



Jednota

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Volumne 117

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008

NUMBER 5781

Dear Friends,

The Dioceses of Allentown and Camden, both neighboring dioceses to me, recently announced plans for a major reconfiguration of their parishes. Other dioceses have undergone or are undergoing something similar

A major reason for these major changes is the decline in the number of priests. More priests are reaching retirement every year and fewer priests are being ordained to replace them. As a result, some priests are being called upon by their bishops to serve more than one assignment.

Today there are priests who are pastors of more than one parish. There are priests who are pastors and are also diocesan officials or are involved with Catholic education. I can include myself in this list since my archbishop has appointed me chaplain of the local archdiocesan high school while remaining pastor of my parish.

So we hear the words Jesus speaks with greater urgency: "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few. So ask the harvest master to send laborers to his harvest."

But where are the laborers? Where are our future priests to come from? They are in our homes, our schools, our workplaces. They are young men who love Christ and His Church, who are prayerful and who have a desire to be of service in the name of Jesus.

At the same time, they are afraid. They are afraid of being ridiculed for announcing they have a religious vocation, afraid of not getting support from their family and friends, afraid of not being able to take a vow of obedience to their bishop and a vow of celibacy.

Look around your church on a Sunday or Saturday evening and you will see young men who would make good priests. They need our help, our prayers and our encouragement that one day they will become laborers for the harvest master.

**Fraternally,
Fr. Thomas Nasta
National Chaplain**



"Park 2 Annuity" - Now Paying 4.50%

Under the "Park 2 Annuity", you can make a one-time deposit of at least \$1,000.00 into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at a guaranteed rate for two years. Additional deposits are not allowed.

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- The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your "beginning of year balance" with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
 - 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.
 - The minimum deposit is \$1,000.
 - Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.

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From the President :

"Down in the Valley, the Valley So Low"

Perhaps some of you remember those words, which were the first line of a song I first heard sung in the late 1940's by, I believe, the country singer, Eddy Arnold.

Those words came to me on June 21st and 22nd while my wife and I were visiting Branches and District meetings in western Pennsylvania.

Our first stop was at the annual picnic of Branch 181 held at Mammoth Park, PA. Unfortunately, a three-hour drive turned into 4 ½ hours when we got lost. But we were able to arrive near the end of the picnic and spend an hour or two meeting with the Officers of Branch 181 including Clarence Pfeifer, Ed Mizikar, Geraldine Kovacina and other Members including past President Thomas Hricik and his wife Gerry. There were almost 200 people at the picnic. Congratulations on their success.

That evening we drove to Donora, Pennsylvania to attend the Sunday meeting of Branch 670 and the meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District, which followed. Dorothy Petrus is both the Branch and District President and she along with Frances Tarquinio of nearby Belle Vernon are consistently two of our top Recommenders. I was pleased to meet all the Officers and Members.

While in this Monongahela River Valley I was able to see in person and learn about the history of this area and the history of the people, including many Slovaks, who had lived and live in these river towns, just south of Pittsburgh, including Donora, Monessen, Charleroi and others.

These towns, built on the sides of steep hills, have a wonderful history based on a foundation of hard work and deep religious faith. Many of these towns have lost ½ to 2/3 of their populations and most young people leave for better opportunities. Many homes are vacant, some demolished, churches closed; commercial buildings are empty and in some cases falling down. This was the heartland of industrial America; the people in these towns made the steel and provided the young men that defeated Hitler and the Japanese in World War II.

continued on page 3



Message From The President

Vitajte. Welcome.

Some of you are receiving the Jednota newspaper for the first time. Some may not even remember they are Members.

This is our effort to communicate with all of our Members. We have slightly reduced the number of newspaper issues to send out more copies to reach a larger audience.

The Jednota is also available on-line at www.FCSU.com. If you would rather read it on-line than get the hard-copy in the mail please contact us at 1-800-Jednota or by fax (1-800-642-4310) or by E-mail (FCSU@aol.com). It will save us printing and postage costs.

If you have questions or suggestions to improve the newspaper let us know. We are always looking for your input. If you want to submit articles please contact Mr. Anthony Sutherland, Editor, at:

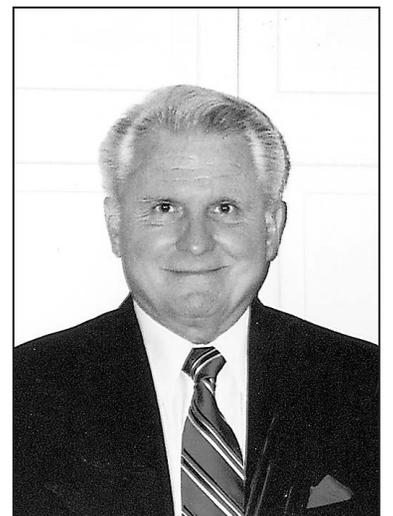
JEDNOTA, 1001 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835

Phone: 717- 944-0461 ; Fax: 717-944-3107

E-mail : editorjednota@yahoo.com

Remember this is your Society and your newspaper. Anything we can reasonably do to improve both is good for all of us.

Be in touch. I am always happy to hear from Members, young and old, either by mail, fax, phone or E-mail.



Andrew M. Rajec

**Andrew M. Rajec
President**

Insights and Viewpoints



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

July 20, 2008

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 13:24-43

Gospel Summary

There is a longer and a shorter version of this Sunday's gospel reading and most congregations will probably hear only the shorter passage (13:24-30). Accordingly, I shall focus on the shorter version, with some brief comments at the end about the remaining verses (13:31-43). The analogy Jesus uses is called a parable, which means that it is a fictitious but

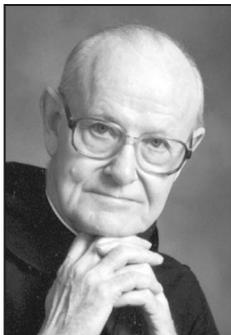
believable story used to illustrate a spiritual reality. Most of those who heard Jesus were farmers and they could readily understand that one cannot easily distinguish weeds from wheat when the plants are very small. It is only when they have grown taller that the difference becomes apparent. By that time, however, the roots are so intertwined that one cannot pull out the weeds without severely damaging the wheat. Only at the harvest can the separation be made safely.

The spiritual reality being illustrated is the congregation of believers. It is often impossible to know who may be for sure the true and faithful followers of Jesus since we can usually judge only by appearances. In Jesus' day, the Scribes and Pharisees seemed to be the most religious of all, yet he rejected them for lack of interior conversion. In particular, they thought they knew for sure who were the "weeds" and who were the "wheat." And they were sure that those whom they rejected were rejected by God also. The gospels tell us that Jesus thought otherwise

Life Implications

Nothing is more hazardous for us human beings than to pass judgment on the relationship of any individual with God. Even in cases of fairly obvious wrongdoing we cannot always know about special circumstances that may affect final judgment on that person's behavior. Since one cannot sin without freedom, and since many have been loved so little that their freedom is minimal, it follows that the degree of their culpability may be greatly reduced.

Many of us prefer not to listen to such reasoning because we want a simplistic solution to crime, which ignores the deeper question about who have been loved and are therefore free enough to accept full responsibility for their actions. As a consequence, it is quite likely that many of us more or less free and privileged people will be judged harshly because we did not love and help those who are living in psychic or spiritual bondage. No doubt Jesus has the judgmental tendencies of the Scribes and Pharisees in mind when he uses this parable. Such smugly "orthodox" members of the church are often very impatient with church authorities who do not condemn and reject less "observant" members. They want the "weeds" torn out of the ground...and the sooner, the better. In fact, however, it is not all so clear who are the "wheat" and who are the "weeds." And those who are sure they know the difference may, like the Scribes and Pharisees, discover at harvest-time that they too are totally mistaken. The conclusion is clear: rash judgment is a very dangerous spiritual disease. The short parables about the mustard seed and the leaven are used to illustrate the surprising growth of the church in spite of small and unpromising beginnings. The point is that God can work through small and ordinary agents (like ourselves) to achieve surprising and significant results. We should find this truth encouraging and allow it to free us from a sense of helplessness. With God we can do more than we could ever imagine



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

July 27, 2008

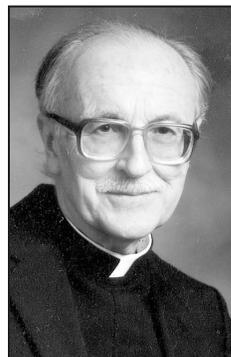
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 13:44-52

Gospel Summary

This Sunday's passage contains the last three of the set of seven parables that Matthew placed in the center of his gospel. The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field or a pearl of great price. When its great value is recognized, one gladly does all that is necessary to obtain it. The kingdom of heaven is also like a net that collects all sorts of fish. Just as the useless fish are eventually thrown away, at the end of the age the wicked will be rejected. The last parable is a sober reminder that even though Jesus is the presence of divine wisdom, many take offense at him, and because of their lack of faith are lost.

Jesus then expresses concern that the disciples understand the parables because they like Jesus must instruct others in the mystery of the kingdom.



Champion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

Life Implications

Three aspects of God's kingdom are highlighted in these parables: the necessity of recognizing its ultimate value, the necessity of responding with total commitment upon recognition of its presence, and the possibility of rejecting the gift of eternal life that it brings

Matthew in narrating events of Jesus' life provides good life-illustrations of today's parables that may help us hear them in a personal way.

A rich young man approached Jesus and asked what he must do to gain eternal life. Jesus sensed the possibility that this young man may have been keeping all the commandments except the first, the source of all the others: "... you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Dt 6:5). He replied: "... go, sell what you have and give to the poor . . . then come, follow me." When the young man heard this reply to his question, he went away sad, for he had many possessions" (Mt 19:16-22)

In contrast, Matthew also tells us of two blind men who recognized Jesus as the "pearl of great price" they were seeking. They cried out to him in their poverty. Moved with pity, Jesus gave them sight, and they followed him (Mt 20:29-34). In Mk 10:46-52 the contrast with the sighted-yet-blind rich man is even more dramatically drawn)

The good news for us is that the Risen Lord is present in our celebration of the Eucharist not only to instruct us about the kingdom of heaven, but also to give us his Spirit. In the Spirit, through faith, we receive sight to recognize the presence of the kingdom in our world, and we receive courage to commit ourselves totally to God's reign with single-minded desire.

In his Rule for Monasteries, Saint Benedict (one of those scribes who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven) gives us two sayings to help us keep alive in our hearts the meaning of this Sunday's liturgy. From the Prologue: "If today you would hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Ps 95:8), and adapted from chapter 72: "Prefer nothing whatever to Christ."

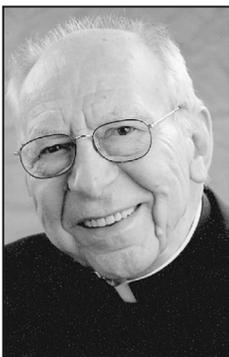
Coming Events

JULY 23

-The St. Michael the Archangel Society's Annual Picnic from 12:00 noon until dusk at Oaks Park, Portland, Oregon.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

War



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

The men and women who fight the war far outnumber those few who caused it. Those who become engaged in combat are disfigured with limbs destroyed and are marked with memories that rob them of gentle peace in their own lives and bring tears to the hearts of their loved ones. Those who make war survive in splendor, arrayed with medals and ribbons that hang heavy on their chest while those who won the victory or suffered defeat lie beneath the earth memorialized only by a religious symbol which weighs heavily on their torn bodies.

The powers that be glamorize the shedding of blood, holding high unfurled banners citing patriotism, freedom and liberation.

To be sure, there are just and compelling reasons to go to war in defense of one's own nation and people. One cannot simply open the gates of his nation and lay down his arms at the feet of conquerors. This kind of cowardice and surrender has no place in the virtues of national honor, a country's integrity, and its citizen's pursuit of peace and happiness.

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JEDNOTA

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Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for July 2008

General Intention

Volunteers. That there may be an increase in the number of volunteers who offer their services to the Christian community.

Pope Benedict XVI has repeatedly expressed his thanks and admiration for volunteers. Volunteers are the people who hear the Word of God and do it. They carry on the work of Jesus Christ by serving those in need with love and joy. In a meeting with volunteer associations last year, the Pope said that volunteers give our society a "humane and Christian face" it would not otherwise have.

Volunteers are a little yeast leavening the whole loaf, a little salt seasoning the whole dish. Without their free gifts of time and service, said Pope Benedict, we would too often experience a "culture which would calculate the cost of everything, forcing human relationships into a straitjacket of rights and duties." Volunteers remind us that life itself is an "unmerited gift."

We at the Apostleship of Prayer heartily concur with the Pope's profound appreciation of volunteers. Every eight weeks a dozen volunteers swarm into our small Milwaukee office space and help us to mail this very leaflet. They do their job so well that the volume of these mailings had tripled in a little more than a year. Since every envelope or package receives a different number of leaflets, we can't mechanize the process. We depend on our volunteers to count and fold and stuff and sort and bag each piece.

Let me honor two of them by name. After several years of volunteering for us, Michael and Susan Burczyk know the mail routine better than we do. They get it all organized before the rest of the crew shows up. Some of our volunteers are retired, one is a flight attendant, and several are Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, whose convent is nearby. Their motive? To do something to advance the reign of Christ the King.

How about you? Do you let the love of Jesus overflow in generous service to others? Whatever you do, don't forget to pray for volunteers everywhere. People throughout the world will notice and say, 'See how they love one another.'

Reflection

How does your gratitude for God's many gifts to you express itself in loving service?

Mission Intention

World Youth Day. That World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia may awaken the fire of divine love in young people and make them sowers of hope for a new humanity.

Pope Benedict XVI will visit World Youth Day (WYD) 2008, July 15-20, in Sydney, Australia. The theme Pope Benedict chose for this great Catholic youth festival is "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit come upon you and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). The Pope asks us to pray that the WYD in Sydney "may awaken the fire of divine love in young people and make them sowers of hope."

As many as 300,000 pilgrims will sleep out under the stars at Randwick Racecourse. As many as 500,000 will attend the final Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict on Sunday, July 20.

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the purpose of WYD is to stir hope in the young people about the future, to call them to come together as one people, and to entrust the future of the Church into their hands.

Our assignment is to pray that the Holy Spirit may fill them with his love in such a way that all who attend are permanently changed. May they return to their homes full of hope that will inspire and mobilize charitable action in others as well as themselves.

In a letter to the youth who will be attending WYD 2008, the Pope emphasized the power of the Holy Spirit by surveying his appearance in the Scriptures. He concludes, "The Spirit of the Lord always remembers every individual and wishes, particularly through you young people, to stir up the wind and fire of a new Pentecost in the world."

"Once again I repeat that only Christ can fulfill the most intimate aspirations that are in the heart of each person. Only Christ can humanize humanity and lead it to its 'divinization.' Through the power of his Spirit he instills divine charity within us, and this makes us capable of loving our neighbor and ready to be of service."

Reflection

How are you helping young people to respond to the message of faith, hope, and love that Jesus speaks through his Church, his Word, and his Spirit?



FCSU 2008 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

(corrections in parents names)

Brian J. Hawkins is the winner of the special award the "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" for 2008.

Brian J. Hawkins
Parents: James & Deborah Hawkins
Branch: 888K ~ Youngstown, OH
College/University: Ohio States
Major: Mechanical Engineerin

Nicholas S. Ambro
Parents: Stephen & Jane Ambro
Branch: 754K ~ Independence, OH
College/University: Ball State University
Major: Telecommunications

Anne M. Spencer
Parents: James and Barbara Spencer
Branch: 181 K ~ United, PA
College/University: Boston College
Major: Chemistry

Thank you,
Piroska Merai
Scholarship department

Down in the Valley

continued from page 1

The greatest industrial machine in history is now virtually abandoned and left to decay.

The Slovak people in these towns were and are the pillars of the Jednota.

Is it any wonder why our membership has decreased?

While we may not by ourselves resurrect these towns on the Monongahela, we can and must reach the people who used to live there and their children and grandchildren, whether they now live in Florida, Texas, California, Georgia etc. With our Members help we are undertaking efforts to reach these people.

"Down in the valley, the valley so low, hang your head over and hear the wind blow".

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNOUNCING AVOID STOCK MARKET VOLATILITY The FIXED RATE 6-YEAR* ANNUITY

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- Not applicable to any settlement option annuity funds, or interest only annuities
- Annuity withdrawal prior to age 59 ½, subject to Federal Excise Tax Penalty
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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6	MONDAY, JULY 28
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	MONDAY, AUGUST 25
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:
Anthony Sutherland, Editor
"JEDNOTA"
1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835
FAX: (717) 944-3107

Insights and Viewpoints

As I See It Rudolph L. Gregus



Rudolph L. Gregus

Pope's Call to Universities

Pope Benedict XVI, during his April 17 address at Catholic University of America in Washington, highlighted the importance of Catholic identity. He said educators should help students to fully live their faith. Here are some excerpts from the Holy Father's address:

"A university or school's Catholic identity. . . is a question of conviction. Do we really believe that only in the mystery of the Word Made Flesh does the mystery of men truly become clear? Are we ready to commit our entire self-intellect and will, mind and heart to God? Do we accept the truth Christ reveals?"

What percentage of this year's Catholic college and university graduates could honestly answer those questions with a convinced "yes"? What percentage would even understand the first question?

"While we have sought diligently to engage the intellect of our young, perhaps we have neglected the will. Subsequently we observe, with distress, the notion of freedom being distorted.

Freedom is not an opting out. Freedom is an opting in; a participation in being itself. Hence, authentic freedom can never be obtained by turning away from God."

Might these sentences be printed, framed, and posted in co-ed dormitories on Catholic campuses?

"We observe today a timidity in the face of the category of the good. . . an assumption that every experience is of equal worth and a reluctance to admit imperfection and mistakes. And particularly disturbing is the reduction of the precious and delicate area of education in sexuality to management of "risk", bereft of any reference to the beauty of conjugal love."

How many freshman orientation programs and student life offices on Catholic campuses would have to examine consciences here?

"I wish to affirm the great value of academic freedom. Yet any appeal to the principle of academic freedom in order to justify positions that contradict the faith and the teaching of the Church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity and mission; a mission at the heart of the Church's (teaching mission) and not somehow. . . independent of it."

No doubt, Pope Benedict XVI put serious challenges before the nation's leading Catholic educators

Admitting Our Need For God

As often as we hear the message of the scriptures, we seem to be able to resist it. The readings invite us, once again, to rely completely and utterly on God's love and mercy in our lives. And, once again, we continue to find ways around that invitation. It's for other people, not us. It's for tomorrow, not today. We can make it on our own talents, goodness, money, hard work, or wisdom. Yet, scriptures call our bluff. They invite us to admit our need for God and put our lives in God's hands. We who sit comfortably and smugly at the Lord's Table are beckoned, once again, to follow Jesus with faith, gratitude and love

Spitkovsky District Plans baseball Outing



Members and guests are invited to the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 Baseball Outing on Sunday, August 24, 2008. At 2:00 p.m., the Joliet Jackhammers minor league baseball team will play the Gary South Shore Railcats at US Steel Yard Stadium in Gary, Indiana. US Steel Yard is located at the Broadway exit of the Indiana Toll Road in downtown Gary. There is safe and secure parking, and ample security at the ballpark. Tickets are \$10.00. If you wish to attend, please notify District 2 Fraternal Activities Director George Kelchak by August 8th at 219/926-2410.



Robert Tapak Magruder,
Recording Secretary

Reflections on Our Christianity

continued from page 2

During the 20th century, worldwide, there were 99 wars! U.S. involvement and casualties were these: World War I, 1914-1918-20 million, World War II, 1939-1945- 55 million, Korea, 1950-1953- 4 million, Vietnam, 1964-1973- 3 million, Gulf, 1991- 85,000, Kosovo, 1999-2,000. The Iraq War of the 21st Century is ongoing.

It is time, is it not, for war to be erased from our history! Those few who originate war must be held to standards and principles regarding the initiation of combat, the destruction of cities, the tearing apart of bodies, the brutalities inflicted upon the conquered.

The decision to make war must be subjected to moral legitimacy: all other means to prevent war must be exhausted; there have to be serious prospects of achieving success rather than becoming bogged down, neither enjoying the victory nor experiencing defeat; the use of weapons of war must not be greater than the evil to be eliminated; the threat posed by the aggressor must be lasting, grave and certain.

Moral law retains its validity during armed conflict. The fact that there is war does not mean that everything becomes licit between the warring parties. Noncombatants, wounded soldiers and prisoners must be respected and treated humanely. There's something about war that can reduce a man to a level beneath his humanity. The threat and fear of being killed, of being disfigured, of hand-to-hand combat, particularly after an extended period of time, can change a loving and compassionate man into a haunted creature, unable to shake from his personality the horror he has experienced.

Wars are not games to be played with the blood of those who did not wish them, nor strategies to be employed by military leaders for their own glory at the expense of bodies ripped apart and left to decay on the battlefield. Wars are not parades featuring young men in lock step, banners responding to the winds, military officers pinning medals to chests. Wars are blood making red the earth, limbs lying lifeless and separated from bodies, minds haunted and crying out in the night.

