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Number 5742



Officers and members of Branch 181, in United Pennsylvania. First row, L-R: Florence Sprock, Geraldine Hricik, and Barbara Mizikar. Second row, L-R: National President Thomas Hricik, Chairman of Auditors-Elect Karen Sprock Hunka, Branch 181 President Clarence Pfeifer, Regional Director George Sprock, and Ed Mizikar.

United Branch 181 Hosts Retirement Dinner for Thomas Hricik

Thomas M. Hricik was honored on Sunday, November 5, 2006, with a retirement dinner hosted by Branch 181, in St. Joseph Hall, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, for his 12 years of service as National President of the First Catholic Slovak Union. A total of 165 family members, friends, clergy, and local and National FCSU officers attended this memorable event. Thomas Hricik is the second FCSU national officer from Branch 181. The first was Stephen Ungvasky, who was Executive Secretary of the organization and a "mentor and friend" to Thomas Hricik.

The festivities began with a concelebrated Mass at 4:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Center Chapel. Rev. Larry J. Kulick, pastor of St. Joseph Church in New Kensington and Chaplain of the George Onda District, was the principal celebrant. Concelebrating with Father Kulick were Msgr. William G. Charnoki, P.A., V.F., pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Ligonier and Dean of Deanery IV of the Diocese of Greensburg, and Rev. Richard Portasik, O.F.M., of St. Anthony Friary in Uniontown. These three priests are all personal friends of Thomas and Geraldine Hricik and have been of great service to the Slovak community.

The St. Florian Choir, under the direction of organist Dr. Stephen Whisdosh, provided the music at the liturgy. Most of the songs as well as prayers were in the Slovak language. The voices of the choir echoed through the chapel and those in attendance sang with great enthusiasm, especially with the Offertory Hymn to honor SS. Cyril and Methodius, "Heart of Jesus", and "Hej Slovaci" at the end of Mass. Joseph Mizikar,

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Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble Celebrates 35th Anniversary

On October 14, 2006, the Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble, from Sterling Heights, Michigan, celebrated their 35th anniversary with a dinner-dance at SS. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Catholic Church Hall. A wonderful Slovak meal was enjoyed by over 200 people who attended this gala event. The Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble and Junior Sarisan gave a brief performance that evening that was well received.



Pictured, L-R: Fr. Benjamin Kosnac, pastor SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church; Miroslav Wlachovsky, Deputy Chief of Mission – Slovak Embassy; Milan Straka, Director, Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble; Tomas Bican, Economic Officer – Slovak Embassy; and Ed Zelenak, Honorary Consul for Slovak Embassy – Michigan.

To commemorate this special evening, two officials from the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C., gave Sarisan and their director, Milan Straka, a special proclamation for their 35th anniversary. Miroslav Wlachovsky, Deputy Chief of Mission, and Tomas Bican, Economic Officer, both praised Sarisan for their contribution to Slovak folklore and for keeping this tradition alive for future generations. Milan Straka received The Medal of Honor of the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic and Friends of Slovakia for his contribution to Slovak folklore, and a Certificate of Honor signed by Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer was presented to the group.

If you would like more information regarding Sarisan, contact Milan Straka at mstraka@twmi.rr.com or 248/478-3818.



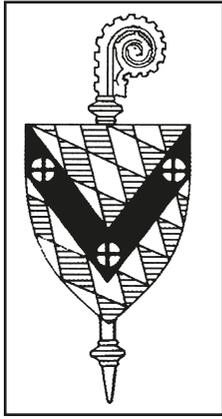
SCF Honors National President Thomas M. Hricik

During the meeting of the Executive Board of the Slovak Catholic Federation (SCF) in Altoona, Pennsylvania, September 11-12, 2006, National President Thomas M. Hricik, (second from right), was honored on the occasion of his being named a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. Shown in the photo during the presentation at a dinner at the residence of the Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown are from the left, Dolores M. Evanko, national secretary/treasurer of the SCF; the Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, national president of the SCF; Mrs. Geraldine Hricik, Thomas M. Hricik; and the Most Rev. Joseph A. Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown and episcopal advisor moderator of the SCF. Thomas Hricik and his wife Geraldine were solemnly invested as Knight and Lady of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on September 30.

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Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Fr. Campion P. Gavaler, O.S.B. and Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

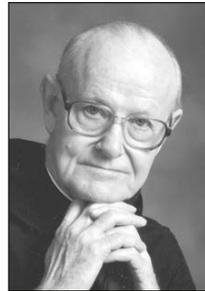
December 10, 2006

Second Sunday of Advent

Gospel Summary

Luke's elaborate attempt to locate the arrival of John the Baptist in the context of secular history seems to be the answer to every historian's prayer. In fact, however, these references are very imprecise, and none more so than the apparently decisive "fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar." The problem is that the Roman emperor Tiberius shared power with Augustus for two years and we do not know when Luke is beginning his count of the years of Tiberius' reign.

Luke 3: 1-6



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

One must wonder whether Luke is not perhaps smiling to himself as he teases historians in this way.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that Luke is very much interested in history. However, it is not secular, but salvation history, which includes God's initiative to bring final salvation from the human scourge of sin and death. This divine "taking charge" of history will be announced by John the Baptist and brought into being by Jesus. However, only those who are ready for God's gracious purposes will participate in the final victory.

John's "baptism of repentance" is a ritual that signifies one's readiness to remove all obstacles to the coming of the Lord. Such obstacles would include, first and foremost, a prideful self-will that wishes to dictate where and how and when, and above all to whom, the Lord will come. Making straight the way of Lord is, therefore, a metaphor for personal conversion from prideful controlling tendencies to humble and grateful acceptance of God's sovereign rights in human life.

Life Implications

The most certain way to miss the promised "salvation of God" is to be too busy, too engrossed in one's work and too distracted to think about God or to prepare for his coming. It is true, of course, that Christ came some 2000 years ago. But that is no guarantee that we have welcomed him. For Christ continues to come to each generation of us humans and to challenge us to let his ideals govern our lives. In that sense, God is always coming and we are constantly being asked to welcome him.

This does not mean that we need to devote large amounts of time to welcoming Christ into our lives. It is more a matter of quality than of quantity. The ideal is set forth in the famous, "Hear, O Israel," of Deuteronomy 6:4. We are told there that we should never be totally unmindful of the reality and the presence of God in our lives. In time of explicit prayer, God is at center stage, as it were, while at other times he moves into the wings but never far from full consciousness on our part: Thus we will affirm the presence of the Lord at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest (Deut 6:7b).

I like to think of this consciousness of God's presence as a "benign distraction" which,

far from interfering with our work, actually helps us to focus more clearly on what we are doing. Moreover, it should not be surprising, when we think of God's love for us, that a smile should play occasionally across our faces, as is customary with those who are in love. Such a benign distraction not only makes us more productive but it also gives us a deep sense of peace and security.

It is our recognition of the presence of God in our world, whether in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar or at some other time, which constitutes the true meaning of history for us.



December 17, 2006

Third Sunday of Advent

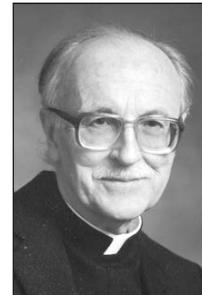
Gospel Summary

Immediately preceding this passage, Luke tells us that the word of God had come upon John the Baptist in the desert. John then began to proclaim the coming of the Lord: all flesh would at last see the salvation of God. John also proclaimed the necessity of turning from evil in repentance in order to prepare for the Lord's coming.

The crowds ask, "What should we do?" John replies that whoever has two cloaks or food should share with the person who has none. Tax collectors should not collect more than what is prescribed. Soldiers should not practice extortion or falsely accuse anyone, and they should be satisfied with their wages. The people are filled with expectation, wondering whether John might be the Messiah. John responds that one mightier than he will come, and will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John warns that when the Messiah comes, he will gather the wheat into his barn, and burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Life Implications

We will celebrate with gratitude the Lord's coming among us in the past on Christmas. Advent, however, is a time to affirm our faith that the Lord's coming is also a present and future reality for which we must prepare. We too ask, "What should we do?" The ordinary-ness of John's reply to our question is surprising: share what you have with those who have nothing; do your job without cheating or telling lies; be satisfied with what you earn.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

Someone asked Saint Philip Neri (who happened to be playing cards at the time) what he would do if he learned that his death was imminent. Philip Neri replied that he would continue playing cards. The best preparation for the Lord's coming at any moment is to be doing what we ought to be doing. In the words of the old Shaker hymn: "'Tis a gift to be simple, 'Tis a gift to be free, 'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be."

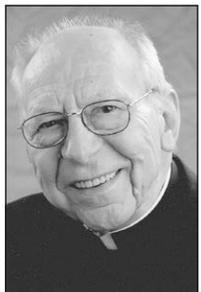
There is also a surprising ordinary-ness about the Lord's coming -- the divine presence does not force itself upon us with bells and whistles. When Jesus did come as Messiah, most people did not recognize him because he did not meet their expectations. Would God allow the Messiah to be defeated and disgraced by dying on a cross like a criminal? Advent thus is also a season to ask for the grace to be freed from false expectations about the Lord's coming into our lives.

Perhaps the most ordinary and most surprising way of all that the Lord comes to us is in the reality of the Present Moment. Each moment becomes a sacrament of divine presence if we say in faith, "It is the Lord." It is thus possible to bless the Lord at all times because every moment without exception is a grace of divine, self-giving love to us. The Lord is with us even in those tragic moments beyond understanding that seem to be without meaning. Life either has no meaning at all, or has total meaning because the Lord is present in all its moments.

Saint Paul tells us the wonderful life-implications of trust in the Lord's presence at every moment in all the circumstance of our lives: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks...Have no anxiety at all...Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (1 Thes 5:16-18 and Phil 4:6-7).

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Family Values



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Speakers and writers today, reflecting upon the status of our civilization, if you will, write of family values as necessary to reinforce our well-being as a nation, keeping us at peace with one another and contented in our lifestyle.

What are these "family values?"

There is no universal definition for this phrase. In the secular and political worlds, its meaning is rooted in each individual culture throughout the world and in each society within every country. These values can change over time in each culture, in each society, depending upon developments within each of these groups.

These values are founded in religious beliefs, in morality and in the nuclear family, the basic social unit consisting of a father, mother and their children.

The Church's definition of family values comes from Sacred Scripture and it is not subject to change ever.

Hear these words of Moses to all Israel: "Here, then, I have today set before you life and prosperity, death and doom. If you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin on you today, loving him and walking in his ways, and keeping his commandments, statutes and decrees, you will live and grow numerous, and the Lord, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to occupy. If, however, you turn away your hearts and will not listen, but are led astray and adore and serve other gods, I tell you now that you will certainly perish, you will not have a long life on the land, which you are crossing Jordan to enter and occupy. I call heaven and earth today to witness against you; I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him. For that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live on the land which the Lord swore he would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

The basic unit of society is the family that follows after marriage. Marriage, an institution

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APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2006

GENERAL INTENTION

Wise Use of Power That Christ, meek and humble of heart, may inspire leaders of nations to use power wisely and responsibly.

The Holy Father asks us to pray for world leaders this month. They carry a heavy responsibility, not only for their own countries, but also for fostering peace among nations. Unfortunately, leaders of nations often abuse the power they have and use it to acquire wealth and more power. This unjust use of power leads to much suffering among their people and conflicts among nations.

In the homily at his Inaugural Mass, Pope Benedict XVI reminded us of what Pope John Paul II said when he became Pope: "Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors for Christ!" Pope Benedict said: "The Pope was addressing the mighty, the powerful of this world, who feared that Christ might take away something of their power if they were to let Him in, if they were to allow the faith to be free. Yes, He would certainly have taken something away from them: the dominion of corruption, the manipulation of law and the freedom to do as they pleased. But He would not have taken away anything that pertains to human freedom or dignity, or to the building of a just society."

Government leaders, in fact all of us, are called to follow the way of true leadership, the way that Jesus has shown us. Jesus did not use His divine power to take away people's freedom. He did not use His power to acquire wealth. He came, He said, "not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

We are all called to enter into the Heart of Jesus and to learn from Him. Pope Benedict, in a General Audience on June 1, 2005, told us what we will learn: "Entering into the sentiments of Jesus means not considering power, riches and prestige as the supreme values in our lives, for basically they do not respond to our most profound spiritual thirst, but rather, by opening our hearts to the Other, carrying with the Other our life's burden and opening ourselves to Our Heavenly Father with a sense of obedience and trust, knowing that by such obedience to the Father, we will be free. Entering into the sentiments of Jesus: this should be our daily practice of living as Christians.

For Reflection

What are the qualities that I would like to see in my leaders?

MISSION INTENTION

Missionaries That in every part of the world missionaries may live out their vocation with joy and enthusiasm, faithfully following in Christ's footsteps.

Pope Benedict XVI is very committed to the missionary work of the Church. Shortly after his election, he said: "At the beginning of the third millennium, the Church feels with renewed force that Christ's missionary mandate is of more current importance than ever. The Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 has led her to 'start afresh from Christ,' contemplated in prayer, so that the light of the truth is irradiated to all people, above all with the testimony of holiness."

The missionary vocation is to attract people to Christ. But this can only be done if missionaries are filled with joy and enthusiasm. No one is attracted by sadness and boredom. Missionaries are called to know Christ and the love He has for all people. Knowing that love, they will not be able to keep it to themselves. As Pope Benedict said at World Youth Day 2005: "Anyone who has discovered Christ must lead others to Him. A great joy cannot be kept to oneself. It has to be passed on."

But to know Christ—His love, joy, and peace—requires spending time with Him. No one can faithfully follow in Christ's footsteps unless he or she stays close to Him. Pope Benedict reminds us that the missionary "never refers to himself but to something, or rather, to Someone greater than he, whom he has encountered and whose dependable goodness he has sampled. This is the reason why prayer, which is personal friendship with Christ and contemplation in Him of the face of the Father, is indispensably at the root of the formation of the Christian and of the transmission of the faith."

Missionaries cannot give what they do not have. We pray this month that they may have a deep personal relationship with Jesus that fills them with the joy and enthusiasm, which will attract people to Christ.

For Reflection

What are some examples of joyful and enthusiastic Christians? How can I become more like them?



George Onda District to Hold Annual Stedry Vecer Supper

The George Onda District of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, will hold its annual Stedry Vecer Supper on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at St. Joseph's Hall, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Father Larry Kulick will be the celebrant of the Mass beginning at 4:00 p.m. followed by the traditional Stedry Vecer meal. The evening will conclude with a musical presentation of the "Jaslickari" by the well-known Pittsburgh Slovaks.

For more information and tickets to this popular event, please call Micki Smolleck at 724/539-8326, Florence Sprock at 724/423-4199, Barbara Mizikar at 724/423-2616, or Genevieve Lachmanek at 724/327-1317.

Anna Rich, Secretary

Reflections on Our Christianity

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of nature that predates Christianity, is a conjugal covenant between a man and a woman. Jesus Christ raised marriage to the dignity of a sacrament because it is grounded in the complementary relationship of a man and a woman and by nature is ordered to the procreation and education of children. "Let marriage be honored in every way and the marriage bed kept undefiled." (Hebrews 13:4) Marriage was recognized as a sacrament of the Church at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 – Canons 50 - 52. Marriage involves mutual consent, total and perpetual fidelity and indissolubility.

These characteristics of marriage involve children who come into this world completely helpless, need bonding with their parents through caring and nurturing and need to be educated to grow into a spiritual life of worship of God, knowledge of his commandments and his teaching and an intellectual life equipping them to lead successful lives, fully schooled in their vocations and careers. These goals cannot be accomplished in defiance of Hebrews 13:4. Marriage thusly leads to family values.

Same-sex unions cannot ever be marriage. Marriage is an institution of nature.

The abortion of a child is the murder of a human being within its mother's womb. The unborn child is not a part of the mother's body.

For a true definition of Family Values, we go to the "Charter of the Rights of the Family," issued by the Holy See's Pontifical Council for the Family on October 22, 1983.

This document consists of twelve articles. We give the following excerpts.

Preamble. D. the family, a natural society, exists prior to the state or any other community, and possesses inherent rights which are inalienable.

I. society, and in a particular manner the state and international organizations, must protect the family through measures of a political, economic, social and juridical character, which aim at consolidating the unity and stability of the family so that it can exercise its specific function.

Article 1. e. The institutional value of marriage should be upheld by the public authorities; the situation of non-married couples must not be placed on the same level as marriage duly contracted.

Article 4. e. All interventions on the genetic heritage of the human person that are not aimed at correcting anomalies constitute a violation of the right to bodily integrity and contradict the good of the family.

Article 5. d. The rights of the parents are violated when a compulsory system of education is imposed by the state from which all religious formation is excluded.

Article 7. Every family has the right to live freely its own domestic religious life under the guidance of the parents, as well as the right to profess publicly and to propagate the faith, to take part in public worship and in freely chosen programs of religious instruction, without suffering discrimination.

Article 10. a. Remuneration for work must be sufficient for establishing a family with dignity, either through a suitable salary, called a "family wage," or through other social measures such as family allowances or the remuneration of work in the home of one of the parents; it should be such that mothers will not be obliged to work outside the home to the detriment of family life and especially of the education of the children.

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- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.

United Branch 181 Hosts Retirement Dinner for Thomas Hricik

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a member of Branch 181 and St. Florian Parish, was the reader for the Mass.

