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Number 5776

A Sailing We Will Go To Nassau in the Bahamas



Come on board with the First Catholic Slovak Union for a four (4) night Caribbean cruise to Nassau in the Bahamas.

The Membership and Marketing Committee is sponsoring their 2008 membership meet from November 17-21 aboard the Majesty of the Seas.

Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas is one of the most popular cruise

ships in the world. Our itinerary from Miami, Florida includes Cocoa Cay, Key West, Florida and Nassau, Bahamas.

The cost for inside stateroom which includes the cruise, port and government taxes, all pre-paid gratuities and transfer from the airport to the cruise ship and back is \$454.72. The cost for an outside stateroom is \$494.72. (Optional insurance and airfare package is available through Paul J. Hudak of Adventure International Travel, Inc. at 216/228-7171 or 1/800-542-2487). A valid U.S. passport will be required.

The First Catholic Slovak Union is not responsible for your travel arrangements to and from Miami, Florida. Please contact Adventure International Travel, Inc. or your own travel agency.

The trip is open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and their guests.

More information will be published in our next JEDNOTA issue.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Home Office and ask for Karen at 1/800-533-6682.

Until we meet at the Meet!

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
Chairman, Membership
and Marketing Committee

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FCSU Holds Annual Meeting in Independence, Ohio

The Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union held their Annual Meeting on Friday and Saturday, March 14-15, 2008, at the FCSU Home Office in Independence, Ohio. This was the second annual meeting presided over by Andrew M. Rajec since his election

as National President at the 48th Convention in Boca Raton, Florida in July 2006.

President Rajec gave his annual report on the state of the society. Reports were also presented by Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt, National Treasurer George Matta, National Vice President and Membership and Marketing Chairman Andrew R. Harcar Sr, and by the other officers. Mass was celebrated each day by the National Chaplain, Rev. Thomas Nasta.

From all indications, the meeting was very productive. Members are encouraged to take an interest in the society and become active. Remember this is your society.



National Treasurer George Matta (left) and National Vice President Andrew Harcar go over the "Top Guns" for 2007 at the Annual Meeting in Independence, Ohio.

More photos on page 5

FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 5.00% (4.879 APR)

Under the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity, you may make periodic payments into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at, or greater than, the guaranteed rate. You can open the account with as little as \$500.00 and make additional deposits (\$25.00 minimum) as your financial situation allows. Additional deposits are not mandatory.

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- 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.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

Insights and Viewpoints



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

April 27, 2008

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gospel Summary

To love Jesus means to trust him. And that means that we trust his radical teaching about an ideal of unselfish loving. Those who think this is dangerous foolishness belong to the "world," which is interested only in self-promotion and self-protection. The secular ideal is to take care of oneself first, and to think of others later... which too often means not at all.

Jesus knows that his teaching seems unpromising and so he sends to those who try to be unselfish an Advocate who is the "Spirit of truth." This divine Spirit will be present to our inmost being and will assure us that the path traced out by Jesus will in fact lead to freedom and joy. This powerful Spirit will also guide us in knowing how to love properly in all the circumstances of our lives.

Those who are truly concerned for the welfare of others will often appear foolish and may even be ridiculed for their apparently improvident behavior. But the Spirit will convince them that they are with Jesus, and therefore with the Father. For "whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

Life Implications

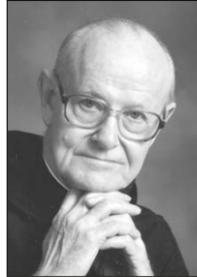
As mere creatures, we are all vulnerable to a deep anxiety about personal extinction. For this reason, being self-centered becomes a kind of defense mechanism by which we struggle to hold ourselves together against all the forces of disintegration. The gospels tell us, however, that it is only by taking the risk of reaching out in love that our identity can be assured. Those who seem to gain their lives in this world by selfish behavior will lose it, and those who seem to lose their lives by loving others will gain it back again in the richest measure imaginable.

In attempting to live this paradox, we are assured of the gift of the divine Spirit, who will stand by us (which is what Paraclete/Advocate literally means) and will give us a deep confidence about the wisdom of the way of Jesus. Contrary to all expectations, the more we dare to reach out in love to others, the more our "home base" will be protected and strengthened.

When Jesus promised an Advocate to his disciples, who dreaded his imminent departure from them, he was telling them that he would be with them in this divine Spirit more truly than he had ever been present to them in the flesh. This re-assurance is meant for us also. Sometimes we may think that those who knew Jesus in his earthly life had a great advantage over us but this is not at all the case. Jesus is far more truly present now "in the Spirit" than he ever was in his bodily existence in Palestine. As we struggle to maintain our identity as good and loving persons, we must know that Jesus is ever at our side.

The most important consequence of this presence of Jesus in our lives is the profound conviction, given to us by the Spirit, that we are embraced by the heavenly Father's love, just as Jesus was embraced by that love. This is what St. Paul tells us when he writes, "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (Galatians 4:6). If we listen to this Spirit, we will become ever more confident, peaceful and generous in spite of the adversities that we may find in our lives.

John 14:15-21



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

May 4, 2008

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Gospel Summary

The mystical intimacy and poetic beauty of this prayer of Jesus with the Father make any attempt to summarize it quite futile. The following highlights of the prayer are intended merely to serve as an aid to memory for personal reflection: the hour has come when the mystery of eternal life is revealed in glory; to know the Father and Jesus Christ is eternal life; Jesus prays for all who believe in him in every age; Jesus is no longer in the world, but those who accept him remain in the world to manifest his glory.

Life Implications

First there is the gift of peace and joy that comes from the realization that Jesus talks with us and prays for us at our Eucharist just as he talked with his disciples and prayed for them at the Last Supper. He tells us that though we, like them, remain in a world of darkness and death, our hearts need not be troubled and afraid: "In the world you will have suffering, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (Jn 16:33).

In his prayer Jesus reveals the meaning of eternal life: it is to know the Father and to know him, the one the Father has sent into the world. John, in the section of his gospel preceding the prayer, fully elaborates what Jesus means by "knowing" the Father and the one whom the Father has sent. Jesus knows the Father and the Father knows Jesus because they live in each other: "Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (Jn 14:10)?

To receive the gift of the divine "knowing" that is eternal life means to share in the relation of love between Father and his Son, Jesus Christ: "On that day [when the Spirit is given by the Father and Son] you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (Jn 14:20).

In praying with the Spirit we come to know more deeply that Jesus came into the world to manifest the glory of the Father's name through love, ultimately the act of love on the cross. To be a disciple in our world today means to manifest the same divine glory through love so that all may come to enjoy the gift of eternal life. "Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you... I made known to them your name... that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them" (Jn 17: 25-26).

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Book of Revelation



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

This is the last book in the Bible and the most difficult to read. The word pictures presented are symbolical rather than realistic. It contains visions and language borrowed in part from the Old Testament books of Daniel, Ezekiel and Zechariah. We don't know if the visions were the real experiences of the author, "...his servant John," (Revelation 1:1) or literary devices used by the author for greatest effect.

John never identifies himself as the Apostle John although many of the early Church Fathers so identify him. The "servant John" wrote this book near the end of the reign of the Roman emperor Domitian (Sept. 14, 81 A.D.-Sept. 18, 96A.D.). He was the first emperor to deify himself, signing documents as "Lord and God." Christians who failed to identify him as "Lord and God" were persecuted. Astrology indicated that he would die at noon and so he became very nervous daily around the noon hour. The day he was stabbed to death he had already passed the noon hour and was relaxed.

How should the Book of Revelation be Interpreted?

This is a controversial book and different interpretations exist to this day. John Chrysostom was not alone in arguing that this book should not be included in the Bible because of the difficulty in interpreting it.

The Catholic interpretation.

The Book of Revelation was written during the persecution of the Christians by Domitian. There was a danger of apostasy; there were false prophets endeavoring to get Christians to adopt heathen practices and to worship Domitian as "Lord and God." The author urges his Christians to remain true to their faith in Jesus Christ and promises them a reward. Their persecutors will be judged and condemned in everlasting life.

For steadfast Christians, there is this description of the New Jerusalem: "The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be there, and his servants shall serve him faithfully. They shall see him face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. The night shall be no more. They will need no light from lamps or the sun, for the Lord God shall give them light and they shall reign forever." (Revelation 22: 3-35)

This interpretation is the Preterist one. "Babylon," the "Mother of Harlots" is pagan Rome. Armageddon was God's judgment on the Jews and was carried out by the Roman army, "the beast." Revelation was fulfilled in 70 A.D. Nero, who blamed the burning of Rome on the Christians, was possibly the Antichrist.

The method known as gematria is the basis for the number 666. Each letter of the Jewish

continued on page 4

REMINDERS

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057.

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY
FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2008

THRU JUNE 30, 2008

The annual yield on existing
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Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

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Call 1-800 JEDNOTA or 1-216-642-9406

Czech and Slovak Cinema
Program in LaGrange, Illinois

The Czech and Slovak American Genealogy Society (CSAGS) will present a special program on Czech and Slovak Cinema on Saturday, May 17, 2008 during the society's meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 150 South Ashland Avenue and West Elm Avenue, La Grange, Illinois. The event is free for visitors and guests and begins at 1:30 p.m. The presentation will give an overview of critical moments in Czech and Slovak history and culture through the lenses of its notable film directors. It will cover the major historical periods and how they affected artistic and sociological expression, touching eras from post World War I, through World War II, to Communism, the liberal humanism of the renowned "New Wave" film genre of the 1960's, to Normalization, and finally to today's post-Communist period. Selected film scenes from each era will be viewed. The Slovak directors featured are Jan Kadar, Juraj Jakubisko (the Slovak Fellini), Dusan Hanak, and Martin Sulik. A highlight of the presentation includes scenes from the powerful "Shop On Main Street" of 1965, a look back to the Holocaust in Slovakia. A Slovak/Czech co-production, "Shop" was internationally acclaimed and won an Oscar for best foreign film. For more information on the presentations and the society, contact Marge Sladek-Stueckemann at 847/362-9036 or email at: mdstueck@aol.com.

Susan Marcinkus, Producer/Director, is Co-Producer of Manifest Films in Chicago and Los Angeles. Over the past 15 years she has worked in Hollywood as director, producer and editor on award winning film and TV projects. She has served as segment producer on the popular show Rescue 911 and on Safe Streets. Her personal documentary film, Pictures from the Old Country, chronicles her quest to uncover the mysteries of her Slovak heritage and identity. It had numerous airings on PBS TV and has played at conferences and universities across the United States and Central Europe. Marcinkus holds a BFA from the University of Wisconsin and an MFA in Film/TV Directing from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles.



Attention Members of the
George Onda District 3
Greensburg, PA Seminar

On Sunday, April 20, 2008 starting at 2:00 p.m. the Membership and Marketing Committee will hold a Sales Seminar at the Bishop Connare Center located at 2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

These seminars are open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union interested in acquiring knowledge about our insurance and annuity portfolio.

At the seminars, sales brochures and new 2001 CSO rate charts will be distributed and discussed. All branch officers, district officers, recommenders and First Catholic Slovak Union members interested in learning and selling our insurance and annuity products are urged to attend these seminars. Form car pool...lets get involved in establishing new membership.

Please be sure to make your reservations by calling either Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt at 1/800-533-6682 or Clarence Pfeifer at 724/423-2983 by April 14, 2008.

Until we meet at the seminar...

Good Luck and God Bless

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr,
National Vice President & Membership and Marketing Chairman

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Deadline
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30	MONDAY, APRIL 21
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14	MONDAY, MAY 5
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28	MONDAY, MAY 19

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
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Insights and Viewpoints

Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for April 2008

General Intention

Proclamation of the Resurrection. That Christians may not tire of proclaiming with their lives that Christ's resurrection is the source of hope and peace.

Pope Benedict's 2nd Encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, conveys to us the Holy Father's rich insights into the nature of Christian hope. The Pope recognizes, however, that if anyone is to receive the message of Christian hope, it must be by the grace of God. Our intellect can take us only so far. God's grace alone opens us to receive Christian hope as our spiritual anchor.

"A first essential setting for learning hope is prayer," says the Holy Father (*Spe Salvi* 32). As the word of hope goes out, let us pray that it's well-received by people everywhere. When people hear about Jesus' rising from the dead, may they embrace the faith with both mind and heart.

We also pray that the hope Christ brings banishes the false hopes that dominate the contemporary landscape. The Pope says worldly hopes are tied to reason and freedom. Many are looking to progress in science and society to save us from death and oblivion. But reason and freedom apart from God cannot lead us to paradise, for people are saved by love (23).

Similarly people often hope their wealth, fame, beauty, skill, or power will save them. But "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the field, the grass withers, and the flower wilts; but the word of the Lord remains forever" (1Peter 1:24-25).

Our faith in Jesus' resurrection is indeed a hope that cannot be shaken. Nor does it remain merely a personal hope, says Pope Benedict. "Christ died for all. . . Hope in a Christian sense is always hope for others as well" (28,34). Our hope is such that it can even grow during times of personal suffering, especially as we offer up our sufferings for the salvation of others (40).

May we and all Christians never tire of proclaiming in our words and in our lives our message of true hope.

Reflection

What are your hopes for yourself and others?

Mission Intention

Future Priests. That the future priests of the young Churches may be formed to evangelize their nations and the whole world.

By "young Churches" Pope Benedict means the Church in countries where Christianity has arrived in the past couple of centuries, where it is relatively new and therefore potentially fragile. A young church must make the transition from being a missionary church to being an indigenous church, one having its own priests and bishops. At some later point, the indigenous church becomes a church that itself sends out missionaries to the mission fields.

Pope Benedict asks us to pray this month for what the young Churches need most: priests properly formed to evangelize their own nations and the whole world. What does the Holy Father consider the proper formation of a priest? To seminarians attending World Youth Day in 2005, Pope Benedict said that the future priest must be someone who first of all "has had a personal experience of Christ," for, above all, a priest must be holy.

"The secret of holiness," the Pope continued, "is friendship with Christ and faithful obedience to his will. . . Dear seminarians, be the first to offer him what is most precious to you, as Pope John Paul II suggested in his message for this World Youth Day: the gold of your freedom, the incense of your ardent prayer, the myrrh of your most profound affection.

In 2006 speaking to Polish seminarians, Pope Benedict said. "So much can be gained by reflecting on the way Mary learned from Jesus. From her very first 'fiat,' through the long ordinary years of the hidden life. . . or when at Cana in Galilee she asked for the first sign, or when finally on Calvary, by the Cross, she looked on Jesus, she 'learned' him moment by moment." The Pope urged the seminarians, like Mary, to "keep your eyes fixed on him. Let him form you, so that in your ministry you will be able to show him to all who approach you. . . The world and the Church need priests, holy priests."

We join the Pope in praying this month that the future priests of the young Churches "be specialists in promoting the encounter between man and God."

Reflection

Why do you think the Pope commends holiness-above education, talent, and action- as the most important quality of a future priest?



Bridgeport Slovak Society Offers Scholarship

The Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Connecticut, is offering a College Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. In order to be eligible, the applicant, parent, or grandparent must be a member of the Alliance for at least three years. The applicant must be of Slovak descent and enrolled as a full time student in a College, University or Graduate School and have a GPA of at least 2.5. An essay is also required. For an application and guidelines, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Chairperson, Eileen Wilson, 395 Pilgrim Lane, Stratford, CT 06614. The deadline for receiving the application is May 1, 2008.

Eileen S. Wilson, Chairperson
Scholarship Committee

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

alphabet has a numerical value.

English	Greek	Hebrew	Value
C	k=K	Q	100
A	aH=a	h	5
E	'=I		0
S	S=s	S	60
A	A=a	a	1
R	R=r	r	200
N	n=N	n	50
E	'=e		0
R	R=r	r	200
O	o=w		0
	N=n	n	50
			666

In Greek, Nero is spelled "Neron."

The Futurist interpretation.

This view assigns the prophecy to the future. Between now and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, those of this interpretation envision a "Rapture" during which Christ will remove all people believing in God from the earth to live in His presence forever. This "Rapture" will precede the "tribulation," a period of seven years during which God will finish his discipline of Israel and finalize his judgment of the unbelieving world. Prior to Christ's Second Coming, there will be the "Millenium," a 1,000 years of Christ's reign here upon the earth. Amillennialism, the traditional position of the Catholic Church, hold that the 1,000 years are not calendar years but figurative ones for what is now the church age, the time between Christ's first ascension and his second coming. St. Augustine of Hippo is associated with this view. Some differ on the time frame of this 1,000 years. It began with Pentecost; it began with the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

The Historicist view of the Book of Revelation maintains that it applies to the time from the end of the first century through the second coming of Jesus Christ.

There are other interpretations as well: Idealist, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Paschal Liturgical, Esoteric, Radical Discipleship, Historical-Critical and Dismissal. Under Dismissal, Thomas Jefferson omitted the Book of Revelation from the Bible he edited. He considered it "as merely the ravings of a maniac, no more worthy nor capable of explanation than the incoherences of our own nightly dreams."

The Orthodox view of the Book of Revelation as a warning for spiritual conformity to the teaching of the Bible and preparedness for eternal life and it focuses upon those early Christians who experienced the persecution by the Romans of their time.

The Anglicans hold that this book offers hope to Christians who have been and are still being persecuted for their fidelity to Jesus Christ.

In summary, the Catholic position is that this Book is, in effect, a historical writing and the Church does not place any emphasis upon Rapture, Tribulation and Millennialism. Jesus Christ was here once and his second appearance will be at the end of the world.



Pittsburgh to be Focus of Family History Conference

The 2008 Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) Conference will be held August 1-3, 2008, at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott Hotel, 777 Aten Road, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

The theme will be "Pittsburgh: The East European Magnet", reflecting the vast number of immigrants from Eastern and Central Europe who came to the city and its neighboring towns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The conference will feature presentations from leading experts in the fields of Central and East European Genealogy, DNA testing, Online Databases, one-on-one research consultations and more! The keynote speaker on Friday morning will be Dr. Stephen P. Morse, Creator of the "One Step Web Pages." The Saturday evening banquet will feature the talk, "Don't Stop for Red Lights: The Story of the Creation of the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning" by Joseph Bielecki. On Sunday, August 3rd, an optional event, The Rivers of Steel "Babushkas and Hard Hats Tour" will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vendors specializing in East European merchandise are welcome.

The full 2-day FEEFHS member or nonmember fee entitles registrants to attend any of the sessions on Friday and Saturday, both Friday and Saturday lunches, the Friday evening reception and cultural event, and the opportunity to sign up for individual consultations with participating conference speakers. Registrants will also receive a copy of the Syllabus.