The seeds of war lie in the hearts of men, hearts that burn with visions of temporal power, hearts inflamed with revenge for wounds that have occurred, in reality or in fantasy, hearts that seek personal glory, hearts that lack or deny the one virtue for which Jesus Christ suffered crucifixion: "Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other." (John 13:34)

The only characteristic of man that can beat a sword into a plowshare and a spear into a pruning hook is the virtue of love, the embrace of respect, the clasp of selflessness, the espousal of the well-being of the one loved.

Msgr. Edward V. Rosack served during World War II with the Army Signal Corps in the Pacific Theater of Operations with the rank of sergeant.

5.00%

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At the retirement age you choose, the funds accumulated in the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity may be withdrawn using any of the FCSU's lump sum or periodic income settlement options.

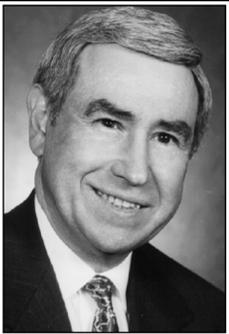
Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- 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)

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

By Joseph T. Senko

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




Mortgage Shopping

What's the best advice for people who are buying or refinancing a home? Get the best mortgage. Shopping around for the best mortgage deal you can find and being informed about the right questions to ask mortgage lenders are critically important things to do.

Get the Facts About Rates

The mortgage interest rate will affect your monthly payment amount, so as a general rule you will want to find the lowest rate possible. Be sure to ask, however, whether the lender is offering a fixed-rate loan or an adjustable-rate mortgage.

With a fixed rate loan, the interest rate will remain the same for as long as you hold the mortgage. With an adjustable-rate loan, the rate can change based on the direction of interest rates in the credit markets.

Adjustable-rate mortgages, also known as ARMs, often offer lower initial interest rates, but those rates can rise down the road. This means your monthly mortgage payment will increase. When considering ARMs, it's important to find out how often the rate can change and by how much, as other details that will affect your payments. If you select an ARM, CPAs advise that you determine that you can afford the mortgage not only right now, but also in the future.

Understand the Terms

Interest rates will have a direct impact on your monthly payments, but there are other important details to understand about mortgages, as well. Ask, for example, about the minimum down payment that the lender requires. The loan term is another important factor. The number of years you have to pay the loan will affect your monthly payments.

What Fees are Involved?

Lenders usually charge fees for their mortgages. For example, most loans include points, which are typically based on a percentage of the loan amount. If, for example, you are charged two points on a \$200,000 mortgage that would amount to \$4,000, or 2 percent of the loan amount. Typically, a loan with a higher interest rate will charge fewer points. There may be other expenses associated with the loan, as well, such as broker or underwriting fees. Be sure to ask about any additional expenses, and then calculate how they will affect your up-front costs or your monthly payments.

Don't be Afraid to Negotiate

Once you've learned about all the loan details, remember you can ask for better terms on any of those factors. It's perfectly acceptable to find out if the lender would be willing to lower the points, fees, or even the interest rate. Make sure, however, that a drop in one fee isn't accompanied by an increase in another.



Miroslav Musil (left) from the cultural department of the Slovak government and Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko of Pittsburgh stand over the glass case containing the original Pittsburgh Agreement in the foyer of the Parliament building in Bratislava.

90th Anniversary of Pittsburgh Agreement

May 30, 2008 marked the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement. In 1918, leaders of local and national Czech and Slovak fraternal organizations met in Pittsburgh where they drafted and signed a document (known as the Pittsburgh Agreement or Pittsburgh Pact), that led to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state which was formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This document is often compared to the U.S. Declaration of Independence or the Magna Carta.

To celebrate the anniversary of this historical occasion, the original Pittsburgh Agreement went on display at the Slovak Parliament Building in Bratislava. Both U.S. Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik and Slovak Foreign Minister Jan Kubis addressed a large group attending the ceremony.

After being on display for a week in the lobby of the Parliament Building, the document was transferred to the Slovak National Museum where it is part of an exhibition entitled "How We Lived." The exhibit shows life in Slovakia in the twentieth century. The Pittsburgh Agreement will remain there until October. After a brief exhibit in Prague, it will return to its permanent home in the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh, where it will be on continuous display in mid-November as part of Pittsburgh's celebration of its 250th birthday.



Vincentian Sisters of Charity Host Sister Survivors Program

In 1992, when the U.S. Catholic bishops asked for Sisters to volunteer to help rebuild the church in Central and Eastern Europe after the fall of Communism, Sisters Margaret Nacke and Sister Mary Savoie of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas were among the 200 who responded. They were assigned to Romania to help with curriculum development in the Catholic School of Nursing. During their one-month stay there, they decided to focus on the education of the Sisters. From 1993 to 2000, Sisters Margaret and Mary made nine trips to Romania. They led workshops for formation directors, established the Romanian Leadership Conference for Women Religious and continued to hear stories of Sisters living under communism.

In 2003, they began visiting other Eastern European countries for the purpose of collecting oral stories. Working through the leadership conference for women religious in each of the seven countries: Lithuania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, and the Czech Republic,

Sisters Margaret and Mary first interviewed the older Sisters and then those of the women who entered as "secret Sisters" during communism. They were amazed at how willing the Sisters were to share information. Sister Margaret thinks it is because when you go through a horrific experience, it is important to know that someone cares. Hearing others share their stories, often gives another the courage she needs to talk, thus starting the healing process.

The two American Sisters planned and facilitated a conference in Ukraine: "Our Common Mission and Commitment-Lessons from Sister Survivor of European Communism" that brought together Sisters from former communist countries to share with each other. Twenty-three participants representing sixteen congregations and ten countries, each speaking a different language shared their stories with the help of translators. When asked by the participants why Sisters from America care about them, Sister Mary answered, "Because you are our Sisters."

Sister Margaret feels that North Americans can learn much from hearing these survival stories. "The Sisters kept faithful- that was what sustained them. They tried to maintain a close connection with the local priests and to find ways to have religious services in secret. Prayer and community life gave them much courage and strength."

Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, a member of the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mount St. Macrina in Uniontown, PA is a member of the Resource Council for this project. Thousands of Sisters were in Europe during the communist regime, says Sister Barbara, and since the communist fall, they have continued their work. Today in Romania, for example, there are 55 orders of Catholic religious. The founding Sisters of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity who came to Pittsburgh in 1902, were Slovak Sisters whose Motherhouse was located in Szatmar, Romania.

On Tuesday, July 8, 2008, Sisters Margaret and Mary presented "Sister Survivors of European Communism: Witnesses to Faith," at the Vincentian Sisters Motherhouse, 8200 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA at 2:00 p.m. The public was invited.

For information on other presentation sites contact Sister Mihalchick at 724/438-7149. To make a donation to the project, send contributions to Sisters of St. Joseph, 602 20th St., Belleville, KS 66935.

Saint Vincent Basilica Parish Festival

Saint Vincent Parish will hold its annual Festival on Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27, 2008, at Saint Vincent Grove, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The hours are 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. The weekend will feature all kinds of great food including apple dumplings, hot pretzels, and fried dough. The weekend will also feature bingo and other games of chance, flea market, baked goods including famous St. Vincent bread, jewelry, used books, videos and CD's, Chinese auction and a chicken dinner on Sunday beginning at noon. Price for the dinner is \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children (12 and under). Children can try the jumping machine, play games and do crafts. There will be clowns and balloons and comedy magic. Frownie Brownie from Kings Family Restaurants will be around on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. passing out coupons for free Brownies. Festival entertainment includes D.J. "Johnny O" from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday and 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. A band "Majority Rules" will play from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday.



REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Stephen A. Barczynski Branch 567

Allentown, Pennsylvania



Stephen A. "Stevie Bars" Barczynski, 91, of Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania, died Thursday, May 8, 2008 in Easton Hospital. He and his wife, the former Josephine C. Ruggiero, celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary last August 20th.

He was born December 20, 1916, in Pen Argyl, a son of the late Stephen and Mary Balogh Barczynski.

Mr. Barczynski was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Navy. He attended Pen Argyl High School where he was an avid Green Knight fan. He was also an avid Notre Dame football fan.

Stephen worked as a suit fitter for the former Bangor Clothing and Cross Country Clothing, retiring in 1979. After retiring, he was employed as a security guard for the Slate Belt Nursing and Rehab Center for 10 years.

He was a member of St. Roch's Catholic Church, West Bangor. Stephen was a life member of the Jednota Branch 567 in Allentown, and was a life member of the Martocci-Capobianco American Legion, Roseto. He was also a member of UNITE.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Atty. David J. Ceraul and his wife Jacqueline of Bangor and Gary Barczynski and his wife Janice of Jefferson, Indiana; two daughters, Veronica Brinker and her husband Ryan of Plainfield Township, Pennsylvania, and Stevann Mabus and her husband Mason of Bangor; three brothers, Thomas Barczynski of Wind Gap, James Popovice and William Popovice, both of Pen Argyl; four sisters, Mary Harobin of Bangor, Helen Oravec of Bethlehem, Elizabeth Hagen of St. Pacific, Missouri, and Catherine Sisolak of Wind Gap; 14 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Stephen Barczynski; a brother, John Barczynski; stepbrothers, Michael, Martin and George Popovice, and step-sisters, Mary Tucker, Ann Tucker, Helen Youpa, Ruth Guerro, Margaret Hummer, and Bertha Armelin. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Pen Argyl.

Stephen a. Pecka Branch 567

Allentown, Pennsylvania



Stephen A. Pecka, 81, of Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, died June 16, 2008 in his home. He was the husband of the late Mary (Smith) Pecka.

Born in Allentown, he was the son of the late Anton and Anna (Zuby) Pecka. He was last employed by Lehigh County Prison. Prior to that, he was employed by Bethlehem Steel Corp. and Central Railroad of New Jersey.

Steve was an active member of St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church, Allentown. He was also a member of Calvary Council 313, Knights of Columbus, Bethlehem and Lehigh Valley Assembly of the 4th degree of the Knights of Columbus. He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

He is survived by a son, Anthony and his wife, Sharon; daughters, AnnaMarie, wife of John Schlosser, and Margaret, wife of David Fisher; sisters, Marjorie Yeager, Theresa Wittman, Rose Shimkanon, and Anna Petrovich; nieces and nephews including Rose-

mary Vavra; cousins in Binghamton, New York; and four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a great-great-granddaughter.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. John the Baptist Church. Burial was in the parish cemetery. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Bachman, Kulik and Reinsmith Funeral Home, Allentown.

Helen Fiala

John Joseph Malik Branch 851

Washington, Pennsylvania



John Joseph Malik, 86, of Washington, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, May 28, 2008, in Washington Hospital. He had been in declining health for several years.

He was born May 11, 1922, in Manifold, a son of John and Mary Kurila Malik.

He attended Canton Township School, Trinity High School and Brick Layers School.

Mr. Malik served in the Civilian Conservatory Corp and the U.S. Navy, with U.S. 8th Fleet, as an airman on submarine patrol in the Atlantic Ocean. He was an Aviation Ordnanceman, 2nd Class, and received the Victory Medal, American Theater Medal, European African Middle Eastern Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

He worked at Hazel Atlas Glass, Plant 2, Pennsylvania Transformer and retired from Jessop Steel Co., (now Allegheny Ludlum) in 1984, following 30 years of service.

Mr. Malik was a member of Immaculate Conception Church, Washington, PA.

He also was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 927, Edwin Scott Linton Post 175 American Legion, Slovak American Citizens Club, First Catholic Slovak Union, where he served as secretary of Branch 851, Steelworker's Organization of Active Retirees and American Association of Retired Persons.

He was a charter member of Canton Township Volunteer Fire Company, serving as their first president for five years, and served on Canton Township Planning Commission.

Mr. Malik enjoyed woodworking, gardening, winemaking, fishing and hunting. His family will enjoy his wine for many years to come.

On February 1, 1947, in Immaculate Conception Church, he married Julia Petrola, who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Mary Ann Friend (Alfred William) and Joan L. Warren (James); three grandchildren, Melissa (Robert) Hook, Justin (Dawn Marie) Friend and Michael (Lindsay) Warren; two great-grandchildren, Matthew and Zachary Hook; a brother, Thomas G. Malik of Washington; a stepsister, Mary Oliverio of Washington; and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother, Justin Malik, who died in a mine disaster; and a sister, Margaret Slesh.

Charles A. Yandrick Branch 199

Hostetter, Pennsylvania

Charles A. "Charlie" Yandrick, 84, of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died Friday, May 30, 2008, in Bethlen Home, Ligonier.

He was born August 3, 1923, in Hostetter, a son of the late John and Barbara (Karpec) Yandrick. Prior to his retirement in 1986,

Charlie was employed by Latrobe Steel Co., with 45 years of service. He was a member of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Daniel P. Nolan Knights of Columbus Council 940, Thomas B. Anderson American Legion Post 515 and BPOE Lodge 907.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his loving wife, Louisa (Smith) Yandrick, in November 2006; and two sisters, Caroline Horvatic and Frances Yandrick.

He is survived by his daughter, Susan L. Leonard and her husband, Jeffrey, of Latrobe; three loving grandsons, Christopher, Timothy and Michael; seven siblings, Katherine Barlock and husband, Michael, of Latrobe, Mary Stranko of Latrobe, Elizabeth Lazor and husband, Paul, of Greensburg, Barbara Janik of Latrobe, Ann Loper of Millville, New Jersey, Frank Yandrick of Ligonier, and Helen Amond of Erie; and several nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Hartman-Graziano Funeral Home, Latrobe. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in Holy Family Church. Interment was in Unity Cemetery, Unity Township. Memorial donations may be made to the Bethlen Home, Wing 100, 66 Casey School Rd., Ligonier, PA 15658, or

to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 960 Penn Ave., Suite 1000, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Sophie Pipak

Jeanette "Becky" Guidish Branch 738

Homestead, Pennsylvania

Jeanette "Becky" (Beck) Guidish, 78, of Munhall, Pennsylvania, died May 3, 2008. She was the wife of the late Thomas J. Guidish, past FCSU National Vice President.

Jeanette was an active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. She served on the Scholarship Committee and was Secretary/Treasurer of Branch 738.

She is survived by a daughter, Patricia Guidish; two sons, Thomas (Mary Ann) Guidish and Robert (Patti) Guidish; and six grandchildren, Tyler, Samantha, Spencer, Joe, John and Anne Guidish. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Beck.

Friends were received at the Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home, Munhall. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Therese Church, Munhall. May she rest in peace.



Bill Turner, an organic dairy farmer from Gays Mills, Wisconsin, recently spent two weeks volunteering in Ethiopia, Africa. Bill traveled to the city of Bishoftu (Debre Zeit), where he lectured at the Agricultural and Technical College, and visited local dairy farms. His trip was sponsored by the Farmer to Farmer Program, which receives funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Bill, his wife Mary, and daughter Regina are all members of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago. His brother Pete serves the branch as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Robert Tapak Magruder

2008 International Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday, July 12 - 13, at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course near Canton, OH.

Registration forms have been mailed out the week of May 19. Registration forms can also be found in this issue of the Jednota paper.



2008 Jednota Golf Tournament Social Events



Saturday Night (at Courtyard Marriott, Canton)

Meal includes:

Salad, Chicken Marsala, Pork Loin with Mushroom Demi-Glaze, Rice Pilaf, Redskin Potatoes, Vegetables, Dessert

Entertainment to be announced

Cost: Golfers \$20
Guests \$35

Sunday Afternoon (at Tam O'Shanter Pavilion)

Meal includes:

All you can eat hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, potato salad, and iced tea.

Cost: Golfers and Guests \$15

Make Checks payable to FCSU Activities and return form with payment by July 2 to:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Name: _____

Check all that apply:

- Golfer Saturday Only Guest Saturday Only
 Golfer Sunday Only Guest Sunday Only

Amount Enclosed: _____

ANNUAL SLOVAK PICNIC TO BE HELD AUGUST 3RD IN GREENWICH POINT



The Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC) will hold its 8th Annual Picnic on Sunday, August 3, 2008, at Greenwich Point, 1001 Shore Road, Greenwich, Connecticut, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Come join the Slovak-American Cultural Center community for some fun in the sun filled with all things Slovak- music, food, beer, and sports activities.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10.00 for youth 6 to 18. Children under age 6 are free. To make reservations, contact Stano Krmar at 973/357-1209. Send checks to S-ACC c/o Stano Krmar, 33 Weasel Drift Rd., West Paterson, NJ 07424.

Greenwich Point is a beautiful 147-acre beach area. To reach Greenwich Point take I-95 to Exit 5. Turn right at the exit ramp/light and turn right again at next light onto Sound Beach Avenue. Continue passing park on right/business area and residential area. Turn right on Shore Road and follow Shore Road over the causeway into Greenwich Point. Present your photo ID to the gatekeeper. Only those on the S-ACC reserved guest list will be admitted.

2008 Golf Tournament Info Sheet

Friday, July 11

- ◆ Hospitality Room, Courtyard Marriott, Canton. 6 PM - 10 PM

Saturday, July 12

- ◆ Registration begins at 7am. Golf starts at 8am.
 - 100 golfers are required for a Shotgun Start.
 - Less than 100 golfers will have scheduled tee times
- ◆ Tam O'Shanter Golf Course - DALES course
- ◆ Mass begins at 5:30pm at the Courtyard Marriott, Canton.
- ◆ Banquet begins at 6:30pm at the Courtyard Marriott, Canton.

Sunday, July 13

- ◆ Golf starts at 8am, Tam O'Shanter Golf Course - HILLS course
- ◆ Awards Barbeque to begin at conclusion of tournament

Hotel Information

Prices have been negotiated at the following hotel:

Courtyard Marriott
4375 Metro Circle NW. - Canton, OH 44720
(877) 867 - 7666
(330) 494 - 6494
Rate: \$109/night +tax

** Cut off date June 11, 2008, for Group Rate**

Other area hotels:

Holiday Inn (330) 494 - 2770

2008 Jednota Handicap Golf Tournament

July 12 and 13, 2008

Tam O'Shanter Golf Club, Hills and Dales Courses
Canton, OH

Registration Forms postmarked after July 2, 2008 will NOT be accepted.

1. Golfer Name _____

Place me in the over 65 Division* (check the box)

My Personal Information is the same as 2007** (check the box)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Branch Number _____

Certificate Number _____

2. Golfer Name _____

Place me in the over 65 Division* (check the box)

My Personal Information is the same as 2007** (check the box)

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Branch Number _____

Certificate Number _____

* You must be age 65 or over to enter this division.

** If you participated in the 2007 tournament and your personal information has not changed, you do not need to complete the rest of the information.

Note: Those who have not participated in 2 tournaments in the last 10 years will be placed in the Callaway Division.

Fees: Dales Course Greens Fees (played Saturday):	\$38
Hills Course Greens Fees (played Sunday):	\$38
Tournament Expenses:	\$10
Prize Fund:	\$12
TOTAL DUE	\$98

Please make checks payable to "FCSU Activities" and mail this registration form with check to:
Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Those who provide email addresses will be notified of the schedule via email.

Golfers must be members in good standing of the FCSU

Any Golfer who acts in an un-sportsmanlike manner will be disqualified from the tournament.

St. Ann Slavic American Festival

St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Parish will hold its Annual Slavic American Festival on Sunday, July 20, 2008, from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m. on the parish grounds, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Come and enjoy famous Slavic culinary specialties: pirohy, halusky, holupky, and many other foods. Music will be provided by The Polka Whoooo and John Stevens and Double-shot. There will be bingo, games for young and old, church tours and cultural and religious artifacts for sale. The public is invited to attend. There is free parking and free admission.



Slovak Day at Kennywood

The 85th Annual American Slovak Day will be celebrated on Thursday, July 17, 2008, at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. There will be cultural displays, children's games and treats, folklore performances, and much more. The program at Main Pavilion #5 includes children's games at 12:30 p.m., children's folk dancing at 2:00 p.m., guest introductions at 3:00 p.m. and Mass at 4:00 p.m. followed by folk performances. The Slovak kitchen opens at 12:30 p.m. in Pavilion # 4. Slovak national costumes will also be exhibited. Tickets purchased at the Park are \$32 per person and \$15 for seniors. The Slovak Day Committee is selling advance tickets for \$20 and \$10 for seniors.

The Kennywood Park Slovak Day is the oldest and largest Slovak festival in Western Pennsylvania. Mark your calendars and plan to join the fun at Kennywood Park.

Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Announce Summer Festival

The Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius will hold their annual Summer Festival on Saturday, July 12, 2008, at Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pennsylvania. The day begins at 10:30 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m. with the Sunday Liturgy celebrated in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius.

A perennial favorite at the Festival is the Sisters' Pantry with its assortment of baked goods. Another popular spot is the Craft Shop where festival-goers can find a variety of crafts made by the Sisters and their friends. There will be a flea market, games for children as well as games for adults, including Instant Bingo. Besides the usual picnic fare, sausage, hot dogs, hamburgers and fries, delectable ethnic foods will be served, holupky and halusky. This year fresh lemonade and walk-away waffles topped with ice cream are on the menu. Once again the Sisters look forward to your presence at the festival in Danville on July 12.

A Sailing We Will Go

COME JOIN US ON A BAHAMAS CRUISE!



