



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 120

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2011

NUMBER 5836

Ss Cyril and Methodius Feast Day, Feb 14



Ss Cyril and Methodius' feast day is currently celebrated on 14 February in the Roman Catholic Church (to coincide with the date of St Cyril's death).

Saints Cyril and Methodius Day" – as a holiday – commemorates the introduction of literacy and the preaching of the gospels in the Slavonic language by the brothers. In Slovakia, it is celebrated on July 5th.

Ss Cyril and Methodius
by Stanislav Dospevski, 1860

From the desk of the Executive Secretary –
Kenneth A. Arendt



**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS**



The First Catholic Slovak Union is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2011 Scholarship Program.

Seventy (70) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS in the amount of \$750.00 each will be awarded to the winners. In addition, a ONE-TIME "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.

Three additional ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS of \$750.00 each will be given from
continued on page 18

Inside

Editorial/Commentary	2
Executive Minutes	7
Bowling Contest.....	12 - 13
Branch/District Announcements	14 - 15
Slovak	21 - 24

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

HOTEL BALLY'S

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

MONDAY MARCH 28 – MARCH 29, 2011

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Monday, March 28, 2011 – Tuesday, March 29, 2011.

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

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Thursday, March 17, 2011.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 17, 2011.

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

The 2010 IRA Contribution Deadline Is April 15

Act now with any of the following FCSU products:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2010

Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred IRA	3.65% (3.585% apr)
With the "Cash Interest" Option	3.40% (3.344% apr)
Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred IRA:	3.90% (3.826% apr)
New Park Free Plus IRA – first year guarantee Maximum deposit is \$25,000.00	3.00% (2.956% apr)
New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred IRA	3.40% (3.344% apr)



If you have any questions about our Annuities or IRA's,
please contact the Home Office at
1-800-533-6682 or your local Branch Officer.



Insights and Viewpoints



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

Sunday February 13, 2011
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 5:17-37

Gospel Summary

This lengthy excerpt from the Sermon on the Mount echoes the note struck in last Sunday's gospel where Matthew urged us to seek a more spiritual and personal ideal of moral behavior. Being keenly aware of the more conservative

and traditional Jewish Christians in his community at Antioch, he defends their respect for the Mosaic Law and makes it clear that he does not in any sense reject the wisdom expressed there.

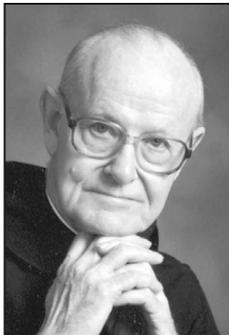
However, Matthew is also aware that some scribes and Pharisees have emphasized only an eternal and material observance of that Law. And so he urges us to go beyond such inadequate observance because it represents, in a sense, a conversion of the hands and not the heart. The gospel passage of this Sunday then gives us two examples of how a merely external observance falls short of the ideal offered by Jesus.

In the case of murder, he points out that it is not just the act that is reprehensible but that the sin is present already in the hatred that often leads to murder. In a similar manner, viewing another person as a sexual object is so demeaning that it is already a serious sin, even if it does not actually lead to adultery.

Life Implications

The ideal expressed in this gospel passage reminds us that external religious observance, though certainly important, will never suffice to make us authentic followers of Christ. It is relatively easy to observe rituals and to affirm doctrines but, unfortunately, such observance can easily co-exist with an interior attitude that is judgmental and unforgiving. As the gospel reminds us, reconciliation with the alienated people in our lives (and often families) is more important than meticulous, or even scrupulous, religious observance.

What is required then is an interior conversion that recognizes one's own shortcomings and is thus prepared to allow others to be imperfect also. What is most important, however, is an attitude of loving kindness that enables us to notice how others are hurting and which gladly reaches out to them, not because they deserve our help, but simply because they are in need and our hearts are sensitive to the fact. To love in this way is to be a child of that God who certainly loves us more than we deserve. As such, we will also be true followers of Jesus as we make his love present in our world.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

February 20, 2011
Matthew 5:38-48
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Summary

This Sunday's gospel reading is taken from the section in Matthew's Gospel that came to be called the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7). Matthew summarizes the teaching of Jesus on a variety of life issues such as anger, adultery, retaliation, almsgiving, prayer, money, judging others, and discipleship. Jesus teaches us how to respond to those who do us evil. He tells us to love them, and to pray for those who persecute us. The radical teaching of Jesus and its actualization in his own life creates a crisis of decision. Each person who hears this gospel must decide whether or not to trust Jesus when he says that an apparently foolish act of love is stronger than any act of evil. If we live in the wisdom of Jesus, we can be certain that we are children of the heavenly Father because love is the nature of divine life. If we only love those who love us in a kind of business deal, that is not to be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect. There must be a family likeness.

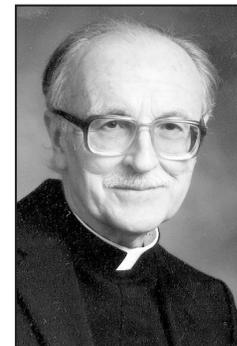
Life Implications

When we hear the cost of Christian discipleship, our spontaneous reaction probably sounds something like this: "Lord, you're going too far. Asking us to live like that would make people think of us as fools." That kind of reaction means that we have heard Jesus correctly. We tend to ignore the foolishness of Christ's teaching about discipleship. Saint Paul does not: he acknowledges the foolishness of the gospel he preaches, almost as an essential characteristic of its authenticity. In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul writes: "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."

Why does Paul say that "Christ crucified" is an obstacle to believers and foolishness to reasonable people? The answer touches upon the essential revelation of the gospel: God, the heavenly Father, is love; Jesus, his only Son, perfect image of the Father, can only be love, even to giving up his life on a cross. This human, free act of giving up his life even for those killing him appears foolish because it is so contrary to our deepest human instinct to preserve our own life by whatever means – more violence, retaliation, possessions, power, money than those who are in hostile competition with us to stay alive. A third-century graffito scratched on a stone wall of a house in Rome ridicules Christians by depicting a figure on a cross with the head of a jackass!

By our own fragile freedom and strength we cannot liberate ourselves from the prison of self-love and the fear of death. It is only through accepting the gift of sharing in the freedom and strength of the Risen Christ that we can live as children of God in love. The Letter to the Hebrews (2:15) neatly summarizes this good news: "The Son of God became blood and flesh to free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life." Liberated from the fear of death, our deepest instinct to live is fulfilled by receiving the gift of sharing in the eternal life of God.

Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount gives us random examples of what it would mean to love one another simply because we are begotten of God, and God is love. His purpose is to reveal the secret power of love, thus freeing each of us to imagine our own unique ways of love in the particular circumstances of our own life. It is possible to go beyond the reasonable, good boundaries of quid pro quo business relations to experience the miracle of receiving a gift and being a gift for others. This is the grace of the Eucharist that we pray for today: to be like God, to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect in love.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All English and Slovak articles should be sent directly to the editor Teresa Ivanec, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398. The E-Mail Address for the articles is fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com. Articles may also be sent by Fax at 216/642-4310. Teresa Ivanec can be reached by phone at 216/642-9406 or 1/800-533-6682.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, FEB 16	MONDAY, FEB 7
WEDNESDAY, MAR 2	MONDAY, FEB 21
WEDNESDAY, MAR 16	MONDAY, MAR 7

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:
 Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
 First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
 FAX: 216-642-4310

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 22 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION of the United States of America and Canada

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: UNITED STATES - \$25.00 All other countries - \$30.00

PRINTED AT: SUSQUEHANNA PRINTING, 1 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522

Telephone: 216/642-9406 Fax: 216/642-4310

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

Periodical Postage paid at Cleveland, OH 44131 and additional mailing offices

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Radio host/producer, The Christophers

A Catholic Love Story for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day turns people's minds and hearts to love and romance, but what about God? Should He be part of the equation too?

The question came to mind after reading about my friend Abby Caperton's engagement to her boyfriend Simon Fuhrmann. On her Facebook note about the engagement, she wrote the following: "We ask for your prayers as we discern further for marriage and God's will in our lives. He's our third party in all of this."

I've heard priests lament the fact that couples often come to them for a church wedding more because they want the pomp and circumstance of the event than out of a genuine commitment to their faith. Abby and Simon considering God as a "third party" in their relationship therefore intrigued me so I asked her about it.

Abby explained that her friend Kendall often kidded her that God was her "wingman" when it comes to relationships, and this situation proved the point. Abby and Simon had been casual friends for a while but the thought that he could be more didn't occur until they were both on a retreat-team together. At a planning meeting during which everyone was practicing the talks they would give during the retreat, Simon got up to speak. As he shared his story, everyone was moved to tears.

After that evening, Abby and Simon often found themselves together at Church or Church-related events, and the conversations always circled "around God and our call to holiness." Still, a romantic relationship wasn't immediately in the cards because both Abby and Simon were discerning potential vocations.

Abby recalled, "As time passed, I found myself praying for him more and more, but it was never for us to be together. It was always that God would prepare his heart and guide him. I just prayed to be an instrument that showed him the love of God." Abby now sees that as God slowly fashioning their hearts together. Her biggest fear was telling Simon about some of her past relationships with men which took place during a period when she struggled with her self-respect and before she put Christ first in her life. Simon accepted what she describes as her "past brokenness" with understanding, compassion and love.

As their relationship now proceeds toward the sacrament of marriage, God and their Catholic faith remain the glue that hold Abby and Simon together. She said, "Separate, we are two complete individuals. Together with God and by His grace, we are one complete unit. He is our glue, our bond, our wingman. Especially in moments when we fall and sin, God is there with us and He gives us the grace to encourage the other to go to Confession, to attend Mass, to pray more, and to read Scripture together. God gives us the grace to lead each other to heaven."

Hopefully everyone reading this will offer a prayer for Abby and Simon as they approach their big day. Their story also offers an important reminder as Valentine's Day draws near. While hearts and flowers are an important part of any relationship, commitment to God is the foundation that will help you weather life's storms. So this February 14, relish the romance but also foster your faith, maybe by doing something simple like sharing a prayer before your romantic dinner. Remember, God is the source of all love and the ideal wingman. Keeping Him as the "third party" in your relationship can help it bloom like a rose.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, *YOUR CAREER COUNTS*, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ ◆◆◆ Slovak Catholic Federation Announces The 100th Anniversary Of Its Founding

The Slovak Catholic Federation is proud to announce the 100th Anniversary of its founding will be celebrated on Sunday, May 15, 2011, with a Liturgy of Thanksgiving at 2:30 p.m., in the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter, Scranton, Pennsylvania, the Mother Church of the Diocese in which the Federation was founded in 1911. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, will be the Main Celebrant, along with the Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., S.T.L., Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown and Episcopal Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The Reverend Philip A. Altavilla, V.E., National President of the Slovak Catholic Federation will serve as homilist.



Following the Liturgy, a Centennial Banquet will be held at the Clarion Hotel, 300 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania. There will be a cash bar at 4:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The cost of the banquet ticket is \$35.00 per person. Entertainment will be provided by Pajtasi, a Slovak ensemble from New York. The deadline for banquet reservations is April 15, 2011.

To commemorate this historical event, a Commemorative Book will also be published. Patrons for the Commemorative Book will be appreciated. The deadline for Patrons is April 1, 2011.

For more information or to receive a Patron Form and/or a Banquet Reservation Form, please call Dolores M. Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation, at (570) 454-5547 or visit www.slovakcatholicfederation.org.



Picture above: First Row Seated: Theresa Chupka, Carl Ungvarsky, Noreen Foti, Margaret Chupka, Mary Chupka; Second Row Standing: Mike Horvath, Dave Tarantini, Mary Ann Petrenchak, Tony Foti, Barbra Ceklosky, Martha Iskra, Frank Wassil.

Sacred Heart Eilkes-Barre Foundation Awarded FCSU Grant

The Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation was recently awarded \$5,000 by the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. The grant was approved at the 49th Quadrennial Convention held at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. It was the only donation approved at the national convention. The grant application was prepared and submitted by Noreen W. Foti, President of the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation and was presented and endorsed at the convention by Carl Ungvarsky, Board Member and Region 3 Director. Members of the Chupka family, Dr. Joseph Weber and other Zednota members also supported the approval process.

Since its founding, under the leadership of Father Stefan Furdek in 1890, the First Catholic Slovak Union has been a major supporter of Slovak Catholics in the United States, Canada, and Slovakia. The organization has been instrumental in strengthening and preserving the Catholic faith and the cultural heritage of its members. The \$5,000 donation was awarded to the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation to support its primary goal of preserving the "Father Murgas' Church", the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA, which will remain open in the Diocese of Scranton.

The SHWB Foundation is extremely grateful to the National Officers, Board of Directors, and Delegates who attended the National Convention in Ohio, and to all the benefactors who continue to support the legacy of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

FCSU LIFE

PROTECT
YOUR CHILDREN
FOR ONLY
\$14.00
YEARLY!

This is not a misprint. Read on to find out how.



YOUR FAMILY COMES FIRST.
Your family is the center of your life. You would do anything for them. We are offering you this economical opportunity to guard your children and help them on their way to financial responsibility.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?
The many benefits of insuring your children with JEP include:

- \$10,000 in term life insurance coverage to age 25, for children ages 0-21 — for only \$14.00 a year. (Contact the home office for larger amounts)
- Protection for your kids' future insurability by offering conversion at age 16 or older to a regular permanent policy — regardless of health (if policy has been in force for at least two years).
- Enrollees become eligible to apply for the Societies fraternal benefits at no additional cost.
- Annual premiums are eligible for scholarships

CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?
Yes. We want you to receive our free, no obligation information on JEP! Simply call us at 1-800-533-6682, and we'll send you information and applications for the program. We're confident after reviewing our literature that you'll find this one of the best values to help your children for years to come.

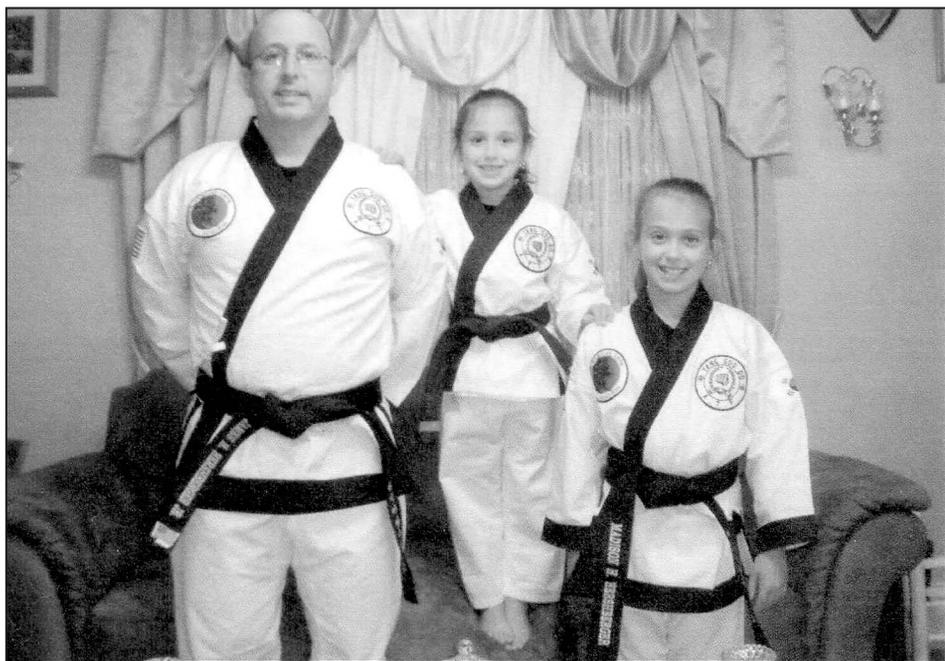


DON'T DELAY, CALL TODAY!
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OFFICER
OR THE HOME OFFICE AT 1-800-533-6682

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
of the United States and Canada
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131-2398



YOUTH ROUND-UP



Branch 410 Father & Daughter Earn Black Belts

Third-grade student Madison Hershberger and her father, James Hershberger, of Lake Lynn, PA, have earned their Black Belts in Asia Tang Soo Do, one of the oldest martial art forms. Sister Morgan, a first-grade student, is currently training for her Black Belt, as well.

In addition to martial arts, the two sisters are involved in a number of activities. Both are enrolled in the Gifted Enrichment Program at their school. Madison is involved in acro dance – a style of dance that combines classical dance technique with precision acrobatic elements – as well as tap dance classes, plays girls' softball, and is taking piano lessons. Morgan is involved in ballet and tap; and she plays the violin and baseball as well.

Both girls, along with their parents James and Kathy Hershberger, are members of Branch 410 of the Frank T. Holly Jr. District, Uniontown, PA.



Happy Birthday, Lily!

Lily Marie Halley will celebrate her first birthday on February 14, 2011. Proud grandparent and Branch 24 Member Vlad Cvicela and his wife Maria will join in the celebration with Lily's paternal grandparents Tom and Karen Halley, together with – of course – Lily's Dad and Mom, John and Susie Halley.

Happy Birthday, Lily!

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Scholarship Applicants

continued from page 1

the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, **upon proof of college graduation sent to the Home Office**, each recipient will be issued a \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2007 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**

2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2011 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.

4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com.

5. **Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than February 28, 2011.**

6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.

7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.

8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting a **proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2012).

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2011. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.



WPSCA Offers summer Scholarship

For the sixth consecutive year, WPSCA is offering a scholarship to attend the three week Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. This year's award is \$3,000

Applicants must meet the following requirements.

- Must be a full time student in the U.S.
- Must be of Slovak heritage
- Must not have previously attended the program
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program.

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and extend their Slovak language competency as well as increasing their level of expertise in Slovak literature and culture. Every year more than 150 participants from more than 25 countries study at the academic institution, taking advantage of its Slovak Studies courses. Those leading Slovak as a foreign language and experienced in teaching both in Slovakia and abroad.

