who will? Our continued on page 3



Andrew M. Rajec



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 for a Happy, Healthy 2018.

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

Come to the FCSU's National Bowling Tournament this April!

See pages 4 – 5 for details



Attention, ALL FCSU College:-bound Seniors:

- Don't let a scholarship opportunity fly away! The FCSU is now accepting applications for its 2018 Scholarship Program.

See page 3 for details



2017 FCSU Results – Part I
See pages 12 - 13

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WHAT?!... HELLOOOO....
You forgot your IRA?!

What are you waitin' for?
Start your New Year off right.

Open or add to your
IRA account by 4/17/2018

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- 6 Year Flexible Premium IRA **3.20%**
- 6 Year Fixed Rate IRA **3.10%**



Contact your branch officer or the Home Office
at 1.800.533.6682 for more info.
annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com



Insights and Viewpoints



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

January 21, 2018 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Unless one attends daily Mass today is the only time a Catholic will hear a passage from the book of Jonah, one of the so-called twelve “minor prophets” of the Old Testament. These prophets are not “minor” in the importance of their message but rather in the brevity of their works: while a few of them are a bit longer Jonah’s grand total of forty-eight verses of



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

text hardly stacks-up in comparison to the “major” prophetic books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, each of which contains more than twelve-hundred verses.

Unfortunately we rarely get to hear from these inspired and passionate voices, in part because Mass must be relatively concise and the time for proclamation of the scriptures is therefore necessarily brief, and in part because some of the words of these prophets are hard to understand outside of their original context and can be downright disturbing. A few of them, such as Obadiah and Nahum, are never read in the liturgy; others such as Haggai and Habakkuk only peek out of the Lectionary once or twice in the multi-year cycle of readings.

It is a good practice for Catholics to study the minor prophets since they bring much color and depth to our understanding of our faith and its roots in Judaism. Jesus himself would likely have memorized much of these books as a boy in the synagogue, and he could not have helped thinking of Nahum often during his ministry, basing his adult life out of the town named Capernaum, the “village of Nahum”—even if it may have been titled for a different Nahum. In another reference to the minor prophets Jesus turns to Hosea to rebuke the Pharisees who criticized his merciful disposition: “Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners” (Matt 9:13; Hos 6:6; cf. Matt 12:7).

Given the record of these prophets in spurring Israel to action and urging deeper fidelity to the Lord, what in particular does Jonah have to tell us today, so far removed from his time and culture? To find out we look to his proclamation in conjunction with that of today’s gospel reading—paired as it always is with the Old Testament reading. We discover that Jonah’s message is one of repentance in light of a coming judgment: “Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed” (Jon 3:4); we further see that this stern reproach to the people of Nineveh (a pagan city whose residents were traditional enemies of Israel) is extended in the gospel to include all who would be Jesus’ followers: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

While Jesus’ words—the first he speaks in the gospel—are a bit milder, they are no less serious; in fact, his message is essentially the same as that of his prophetic forbear Jonah: repentance is necessary if one wishes to abide in the Lord’s friendship. For Christians, this means that being a citizen of the Kingdom of God requires a conscious decision to be converted from all that leads us away from God and to embrace all that is part of the gospel Jesus preached. As he indicates, the time to make this decision is now—“This is the time of fulfillment.” May the words of holy Jonah, “minor prophet” though he be, lead all of us to renew our conversion to Christ, so that Jesus’ own invitation may be received with freedom and joy, and we may all then share in the commission to follow: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

January, 28, 2018 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Gospel – Mark 1: 21 - 28

In this Gospel Mark speaks to us of the beginning of Jesus’ ministry. Jesus had just called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him, and the five of them continue on to Capernaum which was the home of Peter and Andrew, and most likely James and John. These four hometown men arrive with this stranger who had not yet preached, healed, expelled demons or raised the dead. Jesus arrives in town as just another stranger passing through, but he must be alright since he is with these four familiar men. We don’t know how long he was in Capernaum, but he made an impression and was invited to teach in the Synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark does not tell us what Jesus said, but rather tells us the effect it had on the assembly, they “were astonished.” He was seen as being a refreshing contrast to the scribes who spoke nice sermons, while Jesus spoke with authority.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

Jesus’ presence and teaching in the synagogue was so powerful that it stirred up an unclean spirit in one of the men there. The outburst of the unclean spirit in which he revealed himself with fear that Jesus came to destroy them, ends with the unclean spirit pointing out to all that Jesus is “the Holy one of God.” Jesus responds by rebuking the unclean spirit and casting him out

A lesson for us is to be open to the presence and authority of Jesus in our lives and in the world. Jesus arrived in Capernaum as somewhat a stranger, yet the people there welcomed him and invited him to teach. Jesus should not be a stranger to us for we entered into a personal relationship with him on the day of our Baptism. Through Baptism we should be able to recognize Jesus entering into our lives in Word and Sacrament, and he comes with authority. The Authority to teach us, guide us, and heal us, which help us to grow in holiness. He is not a stranger, but the presence of God with us: our Savior, brother and Lord. He is someone whose presence we should be able to recognize and stand in awe before him.

We do know that it is Jesus who has authority and power to cast out demons. We should not be surprised when the Lord answers our prayers, whether they be for deliverance, health, a job, or whatever. When we pray we should do so with trust that the Lord hears our prayer, even those that seem so insignificant that we might be tempted not to bother God with them. In the Parable of the dishonest Steward Jesus tells us that, “The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones.” (Luke 16:10) We can apply this to ourselves with regards to how we approach the Lord in prayer: If we can entrust to the Lord our little needs, we will be able to entrust to him our greater needs. We will learn from experience how the Lord answers our little prayers like finding something that’s lost, finding us a good parking spot, or sending a good Samaritan. Yes, some of these seem rather trivial, but I know of people who claim that they always get a good parking spot when they say a prayer. When we begin to trust the everyday little needs to God we will soon have the faith to trust in him to answer our big prayers. This all begins with our welcoming Jesus into our lives and inviting him to speak to us.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, FEB 14	MONDAY, FEB 5
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7	MONDAY, FEB. 26
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21	MONDAY, MAR. 12

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

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President's New Year's Message 2018

continued from page 1

ancestors, most of whom came to the United States between about 1880 and 1920 had limited education, some were illiterate. Later immigrants, though much fewer in number, were better educated. Many of us are unaware of relatively recent Slovak history.

Magyarization (either voluntary, or by force or due to social pressure), was the suppression of the Slovak language and culture by the Hungarian authorities up until 1918. A particularly good explanation – and its workings and consequences – is on the website www.myerchin.org.

Those first generation immigrants worked hard and saved so their children could advance, and most had at least high school. Second and third generations were able to send more of their kids to college and beyond.

The legacy of that first generation was evidenced by their Faith and sacrifice and resulted in the founding of over 200 Slovak Catholic and Byzantine churches, often with schools. They built these churches and schools as visible testaments of their belief in God.

As I previously noted many of these churches and most of the schools have been closed and many have disappeared.

However, in old parish archives, and in the basements and attics of long time members or their children or grandchildren there are pictures, photos, paintings, memorials, books, branch banners, other artifacts, etc. They should be preserved before it's too late. What can YOU do?

Better to donate these items to the FCSU rather than put these items in the trash or even a garage sale.

The Society will preserve these items that are witnesses to our Slovak forefathers and preserve our heritage.

Just as the Jews of Poland strive to honor and preserve the past for future generations, so should we Slovaks make a similar effort to honor those who came before us – doing what we can to preserve this "Miracle of Faith."

Any questions or comments? Please call or write to me at the Home Office, or if you wish contact our Editor, Terri Ivanec at the Home Office.

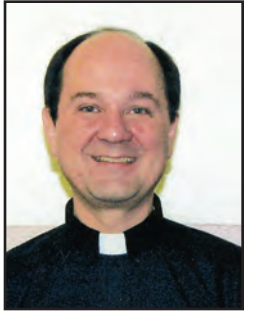
Thank you. Hope to hear from you.

In the meantime, I, our Board of Directors and our Home Office staff wish you all a happy, blessed and healthy New Year in 2018.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Message from the National Chaplain

Many couples commemorate Valentine's Day each year on February 14 by going out to a restaurant or other eating establishment to enjoy a special dinner. Please know that February 14, 2018 is also Ash Wednesday, a day of Fast and Abstinence for Catholics. Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are seriously bound to restrict themselves to eat one full meal and two lesser meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics over the age of 14 are seriously bound to refrain from eating any meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. Please keep the Church's laws on Fast and Abstinence in mind if you choose to celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14.



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Fr. Tom Nasta
National Chaplain

Scenes from a traditional "Christmas Eve Supper" in Chicago

On December 17, 2017, St. Simon the Apostle Roman Catholic Parish, in Chicago, IL, hosted a traditional "Christmas Eve Supper" or Stedra Vecera/Vilija. The wonderful event was enjoyed by all who attended.

- Submitted by Rosemary Macko Wisnosky,
Honorary Slovak Counsel in Chicago, IL



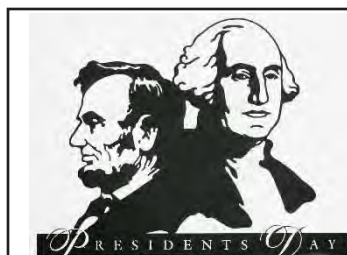
(L – R) The Rev. Thomas Boharic, pastor of St. Simon the Apostle; Rosemary Macko Wisnosky, Honorary Slovak Counsel in Chicago; and Joe Seliga.



Fun for all at St. Simon's Stedra Vecera/Vilija held on Sunday, December 17th.



The chefs who prepared the traditional Slovak "Christmas Eve" meal at St. Simon



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours

The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2018, in observance of Presidents' Day.



ATTENTION

COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

From the desk
of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

- 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
- 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 \$1000.00 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.

For rules, requirements and applications go to
www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
February 28, 2018



ATTENTION JEDNOTAR BOWL



United Slovak Fraternal
7th Annual Bowling
Tournament
April 20- 21, 2018

Friday:

Teams Event – Opening Ceremonies to begin at 7:15 pm with the team event starting at 7:30 pm at Eastway Lanes.

Hospitality Night - Hospitality Night beginning at 6:30 PM at Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA. Enjoy food, refreshments, and socializing.

Hotel – The Courtyard by Marriott will be housing our guests for the weekend. The phone number to the hotel is provided below. You must identify yourself as a member of FCSU Bowling to receive the group rate: \$129/ night (plus tax)

Deadline for hotel reservations is March 20.

Courtyard by Marriott
7792 Peach Street
Erie, PA 16509
814-860-8300

Saturday:

Doubles/Singles Event - To begin at 8:30 am and 12:30 pm

Mass - will be held at 5:00 pm at the hotel.

Social - will be held in the Courtyard by Marriott. Cocktails at 6 PM and Dinner at 7 PM.

Eastway Lanes: 4110 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA (814) 899-9855

If you require additional information, please contact Rudy Ondrejco at your convenience at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal
Bowling Tournament
April 20-21, 2018
Erie, PA



Would you like to sponsor a lane?

It is only \$50.00 to have a sign placed on a lane and your generosity will go far in making this event an enjoyable weekend for all!

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please mail this form in with the wording for your sign printed below and check payable to "FCSU Activities".

Please feel free to contact Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director with any questions at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is March 3, 2017.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Branch # / District: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Yes!! We would like to sponsor a lane. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Wording for Sign: _____

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

Thank you in advance for your participation in this fraternal event.

Save the Date

The Slovak-American Cultural Center presents

The Slovak Ball

25th Annual

Sat, Feb 10, 2018

For tickets:

973-357-1209

SlovakAmericanCC.org

The Royal Manor
Garfield, NJ

slovak.eu



Learn
Slovak
online
and
for free



ERS: SAVE THE DATE IN APRIL



Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM			
DOUBLES & SINGLES			

2018 April 20 - 21, 2018
 Entries Close
 March 2, 2018

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

Hosted by First Catholic Slovak Union and
 National Slovak Society
 A/k/a the United Slovak Fraternal's

Eastway Lanes
 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA

Entry Fees - Members
 Prize Fee\$7.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$9.00
 Tournament Fee.....\$3.00
Total Each Event\$19.00

Entry Fees - Non-Members
 Prize Fee.....\$14.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$9.00
 Tournament Fee.....\$3.00
Total Each Event.....\$26.00

Optional Events

All Events \$3.00
 Senior Singles Event (60+) \$5.00

Social Fees

Member \$ 0.00
 Non-Member \$50.00

Total Included.....\$ _____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Team Name: _____ Captain Name: _____
 League: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ Phone: _____

All Events (X)	Attend Social (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT./POLICY NO. MUST BE FILLED IN	BRANCH/ ASSM NO.
		1.					
		2.					
		3.					
		4.					
Singles (X)	Attend Social (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)			
		1.					
		2.					
		1.					
		2.					

Friday, April 20
 Registration 6:30 PM
 Bowlers: 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 21
 Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM

Team Events

1st Doubles/Singles
 2nd Doubles/Singles

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
 COMPLETE INFORMATION

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE
 RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND
 MUST BE RESUBMITTED

Substitutes **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

The Men's and Women's 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Slovak fraternal organizations. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Erie, PA, in this tournament.

The 7th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Eastway Lanes, 4110 Buffalo Rd., Erie, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be held April 20-21, 2018. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, April 20, at 7:15 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 2, 2018. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ENTRY FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

In submitting this entry, the captain and the team members agree to forfeit all rights to prize money as well as the total entry fees in the event that any information listed herein should be found to be false. We are not responsible for errors in averages made in filling out this entry form. No refunds of tournament entry fee.

USBC Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union and National Slovak Society male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded.

Only members with USBC Membership Cards will be eligible for the USBC special awards in this USBC Certified Tournament. Bowlers without USBC Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Committee at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

CONSENT RULES: Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by

United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13

AVERAGES: All entrants will use their highest average of any USBC league of at least 21 games from the 2016-2017 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2016-2017 season and with at least 21 games in the 2017-2018 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on entry form by his name and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU or NSS tournaments will have their averages calculated from their three most recent tournaments. All male bowlers with no established USBC average will bowl a 175 scratch. All female bowlers with no established USBC will bowl a 150 scratch. Summer league averages will be accepted.

Any contestant whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2018, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the entry form at time of entry.

AVERAGE CHANGES: The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Committee.

It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others.

Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average.

Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

TEAMS: Mixed teams comprised of at least 1 person of the opposite gender are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least

21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every five (5) entries.

DOUBLES: Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed doubles participate. If 21 or more mixed doubles enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every five (5) entries.

HANDICAPS: The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 65 pins.

Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every five (5) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee.

Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

LINE-UP CHANGES: All participants must bowl according to where they are listed on the submitted entry form. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

ABSENTEES: To alleviate absentee problems, the Tournament Committee will provide a replacement bowler when notified of the absentee.

TARDY BOWLERS: Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed. USBC Rule 322

DELAY OF GAME: No unreasonable delay in the progress of any game is permitted. If a player or team in a tournament refuses to proceed with the game after being directed to do so by a tournament official, the game or series shall be declared forfeited.

