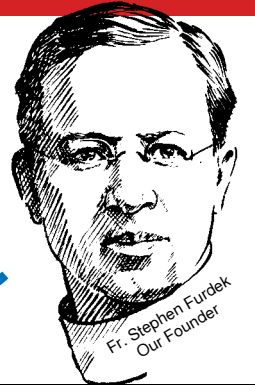




Catholic Fraternal Jednota



THE UNION
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MODLITBA PÔST ALMUŽNA

Traditions of Lent in Slovakia

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

For Christians in Slovakia, the holy season of Lent is called pôst in the Slovak language (pronounced "pwoost"). The season begins on Ash Wednesday, known as Popolcová streda in Slovak. In Slovak traditions, it was also known as Škaredá streda, or Ugly Wednesday. The lively celebrations of fašiangy (Carnival - Slovak Mardi Gras) ended on Fat Tuesday night (Tučný utorok). Ash Wednesday marked the solemn beginning of an extended period of fasting, prayer, and abstinence. It commenced with an extended period of spiritual reflection that remembers Christ's forty days of fasting in the desert.

Originally, ancient Slavic pagans celebrated their New Year around the time that Lent would start. The early Slavic peoples adopted and integrated Christian customs with these former practices, as the acceptance of Christ as their

Savior marked the beginning of a new life of faith. Practicing the faith in Lent meant following the example of Christ to enable them with His assistance to overcome sin through their own daily sacrifices during the holy season.

The English word "Lent" originated from two Anglo-Saxon words: lencten, which means "Spring," and lenctentid, which translates as "Springtide" and also the word for "March," since most of Lent occurs during the month which welcomes the beginning of the spring season.

But early Christians long observed the season before Easter as a special time of preparation for commemorating the fasting, passion, death and Resurrection of Christ. Christian practice and customs, and even the length of Lent, varied in different localities. Lenten observance became more standardized following the legalization of Christianity in 313 and the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. Forty days observed from Monday through Saturday became the agreed length of Lent because 40 held a special significance in Judaic and Christian traditions. Moses fasted for "40 days and 40 nights" on Mount Sinai before receiving the Ten Commandments. Likewise, Elijah walked "40 days and 40 nights" to Horab (Sinai), the mountain of the Lord. Above all, the Lenten fast imitated Christ's fast of 40 days and 40 nights in the desert.

Rules for fasting varied at first, with some areas requiring abstention from all forms of meat and animal products, while others permitted consumption of seafood. In the 7th century, Pope St. Gregory set the pattern for the Middle Ages with the Church rule "to abstain from flesh, meat, and from all things that come from flesh, as milk,

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Message from the President

As I write this message Russian troops are invading the country of Ukraine. How many troops, how extensive the invasion, is yet to be seen.

A small part of Ukraine abuts the Eastern border of Slovakia. The Ukrainians like the Slovaks are of Slavic ethnicity, although they use the Cyrillic alphabet.

The Slovaks and Ukrainians share a history of being ruled by larger countries or entities.

As a veteran myself and with my father serving in WWII, with several uncles also serving including my uncle John Rajec, who was killed in Germany, I have become familiar with the events surrounding WWII.

While the U.S. suffered about 407,000 military killed (a tragic number) in WWII, it is estimated by several reputable sources well over 24-30 million people (including 6-8 million Ukrainians) perished on the Eastern Front in WWII. This is staggering loss of human life.

This part of the world is no stranger to suffering.

We pray that the situation can be resolved without more people suffering and bringing the World to the brink of war.

With the onset of the Lenten season (pôst – pronounced pwoost), let us ponder our transgressions and attempt to purify our souls in preparation for the holy feast of Easter. For Slovaks, this was a time to deny the body of earthly pleasures and imitate the sacrifices of Christ's Forty Days of fasting in the desert. In a secular world which today stresses consumption and self-satisfaction, let us turn to Jesus' example and renew our Baptismal and Confession commitments to be His followers in word and deed.

Our Editor, Michael Kopanic will be writing about events or happenings in the Slovak and Catholic community both here and abroad, as we have done in the past.

See his article on page one.

Faternally,



Andrew M. Rajec
President

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Reflection

As I recall, one of our most beloved Slovak Lenten hymns is "Ovečka Stratená," "Lost Little Lamb." In its words we hear the plaintive, anxious voice of Jesus, the Good Shepherd (Dobrý pastier), searching for His lost lamb. How tenderly, mercifully,

He longs to rescue and hold His little one again.

So it is with us and for us. Read St. John's Gospel, chapter 10: 14-18. Here Jesus takes on the character and devotedness of a shepherd. He is ready to sacrifice Himself for each of us, in spite of our waywardness. Let this image of Jesus, Good Shepherd, serve as a foundation for our Lenten prayers.

Sister Maria Theresa Hronec

Ovečko stratená - Lost Little Lamb

1. Ovečko stratená, ach kde si kde,
Ozvi sa s bolesťou,
Hľa láska Ma stiahla z neba,
z lona Otca môjho len pre teba.
Si neverná, buď mi verná,
Pod' sem, ja ťa vezmem na ramená.

2. Povedz mi tak dlho kdes' blúdila,
Paša moja sa ti neľúbila?
Hľa verné ovečky Moje iné,
pasú sa v ľúbeznej pastve pri Mne.
Nehnevajú, poslúchajú,
radostne v ovčinci prebývajú.

3. Tys' ale neverná Mňa nechala,
po horách, dolinách sa túlala.
Poslúchať Mňa nechceš, hnev Mne robíš,
hriechy rozmnožuješ, čo z toho máš?
Už je mnoho, chráň sa toho,
Bys' večnú nemala škodu z toho.

Where are you, lonely, lost lamb, where can you be?

Despite your wayward ways, please, answer me.
With love for you, I've left heaven's glory, I left my Father to save only one.
Still unfaithful, now trust and come;
Run to my safekeeping, Oh, my little one.

Why have you strayed so long, Oh, what did you do?

Did not my pastureland satisfy you?
My faithful sheep remain, meander and graze; in grassy fields they are near me always.
Cause me no grief, hear me and wait,
In my own sheepfold, they rest and congregate.

I know, unfaithful one, you hid and fled me, O'er hills and valleys you roamed aimlessly.
You failed to listen, as you shunned and grieved me; Wounded and sorry, now come home to me.
See my mercy, sealed with my cross;
Love will bring you full life, not regretful loss

Message from the National Chaplain

Pope Pius XII (1939-1958) is best known as the Bishop of Rome during the Second World War. He wrote 41 encyclicals during his papacy on topics ranging from Scripture study to Sacred Music to Devotion to the Sacred Heart to World Peace. March 21 is the 75th anniversary of his 1947 encyclical "Brilliantly Shine" (Fulgens radiatur), which he wrote to commemorate the 1400th anniversary of the death of Saint Benedict. This is a summary of that encyclical.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Pius begins by stating the situation in Western Europe at the end of the 5th century. Invaders from the north came and destroyed what was left remaining of a weak and corrupt Roman Empire. This in turn led to the near collapse of both secular and religious societies. It was Benedict who took the lead in renewing and restoring Western Civilization.

Benedict, the Holy Father told us, treasured being alone with God in living a life of austerity, prayer, and seclusion. His reputation for holiness became known and others desired to join him and adopt his lifestyle. He soon afterwards discerned it was the time to found a family of like-minded men and "mold them to the perfection of the gospels." He established 12 monasteries which housed 12 monks and their superiors. Not long after this, Benedict founded a monastery on the side of a high mountain at a location called Cassino. Monte Cassino became the locale where Benedictine monasticism with its fundamental principles of prayer and work took its form. The Benedictine community is to follow a family model. The abbot is to act as a father to his family.

Benedictine monasteries became the location where agriculture, crafts, the preservation of fine arts, and scholarly learning were reborn. All work, both intellectual and physical, is to be directed to Christ out of love for him. Monks at a Benedictine monastery are to welcome the poor and the traveler, for one who does so, welcomes Christ.

Pius expressed gratitude for the work of the first generation of Benedictine monks, who not only preserved ancient texts, but also translated and composed commentaries on them.

As the blood of martyrs in the first three centuries inspired many to become members of the Church, and as the Church fathers strongly defended and taught the true faith against different heresies and false teachings that were prevalent in the day, Pius credited the Benedictine Institute under divine guidance with being instrumental in preserving Christian civilization.

There are two lessons which Pius said that the contemporary world could learn from the Rule of Saint Benedict. God is not only to be honored and adored, but also to be loved. Human labor is intended to be an honor and a joy. A busy life elevates the mind, it does not demean it.

Pius concluded by expressing hope that Monte Cassino, severely damaged during the Second World War, might be restored. "Humanity owes it to Benedict."

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY 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, April 13	Monday, April 4
Wednesday, May 11	Monday, May 2
Wednesday, June 8	Tuesday, May 31

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed MONTHLY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the readership.

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Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal Continues in March

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 434th year raising money to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day-to-day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry. A direct mailing asking for donations was sent in January to local district and branch leaders from the four Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations, members of the Slovak Catholic Federation, and previous donors.

As of February 28, \$9,320.00 has been received from 95 donors. Among the 29 donations received from Catholic Slovak Fraternal Branches and Districts, Branch 35, Branch 45, Branch 85, Branch 112, Branch 213, Branch 320, Branch 746, and Branch 853 of the FCSU have donated a combined total of \$525. Donations have also been received from 20 clergy and religious as well as 46 individuals. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2022 Appeal but did not receive a letter asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2022 will be credited toward the 2023 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdivic, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Harvey's Lake, PA and Gate of Heaven Parish, Dallas, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Parochial Vicar with Senior Priest status at Our Lady of Grace Church, Penn del, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.

44th Annual Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal

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Please make check payable to Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to:

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, National First Vice President
Slovak Catholic Federation
Our Lady of Grace Church
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**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

**HOLIDAY INN CLEVELAND SOUTH - INDEPENDENCE
6001 ROCKSIDE RD
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FRIDAY, MARCH 25 AND SATURDAY MARCH 26, 2022**

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

Friday, March 25, 2022 and Saturday, March 26, 2022
8:30am Mass with meeting to follow

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 18, 2022.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 18, 2022.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held following the Board of Directors Meeting on Saturday, March 26, 2022.

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

Dear Fellow Fraternal Members and Readers,

In this second issue as editor, I have attempted to put together some timely and cultural articles which shed light on happenings in our fraternal, the Slovak-American community, our Church, and in Slovakia.



Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr

With the onset of the Lenten season (post – pronounced pwošt), let us ponder our transgressions and attempt to purify our souls in preparation for the holy feast of Easter. For Slovaks, this was a time to deny the body of earthly pleasures and imitate the sacrifices of Christ's Forty Days of fasting in the desert. (See my article.) In a secular world which today stresses consumption and self-satisfaction, let us turn to Jesus' example and renew our Baptismal and Confession commitments to be His followers in word and deed. An article on the decreasing number of practicing Christians in Slovakia shows the need for genuine Christian renewal during this Holy Season.

Our pastor, the Rev. Leo F. Arnone at St. Aloysius Gonzaga and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Churches in Cresson, Pa., suggests that we use the occasion of Lent to focus on 3 things, the so-called 1-1-1 Plan. The formula is as follows: "One Sin – Concentrate or focus on one personal sin or fault that is getting in the way of your relationship with God and others. One Add-In – Add one positive activity that will deepen your prayer and spiritual life. One Give-Up – Deny yourself something that you really like or are attached to." Father Arnone especially encourages Eucharistic Adoration, for it brings us closer to Christ and the Holy Eucharist, the miracle which differentiates us as Catholic Christians.

Turning to Slovak life and culture, we celebrated fašiangy (Carnival) at events like the annual Slovak Ball in New Jersey. We also commend and congratulate the youth winners of our Coloring and Hunting contests; you are our future. In Slovakia, the traditional merriment before Lent manifested itself in drinking and eating as well as merry-making in outlandish costumes.

Over the past month, we can rightly be proud of Slovakia's athletes, who displayed some stellar performances in the Beijing Winter Olympics. Petra Vlhová from Liptovský Mikuláš, who literally grew up skiing, won an Olympic gold medal with her outstanding win in the women's slalom. She rightly deserves the epithet "the Olympic Snow Queen."

The Slovak Men's Ice Hockey team also achieved a magnificent 4-0 victory over Sweden to secure the Bronze Medal. This was Slovakia's first-ever ice hockey medal at the Olympic games. The 17-year-old teenage sensation from Košice, Juraj Slafkovský, scored two knockout goals in the victory and was declared the Most Valuable Player in the tournament.

The Slovak Parliament passed a new Citizenship Amendment law which makes it easier for Slovaks abroad to obtain Slovak citizenship if they can trace their ancestral emigration from 1910 or later. An insightful article by Samuel Ďurovčík explains the details.

Shortly after the Olympics ended, the brutal Russian invasion of Slovakia next-door neighbor, Ukraine, has shocked the world. The Slovak Parliament responded by denouncing the unprovoked war. Thousands of Ukrainian refugees are already pouring over the border. Read how you can help the newly formed "Slovak-Americans Stand with Ukraine" which is collecting donations to help the thousands of refugees fleeing for their lives. Many of them are women and children whose husbands have stayed behind to fight the aggressors.

Events remind us that evil and sin still exist and are on the offensive in the world. The Lenten seasons calls for repentance, prayer, and sacrifice to assist those in dire need.

Lastly, I would like to heartily thank all of you for bearing with me as I learn how to put together a quality issue of Jednota in my new job as the new editor. It has been a challenge, but I welcome the opportunity to serve our members and fraternal society in the effort to strengthen our organization and continue our support of our Catholic faith and Slovak culture.

I welcome your feedback as our society grows and evolves. Be aware that you may also access online the current and past issues of Jednota since 2006 at the following URL web address: <https://www.fcsu.com/newspaper/>. Feel free to send a message to the editor by mail to the society or at the following e-mail address: editor@fcsu.com - Note this is a new e-mail.

"For God and Nation" (Za Boha a národ).

Most sincerely, so srdečným pozdravom,

Dr. Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Editor
e-mail: editor@fcsu.com



Slovakia's young ice hockey star Juraj Slafkovský. SOURCE: TASR – Martin Baumann.

Exploring the Greatest Heights and Depths: Vanessa O'Brien

"On Thursday, February 25, 2021, the Slovak-American Cultural Center organized a webinar with mountaineer and explorer Vanessa O'Brien. Vanessa is the first woman to reach Earth's highest and lowest points, holding a Guinness World Record for summiting Mt. Everest in 2012 and diving in a submersible to the eastern pool of Challenger Deep in 2020. Vanessa shared her electrifying story of endurance,

perseverance, athleticism, and courage which was inspiring and riveting. Vanessa also proudly shared her Slovak roots as she elaborated on her grandfather's tale of adventure and exploration coming to the US. Get a unique glimpse into her world as she shares tales from her upcoming book, *To the Greatest Heights: Facing Danger, Finding Humility, and Climbing a Mountain of Truth*" (www.tinyurl.com/47b84em9).

For those who were unable to join, watch the recorded event! To view, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwcOejbbg4>.

The accompanying article in Slovak is by Dr. Andrea Mlynárová, President of the UN Delegation Women's Club and the wife of H.E. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations, Michal Mlynár.



Vanessa O'Brien presenting at the United Nations



Vanessa O'Brien picture from summit of K2



Vanessa O'Brien at the Mariana Trench, a crescent-shaped trench in the Western Pacific Ocean

Vanessa O'Brien: Horelezkyňa a Bádateľka So Slovenskými Koreňmi, Ktorá Sa Nezastaví Pred Žiadnou Prekážkou.

Držiteľka 5 Guinnessových rekordov a jediná žena planéty, ktorá pokorila Mount Everest i Mariánsku Priekopu.

28. júla 2017 sa Vanessa O'Brien – horelezkyňa so slovenskými koreňmi, stala prvou Američankou a zároveň prvou Britkou (keďže má dvojité občianstvo), ktorá zdolala najobávanejšiu a najnebezpečnejšiu horu Himalájí a sveta - K2. Stalo sa tak na tretí pokus a cesta k vrcholu bola nesmierne namáhavá nielen fyzicky ale aj psychicky. Ako ona sama hovorí: "Lezenie je o vytrvalosti! Nie o tom ako silné je vaše telo, ale o tom aká silná je vaša mentálna vytrvalosť a vôľa. 70 percent úspechu je psychika!"

Na ceste k vrcholu K2 už zahynulo množstvo skúsených horelcov a aj Vanessina poistka bola pripravená pre tento možný smutný koniec. Pretože K2 si podľa štatistik vyžiada jednu obeť zo štyroch horelcov, ktorí sa pokúsia ju zdoláť, každý horelec počíta aj s takouto možnosťou. Navyše do roku 1986 na túto horu nevstúpila žiadna ženská noha a prvých päť žien, ktoré sa na vrchol K2 dostalo buď zahynulo pri zostupe alebo neskôr pri iných horelezeckých výpravách. Aj preto je táto hora prezývaná "prekliatie žien".

Takáto nepriaznivá štatistika však nemohla odradiť ženu, ktorá už predtým zdolala niekoľko rekordov a stala sa najrýchlejšou ženou planéty vo výstupoch na najvyššie hory siedmych kontinentov v neuveriteľne krátkom časovom intervale len 295 dní. V roku 2018 ju Spoločnosť vedeckého bádania vyhlásila za "bádateľku roka". Na ceste k tomuto skvelému oceneniu Vanessa lámala jeden rekord za druhým. A aby toho nebolo málo, Vanessa začala liezť len desať rokov predtým ako dosiahla všetky tieto neskutočné úspechy.