For further information or for an application, contact Joe Senko at (415) 531-2990. All completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before May 1, 2010 at its office at Manor Oak Two Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

Insights and Viewpoints

Returning Stolen Property The Closing of the Javorina Military District in Spiš

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

Almost sixty years after a communist seizure of their properties, the residents of the Javorina district of the Spiš region will finally have their land returned to them. The victory of citizens from this region represents a triumph of ordinary people who struggled for over two decades to right the wrongs of the past.

Origins of the Expropriation

Shortly after World War II in 1948, the communists took power in Czechoslovakia, and they did what they wanted without asking citizens. The regime decided it wanted the region in central Spiš for military training and passed a law in February 1952; within a year, they forcefully expelled all the residents. By early 1953, the communists seized almost 32,000 hectares (about 78,000 acres) of land from the original owners, who lived in the forested and pastoral area of the Levoča Hills (Levočské vrchy), located between Kežmarok and Levoča in northeastern Slovakia. (See map.)

On January 1, 1953, the communist government formally established the Javorina Military District (Vojenský obvod Javorina). It became the largest military training area (Vojenský výcvikový priestor - VVP) not only in all of Slovakia, but in the whole Czechoslovak state. The district encompassed the villages of Blazov, Dvorce, Ľubické Kúpele (Ľubica Spa), Ruskinovce and 22 other Spiš communities.

Many families had lived there for generations; they suddenly found themselves forced out of their homes and forcefully moved to another location. The military barred any civilian entry into the district, so people could not even visit their former homes and birth sites.

The communists could perpetrate such an injustice because they possessed virtually unfettered power to push people around; citizens had no legal recourse. The region was somewhat sparsely settled due to geography. Many people of German ancestry, known as "Carpathian Germans (Karpathen Deutschen), had ancestors who immigrated over four centuries earlier. The communists expelled many ethnic Germans after World War II and considered them all Nazi-supporters, whether they were or not. Those permitted to remain on their land usually had some Slovak ethnicity or were of mixed ethnic background. But the communists had no sympathies for anyone with German roots regardless of one's politics.

The Theft of Land

The expropriation of land in the Javorina region actually began three years before the militarization law of 1952. Just a year after in power, the communist state passed Act No. 169, which aimed to "buy" the land from its owners at bargain basement prices. For a next to nothing, the state acquired the property of over a thousand people. Those that refused to accept the fire-sale prices would eventually just have their land seized.

The Czechoslovak military would use the region for ammunition storage, training, and the former villages became a shooting gallery range for target practice. The soldiers demolished the homes, historic churches, and other buildings, leaving nothing but rubble behind.

After the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, the Soviet Army moved its units to the Javorina Military District, an unpleasant reminder of foreign occupation. The Soviet soldiers stayed mainly in the region and did not mix with the local population. The Soviet military housed an extensive array of anti-aircraft ammunition there.

After the Velvet Revolution, Soviet forces withdrew from the newly organized Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. Once Slovakia became independent, the Defense Ministry continued to use the district as a military training area and as a training base for air defense. It also served as a storage place for outdated and useless materials, particularly German war equipment from World War II, and outdated Soviet equipment that its army had left behind.

Citizen Action

Following the fall of communism, some citizens started to take action to right the wrongs of the past. Spearheading the movement was Martin Pitoňák, a retired 72 year-old former resident of the destroyed village of Ruskinovce. In an interview, he shared his emotional experiences about what happened decades ago. "Then I was 13 years old. Suddenly we lost everything.

Pitoňák recalled that after trials of World War II, people finally had new hope about a better future. The atmosphere in his village was ebullient. The people expressed "sincere joy at the end of a terrible war," and they felt optimistic about the possibility of building a just society. That all changed after the communist takeover. "A genuine love of country was replaced by hatred of people against the regime and the Bolsheviks." The communist seized people's land and property with no contract of sale and offered so little money in exchange that the majority of owners refused to take it.

Pitoňák explained that as his family left its home forever, "we could take only what was absolutely necessary. Soldiers and police closely monitored anything they packed and even inspected their hands."

At the time, in February 1952, his older sister was about to get married, so his parents had purchased a new cow, some liquor, and many other items to prepare for a typical wedding feast. All at once, the family had to leave virtually everything they had owned behind. The authorities put the family and the baggage they could carry on a truck and drove them to Levoča. Nine family members had to live in a single room with a kitchen. He added, "Everyone had to hunt for a place to stay, wherever it was possible. We lived in the housing of Germans from the war era (barracks), which were falling apart, neglected, and abandoned."

Finally, his family purchased an old junky, half-demolished house in the village of Huncovce. When he reached adulthood, Pitoňák moved to his current home, the town of Svit, just below the High Tatra Mountains.

Pitoňák said that these dour thoughts of injustice toward his family and others touch him to this day. All his life, he has wanted to return to his original home. So when the totalitarian era ended, his thoughts turned to action. In 1990, he urged all former residents of Ruskinovce: "Wake up now!" There was suddenly a chance to right the wrongs of the past, and he began a long struggle to redress his grievance through the new democratic processes.



Author Michael Kopanic with his cousin Maria Gronzakova outside a chapel in Ruskanovce

Stirred to take action, Pitoňák and other former residents organized a civic group to have the district de-militarized and returned to their rightful owners; the government dragged its feet.

Government Delays

The government had promised to return the land back to its original owners as long ago as 2002, but logging and hunting interests that had alleged connections with leading politicians had delayed the process of de-nationalizing the land.

Legal hurdles also got in the way. The government had approved passing an Act on Municipal Establishment which would have provided a legal framework for sorting out the mess. Prosecutor-General Dobroslav Trnka and a group of parliamentary members challenged the provision of the legislation and the Constitutional Court ruled the new law passed as unconstitutional.

Originally, the Slovak Ministry of Defense thought it could return the property to owners fairly quickly. Private owners have claimed about 25 percent of the land in the Javorina Military District, and about 30 percent of that was ready to transfer to these owners in 2005. But the large amount of mainly anti-aircraft ammunition which the Soviet troops had abandoned delayed the process. A specially trained unit had to decontaminate the entire area before civilian occupation could begin, for the "activities of Soviet troops were not monitored and controlled." The team found a "scrapyard of vehicles" and scattered ammunition, sometimes unspent and dangerous. Even with the gradual de-militarization of the area, visitors had to show identification papers to enter, and could only stay a short time.

The process dragged on through 2010. In March, representatives of municipalities of Jakubany, Ľubica, and Ruskinovce traveled to Bratislava to protest in front of the Government Office for movement on resolving the issue of returning their properties. They wanted to use their land, but military police were guarding it and refusing access. Then the government froze progress on the issue until after the elections.

After the June 2010 elections, the new coalition government under Prime Minister Iveta Radičová took action after some more public protests. The Ministry of Defense criticized former owners as "impatient" for taking unnecessary risks in using the land before it had been properly sanitized.

A New Beginning

To its credit, the Radičová government included in its program announced in mid-August 2010, a specific reference to resolve the issue. The Cabinet finally agreed to close the military district on December 1, 2010. The changes would also be cost effective, and would help the Radičová government slash its budget. The annual costs for maintaining Javorina had hovered around one million euros, quite an expensive sum.

Some former residents have dissented about the way the government planned to divide the former villages. One civic action group, The Association for the Restoration of Ľubické Kúpele (Združenie za obnovu obce Ľubické Kúpele), criticized the details of the government proposals because there was no clause to assure the reconstitution of former villages. The group protested: "They decided about us, but without us." Still the mere abrogation of the former military district represented a big step forward.

A Celebration

Celebrating the opening of the area to civilians, a large group of people gathered at the northwest entrance to the former military district. In typical Slovak fashion, a group of folk musicians came dressed in the traditional costume (kroj) from the region, to witness the destruction of the military gate. In an online video, one can see an attendee enthusiastically sawing in two the former gate to the cheers of an enthusiastic crowd.

Holding a torched copy of the expropriation document on a stick, a Christian Democratic party member of parliament, Mária Gabilová, spoke to an attentive crowd: "May its ashes fertilize this ground and may this remind us never again to permit such a system, such a regime, to commit such

continued on page 6

The Closing of the Javorina Military District in Spiš

continued from page 5

crimes against its citizens.”

At the ceremony, Martin Pitoňák told reporters that the dissolution of the military district of Javorina represented “a triumph of truth and justice.” Previously, even some members of Parliament had even labeled him and other activist residents as “traitors, scoundrels and thieves.” Now that is changing.

He did caution that although people have documents proving that they own the land, these are “only pieces of paper.” The process of giving it back to its rightful owners could take another 10 years before they even get it back. But at least this was a real beginning of the end of a cruel injustice.

Coming Home

Martin Pitoňák and other residents are looking forward to returning to their former homes. He reminisced about his former village of Ruskinovce, acknowledging that life was hard but that it was a healthy environment. “It was hilly, but beautiful region.”

Ruskinovce used to be called Ruzskin in German, and Ruskinoc in Hungarian. The village was founded in 1317 and counted among the original 24 Zips (the German name for Spiš) towns that went over to Poland as a mortgage to the Polish king from 1412 to 1772. The village had a population of 540 after World War I, and 422 of these were German (78%). The communists worked zealously at uncovering Nazis, even when they did not exist. This was also a way of scoring points to advance one's career with the communist-dominated police.

A Personal Connection

The theft of land from the people of the Javorina region has a personal significance for me as well as a national one in the history of Slovakia. The family of my paternal grandfather, Anton Kopaničák, came from the quaint hamlet of Ruskinovce. Of his siblings, only he and his sister immigrated to the USA at the beginning of the 20th century. As a result of the confiscation, my relatives who had remained in Ruskinovce had to pick up all their belonging and find new homes, and new jobs. This dispersed our family across various parts of Spiš. Since my paternal grandfather was illiterate and was not able to correspond with relatives, these two facts made them very difficult to track down when I was doing genealogical research and searching for relatives.

Since I found out that my grandfather had married my grandmother from Harichovce, just north of Spišská Nová Ves, I ventured there in 1990 to find more about my family history. Sure enough, he had married in the village Church of the Assumption and the parish priest sent me to a see a possible relative, Mária Grondžaková, whose maiden name was Kopaničaková. Thus I found a distant cousin.

Since then, I have visited her many times, including a couple trips with my father, her Great Uncle. During a visit in July 2002, Mária Grondžaková took my father and I to visit the site where Ruskinovce had once stood. We could see where my grandfather was born and raised. Because of the military status at the time, we had to travel much farther north, all the way to Ľubica, just outside of Kežmarok. Then we traveled east to the entrance of the Javorina Military District. The area was full of abandoned white barracks and warehouses. Junk was all over the place. We had to enter the district through a military gate after the guards meticulously looked at our passports. Then we slowly headed about ten miles south down a windy gravel road until we reached the site. Just grassy fields remain since the military had destroyed the village.

It was so moving to see the place where my grandparents and great grandparents had walked and talked and lived. My imagination ran wild, and I could understand why the former residents so badly wanted back their homeland. Our family's house had been located on a corner, just a few hundred feet from where the former church once stood. To the right, was a tall cross which former residents had erected at the site of the ruined cemetery. They had also constructed a small wooden chapel where the former Gothic Church had been so they could attend Sunday Mass at the site during good weather.

Just two years later, on August 15, 2006, Mária and I again visited the Ruskinovce site, for my cousin found out that there would be a Mass and a picnic with a goulash lunch afterwards. I did notice that the military seemed less circumspect than on my first trip there, and the guard hardly paid much less attention to my passport. Since my first visit, the former Ruskinovce residents decorated the church even more and had set up a small picnic area to the side of it. After a beautiful Mass in which everyone sang very loudly, we enjoyed our goulash and a day in the sun. Many had brought their families and grandchildren to picnic and play for the day.

I spent the afternoon talking with many of the old timers about what the village had been like. I took some pictures of from some of the photo books that they had brought with them, and have included some with this article. It was here that I met and talked with Martin Pitoňák, the former resident that had spearheaded the movement to have this land restored to its rightful owners.

One could see the richness of the land that had once been a vibrant village. Surrounding the site were gorgeous rolling hills, ideal for pasturing horses, cows, and sheep. It was little wonder that employment as a shepherd was one of first jobs my grandfather found after serving in the Austro-Hungarian cavalry for four years. By coming back to the hallowed ground of Ruskinovce, I feel like my life had gone full circle, back to my family's roots.



The Javorina Military District, the largest military training area in the Czechoslovak state, encompassed the seized villages of Blazov, Dvorce, Ľubické Kúpele (Ľubica Spa), Ruskinovce and 22 other Spiš communities.



By early 1953, the communists seized about 78,000 acres of land in the forested and pastoral area of the Levoča Hills in northeastern Slovakia.

Conclusion

The biggest part of the citizens' battle to obtain their former lands has finished. The Javorina Military District no longer exists; it is history. Much work remains, for villages will need to be constructed from scratch. The two churches cannot be fully reconstructed; they are gone forever, as are their precious art works. But there is hope that Ruskinovce and other former villages will become vibrant communities and people may once again live in this pristine and peaceful country setting which the Czechoslovak and Soviet armies had pounded to smithereens with their artillery.

What are the lasting lessons of the story of this region? It very much reflects the fate of the Slovak and German ethnic peoples who lived there. The communists had shown how limitless power could tread over the basic human rights of people, throw them out of their homes, and steal their property. But the fight for just restitution also provides a lesson. Ordinary citizens operating in a democratic system formed their own non-governmental organizations and struggled hard for two decades in their search for justice. Despite numerous legal hurdles and the hindrances of special interests, they did not give up. And they have triumphed.

While they can never fully bring back Ruskinovce and other villages the way they were, former residents and their families will be able to move back and start again. The power of the people has prevailed and this section of Spiš may once again become their home. And my family and I can once again freely visit the home of our ancestors. There's no place like home.

NOTES

Official statistics show 31,38 hectares in the region, but another source lists it as 31,623.6 hectares. Carpathian Convention, "CEE Web for Biodiversity." <http://www.ceeweb.org/workinggroups/natura2000/Military/Slovakia%20table.pdf> (accessed January 11, 2011). Wikipedia contributors, "Javorina." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Javorina> (accessed January 11, 2011). Spis.sk, Archiv Rudolfa Kuku. "Spiš z roku 1932, Kniha Pamiatky mesta Levoče od V.Šebora, Turčiansky sv.Martin." 1932. <http://www.spis.sk/mapy/r/1932.html> (accessed January 18, 2011).

Wikipedia contributors, "Javorina." Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Javorina> (accessed January 11, 2011).

Vyvlastnenie.sk, "Vojaci vrátili Javorinu, ale nie domovy." December 18, 2010. <http://www.vyvlastnenie.sk/clanok/a/vojaci-vratili-javorinu-ale-nie-domovy/> (accessed January 11, 2011).

"Valka.cz." January 1, 1993. <http://en.valka.cz/viewtopic.php/t/48720> (accessed January 11, 2011).

Korzár, "Vojaci vrátili Javorinu, ale nie domovy." December 18, 2010. <http://korzar.sme.sk/c/5688544/vojaci-vratili-javorinu-ale-nie-domovy.html> (accessed January 11, 2011).

Korzár, "Vojaci vrátili Javorinu, ale nie domovy." December 18, 2010. <http://korzar.sme.sk/c/5688544/vojaci-vratili-javorinu-ale-nie-domovy.html> (accessed January 11, 2011).

Tom Nicholson, "This Week in Slovakia," Slovak Spectator (January 4, 2011), http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/41231/2/this_week_in_slovakia.html. (accessed January 10, 2011).

TASR, "Fico: We Can't Revert Javorina Now." March 4, 2010. http://195.46.72.16/free/jsp/search/view/ViewerPure_en.jsp?Document=.%2F..%2FInput_text%2Fonline%2F10%2F03%2Ftbbu34j454475.dat.1%40Fondy&QueryText= (accessed January 16, 2011).

Ministerstvo obrany Slovenskej republiky, "Ozbrojené sily opúšťajú výcvikový priestor Javorina." May 5, 2005. <http://www.mosr.sk/3153/ozbrojene-sily-opustaju-vyvcikovvy-priestor-javorina.php?pg=1&PHPSESSID=63594e4a> (accessed January 16, 2011).

Ministerstvo obrany Slovenskej republiky, "Ozbrojené sily opúšťajú výcvikový priestor Javorina." May 5, 2005. <http://www.mosr.sk/3153/ozbrojene-sily-opustaju-vyvcikovvy-priestor-javorina.php?pg=1&PHPSESSID=63594e4a> (accessed January 16, 2011).

TASR, "Fico: We Can't Revert Javorina Now." March 4, 2010. http://195.46.72.16/free/jsp/search/view/ViewerPure_en.jsp?Document=.%2F..%2FInput_text%2Fonline%2F10%2F03%2Ftbbu34j454475.dat.1%40Fondy&QueryText= (accessed January 16, 2011).

PLUSKA.sk, "Galko chce ukončiť kauzu pozemkov v Javorine." August 3, 2010. <http://www.pluska.sk/slovensko/spolocnost/galko-chce-ukoncit-kauzu-pozemkov-javorine.html> (accessed January 16, 2011).

Ministerstvo obrany Slovenskej republiky, "Juraj Liška s veliteľmi o budúcnosti Javoriny." 2005. <http://www.mosr.sk/1433/juraj-liska-s-velitelmi-o-buducnosti-javoriny.php> (accessed January 11, 2011).

Úrad vlády Slovenskej republiky, "CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND CO-OPERATION: MANIFESTO OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC FOR THE PERIOD OF 2010 – 2014." August 2010. In English at <http://www.opis.gov.sk/data/files/6258.pdf> (accessed January 16, 2011); p. 52. In Slovak, see <http://www.vlada.gov.sk/22856/4-3-bezpecnostna-politika-a-obrana.php>.

Cabinet Agrees to Cancel the Military District Javorina," RSI [Radio Slovakia International] (December 2, 2010). <http://www.rozhlas.sk/inetportal/rsi/core.php?page=showSprava&id=35066i=2> (accessed January 11, 2011).