Come on board with the First Catholic Slovak Union for a four (4) night Bahamas Cruise. Last year's cruise was so successful; we are planning another cruise.

The Membership and Marketing Committee is sponsoring their Membership Meet aboard the "Majesty of the Seas", from November 17 -21, 2008. The "Majesty of the Seas" is a Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship. The itinerary from Miami includes stops in the Bahamas: Nassau/Paradise Island, Cococay and Key West, Florida.

The cost for an outside ocean view stateroom is \$496.00 per person based on double occupancy and an inside stateroom is \$456.00 per person based on double occupancy which includes the cruise, port and government taxes, all pre-paid gratuities and transfer from the airport to the cruise ship and back. Included in this cost are your meals and entertainment as provided by Royal Caribbean. (Optional insurance and airfare package is available through Paul J. Hudak of Adventure International Travel, Inc. at (216) 228-7171 or (800) 542-2487). **A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a cabin.**

The First Catholic Slovak Union is not responsible for your travel arrangements or cost to and from Miami, Florida. Please contact Adventure International Travel, Inc. or your own travel agent to make those arrangements. A valid U.S. passport will be required.

The deadline for final payment is September 1, 2008; anyone interested after this date must contact Adventure International Travel directly for available cabin space. The cruise is open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and their guests.

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

HURRY – STATEROOMS ARE LIMITED

Staterooms will be reserved on a first come – first served basis.

Make your reservations today!



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATES THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Effective July 1, 2008

The annual yield on existing
First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium
Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual
Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879%APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity
is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

Six Year Fixed Rate Annuity and Six Year Fixed
Rate Annuity IRA is 4.50% (4.402% APR).

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

If you have any questions about our annuities or
IRAs, please contact the Home Office at

1-800-JEDNOTA or your local Branch Officer.

*THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2008*

Kenneth A. Arendt Executive Secretary

News From Slovakia

Gasparovic Satisfied with his Four Years as President

I have the feeling that I could be continuously helpful to Slovakia as president, Ivan Gasparovic said at a press conference at the Presidential Palace recently in anticipation of the fourth anniversary of his being sworn in as head of state on June 15.

Gasparovic didn't confirm that he will be standing for re-election in 2009, however. "I'm able to take part in the presidential elections, but I'm currently still president and am meeting the obligations associated with the post."

With his wife Silvia at his side, the president stressed that he hasn't changed the priorities that he set out at the beginning of his term in office.

His aim is to be a non-partisan president, to keep out of political conflicts, to create a program of consensus vis-à-vis the Government and Parliament, and to meet his program slogan: "I think nationally, I feel socially."

"Looking at these priorities, after four years, nobody can say that I have backed away from them," he said.

According to Gasparovic, one of his priorities is to contribute actively towards Slovakia's international status. "I want to stress that I am proud of Slovakia's success story," he added.

TASR

Slovakia to Pump \$1 Million in Development Aid to Afghanistan

Slovakia plans to provide \$1 million in development assistance to Afghanistan over the next two years, Slovakia's Foreign Minister Jan Kubis said at a donors' conference in Paris recently.

The funds will be directed at development of Afghan civic society, the country's economic and social development, especially in areas where Slovak troops are stationed.

Kubis also briefed his partners on a decision of the Slovak Government, which increased the mandate for Slovak troops serving in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan from the current 115 to 246. Kubis says this decision was warmly embraced by his counterparts at the session.

"I believe that from the point of view of our position as an ally, as well as from the point of view of our goals to help stabilize Afghanistan, our voice has been heard loudly...we're proving to be an active ally of the international community, and we're thus building our international prestige," said Kubis.

TASR

Fico Describes Euro Adoption as Great Success for Slovakia

Premier Robert Fico noted the approval of the European Union leaders for Slovakia to join the eurozone on January 1, 2009 at a summit in Brussels recently as a great success for the country.

After Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus, Slovakia will be the fourth new EU member state and the first post-communist country to adopt the euro as the 16th eurozone member state. The euro is also in use in Mayotte (Indian Ocean), Monaco, San Marino, Saint Pierre and Miquelon islands off the coast of Canada that belong to France, Vatican City and Montenegro.

In Brussels, Fico said he has reassured his counterparts that his Cabinet will continue to pursue sound monetary and fiscal policies and will do its best to meet its pledge of achieving a balanced budget in 2011. He also spoke about the prepared anti-inflation package of measures and recently-approved modernization program Slovakia 21.

"I want to guarantee that the Slovak Government will not leave anyone at the mercy of speculators who may try to take advantage of the koruna-euro changeover. We will do our utmost to make this great historical success for Slovakia as a state but also to see that every single individual feels euro adoption to be a personal success. Otherwise, euro adoption would have made no sense," he said.

As for the koruna exchange rate against the euro due to be fixed July 8, Fico said that Government will seek the strongest possible rate- meaning that it could be even stronger than the current central parity. But he warned that the exchange rate will have to be balanced between the Government's desire to maintain high economic growth in Slovakia and, at the same time, enable citizens to have their savings appreciate as much as possible through the changeover.

TASR

Volkswagen Produces 5,000th Skoda Octavia in Bratislava

Since launching series production of the Skoda Octavia in March, car-maker Volkswagen Slovakia has produced 5,000 of this model, Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic was told by companies representatives during his visit to the plant recently.

"We are proud that the Skoda Octavia has been added to our product family...giving us four brands coming out of one factory," Volkswagen Slovak chairman of the board of directors Andreas Tostmann said on this occasion, adding that the whole process of integrating the Skoda Octavia into production went smoothly.

At the end of last year the car-maker was faced with a decision as to how to replace the production of the phased-out Volkswagen Polo at the company's Devinska Nova Ves plant near Bratislava.

Member of the board of directors for personnel-related issues Jaroslav Holecek says that the company was searching hard for a new model. "The process was very fast, in nine weeks we began the production of the Skoda Octavia- and that's uncommonly fast anywhere in the world," said Holecek.

Volkswagen now plans to produce 200 Skoda Octavias per day, and by the end of the year the total should be 20,000-25,000. "We presume that later the Skoda Octavia Combi will also be produced here," Holecek added.

TASR



L-R Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB, Abbot Christopher Schwartz, OSB, and Bishop Roger Gries, OSB.

New Abbot Elected for St. Andrew Abbey

On June 10, 2008, the 28 voting members in solemn vows of Saint Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio, elected Father Christopher Schwartz, OSB, 61, as the sixth abbot of the community succeeding Abbot Clement Zeleznik, OSB, who has retired after 7 years for health reasons.

Abbot Christopher is the son of the late Frank and Gertrude Schwartz. He attended St. Charles Elementary School in Parma and graduated from St. John Cantius High School (later formed into Cleveland Central Catholic HS). He studied for the diocesan Priesthood at Borromeo Seminary College where he earned his B.A. in history and at St. Mary's Seminary.

He entered the Benedictine order and professed his first vows as a monk at Saint Andrew Abbey in 1973. He was ordained a priest the following year. From 1974-1991 he was assigned to the faculty of Benedictine High School where he taught history and theology. He was also the moderator of five classes, student council moderator, school chaplain, and athletic team chaplain. During these years he also held the positions of prior, director of junior professed monks, and vocation director at the monastery.

From 1991 until 2004, he served as pastor of Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights. He then moved to Incarnate Word Academy and convent in Parma Heights, Ohio as chaplain until March 2006 when he returned to the abbey and was named subprior (third superior).

The new abbot assumed immediate jurisdiction as superior of the monastery and as the chancellor of Benedictine High School. He will be solemnly blessed as abbot by the bishop or his delegate at a later date.

Rev. Gerard Gonda, OSB

Reverend Ronald Kurzawa Retires

Reverend Ronald Kurzawa, a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit for 45 years has entered into retirement effective July 1, 2008. His farewell Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated at St. Aidan Church in Livonia, Michigan, where he was pastor since February 1, 2002. Following the liturgy, an Open House reception was held at the parish at which parishioners from former assignments together with family members were welcomed.

Prior to the farewell Mass and reception Father Kurzawa was honored at a testimonial dinner-dance on Sunday, June 22 at St. Aidan Parish. The toastmaster for the occasion was Msgr. Charles Kosanke, Rector of SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary and a personal friend. Among the speakers were Msgr. John Kasza, Secretary to Cardinal Adam Maida, Father Brian Cokonaugher, who interned with Father Kurzawa, Joan Paul Fetty, a personal friend, and Patricia Chernow, President of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Prior to his assignment at St. Aidan, Father Kurzawa was pastor from 1992 to 2002 at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in St. Clair Shores, Michigan; pastor of Precious Blood Parish (now St. Peter Claver) in Detroit from 1982 to 1992; and pastor of St. Clement of

Rome Parish, Romeo, Michigan from 1973 to 1982. He was associate pastor from 1968 to 1973 in St. Bartholomew Parish and from his ordination in 1964 to 1968 at St. Cune-gunda Parish, both in Detroit.

Father Kurzawa was ordained on June 6, 1964 at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit and celebrated his First Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Detroit. Father Kurzawa, together with his family, were members of the parish and he attended grade school there under the guidance of the Dominican Sisters of Oxford, Michigan.

Father Kurzawa is the son of the late Sigmund and Helen (Kopas) Kurzawa, both once active members of Jednota Branch 615 in Detroit. His sisters, Marlene Galka and Judith De Roche, together with his brother, Richard, are also members. Father Kurzawa likewise maintains his membership in the FCSU.

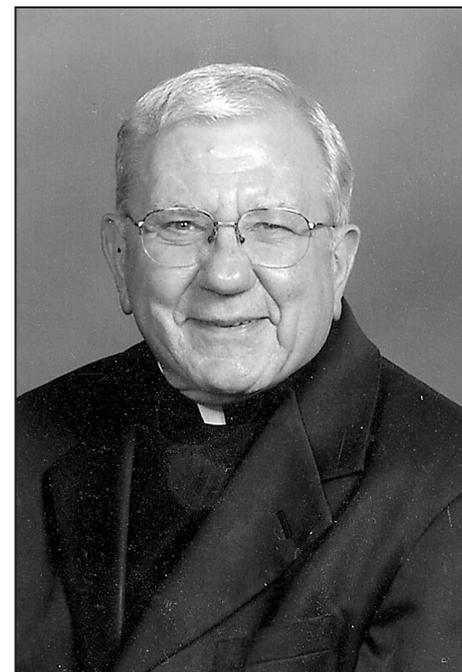
Father Kurzawa completed his theological studies at St. John's Provincial Seminary in Plymouth, Michigan. His college studies were done at St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Michigan. He also received a Masters in Liturgical Studies degree from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Father Kurzawa served as resource to the Worship Department of the Archdiocese of Detroit and was an adjunct faculty member for a number of years in liturgical studies both in the theological program at SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake and the Ministries Program at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

In 1987 he was called on to organize and coordinate the distribution of Communion for the Papal Mass at the Pontiac Silverdome during the pastoral visit of Pope John Paul II to Detroit.

He has traveled extensively and led a number of pilgrimages. On one occasion, on New Year's Eve, 1999, he presided at a Mass for the Pilgrims at the Tomb of St. Peter in the Vatican. With the pilgrims he was present for the Papal Evening Prayer on that New Year's Eve in St. Peter's and it was there that the pilgrims welcomed the Year 2000.

In 1989 he was given the John Farrell Award, which provided him a time for sabbatical studies in the North American College in Rome. It was during this stay that he joined Pope John Paul II in concelebrating Mass in the Papal Chapel. He also met the



Reverend Ronald Kurzawa

Holy Father personally at that time.

Father Kurzawa plans on living in Harrison Township, Michigan in his retirement. He will also be assisting in various parishes and will be presiding at Mass several times a week at the Dominican Motherhouse in Oxford.

**Jednota,
Monsignor Shuba District cordially
invite you to their**

Annual SLOVAK FAMILY DAY Picnic



On Sunday, July 27, 2008

Mass at the grounds starting at 12 noon

<p>Lunch to be served after the Mass</p> <p>Schnitzel \$8.00 Gulash \$6.00 Hot Dogs \$1.00</p> <p>BBO at 4pm</p>	<p>At Creditvale Park On Barbertain Rd, Mississauga</p> <p>Admission \$6.00 for adults Children under 12 is Free</p>
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ATTENTION

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2008 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2008 Scholarship Program.

**THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO
TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS**

TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official copy of applicant's high school transcript, which indicates applicant's high school grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT and SAT scores.
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant.
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing

For applications, please contact:

First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131

Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310

E-mail: fcsu@aol.com - Website: www.fcsu.com

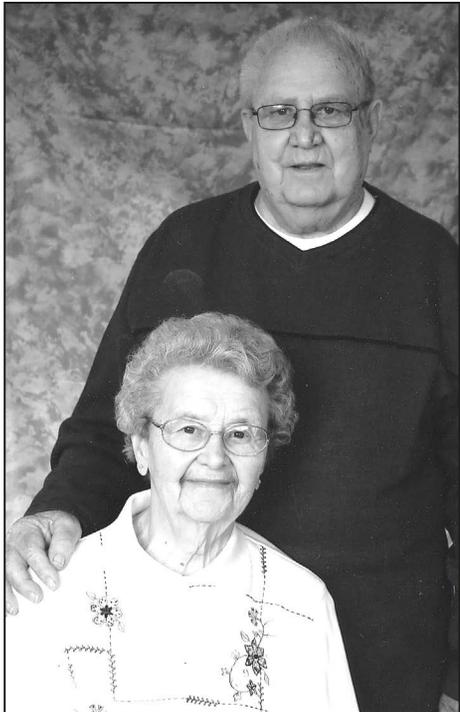
APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 3, 2008

*Family members of members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. John Yanek

Celebrate 60th Wedding Anniversary



John and Helen Yanek

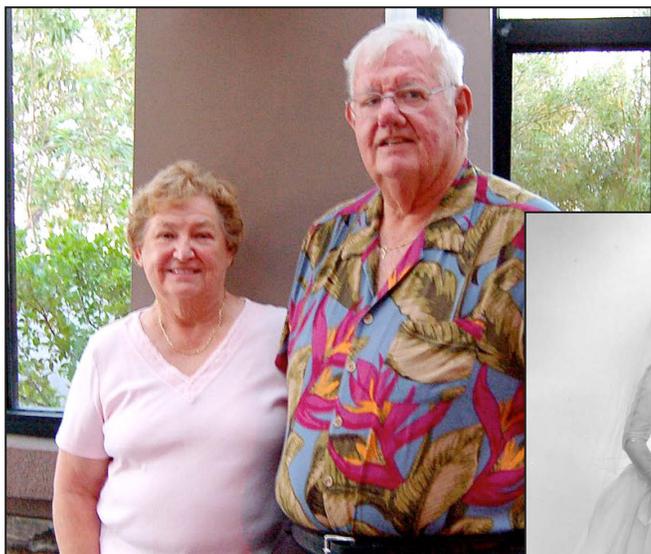
John and Helen Yanek of Salem, Ohio celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 3, 2008. The former Helen Kicko and John Yanek were married July 3, 1948, at St. Paul's Church in Salem.

Mr. Yanek retired from Cardinal Pumps of Salem and has been in Scouting for 52 years at St. Paul's in Salem. Mrs. Yanek is a homemaker and worked at Salem China. Since retirement, they enjoy gardening and spending time with their family.

Their family includes three sons and their wives, Tom and Janice Yanek, Mark and Tina Yanek, and Chuck and Debbi Yanek, all of Salem. They have been blessed with eight wonderful grandchildren: Scott Yanek, Stacy Yanek, Heather (Tim) Gandee, Holly Yanek, Justin Yanek, Abbi Yanek, Matt Yanek, and Dan Yanek. They are also enjoying one great-grandson, Mason Gandee.



Ron and Vera Polak Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage



Ron and Vera on their 50th anniversary.



Ron and Vera on their wedding day June 7, 1958.

Ron and Vera Polak celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 7, 2008, at a surprise party hosted by their daughter, Karen Polak. The couple was truly surprised by the large number of friends and family members attending from all over the United States. The event was held at Winchell's Pub & Grill in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ron and Vera were married on June 7, 1958, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Ron retired from the McKeesport Area School District in 1993, after 36 years as a band director and music coordinator. Vera was also employed by the school district as a secretary, and retired at the same time. The couple attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church (currently St. Martin de Porres) until they left McKeesport.

The couple moved to North Las Vegas, Nevada in October of 2006 to be closer to their daughter, who has resided in the Las Vegas Valley since 1985.

Spitkovsky District Sponsors Dinner Theater Outing



District 2 President John Jurcenko (right) congratulates Fraternal Activities Director George Kelchak for a job well done.



Branch 313 members George J.E. Michuda, Theresa Bugel and Joe Bugel



L-R: Anita Glogovsky, Barb Fayta and Art Fayta



National Vice President Andrew Harcar and his wife Maria

Thirty-six members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District participated in this year's District 2 fraternal event on Sunday, May 25, 2008, held at the Drury Lane Dinner Theater in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

After enjoying the magnificent champagne brunch, everyone took their seats for "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," a musical history of the career of the late 1950's singing star Buddy Holly. Thanks go to District 2 Fraternal Activities Director George Kelchak, who arranged for this successful fraternal event.

Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

Trnava's Folly

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum, FRSC

It was a year ago that a gaping hole appeared on the university campus to sully what had previously been a "common," a grassy space where University of Trnava students could meet and enjoy some greenery and sunshine while surrounded by historic academic buildings as well as the magnificent cathedral of St. John the Baptist. This common was also across from what is still the main building of the university, an ugly grey Communist style edifice, and behind one of the reconstructed historic buildings that dated back to the eighteenth century that now houses the Faculty of Health and Social Work. "Cultural vandalism" is what I called, in an article I wrote in these pages, the destruction of this common because it obliterated a space that had unity and well as aesthetic value. Most old European universities, with the exception of Oxford and Cambridge, are not known to possess anything approaching a campus where nature and scholastic buildings meld to define a space that is at once scholarly and aesthetic. Trnava, until last year, offered such an attractive campus, albeit not on the scale of the two British universities.

The first thing that I noticed immediately upon my arrival at the university in April was that there was no construction going on, only the empty shell of a building. Colleagues were silent as to why work had stopped and therefore I can only speculate that there had to be financial reasons to explain this. It left me wondering once again about the sanity of those who took the decision to allow the construction of this putative hotel. I can only describe it as a folly on their part, but not in the British architectural sense of the word, that is to say, "a building in the form of a small castle, temple, etc., that has been built as a decoration in a large garden or park: a Gothic garden folly," according to the *Cambridge Dictionary*. No, this was a folly more along the definition given by the *Oxford English Dictionary*: "The quality or state of being foolish or deficient in understanding; want of good sense, weakness or derangement of mind; also, unwise conduct."

Historic Trnava, that is to say the area within the old walls, offers an incredible array of architectural gems, open spaces to examine and enjoy them, like Trinity square, for example, and restaurants and cafés to meet friends for an ice cream, a drink, or a meal. Two major building are undergoing restoration this year; the Church of St. Nicholas, known to the population as *hrubý kostol*, whose spires dominate all others and which can be seen from far away as

one approaches the city. The other is the old orthodox synagogue, a derelict building, which, until now, stood well hidden behind overgrown trees and an old wooden fence. The old orphanage, an historic building that once belonged to the university is also slated for renovation. Clearly, some people in Trnava understand how beautiful their city is and how it could benefit not only from restoration, but also from proper town planning: But, clearly, this does not apply to those to whom one must ascribe the common folly.

One final thought: this is not the first time that this city's leaders missed an opportunity to define Trnava as an unusual historic city. Thanks to Peter Pazmaň, the primate of Hungary, also archbishop-cardinal of Ostrihom, whose seat at that time was in Trnava because of the Ottoman occupation of Hungary, the founding of the university in 1635 made of Trnava a leading centre of higher education in Central Europe on par with cities with older universities like Krakow, Prague, or Vienna. The move of the university to Buda in 1777 was a most unfortunate decision taken by Empress Maria Theresa: the faculty and students went, but the university buildings remained, only to be neglected as academic structures for 215 years until the University of Trnava was renewed in 1992. And even then, the buildings on the east side of the cathedral as well as the one abutting it were not returned to the university. If the university's renewal could not be contemplated when Slovakia (known as Upper Hungary) was still part of Hungary, why was it not considered in 1918, or perhaps even in 1939? And finally, when the Slovak National Council passed the law that renewed the university in 1992, why did not the Slovak government seize the opportunity to develop it into one of Slovakia's major academic establishments, returning to it all of its historical buildings, and turning Trnava into a university town, much as it had been in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries?

This was my last year in Trnava as a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science. I enjoyed the contact with the students, the opportunity to compare Slovak and Canadian higher education systems, and the camaraderie with my colleagues in the department. I felt some sadness that this unique opportunity had to come to an end, but perhaps the greatest sadness I felt was the knowledge that Trnava, the city for which my maternal grandfather had been the Member of Parliament in the Czechoslovak National Assembly, was still a city of missed opportunities, where the only follies very much in evidence were not architectural ones.



The University of Trnava's common was known until recently as University Square



To the left of the hole is the building of the Faculty of Health and Social Work and in the background the other historic buildings that still do not belong to the university



The empty shell of a putative hotel that currently stands on the former common or University Square



Reminder...