Vanessina úspešná profesionálna kariéra nikdy nenasvedčovala tomu, že by sa jej niekedy chcela vzdať. Po dvadsiatich úžasných rokoch vo finančnom sektore však nastal zlom v jej prioritách, keď v roku 2008 padla newyorská burza. Vtedy pochopila, že potrebuje nový cieľ a zmysel života. Jej priateľka jej len tak z pobavenia navrhla: "A čo tak zdoláť Mount Everest?" No a nebola by Vanessa Vanessou O'Brien, aby sa s myšlienkou pokorenia najvyššej hory sveta okamžite nezačala zaoberať. Pretože Vanessa vždy nachádzala a nachádza nový cieľ a zmysel pri výstupe na vrchol, a pri zdolaní novej prekážky.

Keď sa v roku 1999 presťahovala z New Yorku do Londýna, žena s MBA vo vedúcej pozícii bola v bankovom sektore obrovskou raritou. Ako jedna z najmladších výkonných riaditeľov a k tomu v ženskom rode riadila britskú pobočku Morgan Stanley, kde vybudovala európsku pobočku zákazníckej divízie tejto prestížnej americkej banky. Postupovala v kariére neúnavne nahor ako obchodná riaditeľka banky Barclays a nakoniec ako obchodná riaditeľka európskej pobočky Bank of America. Získavala ocenenia, sedávala v riadiacich radách rôznych firiem a jej bankové divízie lámali finančné rekordy. A potom nastal krach burzy cenných papierov.

Vtedy sa Vanessa rozhodla pre zmenu a nasledovala svojho manžela Jonathana do Hong Kongu. Prvýkrát od svojich pätnástich rokov sa Vanessa ocitla v situácii, kedy nemusela ísť do práce. Založila si kanceláriu u seba doma. Lebo veď: "Ako môže ktokoľvek existovať bez kancelárie?" Všetky tieto jej emócie vyvierali z pocitu zodpovednosti, ktorý mala za seba samu od veľmi skorého stredoškolského veku v Detroit. Vanessini rodičia sa rozišli po tragickej smrti jej brata a ona sa musela postaviť príliš skoro na vlastné nohy. A to doslova, mentálne aj finančne!

Vanessa pochopila ako práca človeka definuje, ako posilňuje a zároveň tvaruje naše miesto na tomto svete. Toto všetko sa naučila ešte predtým ako získala svoj vodický preukaz. Musela dospieť veľmi rýchlo, keď už na strednej škole si musela sama zarobiť na seba a po plnom školskom dni pokračovala ďalším pracovným úväzkom ako čašníčka alebo babysiterka. V šestnástich si našla prácu v realitnej kancelárii a ako sama hovorí, táto práca a jej "ja" sa navzájom transformovali. Písací stroj v realitnej kancelárii vymenila za svoj prvý počítač a v osemnástich si kúpila svoj vlastný byt v New Yorku.

Poviete si; A čo to má spoločné s horelezcovstvom? Veľa a všetko – vytrvalosť, schopnosť postarať sa o seba v náročnej situácii, rýchle a správne rozhodovanie v rozhodujúcom okamihu, viera v seba samého a hlavne tvrdá drina na seba samej. To sú hlavné atribúty vrcholového športovca a horelca, ktorým Vanessa O'Brien rozhodne je a nikto sa neodváža to poprieť. Veď táto skromná žena je držiteľkou piatich Guinnessových rekordov.

Keď sa prvýkrát vybrala na Mount Everest, už pri výstupe do druhého výškového tábora ju takmer zasypala lavína pri prekliatom Khumbu ľadovom vodopáde a len o vlásočok unikla istej smrti. Vrátila sa



Vanessa O'Brien Grand Slam Guinness Record map

domov a pustila sa do ešte tvrdšieho tréningu. Postupne sa zoznamovala s pohoriami na každom kontinente, míňala svoje úspory a vrátila sa späť pod najvyššiu horu sveta. Medzitým vyliezla na niekoľko osemticícoviek v Himalájach ako napríklad Šišapangma, Čo Oju a zoznámila sa s Alpami, Kaukazom i Andami. Na arktické podmienky sa pripravovala v americkom pohorí White Mountains (Biele Hory) v štáte New Hampshire (USA), ktorých najvyšší vrch Mount Washington je preslávený tvrdými arktickými podmienkami a silným vetrom.

16. júla 2011 vyliezla na Mount Rainer Kautz ľadovec, aby sa pripravila na obávaný ľadový vodopád pod Mount Everestom. A potom sa vrátila sa do Himalájí a všetko už išlo ako po masle! Najprv dve himalájske osemticícovky a potom tá najvyššia a najvyššia! 19. júla 2012 vystúpila Vanessa O'Brien na vrchol Mount Everestu. Nasledoval najvyšší štít Severnej Ameriky – Denali v júni 2012, Elbrus v Európe v júli, Carstensz Pyramid v Oceánii v septembri, Kosciuszko v Austrálii v októbri, Vinson Massif v Antarktíde v decembri 2012, Aconcagua v Južnej Amerike v januári 2013, a na záver to najľahšie – Kilimandžáro v Afrike, 10. marca 2013. Tento neuveriteľný maratón sa podarilo Vanesse stihnúť za neuveriteľných 295 dní, čím vytvorila svoj prvý Guinnessov rekord s názvom "Sedem vrcholov".

Po ceste k najvyššiemu štítu Antarktídy si ešte stihla "odskočiť" na Južný Pól, ktorý dosiahla 15. decembra 2012. Len tak-tak sa stihla vrátiť k vianočnému stolu so svojim dlhoročným partnerom a manželom, ktorý ju vo všetkých jej expedíciách podporoval, povzbudzoval a vždy veril v jej šťastný návrat domov. Tentoraz to bol návrat do ich nového domova v Bostone.

Aby sa Vanesse splnila ďalšia meta, ktorú si vytýčila, musela aj počas najtuhšej zimy v Bostone trénovať. Tou metou bolo zdolanie Severného Pólu. Dva mesiace sa trápila ťahaním ťažkej pneumatiky z kamióna okolo Charles River v Bostone, behala na lyžiach a vyliezla na posledné dva najvyššie vrcholy kontinentov zo siedmych v Aconcagua v Argentíne a Kilimandžáro v Tanzánii. Keď dosiahla vrchol Kilimandžára a ako najrýchlejšia žena planéty vyšla na všetkých sedem najvyšších štítov siedmych kontinentov, Vanessa prvýkrát počas svojej horelezeckej kariéry tweetovala z vrcholu hory, ktorý má symbolický názov Štít Slobody (Uhuru Peak). Toto je Vanessin tweet: "Tonga(me) on summit of Kilimanjaro 7 am 10 March. That's 7 Summits + Carstensz in 10 months. Now about that NP!" Čo v preklade znamená: "Som na vrchole Kilimandžára, je sedem hodín ráno 10. marca. To je 7 vrcholov + Carstensz za 10 mesiacov. Teraz ma čaká Severný Pól!"

Nasledovala Vanessina ďalšia prekážka a výhra zároveň. A bola to veru poriadne mokrá prekážka. "Severný Pól je mokrý a studený, nie ako suchá studená Antarktída. Preto treba byť pri balení na expedíciu obzvlášť vnyalizavý. Navyše si svoj dom a celú svoju výstroj ťaháte na saniach za sebou vy sami", hovorí Vanessa. Severný Pól je uprostred Arktického oceánu, nie je súčasťou žiadneho kontinentu. Je to len zamrznutá kryha plávajúceho ľadu, ktorá sa pod vplyvom globálneho otepľovania roztápa. Je celkom možné, že v roku 2035 už nebude môcť dosiahnuť Severný Pól tak ako Vanessa - suchou nohou – žiadny polárny bádateľ.

16. apríla 2013 o piatej hodine poobede dosiahla Vanessa so svojim kolegom miesto, ktoré je považované za najsevernejší bod našej planéty. 90 stupňov severnej šírky a 0 stupňov západnej dĺžky – Severný Pól. Bola to, ako ona sama hovorí, jej psychicky najťažšia expedícia. Sane vážiace takmer 41 kilogramov a zavesené na jej pleciach si musela ťahať cez nekonečné ľadové pole, ktoré sa mohlo kedykoľvek pod ňou preburiť. Počas celej svojej náročnej cesty k pólu myslela na svojho brata, ktorý tragicky zahynul pri kúpaní sa v jazere. Bála sa, že sa preburi a utopí... Pred očami mala nápis zo slovenského kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Detroit, ktorý bol smutnou a ťaživou spomienkou na bratov pohreb. „KLAŇAJME SA VEČNEJ SVIATOSTI OLTARNEJ“. Vanessa sa však len málokedy vzdáva! A tak si mohla zapísať do knihy úspechov, ďalší zdolávaný mílnik. Stala sa prvou ženou v histórii, ktorá dobyla „Tri Póly“ sveta (Severný, Južný, a Mount Everest) v čase kratšom ako jeden rok, čím sa stala držiteľkou Grand Slamu Bádateľov. Zároveň vytvorila ďalší Guinnessov rekord a bola už po druhýkrát najrýchlejšia!

Na Severnom Póle vyvesila zástavu Amerického Červeného Kríža, vďaka čomu sa jej podarilo vyzbierať tisíce dolárov na záchranu ľudských životov. Keď sa po pár dňoch vrátila do civilizácie, prvá správa, ktorá ju zastihla, bola o teroristickom útoku na Bostonský Maratón. Aj preto sa v roku 2017 rozhodla pod vlajkou Amerického Červeného Kríža bežať Bostonský Maratón, čím dosiahla zbierku

Continued on page 7

Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble of Michigan Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble of Sterling Heights, Michigan recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. The group was founded in 1971 by Milan Straka and continues under his direction today. A black-tie gala celebration was held on February 5, 2022 at the Macedonian Cultural Center in Sterling Heights. There were 180 guests in attendance and a wonderful time was had by all. On display was a large memorabilia table filled with photos and accolades from the past 50 years of performances that took place throughout the USA and Canada, as well as England, Italy and multiple times in Slovakia. The group also appeared on the Slovak TV show, Zem spieva. A surprise video greeting from their sister group, Šarišan of Prešov, Slovakia was played during the gala to the delight of everyone. Šarišan Prešov also gifted Šarišan with T-shirts depicting the bond between the two ensembles. A beautiful crystal plaque commemorating the 50th anniversary



Current and former Šarišan members



Milan Straka, Director, welcoming guests



Memorabilia Table



Pajtasi Slovak Folk Band



Šarišan girls performing Vareškovi Tanec



Šarišan Dancers



Šarišan Dancers with Milan Straka, Director, and wife Eleanor

ry of the group and a bouquet of roses were presented to Milan and his wife Eleanor from the group members. Šarišan then performed a medley dance after which former members in attendance were introduced and then all Šarišan members joined together for a joyful circle dance.

The group received commendations and tributes that were presented that evening from the Sterling Heights City Council, Michigan State Senator Michael MacDonald and U.S. Congresswoman Lisa McClain. Also, congratulatory letters were presented from Radovan Javorčík, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the USA in Washington, D.C., the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland, Ohio, the Vychodna Slovak Dancers of Toronto, Canada, the Pierogi Fest of Whiting, Indiana, and Jednota Branch 743 of which Milan Straka is the Chairman of Auditors, and his wife Eleanor and several dancers are members. The group wishes to thank both Branch 743 and the Michigan District for their financial donation to the group and are very grateful for their support.

After enjoying a delicious dinner, the guests danced to the Pajtási Slovak Folk Band from New York and numerous door prizes were awarded.

It was truly a gala celebration that reflected the rich 50-year history of the Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble. For more information about the group visit www.sarisanusa.com

Submitted by,
Susan Wietchy, Branch 743



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Applications must be postmarked by **MARCH 31, 2022**
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The Thomas Kukucka Memorial Lecture

DR. M. MARK STOLARIK

HOW SLOVAKS ABROAD HELPED THEIR CATHOLIC BRETHERN IN THE HOMETLAND IN THE 20TH CENTURY

APRIL 10, 2021 @ 3:00PM
CONFERENCE ROOM A
UNIVERSITY CLUB
123 UNIVERSITY PLACE

RSVP required for in-person and virtual participation. Use the below link or QR code to get registered:

t.ly/HJKW



MARIÁN MARK STOLÁRIK, Ph.D. (Minnesota, 1974), is Professor of History and holder of the Chair in Slovak History and Culture at the University of Ottawa. From 1979 to 1991 he was President and CEO of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia, and director of its press. Stolarik is a specialist in the history of immigration and ethnic groups in North America, with emphasis on the Slovak experience. He has published ten books and over 60 articles in the field, including *Where is my Home? Slovak Immigration to North America, 1870-2010* (Berne: Peter Lang, 2012).

Founder of the Slovak Studies Association (1977), Stolarik has also edited several periodicals related to the Slovaks. He founded and edited the Slovak Studies Newsletter (1977-1987); he edits the scholarly annual *Slovakia* (since 1982); and he also serves on the editorial boards of *The Journal of American Ethnic History* (Detroit) and *Historický časopis* (Bratislava).



The Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Special Mass to SS. Cyril and Methodius and a Lecture

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

On February 14, 2022, a special Mass was held to honor SS. Cyril and Methodius at St John the Baptist chapel of Our Lady Queen of Angels parish in Central City, Pennsylvania.

Pastor Rev. Aron Maghsoudi celebrated the Mass, wearing a special beautiful chasuble with the figures of SS. Cyril and Methodius. His sermon stressed how these two Byzantine missionaries used the Slavic language so that they could convey the Christian faith to ordinary people. Their missionary zeal set an example of the challenges they faced and their lasting achievements in evangelizing the ancestors of the Slovaks and other Slavic peoples.

During the Mass, there were also two Slovak hymns to the Virgin Mary: Ó Mária bolestivá (Ku Sedembolestnej Panne Márii, našej Patrónke - Oh Sorrowful Mary (To the Virgin Mary of the Seven Sorrows, the Patroness of Slovakia), and Celá krásna si, Mária (You are all beautiful, Mary).

After Mass, I presented a talk with slides and maps on The Origins of the Slovaks and the introduction of Christianity to Central Europe. First, there was an explanation of the Slovak flag and the meanings of the symbolism in it, including the Byzantine cross of SS. Cyril and Methodius. That is unique to the Slovaks in the modern world.

The lecture moved onto how it was decided that the term "Slovak" would be used to identify the Slovak nationality in the USA. Father Štefan Furdek, the founder of Jednota and the First Catholic Slovak Union, played a pivotal role here. He stressed that the commonly used label "Slavish" would be inappropriate in America, because people would associate it with slaves, not Slavs. Finally, it was noted that the British use "Slovakians" to identify Slovaks, and that is why there might be some confusion about how Slovaks are called in the English language.

A sweep of the early history of the Slavs and Slovaks followed. After reviewing the

St John the Baptist Church, Central City PA



St John the Baptist sanctuary at Holy Communion



Father Aron Maghsoudi, pastor

Fr. Aron Maghsoudi St John the Baptist Central City PA



groups that occupied Slovakia before the Slavs, I talked how Christianity first came to the principality Nitra in 828 during the time of Prince Pribina, who had a devoted Christian wife from Bavaria. The renowned historian Richard Marsina stated that "the

Slovak nation emerged in that principality during Pribina's reign." Great Moravia, a large unified state of Slavs, centered in Slovakia and Moravia. It later extended into Czechia, southern Poland, and Hungary. Great Moravia lasted until the early 10th century Magyar invasions of Europe. Nonetheless, the 9th century marked a beginning for the Slovak nation and its language, both of which evolved over the centuries to become what we call Slovak today.

While Christianity was introduced during the reign of Pribina, the religion did not spread widely among the Slavs until the two Byzantine missionaries who were brothers, Saints Cyril and St. Methodius, developed an intelligible alphabet called Glagolitic and founded a school for the training of clergy. Despite challenges from Frankish clerical and secular opponents (ancestors of the Germans), they secured approval from several popes, and the Slavic tongue became a privileged liturgical language alongside Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

Even though the Franks managed to reinstate Latin after the passing of the two brothers, their mission succeeded in laying the foundation for some of the greatest and lasting strongholds of Christianity. Methodius' successor St. Gorazd had to flee to Bulgaria, where his fellow clergy modified Glagolitic into the Cyrillic alphabet, which is widely used among eastern Slavic countries to this day.

The lecture concluded with the fall of Great Moravia and the conquests of the Magyars, who would establish the Hungarian Kingdom, where Slovaks would live in until 1918. Latin would become the lingua franca of Hungary until the Magyarization efforts of the 19th century, which attempted to eliminate all non-Magyar culture and impose the Hungarian language on other peoples in the multinational kingdom.

Fr. Maghsoudi views the Mass and lectures as a wonderful way to celebrate the Polish and Slovak heritages and cultures of his parish which has its roots in these immigrant groups.



Professor Kopanic lecture on Slovak origins



Lecture of Professor Kopanic with Jednota newspaper

Spring in Slovakia - Global Slovakia to host Webinar for FCSU



Global Slovakia, a non-profit organization which promotes Slovakia and its culture, will host on Tuesday, April 12th a webinar on "Spring in Slovakia: Explore Great Lent and Easter in Slovak Folk Culture." To access the webinar, use the link below and the codes if needed.

