



# Jednota

THE UNION

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

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NUMBER 5989



Newly elected President of Slovakia stops by FCSU Booth at the September Slovak Festival in NJ: (L - R) President of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Zuzana Čaputová, Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados, Branch 89 Member Idka Rajec, and Branch 24 Member Miriam Visnovsky.

See pages 10 - 11 for full coverage.



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1

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

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

## Fall Fun with the FCSU!

- Christmas Coloring Contest for Kids See p 4
- All-new New Year's Coloring Contest for the Young At Heart See p 5
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**RAKE IN THE SAVINGS!!!**

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# Insights and Viewpoints



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

**November 17, 2019 – 33rd  
Sunday of Ordinary Time**

In two weeks we begin the Advent Season, and each year, as we near the end of the Church Year and prepare for the beginning of a new Church Year, the readings remind us that this world will end. We live at a time when so much of our lives is organized and planned. We have celebrations to mark the beginning of significant



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

events such as: weddings, Baptisms, and new jobs; and we mark the end of significant events such as: graduations (even from pre-school), moving away, and retirement. All of these are well scheduled and planned; save the date cards and invitations are sent. Unlike these, and somewhat against our nature, the end of the world is unknown to us. When Jesus speaks about the end of the world, and people asked him: "Teacher, when will this happen?" He does not give them a precise day or hour. Instead he tells them of all kinds of events and signs to watch for.

What it comes down to is that the end can occur in one of two ways, the major event itself in which Christ comes in glory, or our personal event when we breathe our last. The first has not yet happened, but the second is one that we probably all have experienced in some way or another. It is shocking to hear of the death of someone we know, who we were just with recently, even the night before. A somewhat odd saying I've heard is: "poor John, he went to bed last night, and this morning he woke up dead." Then there are those who die from accidents or sudden illness. All of these can be shocking because, in the midst of our grief at the unexpected loss of someone, is the reality that it could happen to us. What are we to do with this knowledge of the uncertainty of the day or hour when we will breathe our last?

Saint Benedict, in Chapter Four of his Rule, wrote: "Remember to keep death before your eyes daily." We prepare by being mindful of what a gift God has blessed us with in willing that we be born into this world. It is a gift that is both fragile and finite, and calls us to keep in mind that someday it will end. Keeping death before us is not meant to be morbid or depressing, it is to be mindful of the reality of who we are. Never to forget that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and God's desire is that we someday enter into the glory of eternal life with him. Keeping death before our eyes is a means for us not to remain mindful of what God has planned for us, and to live our lives in joy and hope for that moment. The reality is that God is our creator who loves us with unconditional love; and death is preparing to meet our lover, and doing all that we can to make ourselves pleasing by doing and being what and who God wants us to be.

The observance of the end of the Church year is an opportunity to pause and to ask ourselves how we are living. Here are a few questions to reflect on during the closing weeks of this Church Year. Have I grown closer to the Lord? Am I better at loving my neighbor as myself? Am I more aware of opportunities to serve? Let us continue to get ready to meet the Lord, whenever he might return.

**162 – Solemnity of Christ the King – November 24, 2019**

The feast of Christ the King has a long history in various countries of Europe but only came to its current prominence throughout the universal Church in 1925, when Pope Pius XI established the feast as a counter-witness to the collapse of royal families across Europe in the wake of World War I and the growing secularization of public life. While the image of Christ as King is one that any Catholic can appreciate to some extent given his frequent preaching about the Kingdom of God, the fact that the vast majority of Catholics around the world today have never lived under the authority of a king takes away some of the significance this feast would have had in Europe during Pope Pius' time.

Nonetheless we can draw an important lesson about true kingship from the scripture readings today, looking to the examples of King David and Christ himself. In the first reading, from the Second Book of Samuel, we see King David about to enter Jerusalem in triumph, having finally vanquished not only his old rival Saul but also the Philistines and other enemies of Israel who had hounded his people for years. Before he could take possession of Jerusalem, however, he had to oust the Jebusites who occupied the city. The Jebusites mocked David, saying that even "the blind and the lame" could defeat his army, but David made short work of the Jebusite defenders and then angrily declared in retaliation: "The lame and the blind shall be the personal enemies of David" (2 Sam 5:6, 8).

David was thus rejected by those he was called to serve as king and he took fierce vengeance. To be fair he was following the conventions of royal behavior of his time—crushing any sign of opposition to his authority—but his words against the most vulnerable among the Jebusites remind us that David was both the anointed of the Lord and deeply flawed. Jesus faced rejection as well, and in a far more profound manner than David. Jesus, often called in the Gospels "the Son of David" and "the King of Israel," was not simply mocked like David was, "The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, 'He saved others, let him save himself'" (Luke 23:35), he was put to a torturous and unjust death on the cross.

Jesus' answer to his tormentors is radically different from David's, and this is where we learn our lesson on this feast of Christ the King. Both kings, David and Jesus, are rejected, David by the Jebusites, Jesus by many of those to whom he preached. David responds according to thin-skinned calculations about power and public humiliation, "The lame and the blind shall be the personal enemies of David," whereas Jesus' response is to extend forgiveness even to his executioners: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). In doing so Jesus shows us why he is the only true King, a King who gives his very life for his people and has no need to vaunt his authority but instead brings together strength and gentleness, justice and mercy.

Together with the good thief to whom Jesus promised salvation may we come to recognize real kingship, and conduct ourselves in a manner so as to hasten the coming of the Kingdom of God. Then we will truly be followers of the "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev 19:16; Pius XI, Quas Primas 11), finding in Jesus, the Son of David, the fulfillment of our calling as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own" (1 Pet 2:9).



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11	MONDAY, DEC. 2
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15	MONDAY, JAN. 6
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12	MONDAY, FEB. 3

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## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

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

### St. Michael: Warrior and Healer

Last year, Pope Francis urged the faithful to recite the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel after praying the rosary in order to protect the Church from "spiritual turbulence." Around the same time, parishes in the United States began saying the Prayer to St. Michael after Mass, a practice continued in many places to this day.

In an article for Crux Magazine, published last year around the time when many parishes were bringing back the prayer to St. Michael, writer Carol Zimmermann highlighted that St. Joseph Parish in Roseburg, Oregon, had been saying the St. Michael prayer since 2015. It began in the aftermath of a tragedy; and soon afterwards, parish priest Father Jose Manuel Campos Garcia made it a regular part of Mass. Zimmermann writes, "After he began leading the parish in this prayer after daily Mass, he said he saw a change."

In an interview with the Catholic Sentinel, the newspaper for the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, Father Garcia said, "For us, it's been a journey of healing relationships and healing the community"

It's interesting that Father Garcia associates the Prayer to St. Michael with healing, because St. Michael was associated with healing in the early Church, before the predominant imagery associated with him became that of a warrior. Of course, we know that it is not physical but spiritual combat in which God's angel leads us, and such combat is carried out through prayer, sacrifice, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices help us to bring about real change and guard our souls as well as the Church against anything that would do us harm.

In actuality, both ideas of St. Michael as healer and as warrior are valid. He is a protector, and in that sense, the imagery of a warrior helps us to understand his role as one who will fight with every fiber of his being to defend those who call upon him. But the image of a healer is also valid, because Michael offers protection from that which would do us harm, and this protection allows us to heal from any troubles that would afflict us.

Through the centuries, many have found St. Michael the Archangel to be a powerful intercessor and the prayer to him remains an efficacious way to ask for protection in times of trouble. It's important to remember that, in calling upon St. Michael, we are asking for protection so that peace might return to our lives. Many people pray this prayer daily to bring about healing, whether they need help and protection in fighting addiction, in healing divisions within families and communities, or guidance amid the difficulties of life. St. Michael can keep the worst of our troubles at bay so that we can focus on finding the healing in life that God wants for us all.

So turn to St. Michael with confidence, and you will find healing in your soul and in your community, and you will bring healing to the Church. Pray to St. Michael for protection and the strength to stand with God in the most difficult times, and he will intercede for you in powerful ways to strengthen and protect you and your loved ones. And remember that the Prayer to St. Michael is a prayer of hope in the power of God to set things right in the world. It is a prayer of hope in finding lasting peace and building a world that lives in gratitude for the love of Christ.

## Message from the National Chaplain

This month's article is the second of a two-part series on immigration. Legal aspects were presented last month; this month, the focus is on Christian morality and Catholic Church teaching.

All discussions and debates on immigration should lead one to ponder: As a Catholic, what is my Church's position on immigration? What guidance does the Church provide on this issue in aiding me to form my conscience so that my thoughts and actions are in accord with the will of God?

The Holy Word of God not only provides us with the basis for the whole of Catholic social teaching, but also with specifics regarding the attitude one is to have towards immigrants and how immigrants are to be treated.

Catholic Social Teaching can be drawn from these six citations from Scripture:

- God created them in the divine image, male and female he created them (Genesis 1:27)
- Love one another as I love you. (John 15:12)
- Just as you did to the least of the members of my family, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40)
- No longer Jew nor Greek, slave or free, all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)
- In Christ we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)
- Your attitude must be like Christ's. (Philippians 2:5)

These verses, together with an understanding of fundamental rights of the human person (to food, clothing and shelter; to choose a state of life freely and have a family; to education, employment, and a good reputation; to respect, appropriate information, and act in accord with the upright norm of one's own conscience; to protection of privacy and freedom [Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World from the Second Vatican Council (1965)], form the platform upon which the Church's teaching on immigration is built. This teaching speaks for itself in the following excerpts from the writings of various popes over the decades.

### Pope Pius XII, "The Migrant Family (of Nazareth)" (1952)

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, living in exile in Egypt to escape the fury of an evil king, are, for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, alien and refugee of whatever kind who, whether compelled by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave his native land, his beloved parents and relatives, his close friends, and to seek a foreign soil."

### Pope Saint John XXIII, "Peace on Earth" (1963)

Every human being has the right to freedom of movement and of residence within the confines of his own state. When there are just reasons for it, he must be permitted to emigrate to other countries and to take up residence there.

### Pope Saint Paul VI, On the Progress of Peoples (1967)

We cannot insist too much on the duty of giving foreigners a hospitable reception. It is a duty imposed by human solidarity and by Christian charity, and it is incumbent upon families and education institutions in the host nations....[T]hey should be welcomed in a spirit of brotherly love.