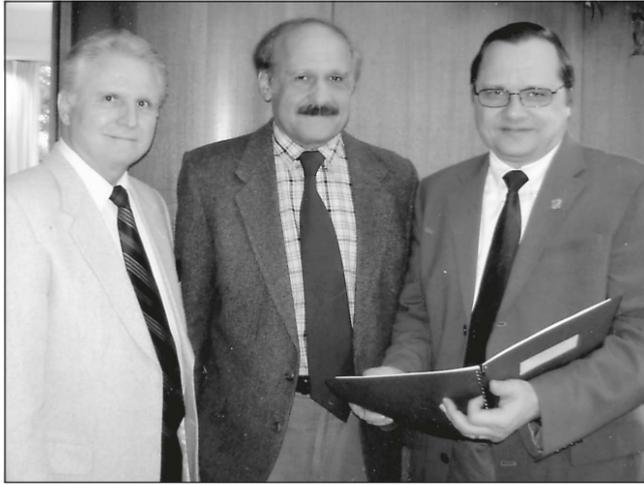
An "Early Bird" registration discount (\$120 for FEEFHS members and \$150 for nonmembers) is available until June 1, 2008. Early registration is highly recommended. Additional information is available at www.feefhs.org, or by calling 412/848-1394.

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

Think About It!

FCSU Holds Annual Meeting in Independence, Ohio

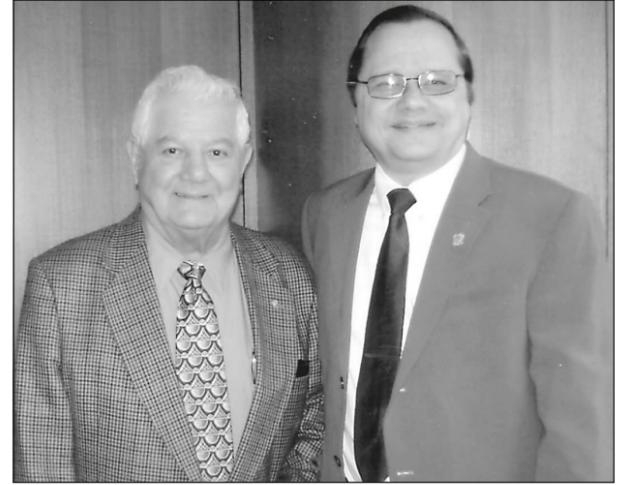
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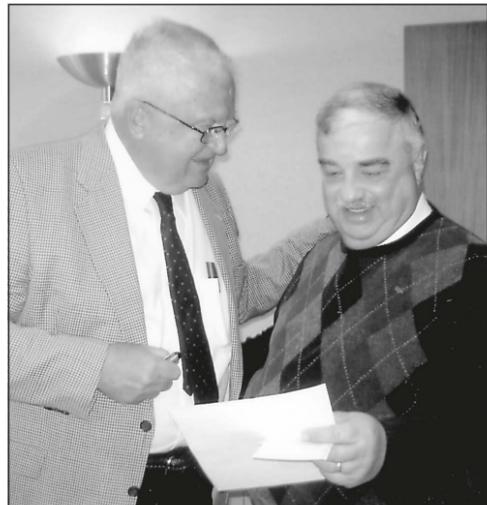
L-R National President Andrew Rajec, Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky and Regional Director Damian Nasta review the outside auditors' report.



National President Andrew Rajec presented Olivia Buydos, Miss Ohio Czech-Slovak Queen, with a gift on behalf of the Board of Directors.



Regional Directors Joseph Minarovich and Damian Nasta.



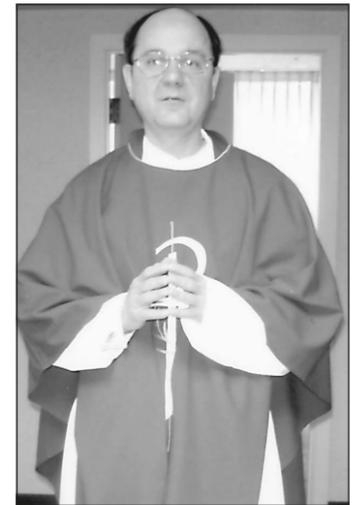
Regional Director Rudolph Glogovsky and National Secretary Kenneth Arendt review the agenda items.



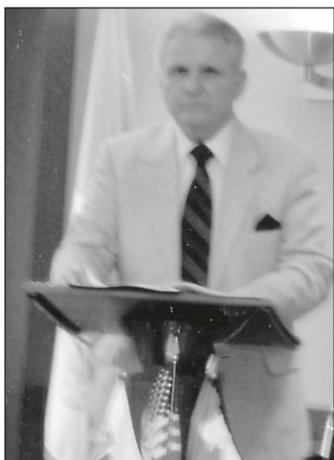
Edward DePersis of Bruce and DePersis and Edward Mertz of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel and Wood.



Regional Director Regis Brekosky and FCSU General Counsel Gary Matta.



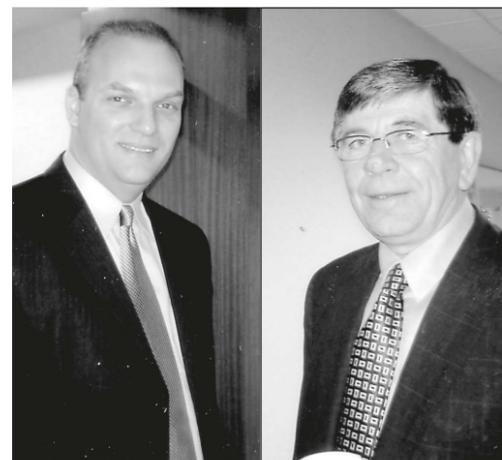
National Chaplain Rev. Thomas Nasta offered Mass each day for the Board of Directors.



National President Andrew Rajec gives his welcome address.



Director of Fraternal Activities Susan Ondrejco and Chairperson of Auditors Karen Hunka.



FCSU General Counsel Gary Matta and Canadian Regional Director Milos Mitro.



National Treasurer George Matta gives his report to the Board.



National Secretary Kenneth Arendt presents his annual financial report to the Board of Directors.



Regional Directors George Sprock and Henry Hassay.



National Vice President Andrew Harcar goes over membership and marketing statistics for the year 2007.



National President Andrew Rajec and Regional Director Rudolph Glogovsky discuss branch mergers.

ASSETS

	Current Year			Prior Year
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	4 Net Admitted Assets
1. Bonds (Schedule D).....	173,196,904		173,196,904	162,016,069
2. Stocks (Schedule D):				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	11,022,040		11,022,040	17,935,108
2.2 Common stocks.....	1,130,626		1,130,626	1,532,745
3. Mortgage loans on real estate (Schedule B):				
3.1 First liens.....	2,261,390		2,261,390	2,370,622
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate (Schedule A):				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,288,418		1,288,418	1,341,948
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	973,785		973,785	1,012,278
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....5,383,627, Sch. E-Part 1), cash equivalents (\$.....2,000,000, Sch. E-Part 2) and short-term investments (\$.....0, Sch. DA).....	7,383,627		7,383,627	4,844,625
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	746,501		746,501	703,594
7. Other invested assets (Schedule BA).....	2,449,543		2,449,543	2,441,458
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).....	201,015,509	0	201,015,509	194,761,122
11. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
12. Investment income due and accrued.....	2,558,414		2,558,414	2,533,487
13. Premiums and considerations:				
13.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in course of collection.....	36,412		36,412	16,215
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).....	15,199	15,199	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.....	29,701	29,701	0	0
24. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 10 to 23).....	203,655,235	44,900	203,610,335	197,310,824
25. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
26. TOTALS (Lines 24 and 25).....	203,655,235	44,900	203,610,335	197,310,824

Annual Statement for the year 2007 of the

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

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life certificates and contracts (Exhibit 5, Line 9999999) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	176,127,000	172,460,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (Exhibit 6, Line 16, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (Exhibit 7, Line 14, Col. 1) (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	1,572,184	1,019,847
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, Column 1 less sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....	250,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health (Exhibit 8, Part 1, Line 4.4, sum of Columns 9, 10 and 11).....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid (Exhibit 4, Line 10).....		
6. Provision for refunds payable in following calendar year-estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	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 (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Col. 1, sum of Lines 4 and 14).....	311,333	265,626
8. 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, Line 6).....	3,726,188	3,540,809
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued-life and annuity contracts \$.....0 ; accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	3,425	2,532
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued (Exhibit 2, Line 12, Col. 7).....	387,700	432,102
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 (Exhibit 3, Line 8, Col. 6).....	8,865	23,205
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	4,609,041	4,381,480
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.....	50,000	5,000
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 (AVR, Line 16, Col. 7).....	2,437,842	2,590,136
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	99,501
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	514,992	314,992
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	190,498,071	185,755,230
24. From Separate Accounts statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 and 24).....	190,498,071	185,755,230
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.....	13,112,264	11,555,594
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (Page 4, Line 47) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts statement).....	13,112,264	11,555,594
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30) (Page 2, Line 26, Col. 3).....	203,610,335	197,310,824



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!



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

Annual Statement for the year 2007 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA****SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

	1 Current Year	2 Prior Year
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts (Exhibit 1, Part 1, Line 20.4, Col. 1).....	5,693,973	4,725,387
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
3. Net investment income (Exhibit of Net Investment Income, Line 17).....	12,064,200	11,746,690
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR, Line 5).....	300,469	288,040
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains or losses.....		
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.1, Col. 1).....		
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.....	28,603	33,803
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	18,087,245	16,793,920
10. Death benefits.....	2,394,166	2,502,460
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....	2,208	9,092
12. Annuity and old age benefits.....	6,299,856	7,776,463
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts, including premiums waived \$.....0.....		
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	456,455	470,016
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contracts funds.....	218,064	335,244
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....		
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	3,667,000	1,531,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	13,037,749	12,624,275
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only) (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 31, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....	97,579	54,789
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed (Exhibit 1, Part 2, Line 26.2, Col. 1 less Col. 5).....		
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses (Exhibit 2, Line 10, Cols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).....	2,287,897	2,588,945
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees (Exhibit 3, Line 6, Cols. 1, 2, 3 and 5).....	75,113	73,424
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.....	211,844	(346,290)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	15,710,182	14,995,143
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	2,377,063	1,798,777
28. Refunds to members (Exhibit 4, Line 17, Cols. 1 + 2).....	461,771	309,671
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	1,915,292	1,489,106
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0 (excluding \$.....485,848 transferred to the IMR).....	(194,342)	49,903
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	1,720,950	1,539,009
SURPLUS ACCOUNT		
32. Surplus, December 31, previous year (Page 3, Line 30, Col. 2).....	11,555,594	9,866,552
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	1,720,950	1,539,009
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	2,984	551,836
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....	(45,000)	15,000
36. Change in nonadmitted assets and related items.....	(15,159)	84
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis, (increase) or decrease (Exhibit 5A, Line 9999999, Col. 4).....		
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	152,294	(431,991)
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.....	(259,398)	15,104
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	1,556,671	1,689,042
47. Surplus December 31, current year (Lines 32 + 46) (Page 3, Line 30).....	13,112,264	11,555,594

More Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk Slovakia Travel Guide
www.travelguide.sk Hotel and Spa Guide
kosice.region.sk Kosice-City Travel Guide
www.slovakia.org Bratislava-Information about the City
www.vtatry.sk Useful Information about the High Tatras

www.tatry.net Complete Information on Tatra Region
www.hotel-net.sk Tourist Accommodation
www.skonline.sk Slovakia On-Line (general information)
www.kultura.sk Slovak cultural calendar
www.snm.sk Slovak National Museum

www.savba.sk Slovak Academy of Sciences
www.government.gov.sk Government of the Slovak Republic
www.snd.sk Slovak National Theater
www.stv.sk Slovak Television
www.nbs.sk National Bank of Slovakia

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA DECEMBER 15, 2007 (TELECONFERENCE)

ROLL CALL

The telephone operator took a roll of who was present and the Executive Secretary recorded the number of members present. Members present at the Home Office:

Andrew M. Rajec, National President;
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary;
George F. Matta, National Treasurer;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel; by invitation of the President
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6; by special permission of the President

Members attending over the phone:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain;
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President;
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors;
Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director;
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1;
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2;
Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3;
George Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4;
Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5;
Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director, Region 7;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 and 9

OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order and asked Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President dispensed from the singing the National Anthems of the United States, Canada and the Slovak Republic. The President asked Susan Ondrejco to lead the Pledge of the Allegiance.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President extended his welcome to the Board of Directors.

READING OF THE CALL

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14 AND 15, 2007

A motion was made by Joseph Minarovich and seconded by George Sprock to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Board Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the agenda and allow the President to change the order of the agenda if necessary. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S QUARTERLY REPORT

President Rajec presented his quarterly report to the Board of Directors.

1. Branches

President Andrew Rajec gave a lengthy report about the condition of our Branches and Branch mergers. He stated that he and the Executive Secretary are in the process of merging non-active with active Branches and hope to have this project completed by the end of 2008. He also stated that the Regional Directors will be also involved in this project.

2. Estates

The President updated the Board of Directors on the leasing of our Printery Building. He stated that we signed a new Listing Contract for 8 months with Landmark, Inc. Realty.

The President read a letter from a local developer regarding the relocation of the sewer line at the Plaza in Middletown, PA. He asked our Legal Counsel, Gary Matta, to look into this matter and report back to him.

The President also stated that we are still trying to locate two Artesian wells on our property in Middletown. He will update the Board as more information becomes available.

3. Jednota Newspaper

The President stated that we are in final stages of mailing the newspaper to every household and all should be finalized in the 2nd quarter of 2008.

4. New Sales Programs

The President asked the Vice-President, Andrew Harcar, to look into new sales programs for 2008 and report back to him.

5. Merrill Lynch

We received a letter from Merrill Lynch, our Stock Portfolio custodian, stating that we have no bonds in our portfolio that have direct exposure to the sub-prime mortgage crisis.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 3rd QUARTER 2007

Executive Secretary's Report

The Executive Secretary presented the third Quarter Financial Report and answered the Board Members' questions. He stated that the Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary also presented the proposed Budget for year 2008.

A motion was made by Rudolf Glogovsky and seconded by George Matta to accept the 2008 Budget as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rudolf Glogovsky and seconded by George Matta to accept the Executive Secretary's Report as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

George F. Matta presented the Treasurer's report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions. The Treasurer reviewed the statement presented by Merrill Lynch. The Treasurer stated in his report that we are keeping with the FCSU investment policy which is proving to be very successful.

The Treasurer also reported that the Executive Committee is constantly monitoring the housing and mortgage situation and what effect it may have on current holdings. The Treasurer reported that we are investing in only investable grade bonds. He also led a discussion regarding the possibility of purchasing some foreign bonds (Canadian or Australian bonds).

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by George Sprock to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed the sales production of our Districts and our Independent Agents.

The Vice President also updated the Board of Directors on the Senior Promotion Program which will end on March 31, 2008.

He said he will be in contact with our consultant, Ed DePersis, regarding policy holders who have policies of \$2,500.00 or less face value, for the possibility of a conversion program for the 2nd half of 2008. He will update the Board of Directors as more information becomes available.

The Vice-President informed the Board of Directors that he conducted 9 seminars through our Districts in 2007. He stated that he is in contact with the District Directors about conducting seminars in 2008. He will update the Board about his progress.

The Vice-President led a round-table discussion with the Board of Directors discussing their suggestions about the possibility of improving the presentation of our seminars.

The Vice-President also stated that we will revisit the possibility of hiring an In-House Agent after the first of the year.

A motion was made by Joseph Minarovich and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to accept the Vice President's report as presented. Motion carried.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT

The Fraternal Activities Director read a report summarizing the Bowling and Golfing Tournaments in 2007 and answered the Board's questions.

She also gave a report on the process of how to reimburse our Branches for expenses associated with Christmas parties for children and answered the Board's questions.

She also updated the Board on the Christmas Coloring Contest.

The Fraternal Activities Director informed the Board of Directors with the sites and dates of the Bowling and Golfing Tournaments for 2008:

2008 Bowling Tournament will take place on April 25-27, 2008 at Wedgewood Lanes, Youngstown, Ohio

2008 Golf Tournament will take place July 12-13, 2008 at Tam O'Shanter Course, Canton, Ohio.

Susan Ondrejco has met with other Fraternal Directors regarding the possibility of joint ventures in 2009. The President asked the Director of Fraternal Activities about the possibility of having the Bowling and/or Golfing Tournaments and have a second day only for members who want to participate in a Family Fun Day and for those members and their families who do not want to participate or have the time in an entire Bowling and/or Golfing Tournament.

The President led a discussion about inviting other Slovak Fraternal Organizations to our events.

A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by George Sprock to accept the Fraternal Directors report as presented. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT

Karen Hunka presented her report to the National Officers and answered their questions. She stated that she has established standard auditing outlines that will be used by the internal auditors.

A motion was made by Rudolph Glogovsky and seconded by Henry Hassay to accept the Chairman of Auditors' report as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary stated that the Executive Committee Meetings are in compliance with Section 10 of the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, established by the Convention. The minutes from all Executive Committee Meetings were printed in the Jednota newspaper.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the 2008 FCSU Scholarship Applications. He stated that applications were mailed to all members between age 16-19, a notice was put in Jednota newspaper, all Branch officers were informed through our Branch mailing and the

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2008

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the January 2008 Executive Committee meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The President made an announcement about Jan Beliansky, our former Slovak editor of the First Catholic Slovak Union Jednota newspaper for many years, passing away on February 3, 2008.

The President stated that the Executive Committee will be looking into possible convention sites and dates for 2010 and will report to the Board of Directors as more information is gathered.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta gave a detailed verbal report summarizing our investments for the month of January 2008 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the quarterly statement presented by our custodian, Merrill Lynch.

The Treasurer reviewed all current offers received from our brokers.

The Treasurer also led a discussion regarding the possibilities of purchasing additional foreign bonds (Australia or Canada). He will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

SALES & MARKETING

The Vice President led a discussion reviewing the monthly sales report. He reviewed the District Sales Production Report and Independent Agents Sales Report for the month of January (total sales, number of policies sold, annuity sales) and answered the Committee's questions.

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on new programs we will introduce in 2008. He said that we will offer a new Single Promotion Program beginning on April 1, 2008 and possibly a new conversion program for current members who have policies of \$2,500.00 face value or less and possibly another conversion program for those members who have policies of \$5,000.00 face value or less, with projected start date on July 1, 2008. The Vice President will update the Executive Committee as more details become available.



Minutes Of The Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors

continued from page 9

application is available on our Society's website. As soon as the applications are processed at the Home Office they will be sent to the Scholarship Committee.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORTJednota, Inc.

Jednota, Inc. President, George Matta, gave an informational report and answered the Board's questions. The members of the Jednota, Inc. Board are: Andrew M. Rajec, James B. Bacon, Rudolf D. Glogovsky, James R. Marmol and Edward DePersis.

Jednota Properties, Inc.

Jednota Properties, Inc. President, Regis P. Brekosky, gave his informational report updating them on landscaping, sprinkle system, new roof and the school taxes. He then read the list of current Board members: Joseph F. Minarovich, Joseph Bielecki, Joseph T. Senko and Carl Ungvarsky.

The reports of Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc. are informational in nature.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President led a discussion concerning the dates for the March 2008 Quarterly Meeting.

The President and the Executive Secretary will look for dates for our Quarterly Meetings for 2008 and will inform the Board.