During his homily, Father Kulick recognized Mr. Hricik for his "contributions to the FCSU both locally and nationally" and for "placing an emphasis on Catholic identity in the First Catholic Slovak Union." The homily also focused on how Mr. Hricik always placed the needs of the Society first and worked hard for its improvement. Father Kulick commented that as a young person he recalled singing "Hej Slovaci" for many years hoping that eventually Slovakia would



Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt of Greensburg congratulates Thomas Hricik.

be free from communism and have greater religious freedom. Father Kulick suggested that the prayers of so many people helped to make a major difference today in lives of the people in Slovakia.

After the liturgy, Thomas and Geraldine Hricik greeted family and friends thanking them for their love, support and encouragement over the past 12 years while serving in national office.

The guests then moved into St. Joseph Hall for a dinner. Each person at the dinner was given a bookmark on which was written, "Kto nesluzil, nezna hospodaric" (One who never was a servant does not know how to manage). This saying was one of the themes at both the Mass and dinner.

Father Larry Kulick had the added duty of serving as Master of Ceremony at the dinner. He welcomed everyone to the dinner reception. He also noted that he first met Mr. Hricik at a speech he was giving on Slovak history at St. Vincent College. Msgr. William G. Charnoki gave the Invocation and also commenting on his longtime connection with the Hricik family as the former pastor of the neighboring St. Stanislaus Parish in Calumet. Slovak dinner music was provided by Dorothy and Company. On a table in the dining room was a beautiful photo of Thomas and Geraldine Hricik, when they were invested as Knight and Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem on Sunday, September 30, 2006, in New York's, St. Patrick's Cathedral. In the photo were: FCSU National Chaplain Rev. Thomas Nasta, Lady Geraldine Hricik, Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt of Greensburg, and Sir Thomas Hricik.

The formal program got underway at the end of dinner. Karen Sprock Hunka, Chairman of Auditors-Elect and daughter of Regional Director George Sprock, introduced all the local and national officers and other guests. In attendance were: Father Regis J. Dusecina, pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Greensburg, and Rev. William C. McGuirk, pastor of St. Florian Church in United. Karen Sprock Hunka thanked all those in attendance and especially the local and national officers who traveled long distances to be present at this event.

The Most Rev. Lawrence E. Brandt, J.C.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Greensburg, offered his best wishes to both Thomas and Geraldine Hricik for their service to the Society and to the Church. In August, Bishop Brandt offered a Prayer Service of Thanksgiving at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg to welcome those men and women in the diocese who would receive Papal Honors. Bishop Brandt also commented on the importance of Slovaks to the Catholic Church and for the common good for all Americans. He focused on the service that Thomas



L-R: Patty Marmol, James Marmol and Elizabeth Holly.

Hricik has offered over the years and added that he will also be able to help and serve others in the future.

Next on the program was Michael Hricik, a son of Mr. Thomas Hricik and Professor of English at Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood. Michael Hricik offered both serious and humorous comments on Thomas Hricik, as a father, grandfather, and FCSU president. Michael recognized his father's good works. Mr. Hricik often mentioned that much of his success was due to his wife Geraldine. All of his children are college graduates and professionals today. The influence of both parents have been strong in the Hricik family.

The key speaker was Thomas Hricik himself. First and foremost, he thanked his family for all of their love and support. He placed a huge emphasis on the role of the Catholic Church and

St. Florian Parish in making him a Catholic, a father and husband, and a leader of a Catholic organization. Mr. Hricik gave a special thanks to the members of Branch 181, who organized the event and supported him over the years. Mr. Hricik focused on his time as FCSU national president, but also emphasized some of the significant events that helped him along the way. In



L-R: Valerie DePersis, FCSU Actuary Edward DePersis, and National Treasurer George Matta.

1997, he mentioned that he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in New York City. Before receiving the award he was told that Mrs. Frances Puskar, a member of Branch 181, had nominated him. In her nomination letter, she wrote that "Thomas Hricik was deserving of the award for service to the Slovak Community" and for being "an honest man." Mr. Hricik

also commented that both he and his wife were taught by "a wonderful group of Vincentian Sisters at St. Florian Catholic School." He received a note of congratulations this year signed by all the Vincentian Sisters. He wrote back to thank them for the card and all that they had done for him and his wife. Mr. Hricik's reflective speech covered a variety of themes and topics, but his main message was one of "thanks" to those he has served over the years.

The dinner was concluded with a Slovak Prayer of Benediction by Father Richard Portasik and the singing of "Hej Slovaci."

Although Thomas Hricik has attended many events all across the United States and Europe, this testimonial dinner hosted by his home branch will always rank among the most important in his life.

Michael Hricik



L-R: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Matvey, Mr. and Mrs. John Felice, and Beth Silva.



Albina Senko of Pittsburgh talks with Bishop Brandt and Thomas Hricik.



L-R: Thomas and Geraldine Hricik with Joseph and Anna Biros of Middletown, PA.

More Photos of Retirement Dinner for Thomas Hricik



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hricik and their family.



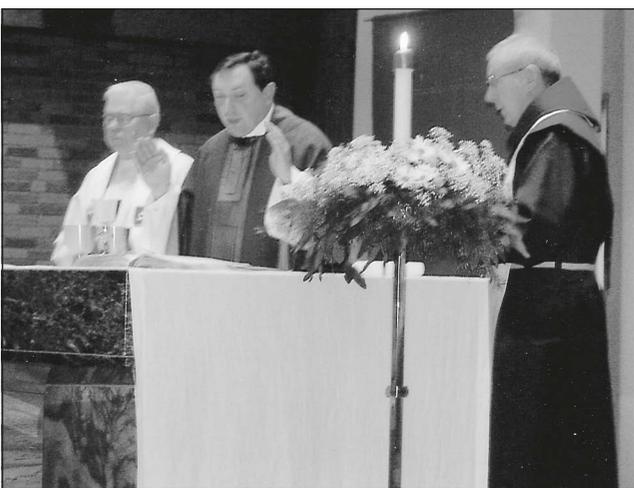
Thomas Hricik with Rose Froncek (second from right) and members of Branch 401, in Vandergrift, PA.



Thomas and Geraldine Hricik with National Vice President Andrew and Maria Harcar.



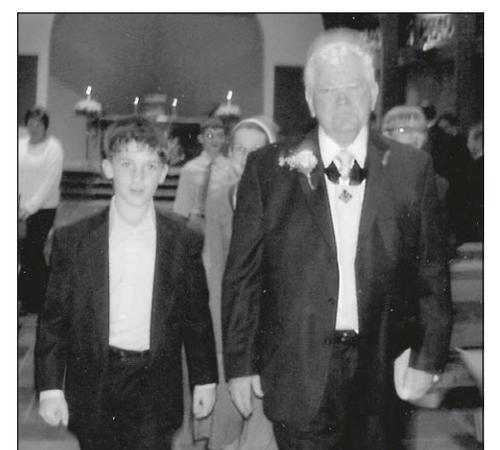
Dr. Stephen Whisdosh and the St. Florian Choir provided the music for the 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph Chapel.



Concelebrating the Mass, L-R: Msgr. William G. Charnoki, Rev. Larry Kulick, and Rev. Richard Portasik.



Rev. Regis Dusecina and his mother Sue.



The grandchildren of Thomas Hricik escorted him out of the Chapel after the Mass.



Firmont Family of Dover, Delaware and the Kulha Family.

Coming Events

DECEMBER

- 10 – The Pittsburgh District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Social Hall, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.
- 17 – A Meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel, followed by lunch and meeting in the cafeteria.

JANUARY

- 14 – The Msgr. Michael Shuba District's Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario.
- 21 – A Meeting of the Prince Rastislav District at 12:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius, Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 1— CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its Yearly Meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. On the agenda will be officer's reports, the election of officers for 2007, and a discussion of other topics of interest brought up by attending members. The delegates will also report on the July 2006 National Convention. Holiday refreshments will be served after the meeting.

The officers for 2006 are: John Golias, President; Vincent Jacko, Vice President; Sophie R. Jacko, Recording Secretary; John S. Golias, Treasurer/Elder; and Mary Dubber and Andrew Hudak, Auditors.

Remember to mark your calendars for December 12th. See you there.

Sophie R. Jacko, Recording Secretary

Branch 3P— HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 3P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 31, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church Cafeteria, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2007 will be conducted followed by a short update on local branch activities, new policy rates, and Jednota and benevolent foundation scholarships. New ideas for branch activities will be entertained and any address or beneficiary changes may be submitted at this meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and get involved.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

Branch 5P— EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Branch President Leonard J. Zavada, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers for the coming year.

Leonard J. Zavada, President

Branch 6— STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6, will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 12:00 noon at Chipper's Grill, Streator, Illinois. All members are invited to attend. A Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members. For more information please call Catherine Michlik at 815/672-3836.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

Branch 7— HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place at this meeting. Members are urged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

Branch 19— BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now named the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall, Bridgeport, Connec-

ticut. The election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

Branch 23— JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 23, will hold its second Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at Our Sons' Family Restaurant, 800 Broad Street, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of other fraternal business. A festive luncheon will be served following the meeting. All branch members are invited to attend.

Lawrence Fenimore, President

Branch 35— BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 35, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 15 Sumner Avenue, Forest Hills, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2007 and a report on the convention. All members are urged to attend.

Joseph Yuros, Financial Secretary

Branch 38— DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 12:00 noon at Holy Trinity R. C. Church Hall. All members are invited to attend. On the agenda will be a discussion of plans for the coming year and the recent convention.

Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

Branch 40— STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Cafeteria, Streator, Illinois. The election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

Branch 45— NEW YORK CITY—

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, and a discussion of events for the coming year. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Joseph Jurasi, President

Branch 55— PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of the secretary, Josephine Gerba, 188 DiMarco Drive, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For directions call 215/637-6530.

Josephine Gerba, Secretary

Branch 60— MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of

President Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Swisshvale, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the officers' reports, election of officers, and a discussion of the 48th Convention and branch activities. All members are urged to attend.

The officers of Branch 60 wish our members a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Margaret M. Perla, Secretary

Branch 61— BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The St. Stephen the King Society, Branch 61, will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of the president, Victor Sebo, 6802 Roberts Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Matters of importance to our branch and the election of officers will be on the agenda. All members are urged to attend.

Victor Sebo, President

Branch 75— SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of President and Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. The fiscal end of the year reports and financial statements will be presented. The Auditors' report will be submitted and the nomination of officers for the coming year will take place. The delegates to the 48th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union will present their reports. All members are requested to attend this semiannual meeting.

**Ronald M. Anderson,
President/Financial Secretary**

Branch 90— OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 90, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the residence of Michael P. Glinsky, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

Barbara Sochovka, Financial Secretary

Branch 112— MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 112, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Please call Karen Engle Sterling at 570/544-6694 for directions. The officers for 2007 will be elected and light refreshments will be served.

Karen Engle Sterling

Branch 157— CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Andrew Society, Branch 157, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 12:00 noon in the upstairs room at the Slovak Center, Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers, the schedule of meetings for the coming year, and a discussion of new policies. The Christmas Party will be held after the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Children to age 12 are eligible to receive a gift from Santa. If you plan to attend please call Greg Harakal at 610/760-9367 or the Slovak Center at 610/264-0740. Snow date for the Christmas Party is December 17.

The officers of Branch 157 wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Greg Harakal, Financial Secretary

Branch 162— UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. at the 3rd floor of the Meridan Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place and plans for the coming year will be discussed.

William Lukach

Branch 166— BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, SYRACUSE, AND POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 1:15 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Town Square Mall, Vestal Parkway. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2007, and a discussion of Branch business and the National Convention held in Boca Raton, Florida in July 2006. If you plan to attend, please call Frank Haynak at 607/797-6160, Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034, or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896. Thank you and hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, Vice President

Branch 173— WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, of the Greater Wyoming Valley Area, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, East End Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. This meeting will be for general business. If you have any questions or plan to attend the meeting, please contact Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, 15 Grove St., Mountaintop, PA 18707, phone: 570/403-2067, E-mail: chumley4@prodigy.net.

Dorothy A. Ungvarsky, President

Branch 181— UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Thursday, November 30, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Ed and Barbara Mizikar. The election of officers for 2007 will be held and plans for our 2007 Summer Picnic will be discussed. Please plan to attend this meeting and become more involved in your branch and its activities. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 724/423-4199, 724/423-2616, or 724/423-2983.

George Sprock, Financial Secretary

Branch 199— HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Francis Pipak. The election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend.

Sophie Pipak, Financial Secretary

Branch 213— RENFREW, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 213, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. at 3061 Kensington Court, Renfrew, Pennsylvania. All members are asked to attend. On the agenda will be the election of officers, a discussion of gifts for the children in the lodge, and other business. Please note the new address of the

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS continued from page 6

St. Michael Society, Branch 213.

We wish all the members a Holy and Happy Christmas.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

Branch 228— LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, will hold its next meeting on Monday, December 18, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30th and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and review of the bylaws as it is done each December meeting. At this time we will also elect representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors.

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 7:00 p.m. and are held in the American Slovak Club. See you at the Club.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

Branch 259— STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at the Restaurant on the Green, Coitsville, Ohio. The meeting will begin after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Struthers. All members of Branch 259 are urged to attend.

Ron Sedlacko, Vice President

Branch 260— CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church Msgr. Cyril A. Adamko Hall, Campbell, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers, a discussion of plans for the year 2007, and other important fraternal business. Members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

Branch 266— HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 31, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. Officers will be elected for 2007, and suggestions for branch activities for next year will be discussed. There will also be a report on the new policy rates, Jednota and benevolent foundation scholarships, and any other business that might be brought up. Please plan to attend.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

Branch 290— RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. The election of officers for the coming year will take place. Please call Joe at 732/469-5256 after 6:30 p.m. for directions to the meeting.

Joseph Minarovich, Regional Director

Branch 292— WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will hold its Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, Pennsylvania. All members

are asked to attend.

We wish all the members a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Edward T. Surkosky

Branch 293— LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Church Social Hall, 124 East Abbott Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania.

Members who need service or more insurance should contact Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232, or leave a message at 570/645-4872.

Robert J. Lakata, Financial Secretary

Branch 320— STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, invite the members to the next meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Lunch will be served. Please call Fran at 724/929-9788 if you plan to attend.

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, want to extend to you and your families our best wishes for a Happy and Holy Holiday.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

Branch 327— POTTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 327, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 9:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity Social Hall, 370 South Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The officers wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Bernie Uhas, Secretary

Branch 367— FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 367, will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, December 18, 2006, at the Flamingo Restaurant, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. The election of officers will take place. All members are urged to attend. For reservations call Jane Kish at 724/245-9554.

Jane Kish, Secretary

Branch 382— SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382, is now updating its files. Members who have moved or need updates on their policies are requested to please contact the Financial Secretary with their new address, phone numbers and any other information. Please send this information to: John Slovenkai Sr., Financial Secretary, 318 Fourteenth Avenue, Scranton, PA 18504-2512.

**John J. Slovenkai Sr.,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 393— HANNASTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of John and Mary Ann Nalevanko, 459 Front Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place.

Mary Ann Nalevanko

Branch 401— VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 401, will have its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 2, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. at King's Family Restaurant, 315 Hyde Park Road, Leechburg, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of annual donations and other business.

Rose Froncek, Secretary

Branch 410— UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at 4:30 p.m. at the Highland House. The election of officers will take place and the volunteer programs will be discussed. All members are invited to the dinner meeting. For reservations call Secretary Elizabeth Holly at 724/438-0697.

Elizabeth Holly, Secretary

Branch 421— NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 421, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of John Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebsburg, Pennsylvania.

Lillian R. Stager, Secretary

Branch 456— HAWK RUN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 456, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 12:00 noon at Lincoln Club Meeting Room, 4th Street, Hawk Run, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place at this time. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Frank Danko, Secretary

Branch 484— GRACETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph the Protector Society, Branch 484, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Francis Church Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a report on our finances and a report on the annual meeting of the Rev. John Martvon District. Donations for the coming year will be discussed and the election of officers for 2007 will take place. Members with questions about our excellent insurance products and annuities are encouraged to attend. All other members are also welcome.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

Branch 493— CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, December 9, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at Mabenka's Restaurant, 7844 South Cicero Avenue, Burbank, Illinois. Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. If you plan to attend, please notify Robert Tapak Magruder at 502/244-6643 or 773/505-0117, or Ed Kedzuch at 708/352-6737. Members of other lodges who attend will pay with separate checks.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

Branch 553— AKRON, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 553, will hold a meeting and election of officers on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at

2:00 p.m. at the Slovak J Club, Akron, Ohio. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. All bona fide members are encouraged to attend and to take an active roll in their organization.

Akron Branch 553 will hold the annual Vilija Dinner on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at the Akron Slovak J Club. The dinner will begin at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. Father Ralph Coletta and Father Richard Ondrejka will officiate at this event. There will be entertainment and Christmas Carols. We will also present the checks to selected charities. All children through age 16 who are bona fide members will be able to attend with no charge. Tickets may be purchased from any board member or by calling the Club at 330/773-4978.

Another trip to Rising Sun, Indiana, is set for February 6-7, 2007. This will be a fun overnight trip to the Casino. Contact the Club for more information.

We wish all the members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Linda M. Hanko, Recording Secretary

Branch 565— DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The Officers of the St. Dominic Society, Branch 565, invite the members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 12:00 noon at the home of Dorothy Rudinec, 522 2nd Street, Donora, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Rudinec, Financial Secretary

Branch 567— ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the annual report and the swearing in of the new officers. Members are urged to attend.

The Officers of Branch 567 wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas. May God bless all our members.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

Branch 581— GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 581, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at Pruzin's Funeral Home, 6360 Broadway, Merrillville, Indiana. The election of officers will take place. Also on the agenda will be a discussion of our 6% Interest Annuity, our free 1st year \$10,000 JEP Policy for children, the 5% IRA for adults, and the two year Park Annuity at 4.75%. All members are urged to attend.