### Pope Saint John Paul II, On Human Work (1981)

Man has the right to leave his native land for various motives – and also the right to return – in order to seek better conditions of life in another country.

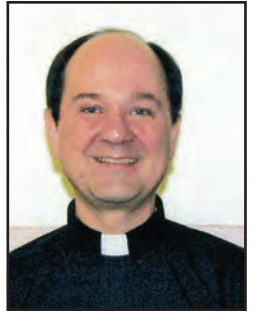
### Pope Benedict XVI, God is Love (2005)

Jesus identifies himself with those in need, with the hungry, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison. "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). Love of God and love of neighbor have become one: in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God.

### Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel (2013)

Migrants present a particular challenge for me, since I am the pastor of a Church without frontiers, a Church which considers herself mother to all. For this reason, I exhort all countries to a generous openness which, rather than fearing the loss of local identity, will prove capable of creating new forms of cultural synthesis.

Each pope, from Pius XII to Francis, use different words to say the same thing. Welcome the migrant.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

## First Catholic Slovak Union Seeks Qualified Internal Auditor

The unexpected passing of one of our elected FCSU auditors Michele Mager has caused me to place this notice in the Jednota. May God grant Eternal Life to her with our Lord.

The First Catholic Slovak Union is seeking a candidate to fill the position of Internal Auditor. Per FCSU Bylaws 6.05 (b)(3), this candidate shall be appointed by the National President, subject to approval by the Board of Directors at their next meeting which will be held in December 2019. The newly appointed Auditor will serve until the next Quadrennial Convention of the Society at which time all Auditors will be up for election. The next Convention will be held in 2022.

Requirements: an associate or higher accounting degree from an accredited college or equivalent accounting experience. A candidate for appointment to the position of Internal Auditor per FCSU Bylaws 7.06 cannot be an employee, a retired employee, or former employee of the First Catholic Slovak Union or its subsidiaries.

Duties: internal auditors' function under policies outlined in the Bylaws and established by the Board of Directors, under the supervision of the Chairman of Auditors as required.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter stating interest and qualifications to:

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President  
First Catholic Slovak Union  
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300  
Independence, OH 44131

Deadline for application: all applications must be postmarked by **Nov. 25, 2019.**

### QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

HOLLYWOOD BEACH MARRIOTT  
2501 NORTH OCEAN DRIVE  
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA 33019

DECEMBER 13 - 14, 2019

The *QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING* of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on:

*Friday, December 13, 2019 8:30 AM Mass with meeting to follow*  
*Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 9:00 AM - Executive Committee Meeting to follow*

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent to the Home Office prior to December 6, 2019.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec  
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

# FCSU 2019 Christmas Coloring Contest

**B**



**A**



**C**



**PRIZES**

Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – \$25.00 Gift Card**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$15.00 Gift Card**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$10.00 Gift Card**

**RULES**

1. Each age group is assigned a certain picture:  
 4 – 6 year olds – picture A  
 7 – 9 year olds – picture B  
 10 – 12 year olds – picture C
2. Enlarged reproductions of picture A, B, or C will be disqualified.
3. Pictures may be reproduced for families with more than one child in a particular age group.
4. Children **MUST** be members in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for prizes.
5. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
6. Your child's completed entry form & colored picture must be postmarked by **December 31, 2019.**
7. Mail to:  
 Kevin Collins  
 Fraternal Activities  
 Director 628 Heather  
 Brite Cr. Apopka, Fl.  
 32712

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Certificate Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ (MUST be filled in)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please submit this form with your child's entry by December 31, 2019*

# FCSU New Years' Coloring Contest for All Those Young at Heart

Happy New Year!

Šťastný Nový Rok!

Color the image below and submit according to instructions



**RULES**

*Please submit this form with your entry by December 31, 2019. Please print legibly*

1. This contest is for all those Young At Heart Members: **You must be 55+ to enter**
2. Enlarged reproductions of the picture will be disqualified.
3. You **MUST** be a member in good standing of the FCSU in order to be eligible for a prize.
4. **Entries without a branch number filled in will be disqualified.**
5. Your completed entry form with colored picture must be postmarked by **December 31, 2019**
6. Mail to:

Kevin Collins  
 Fraternal Activities Director  
 628 Heather Brite Cr.  
 Apopka, Fl. 32712

Name: _____	Age: _____
Certificate Number: _____	<b>Branch Number:</b> _____ (MUST be filled in)
Street Address: _____	
City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone Number: _____	
Email Address: _____	

**PRIZES**

*Winners in each Region and age group will receive the following:*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place –\$50 Gift Card**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place –\$35 Gift Card**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place –\$25 Gift Card**



## District 4's semi-annual meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey was held on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at Carpaccio Ristorante in Middlesex. Jednota District 4 members gathered to discuss plans for fraternal activities for 2020. In 2019 the District organized several successful events including a March FCSU Sales Seminar with an excellent participation of members and non-members, the Region 1 picnic and bus trip jointly organized by District 16 to Danville, PA to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sisters of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. Discussion of exciting upcoming events included the 55th commemoration of the dedication of Our Lady of Sorrows Shrine at the National Basilica in Washington, DC which is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, 2020. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and festive atmosphere. Thank you to the host -- Branch 290! The meeting concluded with singing of happy birthday in both Slovak and English to the October celebrants - Jo Anne Peppe (Branch 290), Stephanie Peppe (Branch 290) and Emil Filak (Branch 746). District 4 continues to collect food donations for the local food pantry. We encourage all branches to participate in community service activities in their local areas.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



Celebrating anniversaries were: Row 1: (L – R) Sister Marguerite Hruby (60 years), Sister Irene Rose Kmetz (65 years), Sister Susan Polchin (70 years), Sister Maria Theresa Hronec (60 years), Sister John Vianney Vranak (65 years), Sister Margaret Mary Fest (55 years), and Sister Cynthia Marie Gazdo (55 years). Row 2: (L – R) Sister Thomas More Dzurnak (55 years), Sister Rosanne Kmetz (65 years), Sister Joseph Therese Pohorenc (60 years), Sister Philothea Fabian (55 years), Sister Michael Ann Orlik (50 years), Sister Mary Beth Makuch (50 years), Sister Sara Swayze, (50 years) and Sister Suzanne Duzen (50 years).

## SS Cyril and Methodius Jubilee Celebrations

The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, recently celebrated the Jubilees of some of their members. The Sisters celebrating jubilee anniversaries currently serve in the Archdiocese of New York, and in the Dioceses of Scranton, PA and Harrisburg PA. The celebration included a Liturgy in the Basilica of Saints Cyril and Methodius. Liturgy was followed by a dinner to which the friends, family and Community members of the Sister celebrants were invited.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M.

## Happy Birthday Joan!



Branch 716 Recording Secretary Joan Skrkon celebrated a milestone birthday in St John Nepomucene Church hall on October 13, 2019, with her husband, Branch 716 President Jan Skrkon and many branch members, family and friends.

## From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday 29, 2019, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed Monday, December 23 – Wednesday, December 25, 2019 in observance of the Christmas holiday.



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed January 1, 2020 in observance of New Year's Day.

# 1st Annual FCSU Gingerbread Contest 2019

Hot cocoa in your Hand .... or maybe eggnog  
 Cold crisp air on your nose .....or warm sunshine  
 Let's get ready for the Christmas Holiday!  
 What would be more fun than to build a gingerbread house – by yourself, or with your family, or maybe with other members at your FCSU Holiday Party?  
 So Merry Christmas and welcome to our 1st Annual FCSU Gingerbread Contest.

**CONTEST RULES:**

1. You enter by emailing a digital picture of each participant with your gingerbread creation (making sure the photo includes a recent copy of the Jednota Newspaper) to the Home Office at: [contest@fcsu.com](mailto:contest@fcsu.com).
2. You must be a member to enter. You must include your name, address, and branch number in the body of the email with your digital photo.
3. Entry must consist of all these elements to qualify: name, address, and branch number of each/all participant (s) along with a photo of participant(s) with your gingerbread creation, and a copy of the Jednota newspaper in the photo.
4. You may build and decorate your gingerbread house or village any way you choose.
5. There are two divisions to enter: individual and group (see details below).
6. Deadline to enter is Thursday December 19th, by midnight.
7. All qualified entries will be posted on the FCSU website from December 20, 2019 – January 6, 2020, after which the winning contest photos will be announced on the website.
8. Contest winners also will be published in the January 15, 2020 issue of Jednota.

**VOTING FOR A WINNER:**

1. You must be a member to vote.
2. All members are allowed to vote for 1 winner in each category. You can vote by mail or email (see contact info below)
3. All voting must be received/postmarked by the close of the day on Monday Jan. 6th, 2020.
4. The photo in each division (individual and group) with the most votes wins.

**2 WAYS TO VOTE**

**By Mail:**

Clip out entry form below and mail to:

Kevin Collins  
 Ginger Bread Contest  
 628 Heather Brite Cr.  
 Apopka, Fl. 32712

- Be sure to include your name & branch number!
- Only 1 vote per division (individual & group)
- Must be postmarked by Jan 6, 2020.

**By Email:**

Email your vote to:

Kevin Collins @ [Kevinfcsu@outlook.com](mailto:Kevinfcsu@outlook.com)

- Be sure to include your name & branch number!
- Only 1 vote per division (individual & group)
- Must be received by Jan 6, 2020.



**GINGERBREAD HOUSE  
 DECORATING**

**INDIVIDUAL DIVISION DETAILS:**

- ❖ Members Only!
- ❖ 1 entry per member
- ❖ 1 Gingerbread House per entry
- ❖ Build your Gingerbread House and decorate it any way you prefer. Have fun; be creative!

**GROUP DIVISION DETAILS:**

- ❖ Members Only!
- ❖ You must have at least 2 houses in your photo to qualify in this group division; the houses can be built and decorated any way you prefer. Consider building a Village or Town, perhaps honoring your home town or ancestral village. Have fun; be creative!