The President also stated that in 2008 we will be looking into possible convention sites and dates for 2010.

ADJOURN

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

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

The Vice President also reviewed the JEP promotional program where the FCSU paid the first year premium as a fraternal benefit. He stated that this program was very successful and about 70% of policy holders renewed their membership.

The Vice President further informed the Executive Committee on the Senior Promotion which will end on March 31.

The Vice President also updated the Executive Committee on the dates of Slovak Festivals where we will have a booth with material to be passed out.

The Vice President stated that he is in contact with the District Presidents regarding the possibility of organizing seminars on a District level in 2008.

RECESS OF SESSION

At this time the Executive Committee broke for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The President called the Meeting back to order.

The Vice President continued with his report. He stated that we are running ads for independent sales agents in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Vice President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

The Vice President also informed the Executive Committee about having a possible Membership Meet for 2008. He is in process of checking out options and the cost of a 4 and 5 night cruise to the Caribbean and will report back to the Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to accept the Vice President's report as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES**

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of January 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 January:

Disbursements for the month of January 2008

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$262,218.32
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 59,332.48
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	\$ -0-

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

MIDDLETOWN

The President updated the Executive Committee on the progress of leasing our Printery Building in Middletown, PA. He stated that he is frequently in contact with the leasing company, Landmark Realty, and will update the Executive Committee as more information on the lease becomes available.

BRANCHES

The President made a report on his calls to officers of our Branches to get a feedback from them on their activities, meetings, attendance of District Meetings and if they are not active to find out the reason for non-activity.

The President will update the Executive Committee once he is done with the study.

The President read a letter from one of our Regional Directors regarding placement of new members to Branches that come thru the Home Office.

UNDERWRITING/MEDICAL EXAMS

The Executive Secretary stated that he interviewed three medical examination companies.

He is in the process of reviewing availability, pricing, the possibility of on-line scheduling and other conditions. He stated that he will have a complete report and a decision before April 1 about the company we will use.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded George Matta to authorize the Executive Secretary to continue with this procedure. Motion carried.

CANADA BUSINESS

The President requested our General Counsel to present a report at the March Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting on how Canadian Members can purchase our products.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES

The President updated the Executive Committee on the possibility of having some ventures together with other fraternal organizations. He stated that the FCSU Officers will be invited to the events of other fraternal organizations and we will invite the Officers from some fraternal organizations to our events. The President will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

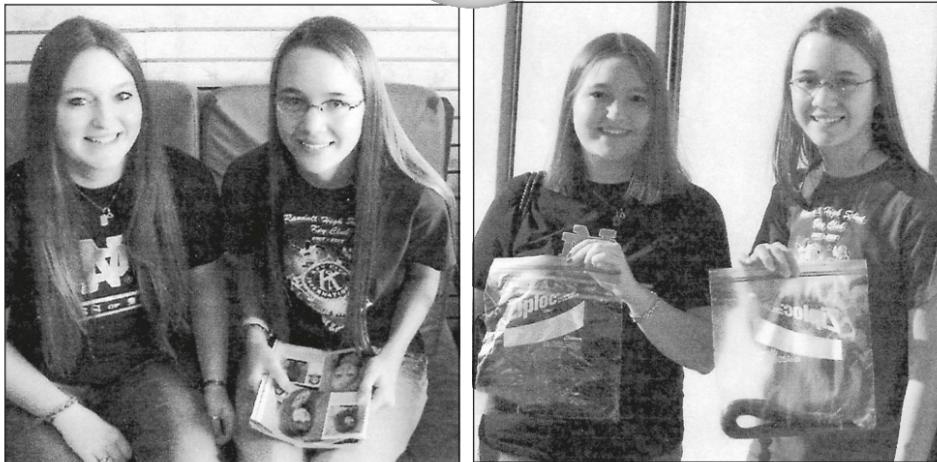
MISCELLANEOUS

The Executive Secretary led a discussion regarding the Branch Stipend for 2007. He stated that the checks for the Branches which qualified for the stipend will be issued at the end of March. He stated that, according to Bylaws, Section 4.05, a notification will be sent for publication in our Jednota newspaper regarding Branches which did not qualify for the stipend.

The Vice President stated that he has an ongoing list of activities (Slovak picnics, festi-

continued on page 11

YOUTH ROUND-UP



BEFORE

AFTER

Adrienne Huseman and Amy Wilhelm before and after donating their hair to the "Locks of Love". December 21, 2007.

Cousins Adrienne Huseman and Amy Wilhelm, members of Branch 853 Ellsworth, Pennsylvania, teamed up recently to share their abundance with others through the "Locks of Love" program. This program allowed the girls to donate at least 10 inches of their hair to make wigs for patients going through chemotherapy. Adrienne donated 14 inches of her hair and Amy donated 16 inches. Both made the decision to donate their hair in December and decided to go together to contribute to the charity.

Adrienne is a sophomore at Notre Dame University majoring in mechanical engineering. She graduated as Valedictorian from Randall High School. She currently participates in a concert band and volunteers at the convent. Adrienne plans to travel to London for six weeks this summer to study. Amy is a freshman at Randall High School in Amarillo, Texas and fourth in her class. She plays flute and made second chair in the All Region Orchestra.



Lauren Wietchy

Lauren Wietchy, a member of Branch 743 in Sterling Heights, Michigan, achieved first place in the 2008 Slovak Garden Annual Scholarship competition. Her award was based on her essay entitled "Slovak Immigration to the United States." Lauren is a member of the Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble. She began her career at age four by singing Slovak songs at cultural events. Today she continues to embrace her Slovak culture through folk dance. Lauren is an honor student and in her junior year at Stevenson High School in Sterling Heights. She is the daughter of Mark and Susan Wietchy. The officers and members of Branch 743 salute Lauren Wietchy and her accomplishments.

Joseph C. Rimarcik, President, Br. 743



Student of the Month

Michelle Siman of Toronto, Ontario, was selected as the October 2007 Student of the Month at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario. Michelle is a first year Hotel and Food Administration Major at the University of Guelph. She has been an active Commerce student, attending many CMESA (College of Management and Economics Students' Association) events. Recently, Michelle was appointed as a Residence Representative for Addington Hall at the university.

Michelle is a lifelong member of Branch 785 in Toronto. She is the granddaughter of Jerry Siman, Pension Board Trustee of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

**IT'S TIME YOU GET INVOLVED —
ATTEND LODGE MEETINGS!**



On May 17 and 18, 2008, the Pittsburgh Jr Slovaks will perform at the Pittsburgh Folk Festival. The Festival will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is a celebration of the people and their heritage. The Pittsburgh Jr. Slovaks perform traditional songs and dance. For information regarding the Pittsburgh Slovaks call 412-421-1204. It is a wonderful way for the children to learn about their Slovak heritage.

Coming Events

APRIL

- 20 – The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.
- 27 – The Michigan District's Semiannual Meeting at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Mass at 11:30 a.m. followed by refreshments. Meeting and lunch at 1:00 p.m.
- 27 – The Rev. John Martvon District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church of Holy Spirit Parish, Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale (Lloydell), Pennsylvania.
- 27 – The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District's Semiannual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania.
- 27 – The SS. Cyril and Methodius District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church, Gibson and Washington Streets, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

JUNE

- 1 – The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in St. John Nepomucene Church Parish Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City.



Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

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vals etc.) for 2008. He stated he will have a booth and pass out literature advertising our products at some of these Slovak functions.

REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

My Mother's Hands By Lulu Ann Bernardich

My Mother's hands
so beautiful, so gentle and kind.
The gentle hands that took care
of me when I was young.
The beautiful hands that soothed me
when I was troubled and ill, the hands
that touched me and helped me to
feel better, to laugh and have fun.

The hands that got wrinkled with
age when she was getting old.
My mother's hands, so cold
folded across her chest
as they laid her to eternal rest.
I held her hands as I kissed her
goodbye with tears in my eyes.
My Mother's beautiful, gentle hands.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 1 — CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All are welcome. Please attend. Come and meet the members.

Mary Dubber, Secretary

Branch 45 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

Branch 55 — PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2008, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Agnes/St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch activities, all reports, and general branch business. Refreshments will be served.

We continue to collect aluminum cans to help a neighbor whose husband has M.S. Also, please bring canned and dry goods for the benefit of Aid for Friends and clothing items for St. Benedict Thrift Shop.

Helene T. Gaydos, President

Branch 60 — MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Swissvale, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the officers' reports and a discussion of branch activities. All members are urged to attend.

Margaret M. Perla, Secretary

Branch 61 — BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

The St. Stephen the King Society, Branch 61, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of the president, Victor Sabo, 6802 Roberts Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland. Matters of importance to our branch and all fraternal activity will be on the agenda. All members are urged to attend.

Victor Sabo, President

Branch 228 — LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, will hold their next meeting on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30th and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio.

Our meetings are held on the 3d 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 at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during the December meeting as is done each December. At that time we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. The meetings

provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the activities of the FCSU and the Slovak Club so come in and become more active in these fine organizations. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com, and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary Branch 313 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 313, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 19, 2008, at 11:00 a.m. at the Mother of Sorrows Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. On the agenda will be a discussion of how to find unknown addresses for our lost Jednota members. We are trying to locate the following members: Kenneth W. Michalik, Charles Morinec, Phyllis Morinec, Barbara E. Perkins, Kimberly Rozema, Thaddeus C. Rozema, Robert Ruby, Josephine Ruzon, and Angela Schandor. If you have addresses or telephone numbers for any of these members please call Joseph Bugel at 708/349-7873.

**Joseph M. Bugel,
President/Financial Secretary**

Branch 380 — Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

The St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the residence of Margaret Graytok, 236 West Pike Street, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

Margaret Graytok

Branch 410 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's Restaurant, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch activities for the year. Please call 724/246-9853 for reservations. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary/
Financial Secretary**

Branch 367 — FAIRCHANCE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, branch 367, will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's restaurant, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome to attend.

Jane Kish, Secretary

Branch 706 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its next meeting on Friday, April 25, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of the President, Shirley M. Uram, 13861 South 86th Avenue, Orland Park, Illinois. On the agenda will be discussions on new and existing membership. Branch activities for this year will also be discussed. All members are invited to attend.

Shirley M. Uram, President

Branch 762 — WHITING, INDIANA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 762, held a meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the residence of the Financial Secretary, John Vrlik. Activities for the year were discussed.

John Vrlik, Financial Secretary

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE AND ACADEMIC PREPARATION BRATISLAVA SCHOOL OF LAW

Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Are you interested in discovering Slovakia – a beautiful country in the heart of Europe?

Do you wish to understand the language of your forefathers or colleagues at work or Slovak relatives of your boy/girlfriend?

Do you wish to exercise informal communication with Slovak students?

Are you looking for wonderful holidays in an international community?

WHEN: July 7 – 25, 2008 (or July 7 – 18, 2008 just a 2-week course)

WHERE: Bratislava – Petržalka, Tematínska 10 (nearby the lake)

PROGRAMME:

• Intensive Slovak language study - 30 lessons per week

(Language lessons, conversation lessons, lessons in multimedia language labs, series of lectures on present Slovakia and other attractive forms of language teaching)

• Social and cultural programme

- sports and cultural events
- Slovak folk traditions
- presentation and practice of folk songs and dances
- guided tours in Bratislava and its surroundings
- 2-day trip around Slovakia

CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION: July 23 – 24, 2008

Participants may take an exam assessing their Slovak language proficiency and receive a certificate – levels B1, B2 or C1 accredited by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.

TUITION FEE: EUR 460

 (or EUR 330 for a 2-week course)

Costs for trips, entrance fees to museums, public transport etc. as well as travel expenses and insurance are not included.

Examination fee is in amount of **1,000 SKK** (ca 30 EUR).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 3, 2008

On-line enrolment and more information at: www.uninova.sk/clap

ACCOMMODATION

Summer School participants can book accommodation in the premises of our partner hotel for special rates:

Address: **INCHEBA HOTEL**
Viedenská cesta 3-7
Bratislava-Petržalka

The hotel is situated in the Congress and Exhibition Centre INCHEBA on the bank of the River Danube – opposite the historical centre (across the river) and not far away from the Summer school venue (about 10 - 15 minutes' journey).

There will be a shuttle bus service taking participants from the hotel to CLAP in the morning.

Detailed information on the hotel can be found at: www.incheba.sk/services/hotel_EN/669

Option A/ INCHEBA Hotel ***

- single and double rooms with a bathroom (WC and bath), satellite TV, radio, telephone, a free connection to the Internet
- suites (2 persons)

Price for a single room per night: 1,200 SKK (ca. 37 EUR)

Price for a double room per night: 1,520 SKK (ca. 47 EUR)

Price for a suite per night: 2,080 SKK (ca. 64 EUR)

(Tourist tax in amount 30 SKK (0.9 EUR) per night per person is not included.)

Option B/ INCHEBA Hotel *

- two double rooms form a unit with shared bathroom and toilet
- radio, telephone

Price for a double room per night: 800 SKK (ca. 24 EUR)

(Tourist tax in amount 30 SKK (0.92 EUR) per night per person is not included.)

CANCELLATION POLICY: Confirmed reservation can be cancelled without any cancellation fee no later than June 23, 2008.

Attention: Book the chosen option and send it including your payment card details by e-mail to clap@uninova.sk or by fax to No. ++421 2 6353 3149.

Do it as soon as possible – the number of places is limited!

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING DEADLINE: June 2, 2008

BOARD

Breakfast: at INCHEBA Hotel - a buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant
200 SKK / person (ca 6 EUR)

Lunch: at the Summer School venue - a students' canteen with an offer of:

- 2 daily menus for 89 SKK (approx. 2.7 EUR) and
- a choice from dishes upon order (À la minute)

Dinner: on your own – a variety of restaurants, café, pubs, pizzeria in the downtown of Bratislava or at the INCHEBA Hotel

Exchange rate – purchase (February 7, 2008): 1 EUR = 32.54 SKK

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS



Adam Cardinal Maida was the principal celebrant at the rededication Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. Among the concelebrants were Archbishop Jan Sokol, Rev. Benjamin Kosnac, Rev. Marek Sitar and many other priests.



The rededication Mass.

SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Rededicated

SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Sterling Heights, Michigan, was formerly rededicated on Sunday, February 17, 2008. The original church of SS. Cyril and Methodius was built in 1918 in Detroit, Michigan. The parish was relocated to Sterling Heights and a new church was constructed in 1988 under the direction of Rev. Elemir Mikus. The church was expanded in 2007-2008 under the direction of Rev. Benjamin Kosnac.

Among those present at the rededication Mass were His Eminence, Adam

Cardinal Maida, and His Excellency Archbishop Jan Sokol of Slovakia. Also present were many priests and deacons, including Rev. Benjamin Kosnac, pastor and Rev. Marek Sitar, Associate Pastor.

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, is based in SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish. The branch was founded April 1, 1921 and was a proud contributor of \$3,400 towards the church building fund.

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

Spitkovsky District Theater Outing

Members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District are invited to attend a brunch and matinee performance, "The Buddy Holly Story" on Sunday, May 25, 2008, at the Drury Lane Theater, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois. Brunch is at 12:00 noon followed by the show at 2:30 p.m. The show tells the three years during which Buddy Holly became the world's top recording artist and how he sang his way from a Nashville recording studio and turned into a global success. Come and see Holly's rise to stardom with a show that features over twenty of Buddy Holly's greatest hits.

The cost is \$50.00 per person. The District voted to subsidize FCSU members who attended last year's performance with a rebate of \$20.00, making their cost \$30.00. New first time FCSU members will receive a \$10.00 rebate, making their cost \$40.00. Nonmembers will pay the full price of \$50.00. The Director of Fraternal Activities George Kelchak has reserved 40 tickets. You are advised to make your reservations early. The deadline is April 5, 2008. Make checks payable to the Spitkovsky District 2 and mail to: George Kelchak, 953 Portage Ave., Porter, IN 46304. Your tickets will be available at our District meeting on April 20. If you are unable to attend the meeting, I will have the tickets with me before the brunch. On arriving, see the reservation clerk and ask for Spitkovsky reserve seating. If you have any questions call George Kelchak at 219/926-2410.

**George Kelchak,
Director of Fraternal Activities, Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District**

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT — Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments will begin at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. All branches in District II are encouraged to send delegates. A delicious meal will be served. In order to ensure an adequate supply of food and beverages, please contact District II President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810 if you plan to attend.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT — Michigan

The Michigan District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan, located just north of 18 Mile Road.

The day will begin with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. The District meeting will take place in Room 118 at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be served after the meeting. Branch 743 will be the host branch. Please notify Joe Rimarcik at 586/254-0225 by April 20, 2008 on the number of delegates attending the meeting from your branch.

Spring is beautiful time to renew old friendships and see our new church facilities. Our District President Victor Jiomkowski encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT — Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

The George Onda District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bishop Connare Center, Route 30 East, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Representatives from each of our branches are expected to attend. A Sales Seminar will be held following the meeting.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

MSGR. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT — Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset and Bedford Counties, Pennsylvania

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church of Holy Spirit Parish, Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale (Lloydell), Pennsylvania. The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will be the host. Holy Mass will be offered earlier in the day for the living and deceased members of the District.

All District lodges are urged to send delegates to the meeting. Branches may pay their dues at this meeting. Hope to see you in Beaverdale.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

MSGR. JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT-ALLEGHENY — Kiski Valley, Pennsylvania

The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. In order to prepare sufficient light refreshments for the meeting, all branches are asked to identify representatives and members who plan to attend by calling Grace Charney at 724/763-1104 by Saturday, April 26.

Grace Charney, Secretary

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT — New York

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John Nepomucene Church Parish Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City. We urge all District branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All FCSU members are also welcome to attend. The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, will serve the refreshments.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT — Luzerne and Lackawana Counties, Pennsylvania and Broome County, New York

The SS. Cyril and Methodius District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at Holy Family Church, Gibson and Washington Streets, Scranton, Pennsylvania. Auditors will meet at 12:00 noon and the meeting will follow at 1:00 p.m. Please note change from usual time.

All members of the various branches are invited to attend. All branches are requested to bring their District dues up to date at this meeting. A discussion regarding the annual picnic in September will take place. Suggestions on activities and food as well as any other subject will be welcome. For more information or if you have questions and concerns, contact President Michael Slovenkai at 342-7562, Vice President Marie Gryczko at 824-4125, or Treasurer and Financial Secretary Dorothy Ungvarsky at 403-2067.

Theresa Chupka, Recording Secretary

**SIGN UP
A NEW MEMBER TODAY!**

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Maryanne Stankay Branch 35 Braddock, Pennsylvania

Maryanne Stankay, 66, of Lantana, Florida, formerly of North Versailles, Pennsylvania, died recently after a 6 year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born April 24, 1941, in Braddock, she was the daughter of the late Paul and Mary (Ulaky) Matta.

Maryanne graduated from Braddock General Hospital School of Nursing on August 18, 1962. She worked at Braddock Hospital for 22 years. She and her husband moved to the West Palm Beach, Florida area and lived there for 24 years. She worked at Columbia Hospital, then at JFK Medical center for the past 14 years as a registered nurse.

