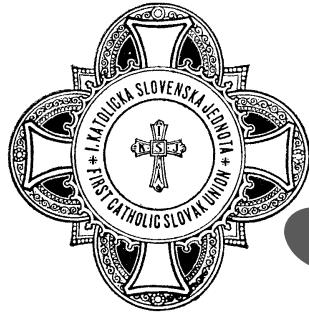


FOR GOD AND NATION - ZA BOHA A NÁROD

Catholic Fraternal Bi -Weekly



# Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furdek  
Our Founder

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

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NUMBER 5779



The Markušovce Chateau

## The Chateau in Markušovce

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

Not far from Spišská Nová Ves lies the quaint little village of Markušovce. It is one of the oldest villages in the Spiš region and dates back as far as the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Early chronicles mention that the settlement first served as a frontier garrison. Later it became the seat of the aristocratic Mariássy family. The village obtained its name from one of early Mariássy family members – Mark.

The outstanding structure in the village today is the chateau, but the village is also home to other historical buildings.

One of them is the 13<sup>th</sup> century Gothic single-nave church of St. Michael's, which is perched above the village. The current church tower is not the original and dates from 1891. Inside the church one finds some valuable historical objects such as the red marble tombstones of the Mariássy family from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as a baptismal font dating from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. Later, parts of the church interior were decorated and adorned in the Baroque style.

In addition to the church, some parts of the original Markušovce castle remain preserved. The base of the castle was laid in 1284. The castle suffered extensive damage during the

mid-16<sup>th</sup> century wars between the Habsburgs and Ján Zapolský for the Hungarian throne. Afterwards, owner Pavol Mariássy had it restored and rebuilt in the Renaissance style. This reconstruction gave the castle its present-day appearance. In 1773, a fire damaged the castle. Even though it was renovated, nobody lived in the castle because the Mariássy family decided to build a chateau in

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## The “Magna Carta” of the Slovak People 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement

By Daniel F. Tanzone

On May 31 the Slovak community worldwide will celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement. It was on May 31, 1918 at the Loyal Order of Moose Building in Pittsburgh, following a great manifestation of Slovak solidarity in which more than 10,000 took part, that Thomas G. Masaryk, who was to become the first president of Czechoslovakia, composed the document which was to guarantee the rights of the Slovaks within the political framework of the newly proposed Czecho-Slovak state.

Thomas Garrigue Masaryk was born in Moravia in 1850 of a Slovak father and a Czech mother. In 1878, he married Charlotte Garrigue, the daughter of an American business executive, then studying in Europe. In 1916, together with the Slovak, General Milan R. Stefanik and another Czech, Eduard Benes, Masaryk organized the Czecho-Slovak National Council which sought the liberation of the Czechs and Slovaks from the Austro-Hungarian domination. The Slovaks had been part of the Kingdom of Hungary for nearly a thousand years.

While the Slovak and Czech languages are closely related, the two people did not share a common history. The Czechs, and Masaryk proved an outstanding example, promoted an essentially rationalist philosophy while the Slovaks were more conservative.

With Allied victory assured, President Woodrow Wilson promoted the establishment of new states on the territory, which had been Austria-Hungary. The movement to establish a Czecho-Slovak state gained great strength among the Czechs while the Slovaks were less enthusiastic. It was the Slovak community in the United States, numbering about 600,000 in 1918, which led the cause of liberation for their brethren in their ancestral homeland.

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

**HOME OFFICE  
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300  
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131  
PHONE: 216-642-9406 \* FAX: 216-642-4310**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2008**

*The Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2008 at 9:30A.M.*

*The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, June 13, 2008.*

All correspondence relative to the Quarterly Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to June 6, 2008. For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

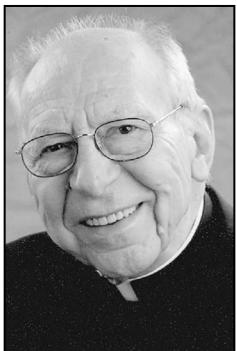
**Andrew M. Rajec  
National President**

**Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary**

# Insights and Viewpoints

## Reflections on Our Christianity

Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

The Fool Says in his Heart, There is No God (Psalm 53:2)

Do you know of any atheist who was born with the belief and conviction that there is no God? Do you know of anyone who in proximate danger, in fear of losing his life or facing intolerable torture, remained in total denial of the existence of God? John Damascene wrote that "the knowledge of God is naturally planted in all. (Fide Orth I, 1,3) Those of us who served in war know- and perhaps experienced- the truism, "There is no such thing as an atheist in a foxhole."

Search where you will and you will find that the acknowledgement of a deity (ties) is common to all men, whether they be in civilizations, nations, tribes or wandering nomad. Greek and Roman civilizations had gods in abundance. The existence of God in

our human nature is self-evident. We know that there exists a God because of the order in nature and in the universe, because of our witness of this order, and because of our instinctive yearning for the support of the author of this order in times of our helplessness. All that we see, all that we witness, all that we experience demonstrates that this could not have happened without any authorship.

The planet earth (the "Blue Marble" in the photograph taken from Apollo 17) orbits the sun every 365.256366 days at an orbital speed of 107,218 km/h (67,000 mph) and has one satellite, the Moon. This Moon came into existence possible as a result of a Mars-sized object (Theia) that hit the earth with a glancing blow and ejected into space with enough material to orbit as the Moon. The Moon's tides keep the ocean waters from stagnating. The sun, the planets, their satellites are all there without benefit of restrictive cables. They are moving and do not run into each other.

The oceans are salt water. Yet, the evaporation of their waters leaves the salt behind and forms into clouds that pass over land to fall as rain, return in runoff back to the oceans and evaporate once again. Without this process, human, plant and animal life would not exist on the only place in the universe where life exists.

Oxygenic photosynthesis evolved 2.7 billion years ago forming the primarily nitrogen-oxygen atmosphere that exists today. This resulted in the proliferation of aerobic organisms that, together with the ozone layer and the Earth's magnetic field, block ultraviolet radiation which makes it possible for life to exist here. Earth is the only planet with the correct mixture of gases.

Water freezes from the top and floats permitting fish to live below the ice.

The human brain processes more than a million messages every second. It has intelligence and a reasoning process, an ability to make choices and produces feelings. How can one explain this?

The human brain is only 15 cm in length; it weighs 1500 grams (14 oz). Its body weight is 0,07 and its percentage of body weight is 2,1. So small! So complex! No other living creature can match its functions.

What genius, what wonders surrounds us!

There exists someone who has to exist, who cannot not exist, whose existence is not derived from another. There has to be a First Cause, to which all other causes are subordinate. This First Cause or Uncaused Cause is God. Arguing from causality, everything is caused by someone, something else. Moving backward through causes, one has to come to the beginning of all causes beyond which there cannot be another cause.

There is the Latin phrase: Quid quid movetur ab alio movetur. Whatever is moved is moved by another.

The second of Thomas Aquinas' Five Ways to prove the existence of God is this: There is no known case in which a thing is found to be the efficient cause of itself. If so, it would be prior to itself and that is impossible. A chair, for example, did not bring itself into existence

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## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

5 Hanover Square, • 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

(For the week of May 26, 2008) New York, NY 10004

Stephanie Raha, Editor-in-chief, The Christophers

212 759 4050

## From Soldier to Prisoner to Healer

A few weeks ago, I came across an obituary in *The New York Times* that caught my attention. Above a photo of a young man in a World War II uniform was the headline: "Jacob DeShazer, Bombardier on Doolittle Raid, Dies at 95."

I've heard of the Doolittle raid, of course, not just in long ago history classes, but through movies such as *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo* and *Pearl Harbor*. But what I read about DeShazer in that obit and some follow-up reading was more stunning than anything I could have imagined. As far as the raid itself was concerned, the intent was simple: In retaliation for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, we would strike Japan itself. Sixteen B-25 bombers left the aircraft carrier USS Hornet in April, 1942, and bombed several Japanese cities before heading toward China. Low on fuel, the planes crashed. While most of the crews were recovered and eventually returned home, two men were killed in the landings and eight were taken prisoner by the Japanese occupying China. Three of these men were executed, one died of starvation, the rest were tortured and held in prison until the end of the war. Corporal Jacob DeShazer was one of these.

Born in Oregon, he was the son of a minister. By the time DeShazer finished high school, he was finished with his religious beliefs as well – even while he was parachuting into China, he couldn't bring himself to pray because he thought it would be dishonest. But over the months and years of suffering that followed, he found himself thinking differently. "I began to ponder the cause of such hatred between members of the human race," he later wrote

in a pamphlet called *I was a Prisoner of Japan*. "I wondered what it was that made one people hate another and what made me hate them. My thoughts turned toward what I heard about Christianity changing hatred between human beings into real brotherly love and I was gripped with a strange longing to examine the Bible to see if I could find the secret."

Eventually, DeShazer was given a Bible for a few weeks and it was the start of his conversion and spiritual transformation. He asked God to forgive his torturers and made an effort to treat them with respect. He also determined that if God gave him the chance, he'd spread the Good News to the people of Japan.

Released from captivity in August, 1945, he returned home to recover and soon enrolled in college, earning a degree in biblical literature. In 1948, Jacob DeShazer and his wife Florence, a fellow missionary in the Free Methodist Church, went to Japan where they preached and worked for thirty years. They established a number of churches including one in Nagoya, the city DeShazer had bombed.

One day in 1950, a Japanese man who'd seen a translation of *I Was a Prisoner of Japan* was so impressed by DeShazer's ability to forgive that he went to see the missionary. He was Mitsuo Fuchida – the commander of the 360 planes that attacked Pearl Harbor. He was baptized and soon became an evangelist himself.

Hollywood would have been hard-pressed to invent the life of Jacob DeShazer. But then, it wasn't Hollywood's story to write: it was the Lord's. None of us know how our own stories will end. We can only trust God and let Him reveal His plans to us in His own good time. And, even in spite of ourselves, He will.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, THE GREATEST GIFT – LIVING AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE EVERY DAY, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christopers.org

# JEDNOTA

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**

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

**EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2008**

**THRU JUNE 30, 2008**

**The annual yield on existing  
Flexible Premium Deferred  
Annuities & IRA's is 5.00% (4.879% APR)**

**The annual yield on a new  
"Park 2 Annuity" is 4.50% (4.402% APR)**

**The annual yield on accounts  
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**The annual yield for new Settlement  
Options is based on 4.50% (4.402% APR)**

*If you have any questions about our annuities  
or IRA's, please contact the Home Office!*

**1-800-533-6682**

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

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FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY/IRA**

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**Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:**

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
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- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
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- 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)

# **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!



## **Attention Members of the Msgr. Stephen Krasula District and the Msgr. John E. Rura District, New York and New Jersey**

The Membership and Marketing Committee will hold a Sales Seminar on Sunday, June 1, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Parish Hall, 411 East 66th Street, New York City.

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

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

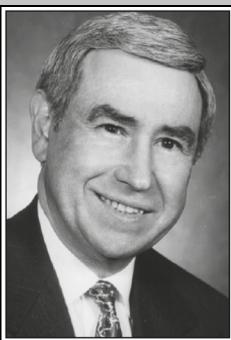
Please be sure to make your reservations by May 28 by calling Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt at 1/800-533-6682 or Maria Zakovic at 646/823-3561.

Until we meet at the seminar...  
Good Luck and God Bless  
**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.**  
**National Vice President &  
Membership and Marketing Chairman**

# MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS

**By Joseph T. Senko**

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



## Best Ways to Spend Your Tax refund

Many people are in a enviable position to receive a tax refund. It's a nice surprise to get back some of the money you paid in taxes during the year. It's a great opportunity to make some sound financial decisions that will provide benefits now and in the future. Before you splurge all of your newfound funds, consider some of these money-wise alternatives.

### Pay Off Your Bills

If you have high-interest credit cards, hefty student loans, or other debts looming over you, use some, if not all, of your refund to pay them down as much as possible. If you pay off a credit card with a 16 percent interest rate, you've just gotten yourself a 16 percent return on your money- an added bonus that compares very well with most investments. Once you've wiped the slate clean of outstanding debt, use your hard-earned money to save for dream purchases. But if you don't lower your debts, you will end up wasting money on interest charges.

### Save For the Future

Would you like to further your own education or send a child to college? Or are you planning to buy a home during the next year or two? No matter what your dreams, the best way to make them come true is to save regularly so you have cash when you need it. Use your tax refund to open a savings account or deposit it into an existing account. Then let the money grow until you're ready to follow your dream.

### Get a Head Start on Retirement Savings

Do you have a retirement account to build up savings for the future? Maybe you should use some of your refund dollars to start one or add to an existing account. That way, your refund can grow tax free and provide a firm foundation for your retirement.

### Create an Emergency Account

We all know setting aside some money to cover unexpected emergencies is a great idea. However after paying your regular monthly bills, it can be difficult to earmark funds for an emergency. That's why it's a great idea to use your windfall from Uncle Sam to do it.

### Spurge, But Do It Wisely

If you don't have any high-interest debts, and you already follow a regular savings plan and set aside money for retirement, then go ahead and splurge your refund. When you're deciding how to spend the money, consider indulgences that might be a good investment, such as updating your kitchen or bath, or taking other steps that will improve your home's resale value. These choices will also pay you dividends in the future.

### Check Your Withholdings

Finally, remember that while it's great to get an unexpected cash windfall, if you regularly receive large refunds every year you may be having too much money withheld from your paycheck. That's a bad idea. You could be using that cash during the year as part of your regular budget.

# Coming Events

## JUNE

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

8-The Frank T. Holly Jr. District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Meridian Point Apartments, 112 Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

15-The Pittsburgh District's Annual Father's Day Brunch at Holy Trinity Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by brunch.

15-The Prince Pribina District's Father's Day Mass and Lunch at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch and meeting

22-A meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania.

# Reflections on Our Christianity

*continued from page 2*

by itself. There is always an intermediate cause or causes. The chair involves a carpenter, a tree, and an acorn. In the midst of all these things, there are men, machinery, tools and mother nature which bring along the acorn to the lumber from which the chair is made. From chair we go back to the acorn, the first cause. If there be no first cause, there will be no final effect. If it is possible to go backwards to infinity, there will be no first cause and consequently no final effect. There is always a point where things begin, a first cause, and this we identify as God. No God, no first cause, no acorn.

The third proof: If at one time there was nothing in existence, there would be nothing in existence now because that which does not exist can begin to exist only through something already existing.

We must admit that someone exist who has of himself his own necessary existence and who has not received his existence from anyone ever. This one is God. If God did not exist, nothing else could exist.

The fourth proof: There is gradation in the things about us. There are, for example, hot, hotter and hottest. There are persons who are good, better and best. Fire is the maximum of heat. There is someone who enjoys all perfection and that one is God.

Now, we as human beings are both good and bad and therefore we cannot enjoy perfection. The maximum in the genus of morality has to be someone who is not a human being and who is not of this world, for both human beings and the world fluctuate between good and bad. The best does not exist among human beings nor in the world. This best is God, the most perfect being and the source of all goodness and perfection.

The fifth proof: Natural bodies, e.g. planets, satellite moons, stars and all things without intelligence act for an end, that is, they act in the same predictable way by design. Lacking intelligence, they behave the way they do because someone who is endowed with intelligence directs them, just as the arrow is directed by the archer. We have intelligence but we cannot direct natural bodies to their end. This leaves us with God, the guiding hand for all things created.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creatures. In him everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominations, principalities or powers; all were created through him and for him." (Colossians 1: 15-16)

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## RE: 2008 JEDNOTA ISSUE DATES & DEADLINES

As we have previously announced in the 1st quarter of 2008 we are increasing the number of our members who will be receiving the jednota newspaper by almost 100%. In order to keep our overall costs in line we must reduce the number of issues from 26 per year to 21. The size and quality of the paper will remain unchanged.

The reason for the changes are simple. The Jednota is our primary communication to our members. Many of our members hardly know we exist. If you are a member who has not been receiving the newspaper we welcome you.

We want to communicate with our members.

However, since the newspaper is now on the internet at www.FCSU.com if you do not need an actual newspaper and would rather get it off the internet call us at 1-800-JEDNOTA (1-800-533-6682) or email us at FCSU@aol.com to remove your name from our mailing list.

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas please call (1-800-JEDNOTA) or email at FCSU@aol.com to President Andrew Rajec or Executive Secretary Ken Arndt.

ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE	ISSUE DATE	DEADLINE
January 9	(December 28)	July 9	(June 27)
January 23	(January 14)	August 6	(July 28)
February 6	(January 28)	September 3	(August 25)
February 20	(February 11)	September 17	(September 8)
March 5	(February 25)	October 1	(September 29)
March 19	(March 10)	October 15	(October 6)
April 16	(April 7)	October 29	(October 20)
April 30	(April 21)	November 12	(November 3)
May 14	(May 5)	November 26	(November 17)
May 28	(May 19)	December 10	(December 1)
June 11	(June 2)		

The five issues eliminated are:

April 2, June 25, July 23, August 20 and December 24.

# A Rare Slovak-Swedish Musical Harmony

**By Jan Simko**

It was on Friday, March 7, 2008, that the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C., as already a few times in the recent past, went on a "cultural-musical offensive." In close cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden, it opened its doors to a rare musical performance, namely, a combination of a piano and saxophone recital, not heard before in those premises.

After the introductory addresses by, respectively, Slovakia's Ambassador, Dr. Rastislav Kacer, and the two cultural counselors, Mr. Mats Widbom of Sweden and Ms. Stella Kukuckova of Slovakia, the capacity audience warmly welcomed the two star performers of the evening: the by now well-known outstanding Slovak pianist, Monika Mockovcakova, and the no less brilliant Swedish classical saxophonist, Dr. Anders Lundegard. Their well-balanced program consisted of seven numbers and one encore.

The concert opened with the "Little Intrada for Saxophone and Piano" by the young Slovak composer Juraj Jartim (b.1970). The rising sequence of tones on the saxophone is followed by a melody cast in mildly modern harmonies. The piece's overall mood conjures up a Prokofjev-evoking atmosphere.

The following item "Chorale, Prelude and Fugue" composed by our saxophonist, is based on a 17<sup>th</sup>-century song and a children's song. The opening restrained tempo is couched in modern harmonies. The saxophone gets a chance to display its effective sonorous tones, while the piano suitably fills the piece's texture. While the saxophone introduces a staccato, the piano escalates into a fortissimo, which then quietens down and changes into a jocular tone.