**PRIZE LEVELS (Individual & Group):**

- ❖ FIRST PRIZE – \$100
- ❖ SECOND PRIZE – \$50
- ❖ THIRD PRIZE - \$25

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your vote (individual): \_\_\_\_\_

Your vote (group): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Branch Number (MUST include): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



## Chewy's 5 Fun Facts for Thanksgiving

1. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present.
2. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday on October 3, 1863. Sarah Joseph Hale, the woman who wrote "Mary Had A Little Lamb," convinced Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday after writing letters for 17 years.
3. Harry Truman is often credited with being the first president to pardon a turkey, but that's not quite true. He was the first to receive a ceremonial turkey from the National Turkey Federation – and he had it for dinner. John F. Kennedy was the first to let a Thanksgiving turkey go. George H.W. Bush is the president who formalized the turkey pardoning tradition in 1989.
4. The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500.
5. The tradition of football on Thanksgiving began in 1876 with a game between Yale and Princeton. The first NFL games were played on Thanksgiving in 1920.

# The American-Slovak Zemplin Club Celebration in Cleveland, OH

On Sunday, October 13, 2019, the American Slovak Zemplin Club held its 77th annual celebration. The special day began at 1:00 PM, with a Slovak Byzantine Catholic liturgy at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, Parma, OH with the Rev Marek Visnovsky, Branch 24, as celebrant.

After the liturgy, all present walked to Holy Spirit Party Center where the celebration continued. Some 100 people were present, including members of the Zemplin Club, their families and friends.

The ceremony was opened by George Carny, President of the Zemplin Club and Branch 450 President, with warm words of welcome and introductions in Slovak and English. Then the floor was taken by Thomas Ivanec, Region 6 Director, as the Master of Ceremonies, as he led the singing of the American Star Spangled Banner. George Carny led the audience in signing the Slovak national anthem, Nad Tatrou sa blýska.

Father Michael Brunovsky OSB, Zemplin Club Chaplain and Branch 24 Member, gave the invocation before dinner. The delicious meal was served by Wal-Tam's Catering. Dinner music was provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band.

Following dinner, the Cleveland Slovak Folklore Ensemble "Lúčina" and its children's ensemble "Lúčinka" performed under the direction of Thomas Ivanec and Nadia Oros. Many of the dancers in both the senior and junior group are FCSU Members including: John Allen-McIntyre, Branch 24; Alex Brunovsky, Branch 450; Nathaniel Brunovsky, Branch 450; Nicolas Carny, Branch 450; Stella Carny, Branch 450; Jacob Chuba, Branch 450; Jessica Chuba, Branch 450; John Chuba, Branch 450; Lexi Glova, Branch 24; Emma Halley, Branch 24; Lilly Halley, Branch 24; Adam Hornack, Branch 1; John Moynihan, Branch 24 Vice President; Matthew Oros, Branch 24; Victoria Oros, Branch 24; Henry Strekal, Branch 24; and Caroline Visnovsky, Branch 450.

The "Slovenské Mamičky" – Monica Schmid, Milka Anderko, and Branch 24's Maria Cvicela -- sang a few songs from their repertoire, and Michael Anderko, Branch 450 Member, also entertained with two solos on the uniquely Slovak overtone flute, "fujara." Music for dancing was provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band.

Following a benediction by Father Marek, the 77th Annual Celebration was concluded with everyone singing "God Bless America" and "Hej Slovaci".



Michael Anderko playing the fujara



The Slovenské Mamičky singing Slovak folk songs (L – R): Monica Schmid, Maria Cvicela, and Milka Anderko



George Carny, President of the Zemplin Club and Branch 450, offers words of welcome and introductions in Slovak and English.



Attendees at the Slovak Byzantine Catholic liturgy celebrated at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church, Parma, OH.



Members, friends and family helping to celebrate the 77th Anniversary of the American Slovak Zemplin Club at Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma, OH

Region 6 Director, Thomas Ivanec, leading the audience in the National Anthem



The Lúčinka boys performing their gypsy dance: (L – R) Alex Duchoslav, Nicolas Carny, Henry Strekal, Alex Brunovsky, Jacob Chuba, Nathaniel Brunovsky, and John Chuba



Members of Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble performing a dance from Eastern Slovakia: (L – R) Victoria Oros, John Allen-McIntyre, Anna Nosek, Robert Keim, Lexi Glova, and Matthew Oros.



The Lúčinka girls getting ready to dance a traditional karička, or circle dance: (L – R) Gemma Keim, Lilly Halley, Jessica Chuba, Bernadette Keim, Stella Carny, and Emma Halley.

## CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be two groups: the 12 – 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

Photos will be judged in the following categories:

- People
- Nature or Environment
- Travel or Destinations
- FCSU Fraternal Activity

Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

- \$50 – First Place
- \$30 – Second Place
- \$20 – Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, email address, Branch number, age, photo category, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a separate sheet of paper. DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE



Mail your entry to:

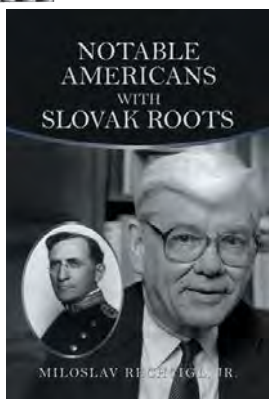
Kevin Collins  
Photo Contest  
628 Heather Brite Cr.  
Apopka, FL 32712

postmarked by December 1, 2019.





# Book Corner



## Notable Americans with Slovak Roots: Bibliography, Bio-Bibliography and Historiography

By Miloslav Rechcigl Jr.

SVU Scholar-in-Residence and Past President, Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU)

With the assistance of Michael Kopanic, Jr.

Formats: Softcover: \$28.99 ; Hardcover: \$39.99

Hardcover: 594 pages

Publisher: AuthorHouse (April 15, 2019)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1546273212

ISBN-13: 978-1546273219

### FOREWORD

Slovaks gained their modern statehood only 25 years ago, although they lived in Central Europe for centuries. The history of Central Europe is inextricably linked to political, cultural and social-economic developments of Slovak people. Also, the reasons of vast Slovak emigration in the 19th and 20th centuries originate from the developments in Central Europe. The Austro-Hungarian Empire did not create any favorable conditions for ethnic groups living on its territory and in combination with the dire economic situation, political oppression and lack of basic social care forced hundreds of thousand Slovaks to leave their homeland for different parts of the world.

The United States became a primary destination for many Slovak emigrants for different reasons. The industrial revolution created many new job opportunities and let Slovak workers earn money abroad and provide for their families at home. Many Slovaks decided to leave their homeland for the United States in order to enjoy political and social freedom, equal opportunities and a better future for their children.

The history and strength of the United States has been shaped by active participation of many Slovak immigrants. They worked hard in mines and steel-mills, creating wealth and well-being in Pennsylvania, Cleveland, Illinois and other parts of the United States. Behind every personality in this book there are a number of family members who would save every penny to provide for a better future for their children and grandchildren.

Slovaks living in the United States never forgot about their homeland. They followed the developments in Austro-Hungarian Empire and showed solidarity with their compatriots. As soon as conditions for the creation of an independent state were in place, Slovak-Americans stepped forth and together with Czech-Americans signed the Cleveland and the Pittsburgh Agreements calling for the creation of Czechoslovakia. 75 years of Czechoslovakia and 25 years of Slovakia showed that the dream of our Slovak-American compatriots has been fulfilled. They dreamed of better lives for their children and grandchildren, so that they did not have to emigrate out of despair without the hope of returning to their homeland. They fought for better lives for Slovaks at home and they deserve our utmost gratitude.

This book is about Slovaks who made the United States and Slovakia famous. Their numbers, in just about every area of human endeavor, will surprise you. This has been a unique undertaking and I would like to cordially thank its author Mila Rechcigl for dedicating his professional and personal life to collecting, promoting and defending the Slovak heritage in the United States.

Peter Kmec

Foreign Policy Advisor to the Slovak Prime Minister

Former Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the US

### About the Book

This is a pioneering, comprehensive, bibliography of existing publications relating to notable Americans with Slovak roots, which has never before been attempted. Since relatively a few studies have been written about their cultural contributions, the present work has been extended to also include biobibliography, in which area a plethora of papers and monographs exist. Consequently, this compendium can also be viewed as a comprehensive listing of biographical sources relating to Slovak Americans. As the reader will find out, they have been involved, practically, in every field of human endeavor, in numbers that surprise. Included are not only those individuals born in Slovakia who immigrated to America, but also their descendants, irrespective of the generation, ethnicity, language or religion.

### About the Cover Images

Two individuals featured on the front cover, no doubt, belong among the most distinguished Slovak Americans: the physician Joseph Goldberger and the theologian Jaroslav Pelikan, Jr. Joseph Goldberger (1874-1929) (on the left in uniform) was American epidemiologist in the US Public Health Service. He discovered the cause of pellagra and stepped on a number of medical toes when his research experiments showed that diet and not germs caused the disease. Due to his important discoveries, he was nominated five times for the Nobel Prize. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Jr. (1923-2006) was one of the world's leading scholars in the history of Christianity, who authored more than 30 books. Pelikan was the Sterling Professor Emeritus of History at Yale University and dean of the graduate school. He was president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and recipient of over 40 honorary doctorates all over the world.

### About the Author

Mila Rechcigl, as he likes to be called, is a versatile person with many talents, a man of science and organization professionally, and Renaissance man by breadth of his knowledge and scholarly interests. Born in Czechoslovakia to a son of the youngest member of the Czechoslovak Parliament, he spent the War years under Nazi occupation and after the Communist's coup d'état escaped to the West and immigrated to the US. He received training as biochemist at Cornell University and later served as a research biochemist at NIH. Following his additional training he became a science administrator, first at the DHEW and later at US Department of State and AID. Apart from his scientific and science administrative pursuits, he served as an editor of several scientific series and authored more than thirty books and handbooks. Beyond that, he is considered an authority on immigration history, on which subject he had written extensively. He was also one of the founders of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU) and for many years served as its President.

Available at:

**authorHOUSE**  
Call 888.519.5121

**Amazon.com**  
**Barnes & Noble**

Ariella Lepis-Littman holding Chewy with Schöne Náci and wonderful guide Viera Marecova.



Chewy with Peeping Tom



Chewy joins performers at Folklore Gardens on stage. A star is born!



Chewy perched on the table, ready to dine with the Lawrence family: (L - R) Beverly, husband Ray, sister Nanette Frost and brother Cyril Hudak.