Tom Nicholson, "This Week in Slovakia," Slovak Spectator (January 4, 2011), http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/41231/2/this_week_in_slovakia.html. (accessed January 10, 2011).

Korzár, "Javorinu zrušili, rodáci sa vrátili domov." January 3, 2011. <http://korzar.sme.sk/c/5704893/javorinu-zrusili-rodaci-sa-vratili-domov.html> (accessed January 18, 2011).

"Martin Pitoňák: Dnešný deň je víťazstvom pravdy." TV Sme. (January 3, 2011), <http://tv.sme.sk/v/18800/martin-pitonak-dnesny-den-je-vitazstvom-pravdy.html>. (accessed January 10, 2011). Tom Nicholson, "This Week in Slovakia," Slovak Spectator (January 4, 2011), http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/41231/2/this_week_in_slovakia.html. (accessed January 10, 2011).

These statistics were gathered in reference books in the Levoča State Archives in 2004. MV SR - Štátny archív v Levoči.

Vyvlastnenie.sk, "Vojaci vrátili Javorinu, ale nie domovy." December 18, 2010. <http://www.vyvlastnenie.sk/clanok/a/vojaci-vratili-javorinu-ale-nie-domovy/> (accessed January 11, 2011).

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2010

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and asked Andrew Harcar, National Vice-President, to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President – present via telephone
George F. Matta, Treasurer – present via telephone
Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, by the invitation of the President

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the November 2010 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

The Treasurer presented a written report and answered the Board's questions. The President stated that it was decided not to change the annuity rates at this time but that they will be discussed again at the January 2011 Executive Committee meeting.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments with Key Bank Corporation and updated the Executive Committee on transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

The President updated the Executive Committee on current interest rates offered by the FHLB.

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. He stated everything is in order and working well.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of November 2010:		
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$	169,788.79
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$	34,485.58
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$	0.00
Trust Fund	\$	0.00

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

SALES AND MARKETING

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in different Regions and answered all questions presented. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents, noting that we are continuing to add agents.

Vice President Harcar led a discussion regarding seminars for 2011 and encouraged Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their region.

The Vice President also updated the Executive Committee on the progress with the software illustration for our insurance and annuity products, presented by Roger Gertz and Myron Thomas from MT Software, Inc. The implementation target is February 2011.

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation via Web-ex and telephone. After his review Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions and discussed current annuity rates.

After lunch the Executive Committee continued with a presentation via Web-ex and telephone by Jon Willhite, Senior Vice President of Willhite Institutional Consulting Group. He made a presentation on investing process, strategic asset allocation, choices of money managers, etc., relating to Equity Assets. After the presentation he answered the questions from the Executive Committee.

REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Susan Ondrejco, Director of Fraternal Activities, updated the Executive Committee on the dates of FCSU's 2011 Bowling Tournament. She stated that the tournament will take place on April 29 – May 1, 2011 at the Carolier Lanes, North Brunswick, NJ. She further stated that the FCSU's Golfing Tournament will be held in July 2011 at a site to be determined.

The Fraternal Activities Director also updated the Executive Committee on the Coloring Contest. She stated that the contest has been completed and the winners will be notified and the list of winners will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Fraternal Activities Director further stated that she will be visiting sites for a National Picnic for 2011. She stated that she is hoping to have the picnic in August 2011. She also stated that she is in contact with other fraternal organizations regarding the possibility of joint events in 2012. She will update the Executive Committee as more information becomes available.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President led a discussion regarding proposed regulations by the Ohio Department of Insurance that could have an impact on the Society. We are planning beforehand in case these regulations become effective. We are also working with the National Fraternal Congress (now known as the American Fraternal Alliance).

The President reviewed the meeting he and the Executive Secretary had with Mr. Ed DePersis, our Financial and Marketing Consultant, and his son Nick DePersis concerning their consulting services.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

The President stated that the requests for donations have been reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

The President asked Vice-President Harcar to close the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

WPSCA Offers Slovak Classes

Once again, Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association is sponsoring Slovak language classes for the Spring 2011 semester. The nine week course will be for beginners and intermediate students.

The class will be held every Tuesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. beginning of March 1 and continuing through April 26. The classes will be held at the Mount Lebanon Public Library at 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard in Mount Lebanon. You can call (412) 531-1910 for directions. Bozena Hilko will be the instructor.

Tuition is free, but class size is limited because of space. To reserve a place, call Pam at (412) 531-2990 during office hours.

10th Consular Tour to Slovakia

Joe Senko, the Slovak Honorary Consul and his wife, Albina, have arranged their 10th tour to Slovakia including a visit to Vienna. The 14-day trip will begin on July 31, and return to the USA on August 13. It will include visits to Bratislava, Pietany, Martin, Tatras, Presov, Kosice and other historical sites. The activities will include two wine tours, a wedding performance, rafting, visit of a cave, sightseeing, castles and shopping.

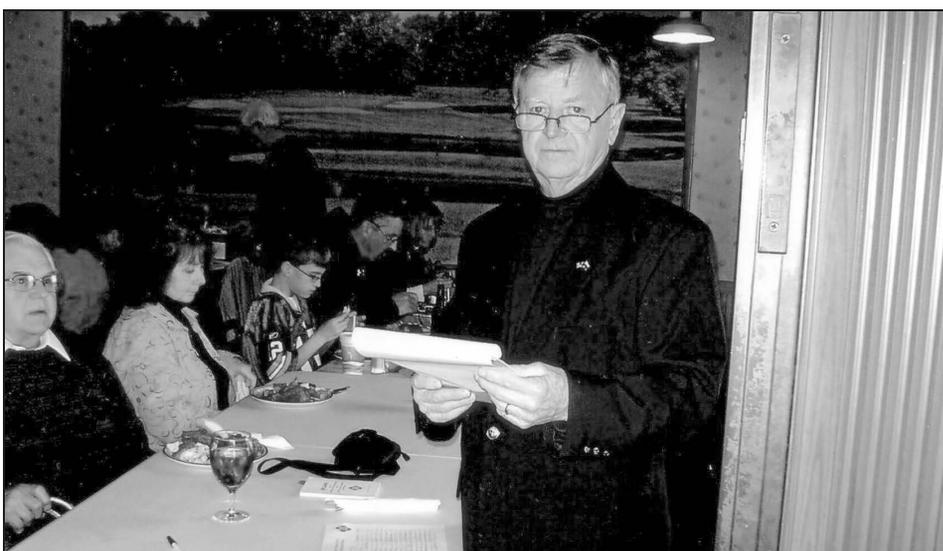
The tour includes top hotels, breakfast and dinner each day, all admission fees, air-conditioned bus and English speaking guide. It doesn't include tips and insurance. The total cost per person (double occupancy) from Pittsburgh is \$3,450. For a copy of the daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at (412) 531-2990 or jtsenko@aol.com, or Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

Scenes from St. Clement Society, Branch 40, Meeting

On January 9, 2011, the annual meeting of St. Clement Society, Branch 40, was held at Chippers Grill in Streator, IL. The agenda included officers' reports; a discussion of branch activities such as donations, grade-school and college scholarships; and the election of officers for 2011. After the meeting, the members enjoyed a dinner buffet.

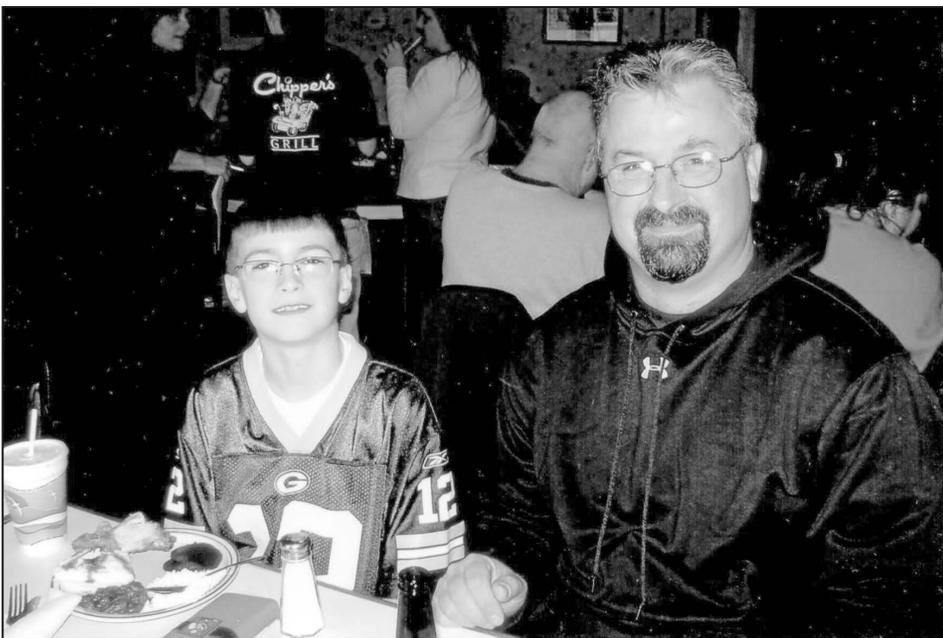
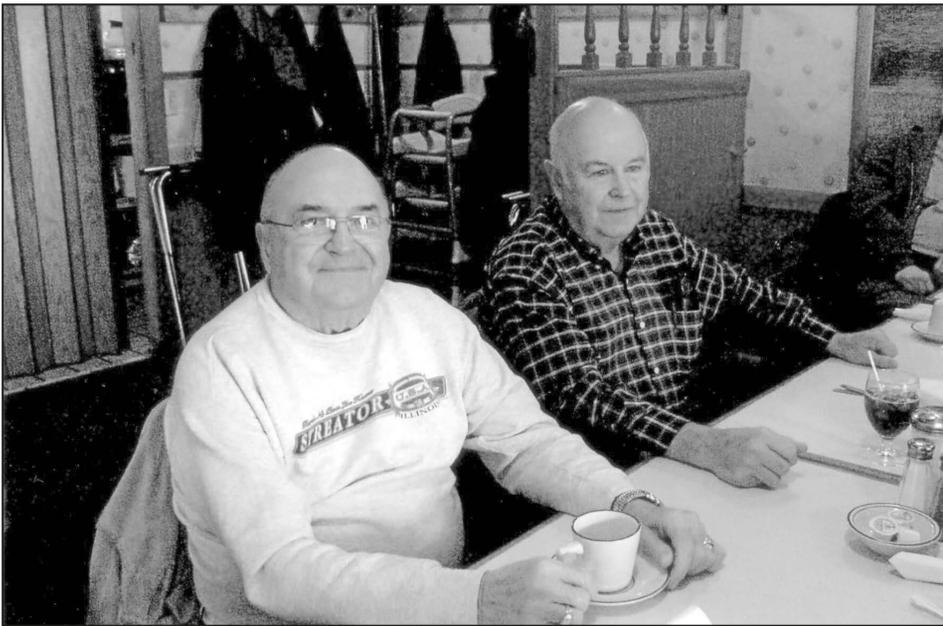


St. Clement Society, Branch 40, 2011 Officers (L-R): Margie Pavlick, Auditor; Mike Pavlick, Auditor; Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer; Tim Graves, Recording Secretary; Veronica Manzella, Vice President; and William Liptak, President. Not pictured: Msgr. Thomas Badovsky, Chaplain, and Richard Tutoky, Auditor.



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

More Scenes from St. Clement Society, Branch 40, Meeting



Book Corner

ELEVEN TWO: One WWII Airman's Story of Capture, Survival and Freedom

A Biography of Frank A. Kravetz, Author, Staff Sgt. US Army Air Corps B17 Crew Member, and Member of Branch 35

ACCLAIM FOR ELEVEN TWO
MIKE CLARK Friend and award-winning television journalist:

"Frank Kravetz' personal story of honor and courage is a must-read for every American who wants to understand the heartbeat of the 'Greatest Generation.' Frank's heroic love of God, country, and family pulled him from the valley of death, back home to Pittsburgh. *Eleven Two* is the story of a man of steel, who will melt your heart with the moving real-life tale of survival and patriotism. We salute you, Frank, and all of your POW comrades. God bless you all."

U.S. CONGRESSMAN MIKE DOYLE

"*Eleven Two* is a fabulous account of Frank Kravetz's journey in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Frank showed his bravery and love of his country, as well as the deep appreciation of those who helped him along the way. This is a great memoir of his service time that is indicative of thousands of other American servicemen just like him. I'm glad he survived to share his story with us in this book."

JEFFREY PETERS, M.D. DFAPA

Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

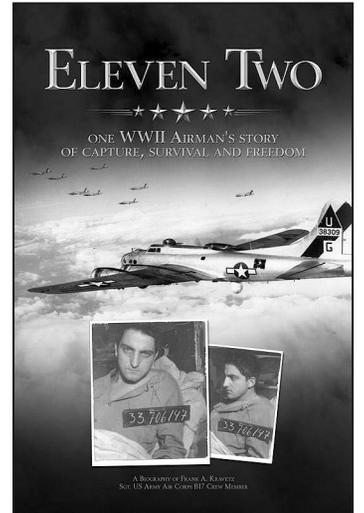
"I find *Eleven Two: One WWII Airman's Story of Capture, Survival and Freedom* to be an excellent book. The many men of his generation and the families of those who served and suffered are offered well-deserved tribute in his book. It has been my honor for the past 25 years to provide psychiatric care to men who served in WWII and Korea, faced combat and military captivity, and returned home. I have been blessed with the opportunity to meet many of their family members over the years.

It is moving to see, in detail, the true story of one man's journey in life, which is typical of the experiences of many others. I have been profoundly moved in my professional career by the resilience, patriotism and honor that Mr. Kravetz and so many other veterans display.

ROBERT F. ("ROCKY") KRAVETZ, JR. ESQ.

"For my entire life, my grandfather, Frank, has been my hero. His continuing service to God, his family, and his country is truly inspiring. I am thrilled that, with the publishing of his memoirs, others will get to learn about this great American."

To purchase your copy of Frank A. Kravetz's *ELEVEN TWO: One WWII Airman's Story of Capture, Survival and Freedom* go to: www.eleventwothebook.com or the publisher's website at www.silverbeargraphics.com/frankkravetz or email us for more options at: info@eleventwothebook.com



ELEVEN TWO One WWII Airman's Story of Capture, Survival and Freedom, **SILVERBEAR GRAPHICS PUBLISHER, Stahlstown, PA** First Edition Paperback published 11-2-2010 307 pages 6" x 9" ISBN: 9780982716144



Pre-Lenten "Fasiangy" Celebration in Milwaukee

A pre-Lenten "Fasiangy" Celebration will be sponsored by the Slovak League of America Assembly #20 of Milwaukee on Saturday, March 2, 2011, from 6:00PM until 11:00PM, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd St. (103 & Oklahoma) in Greenfield, WI.

Delicious Slovak food and bakery will be available from 6:00PM until 10:00PM. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided throughout the evening. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will perform at 7:30PM.

We cordially extend an invitation to all members of FCSU's Milwaukee Branch 89 to join us.

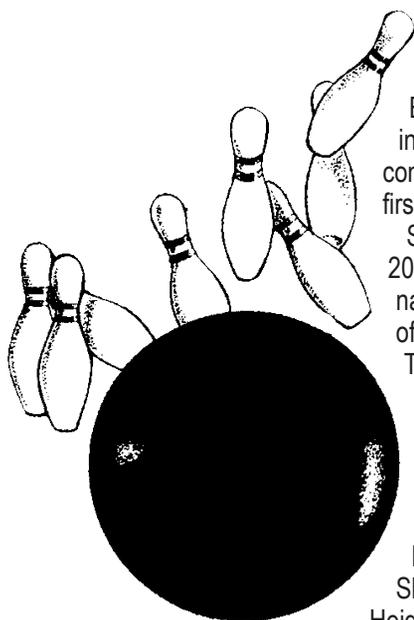
Advanced tickets are \$4.50; tickets at the door are \$5.00

To purchase tickets, or for more information, please call:

Betty @ 1-414-425-6137 OR Emily @ 1-414-464-1063.

Slovak Bowling Congress celebrates its 69th annual national tournament at Echo Lanes in Warren, Ohio

Come Join America's Foremost Slovak Sports Event



In 1939 two Slovak brothers – Steve “Doc” and Peter Hletko – formed the Slovak Bowling Congress, and organized the first Slovak National Bowling Tournament. The first tournament was held in 1939 at St. Francis recreation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two teams, ten bowlers participated in that first tournament.

Since that time, the tournament has grown to almost 200 teams, with 815 bowlers participating in the tournament still known as the Slovak Bowling Congress of America Slovak National Bowling Tournament. The tournament is held in the month of April. The 2011 tournament will cover the weekends of April 2nd through the weekend of May 1st in Warren, Ohio at Echo Lanes.

Past Slovak National Tournaments have been held in Milwaukee, Chicago, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lakewood, McKee's Rocks, Warren, Cicero, Sharon, Hermitage, Struthers, Oak Forest, Natrona Heights, Farrel, Erie, Akron, and this year back to Warren Ohio. Past tournaments have enjoyed entry of 13,131 teams, 32,042 doubles teams, and 74,983 singles and 52,024 all-events bowlers. All time payouts total over \$811,891.01!

This year, entry of over 700 bowlers from some 160 cities throughout the United States and Canada is expected. Bowlers will be competing for a prize fund in excess of \$20,000.00.

As a special incentive to Slovak Bowlers, the following Slovak organizations are offering special prizes and trophies to their members who participate in the tournament. The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, “Zenska Jednota,” The First Catholic Slovak Union, “Jednota,” The National Slovak Society “N.S.S.,” and the Slovak Catholic Sokol, “Sokol.”

Any questions, or for more information on the tournament or the SBC please contact John M Golias: 440 526 3657, 440 526 3445, or Joe Harkulich: 330 448 8630. Hoping to see all Slovak Bowlers at Echo Lanes in Warren, Ohio.

Thank You,

John “Jack” M Golias (National Tournament Committee)



John's Tours Sets Yearly Slovakia Tour – Slovakia and Poland

12-Day Tour, June 25 – July 7, 2011

17-Day Tour, September 4 – 20, 2011

This year, John's Tours will set two tours to Slovakia and surrounding countries.