SCORING: Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Committee within 48 hours after completion of play. Captains of Teams or Doubles Partners have the option to pick up duplicate score sheets upon completion of play.

2017 Vilija Celebration at St. Andrew Abbey of Cleveland

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Radio Club, hosted their annual Christmas Vilija on Sunday, December 10, 2017. Held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School on the Abbey grounds, the Vilija featured a traditional meatless Christmas Eve "feast" of mushroom soup, fish, green peas, bobalky, pierogi, and poppy seed and nutrolls. Food was prepared by members of the Radio Club, of which Henry Horvath is president. Prior to enjoying the repast, the monks led attendees in Christmas hymns sung in English and Slovak, and encouraged everyone to

The first course (mushroom soup) was served by the monks. After the meal, entertainment was provided by the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. The troupe performed dances from Slovakia and included numbers by its children's group, Lúčinka. Lúčina's director is Branch 24's Tom Ivanec. All members of the Abbey are also members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 24. Appropriately, many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended the Vilija, included several reserved tables (40 places) for Branch 24 members, under the direction of Branch 24 President Bob Kopco. Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) attended and worked the event, including Barbara Sutilla (Branch 855), Ann Sutilla (Branch 855), Johanna Oros (Branch 24), Joe Oros (Branch 24) Henry Horvath (Branch 855), (Branch 450), and Vlad Cvicela (Branch 24).



The monks of St. Andrew Abbey lead the crowd in singing Christmas hymns in both English and Slovak to begin the Vilija celebration on December 10, 2017. (L-R): Brother Gabriel, The Right Reverend Gary Hoover, Abbot of St. Andrew Abbey; Father Michael Brunovsky, and Father Gerard Gonda.



The sellout crowd at the December 2017 Vilija, held on the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad in Cleveland, OH.



Johanna Oros, Branch 24, was among the Cleveland Slovak Radio members who helped prepare and serve the meal and also offered delicious pastries for sale.



Branch 24's Tom Ivanec and Director of the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble served as MC for the cultural program.



The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland along with its children's group Lučinka, entertained the audience with a cultural program of traditional Slovak folk dances.



Mike Anderko and Suzie Halley sold Slovak tees and goods offered by their organization, Cleveland Slovak Social.



The monks along with their helpers served up mushroom soup as the first course of the traditional meatless Slovak Christmas Eve feast, including: (L - R) Fr. Michael Brunovsky, Branch 24 Member; Abbot Gary Hoover, Branch 24 Member; Bro. Gabriel, Branch 24 Member; Fr. Gerard Gonda, Branch 24 Chaplain; and Milan Kobulsky, Slovak Radio Program Director and Branch 450 member

Branch 24's Matthew Oros opened the afternoon program with a series of Christmas music on the electric keyboard.



Branch 450's Mike Anderko treated the audience to songs on the traditional Shepherd's flute, the Slovak fujara.



FCSU Members, who are also part of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, help sell raffle tickets to benefit St. Andrew Abbey. (L-R) Barbara Sutilla, Branch 855 Fraternal Activities Director; Ann Sutilla, Branch 855 Member; and Marie Golias, Branch 1 Secretary, with her father Richard Golias.

Joe Oros, Branch 24, and Barbara Sutilla, Branch 855, were two of the members of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club who helped cook and serve the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner to the sold-out crowd.



December Meeting of Branch 313

St. John the Baptist Society Branch 313 held a meeting on December 4, 2017, at the Southfork Restaurant in Orland Park, IL. A new president was elected to fill the vacancy left by the passing of past president Joseph Bugel. All the newly elected officers are grateful to carry on the traditions of Branch 313.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



(L – R) front row: Jenifer Carlton, Financial Secretary; Margaret Dickinson, President; (L – R) back row: Kenneth Jurinak, Vice President; Darlene Johnson, Auditor. Absent: Curtis Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Branch 313 members and guests enjoying lunch.



Annual Meeting & Christmas Luncheon of Branch 493

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, IL, held its Annual Meeting and Christmas Luncheon on November 25, 2017 at Mabenka Restaurant in Burbank, IL. After the business meeting, the 21 attendees enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner. Bourbon fudge made by the Trappist Monks of the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky was gifted to attendees.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary



(L – R) Stephen Gerko, Treasurer; Sharon Allison, Secretary and Auditor; Annette Fenimore, Vice President; Pete Gerko, President. Missing from the photo is Janet Mical, Auditor.

December Meeting of District 7 – The Rev. John Martvon District

The officers were sworn in by Regional Director, James Marmol, at a meeting held on December 10, 2017, at the St. Michael Church Hall in St. Michael, PA. Mr. Pete Gerko was also elected to serve as the District Delegate to the upcoming convention.

- Respectfully submitted and photos by James Marmol, Region 4 Director

Branch 410's Ryan Soltis Receives Top Corporate Scholarship Award

Ryan Soltis, a graduating senior at Jackson High School in Jackson Township, OH, was awarded the top scholarship from among several granted through the TimkenSteel Charitable Foundation to students whose parents are TimkenSteel employees. TimkenSteel is a leading steel manufacturer with headquarters in Canton, OH.

Tim Timken, chairman, CEO, and president of TimkenSteel, visited Jackson High to tell Ryan and his parents that he had won the company's top award. The award comprised of \$20,000 per year renewable up to three more years.

Ryan, whose father Roger is a program manager of advanced business development in the corporate office, plans on pursuing studies in aerospace engineering.

Ryan and his two younger brothers Ethan and Aaron, along with parents Cherise and Roger Soltis are all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 410.

Congratulations, Ryan!



Traditional Fašiangy (Pre-Lenten) Dance in Milwaukee, WI, this February

The Slovak League Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI is hosting its traditional Fašiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1800 S. 92nd Street in West Allis. Donation is \$5.00 per person. Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will provide music for dancing and listening pleasure. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance at 7:30 p.m. followed by "bury the basa" (bass fiddle). We are inviting all members of Saints Mary & Joseph Branch 89 of Milwaukee to attend. For more information, contact Betty at 414-425-6137 or Ellen at 262-893-7483.

20. zbor Slovenskej Ligy v Milwaukee usporiada Fašiangovu zabavu v sobotu, 3. feb 2018 v Knights of Columbus Hall, 1800 S. 92nd Street v West Allis, Wisconsin. Zaciatok bude o 6:00 do 11:00 hodiny vecer. V kulturnom programe sa predstavi slovensky folk-torny subor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 vecer. Vstupne je \$5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budu slovenske jedla, zakusky a kolace. Blizsie informacie: Betty, tel. c. 414-425-6137 alebo Ellen, tel. c. 262-893-7483.

Kathy Valent
Slovak League Assembly 20
Secretary

Blessing the home on Epiphany in Slovak and English

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

On January 6 each year, Slovak Roman Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Three Kings (Sviatok Troch kráľov). The Eastern Rite and Orthodox faithful use the old Julian calendar and continue to observe Christmas on this day. All of these Christians practiced the rite of having their homes blessed on Epiphany, and the custom is still practiced in many villages in Slovakia.

In the Catholic dioceses of the United States, in 1969 the liturgical celebration of the Epiphany feast moved to the Sunday between January 2 and January 8.

The feast recalls the Presentation of the Lord (Deň Zjavenia Pána) when the Three Magi from the East traveled to Bethlehem in order to bear gifts to honor the newly born child Jesus, indicating the announcement of Christ's birth to the world. They followed the brightly shining light of the Bethlehem star, and are usually included in most Nativity crèches.

The Priest's Caroling - kňazská koleda

At Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany, priests in Slovakia consecrated and blessed water, and used salt, chalk and thyme. In addition, some churches even staged concerts or Bethlehem plays during the afternoon or the evening. But the most memorable ceremony for each household of believers occurred after Mass. The priest, accompanied by the organist or acolyte, would make rounds throughout the village and bless homes and exchange greetings with parishioners. The tradition of consecrating the homes of the faithful is known as the "priest's caroling" or kňazská koleda in Slovak.

This marked the one time that many households would have the honor of hosting a member of the clergy in their homes, so the homes were immaculately cleaned in preparation, with spotless tablecloth. On the table, the gazdina (lady of the house) would place a cross, a lit candle, a bowl with crops, a grain, a sausage, 2 or 3 pieces of flax, and in later times, even some money. The hope was that a good year of prosperity would follow the blessing.

The priest would consecrate them with holy water and frankincense and then mark the frame above the doors of houses with the first two numerals of the century, and ending with the last two numerals of the year. In between are the initials C.M.B., or G.M.B. – Casper (Gašpar), Melchior (Melichar), and Balthazar (Baltazár) – the names of the Three Magi. In some places, especially in the countryside, this ritual has been preserved to the present day. Here is an example of what is inscribed in chalk above the door, with the current year at the end:

20 + C + M + B + 18.

In addition to symbolizing the names of Magi, the initials, C, M, B, have also been transcribed to mean the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedictat", meaning "Christ bless this house".

As soon as the priest and his acolyte departed, if there was a marriageable girl in the house, she would often immediately wrap herself in the table cloth, for it was believed that this would ensure she would marry within the year.

Whether the carolers were coming on the Feast of the Three Kings or other days following Christmas, they would announce their arrival with the ringing of bells. Upon hearing the bells, the gazdina would pour some grain under the threshold. When the group had enjoyed some refreshments and departed, she would quickly sweep up the grain kernels and feed them to the chickens so they would lay plenty of eggs that year.

The Prayers for Blessing

A priest or father of a family may lead the prayers and perform the ceremony of the blessing of the home and writing the inscription of the Three Magi above each door. Here the prayers are in English, followed by the prayers in Slovak, so that readers might have the opportunity to pray and bless their own homes on Epiphany. It is necessary to have holy water, blessed chalk, and optionally, a lit candle, signifying Christ as the Light of the world.

Here are the prayers in English:

Prayer: Upon entering the home,

Leader (Priest, if present, or father of the family): In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Peace be to all in this household.

All: And with your spirit.

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

All Pray: The Magnificat. During the Magnificat, the room is sprinkled with holy water and incensed. The Magnificat, a canticle, is also known as the Song of Mary, the Canticle of Mary.

My soul magnifies the Lord

And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;

Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid;

For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed;

Because He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name;

And His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him.

He has shown might with His arm,

He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.



Blessing a home on Epiphany



Three Kings represented in costume on Three Kings Day in Slovakia



Gašpar, Melichar a Baltazár symbols marked on a frame over a door

He has given help to Israel, his servant, mindful of His mercy

Even as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord; and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts: gold for the great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh in symbol of His burial.

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven, etc., . . . And lead us not into temptation

All: But deliver us from evil.

Leader: All they from Saba shall come

All: Bringing gold and frankincense.

Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer.

All: And let my cry come to You.

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who by the guidance of a star did on this day manifest Thine only-begotten Son to the Gentiles, mercifully grant that we who know Thee by faith may also attain the vision of Thy glorious majesty. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee—Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary.

All: And the Gentiles shall walk in thy light and kings in the splendor of thy rising, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.

Leader: Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of Thy law, thanksgiving to God the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Ending of the Blessing

Following the recitation of the blessing prayers, the priest or father (or mother if the other two are not available) sprinkles each room of the home with Epiphany water and is incensed. Then the initials of the Magi are inscribed upon the doors with the blessed chalk.

Example: 20 + C + M + B + 18

The Slovak version of the Blessing, with an English Translation

Vedúci: V mene, Otca i Syna i Ducha Svätého. Amen. Pokoj nášmu domu a všetkým, čo v ňom bývame.

Všetci: I s duchom tvojím.

Leader: In the name, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Peace to our home, and all of us who dwell in it.

All: And with your spirit.

Z Panny–Matky sa zrodil Pán,
ktorého anjel zvestoval,
a v lone matky skrytý Ján
radosťou nad ním zaplesal.

On nepohrdol jasľami,
pokorne leží na sene;
o trošku mlieka prosí ten,
čo živí všetko stvorenie.

From the Virgin Mother the Lord was born,
whom an angel foretold,
and in the lap of his mother hidden,
John leaped with joy over him.

He did not spurn the manger,
humbly lying on the hay;
He asked for a little milk, the one
who gives life to all creation.

Počúvajme slová sv. Evanjelia podľa Matúša (2, 1-12):

Keď sa za čias kráľa Herodesa v judejskom Betleheme narodil Ježiš, prišli do Jeruzalema mudrci od východu. A hľa hviezda, ktorú videli na východe, išla pred nimi, až sa zastavila nad miestom, kde bolo dieťa. Ako zbadali hviezdu, nesmierne sa zaradovali. Vošli do domu

continued on page 17

Scenes from SS Cyril & Methodius 2017 Annual Bazaar

On November 26, 2017, Sts Cyril & Methodius Parish in Mississauga, Ontario held their Annual Bazaar and it was once again very successful thanks to many volunteers, young and more mature alike, many of whom are members of Branch 785. The homemade goods included pirohy, sausages, cabbage rolls, baked goods, etc – and were sold very fast. A great time was had by all, including Jana Regan who celebrated her 87th birthday.

- Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



Slovak Heritage Christmas Party

On December 3, 2017, the Slovak Heritage Society of Greater Cleveland sponsored its second Christmas Party at St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church auditorium in Brecksville, OH. Over 80 adults and 25 children were present and many of the children participated in a special program with the famous "Harmonia" music ensemble. Delicious food prepared by our famous cook Jana Horvath and refreshments were served and everybody had a wonderful time. In the audience were present among others the President of the First Catholic Slovak Union Andrew M. Rajec with his wife Idka; George Carny, president of Branch 450 with his whole family; Tom Ivanec, director of the Slovak folklore ensembles "Lucina" and "Lucinka" and member of Branch 24; the director of the Slovak Institute and Slovak Radio Program Milan Kobulsky, who is also a member of Branch 450; the president of the Slovak Radio Club, Henry Horvath, and member of Branch 855; Slovak Garden president George Terbrak; and Father Michael Brunovsky, OSB, and member of Branch 24, who led us in a prayer before the meal. A special piano composition written and performed by Branch 24's Matthew Oros received an appreciative ovation from the audience. This was the second Christmas party organized by our newly created Slovak Heritage Society and comments were very positive. Children received gifts from Santa Claus and the Christmas atmosphere overwhelmed those present. Pictures speak more than words and here are only three of many. Several people helped to make this party a success, and we thank them all even though they are not mentioned here.

Happy New Year to all!

Paul Brunovsky, President of Slovak Heritage Society and 50-plus member of Branch 450.



Among the youngest performers at the party: (L - R) Sofia Fedoriouk, Branch 24; Jessica Chuba, John Chuba, and Jacob Chuba, Branch 450; and Artem Fedoriouk, Branch 24.

More than 80 adults and 25 children attended the 2nd Annual Slovak Heritage Christmas Party



Serafina and Andre Surlak with Birthday Ballon

(L - R) Henrieta Daitova, her son Karl Vida, President Jan Skrkon and Father Baker.



Happy Birthday Branch 716's Andre Surlak

On Sunday, Nov. 26th 2017 after Slovak Mass in St John Nepomucene Church, NYC, Branch 716 member Andre Surlak celebrated his birthday with other members in the Rectory.