As far as I am concerned, the most impressive and most moving piece proved to be the "Little Suite with Passacaglia" for the piano solo in five parts, by the unmatched Slovak composer, the late Eugen Suchon (1908-1993). His well-tempered, restrained late impressionis-

tic style greatly appeals to my musical temperament with its ability to instill in the listener a mood of musical magic. Idiosyncratic for Suchon's compositional procedure is a rather fast rise into an explosive situation arousing the audience's attention and expectation of what may follow. In spite of that, he is capable of producing an attractive melody. In the Arietta segment, the tone assumes an elegiac air. The tempo is picked up in the Scherzo, with the playing field moving up and down, with a melody ever present. The mood of the tone is capable of evoking an expectation and anticipation of tones to come. It is now indeed the turn of an uplifting melody. The pianist's nimble fingers excel in producing bravura chords. After "catching some breath and energy," the tones rises to a fortissimo, which again, alternates with a slowing down into a pianissimo. The captivating piece concludes with a moderato cast in an effective Suchon-style melody.

The title of the following item: "Nordic Colors," fits "the bill" perfectly. The piece's tone impresses the listener with sounding what can be interpreted as Scandinavian. The mood evokes the image of a shepherd collecting his sheep up in the mountains. In our minds, this evokes tones produced with a similar function and heard, again, in the mountains of Slovakia. It also reproduces the impressive mountain echo. In the following, the excited audience is treated to an original musical "dessert": while the saxophonist plays his tune into the open piano, with the pianist pressing the pedals, this "trick" makes it possible for the strings of the piano to produce some tones, without, however, the pianist playing. Also, the saxophonist hits the keys of his saxophone with his nails, which produces a sound as if he were knocking on the body of the saxophone, but without blowing into it.

Jean Francais (1912-1997) composed his "Cinque danses exotiques" consisting of five Portuguese dances. The pieces are in line with the Latino popular music as to rhythms and

*continued on page 13*

## The "Magna Carta" of the Slovak People 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Agreement

*continued from page 1*

President Wilson had given his support for the establishment of a Czecho-Slovak state in the heart of central Europe. Masaryk needed Slovak support to convince Wilson of the plausibility of such a common state. On May 5, 1918, Masaryk and his movement for Czech liberation received an enthusiastic welcome in Chicago by a crowd of over 150,000. He was hailed as a liberator of the Czechs. He needed, however, Slovak support and thus made plans to greet the Slovaks in Pittsburgh, which at the time had the largest concentration of Slovaks in the United States. Slovaks sought to learn of their plight in the new Czecho-Slovak state, since numerically, Czechs outnumbered them two to one.

The Pittsburgh Agreement detailed the rights of the Slovaks within the newly proposed state. The document was written in the Slovak language and included the terms of the agreement whereby the position of Slovakia and the Slovaks would be part of Czechoslovakia. Signatories included representatives of the Slovak League of America, the Czech National Federation and the Czech National Alliance. In the agreement, Masaryk who signed not as an individual but as head of the Czecho-Slovak Republic, avoided the term "nations" but instead spoke of Czechs and Slovaks. Masaryk himself believed that the Czechs and Slovaks were part of one nation which spoke two dialects of the same "Czechoslovak" language. In the Pittsburgh Agreement, he did spell the proposed new state as Czecho-Slovakia with the hyphen and he did promise the Slovaks home rule in the form of their own Diet, administration, courts and schools. The agreement said that it approved a political program aiming to unite the Czechs and Slovaks into an independent state comprising the Czech lands and Slovakia. The new Czecho-Slovak State would be a republic and its constitution would be democratic.

Masaryk received a tremendous welcome in Pittsburgh on May 30 where he was welcomed at a huge rally and was then escorted through the city. More than 10,000 Slovaks, Czechs and other Slavs, who promoted the emancipation of the Slavic nations from Habsburg rule participated. On May 31, Masaryk met with the Slovak and Czech leaders and signed the preliminary manuscript of the Pittsburgh Agreement. Slovak and Czech leaders in the United States were signatories. Among the Slovaks who signed the document were Albert Mamatej, president of the Slovak League of America; Michael Bosak, Rev. Joseph Murgas, Gejza H. Mika, rev. John J. Kubasek, Rev. Pavel J. Siska and others. Masaryk later signed the calligraphic copy of the agreement on November 14, 1918 in Washington, D.C. just before returning to Europe. On that very day, he was elected by the revolutionary government in Prague as president of Czecho-Slovakia. Thus the head of state of the new country approved and signed the Pittsburgh Agreement and it would therefore be binding. When the agreement had been calligraphed, the printer mistakenly placed May 30, 1918 on the copy while in fact the original had been signed in Pittsburgh on May 31, 1918.

Unfortunately, when Masaryk returned triumphantly as Czecho-Slovakia's new president, he completely negated the promises made in Pittsburgh regarding Slovak autonomy. Msgr. Andrew Hlinka, the champion of Slovak autonomy, believed that the Pittsburgh Agreement was the "Magna Carta" of the Slovak people. When Hlinka once confronted Masaryk as to why the promises regarding the Slovaks made in the Pittsburgh Agreement had been disavowed, Masaryk told him that the Pittsburgh Agreement was meant to pacify a small group of Slovaks in America.

In 1920, the Prague Parliament drafted a constitution emphasizing a strong central government, ignoring the promises of autonomy for the Slovaks in the Pittsburgh Agreement.

That same constitution spelled the new nation as Czechoslovakia without the hyphen and spoke of a nonexistent "Czechoslovak" language and nation.

The Slovak League of America continued the American Slovak community's efforts to see the provisions of the Pittsburgh Agreement respected. On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the agreement, the Slovak League led a delegation of American Slovaks with the original copy of the agreement. Dr. Peter P. Hletko, then president of the Slovak League, displayed the original copy of the agreement at a huge manifestation before a crowd of more than 100,000 in the main square of Bratislava on June 6, 1938. Finally, that October, the American Slovak community rejoiced when the provisions of the Pittsburgh Agreement were finally accepted and implemented by the Parliament in Prague and the name of the country was changed to Czecho-Slovakia.

War clouds soon appeared on the horizon and the plight of the Slovaks would be affected by the Second World War. Following the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia in early 1939, Slovakia declared its independence on March 14, 1939. Unfortunately, the Slovak State enjoyed but a brief period of independence. Following the war, the Slovaks once again became a part of Czechoslovakia and a new centralist government again prevailed. And after 1948, Communism took over the country.

With the fall of Communism in 1989, the Slovaks and Czechs found themselves again at an important juncture in their history. What had been known as "The Velvet Revolution" which brought down communism in Czechoslovakia, evolved into "The Velvet Divorce." To the delight of all peace-loving peoples, during the summer of 1992, the Czechs and Slovaks agreed to peacefully split. On January 1, 1993, Slovakia and the Czech Republic declared their independence.

The evolution of that historic moment had to a great extent been guided by the wisdom of the provisions of the agreement signed nine decades ago in the great American city of Pittsburgh. Some Monday morning quarterbacking might elude to the fact that had the provisions of the Pittsburgh Agreement been respected and implemented, perhaps Czecho-Slovakia might have lasted until today. In any event, the American Slovak community respectfully recalls the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the agreement's signing with great pride. There is little doubt that the Slovaks who settled in America in the later decades of the nineteenth century and the first years of the twentieth century were inspired by American political thought. They in turn wanted their brethren in their ancestral homeland to share in that same philosophy of freedom and justice.

Last year, the Slovak League of America presented the original copy of the Pittsburgh Agreement to the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. The September 9, 2007 event brought together the representatives of the Slovak fraternals which had originally supported and encouraged the spirit of truth and equality which gave birth to the Pittsburgh Agreement of May 31, 1918. Through the kindness of the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, the original of the Pittsburgh Agreement once again traveled to Slovakia where it will be featured at a special exhibit in the Slovak Parliament sponsored by the U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, the Hon. Vincent Obsitnik.

(Daniel F. Tanzone, president of the Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, resides in Yonkers, New York.)

## REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**Stella Lukanski  
Branch 380  
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania**

Stella Lukanski, 85, of Southview, Mt. Pleasant Township, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, April 29, 2008 in Manor-Care, McMurray.

She was born May 22, 1922, in Avella, a daughter of Joseph and Sophie Prolejko Tkaczuk.

Mrs. Lukanski was a former member of Guardian Angel Catholic Church, Southview, and its Christian Mothers. After its closing, she became a member of St. Mary's Church and joined the Hilltoppers group. She was a member of Southview SNPJ Club.

She was a homemaker, having raised her family on the farm in Southview.

Surviving are a son, John L. (Marcia) Lukanski Jr.; three daughters, Patricia (Wayne) Roth, Carolyn (Donald) Vosnick and Mary Ann (Edward) Banko, all of Southview; nine grandchildren, Tom, Michael, and Lisa Lukanski, David Roth, Robert Vosnick, Christine Saidel, Sheri Kitzmiller, Tracey Mastic and Maria Pond; seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Deceased are her husband, John L. Lukanski Sr., who died in 1991; four brothers, Joseph Tkaczuk, Edward and Steve Kazak and Bill Kaczuk; and a sister, Anna Yanošik.

A Christian Funeral mass was celebrated

in St. Mary's Church, Cecil, with Father Roy Conley officiating. Interment was in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Peters Township. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Coleman-Taylor Funeral Services, Cecil.

**Margaret Graytok**

**John P. Barczynski  
Branch 567  
Allentown, Pennsylvania**

John P. "Kickie" Barczynski, 89, of Bangor, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill. He was born January 23, 1919, in Penn Argyl, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Stephen and Mary Balogh Barczynski.

John and his wife, the former Theresa Mariano, celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on September 6. He was employed by Scotty's Fashions Cutting as plant manager for 38 years, retiring in 1982. John was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. His triplet grandchildren were his pride and joy.

Mr. Barczynski was a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Roseto, Pennsylvania, a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge # 1106 in Bangor for 53 years, and a life member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

In addition to his wife, Theresa, he is sur-

vived by his son, Dr. John L. Barczynski and his wife Lisa Kay; his triplet grandchildren, John Edward, Heather Lynn and Kristen Marie; four sisters, Mary Harobin, Helen Oravec, Elizabeth Hagen, and Catherine Sisolak; two brothers, Stephen and Thomas Barczynski; and two step-brothers, James and William Popovice. Three stepbrothers and six stepsisters preceded him in death.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 26, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church/ Burial was in St. Elizabeth Cemetery in Penn Argyl.

**Dorothy L. Sklar**

**Branch 7  
Houtzdale, Pennsylvania**

Dorothy L. Sklar, 72, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and formerly of Ramey, died Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at Arbutus Manor, Windbur.

Born May 25, 1935, in Ramey, she was a daughter of Wasco and Mary (Denaska) Saupp.

On May 25, 1957, in Houtzdale, she married Charles Sklar, who survives in Johnstown.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a daughter, Susan Graham and her husband, Harry, of Johnstown; a son, Edward of Lancaster; three grandchildren, Brian, Shawn and Dana Graham; four siblings, Helen Jones of Homer City, Frank Saupp and his wife, Betty, of Houtzdale, Ann Anderson and her husband, Andy, of Brecksville, Ohio, and Charles Saupp and his wife, Faye, of Tonawanda, New York; and a number of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; five brothers, Walter, Peter, Fred, Michael and Andrew Checkaneck; and a sister, Tilly Blish.

Dorothy Sklar graduated from Moshannon Joint High School, Class of 1953.

She was a homemaker and a former employee of the General Cigar Co. of Philipsburg. She enjoyed her family, baking, playing bingo and her grandchildren.

She was a member of Christ the King Church, Houtzdale, the church Altar and Rosary Society, and the Catholic Daughters of

the Americas Court St. Victoria No. 646. She was also a member of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Father Zab Amar held a prayer service on Friday, April 25 at the Birger A. Freeberg Funeral Home, Houtzdale. The recitation of the Rosary followed by Christ the King Altar and Rosary Society and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, April 26 at Christ the King Church with Father Zab Amar as celebrant. Interment was in St. Lawrence Cemetery, Houtzdale.

The officers and members of Branch 7 extend their deepest sympathy to her husband, Charles and the entire family. May she rest in peace.

**Marie Sedlak**

**George R. "Bobby" Freistak  
Branch 278  
Middletown, Pennsylvania**

George R. "Bobby" Freistak, 74, a long-time resident of New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, May 6, 2008 in the Clarendon Nursing Home, Carlisle, surrounded by his family.

"Bobby" was born June 9, 1933, in Middletown, Pennsylvania, beloved son of the late Frank and Frances Freistak.

He is survived by three brothers, Frank, Richard and Alfred, all of New Cumberland; and numerous nieces and nephews.

For ten years, "Bobby" attended the United Cerebral Palsy Day Care Alternative, formerly located in Camp Hill.

He was a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church, New Cumberland, and Branch 278 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Friends were received at the Stone & Murray Funeral Home, New Cumberland. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Theresa Church, with the Rev. James E. Lease as celebrant. Interment was in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Swatara Township.

Memorial donations may be made to Alternative West Parents Group, c/o Delores Stough, 124 Blair Mountain Rd., Dillsburg, PA 17019.

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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**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 9**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6**

**Copy Date**

**MONDAY, JUNE 2**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 27**

**MONDAY, JULY 28**

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

# Easter Coloring Contest Results



## Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Easter Coloring Contest Results



The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District has announced the winners of its 2008 Easter Coloring Contest. There were 36 entries. Prizes were awarded for first, second, third and Honorable Mention for ages 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. We wish to thank all of your young branch members for their participation and creative drawings. The winning entries were chosen from members at the District II meeting on April 20, 2008.

Here are the winners:

Ages 4-6 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jennifer Manzella; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jonathan Fayta; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Grace Foley

Ages 7-9- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Annamarie Yurik; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Britney Johnson; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Matthew Manzella

Ages 10-12- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jay Kudia; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Mary Yurik; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Todd Peters

Honorable Mention

Ages 4-6: Evan Jurcenko, Ian Bramer, Aiden Jurcenko, Sarah Peters, Jaden Durbin, Rachel Rossman, Stephanie Colby

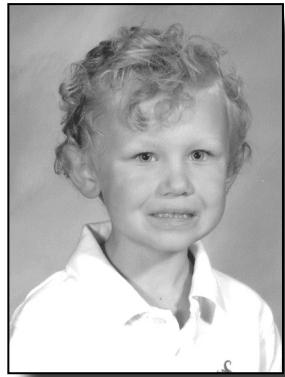
Ages: 7-9: Julian Seida, Mary Fayta, Ivan Glogovsky, Chris Peters, John Jurik and Alex Bramer

Ages 10-12: Owen Glogovsky, David Yurik, Andrea Krotiak, Austin Porter, Jacob Rossman, Lindsay Tocik, Logan Chismar, Sarah Colby, and John Munoz

### Ages 4-6



**1st PLACE**  
**Jennifer Manzella**



**2nd PLACE**  
**Johnathan Fayta**

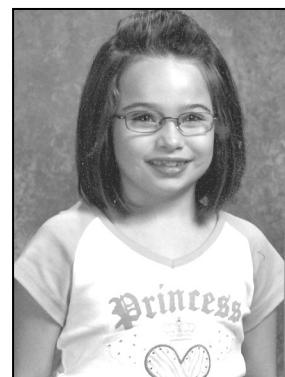


**3rd PLACE**  
**Grace Foley**

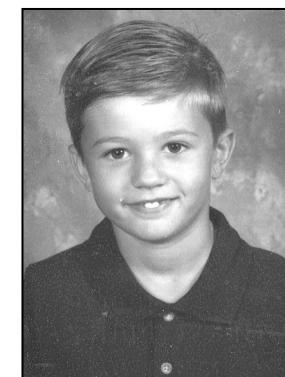
### Ages 7-9



**1st PLACE**  
**Annamarie Yurik**

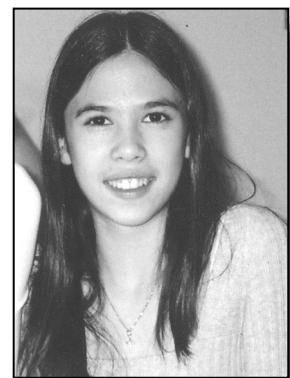


**2nd PLACE**  
**Britney Johnson**



**3rd PLACE**  
**Matthew Manzella**

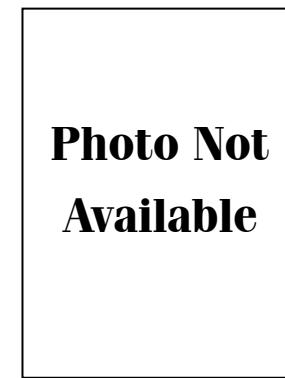
### Ages 10-12



**1st PLACE**  
**Joy Rudia**



**2nd PLACE**  
**Mary Yurik**



**3rd PLACE**  
**Todd Peters**

## Congratulations to all!

Barbara Fayta, Chairperson, Easter Coloring Contest

Statement as of March 31, 2008 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA**  
**ASSETS**

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	168,452,092		168,452,092	173,196,904
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	11,522,040		11,522,040	11,022,040
2.2 Common stocks.....	1,041,073		1,041,073	1,130,626
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	2,229,739		2,229,739	2,261,390
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,275,036		1,275,036	1,288,418
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	964,162		964,162	973,785
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$....13,206,894), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	13,206,894		13,206,894	7,383,627
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	766,222		766,222	746,501
7. Other invested assets.....	2,265,008		2,265,008	2,449,543
8. Receivables for securities.....			0	
9. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
10. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 9).....	202,284,941	0	202,284,941	201,015,509
11. Title plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
12. Investment income due and accrued.....	2,723,299		2,723,299	2,558,414
13. Premiums and considerations:				
13.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	22,489		22,489	36,412
13.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
13.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
14. Reinsurance:				
14.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
14.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
14.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
15. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
16.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
16.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
17. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
18. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
19. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	14,232	14,232	0	0
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
21. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
22. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
23. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	29,685	29,685	(0)	0
24. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 10 through 23).....	205,074,646	43,917	205,030,729	203,610,335
25. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
26. TOTALS (Lines 24 and 25).....	205,074,646	43,917	205,030,729	203,610,335

**DETAILS OF WRITE-INS**

0901.....			0	
0902.....			0	
0903.....			0	
0998. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 9 from overflow page.....	0	0	0	0
0999. Totals (Lines 0901 thru 0903 plus 0998) (Line 9 above).....	0	0	0	0
2301. Deposits 967, Book Inventory 28718.....	.29,685	.29,685	(0)	
2302.....			0	
2303.....			0	
2398. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 23 from overflow page.....	0	0	0	0
2399. Totals (Lines 2301 thru 2303 plus 2398) (Line 23 above).....	.29,685	.29,685	(0)	0