The 12-day tour, from June 25 – July 7 will include: visits to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Čičmany; Rajecká Lesná, the village of a unique wooden Bethlehem wooden carving, 15 years in the making; Levoča, Spania Poprod, Nitra, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, a “castle” which actually consists of three castles –upper, central, and middle. This tour also will include rafting on the Dunajec River which runs between the Slovak and Polish border, and then two days in Krakow, Poland, with visits to Auschwitz, the WWII Nazi Concentration Camp; the Old Town Marketplace; the Royal Castle of Wawel, with time at Czestochowa, the Shrine of the Black Madonna in the Jasna Gora Monestary, and one of the most precious Polish relics.

The September 4 – 20, 2011 tour will cover: Slovakia; Vienna, Austria; Krakow, Poland; and Prague, the Czech Republic. Visits in Slovakia will include: Bratislava, Levoča, Sponia Dolina, Prešov, Banská Štiavnica, Stará L'ubovňa, Poprod, Nitra, Košice, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, the Dunajec raft trip, and Rajecká Lesna. We will have two folklore programs – one in Krakovany and one in Ticky Potok, a Rusyn Village. The Mayor will show us the village, with a folklore program to follow dinner. We will then see sights in Vienna, Austria, such as Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Platz. In the Czech Republic, you can look forward to seeing Old Town Square, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, plus many other sights.

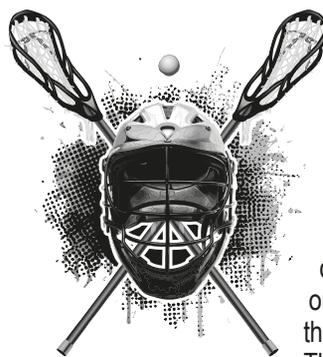
Tours include: two (2) meals daily; an English-speaking guide; bus transportation with restroom and air conditioning; admittance to all scheduled sights; accommodations in three- or four-star hotels, all with private baths; and group air transportation, for your convenience and the best possible price.

If you are interested, please call or write for a complete day-to-day itinerary and price:

John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA, 15690

1-724-567-7341 OR 1-724-568-3215 OR toll free at 1-800-260-8687

LaCrosse Players with Slovak Roots Sought



Of Native American origin, the team sport of Lacrosse – which is played using a small solid rubber ball and a long-handled lacrosse stick – has come to Slovakia. In 2002, Lacrosse fans, led by Mark Lichter, began to dream of developing the sport in-country and the following year, the first Lacrosse Club in Slovakia was founded by Mark and Tomas Lichtner as the Tricksters Bratislava.

Now renamed the Tricksters Lacrosse Team (LT), the club has experienced tremendous successes, and won various titles over the years. In fact, the team was a major part of the Slovak National Team in the 2010 World Championship. The main objective of the club moving forward is to stabilize its player base and focus on training young players. Toward

that end, the Tricksters LT is seeking talented Lacrosse players from the United States or Canada with Slovak roots who can help them elevate their game in international competition.

For more information, email Adam Hamsik, Tricksters Lacrosse Team Vice President, @ haaad@gmail.com or go to www.tricksters.sk.

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA 3.65% (3.585% apr)

Rate Effective November 1, 2010

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

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



CONTACT THE HOME OFFICE OR YOUR LOCAL BRANCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.
YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT FCSU.COM



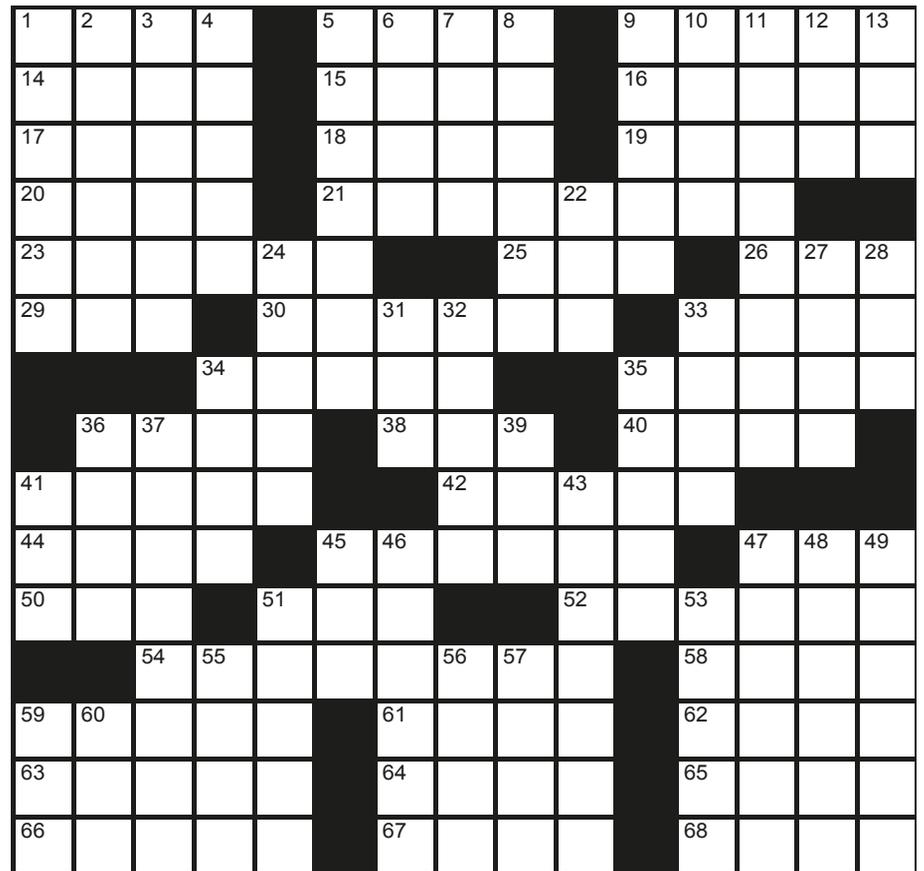
The newly elected officers of Branch 24: Back row (L – R) Julius Fecko, Vice President; Diane Fecko, Auditor; FCSU President Andrew M. Rajec; Thomas Ivanec, Auditor; David Lang, Treasurer; Richard Vadovski, Secretary; and Bob Kopco, President. Front row (L – R): Susan Lang, Activities Director; Chris Kaluznik, Auditor; and Katherine Lang, Financial Secretary. Not pictured: Fr. Albert Marflak, Chaplain

January Meeting for Branch 24

Branch 24, St Andrew Svorad Society, held its first branch meeting of 2011 at 1:00 PM, Sunday, January 16, 2011 at the historic Old Town Hall in Independence, OH. After a hot luncheon for all attendees, Fr. Albert, Branch Chaplain, opened with a prayer and the meeting was called to order. The agenda covered a review of the recent convention and the election of officers. FCSU President Andrew M. Rajec attended the meeting, as well.

The slate of officers for 2011 is as follows: Bob Kopco, President; Julius Fecko, Vice President; David Lang, Treasurer; Richard Vadovski, Secretary; Katherine Lang, Financial Secretary; Fr. Albert Marflak, Chaplain; Susan Lang, Activities Director; Diane Fecko, Auditor; Thomas Ivanec, Auditor; and Chris Kaluznik, Auditor. There also was a discussion about branch activities for the coming year, including the possibility of coordinating with other local area branches. In that regard, officers from Branch 855 in Parma, OH – Mike Kolesar, Linda Kolesar, and Mary Kolesar – were in attendance.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Copyright ©2011 puzzlejunction.com

Across

- 1 Orient
- 5 Make cookies
- 9 Cal. lake
- 14 Daniel Boone star, Parker
- 15 Arm bone
- 16 Swears
- 17 Repose
- 18 Regret feeler
- 19 Cyphers
- 20 Pocketbook
- 21 Meliorating
- 23 Tibetan mountaineer
- 25 Consume
- 26 Gr. letter
- 29 Not him
- 30 Residential fringe
- 33 Booted
- 34 Bricklayer
- 35 Long narrow inlet
- 36 Malevolent
- 38 Beverage
- 40 Breakfast dish
- 41 Alert
- 42 Terra firma
- 44 Ravine
- 45 Acid forerunner
- 47 Invoice
- 50 Cuckoo
- 51 Distress signal
- 52 Happy
- 54 Football play
- 58 Stumble
- 59 Spam medium
- 61 Inactive
- 62 Bear dipper
- 63 Agreement word
- 64 Encounter
- 65 Acts
- 66 Convex moldings

Down

- 67 Klutzes
- 68 Sea eagles
- 41 Actress Gardner
- 43 Deficiency of vitamin D disease
- 45 Dandy
- 46 Arctic resident
- 47 Panic
- 48 Ascended
- 49 Go around
- 51 Arias
- 53 Opus
- 55 Ritual
- 56 Thought
- 57 Musical notation
- 59 Japanese capital
- 60 Russ. plane
- 1 In a new or different way
- 2 Foam
- 3 Distributor
- 4 Up and about
- 5 Chests of drawers
- 6 Grad
- 7 Leg part
- 8 Breadwinner
- 9 Implied
- 10 Eng. river
- 11 Gnawing rodent
- 12 Pay dirt
- 13 Curve
- 22 Light touch or stroke
- 24 Religious text
- 27 High rocky hills
- 28 Summate
- 31 Scarf
- 32 Subordinate
- 33 Respire
- 34 Bog
- 35 Retrieve
- 36 Panache
- 37 Ratify
- 39 Sense organ

“PARK FREE PLUS” ANNUITY

Effective December 1, 2010, the “Park Free Plus” Annuity is earning 3.00% (2.956% APR) for the first year and is limited to \$25,000.00 per individual.

The new annuity plan that combines features from our most popular annuities... The Park Annuity and the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.

The “Park Free Plus” offers a first year interest rate of 3.00% (2.956% APR) This initial interest rate is guaranteed for the entire first year of the Annuity policy. At the first anniversary date of the policy, the **Annuitant has 15 calendar days to elect this option:**

1. **Withdraw the full value of the accumulated Annuity funds (principal plus interest) WITHOUT INCURRING A SURRENDER CHARGE!**

*Note: If the funds are withdrawn prior to the first anniversary of the policy, a 6% surrender will be imposed on the funds withdrawn.**

2 If this option is not exercised, the Annuity will continue for an additional five years. The interest rate at that time will be based on the interest rate established by the Society on its Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity. This rate is published regularly in the official publication and on our website.

If the policy is continued, the Annuitant may withdraw up to 10% of the policies cash value at the beginning of each policy year, without incurring a surrender charge.*

If the Policy is continued, withdrawals that exceed 10% of the policy's cash value will incur a surrender charge of 5% in the second year and withdrawal charges will decrease by 1% each year until the end of the sixth year from the issue date*.

INITIAL DEPOSIT MAY BE AS LOW AS \$1,000!

Low Minimum Deposit. Initial deposit may be as low as \$1,000 for the “Park Free Plus” Annuity. Maximum deposit for this program is 25,000.00 per individual. No additional deposits are permitted during the first year.

Flexible Deposits. Additional deposits of \$1,000 or more will be accepted at any time after the first year.

Maturity Options. At the end of the six year policy period; the Annuitant has these options:

- (a) The policy can be continued . There will be no surrender charges on any withdrawals.* The interest rate will be based on FCSU Life's Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity interest rate.
- (b) The policy can be converted to any Annuity product offered by FCSU Life at that time. The interest rate will be based on the then current declared interest rate on the selected policy.
- (c) Taxes on all interest earned on the “Park Free Plus” Annuity and any subsequent policy selected, will be deferred until funds are withdrawn.

For additional information, contact your Branch officer or the Home Office.

* Early withdrawals may be subject to IRS penalties.

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence OH 44131-8013
1-800-JEDNOTA - Website: www.fcsu.com - E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

See Solution on Page 19

Attention All FCSU Members

Requests (based on order received)				
Event	Date	Time	Date	Time
TEAM				
DOUBLES & SINGLES				

Please Read Carefully
ENTRY BLANK
57th Annual Men's and 48th Annual Women's
International Jednota Handicap Tenpin
BOWLING TOURNAMENT
 Sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union
 Moral support certified by the United States Bowling Congress

Entry Fees

Prize Fee\$6.85
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$9.75
 Tournament Fee.....\$2.40
Total Each Event.....\$19.00

Optional Events

All Events\$2.00
 Senior Singles Event (60+).....\$5.00

2011

April 29 - May 1

Entries Close
March 11, 2011

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
FCSU Activities

Mail to: Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pgh. PA 15207

Brunswick Zone Carolier
US Route 1 North Brunswick, NJ

Team Name: _____	Captain Name: _____	City Assoc. USBC _____
League: _____	Address: _____	Secretary: _____
City: _____	Phone: _____	Address: _____

All Events (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT. NO. <i>MUST BE FILLED IN</i>	BRANCH NO.
	1.					
	2.					
	3.					
	4.					

Singles (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)
	1.		
	2.		
	1.		
	2.		

Substitutes on two-man teams **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

- Schedule -

TEAM EVENT
 Friday, April 29 6 PM & 9 PM
 Saturday, April 30..... 9 AM (or as needed)

DOUBLES AND SINGLES
 Saturday and Sunday
 April 30 & May 1 9 AM & 1 PM

PLEASE NOTE ABOVE TIMES & DATES

BOWLING FEES AS WELL AS ENTRY MONEY MUST ACCOMPANY THIS BLANK

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH COMPLETE INFORMATION

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND MUST BE RESUBMITTED

SEE RULES 8-10 ON BACK REGARDING PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

SEE RULE 6 ON BACK REGARDING CALCULATION OF HANDICAP

Hotel Information
 For
Bowling Tournament
 April 29 - May 1, 2011

Tournament Headquarters 50 rooms blocked

Hampton Inn
 841 Georges Road
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902

To make reservations, you must indicate you are with the FCSU
 Phone: 732-246-3555 Rate: \$99 + tax

Reservation cutoff date is March 30, 2011

Other Area Accommodations

Howard Johnson	26 Route 1 N	732-828-8000
Ramada Inn	1 South St. Milltown, NJ	732-246-3737
Farrington Inn	1609 US 130	732-297-2100

57th Men's & 48th Women's
International Bowling
Tournament

Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 29, 2011

4:30 PM Registration
 Carolier Lanes
 790 US Route 1
 N. Brunswick, NJ

4:30 - 6 PM Hospitality Reception
 Carolier Lanes

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

7:30 - 9 PM Hospitality Reception
 Carolier Lanes

Saturday, April 30, 2011

9 AM - 3 PM..... Doubles and Singles Events
 Carolier Lanes

5:30 PM Mass
 To Be Determined

6:30 PM Tournament Banquet
 To Be Determined

Sunday, May 1, 2011

9 AM - 3 PM..... Doubles and Singles Events
 Carolier Lanes

Members



Exciting new features for the 2011 Jednota Bowling Tournament.

Mixed Events

Bowlers can enter in Mixed Teams and Mixed Doubles.

Multiple Entries

Bowlers are eligible to enter twice in any event (Teams, Doubles, Singles).

Single Women

Women that are interested in competing for a larger prize in singles are invited to bowl in men's singles. Women will receive the same handicap as the men. To compete in women's singles and men's singles you must bowl singles twice.

The Particulars

You may compete with the same team or double partner twice or with a new team or doubles partner. Mixed teams consist of 2 men & 2 women. You can only cash once with the same team or double partner or in singles (women that bowl in both divisions can cash in each division in singles).

To be considered a new team, two members of the team must be different. In doubles your partner must be different.

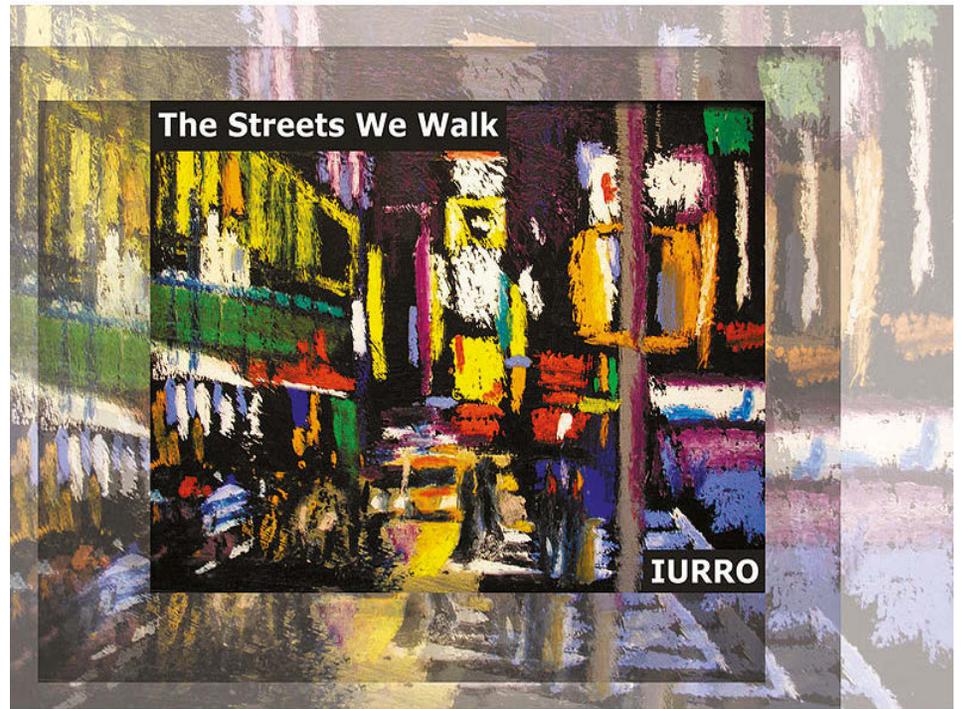
All events will consist of the highest series in each event.

There will only be a separate prize fund for mixed events if there are at least 21 teams / doubles participating. Otherwise mixed competition will be in the men's division.