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

Daniel Tanzone: 2017 Fraternalist of the Year

Daniel Tanzone, Slovak Catholic Sokol Editor, Slovak League of America President, and member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 41, Yonkers, NY, was honored as the Slovak Catholic Sokol's Fraternalist of the Year in 2017.

The dinner in Dan's honor was held on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City. The FCSU's Branch 716 was charge of the dinner, with Jan Skrkon, president of Branch 716, preparing the food and members of the branch helping to serve invitees.

Congratulations, Dan on a wonderful and much deserved honor!

- Submitted by Joan Skrkon, Branch 716 Secretary

(L) Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon serving food to the guests



(L - R) Dan Tanzone, 2017 Fraternalist of the Year; Sabina Sabodos, Region 1 Director for the FCSU, and Father Richard Baker, pastor of St. John Nepomucene Church, New York City.

Among the many guests at the dinner honoring Dan Tanzone: (L - R) Joseph & Anna Korcak, Zelka Beckova Kucharovic



District 8 Officers



(L) Stephen A. Roman, Auditor, Katherine Nowatkoski, President, Rev. Msgr. Thomas Derzack, Chaplain, Gregory Harakal, Vice-President, Emery Roman, Treasurer, Monica Fabian Secretary.



Branch 785's Judo Champion Jessica Klimkait

Branch 785's Jessica Klimkait whose sport discipline is judo has been racking up awards and wins for many years. The twenty-one year old feels her positive mindset may have played a large part in her recent Elite National Championship Win this January in Montreal. However, as she says winning the title in front of her family made up a chunk of that as well. Both her grandmother and grandfather Edward and Mary Gres come from a Slovak background; her parents Kathy and Rob Kilmkait, never ceasing to show her support, whether in the stands or watching at home.

From the age of five Jessica has been a proficient athlete. Her humble beginnings in Whitby Ontario, lead to her becoming The World Cadet Champion U18 in Miami during 2013. Jessica continues to win medals all around the world. During January 2016 Jessica won; the Arlon Junior title, silver in the seniors and, Canadian titles in all categories. Also taking gold at the European Open in Glasgow. Going on to win bronze at the European Open in Oberwart, the Grand Slam in Ekaterinburg and, Grand Prix bronze in Hohhot in 2017.

She has said her dream is to represent Canada at the Olympics and it looks as though that dream is on track. Currently residing in Montreal and training daily with the Canadian athletes from a range of disciplines. Jessica is slated to be among Canada's senior female judo athletes at the next summer Olympics.

- Submitted by Edward Gres, Branch 785 & Proud Grandfather

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



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

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

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

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

We are waiting for your call!

Branch 670 Scholarships Available



Branch 670 of Donora, PA, is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2018 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria up to three, one time \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch #670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a

high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply. For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2018

- Submitted by Joseph Matinko, Branch 670 President and Financial Secretary



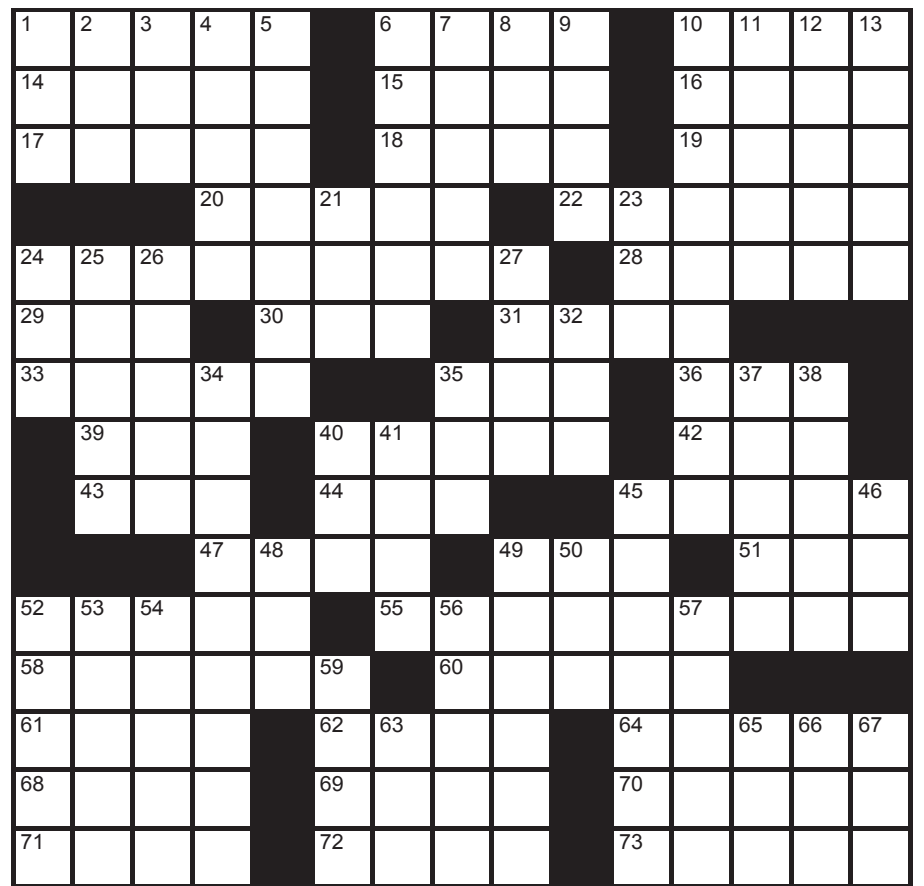
The Slovakia Heritage Tour is Taking Off in 2018: Sign Up Today

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

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2018

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

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Brandish
- 6 Assist, in a way
- 10 Kind of tissue
- 14 Modify
- 15 Abominable Snowman
- 16 Buckeye's home
- 17 Break one's back
- 18 Gaelic tongue
- 19 Old money in Milano
- 20 School assignmer
- 22 Stirred up
- 24 *Modus vivendi*
- 28 Litmus reddeners
- 29 Sugary drink
- 30 Compass pt.
- 31 Rani's wear
- 33 Pound sounds
- 35 Automobile stick inits.
- 36 Egyptian boy kin;
- 39 Camera inits.
- 40 OPEC land
- 42 Lab eggs
- 43 Chinese "way"
- 44 Chapter in history
- 45 It's a fact
- 47 Wise men
- 49 Take to court
- 51 Asian language
- 52 Kind of boom
- 55 Knowing one's capabilities
- 58 Partner of turns
- 60 Bond role player
- 61 Dead against
- 62 Eagerly excited
- 64 Colossal
- 68 Terrarium plant
- 69 "___ life!"

- 70 Come to terms
- 71 Bell toad
- 72 Harbinger
- 73 Use a razor

Down

- 1 Used to be
- 2 In poor health
- 3 Greek H
- 4 Embankment
- 5 Caftans
- 6 Sailor's consent
- 7 Shade of green
- 8 Fr. connections
- 9 Bleacher feature
- 11 Cook-off dish
- 12 Publicized
- 13 Highways
- 21 Holy folks, briefly
- 23 Dinghy propeller
- 24 Nonclerical
- 25 That is, in Latin
- 26 A guy, to some
- 27 Glimpse
- 32 ___ Khan
- 34 Likely, as from a job application
- 35 CEO's degree
- 37 Throat dangler
- 38 Turkic language
- 40 Chicken order
- 41 Rainbow goddess
- 45 Chemical weapon
- 46 Garden tool
- 48 Deed, of sorts
- 49 Motto
- 50 Roswell sighting
- 52 Personnel
- 53 Title holder
- 54 Part of TNT
- 56 Be theatrical
- 57 Consider
- 59 Palm starch
- 63 Diamond or ruby, e.g.
- 65 Altar in the sky
- 66 Ida. neighbor
- 67 Golfer's gadget

See Solution on Page 15

Part 1 of the 2017 P

People



First Place – Ethan Joiner
Aurora, ON, Branch 785

“Winnipeg Mint”



Second Place –
Anna Catherman
Clearfield, PA, Branch 7

“Woodland, PA”



Third Place – Ashley Kotlar
Monongahela, PA, Branch 670

“PPG Paints Arena
Concert”

Nature or Environment



First Place – John Pravlik
Norvelt, PA, Branch 181

“Norvelt”



Second Place – Danny Dlugos
Greensburg, PA, Branch 199

“Butterfly Coming out of
Cocoon”



Third Place – Ashley Kotlar
Monongahela, PA, Branch 670

“Squirrel Eating a
Mushroom on a Bench”

Photo Contest Results

Travel or Destinations



First Place – Johanna Diehl
Califon, NJ, Branch 290

“Tubing on Colorado
River”

Overall Winner – Ages 12 - 18



Kathryn Behil
Temecula, CA, Branch 769

“Disneyland California
Adventures”



Second Place – Ethan Joiner
Aurora, ON, Branch 785

“Manitoba Legislature”

Overall Winner – Ages 18+



Third Place – Jessica Pendrick
Mt. Pleasant, PA, Branch 181

“Niagara Falls”



Kathryn Stover
Valencia, PA, Branch 831

“Butterfly/Sunflower”

Part II to be published in the February 14 issue of Jednota

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph's Society, Branch 1, will have their election of delegates for the 51st National Convention of the FCSU at the meeting of March 14, 2018. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107. If you have any questions, please call 216.228.8179. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

We will hold our Annual skating party at North Park skating rink on Friday February 9, 2018. Skating starts at 7:30 and food will start at 6:30. Please RSVP to Sue Ondrejco no later than February 2 at 412-421-1204 or susan.ondrejco@gmail.com.

Joanne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 3 - MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 11:00AM at the home of our President Delores J. Denosky, 1001 42 1/2 Avenue, NE, Columbia Heights, MN. We will elect a delegate and an alternate to the 2018 National Convention of the FCSU; other items on the agenda will include our family picnic in August, a merger, and the date of our annual meeting.

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, K.J., held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 10 at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant, PA.

Officers for 2018 were elected as follows: President, Daniel J. Spegar; Treasurer, William Spegar; Secretary, William F. Nalevanko; and Auditors: Donna Mroczka, Florence M. Nalevanko, Carol Spegar and Mary Ann Spegar.

Donations in the amount of \$7,000 were approved for distribution in 2018 to the following: Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, Olyphant, Pa.; Abington Senior Center, Clarks Summit, Pa.; Dickson City Senior Center, Dickson City, Pa.; Mid Valley Senior Center, Jessup, Pa.; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund and Christmas Fund, and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, Pa.; Valley Community Library, Peckville, Pa.; Eynon Archbald Lions Club "Leader Dogs for the Blind" fund, Archbald, Pa.; and Gino J. Merli Veterans Center "Canteen Fund," St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., South Side Senior Center, and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, Pa. plus an additional one-time donation to the American Red Cross "Disaster Relief" fund.

Arrangements are being made for 2018's semi-annual business meeting following the 11:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, Pa., on Sunday, June 24, 2018. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Finally, the officers and members of Branch 10 wish to extend best wishes to everyone for a joyful New Year!

Bill Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 16P - WEST WYOMING, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 016P West Wyoming, PA and Branch 005P Exeter, PA. All members of Branch 016P will now hold membership in Branch 005P.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

MARTHA ZAVADA WOJCIK
101 JEAN ST
EXETER, PA 18643-1513
(570) 655-4141
(570) 954-3771

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 of Johnstown PA, St. Joseph Society, will be having our 1st. Annual Meeting of 2018, on

Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 1 PM. The meeting will be held at Dennys Family Restaurant, Johnstown Pa. Near Walmart in Richland on Theatre Drive

All members of Branch 23 are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be discussing future activities of the Branch, and also the election of delegates to the National Convention. Hope all of our Members have a blessed Year.

Please come join us!

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

Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018, at 1:00PM at the Hungarian Business Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The branch will hold election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention at this meeting. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Branch Activities Director Susan Lang at 216-577-9699 after 6PM.

Robert J. Kopco, President

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 21, 2018, at 2:00 PM at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, IL. All members of Branch 40 are urged to attend the meeting. Convention delegates will be elected at the meeting. Election of branch officers will take place as well. Lunch will follow. Please make reservations by calling (815) 672-6682 before January 18th.

Timothy Graves, Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 12:00 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 55 - PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annual Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of the President and Secretary-Treasurer in the Dining Room at the Wesley Enhanced Living complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA. Mass will be held at Wesley Hall at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch.

Elections will be held for Branch Officers and Delegates and their Alternates to the 51st International Convention to be held from Saturday August 4, 2018 to Wednesday, August 8, 2018. Please call the President or the Secretary at 215.613.8987, or 215.637.6530 if you wish to be a Delegate to the Convention. Elections of District 8 Delegates and their Alternatives for the year 2018 will also take place.

Regular business will also be conducted. Please bring non-perishable food for Aid for Friends in Need. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Attention! Any high school or college student that attends this meeting will receive a copy of Joseph Trojcek's recently published book, FOCUS ON YOUR LIGHT. Joe, a multi-faceted entrepreneur, is a member of the FCSU, who shares his insights and experience in building a successful career centered in the field of music. In his book, Joe presents helpful ideas for anyone interested in starting a business or furthering his/her career.

Lunch will be catered; therefore, we request that you RSVP by January 13th in order to make reservations at Wesley. For directions to the meeting, please call the President at (215) 613-8987 or Secretary at (215) 637-6530.

In the event of severe weather, or any other emergency, we will conduct a telephone conference meeting with those who cannot attend.

Fraternally yours,

Helena T. Gaydos, President

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 invites all members to join us for a meeting on Saturday, January 27, 2018 and elect branch officers as well as elect delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH. A luncheon will follow directly after the meeting. The location is Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wau-

watosa, WI. The event will start with social time from 11:00AM - 11:30AM. The meeting will then start at 11:30AM and continue until approximately 1:00PM, directly after which lunch will be served. Lunch for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$20 per person. Reservations are required and must be made by January 23, 2018, by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. Checks should be made payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph Branch 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St, Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

In addition to election of branch officers and delegates, some topics of discussion will be: donations, 2018 activities, and insurance adjustments.

Fraternally,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 90K - OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 090K Olyphant, PA and Branch 419K Mountain Top, PA. All members of Branch 090K will now hold membership in Branch 419K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

FRANCIS J WASSIL
250 GRANDVIEW AVE
MOUNTAINTOP, PA 18707-2202
(570) 790-3311

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BR 110K - DELANCEY, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 110K Delancey, PA and Branch 484K Coral, PA. All members of Branch 110K will now hold membership in Branch 484K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

MONICA R RURA
PO BOX E
819 POWER PLANT ROAD
CORAL, PA 15731-0254
(724) 479-8181

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 121K - SOMERVILLE, NEW JERSEY

There has been a merger between Branch 121K Somerville, NJ and Branch 290K Bridgewater, NJ. All members of Branch 121K will now hold membership in Branch 290K.