Please send all articles for publication (both English and Slovak) to Jednota Estates, 1011 Rosedale Ave, Middletown, PA 17057 or email editorjednota@yahoo.com. Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence,

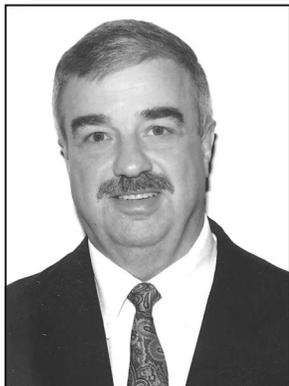
Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Thru From January 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008



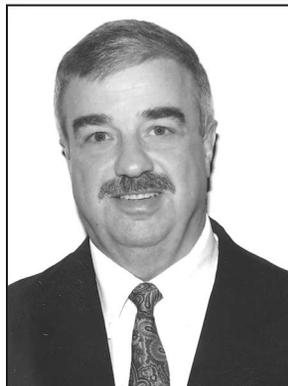
Kenneth A. Arendt
First Place



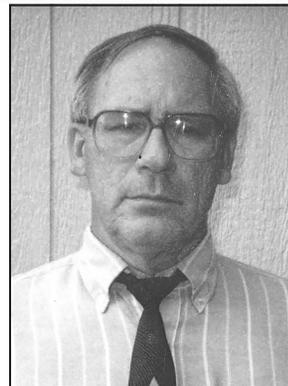
George A. Sprock
Second Place



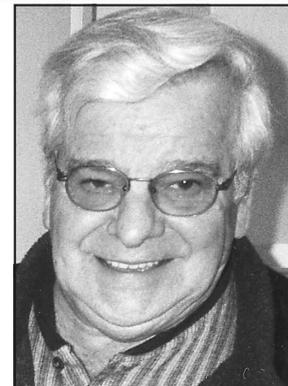
Robert Joseph Kopco
Third Place



Kenneth A. Arendt
First Place



Michael E. Lako
Second Place



George A. Sprock
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITY/IRA SALES

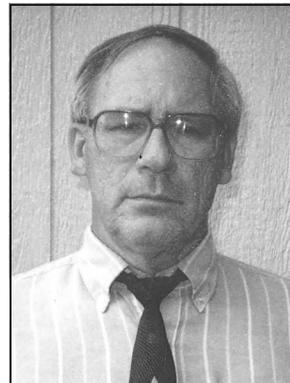
	Branch	Amount
Kenneth A. Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	\$242,361.35
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	\$146,748.35
Robert Joseph Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	\$139,410.97
Al Tipul, Columbia Station, Ohio	319	\$90,272.43
Thomas Hricik, Greensburg, Pennsylvania	181	\$45,356.34
Mary J. Kapitan, Edison, New Jersey	746	\$34,745.42
Rosemary Deliman, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania	417	\$30,000.00
Shirley A. Kallok, Levittown, Pennsylvania	857	\$30,000.00
Michael Leo Koval, Hazleton, Pennsylvania	3P	\$22,251.09
Kathleen M. Persun, Tarentum, Pennsylvania	831	\$22,000.00

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

	Branch	Total Points
Kenneth Arendt, Vermilion, Ohio	228	242
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	192
George A. Sprock, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	181	148
Robert Joseph Kopco, Independence, Ohio	24	138
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	135
Al Tipul, Columbia Station, Ohio	319	89
Loretta A. Dashner, Allentown, Pennsylvania	567	88
Michaelene T. Smolleck, Latrobe, Pennsylvania	312	74
Catherine Michlik, Streator, Illinois	6	69
Joseph J. Yuros, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	35	64



Michael J. Slovenkai
First Place



Michael E. Lako
Second Place



France Tarquinio
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

	Branch	Insurance Amount
Michael J. Slovenkai, Scranton, Pennsylvania	382	\$150,000
Michael E. Lako, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2	\$130,000
Frances Tarquinio, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania	329	\$120,000
Dorothy J. Petrus, Donora, Pennsylvania	670	\$95,489
Joseph F. Minarovich, Bridgewater, New Jersey	290	\$85,000
Audrey J. Balazik, Uniontown, Pennsylvania	367	\$75,000
Joseph J. Yuros, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	35	\$60,000
Joseph E. Rura, Coral, Pennsylvania	484	\$55,366
Henry J. Zack, Trumbull, Connecticut	19	\$50,000
John J. Mago, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania	600	\$50,000



SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION MID-YEAR ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT

Since 1978 the Slovak Catholic Federation has been conducting the SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal which begins each year in the month of February during the closest weekend to the Feast of SS. Cyril & Methodius. To date I am happy to report that \$30,686.30 has been collected to date. In its 30th year, this appeal has primarily been taken up in parishes in the United States and Canada of Slovak heritage. The appeal continues during the entire calendar year 2008. As we are all very much aware, the days of "ethnic parishes" are becoming a thing of the past. More and more Slovaks reside in different parts of the country and no longer claim to belong to a parish of Slovak heritage. For this reason may Slovaks may not have the opportunity to hear about, let alone participate in this Annual Appeal. If it were not for the Slovak Catholic Fraternal Societies and their publications, communication to American and Canadian Slovaks would not be possible. In recent years we have seen an increase in individual donations apart from the parish collections. Also most of the Slovak Fraternal Societies have also been making contributions to this collection from their National Board of Directors, along with a number of local branches, wreaths, assemblies, and lodges.

For as you know, this appeal assists the Church in Slovakia by supporting the training mission of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius in Rome, Italy (formally known as the Slovak Institute or *Ustav*). In addition, funds are distributed to those Religious Communities of both men and women which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Conference of Religious. These Communities being: Vincentian Sisters of Charity (*Ruzomberok*); Dominican Sisters (*Dunajska Luzna*); School Sisters of St. Francis (*Zilina*); Daughters of St. Francis (*Bratislava-Prievoz*); Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (*Secove and Presov*); Franciscan Friars Minor (*Bratislava*); and House of St. Benedict (*Bacurov*).

As various groups will be holding summer picnics along with several Fraternal National Conventions, I ask that consideration be given to kindly taking up a collection in support of the Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. In 2007 this Annual Appeal totaled around \$63,629.51.

Individuals, Groups, picnics, etc are all welcome to make a donation to this appeal, make all checks payable to: Slovak Catholic Federation and send directly to Dolores Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201.

I pray that Almighty God reward all of us who participate in the support of the Church in Slovakia through the Slovak Catholic Federation 29th Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal.



Kent-Dudince Sister City Tour

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association has scheduled their fourth European Heritage Tour of the Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Austria. Visits to Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava, Kosice and Kent's Sister City Dudince are being planned and organized.

The 14-day tour will start on September 23, 2008 departing from New York's JFK Airport and conclude on October 8, 2008 with departure from Budapest.

The group will be escorted by Kent State University Professor Emeritus Rudy Bachna, who has escorted three previous trips in 2000, 2003, and 2006.

Arrangements are being handled by International Travel Service of Lakewood, Ohio. Travel consultants Paul Hudak or Marta Kocian can be reached at 1-800-542-2487.

Individuals wishing to travel with the Kent-Dudince Sister City Association's group may also contact Rudy Bachna at 330/673-3255.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3- MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, will hold its Annual Picnic on Sunday, July 13, 2008, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Kordiak Park, 49th Avenue Northeast off of Central Avenue, N.E., Columbia Heights, Minnesota. A lunch will be served at no charge. There will also be games and races along with treats for the children. Come and enjoy an afternoon of socializing and fellowship.

Joseph Matlon, Publicity Chairman

BRANCH 5, 240, 263 & 419- OLYPHANT, NANTICOKE, DUPONT AND WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branches 5, 240, 263 and 419 will hold a joint Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, August 17, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Joseph Obester, 500 Brown Street, Apartment #316, Duryea, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend. A buffet will follow the meeting.

Joseph Obester, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6- STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 6, will sponsor a Pizza party for members up to age 18 on Saturday, August 2, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Pizza Hut, Streator, Illinois. For more information call Paul Chismar at 815/822-8851.

Branch 6 held a meeting on Sunday, July 6, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at 1406 North Baker Street, Streator.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 35- BRADDOCK, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 35, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Saturday, July 19, 2008, at 12:30 p.m. at the residence of Joseph Yuros, 15 Sumner Avenue, Forest Hills, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of a President and other lodge business.

Joseph Yuros, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75- SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 75, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, July 13, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at the residence of the President and Financial Secretary, Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of mid-year business topics. All members are requested to attend this semiannual meeting.

Ronald M. Anderson, President and Financial Secretary

BRANCH 290- RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 290, will hold a meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. Please try to attend as there are programs we need to discuss. Call Joe at 732/469-5256 after 6:30 p.m. for the location of the meeting.

Joseph Minarovich, Regional Director

BRANCH 320- STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Soci-

ety, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the next branch meeting on Sunday, July 13, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. Since lunch will be served, please call Fran at 724/929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 393- HANNASTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a Picnic and Meeting on Sunday, August 10, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Ann Nalevanko, 459 Front Street, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. All members and their families are invited to attend.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

BRANCH 410- UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, will hold a meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. at Meloni's Restaurant, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are encouraged to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording Secretary/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 430- SIMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 430, held a meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at the home of President Elizabeth M. Pisarcik.

Elizabeth M. Pisarcik, President

BRANCH 493-CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the BVM Society, Branch 493, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Saturday, July 26, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, 639 North Blackhawk Drive, Westmont, Illinois. A family style dinner will be served after the meeting. If you plan to attend, please contact Robert Tapak Magruder by July 18 at 773/505-0117 or 502/244-6643. Members from other FCSU lodges who attend will pay via separate checks.

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 581-GARY, INDIANA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 581, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, July 13, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at Pruzin's Funeral Home, 6360 Broadway, Merrillville, IN. On the agenda will be a discussion of new officers for 2009 and other business. We are planning a group outing to the Rail Cats game at the Gary Steel Yard in August. Don't forget to contact me on our 2 year Annuity at 4 1/2 percent. This beats the bank at 3/4 percent. Contact me at 219/926-2410.

George Kelchak

BRANCH 731- YOUNGSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, is planning a baseball outing to cheer on the Mahoning Valley Scrappers baseball team on Saturday, August 16, 2008, at the Eastwood Field, Niles, Ohio. The Scrappers will host the Jamestown Jammers at 7:00 p.m. At the game there will also be a tribute given to the World Middleweight Boxing Champion Kelly Pavlik.

Branch 731 members attending will re-

ceive a complimentary box seat ticket, hot dog, chips and soft drink. Nonmembers are also welcome to join us at a cost of \$13.00. The deadline for ticket orders is Friday, July 25, 2008. Please call Grace Kavulic at 330/539-4886 for a reservation.

Jim Bobby, Secretary

BRANCH 735- PORTLAND, OREGON

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 735, will hold its Annual Picnic on Sunday, July 27, 2008, from 12:00 noon until dusk at Oaks Park in the Sellwood area of Portland, Oregon. We invite members, guests and visitors in the area who are of Slovak descent to meet for good food and fellowship. Bring your favorite picnic basket and friends for an enjoyable afternoon. Food and beverages will be available at nominal prices. Amusement ride tickets can be purchased at discount prices from President Herb Hirst.

Meetings are held semiannually on the second Sunday of April and December at St. Patrick's Church Hall, N.W. 19th Avenue, Portland.

John Kovach, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738- MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael Society, Branch 738, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the VFW Hall, Whitaker Way, Munhall, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be a discussion of filling the position of Financial Secretary-Treasurer now vacant due to the death of Secretary-Treasurer Jeanette Guidish. There will also be a discussion of fraternal activities for the remainder of the year 2008. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

Robert Kosko, President

BRANCH 746- LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, cordially invites you to a Picnic on Sunday, August 17, 2008, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Linden Memorial Park, South Wood Avenue, Tremley Point. There will be a \$10.00 charge for nonmembers. For reservations and more information, please contact Mary Karch at 732/572-2331.

Branch 746 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall at Holy Family Church in Linden, New Jersey.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 831- TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Clement Society, Branch 831, has elected an interim President and Vice President at a recent Executive Board meeting. The new President is Matthew Kuniak and the Vice President is Melvin Persun. Their terms will run until nominations are held in November.

Kathleen Persun, Secretary

BRANCH 856- WASHINGTON, D.C., MARYLAND, AND VIRGINIA

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, Virginia. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District meeting, Policies and efforts to get new members, and the results of a branch survey requesting members' desires for branch activities. All members are urged to attend. For further information, call Stephen C. Matula at 703/671-3013 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703/860-1693.

Stephen C. Matula, President



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SOCIETY BRANCH 746

Linden, New Jersey

Cordially invites you to a

PICNIC

Sunday, August 17, 2008

Linden Memorial Park 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

South Wood Avenue, Tremley Point \$10.00 Nonmembers

Call Mary Karch at 732/572-2331 for reservations and information



Nation Honors Veterans On Memorial Day 2008

By John Karch

Despite the media's domineering coverage of domestic politics and economy as well as international terrorism, the nation's public, with reflection and tears, turned its attention to honoring our departed veterans. This year, the annual Memorial Day was on Monday, May 26. As usual, it was observed, not only in Washington, D.C., but throughout the 50 states, counties, and municipalities in various ways—in Churches, parades, concerts, local ceremonies, personal visits to memorials, and in homes.

For the second year in the nation's capital, during May 14-18, a festival of memorable films depicting heroism of U.S. Armed Forces were available for viewing and panels of experts were augmented by activists. On Friday, May 23, the Rolling Thunder arrived for the weekend, its XXI appearance for the National Memorial Day (See below). They ride through Washington annually to promote Veterans' benefits and keep alive the POW/MIA issue. Wreath-laying activities were staged at the World War II, Vietnam, and Air Force Memorials on Memorial Day.

PBS staged its National Memorial Day Concert the evening before Memorial Day, "The Memorial Service for the Entire Nation, to Honor the Service and Sacrifice of Our Men and Women in Uniform." Live on PBS from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol on Sunday, May 25, from 8:00 to 9:30 P.M. the Concert was broadcast on American Forces Radio and Television Network to some one million U.S. personnel abroad.

Special tributes this year were to the veterans of World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and the "sacred war memorials" built in their honor in the Nation's Capital. In a highly emotional segment, highly decorated WW II veteran and Actor Charles Durning, a 14-year participant in these Concerts, was recognized "for his bravery and sacrifice." For the third year, Co-hosts of these entertaining, meaningful, and popular Concerts were Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna.

In the morning of May 26, following a Wreath-Laying ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery, the Commander-in-Chief paid tribute to the troops. In Washington, D.C. the official National Memorial Day Parade began at 2 p.m. honoring men and women who have served in the military; it was shown on the Pentagon Channel and local TV stations; highlights included marching bands, floats, marchers (including hundreds in active service), youth groups, and military vehicles; Medal of Honor recipients were honored; and a military flyover was visible; buglers played taps at 3 p.m.; and notable participants included the 107-year-old last known remaining World War I Vet Frank W. Buckles, baseball's great pitcher Bob Feller, and the only Vietnam War Air Force "Ace" BG R. Steve Richie.

While coverage of the Memorial Day events by mainstream media can be criticized, the people's

observance can be applauded. One newspaper headline ("This Is Really The Only Place I Could Be Today") and photo (a woman, sitting on the ground at a gravesite, her head in her hands, two flags in the ground), with the caption "REMEMBERING, Local families, fields honor those loved ones lost in war" represent beautifully the this Day of Remembrance.

President Bush

On May 26, following the Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery, President George W. Bush commemorated the National Memorial Day with remarks, including the following quotations: "A few moments ago, I placed a wreath upon the tomb of three brave Americans who gave their lives in service to our nation. The names of these honored are known only to the Creator who delivered them home from the anguish of war—but their valor is known to all of us.

It is a solemn reminder of the cost of freedom that the number of headstones in a place such as this grows with every new Memorial Day. In a world where freedom is constantly under attack and in a world where our security is challenged, the joys of liberty are often purchased by the sacrifices of those who serve a cause greater than themselves....We remember Army Specialist Ronald Tucker of Fountain, Colorado....We remember two Navy SEALs—Nathan Hardy of Durham, New Hampshire, and Michael Koch of State College, Pennsylvania....The men and women of American armed forces perform extraordinary acts of heroism every single day. Like the nation they serve, they do not glory in the devastation of war. They also do not flinch from combat when liberty and justice are embattled....

I am humbled by those who have made the ultimate sacrifice that allow a free civilization to endure and flourish. It only remains for us, the heirs of their legacy, to have the courage and the character to follow their lead—and to preserve America as the greatest nation on earth and the last best hope for mankind. May God bless you and may God bless America."

Memorial Day Mass

The Fourteenth Annual National Memorial Day Mass for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. was celebrated on Sunday, May 18 in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Ministers of the Liturgy were: The Principal Celebrant and Homilist His Excellency The Most Reverend Timothy Paul Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop for the Military Services, U.S.A.; Their Excellencies The Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde, Bishop of Arlington, and The Most Reverend Francis X. Roque, Retired Auxiliary Bishop for the Military Services. All Military Services assisted as Lectors, Gift Bearers (Catholic War Veterans), and Petition Readers. Posting and Retiring of the Colors was

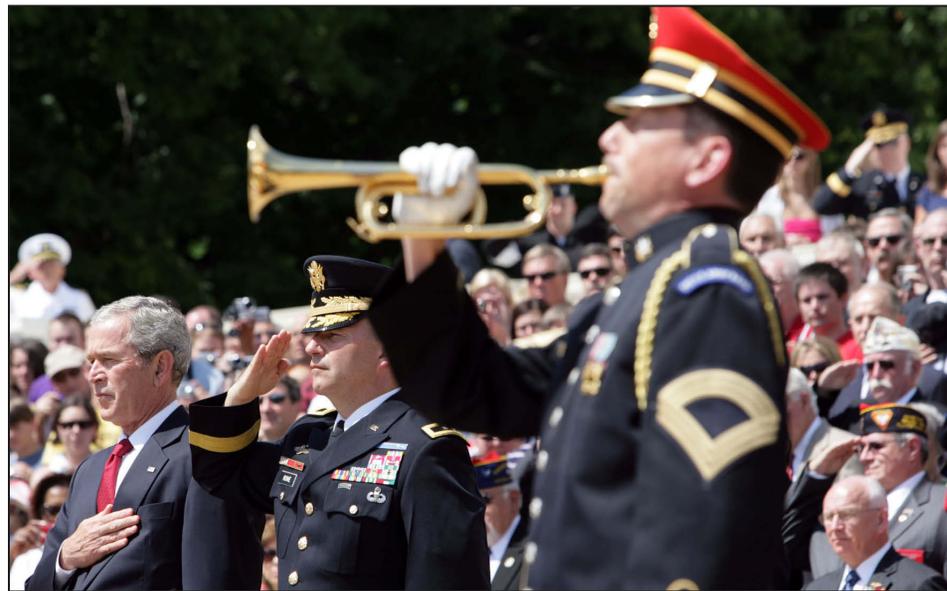


Photo credit by Chris Greenberg

President George Bush with Major Richard J. Rowe Jr., commander of the Military District of Washington, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

by Joint Service Color Guard and The National Anthem was sung. The Sounding of Taps followed the Solemn Blessing. Rev. Msgr. Walter R. Rossi is the Rector of the Basilica and among other valued personalities the Ushers are from the Knights of Columbus.

Homilist Archbishop Broglio

On this day of Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, Archbishop Broglio, appropriately and thoughtfully, honored the men and women of our Armed Services: "I find it significant that our gathering to remember all of those who served our Nation's Armed Forces, falls on a date honoring the Most Blessed Trinity, a fundamental truth for Christians everywhere. Looking for a way to understand this mystery, the Word of God turns to love as the most descriptive element of the Three Persons in one God.

We gather today to see that message of love... concretely expressed in the lives that we honor in this Memorial Day celebration of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. We recall with gratitude the service rendered by the long or short lives of those chaplains whose names are included in this year's program. We cannot forget the generous commitment fulfilled both by their predecessors and by all the men and women in uniform throughout the history of this Nation....

With prayers for those who have finished their early pilgrimage, we also reverence the service rendered by the men and women in uniform and their families today. We can offer no better monument to their memory than our pledge to strive earnestly and to engage faithfully in fruitful endeavors so that all people might enjoy their human rights and live in harmony."

Catholic War Veterans

Nationally and locally, the Catholic War Veterans (CWV) are very much the participants in honoring the men and women who have served and who are serving in U.S. armed forces. The cover of their April-June CATHOLIC WAR VETERAN publication was dedicated to Memorial Day 2008: Two color photos of saluting disabled veterans in wheelchairs and two photos of flag-waving civilians watching last year's parade; below the photos were these words: "To our men and women in uniform past, present and future . . . God Bless you . . . and thank you . . ."

As throughout the nation, our CWV Post 1652 in Falls Church, Virginia participated at the Arlington National Cemetery, two members carrying the U.S. and CWV Colors; the CWV National Commander Gerald Kryzneski and First Vice Commander Fred Schwally were Gift Carriers at the Shrine Mass and represented the CWV at the Arlington National Cemetery; Post 1652 at St. James Church; and at the city's parade and Ceremony (see below).