Exhibition At Slovak Embassy in Washington



The Ambassador of the Slovak Republic and Mrs. Peter Burian extend an invitation to you to attend the exhibition, *The Streets We Walk*,



at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, 3523 International Court, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. The exhibition will be open for public viewing from January 21, 2011 to mid March, 2011. Visit upon previous request: (202) 237 1054, ext. 266 or 200 or emb.washington@mzv.sk



WANTED

The First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States & Canada is seeking agents or licensed Recommenders who are fluent in the Slovak language to represent the Society and market our Life Insurance and Annuity products, especially in the New York and New Jersey area.

Please call or e-mail:

President

Andrew M. Rajec –

1-800 JEDNOTA (533-6682) or

Vice-President

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr. –

1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682)

E-mail: president@fcsu.com



Saint Valentine's Day (commonly shortened to Valentine's Day) is an international, annual commemoration held on February 14 celebrating love and affection, a day which first became associated with romantic love in the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. Named after one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine, it was deleted from the Roman calendar of saints in 1969 by Pope Paul VI.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2011. A Mass in honor of our patron St. Joseph will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT. Following the Mass, members are invited to return to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

The Margaret Evancho Award of US Savings Bonds will be given to the following members who have reached their 16th birthday in 2010:

Paul Kavanewsky
Adam Kocurek
Brandon Madar
Paul Monks

This award recognizes the dedication and many years of service that Margaret Evancho have to Branch 19, especially to its youth.

We cordially invite our members to this special meeting.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24– CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 is inviting members to a Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Rockford IceHogs, Saturday, March 5th, 7:30PM at the Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland. Added attractions: An on-ice wedding,

where one lucky couple gets married on the ice during intermission, plus all brides-to-be can check out the pregame bridal expo. Discount tickets for Branch 24 members are available by calling Tom Ivanec at 1-440-668-7797. Deadline to reserve your tickets: February 23, 2011.

BRANCH 55- BROOMALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A Special Meeting of Branch 55 K.J. is scheduled to be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the home of President Helena T. Gaydos, 137 Cypress Drive, Philadelphia, PA. A short business meeting will be conducted to review the highlights of the past year and discuss plans for the 2011; and any other business that will come up. Refreshments will be served. All members are cordially invited to attend. Please call the President at (610) 356-7956 for directions.

Fraternally yours,

Helena T. Gaydos, President

BRANCH 60 – DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 60, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, February 6, 2011 at 1:00PM, at the home of Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Wilkensburg, PA. The agenda will include officers' reports, insurance options, and an election of officers.

All members are welcome to attend.

Ann Wargovich, President

BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Please join us for our meeting and election of officers, with a luncheon to follow. Social time: 12:30PM to 1:00PM; meeting from 1:00PM to 2:00PM (approximate); lunch to be served at 2:00PM. Some topics of discussion will be: election of officers, donations, 2011 activities.

The meeting location is Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Lunch for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$20.00.

Reservations with the number attending must be made by January 29, 2011 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. This is a requirement in order to reserve seating at the restaurant.

Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Branch 89 will hold an Easter Duty Mass at the 9:00AM Mass on April 10m 2011 at St. Margaret Mary, 3970 N. 92nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53222. Breakfast will immediately follow the Mass, being served at 10:30AM at the Grecian Inn, 14375 W. Capitol Dr, Brookfield, WI. Breakfast for members is complimentary; guest cost is \$15.00, and kids under age 6 are free.

Reservations with the number attending must be made by April 4, 2011 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. This is a requirement in order to reserve seating at the restaurant.

Make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Thank you.

Mike Novak, President

27 at 12:00 noon at 70820 Crescent Rd., St. Clairsville, OH, during which time the election of officers will be held. All members are urged to attend.

John Wodarczyk, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will have our first meeting of the new year on February 12, 2011, immediately following the 5:00PM Mass at St. Florian in the St. Florian Formation Building. On the agenda: planning activities for 2011. For more information, contact: Gerry Kovacina, P.O. Box 24, Mammoth, PA 15664, (412) 216-5527.

Gerry Kovacina

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 13, 2011, at the Holy Trinity Church Hall in Struthers, OH, at 9:30AM. We will conduct an audit at this meeting, along with a discussion of current year activities. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting and become more active in our fraternal functions. The Officers of Branch 259 wish all members a Happy, Healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The officers and members of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, IL, wish to congratulate three of our own who recently received their Jednota 50 Year Membership Pins: Philip Kedzuch (son of

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 - THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II Semi-annual meeting will take place on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, Illinois. We will enjoy a short period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments starting at 1:30 pm.

The Semi-Annual Meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm.

Attendees will enjoy a delicious meal. All branches are asked to send delegates; individual Jednota members who wish to learn more about becoming active in District 2 are also welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, please call District President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810, so enough food and beverages can be ordered for the meeting.

Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. Election of Officers will take place.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10, at 1PM at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 738 will host. The agenda will include officers' reports and discussion of national and district business items. Plans for the Fathers Day Brunch will be finalized. We will also discuss the possibilities for district participation in cultural events such as Slovak Day at Kennywood or Slovak Heritage Day at Pitt.

Branch 35 will host the Fall meeting on a date to be determined later. Branch 2 will host the Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 19, at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Mass will begin at 9:30 with brunch to follow. Further details on prices for the meal and ad booklet will be provided later.

The district would like to collect e-mail addresses from each branch in order to improve communications. For example, items for the meeting agenda or details of meeting arrangements can be sent directly. If we don't already have your e-mail, please contact the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net

The Pittsburgh District looks forward to seeing everyone at the April meeting.

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2011 at Denney's meeting room, 653 W. Main St. in Uniontown. Lunch will be served at 1:00PM. Those present are asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal.

Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, March 9, 2011, by contacting President Marmol at 724-437-0892 or Secretary Holly at 724-438-0697.

Election of officers will be held. District activities and insurance programs will be discussed.

Thank you.

Fraternally,

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at St. Matthias Church Rectory, 7.00PM. On the Agenda will be plans for year 2011, which will include a casino bus trip in February to the Rivers Casino. There also will be an open discussion for various plans for the year. All branches are urged to attend.

Carlie Peshek, President

BRANCH 362 –

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO

Branch 362 will hold its next meeting on Feb

continued on page 15



Attention Members: Branch 743 Needs Your Help

As Financial Secretary of Branch 743, I have been unable to contact certain members of the Branch. It may be that the person is deceased and the beneficiaries are entitled to life insurance proceeds, or they are not receiving life insurance policy updates.

Your Branch needs a current address or telephone number for any of the named individuals listed below.

Any assistance provided will be greatly appreciated.

Joseph C. Rimarcik
President/ Financial Secretary
42909 Sussex Park Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087
586-254-0225

Branch 743 Missing Address As December 09, 2010

Name	Year Born	Name	Year Born
Anderson, Shirley S	1936	Litwin, Madonna	1958
Appleby, James B	1988	Maas, Pauline E	1919
Atkinson, Frances	1917	Madar, Douglas	1956
Baldwin, Irene	1926	Madar, Judith	1940
Batchik, Mary E	1962	Markovich, Laura	1957
Bratley, Susan	1951	Matejcik, John	1947
Bertolini, Angelo P	1925	McKolay, Peter	1959
Bradham, Jonathan M	1973	Mracna, George W	1942
Calcaterra, Grace	1956	Nosal, John M	1929
Cassar, Louis	1947	Nosal, Marisa	1957
Churchran, Donald	1942	Osebold, Christine	1955
Comito, Dorothy	1932	Osebold, Maureen	1952
Petrovich, Mary E	1941		
Deering, Evan W	1998	Schulte, Dennis	1969
Dutchik, Brandon R	2004	Smiscik, Maria	1954
Fetter, Beverly	1947	Smolos, Andrew E	1921
Sopcik, Albert E	1921		
Greslikova, Natalia	1974	Strode, Karen	1958
Korpak, John	1914	Stvrtecka, Anna	1919
Gordon, Josephine	1913	Szymanski, Karen	1975

Three Summer Treasure Tours of Slovakia & Neighboring Countries Available

Three summer tours of Slovakia and neighboring countries will be led by Jednota member Helene Cincebeaux for Treasures Tours. She is Editor of Slovakia magazine and Slovak Pride and Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International.

The trips feature cultural immersion in Slovak history, village life and folklore, and have a 98% success rate in reuniting travelers with long-lost family. Visits to ancestral villages can be arranged with a car, translator and advance genealogical services. People from 47 states and 10 countries have traveled with Helene over the past 22 years; many come back over and over.

Trips include hotels with private bath in room, two large meals a day, bus transport, castle and museum visits, historic towns, quaint villages, crafts people's homes and festive gatherings. It's a chance to step back in time and glimpse the life of your ancestors. All trips are "land only" but round trip airfare can be arranged. Also a Prague add-on is available.



A Treasures Tour group was greeted with the traditional Slavic welcome of bread and salt in charming Vazec in Liptov, plus typical home-made doughnuts filled with jelly.



Treasurer Tours are led by Helene Cincebeaux, FCSU Member, Editor of Slovakia magazine, and Slovak Pride and Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

Branch President Ed Kedzuch), Thomas Micko, and Michael Orsula.

Robert Tapak Magruder
Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 in Muskegon Heights, MI would like to announce our monthly pork and kraut dinners being served at the club. They will be held on the second Sunday of each month. This is a complete traditional dinner including dessert. Only \$6 for adults and children under 12 pay only \$4. We will be serving from noon until 3 p.m.

Our monthly breakfast is held the fourth Sunday of each month. We serve from 8:30 a.m. until noon. We serve a wide variety of breakfast items. The cost remains at \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children.

We are located at the corner of Sixth Street and Sherman Boulevard in Muskegon Heights. Our phone number is 231 733 7525. Please contact us if you have any other questions.

Thank you,

Donna Stone, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday March 20, 2011 with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members. The Mass is at 11:30 a.m. At SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church located at 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place in the Slovak Heritage Room at 1p.m.

Members who have moved or require Branch services including beneficiary change should contact the Financial Secretary, Joseph C Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone @ 586-254-0225.

Joseph C Rimarcik, President & Financial Secretary

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Okres meeting to follow at 1:00 PM.

Reservations are being accepted for our April 2nd bus trip to Lancaster, PA to see JOSEPH at the Sight and Sound Theater. Dinner Buffet at the Eden Resort Inn will follow the show. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 for more information.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 796, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday Feb. 27, 2011 at 1pm in Holy Trinity Church hall Egypt, Pennsylvania. All members are cordially invited to attend.

Discussion of promoting new members as well as selecting of delegates for the district meeting will take place. Branch 796 would like to wish all a very Happy and Blessed New Year. God Bless.

Jerry Lloyd, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 is inviting members to a Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Rockford IceHogs, Saturday, March 5th, 7:30PM at the Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland. Added attractions: An on-ice wedding, where one lucky couple gets married on the ice during intermission, plus all brides-to-be can check out the pregame bridal expo. Discount tickets for Branch 855 members are available by calling Linda Kolesar at 1-440-886-0206. Deadline to reserve your tickets: February 23, 2011.

Immersion in Slovak Arts & Crafts, Villages & Castles - June 22 - July 2 \$1,999 Land Trip

Trip begins at Vienna airport, on to Piešťany to sample the spa and folk life; dramatic Beckov Castle, visit a lace-maker, enjoy Banská Bystrica's historic square; charming Helpa Folk Festival with a wonderful array of craftspeople and folk dancers; visit a wood carver, musical instrument maker, embroideress; enjoy a stay in walled Levoča, walk the path to Spiš Castle for a magnificent view, visit a Rusyn village; enjoy a Spiš party; a Liptov manor gives a glimpse of life gone by; meet an 84 year old folk artist, see a woodcarver's museum; visit a wooden church built in 1501 with all over painting inside; explore Orava Castle; see Slovakia's outstanding folk museum in Martin; enjoy the mechanical nativity and Čičmany's decorated homes; visit an exhibit of naive painters, stroll Bratislava's old town, see a ceramic artist at work and learn about ancient Devín Castle.

Treasures of Slovakia Trip with glimpses of Poland & Austria - July 8 - 17 \$1,999 Land Trip

Our 23rd year for this popular trip. Travel to Modra for glorious ceramics, marvel at Beckov Castle on to central Slovakia. Tour Banská Bystrica, visit Detva Folk Festival with rousing performances and crafts galore. Historic Kezmarok comes alive for the International Crafts Festival - ceramic, glass, textile, wood, leather and metal artists and naive painters. Enjoy Lubovna Spa or hike/ bike; delight in Stara Lubovna's outdoor museum with Rusyn & Slovak customs; ride a raft in Pieniny Park; feast at a Goral Picnic. Visit UNESCO Treasure Bardejov and famed icon museum; explore majestic Spiš Castle. Touch the heart of Spiš, Šariš and Abov in Levoča, Prešov and colorful Košice with its charming Singing Fountain. Open dower chests in Liptov, tour famed Martin Museum; count the castles as we travel west to Čičmany then dine at a family vineyard. Ancient Devín Castle beckons; then to Vienna for a guided tour of the historic center. Immerse in Bratislava, with a tour of the Old Town.

Five Countries - Five Cultures (Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic & Austria) - July 17 - 25 \$1,999 Land Trip

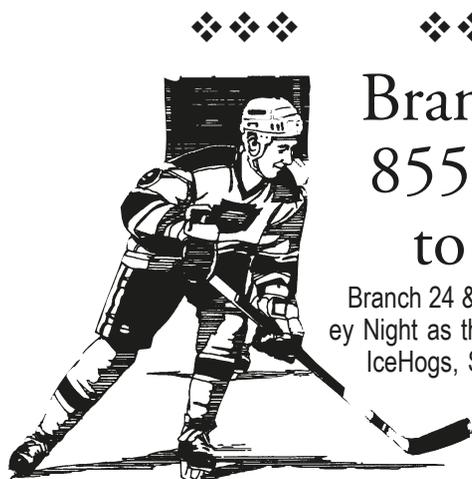
Meet at Vienna airport, on to Budapest for a highlights bus tour from glorious Heroes Square to dramatic Castle Hill and romantic Fisherman's Bastion. Walk the Old Town, night lights tour. Travel to the Hungarian Putza for a performance showcasing the skills of Hungarian horsemen. To Slovakia's High Tatras and a scenic raft ride in Pieniny Gorge; cross into Poland to stop at charming Zakopane with its crafts and amber, on to Krakow for sightseeing and a Polish specialties dinner in a quaint inn;

Option to visit the Wieliczka Royal Salt Mine and Auschwitz, the Nazi camp. Continue on to Czech Republic's Straznice, heart of folk culture, sample wines and meet an egg decorator. To Austria to cruise the castle-studded Wachau River Valley, and marvel at dramatic Melk Monastery and charming medieval Durnstein with its castle ruins and apricot specialties. Day in Vienna with a highlights bus tour and then a guided walking tour of the Old Town, feast on traditional Wiener Schnitzel.

For a colorful trip flyer with day by day itineraries, call Helene Cincebeaux toll free at 888/529-7150 or 585 342-9383 or write to 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617 or e-mail helenezx@aol.com. You can also check out the web site www.Our-Slovakia.com or www.TreasuresTours.com – click on the tour name to bring up the day-by-day itineraries.

If you would like a sample copy of the Slovakia magazine published by the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International for the past 25 years, send \$2 to Helene at the address above.

To list your surnames in the Slovak Pride data base (now more than 29,500 listings), send your info to Helene at the address above. You can access the Slovak Pride list at www.Our-Slovakia.com or www.SlovakPride.homestead.com or buy it in a book, "Slovak Pride", which has all the listings and 40 additional pages of maps and articles; cost is \$20 plus \$3 postage. You are welcome to submit your Slovak surnames too!



Branch 24 & Branch 855 Invite Members to Hockey Night

Branch 24 & Branch 855 are inviting members to a Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Rockford IceHogs, Saturday, March 5th, 7:30PM at the Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland. For details, see individual branch listings.



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members



The First Catholic Slovak Union has a Mass said for each of our deceased members at St. Andrew Abbey in Cleveland, Ohio.

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	James Sevchek	166K	Elsie Matyas	419K	Anna R Sedlak	682K	William F Bugno
005P	Anna R Sedlak	181K	George J Polcha	419K	Paul D Sevec	682K	George W Vrabec
019K	Joseph V Lukach	211K	Mark J Androstic	493K	Jean Melinauskas	682K	Madeline M Watson
024K	Joseph Hanobik	228K	Marie Lukach	512K	John Joseph Nalevanko	721K	John Hrncharik
040K	Karl Muntz	260K	Lawrence M Poracky	595K	Edmund J Schultz Sr	735K	Dr Thomas Pucik
083K	Sally J Bruggeman	282K	Michael G Wrabec	615K	Ronald J Martoia	738K	Veronica Dudash
098K	Joseph Grech	299K	John A Drapcho Jr	628K	Cynthia A O'rourke	738K	John R Mrazik
162K	Edward S Krishan	308K	Robert J Yohman	652K	Joseph F Bires	743K	Michael Bucko
164K	Bernice Kuchta	333K	Thomas P Janosky	670K	Francis S Santoro	780K	Rose M Smith
165K	Andrew M Vereb	367K	Anthony J Mayerske	682K	George J Bialik	823K	Margaret Yakubisin

* Processed in the month of January 2011

OBITUARIES

MARGARET PERLA

BRANCH 60 – DUQUENSNE, PENNSYLVANIA

Margaret "Dolly" Matta Perla, 73, of White Oak, died Thursday, Jan. 20, 2011, at her residence. Born Jan. 27, 1937, in McKeesport, a daughter of the late John J. and Julia R. Pavlovcsak Matta Sr. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil J. "Herky" Perla Jr.; and brothers, Michael, John and William Matta. A graduate of McKeesport High School, class of 1954, and active with the reunion committee, she was a hairdresser for 52 years and was the proprietor of the LaRosa Beauty Center in McKeesport for 44 years.