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm EST.
www.tinyurl.com/yymzhxsv
 Meeting ID: 863 7088 3322
 Passcode: 022343

Insights and Viewpoints

**St. Vincent Archabbey –
Homily, Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.**

Second Sunday of Lent, Phil 3:17 – 4:1

Where are you a citizen? Often I meet people who tell me that they are a(an) _____ – American with pride of their national heritage and of their current status as a United States Citizens. When we travel abroad we show our U.S. passports and know that it is a document that proves we are U.S. citizens, and gives us the comfort of knowing that while even in a foreign country our Government will help us if we need it. St. Paul reminds us that our true identity is “citizens of heaven.” We were issued our heavenly citizen papers on the day of our Baptism.

Being a citizen of Heaven is a privilege and a Blessing; it also gives us the responsibility to be faithful citizens. It is a sign of God’s love for us that our citizenship begins at Baptism. Our Heavenly Father sent his son to take on the punishment for our sins so as to take down the alienation of

Original Sin that separated us from full union with God. Jesus revealed to us that his Father has adopted us as Sons and daughters. God is our Father, Jesus is our Brother, and the Spirit sanctifies us in that Triune relationship. What would the response of friends, neighbors and even strangers be if we began claiming our citizenship by telling them, “I am a citizen of Heaven?” It would certainly get their attention, and it might even provide us with the opportunity to do some basic evangelization. It is also a good way for us to remind ourselves, first and foremost, we are citizens of Heaven.

Some of the privileges we are given are receiving the Sacrament, in particular the Lord himself in the Eucharist, being able to approach God as His sons and daughters and to address him in prayer as, “Our Father,” and the ultimate privilege we receive as citizens of heaven is the opportunity for eternal life with Christ. We are given a glimpse of this in the Gospel with the account of the Transfiguration. Peter, James and John saw a “change of appearance”, “dazzling white” clothing, Moses and Elijah, glory, and the voice of the Father. I suspect that St. Luke was not able to give an ad-

equated account of that experience; after all, how could he begin to describe the infinite glory of this vision of eternity? The privilege of eternal life leads to an eternity of being in the presence of God, and of being changed from our mortal bodies to bodies that will conform with Christ’s glorified body. This gives us much to look forward to.

Lent is the season for us to see how we are living as citizens of heaven, and how we are preparing for the privileges that come with that. We began Lent with the three-fold call from Christ to pray, fast, and give alms. During Lent we tend to be mindful of these and even to take on different practices to help us in our journey through Lent. Lent, however, is not just a preparation for Easter Sunday, 2016, it is a preparation for our Easter, whenever that might be. It is a preparation that should not be limited to forty days, but rather the rest of our lives. As citizens of Heaven we have the responsibility to live each day in faithfulness to our Baptismal promises. We each have our own struggles, temptations and sins: our responsibility is to face them, repent of our sins and strive to be more faithful. In this way we will be faithful citizens of Heaven.

Vanessa O’Brien

continued from page 4

512 tisíc dolárov pre chorých a ľudí v núdzi.

Krátko na to, len o pár mesiacov, už stála pod najkrutešou horou Himaláji. Bol to jej tretí pokus ju zdolať. Tentoraz bola Vanessa vedúcou výpravy a podľa predpovede počasia sa mal výstup uskutočniť podľa plánu. Bol júl 2017, najteplejší mesiac roka v Himalájach. V roku 2015 ani v roku 2016 sa nikomu nepodarilo výstúp na vrchol K2. Vanessa verila, že sa jej to na tretí pokus konečne podarí. Výstup jej expedície z najvyššieho výškového tábora číslo 4 na vrchol K2 začal o jednástej pred polnocou. 16 hodín trvalo Vanesse, jej kolegom a šerpom dosiahnuť vrchol prekliatej hory. Stalo sa tak 28. júla 2017 o 16:40 poobede a Vanessa utvorila ďalší zo svojich rekordov. Stala sa prvou americkou a britskou ženou, ktorá pokorila K2 a to vo veku 52 rokov. Na vrchole zaviala vlajka organizácie “Ženy OSN”, ktorá je jednou z agentúr Organizácie Spojených Národov.

Niekoľko by si povedal, že je na čase si oddýchnuť. Nie však Vanessa! 12. júna 2020, v čase keď vo svete zúrila prvá vlna pandémie, Vanessa O’Brien sa na špeciálne zostrojenej ponorke ponorila do najnižšie položeného miesta našej planéty nazývaného Challenger Deep, ktorý je súčasťou Mariánskej Priekopy neďaleko ostrova Guam. Spolu s podmořským bádateľom Victorom Vescovo, strávila Vanessa tri hodiny skúmaním a mapovaním dna Mariánskej Priekopy, pričom zistili, že najnižšie miesto sveta nie je ploché ako sa predpokladalo, ale má mierny spád 5,5 metra. Zároveň v tej hĺbke a čierňave objavili živé a pohybujúce sa stvorenia.

A tak sa stala Vanessa O’Brien prvou a zatiaľ jedinou ženou, ktorá dobyla štyri póly sveta. K severnému, južnému a najvyššiemu pridala aj najnižší pól Zeme. A ja som nesmierne šťastná, že Slovensko sa môže pochváliť tým, že Vanessini predkovia, prastarí rodičia z matkinej strany, sa do Ameriky vysťahovali z malých dedínok Pavlovce nad Úhom a Suché neďaleko Michaloviec. O svojom slovenskom pôvode sa zmieta aj vo svojej knihe “To the Greatest Heights” (“Do najväčších výšok”), ktorá bola nedávno preložená aj do poľštiny ako “Wszystkie szczyty świata” a hádam sa čoskoro dočkáme aj slovenského prekladu.

Vanessa si tiež so smútkom spomína na nešťastné udalosti v základnom tábore pod Nanga Parbat v júni 2013. Krásne a s úctou vyslovuje mená našich známych horolezcov, Petra Šperku a Antona Dobeša. Zatiaľ čo pre ňu bol rok 2013 mimoriadne úspešným, pre slovenskú horelezeckú rodinu v Tatrách i pre celé Slovensko to bol rok vzpomínania sa z tejto neuveriteľnej tragédie. Nezmyselná smrť 10 horolezcov, ktorej sa podľa Vanessiných slov mohlo veľmi ľahko vyhnúť, máta ažda každého horolezcu, ktorý vyráža na výstup do Himaláji z pakistanskej pôdy. Vanessa však jednoznačne vyvracia verziu o teroristickom útoku na základný tábor pod Nanga Parbat. Našich dvoch himalájcov sama osobne nikdy nestrela, napriek tomu im ako profesionálna horolezkyňa vzdáva veľkú úctu. Veď aj ona má pred Himalájami veľký rešpekt a základnú zásadu, ktorej sa drží: “Bezpečnosť a život na prvom mieste!” Neriskovala ani pri prvých dvoch výstupoch na K2, ale pokorila sa pred “prekliatou horou” a jej nevyspytateľným počasím. Čakala na svoju tretiu šancu a využila ju! Avšak ihneď dodáva a hovorí o šťastí alebo dobrej vôli himalájskych bohov, pred ktorými má nesmierny rešpekt.

Skromná žena s úprimným úsmevom sa chystá preskúmať svoje slovenské korene a navštíviť Slovensko. A ja len dúfam, že sa jej naše Tatry zapáčia tak, že sa k nám bude vždy s radosťou vracieť a dobývať aj naše slovenské končiare. Vanessa už Slovensko reprezentovala aj na pôde OSN, kde sa podelila o svoje horelezecké úspechy.

Je však aj veľkou bojovníčkou proti znečisťovaniu najvyšších hôr sveta. Počas svojej horelezeckej výpravy na osemtisícovú Manaslu skúmala vplyv globálneho otepľovania na hrúbku ľadovcov v Himalájach. Zároveň sa zasadzuje za lepšie finančné podmienky pre šerpy a horských vodcov v Himalájach, ako aj za práva žien v tomto regióne. V roku 2018 bola vyhlásená za “Bádatelku roka” a v roku 2021 ju New York-ská Univerzita (NYU) označila ako jednu zo svojich 10 Top najznámejších absolventov univerzity. Vanessa je tiež čestnou veľvyslankyňou Americko - Nepálskej Horelezeckej Asociácie a Veľvyslankyňou Dobrej Vôle Pakistanu.

Viete na čo sa pripravuje Vanessa práve teraz? V americkom vesmírnom centre trénuje na to, aby sa raz vydala do vesmíru. Možno sa tak stane, ani sa nenazdáme!

Ja som však nesmierne rada, že je mojou blízkou priateľkou a teším sa na to, ako ju jedného dňa privediem do slovenských Tatier a budem sa môcť Vanesse pochváliť ich krásou!

Pripravila: RNDr. Andrea Mlynárová

Submitted by: Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director

The Slovak-American Cultural Center recently hosted a webinar with Vanessa O’Brien who spoke to her latest book, *Exploring the Greatest Heights*. The pre-recorded webinar is available at: www.tinyurl.com/47b84em9



Arwen Leal



Paisley Taylor



L-R Veronica Fernandez,
Quinn Coffey, Harper Finn



Preschool
and
Kindergarten
students



L-R Rory
Reichard,
Hasvi Bansal,
Arianna
Agarwal,
Teagan
Shroyer,
Emma
Houston

Exercise Fund Raiser

Students at Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten in Danville, PA recently had an exercise and play day to support EOS Therapeutic Riding Center in Bloomsburg. The students obtained donated pledges in support of the Riding Center. Sister Donna Marie, SSCM, Principal of Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten, noted that EOS Therapeutic Riding Center strives to positively impact the life skills and quality of life of children and adults with mental, physical and emotional challenges, and Veterans, through individualized therapeutic horseback riding activities conducted in a safe and supportive environment. The Center began in 1992 with 7 riders, and now provides over 3,000 sessions yearly. Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten students raised \$ 3,000.00 through this project.

News From Slovakia

Slováci zdolali na ZOH v Pekingu Švédsko a získali historický bronz

Peking, 19. februára (TASR) – Slovenská mužská hokejová reprezentácia získala v sobotu historicky prvú olympijskú medailu vyradením Švédska 4:0 v zápase o bronz na zimných olympijských hrách v Pekingu.

Slovensko sa presadilo pred Švédskom najmä vďaka solidnej tímovej hre, ale aj dvojkólovému výkonu 17-ročného útočníka Juraja Slafkovského a výpadku brankára Patrika Rybára.

Po bezgólovej prvej tretine vsietil prvý a víťazný gól v úvode druhej tretiny Slafkovský. Zhruba o desať minút strelil druhý z presilovej hry útočník Samuel Takáč. Švédsko zaradilo v tretej tretine na vyššie obrátky a v záverečných minútach stiahlo svojho brankára v snahe vyrovnať skóre, no neúspešne. Naopak, Slafkovský a Pavol Regenda zabezpečili víťazstvo Slovenska dvomi prázdnyimi brámkami.

Ide o druhú medailu, ktorú získali slovenskí športovci na hrách v Číne. V slalome žien predtým vyhrala alpská lyžiarka Petra Vlhová.

Slovenskí hokejisti získali historicky prvú medailu na ZOH. V sobotnom dueli o tretie miesto na olympijskom turnaji v Pekingu zvíťazili nad Švédskom 4:0 a vybojovali bronzové kovy. Dosiaľ bola slovenským maximom v ére samostatnosti štvrtá priečka na ZOH 2010 vo Vancouveri. Je to druhá slovenská medaila na ZOH 2022 po zlate Petry Vlhovej v slalome.



Slovenská hokejová reprezentácia pózuje s bronzovými medailami na zimných olympijských hrách v čínskom Pekingu (foto TASR) - Slovakia's national ice-hockey team posing with bronze medals at the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing, China (photo by TASR)

Slovak Ice-hockey Team Beats Sweden 4-0 to Claim Historic Bronze

February 19, 2022 Beijing, February 19 (TASR) – The Slovak men's national ice-hockey team on Saturday won an historic first Olympic medal by blanking Sweden 4-0 in the bronze-medal match at the Winter Olympic Games in Beijing.

Slovakia prevailed over Sweden chiefly thanks to solid team play, but also a two-goal performance by 17-year-old forward Juraj Slafkovský and a shutout by goalkeeper Patrik Rybár.

After a scoreless first period, the first and game-winning goal was netted by Slafkovský in the early stage of the second period. Approximately ten minutes later, forward Samuel Takáč scored a second one from a power play. Sweden switched to higher gears in the third period and pulled their goalie in the final minutes in an effort to equalize the score, but to no avail. Conversely, Slafkovský and Pavol Regenda secured Slovakia's victory with two empty netters.

This is the second medal claimed by Slovak athletes competing at the games in China. Previously, Alpine skier Petra Vlhová won the women's slalom event.

Politici si pripomínajú odkaz investigatívneho novinára Jána Kuciaka

Bratislava 21. februára (TASR) – Prezidentka Zuzana Čaputová si v pondelok vo Veľkej Mači v Trnavskom kraji uctila pamiatku zavraždeného novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho priateľky Martiny Kušnírovej zapálením sviečky a položením kvetov pred domom, v ktorom ich zabil v r. 2018.

„Pred štyrmi rokmi sa väčšina spoločnosti zjednotila v požiadavke na slušné a spravodlivé Slovensko. Táto požiadavka platí aj dnes,“ povedala prezidentka s tým, že Slovensko v poslednom čase zažíva zvýšenú vlnu nenávisť, hnevu a verbálnych útokov. „V prípade Jána a Martiny napadnutiu predchádzali aj vyhrážky. Musíme to zastaviť, kým nebude neskoro, inak bude odkaz Jána a Martiny márný,“ povedala Čaputová.

Prezident poznamenal, že dvojicu zavraždili pre Jánovu prácu. „Boli zabití, pretože Jan sa venoval odhaľovaniu korupcie a zneužívania moci,“ vysvetlila.

Odkaz investigatívneho novinára Jána Kuciaka a jeho snúbenice Martiny Kušnírovej si pripomenuli aj koalíční politici pri štvrtom výročí ich vraždy.

Minister vnútra Roman Mikulec (OLaNO) označil Kuciaka za čestného novinára, ktorý hľadal a odhaľoval pravdu a nenechal sa zastrašiť. Jeho práca mala podľa ministra obrovský vplyv, dnes ešte väčší. Na pamiatku všetkým visí jeho životná strata v boji proti korupcii. „Vlna nenávisť, ktorú dnes živia niektorí politici, je desivým spojením s minulosťou. Pred štyrmi rokmi to bol novinár, v týchto dňoch a týždňoch sú terčom útokov iné skupiny ľudí a to jednoducho preto, že si svoju prácu robia poctivo. Chceme všetkých ubezpečiť, že polícia nebude zatvárať oči pred útokmi na novinárov, zdravotníkov a najnovšie aj na poslancov,“ povedal Mikulec.



Symbolický pamätník Jána Kuciaka a Martiny Kušnírovej na Námestí SNP v Bratislave (foto TASR) - A symbolic memorial to the memory of Ján Kuciak and Martina Kušnírová on SNP Square in Bratislava (stock photo by TASR)

Politicians Commemorate Legacy of Investigative Journalist Jan Kuciak

Bratislava, February 21 (TASR) – President Zuzana Čaputová honored the memory of murdered journalist Ján Kuciak and his girlfriend Martina Kušnírová in Veľká Mača in Trnava region on Monday, lighting a candle and laying flowers in front of the house in which they were killed in 2018. “Four years ago, the majority of society united in demanding a decent and fair Slovakia. That demand still holds true even today,” said the president, noting that Slovakia has lately been experiencing an increased wave of hatred, anger and verbal attacks. “In the case of Jan and Martina, the assault was also preceded by threats. We have to stop this before it's too late, or the legacy of Ján and Martina will be in vain,” said Čaputová.

The president noted that the couple was murdered because of Ján's work. “They were killed because Jan was dedicated to exposing corruption and abuses of power,” she explained.

The legacy of investigative journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová was also commemorated by coalition politicians on the fourth anniversary of their murders.

Interior Minister Roman Mikulec (OLaNO) described Kuciak as an honest journalist who sought and uncovered the truth and wasn't intimidated. According to the minister, his work has had a huge impact, even more so today. The loss of his life in the fight against corruption hangs over everyone as a reminder. “The wave of hatred fed by some politicians today is a frightening link to the past. Four years ago, it was a journalist, in these days and weeks other groups of people are the targets of attacks, and simply because they are doing their job honestly. I want to reassure everyone that the police won't turn a blind eye to attacks on journalists, health-care workers and, most recently, MPs,” said Mikulec.

Slovenský parlament odsúdil ruskú agresiu na Ukrajinu, žiada zastavenie operácie

Bratislava 25. februára (TASR) – Slovenský parlament odsudzuje nevyprovokovanú, neopodstatnenú a nezákonnú vojenskú agresiu Ruskej federácie proti Ukrajine, uvádza sa vo vyhlásení, ktoré v piatok schválili poslanci na mimoriadnej schôdzi Snemovne reprezentantov.

Parlament vyzýva Rusko, aby okamžite zastavilo vojenskú operáciu a stiahlo svoje ozbrojené sily z Ukrajiny. Žiada, aby sa Rusko vrátilo k rokovaciemu stolu a hľadalo mierové riešenie. Vyjadruje tiež solidaritu s obyvateľmi Ukrajiny.

Stanovisko do parlamentu predložili poslanci Michal Šipoš (OLaNO), Juraj Seliga (Za ľudí), Anna Zemanová (SaS) a Peter Pčolinský (Sme rodina).

Zo 113 prítomných poslancov na hlasovaní za návrh hlasovalo 112, nikto nebol proti, len jeden poslanec nehlasoval. Na hlasovaní chýbal celý poslanecký klub LSNS a pár zákonodarcov z každého poslaneckého klubu. Vyhlásenie podporili aj opoziční poslanci Smeru-SD a nezávislí poslanci pôsobiaci v mimoparlamentnej strane Hlas-SD.