She was a member of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Maryanne loved playing tennis, reading, and volunteering at the Food Pantry at her church where many homeless poor were fed every week.

She is survived by Vincent, her husband of 45 years; four children, Diane (Germ) of Oviedo, Florida, Christine (Collins) of North Augusta, South Carolina, Michael of West Palm Beach, and Paula (Fels) of Greenville, South Carolina; seven grandchildren, Amanda, Brian, Hannah, Christopher, Eric, Lauren, and Sarah; two sisters, Virginia Conway and Roberta Wilson, both of the Pittsburgh area; a brother, Alvin Matta and a sister-in-law, Katherine of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Friends were received at the Dorsey E. Earl Smith Memory Gardens Funeral Home & Cemetery, Lake Worth, Florida. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to "PanCAN" at www.pancan.org.

Martin G. Harcharick Branch 667 Ramey, Pennsylvania



Martin G. Harcharick, 93, of Los Angeles, California, died surrounded by his nieces on Sunday, January 27, 2008.

He was born in Ramey, Pennsylvania. He was trained in the military as a cook. At the end of World War II, he moved to Los Angeles and continued his cooking training at the Old Frank Wiggins Trade School. Martin worked for 15 years as a cook at the Los Angeles Times employee cafeteria, and spent 27 years in the coffee shop and main kitchen at St. Vincent Medical Center until he retired in 1979.

Martin was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Los Angeles for 47 years, during which time he purchased groceries for the rectory and for parish events. It is estimated that he has cooked for over 200 parish functions. For many years after he retired, Martin served as a volunteer cook once a week for Meals on Wheels, operated by Sister Alice Marie at St. Vincent.

Martin is survived by 11 nieces and nephews and numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews.

A vigil service with a rosary was held at O'Connor Mortuary in Laguna Hills on Friday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Saturday, February 2 at San Fernando Mission Rey de Espana followed by interment at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery in Mission Hills, California.

John S. Golias Branch 1 Cleveland, Ohio



John S. "Gus" Golias, a member of Branch 1, Cleveland, Ohio, died recently. He was the husband of the late Helen L. (Lihvar) Golias.

Mr. Golias was very active in the First Catholic Slovak Union in the Cleveland area for many years. He was a very dedicated and loyal member and officer of the St. Joseph Society, Branch 1 in Cleveland.

Mr. Golias was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He is survived by two sons, John M. Golias and Gary Golias and his wife, Rose; three daughters, JoAnn Youngblood and her husband, Mike, Kathy Stedronsky and her husband, John, and Therese Golias; three grandchildren, Sara Stedronsky, and Jacqueline and Gregory Golias; one brother, Steve Glass of Tustin, California; and one sister, Verna Pocta of Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was predeceased by Charles, Mary Golias, Michael, Margaret Rominske, Genevieve Golias, Thomas, and George.

Friends were received at the Malchok Funeral Home, Parma, Ohio. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, Broadview Heights, Ohio. Memorial donations may be made to St. Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH 44104, or a charity of your choice. May he rest in peace.

Michael L. Capp Slovak Banker, Patriot and Benefactor



Michael L. Capp, prominent Slovak banker, patriot and benefactor, died Thursday, March 20, 2008. He was the husband of the late Irene (Lisiak) Capp.

Mr. Capp was president of the Slovak Savings Bank, Pittsburgh, and Vice President (Trust Real Estate) of PNC. He was a veteran of World War II.

He is survived by a son, James M. (Cindy) Capp; two daughters, Patricia A. Capp and Donna (Mark) Wisniowski; five grandchildren, Michael Biertempfel, Chrissy Wisniowski, T.J. Capp, Tiffany Capp, and Zak Wisniowski; a great-grandchild, Chae Sladen Denault; and a sister, Margaret Havrylak. He was preceded in death by a sister, Irene Marcink.

Friends were received at the Thomas P. Kunsak Funeral Home, A Funeral Mass was held in Mt. Assisi Chapel, Bellevue.

I have known Michael L. Capp for the past 25 years and have found him to be a real friend, patriot and benefactor who was always willing to help the Slovak cause. I really got to know him at the Slovak Garden in Florida where he and his wife Irene had retired. He generously supported the Slovak Garden during my presidency, 1982-1997. In 1997 the Slovak Garden acknowledged his accomplishments by naming him the Slovak Man of the Year. He also generously supported the Slovak Garden Library and Museum and never looked for any credit. We spent many afternoons sitting around the Slovak Garden pool talking about Slovak history and culture and about Slovak cooking with his wife. He always concluded our discussions by saying, "Please let me know where I can be of help in promoting Slovak culture and heritage." He helped finance the historical documentary film on history of the Slovaks in America. Our friendship did not

end in Florida. He visited me on many occasions at the Slovak Institute in Cleveland, Ohio. The last time I met Michael Capp was at the Florida Slovak Day and Slovak Garden Convention in late February and early March of this year. I never dreamt that this would be our last meeting because he always talked so enthusiastically about the future.

May he rest in peace. I pray that the Mother of Sorrows will escort him to eternal rest.

**Andrew F. Hudak, Director,
Slovak Institute**

Joseph Edward Kosco Branch 162 Uniontown, Pennsylvania



Joseph Edward Kosco, a member of Branch 162 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, died March 5, 2008.

Mr. Kosco was born August 18, 1920, in Brownfield, Pennsylvania, a son of the late John and Mary Catherine Kosco, natives of Slovakia. He grew up with a strong sense of his Slovak ethnic origins and passed this on to his children and grandchildren. He served as a Tech-4th class in the U.S. Army Air Force in Europe during World War II. He retired from the IRS, where he worked as a Data Processing Analyst.

A lifelong athlete, he played softball until

the age of 77, including a trip to the World Series of Senior Slow Pitch Softball in 1995.

An active member of St. Pius X Parish in Dallas, Texas, since 1960, he was of service to his church in many varied capacities. He served Bishop Lynch High School Athletics as the Voice of the Friars for nearly 25 years. As a proud member of the Ambassadors of Mary for 46 years, he served with a dedicated team on Saturdays as an escort for the Pilgrim Virgin statue.

He is survived by sons, Michael Edward and Joseph Paul; daughters, Sherron K. Foster and Beverly; grandchildren, Jeremy and Mellisa Ann Waggoner; great-grandchildren, Brittaney, Dakota, and Bryson Joseph Waggoner; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Gloria O. Kosco.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Saturday, March 15 at St. Pius X Church. Honorary pallbearers were Jeremy Waggoner, Gerald Hanley, Debbie Toms, Ken Blackburn, Wendy Webb and Wanda Pederson.

Memorial donations may be made to Love For Kids, 6260 E. Mockingbird Ln., Suite 230, Dallas, TX 75214 or to Camp Sweeney Diabetic Camp, P.O. Box 918, Gainesville, TX 76241.

Beverly Kosco

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association Announces Events

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association (KDSC) will hold its Fifth Annual Banquet on Sunday, April 27, 2008, at Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane, State Road 59, in Kent, Ohio. The event will begin with a social hour at 1:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 2:00 and a program at 3:00 p.m. Music will be provided by the Johnny Pastirik Band. The cultural program will feature The Pittsburgh Slovaks and Slovenske Mamicky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble. Tickets are \$15.00 per person and must be ordered in advance. Make checks payable to Kent-Dudince Sister City Association, and mail to Rudy Bachna, 1544 Vine St., Kent, OH 44240. Please include the names of all the guests.

On Friday, May 9, 2008, the Kent-Dudince Sister City Association will host the nationally known musical group "Harmonia". The concert will be held at the Kent Stage located in downtown Kent, Ohio. Advance tickets are \$15.00 per person. Harmonia explores the shared musical roots of the culturally rich territories of Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Hungary and western Ukraine.

The association will sponsor a Heritage Tour to Europe, September 3-16, 2008. KDSC President Rudy Bachna will be the tour escort. For more information call Rudy at 330/673-3255.

From the desk of the Executive Secretary –

Visit our web site! www.fcsu.com

Exciting News – The Jednota Newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for your convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. If you missed an article or looking for a recipe you need only to go to the web site

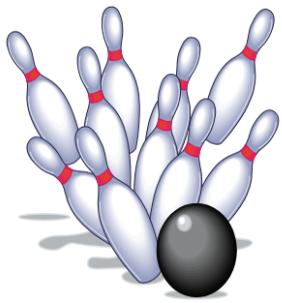
Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

If you are looking for forms or applications you may find those also on the web site.

We encourage our branch and district officers to use this means of keeping in touch with their branch members and announcing events. The email address is fcsu@aol.com if you wish to send your information to the home office.

We will continue to update the web page, please check for announcements.

WEB SITE – www.fcsu.com



Hotel Information for Bowling Tournament April 25, 26, 27, 2008

Tournament Headquarters: 50 rooms blocked

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
10111 MARKET ST.
NORTH LIMA, OH 44452

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:

**You must indicate that you are with
THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION**

Phone: 330-549-0070 Rate: 99.99 + tax

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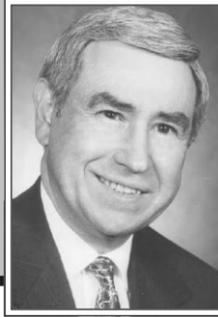
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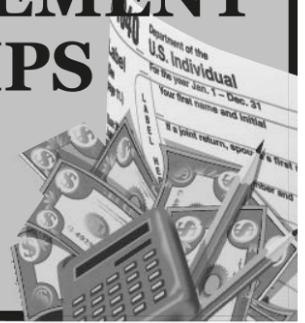
COMFORT INN & SUITES 5435 CLARKINS DR. YOUNGSTOWN (330) 792-9740

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

Certified Public Accountant
Certified Financial Planner
Personal Financial Specialist
(AICPA)



Financial Planning for Single Parents

Managing a family and a household while holding down a job is enough to keep any single parent busy. Add running your children to day care, driving them to other activities, and helping with homework, and it's difficult to think about financial planning. Financial planning, however, is essential if you want a secure future for you and your family. Here are some steps single parents should take to get started on the road to financial security.

Set Goals

Since it can be difficult to address all of your financial needs at one time, set priorities. Determine what's most important by writing your short-and long-term goals. Then come up with a plan to achieve them. Calculate your income and track your spending for three months in preparation for establishing a budget that will help you meet your goals.

Establish a Cash Reserve

Everyone should have an emergency cash fund. This is especially important for single parents, who don't have a spouse's income to fall back on. Most CPAs agree that an emergency cash fund should be equal to six months of income.

Start a College Fund for Each Child

The earlier you begin to save for your children's college expenses, the more time that money can grow. State-sponsored Section 529 college savings plans, which grow tax-free, are a great way to put away money for future education costs. If you are divorced, work with your former spouse to determine how much each of you can deposit and how often.

Buy Life Insurance

The right type and amount of insurance can give you the peace of mind in knowing that your children's financial future will be secure. Life insurance is a necessity for anyone with dependent children, but the amount depends on the number and ages of your children, your income level, debt level, and the value of your assets. A good guideline is to buy coverage at six to eight times your annual salary. In general, term life insurance, which is less expensive than permanent or cash value life insurance, is your best alternative.

Consider Disability Insurance

If you were injured or became seriously ill, would you be able to pay your monthly bills? Many single parents overlook the importance of having disability insurance to protect their most valuable asset- their income. You may be able to pick up extra coverage at a better rate through your insurance coverage at work. Check with your employer before signing up on your own.

Plan for Retirement

Saving for both your retirement and your children's education may be difficult, but it's important not to ignore your retirement needs. Keep in mind that student loans are available to pay for college, but there's no such thing as a retirement loan. Take advantage of your company's 401 (k) plan, particularly if your employer matches your contribution. And don't invest too conservatively. You need growth-oriented investments to achieve your goals.

Write a Will

Having a will to provide for your children in case something happens is vital. Your will names who will inherit your house, bank accounts and investments, and personal property. It also identifies who will serve as guardians for your children. Also consult with an attorney about setting up a living will and a durable power of attorney. A living will expresses your wishes if you become terminally ill or incapacitated, and a durable power of attorney empowers someone you trust to carry out your wishes.



WPSCA News

WPSCA Offers Summer Scholarship

For the third consecutive year, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) is offering a \$2,500 scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Cultural Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. Proceeds from the scholarship are partially funded by the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

To qualify, the applicant must be a full time student in the United States and be of Slovak heritage. The applicant must not have previously attended the program and must apply to Comenius University for acceptance. Finally, the student must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program.

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and extend their Slovak language competency as well as increasing their level of expertise in Slovak literature and culture.

For further information or for an application, contact Joe Senko at 412/531-2990. All completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before May 1, 2008 at its

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54th Men's & 45th Women's International Bowling Tournament

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 25, 2008

4:30 PM Registration
Wedgewood Lanes
1741 S. Raccoon Rd.
Youngstown, OH

4:30 - 6 PM Hospitality Reception
Wedgewood Lanes

5:45 PM Opening Ceremonies
6 PM - 11:30 PM Team Events

7:30 - 9 PM Hospitality Reception
Wedgewood Lanes

Saturday, April 26, 2008

9 AM - 3 PM Doubles and Singles Events
Wedgewood Lanes

5:30 PM Mass
Holiday Inn Boardman

6:30 PM Tournament Banquet

Sunday, April 27, 2008

9 AM - 3 PM Doubles and Singles Events
Wedgewood Lanes

Realm of SLOVAK GENEALOGY



Ray Plutko

“Another Week of Letters, Telephone Calls and Emails”

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is another in a series of feature articles addressing the realm of genealogy. It is one specifically designed for Slovak descendants and is so structured to serve as an introductory course for the novice, meet the needs of the advanced researcher— or, if nothing else, the curious.)

Keeping those Slovak genealogical lines of communication open. . . be they via the friendly postal carrier, a personalized telephone call, or the ever-growing list of emails. Hopefully, one or more of the following “conversations” might be equally supportive in your research efforts.

Postal Carrier: “I know my father had life insurance, but it was not with the First Catholic Slovak Union or other Slovak fraternal groups. Can you suggest any others I might try?”

Response: This is one of those “needle in a haystack” efforts, but I have found that Woodmen of the World was used by a number of Slovaks living on the East Coast. Its' main office is located in Omaha, Nebraska and you can access at www.woodmen.org, then go to the Contact button at the top right of the screen and pull down to Find a Field Representative. I suggest typing in your state name (i.e. Pennsylvania) and you will draw a list of current representatives and addresses that might correspond with the geographical city/area you are searching. You never know, you just never know.

Telephone Call: Lengthy, but here's the brief version. . . “Besides the Yellow and White Page sources, is there another method of locating an individual with a specific surname that might still be alive in a particular small village in Slovakia?”

Response: An excellent source I have used for Eastern Slovakia (an imaginary line running south from Bardejov, to Presov, and on through Kosice) is <http://genealogy.unas.cz> which lists 624 villages and their inhabitants by last name. As an example, if you select the initial village listing of Adidovce, it identifies its' postal code of 067 32 and the location of Adidovce in the district of Humenne, followed by a listing of surnames ranging from Bobak to Suchy. I offer that the website is geographically specialized, but a quality source for potential follow-up.

Email Account: “I have read numerous accounts of Slovaks emigrating from the Austria-Hungarian lands to the United States at the turn of the 20th Century, but never a reference to the cost for an individual passenger. Can you provide some possible insights?”

Response: Although the price of a ticket from one of the more-popular German ports to New York/Baltimore/Philadelphia varied through the years, the range for a ticket was generally \$25-30 at the height of the immigration period of 1900-1912. Keep in mind that virtually all Slovaks were leaving the Slovak lands in part due to dire economic conditions and it is safe to say that the vast majority purchase a meager steerage class ticket to account for the \$25-30 booking. Further, a number of these tickets were purchased on credit through a local agent in Austria-Hungary, with a written promissory note to repay (plus a fee) once a job and earnings were secured in America. Needless to say, a number of these promissory notes were never fulfilled.

Postal Carrier: “Can you help? I want to purchase a map of Slovakia and have found three or four advertised, but confused by all the numbers on the order form. What do these numbers mean?”

Response: The numbers refer to the map scale, which technically shows how many units on the ground are represented by one unit on the map. In simple terms, the larger the map scale number (example 1:600,000) the least amount of detail is shown, while the smaller the map scale number (Example 1:24,000) the greater the detail that will be shown on the map.

Telephone Call: “I have been following your suggestions, and with great success, for years and I am finally at the point of compiling all of my family history into writing. I hope to

sprinkle the pages with a few pictures, but I am at a loss where to locate a few school-age pictures of one aunt and uncle. Can you help. . . again?”

Response: Needless to say, this is indeed a week for challenges. And hoping to rise to the occasion, one thought might return a picture of your aunt/uncle when they were between the ages of 14-18! Try writing directly to the librarian at the high school they attended, cite the approximate four-year span they were enrolled (i.e. 1943-47), and request a copy of the individual “mug-shot” page where they are located. By all means, include a self-addressed, stamped mailer and a suggested \$5-10 donation to the book fund. My sense is that you might be pleasantly surprised. How's that for rising to the occasion?

Email Account: “Several genealogy articles I have read indicate that newspapers are an excellent source for a variety of information. Can you recommend just a few internet sites that would canvas a wide area of the United States?”

Response: Indeed, newspapers often tell it all and then some! Three sites that should yield some information or point you in a connecting direction are— www.newslink.org, www.newslibrary.com, and www.raogk.org. These web sites range from the ability to search a specific publication online, to locating large city or rural newspaper, and to be able to order a copy of a particular page from specific day/month/year of publication.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There is now available a completely revised and updated Slovak Genealogy Research Kit (from 18 to 52 pages, plus forms), one designed exclusively for those tracing their Slovak roots. The kit may be ordered for \$13, plus \$1.75 postage. Also available is a detailed historical summary and comprehensive area map for any village you specify in Slovakia at \$5 plus \$1 postage - make check payable to Ray Plutko, 6862 Palmer Court, Chino, CA 91710-7343.)

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

Attention: All Jednota Michigan Members Residing in Michigan

The Michigan Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its scholarship program.

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the Home Office for an application. Our toll-free number is **1-800-533-6682**.

Michigan Fraternal Congress
College Scholarship Program
16185 Markese Avenue
Allen Park, MI 48101-1937



Three \$500.00 non-renewable College Scholarships shall be awarded each year. The Michigan Fraternal Congress Scholarship Committee will use their discretion in selecting the honorees that are chosen. The Scholarship recipients are subject to approval of the Executive Board.

Rules and Regulations

1. Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.
2. Candidates shall be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enroll in the fall as a fulltime student (minimum 12 credit hours) in an accredited two or four-year College, university or trade school.
3. A check in the amount of \$500.00 shall be issued in the name of the recipient following the receipt of proof of enrollment, which must be received by November 1, 2008. The money is to be used for tuition and books only.
4. There is no limit to the number of applicants from any one fraternal group or society.
5. A certificate provided by the Michigan Fraternal Congress is to be presented at the High School Awards or commencement exercises, if possible, or at the Annual MFC Meeting Banquet.