George Kelchak, Financial Secretary

Branch 587— ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

Edith Valo, Financial Secretary

Branch 635— NEW BRIGHTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 635, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. at the Fallston Fire Hall, Fallston, Pennsylvania. On

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BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS continued from page 7

the agenda will be a financial report, officer's reports, a report on last year's activities, and a discussion of events for the coming year. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting. A luncheon will be served.

Vincent Ciganik

Branch 644— MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 644, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Michael R. Jablonsky, 1215 Foster Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers for the year 2007, a financial report for the year 2006, and a general discussion about future branch business and activities. You are asked to bring at least one new member application so we can increase Branch 644 membership.

The officers of Branch 644 wish all the members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous New Year.

Michael R. Jablonsky, President

Branch 682— YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold its Christmas Meeting and Party on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the Materials Research Building, behind Holy Trinity Church, Struthers, Ohio. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2007 and a discussion of activities of the past year and plans for the coming year. The Christmas Party will be held after the lodge meeting. All members are invited to attend.

Joseph Scavina, Financial Secretary

Branch 706— SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, December 8, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Vice President Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. On the agenda will be officers' reports, the annual audit, a discussion of Branch activities, and the election of officers for the coming year. All members are urged to attend this meeting. If you plan to attend please call Barbara Fayta at 219/864-8251 so arrangements can be made. Refreshments will be served. All members are urged to check their policies for named beneficiaries.

Barbara Fayta, Vice President

Branch 721— BANNISTER, MICHIGAN

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 721, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Cyril's Meeting Room. All members are urged to attend. The election of officers will take place.

Joseph Galecka, Recording Secretary

Branch 731— YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 12:30 p.m. at Saint Matthias Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio. The election of officers for 2007 will take place. We look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

James Bobby, Secretary

Branch 738— MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 738, will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, December

4, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. at the Munhall-Whitaker VFW Post Home, Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pennsylvania. The Nomination and Election of Officers for 2007 will take place. Delegates to our National Convention will also give their reports and plans for Lodge activities for 2007 will be discussed. All members are invited to attend this meeting.

Jeanette Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

Branch 743— DETROIT & STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. On the agenda will be a convention report, officers' reports, a financial report, approval of the 2007 budget, a discussion of branch activities and other business pertaining to the branch and the First Catholic Slovak Union. The election of officers will also take place.

Members are urged to attend the celebration of the Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. before the meeting. Please come and enjoy the spirit of the season with your fellow branch members.

Members who need assistance with their policy or need to change their address or beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087, Phone: 586/254-0225.

The officers of Branch 743 wish you a Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

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

Branch 764— WARREN, OHIO

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 764, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. at 379-E Quarry Lane, N.E., Warren, Ohio. All members are welcome to attend.

Joanne Odom, Secretary

Branch 780— SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 780, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. in SS. Peter and Paul Church Multi-Purpose Room, 4735 West Michigan Avenue, Saginaw, Michigan. The election of officers will take place. There will be a potluck dinner to celebrate the coming holidays following the meeting. The officers of Branch 780 encourage all members to come and bring their families.

We wish all the members a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Catherine Karlsen, Secretary

Branch 784— MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 784, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2007 and a discussion of branch activities for the coming year. Members are urged to attend.

Marta Fuska, President

Branch 785— TORONTO, ONTARIO

The St. John Society, Branch 785, will hold a joint Annual Meeting with the Msgr. Michael Shuba District on Sunday, Janu-

ary 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. All members are welcome.

Michael Dobis

Branch 810— MONTREAL, QUEBEC

The St. Martin Society, Branch 810, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2007. Members are urged to attend.

Mary Jarabek, President

Branch 831— TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, will hold its next meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2006, at 12:00 noon, at the home of President Larry Kuniak, 1115 Center Street, Tarentum, Pennsylvania. The nomination of officers will take place at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Children's Christmas treat will be given to those whose dues are paid up to date and are 12 years of age or under. You may pick up these treats at the home of Kathleen Persun, 158 Davidson Street, Tarentum, on Sunday, December 17, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Kathleen M. Persun, Secretary

Branch 844— LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Slovak Christmas Mass and Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. followed by a delicious lunch and the presentation of gifts to the children.

Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Christmas. Following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review the officers' reports and to

discuss future branch activities. The election of officers for 2007 will also take place.

We hope to see you on Sunday, December 17. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very special New Year.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

Branch 855— PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 855, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2006, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Harry's Steakhouse, 5664 Brecksville Road, Independence, Ohio. We will have the election of officers for the year 2007. All members are urged to attend. Please make reservations by November 22, 2006. Call Linda L. Kolesar at 440/886-0206.

Linda L. Kolesar, Secretary/Treasurer

Branch 856— WASHINGTON, D.C.

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, Virginia. On the agenda will be the election of officers for the coming year and a discussion of the District meeting. For more information call Stephen C. Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

Stephen C. Matula, President

Branch 857— LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 857, will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary, Andy Herman, 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2007.

The officers of Branch 857 wish all the members a safe, happy and Holy Holiday Season.

Damian D. Nasta, Recording Secretary



John Hudanish (right) is shown with the Beginner's Class instructor Andrew Sofranko and the Advance Class instructor Helen Sevinski.

Slovak Classes Offered by the Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. PA

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeast Pennsylvania continues to offer Slovak language classes in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area. One student, John Hudanish of Scranton, has excelled in all the classes. He started with the beginner's class and graduated to the advance class. He has done so well that he is now able to help teach new students.

The Slovak Heritage Society conducts classes both in the Fall in September and in February. For further information check the society's website at shsnepa@verizon.net.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Officers of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District. First row, L-R: Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain; Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary; Greg Harakal, President; Helena Gaydos, Vice President; and Rev. Thomas Derzack, District Chaplain. Top row, L-R: Gerald Fabian, Auditor; Don Nasta, Fraternal Director; Bernardine Gerhard, Chairman of Auditors; Damian Nasta, Financial Secretary; and Edward Nasta, Treasurer. Missing from the photo is Loretta Dashner, Auditor.

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT—

Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 15, 2006, at Holy Trinity Church, Egypt, Pennsylvania. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated at 11:30 a.m. by the Rev. Thomas Baddick. Following the liturgy, the officers and delegates assembled in the church social hall and enjoyed a delicious dinner.

The meeting was called to order by President Greg Harakal at 2:00 p.m. and opened with a prayer by the Rev. Thomas Baddick and the pledge of allegiance. Roll call was taken with nine officers and 23 delegates present. The count was accepted and approved by a motion by Robert Hager and Steve Roman. The secretary then read the minutes from the previous meeting. The report was accepted and approved with no additions or corrections on a motion by Rev. Thomas Derzack and Phyllis Roman. The financial secretary and treasurer presented their reports. The chairman of auditors and auditors audited the books and everything was found in good and proper order. On a motion by Lorraine Micek and Andrew Trojcek, the auditor's report was accepted and approved on a motion by Robert Lakata and Victor Sebo. Regional Director Damian Nasta spoke about the recent convention in Florida. There was a discussion about the hospitality room and the music, and also about policies and annuities.

On a motion by Victor Sebo and Andrew Herman, all the officers will remain. Rev. Thomas Derzack was elected to be our chaplain. The officers were sworn in by our National Chaplain Father Thomas Nasta. The officers are: Gregory Harakal, President; Helena Gaydos, Vice President; Damian Nasta, Financial Secretary; Edward Nasta, Treasurer; Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary; Don Nasta, Fraternal Director; Bernardine Gerhard, Chairman of Auditors; Loretta Dashner and Gerald Fabian, Auditors; and Rev. Thomas Derzack, Chaplain.

The Semiannual Meeting will be held in Lansford, Pennsylvania, on April 22, 2007. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation. A Blessed Christmas to everyone.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT—California

The Prince Pribina District will hold its Slovak Christmas Mass and Meeting on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in St. John Bosco Chapel followed by a gourmet lunch and distribution of Christmas gifts to the children by St. Mikulas in the cafeteria.

A District Meeting will be held in the cafeteria after the festivities. On the agenda will be a discussion of upcoming fraternal activities and FCSU insurance products.

The officers of the Prince Pribina District wish you joy in your home and peace at Christmas and throughout the year.

Paul Skuben, President

MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT—

Toronto, Ontario

The Msgr. Michael Shuba District will hold a joint Annual Meeting with Branch 785 on Sunday, January 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Mississauga, Ontario. All members are welcome.

Michael Dobis, Regional Director

MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT—

Monongahela Valley, Pennsylvania

President Dorothy Petrus and the other officers of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District of the Monongahela Valley wish their brothers and sisters of the First Catholic Slovak Union a Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with good health, prosperity and much happiness.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

PRINCE RASTISLAV DISTRICT—

Montreal, Canada

The Prince Rastislav District, Branch 784, and Branch 810, will hold a joint meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish Hall, Montreal, Quebec. On the agenda will be the election of officers for 2007. Members are urged to attend.

Anthony S. Makovsky, President

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT—

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Social Hall, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Branch 38 will host the meeting.

District President Margaret Perla is requesting that all branches be represented at this meeting. The meeting agenda will include a discussion of the requirements adopted at the 48th Convention regarding the annual payment to branches for each member. A financial report, the election of officers for 2007, and a discussion of plans for the coming year will also take place.

Branch secretaries are asked to call Florence Matta at 412/466-7460 by December 4, 2006, with the number of members who will be in attendance. A catered luncheon will follow the meeting.

The officers and members of the Pittsburgh District wish our FCSU members a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Margaret Perla, President



Pittsburgh Prince of Peace Parish Hosts Annual Vilija December 16

On Saturday, December 16, 2006, Prince of Peace Parish in Pittsburgh's South Side will celebrate its 13th Annual Slovak Vilija, recreating the traditions and customs of the traditional Christmas Eve dinner. Also known as Stedry Vecer – Bountiful Evening – this meatless meal is enjoyed by Slovaks around the world. And bountiful it is: baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohi, bobalky, kolachy and other authentic delicacies crown the menu. The significance of each food is explained as each item is served and guests are encouraged to share memories of their own family Christmas Eve traditions.

Following dinner, a very special holiday program featuring Pittsburgh's oldest performing Slovak folk ensemble, the Pittsburgh Slovaks, will entertain and intrigue guests with a unique presentation of folk songs, dances and carols highlighting customs and traditions of the Advent and Christmas seasons in Slovak villages of long ago. The program begins with the tying of the base viol on St. Katherine's Day (November 25) and culminates with the re-telling of Christ's birth with the well-loved "Jaslickari".

The Prince of Peace Annual Slovak Vilija is a rare opportunity to feast on delicious Slovak foods and enjoy a moving, entertaining and authentic folk presentation. Seating is limited and attendance is by reservation only. Tickets are this season's best bargain too – available for only \$15 for adults and \$8 for children under 16. Tickets may be reserved by calling the Parish Office at 412/481-8380. Don't wait another minute and risk disappointment. Order tickets today and join the Prince of Peace Parish family for a very special Christmas tradition on Saturday, December 16, 2006. Doors open at 4 p.m. Dinner will be served according to tradition, as the first star rises at approximately 5 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
MONDAY, DECEMBER 18
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, 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.

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:

Anthony Sutherland, Editor

"JEDNOTA"

1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835

FAX: (717) 944-3107

Statement as of September 30, 2006 of the

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA

ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	171,898,762		171,898,762	166,997,543
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	9,933,283		9,933,283	9,933,283
2.2 Common stocks.....	1,510,541		1,510,541	1,522,050
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	2,396,443		2,396,443	2,476,816
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,355,330		1,355,330	1,395,478
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,021,901		1,021,901	1,050,770
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....1,816,597), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	1,816,597		1,816,597	5,898,232
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	695,158		695,158	657,602
7. Other invested assets.....	2,329,705	(116,822)	2,446,527	2,503,620
8. Receivables for securities.....			0	
9. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
10. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 9).....	193,520,395	(116,822)	193,637,217	192,998,069
11. Title Plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
12. Investment income due and accrued.....	2,858,046		2,858,046	2,524,181
13. Premiums and considerations:				
13.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	23,281		23,281	18,651
13.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
13.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
14. Reinsurance:				
14.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
14.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
14.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
15. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
16.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
16.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
17. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
18. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
19. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....			0	
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
21. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
22. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
23. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	29,750	29,750	0	0
24. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 10 through 23).....	196,431,472	(87,072)	196,518,544	195,540,901
25. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
26. TOTALS (Lines 24 and 25).....	196,431,472	(87,072)	196,518,544	195,540,901

Statement as of September 30, 2006 of the

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	172,239,000	170,929,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	1,077,285	1,260,174
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	330,000	330,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	320,000	320,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	245,529	283,532
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	3,492,234	3,618,771
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	4,570	4,570
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	377,209	856,894
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	17,966	17,955
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	4,904,159	4,862,659
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	11,000	20,000
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,097,295	2,158,146
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Payable for securities.....	99,501	696,227
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	314,992	316,421
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	185,530,740	185,674,349
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	185,530,740	185,674,349
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	10,987,804	9,866,552
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	10,987,804	9,866,552
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30).....	196,518,544	195,540,901

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS

Home Office will be closed on the following days during the holidays:

**Christmas – December 25 and 26, 2006
New Years Day – January 1, 2007**



Stedry Vecer in New York City on December 17

St. John Nepomucene Church is holding its annual Stedry Vecer or Vilija on Sunday, December 17, 2006, at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Admission is \$20.00 per person and that includes the traditional Slovak Christmas Eve meal. Tickets may be obtained at the parish office or by calling Jozef Bilik at 718/463-2084. Come and celebrate the Slovak spirit of Christmas.

Statement as of September 30, 2006 of the

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	4,073,494	6,712,724	7,596,237
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	8,275,461	8,997,231	11,764,645
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	210,000	120,000	236,039
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	24,004	15,943	27,493
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	12,582,959	15,845,898	19,624,414
10. Death benefits.....	1,952,549	1,868,967	2,585,779
11. Matured endowments.....	9,092	20,977	22,091
12. Annuity and old age benefits.....	5,987,140	3,922,343	5,594,769
13. Disability, accident and health benefits, including premiums waived \$.....0.....			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	351,444	355,712	443,675
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	280,042	134,891	179,377
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	1,310,000	6,644,000	6,763,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	9,890,267	12,946,890	15,588,691
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	52,848	55,428	68,448
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	2,199,203	1,953,650	2,261,093
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	118,915	62,548	82,675
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(129,645)	(42,604)	(26,976)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	12,131,588	14,975,913	17,973,931
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	451,371	869,985	1,650,483
28. Refunds to members.....	223,824	222,450	308,079
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	227,547	647,536	1,342,404
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	(216,195)	(173,043)	(173,043)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	11,352	474,493	1,169,361
SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	9,866,552	8,578,130	8,578,130
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	11,352	474,493	1,169,361
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains or (losses).....	379,738	126,315	320,251
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....	9,000		
36. Change in nonadmitted assets and related items.....	74	63	17,502
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	60,851	105,290	(193,255)
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	660,237	58	(25,436)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,121,252	706,219	1,288,423
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	10,987,804	9,284,348	9,866,552

India Missions Need Rosaries, Pens, Pencils, Used Cards and Magazines

Father Paul Cruz of Kerala, India, has three schools and a parish of 5,000 people. He is asking if we could help him by sending pens, pencils, rosaries, statues, used cards and used magazines. This will be greatly appreciated. Please send these items to: Rev. Paul Cruz, St. Anthony's Church, Kanjirakodu P.O., Kundara – 691 501, Kollam, Kerala, INDIA.

VISIT THE FCSU's WEBSITE

Home page at: <http://www.fcsu.com>

Send e-mail to the FCSU at the following address:
fcsu@aol.com

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2006

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Thomas M. Hricik called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. and opened it with prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Thomas M. Hricik, President
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 George F. Matta, Treasurer
 Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director

Also attending was General Counsel, Andrew M. Rajec, by invitation of the President.

READING & ACCEPTANCE OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Executive Secretary Arendt read the Minutes of the September 2006 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta presented a verbal treasurer's report for the month of September and answered the questions of the Executive Committee. Treasurer George Matta gave the Executive Committee a report on all monies being transferred from Merrill Lynch back to the Home Office to cover convention and daily expenses.

Treasurer George Matta suggested the Executive Committee develop new annuity products and a more efficient marketing plan. Treasurer George Matta further stated and discussed the possibility of developing a new annuity bonus plan. This discussion was deferred until the afternoon session when Edward DePersis would join the meeting through a telephone conference call.

Treasurer George Matta also led a round table discussion concerning the competition we are experiencing with the banks. There was further discussion on the effects of the overall condition of the economy and the impact it is having on companies.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

Executive Secretary Arendt reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of September:

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2006

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$146,450.77
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 35,579.12
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	-0-

The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements report and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

ANNUITY REPORT

The Executive Secretary gave a report for the month of September and answered The Executive Boards' questions.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the monthly membership report for the month of September and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the mortgage, disbursements, and membership reports as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Adjourn for lunch.

President Thomas Hricik opened the afternoon session.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

Vice President Andrew Harcar informed the Executive Committee that a seminar would be held on April 29, 2007 in Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky, Region 3 area. He would be in touch with Regional Director, Damian Nasta, Region 2, and discuss the possibility of holding a seminar in his region. Vice President Andrew Harcar stated he contacted the National Fraternal Congress on the availability of guidelines for the purpose of conducting seminars.