Rolling Thunder

Departing New Jersey and other states on Friday, May 23, the Rolling Thunder, with 86

Chapters and from abroad, numbering about 400,000, held a Candlelight Vigil at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") at 9:00 P.M. From 11:00 to 3:00 P.M. on Saturday they "Saluted Our Troops" staged at the Reflecting Pool across from the Lincoln Memorial with speakers and Musical Tribute. The banquet that evening included speakers and awards.

At 6:45 A.M. Sunday, May 25, they began departure for the Pentagon Parking Lot, conducting their own security; at Noon the motorcycles roared for their XXI Annual Memorial Day Rally to the Reflecting Pool in Washington, the Police assisting parking. Those coming from northern Virginia are met with a CWV banner as they cross the bridge. On the stage, Speakers were followed by a Musical Tribute—by the Vetz Band—to honor American war heroes.

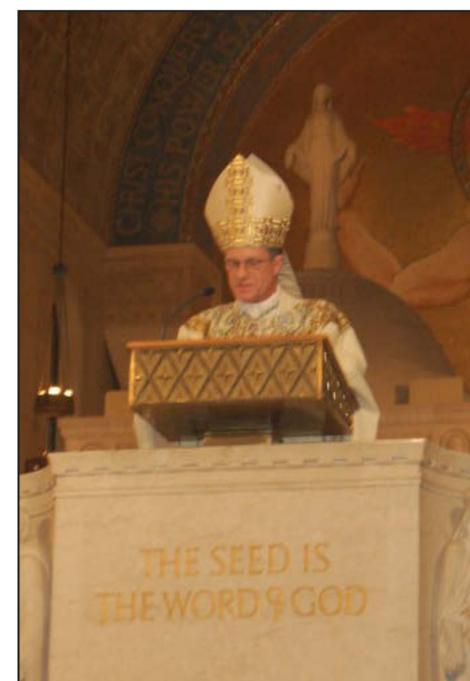
Just before 1 P.M., the leaders visited the White House for the 9th time. The President welcomed them at the South Lawn and told them "It's been a pleasure of my presidency to get to know the leaders of Rolling Thunder.... I am just so honored to welcome you back. I want to thank you and all your comrades for being so patriotic and loving our country as much as you do. Artie [Sgt Muller, Founder/Executive Director] is the main man and this is his Board of Directors who have continued to rally people around the country.... When people go to protest at the funeral of one of our brave soldiers that died in combat, Artie's folks are there to make sure that those protestors don't denigrate the moment. So you

continued on page 17



Photo credit by Chris Greenberg

Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery - May 26, 2008



Archbishop Timothy Paul Broglio at the Memorial Day Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.
The President asked the Vice President to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel, by the invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta gave a detailed written report (see enclosed) summarizing our investments for the month of April, 2008 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee.

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

The Treasurer led a discussion concerning current offers from our brokers. The Treasurer stated that we are closely following the guidelines established by F.C.S.U. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The Treasurer also led a discussion concerning the possibility of doing business with Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. The President stated that we would process the application as soon as possible.

MIDDLETOWN PRINTERY – UPDATE

President Rajec stated that Landmark, Inc. has been in contact regarding leasing our Printery building.

The President further led a discussion about leasing our Middletown property. He will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

The President led a discussion about the new printing company who will print our Jednota newspaper starting with the May 28, 2008 issue.

UNDERWRITING/MEDICAL EXAMS

The Executive Secretary stated that we are in the process of testing this new program, that all is going very well and is on schedule. He further stated that he is planning to have the testing completed a run by July 1, 2008.

BRANCHES

The President stated that he is still in the process of contacting our Branch Officers. Once this process is completed, we will start analyzing the results.

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the status of Branch stipends. He stated that a list of those Branches who did not qualify for the stipend, according to Section 4.05 of the Bylaws, was published in the Jednota newspaper.

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

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of April 2008

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$292,742.27
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 44,895.67
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.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the Executive Secretary's report. Motion carried.

The Executive Secretary also presented the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2008

and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

2010 CONVENTION

The Executive Secretary led a discussion regarding the information he is receiving from the convention planner about possible sites for our 2010 Convention. He will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our Sales Production Report in different Regions and answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee about the 2008 Membership Meet.

The Executive Secretary stated that he is in the process of working on the Conversion Program and hopes it will be in effect as of July 1, 2008.

The Vice President further led a discussion concerning seminars for 2008. He stated that he would conduct seminars in the upcoming months as follows:

- June 1, 2008 – New York
- August 17, 2008 – Cleveland and
- October 13 or 19, 2008 – Pittsburgh District

The Vice President stated that approximately 20 independent agents who are interested in becoming independent agents for the F.C.S.U. have contacted him. He stated further that he sent out contracts and sales kits to 12 potential independent agents. He will update the Executive Committee about his progress.

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

The Vice President led a discussion regarding radio ads and possibility of ads for local TV stations. He will update the Executive Committee as he gathers more information.

BOWLING AND GOLFING TOURNAMENTS 2008

The President led a discussion regarding our FCSU Golf Tournament, which will be held July 12 & July 13, 2008 at Tam O'Shanter Golf Club in Canton, Ohio. He and the Executive Secretary are planning to attend.

The President also stated that our Director of Fraternal Activities is in the process of obtaining bids for the 2009 Bowling and Golfing Tournaments.

REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar, to adjourn the meeting. The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

APRIL 2008 TREASURER'S REPORT

PREPARED BY – GEORGE F. MATTA

NATIONAL TREASURER

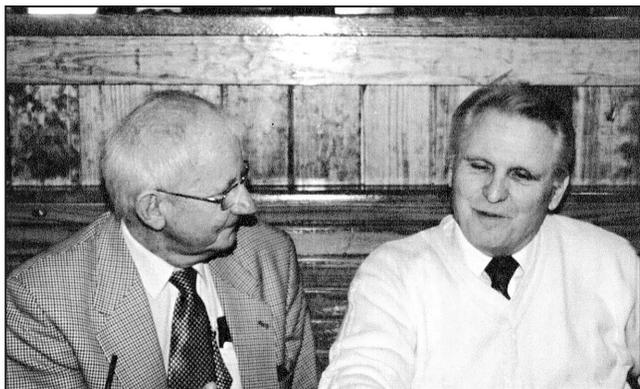
MERRILL LYNCH

AA2/AA	PRINCIPAL LIFE	6.00	04-15-20	100.00	6.00	300K
	CALLABLE 10-15-10					
Aa2/AA	WACHOVIA SEC.	5.85	01-16-18	98.625	6.037	300K
	NON CALL					
Aa2/AA	BARCLAYS BANK	6.05	12-04-17	99.25	6.153	300K
	NON CALL					
A2/A	PNC FUNDING	5.625	02-01-17	96.812	6.097	500K
	NON CALL					
Aa3/AA	GENWORTH	6.00	04-15-23	100.00	6.00	500K
	GLOBAL					
	CALLABLE 4-15-11					

FERRIS BAKER WATTS

AA/AA3	MORGAN	6.00	04-14-23	100.00	6.407	500K
	STANLEY					
	CALLABLE 4-14-11					

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association Host Delegation from Slovakia



Dr. Milos Matej, Advisor of Slovakia's Health Spas, and FCSU National President Andrew Rajec



Rudy Bachna, President of the Kent-Dudince Sister Cities Association (left) and FCSU National Secretary Kenneth Arendt.



L-R Piroaska Merai from the FCSU Home Office, Gabriela Bielikova, teacher from Dudince; and Stefan Pokluda, Mayor of Dudince.

The Kent –Dudince Sister City Association hosted a delegation from Dudince, Slovakia recently as part of the association's exchange program. In the group, which arrived in Cleveland on April 22, were Stefan Pokluda, Mayor of Dudince, Gabriela Bielikova, Principal and teacher at Dudince schools; Dr. Milan Kamensky, General Director of Diamant Health Spa; Dr. Milos Matej, former Director of Diamant Spa and current Advisor of Slovakia's Health Spas; and Mr. Lubomir Brozman, Director of Donavaly Hotels and Recreation Centers.

On April 23, 2008 the delegation was treated to a reception and lunch hosted by Mary Ann Johaneck, President of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. Following the lunch, the group was taken to the Slovak Institute at St. Andrew Abbey and given a tour by Director Andrew F. Hudak and Assistant Director Joseph Hornack.

On Friday, April 25, 2008, the Dudince group was welcomed at a reception in the FCSU Home Office

in Independence, Ohio by National President Andrew Rajec. The FCSU then hosted a lunch for the delegation at the Outback Steak House.

A highpoint of the delegation's visit was the Kent Sister Cities Fifth Annual Anniversary Banquet at the Kent Elks Club on Sunday, April 27. The delegation was also treated to a visit to Niagara Falls, shopping trips, and tours of Cleveland and other local points of interest. A special reception was held in their honor at the Rusty Nail Banquet Center which brought together officials from the City of Kent and where proclamations and gifts were exchanged. Members of area service clubs and the officers and members of Kent Dudince Sister Cities Association had the opportunity to meet and share fellowship with the special guests. The group departed Wednesday, April 30, tired, but enriched both mentally and socially having had the opportunity to visit the Cleveland area.



Members of the Dudince delegation consult with Andrew F. Hudak at the Slovak Institute.



Veterans

continued from page 15

are doing a lot for the country....And our troops appreciate you, the veterans appreciate you, and your President appreciates you." Mr. Muller: "Thank you, Mr. President."

The major function of the Rolling Thunder, Inc. is "to publicize the POW-MIA issues: To educate the public that many American prisoners of war were left behind...to help correct the past and protect future veterans from being left behind...." Also, the Rolling Thunder is "committed to help American veterans from all wars."

Falls Church Commemoration

Past coverage of National Memorial Day in-

cluded Falls Church, Virginia in which my wife Loretta and I are parishioners at St. James Church, the locale of my CWV Post 1652, and participants in its veterans activities. Its commemoration of official national holidays probably similar to other municipalities, thus are cited as an example of events throughout the nation.

For us, Catholic War Veterans, the beginning of May 26 was an 8:30 A.M. Mass at St. James Church, celebrated by Rev. Patrick L. Posey, Pastor. The CWV attend with U.S. & CWV flags and members in uniform. In his homily, Fr. Posey paid tribute to the veterans. Following Mass we hosted a modest reception. Two of our members represented the CWV at the Arlington National Cemetery Ceremony.

At 11 A.M., several of us—Post Commander

Marvin McFeaters, Past Commanders John Perka and I, attended the Falls Church Memorial Day Veterans Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial. Marvin is also Chairman of the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council (GFCVC), composed of two CWV Posts, 3 American Legion Posts, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and several Associated Organizations.

As in past years, former teacher Harry Shovlin, was the MC and opened the half-hour program with the Posting of Colors by the Honor Guard from the American Legion Post 130, followed by the National Anthem played by the Mary Ellen Henderson Sixth Grade Band, Connie Jenkins conducting. The Invocation, in absence of the scheduled Reverend, was by the MC, welcoming by Mayor Robin Gardner, Remembrance for MIAs by Commander Bob Smith, VFW Post 9274 and Tony Scerbo (Emeritus).

In his Invocation, the MC said: "Teach us your wisdom, O Lord. Shadows have clouded, crowded our sight. 'Give us hearts that see.' Set our loving free. Hear us and help us." Vietnam veteran McFeaters said that "Memorial Day is a respectful remembrance of those who have given their lives for our country." In that spirit, and as Chairman of GFCVC, he gave updates

on the Honor Roll on the wall of the Community Center of those killed in wars beginning with the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War and plans for those killed in Iraq Freedom.

The Chairman then introduced the Keynote Speaker Rick Terman of the Falls Church Historical Commission and of the GFCVC. Mr. Terman gave an informative and interesting address on "Falls Church and the Civil War."

The Ceremony concluded with the Presentation of Wreath in Memory of Departed Veterans by Frances Powell, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, escorted by John D. Johnson of American Legion Post 130; Prayer for the Departed Veterans; Taps by the Band; and Retiring of Colors by the Honor Guard of American Legion Post 130.

On this hot day, Falls Church had its own Memorial Day Parade, beginning at 2:00 P.M. As usual, the CWV had a float, with a CWV Banner, number 9 in the lineup. In its May 22-28 edition, the FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS had an insert detailing the day's extensive program. Mayor Gardner wrote a welcoming letter and U.S. Secretary of the Army Pete Green was to serve as the Grand Marshal. There was also the usual, popular Festival.



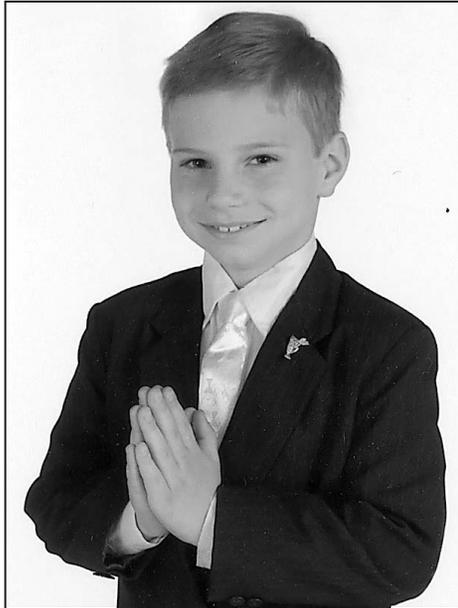
Memorial Day Mass

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

YOUTH ROUND-UP

Jason Andrew Yuknavich received his First Communion on May 10, 2008, at St. Basil's Church in Brecksville, Ohio. He is the son of Audrey and Bruce Yuknavich and the grandson of Joseph and Dolores Hornack of Independence, Ohio. Jason is a member of Branch 1 in Cleveland, Ohio. Jason will be entering the third grade at Chippewa Elementary School. He enjoys baseball, basketball, soccer, riding his bike and card collecting.



Laura Cerro

Laura Cerro, a member of Branch 857 in Levittown, Pennsylvania, graduated recently from Hammonton Middle School in Hammonton, New Jersey. She was the proud recipient of an award as an outstanding female student in mathematics and an outstanding student in the Renaissance program. Laura also received a Presidential excellence award and an award for academic excellence. Her school activities this past year included playing on the soccer team and a role in the school play, "Lucky Hudson". She spent the past summer at the Summer Institute for Gifted Children at Vassar. This summer the institute will be held in Princeton, New Jersey. She is also a gifted pianist and is attending classes in jazz, tap and modern dance.

Laura is the granddaughter of John Jakub of Branch 857, Levittown.

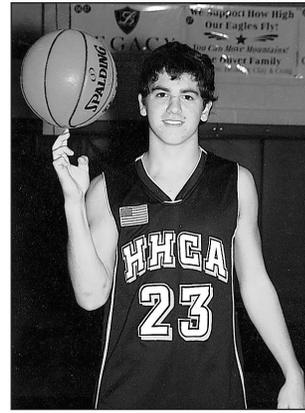


Ryan Jacob Soltis of Massillon, Ohio, received his First Holy Communion on May 3, 2008, in St. Paul's Catholic Church in Canton, Ohio.

Ryan is a second grader at Sauder Elementary School in Jackson Township and is the eldest son of Roger and Cherise Soltis. Roger Soltis is the 2007 Top Gun leading fraternal recommender.



Ryan Jacob Soltis holding his First Communion banner.



Zachary W. Lennox excelled in all three major sports of football, basketball and baseball.

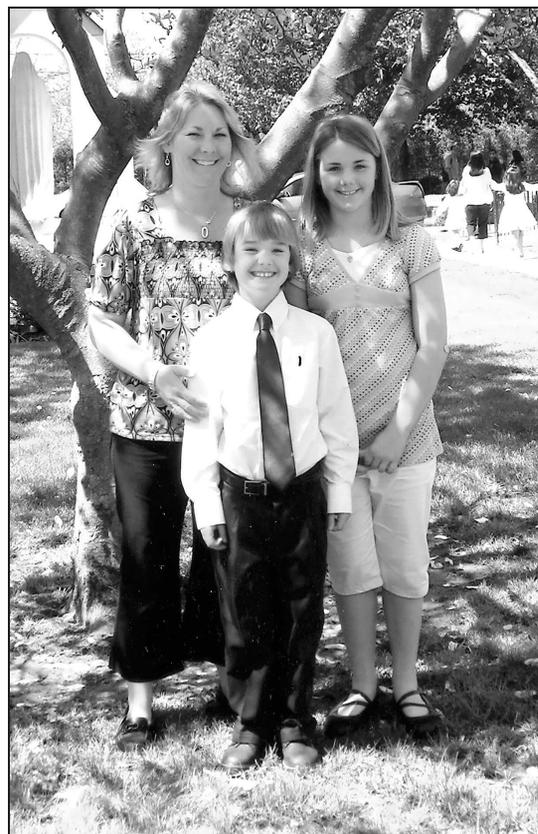
Zachary W. Lennox, a member of Branch 567 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, is a star athlete at Hilton Head Christian Academy in South Carolina. Zachary (6 feet, 175 pounds) just completed his sophomore year being an outstanding 3-sport athlete in football, basketball and baseball. He was named, "Mr. Defense" by his basketball coach. His team also won the regional title this season in baseball. Zachary was also named a Region All-Star. This summer Zachary will be going to three baseball camps, one in Florida, and one at Clemson and one at the University of Georgia.

Zachary is the grandson of William Micek, a prominent FCSU member and officer in Allentown.



Alayna Blasko shows off the Jednota Bear she received after being enrolled recently in the First Catholic Slovak Union. She named the bear Magenta and took her to pre-school class on "Teddy Bear Day". She described the Jednota Bear to her teacher this way: "My bear has a lot of necklaces and bracelets. She gets a tan. She comes to bed with me. I sleep with her all the time. She really, really is so funny she doesn't stop knocking me down. She wants to go out but I tell her no. She wants to play and play with me."

Alayna is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Blasko of Whiting, Indiana.



Christopher Pudill with his sister Alyssa and mother Jean Pudill.

Christopher Pudill received his First Holy Communion on May 11, 2008, in St. Mary's Church in Milford, Connecticut. His sister Alyssa made her First Communion in 2005. Christopher, Alyssa and their mother Jean Pudill and grandmother Irene Andrejko are all members of Branch 19 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. It was a beautiful day for his First Holy Communion and also for celebrating Mother's Day.

Slovenský piknik 3. augusta 2008 v Greenwich Point, CT

V nedeľu 3. augusta 2008 Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (SAKS) usporiada v poradí už ôsmy piknik v Greenwich Point, Connecticut. Začína od 11. hodiny ráno a končí vo večerných hodinách. Je to vynikajúce miesto (147 akrov) pri vode kde si možno zaplávať, hrať volejbal, futbal a iné hry. Usporiadatelia sa postarajú o jedlo, hudbu, pivo a iné osviežujúce (soft drinks) nápoje. Piknik sa môže konať aj v nepriaznivom počasí, lebo lavice na sedenie a podávanie jedál sú pokryté.

Vstupné pre dospelých je \$35.00; pre mládež od 6-18 rokov \$10.00; pre deti pod 6 rokov je vstup voľný. Rezervácie si treba zabezpečiť do 14. júla a súčasne poslať šek na túto adresu: S-ACC c/o Mr. S. Krčmár, 33 Weasel Drift Rd., West Paterson, N.J. 07424. Tel.: (973) 357 - 1209. Šek vystaviť na: S-ACC.

Ako sa dostať na piknik z New Yorku a Connecticut:

Zobrať 1-95 až po exit 5. Pri exit 5 vybočiť na pravo - rampa/svetlo. Pri nasledujúcom svetle zase vybočiť na pravo na SOUND BEACH AVE. Pokračovať po Sound Beach Ave. (na pravo je park) cez obchodnú a rezidenčnú štvrť až na koniec Sound Beach Ave. Na konci vybočiť na pravo na SHORE ROAD. Pokračovať po Shore Road cez zvýšenú plochu (Causeway) na Greenwich Point. Pri bráne treba ukázať dozorcovi ID foto. Len tí budú pripustení na piknik, ktorí budú mať zaistenú rezerváciu a budú na zozname SAKS.

Usporiadatelia úctivo pozývajú každého kto má záujem stráviť deň v prírode v príjemnej slovenskej spoločnosti.

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko plánuje

V októbri tohto roku Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko plánuje zorganizovať kultúrne podujatie z príležitosti 50. výročia čo usnul v Pánu Mikuláš Schneider Trnavský.

Menovaný bol pionierom slovenskej národnej hudby a zakladateľom slovenských umelých (artificial) piesní. Bol prvým skladateľom ktorý nebol amatérom, lebo nadobudol hudobné vzdelanie v tom čase v najlepších inštitúciách v Strednej Európe. Jeho celý život zasvätil slovenskej hudbe. Je oprávnené nazvaný "slovenským Schubertom".

Bližšie informácie o plánovanom podujatí budú uverejnené v slovenskej tlači.

Rudo L. Greguš

Na Floride otvorili honorárny konzulát SR

Miami (TASR) – Veľvyslanec SR v Spojených štátoch amerických Rastislav Káčer slávnostne otvoril 13. júna 2008 nový honorárny konzulát SR so sídlom v North Miami s pôsobnosťou pre štát Florida a uviedol do funkcie honorárnu konzulku pani Cecíliu Frances Rokusekovú. Dr. C.F. Rokuseková má za sebou dlhú a úspešnú akademickú kariéru. V súčasnosti pôsobí na súkromnej univerzite Nova Southeastern University v North Miami.