## Chewy Tours Bratislava the Capital of Slovakia

After a restful nights' sleep in the Park Hotel and a wonderful buffet breakfast, Chewy was ready for a walk through the park and a sightseeing tour of Bratislava. He encountered many other canines in the park but unfortunately no other čuvačs.

The old town was crowded, but had many interesting sites and small stores. One of the people he encountered was Peeping Tom who was at his eye level. After a while his little legs became tired and he found a great friend in Ariella Lepis-Littman who introduces him to Schöne Náci (grandson of a famous clown born in Petržalka in 1897 who roamed Old Town in top hat and tails), a very special popular handsome gentleman, and she assumed the same pose as he holding Chewy high in her hand.

Molly Lepis-Littman, Ariella's sister then took charge of Chewy and they visited Devin Castle, and Chewy was able to get a good view of the confluence of the Morava and Danube River. Sadly, the Danube River is brown in color not blue as depicted in the song the Blue Danube.

Later in the afternoon, a small contingent of the group took Chewy up to the UFO restaurant. The view from the top is magnificent. A short doggy nap was in order for the fun evening.

Folklore Gardens was waiting for our group for an evening of good food, entertainment and camaraderie. Chewy enjoyed going from table to table and filling his belly at each one.

On our trek back to the hotel we all marveled at the Slovaks enjoying the evening sitting outside at tables at the many restaurants and cafes.

Time to pack and get a good nights' sleep as tomorrow we visit Skalica, Piešťany and Trenčín. Stay tuned for Chewy in Skalica!

\* Articles written by Kay and Jim Bench and Photos by Greg Maurer. They are all members of United Branch 181. Jim is President of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Organization and a Member of the Supreme Court of the Jednota. Kay is the Tour Director of the Youngstown/ Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities and Greg Maurer is a National Internal Auditor of the Jednota.

## 2020 Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour of Slovakia



Come join us as once again as we tour our beautiful homeland of Slovakia. Walk the streets of your ancestors. Do a little research on your family, visit your ancestral village and perhaps find long lost relatives. Talk with your oldest living relatives, they have much to offer. This past year we had a reporter from Slovak radio who interviewed the tour participants and recorded them for Slovak International Radio and Slovak radio. Reserve your slot now. We have a 49 passenger bus, air conditioned, with rest room. Our tour is first class. We have the best guide in all of Slovakia and the best bus driver. We can give you names of tour participants that will tell you about our tour. Space is limited. The tour will be in July, 2020. Dates to be determined once festival dates are established. Approximate cost \$4000 depending on air fares. The cost includes first class hotels, 2 meals a day, entertainment, and admissions. Lunch on your own. For additional information call Jim Bench at 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com or Kay Bench at 724-771-7900 e-mail skbench@gmail.com Our tour cannot be topped for sightseeing, entertainment, fun, memories, and lasting friendships.

The Slovak Festival is hosted annually in New Jersey and draws crowds of upwards of 5,000 people from NJ, NY, CT, and PA. This year the festival took place on September 22, 2019 in East Brunswick, NJ. It was a great honor for the Slovak community to meet the newly elected H.E. Zuzana Čaputová, President of the Slovak Republic, who attended the festival. Her first official visit to the United States was for the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. President Čaputová was also a speaker at the Climate Summit which launched the discussion about climate change during the high level week in New York of meetings of member states at the United Nations. Jednota was well represented at the Slovak Festival – not only by members of the Home Office: Andrew P. Rajec, FICF, Director of Independent Agents; Terezia Rozmus, Annuity Department; and Miriam Visnovsky, Support Staff – but also with many members from the FCSU attending including Mrs. Idka Rajec, Branch 89; Milan Kobulsky, Branch 450; and especially those from Region 1. Branches 45, Branch 716, and Branch 746 were also featured in the Slovak Festival Booklet with advertisements. The Jednota logo and products were prominently displayed during the festival where amongst the dignitaries stopping to say hello to at our Jednota table were President of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Zuzana Čaputová, Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak and Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York, Ladislava Begec!

Jednota members enjoyed a beautiful sunny afternoon with folk music, delicious Slovak delicacies, and a variety of goodies to take home! Branch 716 members Eva Lysakova and Ludmila Hlinkova tempted our taste buds with their famous traditional Slovak halusky with bacon! Meanwhile, Branch 746 members from Holy Family Church in Linden sold freshly baked poppy seed and nut rolls!

The day commenced with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Martin Vavrak with co-celebrant Fr. Francis Conka. The culture program included performances by various Slovak children's groups including Lipka Academy from Linden followed by a wonderful program including the famous Gypsy Devils band from Slovakia and Drislak - an Eastern European folk and comedy band!

Branch 746 members were eager to assist by advertising FCSU Financial products at the Festival. A special thank you to the Ranahan family who was represented by three generations at the Jednota table! Branch 716 members Mrs. Nina Holy (former Co-Chair of the Slovak Heritage Festival) and Jane Konzelmann (VP of the Slovak Heritage Festival), Mr. and Mrs. Jan and Eva Lysak, and Branch 45 members Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Anna Korcak were part of the Slovak Festival Committee which organized this incredible event for many years! Congratulations to the entire committee and leadership for an excellent event.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director



(L – R) Andrew Rajec, FICF (FCSU Director of Independent Agents), Ladislava Begec (Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York), H.E. Michal Mlynár (Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations) Sabina Sabados (FCSU Region 1 Director), Miriam Visnovsky (Home Office Support Staff) and Terezia Rozmus (FCSU Annuity Department).



Slovakia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajcak is flanked by members of the First Catholic Slovak Union presenting him with a commemorative plate.



Sabina Sabados, FCSU Region 1 Director poses with the Limbora Slovak Folk Ensemble from New York City established in 1966.



(L – R) Jednota Members Terezia Rozmus, Branch 24; Joanne Polt, Branch 746 Vice President; and Miriam Visnovsky, Branch 24.



# The 42nd Slo



The Zakovic family from Branch 45 enjoying the summer weather at the Slovak Festival: (L – R) Maria (Recording Secretary, Branch 45), Iveta, Valerie and Milan Zakovic.



Branch 746 employing the young spreading the message about our s

# Slovak Festival



President of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Zuzana Čaputová receiving a commemorative plate from the First Catholic Slovak Union



Andrew Pulver (Branch 716) sings the US and Slovak National Anthems before the start of the incredible Slovak Festival program.



Branch 746 members enjoying the Slovak Festival. Left to right: Jason Kolesar, Dushan Kolesar visiting from Prague where they are studying medicine, Sabina Sabados - FCSU Regional Director, Lianna Clark, Joseph Kolesar and Julie Ann Gurega.



Cleveland Slovak Radio Program Director and Branch 450 Member Milan Kobulsky interviewed by media on hand to cover the festival.



Little Michal Mizicka showing off his traditional kroj!



(L - R) The incredible home office staff - Terezia Rozmus and Miriam Visnovsky - along with Mrs. Idka Rajec and three generations from the Ranahan family (Mary Anna Ranahan is the Treasurer of Branch 746) who came to support Jednota at the 42nd Slovak Festival.



est Ranahans in society!

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

### HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

**OPEN MEETING:**

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 11:30 AM and asked Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President  
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary  
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President  
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer  
 Milos Mitro, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES:**

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the August 2019 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George F. Matta II and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:****Investment Updates**

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

**Disbursements for the month of August 2019:**

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 310,265.50
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 41,927.43
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.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer and the Executive Secretary gave a full written report on the investment update to the Executive Committee. Following the report, they answered the Committee's questions.

The President stated that the Executive Committee met with representatives from Clutterbuck and MAI prior to the Executive Committee Meeting to review our current portfolio and evaluate any potential investments. A review of the meeting will be presented at the Board of Directors Meeting.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., will present an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report via teleconference to the Board of Directors at the Board of Directors Meeting on September 13. Each member of the Board received a copy of the presentation in advance for his/her review.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents to the Executive Committee. He stated we are still recruiting and adding new agents, and at present have over 300 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 Home Office continues an extensive Facebook ad recruiting campaign to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in.

The Executive Secretary stated that the progress of converting the 2010 CSO's over to the new 2017 CSO's is going well and should be completed before January 1, 2020.

**ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:****Annuity Rates:**

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

**RATING AGENCY:**

The President stated that they are gathering the information requested by the Kroll Bond Rating Agency to obtain a rating for our Society.

**MISCELLANEOUS:****Museum**

The President stated that he has prepared a proposal to expand the Home Office Museum and will present it to the Board at the Board of Directors Meeting.

**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 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Andrew M. Rajec  
 President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kenneth A. Arendt  
 Executive Secretary



FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION  
 FCSU FINANCIAL

## From the Office of the Executive Secretary

### BRANCH REQUIREMENTS FOR BRANCH STIPEND

The following are requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend:

#### 4.05 FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

By the end of March of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$6.00 per member, per year, provided the local branch has fulfilled the following requirements:

- (a) Published, announced and conducted, as per 14.01(a), two (2) semi-annual meetings, one of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers. Meeting attendance (sign in) sheets or copies shall accompany the Reports submitted to the Executive Secretary.
- (b) Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.
- (c) Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a provided form, by February 15th of the following year.
- (d) Hosted, sponsored, promoted or attended at least one fraternal activity in the past year.
- (e) Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year. Branches with two hundred-fifty (250) or more members must produce at least two (2) new contracts.
- (f) Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office.
- (g) Sent a branch representative to attend at least one district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence.
- (1) Members attending a district meeting shall sign an attendance sheet evidencing their

presence at the event. No later than February 15th the District shall notify the Executive Secretary of those branches failing to meet this attendance requirement of article "g" above.

(2) The Executive Secretary shall publish no later than May 1ST in the Official Organ those branches failing to meet the requirement of section 4.05.

(h) Maintained good standing within its district by paying current fiscal year dues and any dues that may be outstanding from previous years.

(1) Effective January first of each year, the Home Office shall be obligated to reimburse the District the annual District dues amount for each Branch that is listed within the District as "Contact Home Office". That is, a Branch without officers.

(2) Home Office reimbursement to the District shall be completed no later than April 1st of each year. The total Home Office obligation to an individual District shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) per year.

(3) Dues for a Branch under the control of the Home Office will be remitted by the Home Office to support the District until such times as the Branch status is fully staffed or its members redistributed within the District first or geographically as necessary.