Statement as of March 31, 2008 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA  
LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS**

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	176,819,000	176,127,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	.....	.....
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	1,520,638	1,572,184
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	250,000	250,000
4.2 Accident and health.....	.....	.....
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....	.....	.....
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	400,000	400,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....	.....	.....
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	331,736	311,333
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....	.....	.....
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....	.....	.....
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	3,663,740	3,726,188
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	.....	3,425
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....	.....	.....
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	421,016	387,700
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....	.....	.....
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	8,865	8,865
14. Unearned investment income.....	.....	.....
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	5,010,102	4,609,041
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....	.....	.....
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....	.....	.....
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	50,000	50,000
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....	.....	.....
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....	.....	.....
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,435,957	2,437,842
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....	.....	.....
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized reinsurers.....	.....	.....
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....	.....	.....
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....	.....	.....
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....	.....	.....
21.7 Payable for securities.....	99,051	99,501
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	514,992	514,992
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	191,525,097	190,498,071
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....	.....	.....
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	191,525,097	190,498,071
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....	.....	.....
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	13,505,632	13,112,264
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	13,505,632	13,112,264
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30).....	205,030,729	203,610,335

**DETAILS OF WRITE-INS**

2201. Postretirement Reserve.....	252,125	252,125
2202. Security Deposits.....	62,867	62,867
2203. Special Marketing and Promotion Reserves.....	200,000	200,000
2298. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 22 from overflow page.....	0	0
2299. Totals (Lines 2201 thru 2203 plus 2298) (Line 22 above).....	514,992	514,992
2601. ....	.....	.....
2602. ....	.....	.....
2603. ....	.....	.....
2698. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 26 from overflow page.....	0	0
2699. Totals (Lines 2601 thru 2603 plus 2698) (Line 26 above).....	0	0
2801. ....	.....	.....
2802. ....	.....	.....
2803. ....	.....	.....
2898. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 28 from overflow page.....	0	0
2899. Totals (Lines 2801 thru 2803 plus 2898) (Line 28 above).....	0	0

Statement as of March 31, 2008 of the **FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA**  
**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS**

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	1,660,842	1,338,957	5,693,973
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	2,967,632	2,970,310	12,064,200
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	74,000	75,000	300,469
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	51,725	6,395	28,603
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	4,754,199	4,390,662	18,087,245
10. Death benefits.....	765,469	618,207	2,394,166
11. Matured endowments (excluding guaranteed annual pure endowments).....	539	2,208	2,208
12. Annuity benefits.....	1,721,819	1,604,339	6,299,856
13. Disability benefits and benefits under accident and health contracts including premiums waived \$.....0			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	181,565	121,599	456,455
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	56,491	53,018	218,064
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	692,000	908,000	3,667,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	3,417,883	3,307,371	13,037,749
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	13,850	21,867	97,579
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	642,344	682,591	2,287,897
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	36,644	22,626	75,113
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(79,742)	(50,387)	211,844
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	4,030,979	3,984,068	15,710,182
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	723,219	406,594	2,377,063
28. Refunds to members.....	58,622	68,441	461,771
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	664,597	338,153	1,915,292
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of ....0 (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....			(194,342)
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	664,597	338,153	1,720,950
<b>SURPLUS ACCOUNT</b>			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	13,112,264	11,555,594	11,555,594
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	664,597	338,153	1,720,950
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	(274,098)	7,956	2,984
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			(45,000)
36. Change in nonadmitted assets.....	983	(11,962)	(15,159)
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	1,885	10,373	152,294
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	0	42,033	(259,398)
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	393,367	386,553	1,556,671
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	13,505,632	11,942,147	13,112,264

**DETAILS OF WRITE-INS**

08.301. SUBSCRIPTION INCOME , BOOK SALES, LAND RENTAL.....	2,203	2,290	8,621
08.302. MISCELLANEOUS INCOME.....	49,522	4,105	19,982
08.303. .....			
08.398. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 8.3 from overflow page.....	0	0	0
08.399. Totals (Lines 08.301 thru 08.303 plus 08.398) (Line 8.3 above).....	51,725	6,395	28,603
2501. PENSION DEPOSIT NET.....	(79,742)		(328,576)
2502. SETTLEMENT OPTIONS PYTS NONLIFE.....		(50,387)	540,420
2503. .....			
2598. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 25 from overflow page.....	0	0	0
2599. Totals (Lines 2501 thru 2503 plus 2598) (Line 25 above).....	(79,742)	(50,387)	211,844
4501. ACCRUAL & ASSET ADJUSTMENTS.....		(5,886)	
4502. ADJUSTMENT TO SCH BA PER NAIC ON 2006 ANNUAL STMT.....			(62,162)
4503. ROUNDING & MISC ADJ.....			2,764
4598. Summary of remaining write-ins for Line 45 from overflow page.....	0	47,919	(200,000)
4599. Totals (Lines 4501 thru 4503 plus 4598) (Line 45 above).....	0	42,033	(259,398)

# The Chateau in Markušovce

*continued from page 1*

the village and moved there.

In addition, several other manor houses and chateaus in the village date from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Another unique feature stands out in the village, a geological formation – an 8 meter high rocky mushroom. The stone mushroom stand upon a rock above the left bank of the Hornád River. Sandstone created this protected natural formation.

## Welcome to the exhibition of historic furniture in the Chateau in Markušovce.

Built in 1643, the Chateau in Markušovce has long been associated with the name of František Mariássy. He had his palace built in a Renaissance style, which featured rounded towers in the corners.

The original building consisted of a one-storey building with a high attic. Later between 1770 and 1775, the new owner, Farkaš Mariássy, had it reconstructed in the Rococo style. In order to give the illusion of a two-storey structure, a set of windows replaced the original attic gables. He also had a two-storey portal built at the front entrance to the palace, and connected it to the main building with a covered hallway. He had the roof topped off with a baroque spire. During the reconstruction, a stucco finish adorned the palace's façade.

Among others credited with the reconstruction were the master craftsmen J.J. Schodl, a carpenter from Levoča, T. Lieb, a builder from Solivar, and M. Mráz, a stone-cutter who also hailed from Levoča.

During the 1950s, the palace was modified to host an exhibition of antique furniture. As further reconstruction ensued, the palace was closed over a decade between 1983 and 1994. When the chateau reopened for the public, the exhibit became a branch of the Homeland Museum in Spišská Nová Ves.

The antique furniture forms the core of the exhibition at the Markušovce chateau. The furnishings came from the Hodkovce mansion, which had belonged to the Csáky family, and from the Markušovce chateau itself. A large number of objects of applied art, domestic utensils, porcelain and valuable artistic glass enrich the exhibition. It shows how different furniture styles developed during various eras: from the Renaissance to the Baroque, Rococo, Classical, Empire (18<sup>th</sup> century French influenced), and Biedermaier (post-Napoleonic) styles. The late 19<sup>th</sup> century furniture also includes pieces influenced by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century neo-styles, which drew from earlier historical periods, and the pseudo-styles, which combined styles from various eras. The exhibition concludes with some furniture pieces from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The guided tour starts on the first floor after the tour guide offers visitors some basic information about the exhibit and the village of Markušovce.

The first exhibition room and the adjacent rotunda feature furniture from the Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo periods. The outstanding Renaissance style came belatedly to Central Europe, between the years 1500 and 1650. A decoration technique termed the "inlay" played an important role. It created a contrasting ornamental design, pattern or a scene by inserting a different color or type of design or material in a depressed surface. In the Spiš and Šariš regions, "inlays" usually consisted of a geometrical ornamental design. The most eye-catching exhibits are the following: a Spiš chest, an armchair crafted in the Lombard style (featuring cornices and small arches), a Renaissance inlaid cabinet door, and the lower section of an astrological table.

One can attribute the term "Baroque" to most fine arts and architecture dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Baroque is characterized by lavish decorations and swirling motion. Baroque showpieces include a number of armchairs, time pieces with pedestal clocks, a screen, and a collection of upholstered chairs.

The Rococo style emerged at the end of the Baroque era and it is also quite ornate. Rococo derives its name from its characteristic feature – the *rocaille*, an ornamentation which uses forms of water-worn rocks and shells, and is replete with S-curves and scroll-like formations. The Rococo style is characterized by lightness, elegance, delicacy and a decorative charm.

The exhibit also presents a series of showpiece tables with Delphic titles (classical Greek), and a collection of so-called "gilded furnishings," which include armchairs, candlesticks, and a bed. In the adjacent rotunda, one can see a sofa, table and chairs.

As the exhibition continues, visitors tour the family portrait gallery, which displays pictures of the members of the Csáky and Mariássy families. In the adjacent rotunda, one will find some family photographs and albums.

The corridor to the next room is called the "Hall of Mirrors" because it offers visitors a view of an excellent collection of various superbly styled mirrors which date from different periods.

Upon arriving in the next room, one will see the preeminent place of the entire exhibition. A separation wall was previously removed, and the first floor was reconstructed into a large hall with a column in the middle. Together with the adjacent rotunda, it features a valuable collection of both individual pieces and intact furniture sets from the Classicist, Empire, and Biedermeier styles. In addition, the hall contains some pictures by J. Czauczik and J. Rombauer, as well as an assortment of historical clocks.

The Classical style originated from the period of Louis XVI in France. Classical furniture dates from the years 1770-1830. The art of Ancient Greeks and Romans and the Italian Renaissance influenced its design. The furniture set on display, called "a Girl's Room," probably comes from a Viennese province and dates back to between 1780 and 1800.

The Empire architectural style, which dates from the reign of Napoleon (1804-1815), also used Classical models for inspiration. The Empire style spread across Central Europe between 1810 and 1840. It makes use of mahogany and ebony veneering, combined with brass mounting. On display one also sees several types of sitting furniture, tables, and chests of drawers.

The Biedermeier style and the bourgeois-looking Empire style, became popular between

1815 and 1848. They are often associated with the bourgeois way of life, which was spreading rapidly during that era. Forms of furniture tend to be simpler, but they aim to offer a comfortable and pleasant atmosphere. The display here includes sitting furniture, some tables, cupboards, and other assorted pieces.

The last exhibition room on this floor is called the conference hall of the Csáky family. It is done in the Neo-Gothic style and acquaints visitors with the Csáky family tree. The family tree dates back to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is situated in a room containing the only originally preserved wall painting.

The ground floor of the mansion is devoted to historicism, the revival of historical styles in contemporary works – neo-styles, pseudo-styles, the Art Nouveau style, and furniture from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A return to older styles and decoration occurred in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the exhibition, one can see these styles in furnishings of bedrooms and the Hunters' Hall, and in the last room. Sideboards, a glass cabinet, and other utilitarian artistic objects belong to the Art Nouveau style, which typically depicts leaves and flowers in flowing, sinuous lines. Art Nouveau was briefly popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century and then faded away.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, furniture-making started to utilize new materials. This in turn allowed for the application of new approaches and techniques. Work by individual craftsmen became rarer. One can see an example of this in the gentleman's salon, which is done in Chippendale, a style named after an English cabinetmaker from the third quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The exhibition rooms also contain a great deal of additional objects, and in particular, some remarkable samples of applied art and art crafts. These are either freely arranged as supplementary expositions in different rooms or presented as small exhibits, especially in the rotundas. A collection of garments such as dresses, blouses, suits and hats come from Hodkovce mansion, as well as china, glass and porcelain from Vienna, England, and Sévres. The latter belong to the Csáky family and bears its coat-of-arms. The former kitchen contains tin and copper dishes and other utensils. Another section of the exhibition situated on the ground floor features an armory with a collection of weaponry.

Some outstanding paintings from the museum collection also enrich the exhibition. Pictures are arranged both as individual pieces and as a series of works. The collection includes works by such remarkable painters as J. Rombauer, J. Czaucik, J. Müller, and J.J. Studner. Garnering special interest is a collection of pictures from the 18<sup>th</sup> century entitled "Allegory of the Senses," which depict military and hunting themes.

When one steps outside, one can see that the Markušovce mansion is built in a French park with three step terraces. An 18<sup>th</sup> century summer villa named "Dardanelles" stands on the top terrace and formerly served as a musical pavilion to entertain guests. It was originally constructed for a visit of the Austrian emperor that unfortunately never happened. Regardless, the villa served as a host to many musical concerts.

Today the villa houses a fantastic exhibition of keyboard musical instruments. Concerts are still occasionally held there. The villa's grand hall provides some truly outstanding acoustics which visitors can even sample when listening to some recorded music during the tour.

Visitors will find the Museum at Markušovce is open during the following hours:

In season, from May through September, Tuesday – Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., with the last admission at 3:30 p.m.

From November through May, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kastiel Markusovce/ Chateau Markusovce 053 21

Tel./Phone: +421 53 449 84 21, +421 53 449 82 12

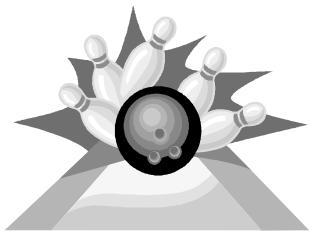
Fax: +421 53

E-mail: [muzeum.tk@stonline.sk](mailto:muzeum.tk@stonline.sk)

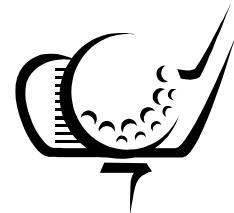


If each member would sign up just one new member,  
we could double our Society immediately

**THINK ABOUT IT!**



# Accent on Activities



## 2008 International Bowling Tournament

The results from the International Bowling Tournament have been published in the past issue of the Jednota paper. Several requests have been made to also publish prize amounts. Listed below are the prize amounts for each competition. Prize checks were mailed the week of May 19. If you did not receive your prize check, please contact Susan Ondrejco at (412) 421-7967.

Additional pictures from the 2008 Bowling Tournament are posted at

<http://2008fcsubowlingtmt.snapfish.com/snapfish>

You can post your own pictures there as well.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

May 2008

Team Event	Amount	Doubles	Amount
Torpedoes Loose	\$592.60	Krasonic Sr	\$363.60
Mon Valley #18	\$442.30	Nichols	\$311.00
Teenies Tavern	\$296.40	Tancabel	\$261.00
Mon Valley #14	\$148.30	Kapitan	\$211.00
		Johnston	\$161.00
		Sabo	\$111.00
		Ward	\$61.00
		<b>Singles</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Canadian Ladies	\$345.70	Sabo	\$167.10
Mon Valley #2	\$268.50	Dodge	\$167.10
Mon Valley #1	\$153.00	Montemarano	\$146.00
		Joscak	\$136.00
		Stasko	\$126.00
		Nasta	\$116.00
		Krasonic Sr	\$106.00
		John	\$96.00
		Kozar	\$86.00
		Detwiler	\$76.00
		Joscak	\$66.00
		Brown	\$56.00
		Shank	\$46.00
		Sadler	\$36.00
		Forma	\$35.00
		Johnston	\$13.00
		Burkhart	\$13.00
		Lynn	\$13.00
		Joe	\$13.00
		<b>Seniors</b>	<b>Amount</b>
		Forma	\$45.00
		Ward	\$35.00
		Kapitan	\$20.00
		<b>All Events</b>	<b>Amount</b>
		Dodge	\$50.80
		Montemarano	\$46.60
		Shank	\$43.00
		Krasonic Jr	\$39.60
		John	\$37.00
		Fr. Tom	\$33.60
		Lynn	\$31.00
		Tom	\$27.60
		Nichols	\$25.00
		Michael Jr	\$21.60
		Jim	\$19.00
		Szabo	\$15.60
		Edward	\$13.00
		Edmund	\$9.60
		Newman	\$7.00
		Tancabel	
		Albrecht	

### From the Desk of the Executive Secretary:

#### OHIO FRATERNAL CONGRESS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

The Ohio Fraternal Congress is pleased to announce that the Congress will award two (2) scholarships to college-bound high school seniors who are graduating in 2008.

Applicants must be an Ohio resident and a member of a Fraternal Society belonging to the Ohio Fraternal Congress and have been accepted to an accredited school for the 2008 school year.

Contact the Home Office for the application forms which must be submitted before August 1, 2008. The instructions are on the application.

If you have any questions, please contact the Home Office at (800) 533-6682.

## 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

# A Rare Slovak-Swedish Musical Harmony

*continued from page 5*

harmonies, abounding in staccatos, syncopes, jocular tones. The best characteristic of the pieces is to suggest their affinity with Gershwin's "Cuban Overture." The performers fully brought out this jazz-like, "exotic" style of music.

The sequel to the intermission opens up quite a different chapter, that is, compositions by, respectively, two of classical music's "giants." The first of them is a composition by Franz Liszt (1811-1886), whose surprising partial Slovak ancestry has been recently brought to light. His "Vallee d'Obermann," (taken from "Aannees de Pelerinage, Premiere Annee: Suisse, No. 6), implies, as its intention, to render in musical terms "an emotional experience inspired by a French popular romantic novel of 1804" (so stated in the concert notes). We are soon alerted to Liszt harmonies and the mood of romantic melancholy prevailingly rendered by the left hand. The melody then shifts to the right hand. Liszt's bravura score is most effectively rendered by the deft pianist often interchanging the sequence of her two hands. We are led to admire Liszt's captivating whirlwind of tones rendered impeccably by the "high-wire" pianist.

The concluding number, the "Sonata in c-minor, Op.45," for piano and saxophone, by Edvard Grieg (1843-1907), consists of three movements. The upper tones of the saxophone sometimes sound shrill for the ear, while the deeper tones acquire a full sound. Nevertheless, the saxophone is capable to produce not only pleasing melodies but also rough tones and staccatos. The second movement brings to expression the genuine, pleasing Grieg well-known from his other compositions. The two instruments effectively alternate in expressing the main ideas. This also brings out the saxophone's tone potential in the instrument's varying positions.

The enthusiastic audience's tumultuous acclaim brings the fabulous musicians back for an encore titled, "The Devil's Wrath." It is a light-hearted, short bravura piece abounding in syncopes, jocular passages, gallops, with the piano challenged to keep up the fast pace.

#### Coda

The saxophone is a "youngster" among the musical instruments, of 1846, invented in Belgium. Among its first users was Georges Bizet in his popular incidental music to the "L'Arlesienne" of 1872. While classical music has not made too much use of it, it is a staple instrument in jazz. Dr. Lundegard has proved to be a brilliant "ambassador" for this instrument bringing tangible proof that it is fully worthy to play classical music.