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

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

LILLIAN K MINAROVICH
77 MORTON ST
BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807-3137
(732) 469-5256

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 124K - SOUTH FORK, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 124K South Fork, PA and Branch 484K Coral, PA. All members of Branch 124K will now hold membership in Branch 484K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

MONICA R RURA
PO BOX E
819 POWER PLANT ROAD
CORAL, PA 15731-0254
(724) 479-8181

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold

its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 9:00AM at the Uniontown Country Club, 25 Bailey Lane, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

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

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the brunch meeting. Call for reservations by March 5, 2018, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

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

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 5, 2018, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 189K - GALLITZIN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 189K Gallitzin, PA and Branch 372K Beaverdale, PA. All members of Branch 189K will now hold membership in Branch 372K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

VERONICA MASLAR
817 CAMERON AVE
BOX 15
BEAVERDALE, PA 15921-0015
(814) 487-7482

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 199 - HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 199 will hold a luncheon meeting on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 1:00 PM at Gianelli's II Restaurant, Route 30, Greensburg, PA 15601.

The meeting will consist of a welcoming to new members of the branch as a result of a merger of Branch 388K and Branch 512K Election of delegates for the 51st Annual Convention being held in August in Cleveland will take place at this meeting. Lunch will be provided by the branch. A warm welcome awaits all those who attend.

Barbara Patula, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Our meeting schedule for 2018 is as follows: Feb. 1st, Mar. 1st, with election of delegates/alternates to the upcoming National Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union this August in Cleveland, OH; Apr. 5th, May 3rd, Aug. 2nd, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, Nov 1st with nomination of branch officers; and Dec. 6th with election of branch officers

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

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary

BR 211K - LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 211K

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DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

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

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

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

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: January 8, 2018 – Slovak Hockey, February 5, 2018 – Sights in Slovakia, March 5, 2018 – Medovniky, April 2, 2018 – Slovak Castles, May 7, 2018 – Slovak Weddings, June 4 – the Pittsburgh Agreement. Become a member of the WPSCA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

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

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

Branch 853's Charles Boone Celebrated Christmas in Boy Scout Style



Eagle Scout Charles Boone of Dormont, PA, knows exactly how to celebrate Christmas the Boy-Scout-way. Patches earned during his years in scouting embellish a fun tree. Since Charles earned all 137 Boy Scout merit badges, the tree highlights his sash. Neckerchiefs from being on staff at the Jamboree and his NOAC experience, along with his OA sash creates an outstanding tree skirt. Charles' Christmas Tree was featured by the National Boy Scouts at: <https://tinyurl.com/ycfheoxl>

Charles is the great grandson of the founder of Branch 853 the late Andrew Harchar and is a newly elected Auditor of the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District. He is the son of former National Auditor and former Pension Board Trustee Monica Rodacy Boone, and Ron Boone. All are active in Branch 853.

- Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853

Branch 581's Dec Meeting

St. Michael the Archangel Branch 581 held a meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017, at the Lake Park Restaurant in Hobart, IN. After a short business meeting, members and guests enjoyed a fraternal lunch. All the current officers were re-elected.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



(L – R) Branch 581 Officers: Kathy Detmer, Treasurer; Bernie Bailey, Recording Secretary; Fr. Joe Kelchak, Chaplain; Ann Buczek, President; George Kelchak, Financial Secretary



Branch 581 members and guests enjoying lunch.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

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

DISTRICT 9-FRANK T.HOLLY, JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA will hold a meeting at 1:00 P.M. at the Uniontown Country Club at 25 Bailey Lane on Sunday, March 11, 2018.

Brunch will be served at 12:30. Election of officers for the year 2018 will be held at this meeting.

Regional Director, James Marmol will brief the group on current events taking place at the home office.

Plans for the 51st International Convention will be discussed. All branches are invited to attend. Members who attend will be asked to contribute \$5.00 for brunch.

Reservations need to be by Wednesday, March 7, 2018, by contacting President James Marmolat 724-437-0892.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 10 – THE REV. STEPHEN FURDEK

Mark your calendars our first meeting of 2018 will be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Ave, Akron, OH 44311 on January 21, 2018 at 2 pm. We will be electing delegates to the upcoming Convention. Please plan to attend and learn more about convention activities and issues we may be addressing at the convention. Our Society is only as strong as its members –take an active part and help keep our Society strong.

If you plan on attending, please call Linda Hanko @330-706-0151 or 330-690-9611. We need a headcount for refreshments. Please RSVP one week before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 16 - THE MSGR STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, February 25, 2018 in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York, NY, immediately following the 10:15AM Slovak Mass. The agenda will include the election of a delegate to the FCSU National Convention held in August, 2018.

Joan Skrkon, Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

Latrobe, PA and Branch 181K United, PA. All members of Branch 211K will now hold membership in Branch 181K.

This merger has taken place as of December 20, 2017.

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

DARLENE B PATTY
939 UNITY ST
LATROBE, PA 15650-8904
(724) 537-7743

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 240P – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 240P Pittsburgh, PA and Branch 173K Wilkes Barre, PA. All members of Branch 240P will now hold membership in Branch 173K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

CARL J UNGVARSKY
15 GROVE ST
MOUNTAIN TOP, PA 18707
(570) 403-2067

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 25, 2018, at 2:00PM at 175 Harvey Street, Struthers, OH. We will conduct our annual audit; elect delegates for the National Convention of the FCSU in August; and discuss activities for 2018.

We want to wish all of our members a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary

BRANCH 278K – ELIZABETHTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 278K Elizabethtown, PA and Branch 075K Shamokin, PA. All members of Branch 278K will now hold membership in Branch 075K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

RONALD M ANDERSON
8 S SHAMOKIN ST
SHAMOKIN, PA 17872-6028
(570) 648-7012

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 280K – NATRONA HEIGHTS, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 280K Natrona Heights, PA and Branch 200K Ford City, PA. All members of Branch 280K will now hold membership in Branch 200K.

This merger has taken place as of December 20, 2017.

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

VICKI LYNN SCHAUB
623 5TH AVE
FORD CITY, PA 16226-1030
(724) 763-9229

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 293 – LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

On Friday, March 12, 2018, St. Joseph Society Branch 293KJ will hold a special meeting for the election of delegates to the FCSU's 51st International Convention in Cleveland, OH, this August. The meeting will take place at the home of the financial secretary at 6PM: Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232-2210.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 312 – BAGGLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its annual meeting at 1:00PM on Sunday, January 28, 2018, at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Dr, Latrobe, PA, 15656. On the agenda: election of branch officers and election of delegates to the National Convention.

Best wishes to our members for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 308K – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

There has been a merger between Branch 308K Youngstown, OH and Branch 731K Youngstown, OH. All members of Branch 308K will now hold membership in Branch 731K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

JACQUELYN BOBBY
830 SOUTHWESTERN RUN
UNIT 76
POLAND, OH 44514
(330) 629-2505

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 335K – LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 335K Lebanon, PA and Branch 075K Shamokin, PA. All members of Branch 335K will now hold membership in Branch 075K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

RONALD M ANDERSON
8 S SHAMOKIN ST
SHAMOKIN, PA 17872-6028
(570) 648-7012

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 388K – LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 388K Latrobe, PA and Branch 199K Hostetter, PA. All members of Branch 388K will now hold membership in Branch 199K.

This merger has taken place as of December 20, 2017.

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

BARBARA A PATULA
129 HOLLY PL
MT PLEASANT, PA 15666
(724) 423-4745

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 380K – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 380K Canonsburg, PA and Branch 320K Belle Vernon, PA. All members of Branch 380K will now hold membership in Branch 320K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

FRANCES TARQUINIO
209 SYLVAN DR
BELLE VERNON, PA 15012-3505
(724) 929-9788

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saints Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018. Auditors will check the books and records at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA. The meeting will follow.

The agenda will include reports of the executive officers as well as the Annual Report to the Home

Office, future branch activities, and the 2018 Quadrennial Convention set for Cleveland. Election of delegates to the 2018 Quadrennial Convention will be held at this meeting.

Light refreshments and socializing will follow. All members are urged to attend.

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

Elizabeth Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, welcomes all members of the former Branch 823. The branch will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 4, 2018, at 1:00PM at the New City Buffet, 5142 State Rt. 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA, to elect additional delegates to the upcoming 2018 National Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in Cleveland, OH, based on this recent merger. All members are welcome. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386 by February 22nd.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 1:30 PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. All members of Branch 410 are invited to attend.

Call for reservations by Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 724-425-2576.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 414K – FARRELL, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 414K Farrell, PA and Branch 764K Warren, OH. All members of Branch 414K will now hold membership in Branch 764K.

This merger has taken place as of December 22, 2017.

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

GEORGE J YURICEK
1190 BEECHWOOD ST SW
WARREN, OH 44485-4190
(330) 394-8249

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 419 – WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Stephen the Martyr, Branch 419, will hold a meeting on Sunday February 18, 2018, at Norms Restaurant, Sherman Street, Wilkes Barre, PA, beginning at 12:30PM. Please attend as election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention to be held in Cleveland, OH, this August will be conducted. All are welcome. Lunch will served following the meeting.

Francis Wassil, President

BRANCH 461K – BUFFALO, NEW YORK

There has been a merger between Branch 461K Buffalo, NY and Branch 382K Dunmore, PA. All members of Branch 461K will now hold membership in Branch 382K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

JOHN J SLOVENKAI SR
318 14TH AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18504-2512
(570) 347-3579

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Society, Branch 484KJ, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 2:00PM. It will be held at the home of Financial Secretary Monica Rura, 819 Power Plant Rd, Coral, PA, 15731. The agenda will include discussion of plans for the branch for 2018, and the election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention of the FCSU to be held in August in Cleveland, OH.

Monica Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 512K – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 512K Greensburg, PA and Branch 199K Hostetter, PA. All members of Branch 512K will now hold membership in Branch 199K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

BARBARA A PATULA
129 HOLLY PL
MT PLEASANT, PA 15666
(724) 423-4745

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 welcomes the members from former Branches 319 Mansfield and 714 Dayton to our lodge. We invite you to attend our lodge meetings and fraternal events.

The first Lodge meeting will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 2 pm to be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311. We will be discussing the upcoming convention and electing delegates to represent our Branch. If you plan on attending, please call Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or email me at lhanko@neo.rr.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Linda M. Hanko, Financial/Recording Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist, Branch 587, will have a meeting on March 7, 2018, at 2:00PM at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA, 15001. There will be a business meeting and election of delegates to the upcoming National Convention in Cleveland, OH, August 4 – 8.

All members are invited to attend.

Edith Valo, Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Sunday, February 4 Polka Dance: 3pm-6pm: food available for purchase.

Sunday, March 4 Polka Dance: 3pm-6pm: food available for purchase.

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

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

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off

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

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

Susan Hornik, Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 meetings were held on December 7th and December 19th (concurrent with the District Christmas party). Continuing their support for local groups, Branch 682 made a donation of \$500 toward the Struthers Rotary 'Operation Warm' this year. The donation assisted in providing 190 coats to needy children in the Struthers School District. The 2018 51st International Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union was discussed. Election of officers for 2018 was held with results being Drew Hirt, President; Barb Hosa, Vice President; Milan Krivan, Treasurer; and Selma (Dots) Bolash, Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary. Then next meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for noon on January 25, 2018 in the conference room at Materials Research Laboratories located at 290 N Bridge Street in Struthers, OH. Completion of the branch annual report will be addressed and further discussion of convention delegates will take place.

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Branch 682 will hold a meeting on March 22, 2018, at noon in the conference room at Materials Research Laboratories located at 290 N Bridge Street in Struthers, OH. On the agenda: general branch business and election of delegates to the 51st In-

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Blessing the home

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a uvideli dieťa s Máriou, jeho matkou, padli na zem a klaňali sa mu. Potom otvorili svoje pokladnice a dali mu dary: zlato, kadidlo a myrru.

Listen to the words of St. The Gospel according to Matthew (2: 1-12):

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah in the time of King Herod, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. And, behold, a star which they saw in the east preceded them, until they stood over the place where the child was. As they beheld the star, they were filled with great joy. They went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, fell to the ground and paid homage to him. Then they opened their treasures and gave him gifts: gold, incense and myrrh.

(Chvíľa ticha, alebo krátky príhovor ...) - (A moment of silence or a short speech ...)

S radosťou za dar Božieho Syna velebme nášho Spasiteľa a prednesme mu svoje prosby: With joy for the gift of the Son of God, we praise our Savior and offer Him our requests:

1. Pane Ježišu, Boží Syn, žil si s nami ako človek, aby sme sa my mohli stať Božími deťmi, daj, aby sme boli dobré deti nášho dobrého Boha.

1. Lord Jesus, the Son of God, you lived with us as a human being so that we could become children of God, so that we would be good children of our good God.

2. Pane Ježišu, ty si sa v nazaretskej rodine vzrámal v múdrosti a bol si v obľube u Boha i ľudí, daj, aby otcovia a matky boli prvými učiteľmi a svedkami viery pre svoje deti.

2. Lord Jesus, you have grown stronger in wisdom in a Nazarene family, and have found favor with God and people, so that fathers and mothers would be the first teachers and witnesses of faith for their children.

3. Pane Ježišu, Kráľ pokoja, ty si nám priniesol svoj pokoj, daj, aby všetci, čo v tomto dome bývajú, tešili sa zdraviu i pokoji a žili v láske a svornosti a boli ti za všetko vďační.

3. Lord Jesus, King of peace, you have brought us your peace, grant that all who live in this house should enjoy health and peace, and live in love and harmony, and be grateful to you for everything.

4. Pane Ježišu, priniesol si radostnú zvesť trpiacim a chudobným a uzdravoval si pokorných srdcom, chráň nás od prílišných starostí a otvor naše srdce pre trpiacich a núdzných.

4. Lord Jesus, you brought a joyous message to the suffering and the poor, and healed the humble of heart, protect us from excessive cares, and open our hearts to the suffering and the needy.

5. Pane Ježišu, Život veriacich, ty si prijal Máriu a Jozefa k sebe do nebeskej vlasti, prijmi aj zosnulých z našej rodiny medzi svojich spravodlivých v nebi.

5. Jesus, the Life of the faithful, you have received Mary and Joseph into your heavenly home, receive those who have died from our family among your righteous in heaven.

A teraz sa spolu modlíme, ako nás naučil náš Pán Ježiš Kristus:

Otče náš, ktorý si na nebesiach...

And now we pray together as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven ...

Dajte si znak pokoja. - Pokoj a bratská láska nech je medzi nami.

Let us give the sign of peace. - May peace and brotherly love be among us.

Modlitba požehnania (The prayer of blessing) :

Všemohúci Bože a Otče, ty si nás v krste prijal za svoje deti a urobil si nás bratmi a sestrami tvojho Syna; posilňuj naše spoločenstvo s ním a daj, aby sme v našej rodine žili vo svornosti a láske. Bože, ochraňuj náš dom pred zlom a hriechom, požehnávaj ho i všetkých, čo v ňom bývajú, aby sme ti ako domáca cirkev prinášali duchovné obete: zlato lásky, myrru utrpenia a kadidlo modlitby. Skrze Krista, nášho Pána. Amen.