Na slávnostnom otvorení konzulátu sa zúčastnilo asi 150 hostí, medzi ktorými boli predstavitelia samosprávy na čele so starostom North Miami Kevinom Burnsom, predstavitelia štátu Florida, členovia konzulárneho zboru Floridy, zástupcovia podnikateľskej komunity, akademických kruhov a krajanov. Predstavitelia mesta odovzdali veľvyslancovi R. Káčerovi symbolický kľúč od brány mesta North Miami. Veľvyslanec Káčer pri tejto príležitosti novej honorárnej konzulke zaželal veľa úspechov v jej budúcich aktivitách, ktoré budú zamerané najmä na rozvoj kultúrnych vzťahov, programov vzdelávacej výmeny a vzťahom na rastúci potenciál ekonomiky Slovenska aj na rozvoj obchodných vzťahov. Otvorenie konzulátu vysoko ocenila početná slovenská krajská komunita.

SR má v USA 11 konzulátov vedených honorárnymi konzulmi, ktorí pôsobia v 23 amerických štátoch. Hlavnou úlohou honorárnych konzulov je podpora politických, ekonomických, vedeckých a kultúrnych vzťahov medzi SR a USA.



Bojnický zámok

V Bojnickom zámku splnili posledné želanie grófa Pálfiho

Bojnica (TASR) – V Bojnickom zámku po sto rokoch splnili posledné želanie ostatného šľachtického majiteľa zámku, grófa Jána Pálfiho. Do hrobky pod zámockou kaplnkou, kde je pochovaný, umiestnili na provizórny oltár sochy Panny Márie, Jána Krstiteľa a Krista na kríži.

Ide o verné kópie zreštaurovaných gotických diel z konca 15. storočia od neznámeho autora. Pre grófa ich zakúpil majiteľ viendsej umeleckej firmy Andreas Coli a podľa želania majiteľa zámku mali byť umiestnené v hrobke, čo sa však doteraz nestalo. Po rokoch ich objavili v depozite značne poškodené. Ako informoval riaditeľ múzea Ján Papco, zreštauroval ich a kópie vyrobil domáci reštaurátor a rezbár Radoslav Oboňa. Originály môžu návštevníci vidieť v expozícii. Sú príliš vzácne na to, aby mohli byť vo vlhkej hrobke, preto do nej umiestnili spomínané kópie. V zámku si totiž v týchto dňoch pripomínajú 100. výročie smrti grófa Pálfiho, ktorý sa zaslúžil o prestavbu bývalého nevhľadného hradu na romantický zámok v neogotickom štýle.

V zimnej záhrade po prvý raz pri tejto príležitosti vystavili aj zreštaurovaný hrací stolík na hazardnú hru tivolí pochádzajúci z pôvodného inventára zámku. Je dôkazom, že šľachta sa hazardu v minulosti rada oddávala. Súčasťou spomienky na grófa bola aj zádušná omša, ktorá sa uskutočnila 12. júna večer v zámockej kaplnke.

Americký Starbucks chystá expanziu v Európe

Londýn (TASR) – Najznámejší americký reťazec kaviarní Starbucks sa chystá otvoriť v Európe ďalšie pobočky. Umožní mu to dohoda s britskou spoločnosťou SSP, ktorá má licenciu na predaj nápojov a potravín pre cestujúcich v Európe. Starbucks v priebehu troch rokov otvorí viac ako 150 prevádzok na letiskách a železničných stanicách vo viacerých európskych krajinách. Americká spoločnosť sa rozhodla pre ďalšiu expanziu na starom kontinente, aby si nahradila straty na americkom trhu.

Populárna sieť kaviarní vlni v novembri oznámila, že prvýkrát v USA zaregistrovala pokles počtu zákazníkov. Tento trend však pokračuje a núti reťazec, aby hľadal odbyt v zahraničí. Šéf Starbucksu Howard Schultz je presvedčený, že dohoda so SSP upevní pozíciu reťazca v Európe, vrátane kľúčových trhov, ako sú Nemecko, Británia a Francúzsko. V novembri 2007 Starbucks znížil aj prognózu zisku a tržieb na tento fiškálny rok. Pod úbytok zákazníkov v USA sa podľa kaviarenskej siete podpísali rastúce ceny potravín a energií. Vo fiškálnom roku 2008 reťazec plánuje otvoriť 2,500 nových prevádzok, čo je o 100 menej, ako mal pôvodne v pláne. Informoval o tom spravodajský server BBC.

Vychádza kniha Benedikta XVI. o apoštoloch

Bratislava (TASR) - Slovenské katolícke vydavateľstvo Dobrá kniha ponúka v týchto dňoch čitateľom novú knihu z pera hlavy katolíckej cirkvi Benedikta XVI. s názvom Apoštoli a prví učeníci Ježiša Krista. Dielo vychádza pri príležitosti nadchádzajúceho začiatku Roka sv. Pavla a sviatku apoštolov sv. Petra a Pavla - 29. júna. Benedikt XVI. v 176-stránovej knihe uvažuje o počiatkoch cirkvi a vysvetľuje jej základnú štruktúru, ktorá sa plynutím času ani nemení, ani neopotrebuje. Publikácia sa začína sériou katechéz, ktoré čerpajú z tajomstiev cirkvi. Autor sa potom zastavuje pri ustanovení Dvanástich apoštolov a ich službe spoločenstvu a pravde. Ústredná a najrozsiahlejšia časť pápežovho diela je venovaná predstaveniu jednotlivých apoštolov so svojráznymi charakteristikami každého z nich, opisom ich osobnej skúsenosti s Kristom a najvýznamnejších udalostí z ich života. Úvahy o prvotnej cirkvi uzatvárajú profily ďalších osobností, mužov i žien, ktoré zohrali v histórii cirkvi významnú úlohu, informuje Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska

(TK KBS).

Zavedenie meny euro na Slovensku

(ŠÚ SR uskutočnil v dňoch 1. - 6. júna 2008 prieskum verejnej mienky na vzorke 1 104 respondentov.)



Graf č. 2 Zavedenie meny euro na Slovensku. ŠÚSR uskutočnil v dňoch 1. - 6. júna 2008 prieskum verejnej mienky na vzorke 1,104 respondentov. Uved'te, prosím, čo pre vás osobne bude znamenať zavedenie meny euro na Slovensku. (údaje v percentách) TASR – 26. jún 2008

Múzeum slovenských rozprávok v Drienčanoch

*Kde bolo, tam bolo, za siedmimi horami a siedmimi dolinami,
kde sa voda sypala a piesok sa lial, bolo raz jedno zakliate mesto ...*

Tento rok si pripomínáme 180. výročie narodenia Pavla Emanuela Dobšinského (1828-1885), jednej z najvýraznejších osobností slovenského kultúrneho diania. P. Dobšinský je známy ako spisovateľ, národný buditeľ, zberateľ ľudových povestí, zvykov, povier, porekadiel a rozprávok. Plody jeho literárnej a zberateľskej činnosti sa stali neodmysliteľnou súčasťou slovenského kultúrneho dedičstva. Jeho dielo bolo preložené do 52 svetových jazykov.

S menom P. Dobšinského sú nerozlučne späté Drienčany (www.driencany.sk), obec ležiaca neďaleko Rimavskej Soboty. V Drienčanoch P. Dobšinský 24 rokov pôsobil ako evanjelický farár, zberateľ ľudovej slovesnosti, spisovateľ, rozprávkar. Týchto 24 rokov strávených na fare v Drienčanoch, venovaných zberateľskej a národopisnej práci, predstavuje vrchol jeho tvorivého úsilia.

V Drienčanoch dodnes stojí kostol v ktorom kázal, prihovárал sa k ľudu, vlieval mu silu, lásku k rodu, mravnosť a dôveru k večným zákonom. Tu, na driencanskom cintoríne našiel miesto svojho posledného odpočinku.

Obec Drienčany aktívne žije spomienkou na P. Dobšinského. V obci sa nachádzajú viaceré miesta pripomínajúce tohto veľkého národovca. V prvom rade je to pamätná evanjelická fara, v ktorej P. Dobšinský žil a tvoril 24 rokov.

V roku 1995 bola na záchranu schátratej fary založená nadácia Pavla Dobšinského. Jej cieľom bolo zachrániť neobývanú budovu fary. Vďaka obetavému úsiliu obyvateľov Drienčan, nespočetným hodinám dobrovoľnej práce a pomocou peňazí získaných z darov a zo zbierok, sa faru podarilo zachrániť. Bola opravená strecha a budova bola z časti omietnutá. Pri 180. výročí narodenia P. E. Dobšinského (16. 3. 1828 - 2008) MO Matice slovenskej s obcou Drienčany vyhlásili celoslovenskú zbierku na dokončenie rekonštrukcie fary a na inštalovanie stálej expozície diela P. Dobšinského. Rekonštruovaná fara by sa mala stať sídlom "Múzea slovenských rozprávok", jediného svojho druhu a jedinečného svojím zameraním na Slovensku.

Čo všetko treba ešte urobiť, aby v Drienčanoch vzniklo "Múzeum slovenských rozprávok"?

V prvom rade treba dokončiť rekonštrukciu fary, t.j. rekonštrukciu vonkajších a vnútorných omietok klasickými postupmi - s dodržaním historického vzhľadu. Ďalej treba vytvoriť predpoklady pre nainštalovanie stálej expozície Dobšinského života a diela do presklených pultových vitrín. Vybavenie počítačovou a telekomunikačnou technikou. Upraviť okolie fary, prístupovú cestu. Predpokladaná výška nákladov, potrebných na dokončenie



Dobová fotografia P. Dobšinského.



Evanjelická fara v Drienčanoch, súčasný stav.

rekonštrukcie fary a na "naštartovanie" prevádzky "Múzea slovenských rozprávok" projektant rozpočítal na 2,250,000.- SKK. Obec vlastné prostriedky na tak rozsiahle investície nemá, preto je odkázaná aj na finančnú podporu zo zbierok. Budeme Vám veľmi povďační, keď svojou veľkodušnosťou pomôžete realizovať projekt Múzeum slovenských rozprávok v Drienčanoch.

Vaša finančná podpora - v akejkoľvek výške - pomôže zachrániť a zveľadiť túto jedinečnú kultúrnu pamiatku. Ďalšie informácie poskytuje Obecný úrad Drienčany. Starostka: Viera Gregorčoková; Sekretariát: Soňa Giertliová; Tel.: 011-421-47-56 96 224; E-mail: ocu@driencany.sk; www.driencany.sk.

Adresa banky: Všeobecná úverová banka (VÚB), Francisciho 1, 97913 Rimavská Sobota, Slovak Republic; Tel.: 011-421-47-4695 472; 47/5755 312; Fax: 011-421-47/56 31 213; E-mail: fp.rimsobota@vub.sk

Čipkárky zo Španej Doliny pripravujú prázdninovú školu tradičných techník

Na celom svete sú známe čipky zo Španej Doliny, ktoré tu robia hlavne ženy, ale aj niektorí muži. Čipkárok na rozdiel od iných tradičných ľudoumeleckých činností pribúda, pretože obec Špania Dolina, Stredoslovenské osvetové stredisko (SOSBB) a Stredoslovenské národopisné združenie v Banskej Bystrici každoročne pripravujú prázdninovú školu tradičných techník. Ako uviedla Magdaléna Slovková SOSBB, aj v tomto roku sa v rámci 3. ročníka paličkovania španodolínskej čipky môžu záujemcovia a prihlásiť v Stredoslovenskom osvetovom stredisku v Banskej Bystrici až na dva turnusy, ktoré sa uskutočnia v júli. Tvorivých dielní sa môže zúčastniť každý od 12 rokov bez ohľadu na povolanie.



V tejto starej baníckej obci vyrábajú čipky s veľkou dávkou tvorivej fantázie a sú charakteristické rôznymi geometrickými vzormi a vpletanou niťou. Ženičky ich robia často sediac na priedomí, bez predkreslenia, spamäti tak, že špendlíkmi vypichujú do uhlopriečky siete. Každý z turnusov predstavuje päť dní výučby. Čipkárska škola začala pôsobiť v Španej Doline už v roku 1883 a čipky dodnes ženy v obci vyrábajú aj na priame želanie návštevníkov.

Špania Dolina leží len desať kilometrov od Banskej Bystrice na juhu Nízkych Tatier v nadmorskej výške 728 metrov. Najstaršia známa písomná zmienka o obci je z roku 1263, kde sa spomína ako Montana. V minulosti bola slávna po celej Európe ako jeden z najväčších producentov medi s vysokým obsahom striebra, ktorá sa tu ťažila už do úsvitu doby bronzovej. Meď putovala do Nemecka, Poľska, Francúzska, Talianska, Španielska a do iných štátov Európy. K dávny historickým remeselníckym tradíciám patrila už zaniknutá výroba cínového, medeného a smaltovaného riadu známeho od 16. storočia. Ojedinelé kusy sa dnes nachádzajú v európskych múzeách. Zaniknutú banícku tradíciu pripomínajú stĺne, obrovské haldy nad obcou, klopačka zo 16. storočia, ale aj malebné banícke drevené domy zo 17. a 18. storočia. Z architektonických pamiatok je najpozoruhodnejší kostol s farou, zvonnicou, kaplnkou a baštou. Tento areál opevnený hradbami vybudovali v prvej polovici 16. storočia. Situovaný je na prirodzenej vyvýšenine a vidieť ho

takmer z každého miesta v obci. Ku kostolu vedie z námestia úzke kryté drevené schodište so 162 schodmi. Španiu Dolinu pre jej jedinečnosť vyhlásili za Pamiatkovú rezerváciu ľudovej architektúry už v roku 1979.

Farár Pucher pomáha Rómom zo slovenskej obce Hostice

Graz (TASR) – O najnovšom projekte VinziPasta pomoci občanom rómskej národnosti z obce Hostice v okrese Rimavská Sobota, ručnej výrobe cestovín z domácich vajec v spolupráci s firmou Toni's Freilandeiern, informoval v štajerskej metropole Grazi katolícky kňaz Wolfgang Pucher, označovaný aj za farára bezdomovcov, respektíve chudobných. Tento muž sa už 10 rokov usiluje aktívne pomáhať slovenským Rómom, aby našli prácu vo svojej vlasti a nemuseli sa tak objavovať na uliciach Grazu v pozícii žobrákov. Rómovia sú najprenasledovanejšou minoritou v Európe. Sú diskriminovaní a pohŕda sa nimi, konštatoval katolícky farár podľa agentúry APA. Súčasne zdôraznil, že spomínaná kooperácia by im mala vo vlasti poskytnúť isté príležitosti na sebarealizáciu.

V súčasnosti vyrába 14 rómskych žien z Hostíc asi 1,000 balení cestovín mesačne. Ich produkcia sa následne predáva v 12 filiálkach siete Spar a štyroch predajniach siete Inter-spar. Projekt, ktorý pod rovnakým názvom odštartoval ešte v apríli 2007, má nový prvok v podobe spolupráce s firmou Toni's Freilandeier. Jej výkonný šéf Anton Hubmann v polovici júna pripomenul, že vajíčka sa producentkám predávajú za cenu obvyklú na Slovensku, pričom perspektívne by výrobný proces mal namiesto jednej miestnosti prebiehať v plánovanej cestoviniarni, na výstavbu ktorej je už k dispozícii odkúpený pozemok. V Hosticiach by mala vzniknúť v budúcnosti aj ekologická slepačia farma. Ako uviedol predstaviteľ spoločnosti VinziWerken Michael Bachler, okrem Rómiok na výrobe nikto nezarába ani cent. Každá zo žien dostáva balenia po 77 centov, takže si pri produkcii 10 balení denne môže podstatne vylepšiť sociálnu situáciu. Zvyšok finančných prostriedkov sa venuje na nákup prímies a obalovín. Projekt upriamuje pozornosť na situáciu Rómov a likviduje predsudky typu "Rómovia nechcú pracovať", konštatuje sa v správe rakúskej agentúry APA.

Andrew Joseph Trojcek vo večnosti

Nekrológ prednesený synom Jozefom Trojčákom počas zádušnej omši za zosnulého

Andrew Joseph Trojcek sa narodil 1. augusta 1926 v Malej Vieske na Slovensku. Táto obec je približne taká veľká ako Hummelstown a nachádza sa len pár kilometrov od Košíc. Košice sú mesto asi také veľké ako Pittsburgh, pričom do Malej Viesky sa z nich možno dostať vlakom alebo úzkou a kľukatou cestou.

V mladosti pracoval na poli, kde sa staral o kone. V období jeho dospievania zároveň vrcholila druhá svetová vojna. V tom čase sa často spolu s priateľmi vydávali za zostrelými lietadlami, aby si vzali rádiá a mohli počúvať stanicu BBC. Práve vtedy vznikla jeho vášeň pre spravodajstvo a komunikáciu.

Andy zažil krutosti vojny. Opisoval časy, keď jeho dedinou prechádzali Nemci. Brali ľudom hodinky, šperky, hospodárske zvieratá a zaviedli nové poriadky. Oveľa horšie to však bolo, keď prišli Rusi – všetko ničili, útočili na ženy a jeho blízkych obrali o akúkoľvek vieru. Povolali ho do armády, mal sa stať členom sovietskej tankovej divízie. Čoskoro sa rýchlo spolu s ďalšími svojimi priateľmi vydal na cestu k slobode – plačúcu mamu pobožkal na rozlúčku a svojmu otcovi, ktorý zomrel o niekoľko rokov neskôr po perzekúcii za útek syna, mohol len zamávať.

Otec prešiel za hranice Slovenska, dostal sa do Maďarska a nakoniec do Nemecka, kde niekoľko týždňov pracoval v pracovnom tábore. Robotníkom tam dávali jesť suchý chlieb namočený do rybacieho oleja. To bol dôvod prečo už nikdy viac nemal chuť na žiadne ryby – ich zápach nemohol zniesť.

Nakoniec sa vydal na cestu loďou do Ameriky. V New Yorku zistil, že v Spojených štátoch je príliš veľa prisťahovalcov, no uvedomil si, že Kanada potrebuje mladých mužov ochotných ťažko pracovať.

Dostal sa do oblasti Toronta, kde objavil slovenskú katolícku komunitu a s jej členmi sa rýchlo spriatelil. Začal pracovať ako pomocník na farme, vediac že takto bude mať aspoň vždy prístup k potrave. Potom sa začal venovať stavebníctvu. Vďaka svojej pracovnej morálke a láske k matematike dostal prácu ako ocelársky majster pri budovaní niekoľkých vysokých stavieb. Práve to považoval za svoj najväčší úspech – napriek tomu, že sotva hovoril po anglicky, poverili ho v tomto novom svete takou zodpovednou úlohou. Jeho kariéru v stavebníctve však ukončila ostrá hádka, počas ktorej do neho spolupracovník hodil sekeru, no netrafil ho.

Bol pripravený na niečo nové.

Vedel, že kľúčom k úspechu v novej krajine je naučiť sa hovoriť našim jazykom. A tak sa začal učiť angličtinu pri sledovaní filmov Gena Autryho a „Perryho Masona“. Vždy mal rád westerny.

V tomto čase sa zúčastnil na svadbe, kde sa jeho život navždy zmenil – stretol lásku svojho života, Annu. Mojm starým rodičom Martinovi a Mary, ktorých sme vždy

volali po slovensky dedko a babka, sa hneď zapáčil. Anna a Andy sa zosobášili v Pittsburghu v roku 1958. Prestažovali sa do Kanady, no rozhodli sa, že ich domovom bude Pittsburgh.

Andy navštevoval Carnegie Tech, kde získal vzdelanie na úrovni strednej školy. Rád si spomínal na to, ako uviazol v rozsiahlej dopravnej zápche, ktorá zachvátila Pittsburgh, keď v roku 1960 Pirates porazili Yankees. Celá rodina sme spolu počúvali rádio, keď Franco Harris chytil čistý príjem a jeho skok odštartoval úspešnú éru jeho tímu Pittsburgh Steelers.

No do tejto farnosti (katolícky Kostol siedmich bolestí v Middletowne) sa dostal vďaka polygrafickému priemyslu – svoje anglické a slovenské zručnosti mohol spojiť v tlačiarenskej spoločnosti Jednota, kde pracoval ako sadzáč na linotype, čudnom monštre z liatiny taviacom písmená z oliva a mosadze, ktoré bolo technologickým vrcholom až do polovice 70. rokov, keď Andy podporil prechod na počítače. Veľmi rád sádzal dvojjazyčné evanjeliá na príslušný týždeň a oznámenia o pohreboch pre Franka Matincheka.

Jeho druhý bratranec Gerry Gaydos z Kanady povedal: „Keď Andy našej rodine začiatkom 70. rokov ukázal tlačiareň Jednota, malo to vplyv na moje rozhodnutie študovať grafický dizajn, ktorý sa stal vášňou môjho života“.