Pianist Monika Mockovcakova has, again, fully proved to be not only a brilliant soloist but also a highly competent accompanist. It was not so long ago, on November 3 and 4, 2005, that I had the exquisite pleasure of fully savoring her masterful artistry in accompanying the Slovak cellist Teodor Brcko, also at the Embassy. But it was as recently as on July 14, 2007, that I had the unique privilege to admire her very high level of musicianship during her solo recital at an exclusive Virginia residence. I have reported about this pleasurable event in my JEDNOTA article of August 8, 2007.

Since both virtuoso musicians reside in the Washington area, let us hope that they will offer admiring audiences another opportunity to savor their high level of musical artistry displayed by this rare combination of these two instruments.

## John's Tours of Slovakia Planned for September 10-27, 2008

John Mago of John's Tours will conduct his annual tour of Slovakia and surrounding countries September 10-27, 2008. The itinerary includes Vienna, Budapest, Prague, Krakow, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Auschwitz, and Wadowice, birthplace of Pope John Paul II.

In Slovakia, the tour will visit Bratislava, Trnava, Nitra, Piestany, Martin, High Tatras, Banska Bystrica, Banska Stiavnica, Kosice, Bardejov, and Presov. Tourists will see a folklore wedding in Krakovany, the Slovak National Museum in Martin, St. James Church in Levoca, Spis Castle, Goral Museum in Zdiar, and a cultural performance in Tichy Potok. No visit to Slovakia is complete without a wooden raft ride down the Dunajec River. Tour participants will also have the opportunity to invite friends and relatives to the cultural performances, at their own expense. The tour includes 16 nights lodging in first class hotels, an air-conditioned bus for touring, and an English speaking guide, two meals a day, and airfare from Pittsburgh. Airfare from other cities is also available.

John Mago along with the Slovak guide will help make arrangements for transportation and a transfer for anyone wishing to contact relatives in Slovakia.

For a brochure with further information contact John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA 15690, Phone: 1/800-260-8687 or 724/567-7341.

## VISIT THE FCSU'S WEBSITE

Home page at ://www.fcsu.com

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

## 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.

# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 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 open the meeting with prayer.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES**

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

**TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT**

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

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

The Treasurer also led a discussion concerning current offers from our brokers.

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

The Treasurer also led a discussion regarding the possibility of doing business with Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati. He will contact our consultant, Ed DePersis, for further information and make a report at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

**2010 CONVENTION**

The Executive Secretary led a discussion regarding possible sites for our 2010 Convention. He informed the Executive Committee that the President and he personally met with a representative of Experient, Jim Harmon, an event planner. We presented to Mr. Harmon our requirements for our convention

(location, hotel accommodation, meeting room sizes, food, entertainment, etc.).

Mr. Harmon will report back to the President and the Executive Secretary with a list of suggested convention sites. The President and the Executive Secretary will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

**MIDDLETOWN PRINTERY – UPDATE**

By invitation of the President, Tom T. Posavec and an associate of Landmark Commercial Realty, Inc. of Lemoyne, PA presented their report on the leasing of our Middletown property (the old printery building) to the Executive Committee. They led a lengthy discussion concerning updating the lease of our Middletown Printery. Mr. Posavec discussed the location and access to our property.

He also led a discussion concerning what is happening in the real-estate market in Middletown and Harrisburg area. He also presented and updated on the current development of the Shopping Center near our Printery.

Tom Posavec stated that he had a lengthy discussion with the township trustees regarding the possibility of rezoning our property.

He also informed the Executive Committee that Landmark Commercial Realty, Inc. will make every effort to secure a tenant for our Printery.

**Recess of session**

At this time the Executive Committee broke for lunch.

**Afternoon session**

The President called the Meeting back to order.

By the invitation of the President Andrew Rajec, a representative from Catholic Foresters, Mr. Thomas Walsh, gave a presentation. His presentation was about some of the products that the Catholic Foresters has to offer to other fraternals, one of them being "return of premium" in which the FCSU might be interested. Vice President Harcar will do some research on this presentation and report at the next Executive Meeting.

**SALES AND MARKETING**

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

The Vice President stated that we will offer a Conversion Program to members who have \$2,500.00 or less insurance in force and another Conversion Program to members who have \$5,000.00 or less insurance in force.

The Executive Secretary will contact Ed DePersis regarding the development of a Conversion Program and anticipates that this program will be offered to our members by June 1, 2008. This program will be offered until December 31, 2008. Our Branch Officers will have the opportunity to offer this Program to their members for the first thirty days.

This Conversion Program is not a guaranteed issue and applicants will be required to fill out a conversion application.

The Vice President further led a discussion concerning seminars for 2008. He will have a list of all the seminars planned for this year and will inform the Executive Committee.

The Vice President led a discussion regarding advertisement for independent sale agents in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He stated that we received 17 requests for contracts.

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

**UNDERWRITING/MEDICAL EXAMS**

The Executive Secretary led discussion regarding the off site medical exams for our prospective insurance applicants. He stated that we will be using Hooper Holmes/Portamedic, which is a nationwide company that provides medical exams, blood tests and other medical exams required for completing the underwriting of the insurance applications. Applicants may schedule appointments at their work place, home or the nearest Portamedic facility.

The Executive Secretary will inform our recommenders and our insurance agents with the procedures and the date when they will be in effect.

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

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

**MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

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

Disbursements for the month of March 2008	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$243,374.24
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 53,861.31
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.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The Vice President presented the schedule of Slovak festivals and other Slovak functions for 2008 and informed the Executive Committee where the FCSU will have an information booth displaying FCSU products.

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee about the FCSU's Bowling tournament to be held from April 25 – April 27, 2008 in Youngstown, Ohio, with a banquet being on Saturday, April 26, 2008.

The President informed the Executive Committee that the mailing of our special Jednota newspaper (the one to be delivered to every household) will start with the June 11, 2008 issue.

The Executive Secretary updated the Committee on the Branch stipend for 2007. He stated that he is still waiting for reports from some of the Branches and Districts.

He will update the Executive Committee about his progress.

The Executive Secretary stated that he mailed to our recommenders information concerning our 2008 Membership Meet. They were also notified of the points they have available to use to offset the cost of the Membership Meet.

The information concerning the cruise will be published in the Jednota newspaper and will be placed on our website.

**REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS**

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

**ADJOURN**

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

The President asked George Matta to close the meeting with prayer.

—

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

### MARCH 2008 - TREASURER' REPORT PREPARED BY

**FERRIS BAKER WATTS**

A 1/A+	LEHMAN BROS.	5.625	01-24-13	97.41	6.26	300K
			NON CALL			

**BPU**

AA3/AA-	WACHOVIA BANK	5.75	02-01-18	98.144	6.00	500K
			NON CALL			

**MERRILL LYNCH**

A2/A	BEAR STEARNS	5.30	10-30-15	86.40	7.68	500K
			NON CALL			

# Pope Benedict XVI Received Warm Welcome and Media Reflected His Themes of “Christ Our Hope,” Love, Truth, Human Dignity, Peace & Freedom

**John Karch**

**Part 2**

“One cannot fail to underline the need for clear references to the ethical responsibility of those working in [the media], especially regarding the sincere search for the truth and the protection of the centrality and dignity of the human person” -- Pope Benedict XVI

In Part I of Pope Benedict XVI’s historic visit to the United States—Washington, D.C. and New York—published in the previous issue of JEDNOTA, we explored the Catholic print and electronic media which reflected the activities of the Pope, Church and the public.

We gave detailed, revealing Knights of Columbus pre- and post-visit surveys of the Pontiff; explained EWTN’s global network of TV, radio, internet and publishing; cited the valuable service performed by the Catholic News Service (CNS) with news articles and photographs; LifeSiteNews.com; and comprehensive reflection of Washington, Arlington, and New York Archdiocesan and Diocesan newspaper coverage.

Here, in Part 2, we hope to reflect suffi-

ciently two major Catholic newspapers. The style here is to place quotation marks on the headings, with subheads without them. Also, because of space, only some writers’ names will appear.

## National Catholic Register

In its March 2 issue, the National Catholic REGISTER (NCR), a 13.5x23 inch weekly, was founded in 1927. Its mission is “to inform, inspire, challenge and equip active Catholics to engage the culture with confidence.”

NCR set the stage for Pope Benedict XVI’s April visit to the United States on the front Page with an “In Person” interview with Cardinal Francis George on “The Church after a Storm,” U.S. bishops Head on the Situation that faces American Catholics. “Briefs,” included items on the “Pope at White House”; in “This Week” Fr. Owen Kearns cited NCR’s new, website--NCRegister.com--improved over Pope2008.com. The Pope’s program was available and the new book BENEDICT OF BAVARIA was recommended. Also the NCR carried a CNS piece on “United Nations ‘Eagerly Awaits’ Pope’s Visit.”

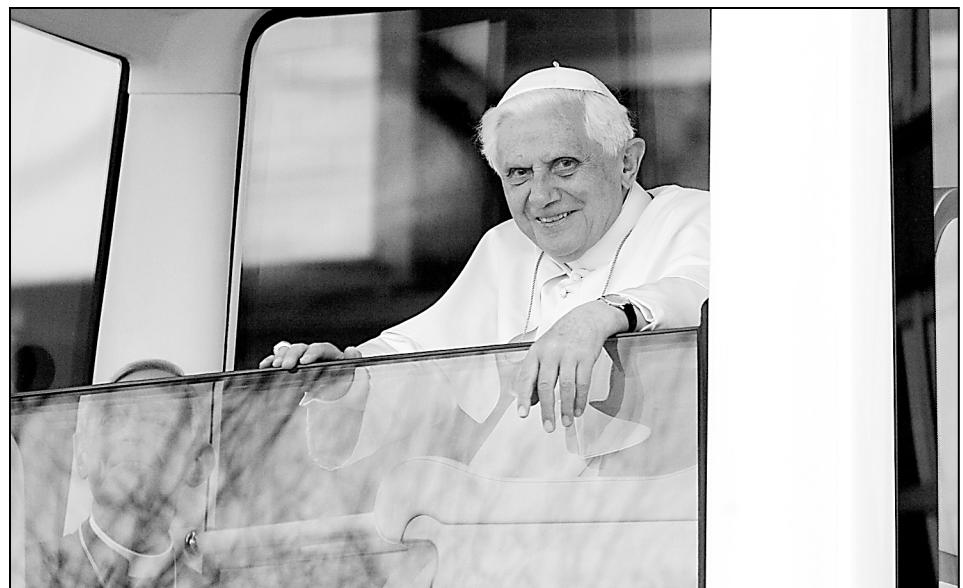


Photo Credit EWTN

NCR’s March 9 issue contained an interview with Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the UN Nuncio (Ambassador), about “The Holy See’s U.N. Host”, UN’s Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who had visited the Pontiff last year and issued the invitation to come to the U.N. In its VATICAN section the NCR, with a hand-shake photo, printed the good unifying news of “Jesuit Spokesman Affirms: The Last Word Should be the Word of the Pope”; Cardinal Francis George’s “The Church After a Storm, Part 2.”

NCR’s March 16 issue had a first-page spread “Washington Awaits Benedict” Preparing for the Pope, with a group photo outside the White House of the “Welcoming Committee”—President and First Lady Laura Bush, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Vatican’s Nuncio to the U.S., and Washington Archbishop Donald Wuerl. The latter, “Holy Father’s First Host” was interviewed and Senior Writer Tim Drake wrote an article. Also on page 1 was a “Quote of the Week” from U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, Mary Ann Glendon:

“On your first visit to the United States as Pontiff, you will find a warm welcome from a nation that understands the important contribution offered by people of faith in our society. You will be among friends.”

Page 3 had a Zenit News Service article, “Solid and Valuable Partners,” Mary Ann Glendon Assesses the U.S.-Vatican Relationship, with a large photo of the Ambassador handing the Pontiff an envelope—her letter of credence? The Editorial—“Broadcasting Him”—recognized that “Today’s dizzying array of new technologies means that laypeople are needed more than ever to bring the Church’s message into the world” but “wicked people will try to bring degrading messages to your family.” The Editorial cited existing good information on the Internet, including the Vatican website.

The next issue, March 23, printed “Inhuman Violence,” Pope Decries Kidnapping Death of Iraqi Archbishop; “Sexual Abuse Costs Soared in 2007”; and “Pope: ‘Mind Values’.”

## New York, New York

The March 30 issue contained Tim Drake’s “New York is Ready for the Pope,” From the Nation’s Capital to the Capital of the World,

with a large artist’s rendering of Yankee Stadium with the Mass stage, an attention-getter along with a photo of the Pope and “New York Numbers,” a security concern; an interview was with Joseph Zwilling, 26 years as Spokesman for the Archdiocese of New York. Articles included “Pope Comes to Boost ‘Faith, Hope, Love’”; “Catholic Underground,” Evangelization, New York Style, the successful NYC cultural apostolate Catholic Underground; “New Issues for Churches in New Political Season”; “Tackling Tough Questions,” Will the New Catholic-Muslim Forum Be Up to the Task?

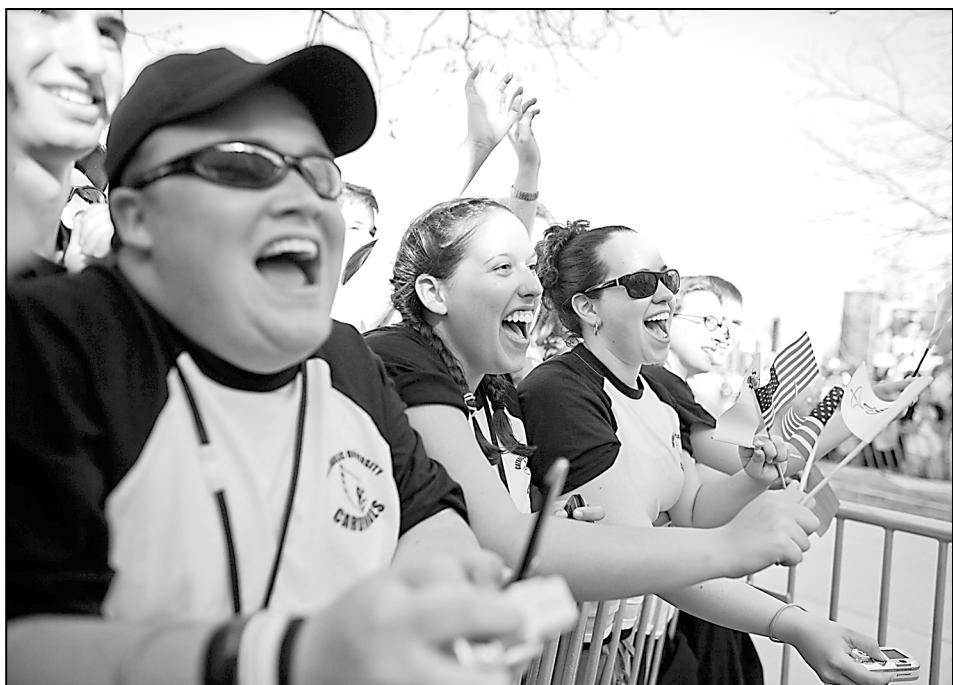
EWTN had a full-page paid Ad on “A Voice of Hope, A Voice of Peace, Pope Benedict XVI Visits the United States, Complete, LIVE, Commercial-free Coverage April 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Only on EWTN,” with several photos and a brief on the venues.

The April 6 issue reflects the immediacy of the Papal Apostolic Voyage to the U.S. with its banner headline “SETTING THE STAGE FOR BENEDICT” with a large color photo of the Pontiff. An interview was with EWTN’s Raymond Arroyo, News Director, on “EWTN Girds for Coverage.” Articles included “C-Fam’s 10 Years Boost U.N Welcome” and “Monumental Work at First Papal Stop.” The Editorial—“Benedict is Coming,”—suggested that to avoid “misinterpretations” in the media one should “read up on Pope Benedict and follow the news closely for yourself.” It then listed the NCR’S schedule of issues. NCR’s www.popevisit.com had a full page paid Ad with a huge photo of the Pope and for-sale religious and other items, proceeds to benefit Christ Our Hope Foundation of the Diocese of Washington.

## To Nation’s Capital

On the eve of his arrival, NCR’s April 13 issue was devoted largely to the Pontiff, leading off with “U.S. Bishops Await the Universal Pastor,” an interview with Cardinal Francis George. Below it was a news analysis “There’s a Method to His ‘Mistakes’”, How Benedict Shapes the News, by Fr. Raymond J. De Souza, NCR Correspondent.

Some of the other articles—identified by a page-one Index—were “1 Visit, 2 Views,” Catholics and the Media see the Pope Dif-



continued on page 19

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT-LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

The Prince Pribina District will celebrate Father's Day on Sunday, June 15, 2008, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in St. John Bosco Chapel followed by a meeting in the cafeteria. After the meeting there will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a gourmet lunch with dessert and refreshments. All members are invited to attend. All branches in the area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting. On the meeting agenda will be planning of District fraternal activities and a discussion of FCSU insurance products.

**PAUL SKUBEN, PRESIDENT**

### **MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT-NEW YORK**

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

After the meeting, the FCSU Membership and Marketing Committee will conduct a Sales Seminar. At this seminar, sale brochures and the new 2001 CSO rate charts will be distributed and discussed. All members interested in learning about our insurance and annuity products are urged to attend.

**HENRIETTA H. DAITOVA, SECRETARY**

### **MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT-MONONGAHELA VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District will hold its next meeting on Sunday, June 22, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania. Members of the various District branches are urged to attend.

**FRANCES TARQUINIO, SECRETARY**

### **PITTSBURGH DISTRICT-PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Pittsburgh District will hold its annual Father's Day Brunch on Sunday, June 15, 2008. Holy Mass will be said at 9:30 a.m. at Holy Trinity Parish, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. Brunch will follow in the parish hall.

This event is being sponsored by Branch 2 and Branch 254. If you wish to attend, or if you have an advertisement for the event booklet, please contact your local branch president or Sue Ondrejco at 412/421-1204 by Sunday, June 1.

**MARGARET A. NASTA, SECRETARY**

### **FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT-UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in the third floor meeting room at the Meridian Point Apartments, 112 Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Members of the District branches are invited to attend this meeting.