Vice President Andrew Harcar led a discussion concerning the role of Regional Directors contacting the inactive branches and the possibility of merging the inactive and active branches together in their respective regions.

President Elect Andrew Rajec led a discussion suggesting the Marketing Committee hold separate meetings to discuss potential marketing plans in the future.

Vice President Andrew Harcar gave an update on the progress of the General Agents and Agents.

Vice President Andrew Harcar led a brief discussion on a 5-Payment Life Insurance Policy and a Guaranteed Issued Policy Plan, which will be, discussed further when Edward DePersis joins the meeting by telephone conference.

Vice President Andrew Harcar stated the possibility of an Alaska Cruise for the 2007 Membership Meet. He will give further information at the October meeting and suggest a back-up plan for the 2007 Meet.

REPORT ON PRINTERY BUILDING

President Thomas Hricik gave a progress report on the leasing of the Printery Building. In the last month there was only one prospect looking at the building. He will continue to

update the Committee. He also led a discussion on the leasing contract and it was determined there would be further discussion in more detail after the first of the year.

President Thomas Hricik led a further discussion on the potential of build outs of the Printery Building once it was leased. There was also a discussion concerning County Phrase I and II Project.

CONVENTION DISCUSSION

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt updated the Committee on the convention expenses. He is still waiting on National Officers to submit travel vouchers in order to complete the report and finalize all expenses.

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt stated the final draft of the Bylaws will be reviewed by the Executive Committee, Bylaw Chairman and Convention Chairman on November 16, 2006.

CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to form a Consolidation Committee consisting of the Executive Committee and President Elect Andrew Rajec. Motion carried.

FURTHER BUSINESS

President Thomas Hricik and Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt reported on the Slovak League Meeting held on October 7, 2006. The highlights of the meeting were the discussion on the 100th anniversary celebration which will be held in mid June 2007, place is yet to be determined. Final details will be forthcoming. Also discussed was the possibility of a tour sponsored by the Slovak League to Slovakia with the middle of May 2007 being favored.

The Scholarship Committee Members have been invited to an Appreciation Dinner December 11, 2006 in Independence, Ohio for their dedication and hard work.

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL

Edward DePersis, Bruce and DePersis Company, joined the meeting by telephone conference.

Vice President Andrew Harcar suggested the idea of waving the withdrawal charges on annuity contracts for people who use this money for nursing home expenses. Edward DePersis will develop a rider endorsement and present it to the Executive Committee for review and this endorsement will become apart of the contract.

There was further discussion on the development of a college annuity plan. Edward DePersis will supply additional information on the Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) and the Health Savings Account (HAS). After a lengthy discussion the Executive Committee will review this information to see if it would blend with the other products already in place.

Treasurer George Matta discussed ways to retain and bring in new money with our annuity plans. Treasurer George Matta made a motion and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to pay a 2% bonus on all new deposits (Flexible Plan) that are retained for 5 years in the society from date of deposit starting January 1, 2007 through March 2007. Motion carried. (This bonus is paid on initial deposits but not interest earned). Edward DePersis will get the information to the Executive Committee as soon as possible so the Committee may begin a marketing blitz immediately.

There was a discussion to develop a Guarantee Issue Program in the near future. Edward DePersis will give the Executive Committee information and an outline of this program for review.

At this time Edward DePersis ended his conference telephone call.

DISCUSSION ON OCTOBER EXECUTIVE MEETING

The November meeting will be held on November 14, 2006 in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The Executive Committee will go to St. Vincent Arch Abbey on November 15, 2006 to present them with Chalice from the orphanage.

REQUEST FOR ADS & DONATIONS

Requests were viewed and acted upon.

MISCELLANEOUS

President Thomas Hricik read a letter from a branch officer concerning branch transfers that took place in the year 2000 and 2002. Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt said he would draft a letter in response to the branch officer.

President Thomas Hricik questioned Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt on the additional payment to the 401K Plan for the employees. Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt stated the additional payments had already been made.

ADJOURN

They're being no further business to discuss; a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

President Thomas M. Hricik closed the meeting with prayer.

Thomas M. Hricik
 National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

★ ★ ★ VETERANS DAY 2006 ★ ★ ★

Our Departed And Living Honored

By John Karch

This year's annual observance of Veterans Day appeared to my wife Loretta and me to be somewhat different from previous ones. It seemed more personal as we thought deeply about the millions of veterans the country was honoring, those still in combat, our late fathers who fought in World War I and Loretta's also in WW II and my own involvement. Perhaps contributing to our sadness were the continuing contentious domestic security issues and foreign threats that may impact on children and grandchildren.

Perhaps, too, we are more conscious of the daily losses of World War II veterans as we meet with comrades of my Navy Squadron and as we shed tears through the film "Flags of Our Fathers" in which Marine Corps Sergeant Mike Strank was a "hero" in the battle on Iwo Jima and over which I flew numerous times before the February 1945 invasion. JEDNOTA's November 1 issue display of the JEDNOTA VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAQUE was still another reminder.

However, heartening are the observances nationally and locally throughout the nation, including those at the Arlington National Cemetery with the participation of our leading officials in dignified events—wreath laying, speeches, and military music. Many veterans organizations, including the Catholic War Veterans, are active participants marching in with the U.S. and their organization's flags. Locally, flags are displayed on homes, religious services are attended with colors, homilies are voiced with honors and prayers for peace, official ceremonies are held, and other patriotic activities conducted, at schools for example.

Proclamation and Speeches

The host organization for this year's ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery was The Military Order of the Purple Heart. Its Mission Statement is "to foster an environment of goodwill and comradeship among Combat Wounded Veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families."

President George W. Bush laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and made remarks. Earlier, he issued a Proclamation for Veterans Day, as is done annually, which included the following.

"All of America's veterans have placed our Nation's security before their own lives, creating a debt that we can never fully repay. Our veterans represent the best of America, and they deserve the best America can give them.

As we recall the service of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coastguardsmen, we are reminded that the defense of freedom comes with great loss and sacrifice. This Veterans Day, we give thanks to those who have served freedom's cause; we salute the members of our Armed Forces who are confronting our adversaries abroad; and we honor the men and women who left America's shores but did not live to be thanked as veterans. They will always be remembered by our country.

I encourage all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through ceremonies and prayers. I call upon



Some Catholic War Veterans of Post 1652 with Pastor after Veterans Day Mass at St. James Church R-L, Fr. Patrick Posey, Commander Marvin McFeaters, SandraCarillo-Arroyo, John Perka, and John Karch.

Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to support and participate in patriotic activities in their communities."

In his speech at the Arlington National Cemetery, the President said: "On this day, in this month, at this hour, our nation remembers the moment when the guns of World War I went silent—and we recognize the service and the sacrifice of our nation's veterans. From Valley Forge to Vietnam, from Kuwait to Kandahar, from Berlin to Baghdad, our veterans have borne the costs of America's wars—and they have stood watch over America's peace. The American people are grateful to the veterans and all who have fought for our freedom.... This day is dedicated to all who answered the call to service—whether they live in honor among us, or sleep in valor beneath this sacred ground."

In his radio speech the President said "We commemorate Veterans Day and we express our appreciation for their services and sacrifices.

By its Resolution, the U.S. Senate designated the week of November 5-11 as "National Veterans Awareness week and encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate educational activities."

Memorial Mass at St. James

The week prior to Veterans Day, the St. James Catholic Church, Falls Church, VA, Bulletin noted that Fr. Patrick Posey, the Pastor, would celebrate the 8:30 a.m. Memorial Mass on 11 November. Catholic War Veterans Post 1652 of Falls Church would participate and host a reception afterwards. While all were invited, "We are particularly interested in meeting and welcoming family members of men and women who are serving abroad in the Armed Forces. At 11:00 a.m. there will be a City of Falls Church Veterans Day Ceremony... in which CWV Post 1652 also will participate. All are welcome to attend

this event."

As customary at this Mass, the Post members, some in CWV uniform, carried the U.S. and the Post colors, the organist played an appropriate composition, and Fr. Posey indeed celebrated Mass. The Pastor welcomed the CWV. He noted November 11 as the Feast of St. Martin of Tours, the patron saint of soldiers. Fr. Posey honored the CWV and other veterans serving the nation and asked all to pray for peace.

Falls Church, VA Ceremony

The city issued a Media Advisory and preparations were well made for this annual event by representatives of American Legion Posts 130 and 225, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9274, CWV Post 1652, Falls Church Daughters of the American Revolution, Northern Virginia WW II Veterans, the Veterans Memorial Committee, and dedicated volunteers under the coordination of the City of Falls Church Recreation and Park Division.

The Master of Ceremonies, Harry Shovlin, a retired educator in the Falls Church school system, is an experienced MC who orchestrated the half-hour Ceremony expertly. He began by thanking the assembled for attending, saying that "we are here to honor, to pray for and to learn about the men and women who have given their lives in defense of their country."

The ceremony begins at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month for a reason, he pointed out. The signing of the Armistice which ended WW I took place in a railroad car, in Versailles, France at that time, day, and month 88 years ago: "The War to end all wars" was officially terminated but, he continued, we know that war between rival nations "raised its ugly head many times during the past 88 years." According to some records, he said, only 25 WW I veterans out of five million who served during the war remain alive today. Here in Memorial Park, he stressed, "the citizens of

Falls Church built a Veterans Memorial, not a WAR Memorial."

Then, the MC called American Legion Post 130 honor guard to Post the Colors; the National Anthem was played by the Falls Church Concert Band under the direction of Adam Levowitz; the Invocation was given by Dr. M. Davies Kirkland, Dulin United Methodist Church; Welcoming by Mayor Robin Gardner; and Remembrance for MIAs by American Legion's Tony Scerbo.

The Mayor thanked the participants for being there and said "It is an honor to speak to you on this day, a day that we honor our servicemen and women. Veterans Day honors all of the men and women who have served our country since the American Revolution and continue to serve our country." She recognized all of the veterans who were there and asked them to stand and be recognized. Also, she asked all the men and women who are currently serving in our military to stand and be recognized. The Mayor then told of the actions of a friend who took part in the seizure of Iwo Jima and who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. She concluded by listing traits in the CMH citation saying that all of our servicemen and women possess them.

Marvin C. McFeaters, Commander of CWV Post 1652 and Chairman of Greater Falls Church Veterans Council, said that the City of Falls Church Veterans Memorial was established to honor all veterans, both living and dead, and serving in both war and peace. "Today we have come to honor the long line of veterans from Falls Church who have stood up and answered their country's call for more than two centuries. Among these, we will honor Corporal Andy Dee Anderson who was killed on 6 June 2006 in a mortar attack on a base in Iraq where he was serving. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery."

After hearing remarks by soldiers from his 46th Engineer Battalion, Cpl. Anderson's family was presented with a plaque honoring his sacrifice. Also, they were presented with a gold star banner and the American flag that was flown officially over the Arlington National Cemetery. Cpl. Anderson's name will be added to the Falls Church Honor Roll. The family accepted these honors in a dignified manner that was emotionally moving.

Keynote Address

The keynote Address was delivered by an Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louis J. Blazy III, Ph.D., of Slovak ancestry. Dr. Blazy's presentation was not only interesting and informative but surprising as well. Some of his comments were as follows.

"We have all come together to pay tribute to the more than 48 million Americans who have worn the uniform during war and peace. Nearly 25 million of them are living today.... Their presence reminds of the debt we owe to all those who have served throughout our Nation's history. Yet we are also mindful that hundreds of thousands of Americans are serving right now, in many corners of the world.

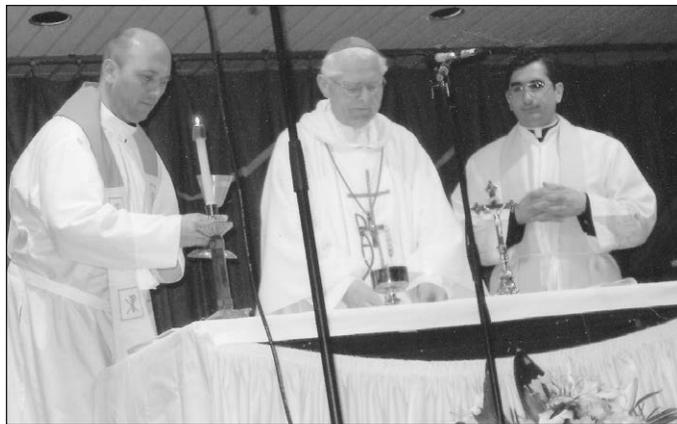
As you might guess many FBI employees are veterans who joined the Bureau after

continued on page 15

Slovak National Alliance Celebrates Slovak Culture at Annual Festival

By George J.E. Michuda

The Slovak National Alliance celebrated Slovak culture with a two-day Festival at Park Place of Countryside in Country Side, Illinois. The festival was attended by Slovak Americans from throughout Chicagoland and also Wisconsin and Indiana. Among the special guests was Archbishop Jan Sokol from the Archdiocese of Bratislava-Trnava, who offered a Slovak Mass for the attendees. Concelebrating with Archbishop Sokol were Rev. Jozef Krajniak from Slovakia and Rev. Jaroslav Jasso from Loyola University in Chicago.



Celebrating Mass in the Slovak language, L-R: Rev. Jaroslav Jasso from Loyola University, Archbishop Jan Sokol, and Rev. Jozef Krajniak from Slovakia.

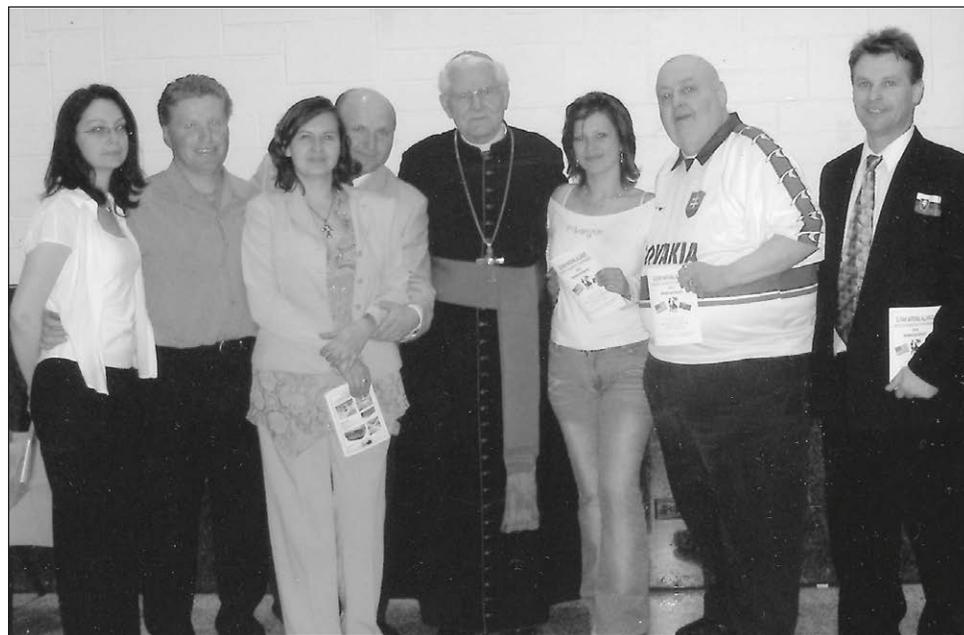
and performing since 1968 all across the United States, Canada and Europe. The Veselica Slovak Folklore Ensemble, formed in 1999, is actually three groups, the Senior Dancers, the Junior Dancers, and a very young children's ensemble called the Children's Folklore Ensemble Veselicka, all under the direction of Zuzana Fidrikova, Lucia Kretova, Marika Ondrasik, Pavel Melich, and Peter Volcek.

The Slovak National Alliance represents all Americans of Slovak descent and is dedicated to American democracy and the American way of life. At the same time, the Slovak National Alliance promotes a better understanding and appreciation of the Slovak nation and all its peoples along with their rich history, culture, traditions and achievements, and the long struggle for freedom and independence. The Board of Directors and membership of the Slovak National Alliance firmly believes that the national existence and welfare of the Slovak nation can be best safeguarded by the Slovaks themselves within their own Slovak Republic. The Slovak National Alliance sponsors at least two picnics during the summer months along with the annual festival. For more information, call President Alojz Jurcik at 773/744-8401.



Dance members of Veselica.

The festival entertainment featured performances by the Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble, Veselica Slovak Folk Troup, and a special vocal performance by internationally recognized pop star Ingola direct from Bratislava. The Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble was under the direction of founder and artistic director Milan Straka, assisted by Eleanora Rimar-cik. The Sarisan group has been entertaining



Archbishop Jan Sokol with Slovak National Alliance Executive Committee. L-R: Zuzana Jurcik, Auditor-Trustee Paul Jurcik, Treasurer Margita Skutova, President Alojz Jurcik, Archbishop Sokol, Pop singer Ingola, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Auditor-Trustee George J.E. Michuda, and Auditor-Trustee Miroslav Jurcik.



Festival workers, L-R: Paul Rostak, Michael Rostak, Milada Rostak, Zuzana Jurcik, and Anna Jurcik.

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Veterans Day 2006

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their military service because they wanted to serve America. For almost 100 years, the FBI has built a reputation as a world-class law enforcement agency, whose primary mission was to protect Americans from crime. But September 11th added greater depth to our mission and greater responsibility to the American people. The FBI is also a world-class counterterrorism and intelligence agency. Our highest priority is preventing terrorism.

You all know that the FBI is on the front lines of the war on terrorism here at home. What you might not know is that the FBI is

also serving on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, working alongside U.S. military forces....The skills of the FBI agents, analysts, and technicians complement the skills of our soldiers. FBI personnel support every aspect of military operations, from interviewing detainees and witnesses, to collecting and processing evidence from crime scenes, to analyzing explosives, to engaging in enemy combat beside our soldiers."