O Almighty God and Father, you received us in baptism as your children and made us brothers and sisters of your Son; strengthen our fellowship with Him, and let us live in our family in harmony and love. God, protect our house from evil and sin, bless it and all who are in it so that as a church at home, we can offer you spiritual sacrifices: the gold of love, the myrrh of suffering, and the incense of prayer. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Otec- matka pokropí požehnanou vodou prítomných i celý dom, pričom povie:)

Táto požehnaná voda nech nám pripomenie náš krst i Ježiša Krista, nášho Spasiteľa, ktorý nás vykúpil svojím krížom a zmŕtvychvstaním.

(The father-mother sprinkles blessed water on all present and the whole house, saying :) "This blessed water will remind us of our baptism and Jesus Christ, our Savior, who redeemed us with His cross and resurrection."

(Na horné veraje dvier kriedou napíšeme: 20 C + M + B 18

To znamená: Christus mansionem benedicat, Kristus nech požehná náš príbytok)

(On the top of the door we write with chalk: 20 C + M + B 18

This means: Christus mansion benedicat - Christ bless our home.)

Prosme teraz spoločne Pannu Máriu o pomoc a ochranu:

Zdravas Mária ; Pod tvoju ochranu sa utiekame ...

Let us now ask the Virgin Mary for help and protection:

Hail Mary; We seek your protection ...

Dnes prišla spása do nášho domu. Pokoj a požehnanie nech spočíva na ňom a nech naplní všetkých nás.

V mene, Otca i Syna i Duchu Svätého. Amen.

Today salvation has come to our house. Let peace and blessings rest on it and may it fill all of us.

In the name, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Conclusion

We still bless our home on Epiphany and it is a wonderful custom to continue or start in the future. For a number of years in the past, Rev. Frank Sherry, a good friend of our former pastor, Rev. William Mullen, recited prayers and blessed our home until his order transferred him to another area of the country. After the blessing as was customary in Slovakia, we offered him some refreshment and a meal.

Our family cherishes the memory of his visits. Father Sherry's visit made a lasting impression on our children, one which I am sure will stick with them throughout their lives. Our daughter's family also practices this yearly custom of prayer and blessing. It is a way we may all keep and continue our wonderful Slovak and Christian traditions, which add meaning and spiritual blessings to our lives.

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ternational Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in August of this year in Cleveland, OH. All interested members should attend. If you have any questions or need more information prior to the meeting, please contact Branch President Drew Hirt at drew@hirt.com or 330-750-0776.

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 716 FCSU, will hold a special Meeting on Sunday February 18th 2018 after the Slovak Mass at 1:00 PM in the downstairs hall of St. John Nepomucene Church. The agenda will include the election of delegates to FCSU Convention and planning of activities for 2018. All members are urged to attend this important Meeting. Lunch will be provided for those in attendance.

The Slovak Mass at 10:15 AM will be for deceased President Jozef Bilik of Branch 716.

Joan Skrkon, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will hold a meeting on January 23, 2018, at 9:30AM at Kozy Kitchen Family Restaurant, 2723 Elm Road, NE, Warren, OH, 44483. On the agenda: election of delegates to the 2018 National Convention in Cleveland, OH, next August; as well as discussion of year's activities. For more information, contact: William Hrusovsky at 330-372-1948 or email hirusovskyw@embarqmail.com.

William Hrusovsky, Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold their semi-annual meeting February 25, 2018. Meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m., at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, in the Altar Server Room, 4464 Main St, Egypt, PA, 18052.

The meeting agenda will include election of delegates for the upcoming FCSU National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, August 2018. If you have any proposal changes for the By-Laws, or any topics you wish to be discussed at the convention please write them down and bring them to this meeting. Delegates for the upcoming District 8 meeting on April 22, 2018 will be selected at this meeting.

All members are invited to attend, hope to see some new faces at the meeting.

Monica Fabian, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 823 - YOUNGWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA

There has been a merger between Branch 823K Youngwood, PA and Branch 393K Greensburg, PA. All members of Branch 823K will now hold membership in Branch 393K.

This merger has taken place as of December 21, 2017.

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

MARY ANN NALEVANKO

459 FRONT ST

GREENSBURG, PA 15601

(724) 834-6386

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

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 853 will hold its next meeting on Saturday February 24, 2018 at 11am at the Speers Street Grill, Belle Vernon PA (underneath the Speers-Belle Vernon bridge, Speers side). Discussions will take place regarding a branch team for the Bowling Tournament and the Convention. Members are urged to attend. If a member cannot attend but wants to be on the Branch 853 bowling team, please call about your branch participation. Reservations are required for a chair count for the meeting. Call 412-341-1577 and leave your name, phone number and how many branch members will be attending.

Have a Happy 2018 from Branch 853.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

Attention all branch 853 members

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

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

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

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

Monica Rodacy Boone, President

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
002K	Michael A Demcak	153K	Joseph A Macicak	450K	John L Pollack	746K	Michael Gecek
002K	Marie Starr	173K	Elizabeth Kavulich	450K	James G Soltis	746K	Stephen F Kachmarsky Jr
004K	William Potanko	173K	Clement G Kolinovsky	456K	Gerald P Pollock	746K	Mary Karch
005P	Sean J Rogers	181K	Florence M Sprock	465K	Bernadette R Valentis	746K	Michael A Maldony Sr
005P	Elizabeth J Sinchak	199K	Josephine P Curci	484K	Elizabeth J Biros	746K	Kevin J Matuska
019K	Charlene Ann Mathews	199K	Lavern Hixson	484K	Margaret Ann Cernik	796K	Joseph S Micek
019K	Anna Olah	199K	Blase Andrew Urban	553K	Andrew J Jendrisak	796K	Linda L Nemchik
019K	Joseph D Warmke	213K	Augustus C Gray	553K	Kenneth F Johnston	831K	Pauline Chupka
024K	Edward A J Sedlock Sr	254K	Agnes M Bechtold	553K	Robert J Kulka	831K	Emily Ann Heinrichs
038K	Michael R Barlas	254K	Elizabeth Gmys	553K	Edward P Wittman	831K	John V Pastorek
038K	Richard Dellarosa	290K	Frank Skay	581K	Edward Suty	853K	Barry Charles Wood
040K	Katherine A Baumgardner	313K	Marilyn Ruettiger	595K	Josephine Ann Bassler	855K	Agnes Andersen
040K	Samuel D Cook	315K	Agnes F Novotny	633K	David B Chamburs	855K	Thomas G Kavulic
040K	John F Kissel	367K	Joanne M Budner	667K	Joseph L Hensel	862K	Leonard J Sotock
041K	Janice M Hauck	367K	Mary Jane Spruell	670K	William J Brindza Sr	890K	John R Pitoniak
041K	Josephine Kucharik	368K	William Joseph Kovalcik	670K	Blanche H Kopanic	900K	Regina O Fabian
055K	Robert F Devlin	393K	Rosemary A Yakubisin	670K	Julianne Zmuda	924K	Sally E Bogash
075K	Matilda M Iannaci	401K	Margaret M Knasko	716K	Theresa Joan Signorelli	926K	Margaret Ragus
085K	Dolores M Charney	410K	Julia E Kuzlinski	721K	Donald Dee Mead		
096K	Robert John Lesnak	419K	Robert J Sebolka	733K	Marlene D Mootsey		
153K	Stephen Kolada	429K	Victoria T Moon	743K	Stephanie Klimo		

*Processed through the month of December

OBITUARIES

Andrew C. Herman, Regional Director Emeritus, Passes into Eternal Life January 3, 2018

Andrew C. Herman of Levittown, PA, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018, at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was 91. Born in Wilkes Barre, PA, and raised in Buttonwood, PA, Mr. Herman attended Hanover Township Memorial High School. He had resided in Levittown for the past 60 years, where he was an original homeowner and member of St. Michael the Archangel parish. Mr. Herman was employed with Gould's Auto Parts on New Falls Road for 25 years until retiring in 1996. He was a proud member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 857, where was elected to the Supreme Court in 1988 and became the Region 2 Director in 1991. He also was the past Director of Jednota Properties and the past Director of Jednota Communications. He had continued to sell First Catholic Slovak Union life insurance up until the time of his death; and was very passionate about presenting all the children in his branch with a gift every Christmas.

Andrew was an avid bowler and was proud to



have bowled a 709 series. He had run many bowling tournaments and remained active for as long as he was able. He also enjoyed golfing and gardening.

Mr. Herman was the loving and devoted husband for over 69 years to Alice V. (Sukosky). He was the loving father of Andrea Hutt, David Herman, Kenneth Herman (Jill), Janet Herman and Jill Herman, the proud Poppy of 10

grandchildren and Big Poppy of 12 great grandchildren. Andrew was preceded in death by his parents, Andrew J. and Mary V. (Filipovicz) Herman; his brother, George Herman; and sisters, Marie Shumoski and Agatha Viti. He is survived by his brother, Joseph Herman; sisters, Helen Pojunis, Eleanor James, Carol Ann Yozviak and Frances Herman; as well as many nieces and nephews. Family and friends called from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Monday, January 8, 2018, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, Levittown, where his Funeral Mass was celebrated at 10AM. A Rite of Committal followed in Forest Hills Cemetery.

EDWARD SEDLOCK, SR. BRANCH 24 CLEVELAND, OH

Edward A. J. Sedlock, Sr., 80, of North Royalton, OH entered into eternal rest on November 28, 2017. He is survived by his wife Anne Marie (nee Gerka), seven children, 23 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Edward was dear brother of Sr. Mary Therese O.S.F. (deceased), Joseph (Elsie) and Daniel (Carol), and son of Joseph and Irene Sedlock (both deceased).

Edward graduated from Benedictine HS in Cleveland, served in the U.S. Army, and was a longtime member of the International Heat



and Frost Insulators, Local No. 3. A daily communicant for many years, he was a member of St. Albert the Great Catholic Church in North Royalton for 39 years, St. Charles Borromeo in Parma, OH for 12 years and the Nativity B.V.M. Slovak Parish in Cleveland for 29 years. Edward was also a member of the Archbishop Edward F. Hoban Assembly Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in Parma, OH. He was a generous blood donor to the American Red Cross.

Edward was a loving husband, father and grandfather, and proudly attended his large family's many school activities and sporting events. His life was centered on his Catholic faith, his family, and service to his country, friends and neighbors.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held December 4, 2017, at St. Albert, concelebrated

by Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus Roger W. Gries, Rev. Edward Estok, Jr., and Rev. Leonard Bacik. Interment was at the Western Reserve National Military Cemetery in Rittman, OH.

- Submitted by Anne Sedlock

MICHAEL R. BARLAS BRANCH 38 - WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Mike Barlas, 73, of Lititz, PA, passed away on Thursday, September 14, 2017, after an eight-year battle with head and neck cancer. Born in Homestead, PA, he was the son of the late Michael T. Barlas and Margaret E. (Ferko) Barlas.

He is survived by his wife Joan A. (Aul) Barlas of Lititz to whom he was married for 46 loving years; two daughters, Margaret E. Barlas, MS, of St. Petersburg, FL, Frances M. Barlas, Ph.D., of Manassas, VA; son Michael E. Barlas, MBA, his wife Emily (Savard), and their son Michael Blake Barlas of Wilmington, NC; sister Margaret A. (Barlas) married to James Kocis of Pittsburgh, along with many nieces and nephews.

He attended parochial schools and received an Associate degree in Marketing from Robert Morris Junior College in Pittsburgh. Upon discharge from the US Navy he started a 42-year insurance career and retired from Lititz Mutual Insurance Company as Director of Marketing.

He enjoyed Senior Men's Golf, fishing, wood working, travel, bicycling, and general relaxation. He was an avid sports fan of the Steelers, Penguins, Pirates, and Pitt football and basketball.

Mike became a Third Degree of Knights of Columbus in 1978 and was a member of council 10827 at St. James Church. He was also a social member of VFW Post 1463 in Lititz.

During the periods he was considered a cancer survivor, Mike was a "Road-to-Recovery" driver for the American Cancer Society. He drove patients - including the Amish, who had no means of transportation - to their treatment centers. If you are reading this and are retired or have some free time a couple of hours each week, please consider volunteering to drive. You can inquire at the American Cancer Society office nearest your location.

2Timothy4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course. I have kept the

faith."

ROBERT SEBOLKA BRANCH 419 - WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Robert Sebolka, 65, of Wilkes-Barre, PA, went to be with the Lord on November 15, 2017. Bobby was the son of the late Joseph and Ann Roberta (Ludwig) Sebolka. He received his sacraments from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and attended Mackin Elementary School in Wilkes-Barre.

He participated in soapbox derbies as a cub scout with the Boy Scouts of America. Bobby was dearly loved by family, friends, caregivers, and those who knew him.

Despite being born with Downs Syndrome, Bobby lived his life with an enthusiastic spirit and inspired those who knew him to appreciate life and exercise compassion and patience.

Bobby is survived by his sisters Georgianna Locklear and Billie Lorraine Kisailus; and four nieces, five nephews, four grandnieces and ten grandnephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and by sisters Jean Cashmere and Marilyn Sebolka.

- Submitted by sister W. Lorraine Kisailus

NANCY LOUISE LUTZ BRANCH 493 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Nancy Louise Lutz, age 54, of Park Forest, IL, passed away at home in early November. She was battling cancer. She was a special education teacher for over 25 years in the Chicago Heights, IL school district. She was a dedicated teacher who made her students her highest priority.

Family and friends gathered at Lain-Sullivan Funeral Home for a memorial service on November 18, 2017.

Nancy, a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, had a wide circle of friends and many interests. She was a passionate defender of human rights who always stuck up for those who are disadvantaged or abused by more powerful people.

R.I.P. 'mila' Nancy.

- Submitted by Robert T'apa'k Magruder, Branch 493 Secretary

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SEPTEMBER 22, 2017 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

FIRST SESSION:

Friday, September 22, 2017

OPEN MEETING:

Reverend Thomas Nasta opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. by celebrating a Memorial Mass for our deceased officers and members.

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Regional Director Sabina Sabados to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia, and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly September 2017 Meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

Rev. Thomas Nasta	National Chaplain
Andrew Rajec	President
Andrew Harcar, Sr.	Vice President
Kenneth Arendt	Executive Secretary
George Matta II	Treasurer
Karen Hunka	Chairman of Auditors
Sabina Sabados	Regional Director, Region 1
Damian Nasta	Regional Director, Region 2
Martha Zavada-Wojcik	Regional Director, Region 3
James Marmol	Regional Director, Region 4
Michael Lako	Regional Director, Region 5
Henry Hassay	Regional Director, Region 6
Rudolph Bernath	Regional Director, Region 7
Milos Mitro	Regional Director, Region 8
Rudolf Ondrejco	Fraternal Activities Director
Gary Matta	General Counsel

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING JULY 2017:

A motion was made by Michael Lako and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of July, 2017, as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr., and seconded by Reverend Thomas Nasta to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2017:Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth Arendt presented the financial summary report for the second quarter and answered the Board's questions. He also stated that the second quarter financial statement was published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary also presented a comparison report between what was budgeted for 2017 and the actual expenditures.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors which gave a complete update of the investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer reviewed the UBS Fund, and MAI Fund, and the Executive Secretary gave a complete transaction report for the month.