„Ruská vojenská agresia proti Ukrajine – nezávislej a suverénnej krajine – je hrubým pošliapaním medzinárodného práva a princípov Charty OSN, Helsinského záverečného aktu, Budapešťanskeho memoranda, Parížskej charty a zakladajúceho aktu NATO-Rusko. Kroky Ruska nebezpečne podkopávajú európsku a globálnu bezpečnosť a stabilitu,“ zdôrazňuje Parlament vo svojom vyhlásení.

Parlament vyzýva Rusko, aby plne rešpektovalo nezávislosť, suverenitu a územnú celistvosť Ukrajiny v rámci jej medzinárodne uznaných hraníc. Vyzýva ju tiež, aby plne rešpektovala medzinárodné humanitárne právo a umožnila bezpečný a nerušený humanitárny prístup a pomoc všetkým osobám v núdzi.

Parlament potvrdil, že stále považuje územia samozvaných republík Doneck a Luhansk za suverénne územia Ukrajiny.

Parlament tiež odsúdil tragické obeť a ľudské utrpenie spôsobené agresiou, „za ktorú Ruská federácia nesie plnú zodpovednosť a vyjadruje solidaritu s obeťami“.

Slovenský parlament tiež vyjadruje plnú podporu Ukrajine a jej občanom a vyjadruje sústrasť nevinným obeťami agresie. „Ukrajina bojuje za hodnoty slobody, demokracie, politickej nezávislosti, štátnej suverenity a územnej celistvosti, ktoré sú kľúčové aj pre Slovensko,“ uvádza sa vo vyhlásení. Parlament vo svojom vyhlásení ubezpečil Ukrajinu o jej „neochvejnej podpore jej nezávislosti, zvrchovanosti a územnej celistvosti v rámci jej medzinárodne uznaných hraníc“.

Slovakia's Parliament Condemns Russia's Aggression in Ukraine, Demands a Halt to the Operation

Bratislava, February 25 (TASR) – The Slovak Parliament condemns the unprovoked, unjustified and unlawful military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, reads the statement approved by MPs at a special House session on Friday.

The Parliament calls on Russia to immediately halt the military operation and withdraw its armed forces from Ukraine. It demands that Russia return to the negotiating table and seeks a peaceful solution. It also expresses solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The statement was submitted to Parliament by MPs Michal Šipoš (OLaNO), Juraj Seliga (For the People), Anna Zemanová (SaS) and Peter Pčolinský (We Are Family).

Of 113 MPs present for the vote, 112 voted for the proposal, nobody was against it, just one MP didn't vote. The entire LSNS caucus and a couple of legislators from each caucus were absent from the vote. The opposition Smer-SD caucus and Independent MPs operating in the extra-parliamentary Voice-SD party also backed the statement.

“The Russian military aggression against Ukraine – an independent and sovereign country – is a gross trampling on international law and the principles of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum, the Paris Charter and the NATO-Russia Founding Act. Russia's steps are dangerously undermining European and global security and stability,“ stresses Parliament in its statement.

Parliament calls on Russia to fully respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. It also calls on it to fully respect international humanitarian law and to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access and aid to all persons in need.

Parliament has confirmed it still views the territories of the self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and Luhansk as the sovereign territories of Ukraine.

Parliament also condemned tragic casualties and human suffering caused by the aggression, “for which the Russian Federation bears full responsibility and expresses solidarity with the victims”.

The Slovak Parliament also expresses its full support to Ukraine and its citizens and expresses sympathies to innocent victims of the aggression. “Ukraine is fighting for the values of freedom, democracy, political independence, state sovereignty and territorial integrity that are also crucial for Slovakia,“ reads the statement. Parliament in its statement reassured Ukraine of its “unwavering support for its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders”.

FCSU 2021 CHRISTMAS CONTEST WINNERS

Ugly Sweater Contest Winners

Ages 40 - Better

FROM FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR KEVIN COLLINS

Our 2021 Christmas Contests were a great success! Thanks to all of our members for participating. I hope the contests helped brighten an unusual Christmas season. So many great entries made it hard for judges to choose. But here are the "best of the best" - including those who made it on to the FCSU Traveling Cup this year.

As your appointed Chief Elf, I say....

Congrats Winners!



Mary Tkach Linden, NJ Branch 746K



Angela Trilli Monessen, PA Branch 670K



David Oost Neenah, WI Branch 313K

Ages 16 – 39



Nicole Hyatt (on the right) Freedom, PA Branch 670K



Danielle Lasher Levittown, PA Branch 857K



Charles Boone Pittsburgh, PA Branch 853K



Ages 15 – Younger



Abigail Dlugos Hostetter, PA Branch 199K



Juliana Oost (on the left) Neenah, WI Branch 313K



Elias Strekal (on the left) Aurora, OH Branch 24K

COLORING CONTEST 2021 WINNERS

REGION 1

Age Group 4-6



First Place
Benjamin
Ranahan



Second Place
Kellie Rose
Ranahan

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Jack Ranahan J



Second Place
Madison
Shenlogian



Third Place
Colin Ranahan



First Place
Kaitlyn
Shenlogian



Second Place
Margaret Gordon

REGION 2

Age Group 10-12



Third Place
Ashton Lewis



First Place
Charleigh Gross

Age Group 4-6



Second Place
Rosie Herman



Third Place
Drexel Keller



First Place
Stella Herman



Second Place
Olive Keller



Third Place
Jonah Sterling

REGION 3

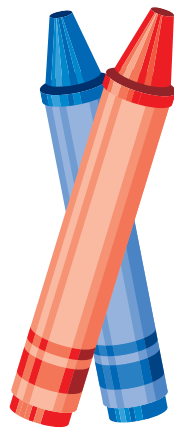
Age Group 4-6



First Place
Nicholas Ehr



Second Place
Grant Mylet



Age Group 7-9



First Place
Leila Pluto



Second Place
Stella Costantino



Third Place
Paige Keiser



REGION 4

Age Group 10-12



First Place
Nadia Pluto



Second Place
Noah Hummel



Third Place
Caden Jacobson

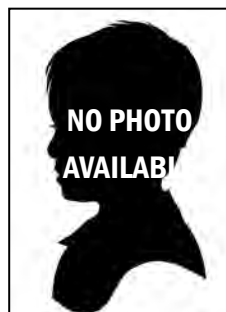
Age Group 4-6



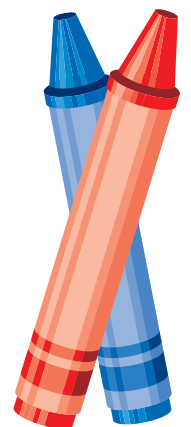
First Place
Avelyn Kardohely



Second Place
Levi Suranski



Third Place
Jackson Trilli



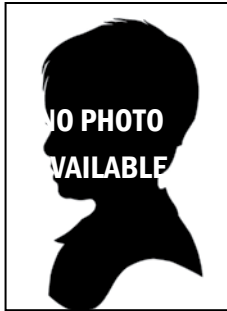
COLORING CONTEST 2021 WINNERS

REGION 4

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Symeon Kardohely



Second Place
Anthony Matinko



Third Place
Gianna Sarver

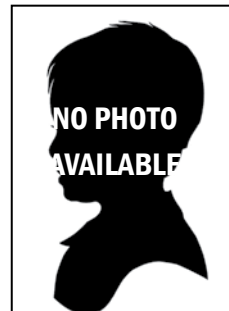
..... Age Group 10 - 12



First Place
Sarah Rush



Second Place
Tatum Delany
Krizman



Third Place
Leolin Divonzo

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Diana Zemelman



Second Place
Isabella Nixon



Third Place
Harper Pelikan

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Braden Skoloda



Second Place
Cara Zemelman



Third Place
Michael Kroniser

REGION 6

..... Age Group 10 - 12



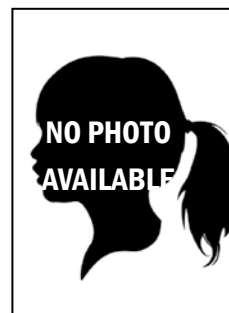
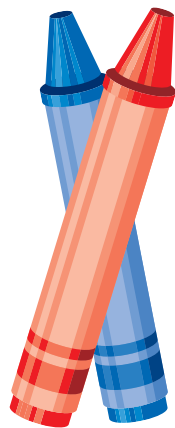
First Place
Kayla Fibbi



Second Place
Zachary Skoloda



Third Place
Ava Scaife



First Place
Scarlet Victory



Second Place
Thomas Miller

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Josie Brady



Second Place
Luke Scally



Third Place
William Victory

..... Age Group 10 - 12



First Place
Artem Fedoriouk



Second Place
Henry Strekal



Third Place
John Valencik



COLORING CONTEST 2021 WINNERS

REGION 7

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Emmett
Whittington



Second Place
Cole Krzan



Third Place
Atticus
Whittington



First Place
Arianna Lazzara



Second Place
Brent Oost



Third Place
Kellan Hacker



..... Age Group 10-12



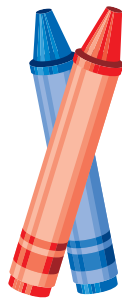
First Place
Sofia Vadkerti



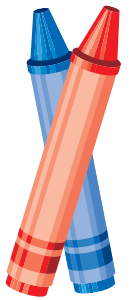
Second Place
Juliana Oost



Third Place
Maya Bobo



The overall winner for the kid's coloring contest is:
Nadia Pluto Region 3
Nadia's name will be placed on
The FCSU Traveling Cup.



Young at Heart Christmas Coloring Contest Winners



1st Place
Elizabeth Rhodes
Region 4



2nd Place
Mary K. Robinson
Region 6



3rd Place
Fred Kardoheley
Region 4

FCSU 2021 CHRISTMAS CONTEST WINNERS

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest Winners



1st place
Rita Sukel, Monongahela, PA
Branch 670K



2nd place
Jennifer Allen, Walton Hills, OH
Branch 24K



3rd place
Kelly Shedlock, Cleveland, OH
Branch 855K

Hunting Contest Winners March Jednota

First Place:
 Kevin Dubber
 8 points deer
 Long Bow
 Medina, Ohio
 Region 6
 District 10
 Branch: 1
 Kevin's name will also be placed on
 The FCSU Traveling Cup.

Second Place:
 Jeremy Matinko
 7 point buck
 Rifle
 Washington County, PA.
 Region 4
 District 12
 Branch 670k

Third Place:
 Charles Boone
 4 points
 Camera
 Backyard in Pittsburgh, PA.
 Region 4
 District 12
 Branch 853K



The FCSU cup traveled to Region 1: Fun with the MacMaths

The MacMath family (Branch 290) pictured here in their winning 2020 Tree Decorating Photo were excited to host the Jednota Traveling Cup! Region 1 snatched the Jednota Cup in two wins for 2019 and 2020 Christmas related contests!



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The next branch meeting of the Saint Joseph Society will be held on March 27, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Those interested in attending, please contact Rochelle Popovich at 216-789-6390 by March 12, 2022. Social distancing will be observed so we need to know in advance if you will be attending. All members are welcome to attend. Wishing everyone a very happy New Year filled with health and happiness.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 2 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday March 15, 2022, at the Eat n' park on Route 65 in Bellevue at 7PM. The agenda includes a discussion of upcoming events and election of delegates for the upcoming convention. Please RSVP to Joanne at 412-715-5577.

Jo Ann Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 5P - EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting on Saturday, April 2, 2022, at 12:30 pm at Angelo's Restaurant and Pizza, Midway Shopping Center, 1000 Wyoming Avenue, Wyoming, PA. Pizza luncheon will be provided.

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities. The agenda will also include a discussion and election of delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Convention will be held Saturday, July 30 - Monday, August 2, 2022, in Ohio.

Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Members who want to attend the branch meeting should contact Marion Rubino, President, by March 26, 2022, at 570-693-0399.

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 - HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society Branch 7 will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at 9:00 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Parish Hall, 52 Parish St. Ramey, PA 16671. All members are invited to attend the meeting.

Joseph C. Cervenak, President

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19 will offer a mass in celebration of the feast day of our patron saint St. Joseph for the living members of our branch on March 13, 2022, at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT.

The first meeting of the year will be held via Zoom on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 10:00AM. Officers' reports will be given and plans for activities during the year will be discussed. Also at this meeting, we will be choosing delegates for the August 2022 Jednota Convention. We cordially invite interested members to contact me at csteacher3@gmail.com to obtain a link for the meeting. We look forward to reconnecting with our members.

Deborah M. Nelson, Secretary

BRANCH 23 - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 23 will hold their 1st annual branch meeting on Sunday, April 3, 2022. The meeting place will be at Denny's Family Restaurant on Theatre Drive in Richland. The meeting will begin at 1:30PM. Please try to attend, as a Branch member you are welcome. It's always a pleasure to meet with fellow members of our

Branch and share time. We come from good stock and it makes for a good time.

Voting for Delegates to attend the FCSU 52nd. Convention will take place at this meeting. The Convention will be held on Saturday, July 30-Monday, Aug 2, 2022 in Ohio. Other upcoming events will be talked about too. Please join us. If you have any questions, please call Theresa 814 254 2532

Theresa Cassat, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, is providing special Branch 24 members-only pricing for the Saturday evening (7PM), April 2, 2022, Monsters hockey game at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH. A non-branch member ticket is \$24. A Branch 24 member ticket is \$5. Reservations are required and available by calling Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at 440-668-7797. Please make checks payable to Branch 24 FCSU. The deadline is March 1, 2022. Order now, and join other FCSU members and guests - from Branch 24 and other branches in our District 10 - for a family-friendly evening of fun and fraternalism.

Robert Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Attention all Branch 24 members: the branch is starting a New Member Referral Program. Branch 24 is offering \$25 for each new member you refer who purchases an insurance policy or annuity through a licensed agent or the Home Office.

A new member is someone who does not already own an FCSU product. To learn how to participate in this program, please call Branch 24 Fraternal Activities Director Tom Ivanec at (440) 668-7797.

Tom Ivanec, Fraternal Activities Director

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45KSJ, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at 1:00PM after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City. The agenda will include election of delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South in Independence, OH. We kindly ask all members to attend the meeting.

Maria Jursi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00PM. On the agenda will be Officers' reports, upcoming events, and election of delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

As an incentive to grow Branch 89, members who refer new branch members or add a new contract of their own are now eligible to receive a Branch award. Specifically, Branch 89 members who successfully refer new members can receive an award of up to \$100. Members that add a new contract of their own can receive an award of up to \$50. To be eligible for an award, new policies must be issued during the calendar year in which Branch 89 otherwise qualifies for an FCSU stipend under bylaw section 4.05. Award amounts will depend on the amount of the FCSU stipend for the year and the number of members qual-

ifying for an award. Awards cannot be combined or multiplied and members are limited to one award per calendar year.

Contact Financial Secretary Nancy Carol Novak at 262-305-4041 or email novakncp@charter.net for more information or to request an award application.

Paul Novak, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 132 - WHIPPANY, BOONTON, NJ

Branch 132 had its first meeting on February 20 before our ski trip to the Poconos--We have decided on our schedule of event and our meetings for the 2022 year. All members please note the district meeting in Linden is on March 20, 2022. The remaining meetings are as follows: May 15, August 21, October 23, and December 29. After all of the meetings we will have an activity. Our May meeting will follow with a trip to a local college.

Please continue to read the Jednota for all the exciting things that are happening in contests and the updates on annuities and insurance. Contact Sue if you are planning on attending the District meeting. Looking forward to our next meeting.

Submitted by Josie Copp Salko, Secretary

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will host its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, March 26 at 11:30AM. The meeting will be at Cucina Biagio 7319 West Lawrence Avenue, Harwood Heights, IL. At this meeting, we will elect 4 delegates and alternate delegates to the National Convention. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko at (708) 995 7378 before March 16 to reserve a place at the meeting.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 166 - BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

Greetings Members of the St. Joseph the Guardian Branch 166K! A meeting will be held Sunday, April 24, 2022, from 2PM-4PM for the election of Delegates to the FCSU Quadrennial Convention being held in Independence, OH, July 30-August 2, 2022. More information about the location of the meeting along with details will be announced in the March Jednota.

If you have any Questions contact Morgan Dendler, Branch 166 President, by phone (607) 206-7243 or by email at catholicfcsu@gmail.com.

Judie Dendler, Secretary

BRANCH 166K - WINDSOR, NY

Members well it's almost spring! A meeting is scheduled for Sunday April 24, 2022 from 2-4 pm for the election of Delegates to the FCSU Quadrennial Conference held in Independence, Ohio on July 30-August 2, 2022. The location of the meeting will be in the April issue of Jednota. Any questions can be directed to Morgan Dendler at 607-206-7243. Have a great month!

Submitted by Judie Dendler, Secretary

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PA -

Branch 200 will be electing our Delegates to Convention at our Thursday, April 7th Board meeting.

WANTED: Bowling towels needed for: 1984 to 1992 and 2003. Branch 200 is making a wall hanger or quilt for the years we know members bowled in the JEDNOTA Tournaments. There are probably more years prior to 1984 our members bowled but unsure of the years.

Anyone one interested should contact Vicki Schaub, Branch 200's Financial Sec./Treas. @724-763-9229 or e-mail vschaub123@gmail.com.

Submitted by Vicki Schaub

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 will hold the following board meetings in 2022: Thursday, April 7th, May 5th, August 4th, September 1st, October 6th, Nominations of Officers November 3rd, and Election of Officers December 1st. We welcome all members to attend. All meetings will be held starting at 7:00PM at 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, in the bowling alley or upstairs in the Social Hall.