He stated that he comes from a military family, he is a veteran, his father was a Korean War veteran, his father-in-law was a highly-decorated veteran who served in WW

II, Korea, and twice in Vietnam. His mother spent nearly twenty years at the Pentagon serving the military as a civilian. His mother-in-law, who was at the ceremony, was a flight nurse during WW II. His son is presently a fighter pilot for the Navy.

"Today is a day to thank our veterans for putting aside their own interest and for serving America....We honor every man and woman who have guarded a post, led a mission or tended a wounded soldier. We honor every private and pilot, every airman and ensign, every sergeant and Seal. I also want to say 'Thank You' to Corporal Andy

Anderson's family for his service, his bravery and deeply honor the sacrifice he made for our great Nation."

Dr. Blazy concluded: "From all of us at the FBI, I thank each and every veteran for your sacrifice and service. May God bless you all and may God bless America."

The program ended with the presentation of a wreath in memory of departed veterans by Ms. Leandra Peak, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution; a prayer for the departed veterans by Dr. Kirkland; Taps by the band; and Retiring of Colors by American Legion Post 130.

Slovak National Alliance Celebrates Slovak Culture

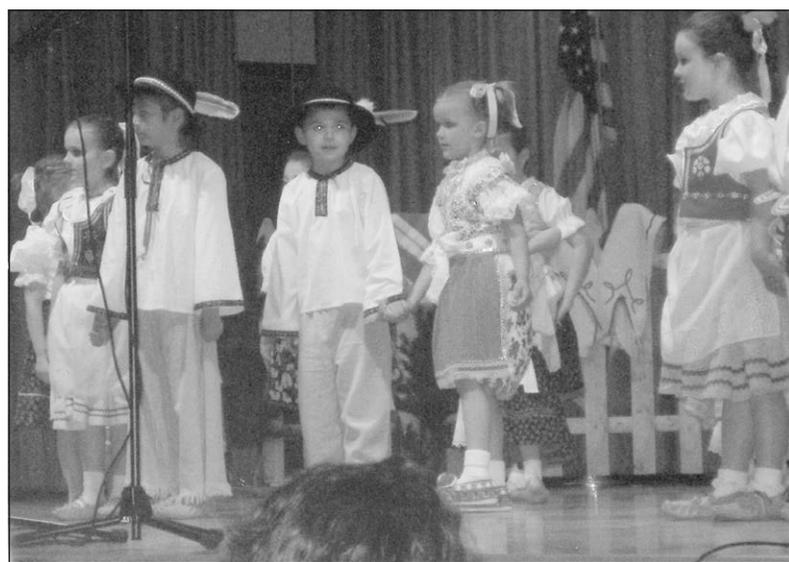
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Members of the Veselica Folk Dance Troup include, L-R: Stefania Ciszek, Kim Nehoda, Helene Pavlik, Peter Kudrnovska, and Anna Jurcik.



L-R: Cultural advisor Anna Stolarik, President Alojz Jurcik, Ingola, and Simona Jurcik.



Members of the Veselicka Ensemble include, L-R: Laura Neupauer, Daniel Lengravsky, Denis Jurcik, Christinka Majercak, Simonka Kretova, and Palko Majercak.

The University of Pittsburgh's 16th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival

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

It just keeps getting better every year. That is how one can characterize the Sixteenth Annual Slovak Heritage Festival which took place on November 5, 2006 at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.

Sponsored by the Slavic Studies Department and the Slovak Studies Program, the event has expanded and grown to become one of the premier Slovak festivals in the United States. It featured a broad array of Slovak songs and dances, educational lectures and displays, Slovak ethnic foods and pastries, and a host of vendors who were selling books, recordings, crafts, oplatky (Christmas wafers) and other assorted Slovak merchandise and cultural exhibits. Among them were displays by Helene Cincebeaux and her mother, Helen Zemek Baine, who showed off some of the rich traditions of Slovak folk costumes. Likewise, Joseph Armata featured an exhibit of East European textiles patterned with their authentic village techniques and styles.



Ben Sorensen playing the fujara.

Most everyone who comes to the Pittsburgh Slovak Fest enjoys the entertainment, learns something new, and dines on a fabulous meal made with love by the ladies of St. John's Church. Ethnic foods included delicious halušky, pirohy, klobasa, holupky, and various desserts.

The Musical Program started with a performance by the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Ensemble (PAS), which has been putting on shows across the country and internationally for over twenty years. John and Angela Lipchick direct PAS.

The well-known Pittsburgh area favorite, Jerry Jumba along with Dr. Andrei Pidkivka, followed PAS. Pidkivka specializes in playing classical and ethnic flutes and played with Duquesne University's famous Tamburitians. Over many years, Jumba has done a marvelous job singing and preserving Slovak and Carpatho-Rusyn songs and is a tribute to the region and a jewel to hear. He has also produced some fine CDs for purchase.

Ben Sorensen followed in the program, playing on the instrument unique to Slovakia – the fujara, the traditional favorite of Slovakia's shepherds. The fujara and its music are such treasures, that UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, have awarded it a special status as "oral and intangible heritage of humanity."

The fujara's unusual sound immediately grabs one's attention, and there is no other instrument like it in the world. This was one of the very reasons that Sorensen, a musician by profession, pursued its study as his passion. He studied how to play with the aid of Dušan Holík, a master musician and instrument maker in Slovakia.

In addition to his performance, Sorensen later presented a great lecture and slide show about the origin of the instrument, which proved that it had existed as far back as the early 16th century. While romancing the fujara and other Slovak wind instruments, Sorensen also romanced and married a beautiful young Slovak woman, and they have a young child who was there at his lecture. The fujara has helped him learn to love

Slovakia's language and culture as well as find a mate.

After hearing the fujara, the program featured Jozef Ivaska, the "Man of a Thousand Songs," whose lyrical tenor voice thrilled the audience. This performance was part of his third concert tour of the United States. Ivaska left Slovakia during the communist era, authorities banned his music and forced him to emigrate. He currently lives in Austria. Ivaska has performed around the world and sings in a variety of venues – operetta, rock, pop, jazz, and of course, folk music, the very essence of Slovak culture. He also sings tenor with the Metropolitan Operetta Theater in Slovakia.

Following Ivaska's performance, the Revišák Family Singers took center stage. Formerly of Bardejov, Slovakia, the five-member singing family now lives in Pittsburgh. They have placed successfully in numerous folklore competitions and produced a number of popular CDs of folk songs and religious hymns.

The musical entertainment concluded with some lively traditional Slovak folk dancing by the Pittsburgh Jr. Slovaks and the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Directed by Rudy and Sue Ondrejco (Slovak Radko Hours hosts on Sundays at 3:00 pm on WPIT-AM), the Pittsburgh Slovaks have kept alive the song and dance of Slovakia in the spirit of the group's founder, the famous Roman Niznik.

While the music was playing, attendees had the option to attend some great lectures. In addition to the one by Sorensen already mentioned, Lisa Alzo, a genealogist and author of the acclaimed *Three Slovak Women* (Gateway Press), gave a well-attended lecture on Slovak communities in Pittsburgh. Award winning filmmaker Susan Marcinkus showed her "Pictures from the Old Country," a moving film which this author reviewed in a previous issue. And Dr. Robert Carl Metil, an ethnomusicologist who has done research in Slovakia, presented a lecture on Roma (Gypsy) life in Slovakia.

The day ended with a brief sing-a-long, in a typical Slovak spirit.

The event is held in the Commons Room of the towering Cathedral of Learning, the highest university classroom building in the USA. A great deal of credit goes to the Festival Director, Christine Metil, who virtually single-handedly coordinates this huge undertaking. And the head of the Slovak Studies Department, Dr. Martin Votruba, does a marvelous job ensuring that all is in order for those giving some high quality lectures and presentations.

One should be sure to remember to attend next year's event, which is always held on the first Sunday in November. The University of Pittsburgh Slovak Studies Program and the Pitt Students' Slovak Club cosponsor the event. For further information, call 412-624-5906 or sent an email to slavic@pitt.edu.

CARPATHIAN COOKBOOK

The "Carpathian Cookery" cookbook, now in its 11th printing, is again available for sale. The 330-page cookbook now features a protective plastic cover and includes sections on Easter Customs and recipes (and Christmas customs and recipes), traditional Rusyn foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried and true recipes of Saint John's parishioners. Many paska and kolachi recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast. The cost of this cookbook is \$13.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. If ordering from Canada, please send a \$20.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost. To order, please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 185 East Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call 724/438-6027 for more information.



REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SISTER M. JULIANA PALYA, VSC Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sister M. Juliana Palya, a member of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity of North Hills, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, died at the age of 101, on Friday, November 10, 2006, in the Motherhouse Infirmary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Sister was in the 86th year of her religious life.

Sister entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. Mary's Parish, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Sister Juliana attended Duquesne University and earned a Bachelor of Education Degree. She taught for 53 years as a primary teacher in the Dioceses of Greensburg, Pittsburgh and Youngstown. After her many dedicated years in the classroom, Sister Juliana spent 8 years at the Vincentian Child Care Center. Before retiring in 1995, Sister spent a few years working in the host department at the Motherhouse.

Sister Juliana was one of 11 children and has only one living sibling left, her brother Frank who resides in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Her niece, Sister Donna Marie Palya, is also a Vincentian Sister of Charity. Besides her brother and sister-in-law, Sister is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Motherhouse on McKnight Road, Pittsburgh on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, from 1:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, November 15 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. after which a Mass of Christian Burial was offered in the Motherhouse Chapel. Burial was in the Sisters' cemetery on the Motherhouse grounds.

Donations may be made, in Sister's honor, to the Vincentian Sisters of Charity to be used for the charity of her choice.

Sister Raynita Kristofco, VSC

DOLORES C. CARLSON Branch 280 Natrona, Pennsylvania

Dolores C. Carlson, 66, of Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, November 5, 2006, at her home.

She was born March 10, 1940, in Natrona Heights, Harrison, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late John J. and Catherine M. Hanulik Jancech.

Dolores was a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's

degree in education and was a teacher in the Riverside School District in Ellwood City.

She was a member of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Parish in Natrona, Christian Mothers of St. Mathias Church, and Jednota Branch 280, where she was financial secretary.

She enjoyed playing cards, reading, working puzzles and especially enjoyed her grandchildren. She was an accomplished seamstress.

She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Debra (Al) Krygeris of Downers Grove, Illinois, Mrs. Donna (Jude) Shemon of Imperial, Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Diane (Matt) Cullen of Norfolk, Massachusetts; nine grandchildren, Michael, Catie and Matthew Krygeris, Andrew, Claire and Daniel Shemon and John, Joseph and Sarah Cullen; and one brother, Sylvester (Dorothy "Jeanne") Jancech of Cheswick, Pennsylvania.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son in infancy and brother, Francis J. Jancech, on March 24, 1973.

Friends were received at the Cicholski-Zidek Funeral Home, Natrona, where a blessing service was held. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Mathias Church by the Rev. Gary Krummert. Burial was in Mt. Airy Cemetery, Natrona Heights.

Donna Shemon

ELLA BALTA Branch 580 Duquesne, Pennsylvania

Ella Balta, 98, of Duquesne, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, October 8, 2006, in UPMC McKeesport.

Born in Mammoth, Pennsylvania, September 16, 1908, she was a daughter of the late Paul and Anna Tomko Kushnir and wife of the late George Balta St., who died December 16, 1969.

She was a member of SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church in Duquesne, where she was one of the oldest parishioners, member of SS. Peter and Paul Rosary Society and the former Ladies Guild and member of the Christian Mothers of Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. She was also a member of Jednota Branch 580, which was formerly the Osadny Lodge.

She is survived by children, George A.

(Eleanor) Balta of Dravosburg, Pennsylvania, Eleanor B. (late George) Stanchik of White Oak, Pennsylvania, Dr. Paul A. (Carole) Balta, with whom she resided, and Stephen R. (Helen) Balta of Hickory, Pennsylvania; 12 grandchildren, Richard (Lori) Balta, Blaze (Debbie) Balta, Cheryl (Neil) Pettes, Mark (Mary Ann) Stanchik, Tammy (Bill) Boyd, Stephanie (Ron) Hornick, Amy (John) Ferguson, Dan (Susan) Balta, Cindy (Michael) Harvey, and Brooke, Bethany and Stephen Balta; and 17 great-grandchildren, Trevor and Tristan Balta, Trent, Allison and Broc Balta, Ryan and Dylan Pettes, Ian Stanchik, Brandon and Zachary Hornick, Lindsey and Amanda Ferguson, Destiny Miller, Drew, Alec and Noah Balta and Trevor Harvey.

Friends were received at the Maloy-Schleifer Funeral Home, Duquesne. A Parastas service was held in the funeral home on Tuesday, October 10. A blessing was offered at the funeral home on Wednesday, October 11, followed by the Divine Liturgy in SS. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church with the Rev. David Bosnich as celebrant. Interment was in SS. Peter and Paul Cemetery, West Mifflin. Memorials may be made to SS. Peter and Paul B.C. Church, 701 Foster Ave., Duquesne, PA 15110.

The officers of Branch 580 wish to express their sympathy to her children and their families. May she rest in peace. The officers of Branch 580 will have a Mass said for Ella Balta at a later date.

Mary G. Perun

STEVE J. PIROSKO Branch 706 South Chicago, Illinois



Steve J. Pirosko, 88, of Whiting, Indiana, died Saturday, November 4, 2006, at the Munster Med-Inn. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen Pirosko. Funeral services were held November 7, 2006, at the Baran Funeral Home in Whiting. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Adalbert Church, Whiting.

Mr. Pirosko was a longtime member of Branch 706 and a member of the American Legion Allied Post 369 of East Chicago. He was a World War II Army veteran and an avid sports fan. He will be missed.

Art Fayta

Life's Journey

The passing of time as seconds tick by,
Is but days and years, as we breathe
and sigh,

When the years creep in and they are
mine,

To waste not one moment of life's pre-
cious time,

Till breath shall cease and wither away,
Like the fallen leaves in Autumn or
midway,

Seeing floral beauty; taking time to
smell,

Enjoying life's moment, where life dost
dwell,

Taking time; loving family, friends or kin,
Doing good deeds, avoiding dislike, hate,
sin,

Seeing still some good in whomever we
may meet,

Please my dear Jesus, move my feet. . .

When door is closed and life's journey
spent,

Home my soul will travel to where life
went!

Olga Zilka

Yonkers Parish to Hold Annual Christmas Concert and Dinner

The Most Holy Trinity Choir will present its 22nd Annual Christmas Concert "Voices of Christmas" with choir and orchestra on Sunday, December 10, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in Most Holy Trinity Church, Walnut Street and Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, New York. The annual Christmas Dinner will follow in the Parish Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 for the concert and \$30.00 for the Concert and Dinner. For further information call 914/963-0720 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



From the Office of the Vice President

The Membership and Marketing Committee of "FCSU Life" is looking for a National Marketing Manager and is also offering agent contracts to anyone in the following states who has a "state department of insurance producer's license" (state license) and wishes to sell our insurance and annuity products.

Colorado	Massachusetts	New York
Connecticut	Michigan	Ohio
Florida	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Missouri	West Virginia
Indiana	New Jersey	Wisconsin

Please send your resume and copy of your state license to:

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.
National Vice President
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY: FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2006

Effective July 1, 2006, the annual yield on existing First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity 4.75% (4.641% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRAs, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA.

**THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE
THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2006**

**Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary**

Slovak National Alliance Annual Summer Picnic

The Slovak National Alliance held its Summer 2006 Picnic on the grounds of the Benedictine Sisters Priory in Oak Forest, Illinois. Attendees were served a variety of Slovak food, including gulas, klobasy, kapusta, langos (Slovak style pizza), beer, coffee, soft drinks, pastries, and bottles of Golden Pheasant imported from the Slovak Republic. All had an enjoyable time.



The exciting games and rides for children were pleasing to, L-R: Monica Budzak, Elizabeth Budzak and Maria Anderson.



Slovak National Alliance President Alojz Jurcik and his sister Anna Jurcik.



Pictured at left: Natalie Jurcik and her brother Denis Jurcik keep an eye on the picnic cash box and food tickets.



Official cooks for the 2006 Slovak National Alliance Picnic, L-R: Maria Jurcik, George J.E. Michuda, Margarita Jurcik, Alojz Jurcik, and Irene Jurcik.



Slovak activist without official portfolio George J.E. Michuda dispenses with bottles of Golden Pheasant and other beverages.

Slovak Institute Offers Slovak Christmas Cards and Books

The Slovak Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, is once again offering Slovak Christmas cards and books. Slovak and English Christmas cards are available at \$10.00 for a box of ten cards (\$12.00 in Canada). The price includes postage and handling. One may order Christmas Oplatky (3 for \$1.00).

The Institute also has some books for sale. Among the books available for sale are: Philip Hrobak, LET'S LEARN SLOVAK (\$5.00); Jan Pankuch, HISTORY OF SLOVAKS IN CLEVELAND AND LAKEWOOD (\$24.00); Andrew F. Hudak, Jr., SLOVAKS IN FLORIDA (\$10.00); Michael Sinchak, SLOVAK SONGS AND DANCES (\$7.00) and Charles Murin, REMEMBRANCES AND TESTIMONY: DR. JOSEF TISO AND THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC 1939-1945 (\$18.00).

Send your check and order to: Slovak Institute, St. Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Rd., Cleveland, OH 44104. Please add \$2.00 for postage and handling for the books.