Andy si v Middletowne rýchlo našiel priateľov – najmä v tomto kostole. Vďaka svojim tesárskym zručnostiam mohol začiatkom sedemdesiatych rokov vyrezať pre Fr. Marinaka kostolné lavice a bol v prvej skupine eucharistických služobníkov.

Otec sa rozhodol, že sa presťahujeme do nášho bytu v nehnuteľnosti spoločnosti Jednota, pretože vedel, že pre mňa ako dieťa to bude to najlepšie prostredie. Mal veľmi blízky vzťah so sestrami Sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ktoré v susedstve viedli sirotinec – no veľmi silné puto sa vytvorilo medzi ním a benediktínskym kaplánom Fr. Andrewom Sylvesterom, ktorý sa stal jeho duchovným radcom.

Fr. Sylvester mal veľmi silnú predvídavnosť, čo sa týka budúcnosti – etikety na potravínach čítal už v čase, keď ešte nikoho nezaujímali a bál sa vybudovania ostrova Three Mile Island. Andymu povedal aj to, aby si kúpil nehnuteľnosť. Otec sa náhodou dostal k 18 akrom dreva a všetci traja sme z neho postavili dom a neskôr aj tlačiareň. Energetická kríza z konca 70. rokov utvrdila otca v tom, že v dreve máme fantastický obnoviteľný zdroj tepla, a tak nás najviac spojili spoločné zážitky z čias, keď sme rezali a štiepili drevo na kúrenie. Dokonca aj minulý týždeň, keď mu jeho stav dovolil pracovať v našom dvojčlennom dreverubačskom tíme, som zistil, že mi naostril píly a navyše sme sa rozprávali o štiepení kôp dreva. V lese sme spolu vysadili ovocné stromy a veľa ľudí si pochutilo na mamičom jablkovom koláči.

Neustále obavy zo zatvorenia tlačiarne Jednota viedli otca k tomu, aby začal zbierať staršie tlačiarenské stroje a mohol nás jedného dňa podporovať. Jednota však existovala ešte aj v časoch, keď odišiel do dôchodku a on rýchlo zistil, že moja vášeň pre komunikáciu sa spája s hudobnou a zvukovou produkciou. A tak sme začali budovať progresívne štúdiá.

Chvalabohu, Andy mal hlboký spánok. Počas našich skúšok a porád driemal neďaleko drevenej pece, len niekoľko stôp od tlúčicich bubnov. Darilo sa nám, a tak sme sem priviedli jeho brata Joea a bratranca Stanleyho, aby vytvorili plnohodnotné štúdio. Otec mal plány vo svojej hlave a všetky jeho konštrukcie boli viac než pevné. Mal veľa inovatívnych a skvelých nápadov – raz s mamou preniesli niekoľko trámov dlhých dvadsať stôp tak, že ich uložili na kolieskové korčule.

Na štúdio bol nesmierne hrdý – najmä na hlavnú zvukovú miestnosť. Žartoval, že stený sú krivé preto, lebo tesár, ktorého sme si najali, bol opitý, pritom v skutočnosti boli krivé v záujme čo najlepšej akustiky. Páčilo sa mu, že 8 zvukových difúzerov, ako aj veľké police na knihy strategicky zavesené na stenách, niesli mená Otec, Syn, Duch Svätý, Viera, Nádej, Milosrdenstvo, Trpezlivosť a Sloboda. Naším klientom sme povedali – ste obklopení dobrými vecami – zvyšok je na vás.

Takže ako zhrnúť život môjho otca, ktorý je späť s 3 krajinami, ktoré hlboko miloval – najmä jeho návrat domov na Slovensko, kde sme s mojou manželkou Lynne strávili pekné chvíle v spoločnosti viac ako 30 príbuzných?

Dovoľte mi, aby som použil jeho obľúbenú filmovú sériu a načasovanie ani nemohlo byť lepšie – Dobrodružstvá Indianu Jonesa – filmy pre celú rodinu. Tešil sa na 4. pokračovanie.

V prvom filme sa stretávame s hrdinom Indym, ktorý čelí rovnakému nepriateľovi, ako čelil môj otec – takže keď vidíte v očiach Harrisona Forda strach pri slovách „nacisti – nenávidím ich“ – môžete si domyslieť, ako sa to otca dotýkalo. No jeho hlboká úcta k Bohu sa prejavila na konci filmu, keď sa otvorila Archa zmluvy a Indy vykrikoval – „nepozerajte sa na to“. Otec mal veľmi veľkú úctu k sile Všemohúceho.

V druhom filme s názvom Chrám skazy sa stretávame s novou krajinou a novým zlom. Šťastný koniec, keď sa deti vracajú k svojim rodinám, mi pripomína otcovo nadšenie pre mladých – budúcnosť cirkvi a každej zdravej organizácie.

No Andyho život je ako „T“ definovaný v treťom filme – Posledná krížová výprava (Pátranie po svätom grále). Otec mal rád filmy o Jamesovi Bondovi a bol nadšený, keď zistil, že Sean Connery hrá Andyho otca. Určite pochopíte, že sa mu páčila predsta-



Andrew Joseph Trojcek

va, že skutočný grál je jednoduchý drevený pohár stolára.

No medzi životom môjho otca a životom Indianu Jonesa sú 2 zásadné rozdiely. Andy zostal navždy verný Anne, láske svojho života – bolo to evidentné minulý týždeň počas omše pre všetky páry oslavujúce svoje 50. výročie. Takého šťastného sme ho ešte nevideli.

Druhým rozdielom je otcovo pátranie – on nehľadal len svätý grál – hľadal aj to, čo bolo v tomto pohári – telo a krv nášho Spasiteľa. Veľa hodín strávil meditáciami v Eucharistickej kaplnke v Palmyre, kde sa modlil za úmysly mnohých ľudí. Často sa stalo, že som mu povedal o tom, že niektorý priateľ alebo klient je chorý a o pár minút si nasadil klobúk a odišiel, aby bol s Pánom.

A rovnako ako Indyho otca ranil výstrel, aj otec trpel len krátko. Keď sme zavolali z nemocnice (v piatok 23. mája 2008, aby nám oznámili, že dýcha čoraz ťažšie – zavolať som mame a ona povedala: „Snívalo sa mi, že otec sa zúčastnil prijímania.“ Utekal som do nemocnice a našiel som ho mŕtveho – na večný odpočinok odišiel tesne pred mojm príchodom o 6:45 ráno – čas, kedy sa v našej štvrti konala prvá omša, na ktorej bol môj priateľ John Kelly, ktorý mi povedal – „I've got you covered“.

Kristov pohár vyliečil Indyho otca.

– Telo Kristovo, ktoré otec prijal hodinu pred tým, ako v stredu odpadol, ho pripravilo na poslednú cestu do svojho nového domova v nebi.

Každý, kto za tie desaťročia poznal môjho otca, vie, že tvrdo pracoval a mali by ste vedieť, že pre neho je jeho dielo dokončené len spolovice. Andy pre nás v nebi sadí stromy a vyrába nábytok, aby sme k nemu mohli jedného dňa prísť všetci.

„Zbohom Otec“ – čo znamená – „Boh s tebou“ – čo aj vždy bol.

Bratislava zápasí so zníženou obsadenosťou hotelov

Pokles záujmu o bratislavské hotely nezastaví ani európsky futbalový šampionát v susednom Rakúsku. Pár dní pred koncom majstrovstiev EURO-2008 slovenskí hotelieri očakávajú, že nižšiu obsadenosť nezmení ani jedna z najdôležitejších športových udalostí. Leto pravidelne návštevnosť zvyšuje, ale takmer polovica postelí v bratislavských hoteloch zostane voľná. Mesto Bratislava dlhodobo zápasí približne s 57 percentnou obsadenosťou. Tým sa hlavné mesto Slovenska radí medzi menej úspešné destinácie Európy. Za poklesom obsadenosti sa podľa hotelierov skrýva aj odlev biznisu. Vyššia obsadenosť je vo Varšave i v Prahe. Bratislavskí hotelieri sa tak spoliehajú na letných turistov a útlm výstavby nových kapacít. Najväčší nárast obsadenosti bol v čase krátko po vstupe Slovenska do Európskej únie. V tom období sa bratislavské hotelierstvo orientovalo práve na obchodnícku klientelu, čomu prispôbovalo aj ubytovacie možnosti a služby

Ministri financií EÚ dali súhlas vstupu SR do eurozóny

Luxemburg (TASR) – Slovensko 3. júna získalo súhlas ministrov financií členských krajín Európskej únie pre vstup do eurozóny od 1. januára 2009. Po Slovinsku, Malte a Cypre sa tak stane štvrtou krajinou spomedzi nových členských štátov, ktoré zaviedli euro. Niektorí nemeckí členovia Európskeho parlamentu naliehali na ministrov, aby zamietli snahy Slovenska o vstup do eurozóny, pretože slovenská koruna nebola po vstupe do pásma výmenných kurzov ERM-2 stabilná. Svedčia vrah o tom dve revalvácie koruny. Zotrvanie v tomto mechanizme po dobu dvoch rokov bez zásadných pohybov meny je pritom podmienkou na zavedenie eura. Ale podľa pravidiel EÚ je revalvácia povolená na rozdiel od devalvácie, ktorá sa môže stať príčinou odmietnutia kandidáta na vstup do eurozóny. Slovensko ako jediné menilo takzvanú centrálnu paritu dvakrát. Nová parita 30.126 SKK/EUR je o 15 percent silnejšia ako dovtedajšia 35.4424 SKK/EUR. Mnohí analytici očakávajú, že sa stane aj konverzným kurzom. Ten by mali ministri financií určiť na ďalšom zasadnutí, ktoré sa uskutoční 8. júla. Informovala o tom agentúra Reuters.

1933 - Významný rok kanadských Slovákov

Rok 1933 je významným ak nie historickým rokom pre roduverných Slovákov v Kanade a ich politické, národno-slovenské, kultúrne, duchovné a spoločenské aspirácie.

Pred 75 rokmi, presnejšie koncom júla 1933 v slovenskej Kanade došlo k verejnému politickému prelomu. Vtedajšie Gabrielom Kurdelom vlastnené Kanadské Noviny československej orientácie, vychádzajúce v Montreale v českej a slovenskej reči, dostali nové meno - Slovákov v Kanade s heslom Buďme verní svojmu rodu, nový slovenský ideovo-politický smer, Československá vydavateľská spoločnosť bola premenovaná na Slovenskú s novým zborom direktorov na čele s Jánom Hurným. (Vid' Po stopách slovenského novinarstva v Kanade. Jednota október, november 2005 a január 2006.)

Nasledujúci rok, necelých šesť mesiacov po spomenutom prelome, Slovákov v Kanade vydal Prvý kalendár kanadských Slovákov na rok 1934 ako ročník I. s heslom Nech je svornosť a bratstvo medzi nami. Azda pre narážky a ošklivé ohovorky zo strany prívržencov čechoslováckej orientácie súvisiace s politickým razením Slováka v Kanade a započatou prácou na kalendári. (Vid' náš Prvý kalendár, Kalendár Kan. Slov. Ligy 1974, str. 77-83).

Ján Hurný, predseda zboru direktorov Spoločnosti v tejto spojitosti v Prvom kalendári i kanadských Slovákov v článku s heslom Svornosťou malé veci vzrastnú, nesvámi najväčšie sa rozpadnú, ohlásil, že "medzi kanadskou Slovačou ožil duch národný, slovenský. 22. júla 1933 Kanadské Noviny boli zmenené na Slovákov v Kanade na všeobecnú žiadosť roduverných Slovákov a Sloveniek v Kanade. Toto si dotyční už dávno žiadali, avšak pre nesvornosť pestovanú rôznymi agentami čechoslovakizmu, leninizmu, maďarónstva, egoizmu atp. vec stále bola odťahovaná. Dnes Slovákov v Kanade je realitou a bude hájiť záujmy Slovákov v Kanade." Zdôrazniac, že "nesúhlasí s terajším vládnym režimom v Česko-Slovensku a nebude dotiaľ, pokiaľ slovenský národ nedostane to, čo mu prináleží."

Z citovaných hesiel a slov J. Hurného možno usúdiť, že v tom čase medzi Slovákami v Kanade nepanovala organizačná jednota spolupatričnosti a politického razenia. G. Kurdel to potvrdil slovami istého ustarostneného spolokára, ktorý pri jednej organizačnej schôdzi mu povedal, že "Slovákov ani čerti nezorganizujú."

Noviny takmer od svojho založenia trpeli na nedostatok finančných zdrojov. Ani Národná zbierka na Slováka v Kanade prevedená vtedajším Národným Slovenským Podporným Spolkom v Kanade (dnešný Kanadský Slovenský Podporný Spolok), nezaistila finančnú stabilitu novinám. (Vid' Prvý kalendár kanadských Slovákov 1934 str. 168). Noviny po stránke finančnej živorili a pri nich ľudia, ktorí ich tvorili.

Gabriel Kurdel, majiteľ a hlavný účastník Spoločnosti pri odovzdaní novín vlastníateľom Zubekovi a Zuberovi zdarma, v svojom záverečnom príhovore Doslov ku správe účastníckej schôdzi (Slovenský Priekopník 1. okt. 1943) zareagoval: "Kto za takých pomeroch priniesol najväčšiu obeť to boli tí, ktorí časopis riadili, lebo na ich vlastných kožiach sa zdvíhal náš verejný život a pokiaľ spolky cestou novín sa vzťahovali, zatiaľ Kurdel jeho žena a deti biedili" k čomu dodal: "Takto pracovali najviac br. Zubek, br. Kvetan a br. Hreha."

Slovákov v Kanade vychádzal od roku 1933 do 1939 kedy bol premenovaný na Slovenské Bratstvo. Noviny dočasne slúžili Kanadskej Slovenskej Lige ako jej tlačový orgán. Ani táto zmena nepriniesla novinám finančnú stabilitu. Vojna a politická situácia doma novinám nepomohli. Noviny nekompromisne bránili právo slovenského národa a slovenskú identitu v Kanade. Toto ideologické razenie novín pobúrilo nielen tunajších čechoslovákov, ale aj odbojových "londýnerov", ktorí radili svojim prívržencom v Kanade, aby sa "postarali o zastavenie tých novín". Nepochybne konečným výsledkom bol súdny zákrok vtedajších predákov československého odboja v Kanade proti J. Hurnému a Š. Hrehovi, redaktorovi Slovenského Bratstva za "urážku na cti" v článkoch Za Kanadu pre Kanadu a Keď sa ľudia cigáni v snahe zdiskreditovať ľudí slovenského razenia, zlikvidovať vychádzanie našich novín a znemožniť vzrast našich národno-kresťanských spolkov. I napriek týmto vražedným obvineniam a útokom zo strany nepriateľov Slovákov, noviny ďalej vychádzali a slúžili slovensko-politickým záujmom a organizačným potrebám kanadských Slovákov. (Vid' Česť dvoch za \$199.00 Slov. Bratstvo 19. apríla 1940).

Po odchode Š. Hrehu z redakcie Slov. Bratstva z existenčných dôvodov, vedenie novín prevzal Stanislav Zuber, ktorý nepožíval veľkú dôveru v radoch slovenskej spoločnosti. Prešiel redakciami čechoslováckej Novej Vlasti a komunistického Hlasu Ľudu. Novinám dal nové meno - Slovenský Priekopník. Pod tým menom aj zanikli a s nimi aj Slovenská vydavateľská spoločnosť v októbri 1943.

Pri novinách sa vystriedalo viac redaktorov. Zo známejších boli Fero Zeman, František Kvetan a Štefan Hreha. Posledným bol Stanislav Zuber. Najdlhšie pri novinách zotrval Ján Zubek, sadzač-administrátor.

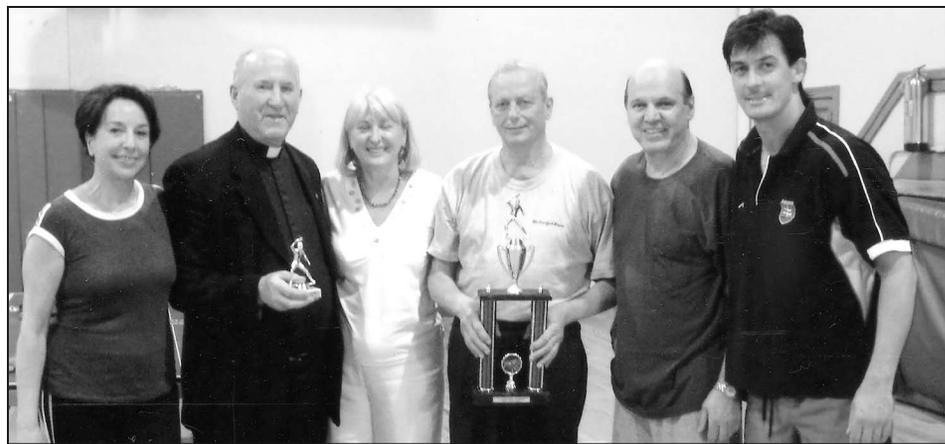
Pri novinách najviac finančne poškodený bol Gabriel Kurdel. Podľa jeho vlastného priznania "s manželkou v podniku stratili vyše \$17,000.00 (sedemnást tisíc dol.), ako aj mnoho iných štedrých dobrodincov, ktorí do podniku investovali väčšie-menšie sumy ťažko zarobených peňazí, len aby noviny boli slovenské a hájili to, čo bolo v tom čase pre slovenský ľud najdôležitejšie." Mne osobne noviny ostali dlžné vyše \$2,000.00 v nevyplatennej mzde a v rodičovskej pôžičke. (Vid' Moje reminiscencie. Kalendár Kan. Slov. Ligy 1976, str. 36-41).

Po dlhoročnej aktívnej účasti v organizačnom a novinárskom živote Kurdel odišiel na zaslúžený odpočinok. (Vid' Z galérie tvorcov slovenského života v Kanade. Slovenské Zahraničie č.11 november 2000). Týmto sa skončila Kurdelova účasť "na javisku verejného života" i prvá etapa slovenského celokanadského novinarstva v Kanade. Jaseň svojho života prežil skromne v Toronte, kde napísal a vlastným nákladom vydal 303 stranovú knihu Europe's Greatest Exodus, ktorú nazval "historickou novelou". Nesporne radí sa medzi pionierov slovenského novinarstva v Kanade a ako taký zasluhuje si našu úctu a obdiv za jeho nadľudskú obeť, prinesenú na oltár slovenského národa a kanadskej svojeti doteraz, žiaľbohu, neocenenú.

Štefan Hreha
Montreal, QC



Funkcionárky Kultúrneho strediska zľava: O. Guggenheimer, L. Markovič, G. Hlavinka, K. Gaba a S. Sabadoš



Zľava: G. Hlavinka, Rev. M. Svitaň, B. Fabrici, J. Duch, J. Korčák a športový referent J. Zoričák.



Časť účastníkov turnaja. V prostriedku v bielom oblečení je predsedníčka Kultúrneho strediska Bernharda Fabrici.

Ping-pongový turnaj Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska bol úspešný

V nedeľu 1. júna tohto roku Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (S-AKS) pripravilo pre slovenskú verejnosť osviežujúce podujatie ping-pongový turnaj. Turnaj sa konal v spoločenskej miestnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku.

Na turnaj sa prihlásilo 12 hráčov, ktorí hrali o prvenstvo na troch ping-pongových stoloch. Štvrtý stôl bol určený na tréning a pre začiatočníkov. Jednotlivé zápasy boli na peknej úrovni a v záverečných kolách veľmi napínavé, čo obecenstvo odmeňovalo búrlivým potleskom. Milým prekvapením bola účasť žien. Tu vynikla Gitka Hlavinka, ktorá po zásluže bola odmenená pamätnou cenou.

Víťazom turnaja sa stal Ján Duch. Za ním na 2. mieste Marek Homola, 3. miesto Jozef Korčák, 4. miesto Vladimír Homola, 5. Jozef Občanský, 6. Jaromír Zoričák. Mimo uvedených, turnaja sa zúčastnili: S. Krčmár, N. Hlinka, I. Lysák, P. Jendrek M.D. a R. Jendrek. Ceny odovzdala hráčom pi. Eta Jendrek, bývalá úspešná pretekárka v ping-pongu v r. 1950-1954 na Slovensku. Cenu dostal aj správca osady sv. Jána Nepomuckého Rev. Martin Svitaň za vzácne porozumenie a prenajatie miestnosti.

Teší nás, že S-AKS začína vyvíjať činnosť v športe. Šport je dobrou príležitosťou priťahovať mladež a zapájať ju do činnosti v organizácii. Že sa turnaj uskutočnil, v prvom rade treba sa poďakovať správcovi farnosti sv. Jána Nepomuckého Rev. M. Svitaňovi, ktorý ochotne prenajal miestnosť. Organizačnú prácu úspešne zvládol športový referent Kultúrneho strediska Jaromír Zoričák, ktorému pomáhali niektorí hráči a funkcionári Kultúrneho strediska. Vďaka za štedré pohostenie a občerstvenie - obložené chlebíčky, pečivo a nápoje (soft drinks). Hráči v prestávkach sa mali možnosť posilniť a osviežiť. A vďaka všetkým ostatným, ktorí akýmkoľvek spôsobom prispeli k úspechu a sa zúčastnili turnaja.