(i) The requirements of this Section must be met by the branch to receive payment of any other compensation.

(j) In the event a District fails to hold a meeting during a calendar year then section 4.05 items (g), (g 1), (h), (h 1), (h 2) (h 3) and (i) shall not be a requirement.

#### 11.04 BRANCH REPRESENTATION AND DISTRICT (OKRES) REPRESENTATION

(a) Every local branch having fifty (50) or more members and current good standing financially in its district (i.e., up to date with dues payments), may send at its own expense, one of its members as a delegate to the Convention. Said delegate shall have the right to vote,

continued on page 18

**2019 FCSU Caribbean Cruise for 2 Winner**



**Congratulations, Arlo Meeker, Branch 166**



Photo courtesy of Greg Maurer, National Internal Auditor

**Branch 181 Officers For 2020**

Newly elected 2020 Branch 181 United Officers (L – R): Ed Mizikar, Vicki Hrick, Darlene Patty and Richard (Dick) Mizikar

**JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2019**

<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Deadline to Receive Information</b>
<b>December 11</b>	<b>December 2</b>

**JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2020**

<b>Issue Date</b>	<b>Deadline to Receive Information</b>
<b>January 15</b>	<b>January 6</b>
<b>February 12</b>	<b>February 3</b>
<b>March 11</b>	<b>March 2</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>April 6</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>May 4</b>
<b>June 10</b>	<b>June 1</b>
<b>July 8</b>	<b>June 29</b>
<b>August 12</b>	<b>August 3</b>
<b>Sept 9</b>	<b>August 31</b>
<b>October 14</b>	<b>October 5</b>
<b>November 11</b>	<b>November 2</b>
<b>December 9</b>	<b>November 30</b>

**Jednota Crossword Puzzle**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21		22			23		24		
				25		26			27		28			
29	30	31	32					33						
34						35	36				37	38	39	40
41					42						43			
44					45					46				
				47	48				49	50				
51	52	53					54							
55				56		57			58		59	60	61	62
63			64			65			66		67			
68						69					70			
71						72					73			

**Across**

- 1 Maternal
- 6 Stride
- 10 Bellyache
- 14 Invoice word
- 15 Celestial bear
- 16 Milk and cookies cookie
- 17 Boiling mad
- 18 Within reach
- 19 Zero, on a court
- 20 Companion
- 22 Camera setting
- 24 Intersected
- 25 Bar request
- 27 Worthy principles
- 29 Reindeer country
- 33 Diagnostic test
- 34 Utilize
- 35 Twofold
- 37 Mine entrance
- 41 Pottery oven
- 42 Scarlett O'Hara, e.g.
- 43 \_\_\_ Verde National Park
- 44 Utopia
- 45 Starch from cuckoopint root
- 46 Tournament rounds
- 47 Misses the mark
- 49 Washington Monument, e.g.
- 51 Flapjack starter
- 54 At another time
- 55 Hilo garland
- 56 Losing proposition?
- 58 Bash, bop and sock
- 63 Census data
- 65 Verse form
- 67 Brownish gray
- 68 Calamitous
- 69 City near Lake Tahoe

- 70 Square dance group, e.g.
- 71 They, in Trieste
- 72 Leak slowly
- 73 Swamp plants

**Down**

- 1 Guitarist Clapton
- 2 "I, Claudius" role
- 3 Nanking nanny
- 4 Former Yugoslav leader
- 5 Enduring
- 6 Earth's bright light
- 7 Pick up the tab
- 8 Biblical twin
- 9 Tiny piece
- 10 Rank above maj.
- 11 Bouquet
- 12 Make merry
- 13 Burns and Allen, e.g.
- 21 Half a score
- 23 Harem room
- 26 Common vipers
- 28 Nail polish
- 29 Water-skiing locale
- 30 Enthusiastic
- 31 Visibly shaken
- 32 House finch
- 33 Idaho river
- 36 Eskimo knife
- 38 Prefix with god
- 39 Horned goddess
- 40 Mission
- 42 Roadblocks
- 46 Daniel Webster, e.g.
- 48 Wine type
- 50 Hair decoration
- 51 Sword
- 52 Auspices
- 53 Levels
- 54 Do penance
- 57 Foil's kin
- 59 Shoestring
- 60 Pear-shaped instrument
- 61 Newspaper piece
- 62 Hamsters, at times
- 64 "Told ya!"
- 66 Absorb, with "up"

See Solution on Page 17

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 1 - LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch #1 will hold its annual Christmas party on November 24, 2019 at The Market which is located at 1137 Linda Street Rocky River, Ohio 44116 at 1:00 p.m. A brief meeting will be held prior to the brunch. At this time, election of officers will be held and other business matters will be discussed. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by November 3, 2019. The restaurant needs to know no later than November 3, 2019 due to seating arrangements.

**Marie A. Golias, Secretary**

## BRANCH 3P - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Joseph Society, Branch 003P will hold its annual meeting on Sunday December 22, 2019 at Saint Joseph Church, 600 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, PA. The meeting will begin at 9:30am in the church basement and all members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served. Election of officers for 2020 will be held.

**M. Koval, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 6 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The annual meeting and election of officers of St. Stephen Society Branch 06K is scheduled to be held on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 12 noon at 1406 N. Baker St., Streator, IL. Following the meeting and election of officers the branch will provide a lunch for all in attendance. The branch encourages members to attend and to call 815-822-8851 or 815-672-1764 if you plan to attend.

**Paul Chismar, Secretary**

## BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 9:00 A. M. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin St. Houtzdale, PA. Election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

**Joseph C. Cervenak, President**

## BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2019, at 1:00PM at the HBT Club, 15805 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH, 44137. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting; for reservations, please call Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

**Bob Kopco, President**

## BRANCH 38 - WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm at Steel Cactus Bethel Park: 1001 Cool Springs Drive Unit 6, Pittsburgh, PA 15102. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion on 2019 and proposed 2020 fraternal social activities. At this meeting, branch members will also elect officers. All Branch 38 members are urged to attend.

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

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

## BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 12th 2020 at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members of Branch #40 are urged to attend the meeting. Election of officers will take place. Lunch will follow. Please make reservations by calling (815) 672-6142 (Please leave a message) before January 9th.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Theresa Graves, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2020, at 12:30 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 45- NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, election of officers, and a discussion on events for the upcoming year. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Sincerely,

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Dear Members: Please join us for our meeting and election of officers on Saturday, January 25, 2020. Topics of discussion are: election of officers, 2020 donations, and activities. Luncheon to follow. Social time: 11:30AM to 11:45AM. Meeting from 11:45AM to 12:30PM (approximate). Lunch to be served at 12:30PM. Location: Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53222. Lunch for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$20.00.

Reservations must be made by 1/17/2020 by calling Mike Novak @ 414.445.5382. Reservations are required as I need a number attending for the restaurant.

Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

**Michael P. Novak, President**

## BRANCH 112 - MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The annual meeting of Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at noon. The meeting will be at Palermo's Restaurant on the Minersville Pottsville highway. The agenda will include officers reports, old and new business and election of officers. A lunch will be served after the conclusion of the meeting. Please contact Karen Sterling at 570-640-1786 by December 1 if you plan to attend.

**Karen Sterling, Secretary**

## BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

Arlene Jaguszewski	Mary Schueler
Lucille Dritelein	Carolyn Wallace
Joseph Straka	Joseph Bohil
Charles Bilka	Mary Gormley
Marilyn Lenick	Anthony Valek
Genevieve Kerpec	Edward Bonk
Robert Kostolansky	Edward Kudia
Lita Reitmeier	Frank Bronkala

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2019, at 11:30AM at Bogey's Restaurant, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA, 15401.

Officers' reports will be given, as well as the upcoming Christmas projects and donations. Future branch activities will be discussed. Regional

Director James Marmol will advise us of developments from the Home Office. The annual election and installation of officers will take place.

All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the Christmas luncheon meeting. Call for reservations by December 1, 2019, to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983 as well as for any changes to policies or address changes.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

## BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

We invite all members to attend Branch 200's meetings held in the upstairs Social Hall @ 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226. The Officers and Board of Directors meet @7:00PM with the members to meet directly following. The remainder of the 2019 meeting dates are as follows:12/05/19 with Election of Officers. We are asking our members to attend the meetings and we welcome any involvement you are willing partake.

Branch 200's 125th Anniversary is coming in 2020.

**Vicki Schaub, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The second semi -annual meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 213 will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, 16059. All members are asked to attend. Election of officers will be on the agenda as well as an overview of the activities and contributions of the branch.

**Joe Belechak, Secretary**

## BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228, has meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings start at 7PM and are held at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 16, 2019. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Once again, I ask that our members plan to attend our meetings whenever possible. It is pleasing to see the attendance at our monthly meetings slowly trending upward. Let's keep that trend going. Our District 10 officers are currently discussing ways to increase fraternal activities in our district. Attendance at our Branch 228 meetings can give you first-hand knowledge of items and events being discussed. All of this helps to promote comradery. Please attend the branch meetings to stay informed. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. You won't be disappointed.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 254 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold an interim meeting on Sunday, December 15, at 11:30am at Panera's Restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

**Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 254 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2020, at Panera's Restaurant located in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria at

the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include election of officers and a report of activities as well as a financial report. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000.

**Joseph Senko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 259 - STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold their annual meeting at the Bedford Trails Golf Course Restaurant in Coitsville, OH, on Sunday, December 8, 2019, at 1:00 PM. We will have an election of officers for the coming year 2020, followed by a luncheon. Reservations can be made by calling 330-755-8316. We would like to extend our wishes for a Holy and Happy Holiday Season to all members.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary**

## BRANCH 260 - CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will holds its next meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2019, at 1:00PM at Salvatore's Italian Grill Restaurant in Austintown, OH. On the agenda: election of officers. A luncheon will follow directly after the meeting.

**Charlie Peshek, Vice President**

## BRANCH 266 - HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

Saint Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday December 22, 2019, in the basement of Saint Joseph's Church at 600 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, PA. The meeting will begin at 9:30AM. All members are urged to attend. Election of officers for 2020 will be held. Refreshments will be served.