Due to COVID, there may be last minute changes to meetings or cancellations. We realize many of our members do not use the internet. But please remember to look at the Branch 200 announcements on our page of the FCSU website. If we need to reschedule or cancel a meeting because of unforeseen circumstances, we will not always be able to advertise ahead of time due to JEDNOTA deadlines. For any questions, contact Vicki Schaub @ 724-763-9229 or vschaub123@gmail.com.

Please note we have decided to close the bowling alley. Please thank Manager Cathy Eddy for the 28 years of dedication for running the lanes.

Fraternally,

Vicki Schaub, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 228 - LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 7 PM IN THE VIRTUAL FORMAT using the FreeConferenceCall.com Audio Conferencing service method as used for our 2021 meetings. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and will be held VIRTUALLY until further notice. Contact Lisa at 440-773-1442 for specific instructions to attend virtually.

The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 19, 2022. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

This past December's election results for Br. 228 officers were as follows: President - Luis Palos, Vice-President - Ryan Trifiletti, Financial Secretary - Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor - Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary - Thomas Zuffa. Their terms expire December 31, 2022.

For representatives to the American Slovak Club Board of Directors, Ken Arendt and Theresa Arendt were each elected to a 3-year term expiring December 31, 2024.

Please continue to pray to our Lord God for a cure to all the problems of our world. And, remember to give thanks to God for all His blessings.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The meeting scheduled for March is cancelled. The next meeting will be held Sunday, May 15 at 1 PM at Eat & Park Restaurant on Route 30, North Versailles PA, near Walmart and the Great Valley Shopping Center. We will hear reports from the treasurer and financial

continued on page 20

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2- REVEREND JOHN J SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

District 2 will hold an in person meeting on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at 2PM. Meeting will be held at the Missionary Sisters of St Benedict, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL. The District Delegate and the alternate Delegate to the 2022 National Convention will be elected. The District Raffle will be resumed at this meeting. Please bring a RAFFLE PRIZE. Reservations are required to order the proper amount of food. Please call Dorothy at (708) 995 7378 no later than March 25. All safety procedures will be enforced including wearing a mask.

John Jurcenko, President

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2022 in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ, 07036). The District Luncheon will be served at 2:15 PM. Okres meeting will follow. Convention delegate (and alternate) for the July 2022 Convention will be elected at this meeting. Kindly RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by March 9th if you plan on attending. Please bring non-perishable items for donation to a local food pantry.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District will meet on Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 1PM at the Holy Trinity Church Hall of St Thomas the Apostle Parish. The meeting will be hosted by Branch 35. Please be in touch if your branch would like to host Father's Day or the Fall Business Meeting. The 52nd Convention is planned for July 30 to August 2 at the Holiday Inn in Independence, Ohio. District president David Matta was elected district delegate. The district urges all branches to be sure to follow all bylaws as you elect convention delegates.

Other announcements:

* WPSCA: Contact Joe Senko to see when meetings might resume.

* Slovak classes: Contact Joe Senko for additional information.

As always members are urged to check the Jednota for updates on FCSU business matters as well as contests and tournaments. Insurance information and forms can be found at the FCSU website.

Fraternally,
Margaret Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 7 – THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT

District 7 will hold our 1st Annual Meeting on April 24, 2022. Branch 23 will be the host. This District meeting will be at The Bistro on Nees Avenue at the Clover Leaf in Geistown (Near OSheas Candy). The meeting is set to begin at 2PM. We would like to have our Branches come to let us know how you all are doing. Come and see what's happening in our District. We will need to discuss the upcoming Convention. The Convention will be held on Saturday, July 30 - Monday, August 2, 2022 in Ohio. All Branch members in our District are welcome to attend this meeting. We are still taking precautions concerning the Viruses. If you have any questions please call Theresa Cassat @ 814 254 2532.

Theresa Cassat, Vice President

DISTRICT 8 – REVEREND STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District 8 is holding its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, March 26th, 2022 in Washington D.C. Mass will be at 12:10 PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception/Crypt Church located at 400 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20017. Due to ongoing COVID issues the cafeteria is closed and lunch will be 'bring-your-own brown bag' in a nearby meeting room immediately following Mass. Please email Jo Austin for information: jeaustin89@gmail.com or call her at 315.391.0526.

Joanne Engle Austin, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 12 - MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT

Mon Valley, PA

The semi-annual meeting of the Monsignor Andrew Hlinka District of the Mon Valley will be held on March 27, 2022, at 1PM at the Hoss' Restaurant in Belle Vernon, PA. Reservations are required. Meal costs will be the responsibility of the individual branch. Please contact the District Secretary at 412-341-1577 or email the secretary at Hlinka-DistrictSecretary@gmail.com to make your reservation. Leave a message with name, phone number, and the names of the people attending.

Agenda for the meeting will be activities for 2022 and the 52nd Quadrennial Convention held July 30 through August 2.

The District organized a fundraiser and will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. Please bring your donations.

All branches are urged to send their representatives.

Also, save this date! The annual district picnic will be held on May 22, 2022. Details will be in upcoming issues of Jednota.

Submitted by Monica Rodacy Boone, District Secretary
HlinkaDistrictSecretary@gmail.com

DISTRICT 14 YOUNGSTOWN OHIO - THE REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Following are the currently Scheduled District Meetings for Calendar Year 2022:

1. Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace
2. Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Semi-Annual Meeting); Fireplace
3. Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace. (Convention Related Update)
4. Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.; Fireplace
5. Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Annual Meeting for Election and Installation of Officers for 2022); Fireplace
6. Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Short Meeting and Christmas Dinner); Location TBD

Appropriate social distancing and masking protocols will be followed as long as the Covid-19 issue remains. Dates and locations may change for the same reason. An Additional meeting might be scheduled if needed for convention or fraternal activities.

Meetings will be held at The Fireplace 2075 E. Western Reserve Rd. Poland, OH 44514; unless otherwise specified, indicated, or announced. Alternate location will be The Falcon Grille; 39 N. Canfield-Niles Rd., Austintown, OH 44515.

Sincerely,

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr., President
Home: (330) 549.3788
Cell: (330) 559.5981

DISTRICT 16 – THE MSGR KRASULA DISTRICT

The semi-annual meeting of District 16, the Msgr Krasula District, will be held on Sunday March 27, 2022, in the church rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, NYC, immediately following the 10:15 AM Slovak Mass. Agenda will include financial matters, future activities and election of future delegates to Convention. All members are urged to attend. Some light refreshment may be served after the meeting.

Joan Skrkon, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – SS CYRIL & METHODIUS DISTRICT: NY, PA

District 17 Schedules Spring Meeting

Saints Cyril & Methodius District 17 of Lackawanna and Luzerne counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County in New York will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Branch delegates will gather in the Shrine Room of St. Ann Basilica, 1233 St. Ann Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

District Auditors will meet at 12:00 Noon to check the books. The business meeting will convene at 12:30 P.M. This is an important meeting as Branch representatives will elect the District Delegate to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU. The convention is scheduled for July 30 to August 2, 2022, in Independence, Ohio.

Refreshments and socializing will follow. All branches are urged to send representatives to this meeting. Branches are encouraged to contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 to confirm attendance by Wednesday, April 20, 2022, so that adequate preparations can be made. - Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. President

Submitted by Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, District 17 Fraternal Activities Officer

DISTRICT 19 – THE MSGR MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

The District will hold a meeting of Convention Delegates and Selection of Alternates to Convention on Sunday March 27, 2022, at 1:30PM. An email will be sent out with details to the Canadian members for the location. Dependent on current Covid 19 Restrictions this meeting will be either at Sts Cyril Church hall in Mississauga or via ZOOM.

Anne Mitro, Secretary

Fill out your Forms Online! Save your Time!



Now you can fill out the
FCSU forms online at
<https://www.fcsu.com/forms>

Fill them out, print, sign and
mail them to the Home Office.

Take advantage of our Faster,
More Readable and
Time Saving Feature.

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.

Odpočinutie večné daj im, Pane, a svetlo večné, nech im sviati. Duše všetkých verných zomrelých, pre milosrdenstvo Božie, nech odpočívajú v pokoji. Amen
Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
002K	Louis P Blazo	089K	Carol A Budiac	382K	Albert Hajos	746K	Susan Vrabely
002K	Mildred M Fodor	157K	Edward T Zdravecki	382K	Andrew Marinak	746K	Carl F Widmer
002K	Michael Charles Lako	162K	Helen Markus	382K	Carol D Monkelbaan	756K	Teresa Marie Marutiak
002K	Olga Manfredo	162K	Barbara Ann Smith	382K	Alice Szymanski	764K	Bradley A McCormick
003P	Michael B Gulas	166K	Theresa M Tokos	401K	Anne M Luczak	764K	Mary A Schultz
005P	Joseph John Gresko Jr	173K	Mary Peplinski	401K	Michael Sopko Jr	796K	Rosemary Oswald
005P	Mckenna Christine Kable	181K	Martha J Baker	419K	Elmer Petlock	796K	Francis Plucinsky
005P	Joann Valenti	181K	Ruben S Silva	450K	Frank Anderko	831K	Catherine H Kjanica
019K	Dorothy M Monoski	199K	Brian Baumiller	450K	Richard J Kubicina	855K	Marc Johanek
019K	Mary Veronica Murach	199K	Joseph R Perhac	456K	John A Pollock Jr	855K	Elizabeth J Novak
019K	Raymond L Zeglen	200K	Lucinda Bowser	553K	George D Charney	856K	Michael J Bubel
024K	Robert L Doan	200K	Zigmund F Charney	553K	Georgian S Trucker	856K	Clare Barbara Johnson
024K	Maryann Rodgers	228K	Thomas Stepanovsky Jr	587K	Vincent C Cipolla	900K	Cyril J Klister
038K	Edward J Bileck	254K	Richard Zaharko	628K	George F Matus	900K	Francis A Majoris
038K	John A Chorba	293K	Margaret Koshuta	682K	Audrey R Scavina	900K	Norma Viana
038K	Dolores B Loop	294K	Francis G Zapotocky Sr	716K	John S Horvath	900K	Patricia E Ibrics
038K	John W Novak Jr	313K	Kullin Joseph Bugel	731K	Dorothy T Shirilla	921K	Joseph J Pcola
040K	Norris D Snow	313K	Andrew P Rusinak	731K	John L Zumrick MD	923K	Patricia Lematte
040K	Carol B Zimmerman	320K	John Nicholas Kurty	746K	Joseph Magotch	924K	
055K	Jean J Reifsnnyder	320K	Dorothy Warabow	746K	Mary Susan Sterling		

* Processed in the month of Feb 2022

OBITUARIES

MARILYN SANDY BRANCH 322K DUBOIS, PA



Marilyn "Dianne" Sandy, age 80 of DuBois, PA, died Sunday, November 28, 2021, at her daughter's home in DuBois, PA. Born on August 19, 1941, in DuBois, she was the daughter of the late John and Helen (Duda) Polifko.

On April 28, 1962, she married "the love of her life," Cluey W. Sandy, and together they celebrated 59 wonderful years of marriage. He survives.

Dianne took great pride in home-cooked meals and being at home for her daughters after school. She loved her many flower gardens that she nurtured into rainbow displays of color. She also loved many of God's creatures, her dogs, rabbits, and the birds, especially the cardinals that would come to her feeders.

Dianne will be remembered as being a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. Over the years she enjoyed going to listen to her husband's live band play at local events. She and her husband loved dancing both at home and at family celebrations. She will be remembered for her fashion sense, her laugh, as well as the love and humor she shared with her family and friends.

Dianne was a long-time member of St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church. She kept a list of people whom she often prayed the rosary for. She loved her God and her faith. She looked forward to attending masses; it was not an obligation but a spiritual blessing decorated with wonderful musical selections.

She is survived by her daughters, Christine Sandy of Maple Shade, NJ, Marla Pitrone and husband Gregory of Glen Allen, VA, and Laura Gordon and Husband Kevin Bogusch of DuBois, PA; her grandchildren,

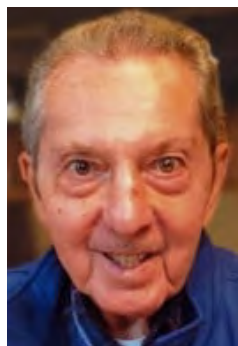
Kyle Gordon and wife Kayla of Reynoldsville, PA, Chloe Gordon of DuBois, PA, Lauren Pitrone of Glen Allen, VA, and Angelo Gervasoni of DuBois, PA; her great-grandchildren, JB Gordon, Tauriel Gordon, and Sadey Henderson-Gordon, one brother John T. Polifko and his wife Janice of Falls Creek, PA, as well as her beloved pet Boston Terrier, Marley.

There will be no public visitation. A private Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated from St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church with Msgr. Richard Siefer as celebrant. A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to Gateway Humane Society, PO Box 678, Falls Creek, PA, 15840 and/or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, PO Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101-9929 and/or St. Catherine of Siena Parish, c/o Memorial Fund, 118 S. State Street, DuBois, PA, 15801. The Baronick Funeral Home & Crematorium, Inc. is in charge of arrangements.

Submitted by, Cluey Sandy

GERALD JOSEPH MAGER, SR. BRANCH 743K STERLING HEIGHTS, MI



Gerald Joseph Mager Sr. was born on August 2, 1931. At age 89, he peacefully passed away with God's grace on March 23, 2021. He was a beloved husband to his wife Marion Mager for 67 years. He was the loving father of Gerald Jr. and (Josie) Mager, Brenda Mager and (Sally King), Kathy McKay, Mary and (Kurt) Karrer, Carol and (Tom) Orton; a proud grandfather to Jennie and (Chris) Bryant, Heather McKay and (Jeff Sherry), Jessica Mager and (Ryan Kelly), Brannon McKay, Tom and (Ashley) Newman, and Mitchell McKay and a great grandchild, Giada Bryant. He served in the United States Armed Forces in the Air-

force Division during the Korean War along with serving as a Detroit Police Reserve.

He and his brother, Ron, ran their father's grocery store AG Food Market/Magers Quality Meats & Groceries in Detroit until they sold it in 1974. From there, he worked at DiMaggio's grocery store as a meat processor. He then went on to get his Journeyman's card to become a Master Electrician. He worked for TACOM in Warren, MI, until he retired. Even after retirement, he continued to do side electrical side jobs. He was full of life and could light up a room with his charisma, magnetic personality, and strength of character.

Jerry was a resident of Warren, MI for over 52 years. He enjoyed visiting the Upper Michigan Peninsula with his wife and 5 children at the cabin that Joe, his brother-in-law, built with his brothers' Steve and Mike. He loved his family and would do anything for them. He was a great provider for his family and worked very hard. As far back as we can remember, he loved taking whoever wanted to go out for a burger, pizza or corned beef every Saturday. He wanted to keep the family close.

He was preceded in death by his father Thomas Andrew Mager I, mother Elisabeth Mager-Luther, siblings Marie and (Joe) Kosuth, Betty and (Gene) Kosmal, Gin and (Chuck) Nemeckay and Ron Mager.

Submitted by, Mary Karrer,
Branch 743K

ROSALIA C. OSENKOWSKI BRANCH 181K UNITED, PA

Rosalia C. Osenkowski, 89, of Latrobe, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at Excelsa Health Latrobe Hospital. Born August 30, 1932 in Snyder town, she was a daughter of the late John M. Vadas Sr. and Anna D. (Novak) Vadas. Rosalia was a member of St. John the Evangelist Church, Latrobe.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Francis D. "Sonny"

Osenkowski; a son, Michael Osenkowski; a brother, John M. Vadas Jr.; and one sister, Helen Winebrenner.

Rosalia is survived by two sons, James P. Osenkowski, and his wife Michelle, of New Haven, IN, and Kenneth Osenkowski of Greensburg; three daughters, Elizabeth A. South, and her husband Raymond, of Latrobe, Dona Marie Redman, and her husband Steve, of Fort Mill, SC, and Mary Stauffer, and her husband Roger, of Unity Township; one brother, James Vadas, and his wife Ann, of Latrobe; two sisters, Rita D'Angelo of Latrobe and Mary Ann Whalin, and her husband Michael, of Latrobe; seven grandchildren, Suzy, Joshua, Jarret, Jamie, David, Desiree, and Stevie; and three great-grandchildren, Romolla, Sage, and Peyton.

There will be no public visitations. Services and interment are private. Arrangements are being handled by the Lopatic-Brinker Funeral Home,

Submitted by, Elizabeth South

CARL F. WIDMER BRANCH 746K - LINDEN, NJ



Devoted Husband,
Loving Father, Adoring Grandfather

Carl "Poppy" Widmer, 79, of Fleetville, PA passed away in the early afternoon hours on December 14th, 2021, surrounded by loved ones.

He was born to George Sr. and Marie Fritze in Newark, New Jersey on June 6th, 1942. The youngest of five, he is preceded in death by his brothers George Jr. and Richard, and survived by his sisters Betty Moser of Iselin, New Jersey and Anna Clarke of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Carl was a sheet metal mechanic in the industry for 45 years and was an expert in his craft, retiring in 2004.

He married the love of his life, Constance

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

Kolesar, on May 8th, 1965. They celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 2015 and were married for 56 years. The pair lived in Colonia, NJ for 43 years with their loyal German Shepard Snowy and three children; Chuck of Brick, NJ, Christine Petrilak and her husband John of Fleetville, PA, and Claudine Huie and her husband Steven of Queens, New York.

Carl was always known to crack a joke. He was a movie and tv connoisseur, had incredible luck in the casino, was skilled at billiards, played bingo whenever he could, and enjoyed going on cruise vacations. Most of all, he enjoyed spending quality time with his family.