Turnaj prebiehal hladko a atmosféra priateľská. Zo všetkého čo sme videli a počuli usudzujeme, že S-AKS bude organizovať ping-pongový turnaj aj na budúci rok 2009. Dá sa predpokladať, že sa prihlási viac hráčov, pribudne obecenstva a turnaj sa stane tradičným podnikom.

Rudo L. Greguš

PRAKTIZUJTE FRATERNALIZMUS

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Denník PLUS JEDEN DEŇ porovnal ako žijú dôchodcovia na Slovensku, v Česku, Maďarsku, Rakúsku a Nemecku. Priemerný dôchodok na Slovensku sa pohybuje na úrovni 300 eur, českí a maďarskí dôchodcovia majú v priemere o 100 eur viac. Dôchodky rakúskych a nemeckých seniorov sú štvornásobné. Slovenský dôchodca je na tom zle nie len v porovnaní s výškou dôchodku, ale aj základných životných nákladov. Za všetko platí viac. Napríklad na bývanie dá slovenský senior 45 percent zo svojho dôchodku, zatiaľ čo český iba niečo cez 30 percent. Aj na stravu a služby dáva najviac zo všetkých porovnávaných krajín, konštatuje denník.

Spoločnosť Microsoft sa stala víťazom štúdie Najlepší zamestnávateľ strednej a východnej Európy v kategórii malých a stredných spoločností. Výsledky vyhlásila najväčšia celosvetová poradenská a outsourcingová spoločnosť v oblasti riadenia ľudských zdrojov Hewitt Associates. Microsoft Slovensko získala titul Najlepší zamestnávateľ na Slovensku. Firma sa štúdie zúčastnila v šiestich krajinách - v Slovinsku, Rusku, Poľsku, Slovensku, Českej republike a Ukrajine a umiestnila sa medzi Najlepšími zamestnávateľmi vo všetkých spomenutých krajinách. Štúdia spoločnosti Hewitt Associates prebehla za podpory časopisu The Wall Street Journal Europe a bolo do nej zapojených takmer 600 spoločností z 12-tich krajín.

Starým, v súčasnosti platným občianskym preukazom (OP) na Slovensku od 1. júla odzvoní. Po viacerých odkladoch ich nahradia nové OP formátu. SR sa tak zaradí medzi najvyspelejšie krajiny a dostane sa do podoby bezpečnosti EÚ. Nový OP bude vydávaný všetkým občanom, ktorí po uvedenom termíne dovŕšia vek 15 rokov, ako aj tým, ktorým skončí platnosť súčasného preukazu, respektíve budú z rôznych dôvodov potrebovať nový (strata, poškodenie). Občan, ktorý nebude mať na výmenu dôvod, si nebude môcť európsky OP, tak ako doteraz, zaobstarať. Poplatky ostávajú v tejto súvislosti nezmenené.

Štátna tajomníčka Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR Olga Algayerová otvorila 11. júna slovenský konzulát v poľskom meste Zakopanem. Honorárnym konzulom sa stal Wiesław Wojas, známy ako obchodník a sponzor najlepšieho poľského hokejového klubu Wojas Podhale v neďalekom meste Nowy Targ. Hlavnou úlohou konzulátu v Zakopanem bude pomáhať slovenským občanom počas ich návštevy tohto regiónu, ako aj poskytovať informácie miestnej slovenskej menšine.

Jadroenergetická lokalita Jaslovské Bohunice je perspektívna a jedna z najlepších na výstavbu jadrových zdrojov. Preto vláda SR rozhodla o výstavbe v poradí už 5. bloku Jadrovej elektrárne (JE). V súčasnosti je schválený postup prác pri príprave nového bloku u, v novembri by sa malo rozhodnúť, či Slovensko pôjde do výstavby ako stopercentný vlastník, alebo so strategickým partnerom, ktorý však bude mať minoritné postavenie. Uviedol to nedávno v Jaslovských Bohuniciach na seminári Občianskej informačnej komisie Bohunice minister hospodárstva SR Ľubomír Jahnátek.

Zvony Barbora a Štefan z Dómu sv. Mikuláša v Trnave, ktoré čaká oprava v Holandsku, 11. júna naložili do kamióna, ktorý ich dopraví do zvonárskej dielne majstra Petra Rudolfa Maňouška. Ako uviedol Maňoušek, jeho pražská dielňa ani šesť rokov po záplavách v Prahe nemá súhlas k prevádzke, tak si prenajal zvonársku dielňu v Holandsku neďaleko nemeckých hraníc. Starší a menší zvon Štefan z roku 1569 má vytlčené steny a hrozí mu prasknutie. Väčší zvon Barbora, ktorý bol v 19. storočí preliaty, je prasknutý a čaká ho náročné zváranie. Do septembra by sa oba zvony mali dočkať pôvodného zvuku aj podoby. Najväčší zvon Mikuláš, ktorý váži tri tony, je zatiaľ bez poškodenia.

Mincovňa Kremnica má podľa zmluvy s Národnou bankou Slovenska vyraziť do 15. decembra 500 miliónov kusov slovenských euromincí všetkých nominálnych hodnôt. Časť z nich dodá vo forme takzvaných štartovacích balíčkov. Keďže balíčky budú obsahovať euromince v hodnote 500 korún, za ktorú sa budú predávať obyvateľom, počet jednotlivých euromincí v nich sa určí až po stanovení konečného konverzného kurzu 8. júla. Skúšobnú prevádzku na nových technologických linkách spustí mincovňa v júli, veľkosériová výroba euromincí by sa mala začať koncom augusta.

Slovenská finančná skupina Penta Investmens predala rakúskemu letisku Schwechat svoj 33-percentný podiel vo firme KSC Holding, ktorá kontroluje väčšinu akcií košického letiska. Letisko na východe Slovenska vlni vybavilo rekordných 443,448 cestujúcich, čo je o približne 100,000 viac ako v roku 2006. Takmer o polovicu stúpol počet pasažierov na pravidelných linkách. Nárast počtu cestujúcich súvisel aj so zavedením pravidelných letov do Bratislavy, Viedne, Prahy a Londína a Dublinu. Zoskupenie Penty, letiska Schwechat a Raiffeisen Zentralbank získalo väčšinový balík akcií košického letiska v októbri 2006.

Hlavné destinácie, kam Slováci najradšej cestujú, sa nezmenili. Tradične veľa slovenských občanov dovolenkuje v Chorvátsku, Grécku, Bulharsku, Egypte, Taliansku, Tunisku, Turecku, Španielsku, ale navštevujú aj exotické a vzdialené krajiny. Cestujú po celý rok no hlavný nápor turistov je v letných mesiacoch. Povedal to riaditeľ Konzulárneho odboru MZV SR Ivan Surkoš. Od začiatku júna funguje na ministerstve Stredisko pre pomoc a služby občanom, ktoré na čísle +421 25978 5978 poskytne informácie a rady pred cestou aj počas nej.

Vláda chce prilákať späť do vlasti Slovákov, ktorí odišli do zahraničia za prácou. V období ekonomického rastu slovenská ekonomika pociťuje v niektorých odvetviach hospodárstva nedostatok pracovníkov. Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR (MP SVR SR) preto navrhuje v dokumente Koncepcia štátnej politiky starostlivosti o Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí do roku 2015 vybudovať mobilitné infocentrá vo zvolených krajinách ako aj organizovať burzy práce. Najviac Slovákov vycestovalo za prácou do Českej republiky, za ňou bola Veľká Británia a tak nasledovalo Írsko.

Najväčšie nákupné centrum v kraji začali oficiálne stavať 25. júna na okraji Trenčína. Centrum Laugaricio bude mať po konečnej dostavbe celkovú predajnú plochu 67-tisíc metrov štvorcových, kde nájde prácu 1,200 ľudí. Celkové náklady na výstavbu dosiahnu

2.8 miliardy korún. Súčasťou centra budú aj menšie budovy či parkovacie plochy pre 1,700 áut. Vo vstupnej hale nákupného móla by sa mala nachádzať do zeme zakomponovaná malá časť pohrebiska z doby bronzovej, ktoré sa pod centrom našlo.

Nový študijný odbor, grafik digitálnych médií, otvorí v školskom roku 2008/2009 banskobystrické Stredné odborné učilište pôšt a telekomunikácií. Možnosť študovať rovnaký odbor od začiatku budúceho školského roku dostali záujemcovia aj na terajšom odbornom učilišti stavebnom v Lučenci - od septembra sa podobne ako ďalšie učilišťa zmení na strednú odbornú školu. Budúci absolventi nového odboru sa uplatnia najmä v reklamných agentúrach či videoreklame, alebo aj ako tvorcovia webových stránok. Škola zriadením nového odboru reagovala na požiadavky trhu práce, na čoraz väčší nárast reklamy na trhu, nové médiá a samozrejme internet.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



FOTO TASR – Radovan Stoklasa

Rezbár Vladimír Morávek tvorí 24. júna 2008 výtvarné dielo počas prvého ročníka medzinárodného výtvarno-literárneho sympózia ORA ET ARS SKALKA 2008 na pútnickom mieste Skalke neďaleko Trenčína. Slovenskí výtvarníci a literárni tvorcovia sa po prvý raz stretli v špecifickom priestore, ktorý poskytuje areál Malej a Veľkej Skalky ležiaci v katastri obce Skalka nad Váhom. Diela vytvorené na sympóziu predstavia 19. júla 2008 v Trenčíne.

Euro je veľkým prínosom pre Európu aj svet

Bratislava (TASR) – Euro je veľkým prínosom pre Európu a medzinárodné spoločenstvo, pretože viedlo k zmene makroekonomického prostredia, k stabilite a rastu. Povedal to na diskusnom fóre Ekonomickej univerzity v Bratislave začiatkom júna člen Európskej komisie (EK) zodpovedný za vzdelávanie, odbornú prípravu, kultúru a mládež Ján Figel. Témou podujatia bolo 10 rokov Hospodárskej a menovej únie (HMÚ). Podľa Figela si v súčasnosti naši občania intenzívnejšie všimajú najmä Európsku menovú úniu (EMÚ), keďže Slovensko je stále bližšie k tomu, že sa zaradí k 15 krajinám s 320,000,000 ľuďmi, ktorí už euro bežne používajú. Medzi výhody EMÚ zaradil cenovú stabilitu a pokles úrokových sadzieb, rast ekonomiky a finančnej integrácie, ochranu európskeho sociálneho modelu a postupné rozširovanie eurozóny.

Teda EMÚ vďaka štruktúrálnej a kohéznej politike a plusom pre regionálny rozvoj priniesla výhody pre Európsku úniu ako celok, dodal Figel. "Euro je dnes druhou najvýznamnejšou menou na svete a prvou z hľadiska dlhovej služby. Euro figuruje až v tretine všetkých zahraničných výmenných transakciách a štvrtina všetkých svetových rezerv je v eurách," zdôraznil eurokomisár. Euro je pól, kotva stability pre svet, pre Európu, a to je potrebné, dodal. Aj guvernér NBS Ivan Šrámko v príspevku potvrdil, že euro priniesie v stredno- a dlhodobom horizonte stabilitu a ekonomický rast, čo sa prejaví na zvyšovaní životnej úrovne občanov Slovenska. Hoci sa niektoré úlohy v rámci HMÚ celkom nesplnili, napr. rast produktivity práce alebo rozdiely medzi krajinami v oblasti inflácie a rastu, Európu a celý svet v 21. storočí čakajú nové výzvy - globalizácia, demografické zmeny, rast cien potravín, surovín a energií a klimatické zmeny, skonštatoval Figel.

TRI EPIGRAMY

Tak po slovensky

Halóó-ó krajan, ako sa máš!
- ozve sa z kúta taverny hlas:
Kohože to v havze na rume máš?
Odpoveď jednoduchá, krátka:
Dvoh Slovákov, jedného hutoráka.

Do boja

Do boja, Slováci, do boja!
Nepriatelia rozbiť nás sa stroja.
Rozumov veľa, hlavy tvrdé máme,
rozbiť sa im nedáme!
Rozbíjať sa sami známe.

Pre koho?

Písať by som verše chcel,
Bože môj, pre koho?
Steny hluché, neodpovedajú,
stoličky čítať neznejú.

Štefan Hreha
(Zo zbierky Hrsť epigramov)



Bohoslužby v 13 kostoloch otvorili Stretnutie kresťanov Bratislava 2008

Bratislava (TASR) - Úvodnými službami Božími v trinástich evanjelických kostoloch v Bratislave, Senci, Svätom Jure, Pezinku, Modre, Dunajskej Lužnej, Šamoríne, ale i neďalekom Deutsch Jahrndorfe v Rakúsku začalo sa 27. júna podvečer trojdňové ekumenické Stretnutie kresťanov Bratislava 2008. Uskutočnilo sa pod mottom Spojení v Kristovi - spoločne v Európe. Kazateľmi na týchto bohoslužbách, po ktorých nasledovalo poďakovanie domácim cirkevným zborom, boli seniori a seniorky z celého Slovenska. Účinkovali hudobné skupiny a spevokoly cirkevných zborov zo šiestich zúčastnených krajín - Slovenska, Česka, Nemecka, Maďarska, Poľska a Rakúska. Večer podujatie pokračovalo spoločenskými stretnutiami, koncertami a hudobnými vystúpeniami kresťanskej mládeže na otvorenom pódiu v bratislavskej Mlynskej doline na Starých gruntoch.

Bolo to v poradí siedme medzinárodné ekumenické stretnutie, ale prvé, ktoré sa konalo na Slovensku. K jeho cieľom patrilo budovať vzťahy medzi kresťanmi zúčastnených krajín, vzájomne sa povzbudzovať vo viere, prehlbovať spoluprácu v najrôznejších oblastiach, posilňovať zodpovednosť kresťanov za veci verejné, pomáhať pri procese zjednocovania Európy a prispieť k dobrému susedstvu národov. Prezident Stretnutia kresťanov Bratislava 2008, generálny biskup Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania na Slovensku (ECAV) Miloš Klátik verí, že podujatie prehĺbilo a upevnilo spoluprácu kresťanov v rôznych oblastiach duchovného života a posilnilo ich, aby sa zaujímali aj o verejné a občianske záležitosti.

Na Stretnutí kresťanov boli okrem predstaviteľov zúčastnených cirkví a veľvyslancov zúčastnených krajín aj hostia z ďalších cirkví zo Slovenska a zo zahraničia. Bol medzi nimi napríklad biskup Robert Graham z Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synody ELCA v USA, biskup Švédskej cirkvi Tony Gulbrandsen, biskup Samuel Vrbovský zo Slovenskej ECAV v Srbsku a ďalší. Hlavnými organizátormi stretnutia boli ECAV na Slovensku, Reformovaná kresťanská cirkev na Slovensku a hlavné mesto Slovenska Bratislava, v spolupráci s viacerými evanjelicko-luteránskymi a reformovanými cirkvami z Nemecka, Rakúska, Česka, Poľska a Maďarska.

Záštitu nad podujatím prevzal prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič, predseda Národnej rady SR Pavol Paška, podpredseda vlády SR Dušan Čaplovič, viacerí ministri, veľvyslanci zúčastnených krajín, primátor Bratislavy Andrej Ďurkovič a predseda Bratislavského samosprávneho kraja Vladimír Bajan. V sobotu 28. júna Stretnutie kresťanov Bratislava 2008 pokračovalo bohatým programom od rána prakticky do neskorej noci.

Benedikt XVI. odovzdal páliá aj dvom slovenským arcibiskupom

Pápež Benedikt XVI. odovzdal v nedeľu 29. júna, na Sviatok apoštolov sv. Petra a Pavla, vo vatikánskej Bazilike sv. Petra v Ríme posvätné páliá aj bratislavskému arcibiskupovi - metropolitovi Stanislavovi Zvolenskému a gréckokatolíckemu prešovskému arcibiskupovi - metropolitovi Jánovi Babjakovi SJ.

Pálium je pevná látková stuha asi päť centimetrov široká, utkaná z bielej vlny do oblúka tak, aby sa dala vložiť na plec. Symbolizuje baránka na pleciah dobrého pastiera. Je znakom úradu a duchovnej moci metropolitu a plného spoločenstva s rímskym veľkňazom. Vpredu a vzadu dopĺňajú pálium dva výbežky, pevne visiace pomocou olovených vložiek. Zdobia ich dva kríže vyšité čiernym hodvábom, ďalšie štyri sú na oblúkových častiach pália. Vzadu a vpredu sú kríže prizdobené pozlátenými sponami s drahokamom.

Dva baránky, z ktorých vlny sa páliá pripravujú, sú chované u pátrov Trapistov v rímskom Opátstve Tre Fontane. Od polovice sedemnásteho storočia pápež tieto baránky požehnáva na sviatok rímskej mučenickej Agnesy vždy 21. januára. Po následnom ostrihaní vlny pálium utkajú klauzúrované sestry z rímskeho kláštora Svätej Cecílie v rímskej štvrti Trastevere. Až do obradu odovzdávania sú pália uchovávané v špeciálnej postriebrenej klenotnici pod pápežským oltárom Svätopeterskej baziliky niekoľko metrov nad miestom, kde bol pochovaný apoštol sv. Peter.

Iba pápež je oprávnený nosiť pálium na ktoromkoľvek mieste a pri ktorejkoľvek príležitosti. Preto je obrad odovzdávania pália vlastne jedinou príležitosťou, kedy je možné vidieť viacerých arcibiskupov s páliami na jednom mieste v rovnakom momente. Inak totiž môžu arcibiskupi pálium nosiť len na území vlastnej jurisdikcie. Po smrti arcibiskupa musí byť pálium pochované so zosnulým.

TK KBS

Slovenský vojak získal americkú medailu

Bratislava (TASR) – Medailou za príkladnú službu v operácii Iracká sloboda ocenil pridelenec obrany USA, podplukovník David Dalles príslušníka Ozbrojených síl SR, kapitána Šimona Szoráda. Slávnostný ceremoniál sa konal vo štvrtok 12. júna v priestoroch Ministerstva obrany (MO) SR v Sieni cti a slávy za prítomnosti i štátneho tajomníka MO SR Daniela Duchoňa a predstaviteľov rezortu MO SR a Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl SR.

Kapitána Szoráda vyznamenali za zásluhy v operácii Iracká sloboda, v rámci ktorej vynikajúci m plnením svojich povinností počas bojových operácií prispel k úspechu veliteľskej misie. V roku 2007 pôsobil v Iraku šesť mesiacov ako vedúci starší dôstojník koalíčných síl slovenskej ženínej odminovacej roty. Profesionálnym vojakom je od roku 1992.

The Army Commendation Medal sa udeľuje členovi ozbrojených zložiek spriatelenej misie za hrdinský čin, výnimočný výkon alebo službu, ktorá priniesla obojstranný prospech spojeneckej misii aj armáde Spojených štátov. TASR informoval hovorca Ozbrojených síl SR Milan Vanga.

Slovensko čaká na protiteroristické centrum

Slovensko možno podpíše so Spojenými štátmi dohodu o vzniku protiteroristického centra. Informovalo o tom 18. júna ministerstvo vnútra. Dohoda má nadväzovať na dvojstranné memorandum z marca tohto roka, ktoré má viesť k tomu, aby Slováci mohli cestovať do USA bez víz pravdepodobne koncom tohto roka. Zámer vybudovať špeciálne centrum potvrdil pre portál Aktuálne.sk minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák. "My na tom však aktívne pracujeme aj bez memoranda, pretože počiatky tohto centra boli už dávnejšie," povedal. Hovorca americkej ambasády Keith Hughes povedal, že vybudovanie takéhoto centra nie je v rámci americkej legislatívy podmienkou na zrušenie vízovej povinnosti.

"Zriadenie protiteroristického centra predstavuje len jednu z alternatív účinnejšieho inštitucionálneho zabezpečenia úloh súvisiacich s bojom proti terorizmu. Jeho vytvorenie je zatiaľ len v štádiu úvah," informovala ČTK Ludmila Staňová z tlačového oddelenia ministerstva vnútra. Súčasťou memoranda, ktoré Slovensko uzavrelo s USA, je vytvoriť podmienky pre výmenu informácií o známych teroristoch a osobách podozrivých z terorizmu. Na Slovensku bol podľa nej zatiaľ určený len kontaktný bod, ktorým je policajné prezídium. Termín, kedy by mohlo centrum vzniknúť, je predčasné konkretizovať, poznamenala.

Uzavretie dohody s Washingtonom o vytvorení špeciálneho protiteroristického centra v Česku ohlásil nedávno aj český minister vnútra Ivan Langer. Centrum, ktoré má pracovať pravdepodobne v rámci útvaru pre odhaľovanie organizovaného zločinu, by malo analyzovať a odovzdávať získané informácie. Okrem toho Praha a americké veľvyslanectvo v Česku potvrdili aj zámer podpísať s USA zmluvu o výmene informácií o sobách v minulosti odsúdených za najzávažnejšie trestné činy. Memoranda, ktoré majú umožniť zrušenie víz, podpísalo okrem Slovenska a Česka s USA aj niekoľko ďalších nových členských krajín EÚ. (ČTK)



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke vľavo prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič prijal 27. júna 2008 v Bratislave zástupcov "Stretnutia kresťanov".