She was a member of Corpus Christi Parish (the former St. Martin de Porres Parish) in McKeesport, where she was a Eucharistic minister and a member of the St. Martin de Porres Seniors, where she served as vice president. She was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 60 and served as secretary, and was the past secretary and past president of the Pittsburgh district along with serving as a national officer on the pension board. Dolly was also a member of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch 200.

Surviving are her daughter and housemate, Julie Ann Perla, of White Oak; a brother, George F. (Florence) Matta, of White Oak; sisters-in-law, Mildred Matta, of Port Vue, and Carolyn Matta, of McKeesport; also surviving are many nieces and nephews. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the JAYCOX-JAWORSKI FUNERAL HOME INC., 2703 O'Neil Blvd., McKeesport, PA 15132. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Corpus Christi Church in McKeesport with the Rev. Stephen A. Kresak as celebrant. Interment will follow in St. Hedwig Cemetery, West Mifflin.

LEONARD E. WRABEC

BRANCH 700 – INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Leonard E. Wrabec, 86, Sugar Creek, Missouri, passed away Sunday, January 2, 2011 at his home.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 a.m. Thursday, January 6, 2011 at St. Cyril's Church; 11231 Chicago Ave. Sugar Creek, MO. Burial followed at St. Mary's Woodlawn Cemetery.

Visitation was from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Thursday, January 6, 2011, at the church.

Leonard was born February 1, 1924 in Sugar Creek, MO the son of Paul J. and Theresa A. (Emro) Wrabec. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran. Leonard worked for Standard Oil and retired from Lake City Ammunition. He was a member of St. Cyril's Church, the Knights of Columbus, and the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 700.

Leonard was preceded in death by six sisters; three brothers and his parents.

Survivors include his loving wife, Mary; sisters, Lorri Hey, Sylvia Begley and Carol Clairmont; brother, Stanley Wrabec and numerous nieces nephews and family.

SISTER M. YOLANDA, SS.C.M., 94

Sister M. Yolanda (Anna Lederleitner) died at Emmanuel Center, Danville, on Friday, January 14, 2011. The daughter of John and Rose (Nemec) Lederleitner, she was born in New York City on October 20, 1916. A member of St. John Nepomucene Church, she completed her elementary education at the parish school.

In 1934, she graduated from St. Cyril Academy. Sister Yolanda received a B.A. from Marywood University, Scranton, and an M.A. in Theology from Villanova.

She entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius on June 21, 1934, and was received as a novice on August 22, 1935. On May 5, 1937, Sister made her first profession of vows.

For forty-two years Sister Yolanda taught in elementary schools in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, in grades 3-8. For four years she served as superior/principal. She taught Religion on the secondary level for eight years in the following high schools: Andrean High School, Merrillville, Indiana; Lourdes Regional, Shamokin, Pennsylvania; Lebanon Catholic, Lebanon, Pennsylvania; and Bishop O'Hara, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

Her other ministries included sacristan at St. Catherine Laboure Church in Harrisburg for two years, assistant in the Jankola Library and Slovak Archives in Danville from 1992-1996 and librarian and teacher aide at St. Joseph School, Hazleton, Pennsylvania, from 1996-2001.

During her retirement at Maria Hall in Danville, Sister Yolanda was a tutor and receptionist. She also was engaged in the Ministry of Prayer and Hospitality. Her last days were spent at Emmanuel Center.

Sister Yolanda is survived by three nieces, Mrs. Rosemary Waikuny, N. Bellmore, New York; Mrs. Christine Lee, New York City; and Mrs. Barbara Oatman, Rockville, New York.

The transferal rite and recitation of the Rosary took place at Maria Hall on Monday, January 17, at 9:15 a.m. followed by a Wake Service at 10:15 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Maria Hall at 11:15 a.m. The celebrant and homilist was the Reverend Richard Cirba, associate pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Pittston, Pennsylvania. Father Cirba was a former student of Sister Yolanda's in Jessup, Pennsylvania. Sister Yolanda, who encouraged him to become a priest, requested he be celebrant for her funeral liturgy. The concelebrants were the Reverend Gerard Heintzelman and the Reverend Albert Oldfield.

PAUL ZIGMOND

BRANCH 718 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Paul Zigmond, long time President of the St. John the Baptist Society, Branch #718 in Chicago, passed away at the age of 97 on January 12, 2011. His beloved wife Margare-

ret (nee Coglianesse) preceded him in death in 2007. Paul was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army during World War II, and served as an officer in the reserves for many years afterwards. He was the brother of the late John (Ann) and the late Joseph (the late Elizabeth) Zigmond; brother-in-law of Ralph (Emily) Coglianesse and the late Joseph (Livia) Coglianesse. Although not blessed with children, he was the fond uncle and great-uncle of many. His wake and funeral took place on Saturday, January 15, 2011, from Blake Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn, IL to St. Linus Church, with the Mass of the Resurrection celebrated at 11:15 a.m. Interment was at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Alsip, IL. Paul had served as the Financial Secretary/Treasurer of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District. He attended many FCSU Conventions with his wife, the last one being in Toronto in 1998. District 2 President John Jurcenko and District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko represented the Rev. Spitkovsky District at the funeral.

Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk

www.travelguide.sk

kosice.region.sk

www.slovakia.org

www.vtatory.sk

www.tatry.net

www.hotel-net.sk

www.skonline.sk

www.kultura.sk

www.snm.sk

www.savba.sk

www.government.gov.sk

www.snd.sk

www.stv.sk

www.nbs.sk

Slovakia Travel Guide

Hotel and Spa Guide

Kosice-City Travel Guide

Bratislava-Information about the City

Useful Information about the High Tatras

Complete Information on Tatra Region

Tourist Accommodation

Slovakia On-Line (general information)

Slovak cultural calendar

Slovak National Museum

Slovak Academy of Sciences

Government of the Slovak Republic

Slovak National Theater

Slovak Television

National Bank of Slovakia

Recap of Toronto, Canada Meetings: Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba and Branch 785

The annual meetings of Okres Monsignor Michael Shuba and Branch 785 were held Sunday Dec. 12 2010 in the parish hall of Sts. Cyril & Methodius church in Mississauga Ontario. 30 members gathered for a luncheon in the church hall preceding the meetings.

The first meeting was for the Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba district.

The annual reports were presented by President Mike Kapitan and Treasurer John Tokarsky. The Auditors report will be presented at the next meeting.

The annual Slovak Catholic Family Day picnic was held on Sunday July 25 2010. It was sunny and warm all day. George Matta, Treasurer for the First Catholic Slovak Union, with his wife Flo and Ken Arendt, Executive Secretary of the FCSU with his wife Theresa were at the picnic. Events of the day started with a Mass at noon, Slovak home-cooked lunch, games for the children, and bacon (slanina) and hot dog BBQ in the afternoon. Ice cream and cut up watermelon was also available for all in the afternoon.

Elected officers for Okres Msgr. Michael Shuba are as follows:

President	Mike Kapitan
Vice president	Joe Jursa
Treasurer	John Tokarsky
Financial Secretary	John Tokarsky
Recording Secretary	Sharon Tomas
Fraternal Activities	Mike Kapitan
Auditors	Joe Tomko, Ed Forma, Stan Pella
Sergeant at arms	Emil Jursa

The second meeting was for Branch 785.

Annual reports were presented by President Milan Zoldak, Treasurer Jim Szabo and Sports Director Joe Jursa. Joe Jursa reviewed the Jednota bowling and golf tournaments held in the US and the local Jednota golf tournament held in Toronto.

Jerry Siman reported on the many articles he submitted to Teresa Ivanec for publication in the Jednota paper. He mentioned that Teresa was very helpful and published all the pictures and articles submitted to her. All the members at the meetings were pleased that we are now getting good exposure in the Jednota paper.

There were a number of local issues discussed at the meeting. These issues will be resolved at the next annual Meeting.

Regional Director Milos Mitro reviewed the events that took place in 2010 at the Board of Directors meetings. The 49th International Convention of the FCSU was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Cleveland Ohio Aug 14 to 18, 2010. The Canadian delegates all agreed that it was a well run and productive convention.

Elected officers for Branch 785 are as follows:

President	Milan Zoldak
Vice President	Jim Szabo
Treasurer	Mike Dobis
Financial Secretary	Mike Dobis
Recording Secretary	Anne Mitro
Public Relations	Jerry Siman
Auditors	Joe Tomko, Ed Forma, Stan Pella

Submitted by Jerry Siman



Standing
L-R Joe Tomko, John Tokarsky.
Sitting L-R Sharon Tomas, Mike Kapitan, Milan Zaviski



L-R Joe Jursa, Anne Mitro, Milan Zoldak



L-R Irene Gorman, Helen Herca, Arnold Herca, Ted Golla, Mike Pella



L-R Milan Zoldak, Anne Mitro, Joe Jursa, Emil Jursa, Helen Von Friedl



L-R Milos Mitro, Terri Tomko, Al Fedor



All elected officers



L-R John Pastor, Bea Pastor, Jerry Siman, Josie Siman, Anne Forma, Ed Forma

Branch 493's Annual Meeting & Christmas Luncheon

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, held its annual meeting, followed by a Christmas luncheon, on Saturday, December 4, 2010.

The events took place in the banquet room of Mabenka's Restaurant in suburban Burbank, IL. Meeting attendees welcomed the newest branch member – John George Turner – and elected officers for 2011.

After the business meeting, members had an enjoyable time socializing during the Christmas luncheon.

Robert Ľapák Magruder, Financial Secretary



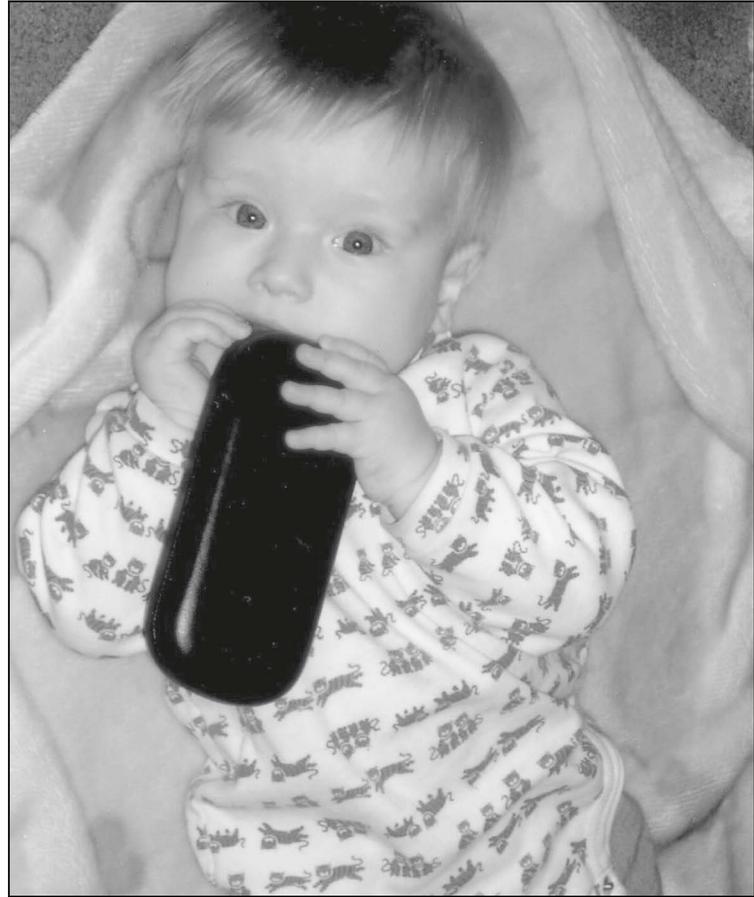
(L – R): Joan Hepner, Susan Hepner, and Pauline Tomco Bastek



(L- R): Penny Rogalin and Gerrie James



(L- R): Beverly Rusinak, Brandon Rusinak, and Tom Rusinak



John George Turner



“Park 2 Annuity” 3.00% (2.956% apr)

Rate Effective November 1, 2010

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

Features of the “Park 2 Annuity” include:

- * The FCSU **guarantees your initial interest rate for two years**. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- * The “Park 2 Annuity” can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- * The “Park 2 Annuity” is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- * Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your ‘Beginning of the year balance’ with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- * Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- * Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- * The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications or visit our web site at FCSU.com

News From Slovakia

Dzurinda Hands Over Gasparovic's Invitation for Papal Visit

Bratislava/The Vatican, January 12 (TASR) - Slovakia's Foreign Affairs Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, upon visiting the Vatican on Wednesday, handed over an invitation from President Ivan Gasparovic for Pope Benedict XVI to pay an official visit to Slovakia.

Next year, Slovakia will mark the 1,150th anniversary of St. Cyril's and Methodius's arrival in the territory of present-day Slovakia. According to Dzurinda, this will provide a unique opportunity for a papal visit.

While holding the post of prime minister between 1998 and 2006, Dzurinda met Pope Benedict XVI upon his assuming the papacy in April 2005.

Foreign Ministry: Greater Hungary Map Belongs in History Books, Not EU

Bratislava, January 14 (TASR) - Maps of Greater Hungary belong to history textbooks and not to the Council of the European Union building, Slovak Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson Lubos Schwarzbacher said.

Schwarzbacher was speaking in reaction to an initiative of the current Hungarian EU presidency, which has laid a carpet with a design that includes a map of Hungary as it appeared in 1848 in the Justus Lipsius building in Brussels where EU summits take place.

Schwarzbacher said that a map of Greater Hungary simply doesn't belong in a building "in which decisions on the future of the EU are approved".

According to the EUobserver website, the so-called 'historical carpet' will provoke harsh reactions.

Austrian MEP Ulrika Lunacek thinks that the map "illustrates the intention [of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban] to override the Trianon Treaty", according to which Hungary lost most of its former territory after the First World War.

Education Ministry to Introduce Changes in Universities' Financing

Bratislava, January 12 (TASR) - The Education Ministry plans to submit another amendment to the Universities Act designed to change the way public universities and colleges are financed, Education Minister Eugen Jurzyca said after the Government's Session on Wednesday.

"We'd like to increase the amount of subsidies in 2011 paid to individual schools based on the number of publications published in internationally recognised publications," said Jurzyca, adding that the amount of money allocated for this purpose will increase year-on-year 3.5 times. "We want the money to follow quality."

Also, the Ministry plans to use the results of an analysis aimed at how universities inform students about their quality, and announce a new system for accrediting professors.

Justice Ministry Ready to Discuss Judges With Communist Past

Bratislava, January 14 (TASR) - The issue of going public with the names of judges who were members of the Communist Party prior to 1989, as raised by the four Civic Conservative Party (OKS) MPs in Parliament, is worthy of discussion, Justice Ministry spokesman Peter Bubla told TASR on Friday.

According to Bubla, the ministry is ready to engage in a debate on the matter. The OKS four, who belong to the Most-Hid party's parliamentary caucus, aim to push for the idea with Justice Minister Lucia Zitnanska. "It's on a par with what has taken place in the Czech Republic. It isn't supposed to entail penalties; it's simply designed to let people know more about the state of our judiciary," said OKS head Peter Zajac.

He added that the poor state of the judiciary can partly be blamed on the fact that it continues to include too high a percentage of people with a Communist past.

When asked how former communist judges can be tracked down, Zajac said that the information can easily be found in the Communist Party's archives. "It's no big deal; there aren't so many judges that it would be impossible to find this out. I would recommend that the

Slovak Justice Ministry should draw inspiration from the Czech Justice Ministry," he added.

Comprehensive figures on the communist past of Czech judges became available on January 7. A list of 618 judges and 359 prosecutors who were members of the Communist Party in 1989 was released. This equates to 20 and 30 percent of current Czech judges and prosecutors, respectively.

Eurobarometer: Slovaks Most Aware in EU of EU's Regional Policies

Bratislava, January 14 (TASR) - According to a Eurobarometer survey, Slovaks can boast the highest level of awareness of EU regional policies in the EU, TASR learned from Transport, Construction and Regional Development Ministry spokesman Martin Krajcovic on Friday.

"A total of 71 percent of Slovaks are aware of regional aid dispensed by the EU," states the survey, in which Slovaks took first place. Poles were the runners-up on 69 percent, followed by Lithuanians (68 percent). Conversely, British people came last on 15 percent. Average awareness in the EU reached only 34 percent.

The positive effects of EU regional policy tools have been noticed by 84 percent of Slovaks, while the average level in the EU stands at 76 percent. When asked where EU regional level support should be aimed, Slovaks didn't differ much from the citizens of other EU-member states: Slovaks consider the spheres of education, healthcare and social infrastructure to be most important (90 percent), followed by the environment (88 percent) and transport infrastructure (82 percent).

The survey was carried out in June and July 2010 on a representative sample of more than 27,000 EU citizens aged 15 and over.

Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: FCSU@aol.com.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

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

2011 Bowling

April 29th - May 1st

Carolier lanes N Brunswick, NJ.

The Men's and Women's Annual International Jednota Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament is solely sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Jednota. The Supreme Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union wish to extend to all Jednota members a cordial invitation to the Host City, North Brunswick, New Jersey, in this rapidly growing tournament.

1. The 57th Annual Men's and the 48th Annual Women's Jednota International Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Brunswick Zone Carolier, 790 US Route 1, North Brunswick, New Jersey. The tournament will be held the weekend of April 29, April 30, and May 1, 2011.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 11, 2011. OPENING CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 29, AT 5:30 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

2. This Tournament is open to all Jednota male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is AWARDED.

3. All matters pertaining to this Tournament must have the sanction of the Director of Fraternal Activities of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Tournament Officers will handle all matters pertaining to this Tournament.