**BARBARA ANN HOLLY, SECRETARY**

### **REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT-BEDFORD, BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, AND SOMERSET COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Rev. John Martvon District held its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27, 2008 at Holy Spirit Parish Hall, St. Joseph Site, 802 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by President Edward Surkosky. Our chaplain, Rev. Andrew Stanko led the opening prayer. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States. A Mass was celebrated earlier in the day for the living and deceased members of the District.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the centennial of the host branch, the St. Joseph Society, Branch 372. Michael Hudak welcomed the delegates to the meeting and also gave a history of the branch. Beaverdale and Lloydell were settled by trappers, lumbermen and coal miners at the turn of the century. Slovaks were among the first settlers in the area. Many of these Slovaks organized a fraternal benefit society in 1902. This society was chartered on June 30, 1908 and became Branch 372 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The branch provided Slovak activities and fraternal benefits in the form of insurance.

St. Joseph Parish was organized through the efforts of Branch 372 and the Most Rev. Eugene Garvey, Bishop of Altoona. Among the members of Branch 372 attending the founding meeting of St. Joseph Parish were: Joseph Salata, George Rovnak, John Satsko, Amand Kovalik, Joseph Vrabel, Matt Chuba, Andrew Urban Sr., Joseph Kubovchik, John Chunta Sr., and Andrew Surmik. These individuals helped found St. Joseph Parish. The Rev. John M. Quinn offered the first Mass on the second Sunday of September 1903. The original church was built in 1904. The Rev. John C. Lechman was appointed pastor in October 1905.

Thus began Branch 372's long service to St. Joseph parish. The lodge was instrumental in building a new church and rectory in the late 1920's and 1930's after the original church was destroyed by a fire in 1924. Their generosity to the parish is evidenced by their donation of property for the cemetery and many other activities over the years. After the diocesan reconfiguration studies in the late 1990's, St. Joseph Parish and St. Agnes Parish of Beaverdale were merged with Corpus Christi of Dunlo. The three parishes became Holy Spirit Parish in 2003.

During the last 100 years the First Catholic Slovak Union has sponsored many activities in the area, scholarship programs, and fraternal and religious events. Branch 372 now has over 140 members with over one million dollars of insurance in force. The current officers are: Michael Hudak, President; Edward Hudak, Vice President; Stephen Gerko, Recording Secretary; Jeannie Krestar, Financial Secretary; and Veronica Maslar, Treasurer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Recording Secretary Joseph Rura and

were approved on a motion by Rev. Andrew Stanko and seconded by Leonard Fenimore. The treasurer's report was given by Joseph Slivosky. It was approved on a motion by Patricia Carpenter and seconded by Leonard Fenimore. The Financial Secretary Theresa Cassat gave her report, which was approved on a motion by Janet Mical, seconded by Rose Ann Rura.

There was no old business.

Under new business, there was a discussion on how dues are paid and what determines the amount of the dues. There was also a discussion on the Educational Policies.

The Annual Meeting will be held October 26, 2008 in St. Francis Church Hall in Coral, with the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484 being the host. William Smedo moved to close the meeting and Shirley Kovach seconded the motion. The 50/50 was won by Betty Slivosky. The meeting was attended by 26 delegates from seven branches. Chaplain Father Stanko gave the closing prayer and the grace before the meal. All sang "Hej Slovaci". A delicious dinner was served by Veronica Maslar, Mary Kuzilla and Eugenia Krestar. The meeting closed at 4:10 p.m.

**JOSEPH E. RURA, RECORDING SECRETARY**

### **REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT-EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District held its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2008, at St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church, Stowe, Pennsylvania.

Mass was celebrated at 9:00 a.m. by the Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union. After the liturgy delegates and officers gathered in the church hall for coffee and cakes.

The meeting opened at 10:15 a.m. by Father Nasta who welcomed everyone in Stowe and provided a brief history of the parish and its patron, St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother. He said the opening prayer and led the delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance. All then sang "Hej Slovaci". Roll call was taken with seven officers and 14 delegates present. The secretary read the minutes from the September meeting held in Washington, D.C. The minutes were approved and accepted on motions by Carol Sterling and Michael Kovac. Financial reports were read by Financial Secretary Damian Nasta. Chairperson Bernadine Gerhard reported that the books were audited and found to be in good order. Questions were raised about a preliminary financial report that was sent to the branches. The reports were accepted and approved on a motion by Andrew Herman and Elmer Pollock. Fraternal Activities Director Don Nasta gave a report on the lottery held in December 2007. He reported on his illness in December and why some of the checks were delayed in being cashed. Winners will be paid. There will be another lottery in July 2008. Calendars were distributed to those present. The rest will be mailed to the branches.

We are investigating going to a Lehigh Valley Iron-Pig Baseball night game. Dates will be looked into and a survey will be sent to the branches.

Regional Director Damian Nasta spoke on the last Board of Directors meeting held in March 2008. He mentioned how well our District is doing in insurance and annuity sales. He commended our recommenders for the great job they are doing and encouraged them to continue. Damian also spoke about a memo he received from President Andrew Rajec regarding the merging of the FCSU with the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association. He told the delegates all he knew and would forward new information to them when it became available. Father Nasta said he had spoken with President Rajec on this subject and reported what he could as well.

President Greg Harakal presented an idea for new membership. It was decided to award prizes of \$250, \$100 and \$50 to the top three recommenders who could bring the most new members in the society in 2008. Regional Director Damian Nasta will get a list from the Home Office to determine who the winners will be.

Recording Secretary Helen Fiala announced she will not run for election in the fall. A new secretary will be needed.

The next meeting will be held October 5, 2008 in Mahanoy, Pennsylvania. On a motion by Stephen Engle and Dorothy Madeja, the meeting was closed. Father Nasta said the final prayer. A delicious homemade Slovak meal was served to all the delegates following the meeting.

**HELEN FIALA, RECORDING SECRETARY**

## Useful Websites

[www.skonline.sk](http://www.skonline.sk)  
[www.travelguide.sk](http://www.travelguide.sk)  
[kosice.region.sk](http://kosice.region.sk)  
[www.slovakia.org](http://www.slovakia.org)  
[www.vtaty.sk](http://www.vtaty.sk)  
[www.tatry.net](http://www.tatry.net)  
[www.hotel-net.sk](http://www.hotel-net.sk)  
[www.skonline.sk](http://www.skonline.sk)  
[www.kultura.sk](http://www.kultura.sk)  
[www.snm.sk](http://www.snm.sk)  
[www.savba.sk](http://www.savba.sk)  
[www.government.gov.sk](http://www.government.gov.sk)  
[www.snd.sk](http://www.snd.sk)  
[www.stv.sk](http://www.stv.sk)  
[www.nbs.sk](http://www.nbs.sk)

Slovakia Travel Guide  
 Hotel and Spa Guide  
 Kosice-City Travel Guide  
 Bratislava-Information about the City  
 Useful Information about the High Tatras  
 Complete Information on Tatra Region  
 Tourist Accommodation  
 Slovakia On-Line (general information)  
 Slovak cultural calendar  
 Slovak National Museum  
 Slovak Academy of Sciences  
 Government of the Slovak Republic  
 Slovak National Theater  
 Slovak Television  
 National Bank of Slovakia

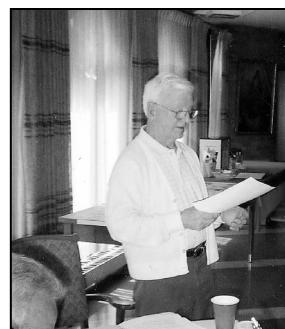
## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS



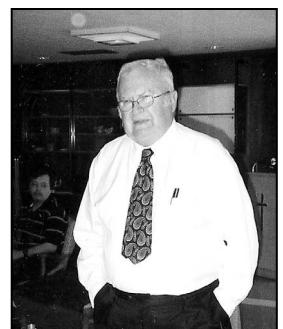
Betty Kelchak, Spiritual Advisor Dorothy Jurčenka, and Liz Bernath



L-R Theresa Bugel, Marge Vrlík and Betty Kelchak



Art Fayta delivers the Treasurer's Report



Regional Director Rudolph Glogovsky



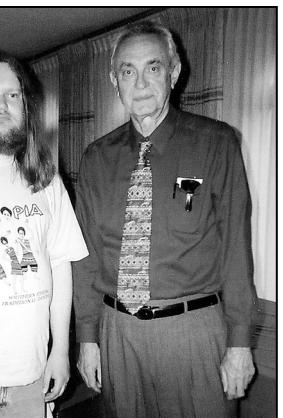
L-R Anita Glogovsky, Vice President Barb Fayta and Auditor Shirley Uram



The Streator contingent: L-R Stella Elias, Paul Chismar, Bob Elias and Catherine Michlik



Art Fayta delivers the Treasurer's Report



Recording Secretary Robert Čapák Magruder and President John Jurčenka



Back row Valerie Vesely and George J.E. Michuda. Front row Don Cummings and Pete Turner

## Thomas Kukucka Memorial Scholarships Awarded

**REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT-ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN**  
The Rev. John J. Spitzkovsky District held its Semiannual Meeting on April 20, 2008, at the Benedictine Convent of Our Lady of Sorrows, Oak Forest, Illinois. District officers presented various reports. Those delegates attending voted on the entries submitted for District's Easter Coloring Contest. Plans were finalized for the District's outing to the Drury Lane Dinner Theater on May 25, and the District's presence at Indiana Slovak Day on June 29 and Wisconsin Slovak Picnic on July 13. The annual meeting and election officers will be held on November 2, 2008. After the meeting everyone enjoyed a meal of sandwiches and pastry.

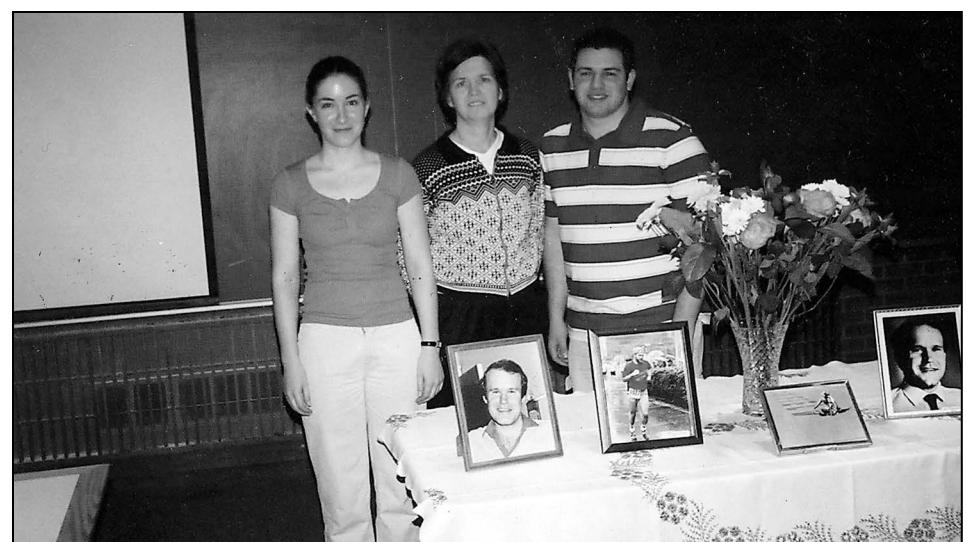
**ROBERT TAPAK MAGRUDER, RECORDING SECRETARY**

Dr. Martin Votruba, Director of the Department of Slavic Studies and Literature, opened the program by welcoming those in attendance, and in particular members of the Kukucka family who faithfully attend each year. Chris Metil, Secretary of the Slavic Department, was introduced. She spoke on the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Thomas Kukucka award established after his death in an automobile accident on July 31, 1988. At that time, Thomas Kukucka was a reporter for the Pittsburgh Press (now the Post Gazette), and taking Slovak studies at the University of Pittsburgh. He was planning to travel to Slovakia in 1989. When his co-workers thought of the best way to preserve his memory, someone suggested establishing a scholarship fund, which would enable students of the Slovak language to further their education abroad. The University of Pittsburgh was notified and the Thomas Kukucka Memorial Scholarship was on the way to become a reality. With a financial investment from the Pittsburgh Press and matching funds from Scripps Howard, the Memorial Scholarships were set. Since the Pittsburgh Press no longer exist, the fund is kept alive with private donations. "Tom would be so proud," Chris Metil said, "knowing students of the Slovak language were able to travel to Slovakia and further their knowledge of the Slovak language."

To be eligible for the scholarship, one must be a student of the Slovak language at the University of Pittsburgh and submit an essay explaining why he or she feels a trip to Slovakia would further help them in their studies. In the twenty years since its inception, over 30 students have traveled to Slovakia in Tom's memory, enriching their lives, and in many cases, making a big difference in their life's goals. The scholarship covers travel expenses, plus a little for spending money.

The guest lecturer at this year's program was Scott Brown, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of History at the University of Washington. His pioneering dissertation, "Socialism with a Slovak Face: The Slovak Question in the 1960's", explores the role of the reform movement in the 1960's. Scott Brown was a Fulbright-Hays Scholar in Slovakia and the Czech Republic in 2007-2008. During this time he lived in Bratislava with his wife.

Following the lecture, a reception with refreshments was held. Members of the Kukucka family in attendance included Dr. Stephen M. Kukucka and his wife Betty Kukucka, Dr. Stephen P. Kukucka, Janet Kukucka, and Ed, Carrie and Thomas Blazina.



The 2008 Thomas Kukucka Memorial Scholarship recipients, L-R: Alyssa DeBlasio, Karen Melis, and Mark Meshanko.



Guests at the Scholarship presentation, L-R: Dr. Stephen M. Kukucka, Mrs. Betty Kukucka, Scott Brown, a friend, and Janet Kukucka.

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BRANCH 1-****CLEVELAND, OHIO**

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

**Mary Dubber, Secretary**

**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, 49<sup>th</sup> 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 10-****OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, invites all members of Branch 10 and their families to attend the annual Mass and Communion Breakfast on Sunday, June 22, 2008. The 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Ghost Church in Olyphant will be celebrated for all living and deceased members of Branch 10. Immediately following the Mass, a complimentary breakfast for members of the branch and their families will be held at the Regal Room, 212-218 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant. Reservations are requested and may be made by calling 570/489-9819 between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. no later than Friday, June 13.

**William A. Nalevanko,  
Recording Secretary**

**BRANCH 24-****CLEVELAND, OHIO**

Members of the St. Andrew Society, Branch 24, are invited to the Slovak Radio Club Picnic on Sunday, June 29, 2008, and the Zemplin Club Picnic on Sunday, July 20, 2008. Both picnics will be held from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m. at the Sokol Camp, 2069 Royalwood Road, Broadview Heights, Ohio. There will be plenty of Slovak food, music and dancing. Hope to see you there.

**Bob Kopco, President**

**BRANCH 38-****DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 38, will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, June 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Florence Matta, 3409 Eisenhower Court, White Oak, Pennsylvania. The agenda will consist of Officers' reports. There will also be a discussion on insurance and annuity sales.

The Father's Day Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 15, 2008, at Holy Trinity Church. Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. followed by the brunch. Members wishing to attend the Brunch must contact Florence Matta at 412/466-7460 so that reservations can be made.

There will be discussion on the Slovak Day Picnic to be held Thursday, July 17, 2008 at Kennywood Park. Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m. Please visit the Slovak Kitchen at noon for delicious Slovak food. All members are invited to attend.

**Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer**

**BRANCH 90-****OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 90, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 22, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Michael P. Glinsky, 129 Grant Street, Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

**Barbara Sochovka, Financial Secretary**

**BRANCH 153- CHICAGO,****ILLINOIS**

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its Mid-Year Meeting on Saturday, June 21, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. All members are invited to attend. There will be a fraternal luncheon after the meeting.

Please remember in your prayers the following members who have passed on to their eternal rest: Joseph Soltes, Andrew Karkoska, Charles Capiak, Steve Cermak, Frank Cerven, John Kudia, Anthony Guzik, and John Mayer.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

**BRANCH 162-****UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed. All members of Branch 162 are invited to attend.

**Dolores Marmol, Secretary**

**BRANCH 166-****BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA,****PEEKSKILL, SYRACUSE, AND****POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK**

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semiannual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, June 1, 2008, at 1:15 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, Towns Square Mall, Vestal Parkway. The agenda will consist of Branch business and a discussion of the District meeting held in Scranton in April. If you plan to attend, please call Sue Gabriel at 607/729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607/775-4896. Thank you and hope to see you at the meeting.

**Arlo Meeker, President**

**BRANCH 173-****GREATER WILKES-BARRE-****WYOMING VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 173, located in the Wilkes-Barre and surrounding areas, will have its annual Mass for the living and deceased members of Branch 173 on Sunday, June 1, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at The Catholic Community of North Wilkes-Barre Church (formerly the Sacred Heart Slovak Church), North Main Street, Wilkes-Barre. The semiannual meeting will be held after the liturgy at approximately 12:00 noon at Norm's, North Sherman Street, Wilkes-Barre. If you plan to attend, please notify Dorothy A. Ungvarskey at 570/403-2067, so arrangements can be made.

**Dorothy A. Ungvarskey, President**

**BRANCH 181-****UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, will hold its annual Family Picnic on Saturday, June 21, 2008, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

in Pavilion # 14, located at the lower level ball diamond across from the dam at Mammoth Park, Mammoth, Pennsylvania. As in the past, there will be good food, prizes and games. Each member is asked to bring a covered dish with some extra portions to share. All guests of members are also asked to bring a covered dish. The meat and drinks will be provided by Branch 181. There will be chances to win some very nice door prizes. There will also be games and gifts for the children. There will be lots of fun for all. Come and enjoy an afternoon of friendship, fellowship, and fraternalism. To give the officers an idea of how much food to prepare, please call C. Pfeifer at 724/423-2983, Ed Mizikar at 724/423-2616, or George Srock at 724/423-4199, if you plan to attend.

**G. Kovacina**

**BRANCH 199-****HOTSETTER, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 199, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Francis Pipak. On the agenda will be a discussion of life insurance and annuities.

**Sophie Pipak, Financial Secretary**

**BRANCH 213-RENFREW,****PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. Michael Society, Branch 213, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at 3061 Kensington Court, Renfrew, Pennsylvania. All members are asked to attend.

**Joe Belechak, Secretary**

**BRANCH 240P-****TAYLOR, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 240P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Stephen J. Kavulich, 41 Hedge Row Run, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome to attend.

**Stephen J. Kavulich, President**

**BRANCH 260-****CAMPBELL, OHIO**

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church Monsignor Adamko Hall. A review of the Bowling Tournament held April 25-27, 2008 in Youngstown will be on the agenda along with a discussion of activities for the remaining months of the year. Members are urged to attend and to participate in the discussions to improve our fraternal status as a society.