Selection Criteria

1. Applicants must have a minimum Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 out of a 4.0. A transcript request form must be filled out and sent along with an official high school transcript (with affixed seal by the deadline).
2. An essay (maximum 100 words) will be submitted detailing volunteer activities that the individual has participated in, including dates, with their Fraternal Benefit Society and/or the Michigan Fraternal Congress.

Submit applications to Brian Medved, Scholarship Chairperson, Michigan Fraternal Congress, 27620 Elba Drive, Grosse Ile, MI 48128 and postmarked by April 1. The winner will be notified by May 1.

Forms are also available on our Web site: MIFRATERNALCONGRESS.COM.

WPSCA News

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office at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

WPSCA Annual Meeting

This year's annual Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the new National Slovak Society Museum, 351 Valley Brooke Road, McMurray, Pennsylvania. Valley Brook Road is located off Washington Road (Route 19 South) near the Chrysler/Jeep dealership. Our guest speaker will be Lisa Alzo, whose topic will be “Demystifying Eastern European Research.” Light refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend.

Children's Books Wanted

The WPSCA has received a request for books in English other than textbooks for children ages 6 to 14. The books will be sent to Kosice to help Slovak children practice their English. If you have such books, call Joe Senko at 412/531-2990 to arrange for pick-up.

The 18th Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Program in Pittsburgh

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

On the last Saturday before Holy Week, Prince of Peace Parish in Pittsburgh again hosted the Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast. The program included the recitation of the Holy Rosary (Svätý Ruženec) in Slovak at 10:45 a.m., followed by a solemn Lenten Mass with a Slovak language liturgy at 11 a.m. After Mass, all were invited to enjoy a sampling of Slovak Easter foods at a light breakfast in the Prince of Peace Parish Hall.

Because Easter was so early in 2008, the event took place on March 15 in St. Adalbert Church, at 160 South 15th Street. The former Polish church is now the home to seven former parishes on Pittsburgh's Southside, including the former Slovak parish of St. Matthew.

Youth dressed in Slovak kroj (folk costume) greeted all the faithful attending the Mass and provided a copy of the prayers, songs and the liturgy in Slovak, as well as a booklet with a short summary of some traditional customs and foods associated with the Easter celebration. This year's booklet also included prayers for the blessings for each of the foods used in the traditional Easter meal.

The Holy Rosary in Slovak

A Slovak-American sister led the congregation in reciting the Holy Rosary in the Slovak language, using the Sorrowful Mysteries. Having the Slovak words for the Sign of the Cross, the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be in the booklet was convenient for those wishing to pray, even those less familiar with the Slovak language.

After the recitation of the Rosary, Father Martin Celuch of St. Nicholas Parish in Struthers, Ohio, served as the principle celebrant for Holy Mass. Rev. Celuch, a native of the Diocese of Košice, Slovakia, returned to concelebrate this Holy Mass for a second time, having done so in 2005 with the late Rev. Jerome Pavlik, who is still fondly remembered by many Slovak-American faithful from the Pittsburgh area.

The Mass was offered for "the living and deceased members of the Prince of Peace Cultural Diversity Committee," especially for Mary Pavlik, who had just passed away on March 5, 2008. As the program pointed out, "Mary was the driving force in shaping the activities of the Slovak Customs Group," and worked hard with younger volunteers to help prepare a special occasion with delicious Slovak specialties.

Svätá Omša -- Holy Mass in Slovak

Holy Mass began with the processional hymn Radostou oplývám (I am filled with joy). Following the Scripture readings in Slovak, Father Celuch delivered a very fine sermon, first in Slovak, and then in English. As a theme, the good Father used a science experiment from his school, in which a student found that a fish would not grow larger if it was in a small aquarium, even if fed more. But in a larger aquarium, the fish would grow. In the same way, Father Celuch told the faithful that they must expand their spiritual life so that they might grow in Christ. It was indeed refreshing to hear the sermon done in the Slovak language, spoken so eloquently.

Following the Prayers for the Faithful, the congregation joined in singing the always moving O Mária Bolestiva (Oh Agonizing Maria), which recalls the pain that the Virgin Mary endured during her Son's passion and death.

As part of the Offertory, those attending had the opportunity to contribute to two collections. The first benefited the parish itself. As in every year, the second collection went to help two ministries for youth in Slovakia which the Slovak Customs Group has supported over the years— the orphanage in Ružomberok, Slovakia, which the Sisters of St. Francis operate, and the Barlicka Institute in Prešov, Slovakia, a school for disabled children.

Following the Offertory, the Sanctus was sung in the traditional Latin, but the Consecration and all following prayers were said in Slovak. The entire congregation boldly proclaimed the Lord's Prayer, Otče Náš (Our Father). At Holy Communion, the congregation joined in singing Sladké Srdce (Sacred Heart, or literally "Sweet Heart"), a plea to Jesus to help overcome the dangers of sin and temptation. A Meditation hymn followed, Matke pláče ruky spina (Uplift one's hands to the Mother in tears), reminding the faithful of the torment the Virgin Mary experienced over the injustices inflicted on Jesus.

For the recessional hymn, the congregation sang solemnly and in unison, Srdce puka (The Heart Bursts), recalling the anguish and suffering Jesus experienced to redeem the sins of mankind. The moving second verse of the hymn again reminded the faithful of the suffering of Mary as she witnessed the final moments of her Son's cruel torture and death.

The Slovak hymns of passion are very emotional and spare no details in describing the tumultuous experiences of Jesus' last days and crucifixion. The utter sadness of these songs reminds all believers of the terrible price our Savior paid to redeem the sins of the world.



Slovak-American items on exhibit at the annual Slovak Mass and Easter customs program in Pittsburgh.

Photo courtesy of Michael Kopanic

The solemnity and gloom of Slovak hymns of passion during Lent make the celebration at Christ's Resurrection that much more joyful on Easter morn (Velká noc).

The Slovak Easter Breakfast

After an emotional and uplifting experience at Slovak Mass, the congregation journeyed a few blocks away to the parish center hall for a light Slovak Easter Breakfast.

The light meal was free of charge, but many gladly provided a donation to the Church and ladies, who had worked so hard to make the occasion a success. Father Celuch led us all in a brief prayer in Slovak, and we enjoyed a simple meal that included an Easter egg, a slice of šunka (ham), klobasa (smoked sausage), paska (Easter bread), hrudka or syrek (cheese), chren (horseradish), maslo (butter), sol (salt), and some koláče (nut and poppy seed rolls) for dessert.

Those who wished to purchase Slovak specialties could take advantage of a bake sale which offered koláče, paska, klobasa, and other Slovak delicacies.

The exhibits included displays of a variety of Slovak-American items as well as imported Slovak books, cards, crystal, dolls, pottery, embroideries, etc.

Other demonstrations showed actual crafts being made and some offered the opportunity to purchase them. Larry Kozlowski demonstrated how to weave palms and make pysanky, the colorful Easter eggs with the intricate details of traditional Slavic motifs. Mary Gido demonstrated a bobbin used in making lace. Anne-Marie Zerishnek spun thread. Carol Lako displayed Morena Dolls, the traditional symbols of winter, which young girls threw out and burned in Slovak villages at this time of year. Tina and Sarah Neilson and Katya Zatek showed some displays of paper roses, which Slovaks craft out of paper. Bill Kurtek exhibited and sold some traditional bahniatka (pussy willow branches), which Slovaks traditionally used on Palm Sunday instead of palm, which were not available in Slovakia.

A few vendors such as Larry Koslowski, Pete Wenc, and Palko Gifts and Cards also offered items such as books, badges, and a variety of gifts for sale.

There were also some exhibits of Slovak family photos and memories from both Europe and Slovak America. Lucy King displayed a copy of Tales from Slovak Castles, a translation of several stories from the multi-volume work Slovenské Hradky. Lucy provided me with a copy of the book which she and Sylvia M. Lorinc edited and translated, and I promised to review this book in a future Jednota issue.

In sum, the Rosary, Mass and Slovak Easter breakfast were an inspiring and uplifting spiritual and social experience. Such events help keep alive our Slovak and Slovak-American traditions so that we do not forget who we are – Catholics and Slovaks. Za Boha a národ (For God and nation).



News From Slovakia

Shortage of Qualified Labor is Threat, Slovakia Needs more Returnees

A shortage of qualified workers will be the main problem vis-à-vis the Slovak labor market in the future, analysts warned recently.

The tension in Slovakia's labor market could be eased if people returned from working abroad. "So far we've witnessed the opposite, however. Around 177,000 people worked outside Slovakia last year, which is 19,000 more than the year before," said Slovenska Sporitelna bank analyst Michael Musak.

The number of Slovaks working abroad could even increase further when Germany and Austria open their job markets fully. "On the other hand, the acceleration in the growth of salaries and the equaling out of their levels may bring back expatriates who are working in neighboring countries," Musak added.

Although the unemployment rate in Slovakia fell from 13.4 percent in 2006 to 11 percent last year, it remains the highest in the EU. "As many as 60 percent of unemployed Slovaks haven't had a job for two or more years, which will make it difficult for them to land employment in the future as well," said Musak.

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Last Man on the Moon Reaches the Mountain Top

By John Karch
Part II

The following remarks are CAPT Eugene Cernan's response, compressed and based on an audio version—with a less than friendly mike—of the December 14, 2007 award of the prestigious "Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy" to the former Apollo XVII Commander and the last man on the Moon by the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) and the Washington Aero Club. (See part I of the festivities at the Wright Memorial Dinner in the previous issue of JEDNOTA, including the tribute by NAA President Jonathan Gaffney.)

Presentation of Trophy

In presenting the Trophy to CAPT Cernan, President of NAA Gaffney quoted the "immortal words" from the Astronaut's book "The Last Man on the Moon": "As we leave the Moon and Taurus-Littrow, we leave as we came, and God willing, as we shall return, with peace and hope for all mankind. As I take these last steps from the surface for some time to come, I'd just like to record that America's challenge of today has forged man's destiny of tomorrow. Godspeed the crew of Apollo Seventeen." (Lengthy applause followed the presentation.)

Honoree's Appreciation

After the impressive applause during the Trophy presentation, the honoree extended his thanks and said, emotionally, this was to be a fun evening but "you're making it tough. Paula, I really appreciate the initial introduction you gave me. But I'm tired of being the last. Can I be the first sometime?" and "Bobby (Agostino of Bombardier), thank you, my friend, and God bless." Thus, CAPT Cernan began his remarks, delivered extemporaneously and with feeling. His remarks, with few exceptions, are not quoted here.

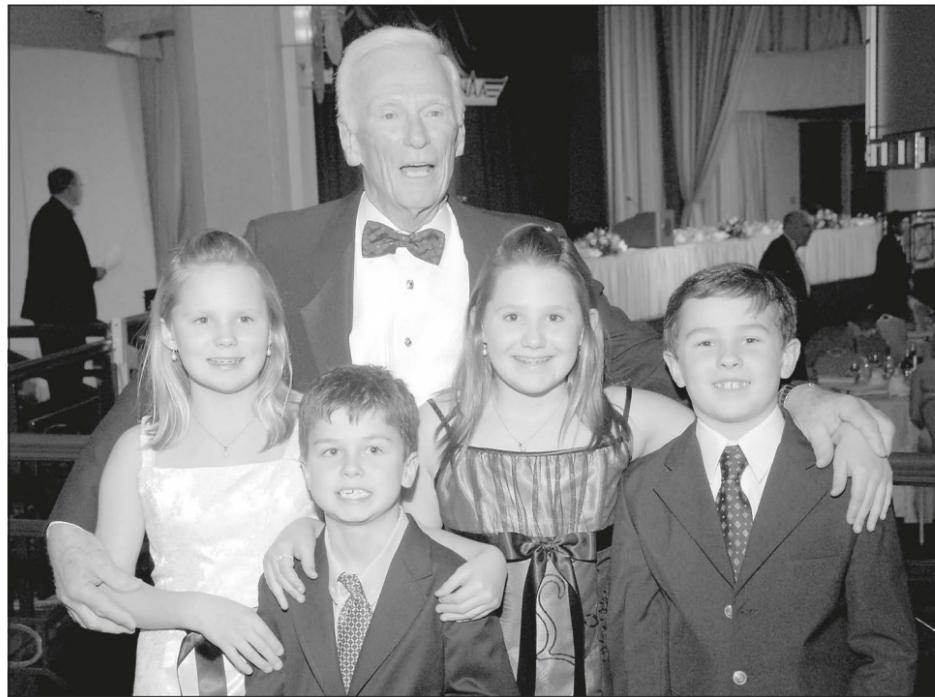
I'm truly overwhelmed. So many of you, 800 plus of my closest friends and family, have come here today. It is truly not just a fun night but a real special—"the special"—night in my life, I will tell you that.

I've got to thank Bombardier. The folks at Bombardier have been so supportive of this event, of me, of my family, friends here for this event, and so supportive over the last 10 or 12 years of my passion for flight. I am sincerely appreciative for everything you folks at Bombardier have done for me, not just for tonight, and not just for my family, but over the last several years.

Honoree's Family

One of my requirements is to introduce my family, first my "beautiful and lovely wife" Jan, three of our daughters, Tracy, Kelly, and Danielle. I have four of my nine grandkids here, Jordan and Jackson, one day Naval aviators I'm sure, Tracy's twins (Whitney and Katie), and I'm not going to forget my only sister Dolores and her husband Jim Riley who came over from Seattle and who I'm sure enjoyed those [video] pictures of Mom and Dad.

Now, speaking of my Dad, he used to tell me, when I was a youngster, that he is going to ask only one thing from me. "I'm going to ask you to do your best and," he said, "some day, some time, you will surprise yourself and your best is going to rise to the top." He's prophetic because today I did surprise myself and, I guess, it's one of the reasons I'm here today. Just do your best and some day you surprise yourself. And I did.



Eugene Cernan with grandchildren. L-R Whitney, Jackson,, Katie, and Jordan.

Importance of Trophy

The Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy stands alone and it is prestigious quite simply because it carries the name of Orville, Wilbur Wright. [Earlier Host Paula Hockstetler introduced Katherine Lockhart, great-grand-niece of Wilbur and Orville Wright] That alone makes it unique and special for anybody. Jonathan, I proudly, proudly accept the invitation to have my name placed upon the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy with all those icons of American aviation. (Loud Applause.)

Thoughts on the Moon

I'd like to take a couple more minutes of your time because of the uniqueness of the evening. I don't know whether by coincidence or fate December 14, today, happens to be the 35th anniversary of the final destiny of Apollo but I'd like to share a few thoughts of those few days when I had an opportunity to call the Moon my home.

Neil made the first step. Everybody knows that Neil Armstrong made the first step. My first step was just not a big deal to many people but they were a big deal to me. They were a big deal for couple reasons. I hurt and needed to go back. That step of mine on the moon was important and significant to me.

There's another reason that those of you who have been in the military can understand, why an able aviator who has committed himself to doing what you believe in doing had an opportunity to join NASA. When he did that he gave up the opportunity of having his own squadron. Any Naval aviator in the world wants his own squadron. Well, I got my own squadron. It was Apollo XVII. That's the other reason I needed to go back to the Moon on December 11. It was special to me and I realized, when I got there, that for the first time, I was stepping on something that was not Earth. Now all of a sudden, I was finding myself stepping on something solid and far which was another planet that was chosen to be called Moon. I'll call it another planet, somewhere out there in space, another body in this Universe.

On the Moon

We lived there for three days. I think that more than the first steps that I remember as Apollo steps, are the final steps that I took on the Moon, because on this date, 35 years ago, I crawled up that ladder and I

had a chance to look over my shoulder. The Earth, in all its splendor and in all its wonderness, stayed atop of the mountains that surrounded our valley. In the southwestern sky I crawled up the ladder and looked over my shoulder and the earth was still there; it hadn't moved, in three days.

I looked down at my final footsteps, the final footsteps of Apollo, my final footsteps, but not THE final footsteps. This is my last trip. I wouldn't be coming back again, and I tried to comprehend, I tried to understand, where I've been, what I've done, and what my life has been all about for the last three days. The whole time we were on the Moon we were surrounded by the blackest black you can conceive in your mind. It's a paradox on Earth but it happens to be true on the Moon.

In its blackness, it's three dimensional, the blackness we try to define. We say it's called infinity, right? You know what infinity means? I don't know what it means. We call it the endlessness of state and the endlessness of TIME. I'm not sure what that is either, but I can tell you that the endlessness of it all, when you look into that three-dimensional blackness, out there, does exist because I saw it with my own eyes.

It surrounds the Earth, this planet, this star of ours in the heavens. And the Earth sits, three dimensional, not like the multi-colored picture on a black background. It's out there within reach and that's what makes you look at the Earth over a period of those three days, three days that become unique in your life. Time takes on a whole new meaning. It doesn't make any difference what you wanted. It doesn't make any difference how long you have been on the Moon.

You're in daylight double-time. It takes on a new meaning because as you look back at the Earth, you look for the strings that must be holding it up. It's multi-colored blues in the oceans and whites of the snow in the clouds, and it turns with purpose and precision beyond your comprehension. Time takes on a new meaning because you're busy on the Moon several hours. You can watch the sun set on one side of the Earth and rise on the other side.

In the Heavens

In a short period of some 10 to 12 hours you realize you're looking at the other side

of the World and that's somewhat mind-boggling. It's almost as if you could reach out, if your arm were long enough, and pick up this star in the heavens in the palm of your hand and bring it back to your chest, take it home, and say 'Hey, folks, this is what it's really like, this is what it looks like.'

I realize that scientists in this country got me to a plateau somewhere in this other planet out there in space and when I got there I spent three days in my own private little Camelot on the Moon, a valley surrounded by mountains on three sides that are higher than the Grand Canyon is deep. Science and Technology put me out there and as I look back home science and technology did not have the answers I was looking for. There was too much purpose, had too much logic, which is quite simply too beautiful in my mind to have happened by accident. So much I yet needed to understand and I kept hoping that maybe subconsciously I could be absorbing more than I was capable of understanding at the time.

Thoughts in Retrospect

I look for the freefall. I was standing on the ladder and I wanted to freeze time. I wanted to stop the whirl because I needed, wanted to enjoy the moment, quite honestly. I needed the time to understand what it was really all about. The last step is something that I brought home with me and I thought a great deal about it. As I said, here we are today, coincidence, fate, whatever it is, the last step—not simply my steps but the last steps of you and me, of Apollo, of America, on the surface of the Moon, 35 years ago today. I said for a long time that I'm not sure whether there will be another 50 or 100 years before mankind fully and completely realizes what we did, not me but we, as a nation, did back there in the 60s and 70s. It was like JFK took a decade of time from the 21st century, over the 60s and 70s, put it neatly and called it Apollo, went to the Moon and came home, and here we are trying to figure out what it was really all about.

Why me, how did I get there? I really don't know. Maybe it goes back to what my Dad said, told me at that point in time, but the point is that I couldn't freeze time because it was at that moment it was time to go home. And go home we did.