The Executive Secretary stated that the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is proposing possible changes to the way the bonds within our portfolio are rated. These changes may have a minor impact on our reserves and may go into effect in January 2018. These changes may also affect the way our RBC (Risk Based Capital) is calculated.

IRS Form 990 Filings

The Executive Secretary stated that our Federal Form 990's are being prepared to be filed in November. A copy of the Form 990's will be emailed to the Board.

Security Update

The Executive Secretary gave an update on our IT Security. The Executive Secretary stated we have several measures in place to protect our members and their financial information. The Executive

Secretary stated we also carry Cyber Insurance as additional protection for our members.

Following the reports, the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

AQS REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, Inc., presented his extensive investment portfolio report by teleconference to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. During and after the presentation, Larry White answered questions from the Board.

Larry White then led a discussion on our Investment Policy. Following a further review of our existing investment policy, he presented several alternative investment possibilities and asked the Board to review them to make any possible changes.

Larry White led a discussion concerning our IMR (Interest Maintenance Reserve). He suggested that the Executive Committee should reposition our portfolio to increase our IMR. The President stated the Executive Committee will take this under review.

Larry White led a review of our surplus growth from 2008-2017. Our surplus at the end of 2008 was \$9 million; as of June 2017 our surplus is at \$29.3 million. This is an excellent compound growth rate of 14.9% per year, which compares very favorably to other fraternal.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer George Matta II presented a written report to the Board of Directors. After the presentation, he answered any Board's questions.

The Treasurer stated that the Executive Committee should review any new investment opportunities presented by Larry White to determine which ones we may want to take advantage of.

The Treasurer stated that the Executive Committee should take Larry White's recommendations to review our Investment Policy for updates.

The President stated he will invite representatives from UBS, MAI and Clutterbuck to our next Executive Committee Meeting to review our account and to ask for possible new investments we may take advantage of.

Regional Director Michael Lako asked questions concerning the fees being charged by our equity managers. A management fee is charged on the balance of our portfolio. An incentive fee is only charged if the investment makes money. A placement fee is charged to open an account.

RECESS OF SESSION:

The Board recessed for lunch.

SECOND SESSION:

Friday afternoon, September 22, 2017

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the afternoon session with a prayer and called the meeting to order. The Executive Secretary stated that all members were present.

SUPREME COURT:

The President gave a review of the Supreme Court Hearing, held on September 21, 2017 concerning a complaint filed by Robert Kristofik. The President handed out a copy of the Supreme Court decision in which the Supreme Court dismissed all the complaints filed against the President, the Executive Secretary and the Board of Directors pending only a review by an outside auditor of Form 990 filings. The results will be printed the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary stated that based on the findings of the Supreme Court that Bylaw 5.02(c) Reimbursement must be submitted within 60 days of occurrence, will be strictly enforced.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments

The Executive Secretary stated all investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

CONVENTION UPDATE:

The Executive Secretary stated we are in the process of sending out the delegate forms to the branches. The final delegate count will be based on membership count as of February 1, 2018. The Executive Secretary stated that letters will be sent to the branches who qualify and do not qualify to

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 14, 2017 MEMBERSHIP MEET

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 11:00 AM and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

The President stated the meeting is being held in conjunction with the 2017 Membership Meet aboard the Allure of the Seas.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta II, Treasurer

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the October 2017 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

The Executive Committee reviewed the report from Larry White, AQS Management, Inc.

The President led a lengthy discussion on the recommendations from Larry White regarding repositioning our portfolio to improve our IMR (Interest Maintenance Reserve) by the end of year.

The Executive Committee reviewed the list of bonds for possible liquidation to improve our IMR position.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a written report on the investment update to the Executive Committee and answered the Committee's questions.

The Executive Committee reviewed the investment opportunities presented by Sean Hardy from UBS.

The President stated the Committee will review the Investment Policy and it will be discussed at the Board of Directors Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

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

Portfolio Review

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

Mortgages and Overdue Mortgages

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

Monthly Disbursements

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

Disbursements for the month of October 2017:		
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	229,871.40
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	62,573.75
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

The Executive Secretary led a review of our 3rd Quarter Financial Statement and answered the Committee's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 3rd Quarter Financial Statement will be published in the Jednota.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have 291 agents. The Home Office is sending the independent agents monthly updates on our products. The independent agents are also in frequent contact with Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents.

The Vice President stated that our in-house marketing team is putting the finishing touches on a promotional video and it should be completed by the end of the year. This video will be available in

both English and Slovak.

The Executive Secretary stated that our extensive recruitment program to increase our number of independent agents is still in progress. Our plan is to eventually run this program in the 27 states we are licensed in. Much depends on our future insurance and annuity goals.

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the IRS approval for FCSU to act as a passive or non-passive nonbank trustee or custodian of health savings accounts and as a passive or non-passive nonbank custodian of Coverdell education savings accounts. The Home Office is scheduled to formally announce the plan in January 2018. Staff training has been completed. A description of the plans will be sent to the Board of Directors before being marketed.

The Vice President stated he is in the process of creating an incentive program for our agents to increase our annuity and insurance sales.

The Vice President stated he is working with our in-house marketing team to come up with new ideas to help our branches setup and promote fraternal activities within their branch. They are also working on ideas to improve communication between the Home Office and the branches to educate them on our insurance and annuity products.

MIDDLETOWN PROPERTY:

The President stated he has not received any new information concerning our property in Middletown. The President stated we will consult with the two investment companies who have made preliminary proposals prior to our Board of Directors Meeting in March and invite them to present to the Board. When we receive the final proposals, the Board of Directors will be notified.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated he has been in contact with our attorney in Middletown concerning Sunoco's use of the road leading up to the former Printery building and the easement rights to the property. We not only want payment for the use of the road but also guarantee for any damages.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Quarterly Meeting of the Board

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send delegates to the Convention after the final count.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Regional Director Martha Zavada gave an overview of the AQS seminar held in Pittsburgh that she attended. She stated it was very informative and covered many subjects.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

Requests for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by James Marmol to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Sabina Sabados to adjourn. Motion carried.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Is your FCSU profile up to date?

Help us serve you by making sure we have all your latest information on file – address, phone, email, beneficiary

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

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

Správy zo Slovenska

RegioJet spúšťa novú autobusovú linku Viedeň - Budapešť

Súkromný dopravca RegioJet spúšťa od 4. januára novú autobusovú linku na trase medzi Viedňou a Budapešťou. Autobusy budú premávať šesťkrát denne v každom smere. Linka z Viedne do Budapešti je prvou lastovičkou. Nasledovať by malo rozšírenie našich spojov na území Nemecka. V rámci novej linky Viedeň - Budapešť budú autobusy dopravcu vo Viedni vychádzať z autobusového stanovišťa Wien Stadion Center a v Budapešti pred železničnej stanice Budapest Kelenföld. Linku bude dopravca prevádzkovať s linkou Bratislava - Viedeň. RegioJet popri autobusových linkách spustil od 10. decembra 2017 aj novú vlakovú linku na trase Praha - Brno - Břeclav - Viedeň. „Vďaka novým linkám do Viedne očakávame nárast počtu cestujúcich v roku 2018 o viac ako 30 %“, dodal majiteľ spoločnosti Radim Jančura.

Kňazi pokračujú v slávení denných svätých omší za život

Kňazi budú i v roku 2018 pokračovať v iniciatíve slávenia denných svätých omší za život a rodinu. Nie sú to budú v duchu úmyslu Za šírenie kultúry života a za požehnanie a posilnenie pre manželstvá a rodiny. Informuje o tom Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS). V januári sa bude tento zámer sláviť v Košickej arcidiecéze, vo februári na Vojenskom ordinariáte. Nitrianska diecéza bude sláviť takéto omše v marci, Prešovská archieparchia v apríli, Rožňavská diecéza v máji, Žilinská diecéza v júni a Bratislavská arcidiecéza v júli. Slávenie svätých omší s týmto cieľom bude pokračovať v auguste v Spišskej diecéze, v septembri v Bratislavskej eparchii, v októbri v Trnavskej arcidiecéze, v novembri v Banskobystrickej diecéze a zavŕši sa v decembri v Košickej eparchii. Iniciatíva denných svätých omší je pokračovaním projektu, v rámci ktorého sa slávia v krajine bohoslužby v duchu šírenia kultúry života. Iniciatívu odsúhlasilo plénum KBS v roku 2012. Zapojili sa do nej biskupi Slovenska s kňazmi, pričom každý mesiac sa sväté omše slúžia v inej diecéze.

SARIO rokuje s čínskymi investormi o projektoch za 620 miliónov eur

Slovenská agentúra pre rozvoj investícií a obchodu (SARIO) rokuje so siedmimi čínskymi investormi o projektoch za 620 miliónov eur. Ich úspešná realizácia vytvorí v domácej ekonomike 2590 nových pracovných miest. Uviedol to nedávno minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák (Smer-SD) počas pravidelnej Hodiny otázok, kedy odpovedal za neprítomného premiéra Roberta Fica. Čína je aktuálne piatym najväčším obchodným partnerom Slovenska. V roku 2016 presiahol obchodný obrat 6,7 miliardy eur. Na Slovensku v súčasnosti čínske spoločnosti pôsobia, v oblastiach automobilového, strojárkeho, elektrotechnického a chemického priemyslu a tri štvrtiny slovenského vývozu do Číny tvoria automobily.

Colné kontroly na letiskách v Košiciach a Poprade posilnia nové röntgeny

Na medzinárodných letiskách v Košiciach a Poprade pribudnú nové röntgenové zariadenia na kontrolu batožiny a zásielok pri nelegálnom dovoze tabakových výrobkov. Pre príslušné colné úrady ich zakúpi finančné riaditeľstvo za 200.00 eur s DPH. V cene je zaškolenie operátorov, servisné prehliadky a meranie úniku ionizujúceho žiarenia počas záručnej doby. Zakúpený röntgenový inšpekčný systém na kontrolu batožiny využíva dvojité náhľad. Na základe klasifikácie materiálov duálnou energiou umožňuje farebné označovanie organických, anorganických a zmiešaných materiálov s rozličnými efektívnymi atómovými číslami pre lepšiu identifikáciu objektov. Röntgenová kontrola je podporená automatickou detekciou výbušnín a narkotík.

Väčšina Slovákov nedôveruje polícii ani štátnej správe

Viac ako polovica občanov Slovenska nemá dôveru v políciu ani v štátnu správu. Upozornil na to nedávno podpredseda opozičného hnutia Sme rodina Milan Krajniak počas rozpravy k návrhu na odvolanie ministra vnútra Roberta Kaliňáka (Smer-SD). Až 53 percent občanov SR nedôveruje polícii pod vedením Kaliňáka, sme poslední v rámci EÚ na margo výsledkov Eurostatu s tým, že v Českej republike dôveruje polícii 66 percent ľudí, v Chorvátsku 55, Poľsku 54, v Maďarsku dôveruje polícii 67 percent a v Albánsku 54 percent. Z rovnakého prieskumu vyšlo, že štátnej správe nedôveruje 51 percent ľudí.

Sakrálné dielo zo Slovenska obohatilo farnosť v Luxembursku

Dielo slovenskej sochárky Veroniky Bianchi Priehodovej bolo 13. decembra slávnostne odovzdané farnosti Wincrange v severnej časti Luxemburska. Pri odhalení sochy s názvom Svätá rodina bol okrem autorky diela aj splnomocnený veľvyslanec SR pre Belgické kráľovstvo a Luxemburské veľkovevodstvo Stanislav Vallo. Túto farnosť spravuje slovenský duchovný Ľubomír Fabčín, ktorý v minulosti pôsobil aj ako duchovný pre slovenskú komunitu v Bruseli. Autorkou sochy z carrarského mramoru je mladá slovenská sochárka Veronika Bianchi Priehodová, ktorá striedavo žije a pôsobí v Bruseli a v Banskej Bystrici.

Horehronský viachlasný spev zapísali do svetového zoznamu UNESCO

Horehronský viachlasný spev je typický intenzívnymi hrdelnými prejavmi s veľkou nosnosťou do diaľky a dobre počuteľnými viachlasnými súzvukmi.

Najväčšou výzvou vlády SR v roku 2018 bude nedostatok pracovnej sily

Najväčšou výzvou vlády v roku 2018 bude nedostatok pracovnej sily. Uviedol to v novom roku na tlačovej konferencii premiér Robert Fico (Smer-SD). Podľa predsedu vlády chce kabinet v tomto roku pokračovať v efektívnom čerpaní eurofondov. „Stojí pred nami aj tlak na rast miezd. Budeme opäť v roku 2018 zvyšovať minimálnu mzdu. Náš cieľ je, aby sme dosiahli minimálnu mzdu, ktorá bude začínať päťkou, teda už ísť nad úroveň 500 eur,“ avizoval. „Rovnako si uvedomujeme, že v roku 2018 budeme tráviť bezsenné noci, ako zabezpečiť rast miezd aj vo verejnom a štátnom sektore. Uvedomujeme, si, že dnes máme zastarané tabuľky, kde niektoré platové triedy sú nižšie, ako je minimálna mzda. Toto, ak chceme urobiť poriadne, bude stáť 300 miliónov eur. Je to teda predovšetkým tlak na rast miezd.“

Plat vedcov v programe SASPRO je od 2000 do 4000 eur.

Výmena skúseností a diskusia o súčasnom stave a budúcnosti vedy a výskumu v Slovenskej republike, postavení vedca na Slovensku a v zahraničí i o tom, ako vytvoriť také podmienky, aby ľudia zo Slovenska neodchádzali, ako aj priestoru pre tých, ktorí sa chcú vrátiť. Také boli témy piatkového stretnutia takmer 200 slovenských vedcov na pôde Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) v Bratislave.

Vo veku 73 rokov zomrel známy slovenský herec Marián Labuda

Vo veku 73 rokov zomrel známy slovenský herec Marián Labuda. Potvrdila to 5. januára hovorkyňa Slovenského národného divadla Izabela Pažitková. Labuda sa narodil 28. októbra 1944 v Hontianskych Nemciach. Pôsobil v Slovenskom národnom divadle a účinkoval v desiatkach filmoch a televíznych inscenáciách. Pamätná je jeho úloha v kultovom filme Vesničko má středisková.

Výber zo slovenskej tlače

Strieborná zberateľská minca k 25. výročiu vzniku SR

Zberateľská minca bola vyrobená v bežnom aj proof vyhotovení v limitovanom náklade 11.000 kusov. Predstavená bola v stredu v Bratislave zástupcami Mincovne Kremnica a Národnej banky Slovenska (NBS) spolu s ministrom financií Petrom Kažimírom (Smer-SD). Zberateľskú mincu v nominálnej hodnote 25 eur vydáva NBS po prvý raz.