**Charles M. Terek, President**

**BRANCH 276-****MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Martin de Porres School Hall, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. The Father's Day Brunch will be the main topic of discussion. Members interested in attending the Father's Day Brunch can contact Margaret Nasta. All members are invited to attend this meeting.

**Nancy Gerdich**

**BRANCH 293-****LANSFORD, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 293, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Church

Social Hall, 124 East Abbott Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania.

Anyone needing insurance or service should contact Robert J. Lakata, 527 E. Bertsch St., Lansford, PA 18232. Phone: 570/645-4872.

**Robert J. Lakata**

**BRANCH 320-STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA**

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, 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 372-****LLOYDELL, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 372, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 15, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. in Holy Spirit Church Hall, 802 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend.

**Michael Hudak, President**

**BRANCH 421-****NANTY GLO, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 421, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Lillian Stager, 124 Circle Drive, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

**Lillian R. Stager, Secretary-Treasurer**

**BRANCH 484-****CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Francis Church Hall, Coral, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome. Details for a branch scholarship will be discussed.

**Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary**

**BRANCH 587-****ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA**

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Monday, June 16, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

**Edith Valo, Financial Secretary**

**BRANCH 644-****MCKEES ROCKS, PENNSYLVANIA**

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 644, will hold a "Special Meeting" on Sunday, June 1, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the Slovak Civic Federation of Allegheny County, 1200 Hodkiss Street, Northside, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the future of the branch. As a member, your input will help decide whether a merger with a local branch will be necessary. This will be the last request for members to consider becoming an officer. I am looking forward to seeing a majority of members present. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

**Michael R. Jablonsky,  
President/Financial Secretary**

**BRANCH 670-****DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA**

The officers of the St. Anthony of Padua So-

*continued on page 19*

# Pope Benedict XVI Received Warm Welcome and Media Reflected His Themes of “Christ Our Hope,” Love, Truth, Human Dignity, Peace & Freedom

*continued from page 15*

ferently, by Tim Drake; “A Gentleman and a Gentle Man,” Benedict’s Americans in Rome Discuss Their Pope, by Edward Petin, NCR Rome Correspondent, with Cardinal William Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; “Supreme Knight on Benedict,” [Carl] Anderson Says the Pope will Bring a ‘Revolution of Virtue’; a CNS article “Papal Excitement Extends to the Media”; “When the Pope Meets the President.” The Editorial dealt with “Key Issues of Benedict the Rock”: Doctrine, Peace, Education, Interreligious Dialogue, and Liturgy.

In the Books and Education section, the NCR had a two-page paid Ad on “We Have a Pope,” an explanation and defense of the Papacy on the occasion of Pontiff’s visit. The first page of Section B—Culture of Life—had a photo of the Pope and a child, headlined “Pope’s Quotable Pro-Life Moments.”

## Just Before Arrival

The first page of the April 20 issue features “GEORG AND JOSEPH,” When Your Little Brother is the Pope, is Part 1 of NCR’s exclusive interview, with the Holy Father’s sole remaining sibling, MSGR. Georg Ratzinger, Pope’s younger brother; “The Road to the States,” “What Benedict’s Previous Voyages Point To; “He Returns Transformed,” Cardinal Ratzinger’s Previous Visits. Other articles include “Benedict, the Cat Person”; “Benedict, the Simple Genius”; and “Why America Needs the Pope.” The Editorial was on “Benedict’s Backpack,” i.e. about his Coat of Arms. In Culture of Life, the 33 Benedicts have individual photos of the Pope and 32 babies.

## Our Sunday Visitor

The newsweekly “Our Sunday Visitor” (OSV), was founded in 1912 in Indiana. It claims “Catholic Clarity in a Complex World” and “serves the Church not only with its products and services, but also by returning all of its net earnings to the Catholic community.” (We are subscribers.)

On page 2 of the March 2 issue of the OSV, President and Publisher Greg Erlandson wrote an “Openers” article “Let’s Weave a Web of prayers for the Pope’s Visit,” explaining that earlier in the year Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington requested OSV to prepare a pamphlet and prayer card for the Holy Father’s visit, and the Archdiocese distributed “tens of thousands” of these to its parishes and schools. This was certainly a thoughtful beginning. The last page was a promotion by OSV of “Questions and Answers” by Pope Benedict XVI.

The March 16 issue had “Religious Relations,” a news analysis on “Jews: Revision of Latin Mass prayer Still Offensive,” Reference to Jews’ blindness removed but still asks that they recognize Jesus as savior. A brief CNS news item—“Pope welcomes Ambassador,” urges Americans to let values guide choices—with a photo of the Pontiff and Ambassador Glendon.

In the March 23 OSV, one finds a CNS piece on “Jesuits end meeting, confirm allegiance to Pope”; with a photo “Pope, Orthodox patriarch meet privately, pray together”; “Catholic-Muslim Forum set for November”.

## Journey of Hope

The March 30 issue was the highpoint of the Pope’s pre-arrival two weeks later. In large type A JOURNEY OF HOPE began on the first page, with a photo of the Pope, “As U.S. Catholics prepare to welcome Pope Benedict XVI on his first visit as Pope, learn about this brilliant, thoughtful man who shepherds the world’s faithful and what to expect from his trip to America, citing pages 3, 9-20.”

Some of the articles are the following. P.3 started with “Washington rolls out red carpet for Pope Benedict,” the Pontiff’s weeklong visit to nation’s capital and New York takes months of planning on both sides of the Atlantic. The 9-20 pages were all on the Papal visit, beginning with WELCOME atop of the Pontiff smiling with extended arms and be-

low “Different approaches, same message” on Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, by Dela Gallagher, with subhead “The Pontiff may not possess his predecessor’s charisma, but he, too, will serve as a witness to hope during his visit.”

On p. 12, answers are given to FAQ “Who is Benedict XVI?” P.13, with three old photos, portrays “A genius rises from impoverished childhood,” The poor policeman’s son from Bavaria may be ‘the Mozart of theology,’ but he has not forgotten his humble roots.

Pages 14-15, with 10 photos at the top and 14-inch photo of Benedict, cites “Facts of the HOLY FATHER,” As Pope Benedict XVI prepares for his U.S. trip, get to know the man behind the title; included are explanations of his Coat of Arms, piano keys, his cat, and Bavarian Christmas cookies. To keep up with the Pope informative references were made for extensive coverage by OSV, EWTN, and Relevant Radio, including their websites. Page 16 was devoted to Apostolic voyages of Pope Benedict, with maps of Europe and Italy, and an article “Handful of Popes have made their way to USA,” with a photo of Pope John Paul II kissing a one-year-old girl at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Phoenix in 1987, during one of his six U.S. visits. On p. 17 Q&A “He is just like what he appears to be” with questions by Mary DeTuris Poust and answers by Fr. Joseph Fessio, S.J., one of the Pope’s American students, who has known the Pope for three decades and says he is “brilliant, prayerful and transparent.”

On p. 18 OSV has a piece by John Travis, CNS Rome Bureau Chief on “Journalists compare Pope Benedict with predecessor,” Pope’s words say it all. And p. 19’s “Pastoral Care” has “No matter the question, pontiff

has the answers.” Here are Pope Benedict’s responses to inquiries by children and priests—from OSV book “Questions and Answers.”

The April 6 OSV, on p. 2, wrote how to “Follow Pope Benedict’s trip at osv.com/papa visit and, on p.6 CNS’ “Cardinal [William W. Baum, Archbishop of Washington, 1975-90 who hosted Pope John Paul II’s visit, now Ret.] “Papal visit will be time of grace.”

The April 13 issue had a full page on “Snapshot of the American Church” and “The Church in America—today and yesterday,” Pope will encounter a complex landscape during this month’s visit; a photo of the Pope pointing during His March 26 general audience in St. Peter’s Square. A lengthy article was allocated to “Making most of our encounter with Pope Benedict,” by Helen Alvarez, Professor at Catholic University. “Clarion call to fidelity in education,” by John Norton was an interview with Fr. David O’Connell, President of Catholic University. The Editorial—“Our Papal Visitor”—concluded the issue.

The April 20<sup>th</sup> publication included a four-page insert “In Focus,” Papal Visit: “Hopes for the Journey,” Three men closely involved in planning the Pope’s U.S. visit anticipate increased interest in vocations and greater unity of mission to be among the trip’s fruits—Cardinal George, Archbishop Wuerl, and Joseph Zwilling. The concluding editorial—“Becoming Benedictine”—cited a Pew Forum on the Pontiff’s approval rating.

To do justice to additional information as promised—Catholic magazines, radio and television, as well as secular print and electronic media—this coverage will appear as Part 3 in the near future.

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*continued from page 18*

ciety, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the next Branch meeting on Sunday, June 22, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

### BRANCH 844-

### LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its Annual Father’s Day Mass on Sunday, June 15, 2008, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will begin at 11:00 a.m. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Father’s Day.

Following the festivities, Branch 844 members will conduct a meeting to review officers’ reports and to discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you all there. We wish all the fathers a very special and safe Father’s Day.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

### BRANCH 853-

### ELLSWORTH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 853, will hold a meeting on Saturday, July 5, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at the McDonald’s restaurant, Charleroi, Pennsylvania. Members are encouraged to attend.

Monica Rodacy Boone

### BRANCH 857-

### LEVITTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 857, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of the Financial Secretary, Andy Herman, 15 Kraft Lane, Levittown, Pennsylvania.

The officers of Branch 857 extend to all wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Damian D. Nasta, Recording Secretary





O. Štefan Furdek  
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 117

STREDA, 28. MÁJ, 2008

Číslo 5779

## Po prvý raz medzinárodné Stretnutie kresťanov v Bratislave

Bratislava (TASR) – Duchovné a kultúrne aktivity rôzneho druhu, diskusné fóra, prednášky, tematické prehliadky hlavného mesta SR a ďalšie podujatia pripravujú organizátor i pre účastníkov medzinárodného Stretnutia kresťanov Bratislava 2008.

Toto ekumenické podujatie sa uskutoční v dňoch 27.-29. júna a zúčastnia sa na ňom kresťania šiestich európskych krajín - Nemecka, Česka, Poľska, Maďarska, Rakúska a Slovenka. Cieľom stretnutia je vzájomné povzbudenie sa vo viere, prehľbenie spolupráce v rôznych oblastiach duchovného života, posilnenie zodpovednosti kresťanov za veci verejných a podpora procesu zjednocovania Európy.

Na diskusných fórách sa bude hovoriť napríklad o medzikultúrnych vzťahoch v Európe a príspevku cirkví k ich rozvoju, či o schengenskom priestore, otázkach imigrácie a iných aktuálnych témat. Osobné stretnutie kresťanov a duchovné podujatia sa uskutočnia v cirkevných zboroch v Bratislave a blízkom okolí. V centre mesta sa budú konáť okrem iných akcií aj organové či klavírne koncerty, vystúpenia spevokolov detí a dospelých.

Hlavné zhromaždenie sa uskutoční v sobotu 28. júna 2008 na Hlavnom námestí v Bratislave za účasti cirkevných aj štátnych predstaviteľov. Prostredníctvom Slovenskej televízie a satelitu ho budú vysielať i do okolitých krajín.

Stretnutie kresťanov Bratislava 2008 organizuje Evanjelická cirkev augsburgského vyznania na Slovensku (ECAV) v spolupráci s Reformovanou kresťanskou cirkvou na Slovensku (RKC) a s cirkvami ďalších piatich európskych krajín. Terajší siedmy ročník podujatia nadväzuje na tradíciu ekumenických stretnutí, ktorá sa začala v roku 1991 v nemeckom Görlitzi, na Slovensku sa bude konáť po prvý raz.

Záštitu nad podujatím prevzal prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič, podpredseda vlády Dušan Čaplovčík, predseda Národnej rady SR Pavol Paška, viacerí ministri a veľvyslanci zúčastnených krajín, ako aj predstavitelia miest.

## SR sa dostáva do elitnej skupiny európskych štátov

Bratislava (TASR) – Prijatie eura, ak bude po nedávnom odporúčaní Európskej komisie (EK) formálne schválené aj najvyššími orgánmi Európskej únie (EÚ), je pre Slovensko a jeho občanov vážnym historickým rozhodnutím. „Hoci sa týmto rozhodnutím Slovensko dostáva do elitnej skupiny európskych štátov, máme pred zavedením eura plný rešpekt,“ vyhlásil na tlačovej konferencii 7. mája po zverejnení hodnotiacich správ EK a Európskej centrálnej banky (ECB) premiér Fico. Odporúčanie komisie, aby Slovensko vstúpilo od 1. januára 2009 do eurozóny, považuje premiér za dobré vysvedčenie ekonomickej a finančnej politiky súčasnej vlády. „Sme presvedčení, že vzhľadom na súčasný stav slovenskej ekonomiky a slovenskej koruny je rok 2009 tým najvhodnejším okamihom,“ zdôraznil Fico. Predseda vlády neočakáva ľahkosť s rozhodnutím najvyšších politických orgánov únie, ktoré ešte musia potvrdiť vstup Slovenska do eurozóny. „Muselo by sa stať niečo výnimočné, aby orgány EÚ prijali rozhodnutie, ktoré by išlo proti odporúčaniu EK,“ upozornil Fico. Nič sa však už stať nemôže, dodal, pretože verejné financie sú stabilné, hospodársky rast je zdravý a inflácia je pod kontrolou. Vláda si podľa svojho predsedu uvedomuje možné riziká a prechodné problémy, ktoré sú spojené so zavedením eura a chce sa na ne dobre pripraviť. „Budeme prijímať potrebné opatrenia a konáť tak, aby euro nebolo iba na pros pech podnikateľskému sektoru, Slovensku a jeho zahraničnej politike, ale aby bolo úspechom každého jednotlivca, ktorý žije na území SR,“ zdôraznil premiér.

## Slovenský diplomat získal významný post v OSN

Bratislava (TASR) – Riaditeľ kancelárie ministra zahraničných vecí a diplomat Miroslav Jenča sa v priebehu jedného mesiaca ujme funkcie zvláštneho predstaviteľa generálneho tajomníka OSN a vedúceho Regionálneho centra OSN pre preventívnu diplomaciu v Strednej Ázii (UNRCCA). Na tento novozriadený post nastúpi na pozvanie generálneho tajomníka OSN Pan Ki-muna. Ako uviedol na tlačovej besede 5. mája 2008, vytvorenie tohto útvaru je súčasťou reformy OSN.

“Ako bezprostrednú úlohu pred sebou vidíme sfunkčnenie nového centra, ďalej priamo na mieste zmapovanie tých rizík, ktoré by mohli eskalovať do konfliktu a navrhnutie

Pokračovanie na str. 23

## Stretnutie Slovákov v Pápežskom slovenskom kolégiu v Ríme

Bratislava (TASR) – V Pápežskom slovenskom kolégiu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme sa v nedeľu 11. mája na sviatok Zoslania Ducha Svätého uskutočnilo jarné stretnutie Slovákov. Zúčastnili sa na ňom kňazi, rehoľníci a tí, ktorí v Ríme študujú alebo pracujú, aby si pripomenuli 45. výročie posviacky a položenia základného kameňa Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda (SÚSCM), inštitúcie, ktorá bola predchodom terajšieho Pápežského slovenského kolégia a ústavu.

Podujatie sa začalo svätou omšou, ktorej hlavný celebrant - rektor Kolégia Vladimír Stahovec privítal arcibiskupa Dominika Hrušovského a veľvyslance SR pri Svätej stolici Jozefa Draveckého. Medzi účastníkov stretnutia zavítal aj kardinál Jozef Tomko, pamätník položenia základného kameňa Slovenského ústavu v Ríme v roku 1963.

Posviacku uskutočnil pápež Ján XXIII. dňa 13. mája 1963 v Konzistoriálnej sieni vo Vatikáne. V ten istý podvečer kardinál Tisserant položil základný kameň do rozostavanej budovy ústavu, ktorý je dodnes umiestnený pri hlavnom vchode na vonkajšej stene kapielne. Ten deň bol významný pre Slovanov, keďže vtedy uplynulo 1100 rokov od príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda.

Vtedajší Slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda sa sústredoval hlavne na vydávanie náboženskej literatúry a vedenie malého gymnázia. Zároveň sa staral o slovenských pútnikov v Ríme a o slovenské misie vo svete.

Dnes Pápežské slovenské kolégium slúži kňazom na postgraduálnych štúdiách a koordinuje slovenských pútnikov prichádzajúcich do Ríma na audienciu k Svätému Otcovi, informovala Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (TK KBS) v Bratislave.

## Jubilejná púť na mieste modlitby a úcty Panny Márie Turzovka - Hora Živčáková

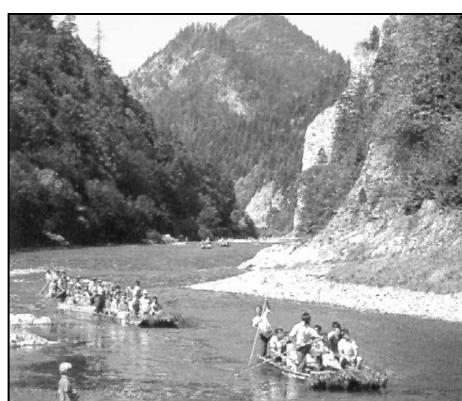


FOTO: TK KBS - František Kmečík

Záber z jubilejnej púti na mieste modlitby a úcty Panny Márie na hore Živčák v Turzovke, kde 18. mája 2008 päťtisíc veriacich vytvorilo duchovné spoločenstvo .

Veriaci zo Slovenska, Poľska, Nemecka, Českej republiky sa v dňoch od 16. do 18. mája stretli na hore Živčák v Turzovke na jubilejnej púti, aby sa spoločne modlili. Pre päťtisíc pútnikov všetkých kategórií pripravil Rímskokatolícky farský úrad Korňa pestrý duchovný i kultúrny program. Vyvrcholením stretnutia bola slávnostná svätá omša v nedeľu 18. mája na sviatok Najsvätejšej trojice, ktorú celebroval hovorca Konferencie biskupov Slovenska Jozef Kováčik. V homílii poukázal na dôležitosť lásky, komunikácie a medziľudských vzťahov. Na záver bohoslužby udelil prítomným eucharistické požehnanie.