**IT'S TIME YOU GET INVOLVED —
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St. Florian Cookbook



St. Florian Church of United, Pennsylvania, is selling a cookbook featuring 450 recipes for main dishes, desserts, soups, salads, breads, appetizers, vegetables, etc. Included in the cookbook is a special ethnic section featuring the recipes for many Slovak dishes along with the menu for the traditional Christmas Eve (Vilija) dinner. Also included is the menu for the traditional blessed Easter Basket. Cookbooks are available for \$10.00 each by mail (\$12.00 from Canada).

Please send all orders to St. Florian Church, P.O. Box 187, United, PA 15689. Make checks payable to St. Florian Church. For additional information, please call the parish office at 724/423-4431.



The bride and groom Edward Cibik and Michele Kadas. Seated, watching the ceremony is Eleanor Thayer.

Memories From John Mago's 2006 Tour of Slovakia



Andrew Molcan served as the judge at the mock wedding ceremony.

Participants in John Mago's 2006 Tour of Slovakia had the opportunity to take part in a Slovak mock wedding in the village of Zdiar in the High Tatras. Edward Cibik, a member of Branch 600, in Leechburg, Pennsylvania, and Michele Kadas, daughter of Thomas and Frances Kadas of Allentown, Pennsylvania, played the roles of bride and groom. Andrew Molcan of Thunder Bay, Ontario, was the District Judge who performed the ceremony. Seated, watching the ceremony is Eleanor Thayer, daughter of former FCSU Supreme President Adam Podkri-vacky. The bride and groom were dressed in Goral costumes. It was a memorable experience for all.

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- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – KENNETH A. ARENDT ATTENTION ALL BRANCH OFFICERS!

The end of the year is fast approaching. Now is the time to make sure that your branch will qualify for the \$3.00 per member stipend. As you know at the 46th Convention in Toronto, Canada, the delegates amended the bylaws regarding the requirements branches must meet in order to receive the stipend. Bylaws Section 4.05 states:

"By the end of February of each year, the Home Office shall pay each local branch \$3.00 per member, active and non-active, on record as of December 31 of the prior year, provided the following requirements have been fulfilled:

- Published, announced, and conducted two(2) semi-annual meetings, one of which shall be an annual meeting held for the election of officers.
- Submitted an annual report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.
- Submitted a financial report to the Executive Secretary on a form provided, by February 15th of the following year.
- Hosted, sponsored, promoted, or attended at least one fraternal activity in the past year.
- Produced at least one (1) new contract in the previous calendar year.
- Provided the Home Office, on a continuing basis, current addresses of members and completed change of beneficiary forms, death reports, and such other documents as required by the Home Office."

Your branch meeting announcement for publication in the Jednota Newspaper should be sent directly to Jednota Estates, Att: Anthony Sutherland, Editor, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057; Fax (717) 944-3107. Announcements may also be sent directly to the Home Office to be placed on the Branch and District Web Page. All copies are due by 4:30 p.m. the Monday before the issue date.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE BE SURE YOU PRODUCE
ONE NEW CONTRACT FOR THE YEAR.**

Dr. Jan Simko, Now 86, Keeps On Goin'

By Joseph J. Stipkala

In the October 18, 2006 issue of JEDNOTA, there appeared an article of about 2,800 words captioned, "Decline of the Culture of Classical Music." It was as passionate as it was voluminous, authored by a gifted and versatile individual whose writings are well known to the Slovak world at large, more specifically, by the readers of JEDNOTA. The most amazing thing about this most insightful and entertaining piece was that the man who wrote it just recently – on October 30th – celebrated his 86th birthday: Dr. Jan Simko, "Mr. Culture." He's like the Energizer Bunny who just keeps goin' and goin'. As always, his article displayed a nonpareil range of knowledge of classical music, a topic second only to his main specialty, Shakespeare, which he at one time taught at several universities, including Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

In the opening line above, I mentioned 2,800 words for a reason. The result was achieved on his ancient and rickety Smith-Corona typewriter! He is among the last of the Mohicans still using an instrument completely unknown to a computer-age generation that types on a word processor.

Whether it was from the lengthy article in question or from the cumulative effects of a lifetime of banging on a typewriter, Dr. Simko was scheduled for carpal tunnel syndrome surgery on November 16, 2006, the results of which could not be known at the time of this writing. We pray for a successful outcome and perhaps a word processor from Santa at Christmas.

I have seen our birthday celebrant only a couple of times since I relocated from the Greater Washington, D.C., area to Akron, Ohio, in 2003, but we have continued to remain in telephonic contact about once a month. Thanks to his graciousness and forbearance, our conversations are about 97% in the Slovak language, i.e., his impeccable Bratislava variety and my Cleveland version. To give you an idea what this sounds like, just imagine hearing the late Sir Laurence Olivier speaking the King's English with Yogi Berra. At my request, Dr. Simko corrects my mistakes, especially those tricky genitive plurals of the feminine gender. It's tough enough to find anyone at all with whom to speak some Slovak, yet here I find myself conversing somewhat regularly with an individual whose linguistic accomplishments could not be much loftier – after all, the resume of the man in question includes a 1,443-page English-Slovak Dictionary, published in 1968!

One would think that someone so well-versed in a dictionary, classical music, and Shakespeare must be a somber person of ultra-serious mien. Au contraire. To those who know him well, Dr. Simko is a jokester, a Slovak leprechaun, who likes to kid around and to sprinkle his conversations with sly quips, bons mots, and multilingual puns. In view of his great penchant for humor, I have composed another Ogden Nash-type limerick on the occasion of his 86th birthday. (The previous one appeared in the JEDNOTA, November 22, 2000 on his 80th.)

Prajem mu mnoho zdaru a vsetko dobre ku narodeninam!

A Man Named Jan

There was once a man named Jan,
who was quite well known for a certain élan.



Dr. Jan Simko (left) celebrates his 85th birthday with friends Janet and Joe Stipkala, in Washington, D.C.

In the past he played the cello,
and made sounds very mellow.
That was- and is- the man named Jan.

He's been a professor, writer and culture critic,
these are the things that make him tick.
Dictionaries, art and music are what he knows,
and to Kennedy Center he often goes.
That is the man named Jan.

The Folger Library first opened the door,
for Jan to study Shakespeare lore,
To Rio Grande he later went,
Then at Parkersburg one year he spent.
That is the man named Jan.

And now Jan comes to eighty-six,
still getting plenty of kicks.
As man about Washington,
nothing seems to get him down.
That is the man named Jan.

Shakespeare and the classics are his game,
all of which increase his fame.
Especially at the Court of St. Mary,
where he makes everyone merry.
That is the man named Jan.

Classical composers- he knows them all,
even by their first names, doth he them call.
Johann, Nikolai, Wolfgang, and Ferruccio,
Ferencz, Gustav, Aram, and Claudio.
That is the man named Jan.

But wait, there are many more,
maybe at least a hundred and four.
Alexander, Ruggiero, Antonin, and Frederick,
Serge, Leos, Bedrich, and Ludwig.
That is the man named Jan.

Also Dmitri, Giacomo, Franz, and Pyotr,
Erno, Giuseppe, Gaetano, and Igor.
Fredryk, Johannes, Camille, and Bela,
Gioacchino, Yo-Yo, Mstislav a este dalej vela.
That is the man named Jan.

To read his reviews, one needs a dictionary,
the esoterica is quite amazing- very.

Words like cantilena, oratorio, melisma,
adagio, and obligato,
allegro, tasta solo, tessitura, passacaglia,
and legato.

Also, cabaletta, diminuendo, toccata,
arpeggio, and glissando,
and lento, scherzo, tremolo, mezzo forte,
and rallentando.
Such you might see in the writings of Jan.

Read on: larghetto, stringento, marcato,
and allargando,
leit-motiv, scordatura, portamento, con-
tratto, and sforzando.

Also, coloratura, accelerando, ritornello,
and tenuto.

and falsetto, rubato, divertimento, and sostenuto.

That is the man named Jan.

His main domain, however, is the Bard,
Hamlet, Macbeth and Lear doth he highly regard.

His favorite work is "As You Like It,"
for him, that was the Avon man's top hat.

That is the man named Jan.

Jan's doctorate dealt with irregular verbs,
for a Slovak, these were yet strange words.

Like sing, sang, sung,
but not bring, brang, brung.
That is the man named Jan.

Jan's the octogenarian supreme,
who seems to make everyone beam.
He still has energy and drive,
seeming to be only thirty-five.
That is the man named Jan.

A Smith-Corona is his tool,
to him it's his number one jewel.
Concerts, operas, art- all bring him joy,
for Jan, they're just like a toy.
That is the man named Jan.

So we salute this man named Jan,
a gentleman's gentleman and a very good pan.

May he enjoy many years more,
before he goes through the final door.
That is the man named Jan.

YOUTH ROUND-UP

If you know of a young Jednota member who has recently graduated, received a special award, been confirmed or made a First Holy Communion, achieved a sports or scholastic "first" or in some other way has something to be proud of, send in the details and a photo, if available, to our "Youth Round-Up" column. Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors are all eligible to "brag" about those special youngsters in their lives. The only stipulation is that the young person must be a member of the FCSU. Be sure to include the Branch to which he or she belongs when you send in your write-up to 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. We look forward to hearing from you!

More Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk

www.travelguide.sk

kosice.region.sk

www.slovakia.org

www.vtaty.sk

www.tatry.net

www.hotel-net.sk

www.skonline.sk

www.kultura.sk

www.snm.sk

www.savba.sk

www.government.gov.sk

www.snd.sk

www.stv.sk

www.nbs.sk

Slovakia Travel Guide

Hotel and Spa Guide

Kosice-City Travel Guide

Bratislava-Information about the City

Useful Information about the High Tatras

Complete Information on Tatra Region

Tourist Accommodation

Slovakia On-Line (general information)

Slovak cultural calendar

Slovak National Museum

Slovak Academy of Sciences

Government of the Slovak Republic

Slovak National Theater

Slovak Television

National Bank of Slovakia



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Volume 115

STREDA, 29. NOVEMBER 2006

Číslo 5742

Svätý Mikuláš

(6. decembra)



Cirkevný rok prechováva z pokolenia na pokolenie mnoho vzácných pamätností. Jedna, ktorú veriaci viac obľubujú, je pamiatka svätého Mikuláša. Jeho pamiatka sa nepripomína len v Európe a Amerike, ale takmer po celom svete. Nebude preto od veci, keď si pohovoríme niečo o živote sv. Mikuláša a o zvyklostiach, ktoré sú spojené s jeho pamiatkou.

Sv. Mikuláš (toto je meno grécke, z Nikolaos, čo znamená: panovník, vládca) sa narodil v 3. storočí po Kristu v meste Patare, v Malej Ázii. Hlboká nábožnosť a bohabojnosť jeho rodičov dávali záruky, že Mikuláš dostane najlepšiu výchovu. Základy múdrosti života dostal u svojho strýka, ktorý bol biskupom v Myre. Príklad sv. života biskupovho tak zaúčinkoval na Mikuláša, že si vyvolil aj on stav kňazský. Na štúdiách vynikal nielen hlbokou nábožnosťou, ale aj učenosťou. Stalo sa, keď už bol kňazom, že v Patare a na okolí vypukol mor, ktorému za obeť

padli aj jeho rodičia. Nad ich hrobmi sľúbil, že veľké imanie, ktoré ako ich jediný potomok zdedil, rozdelí medzi najchudobnejších. Vyhlásil, že ako kňaz chce nasledovať Krista, ktorý nezhromažďoval pozemské majetky.

V tých časoch sa stalo, že v meste Patare žil istý šľachtic, ktorý svojou vinou prišiel o celý majetok a jeho rodine hrozil hlad a najväčšia bieda. Keď sa o tom dozvedel sv. Mikuláš, vzal mešec zlatých peňazí a v nočnej hodine ho vhodil do bytu šľachticovho. Tieto peniaze zachránili šľachticovu rodinu od najhoršieho, vyplatili si dlhy a zvyšok použili na veno najstaršej dcéry, ktorá sa dobre vydala. Keď sa sv. Mikuláš dozvedel, že šľachtic použil peniaze na svoju záchranu, po

Pokračovanie na str. 22

25. výročie návštevy Jána Pavla II. v Ústave sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme

Slovenskí veriaci v Ríme si pripomenuli 25. výročie návštevy pápeža Jána Pavla II. v Pápežskom slovenskom ústave sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Slávnostnú svätú omšu pri tejto príležitosti celebraval v nedeľu, 12. novembra, v priestoroch Slovenského kolégia kardinál Jozef Tomko, jeden z pamätníkov tejto historickej návštevy.

Prítomných kňazov, diakonov, rehoľníkov a rehoľné sestry, pracujúcich, študentov ako aj pracovníkov Veľvyslanectiev SR v Taliansku a pri Svätej Stolicí privítal v úvode slávnosti rektor kolégia Vladimír Stahovec. Kardinál Tomko si vo svojom príhovore zaspomínal na snečnú novembrovú nedeľu pred dvadsiatimi piatimi rokmi,

keď štyria biskupi a štyridsať kňazov počúvalo kázeň Jána Pavla II. v slovenčine. Pápež vtedy uviedol dva motívy svojej návštevy: lásku k dvom svätým bratom, Cyrilovi a Metodovi, a lásku k slovenskému národu. Otec kardinál ďalej vymenoval viacero slávností, ktoré počas uplynulých päťdesiatich rokov pripomenuli význam solúnskych bratov, napr. 1 100 rokov od ich príchodu k našim predkom, či príhovor pápeža Pavla VI. v roku 1969 (1100 rokov od smrti sv. Cyrila v Ríme.) Za vrcholnú udalosť označil začlenenie zmienky o "cyrilo-metodskom duchovnom dedičstve" do Ústavy Slovenskej

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Slovenský folklórny súbor Limbora oslávil 40. výročie založenia

Americkí "Limborčania" oslavovali v novembri svoje 40. narodeniny. Výročie založenia slovenského folklórneho súboru Limbora, známeho po celej Amerike, si jeho členovia pripomenuli pompéznou slávnosťou v newyorskej štvrti Queens. Na oslavný galavečer prišli desiatky priaznivcov a obdivovateľov slovenského folklóru. Prirodzene nechýbali ani bývalí tanečníci a zakladatelia tanečnej skupiny. Súbor Limbora bol založený v roku 1966 v New York City. Celé štyri desaťročia rozdáva radosť a zábavu na mnohých podujatiach nielen v metropolitnej oblasti New Yorku, ale aj v mnohých ďalších amerických mestách. V šatni tesne pred vystúpením vládlo poriadne napätie. Nové krpce, vyžehlené sukne, ale aj detvianske kožušky, mali tanečníci pripravené, všetko bolo ako z

cukru. Keď pritancovali do sály, obecenstvo ich privítalo burácajúcim potleskom.

Folklórny súbor Limbora publiku za oceánom prezentuje slovenské ľudové umenie tancami od Zemplína až po Myjavu. Väčšina súboru má slovenský pôvod, ale temperamentné tance prilákali do súboru aj mnohých Američanov. Limboráci vystupujú v krojoch pochádzajúcich z rôznych slovenských regiónov. Mnohé z nich získali od krajanov žijúcich v USA. Tí si ich priniesli z domova ako pamiatku na svoju bývalú vlasť. Tanečníci z Liberty vystupujú na významných podujatiach, ale tancujú pre radosť aj na súkromných večierkoch. Bez nich sa nezaobídú žiadne krajské slávnosti. Vždy sú na nich zlatým klincom programu.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer
Pamätný deň SR - Deň narodenia Ľudovíta Štúra si pripomínáme každoročne 29. októbra. Stáva sa tak na základe rozhodnutia poslancov parlamentu v roku 1966, keď schválili v novele zákona o štátnych sviatkoch tento deň ako trvalú spomienku na jedného z najvýznamnejších slovenských dejateľov. Na snímke kladenie vencov pri pamätníku na Námestí Ľudovíta Štúra 20. novembra 2006 v Bratislave.

Sviatok sv. Martina, hlavného patróna Spišskej diecézy

V sobotu, 11. novembra, si rímskokatolícka cirkev pripomenula spomienku na svätého Martina, biskupa z Tours. Svätý Martin, patrón Katedrály v Spišskej Kapitule je zároveň aj hlavným patrónom Spišskej diecézy. Narodil sa v Panónii okolo roku 316. Po prijatí krstu sa zriekol vojenskej kariéry a začal viesť pustovnícky život. Bol vysvätený za kňaza a neskôr sa stal biskupom v Tours. Je príkladom dobrého pastiera. Zomrel roku 397.

V deň spomienky na tohto svätca bola v Katedrále svätého Martina v Spišskej Kapitule svätá omša, ktorú slávil spišský pomocný biskup Mons. Andrej Imrich. V nedeľu nasledujúceho dňa sa uskutočnila slávnostná bohoslužba, ktorej predsedal spišský diecézny biskup Mons. František Tondra.

TK KBS

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Fínsko, Island a Nový Zéland sú krajiny s najnižšou mierou vnímania korupcie vo svete (9.6). Vyplýva to z výročnej správy Transparency International (TI), ktorá začiatkom novembra v nemeckej metropole Berlíne zverejnila svoj index vnímania korupcie - Corruption Perception Index (CPI) v 163 krajinách sveta za tento rok. Slovensko obsadilo spoločne s Lotyšskom 49. miesto, pričom si oproti vlaňajšku indexom korupcie 4.7 polepšilo, v celkovom poradí sa však posunulo o dve miesta dolu. Z nových členských krajín EÚ sa najlepšie umiestnilo Estónsko - 24. (6.7) a najhoršie Poľsko - 61. (3.7).