NBS zároveň začala vymieňať aj pamätnú dvojeurovú mincu s tematikou 25. výročia vzniku SR. Tá bola vyrobená v celkovom množstve 1 milión kusov. „Národná strana pamätnej dvojeurovej mince bola vytvorená podľa reverzu výtvarného návrhu striebornej zberateľskej mince,“ uviedol guvernér NBS Jozef Makúch s tým, že táto minca bude zákonným platidlom vo všetkých krajinách eurozóny.

Autorom návrhu oboch mincí je Pavel Károly. „Návrh vždy býva najťažší. Vymyslieť, aby averz a reverz bol jednej krvnej skupiny, aby obsah aj forma sedeli z jednej aj druhej strany,“ opísal Károly.

Vznik SR symbolizuje československá zástava, ktorá sa na lici zberateľskej mince mení v oblúkovitej kompozícii na slovenskú a dominuje jej Bratislavský hrad. V spodnej časti oblúka je zobrazený Karlov most a vrch Kriváň ako symboly Československa. Označenie nominálnej hodnoty mince sa nachádza vnútri oblúka. Pri spodnom okraji je nápis Slovensko a za ním letopočet 2018.

Rub mince zobrazuje mapu Slovenska, symbolickú bránu do Európskej únie (EÚ) a znak eura s časťou hviezdy EÚ, ktoré slúžia na vyjadrenie začlenenia SR do Únie a eurozóny. Výročie pripomína nápis 25 rokov Slovenskej republiky v spodnej časti. Pod mapou je dátum vzniku SR, teda 1. 1. 1993. Nad ním je umiestnená značka Mincovne Kremnica a štylizované iniciály autora návrhu mince. Hranu zdobia reliéfne prvky čičmianskeho ornamentu.



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke líc pamätnej striebornej zberateľskej mince v nominálnej hodnote 25 eur pri príležitosti prvého dňa predaja 3. januára 2018 v priestoroch Primaciálneho paláca v Bratislave.

TASR

Vojaci privítali rok 2018 vypálením sálv

Vojaci na Tyršovom nábreží v Bratislave privítali Nový rok 2018, ktorý je zároveň 25. výročím vzniku Slovenskej republiky, ako aj Ozbrojených síl SR, vypálením tradičných novoročných delostreleckých sálv. Prvýkrát v histórii im velila žena - profesionálna vojačka z Michaloviec Tatiana Falisová.



„Novoročné delostrelecké salvy už k začiatku roka jednoducho patria. Je to istým spôsobom aj prepojenie histórie s novodobými dejinami ozbrojených síl, pretože táto tradícia siaha ešte do obdobia pred rozdelením Česko-Slovenska,“ uviedol minister obrany SR Peter Gajdoš, ktorý sa spolu s ďalšími predstaviteľmi rezortu zúčastnil na slávnostnom akte na Tyršovom nábreží.

Ozbrojeným silám SR pri ich významnom výročí zaželel úspešné plnenie úloh aj v nasledujúcich rokoch. „Verím, že tak ako doteraz, ich budú občania vnímať ako inštitúciu, ktorej môžu dôverovať, s vedomím, že ozbrojené sily sú tu vždy pre nich,“ zdôraznil šéf rezortu obrany.

Delostrelecké salvy boli tradične vypálené na rozkaz prezidenta SR, ktorý je zároveň hlavným veliteľom Ozbrojených síl Slovenskej republiky. Profesionálni vojaci zo Samohybného delostreleckého oddielu z Michaloviec vypálili novoročné salvy zo 122-milimetrových delostreleckých húfnic HD-30.

TASR

Požehnané sviatky Narodenia
2017

Šťastný NOVÝ ROK 2018

Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí

Vladimír Skalský

Stanislav Bajaník

Viera D. Tapalagová

Bratislava - Slovensko - Advent 2017



Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedeľu 21. januára, 2018** o 12:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdži.

Mária Jurášiová - pokladníčka

Fašiangová zábava v West Allis, Wisconsin

20. zbor Slovenskej Lígy v Milwaukee usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu, **3. februára 2018** v Knights of Columbus Hall, **1800 S. 92nd Street** v West Allis, Wisconsin. Začiatok bude o 6:00 do 11:00 hodiny večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 večer. Vstupné je \$5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Bližšie informácie: Betty, tel. č. 414-425-6137 alebo Ellen, tel. č. 262-893-7483.

Kathy Valent, tajomníčka

Slovenský ples v Royal Manor, Garfield, NJ.

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

Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka

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

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

Mária Juráši - pokladníčka

Mikuláš potešil aj deti vo Washingtone

Svätý Mikuláš nezabudol ani na americko-slovenské deti žijúce v hlavnom meste Spojených štátov a jeho okolí. Okrem toho, že im rozdal sladkosti, otestoval aj ich slovenčinu. Mikuláš sa s deťmi stretol na slovenskom veľvyslanectve, kde si spolu najprv pochutnali na kapustnici a vyprázanom rezni so zemiakovým šalátom. Potom však už došlo na lámanie chleba. Deti sa nevyhli otázkam o tom, či poslúchali svojich rodičov, či si poctivo robili domáce úlohy a upratovali detské izby.

Deti si preňho pripravili aj básničky a pesničky. Väčšina sa nenechala zahanbiť a zaspievala alebo zarecitovala v slovenčine. Niektoré deti však stáli na istote a zvolili si svoj rodný jazyk – angličtinu. Mikuláš si chcel byť istý, že mu všetky prítomné deti rozumejú a tiež si pripravil príhovore v angličtine. Do budúceho roka im však odporučil zlepšiť sa. „Svoju slovenčinu si musia stále precvičovať,“ zdôraznil.

Program zorganizovala v spolupráci s veľvyslanectvom Slovensko-americká spoločnosť Washington DC. Medzi prítomnými neboli len deti a ich rodičia, ale aj mnohí seniori, ktorí radi spomínajú na svoju rodnú krajinu.

TASR

„Six Minute Challenge“

Pod názvom „Six Minute Challenge“ sa 16. novembra na slovenskom veľvyslanectve vo Washingtone uskutočnilo networkingové podujatie mladých slovenských a českých profesionálov žijúcich v USA. V rámci šesťminútových prezentácií boli zaujímavou formou priblížené rôznorodé oblasti pôsobenia jednotlivých profesionálov, od štandardov v telekomunikačnom priemysle cez komunikáciu a spracovanie reči v extrémne hlučných prostrediach až analýzu médií pre globálnu komunikačnú firmu vo Washingtone. Podujatie bolo organizované v spolupráci s Czech and Slovak Society of Arts and Sciences of Washington.

Slovensko dnes prosperuje viac než kedykoľvek predtým

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Slovákov a Čechov, aby v Pittsburskej dohode vyjadrili vôľu vytvoriť nezávislý československý štát.

Vo Washingtonskej deklarácii z 18. októbra 1918 potom Masaryk vyhlásil nezávislosť Československa. Wilsonova administratíva podporila vznik nezávislého Československa ešte v ten istý deň. Ústava Československa z roku 1920 potom čerpala inšpiráciu z americkej ústavy, poznamenal Sterling a pripomenul, že USA boli jednou z prvých krajín, ktoré uznali samostatné Slovensko 1. januára 1993.

Americké veľvyslanectvo pri príležitosti týchto výročí usporiada počas tohto roka viacero podujatí. Pracovníci veľvyslanectva sa napríklad vydajú na dvojtýždňovú cestu karavanom do 32 slovenských miest a obcí, ktoré zohrali úlohu v Slovenskom národnom povstaní.

Veľvyslanectvo tento rok udelí ceny Woodrowa Wilsona pre osobnosti, ktoré významne prispeli k rozvoju americko-slovenských vzťahov. Usporiada tiež 25-kilometrovú cyklotúru zo Záhoria s cieľom pri mohyle Milana Rastislava Štefánika na Bradle či vystúpenia hudobných telies amerických vzdušných síl na viacerých miestach na Slovensku. Plánuje aj kultúrne podujatia vrátane premietaní tematických filmov či predstavení kníh a na jeseň súťaž videí pre študentov, ktorí v lete vycestujú do USA v rámci programu Summer Work and Travel.

Veľvyslanec po tlačovej konferencii odhalil banner na balkóne amerického veľvyslanectva v Bratislave, ktorý tieto výročia bude počas celého roka pripomínať.

TASR

Všetkým našim členom želáme
Šťastný a úspešný Nový rok 2018

Vianočný koncert v New Yorku

Generálny konzulát SR v New Yorku uviedol 1. decembra 2017 slovenskú speváčku Ester Wiesnerovú počas Vianočného koncertu „Jazz it out for Christmas“. Koncert bol v krásnom slovenskom kostole Sv. J. Nepomucene na Manhattane.

Ester Wiesnerová je speváčka a skladateľka, venuje sa kombináciám džezu so slovenským folklórom a klasickou hudbou. Ester je momentálne aktívna na džezovej scéne v NYC a v Bostone, je absolventkou džezovej kompozície a spevu na prestížnej Berklee College of Music v Bostone. K jej ďalším úspechom patrí napríklad zaradenie do rebríčka „30 pod 30“ časopisu Forbes (30 najúspešnejších Slovákov pod 30 rokov) alebo titul „Objav roka“ v súťaži Nové tváre slovenského jazzu. Momentálne dokončuje magisterské štúdium jazzovej kompozície na New England Conservatory.

Hostí privítali farár otec Richard Baker a generálna konzulka Ladislava Begeč, ktorá sa v svojom príhovore poďakovala všetkým priaznivcom Generálneho konzulátu SR v New Yorku a popriala príjemné sviatky. Ester Wiesnerová a jej trio (Julian Moehring – klavír, Fernando Firmino - kontrabas, Clemens Grassman - bicie) očarili divákov. Po koncerte sviatočná atmosféra pokračovala pri tradičnej vianočnej kapustnici a vianočnom pečive.

MZV. sk



„Slovakia and the United States: The Ties That Bind“

Vyhodnotenie dvadsiatich piatich rokov spolupráce medzi Slovenskom a USA bolo hlavnou témou prednášky Pavla Demeša s názvom „Slovakia and the United States: Ties That Bind“, ktorá sa uskutočnila 13. novembra na Veľvyslanectve SR vo Washingtone. Téma vzbudila záujem a živú diskusiu účastníkov – predstaviteľov krajankej komunity i amerického publika. Na podujatí organizovanom v súvislosti s blížiacim sa 25. výročím nadviazania diplomatických stykov medzi našimi krajinami sa zúčastnili prvý americký veľvyslanec na Slovensku Theodore Russell, bývalý americký veľvyslanec Theodore Sedgwick a slovenský honorárny konzul v Pittsburghu Joseph Senko.



Na snímke zľava: Joseph Senko, Pavol Demeš, Theodore Russell a Theodore Sedgwick.

V roku 2018 sa má v SR realizovať deväť väčších filmových projektov

Na Slovensku by sa malo v roku 2018 realizovať deväť filmových produkcií, ktoré si môžu žiadať od Audiovizuálneho fondu (AvF) 20-percentnú refundáciu svojich oprávnených nákladov na realizáciu projektu. Generálny riaditeľ Sekcie médií, audiovizie a autorského práva Ministerstva kultúry SR Anton Škrekó o tom informoval na celoslovenskej konferencii, ktorá sa venuje zhodnoteniu doterajšieho plnenia i budúcim úlohám Stratégie rozvoja kultúry na roky 2014-2020.

„Celková suma príspevku, s ktorou na rok 2018 AvF ráta vo forme spätnej dotácie na podporu realizovaných projektov, je necelých 800.000 eur, presnejšie 779.387 eur,“ uviedol Škrekó.

Počet zaregistrovaných filmových produkcií sa oproti roku 2017 zvýšil na dvojnásobok, pozitívum podľa Škrekó je však i v tom, že vo všetkých prípadoch ide o „zrealizovateľné“ projekty. „Takže možno reálne očakávať vytvorenie pracovných miest počas samotného nakrúcania, rovnako tak všetky sekundárne i terciárne investície a výdavky, ktoré sú spojené s produkciou,“ uviedol Škrekó.

Uvedený limit oprávnených výdavkov v SR zároveň nemôže presiahnuť 50 percent celkového rozpočtu projektu. Podporu tak môžu získať projekty, ktorých rozpočet je najmenej 300.000 alebo 600.000 eur.

Dalším stimulom pre rozvoj audiovizuálnej produkcie na Slovensku má byť aj vznik Národnej filmovej agentúry. „Hlavnými úlohami agentúry, ktorá bude súčasťou Audiovizuálneho fondu, budú prezentácia Slovenskej republiky ako filmovej krajiny, do ktorej sa producentom opláti prísť realizovať výrobu filmu či jeho časti, spájanie zahraničných a slovenských filmových profesionálov či vytváranie príležitostí na realizáciu filmových projektov na Slovensku,“ uviedol Škrekó.

TASR

Svätý Otec vymenoval slovenského saleziána Vladimíra Feketeho za biskupa

Svätý Otec František povýšil 8. decembra 2017 apoštolského prefekta Azerbajdžanu dona Vladimíra Feketeho do hodnosti biskupa. Jeho titulárnym sídlom je Municipa. Niekdajší provinciál slovenských saleziánov bude ako biskup stáť na čele Apoštolskej prefektúry Azerbajdžanu, ktorá zahŕňa celé územie krajiny a tvorí ju nateraz jediná farnosť v hlavnom meste Baku.

ThLic. Vladimír Fekete SDB (* 11. augusta 1955) pochádza z Chorvátskeho Grobu. Vyštudoval matematiku a geológiu na Prírodovedeckej fakulte Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave, no medzitým tajne vstúpil do noviciátu rehole Saleziánov dona Bosca a 15. februára 1975 zložil prvé rehoľné sľuby. Po tajných štúdiách teológie ho 30. januára 1983 v Berlíne vysvätil za kňaza kardinál Joachim Meisner. Do roku 1989 pracoval ako geológ v Spišskej Novej Vsi a v tajnosti apoštolsky pracoval s mládežou. Po roku 1989 zastával úlohu direktora saleziánskej komunity študentov teológie v Levoči, od roku 1993 bol šesť rokov provinciálnym vikárom slovenských saleziánov. Licenciát z teológie dosiahol na Katolíckej univerzite v Lubline v roku 1999. V období 1999 – 2005 bol provinciálom saleziánov na Slovensku, následne v rokoch 2006 – 2009 pôsobil v úlohe magistra novicov.

Dňa 5. novembra 2009 ho pápež Benedikt XVI. vymenoval za predstaveného katolíckej misie v Azerbajdžane. Keď bola misia 4. augusta 2011 povýšená na Apoštolskú prefektúru Azerbajdžanu, Vladimír Fekete sa stal jej prvým apoštolským prefektom. V tejto úlohe privítal v októbri 2016 v Baku na apoštolskej návšteve Svätého Otca Františka. Ten ho 8. decembra 2017 povýšil na biskupa.

Menovanie Vladimíra Feketeho za biskupa je pre katolícku komunitu v Azerbajdžane osobitne radostné, lebo prichádza práve na slávnosť Nepoškvrneného počatia Panny Márie, ktorej je zasvätený jediný kostol v krajine.