He was beloved by four grandchildren, Danielle, Kyle, Angelina, and Zachary and was adored by his grand-puppies Shadow and Chicken.

A viewing was held Sunday, December 19th, 2021 at Litwin's Funeral Home in Factoryville, and Fr. Arbogaste Satoun gave the blessing.

Carl will be dearly missed, but never forgotten. We love you, Poppy.

Submitted by his wife,
Constance Widmer, Branch 746K

**ROSEMARIE (PIROH) ABRIC
BRANCH 19,
BRIDGEPORT, CT**

Rosemarie (Piroh) Abric, 73, of Newtown, entered into eternal rest on January 15th, 2022, with her son by her side after a valiant fight with cancer. A mass of Christian burial was held at St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown on Saturday, January 22nd, 2022.

Rosemarie was born on December 19th, 1948, in Bridgeport, CT. She was the daughter of Joseph Piroh and Martha (Svihra) Piroh and had four sisters, Barbara, Patricia, Carol, and Susan. Rosemarie worked as an Assistant Secretary to the Warden at Garner Correctional Facility in Newtown where she met many lifelong friends. Rosemarie was always known to have a smile on her face and would eventually retire from Garner after many years of service. She was a lifelong First Catholic Slovak Union member and a devout member of St. Rose of Lima Church in Newtown. She enjoyed planting and gardening throughout her lifetime and was an avid animal lover, as was evident with all the dogs and cats she took into her home throughout the years. She also loved to spend time with her family and



friends and could always be heard laughing at a good joke.

Rosemarie was predeceased by her husband, Robert Abric and her youngest son, Michael, as well as her sisters, Barbara Piroh and Susan Mino. She is survived by her son, Robert Abric of Colorado, her two sisters, Patricia Piroh of Milford, CT and Carol Sequin of Seymour, CT, and many beloved nieces and nephews. Rosemarie touched the hearts of many people throughout her life. This was resoundingly obvious by the support and care of numerous family members and friends who assisted in her care during her final months. Rosemarie's son and the rest of her family are beyond grateful and touched by this outpouring of support. She will be deeply missed!

Submitted by Patty Mercure

**ALBERT A. KORDIAK
BRANCH 003 –
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**

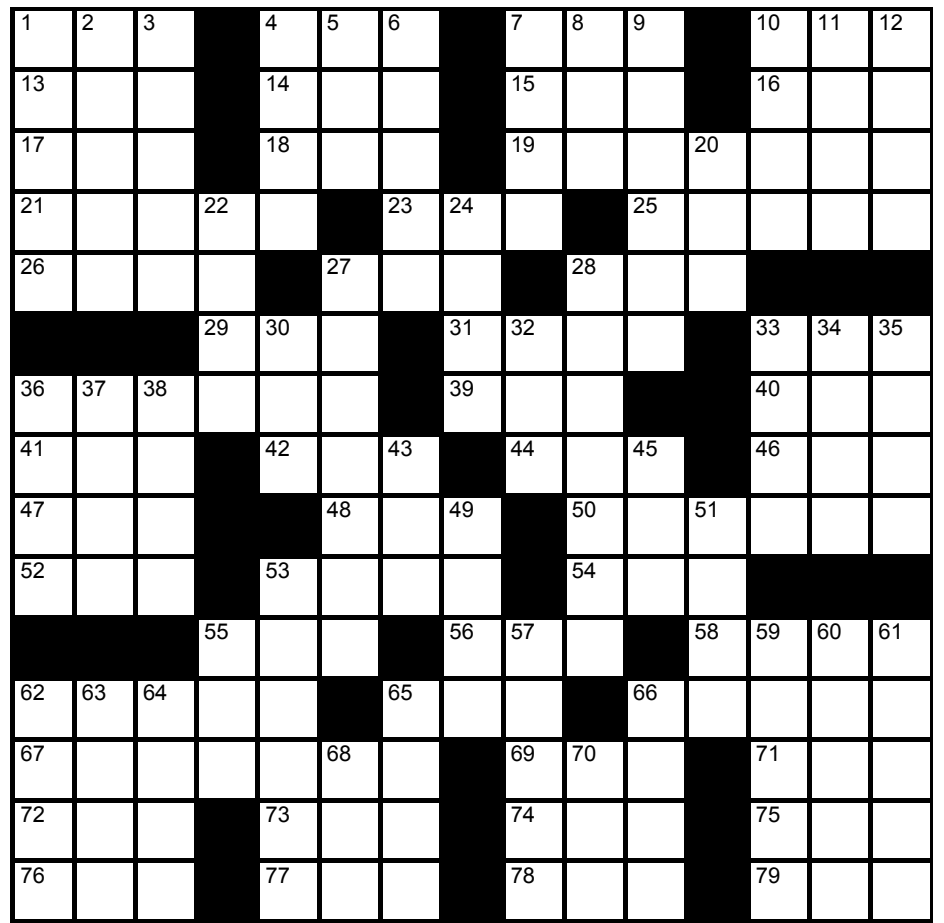
Kordiak, Albert A. age 93, passed away peacefully on February 5th among family in Vero Beach, Florida. A lifetime resident of Columbia Heights. He was survived by his wife Mildred, son James (Marilyn), Steven (Janet), Daniel and two daughters Bonita Jones (Jimmy) and Deborah Meschke. Albert also has 2 sisters, Sister Donna and Sister Bonita, 11 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, a fabulous large family and many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents George and Anna and his brothers George, Andrew, Thomas and Donald. Albert was an early leader of Anoka County government and recognized as "father" of Anoka County Park system. He was on the Anoka County board of commissioners for 32 years and chairman of the board for 16 of those years. He was solely responsible for obtaining the first county park in the state of Minnesota in Anoka County and later adding 10 park Systems to Anoka County. Albert was on the Board of Directors of the Northeast Bank in Minneapolis. Albert was well recognized in his community for his involvement in many organizations and efforts. Albert was local realtor, income tax preparer and Anoka County Commissioner.

A funeral Mass was held for him at Immaculate Conception Church, Columbia Heights Minnesota, and he was laid to rest at Saint Anthony Cemetery in Minneapolis. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate a contribution in Albert's name to Anoka County Parks Department.

Submitted by James Genosky



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Blotter letters | 66 After door or grand | 37 Incursion |
| 4 Victoria's Secret item | 67 Cocktail type | 38 Biblical preposition |
| 7 Masterpiece | 69 C.E.O.'s degree | 43 Small dog |
| 10 Celestial altar | 71 Tofu base | 45 Gallivant |
| 13 Dejected | 72 A Beatle bride | 49 Sign of boredom |
| 14 Summer mo. | 73 Hotel freebie | 51 Approach |
| 15 Ended a fast | 74 Lithium-___ battery | 53 Vinegary |
| 16 "China Beach" setting | 75 Helm heading | 55 Flurry |
| 17 Hydromassage facility | 76 Force unit | 57 Come out of denial |
| 18 Pastoral place | 77 "Wheels" | 59 Cheapskate |
| 19 Toddler, in Italy | 78 Children's game | 60 Thunderstorm product |
| 21 Big name in computers | 79 Lobsterlike | 61 Excited, with "up" |

Down

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 State in NE India | 2 Certain sorority woman | 3 Show flexibility | 4 Cotton bundle | 5 Parisian way | 6 Visibly shocked | 8 Greek vowel | 9 Autobiography | 10 French cordial flavoring | 11 Indian royal | 12 Book after Joel | 20 Breathalyzer attachment | 22 Like Jack Sprat's diet | 24 Pretentious | 27 Malleable | 28 Building custodian | 30 Pilar cyst | 32 Round Table address | 33 Mrs. Lincoln's maiden name | 34 River to Donegal Bay | 35 Pull an all-nighter | 36 Highlands hillside |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|

See Solution on Page 23

Pilgrimage Sponsored by the Church of the Assumption

As part of St. Andrew Abbey's Celebration of its Centennial, the Church of the Assumption in Broadview Heights is sponsoring a pilgrimage to Italy, 'In the Footsteps of Our Founder and Patron.' Pilgrimage Chaplains/Hosts are: Rev. Justin Dyrwal, OSB, Pastor of Church of the Assumption; and Rev. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, Teacher of History and Theology, Benedictine High School. From July 2nd-July 11th, 2022, the pilgrimage will travel throughout Italy, visiting the various sites where St. Benedict lived and established the Order, as well as Rome and Vatican City. From July 11th-July 15th, an optional extension to Slovakia and Austria will explore the cities of Nitra and Trenčín where St. Andrew Svorad and his disciples, and Benedict Skalka lived their monastic lives. To learn more and to register, please contact the Church of the Assumption at (440) 526-1177: www.coabvm.org. e-mail: info@myfaithjourneys.com

No applications will be accepted after April 11, 2022.

9th ANNUAL NATIONAL JOINT SLOVAK BOWLING TOURNAMENT
A JOINT TOURNAMENT OF FCSU, GCU, NSS & SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
 "USBC MORAL SUPPORT CERTIFIED"
 AMF Brookgate Lanes ◀ Brook Park, OH
 Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14, 2022

No applications will be accepted after April 11, 2022.

Please note: Bowling Fees must accompany this application for the bowlers to be registered in the tournament.

BOWLER INFORMATION (LIST CAPTAIN FIRST)	FCSU TOURNAMENT INFORMATION
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2020-21 _____ USBC No. _____ Branch/District _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2020-21 _____ USBC No. _____ Branch/District _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events
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Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____ Last 4 Digits SS# _____ E-mail: _____	Highest Avg. 2020-21 _____ USBC No. _____ Branch/District _____ Team: _____ Please Check Tournament Events Bowler at Left Is Submitting Payment for on this Application: <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Singles <input type="checkbox"/> Doubles <input type="checkbox"/> All Events

Please check one: Men's Application Women's Application

DOUBLE & SINGLES EVENT—SATURDAY, MAY 14
 9 AM 12:30 PM We could bowl Sunday if necessary.

TEAM EVENT—FRIDAY, MAY 13
 5:30 PM 8 PM

Team Name: _____
 (Please place team bowlers in the order they will be bowling.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name of your Local USBC: _____

Association Secretary: _____

Address: _____

Make all Checks or Money Orders payable to: First Catholic Slovak Union

Mail to: Kevin Collins, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL 32712.

Important: Every Individual and Captain on this entry agrees to relinquish his rights to prize money if it should be found that any information herein is false.

1. _____
2. _____
1. _____
2. _____

Financial Totals for this Application	
Singles Event..... @ \$22 ea. =	\$ _____
Doubles Event..... @ \$22 ea. =	\$ _____
Team Event..... @ \$22 ea. =	\$ _____
All Events..... @ \$5 ea. =	\$ _____
Banquet Fee (Bowler)..... @ \$0 ea. =	\$ _____
Banquet Fee (Guests)..... @ \$55 ea. =	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Important to All Tournament Entrants Read Carefully Information Given Below

Rules and Regulations of Annual
 FCSU/GCU/NSS/SCS Bowling Tournament

1. The Tournament shall be conducted in compliance with the rules and regulations of the United States Bowling Congress (USBC).

2. This event is being sponsored by the Slovak in First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol, NSS and GCU. The goal of the tournament is to promote fraternalism and good sportsmanship and to generate nationwide interest in the Slovak fraternal organizations. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Slovak Catholic Sokol, NSS and GCU wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to attend the tournament.

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

4. CONSENT RULES: Any grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by USBC and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13.

5. The total cost per person for each event shall be:
 a. Prize Fee\$10.00
 b. Bowling Fee\$7.50
 c. Hospitality Fee\$4.50
 TOTAL COST (per event)\$22.00
 Banquet Fee (Optional)\$0
 *All Events (Optional)\$5.00
 *Only bowlers paying the \$5.00 for the All-Events will be eligible for the cash awards.
PRIZE FEE WILL BE RETURNED 100 PERCENT IN EACH EVENT

At least 1 of 10 of participants in each event will win prizes.
 Note: Contestant may win only one cash prize event (gross or net), whichever cash prize is higher. Excluding special prizes. Awards will be presented to the Contestants who roll the highest gross and highest actual net scores in each event.

6. SUBSTITUTES. Bowlers may compete only once in each event. However, the tournament manager may allow a bowler who has previously bowled to substitute on a four bowler team when one of its original entrants is absent. The score of such bowler in the team event rolled with his entering team must count for all events. No one may bowl in this tournament except those originally entered before the tournament opens or such substitutes who may be authorized by the captain of a team or his appointee provided the individual whose name appears on the entry blank is unable for sufficient reason to attend the tournament at the time scheduled. The National Fraternal Director shall have power as to the substitutes that are offered by the captain or his legalized representative, and if accepted, each substitute must bowl each event under his full name and only at scheduled time in each event. The substitutes score and handicap from the said event will be used.

7. Any contestant whose current average as of March 15, 2022 of at least 21 games is ten pins or more above his highest average from the previous season must use his current average.
 HANDICAP - Handicap (Men) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 240 and last season's 2020-2021 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2022. Male bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 175 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Male bowlers with an average over 240 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

Handicap (Women) allowed will be 85% of the difference between 200 and last season's 2020-2021 highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games. Bowlers who have no established average will use their highest sanctioned league average of at least 21 games as of March 15, 2022. Female bowlers who have no established average for this year or last year will be listed as 150 average and will be handicapped accordingly. If the bowler does not have a sanctioned average over the last two years, but has competed in the Joint Fraternal Tournament, the most recent 5 year history from the Joint Fraternal Tournaments will be used. Female bowlers with an average over 200 will receive no handicap and will bowl scratch in the tournament.

Under no circumstances will handicaps be increased after participant has bowled.
 Contestants in this tournament are not required to report any tournament prize winnings for the previous 12-month period.

8. FALSIFYING AVERAGES - PENALTY - The team captain is responsible for reporting all averages of the individual team members, and they are responsible to him. Should the Tournament Committee find at any time that the averages have been falsified, the team shall forfeit all claims for prize money as well as their entry fee and will be subject to disqualification and suspension from organized bowling.
 All prize winners are subject upon request to submit an affidavit of correct league averages.

9. Rerating of Bowlers - According to USBC Rule No. 319 A-E, bowlers may be rerated by the Tournament Committee.

10. All entry applications and bowling fees are to be sent directly to: Kevin Collins, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL 32712; not later than April 11, 2022. Rule 310-A2 is in effect.

11. Bowlers who participate in tournament games must be dressed in a presentable manner to appear before public and when possible to use an emblem attached to shirt or dress so that participant can be identified.

12. Both USBC and eligible non-USBC members may participate in moral support tournaments with high score protection automatically extended to USBC members. Eligible non-USBC members can qualify for high score protection at their option by paying a \$21.00 fee for which the Congress will issue an unattached membership card.

13. NO MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED. All prize fee money will be paid in prizes.

14. In the Doubles contest the names of both members of the team must be given, because entries with the word "Partner" will not be accepted. Entry blanks so compiled will be returned and the entry money retained until proper blank is received. If both entrants in the Doubles event appear when scheduled, it is understood that they must bowl as they have been entered on the original entry blank and no change in position will be allowed at any time after entry blank has been filed.

15. Assignment of Alleys - The Tournament Committee will make up the alley assignments for all entrants in the Doubles, Singles and Team Events. Entrants in the Doubles and Singles Events are required to report fully 30 minutes prior to the time they are scheduled to bowl.

Captains of teams must report their line-up at least 30 minutes before scheduled to bowl.

16. In the Doubles & Singles Events bowling entrants will bowl all six of their games on the same pair of lanes. Bowlers entered in the Singles Event only will be assigned to alleys by the Committee.

17. A team may use a name other than its league name for tournament entry without the payment of additional membership dues as formerly required.

18. Failure to use the correct average shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than correct average thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game of a series.

Entries will close at midnight April 11, 2022.

Please note: all forms must be filled in completely and sent to: Kevin Collins, 628 Heather Brite Cr., Apopka, FL 32712. Entry fees, as stated on the front of this entry blank, must accompany this entry. All incomplete forms will be returned to team captain to be completed and resubmitted.





**“THE MOST EXCITING TWO MINUTES IN SPORTS”
SATURDAY MAY 7th, 2022**

4th ANNUAL F.C.S.U. KENTUCKY DERBY HAT PHOTO CONTEST

Ladies & Gentlemen, Children of All Ages: Help us celebrate the 148th running of the Kentucky Derby by submitting a picture of yourself in your Derby Hat and attire!!!

Listed below are some suggestions, however the more creative the better chance of winning.