Odchody lekárov a sestier do zahraničia pokračujú. Takmer 900 zdravotníckych pracovníkov požiadalo tento rok ministerstvo zdravotníctva, aby im vydalo potvrdenie o vzdelaní. Odchádzajú lekári, zdravotné sestry, zubári aj fyzioterapeuti. Od mája 2004 o potvrdenie už požiadalo tritisíc zdravotníkov. Podľa Slovenskej lekárskej komory začína byť situácia kritická. Do zahraničia odchádzajú najmä mladší lekári už s atestáciou, ale aj absolventi. Za odchodom nie sú len nízke platy, ale aj pracovné podmienky. Zdravotníci odchádzajú najčastejšie do Rakúska, Nemecka, Veľkej Británie a Českej republiky. V poslednom čase i do Švédska či Fínska.

Mesto Košice sa chystá prepojiť električkovú dopravu v meste so železnicami. Počíta s tým projekt, s ktorým sa mesto uchádza a podporu z fondov Európskej únie a vyžiada si takmer tri miliardy korún. Električková rýchlodráha by mala spájať železničnú stanicu v centre s okrajovými časťami mesta, ale aj s letiskom, či priemyselnými parkmi na Pereši a v Kechneči. Výstavba by sa mala začať na budúci rok a potrvá do roku 2013.

Slovenský reprezentant vo windsurfinhu Patrik Pollák sa 9. novembra vrátil z dvojtýždňového sústredenia na juhu Francúzska ovenčený mimoriadne cenným úspechom. V rámci majstrovstiev Francúzska v meste Bandol sa Pollák predstavil v triede Raceboard a po šiestich vyhratých rozjazdách sa stal suverénnym víťazom podujatia. Najlepší slovenský windsurfista sa ako prvý Slovák môže pochváliť titulom majstra krajiny, ktorá patrí k jachtárskym veľmociam. Výsledok Polláka je povzbudením pred blížiacimi sa majstrovstvami sveta v neolympijskej triede Raceboard, ktoré sa uskutočnia v Thajsku (18.-26. novembra).

Presvedčenie, že pôvodný termín vstupu nových členských štátov Európskej únie do schengenského priestoru - október 2007 bude dodržaný, vyjadrili 13. novembra na stretnutí v Košiciach predsedovia parlamentov krajín Vysegradskej skupiny (V4) - Slovenska, Česka, Poľska a Maďarska.

Približne desiatka slovenských veľvyslancov poslala odpoveď na výzvu ministra zahraničných vecí Jána Kubiša, aby sa politickí nominanti bez diplomatickej kariéry vzdali svojej funkcie. Časť z tých, ktorí zareagovali, požiadala minister o pokračovanie v činnosti, ďalších do konca týždňa odvolá. Odvolaným veľvyslancom minister navrhne, aby zotrvali na mieste až do vyslania náhrady. Môže však ísť aj o niekoľkomesačný proces, pretože do zahraničia nepôjde žiadny veľvyslanec, ktorý nebude mať za sebou previerku Národného bezpečnostného úradu. Minister nepredpokladá, že by sa do prvej vlny nových vyslaní dostali stranícke nominácie súčasných vládnych strán.

O rýchly rast priemyslu sa nestarajú na Slovensku len automobilky, ale aj elektronika. Európa si totiž obľúbila LCD obrazovky vyvázané aj zo Slovenska. Podľa informácií globálny dopyt po tekutých kryštáloch sa totiž v treťom štvrtroku medziročne zdvojnásobil. O export sa postarajú všetci traja výrobcovia zo Slovenska Sony, Samsung aj OVP Orava.

Štyroch baníkov zavalilo 16. novembra krátko pred 7. hodinou v bani Nováky. Baníci sú nezvestní, pravdepodobne sa nachádzajú pod závalom. Na mieste záchranári Hlavnej banskej záchrannej stanice v Prievidzi pátrajú po zavalených baníkoch. Hornonitrianske bane Prievidza sú najvýznamnejším producentom hnedého uhlia v Slovenskej republike. Zamestnávajú približne 4,800 osôb. Hlavným výrobným sortimentom je prachové uhlie pre energetické účely, ktoré predstavuje 85 percent z celkovej produkcie.

Rýchlovlak pendolino, ktorý bude od 10. decembra pravidelne premávať medzi Prahou a Bratislavou, 16. novembra prilákal na nástupište bratislavskej Hlavnej stanice desiatky ľudí. Cestujúci si na stanici vyskúšali pohodlie najrýchlejšieho vlaku, ktorý prevádzkujú České dráhy. Rýchlovlak pendolino bude premávať od decembra medzi hlavným mestom Slovenska a Česka ako spoj SC Slovenská strela. Nadviaže tak na tradíciu rýchlika Slovenská strela, ktorý obe mestá spája od roku 1936.

Kongres SDKÚ-DS 17. novembra za predsedu strany zvolil na ďalšie štyri roky opäť Mikuláša Dzurindu. Vo voľbách nemal protikandidáta, hlasovalo zaň 384 zo 416 prítomných delegátov strany. Na post predsedu Dzurindu nominovalo prezídium SDKÚ-DS. Lídrom strany je nepretržite od založenia strany v roku 2000. Na voľbách predsedu odovzdalo lístky 408 delegátov, 10 z nich bolo neplatných, ďalších 14 sa taktiež nemohlo započítať k podpore Dzurindu.

Rekordy neláme len slovenská koruna, ale aj ekonomika. Hrubý domáci produkt (HDP), čiže celková produkcia tovarov a služieb, sa zvýšil medziročne skoro o desať percent. Informoval o tom Štatistický úrad. Takýto rast Slovensko ešte vo svojej histórii nezažilo. Ekonomiku potiahol najmä vývoz, zvlášť produkcia v

automobilom a elektrotechnickom priemysle. Pod historický rast sa podpísalo aj zvýšenie zásob. Guvernér Národnej banky Ivan Šramko označil rast za "zdravý". Analytici sa zatiaľ nedomnievajú, že by dochádzalo k prehrievaniu ekonomiky. Podobným tempom rástla slovenská ekonomika naposledy pred desiatimi rokmi. Vtedy HDP stúpol o vyše osem percent. Vysoké prírastky HDP sa už prejavili vo vyššej zamestnanosti. Stúpajú aj reálne mzdy a životná úroveň.

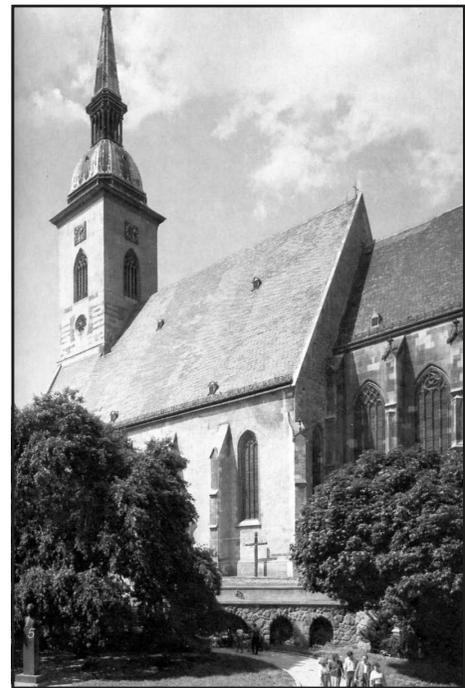
Železničná spoločnosť od polovice decembra zruší najmenej 200 vlakov a ďalších 250 bude mať skrátenú trasu. Železnice budú zrejme musieť prepúšťať. Štát totiž plánuje železničiam prispieť menej ako doteraz. Ceny lístkov však podľa vyjadrenia hovorca Železničnej spoločnosti Miloša Cikovského zostanú zachované. Zníženie počtu vlakov pripustil aj minister dopravy, pôšt a telekomunikácií Ľubomír Vážny. Odborári zo Zväzu strojárstva potvrdili, že Železničná spoločnosť má pripravené dve verzie podnikateľského plánu: jednu s väčšími a druhú s menšími škrtmi.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

V Dóme sv. Martina rekonštruovali vzácne pamiatky



Socha sv. Martina od G. R. Donnera.



Dóm sv. Martina.

Bratislava (TASR) – Bratislavský Dom sv. Martina, ktorý sa 31. marca 1995 z rozhodnutia pápeža Jána Pavla II. stal Konkatedrálou sv. Martina Bratislavsko-trnavskej arcidiecézy patrí k najvýznamnejším kultúrnym pamiatkam nielen Slovenska, ale i v strednej Európe. Jeho patrónom je kňaz a biskup sv. Martin z Tours, známy svojou dobročinnosťou, ktorého osobnosti sú každoročne 11. novembra venované omše v tomto chráme. Konkatedrálu začali stavať začiatkom 14. storočia, odvtedy prešla mnohými zmenami. Okrem jej gotickej architektúry je pozoruhodná aj gotická bronzová kazateľnica z roku 1403 a monštrancia z roku 1517. Zachovali sa tiež vzácne tabuľové obrazy zo 16. storočia a iné pozoruhodné pamiatky. Vľavo od hlavného oltára sa nachádza nedávno obnovená baroková kaplnka sv. Jána Almužníka. Sú v nej uložené telesné pozostatky tohto alexandrijského patriarchu, ktorý sa narodil okolo roku 552 na Cypre, kde zomrel pravdepodobne v roku 620. Veľkú časť svojho života venoval dobročinnosti podobne ako sv. Martin z Tours. Podľa tradície sa pozostatky sv. Jána Almužníka dostali do strednej Európy ako dar Matejovi Korvinovi pri príležitosti jeho korunovácie. Od polovice 15. storočia boli uložené v Kráľovskej kaplnke v Budíne a v roku 1526 ich previezli do Bratislavy. Do samotnej kaplnky v Dóme sv. Martina ich uložili v októbri 1732. Kaplnku sv. Jána Almužníka postavili v rokoch 1729 -1732. Vyzdobil ju vtedajší majster sochárskeho umenia Georg Raffael Donner. Známa je aj Donnerova plastika sv. Martina na koni. Konkatedrála sv. Martina je jednou z hlavných dominant Bratislavy. Pozlátený vrchol veže chrámu vo výške 85 metrov zdobí zväčšená kópia uhorskej kráľovskej koruny, ktorá pripomína, že v rokoch 1563-1830 bola korunovačným chrámom. Korunovali v ňom 11 panovníkov a osem kráľovských manželiek.

V tichu

*V tichu ma sprevádza radostný praskot kachlí
do iných krajín, kde konárov smutných niet,
vetiev, čo boľavo nad žitím ruky máchlí
a sponky nádejí spustili v lono bied.*

*Do iných sádov veď ma, moje spomínanie,
kde ešte slnka je v korunách listia prúd
a večer obloha sa ticho skloní na ne
a vtáčkom drobuškým sladko dá pousnúť...*

*Sú ešte obzory, ja verím, Pane Bože,
i keď už november zasychrí bledú tvár -
sú ešte ruže a rozvoníava i hlozie
v zákutí srdca, kde s tebou je samotár.*

Viliam Turčány

Svätý Mikuláš

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

nejakom čase mu zas vhodil cez okno v nočnej hodine mešec peňazí. Šľachtic za ne vydal ostatné dve dcéry. Šľachtic však chcel vedieť, kto je ich záchrancom. Preto každú noc strážil okná svojho domu. Po niekoľkých dňoch zas dobrodinec prišiel pod okno. Keď sv. Mikuláš zbadal, že je pozorovaný, dal sa na útek, ale šľachtic ho dobehol, veľmi mu ďakoval a nazval ho anjelom strážcom, ktorý zachránil celú jeho rodinu. O добрote a štedrosti sv. Mikuláša sa dozvedelo zanedlho celé mesto, ba aj celý kraj, lebo sv. Mikuláš pomáhal a podporoval, kde len mohol.

Ľud si ho zato vysoko vážil a ctí. Sv. Mikuláš nehľadal ľudskú chválu a mrzelo ho, že ľud o ňom toľko hovorí. Preto sa rozhodol odísť do Svätej zeme, utiahnuť sa a opustiť verejný život. Do Sv. zeme išiel loďou. Na mori ich zasiahla nesmierna búrka. Utíchl už aj hudba a tanec, ba začínali sa modliť aj takí, čo si predtým robili posmech zo sv. Mikuláša. No búrka neprestávala. Keď už bolo najhoršie, keď sa už loď išla prevrhnuť, všetci sa zhľadli okolo sv. Mikuláša a prosili ho o modlitbu. Sv. Mikuláš sa ponoril do vrúcnej modlitby a keď vystrel ruky nad rozbúreným morom, vlny stíchli a more sa zázračne chytro stišilo. Vo Sv. zemi sa sv. Mikuláš utiahol do kláštora na Sione, kde žil krátky čas. Stále mal na mysli poblúdcov, ktorí čakajú na hlásanie Slova Božieho, a núdzných, ktorí čakajú na milosrdenstvo. Preto vnnútorým hlasom vedený vrátil sa do Myry. V tom čase bola Myra bez biskupa, lebo tamojší biskup zomrel. Všetci biskupi z okolia sa zišli na voľbu nového biskupa. Najstarší biskup, keď sa pripravoval na voľbu, v modlitbách dostal vnuknutie, aby za biskupa zvolil toho kňaza, ktorý bude ráno prvý v kostole. Sv. Mikuláš nič netušil. Keď prišiel z lode zavčas rána, prvá cesta ho viedla do kostola. Najstarší biskup už tam bol. Keď sa všetci biskupi a veľký zástup kňazstva a veriacich zišiel na voľbu, najstarší biskup vzal za ruku sv. Mikuláša a zvolal:

“Tento je novým biskupom.” Potom oznámil prítomným, aké vnuknutie dostal, a všetci radostne volali: “Tento je našim novým biskupom!” Zvesť o jeho svätosti sa niesla širokoďaleko. Sv. Mikuláš ako biskup svietil príkladom svojho života iným a bol opravdivým otcom chudobných. Bol biskupom, keď panovali krvolační cisári Dioklecián a Maximián. Sv. Mikuláš chodil z domu do domu a apoštoloval za Krista. Preto ho uväznili a vyslobodil sa len vtedy, keď roku 313. cisár Konštantín Veľký dal slobodu katolíckej Cirkvi. Svojou múdrosťou zručne obhájil i so sv. Atanájom náuku viery Kristovej na sneme v Nicei (r. 325), kde 318 biskupov odsúdilo náuky bludára Ária, ktorý pochyboval o božstve Ježiša Krista. Sv. Mikuláš potom účinkoval blahodarne a v pokoji pre dobro zverených mu ovečiek Kristových. Na jeho príhovor sa stalo niekoľko zázrakov. Grécky dejepisec píše najmä o vzkriesení troch dietok, ktoré boli zákerne zavraždené. Sv. Mikuláš zomrel dňa 6. decembra r. 345 v chýre svätosti. Trúchlili za ním najmä chudobní, opustení a nešťastní, ktorým bol opravdivým otcom. Roku 1087 boli jeho telesné pozostatky prenesené do talianskeho mesta Bari, kde ich podnes veľmi uctieujú.

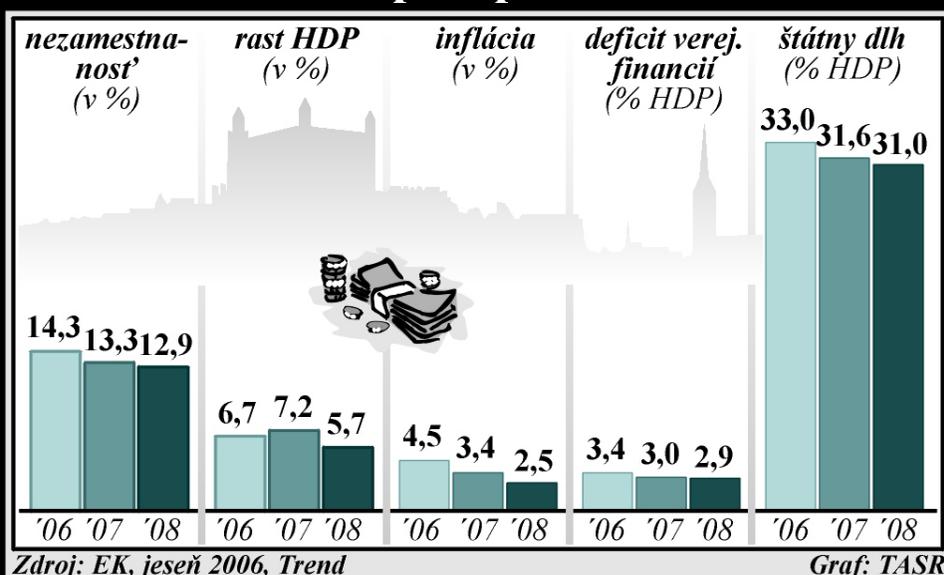
Chýr o jeho svätosti išiel aj za hranice Talianska. Celá Európa mala ho vo vysokej úcte. Na jeho pamiatku v predvečer dňa jeho smrti rodičia podnes obdarúvajú svoje dietky darmi. Na mnohých miestach v Európe (aj na Slovensku) každoročne sa usporiadali mikulášske sprievody a večierky s nádielkami. V mnohých katolíckych spolkoch členovia sa dôstojne obliekli za sv. Mikuláša, s ktorým išiel anjel a neraz i čert. Ponavštevovali rodiny, kde boli dietky, ktoré, ak boli dobré, dostali dary; ak boli zlé, čert mal čo robiť. Bol to krásny zvyk, ktorý zanechal v srdciach dietok mnohé pestré rozpomienky na mladosť. Kto by len opisal nevinnú radosť dietok, ktoré si večer dobre vyčistili obuv, položili si ju do okna a ráno plné úžasu a prekvapenia prezerali, čo im doniesol sv. Mikuláš.