4. U.S.B.C. Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

5. Only members with U.S.B.C. Membership Cards will be eligible for the U.S.B.C. special awards in this U.S.B.C. Certified Tournament. Bowlers without U.S.B.C. Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Secretary at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

5-A. CAPTAINS OF EACH TEAM ENTRY MUST ENTER HIS TEAMMATES' U.S.B.C. CERTIFICATION CARD NUMBERS AND VERIFY SAME AS LISTED IN PROPER AREA ON ENTRY FORM. MEN AND WOMEN

6. MEN - The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the highest average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2009-2010 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2009-2010 season and with at least 21 games in the 2010-2011 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HIS NAME and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. average will BOWL A 210 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WOMEN- The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 180 and the highest season average of any U.S.B.C. League of at least 21 games from the 2009-2010 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2009-2010 season and with at least 21 games in the 2010-2011 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on ENTRY FORM BY HER NAME and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament Secretary at the Tournament. Bowlers with no established U.S.B.C. will bowl 180 SCRATCH. SUMMER LEAGUE AVERAGES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

6-A. MEN AND WOMEN: Any contestants whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2011, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the ENTRY FORM AT TIME OF ENTRY.

6-B. Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

6-C. MEN AND WOMEN- Any unmarried grade or high school student who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in U.S.B.C. Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Secretary at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. U.S.B.C. Rule NO. 13

7. In submitting this entry, THE CAPTAIN AND THE TEAM MEMBERS AGREE TO FORFEIT ALL RIGHTS TO PRIZE MONEY AS WELL AS THE TOTAL ENTRY FEES IN THE EVENT THAT ANY INFORMATION LISTED HEREIN SHOULD BE FOUND TO BE FALSE. WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS IN AVERAGES MADE IN FILLING OUT THIS ENTRY FORM. NO REFUNDS OF TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

8. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR TEAM, DOUBLES, SINGLES, AND ALL EVENTS.

9. MEN - One prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

10. WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every five (5) entries in each event with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and the prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

11. All prize winners will be checked with the Jednota Home Office for verification of membership in good standing.

12. All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Director of Fraternal Activities and the Tournament Committee.

13. The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Secretary.

14. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

15. All participants must report one half-hour before starting time and certification cards must be presented to the Tournament Secretary by same.

16. Up to two entries per person are allowed for the team, doubles, and singles events.

(a) Teams

i. A new team is defined when 2 members have been changed.

ii. Each team is eligible to win once.

iii. Mixed teams comprising of 2 men and 2 women are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see Rule 9), unless at least 21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

(b) Doubles

i. The doubles entry is a new entry when the partners have changed.

57TH ANNUAL MEN'S AND 48TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S

JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

AT THE BRUNSWICK ZONE-CAROLIER LANES, NORTH BRUNSWICK, N.J.

APRIL 29,30, MAY 1st, 2011

CONTRACT FOR ADVERTISING IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAM BOOK

RATE SCHEDULE (Please Check Appropriate Box)

FULL PAGE	5" X 8"	\$100.00	REMIT PAYMENT WITH AD MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: MON VALLEY JEDNOTA
HALF PAGE	5" X 4"	\$50.00	
THIRD PAGE	5" X 2 2/3"	\$40.00	
QUARTER PAGE	5" X 2"	\$25.00	
PATRON		\$5.00	

MAIL TO:

LARRY A. HEALEY
27 SMITH STREET
CHARLEROI, PA 15022

As Per Copy Below In Consideration Thereof We Are Enclosing \$ _____
To Cover Cost Of The Ad.

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

PLACE AD BELOW, OR ON REVERSE SIDE, OR ATTACH.

PLEASE SUPPLY CAMERA READY ART OR LOGO YOU WISH TO HAVE IN AD.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING AD MARCH 25, 2011

TOURNAMENT AD BOOK : LARRY A. HEALEY
PHONE: 724-483-4941

ii. Each doubles entry is eligible to win once.

iii. Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see Rule 9), unless at least 21 mixed doubles participate. If 21 or more mixed doubles enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

(c) Singles

i. Women may bowl in the Men's single division. However, women must bowl in Women's singles as well as the men's singles.

18. Prize fees, as stated on the front of this entry blank, must accompany this entry.

19. Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Secretary within 48 hours after completion of play. Captains of Teams or Doubles Partners have the option to pick up duplicate score sheets upon completion of play.

20. YOU ARE ONLY ALLOWED TWO (2) RE-RACKS PER GAME.

21. 319-a-3 It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others.

Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average.

In case of teams of two or more bowlers, the average shall be combined to determine whether the correct total is higher or lower than the submitted total.

Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

319-D - Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

22. Refer to U.S.B.C. Rule 322 - Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT OFFICERS
EX-OFFICIO TREASURER & FRATERNAL DIRECTOR
.....SUSAN ONDREJCO
TOURNAMENT SECRETARY.....JOE BURKHART

Ako ten čas rýchlo letí

Zdá sa, že len včera, sme boli malé deti, až, keď pozrieme sa do zrkadla a vidíme naše šediny, vidíme, že vlasy, tie pekné, čierne vlasy, sú inej pleti. Kedysi sme chodili vyrovnaní, ako tatranská jedľa a dnes, tu ma bolí, tu ma pichá a studený som, ako tehla.

Aj, keď sa snažíme, v chrbáte čosi boľastné, vrzne a bolesť, ako na objednávku, sa tam vklzne. Ani pôrodná babica, nemá návod, nič tu nepomáha. Naše telo, sa do staroby, akosi rýchlejšie poponáhľa.

Hej, kedysi sme boli mladí, po sukničkách sme pozerali a dnes na sukničky krátke, či dlhé, akoby nám belmo dali. Palica, či čagan je našim každodenným hosťom. Na očiach máme veľké okuliare a v ušiach strojček, pripadáme si, ako ten, sto ročný, prihrbený starček.

Dobré a úprimné slovo, je nám dobrým, vzácnym darom. Sme zaň vďační, je ono akoby nášho života chlebom.

Jozef Smák



People enjoy skating on an artificial ice skating rink in the center of Bratislava.

Verejné klzisko s umelou ľadovou plochou sprístupnili verejnosti na Hlavnom námestí v Bratislave v sobotu 15. januára 2011.



Ján Pavol II. bude za blahoslaveného vyhlásený 1. mája

Vatikán - Pápež Benedikt XVI. uznal uzdravenie pripisované jeho predchodcovi Jánovi Pavlovi II. za zázrak, čo bola posledná podmienka jeho vyhlásenia za blahoslaveného. Termín blahorečenia zároveň stanovil na 1. mája, oznámil nedávno Vatikán.

Ján Pavol II. (1920-2005) sa podľa pápežovho dekrétu prihovril u Boha za uzdravenie francúzskej mnišky Marie Simonovej-Pierrovej. Tej diagnostikovali Parkinsonovu chorobu, akou trpel aj sám Ján Pavol II., z ktorej sa však nevyzdravil. Vyliečila dva mesiace po smrti pápeža po tom, ako sa k nemu začala s ďalšími sestrami modliť. Lekári poverení cirkvou dospeli k záveru, že neexistuje lekárske vysvetlenie uzdravenia mnišky, aj keď vlni sa objavili určité pochybnosti o platnosti zázraku.

Proces blahorečenia obľúbeného pápeža pochádzajúceho z Poľska, ktorý stál na čele katolíckej cirkvi vyše 26 rokov, Benedikt XVI. niekoľko mesiacov po jeho smrti urýchlil - obvykle sa totiž môže začať najskôr päť rokov po smrti príslušnej osoby. Predstavitel' Vatikánu však zdôraznil, že celý proces prebehol riadne bez vynechania niektorého z krokov. Na vyhlásenie Jána Pavla II. za svätého, ktoré davy ľudí na jeho pohrebe žiadali „okamžite“, bude potrebný ďalší zázrak po jeho vyhlásení za blahoslaveného.

Slávnostné blahorečenie Karola Wojtyły sa uskutoční 1. mája - prvú nedeľu po Veľkej noci - za očakávanej účasti státisícov pútnikov.



TASR



Spojenie západu s východom SR diaľnicou sa plánuje už od roku 1935

Bratislava (TASR) - Prvé úvahy o budovaní diaľnice naprieč celým Slovenskom sa objavili už v roku 1935. Vtedy sa plánovalo spojiť oba konce bývalej Československej republiky. Diaľnica, ktorá by súvisle spájala dve metropoly SR Bratislavu a Košice, však doteraz nestojí.

Posledné plány súčasného vedenia rezortu hovoria o zabezpečení nadštandardného spojenia medzi Bratislavou a Košicami, a to severnou trasou. To by malo byť podľa šéfa rezortu dopravy Jána Figeľa (KDH) hotové v roku 2014. Metropoly budú spojené diaľnicou a rýchlostnou cestou.

Práve tieto plány súčasného vedenia rezortu kritizuje exminister Ľubomír Vážny (Smer-SD), ktorý ešte v auguste minulého roka podotkol, že pojem nadštandardné spojenie môže znamenať aj cestu pre kónsky povoz. Stále pripomína, že verejná nepozná jasný program výstavby diaľnic a rýchlostných ciest. Avšak práve Vážnemu sa nepodarilo splniť cieľ pri nástupe do funkcie, a to spojiť Bratislavu s Košicami diaľnicou do roku 2010.

Na Slovensku môžu aktuálne motoristi využívať 415 km diaľnic, väčšinu z tejto dĺžky tvorí nesúvislá diaľnica D1 z Bratislavy cez Žilinu, Prešov do Košíc. Do nadradenej infraštruktúry spadajú aj rýchlostné cesty s dĺžkou 246 km, tie sa však prevažne nachádzajú na západe krajiny.

Zomrel významný slovenský spisovateľ a publicista Ladislav Ťažký

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Profil Ladislava Ťažkého

Spisovateľ, prozaik, publicista a esejista Ladislav Ťažký sa narodil 19. septembra 1924 v Čiernom Balogu. Na Vojenskom zemepisnom ústave v Bratislave získal vzdelanie kartografa. Ako 17-ročný narukoval do slovenskej armády na východný front. Po vypuknutí SNP ušiel zo svojej jednotky, ktorá bola prevelená do Rumunska. Chytili ho však a skončil v zajateckom tábore v Rakúsku.

Po vojne pracoval ako kreslič na technickom oddelení mesta Košíc a ako sociálny referent na Okresnom národnom výbore v Brezne. V roku 1952 absolvoval štúdium na Vysokej škole politických a hospodárskych vied v Prahe a v roku 1960 ukončil vedeckú aspirantúru na Inštitúte spoločenských vied v Prahe. Po štúdiách sa usadil v Bratislave, venoval sa hlavne tvorbe a neskôr pracoval v ústredných orgánoch v oblasti kultúrnej politiky. V rokoch 1967-1969 bol redaktorom denníka Smena, ktorý sa stal priestorom pre jeho politické vyjadrenia k udalostiam v auguste 1968.

Pre tie, ako aj pre politické postoje vo Zväze slovenských spisovateľov, ho vylúčili z KSČ a až do konca 70-tych rokov 20. storočia nesmel publikovať. Ladislav Ťažký patril medzi najvýznamnejšie osobnosti povojnovej generácie slovenských spisovateľov. Hlavnou témou jeho tvorby boli vojnové, sociálne a etické otázky, zobrazil v nej život spoločnosti, v ktorej žil. Jeho dielo je protestom proti vojnovým útrapám, citovým deformáciám, ako aj hľadaním zmyslu osobných postojov vo vypätých a hraničných situáciách. Do literatúry vstúpil v polovici 50. rokov dvadsiateho storočia, kedy začal v časopisoch publikovať fejtóny a poviedky. Niektoré z jeho kníh preložili do nemčiny, rumunčiny, poľštiny, maďarčiny, češtiny. Kandidát na najvyšší post v štáte, funkciu prezidenta SR v parlamentných prezidentských voľbách v roku 1993, však ponuku odmietol. Vždy sa vyjadroval k súčasným pomerom a nechýbal na rôznych kultúrnych a verejných podujatiach. V roku 1990 sa stal čestným členom Spolku slovenských spisovateľov a zvolili ho za predsedu prezidia Matice slovenskej. Bol ženatý a mal tri deti.



My Slováci sa hrdo hlásime k dedičstvu sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

života jak u jednotlivcov tak aj vo verejnom živote. Bohato sa to odrazilo aj v ľudových tradíciách, ktoré sú dodnes nasrzk kresťanské. Tak sa v našom národe zakorenila kresťanská identita. Len tak možno vysvetliť, že si náš národ napriek nespočetným ohrozeniam túto identitu zachoval. Viera a mravnosť nás zachránili pred vpádmi cudzích národov, pred pohromami, vojnami a morovými genocidami, pred pokusmi zmeniť našu národnú identitu a pred vymytím mozgov bojového ateizmu.

Bola to vždy a ostáva naďalej zdravá kresťanská rodina, ktorá dávala slovenskej spoločnosti duchovne silných synov a dcéry na poli verejného života. Spomeňme len národných buditeľov, z ktorých mnohí stáli na čele boja za slovenskú samostatnosť. Podľa sčítania ľudu z r. 1720 malo Slovensko len 730.000 obyvateľov. Dnes ich je 5,5 milióna. Ako by sa dosiahol tento stav, keby si náš národ nebol zachoval vysokú mravnú úroveň? Žiaden vážny historik nemôže toto poprieť.

Zdravá rodina má nenahraditeľné miesto v existencii každého národa. Rodina má svoju pevnú definíciu. Žiadne iné spoločenstvo osôb nemožno k nej prirovnať alebo od neho očakávať to, čo pre národ rodina prináša. Je to fyzicky nemožné, preto právnické pokusy ostanú vždy len pokusmi. Nikdy nie identitou.

Bratia a sestry! Myslím, že všetkým nám záleží na tom, aby sa naše štátne spoločenstvo dostalo z ťažkých situácií či už na poli ekonomiky, politiky, kultúry, bezpečnosti občanov, sociálnych istôt, zdravotníckej starostlivosti a vôbec každej oblasti verejného života. Všetde sa volá po zodpovednom správaní, inými slovami po morálke. Zbavme sa už konečne novodobého antiklerikalizmu a účtosti voči Cirkvi, keď chce pomôcť riešiť problémy, ktoré nás všetkých trápia. Cirkev chce vychovávať mladé pokolenie podľa želania rodičov ako to zaručujú medzinárodné dohody. Nemožno im vnucovať neprijateľnú sexuálnu výchovu, ktorá nevedie k zdravej a pevnej rodine, ani nebuduje pevné charakter a osobnosti. Cirkev poukazuje na pravé hodnoty a zmysel ľudského života. Treba konečne pochopiť, že čo je autenticky kresťanské, je aj hlboko ľudské. To je cyrilometodské dedičstvo, ku ktorému sa hlásime. Bez prispenia kresťanskej civilizácie by sme nevníkali ani všeľudské hodnoty. Blaise Pascal hovoril svojim neveriacim priateľom, aby žili tak „ako keby Boh jestvoval“. Realistické uznanie kresťanských hodnôt privádza mnohých filozofov a politických činiteľov k pozitívnemu chápaniu kresťanstva, hoci sami ostávajú v odstupe od neho. Patrí to k zásadným prvkom demokracie. Aj kresťania v demokratickom štáte majú mať svoju slobodu, ochranu pred urážkami ich náboženského citu a slobodu vo veciach, ktoré sa dotýkajú ich svedomia. Náboženská sloboda, a v tom je zahrnutá aj sloboda svedomia, je vždy meradlom vyspelosti demokracie. Nemôže kolektív, spoločnosť, nútiť človeka, aby konal proti svojmu ja, čiže svedomiu. Je to hrubá ujma na dôstojnosti človeka. Ak má liberalizmus nahradiť bojový ateizmus, tak sme tam, kde sme boli pred viac ako dvadsiatimi rokmi. Prečo by mal liberalizmus vnucovať celej spoločnosti svoje predstavy o hodnotách?

Bratia a sestry, všetci kresťania! Uvažujme o svojom poslaní tu na zemi, v tejto spoločnosti, v našich rodinách, v ekonomickom a politickom živote a všade, kde sme, o svojej úlohe chrániť dedičstvo otcov, ktorých sv. Cyril a Metod postavili na roveň ostatným európskym národom. Zveľaďujme toto dedičstvo všetci spolu, od najvyšších činiteľov národa až po najnižšie postavených, ale rovnocenných s tými najvyššími.

Ukončím úryvkom z predhovoru sv. Cyrila k Evanjeliám: „Počuj, ty slovanský ľud! Počuj Slovo, lebo vyšlo od Boha, Slovo, ktoré kŕmi ľudské duše, Slovo, ktoré posilňuje srdce i rozum. Toto Slovo povolane, na sprostredkovanie poznávania Boha“.

TK KBS



Vo Washingtone otvorili výstavu J. Stavovčička

V priestoroch Veľvyslanectva Slovenskej republiky vo Washingtone sa 20. januára 2011 uskutočnila vernisáž diel mladého slovenského výtvarníka pôsobiaco v Alexandrii (USA) Juraja Stavovčička. Výstavené diela pod názvom „Streets we walk“ (Ulice, ktorými prechádzame) zobrazujú abstraktný pohľad umelca na mestá, v ktorých žil a ktoré navštívil.