What's the Future?

I've been asked over the years, and tonight at the cocktail party, why did we quit? Why didn't we go on, and when are we going back? Well, I know, deep down in my heart, that somewhere out there there's a young boy and girl—your children?, your boy?, your nieces?, your nephews?, your grandkids?, my grandkids?

Somewhere out there, there's a young boy and girl who will inherit the legacy, the real legacy, of the Wright Brothers, the legacy of challenge, the legacy of inspiration, the legacy which compels the rest of us to dream, the dream about doing the impossible, the dream about what can be done, the dream about what others can't do, and maybe some are afraid to do. I know deep down in my heart there is a young boy or girl somewhere out there with the indomitable will and courage, and the passion. I'll tell you the underlining key word is passion. It's not passion for what we do but its passion for why we do it. Somewhere is a young boy and girl with the indomitable will and courage

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News From Slovakia

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Unlike in the past, however, the number of long-term unemployed people has been going down along with the general unemployment rate, added Musak.

The danger of a workforce shortage has also been pointed out by the Center for Labor, Social Affairs and the Family (UPSVar). "The composition of the unemployed isn't in line with demand on the job market," said UPSVar representative Vladimir Hasko.

TASR

Survey: Over 70 Percent of Slovaks Have never Traveled by Plane

According to a recent survey, 72 percent of Slovaks have never traveled by airplane, while over one-tenth plan to use this form of transportation in the near future.

The survey was carried out in February by the Gfk Slovakia agency on a sample of 1,000 respondents aged 15 to 79.

The 28 percent of Slovaks who have already used airline transportation have flown mainly abroad (86 percent). Domestic flights have been used by 17 percent and intercontinental flights by 15 percent of the respondents. Most people use air travel for 'personal reasons'.

The survey also showed that most Slovak travelers prefer to use Slovak airports to those in neighboring countries. Bratislava's M.R. Stefanik airport has been used by 62 percent of the respondents (who have flown) in the past three years. Approximately 15 percent have



Last Man on the Moon

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who will carry the Wright Brothers passion, the Wright Brothers legacy, and take us back out there where we belong.

You know, the Wright Brothers Trophy to me and others—this is it, this is the top of the mountain, I mean, for me, when I was a young kid, when I was a young Naval aviator, when I joined the Space program, if I would ever have believed that I'd be at this Podium today, saying thank you for giving me this tribute and the top honor that anyone in aviation can receive, I suppose they'd have put me in a straight jacket probably, but I'm not sure. The "Wright Brothers Trophy is the Top of the Mountain, without question." Someone once told me that you haven't really begun to climb until you reach the top

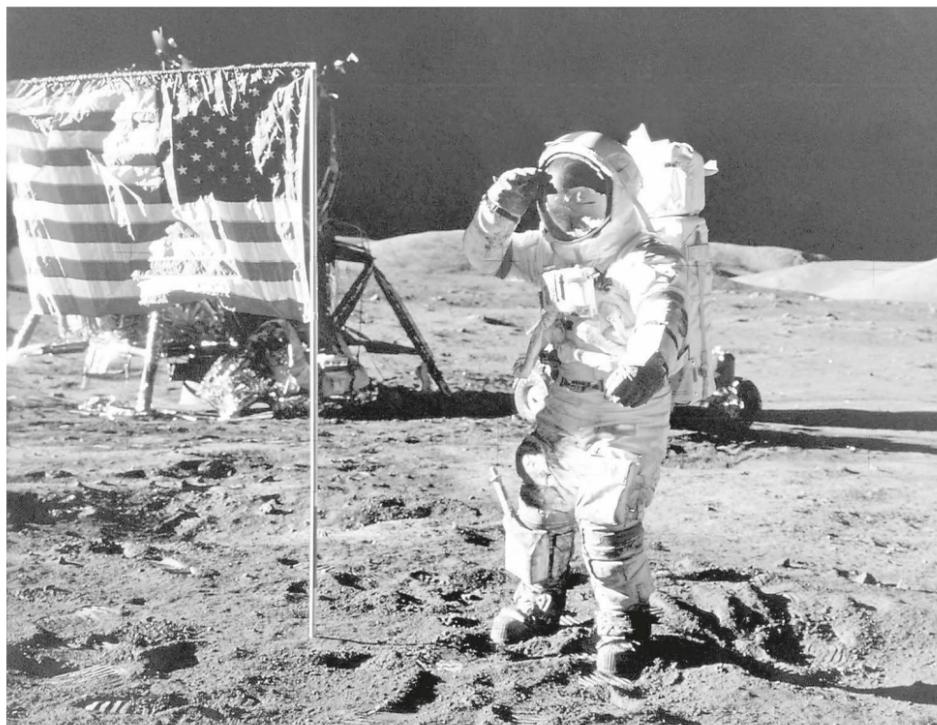
of the mountain so I plan to be around for a long time. If they take my airplane away from me, [Stressing] "I'm gonna be really tough to live with." (Laughter.)

Leonardo da Vinci

Let me put it in words that perhaps we all better understand. The words are Leonardo da Vinci's over 500 years ago, and I quote. He said, "When once you have tasted flight you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been and there you will always long to return."

Merry Christmas

Ladies and gentlemen, friends, family, thank you. I want to wish you this Christmas Eve a Happy, a Holy, a Merry Christmas. God bless. Only in America. (Standing Ovation)



Apollo 17 Commander Eugene Cernan saluting the flag on the Moon December 1972.

used Kosice airport, and 4 percent Poprad-Tatry (Presov region).

As for airports in neighboring countries, 27 percent of Slovaks who travel by plane have used Schwechat airport in the past three years, 11 percent have taken off from Prague's Ruzyn airport, 7 percent have used Budapest, and 1.2 percent have boarded planes in Krakow in Poland.

Air transportation is becoming more popular and affordable for larger numbers of Slovaks. Around 13 percent of the respondents who have never sat in an aircraft before want to experience flying in the next few months, SLOVAKIA was told by Daniela Cekovska from Gfk Slovakia.

TASR

Replacement of Koruna Will bring Stability

Slovakia's euro adoption will bring stability to the monetary sector not only when there is a financial market crisis but also during standard economic developments, National Bank of Slovakia (NBS) governor Ivan Sramko said recently in Bratislava.

The Slovak koruna's current firming is perceived very negatively by much of the Slovak economy that is based on exports, as exporters are becoming less competitive because of the firming koruna. "The impact of the continued strengthening of the Slovak koruna currency is not perceived positively for the economy per se," Sramko warned.

At the same time, NBS is confident that there is no economic argument for postponing euro adoption due to the anticipation of further strengthening of the koruna. "In no economy can the currency strengthen perpetually. We wouldn't be able to find such an example anywhere," said Sramko. Long-term appreciation of the currency, according to him, will eventually do an about face and such a development will alter key economic conditions so in a detrimental way.

Sramko has assuaged fears about inflation moving into a higher gear once Slovakia joins the eurozone. NBS analyses indicate that the impact of the euro on inflation in Slovakia will be tiny and quite imperceptible for ordinary people. "The effect will be less than 1 percent, with estimates hovering between around 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent."

TASR

U.S. Recession Fall-out Unclear

Slovakia's central bank governor Ivan Sramko sounded optimistic recently on the effects of the ongoing global financial crisis and impending recession of the U.S. economy on the Slovak economy.

"We are still experiencing a very dynamic development which is why the repercussions can be completely different from those in countries which already are at an advanced level and now are stagnant or growing at a slower rate," Sramko told reporters after he discussed developments in the Slovak and global economy with President Ivan Gasparovic.

The monetary authority, according to Sramko, expects Slovakia's economic growth to decelerate from last year's record-high 10.4 percent to 7 percent in the next few years. But this, given the economic conditions in Europe, is still an extraordinary figure.

At the same time he conceded that Slovakia currently lacks experience in how to handle the expected recession in this world's largest marketplace. Slovakia, however, should get a shot in the arm from euro adoption, which is scheduled for January 1, 2009. "Should a recession set in, it is good for us that we will have the euro as small local currencies are always at a definitely higher risk than a global currency," said Sramko.

"I feel good about this meeting as the exchange of views and explanation about what is in store for us in the future has satisfied me indeed," Gasparovic said. "The euro is a certain guarantee for our citizens in the future if a recession occurs in Europe or anywhere else," he added.

Sramko reassured President Gasparovic that January 1, 2009 (euro adoption day) will not be followed by dramatic price hikes. "I find this to be a good venue to state my views on the euro as well as on economic developments. I was trying to provide Mr. Gasparovic with the information I have and to exchange views with him," Sramko said.

TASR

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Významné jubileá kanadských Slovákov

Na sklonku minulého roku slovenský kolektív v Kanade si pripomenul a dôstojným spôsobom oslávil významné jubileá našich dvoch národnoslovenských inštitúcií, ktoré tu od svojho založenia usmerňovali a upresňovali razenie slovenského etnika v Kanade. Ide tu o 75-ročné jubileum založenia Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy - duchovnej matky kanadských Slovákov a 65 rokov neprestajného vychádzania Kanadského Slováka, ideovopolitického borcu za suverenitu slovenského národa a slovenskú identitu v Kanade.

Táto udalosť našla svoj pozitívny ohlas nielen v našom spoločenstve, ale aj doma na Slovensku a vo vysokých politických kruhoch v Kanade, vyvrcholiac galabanketom v Toronte o čo do značnej miery sa pričínili uradujúci predseda Kan. Slov. Ligy George Ján Frajkor v rámci Oslavného výboru.

Obidve tieto naše národné inštitúcie sa narodili uprostred neistých a neprajných časoch. Kan. Slov. Liga, za počiatočných \$5.00, bola založená v roku 1932 počas veľkej hospodárskej depresie a Kanadský Slovák vo vírvaru druhej svetovej vojny, v časoch kritickej politickej situácie neprajnej Slovákom národnej orientácie.

Zakladateľom a inšpirátorom založenia pôvodnej Slovenskej Ligy v Kanade bol Andrej Kučera (25.10.1899 - 26.12.1974). Vznikla z vtedajších kanadských zborov Slovenskej ligy v Amerike ako samostatná entita so súhlasom Prvého kongresu kanadských Slovákov zadržanom v prvej polovici decembra 1932 v stredokanadskom meste Winnipeg (Manitoba) s organizačnou platnosťou od 1. januára 1933, so samostatnou Ústrednou správou v meste Winnipeg, v úzkej spolupráci s materskou organizáciou v duchu hesla Za tú našu slovenčinu!

Vtedajšia politická a hospodárska situácia volala po zriadení organizácie, ktorá by chránila nielen národné a kresťanské dedičstvo slovenského ľudu v Kanade, ale ako taká bola by symbolom duchovného génia kanadských Slovákov s hlavným zreteľom na ich sociálne zabezpečenie a združovacie potreby. Kanadská Slovenská Liga nebola len

svojpomocnou organizáciou, súběžne bola aj klientskou slovenskej myšlienky, slovenskej kultúry a literatúry, bola iniciátorkou Slovenských dní, Národných domov a folklórnych súborov. Vzbudzovala v svojeti uvedomelejší a vernejší život národu, z ktorého sme vyšli, k samým seba a našej adoptovanej vlasti.

Na svojom Treťom kongrese v roku 1935 vo Fort Williame (dnešný Thunder Bay), predseda Andrej Kučera oznámil, že Slovenská Liga v Kanade dostala Dominion Charter a nové meno - Kanadská Slovenská Liga s právomocou organizovať Slovákov po celej Kanade a so súhlasom Ústrednej správy jednotlivé zbory mali právo vymenovať svojho národného alebo cirkevného patróna. Kongres odhlasoval preložiť Ústrednú správu z Winnipegu do Fort Williama a do funkcie generálneho tajomníka zvolil Andreja Potockého (23. 5. 1893 - 24. 11. 1996). Tento zodpovedný a vyčerpávajúci post svedomite a bez nárokov zastával skoro 25 rokov, presnejšie do reorganizácie Kan. Slov. Ligy v roku 1954.

Kan. Slov. Liga od svojho založenia sledovala dva programové ciele: Spojenie slovenských podporných spolkov v Kanade a vydávanie svojho vlastného tlačového orgánu. Prvý sa neuskutočnil. Druhý realizovala v prvej dekáde svojej existencie na Piatom kongrese v roku 1941 v Toronte, prijatím návrhu Štefana Hreha, aby Kan. Slov. Liga prikrročila k vydávaniu svojich vlastných novín a nepreberala na seba staré hriechy, finančné zaťaženie a pochybnú minulosť vtedajších slovenských novín v Kanade, ako to niektorí Lige odporúčali. Prvé číslo nových slovenských novín v Kanade pod názvom Kanadský Slovák vyšlo 5. marca 1942, pod správou Tlačového výboru ako úradný orgán Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy. Takto vychádzal do 20. konvencie 1978 vo Windsore (Ontario) kedy z úsporných dôvodov preradenia novín do nižšej poštovej triedy, Kanadský Slovák prešiel do rúk novoustanovenej vydavateľskej správy Slovak Canadian Publishing Inc. Prvým, zakladajúcim redaktorom Kanadského Slováka bol Štefan Hreha. Po jeho odchode k vojsku redaktorom stal sa František Kvetan (1.1.1913 - 9. 1. 1989) a administrátorkou jeho manželka Mary. Terajším redaktorom Kan. Slováka je Julio Behul a predsedom



Andrej Kučera, zakladateľ a prvý predseda Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy.



Štefan Hreha, zakladateľ a prvý redaktor Kanadského Slováka.

redakčnej rady prof. Dr. Stanislav J. Kirschbaum.

V roku 2002 pre citeľný úpadok členskej základne na odporúčanie poisťovníckeho departmentu, Kan. Slov. Liga vzdala sa svojej poisťovníckej činnosti a prijala úlohu kultúrno-osvetovej a spoločenskej organizácie. V tom ohľade nebola sama. Podobný osud zastihol aj iné organizácie takej štruktúry. Terajšou predsedníčkou je Mary Ann Doucet (Hačková), vnučka zakladateľa organizácie.

Andrej Kučera, zakladateľ a dlhoročný predseda Kan. Slov. Ligy pri oslavnej príležitosti jej 10-ročného jubilea napísal:

"Kan. Slov. Liga národno-podporná ustanovizeň pre slovenský ľud v Kanade a náš národ pod Tatrami, mala od svojho založenia priateľov i nepriateľov. Tých mala za svojich priateľov, ktorí žičili slovenskej vetve v Kanade. Jej nepriateľmi boli tí, čo chceli slovenský ľud v Kanade a náš národ pod Tatrami držať v porobe a temnote. Preto povedľa práce za hmotné dobro slovenského ľudu od počiatku bolo treba bojovať za duchovné vlastnosti Slovákov, ktoré nepriatelia chceli vykynožiť.

Slová, ktoré v hlbšom zmysle aj dnes po dlhom časovom odstupe majú svoj podstatný význam, sprítomňujúce naše snahy a úsilie nesprenveriť sa cyrilometodskej tradícii. Vychádzajúc z toho presvedčenia, na základe našej prežitej tvorivej histórie, nepochybím keď poviem, že Slovenská Liga v Amerike bola matkou Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy a jej otcom Andrej Kučera.

Štefan Hreha
Montréal, QC.

V Detroite oslávil 14. marec

V nedeľu 16. marca 2008 si 34. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a farníci kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Sterling Heights pripomenuli vznik prvého Slovenského štátu 14. marca 1939. V novej hale pri kostole sa zišlo asi 60 ľudí, aby si uctili tento dôležitý deň v dejinách všetkých Slovákov.

Na začiatku podujatia krátkym príhovorom privítal všetkých prítomných predseda 34. zboru SLvA Jozef Krajcovic. Za tým zhromaždení zaspievali hymnickú pieseň "Hej Slováci". Po hymne prečítal slávnostný prejav na tému "Prečo oslavujeme 14. marec" Jozef Janek. Program pokračoval krás-

nou povest'ou "Bohatstvo slovenského národa". Prednesom básne "Štefánikova matka" sa predstavila Anka Janečková. Jozef Geletka v starosloviencine prečítal modlitbu "Verím v Boha". Lýdia Kamenská prečítala posledný odkaz Dr. Jozefa Tisu. Báseň Jozefa Ferkoviča "Žalm" zarecitovala Anka Janeková. Za tým si prítomní zaspievali za doprovodu harmoniky obľúbené slovenské piesne, ktoré ukončili hymnickou piesňou "Kto za pravdu horí". Program pokračoval v "Jozefovskej zábave".

Jozef Krajcovic
predseda 34. zboru SLvA v Detroite

NATO prinieslo Slovensku len pozitíva

Nitra (TASR) – Členstvo Slovenskej republiky v NATO pre nás znamená zvýšenie bezpečnosti krajiny, čo sa prejavilo aj prílevom zahraničných investícií. Dňa 28. marca počas osláv 4. výročia vstupu Slovenska do Severoatlantickej aliance to v Nitre uviedol minister obrany Jaroslav Baška. Pozitívna je podľa jeho slov aj veľká reštrukturalizácia, ktorou Ozbrojené sily SR prešli v súvislosti so vstupom do aliance a ktorá slovenskej armáde veľmi pomohla. Niekoľko stoviek Nitranov po-

čas osláv sledovalo na Svätoplukovom námestí ukážky vojenskej techniky a boja zblízka, dynamické ukážky vojenskej polície, prelety vrtuľníkov a ukážky výcviku služobných psov.

Slovenskí vojaci v rámci NATO pôsobia v súčasnosti v misiách KFOR v Kosove a ISAF v Afganistane. Prínosom SR do aliance je aj 11. mechanizovaný prápor v Martine, ktorý je od začiatku tohto roka do 23. júna 2008 prvou deklarovanou jednotkou v rámci Síl rýchlej reakcie NATO.

Gorazd Zvonický

Čím by sme dnes boli bez prezidenta Tisu

...Čím by sme dnes boli? Poľom pod záplavou, nebyť v jeho hlave rozum Rastislavov; hradné zborenisko, v ktorom sova húka, nebyť v jeho ruke ráznosť Svätopluka. Čo by z nás tu zbudlo? Hádám hrobka nová, nebyť v jeho činoch láska Metodova.

Svoj um prezieravý národu dal venom nad záhonmi vlasti my sme suverénom... Z prachu zabudnutia - neznámi sme boli - vedie nás obsadiť diplomatov stoly.

Hľa ten, čo si vybil meno na valašku, vie byť aj vznešený, zohrať rolu ťažkú! Hľa ten duch v halienke za hlaholu zvonov dôstojne si kráča k vede do salónov!