Ladies - examples:

- Babuška
- Pillbox
- Fascinator
- Beret
- Cocktail

Men - examples:

- Klobuk
- Fedora
- Bowler
- Cowboy
- Panama

Examples of attire: cocktail dresses for the ladies; seersucker suits for the men

ENTRIES WILL BE JUDGED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

FEMALE: 3 CATEGORIES: 40 – older; 16 – 39; 15 – younger

MALE: 3 CATEGORIES: 40 – older; 16 – 39; 15 – younger

FAMILY: 1 CATEGORY

PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY:

1st Place - \$250

2nd Place - \$150

3rd Place - \$75

WINNERS - To be Announced In Jednota

RULES:

- 1) All entries must be postmarked no later than Friday May 13th, 2022.
- 2) Contestant in Photo AND ALL Contestants in Family Photo must be:
 - **Members of FCSU**
 - **And in Good Standing to be eligible for prizes**
- 3) **ENTRIES WITHOUT a Branch Number filled in will be disqualified.**
- 4) Contestant must be holding a current Jednota 2022 Newspaper in picture.
- 5) All pictures must be 8 x 10:
 - Any other sizes will not be accepted.
 - Pictures will not be returned. However,
 - They will be on display at the next convention.
- 6) Please write on back of the photo:
 - Name
 - (All family names must be written on back of Family Photo)
 - Branch Number
 - Entry Category
- 7) Mail to:

Kevin Collins
Fraternal Activities Director
628 Heather Brite Cr.
Apopka, Fl. 3271

ENTRY FORM: _____

NAME: _____

Branch Number: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

CATEGORY:

If entering Family Category; please fill in rest of information below:

NAME: _____ Branch Number: _____

NAME: _____ Branch Number: _____

NAME: _____ Branch Number: _____

NAME: _____ Branch Number: _____

Publication Schedule for 2022	
Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
April 13	April 4
May 11	May 2
June 8	May 31 (Memorial Day, May 30)
July 13	July 5 (Independence Day, July 4)
August 10	August 3 (Convention, Aug 1 & 2)
Sept 14	Sept 6 (Labor Day, Sept 5)
October 12	October 3
November 9	October 31
December 14	December 5



Ilustračné foto Foto: TASR/AP

Traditions of Lent in Slovakia

continued from page 1

cheese and eggs.” In more recent times, meat was permitted to be eaten except on Ash Wednesday and Fridays in Lent.

The Catholic Church also prohibited all wars and acts of violence during Lent, Advent, and on Sundays and feast days the Middle Ages.

The Triumph of Life over Death

Ash Wednesday (Popolcová streda) marks the beginning of the great fast, and reminds the faithful of their own mortality. Christ’s death and triumphal resurrection at the end of Lent offers the grace for every Christian to attain eternal salvation.

Ash Wednesday, known in Latin as Dies Cinerum (Day of Ashes), evolved into a regular custom in Christian Europe as early as the 8th century. Even though attendance at Holy Mass was and is not obligatory, it has become one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar. After the Gospel readings and the sermon, the priest sprinkled the faithful with holy water and purified the congregations with incense. The receiving of ashes recognized that one is a sinner in dire need of Christ’s redemptive powers. While the body would turn to ashes, the soul would live on.

The faithful in Slovakia flocked in huge numbers to church to receive blessed ashes from the previous year’s Palm Sunday (Kvetná Nedel’a). As the priest made the sign of the cross on the forehead of the penitent at Mass, he would recite the well-known words, “Remember man, that you are dust, and unto dust you will return” (“Pamätaj človeče, že prach si a na prach sa obrátiš”).

The Lenten season ranked among the most sacred and holy times in Slovakia. In Slovak, Lent or pôst involved a time of sacrifice and self-denial, as well as good deeds helping others. In imitation of Christ’s example, Slovaks denied themselves all sweets and animal products during Lent. This included full abstention from all meats and any dairy products such as milk, cheese, eggs, etc. Typically, they refrained as well from using any animal fats in cooking. A customary Slovak meal on Ash Wednesday consisted of some type of Lenten soup and some pasta mixed with poppy seeds, known as válčeky or šúľance, dough formed into truncated cone roll. On Sundays in Lent, Slovaks typically ate a dish made with cestoviny (noodles). Other common foods eaten during pôst included potatoes, cabbage, beets, barley groats, various ground meals from grains, and sometimes rice when we get to it. For breakfast, a cornmeal mush (kukuríchnú kašu or kukurydzanku) was common in some villages.

Slovaks also abstained from eating any very large meals for the entire period of Lent. Parties, weddings, loud music, and any forms of merriment were forbidden. Any music played had to be sacred and somber, stressing one’s sinfulness and repentance.

In previous centuries, after attending Holy Mass on Ash Wednesday, the people of a village marched in a procession of penance. But that custom has since disappeared in most places. Lent was also a time of prayer, repentance (pokánie), and self-examination (introspekcia). This meant that going to Confession (spoved’) to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation was an obligation. The aim was to offer an opportunity to cleanse one’s soul and prepare for Easter with a clean slate, with sins forgiven.

Denying the body physical pleasures was supposed to liberate the flesh so that people could contemplate the real meaning of life and their relationship with God. Slovak devotions became more zealous than many European peoples, and some historians cite the Counter-Reformation spirit of the 16th and 17th centuries as embedding this very intense religious temperament among Slovaks.

The Slovak interpretation of Lent became most solemn and very somber. Until Easter arrived, a household remained in a virtual state of continual mourning for their own sins, and for the terrible price Jesus Christ had to pay for redeeming man’s sins. As a sign of this grieving, all women dressed only in black for the entire Lenten season. People generally wore darker colors such as black and purple, with very little decoration or adornment. Ash Wednesday marked a prolonged period of mourning for Christ. And of course, there were no weddings or parties permitted.

Although some of these customs have modified over the years, Lent remains an intensely spiritual time for practicing Catholics as well as Lutherans and other Christians throughout Slovakia. When one visits Slovakia, one has a sense of the sacredness that has diminished in many American parishes since Vatican II.

But there is one very real result of the intense Lenten period sacrifice – the joy of Easter is that much greater. For the faithful, Christ’s Resurrection represented and still today, signifies the triumph of good over evil, and the promise of eternal life in heavenly paradise.

Sources

Botík Ján, Slavkovský Peter. Encyklopédia ľudovej kultúry Slovenska vz. 2. Bratislava” Veda - SAV, 1995: 62-63.
 Kopanic, Michael, “Lenten Fasting Traditions in Slovakia,” Jednota, March 7, 2007.
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 “Popolcová streda,” <http://slovenske-zvyky.webnode.sk/kalendar-akcii/zima/popolcova-streda/> (Accessed Feb. 18, 2014).
 “Škaredá streda (Popolcová streda).” Varecha.sk. March 20, 2011. <http://varecha.pravda.sk/zazitky/skareda-streda-popolcova-streda/750-clanok.html> (Accessed Feb. 15, 2015).
 Saunders, Rev. William. “History of Lent,” Arlington Catholic Herald, reprinted by Catholic Resource Education Center, 2002, <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/history-of-lent.html> (Accessed Feb. 21, 2021).
 Tufnell, Blanche O. “Czecho-Slovak Folklore,” Folklore, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Mar. 31, 1924), p. 34.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14
secretary. We will also discuss district events and the upcoming convention.
Fraternally,

Margaret Nasta, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist Branch 290 will hold a meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022 starting at 6:30PM for all members. The agenda will include reports of officers, membership, and branch activities. We will also elect delegates to attend the 52nd Quadrennial Convention, July 30 - August 2, 2022.

The location is still tentative, as this may end up being a virtual meeting. If that is the case you will be able to attend by either phone or computer. Please call or text Steve Minarovich at (908) 507-0505 by March 12 to get the details.

Steve Minarovich,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 313 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The first semi-annual branch meeting of the 2022 year, will take place on Tuesday, March 29 th at 11:30AM. The meeting will be held at "Southfork Family Restaurant" at 14631 South La Grange Road in Orland Park, Illinois 60462. The agenda for this meeting will include the election of delegates to represent our branch at the 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Ohio. A complimentary fraternal luncheon will then follow the meeting. We kindly ask that those attending to please wear a face mask. Hand sanitizer will be available for use at the table. Members interested in attending this meeting, please contact Branch President Marge Dickinson at (708)226-8157 by March 17th, to reserve a place at the meeting.

Submitted by Jennifer Carlton,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 320 – ROSTRAVERTOWNSHIP, PA (FORMERLY BELLE VERNON)

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the Branch's next meeting on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at 11:00 PM. Due to Covid restrictions and for the safety of our members, Frances may be reached at (724) 929-9788 to find out if the meeting will be at her home or virtually. Branch matters will be discussed, as well as delegates to our 52nd Quadrennial Convention, to be held at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South, Saturday, July 30 through Tuesday, August 2, 2022. If you wish to represent our Branch, please submit your name to Frances. Election of delegates must be completed by May 1, ninety days prior to the Convention opening. - Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

Submitted by Frances Tarquinio

BRANCH 367 – FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Joseph Lodge 367 will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 12:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Mountain View Cafe 1618 Georges Fairchance Road, Smithfield, PA, 15478. Additional delegates and alternate delegates from our lodge will be elected to attend the 52nd convention of the FCSU in Independence, OH this summer. Any new ideas or donations will also be discussed. Members planning on attending please call Kathryn Baranek, Secretary 724-569-1006 or Audrey Balazik, President 724-438-3887.

Kathryn Baranek, Secretary

BRANCH 393 KJ – GREENSBURG, PA - ST. JOSEPH SOCIETY

Branch 393 will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at 4 pm at Persichetti's Restaurant, 103 S. Third St. in Jeanette, PA. On the agenda is the election of delegates for the FCSU National Convention. Please call John Nalevanko at (724) 396-6256 for reservations.

Submitted by John Nalevanko,
President

BRANCH 410 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 1:30PM at the Highland House, 92 West Main Street, Uniontown, PA. On the agenda will be information regarding the FCSU's 52nd Quadrennial Convention which will be held in the Holiday Inn at Independence, OHIO from July 30 to August 2, 2022. Call for reservations by Monday, March 21, 2022, at 724-425-2576. All members are invited to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April, 9, 2022. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM, at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH, 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Rd.) The meeting will be held in the large hall, which will allow for social distancing. Also please be sure to bring your face mask. Please try to attend; all safety guidelines will be followed.

The agenda will include officer reports and a financial report will be given; also Branch business and activities will be discussed. Election of branch Delegates to the 52nd Quadrennial Convention in Cleveland, Ohio (July, 30- Aug. 02, 2022.) will take place at this meeting.

We encourage all of our members to attend. For more information, please call George Carny at: (440) - 885 5702. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

George Carny, President

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OH

Branch 553 wishes a Happy Blessed Easter Season to all our members. Please mark your calendars for the following events:

Fish Fry's start – March 4 and continue through Good Friday, Served from 4:30-7:0pm. Baked Cod must be ordered by Wednesday each week (no exceptions) – Call 330-7866-9972 after 3 pm to place your orders.

All you Can Eat – Fried Fish Buffet – French Fries, Haluski, Hot Rice, Macaroni & Cheese, Cole slaw and Bread and Butter. Chicken Strips available with sides on buffet.

3/16 Lasagna Dinner Served 4:30 – 6:30 pm – call 330-786-9972 to make your reservation (after 3 pm)

3/27 Breakfast served 9:00 am – 11:45 am \$10.00 Buffet

4/6 Spaghetti served 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Mark your calendars for the Kielbasa Open July 23

Submitted by Linda Hanko,
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PA

Meeting Date: April 24, 2022
Meeting Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Meeting Location: Home of branch president, Joanne Fibbi 1741 Hempstead Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 1524 Meeting purpose(s): Semi-annual meeting Election of Delegates
Meeting agenda (events to take place

during each meeting): Election of delegates to the 2022 Convention Discussion of Convention, Branch activity, new business

Contact for more information: Name: Joanne Fibbi Street Address: 1741 Hempstead Lan City/State/Zip: Pittsburgh, PA 1524 Phone: 412-953-4721

Email: jfibbi@gmail.com - Email to request a zoom invitation

Deadline for reservations (if necessary): April 21, 2022.

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 670 will hold its meeting on Sunday, March 27, 2022 beginning at 12 pm at Hoss's Restaurant in Belle Vernon, PA.

The agenda will include discussions regarding the 52nd Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU. Members are asked to bring canned goods to be distributed to a local food bank. Please RSVP to the Treasurer at 724-622-1982 or you can email branch670secretary@gmail.com. Branch members are urged to attend.

Maureen Massafra,
Recording Secretary

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The next meeting for Branch 682 is scheduled for noon on Friday April 1, 2022, in the conference room of Materials Research Laboratories located at 290 N Bridge Street in Struthers, OH. Further plans for branch participation during the year will be addressed and election of delegates to the 52nd FCSU National Convention this coming July 30 - Aug 2 in Independence, OH will take place. Those interested to serve as delegates or alternates should contact Branch President Drew Hirt at drew@hirt.com or 330-750-0776 prior to the April 1 meeting.

Drew Hirt, President

BRANCH 721 – BANNISTER, MI

Jednota Branch 721 will have its spring meeting on Sunday, April 24th at 2 p.m. at the Remenar home, located at 8977 S. Mason Road, Bannister, MI. All members are welcome to attend. Phone (989) 398-1011.

Respectfully submitted by Joseph Bena, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731's annual Mass honoring our Patron Saint Joseph will be on March 18, 2022. Both will be at The Cathedral of Saint Columba, 159 West Rayen Avenue, Youngstown, OH at 12:10PM.

We hope everyone has a healthy New Year.
James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 1:00 PM in the downstairs meeting room of Holy Family Church (210 Monroe Street, Linden, NJ, 07036). The meeting will be followed by a luncheon and the Msgr. Rura District meeting. The agenda will include election of delegates (and alternates) to the 52nd National Convention in Independence, OH. We will also be discussing future events for the branch. Kindly RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @ 732-762-3148 by March 9th if you plan to attend. Please bring non-perishable items for donation to a local food pantry.

Additional branch news:

Branch 746 members are encouraged to attend Friday Holy Masses at 7:00pm (in Slovak) at Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ offered for the intention of all Branch 746

members living and deceased. Masses will be offered in 2022 as follows: April 1st, May 6th, June 10th, July 1st, August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, and December 2, 2022.

Jednota Branch 746 Scholarship deadline is April 30th. If you are currently accepted and/or enrolled in full-time college, post-secondary educational institution, or vocational school and active in Branch 746 or want to become active, you may be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. For more information on the application criteria and requirements go to: <https://www.fcsu.com/membership-benefits/scholarships/>.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

St. Joseph Branch 743 announces a branch meeting on Sunday March 20, 2022 at: Saints Cyril & Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI. The meeting with start at

1:15PM. in the Slovak Heritage Room. Members are urged to attend the Slovak Mass at 11:30AM. At the meeting, our financial records will be audited. Fraternal activities and charitable giving are topics open for discussion.

Victor Jiomkowski, President

BRANCH 785 – MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

The branch will hold a meeting of Convention Delegates and Selection of Alternates to Convention on Sunday March 27, 2022, at 1:30PM. An email will be sent out with details to the Canadian members for the location. Dependent on current Covid 19 Restrictions this meeting will be either at Sts Cyril Church hall in Mississauga or via ZOOM.

Anne Mitro, Secretary

BRANCH 853 – CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA

St Pio Branch 853 will hold its next meeting on March 27, 2022, at Hoss's restaurant in Belle Vernon, PA, at noon. Reservations are required for seating. Upcoming events and the Convention will be discussed and planned. Please call 412-341-1577 or email FCSUBranch853@gmail.com to make your reservation. Members are urged to attend.

Any member who has recently moved or requires branch or policy services should contact the Branch President by email FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or call 412-341-1577.

Monica Rodacy Boone, President
FCSUBranch853@gmail.com

BRANCH 853 CHARLEROI, PA -

St Pio Branch 853 will hold its next meeting virtually on March 27, 2022 at noon. Upcoming events and the Convention will be discussed and planned. Please call or email for call-in instructions. Members are urged to participate.

Any member who has recently moved or requires branch or policy services should contact the Branch President by e-mail FCSUBranch853@gmail.com or phone 412-341-1577.

Submitted by Monica Rodacy-Boone,
President Branch 853,
FCSUBranch853@gmail.com

Slovakia's New Citizenship-by-Descent Bill: FAQ and What's Next

February 19, 2022, by Samuel Ďurovčík - CzechoSlovak Passport, www.tinyurl.com/24x-8p7hb (accessed February 18, 2022).



The Central Square in Bardejov, Eastern Slovakia

Slovakia's National Council has passed the long-awaited amendment to the Slovak Citizenship Act (no. 40/1993 Coll.). Children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Czechoslovak citizens from Slovakia will qualify.

After countless delays and negotiations between the Slovak Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ruling coalition's parties, the Slovak Parliament has finally passed the amendment to the Slovak Citizenship Act, paving the way for descendants of Slovaks abroad to apply for Slovak citizenship.

The long-discussed residence requirement (applicants must hold a Slovak residence permit to apply) was not removed, despite diaspora's petition to the contrary. Nevertheless, Dr. Milan Vetrák, a member of parliament advocating for the diaspora, has made assurances that the residence permits will be issued to potential applicants without much paperwork.

Eligibility

(2) An applicant who has a residence permit in the territory of the Slovak Republic may be granted citizenship of the Slovak Republic without fulfilling the condition specified in paragraph 1 letter. a) [standard condition of 8 years' residence], unless this Act provides otherwise, if

j) the applicant was not a citizen of the Slovak Republic and at least one of his/her parents, grandparents or great-grandparents was a Czechoslovak citizen born in the territory of the Slovak Republic.

Text of the passed amendment

The text implies the following:

1. The ancestor was a parent or a grandparent or a great-grandparent,
2. The ancestor held, at some point, Czechoslovak citizenship,
3. The ancestor was born in what is today Slovakia,
4. The applicant has a residence permit in Slovakia – there is a catch, though (read below).

1. Ancestor's Czechoslovak Citizenship



A Czechoslovak passport from 1925

The question of who was actually a Czechoslovak citizen in the early days of Czechoslovakia is fairly complex. More on that here.

Nevertheless, it is undisputed that any duly resident citizen of the Kingdom of Hungary, who left Slovakia on or after 17 July 1910, became a Czechoslovak citizen (although there are certain exceptions, such as naturalizing in the United States before 1920). Furthermore, anyone who left after 1930 would likely appear on the Czechoslovak census, which would list their citizenship.