**R. Lazar, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 290 - RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a dinner meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, starting at 6:30 pm for all members. The agenda will include officers' reports and election of officers for 2020. The location will be based on the number of members attending, so please call or text Steve Minarovich at (908) 507-0505 by December 8 if you plan to attend.

**Steve Minarovch, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at 11:00AM, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. There will be an election of officers at this meeting. Since a light brunch will be prepared, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending. Members of Branch 320 are urged to attend.

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

## BRANCH 367 - FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph's Branch 367 will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 2 PM. The meeting will be held at the Otis and Henry's Bar and Grill, 4067 National Pike, Farmington, PA 15437. Election of officers and ideas for the new year will be discussed. Christmas gifts for our age 17 and under members will be mailed out in December and a grocery order will be delivered to St. Vincent De Paul Society of Uniontown, PA for the holiday season. All members are welcome to attend. Please call President, Audrey Balazik at 724-438-3887 or Secretary, Kathryn Baranek, 724-569-1006 for reservations. We would like to wish all our members a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

**Kathryn Baranek, Secretary**

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# Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name	Branch:	Name
001K	Isabel E Belko	181K	Richard E Frena	456K	John Paul Zahuranec	796K	Stephanie A Zukowski
002K	Richard J Mozlack	181K	Victoria N Trumbore	484K	John P Roberts	831K	Veronica Fajbik
005P	Kathryn B Krall	200K	Carl Allen Vacula	584K	Paul J Magusin	856K	Regis J Kavlick
019K	Joseph R Fida	260K	Deborah Ann Kral	584K	Mary Toth	857K	Mary H Hamann
019K	Loretta Rainville	293K	Helen Marie Petryk	587K	James B Klen	926K	Norman R Perry
024K	Karen Nocero	362K	Carl J Saksa	587K	Rose M Klen		
060K	Joseph R Matta	401K	Richard P Kardos	731K	John F Krivonak		
112K	Clara Siddall	401K	John P Sopko	746K	Clara Kuczbanski		
152K	Rita M Butchko	410K	Paul D Hrics	746K	Catherine E Orak Hayser		
157K	Margaret M Silliman	419K	Genevieve Witkowski	796K	Josephine Trinkle		

\*Processed through the month of October

## OBITUARIES

### GERALD R. RINKO

#### BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Gerald (Gerry) R. Rinko of Aurora, CO, passed away on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at the age of 76. He was born August 17, 1942 in Homestead, PA. He is preceded in death by his wife of 35 years, Beatrice Kay (Beakay) Rinko. A proud patriot and a U.S. Navy veteran he retired in 2007 from the city and county of Denver at the airport where he worked as a master electrician. Gerry was a loving husband, amazing father, and a proud grandfather to Dalton and Sarah Case. He is survived by his two daughters; Kaylene Case and Melanie Rinko. His compassion, humility and love for learning inspires us all. He will be greatly missed by those he left.

- Submitted by Kaylene Case



### JOSEPH JUNAS

#### BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Joseph Junas entered eternal life on Saturday, May 11, 2019 after a brief illness. He lived a full life of 97½ years and died as he wished, surrounded by family in his last hours. Joe was born in Krasno, Slovakia (formerly Czechoslovakia) on November 2, 1921 and endured the overrun of his country by the Nazi's in March 1939. He experienced the takeover by the communist party, with Soviet backing, when they assumed undisputed control over the government in February 1948. He spoke tearfully many times of the atrocities he witnessed.

After several years not wishing to be under communist rule he was able to flee the country and settle in Canada. There he began a pen pal relationship with Mary Surmik of New York City. On November 19, 1955 they were married at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York and blessed with 3 children. Their home for 40 years was on 66th Street around the corner from the church. Joe was a devout Catholic, a faithful Jednota member and assumed many roles in support of the church during his time, helping out in any way he could.

Joe was a machinist for many years work-

ing for the Santa Fe Corporation in the Bronx. He was most proud of machining parts for the lunar modules of the Apollo Space Program. Retiring in 1986 from that position, after more than 30 years, he assumed a new career as a maintenance engineer at the UN Plaza Tower Apartments on First Avenue in Manhattan. Joe was there for 9 years and then retired to Pembroke Pines, Florida. There he and Mary lived in a beautiful condo apartment for 18 years and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends. Returning to the Northeast in September 2013, Mary and Joe lived with their daughter Eleanor and their son-in-law Anthony in Morristown, New Jersey.

In addition to his parents, Joseph and Eleanor (Holé) Junas, Joe was preceded in death by his beloved wife Mary of 59 years, daughter Therese Marie, who entered heaven in 1968 at age 11, sisters Josefka, Anna and two infant siblings. He is survived by his daughter Eleanor Grosso, son-in-law Anthony, son Joseph Junas, daughter-in-law Kimberley, grandchildren Kaitlyn and Joseph, whom he loved dearly, sisters-in-law Sister Claire Marie Surmik OSB, Sister Lucia Marie Surmik OSB, Frances Prieto, brother-in-law Sergio Prieto and many loving nieces and nephews.

Joe was a hardworking man all his life. In his leisure he loved watching sports, especially the teams he rooted for, the New York Mets, New York Rangers and New York Jets. He loved the sport of soccer which he played during his younger years and he so loved to fish. Most of all he loved his family, friends and the two countries which were so dear to his heart, his beloved Slovakia and the United States, where each day he appreciated his freedom that was denied him living under Communist rule. Though he is gone the love for him lives on, for love is everlasting.

- Submitted by Eleanor Grosso

### FRANCIS LAWRENCE PAVLOVSKY

#### BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Francis Lawrence Pavlovsky of Harrington, passed away, Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at the Country Rest Home in Greenwood. He was 91.

Francis was the youngest child born, December 16, 1927 in Templeville, Maryland to



the late John Andrew Pavlovsky and Mary Ann Magut Pavlovsky. He was raised on the family farm in Goldsboro and graduated from Greensboro High School in 1944 at the age of 17.

He served in the United States Coast Guard from 1946 ~ 1948. Francis was stationed in Guam and the Philippine Islands, where he was a LORAN radio operator. He was honorably discharged as a Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Early in his adult life Francis was employed as a farmer, plumber, barber and mail carrier. Eventually he made his living as a meat cutter, and was employed by Acme Markets for over 35 years, where he became a Meat Department Manager, and through dedication and good business skills he constantly exceeded sales goals annually in the food chain's newest and largest store. He retired from Acme in 1989.

He enjoyed wood working, cutting firewood, vegetable gardening, and reading, target shooting, fishing, and going to sales where he would buy all types of items and repair them for resale. Francis liked to keep busy and active in his senior years by having a plan for each day, and spent much of his time creating wood working projects of all types.

Francis married Josephine Windon on November 14, 1953, they were married for over 65 years and together raised 4 children and built 2 houses. He is a devout Catholic with a strong, lifelong faith in the Lord, and attended Saint Bernadette's in Harrington.

He is survived by his wife Josephine; daughters, Theresa Cornell and her husband Tom of Lewes, Mary Hitchens and her husband Pete of Harrington; sons, Mike and his wife Christina of Ft. Worth, TX and John of Nashville, TN; grandson, Rick Cornell and his wife Jennifer; great grandchildren, Carter and Blake Cornell and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

- Submitted by Josephine Pavolvsky

### MONSIGNOR FRANCIS JOSEPH BEEDA

#### BRANCH 173 – WILKES BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Monsignor Francis Joseph Beeda, 82, pastor Emeritus of St. Joseph Church and the former St. Stanislaus Church, Hazleton, PA, died Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019, at Allied Meade St. Senior Community (formerly Little Flower Manor), Wilkes-Barre, PA.

Monsignor was born in Scranton, PA, son of the late Roman and Anna Duchak Beeda. He was ordained at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy, by Archbishop Martin O'Conner

D.D., rector of North American College, on Dec. 20, 1961. He received his Licentiate of Sacred Theology at Gregorian University in June of 1962. He served as assistant pastor at St. Patrick's, Wilkes-Barre, St. Joseph's, Nanticoke, PA, and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Wilkes-Barre, where he was appointed administrator in 1974. His first pastorate was at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Wilkes-Barre, where he served for 11 years before being named pastor of St. Joseph Church, Hazleton, in 1985. In 2006, he became pastor of St. Stanislaus, Hazleton, along with his pastorate duties at St. Joseph's. Following a stroke, Monsignor Beeda retired in May 2009 and resided at Little Flower Manor, Wilkes-Barre. Monsignor was named Prelate of Honor of his Holiness on March 17, 1983.

Monsignor served as a part-time professor at St. Pius X Seminary, Dalton, and College Misericordia, Dallas. He was appointed regional moderator of the Diocesan Vocation Program for the Greater Wilkes-Barre area and Chairman of Region VII for the "Follow Christ" Program. He was coordinator of the annual collection of the Slovak Catholic Federation held in Slovak Parishes of the Diocese for the Slovak American Church and served as chaplain and Spiritual Advisor of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, a group formed to aid Slovak Immigrant's to the United States. In 2003, Monsignor Beeda was granted the title of "Honorary Supreme Officer" of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and was named their Fraternalist of the year in 2009. Monsignor Beeda held membership in the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota), the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the National Slovak Society through the First Slovak Wreath of the Free Eagle and the Polish Union of the U.S.A.; National Spiritual Advisor for the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. He was a 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus, Assembly 925 (Wilkes-Barre) and a member of the International Order of the Alhambra, in Alhambra 4. He was Co-Founder of the Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA.

Until his death, Monsignor Beeda served as a member of the national board of the Slovak Catholic Federation and was active with the work of the Conference of Slovak Clergy which provides financial support to the Pontifical Slovak College of Ss. Cyril and Methodius. Rome, Italy. He was invited to attend a celebration in Slovakia marking World Communications Day and the 130th anniversary of the birth of Father Joseph Murgas. He

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# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**BRANCH 716 –  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 716 FCSU, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2019 after the Slovak Mass at 1:00PM in downstairs hall of St. John Nepomucene Church, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, activities of past year, election of officers for 2020 and discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend. Light refreshments will be served after meeting.

**Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary**

**BRANCH 721 –  
BANNISTER, MICHIGAN**

Jednota Branch 721 will have their meeting on Sunday, December 1, 2019 at 2:00PM. It will be at the home of Julius Remenar, Financial Secretary, located at 8900 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. Election of officers will be done at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

**Joseph Beno, Recording Secretary**

**BRANCH 731 –  
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

Branch 731 members will celebrate Mass at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 22, 2019 in commemoration of our deceased members. The Liturgy will be at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

At noon, following the Mass for the deceased, we will have our annual meeting for the election of officers for 2020. We will be at Saint Matthias Church on Sunday, December 22, 2019 for this meeting also.

As a Branch 731 member, if you purchased a ticket for the Disney on Ice performance scheduled for December 29, 2019 at 5 pm, please call Grace Kavulic at (330) 530-7454. We need to know how many Branch 731 members will be at the performance. In order to be reimbursed the \$15 member amount, you will need to call Grace and then bring your ticket to Saint Matthias Church on December 29, 2019 at noon following Mass. We look forward to seeing you.

**Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary**

**BRANCH 743 –  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN**

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, December 01, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. On the agenda will be Officer's Report, a 2019 financial report, approval of the 2020 budget, discussion of branch activities, and other business pertaining to the Branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. **The election of 2020 Branch Officers will also take place.** Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass before the meeting at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. The annual meeting will follow the Slovak Mass in the Church Social Hall. Please come and enjoy our annual Christmas meeting with your fellow branch members. Members who need policy assistance in regards to a change of address or to change a beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 4945 Wavewood Dr., Commerce Township, MI 48382. Phone 248-714-9620. I can also provide you a no obligation quote for insurance coverage for any family member including grandchildren with just a birth date and gender.

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

**BRANCH 743 –  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN**

The Home Office and Branch 743 are unable to contact the following members because we do not have their current address:

John Bacha, Michael J Bires, Kimberly Ann Bobinski  
Lynette M Brink, Louise M Cassar, Patricia

Fahner

Stephen Forish, Charles Furchak, Natalia Gre-slikova

Christine Harman, Elizabeth Harman, Sharon Langlois

John Latchney, Dorothy J Lendel, Judith Likavec

Zdenka Lovas, Judith Madar, Ann Moss  
Valerie Moss, Diane F Rench, Daniel M Reszka  
Paul Skwarko, Emily Turcol

If you have information, or know of someone who might, please contact me @ 248-714-9620.

**Joseph Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary**

**BRANCH 746 –  
LINDEN, NEW JERSEY**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 12:30 PM at AMICIS RISTORANTE, 1700 W. Elizabeth Avenue, Linden, NJ. The agenda will include election of officers, including the new position of Branch Fraternal Activities Director. There will also be discussion and planning of next year's activities. A Christmas luncheon will follow the meeting (\$35.00 for non-members). Please call

Mary Ann Ranahan @732-251-6035 by November 27th if you plan on attending. Please bring nonperishable food items for donation to a local food pantry.

**Mary Kapitan, Secretary**

**BRANCH 764 –  
WARREN, OHIO**

Branch 764 will hold its next meeting on December 18, 2019 at 9:30AM at Kozy Kitchen Family Restaurant, 2723 Elm Road, NE, Warren, OH, 44483. On the agenda: election of 2020 officers and also a discussion of proposed activities for Spring, 2020. For more information, call William Hrusovsky at 330-372-1948 or by email: hrusovskyy@embarqmail.com

**William Hrusovsky, Secretary**

**BRANCH 780 –  
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN**

The Saints Peter & Paul Society will hold their Annual Meeting on December 15, 2019. We will have Election of Officers for the coming year. For more information, members may call Catherine Karlsen at 989-280-4916. Please call if you have any concerns or wish to nominate someone for an office.

May everyone have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Fraternally,

**Catherine Karlsen, President**

**BRANCH 796 –  
EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA**

Branch 796 will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, November 17, 2019. The meeting will be held at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, 4456 Main St. Whitehall, PA 18052. The meeting will convene at 1:00PM. Election of Officers for 2020 will be held; all members are cordially invited to attend.

**Monica Fabian Recording Secretary**

**BRANCH 844 –  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

St. Joseph Society, Branch 844K will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 2:00PM. Please call the branch office for the direction to the location of the meeting at 714 524-5539. The branch will hold election of officers at this meeting and Branch business and plan of activities for the following season will be discussed. Luncheon will be served directly after the meeting.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

**BRANCH 853 –  
CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA**

Branch 853 will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Lunch on Saturday December 21, 2019 at noon at The Rivers House in Charleroi, PA. All

members attending will be treated to lunch. Non Members costs of the lunch will be \$25. Reservations are required for a seating count. Please leave a message at 412-341-1577, by Dec 15, with your name, phone number and number of attendees.

Along with celebrating the birth of Our Lord, we will hold a meeting after the lunch which will include the election of officers for 2020.

Branch 853 extends to all, wishes for a safe and blessed Christmas season.

**Monica Rodacy Boone, President**

**BRANCH 855 –  
PARMA, OHIO**

The Holy Name of Jesus Society will holds its annual meeting on December 12, 2019 at 6:30PM at Delmonico's Steakhouse, 6001 Quarry Lane, Independence, OH 44131.

On the agenda will be election of officers and a Christmas luncheon. All attendees are encouraged to bring a winter warmth donation for the West Side Catholic Center (hat(s), gloves, scarf).

Reservations must be made by December 9, 2019 to reserve your seat. Please call Barbara at 440-864-4744.

\*Just a reminder – the Slovak Radio Club Christmas Vilija dinner in conjunction with St Andrew Abbey will be held December 8th at noon. Any member of 855 wishing to attend will receive a free ticket. Seating is first come first served for this event. Call Barbara at 440-864-4744 for ticket availability.

**Barbara Sutilla, President**

**BRANCH 857 –  
LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Annual Meeting of the St. Michael the Archangel Branch 857 in Levittown, PA will be held on Monday December 16, 2019. The meeting will be held at 7:00PM at 34 Crabtree Drive, Levittown PA. If you plan on attending, please call 267-795-7930 and leave a message.

Merry Christmas from the Officers of Branch 857.

Fraternally,

**Nicole L Nasta, Recording Secretary**

## Attention All Branch 853 Members: Educational Stipends Available



Branch 853 members who are paying for an education program are eligible for the yearly Branch Educational Stipend. If you are interested in receiving an application, please email FCSUBRANCH853@gmail.com with your request or mail for an application for the stipend at Branch 853 Educational Stipend, 2670 Crosby Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216. All requirements for the stipend must be fulfilled and provided by the applicant and be submitted by mail. Stipend will not be greater than the cost of

the course. Branch 853 encourages all types of educational enrichment to apply for the stipend - from formal classroom costs (i.e., college) to adult fun enrichment classes (i.e. - cooking classes, yoga classes, or other types of fun learning.).

- Submitted by **Monica Rodacy Boone, Branch 853 President**

## Answer to Puzzle

*Solution to Puzzle from page 13*

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

# Branch 853's Charles Boone Continues Scouting

Charles Boone, a Branch 853 young adult, exemplifies the true ideals of a Boy Scout Eagle Scout. Many times after earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, participation in scouts decreases. This is not the case with Charles as he continues to be active at the local, national and even the international levels. From July 21 to August 2, 2019, Glen Jean West Virginia and the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve played host to the 24th World Scout Jamboree where Charles served on the Aquatics Staff. Over 40,000 scouts from over 150 countries attended and made this event spectacular.



Charles served as a SCUBA Aquatics Instructor on the International Service Team for the World Jamboree. For the 2017 BSA National Jamboree, Charles was also a SCUBA Instructor. Being Advanced Open Water Certified, Charles willingly shares his love of diving and his scuba knowledge with the younger scouts. For 10 days at the Jamboree, Charles helped other scouts experience the thrill of breathing while swimming underwater. Many scouts never experienced this before.

Volunteering at the World Jamboree is not your typical volunteer situation. Many times when you volunteer, you may be given a free lunch, or a t-shirt, as a token of appreciation. For an event of this magnitude, the volunteers not only paid their registration fee to volunteer as a SCUBA instructor, but purchased all of their own uniforms specific for this event, brought their own wetsuits and also paid his own travel expenses. Charles says that sharing his passion at the BSA National and World Scout Jamborees provided opportunities that some scouts may have never experienced before. He is setting his sights for South Korea and hopes to be on staff again for the 25th World Scout Jamboree in 2023.

Charles is an active member of Branch 853 and is past Auditor of the Msgr Hlinka District. He is the son of the former National Auditor and former National Pension Board Trustee Monica Rodacy Boone and Ronald Boone of Dormont, PA.

- Submitted by Branch 853 President Monica Rodacy Boone

## Branch Requirements for Branch Stipends

continued from page 12

but in no case shall any delegate have more than one (1) vote. Local branches, at their own expense, which have more than 150 members are entitled to two (2) delegates and one (1) additional delegate for each additional 100 members, according to the number of their members on the 1st day of February of the Convention year. Each District (Okres) shall be entitled to only one (1) district delegate.

(b) Any two (2) branches in the same district having less than 50 members can combine if they total 50 members or more. They can send one (1) delegate representing both branches at their own expense with one (1) delegate vote.

(c) The delegate count shall be based on members as of February 1st in the Convention year. The maximum amount of delegates per branch will be twenty (20).

(d) A local branch that has no delegate elected may request that a delegate already elected from another branch represent it. A delegate shall not represent more than two (2) branches, but has only one (1) vote. No National Officer shall represent any local branch.

(e) Notice of all meetings for the election of delegates to the next Convention shall be published in the Official Organ and/or electronic media per 4.06 at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date of the branch or district meeting.

(f) Any branch or district, which fails to comply with article 4.05 in two (2) of the four (4) years preceding a Convention, will not be permitted to send any delegates to that Convention, excluding Canada.

### SECTION 14 RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES

#### 14.01 GENERAL RULES

(a) Branch and district meetings shall be held in the proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semiannually, one of which must be for the election of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election. Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such a meeting (see 4.06).

(b) The local branches are authorized to establish their own rules and regulations for the operation and control of their branch and members in accordance with the Charter and Bylaws of the F.C.S.U. The branch president shall designate an officer who shall have on hand, sufficient copies available for each member.

(c) Local branches may use the ritual form and prayers as contained in Section 20 of these Bylaws.