# Slovensko má všetky predpoklady na rozvoj cestovného ruchu



Bratislava (TASR) – Magazin venovaný novinkám vo svetových turistických destináciach „News - Destination of the World“ sa vo svojej internetovej mutácii venuje Slovensku. V článku pod názvom „Zamilovaní do Slovenska“ autorka Leah Larkinová začala svoj príspevok slovami: „Hovorí si „veľká malá krajina“ a jej ambíciou je prilákať turistov a odhalit im svoje mnohé zo svojich zaujímavostí. Od rozdelenia Československa v roku 1993 sa Slovensko, ktoré vstúpilo do EÚ v máji 2004 a do eurozóny má vstúpiť v januári 2009, stalo hospodárskym motorom. V 90. rokoch krajina nemala určený jasný smer, no vývoj začiatkom 21. storočia nabral rýchly spád.“ Dodáva, že slovenský minister hospodárstva Ľubomír Jahnátek sa začiatkom tohto roka vyjadril nasledovne: „Slovensko sa rekordným rastom svojej ekonomiky, ktorý minulý rok presiahol deväť percent HDP, zaraďuje medzi najväčšie ekonomiky v európskom aj globálnom meradle“, píše časopis. Na Slovensko prišli traja poprední výrobcovia automobilov: KIA, Peugeot-Citroen a Volkswagen, čím si krajina vyslúžila prezývku „európsky Detroit“. V súčasnosti sa snaží byť jednotkou v oblasti výroby LCD panelov. Navyše sa Slovensko chce presadiť ako popredná turistická destinácia. Počet návštevníkov stúpa - minulý rok kraju navštívilo 1,7 milióna cudzincov, čo predstavuje nárast o 6,2% oproti roku 2006.

V súčasnosti prebieha výstavba nových hotelov s cieľom zvýšiť ubytovaciu kapacitu, pričom sa plánuje aj rozšírenie letísk. Predstavitelia odvetvia cestovného ruchu SR podočkajú, že je dôležité vytvoriť pre krajinu „obchodnú značku“. Základnou myšlienkou je zvýšiť povedomie a odlišiteľnosť značky „Slovensko“ ako turistickej destinácie nielen na tradičných trhoch, ale aj v nových vysielajúcich krajinách. Medzi tradičné trhy patria susedné krajinu ako Česká republika, Maďarsko a Poľsko, ktoré majú najvyšší podiel na počte návštevníkov prichádzajúcich na Slovensko. „Nová obchodná značka nám v oblastiach, kde nie sme dobre známi, pomôže zlepšiť profil krajinu, to znamená, že sa musíme riadiť západoeurópskymi zásadami a propagovať Slovensko ako značku,“ uviedol Martin Horváth, riaditeľ sekcie marketingu SACR. Pri propagácii Slovenska v európskych krajinách SACR plánuje využívať globálne kanály ako BBC a CNN. Na účel ďalšej propagácie v zahraničí Slovensko tento rok zriadí zastupiteľské úrady v Japonsku, Spojených štátach amerických, Taliansku a Veľkej Británii. Krajinu bude zastúpená v Pekingu v rámci LOH, na svetovom veľtrhu Expo Zaragoza a iných celosvetových podujatiach. Nová webová stránka ([www.slovakia.travel](http://www.slovakia.travel)) bola zriadená pre lepšie zviditeľnenie krajinu.

Autorka článku ďalej rozoberá konkrétnu príklady rozvoja cestovného ruchu na Slovensku. Napríklad mnoho členov skupiny medzinárodných novinárov, ktorí Slovensko navštívili túto zimu, videlo v kúpeľných a wellness zariadeniach najväčší potenciál cestovného ruchu v budúcnosti. Nadpriemerne vybavené vodné parky, ktoré tu nájdete, sú úžasné. Štáb DOTW News navštívil Aqua Park Tatralandia, ktorý sám seba označuje za „najväčší areál vodnej zábavy a relaxu na Slovensku, v Čechách a v Poľsku, ako aj za najúspešnejšie turistické stredisko na Slovensku za ostatných 10 rokov.“

AquaCity je vodný park na severe Slovenska, konkrétnie v Poprade, ktorý bol otvorený v roku 2005 a ročne priláka milión návštevníkov. Ponúka viac než len geotermálne bazény: nájdete tu kúpeľné centrum, dva hotely, fitness centrá, reštaurácie. V roku 2007 tu bol otvorený prvý komplex bazénov na svete s využitím solárnej energie, pričom odvetvie

## Apoštolský nuncius pricestoval na Slovensko

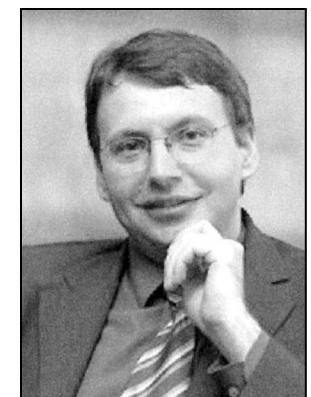
Bratislava (TASR) – Dňa 21. mája pricestoval na Slovensko Mons. Mario Giordana, ktorého pápež Benedikt XVI. menoval 15. marca za apoštolského nuncia na Slovensku. Na letisku ho privítali slovenskí biskupi - Mons. František Tondra, Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský a Mons. Ján Sokol. V blízkej budúcnosti by mal nuncia prijať prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič. Giordana mu odovzdá poverovacie listiny a oficiálne tak začne svoju diplomatickú misiu na Slovensku.

Arcibiskup Mario Giordana sa narodil 16. januára 1942 v Barge (Cuneo - Taliansko). Kňazskú vysviacku prijal 25. júna 1967. Získal doktorát z kanonického práva. V roku 1976 vstúpil do diplomatických služieb Svätej stolice. Najprv pôsobil na Apoštolskej nunciaturi v Indonézii a potom na Štátom sekretariáte. Následne ho preložili na Apoštolskú nunciaturu vo Švajčiarsku, Francúzsku, Rakúsku a Taliansku. Za apoštolského nuncia na Haiti bol menovaný 27. apríla 2004 a biskupskú vysviacku prijal 29. mája 2004. Hovorí francúzsky, anglicky a španielsky.

cestovného ruchu ho zvládlo za najlepšie ekologické stredisko. Matt Smith napísal pre deník The Guardian: AquaCity nie sú v žiadnom prípade priemerné kúpele. Namiesto toho Vás prekvapí futuristický rezort, ktorý nezaťahuje životné prostredie a ponúka najmodernejšiu kúpeľnú starostlivosť za výhodné ceny“, zdôrazňuje Leah Larkinová. Hlavné mesto Slovenska sa stalo počas ostatných rokov oblúbenou destináciou návštevníkov zo Spojeného kráľovstva v rámci poznávacích zájazdov do viacerých európskych miest. Môžu využívať Bratislavu ako základňu a spoznávať drahšiu Viedeň a Budapešť počas jednodňových výletov autobusom či loďou po Dunaji. Oblastou, ktorá sa rýchlo rozvíja, sú Tatry. Lyžiarské oblasti sa rozrastajú o nové domy, hotely, penzióny a letné chaty. Denník The Daily Telegraph sa o tomto lyžiarskom stredisku vyjadril ako o „stredisku, ktoré sa v Európe najviac prehliada“. Koncom roka vo Vysokých Tatrách otvorí päťhviezdičkový hotel Kempinski. Keďže cestovný ruch sa rozvíja po celej krajinе, dosiahnutie úspechu bude, podľa Larkinovej, vyžadovať viac než len finančné prostriedky. Okrem lepších služieb je nevyhnutný pokrok aj v ostatných oblastiach: vzdelávanie a rozvoj jazykových znalostí pracovníkov v odvetví cestovného ruchu a dobudovanie diaľnicnej siete, ktorá spojí dve najväčšie mestá tejto krajiny, Bratislavu a Košice. Preklad článku TASR poskytlo Oddeľenie pre styk s verejnou MH SR.

## Portál pre zahraničných Slovákov navštívi denne 18,000 užívateľov

Bratislava (TASR) – Vedľa klasických informačných stránok, aké má Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí ([www.szs.sk](http://www.szs.sk)), či jednotlivé slovenské spolky po svete, v posledných rokoch vznikajú aj portály s inými ambíciami. Najväčším z týchto projektov je portál Slováci vo svete ([www.slovaci.vosvete.sk](http://www.slovaci.vosvete.sk)), ktorý v októbri minulého roku spustilo Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ) a za prvé dve hodiny jeho prevádzky si ho prezrelo 1,200 učastníkov. „Portál zaznamenal špičkovú návštevnosť až 18,000 prístupov denne,“ uviedol predseda združenia Vladimír Skalský. Má rozsiahlu spravodajskú zložku vrátane zvukovej, ktorá podľa Skalského v súčasnosti nie je obvyklá. „Pozoruhodná je aj virtuálna knižnica, ktorá sa rozširuje a bude obsahovať rozsiahlu databázu kompletných rukopisov či pdf-verzií kníh a periodických publikácií, vydávaných po celom svete,“ dodal. Popri vlastných materiáloch a materiáloch z krajskej tlače sa na tvorbe portálu zmluvne podieľajú aj Slovenský rozhlas a Tlačová agentúra Slovenskej republiky, ktorá pre portál vytvára unikátny filter slovacík zo zahraničného spravodajstva a dodáva aj ďalšie súhrny. Portál poskytuje aj informačnú zložku v širokom spektre otázok vrátane rôznych prehľadov, informácií o komunitách či právnej poradne. Profesionálny redakčný systém umožnil aj prevádzkovanie celého radu interaktívnych aplikácií a funkcionálit, ako sú on-line formuláre akcií, otázok, komunitných chatov, ale aj blogov a iných služieb pre registrovaných užívateľov. V roku 2008 sa pripravuje ďalšie rozšírenie záberu portálu a zriadenie nových platformiem. Jedna bude venovaná literatúre Slovákov v zahraničí a pripravená spolu s Literárnym informačným centrom, druhá folklór, obsahujúca aj zvukové a obrazové sekvencie z nahrávok a vystúpení po celom svete. Celkovo bude posilnený multimediálny a interaktívny charakter. Cieľom portálu je podchýtiť najmä mladých ľudí, ktorí do zahraničia odchádzajú dlhodobo študovať či pracovať a z generačných dôvodov alebo pre odlišné záujmy sa doteraz nehlásili k slovenským krajským spolkom. SZSZ vzniklo v roku 2002 nadviazaním na staršiu tradíciu strešných organizácií Slovákov v zahraničí, no bez regionálnych, konfesijných či politických obmedzení. Zastrešuje 80 organizácií z 23 krajin a k jej členom patria aj významné osobnosti z umeleckého, vedeckého a podnikateľského sveta, žijúce v zahraničí.



**Vladimír Skalský**

## Výhody preukazu, osvedčenia zahraničného Slováka

Bratislava (TASR) – Výhody preukazu zahraničného Slováka a jeho súčasnú obdobu, osvedčenie Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí môže využiť viac ako 12,000 osôb. Žiadateľ o vydanie osvedčenia musí preukázať slovenskú národnosť a môže tak spraviť až do tretieho pokolenia v priamom rade, podľa svojich predkov, uviedla Anna Čižniarová z Úradu Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Vysvetlila, že preukazy vydávalo do konca roku 2005 Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí SR, ktoré vydalo 10,772 preukazov. Od roku 2006 táto kompetencia prešla na úrad, ktorý doteraz vydal 1,996 osvedčení. Objasnila, že vlastník osvedčenia alebo preukazu získava na území Slovenska prechodný pobyt a zároveň sa tu môže zamestnať bez osobitného povolenia. „Môže tiež tento doklad použiť v rámci podnikania, napríklad na založenie obchodnej spoločnosti alebo živnosti,“ pokračovala. Jeho držiteľ môže taktiež po uplynutí troch rokov nepretržitého pobytu v SR požiadať o udelenie štátneho občianstva, pričom ostatní cudzinci tu musia žiť aspoň osem rokov. Ak sa držiteľ osvedčenia či preukazu prihlási k pobytu v SR, môže sa tiež zdržiavať v schengenskom prie-store tri mesiace v rámci pol roka, dodala. Žiadateľ o vydanie osvedčenia musí preukázať svoju bezúhonnosť a to tak na území svojho domovského štátu, ako aj na území Slovenskej republiky. „Jednou zo základných zákonných podmienok je aj preukávanie slovenskej národnosti, a to úradným dokladom, v ktorom je takýto údaj uvedený,“ dodala. Žiadateľ tiež musí preukázať svoje slovenské národné povedomie, buď dokladom vydaným krajskou organizáciou, alebo spolkom, ak v štáte jeho pobytu takáto organizácia alebo spolok existuje, alebo výsledkami svojej verejnej činnosti či ovládaním slovenského jazyka.

# Delegácia Slovákov z Kalifornie pozdravila krajanov v Sydney

Delegácia Slovákov z Kalifornie, Ing. Paul Skubén, Dr. Alice Skubén, Milan Konkol a Anna Konkol, v dňoch 10. - 28. februára sa zúčastnili Cruise cez Nový Zéland, Tasmániu a Austráliu a mala možnosť sa stretnúť a pozdraviť krajanov Slovákov žijúcich v Sydney, ktorých zastupoval pán Ivan Kráľ a paní Barbara Bray. V Sydney sa tiež Slováci z Kalifornie stretli v katedrále sv. Patrika s kardinálom George Pellom.

Slováci žijúci v Sydney sa pravidelne každú nedeľu stretnú v slovenskom kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda vo počte asi dvesto ľudí. Slovenská komunita tu na stretnutiach používa slovenský jazyk, udržuje slovenské tradície, a hrdo sa hľasi k slovenskému pôvodu. Pán Kráľ je charizmatická osobnosť a inteligentným vtipom si hneď získa sympatie návštevníkov. Paní Barbara Bray má anglicky hovoriaceho manžela, ale udržuje si svoju slovenčinu aj napriek tomu, že sa narodila v Sydney.

Paul Skubén  
predseda Okresu Princa Pribinu IKSJ v Kalifornii



Zľava: Anna Konkol, Barbara Bray, Dr. Alice Skubén.



Zľava: Milan Konkol, Ing. Paul Skubén, Cardinal George Pell, Anna Konkol.



Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Na snímke zľava: Dr. Alice Skubén, Mr. Ivan Kral, Ing. Paul Skubén, Anna Konkol, Milan Konkol.

## Zberatelia požičali múzeu štyridsať Warholových diel

Viac ako štyridsať diel Andyho Warhola pripravujú v týchto dňoch na vystavenie v Múzeu moderného umenia rodiny Warholcov v Medzilaborciach. "Dielu múzeu na neurčité obdobie požičali štyria zberatelia zo Slovenska," povedal kurátor múzea Martin Cubjak. Obrazy sa stanú súčasťou expozície a slávnostne ich chcú verejnosti predstaviť pravdepodobne 6. augusta, v deň nedožitých osemesdesiatín zakladateľa pop-artu. Návštevníci uvidia napríklad kompletné portfólio štyroch obrazov Goetheho, katedrály Cologne či portrét Edwarda Kennedyho. "Tie sa málokedy objavujú na verejnosti," povedal pre denník PRAVDA Cubjak.

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# Prezidentské voľby

Neviem, ako sa iní dívajú a znášajú kampaň prezidentských volieb, ale ja som z nich unavený a môj záujem chladne. Zdá sa mi, že je to akýsi druh mučenia vymyslený politikmi, ale aj spôsob ako občanom zastriet oči sľubmi, ktoré sa obyčajne neuskutočnia. Počúvame tie isté reči a prehlásenia niekoľkokrát, až kým reči skončia na úrovni degradácie.

Mohli by sme si voliť prezidenta aj iným spôsobom, povedzme ako vy be-rajú American Idol? Bolo by hámam ľahšie, keby sa kandidáti raz predstavili na televízii a povedali nám, čo majú na mysli tak po svojom: "Ja som prešiel ozaj ľažkými životnými skúškami, ja som nábožným človekom, môj otec pracoval v továrnach na výrobu bicyklov a matka šila šaty pre naše deti." Alebo ešte lepšie, utvorí panel súdcov ktorí by rozhodli, kto je schopný viesť krajinu a kto nie.

Kandidáti využívajú televíziu na debaty a hromadné stretnutia (rally). Debaty nie sú vždy hodnotné a zaujímavé. Sú to formy "predaja". Mimo toho, kandidáti sa ukážu prítomným, že aj oni sú takí ako pospolitý ľud. Hrajú na gitare, trúbke, bozkajú ženy, deti, podávajú ruky, vypijú si s ľuďmi pivo, whisky a poskočia si aj v modernom tanci. Celá kampaň vyzerá smiešne, groteskne a trvá do posledného dňa volieb.

Televízia, noviny a rádio udržujú formálny tón počas kampane, referujúc o voľbe kandidátov s protiútočnou gravitáciou celého procesu. Skutočné referovanie je na periférii nezmyslov ako či sa vie kandidát veľmi rozčúli, keď je zahrnutý smiešnymi otázkami, alebo čoho sa dopustil pred 30 rokmi a počas rokov dospievania. Ale nechajme žartovanie stranou. Človek žasne, čo všetko musí kandidát prejsť, aby dosiahol konečnú pozíciu moci alebo aspoň jej symbol. My môžeme kandidátov kritizovať, ale kolík z nás by



Rudo L. Greguš

skutočne obstáli v takomto pretekani?

Úrad prezidenta Spojených štátov predstavuje veľkú moc nielen v Amerike, ale aj v celom svete. Preto je potrebné, aby kandidát bol "preverený".

Vyzaduje sa, aby to bol človek čestný, mal dobrý pracovný rekord, charakterný, vlastenecký, schopný urobiť rozhodnutia pre dobro krajinu a mal predpoklady viesť krajinu vo väznych a kritických situáciach. Má to byť človek, ktorý chce vypočuť odlišné mienky spolupracovníkov i občanov a tak vytvárať harmóniu - jednotu vďzie pre úspešnú budúcnosť. Má mať zmysel pre poriadok a spravodlivosť aby sa zákony zachovávali a aby bol pokoj v krajinе. Je dôležité, aby nebolo podozrenia aby kandidát niečo urobil pre osobný prospech.

Ešte by bolo zaujímavé vedieť, prečo sa ľudia uchádzajú o prezidentský úrad. Vieme, že volebná kampaň je veľkým pracovným zaťažením, zaberá mnoho času - maratón, obrovský finančný výdavok, silné nervy a pripravnosť riešiť vážne i kritické situácie. Žiadny človek sa dlho neudrží pred verejnou bez toho aby nedal príčinu ku kritike. Volebná kampaň odkrýva slabosti kandidátov. Ak sa kandidát dopustil chýb, tie sa pri voľbách využijú, v kampani sa preberá celý život kandidáta. Čo je potom príčinou, že sa ľudia uchádzajú o prezidentský úrad?