Apoštolská prefektúra Azerbajdžan vznikla v roku 2011 ako prítomnosť Katolíckej cirkvi na území Azerbajdžanu, pričom zahŕňa celé územie krajiny a tvorí ju jediná farnosť. Sídlom prefektúry je hlavné mesto Baku, kde sa nachádza Kostol Nepoškvrneného počatia Panny Márie, jediný rímskokatolícky chrám v celom Azerbajdžane. Na čele prefektúry stojí apoštolský prefekt, ktorý podlieha priamo rímskemu pápežovi. Je ním Mons. Vladimír Fekete, slovenský salezián. Katolícku farnosť v Azerbajdžane tvoria prevažne veriaci prisťahovalci alebo zamestnanci zahraničných firiem. Farnosť je od roku 2000 zverená slovenským saleziánom, dnes tam pôsobia 6 saleziánov kňazov a 2 saleziáni laici. V Baku majú svoje komunity aj slovenské sestry saleziánky a tiež sestry Misionárky lásky, ktoré založila sv. Matka Tereza. V máji 2002 navštívil krajinu pápež sv. Ján Pavol II., po jeho návšteve bol v Baku postavený Kostol Nepoškvrneného počatia Panny Márie, ktorý posvätil v roku 2007. Podľa pradávnej tradície ohlasoval kresťanstvo na území dnešného Azerbajdžanu apoštol sv. Bartolomej.

TK KBS informoval Rastislav Hamráček SDB

Nový rok prináša so sebou pre každého novú šancu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

správanie; je hluchotou, čo neprepiera škandály; je ohľaduplnosťou k ťažkostiam druhých; je rýchlosťou, keď vážna povinnosť volá; je odvahou, keď sa nešťastie prihodí. Láska vždy dáva, odpúšťa ...

nič nie je naliehavejšie ako odpustenie

Odpustiť druhému – to je odvážny krok! Odpustiť, zabudnúť, nepripomínať viac, ba povýšiť ako to urobil Kristus s hriešnicou, s lotrom na kríži a s apoštolom Petrom. *V Ježišovi máme odpustenie našich hriechov* (Ef 1, 7). Odpustenie je tak potrebné, že Kristus v modlitbe Otčenáša zaradil prosbu o odpustenie hneď za chlebom. A tak vykročiť nanovo znamená zabudnúť na staré zranenia, zmazať hnev, každému podať ruku a popriať si: *Požehnaný, v zdraví a v Božej láske prežiť nový rok!*

Farnosť sv. Gorazda Košice

On the feast day of Saint Nicholas President Andrej Kiska welcomed children from various foster homes to the presidential palace in Bratislava.



Foto: Prezident.sk

Andrej Kiska pri príležitosti dňa sv. Mikuláša pozval do paláca deti z detských domovov. Po darčeky si prišlo dvesto detí z detských domovov z Vranova nad Topľou, Kremnice, Klobušíc, Holiča a Dediny Mládeže. Pomohli mu symbolicky rozsvietiť vianočný stromček. Súčasne so stromčekom sa rozsvietilo osvetlenie paláca a vianočného stromčeka na nádvorí.

CNN pripomenula krásu Spišského hradu

Televízia pripojila k textu aj fotografiu hradu s popisom Spišský hrad je skvostným goticko-románskym hybridom.

Americká spravodajská televízia CNN opäť upozornila na nádheru a hodnotu Spišského hradu. Na svojom webovom portáli cez vianočné sviatky zverejnila viacero tradičných koncoročných príspevkov typu "naj za rok 2017" a medzi nimi v sekcii cestovanie zopakovala aj článok z augusta tohto roku s titulkom Veľkolepé opustené hrady sveta.

CNN v tomto článku predstavila novú knihu írskeho spisovateľa Kierona Connohlyho s názvom Opustené hrady. Okrem autora a knihy televízia priblížila aj päť hradov z publikácie a medzi nimi hneď na prvom mieste Spišský hrad. V odseku s podtitulkom Vrstvy histórie CNN uviedla, že mnohé hrady majú históriu tiahnu sa celými storočiami. "Po celé roky dali rôzni majitelia a rôzne konflikty svoju pečať architektúre hradov. Odlupovanie týchto vrstiev ponúka fascinujúci pohľad do minulosti," uviedla televízia.

Jedným z takých hradov je práve Spišský hrad na Slovensku, ktorý začal svoj život v 12. storočí ako románska pevnosť. O storočie neskôr sa otočil smerom ku gotike a v 15. storočí bol kompletne prestavaný. Neskôr ho noví majitelia zmenili na renesančné rodinné sídlo, opisala hrad CNN.

Televízia pripojila k textu aj fotografiu hradu s popisom "Spišský hrad je skvostným goticko-románskym hybridom".

Do výberu piatich hradov CNN sa popri Spišskom hrade dostali veža Mortella na Korzike, hrady Ballycarbery a Minard v Írsku a Golkonda v Indii.

TASR

V dôležitej skúške roka 2017, vo voľbách do VÚC, sme obstáli

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Zároveň však upozornil na to, že aj keď sa v novembri nepodarilo poraziť "zlo definitívne", odvrátili sme aspoň veľké nebezpečenstvo. "Ako voliči sme sa opäť raz dokázali v dôležitej chvíli rozhodnúť dobre — že SR je a chce zostať sebavedomou, modernou, demokratickou krajinou," dodal.

V nadväznosti na minuloročný prejav podľa neho aj naďalej platí, že Slovensko vo svojej doterajšej histórii nikdy nemalo toľko prostriedkov, aby významne pohllo s riešením jeho najväčších problémov. "Počet ľudí bez práce je rekordne nízky, hospodárstvo krajiny slušne rastie. Ale zároveň platí, že väčšinou chýba politická odvaha, chýba úprimné úsilie a chýba aj to najdôležitejšie — výsledky. V tomto ohľade bol rok 2017 pre Slovensko skôr neprijemným rokom pravdy," konštatoval prezident Kiska.

Nevíta, že vecnú a rozumnú obsahovú politiku väčšinou vytláčajú na okraj "bezvýznamné a malicherné škriepky", pričom víťazstvá v týchto agresívnych politických súbojoch nevedú k ničomu zmysluplnému. "Nevytvárajú príležitosti na potrebné zmeny. Nezlepšujú prítomnosť, v ktorej žijeme. Nezvyšujú šance na lepšiu budúcnosť. Iba krátkozrako, bezohľadne a arogantne prehlbujú nedôveru k štátu a k politikom, ktorí ho spravujú," zdôvodnil svoje tvrdenie.

Ľudí prostredníctvom prejavu požiadal, aby v roku 2018 nerobili nepriateľa z každého s iným názorom alebo kritickým postojom k tomu, čo robíme. "Keď budeme chcieť, dokážeme prestať odmeňovať priazňou tých, ktorí sa agresivitou snažia prekryť chýbajúci obsah, elán a odhodlanie hľadať skutočné riešenia na ťažké výzvy," uzavrel.

Prezident Kiska v prejave zblahoželal Slovákom k 25. výročiu vzniku SR. Ocenil, že ľudia dokázali zlepšovať život na Slovensku počas histórie vtedy, keď sústredili pozornosť na úsilie o spravodlivý, bezpečný, slobodný a sociálny štát. "Keď sme nezabúdali na tých, ktorí si nedokážu pomôcť sami. Keď sme aj v ťažkých a krízových situáciách dokázali vecne diskutovať a hľadať riešenia. Keď sme sa odvážne vzopreli nespravodlivosti a arogancii moci," konštatoval.

"Z ľudsky vyčerpaného, ekonomicky zničeného nevládneho skanzenu, ktorý sa spoza železnej opony vynoril na mape slobodného sveta, sme premenili Slovensko na otvorenú, modernú a životaschopnú krajinu. Na štát, ktorý dokázal využiť jedinečný potenciál európskej integrácie, aby sa stal pevnou súčasťou najviac bezpečnej, slobodnej, prosperujúcej a najlepšie spravovanej časti sveta," uzavrel.

TASR



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



O. Štefan Furdík
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 127

STREDA, 17. JANUÁRA 2018

Číslo 5964



Prezident SR Andrej Kiska ocenil pri príležitosti 25. výročia vzniku Slovenskej republiky 25 osobností spoločenského a kultúrneho života v Bratislave v pondelok 1. januára 2018. Na snímke vľavo prezident SR Andrej Kiska počas príhovoru.

FOTO TASR – Pavel Neubauer

On January 1, 2018 President Andrej Kiska presented awards to 25 representatives from social and cultural life in Bratislava on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Slovak Republic.

V dôležitej skúške roka 2017, vo voľbách do VÚC, sme obstáli

Prezident SR zároveň uvítal, že Slovensko je vďaka úsiliu ľudí 1. januára 2018 lepším miestom na život, než bolo v ten istý deň v roku 1993.

Slovenská republika ako slobodná spoločnosť obstála v najdôležitejšej skúške roka 2017 a to vo voľbách do VÚC. V novoročnom prejave 1. januára 2018 to uviedol slovenský prezident Andrej Kiska.

“V novembri pri výbere županov a poslancov zastupiteľstiev samosprávnych krajov sme takmer na hlavu porazili extrémistov tou najsilnejšou zbraňou, akú máme — demokratickými voľbami,” zdôraznil.

Pokračovanie na str. 23

Novoročné zvyky na Gemeri boli v minulosti naozaj pestré

Jedným z najočakávanejších sviatkov roka sú Silvester a s tým spojený Nový rok. Okrem osláv a zábavy, dodržiavali naši predkovia v záujme blahobytu, šťastia a zdravia v nasledujúcom roku, viacero zvykov.

Veď kto by nepoznal ľudovú pranostiku „ako na Nový rok, tak po celý rok“. V praxi to znamenalo dodržiavanie zvykov a tradícií, ktoré sú spojené s mágiou počiatku, či podobnosťou mágiou.

Tu je niekoľko z nich, ktoré sa dodržiavali aj na Gemeri: Nastávajúci rok je ovplyvnený aj osobou, ktorá ako prvá prejde prah domu. V žiadnom prípade by to nemala byť žena, chorý ani starý človek. Ako prvého by sme mali teda privítať mladého, zdravého muža alebo chlapca. Na Nový rok sa nesmie konzumovať mäso z hydiny alebo zajaca, pretože by šťastie a majetok mohli uletieť či utiecť.

Etnológ Martin Kováč z Banického múzea v Rožňave



Novoročné zvyky. (Foto: TASR)

In Gemer the New Year was marked with visits by the traditional Bethlehem Strollers.

Nový rok prináša so sebou pre každého novú šancu

Nový rok prináša so sebou pre každého novú šancu. Vlastne tú šancu nám dáva Boh, Pán času a večnosti. Zároveň je to pre nás výzva: *mať odvahu k novému vykročeniu*.

Vykročiť znamená dať sa do pohybu, vydať sa na cestu. Ale to môže urobiť iba ten, kto má ochotu k zmene a k obnove; kto je pripravený nechať za sebou všetko staré v starom roku a v novom roku ísť novým štýlom. Predpokladom k tomu je mať otvorené oči, pozorné uši a citlivé srdce, iba tak je možné byť dobrým pútnikom vo vedomí, že

nič nie je vzácnejšie ako vzťah s Bohom

Nové vykročenie má sprevádzať neustála túžba po Bohu a hľadanie Jeho tváre. Nemáme ísť cestou života bez toho, aby s nami nešla Jeho prítomnosť. Pútnik zeme nemôže vidieť Božiu tvár (Ex 33, 20). Je mu však dovolené vstúpiť do Božej blízkosti, volať k Bohu, aby bol vyslyšaný (Jer 33, 3). Rozhovor s Bohom je základnou podmienkou vzťahu s Ním a zároveň prvým krokom. Majte odvahu modliť sa každý deň, hovorte s Bohom ako s Otcom, ktorý je starostlivý a vždy prekvapivo dobrý.

nič nie je krajšie ako Ježiš Kristus

Nové vykročenie znamená stretnúť sa s osobou Ježiša Krista, ísť s Ním ako Emauzskí učeníci. To je začiatok toho, že sme kresťanmi. Preto minimálne raz v týždni počúvame Evanjelium a objavujeme krásu Ježišových slov, ktoré majú silu meniť život na lepší. Hovorí sa, *ukáž mi svojich priateľov, a poviem, kto si ty*. Nie je nič krajšie, ako byť Ježišovým priateľom. Ten vzťah nie je hotový, ale neustále sa tvoriaci a prehĺbujúci. Prísť o priateľstvo s Kristom by bolo ťažkou životnou prehrou. Preto nedajte sa nikdy nikým a ničím obráť o Ježiša Krista!

nič nie je dôležitejšie ako láska

Bez lásky nelze žít, bez lásky se umíra (česká pieseň). Láska je pre človeka najväčším požehnaním. Kto sa rozhodol mať trvalý vzťah s Bohom a byť Ježišovým priateľom, volí si lásku za svoj životný štýl. *Vivre d'amour – žiť z lásky*, ako to vidíme u sv. Terézie z Lisieux. Láska je tichom, keby slová mali zranit', je trpezlivosťou na susedovo

Pokračovanie na str. 23

Slovensko dnes prosperuje viac než kedykoľvek predtým

Slovensko, ktoré tohto roku oslavuje 25. výročie samostatnosti a zároveň si pripomína aj storočnicu založenia spoločného štátu s Čechmi, je stabilnejšou, prosperujúcejšou a bezpečnejšou krajinou než kedykoľvek predtým. Na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave 8. januára 2018 uviedol americký veľvyslanec na Slovensku Adam Sterling. „Je to vďaka rozhodnutiam generácií Slovákov, ktorí mali odvahu vytvoriť slobodné a nezávislé Slovensko, ktoré je pevne ukotvené na Západe. Spojené štáty sú hrdé na to, že aj ony zohrali úlohu v tomto príbehu,“ povedal veľvyslanec.

Pripomenul úsilie amerických Slovákov zo začiatku 20. storočia, podporu Washingtonu pre vznik samostatného Slovenska v roku 1993, americké investície na Slovensku či partnerstvo oboch krajín v NATO. „Amerika prispela k úspešnému príbehu Slovenska ako priateľ, partner a spojenec,“ zdôraznil Sterling.

Veľvyslanec pripomenul, že presne pred 100 rokmi, 8. januára 1918, americký prezident Woodrow Wilson predstavil 14-bodový mierový program v prejave pred americkým Kongresom. V ňom žiadal právo na slobodu a sebaurčenie pre národy žijúce vo vtedajšej habsburskej monarchii. Po tomto prejave, ktorému predchádzali návštevy slovenského politika Milana Rastislava Štefánika a tiež neskoršieho prvého československého prezidenta Tomáša Garrigua Masaryka v USA, sa v máji 1918 zišli zástupcovia amerických

Pokračovanie na str. 22



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Na snímke veľvyslanec Spojených štátov amerických na Slovensku Adam Sterling počas tlačovej konferencie Veľvyslanectva USA na Slovensku.

At a recent press conference American Ambassador to Slovakia Adam Sterling spoke on the 25th anniversary of the Slovak Republic and the historical close ties of Slovakia with the United States.