(d) Every local branch may observe the anniversary of its patron saint in a manner conforming to the Roman or Eastern Churches of the Catholic Church.

(e) A Branch or District Officer who ceases to be a resident within a general area of a branch or district he/she represents is automatically disqualified from office. An exception may be granted by the President and the Executive Secretary.

Editor's note: you can download extra forms from [www.fcsu.com/branches/](http://www.fcsu.com/branches/)

### NOVEMBER NOTES

2019 November						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### November 17 is a National Holiday in Slovakia

November 17 is a holiday in Slovakia known as Deň boja za slobodu a demokraciu or the Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day commemorating the student demonstration against Nazi occupation in 1939, and especially the demonstration in 1989 in Bratislava and Prague considered to mark the beginning of the Velvet Revolution.

The Velvet Revolution or Gentle Revolution (in Slovak nežná revolúcia) was a non-violent transition of power in what was then Czechoslovakia, occurring from November 17 to December 29, 1989. Popular demonstrations against the one-party government of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia included students and older dissidents. The result was the end of 41 years of one-party rule in Czechoslovakia, and the subsequent dismantling of the command economy and conversion to a parliamentary republic.

- As posted on Wikipedia

#### November 21 is Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast Day

Mary's presentation was celebrated in Jerusalem in the sixth century. Although the feast at times disappeared from the calendar, in the 16th century it became a feast of the universal Church. Though it cannot be proven historically, Mary's presentation has an important theological purpose. It continues the impact of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and of the birth of Mary. It emphasizes that the holiness conferred on Mary from the beginning of her life on earth continued through her early childhood and beyond.

- As posted on franciscanmedia.org

#### November Name Days in Slovakia

1. Denis, Denisa	12. Svätopluk, Astrid, Jonáš, Astrida	22. Cecília, Cecilián, Šejla
2. Cézár, Cezária	13. Stanislav	23. Klement, Klementín, Kliment, Kolumbín, Klementína, Kolumbína
3. Hubert	14. Irma, Juventín, Mladen, Mladoň, Mladotín, Ima, Juventína, Mladena, Mladotína	24. Emília, Milín, Milina
4. Karol, Džesika, Jesika, Karola, Skarleta	15. Leopold, Leopolda, Leopoldína	25. Katarína, Katrina
5. Imrich, Emerich, Imriška	16. Agnesa, Otmar, Agneša, Inéza	26. Kornel, Valerián
6. Renáta, Renát, Renáto, Renátus	17. Klaudia, Klodeta	27. Milan, Nestor, Virgil, Milana
7. René, Engelbert	18. Eugen, Platón	28. Henrieta, Gerhard, Tristan, Desdemona, Eta
8. Bohumír, Bohumíra	19. Alžbeta, Betina, Elizabeta, Lila, Liliana, Liza	29. Vratko, Saturnín, Zaida
9. Teodor, Orest, Teo, Teodorik, Teodoz, Deodata, Tea, Teodora, Teodózia	20. Félix, Filemon, Homér	30. Ondrej, Andrej, Andr
10. Tibor, Tiber, Meluzína, Tibora	21. Elvíra, Ctirad, Ctirada	
11. Martin, Martinián, Marrow, Maroš		



FCSU Branch 888 President David Rafaidus and Miriam Potocky Rafaidus will deliver a presentation on "Czechs and Slovaks in the United States: A Sociodemographic Snapshot" at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on November 19. Using US Census data, they will present information on who and where Czech and Slovak immigrants and descendants are in America today. For further information contact the Museum at [ncsml.org](http://ncsml.org) or (319) 362-8500.

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 15

The district will hold election of officers at this meeting and share Blessings received at the Corpus Christi Mass Celebration in Trenčianske Teplice, Slovakia on June 20, 2019. Greetings from retired Consul General of the Slovak Republic will be conveyed and future events and activities will be discussed at the meeting. All branches are asked to send representatives. We are looking forward to meeting you and sharing fraternalism over a delicious luncheon.

Paul Skuben, President

### DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District 16 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, November 24, 2019 after the Slovak Mass in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church. On the agenda will be a financial report, future activities for 2020 and election of officers for 2020.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. All Members are urged to attend and voice their opinions and concerns.

Joan Mary Skrkon, Recording Secretary

## OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

had the honor of presenting Proclamations to the mayor of Tajov, Slovakia.

Monsignor Beeda was preceded in death by his sister, Lois Savero; and brother, Thomas Beeda.

### VASIL FISANICK BRANCH 484 – CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA



Vasil Fisanick, Esq., 94, Northern Cambria, PA, passed away June 18, 2019. Born January 30, 1925, in Barnesboro, PA, the son of Vasil and Mary (Yurcisin) Fisanick.

Preceded in death by parents and brothers, Joseph, Stephen, Michael, George, Andrew, Peter, and Rev. Nicholas. Vasil was the last surviving member of his immediate family. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Rita R. (Bistransky) Fisanick; children, Christian A. Fisanick, Esq., husband of Annette (Wysocki), Nicktown; Rebecca R., wife of Thomas Blashock, Okatie, SC; Basil J. Fisanick, husband of Laura (Drahnak), Nicktown; and Daria A., wife of Mark Wargo, Nicktown; grandchildren, Martin Blashock, Hannah (Morris) Bozard, Alec Fisanick and Sara Fisanick.

He was a WWII Army Veteran, receiving a Purple Heart and Bronze Star in the Battle of Bastogne, 2nd Indianhead Div, 9th Manchu Division. He also was a member of the Barnesboro VFW Post 343 and 75 year member of American Legion Post 508 and the Slovak Club, Northern Cambria. Vasil completed his pre-law degree at Penn State University and St. Francis College; University of Richmond, LLB, JD and Duke University, LL.M. He was a retired Attorney at Law and member of Cambria County Bar Assoc., PA Bar Assoc., VA Bar Association, and was licensed to practice before Federal Courts as well as Supreme Court of PA and Supreme Court of U.S. He was a member of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church and a 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, having

served as a former Grand Knight.

- Submitted by Daria Wargo

### KATHLEEN B. MCNEANY BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Kathleen B. McNeany (nee: Jankovich), 71, of Edison, NJ, passed away on September 4, 2019, at her home. She was born in South Amboy, NJ, and had resided in Edison for 40 years.

Kathleen was a pediatric nurse at Perth Amboy General for 9 years, before working as a salesclerk in Woodbridge Mall for 40 years.

She is survived by her husband, George, of 48 years; her daughter, Jill Cerminaro; her grandchildren, Gianna and Cole Cerminaro; and her brother, Allan Jankovich.

- Submitted by George McNeany

### THOMAS J. KRALOVICH, JR. BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Thomas J. Kralovich, 87, formerly of Cortland, OH, passed away on October 3, 2018. He was born March 10, 1931, in Uniontown, PA, the son of Thomas J. and Helen (Veno) Kralovich.

Tom is survived by his daughters, Kathy Ziegler and Margaret Kralovich; grandchildren, Jordan Ziegler and Allyssa (Matthew) Rogers; soon to arrive great-granddaughter; and his sister, Frances Fortune.

He was preceded in death by his wife Rita, and his parents and his sister, Adelaide Smorada.

Tom grew up in Uniontown, PA, and moved to Ohio in 1955. He lived in Cortland until moving to Pinellas Park, FL, in 1992, when he retired from Republic Steel/WCI. He was a member of the Mainlands Unit 6 Men's Club and Sacred Heart Catholic Church, as well as a life-long member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota). He and his wife were active in the branch, both as officers, and attended many conventions.

- Submitted by Kathy Ziegler



### DISTRICT 19 – THE MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

On Sunday January 5, 2020, the annual meeting for the Monsignor Michael Shuba District will be held at 1:30PM at Sts Cyril and Methodius Church Hall: 5255 Thornwood Dr, Mississauga, Ontario. At this meeting the election of Officers for the District will be held, financial statements will be reviewed, and any new business will be discussed.

Lunch will be available; please RSVP to Mike Kapitan at 416-543-4111.

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

## News From Slovakia

### Pellegrini Funds Way of Cross: Christian Tradition Important in Slovakia

Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini (wearing a light-blue tie) attends a mass celebrated by Bratislava Metropolitan Archbishop Stanislav Zvolensky in Slovensky Grob on All Saints Day.



(Photo by TASR)

Slovensky Grob, November 1 (TASR) – Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini (Smer-SD), who attended a Catholic mass at Saint John the Baptist Church

in Slovensky Grob (Bratislava region) on All Saints Day, pointed to the importance of Christian tradition in Slovakia after witnessing the consecration of a Way of the Cross, created in the church partly from his financial reserve as prime minister.

"It fits in with our traditions and our way of life," he said in front of the church after the mass.

Commenting on his contribution towards creating the Stations of the Cross, Pellegrini said that he strives to "deal with problems in Slovak towns and villages ... and to maintain Christian traditions".

"We also provide a great amount of funds for individual ethnic groups and religions in order to help them to maintain sacral buildings and monuments to a certain level, because Slovaks are faithful people and deserve to be able to practice their faith in dignified premises," said Pellegrini.

The Stations of the Cross in Slovensky Grob were consecrated by Metropolitan Archbishop of Bratislava Stanislav Zvolensky.

### Number of Beekeepers in Slovakia Now Highest in Two Decades

Bratislava, October 31 (TASR) – The number of beekeepers currently in Slovakia is the highest in the past 20 years, with Slovakia one of the few EU-member countries to see this figure grow, partly due to comprehensive state support, the Agriculture Ministry said on Thursday.

"We now have more than 19,150 beekeepers registered on [Slovakia's] territory, with more than 305,000 hives.

Meanwhile, there were 100,000 hives fewer and 5,000 beekeepers fewer ten years ago," said Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Gabriela Matecna (Slovak National Party/SNS).

New state-sponsored measures, okayed by the European Union, are aimed at helping beekeepers to fight parasites and bee diseases, including varroa mites and American foulbrood, both imported from abroad.

Funds will also be allocated for monitoring the effects of pesticides used in agriculture on bees and for supporting laboratories in order to boost opportunities to determine the regional origin of honey and to identify fake honey.



(Photo by TASR)

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Look for the continuation of the Slovak Section in an upcoming issue of Jednota.  
Pokračovanie slovenskej sekcie najdete v nadchádzajúcom vydaní Jednoty.