OPRAVA

Vo výtlačku JEDNOTY zo dňa 19. marca 2008 na strane č. 19 v článku "Kardinál Tomko uviedol do úradu bratislavského biskupa Zvolenského" na uverejnenej fotografii nie je bratislavský arcibiskup Stanislav Zvolenský ale charge d'affaires Svätej stolice na Slovensku Mons. Giafranco Gallone. Ospravedlňujeme sa týmto čitateľom za nedopatrenú chybu. - REDAKCIA

Znovuposviacka kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Sterling Heights

V nedeľu 17. februára 2008 sa konala znovuposviacka slovenského katolíckeho kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Sterling Heights, Michigan. Pôvodný kostol sv. Cyrila a Metoda bol postavený v roku 1918 v Detroit, Michigan, v štvrti známej ako Poletown. V roku 1988 faru premiestnili do Sterling Heights a zodpovednosť za stavbu nového kostola prevzal Rev. Elemir Mikuš. V roku 2007-2008 pod vedením Rev. Benjamina Kosnáča sa priestory kostola rozšírili.

Za prítomnosti mnohých slovenských a amerických farníkov slávnostnú svätú omšu pri príležitosti znovuposviacky kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda slúžil Jeho Eminencia kardinál Adam Maida a koncelebrantmi boli Jeho Excelencia arcibiskup Ján Sokol zo Slovenska; hlavný duchovný, Rev. Benjamin Kosnáč, výpomocný farár Rev. Marek Sitár a mnoho ďalších kňazov. Po slávnostnej omši otec Kosnáč pozval všetkých prítomných na občerstvenie už do novej haly, ktorá nesie meno "Fr. Mikus Hall". Po občerstvení prítomných zabával do neskorých večerných hodín folklórny súbor Šarišan a známy slovenko-americký verejný spevák Jozef Ivaška. Všetci prítomní na tejto významnej udalosti farnosti odchádzali pookriatí a plní nadšenia a spokojnosti.



Záber zo slávnostnej svätej omši 17. februára 2008 z príležitosti znovuposviacky kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Sterling Heights, Michigan. Hlavným celebrantom bol kardinál Adam Maida a koncelebrantmi arcibiskup Ján Sokol, Rev. Benjamin Kosnáč, Rev. Marek Sitár.



Obetovanie na slávnostnej svätej omši.



Na obrázku v spoločnosti arcibiskupa Jána Sokola je Jozef Krajčovič a Jozef Janek.

Víza verzus víza

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

že toto platí pre celý svet, museli požiadať o doklad, v ktorom je napísané, že poistenie platí aj pre Slovenskú republiku. Za zdravotné vyšetrenie, ktoré je nad rámec poistenia aj slovenskí občania platia, preto sme sa nečudovali, že obvodný lekár za vyšetrenie a vystavený doklad o zdravotnom stave si účtuje 200,- Sk. Cudzinecká polícia však toto vyšetrenie neuznala a poslala historika na vyšetrenie do istej súkromnej firmy, ktorá si zinkasovala 4 910,- Sk. Samozrejme, že všetko treba násobiť dvoma, lebo jeho vybavovali inou procedúrou ako jeho manželku. Policajti na moje veľké prekvapenie neboli ochotní uznať nijaký podpis bez overenia u notára, za čo treba opäť platiť. Takto sme viackrát putovali medzi políciou a notárom s nájomnou zmluvou. Keď už obaja dostali do pasu povolenie na prechodný pobyt, prišiel z cudzineckej polície list podpísaný riaditeľom, že chýba jeden doklad, práve ten, za ktorý zaplatili súkromnej zdravotníckej firme. V liste, mimochodom dosť negramotne sa pán riaditeľ vyhrážal vyhostením do piatich dní, ak urýchlene nedodá nové potvrdenie. Pretože náš historik je mierny, nekonfliktný človek, vyžiadal si kópie dokladov, zanesol ich na políciu, pre ktorú opäť neboli vporiadku... Treba poznamenať, že na cudzineckej polícii sa treba obrniť trpezlivosťou, lebo tam majú systém poradovníka, a tak keď žiadateľ príde neskoro, buď už nedostane číslo, alebo jeho číslo v ten deň nepríde na poradie, a teda si na druhý deň musí privstať, aby si vypočul od úradníka, že ešte mu stále niečo chýba...

Minister vnútra Róbert Kaliňák prijal moju sťažnosť vo veci šikanovania amerického historika a ešte pred záverečným uzavretím prípadu ma vypočul hlavný radca kancelárie ministra Peter Haľapka. V rozhovore s ním som upozornil na vážny problém s uznávaním niektorých dokladov v rámci Európskej únie. Spomínaný historik totiž zakrátko cestuje do Českej republiky a vôbec nie je jasné, či aj tam nebude musieť prejsť podobnou procedúrou. Nuž, ako by sa cítili slovenskí občania, keby si museli vybavovať v USA víza pre každý štát osobitne? Slovenská republika zrušila svoje hranice v tzv. schengenskom priestore, ale štátna byrokracia pokračuje ďalej s ešte väčším nasadením. Je to vraj najmä na obranu proti nežiadúcej migrácii, s ktorou majú nemalé starosti napríklad v Taliansku, či Španielsku. To je samozrejme pochopiteľné, no Slovensko je pre mnohých utečencov z Ázie iba prestupnou stanicou na ceste do Nemecka, alebo iných krajín, a tak americkí žiadatelia o víza doplácajú na tvrdosť zákona a postup cudzineckej polície, kde riaditeľ sa nijako netajil so svojím negatívnym vzťahom k USA.

Ivan Reguli

Kúsok Vranova je aj vo vesmíre a v Trnave

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Aj keď od skorej mladosti študoval mimo nášho mesta, vždy s radosťou sa vracal do Čemerného, kde býval a Vranov nikdy neobišiel. Návštevu vždy potešil rodičov, brata a priateľov. Pri rozhovore vždy vedel nájsť tému, ktorá zaujala. A to aj vtedy, keď už bol vo svete vysoko uznávaný ako človek, vedec, spisovateľ...

Slávnostnej akadémii pri príležitosti už spomínaných osláv, sa zúčastnil aj premiér Róbert Fico, zástupcovia magistrátu mesta Trnava a i množstvo vedeckých autorít a absolventov.

Čemerné si minulého roku pripome-

nulo 725. výročie prvej písomnej zmienky o obci. Pri tejto príležitosti bola odhalená pamätná tabuľa s jeho menom. Tejto významnej udalosti sa zúčastnila celá jeho rodina, dokonca aj z Nemecka, ako aj spomínaný Jozef Tiňo, ktorý Prof. Hajduka predstavil nielen ako vedca, ale aj ako človeka. Ak budete prechádzať mestom Trnava, zastavte sa aspoň na chvíľu pred Trnavskou univerzitou a uctite si pamiatku tohto veľkého človeka, na ktorého môžeme byť právom hrdí.

Pavol Bindas
Vranovské novinky

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New Yorku, že v nedeľu dňa 20. apríla 2008 o 12:30 hodine sa ukutoční po slovenskej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue 66-tej ulici členská schôdza. Láskaovo žiadame všetkých našich členov o hojnú účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Polročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasul'u IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Krasul'u, Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 1. júna 2008 o 1:00 hodine poobede, po slovenskej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66 Street v N.Y.C. Prosíme všetky spolky, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby láskavo poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní.

Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie. Po schôdzi bude občerstvenie, ktoré pripraví Spolok sv. Matúša.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom: "Pochválený buď Ježiš Kristus".

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Pred 20. rokmi zomrel podnikateľ Štefan Roman

Bratislava (TASR) – V nedeľu 23. marca uplynulo 20 rokov od smrti veľkopodnikateľa slovenského pôvodu, žijúceho v Kanade, zakladateľa a predsedu Svetového kongresu Slovákov Štefana Boleslava Romana. Narodil sa 17. apríla 1921 v Novom Ruskove v okrese Trebišov. Vyrástol v náboženskom prostredí, ktorého dominantou bola "cerkva" (kostol), ako aj nezlomná príslušnosť k staroslovienskemu gréckokatolíckemu obradu. Tradícia tohto východného kresťanstva ho poznačila na celý život.

Mal organizačný talent, bol skvelý manažér a vedel vytvoriť veľkolepé koncepcie. V roku 1937 ako 16-ročný emigroval do Kanady, kde študoval a pracoval, vo vojne bojoval v kanadskej armáde. Po roku 1945 rozvinul svoje podnikateľské schopnosti a nadanie v oblasti účastín a burzy. Založil banskú spoločnosť, s ktorou úspešne podnikal.

Jeho spoločnosť Denison Mines Limited, ktorá vznikla začiatkom 50. rokov sa postupne stala vlastníkom najväčších uránových baní na svete (Roman - "Uránový kráľ"). Založil farmu, ktorá v pestovaní holsteinského rôzneho dobytká získala medzinárodný ohlas. Pracoval ako člen v správnych radách ôsmich kľúčových podnikov v jeho záujmovej oblasti.

V roku 1963 ho pápež Ján XXIII. vyznamenal Radom veliteľa rytierov sv. Gregora Veľkého. Udelili mu tri čestné doktoráty na univerzitách. Poctili ho najvyššími štátnymi vyznamenaniami v Kanade a Európe. Na Slovensku mu v roku 1990 udelili Národnú cenu Slovenskej republiky a v roku 1995 najvyššie slovenské štátne vyznamenanie Rad bieleho dvojkríža I. triedy, posledné dve in memoriam. Bol aktívnym dejateľom slovenskej emigrácie. V roku 1944 sa stal podpredsedom kanadskej slovenskej ligy a pôsobil v ďalších národných organizáciách. V roku 1962 bol členom delegácie na Konferencii atlantických štátov. Zaslúžil sa o vybudovanie Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme. Zúčastnil sa ako jediný kanadský laický pozorovateľ na Druhom vatikánskom koncile.

Štefan Roman založil Svetový kongres Slovákov (SKS) a stal sa jeho predsedom (1970-1988). Bol kľúčovou osobnosťou Slovákov v slobodnom svete. Pod jeho vedením sa uskutočnili generálne zhromaždenia SKS v Ríme a Washington, osobitná politická recepcia v budove Senátu USA, prijatie delegácie SKS v Európskom parlamente, účasť SKS na "Európskych dňoch" organizovaných Paneurópskou úniou atď. Z jeho iniciatív SKS odoslal niekoľko významných memoránd kľúčovým politickým miestam - prezidentovi Spojených štátov, dvom helsinským konferenciám (1977 v Belehrade a 1980 v Madride), ďalej Organizácii Spojených národov, kanadskej vláde a Vatikánu. Všetky akcie zabezpečil aj finančne. Zomrel náhle 23. marca 1988 v Toronte.



Štefan Roman

Zomrel advokát Jozef J. Talafous

Známy americko-slovenský advokát národný činiteľ Jozef J. Talafous zomrel po dlhšej chorobe 12. februára t.r. vo svojom domove v Tinton Falls, N.J. Narodil sa v New Yorku 6. septembra 1929 v slovenskej rodine. Jeho rodičia, Karol Talafous a Anna Šušlíková, ktorí pochádzali z východného Slovenska, ho vychovali v slovenskom duchu. Hovoril dobre po slovensky a od detstva bol členom vo viacerých slovenských organizáciách.

Strednú školu vychodil v Jersey City a právo vyštudoval na Rutgers univerzite v New Brunswick, N.J. Vyše 50 rokov mal advokátsku prax v Jersey City, ktorú po ňom prevzal pred niekoľkými rokmi syn Jozef Talafous ml. Bol právnym poradcom mesta Jersey City a aj municipálnym sudcom. Zastával funkcie aj v advokátskej komore v štátoch New Jersey (State Bar Association) a New York.

V roku 1966 sa stal na päť rokov právnym radcom Slovenského katolíckeho sokola. Mnoho rokov bol činný aj v Slovenskej lige v Amerike a vyše 10 rokov zastával funkciu 1. podpredsedu. Za svoju verejnú činnosť dostal mnohé vyznamenania, medzi ktorými je aj Pocta Štefana B. Romana, ktorú mu udelil minister kultúry Slovenskej republiky. V r. 1996 dostal americké ocenenie Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

V roku 1976 bol spoluzakladateľom Slovenského festivalu v New Jersey, ktorý sa postupom rokov stal každoročne najväčším slovenským podujatím v Amerike. Skoro 25 rokov bol predsedom organizačného výboru festivalu, pričom sponzoroval zájazdy viacerých folklórnych a profesionálnych umeleckých skupín na vystúpenia v Amerike.

Jozef Talafous bol veteránom z Kórejskej vojny. Bol aktívnym členom a funkcionárom organizácie veteránov a okrajove sa angažoval aj v politike v rámci Demokratickej strany. Viac rokov bol poradcom guvernérovo New Jersey pre etnické záležitosti.



Jozef J. Talafous

Jeho pohreb sa konal 15. februára z kostola Our Lady of Mercy, kde sa s ním prišlo rozlúčiť vyše 200 priateľov a známych. Pochovaný je v cintoríne Sv. kríža v North Arlington, N.J. Na pohrebe boli prítomní aj zástupcovia Slovenskej ligy - predseda Daniel Tanzone, tajomníčka Nina Holá a člen výkonného výboru Ján Holý, ako aj predseda 1. zboru SLvA v New Yorku Milan Dait s manželkou Henrietou. Slovenský katolícky Sokol reprezentoval hlavný tajomník Štefan M. Pogorelec. Pri otvorení hrobe po pohrebných pobožnostiach prítomní Slováci odriekli slovenskú modlitbu a zaspievali hymnickú pieseň Hej Slováci.

Zomrelého J. Talafousa prežíva manželka Louise, rod. Lukášová, syn Jozef a dcéry Mary Lou Faveta, Caroline Scalia a Tereza Talafous a tiež brat Karol s rodinami a ďalší príbuzní v Amerike i na Slovensku. - R.I.P.

Slovensko a USA podpísali memorandum o bezvízovom styku

Washington (TASR) – Minister vnútra SR Robert Kaliňák a minister pre vnútornú bezpečnosť USA Michael Chertoff podpísali 17. marca 2008 vo Washingtone memorandum o porozumení v záležitosti bezvízového styku medzi oboma krajinami. Podľa slovenského ministra by USA mohli zrušiť vízovú povinnosť pre Slovensko už v tomto roku. Podpísané memorandum je predovšetkým prvým krokom, ktorým nám USA umožnili dostať sa do výnimky týkajúcej sa desiatich percent vrátených žiadostí o víza. Stanovuje aj ďalšie dôležité kroky, ktoré musia splniť obe strany, aby umožnili bezvízový režim zaviesť. "Pre nás je podstatné, že mnohé bezpečnostné opatrenia máme už spracované, či už je to otázka biometrických pasov alebo niektoré ďalšie bezpečnostné otázky," povedal Kaliňák.

"Verím, že tento rok je tým, kedy nakoniec dôjde k zrušeniu víz zo strany Spojených štátov." Memorandum oznámil minister vnútra za veľmi dobré s tým, že rešpektuje európske právo, záväzky SR voči Európskej únii i slovenské zákony. Obavy EÚ okolo poskytovania údajov americkej strane označil za neopodstatnené, pričom v súvislosti s kritikou nejednotnosti postupu členských krajín EÚ zdôraznil, že vzhľadom na legislatívu USA sú bilaterálne dohody v tejto záležitosti nevyh-

nutnosťou. "Slovensko konečne dostalo šancu, ktorú si zaslúžilo. Chceme poďakovať vláde USA, že vytvorila podmienky, ktoré našej snahe o slobodné cestovanie do tejto krajiny dávajú reálny základ. Trpezlivo sme sa o túto dôveru uchádzali a chceme využiť pozitívnu atmosféru na to, aby sme dosiahli bezvízový styk s USA tak skoro, ako sa len dá," povedal Kaliňák po slávnostnom podpise memoranda na pôde Ministerstva pre vnútornú bezpečnosť USA vo Washington. Ako dodal, podpis memoranda je ďalším dôkazom, že Slovensko je vo svete uznanou a rešpektovanou krajinou.

Bezvízový styk s USA majú v súčasnosti len "staré" členské krajiny EÚ s výnimkou Grécka a z nových štátov únie len Slovinsko. Oponenti kritizujú Washington za rokovania o separátnych dohodách s jednotlivými členmi únie, ktorí by podľa nich mali väčší vplyv, ak by rokovali spoločne. Brusel sa tiež obáva, že členské krajiny by sa mohli zaviazat' k niečomu, čo je nad rámec dohôd medzi EÚ a USA. Memorandum o bezvízovom styku ako prvá podpísala so Spojenými štátmi Česká republika, čo vyvolalo nesúhlasnú reakciu z Bruselu. Prahu nasledovalo Estónsko s Lotyšskom a okrem Slovenska 17. marca podpísalo memorandum s USA aj Litva a Maďarsko.

Matica slovenská bude hospodáriť s takmer 74 miliónmi Sk

Bratislava /Tatranská Lesná (TASR) – Matica slovenská (MS) bude v roku 2008 hospodáriť so sumou 73 966 000 korún. Schválil to výbor tejto inštitúcie na zasadnutí 15. marca s tým, že v rozpočte sú zahrnuté nákladové položky najmä na činnosť odborných a vedeckých pracovísk MS, domov a oblastných pracovísk a technickú prevádzku MS. V celkovej rozpočtovej skladbe je činnosť Matice slovenskej pokrytá štátnym príspevkom v objeme 40 miliónov Sk, dva milióny predstavujú kapitálové výdavky. Ostatné zdroje na činnosť MS, čo predstavuje asi 34 miliónov Sk, si Matica zabezpečuje z neštátnych zdrojov. Ako informoval hovorca inštitúcie Stanislav Bajaník, rozpočet počíta s podporou regionálnej kultúry, profesionálneho rastu odborných pracovísk, pomocou Slovákom žijúcich v zahraničí, celonárodných a celoštátnych kultúrnych, vzdelávacích, vedeckých, prezentačných podujatí na rok 2008. "Osobitne na aktivity venované 145. výročiu založenia MS, 40. výročiu

obnovenia členskej základne v roku 1968 a ďalším významným kultúrnym štátnopolitickým výročiam, medzinárodnej spolupráci, ako i aktivitám špeciálne orientovaným na mládež, kde aktívne pôsobí aj Odbor mladých matičiarov," uvádza sa v správe. Výbor konštatoval, že i napriek postupnému naprávaniu krívd zo strany štátu (1998 - 2006) revitalizácia poslania a činnosti MS si vyžaduje ešte väčšiu štátnu pozornosť, čo bude predmetom rokovania so štátnymi orgánmi SR v príprave rozpočtu na rok 2009. Výbor tiež schválil prehľad hlavných podujatí na rok 2008, prípravu slávnostného celoslovenského snemu a krajských snemov MS a iné naliehavé úlohy v tomto roku. Súčasne schválil Správu o činnosti a hospodárení MS za rok 2007 a uložil všetkým zodpovedným pracovníkom kvalifikovane zabezpečovať a realizovať hlavné úlohy v zmysle schváleného rozpočtu 2008 a Programu MS na obdobie 2007 - 2010 prijatého na Valnom zhromaždení Matice v novembri 2007.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Hlavným problémom slovenského pracovného trhu bude v budúcnosti podľa analytikov nedostatok kvalifikovanej pracovnej sily. Nesúlad medzi dopytom a ponukou pritom vytvára predpoklady na rýchlejší rast miezd pracovníkov s vyššou kvalifikáciou. Zmierniť napätie na pracovnom trhu SR by mohol v budúcnosti návrat pracovníkov zo zahraničia. Zatiaľ je však trend skôr opačný, keď v minulom roku pracovalo v zahraničí 177,000 ľudí, o 19,000 viac ako rok predtým. Počet Slovákov migrujúcich za prácou pritom môže ešte stúpnuť v čase, keď Nemecko a Rakúsko plne otvoria svoje pracovné trhy. Miera nezamestnanosti na Slovensku v minulom roku klesla na 11% z 13.4% v roku 2006.