Considering that the legislation hasn't been implemented yet, there are no guidelines as to the kind of evidence that Slovak authorities will ask for in order to demonstrate the qualifying ancestor's citizenship.

Obviously, the best evidence would be a Czechoslovak passport. At the same time, the author of this article believes that in the absence of the above, demonstrating the relevant circumstances (emigration after 1910) may suffice to fulfill the requirement.

In either case, Slovak authorities will have the ultimate say.

2. Ancestor's Place of Birth

The most obvious evidence of one's birth in Slovakia is a Slovak birth certificate. Other evidence may include marriage certificates, passports, census records and the like.



Slovak Birth Certificate

3. Residence Permit



Slovak Residence Permit

Despite efforts, which took many months, the bill was passed with a residence requirement. The text essentially says that an applicant must have a residence permit, however, there is no defined amount of time. Hence, one can apply on day 1 of holding a Slovak residence permit.

While obtaining a residence permit in Slovakia requires a lot of paperwork, Dr. Vetrák has stated during a press conference

that this process will be streamlined and simplified in coordination with Slovak immigration authorities (The Interior Ministry and the Bureau of Border and Foreigners' Police).

The streamlined process would allow applicants to apply at a Slovak embassy for both residence and citizenship at the same time, thereby removing the necessity of physical presence in Slovakia.

According to Dr. Vetrák, the purpose of the residence requirement is to allow for more extensive vetting of potential applicants.

Once again, only time and experience will shed more light on the process. Slovak Passport



How To Apply

Given the caveats described above, an application at an embassy would require the following documents:

1. Proof of Ancestor's Czechoslovak Citizenship and Lineage
2. Detailed Resume
3. Proof of Identity
4. Own Birth Certificate
5. Proof of Marital Status (if married, divorced or widowed)
6. Residence Permit
7. Proof of Good Character
8. Affidavit of No Tax/Health Insurance Debt
9. Proof of Employment, Study or Retirement

*For additional details on the above 9 points, see: www.tinyurl.com/24x8p7hb

All non-Slovak documents must be apostilled (or, in certain countries, superlegalized) and translated to Slovak by a Slovak official translator. Certain documents issued by other European Union countries are exempt.

Sister Julia Knazik

Though Sister Julia's mother Helen was born in Lebanon, Pa, Julia was born in Chtelnica, Slovakia, and baptized in Holy Trinity Church there. In 1972, she was able to return to Slovakia to visit her birthplace and her relatives.

When Sister celebrated sixty years in religious life, she wrote these words in our Jubilee booklet: "The Lord is good. He has given me the gift of life. He has also given me the opportunity to serve Him in religious life, a life dedicated to His service. This year as I celebrate my sixtieth jubilee, I offer the Lord my joyous gratitude."

When you hold a conversation with Sister Julia, it becomes immediately apparent that she is very proud of her hometown, New York City. She and her family lived in an apartment building across from St. John's Convent where the SSCM's lived. Julia became ever more curious about these women in black and white. Because their chapel faced 66th Street, all those who passed by were able to hear the Sisters chanting Morning and Evening Prayer in Latin. Said Julia, "My friend and I were fascinated and often tried to meet in front of the convent at prayer time to listen to the Sisters.

She continues: "No doubt my vocation had its roots in this experience, My desire to become a Sister was confirmed by the fact that I had them as teachers in both elementary and high school. I will never forget the solicitude and good example of the Sisters who taught me at St. Cyril Academy. My decision to become a Sister was also strengthened by the love and sacrifices of my parents, Helen and Victor Knazik.

She admits, however, that embracing religious life was not an easy decision. "I found it somewhat difficult to leave home and parents. I kept thinking of my younger sisters and brother growing up without my words of wisdom. I got the courage, though, when I realized I was doing God's will. The encouragement and prayers of my sister Mary and her husband Bill as well as my brother Frank and his wife Barbara and all my nephews, gave me the freedom to follow my call."

When she entered, Julia expressed the desire to become a nurse. After three years of teaching and six years working as a nurse's aide at Villa St. Cyril, she began studying for her BSN. After acquiring her degree, Sister Julia served at the congregation's health care facilities-- at Maria Joseph Manor for twenty-three years and at Maria Hall for eighteen. One of her favorite sayings is "Age is just a number."

When she celebrated sixty years in religious life, she was still actively engaged in ministry. Several days a week she met with Emmanuel residents who enjoyed the variety of activities she had prepared for them. Says Sister Julia, "They are the Lord's gift to me as we share our wisdom, our reminiscences and our hopes for the future. We bring sunshine into one another's lives".

Sister has some worthwhile advice for young people: "Discern the call by listening and praying." When she celebrated 60 years as a religious, two

Sisters, Sisters Susan Pontz and Susan Hazenski celebrated their 25th. "When the two Susans were candidates, I had the privilege of preparing them for their novitiate. I spent nine months with them at Maria Hall where we were able to spend time sharing our spiritual journeys. I know I benefited from this opportunity and I hope they did also."

Sister Julia declares, "Though times have changed considerably over the past years, my listening heart has not. I encourage any young person discerning the call to religious life or the priesthood to take time to listen. Prayer and quiet are essential for discernment. Each day I thank God for the gift of my vocation and the opportunities it gives me to grow through the friendships I have made, and the living out of my spiritual life and commitment to His call."



Correction to IMMIGRANT SISTERS OF SS CYRIL & METHODIUS

In the February 9, 2022, there was an error in photo of Sister M. Helena Slezak. Here is the correct photo.

Elizabeth Slezak



Sister M. Helena

Virtual Easter Basket Blessing

Event: A Virtual Easter Basket Blessing

Date: Saturday April 16th, 2022

Time 1pm EST - The log in time will start at 12:50 p.m. and end by 1:30 p.m.

Email: Easterbasket2022@outlook.com

Zoom Meeting ID: 858 0779 1452 Passcode: 903316

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,85807791452#,,,,*903316#
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+19292056099,,85807791452#,,,,*903316#
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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85807791452>.

Link to Virtual Easter Basket: www.tinyurl.com/2369ce4x



A traditional Slovak Easter Basket

The Academic Yearbook Slováci v zahraničí 38 (Slovaks Abroad 38)

The Matica slovenská has now published the 38th edition of the academic peer-reviewed yearbook Slováci v zahraničí (Slovaks Abroad). In the issue for this year, the broadly focused content of the collection did not result from past tradition. It highlights the life and work of important compatriots and the history and literature of Slovaks living abroad. The yearbook focuses primarily on the centenary of the birth of Štefan Boleslav Roman, and the cover of the thirty-eighth year issue is dedicated to him. Signis publishing house, based in Banská Bystrica, participated in creating the graphics for the book and the proofreading.

The publication contains a unique study by Pavol Parenička dedicated to the economic theories of Š.B. Roman and E. Löbla published in *Zodpovedná spoločnosť* (A Responsible Society) and Peter Cabadaja's high quality biographical contribution. In addition to the problems of Slovak exile, the collection traditionally presents the issue of Slovaks in the Lowlands (of former Hungary). The studies of Ján Babiak and Štefan Chrt'án from Serbia reflect the history of settlement and education in Kovačica, and the author Ján Jančovic focuses on the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Poľný Berinčok.

Literary works are also included. Patrik Šenkár dedicated his contribution to the poetry of Ján Chovanec, a compatriot from Romania; Elisabeth Uhrinová reviewed a book of a researcher from Hungary and focused on the Čabiansky kalendár (The Čabian Almanac). Peter Cabadaja wrote shorter biographies of important compatriots overseas to commemorate the anniversaries of Juraj J. Török, Ladislav Grosman, Ladislav Gundera, Ján L. Doránsky, Frico Motoška and Mária Maghútová-Párska.

The yearbook brings academic and information from a specific field of research about compatriot issues, whose form and composition are unlike any other professional periodical or publication in Slovakia. This year, Matica slovenská synchronizes the academic findings of experts from Slovakia and abroad and publishes them in the yearbook.

The lower cost of the yearbook was the result of decreased state subsidies for the Matica Slovenská, though it was only symbolic. If you are interested in the content of the yearbook, we are very grateful for your support and the yearbook may be purchased by contacting the e-mail address: periodika@matica.sk. In case you would like a yearbook, but your budget is limited, please write to us at domhronskeho@matica.sk, we will send it to you as a pdf in electronic form.

Zuzana Pavelcova [Translated and edited by Michael Kopanic, Jr.]

Vedecká ročenka Slováci v zahraničí 38

Vo vydavateľstve Matice slovenskej aktuálne vyšiel tridsiaty ôsmy ročník vedeckej recenzovanej ročenky Slováci v zahraničí. Širokospektrálne zameraný obsah zborníka neostal ani v tomto roku nič dlhší svojjej tradícii. Na viac ako dvoch stovkách strán sa venuje životu a dielu významných krajanových osobností a dejin a literatúre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Ročenka sa primárne orientuje na sté výročie narodenia Štefana Boleslava Romana, ktorému je venovaná i obálka jej tridsiateho ôsmeho ročníka. Na grafike knihy a jazykovej korektúre sa podieľalo vydavateľstvo Signis, so sídlom v Banskej Bystrici.

Publikácia obsahuje unikátnu štúdiu Pavla Pareničku venovanú ekonomickým teóriám Š. B. Romana a E. Löbla publikovaných v *Zodpovednej spoločnosti* a kvalitný biografický príspevok Petra Cabadaja. Okrem problematiky slovenského exilu zborník tradične prináša dolnozemsú problematiku. Štúdie Jána Babiaka a Štefana Chrt'ána zo Srbska reflektujú dejiny osídľovania a školstva v Kovačici, autor Ján Jančovic sa zameriava na tri sté výročie osídlenia Poľného Berinčoka.

V úzadí neostala ani literárna veda. Patrik Šenkár sa venuje poézii krajana z Rumunska Jána Chovanca, recenziu knižného diela výskumnej pracovníčky z Maďarska zameranej na Čabiansky kalendár pripravila Alžbeta Uhrinová. Kratšie biografie významných krajanov pôsobiacich v zámorí z pera Petra Cabadaja pripomínajú výročia Juraja J. Töröka, Ladislava Grosmana, Ladislava Gundera, Jána L. Doránskeho, Frica Motošku a Márie Maghútovej-Párovskej.

Ročenka prináša vedecké i informačné výstupy zo špecifickej oblasti výskumu krajanovej problematiky, ktoré v takejto podobe a zložení nereflektuje žiadne iné odborné periodikum či publikácia na Slovensku. Matica slovenská aj v tomto roku synchronizuje vedecké zistenia odborníkov zo Slovenska i zahraničia a publikuje ich na stránkach ročenky.

Uťahovanie štátnej dotácie pre Maticu slovenskú sa však prejavilo i na nižšom náklade ročenky, ktorý ostal takpovediac iba symbolickým. Ak Vás obsah ročenky zaujal, budeme veľmi vďační, ak ročenku podporíte jej kúpou na emailovej adrese: periodika@matica.sk. V prípade, že by ste radi ročenku mali, ale Váš rozpočet takisto nedovoľuje jej kúpu, prosím napíšte nám na domhronskeho@matica.sk, zašleme Vám ju v pdf. elektronickej formou.

Zuzana Pavelcova

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and asked John Tokarsky, Treasurer, to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kevin Collins, National Vice President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 John Tokarsky, Treasurer (via teleconference)
 Gregory Maurer, Chairman of Auditors (by invitation of the President) (via teleconference)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The President presented the minutes of the December 11, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kevin Collins and seconded by John Tokarsky to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction and Review Report via teleconference to the Executive Committee. Each member of the Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Committee's questions.

Mr. White also presented a new investment opportunity in commercial mortgages and answered the Committee's questions.

The President stated that he will contact Sean Hardy from UBS and Robert Clutterbuck from Clutterbuck Fund to meet with the Committee to review our current portfolios.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), UBS, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. The Executive Committee discussed the report and the Executive Secretary answered the Committee's questions. The Executive Secretary presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the third quarter of 2021. After the Executive Secretary's report, he 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 December for the Committee's review and answered its questions.

Monthly Disbursements

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

Disbursements for the month of December 2021:		
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	345,205.56
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	187,888.07
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President Kevin Collins presented a sales report to the Executive Committee Meeting. After his report, he answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President stated that we need to recruit more independent agents and he is working with an agency on this plan. The Home Office will use email to recruit agents in the states we are licensed in. As more information is available, he will present it to the Board.

The Vice President stated he will work with the Home Office staff to develop training, recruitment, and informational videos for the Branches and Districts. He will also work with our outside marketing firm and the Home Office in developing new material to advertise for agents.

The President stated that since the Membership Meet is not being held this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, a Membership Meet is anticipated to be held in 2022. He is looking into possible sites. He is also looking to create an incentive plan for agents to qualify for the membership meet.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

Annuity Rates:

The President stated that the annuity rates will remain the same and be reviewed at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Committee agreed.

CONVENTION:

The President and the Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office staff is making preparations with the Holiday Inn – Cleveland South Independence, the host of our 52nd Quadrennial Convention. The President and Executive Secretary are working on the Convention Agenda and various activities to include having the talent contest winners perform. As more details are finalized, a report will be presented to the Board.

Executive Secretary reminded the Committee to inform all the Branches and Districts to refer to Bylaw 11.03 and Bylaw 11.04 in preparation for the 52nd Quadrennial Convention. If they have any questions, they should contact the Home Office. The Executive Secretary stated that final delegate count letter will be mailed out to qualifying branches the first week of February. The final delegate count will be based on the number of members as of February 1, 2022.

HOME OFFICE UPDATE:

The President and the Executive Secretary gave an update on the Home Office operations. The Executive Secretary stated that the Home Office is still following the recommendations of the CDC. The Office is open with limited hours to maintain day to day operations. Any guests are asked to call before visiting.

MATCHING FUNDS:

The President presented a new matching funds program. It will be presented to the Board at the Annual Meeting for review.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Editor:

The President stated that the new editor Michael Kopanic will start on February 1, 2022. Any notices for the Jednota newspaper should be sent to editor@fcsu.com.

Stephen Matula Fund:

The President stated all the paperwork for the FCSU to administer the Stephen Matula Scholarship Fund has been completed. Stephen Matula was a member of the FCSU in Branch 856K and left a portion of his estate to establish a scholarship fund in the United States and Slovakia.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

The President stated that he is still encouraging Branches and Districts to hold either virtual or in-person meetings, and follow all the recommended CDC guidelines. Hopefully, conditions will improve.

LONG TERM PLANNING:

The President stated that he has received information from two consulting firm on long term planning for our Society. It will be presented to the Board at the Annual Meeting for review.

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 Kevin Collins and seconded by Kenneth A. Arendt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

 Andrew M. Rajec

 Kenneth A. Arendt

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 17

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

Slovak-Americans Stand with Ukraine



Slovak Professionals In New York is organizing this fundraiser to benefit the International Committee of the Red Cross.

CAMPAIGN DETAILS

This fundraiser is organized by Slovak-American institutions and communities in a joint effort to raise funds for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. All donations collected will benefit THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS.

This effort is also supported by representatives of Slovakia in the United States, including Ambassadors Radovan Javorčík and Michal Mlynár and Consul General Milan Vrbovský. You can see the full list of supporters and co-signers below (updated daily).

OUR JOINT STATEMENT

We – Slovaks living in the United States of America, Slovak-Americans, and Slovak-American institutions – stand unified with our friends in Ukraine against aggression and in protest of attempts to deny their freedom to choose where, how, and with whom they wish to pursue their future.

We express our full support for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for the freedom and democratic rights of the Ukrainian people. We strongly condemn Russia's unjustified and unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine.

As people who endured and still remember the invasion of our own country in 1968 and the decades of occupation that followed, we have a moral obligation to act in solidarity with our neighbors. We are witnessing history repeat itself and must remember that any threat to democracy and independence is a threat to us all.

Our message is clear: the United States, the European Union, and international institutions must enact strong measures to hold Russia's leadership accountable for their breach of international law. We call upon them to strongly support Ukraine's plight for freedom, peace, and prosperity.

We are asking everyone in the Slovak community in the United States to join our effort to raise funds for humanitarian relief in Ukraine; all donations will benefit the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We stand in unity for peace, democracy, and the preservation of a free Ukraine.

Slovaks in America

SLOVAK ORGANIZATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTING THIS EFFORT:

- Slovak Ambassador in the United States Radovan Javorčík
- Ambassador Michal Mlynár, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations
- Consul General of Slovak Republic in New York Milan Vrbovský
- Ed Zelenak, Honorary Consul of Slovakia in Detroit
- Slovak Professionals in New York
- Slovak American Cultural Center

- First Catholic Slovak Union
- Friends of Slovakia
- National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library
- Czech and Slovak Association
- Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences New York Chapter
- Slovak Global Network
- Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews

Renáta Kamenárová, Acting director of the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh
If you would like to have your organization's name added to this list, please email us at Slovak-ProNY@gmail.com . **TO DONATE NOW** go to www.slovakamericans.com/

HOW WILL THE DONATIONS BE USED?

All funds raised will be donated to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to benefit their humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. The ICRC responds quickly and efficiently to help people affected by armed conflicts and other humanitarian crises. They currently have a large team on the ground in Ukraine, providing food, water, and essential supplies, supporting medical centers, and mobilizing volunteers and resources. The ICRC is working in close partnership with other Ukraine-based NGOs.

Ukrainians "traveling" to Slovakia



A Ukrainian mother and her children crossing the border at Ubl'a, Slovakia.

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1st year premium WAIVED on \$10,000 JEP Term Insurance

- **\$14 annual premium**
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- Fun youth activities

Deadline:

December 31, 2022

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



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