Ja by som odpovedal asi takto: Za prvé sú to ľudia, ktorých politická strana presvedčí, že majú potrebné schopnosti vyhrať prezidentské voľby. Za druhé sú to ľudia - idealisti, ktorí si myslia, že sú pripravení viesť krajinu a po tretie nájdú sa aj takí, ktorí sa ženú za mocou a slávou. Záleží na voličoch, aby vedeli posúdiť, ktorý kandidát je najschopnejší v danom čase.

Rudolf L. Greguš

## Sobrance prosia o pomoc na dokončenie výstavby kostola

Na okraji Východného Slovenska v mestečku Sobrance je vystavený katolícky kostol. Výstavba tohto kostola sa začala za komunistického režimu v roku 1972. Po páde komunizmu veriaci dokončili kostolnú vežu, postarali sa o kúrenie, premenili okná, opravili strechu a vymenili dvere kostola. Teraz prichádzajú starosti s elektrickým zavedením, čo si vyžiada značné finančné výdavky. Potom celý kostol bude potrebné vymaľovať, zakúpiť svätoštánok z Ríma, opraviť organ a urobiť vitráže na okná.

Veriaci sú natešení. Zozbierali už okolo 1,100,000 Sk. Ale na dokončenie výstavby kostola potrebujú ďalších 100,000 Sk. Obracajú sa na priateľov a známych, zvlášť z Východného Slovenska a prosia o pomoc, aby mohli dokončiť toto tak potrebné a šfachetné podujatie. Príspevok je odpočítateľný z daní a možno ho poslať šekom cez Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko (S-ACC) v New Yorku na adresu: S-ACC, P. O. Box 5395, New York, N.Y. 10185; alebo priamo poslať na kostol v Sobranciach na adresu: Rím. Kat. Úrad Sobrance, Nova 2, 07301 Sobrance, Slovak Republic.

Farský úrad v Sobranciach spolu s veriacimi vopred srdečne ďakujú darcom za pomoc a budú prosiť Všemohúceho aby ich obdaril Jeho milosťami.

## Česi a Slováci bojujú v Bruseli aj o nivu

Medzi Českou republikou (ČS) a Slovenskom (SR) prepukol nový spor o názve potravinového výrobku. Český miliekárens k podnik Madeta požiadal Brusel o ochrannú známku pre svoj výrobok Jihoceská niva. Lenže proti tomu sa ohradila slovenská strana. Námitku poslali Levické mliekárne. Tie vyrábajú charakteristický syr s modrou plesňou na Slovensku, a majú ho na tomto území registrovaný pod ochrannou známkou Niva. Žiadosť o známku - produkt zemepisného pôvodu - bola pozastavená, lebo Brusel musí preštudovať slovenské argumenty. Informoval o tom denník SME.

## Levice preslávili zlatý onyx, dnes je jeho fažba zastavená

Levice (TASR) – Známe ložiská dekoračného kameňa nedaleko Levíc, travertinu a onyxového mramoru, sú už vyše desať rokov nevyužívané. Zvláštna celistvá priesvitná forma travertinu sa preslávila pod obchodným názvom Levický zlatý onyx. Nálezisko v lokalite Levice - Zlatý Onyx a Levice - Siklos je v Európe ojedinelé. Podobné náleziská sa nachádzajú v Mexiku a Pakistane, majú však inú farbu. Kameň vyťažený na Slovensku má ojedinelé zafarbenie, vďaka ktorému získal svoje pomenovanie. Tento typ travertinu vznikol z teplejších termálnych prameňov, preto sa od klasických travertinov značne líši.

S fažbou a spracovaním sa začalo začiatkom minulého storočia a ročne sa ho vyťažilo približne 100 kubických metrov. Koncom minulého storočia však bola fažba v priestore lomu ukončená, údajne z dôvodu komplikovanej geologickej situácie. Zlatý onyx sa spracúval do podoby rôznych galantérnych výrobkov, váz, písacích súprav, dôž či popolníkov.

V stavebnictve využíval na výrobu obkladov. Prvé zmeny v fažbe zlatého onyxu pri Levice nastali koncom 60. rokov 20. storočia, keď vznikol štátny podnik Slovenský priemysel kameňa. Galantérna výroba začala v tom období stagnovať. Začiatkom mája 1992 vznikla v 1. vlne kupónovej privatizácie zo zvyšku štátneho podniku, z ktorého sa medzičasom odčlenili niektoré závody, akciová spoločnosť Zlatý onyx a ďalších sedem subjektov. Jedným z nich bola akciová spoločnosť Technické a servisné závody kamenopriemyslu Levice, ktorá v roku 1998 odkúpila približne 85% základných prostriedkov zanikajúceho Zlatého onyxu, a.s. v konkurze. Spoločnosť získala povolenie na fažbu, ktorú plánovala v priebehu dvoch rokov obnoviť.

## Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

### Polročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Krasuľu, Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 1. júna 2008 o 1:00 h odine poobede, po slovenskej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Prosíme všetky spolky, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby láskavo poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelezáti sú vitaní. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie.

Po schôdzi sa bude konať "Seminár v rôznych formách poistenia (insurance) pre členov Jednoty za prítomnosti niektorého hlavného úradníka z Hlavného úradu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Za tým bude nasledovať občerstvenie, ktoré pripraví Spolok sv. Matúša.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom: "Pochvalený bud Ježiš Kristus".

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

### Oslava Deň otcov Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, CA

Okres Princa Pribinu bude oslavovať Deň otcov v nedeľu 15. júna 2008 slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine ráno v kaplnke sv. Jána Bosca pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Bl. Bellflower, CA 90706. Na toto spoločenské posedenie súčasne pozývame všetky spolky v okolí. Po svätej omši sa bude v jedálni podávať chutný obed so záskuskom a občerstvením. Za tým bude nasledovať schôdza, na ktorej program je plán aktivít a informácie o poistení cestou Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

## Program Svetových dní mládeže

Austrália (RV/FIDES, TK KBS) – V Sydney zverejnil oficiálny program Svetových dní mládeže 2008. Podujatie sa bude konať v dňoch 15. - 20. júla a bude to šesť dní naplnených vierou, spiritualitou a rôznymi mládežníckymi aktivitami. Stretnutie sa začne 15. júla o 04.30 hod. popoludní svätou omšou, ktorú bude sláviť arcibiskup Sydney kardinál George Pell. V nasledujúci deň 16. júla sa začne prvé katechetické stretnutie na tému "Povolaní žiť v Duchu Svätom". Popoludní sa začne Mládežnícky festival. Program ďalších dvoch dní bude rovnaký, ľíšiť sa bude iba témy katechéz: "Duch Svätý - duša Cirkvi" a "Vyslaní do sveta, vedení Durom Svätým". Na 17. júla je zároveň naplánovaný príchod pápeža Benedikta XVI., ktorého popoludní pred 15.00 hod. privíta mládež v prístave. Oslavy Svetových dní mládeže vyvrcholia sobotou vígiliou 19. júla o 19.00 hod. a nedeľnou eucharistickou slávnosťou, ktorej 20. júla o 10.00 hod. bude predseda Svätý Otec na dostihovej dráhe Randwick Racecourse v Sydney.

**PRAKTIZUJTE FRATERNALIZMUS**

# Krátke správy zo Slovenska

**Do** fínskeho hlavného mesta Helsínk, odcestovala začiatkom mája skupina 18 tunelárov zo spoločnosti Skansa BS Prievidza, kde po roku dostali opäť zákazku, tentoraz na rekonštrukciu časti privádzača pitnej vody. Rekonštruuvať budú posledný 7,500-metrový úsek, priamo pred Helsinkami. Ide o najdlhší privádzač vody v Európe, má dĺžku 120 km. Práce navyše musia stihnuť v rekordne krátkom čase za tri mesiace, pretože počas rekonštrukčných prác bude od pitnej vody odstavených viac než milión obyvateľov. Tunelári z Prievidza majú vo Fínsku dobré meno. V rokoch 2005 až 2007 tam vybudovali tri dvojrúrové diaľnice tunely a jeden železničný. Pretože ich prácu dobre poznajú, zverili im aj náročné práce na dokončenie rekonštrukcie privádzača.

**Slovenská vláda** je pripravená zmeniť kontroverzný tlačový zákon, ak ústavny súd dospeje k záveru, že je nedemokratický, píše týždenník European Voice, citujúci slovenského vicepremiéra Dušana Čaploviča, ktorý mu poskytol rozhovor. Podľa týždenníka existujú obavy, že by vláda mohla zákonom manipulovať s cieľom umlčať kritiku. Zákon kritizovala aj Organizácia pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe (OBSE) a medzinárodné novinárske asociácie, pripomína European Voice. Čaplovič však v rozhovore zdôraznil, že slovenský tlačový zákon je demokratický a jeho cieľom je zaistiť ochranu bežným občanom i politikom. Vicepremiér súčasne poukázal na to, že slovenský tlačový zákon sa veľmi podobá nemeckému či francúzskemu, ktoré však nikto nekritizuje, uzatvára European Voice.

**Slováci** by sa nemali obávať zdražovania z titulu eura. Myslí si to preident SR Ivan Gašparovič. Svoj názor prezentoval novinárom 6. mája po spoločnom obede s veľvyslancami krajín EÚ v Bratislave. Vysvetlil, že otázka zdražovania potravín či energií stále hrozí, ale, ako uviedol, nie kvôli euru. "Otázka celosvetovej krízy tu do určitej miery je," povedal v tejto súvislosti. "Euro je taký ochranný štít pre nás, pre mladé štáty," zdôraznil prezident. Ivan Gašparovič, ako uviedol, je presvedčený, že to, čo občan kúpi dnes za 1,000 korún (31 eur), za tú istú hodnotu v eurách kúpi aj na našom trhu a tiež na trhu v zahraničí.

**Ani** po štyroch rokoch od krádeže nie je známy páchateľ, ktorý zo zbierkových fondov Západoslovenského múzea v Trnave odcudzil spolu 1,210 predmetov nevyčísliteľnej hodnoty. V najväčšej muzeálnej lúpeži v histórii Slovenska i v európskom kontexte nie je zatiaľ nikto obvinený a nepodarilo sa nájsť ani jeden z ukradenutých predmetov. Prípadom sa v súčasnosti zaoberá vyšetrovateľ krajského riaditeľstva polície v Trnave a hoci sa v pátraní pred časom za interesoval aj Interpol, výsledok ich práce nateraz nepriviedol žiadneho zlodeja či organizovanú skupinu zlodejov či priekupníkov za mrežu.

**Najčítanejším** celoštátnym denníkom je naďalej Nový Čas s čítačkou 25 percent, čo predstavuje viac ako jeden milión čitateľov. Vyplýva to z prieskumu Market & Media & Lifestyle (MML) - TGI, ktorý uskutočnila spoločnosť Media SK v licenčnej spolupráci s anglickou spoločnosťou BMRB International od 17. septembra 2007 do 30. marca 2008 na vzorke 4,084 respondentov vo veku 14 až 79 rokov. Druhý v poradí je denník Pravda s ôsmimi percentami a tretí denník SME, ktorý má rovnako osempercentnú čítačku. Nasleduje denník Plus 1 deň so siedmimi percentami, Korzár s čítačkou štyri percentá, Šport s čítačkou tri percentá a ÚJ Szó s dvoma percentami.

**V** obidvoch slovenských ľadových jaskyniach v Dobšinej v Slovenskom raji a v Demänovskej doline v Nízkych Tatrách začali 15. mája novú sezónu. Sprístupnené budú do konca septembra. Sezóna sa začala v tom istom termíne aj v Harmaneckej jaskyni pri Banskej Bystrici a potrvá do konca októbra. Milovníci podzemných krás môžu navštíviť už všetkých dvanásť na Slovensku sprístupnených jaskyň, o ktoré sa stará Správa slovenských jaskyň (SSJ) v Liptovskom Mikuláši. Vyše 688,000 ľudí zavítalo vlnami do sprístupnených jaskyň. Do Demänovskej ľadovej jaskyni prišlo 103,000 turistov. Vysokému záujmu verejnosti sa tešila aj Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa s takmer 88,000 návštěvníkmi.

**Prešovský** arcibiskup a metropolita Ján Babjak spolu s kňazmi slávil v nedeľu 11. máj a v rodnej obci blahoslaveného biskupa mučeníka Vasiľa Hopka - v Hrabskom v okrese Bardejov archijerejskú svätú liturgiu. Uskutočnila sa pri príležitosti archieparchiálnej odpustovej slávosti ku cti blaženého Vasiľa, informovala Tlačová kancelária Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (TK KBS) v Bratislave. V Gréckokatolíckej cirkvi je tento deň sviatkom. Pred 61 rokmi práve v tento deň blahoslavený prešovský biskup Pavol Peter Gojdič vysvätil Vasiľa Hopka za pomocného prešovského biskupa.

**V**súvislosti s konaním majstrovstiev Európy vo futbale Rakúska republika oficiálne oznamila, že dočasne obnoví kontrolu svojich vnútorných hraníc od 2. júna do 1. júla 2008. Cieľom tohto opatrenia je zabrániť príchodu potenciálne nebezpečných fanúšikov do dejiska majstrovstiev Európy. Počas dočasného obnovenia kontroly budú môcť osoby prekračovať štátne hranice Rakúskej republiky iba na jej oficiálnych hraničných priechodoch. Mimo nich alebo mimo ich prevádzkových hodín prekračovanie nebude povolené. Informovala o tom Kancelária ministra vnútra SR.

**Na** Lomnickom štítu vo Vysokých Tatrách pribudne tento rok pre turistov botanická záhrada. Návštevníci štítu uvidia priamo v prírodnom prostredí vzácné rastliny, ktoré rastú aj v nevŕtaných podmienkach vo výške viac ako 2,500 metrov nad morom, povedal Peter Spitzkopf zo Štátnych lesov TANAP-u. Na druhom najvyššom konciari Vysokých Tatier okr. ájdu 22 druhov odolných rastlín, ktorým neprekáža dlhá zima a krátke leto. Rastliny budú návštevníci masívou vidieť z terás na vrchole štítu, priamo na miestach, kde rastú.

**Slovensko** sa umiestnilo na 20. mieste vo tohtoročnom rebríčku krajín hodnotených podľa stavu mierového spolužitia Global Peace Index. Rebríček, ktorý druhým rokom vypracovala spoločnosť Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), hodnotí 140 krajín sveta. Do úvahy sa pritom bralo 24 indikátorov týkajúcich sa miery konfliktnosti v danej krajine vrátane vzťahu k iným štátom. Oproti minulému roku sa hodnotenie Slovenska prakticky nezmeneilo. Tento rok dostalo priaznivé hodnotenie za jeho "nízku úroveň organizovaného vnútorného konfliktu". Slovensko podľa EIU obstalo dobre aj v rámci regiónu, keď spomedzi 24 krajín strednej a východnej Európy skončilo na štvrtom mieste, a to za Slovenskom (celkovo 16. miesto), Českou republikou (17.) a Maďarskom (18.). Za ním skončili Rumunsko (24.), Poľsko (31.), Estónsko (35.), Lotyšsko (39.) Litva (41.) či Bulharsko (57.). Najhoršie z regiónu dopadlo, Rusko, ktoré v celkovo skončilo na 131. mieste. Na samom vrchole rebríčka sa nachádza Island, za ktorým nasledujú Dánsko a Nórsko.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

## Za priateľom

**Kytica** slov na hrob Štefana Romana  
23. 3. 1988

Do obidvoch dlaní  
mladých rúk,  
objal národ  
mnohých mŕk.  
Národ svoj,  
národ gniavený  
a prvinul ho k hrudi tak,  
ako matka drobné deti,  
ked stenajú v bolesti.  
A nepustil ho,  
nepustil!  
dokiaľ utrápené srdeč  
v hrudi nedobilo  
a svetu Slovákov  
patriota posledné zbohom dalo.

Z malého obrom sa stal,  
by vyrazil z dejín,  
ako legendárny kráľ Svätopluk,  
zapálil fakfu do nového pochodu  
a brániť, brániť,  
večne brániť!  
čo Boh rodu a svojeti dal.  
Slovo lásky  
a vernosť k národu sial,  
do jednosti Slovač volal.

Útrapy nepoznal.  
Prekážky, ťažkosti neznał.  
Za národ a svoje  
dobre sa fajtoval  
v rokoch suchých,  
ktoré mu život nameral,  
i v rokoch bujných,  
keď ho sláva objala  
a za predstol k nemu sadla.

Už odznelo slovo Pána  
i zvony utíchli;  
doznel i refrém piesne o národe  
a život legendy píše  
a zrak Slovákov letí vyššie,  
vyššie a vyššie...  
na jeho posledné defilé.

Nuž, oroduj za národ tam  
pred tvárou Otcovou  
i za jeho potomkov,  
že nechcú mať z detí otrokov.  
Veríme v Tebe i s Tebou  
a verí neprestaneme:  
Boh raz dá príť slobode  
v slovenskej otčine.  
Vičnaja pamjat', Veľký náš!  
**Štefan Hreha**

Kalendár Jednota 1989

## Slovenský diplomat získal významný post v OSN

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

plánu, akým spôsobom pokračoval v činnosti, a tiež rozvíjanie spolupráce medzi krajina mi strednej Ázie," vysvetlil Jenča. Podľa jeho slov je stredná Ázia špecifickým regiónom, keďže ide o krajiny bývalého ZSSR, no historicky patriaci do Ázie. "Ide o moslimské krajiny so všetkým, čo k tomu patrí. Vidíme tu stretnutie kultúr. Z jednej strany to, čo prichádzalo zo Sovietskeho zväzu, z druhej strany to, čo prichádzalo z Ázie," konštatoval.

Veľkú spokojnosť s Jenčovým vymenovaním vyjadril aj minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubíš. "Ja som poctený tým, že opäť jeden z diplomátov zo SR do stal takéto významné poverenie. Ukazuje sa, že aj naša aktívna zahraničná politika, aj hodnotová politika, ktorú presadzujeme a kvalita diplomatickej práce napo máha tomu, že vedúci predstaviteľia medzinárodných organizácií siahajú do arzenálu slovenskej diplomacie," poznamenal. Podľa jeho slov je to aj ocenením transparentného a vyváženého pôsobenia Slovenska v oblasti diplomacie, no zároveň je to aj vysoké ocenenie skúseností a osobných kvalít samotného kandidáta.