V najbližších desaťročiach bude počet obyvateľov na Slovensku klesať a obyvateľstvo bude stárnuť. Tvrdí to Boris Vaňo zo Slovenskej štatistickej a demografickej spoločnosti (SSDS). Pád komunistického režimu na konci 80 rokov minulého storočia vytvoril predpoklady na zásadné zmeny v populačnom vývoji. Odvtedy výrazne klesla sobášnosť a plodnosť, podiel narodených mimo manželstva sa strojnásobil, zrýchlil sa rast rozvodovosti, úmelná potratovosť sa znížila viac ako o polovicu, skončilo obdobie stagnácie úmrtnosti, zmenil sa charakter migrácie. Pribúdajú dovtedy málo časté javy, - osoby žijúce bez trvalého partnera, bezdetné páry, prvé pôrody vo vyššom veku a deti narodené nevydatým ženám. Dôsledkom tohto vývoja je znížený prírastok obyvateľstva a populačné stárnutie, čo bude dlhodobo pretrvávajúť, keďže občania prispôsobili svoje rodinné a reprodukčné správanie novým spoločenským podmienkam.

Slovensko je pre nemeckých investorov najatraktívnejšou investičnou lokalitou spomedzi všetkých stredoeurópskych a východoeurópskych štátov. Vyplýva to z prieskumu Slovensko-nemeckej obchodnej a priemyselnej komory (SNOPK), do ktorého sa zapojilo 95 firiem z oblasti priemyslu, obchodu a služieb. Slovenskú republiku vyznamenáva podľa názoru nemeckých investorov členstvo v EÚ, nízke daňové zaťaženie ako i transparentný a jednoduchý daňový systém. Ako odpoveď na nedostatok odborných pracovníkov žiadajú investori reformu vzdelávacieho systému.

Vstup Slovenska do schengenského vzdušného priestoru si vyžiadala aj úpravu dvoch letísk. Príprava Letiska Milana Rasitslava Štefánika v Bratislave stála 405.47 milióna korún. Z toho 134.72 milióna sa prefinancovalo zo Schengenského prechodového fondu EÚ, zvyšok financovalo letisko. Letisko Košice si vyžiadalo tri milióny a celý projekt prestavby financovalo z vlastných zdrojov. V odletovej a príletovej časti letiska došlo k prestavbám v súvislosti s úplným oddelením cestujúcich, ktorí letia do schengenských destinácií od ľudí cestujúcich do non-schengen destinácií. Úpravy priamo súvisia s pasovou a colnou kontrolou.

Zapísanie slovenskej bryndze do registra chránených označení Európskej únie bezprostredne neprinesie jej výrobcovi žiadne výhody, pomôcť by im však mohlo v budúcnosti. Väčšina producentov tohto jedinečného ovčieho syra si od ochrany označenia sľubuje obmedzenie novej konkurencie, podľa niektorých pomôže zápis zastaviť pokles výroby bryndze tradičným postupom. Na Slovensku sa ročne vyrobí v necelej desiatke väčších prevádzok okolo 5,000 ton bryndze. Prvým výrobcom, ktorý Slovensku EÚ zapísala do zoznamu chránených označení, bol koncom minulého roku skalický trdelník, na zápis čaká oštiepok, parenica či zázrivský korbáčik.

Na Slovensku by sa mohla začať v roku 2010 stavať širokorozchodná železničná trať do Viedne. Novinárom to nedávno povedal premiér Robert Fico po stretnutí s ruským predsedom vlády Viktorom Zubkovom. Hodnota celého projektu je podľa slovenského premiéra viac ako 4.3 miliardy eur (okolo 140 miliárd Sk). Obaja politici tiež podporili uzavretie novej zmluvy o dodávkach ruského plynu, ktorá má nahradiť súčasnú dohodu platnú do konca tohto roka.

Doubletree by Hilton bude nové meno bývalého hotela Slovan, ktorý tvoril a bude tvoriť jednu z dominant Košíc. Meno Doubletree by Hilton poniesie hotel na základe zmluvy, ktorú uzavreli InterHouse, a.s., Košice s hotelovou sieťou Hilton Hotels. Spoločnosti Interhouse a J&T Real Estate sú investorom a developerom projektu. Náklady dosiahnu okolo 800 miliónov korún. Zrekonštruovaný hotel má byť zaradený do kategórie štvorhviezdičkových. Pribudne wellness a fitness pre hotelových hostí, v susedstve hotela vyrastie parkovací dom pre vyše 200 vozidiel, vzniknú aj nové obchodné priestory.

Severoatlantická aliancia ocenila prácu slovenských vojakov, pôsobiacich v Afganistane. Medaily za spoluprácu s NATO si koncom marca prevzalo z rúk Roberta W. Judsona, veliteľa základne Air Commodora v Kandahare, 39 príslušníkov slovenského kontingentu misie ISAF. Prítomný bol aj veľvyslanec SR v Iráne s akreditáciou pre Afganistan a Pakistan Anton Hajdúk. Ten odmenil vojakov d'akovným listom za vzornú reprezentáciu a šírenie dobrého mena SR v tejto operácii.

Europeňaženka je názov nového projektu TASR, ktorý štartuje od 1. apríla 2008 a potrvá do konca januára 2009. TASR bude pod týmto označením 10 mesiacov prinášať všeobecné i praktické informácie, týkajúce sa občanov, podnikateľov a firiem v súvislosti s prijatím eura na Slovensku. TASR vydá 10 eurospráv denne v rámci domáceho, ekonomického, zahraničného i športového servisu. Tlačová agentúra SR výrazne rozšíri svoju ponuku zvukov, fotografií i grafov i videa k danej téme, týždenne pripraví eurobulletin pre všetkých klientov. Europeňaženka je súčasťou informačnej a komunikačnej kampane pre zavedenie eura v SR.

Slovenská republika a Rakúsko sa spoločne uchádzajú o zriadenie Európskeho inštitútu inovácií a technológií (EIT) v zóne Viedeň-Bratislava. Príslušný list podpísali 1. apríla v priestoroch Úradu spolkového kancelára vo Viedni predseda vlády SR Robert Fico a rakúsky kancelár Alfred Gusenbauer. Spoločnú kandidatúru hlavných miest-dvojčiek označil Alfred Gusenbauer pri tejto príležitosti za "jedinečnú šancu", Robert Fico hovoril o "fantastickej možnosti pre obe krajiny". Podľa slov hostiteľa sú Viedeň a Bratislava dvoma najbližšími ležiacimi hlavnými mestami. Rakúska ekonomika prerastá do slovenskej a naopak, zdôvodnil kandidatúru Alfred Gusenbauer, ktorý dúfa, že sa o sídle EIT rozhodne ešte počas slovenského predsedníctva v EÚ. Robert Fico považuje EIT za jednu z najdôležitejších inštitúcií, ktoré v nasledujúcom období zriadi Európska únia.

NBS sa tento rok už pripravuje na sťahovanie a ničenie slovenských peňazí v čase predzásobovania bánk a ostatných subjektov novou menou. Pokiaľ európske inštitúcie rozhodnú o vstupe Slovenska do eurozóny v plánovanom termíne 1. januára 2009, predzásobenie by sa malo začať v októbri 2008. Ničenie slovenských mincí rovnako ako výrobu nových euromincí zrealizuje Mincovňa Kremnica.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Lohra vystriedal nový prezident U.S. Steel v Košiciach

Košice (TASR) – Za ostatné dva roky vyrobila košická hutnícka spoločnosť U.S. Steel (USSK) 5 miliónov metrických ton ocele, čím podľa jej odchádzajúceho prezidenta Davida Lohra obsadila približne 5% európskeho oceliarskeho trhu. Ako informoval Lohr na rozlúčkovej tlačovej konferencii, materská korporácia U.S. Steel (USS) sa zaviazala pri príchode do Košíc pred siedmimi rokmi preinvestovať počas 10 rokov 700 miliónov USD. Závazok splnila už v roku 2006 a v ďalších rokoch budú rásť investície podobným tempom ako doteraz. Po takmer trojročnom pôsobení v Košiciach sa Lohr vracia do centrálneho v Pittsburghu, kde bude pracovať ako viceprezident pre produkciu plochých valcovaných výrobkov.

Na tlačovej konferencii sa predstavil nový prezident USSK George Babcoke, doterajší viceprezident pre prevádzky

USS v USA. Spolu s Lohrom sa zhodli na tom, že spoločnosť USSK mala významny podiel na doterajšom dynamickom raste materskej korporácie. Tá, ako informoval Babcoke, urobila v predchádzajúcom období významné akvizície v Európe i na americkom kontinente a zvýšila za 8 rokov ročnú produkciu z 12 miliónov na súčasných 31 miliónov amerických ton. V globále zamestnáva teraz 51,000 ľudí. Babcoke podľa vlastných slov chce stavať na tom, čo urobili v Košiciach jeho traja predchodcovia - John Goodish, Christopher Navetta a David Lohr. Nový prezident USSK považuje, podobne ako Lohr, za významné a prioritné ďalej pokračovať v znižovaní pracovnej úrazovosti. Tú sa od roku 2000 podarilo znížiť o viac ako 80%. Ale aj 20% považuje za vysoké číslo a chce sa priblížiť k nulovým hodnotám.

Hokejová legenda Peter Šťastný vstúpil do strany SDKÚ-DS

Trnava (TASR) – Hokejová legenda a politik Peter Šťastný v prvej polovici marca vstúpil medzi "dzurindovcov". Svoje rozhodnutie oznámil počas rokovania Ústrednej rady SDKÚ-DS v Trnave. Podľa neho dozrel na takýto krok čas, predsedu strany považuje za politika, ktorý dotiahol Slovensko tam, kde je. "Nikto neurobil na premiérskom kresle toľko, ako Dzurinda," povedal Šťastný novinárom. Toto je moje presvedčenie a vyjadrenie súhlasu s politikou strany, s víziou strany. Toto je nádej Slovenska do budúcnosti, SDKÚ-DS má najväčší potenciál priniesť krajine oslosť," uviedol. Dodal, že nemá záujem byť funkcionárom strany.



FOTO TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Chlebom a soľou vítajú folklóristi predsedu vlády SR Roberta Fica oblečeného v slávnostnej baníckej uniforme (vpravo) v Bani Čáry. Fico prišiel slávnostne otvoriť ťažbu hnedého uhlia v Bani Čáry, 8. apríla v Čároch.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

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Víza verzus víza

V slovenských médiách v ostatnom čase dominuje vo vzťahu k USA problematika vízovej povinnosti, ktorú majú občania Slovenskej republiky, keď chcú navštíviť Spojené štáty. Málokto si však uvedomuje, že aj občania Spojených štátov, chcú byť na Slovensku dlhšie ako 90 dní, musia prejsť zložitou byrokratickou procedúrou na cudzineckej polícii. Presvedčil som sa o tom, keď som pomáhal vybavovať pobytové víza istému americkému historikovi, ktorý plánoval študovať v slovenských



Na prijatí u veľvyslanca Spojených štátov v Bratislave Vincenta Obsitnika. Na na snímke zľava: Emil Vontorčík, Ivan Reguli, Jozef Rydlo, podpredseda zahraničného výboru NR SR; Vincent Obsitnik, Dr. Ľudovít Pavlo, čestný predseda SLVA a Rev. Ján Košiar, diplomat Radu Maltézskeho rádu rytierov v Bielorusku.

archívoch celých 9 mesiacov a pricestoval aj so svojou manželkou. Netušil on, rovnako ako ja, čo ho čaká. Predložil doklady svedčiace o tom, že má štipendium, zdravotné poistenie, nájomnú zmluvu i potvrdenie od lekára, že nemá nákazlivé choroby. Keď sme si už mysleli, že máme všetko, každý doklad v angličtine s priloženým úradným prekladom, úradníci cudzineckej polície začali amerického historika šikanovať neskutočným spôsobom. Nestačilo, napríklad, že na doklade o zdravotnom poistení je uvedená

Pokračovanie na str. 21

20. výročie sviečkovej manifestácie v Bratislave

Bratislava (TASR) – Medzi mapätými dňami SR je 25. marec označený ako Deň zápasu za ľudské práva. V tento deň si pripomíname konanie tzv. sviečkovej manifestácie v roku 1988, keď sa na bratislavskom Hviezdoslavovom námestí zišli tisíce občanov hlavného mesta, aby so sviečkami v rukách demonštrovali proti nedodržiavaniu ľudských a najmä náboženských práv, predovšetkým slobodnej voľby svojho svetonázoru, vtedajším vládnym režimom. Demonštrácia bola najväčším verejným vystúpením proti komunistickej diktatúre v Československu od roku 1968. Pripravili ju predstavitelia náboženskej opozície - biskup Ján Chryzostom Korec, Ján Čarnogurský, Silvester Krčméry, Vladimír Jukl, František Mikloško a ďalší členovia tzv. katolíckeho disentu, ktorý na území Slovenska plnil dominantnú úlohu opozičného hnutia proti totalitnému socialistickému systému s KSČ a KSS na čele.

Programom verejného zhromaždenia bola tichá manifestácia občanov za vymenovanie katolíckych biskupov, za úplnú náboženskú slobodu a za úplné dodržiavanie občianskych práv. Akcia sa uskutočnila napriek rozsiahlym protiopatreniam vtedajších stranických a štátnych orgánov, aj napriek výzvam zo strany vtedajšej cirkevnej organizácie Pacem in terris, ktorá spolupracovala s komunistami.

Hotel Carlton na Hviezdoslavovom námestí v Bratislave v tento deň pre verejnosť zatvorili. Pôsobila v ňom stranická a vládna komisia, ktorá sledovala priebeh udalostí a viedla zásah bezpečnostných síl režimu proti demonštrujúcim verejným a ich priaznivcom. Odstrašujúce jazdenie obrnených transportérov po meste počas dňa, obmedzenia v hromadnej mestskej a prímestskej doprave a ani ďalšie opatrenia vtedajšej moci však sviečkovú manifestáciu neprekazili. Nielen Hviezdoslavovo námestie, ale aj prilahlé ulice zaplnili tisíce ľudí, a to aj napriek nepriazni počasia, manifestácia trvala od 18.00 do 18.30 h. Modlitbám predchádzalo zaspievanie štátnej a pápežskej hymny. Prítomní neuposlúchli výzvu na rozchod z amplióna policajného auta a vytrvali aj pri ohlušujúcich sirénach veľkého počtu útvarov bezpečnostných zložiek. Niekoľko minút pred plánovaným ukončením zhromaždenia zasiahli aj vodné delá. Polícia použila i slzotvorný plyn, psov, obušky a fyzické násilie. Príslušníci bezpečnostných síl bili a zatýkali aj nezainteresovaných občanov, ktorí sa náhodne dostali do ich dosahu. Zásah proti manifestácii nebol zameraný na stabilizáciu a ochranu verejného poriadku, ale na prezentovanie moci komunistického režimu. Jeho cieľom bolo zastrašiť opozičné sily nesúhlasiace s praktikami nedemokratického spoločenského systému. Tento deň bol na Slovensku vyhlásený zákonom č. 241/1993 Zz. ako pamätný deň SR - Deň zápasu za ľudské práva.



FOTO TASR/AP Yves Logghe

Generálny tajomník NATO Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (vpravo) a rumunský prezident Traian Basescu (vľavo) vítajú slovenského prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča (v strede) na slávnostnom otvorení summitu NATO v Parlamentnom paláci v Bukurešti 2. apríla 2008. Počas prvého dňa summitu NATO prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič sa zúčastnil na večeri s hlavami štátov Severoatlantickej rady (NAC). Prezident tam deklaroval podporu politike "otvorených dverí", ktorá by mala prispieť k rozšíreniu pásma stability a bezpečnosti na európskom kontinente.

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Kúsok Vranova je aj vo vesmíre a v Trnave

Nedávno na internetovej stránke Trnavskej univerzity bola uverejnená správa, ktorá musí potešiť každého občana nášho mesta a pocitom hrdošti naplniť jeho dušu. Správa uvádza, že dňa 13. 11. 2007 Trnavská univerzita oslávila 15. výročie svojho založenia (obnovenia) a to bol dôvod k radosti nielen Trnavčanov, ale aj nás Vranovčanov.

Pri tejto príležitosti rektorát Trnavskej univerzity sa rozhodol odhaliť bustu jej prvému rektorovi a tým nebol nikto iný ako náš rodák Prof. RNDR. Anton Hajduk, DrSc., vo svete známy a uznávaný astronóm, spisovateľ, publicista... Prof. Hajduk bol odborníkom v oblasti astrofyziky doma i v zahraničí. Jeho vedecké výsledky sú spojené okrem iného aj s výskumom v oblasti dynamiky meteorických rojov Halleyho kométy. Jeho výskum a výsledky zaujali americký úrad pre letectvo a vesmír NASA, ktorá ho poctila vysokým vyznamenaním.

Jeho meno -Antonhajduk- nosí aj ním objavený asteroid číslo 11657. Dá sa teda povedať, že vo vesmíre je kus nášho Slovenska, a tým aj Vranova.

Prof. Hajduk bol členom SAV, jeho vedeckým sekretárom, vedúcim odd. medziplanetárnej hmoty Astronomického ústavu SAV, nositeľom pamätnej

medaily Trnavskej univerzity, ktorá mu udelila titul honoris causa. Vychoval množstvo doktorandov a aspirantov. Bol predsedom redakčnej rady Astronomickej spoločnosti. Napísal okolo 150 vedeckých prác.

Okrem toho sa venoval kresťanskej filozofii a vzťahu viery a vedy. Napísal knihu Turínske plátno a Božie kráľovstvo i cyklus článkov o slobode ducha. Bol dlhoročným predsedom spoločnosti Ústredia slovenskej kresťanskej inteligencie. (Poznámka: Po jeho smrti predsedníctvo tejto populárnej spoločnosti prevzal Prof. Jozef Tiňo, rodák zo Zámotova, a pokračuje v jeho šľapajach.) Zorganizoval množstvo vedeckých konferencií a seminárov. A kto spočíta nespočet jeho prednášok a vystúpení v televízii, prednáškových sálach rôznych miest Slovenska? Prednášal aj u nás doma vo Vranove. Vystúpil prednáškou Vzťah viery a vedy a jeho podpis sa nachádza aj v Pamätnej knihe nášho mesta.

Laudáciu k jeho 70. narodeninám, ktorá bola pred časom uverejnená vo Vranovských novinkách, prevzali aj noviny Kanadský Slovák a JEDNOTA v Amerike pod názvom Sníval o hviezdach, veriť neprestal.