Neverecký svet sa spája v jednej hanobnej snahe: vytlačiť akúkoľvek náboženskú tradíciu z posvätnéj pamiatky sv. Mikuláša, a preto na východe teraz “Dedo Mráz” rozdáva darčeky.

A tu je povinnosť jedného každého kresťana, aby pomáhal Cirkvi vrátiť sv. Mikuláša jeho diňu a jeho pamiatke, aby sme boli hodní jeho mocného príhovoru na nebesiach aj v našich časoch. Isteže aj naša mládež bude za túto snahu vždy povďačná, lebo detským dušiam pamiatka sv. Mikuláša bola vždy povzbudením na čnostný život, a preto veľmi výchovná a dôležitá. Toto však nikdy nedosiahne pamiatka sv. Mikuláša tak znetvorená a na posmech obrátená, ako ju vidíme dnes. Nezabudnime na prísľub Pánov: “Čokoľvek ste urobili jednému z týchto maličkých, mneme ste to urobili” (Mt. 25, 40).

Rev. Augustín J. Záh: SVETLO VO TMÁCH

Ekonomická predpoveď Slovenska



Ekonomická predpoveď Slovenska (údaje za rok 2006 až 2008, v %).

TASR 14. novembra 2006

Pri útoku na konvoj v Iraku zahynul slovenský vojak

Bratislava (TASR) – V Iraku zahynul príslušník slovenského vojenského kontingentu, rotný Rastislav Neplech zo Žiliny. Príčinou smrti bol výbuch nástražného výbušného systému pri vozidle, prepravujúcom štyroch vojakov medzinárodných vojenských síl. Oznámil to 11. novembra minister obrany František Kašický na mimoriadnej tlačovej konferencii po rokovaní krízového štábu Ministerstva obrany SR. V piatok 10. novembra smerovalo 56 slovenských vojakov do tábora Delta pri meste Al-Kurt v strednom Iraku, asi 130 kilometrov od základného tábora v Al-Hile. O 1.10 h miestneho času, približne 14 kilometrov od cieľa cesty, vybuchol pod tretím vozidlom v dvadsaťčlennej kolóne nástražný výbušný systém. Na mieste zahynuli slovenský a poľský vojak, ďalší Poliak a Armánc utrpeli ťažké zranenia. Vozidlo americkej značky Hammer bolo takmer úplne zničené. Podľa Kašického mal konvoj, v ktorom bolo 10 slovenských vozidiel, štandardne zabezpečenú ochranu. Telo nebohého prepravili do základného tábora Echo a po smútočnej ceremónii v utorok 14. novembra prepravili do vlasti. V Iraku vznikne komisia na vyšetrenie podrobných príčin nesťastia. Podľa náčelníka štábu Ozbrojených síl SR Ľubomíra Bulíka je morálny stav našej jednotky v Iraku dobrý, i keď smrť kamaráta vojakmi otriasla. Premiér Robert Fico vyslovil po rokovaní krízového štábu sústrasť pozostalým. Požiadal ministra obrany, aby vykonal všetky kroky, ktorými môže štát zmierniť ich utrpenie zo smrti blízkeho človeka.

O udalosti informoval všetkých predsedov parlamentných strán. SR má v súčasnosti v Iraku vyše 100-člennú ženijnú jednotku začlenenú pod poľské velenie. Jej stiahnutie sa z krajiny podľa rozhodnutia vlády SR uskutoční vo februári budúceho roka.

V Žiline čoskoro skúšobná sériová výroba automobilov

Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico v polovici novembra rokoval s predsedom správnej rady spoločnosti Hyundai Kia Group Mong-Koo Chungom. Kórejsky predstaviteľ informoval, že začiatkom decembra by sa v Žiline mala spustiť skúšobná sériová výroba automobilov. Ďalšími témami rokovania boli otázky vysporiadania pozemkov, výstavba infraštruktúry a štátna podpora subdodávateľov. Na rokovaní sa za Slovenskú republiku okrem premiéra zúčastnili minister hospodárstva SR Ľubomír Jahňatek, minister dopravy, pôšt a telekomunikácií SR Ľubomír Vážny a minister výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja SR Marián Janušek, ako aj primátor mesta Žilina Ján Slotá.

Mong-Koo Chung sa poďakoval za podporu vlády pri realizácii projektu a za to, že výstavba prebiehala bez väčších problémov. Zároveň požiadal o poskytnutie štátnej podpory pre subdodávateľov v súlade s pravidlami Európskej únie. Premiér Fico zdôraznil, že investícia Kia má veľký význam pre Slovenskú republiku a uistil, že vláda SR urobí všetko pre to, aby priebeh naštartovania výroby nebol ničím ohrozený. Tiež poďakoval žilinskému primátorovi a predstaviteľom mesta Žilina za umožnenie realizácie tohto projektu. Na záver vyjadrili partneri obojstranné úsilie a pripravenosť na komunikáciu na všetkých príslušných úrovniach.

Firmy zápasia s nedostatkom ľudí aj v hladových dolinách

Klenovec/Kokava nad Rimavicou/Veľký Krtíš (TASR) – Aj keď je nezamestnanosť na juhu stredného Slovenska stále vysoká a v niektorých okresoch presahuje 25%, mnohé firmy paradoxne zápasia s nedostatkom pracovnej sily.

Medzi také patrí napríklad výrobca trekingovej obuvi, spoločnosť Evašport, ktorá vo svojich dvoch prevádzkach v Rimavskej Sobote a v Klenovci zamestnáva asi 450 ľudí. Aj keď záujemcom ponúkajú priemernú mzdu takmer 10,000 Sk o prácu nie je záujem. Spoločnosť má v ostatnom čase množstvo objednávok od svojho talianskeho odberateľa a do konca roku chce robiť aj počas vybraných víkendov. Podľa Ondreja Bálinta, starostu Kokavy nad Rimavicou, ktorá je od závodu Evašportu v Klenovci vzdialená len 8 kilometrov, nezamestnaní dedičania idú radšej za prácou do zahraničia. Tam majú zaručený troj- až päťnásobný príjem ako doma. “Predpokladám, že najmä v Čechách, Rakúsku a Anglicku pracuje od nás asi 60 ľudí,” uviedol

starosta. “Vychytené sú najmä naše ženy, ktoré chodia robiť opatrovatelky do Rakúska,” dodal.

Problémy nájsť dostatočný počet zručných zamestnancov do svojej firmy má aj vedenie nového závodu Furni Finish na výrobu poťahov na čalúnený nábytok vo Veľkom Krtíši. Závod by mal do konca roku zamestnať 100 ľudí, predovšetkým šičiek. Ako však povedal prednosta Mestského úradu vo V. Krtíši Jozef Fukáč, aj keď v meste pred časom zrušila svoju prevádzku textilná spoločnosť Pleta a o prácu prišlo asi 300 šičiek, je problém získať do nového závodu čo len niekoľko desiatok pracovníčok. “Časť žien odišla pracovať do zahraničia, časť nemá záujem robiť v tomto odvetví, či dochádzať do mesta z okolia,” uviedol. Niektorí zástupcovia samospráv usudzujú, že po otvorení pracovného trhu Rumunsku a Bulharsku zaujmú neobsadené miesta v našich prevádzkach práve obyvatelia týchto krajín.

Zasadnutie Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí v Bratislave

Bratislava (TASR) – Zhodnotením činnosti Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ), ako aj voľbou nového vedenia začal sa v Bratislave 2. novembra prvý deň 2. valného zhromaždenia organizácie. Počas štvorročnej existencie sa združeniu podarilo presadiť niekoľko zákonov v prospech krajanov žijúcich za hranicami SR.

“Naše združenie stálo pri zrode prijatia zákona o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí. My sme boli tou lokomotívou, pretože zo strany slovenských štátnych orgánov a inštitúcií až taká vôľa nebola,” uviedol predseda SZSZ Dušan Klimó. Na jeho základe začal svoju činnosť aj Úrad pre Slovákov v zahraničí, ktorý Klimó považuje za partnera, s ktorým sa bude dobre spolupracovať. Združeniu sa tiež podarilo presadiť zákon, ktorý umožňuje zahraničným Slovákom voliť v parlamentných voľbách korešpondenčnou cestou. Jedna z hlavných úloh nového vedenia SZSZ bude podľa Klimá radikálne zlepšenie vzájomnej informovanosti. Združenie sa tiež snaží o spustenie satelitného vysielania STV. “Slovenská republika je jediná z postkomunistických krajín, ktorá túto možnosť ešte nevyužíva. Televízia je najlepší prostriedok na to, aby ľudia v zahraničí mali živý kontakt so svojou vlasťou,” pripomenul predseda. Projekt je síce vypracovaný, aj technicky vyriešený, na jeho realizáciu doteraz chýbali peniaze. Ročne to predstavuje 25 miliónov korún.

Novým predsedom SZSZ sa stal V. Skalský

Novozvoleným predsedom Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí sa na trojročné obdobie stal Vladimír Skalský z Českej republiky, ktorý v tejto funkcii nahradil Dušana Klimá z Nemecka. Rozhodli o tom delegáti 2. Valného zhromaždenia SZSZ, ktoré sa uskutočnilo 2. októbra v Bratislave. (Účastníci zhromaždenia volili aj členov Výkonného výboru SZSZ. Na post prvého podpredsedu bol zvolený Ondrej Štefanko z Rumunska. Pred ním túto pozíciu zastával Peter Lipták z Českej republiky a funkciu druhého podpredsedu bude ďalšie tri roky namiesto Jána Holého vykonávať Dušan Tóth z Kanady. Svoje funkčné obdobie začali aj nový predseda a podpredseda Revíznej a zmierovacej komisie. Po Pavlovi Zimovi zo Srbska sa ním stal Jozef Hajnis z Ukrajiny, ktorý od roku 2003 zastával pozíciu podpredsedu komisie, a na jeho miesto bol zvolený Branislav Slivka zo Srbska.

SZSZ je znepokojené znížením finančnej podpory na aktivity Slovákov v zahraničí

Valné zhromaždenie Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ), ktoré sa skončilo 3. novembra v Bratislave, so znepokojením prijalo fakt, že v návrhu štátneho rozpočtu na budúci rok sa nepočíta so zvýšením, ale naopak so znížením podpory aktivít Slovákov v zahraničí. To je podľa delegátov zhromaždenia v rozpore s vyhláseniami predstaviteľov vlády. Na druhej strane ale ocenilo legislatívne kroky, ktoré vláda vyvinula voči krajanom za hranicami SR. Taktiež vyzdvihlo vznik Úradu Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, ktorého vníma ako svojho hlavného partnera pre spoluprácu. Účastníci tiež privítali obnovenie vysielania Slovenského rozhlasu do zahraničia v rodnom jazyku a zároveň vyjadrili presvedčenie, že budú vytvorené ekonomické a technické podmienky pre voľný príjem signálu STV v krajinách, kde žijú slovenské komunity. Slovensko ako jediná z postkomunistických krajín zatiaľ takýto projekt nezrealizovalo, keďže na to chýbajú financie. Ročne by to stálo okolo 25 miliónov korún.

25. výročie návštevy Jána Pavla II. v Ústave

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

republiky. “Bolo by zaujímavé zohľadniť, koľko štúdií, analýz, kníh a vedeckých konferencií sme na Slovensku venovali obsahu tohto dedičstva a posolstva. Nehovorme však iba o civilnom poli, ale aj o pôde kresťanskej teológie a histórie,” uviedol kardinál a pokračoval: “Koľko doktorských prác, sympózií, kníh, článkov, konferencií na vedeckej úrovni, ale aj premyšlených homílií sme venovali týmto našim koreňom. Nestalo sa toto ‘dedičstvo’ okrídleným slovom a vzletným rečníckym výrazom, ktorý už pre novú generáciu nič neznamená, alebo sa chápe ako prázdna romantická formula bez hlbšieho obsahu?”

Na konci slávnostnej liturgie sa účastníkom slávnosti prihovril arcibiskup Dominik Hrušovský, ktorý bol tiež priamym účastníkom návštevy Jána Pavla II. v ústave. “Celý život ústavu mi dnes pripadá ako dlhá symfónia s viacerými dejstvami. Návšteva, ktorej strieborné výročie si pripomíname, to sú práve tie ústredné dejstvá, ústredné akordy,” povedal otec arcibiskup a pripojil perličky z príprav i priebehu slávnosti.

Po slávnosti kardinál Tomko požehnal pomätnú tabuľu vo vstupnej hale Slovenského kolégia. Na tabuli s motí-

vom kríža a slovenským štátnym znakom je zlatými písmenami uvedený citát Jána Pavla II.: “Moji drahí, zostávajúte verní dedičstvu otcov svätých Cyrila a Metoda. Žite podľa neho neprestajne, ochraňujte ho v tej istote, že ono je základom vašej duchovnej veľkosti a skutočnej kultúrnej výšky vášho národa.”

Ján Pavol II., navštívil Slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme 8. novembra 1981, na začiatku štvrtého roka svojho pontifikátu. Presne o 25 rokov neskôr, 8. novembra 2006, toto vzácne jubileum pripomenul terajší Svätý Otec Benedikt XVI. na generálnej audiencii. Po katechéze, venovanej svätému Pavlovi, sa prihovril slovenským pútnikom v ich jazyku: “Zo srdca pozdravujem pútnikov z Bratislavy, ako aj členov Pápežského slovenského ústavu svätých Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme, ktorý si dnes pripomína 25. výročie návštevy môjho predchodcu Jána Pavla II. v tomto ústave. Bratia a sestry, toto výročie nech vás posilní vo vernosti k Petrovmu nástupcovi. Rád žehnám vás i vašich drahých. Pochválený buď Ježiš Kristus!”

TK KBS o podujatí informoval Rudolf Smoter

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Ročná členská schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že ročná schôdza sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 10. decembra 2006 o 12.30 hodine (po slovenskej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na prvej Avenue a 66. ulici v New Yorku. Na programe budú podané správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie potom budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctivo vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdži.

Dakujem a s pozdravom

Jozef Juráši, predseda

Schôdze spolku sv. Antona č. 638 IKSJ v Thunder Bay, ON, Kanada

Spolok sv. Antona č. 638 IKSJ v Thunder Bay, Ontario oznamuje svojim členom, že, budúce schôdze budeme mať v nasledovné mesiace: 10. decembra 2006; 14. januára 2007; 11. februára 2007; Schôdze sa uskutočnia v osadnej hale kostola sv. Petra hneď po svätej omši. Prosíme všetkých našich členov, ako aj vašich priateľov, aby sa týchto schôdz všetci zúčastnili.

S pozdravom ostávajú

**Corey Humenaj, predseda
Peter Šuffák, tajomník**

Mikulášske odopoludnie v osadnej hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City pozýva slovenské rodiny a priateľov na Mikulášske odopoludnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou, ktoré sa bude konať v nedeľu 3. decembra 2006 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East a 66th Street v N.Y.C. Vstupné je voľné a o občerstvenie bude postarané.

Prosíme rodičov, ktorých deti by mohli s básničkou, spevom, alebo iným vystúpením spestriť naše Mikulášske posedenie, nech zavolajú vo večerných hodinách pani Henrietu tel.: (201) 641-8922.

Štedrovečerná večera - Vigília

v kostole sv. J. Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

Farská rada pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na Štedrovečernú večeru - Vigíliu, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 17. decembra 2006 o 1:00 hodine odopoludnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East a 66th Street v N. Y. C. Vstupné za osobu je \$20.00 v čom je započítaná aj večera. Lístky na Štedrovečernú večeru si môžete objednať na Farskom úrade Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, telefón: 1-212-734-4613; Jozef Bilik: 1-718-463-2084.

Vianočná ponuka z Jankolovej knižnice

Jankolova knižnica a Slovenský archív, ktoré sa nachádzajú v Materskom dome sestier sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Danville, PA ponúka vianočné obľátky. Cena je 50 centov za jednu obľátku. Okrem toho má Jankolova knižnica na predaj aj spevník slovenských ľudových piesní s anglickým prekladom. Cena jedného výtlačku je \$6.00 plus \$1.00 poštovné.

V ponuke je bohatý výber slovenských kníh, slovníkov a magnetofónových pásiok. Bližšie informácie: Jankola Library, tel. č. (570) 275-5606.

Pri objednávke obľátok pripojte \$4.00 za poštovné prvej triedy. Objednávky so šekom vystaveným na Jankola Library odošlite na adresu: Jankola Library, Sister M. Mercedes Vojtko, SS.C.M., director; Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698.

Vínko breje, vínko páli, vínko múdre hlavy šiali

Mladá žena, hus pečená, holba vína - najlepšia od suchotín medicína ...

Huba, ryba, dyňa, sviňa potrebuje pohár vína ...

Na studni voda, na čepe víno ...

Keď má byť mokro, nech tečie ...

Vodu mladým, víno starým ...

Na starom do mlyna na mladom do vína ...

Víno i starého rozihrá ...

Častý pohár vína jazýček rozvíňa ...

Víno za nos ľahá (pivo nazad sáca a sečka potáca)

Kto pije vína mnoho, potratí rozum od toho ...

Vínko hreje, vínko páli, vínko múdre hlavy šiali ...

Opitý od vína letí nabok, (od piva na chrbát, od pálenky na nos) ...

Voda ženie mlyny a víno jazyky ...

Vodu káže a víno pije ...

(Slovenské pohľady)