Na otvorení sa zúčastnil veľký počet pozvaných hostí z umeleckej, spoločenskej a podnikateľskej sféry Washingtonu a jeho okolia. Expozícia bude v priestoroch Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone prístupná pre verejnosť do polovice marca 2011.“

MZV SR

Z histórie Amerických Slovákov

Či viete že:

- 35 rokov pred 1. svetovou vojnou sa do USA vysťahovalo vyše pol milióna Slovákov.
- Štefan Parmenius Štítnický sa zúčastnil expedície Lorda Humphrey Gilberta do nového sveta v roku 1583. Loď pristála v Labradore na spätočnej ceste sa loď potopila.
- Isaac Ferdinand Sarossy – Šarišský bol v roku 1677 učiteľom na protestanskej škole v meste Germantown, Pensylvánia.
- Generál Móric Beňovský a kapitán Emerich Beňovský bojovali za Americkú samostatnosť v revolúčnej vojne proti Britom.
- Major Ján Ladislav Polerecký z dediny Polerieka bol dôstojníkom Americkej armády, ktorý pri porážke Britov pri meste Yorktown v roku 1781 bol poverený, aby prevzal kapituláciu Britského kráľa, čo sa aj stalo.
- V roku 1861 Slovák-dôstojník Gejza Mihalótzky-Michalovský spolu s prezidentom A. Lincolnom zorganizovali batalión strelcov – puškárov čisto zo Slovanských národností. Lincoln za to mu udelil vysoké vyznamenanie civilnej vojny Americkej.
- US Marine Matej Kocák narodený v Gbeloch na Slovensku bol vyznamenaný dvoma kongresovými medailami najvyššie to vyznamenanie vôbec za hrdinské činy v I. svetovej vojne.
- Michal Strank z Jarabinej na Slovensku za pomoci ešte 5-tich spoluvojakov za silnej paľby Japoncov sa im podarilo vztyčiť Americkú zástavu na vrchole kopca Sirubachi na Japonskom ostrove Iwo Jima. Za jeho čin dostal tiež to najvyššie vyznamenanie.
- Rev. Jozef Murgaš v roku 1905 ako prvý patentoval svoj patent bezdrôtovej komunikácie. Bol tiež, ktorý preniesol hlas po étery, čiže je tvorca rádia. Prvý rádiový prenos bol z Murgašovej fary vo Wilkes-Barre do Passaic N.J.
- Štefan Banič zo Smoleníc vynášiel prvý moderný padák. Vynález predal pentagonu a tiež sa stal čestným členom Amerického letectva.
- George S. Hudimac vynálezca časového mechanizmu, ktoré bolo použité v prvej atómovej bombe a tiež vynášiel batérie používané v telekomunikačných satelitoch.

Jozef Janek

Zomrel arcibiskup Ján Bukovský

V sobotu 18. decembra 2010 zomrel arcibiskup Mons. Ján Bukovský, SVD v komunite Techny, Illinois, USA. Svätú omšu za dušu zomrelého celebroidoval cardinal Chicaga Francis George v stredu 22. decembra. Telo zosnulého arcibiskupa bude prevezené na Slovensko.

Mons. Ján Bukovský sa narodil 18. 1. 1924 v Cerovej, okres Senica. Vstúpil do Spoločnosti Božieho Slova v Nitre r. 1939. Noviciát si vykonal v kláštore na Zobore. Maturoval v Bratislave r. 1945. Po dvojročnom štúdiu filozofie vo Vidinej odišiel na teologické štúdiá r. 1947 do Techny, Illinois, USA, kde bol vysvätený 3. 12. 1950.

Po vysviacke študoval na Katolíckej Univerzite vo Washingtone, kde získal licenciát z teológie a odborné znalosti z gréčtiny a hebrejčiny. R. 1952 až 1954 bol profesorom Sv. písma v misijnom seminári v Techny a r. 1954 až 1956 poslucháčom Pápežského biblického ústavu v Ríme, kde dosiahol licenciát v exegeze. Vrátil sa znova do Techny. R. 1967 ho vymenovali za rektora tunajšej vysokej školy. Mal vtedy iba 43 rokov. Ale toho istého roku bol na generálnej kapitule v Ríme zvolený za generálneho poradcu a admonitora najvyššieho predstaveného Spoločnosti Božieho Slova v Ríme.

Od r. 1968 pracoval príležitostne ako tlmočník delegácie Svätej stolice na vyjednávaniach so zástupcami ČSSR. R. 1973 nastúpil ako trvalý pracovník na Štátny sekretariát a v Rade pre mimoriadne cirkevné veci postupne prebral oddelenie pre ČSSR, Maďarsko, Rumunsko, Bulharsko a Albánsko. Od r. 1989 sa dostal medzi elitu vatikánskej diplomacie. Staral sa o vymenovanie biskupov na uprázdnené biskupské stolce a o riešenie problémov medzi Katolíckou cirkvou a jednotlivými štátmi.

18. 8. 1990 vymenoval pápež Ján Pavol II. pátra Jána Bukovského za pápežského nuncia v Rumunsku a za titulárneho biskupa tabaltského. Biskupskú konsekráciu mu udelil dňa 13. 10. 1990 v bazilike sv. Petra v Ríme J. Em. kardinál Agostino Casaroli, štátny sekretár Svätej stolice. Ako arcibiskup vykonával funkciu nuncia v Rumunsku až do r. 20. 12. 1994, keď bol určený ako nuncius - predstaviteľ Svätej stolice - do Ruska so sídlom v Moskve. Mons. Bukovský bol nielen prvým nunciom, ktorý sa narodil na Slovensku, ale taktiež prvým nunciom v Moskve.

Sv. Otec ho vysoko ocenil za jeho zásluhy: „Otec Bukovský dokázal na poli rešpektovania ľudských práv, že vie tieto náročné úlohy splniť. Vyslovujem mu uznanie a vďaka za všetky služby, ktoré Svätej stolici a svätej Cirkvi nezištne a rozumnou prácou preukázal.“ /Pápež Ján Pavol II., 1990/ O svojom živote vo vatikánskej diplomacii napísal knihu Spomienky spoločníka, ktorá vyšla v slovenčine v r. 2006. Arcibiskup Ján Bukovský patril medzi veľkých svedkov politických a vnútrocirkevných premien vo východnej Európe v uplynulých desaťročiach. V závere knihy, kde hodnotí svoju poslednú etapu aktívnej činnosti – službu nuncia v Rumunsku a Rusku, - arcibiskup Bukovský akoby zhmul celé svoje životné dielo do týchto slov: „Moja práca bola diplomatická...Predovšetkým som sa vždy cítil ako kňaz a biskup, ktorý sa musí postarať o vnútorný život a organizáciu Cirkvi. A to mi dalo silu a radosť z práce.“

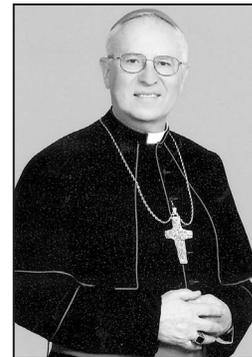
Arcibiskup Ján Bukovský, SVD odišiel r. 2000 na dôchodok. Žil v St. Gabrieli pri Viedni do r. 2006 a zvyšné roky prežil v Misijnom dome Spoločnosti Božieho Slova v Techny, USA.

TK KBS

Benedikt XVI. prijal rezignáciu biskupa Jozefa Adamca

Vatikán (RV) - Benedikt XVI. 14. januára, prijal rezignáciu biskupa Jozefa Adamca z dôvodu veku, podľa kánonu 401 § 1 Kódexu kánonického práva. Na jeho miesto na čelo Altoona-Johnstown diecézy menoval Msgr. Marka L. Bartchaka, kňaza Pennsylvánskej diecézy Erie.

Mons. Adamec, pôvodom Slovák pôsobil v americkej diecéze Altoona-Johnstown a 13. augusta 2010 sa dožil veku 75 rokov. Narodil sa v meste Bannister v Michigane v USA ako syn slovenských rodičov, ktorí sa do USA vysťahovali z Trenčianskej župy. Základnú a vyššiu školu absolvoval v rodnom meste, univerzitné štúdium začal na michiganskej univerzite „Michigan State University“ (1953 - 1955). Pokračoval v teologických štúdiách na Lateránskej univerzite v Ríme a v kňazskej formácii na Pápežskom kolégiu Nepomucenum. Za kňaza bol vysvätený 3. júla 1960 za Nitriansku diecézu. Kvôli vtedajšiemu komunistickému režimu však nemohol pôsobiť na Slovensku. Vrátil sa do USA, kde pastoračne účinkoval na rôznych stupňoch duchovnej správy. Dňa 17. marca 1986 bol vymenovaný za biskupa spomínanej diecézy. Vysvätil ho vtedajší prefekt Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov, kardinál Jozef Tomko. Biskup Adamec aktívne pracoval vo viacerých americko - slovenských organizáciách. Bol predsedom Združenia slovenských katolíkov v USA a jeho biskupským moderátorom. Aktívne sa zaujíma o život Cirkvi na Slovensku, ktorú mnohorako podporuje.



Biskup Jozef Adamec

TK KBS

Tanečná zábava v Perth Amboy, New Jersey

Slovenské kultúrne stredisko usporiada tanečnú zábavu na ktorú pozýva slovenskú verejnosť, aby sa prišla medzi nás dobre zabaviť. Tanečná zábava sa bude konať v sobotu 5. februára 2011 v spoločenskej hale kostola Svätej Trojice, 474 Penn Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Večera na plese sa začne podávať o 7:00 hodine večer, preto vás prosíme, aby ste prišli načas.

Do tanca bude hrať Slovenská hudobná skupina „Kontakty“. O zakúpenie lístkov volajte na tieto telefónne čísla: Ján Dračulín – (908) 541-0372; Mary Karch – (732) 572-2331.

Za Slovenské kultúrne stredisko

Mary Karch

Slovenský ples v New Yorku

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku (SAKS) oznamuje, že tohoročný výročný Slovenský ples usporiada v sobotu 26. februára 2011. Začne sa recepciou o 6:00 hodine večer. O 7:00 hod. sa bude podávať hodnotná večera. Populárna kapela Express spestrí večeru a po nej bude hrať do tanca.

Na plese bude poctená generálna tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy Nina Holá za jej celoživotnú prácu v slovenskom národnom živote v New Yorku a na okolí a v Amerike. Program večera bude tiež spestrený hodnotnou tombolou a hudobnou vložkou.

Ples sa bude konať v miestnostiach prestížneho New York Athletic Club-u (180 Central Park South, NYC). Bližšie informácie alebo pozvánky na ples si možno vyžiadať telefonicky u Eta Jendrek, tel. č. 201-568-1736.

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

20. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 5. marca v Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103.St.(103 & Oklahoma) v Greenfield, Wisconsin. Zábava začne od 6:00 do 11:00 hodine večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. O bližšie informácie volajte: Betty Valent, tel. číslo: (414) 425-6137 alebo Emily Kosso, tel. číslo: (414) 464-1063. Na toto podujatie zároveň srdečne pozývame aj členov Knights of St. Mary and Joseph Society Spolok č. 89 IKSJ v Milwaukee.

Betty Valent

Spomienková oslava slovenskej štátnosti v New York City

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku za spolupráce Spolku sv. Štefana a Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných slovenských fraternalistických organizácií si Vas dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 13. marca 2011 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East 66th Street v New York City.

V minulom storočí Slovensko dosiahlo samostatnosť dvakrát : 14. marca 1939 a po dlhom čase boja za slobodu opäť dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie slovenského národa na jeho ceste k sebaurčeniu a štátnej samostatnosti. Na oslave si pripomenieme aj významné dni v slovenskej histórii a v tejto súvislosti chceme vzdať úctu bojovníkom za samostatnosť slovenského národa.

Prvý program bude k dispozícii pred oslavou. Po programe v otvorenom bare bude možnosť zakúpenia slovenského jedla a rôznych nápojov. O bližšie informácie volajte: Milan R. Dait (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik: (718) 463-2084. Vstup je voľný.

HĽADÁME

Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota v Spojených štátoch a v Kanade hľadá zástupcov plynne po slovensky hovoriacich alebo licencovaných odporúčateľov, ktorí by reprezentovali našu organizáciu a ponúkali naše životné poisťky a anuitné produkty, najmä v oblasti štátov

New York a New Jersey.



O bližšie informácie zavolajte alebo pošlite e-mail:
Predseda, Andrew M. Rajec: 1-800 JEDNOTA (533-6682) alebo
Podpredseda, Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.: 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682)
E-mail: president@fcsu.com

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Automobilka** Volkswagen Slovakia (VW) od pondelka 10. januára znovu naplno spustila výrobu automobilov. "Produkcia vozidiel Volkswagen Touareg, Audi Q7 a karosérii Porsche Cayenne bude aj po zimnej celozávodnej dovolenke pokračovať v nepretržitej prevádzke 24 hodín, 7 dní v týždni," informoval hovorca spoločnosti Vladimír Machalík. Celozávodná dovolenka vo VW začala v piatok 24. decembra. Pokoj vo výrobe využila automobilka na pravidelnú kontrolu a údržbu zariadení. Prvé vozidlá nového modelového radu NSF opustia výrobný závod v priebehu tohto roka.

• **Zákulisie** slovenčiny je programová novinka, ktorú Slovenská televízia začala nedávno vysielat'. Ide o sériu 20 desaťminútových vzdelávacích filmov, ktorých zámerom je prispieť k zvýšeniu jazykovej kultúry a rozšíriť poznatky divákov o súčasnom slovenskom jazyku. Cyklus je nadčasový - umožňuje zaradenie jeho reprízy počas niekoľkých rokov - a odborne na ňom participuje Jazykovedný ústav Ľudovíta Štúra Slovenskej akadémie vied. Prvý diel s názvom Televízia prevedie divákov niektorými pracoviskami Slovenskej televízie, divák dostane informáciu o pôvode slov televízia, moderátor, kamera, grafika, redaktor, komentár, internet, archív, seriál, sitcom, dabing, scenár, relácia, film, mikrofón, monitor a anténa.

• **Zo Slovenska** odchádzajú najmä čerství absolventi medicíny, ale často aj skúsení päťdesiatnici. Láka ich niekoľkonásobne vyšší plat, lepšie pracovné podmienky a technické vybavenie nemocníc. Slovenských lekárov okrem Česka, kde ich zahraniční kolegovia v týchto týždňoch hromadne dávajú výpovede, láka aj Nemecko. Na Slovensku pôsobí niekoľko agentúr, ktoré presvedčujú lekárov, že sa im oplatí presídliť sa do Nemecka. Úspech majú najmä medzi čerstvými absolventmi medicíny. Lekári odchádzajú zatiaľ sporadicky. Môže sa to však zmeniť po prvom máji, keď padnú aj posledné obmedzujúce opatrenia Európskej únie na prácu v Nemecku a Rakúsku.

• **Minister** obrany Nemeckej republiky (NSR) ocenil náčelníka Generálneho štábu Ozbrojených síl (OS) SR generála Lubomíra Bulíka zlatým záslužným krížom Bundeswehru. V Bratislave mu ho 14. januára odovzdal veľvyslanec NSR v SR Axel Hartmann. Slávnostné dekorovanie sa uskutočnilo za účasti štátneho tajomníka Ministerstva obrany SR Róberta Ondrejcsáka a pridelenca obrany NSR v SR Herberta Schmidta.

• **V** Prešove žije päť ľudí, ktorí už oslávili, alebo v tomto roku oslavia storočné jubileum. Ďalších 201 obyvateľov mesta má viac ako 90 rokov. V rebríčku s prehľadom dominujú ženy. Dokonca všetci storoční obyvatelia sú nežnejšieho pohlavia. Aj medzi ľuďmi vo veku nad 90 rokov je viac žien ako mužov. Tú hranicu už dovŕšilo 149 žien oproti 52 mužom.

• **Česi** majú v učebnicovej politike voľnejší trh ako Slováci. Zásadným rozdielom medzi krajinami je, že riaditelia českých škôl dostanú balík peňazí a nakupujú učebnice sami. Aj o tomto v polovici januára hovorili zástupcovia ministerstiev školstva oboch krajín v Bratislave. Podľa štátneho tajomníka ministerstva školstva SR Jaroslava Ivanča "v niektorých témach sú priatelia z Českej republiky ďalej ako my". Na Slovensku je problém s učebnicami vypuklejší. Školy v ČR podľa Ivanča nenabehli na novú reformu v školstve hneď, ale mali na to niekoľko rokov a v tomto medzičase vznikol dostatok kníh.

• **V** druhej polovici januára zhládlo veľtrhy ITF Slovakia a Danubius Gastro spolu s ich sprievodnými podujatiami na výstavisku Incheba 72,531 návštevníkov. Na celkovej ploche 34,000 štvorcových metrov sa prezentovalo 702 vystavovateľov, ktorí pricestovali z 24 krajín. Na medzinárodnom veľtrhu gastronómie Danubius Gastro sa okrem domácich vystavovateľov predstavujú aj kolektívne zastúpení dovozcovia a producenti z Francúzska, Rakúska, Talianska a Českej republiky. Jedným zo sprievodných programov bola súťažná prehliadka Poézia v gastronómii sprevádzaná súťažami kuchárov.

• **Boj** o svetovú elitu sa začal, hokej vypredáva na Slovensku hotely. Fanúšikovia už v predstihu vypredávajú hotely v dvoch kľúčových mestách, v Bratislave a v Košiciach. Aj keď šampionát štartuje koncom apríla a ceny išli nahor o polovicu, viaceré hotely hlásia rastúci záujem - a to aj v okolí dvoch centier. "Je predpoklad, že Senec a Pezinok budú plné. Skôr však očakávame aj Viedeň, pokiaľ budú ceny v Bratislave prehnane", uviedol Peter Jakušik, generálny manažér Hotela Matyšák a prezident Bratislavskej hokejovej asociácie. Hráči a iní členovia tímov budú ubytovaní v luxusných hoteloch.

• **Mesto** Košice pozná víťaza architektonickej súťaže Vodný svet Stará krytá plaváreň, ktorej rekonštrukcia za 5 miliónov eur je naplánovaná v rámci projektu Košice - Európske hlavné mesto kultúry. Vysunutú pracovisko košickej zoo Vodný svet živočíchov bude súčasťou zrekonštruovanej budovy Starej krytej plavárne. Víťazný návrh zachováva pôvodnú funkciu vodného sveta ľudí a plynule ich vzájomne prepája aj s vonkajšími bazénmi kúpalska. Cieľom súťaže, ktorá bola vypísaná v novembri minulého roku, bolo nájsť projekt rekonštrukcie budovy plavárne, ktorý zachráni jej jedinečnú architektúru a zároveň ju premení na moderný Vodný svet. Pôvodne tím EHMK hlásal, že z krytej plavárne bude výstavná Kunsthalle, napokon sa na radnici zhodli, že v areáli chcú bazény, masáže, tobogan i vysunuté akvária exozicie zoo, ktoré predstavia návštevníkom zaujímavé živočíchov i rastliny a ozvláštnia tak prostredie.

• **Prvý** raz v histórii sa sčítanie ľudu uskutočnilo vo všetkých členských štátoch únie v rovnakom roku, pri využití rovnakých alebo porovnateľných definícií zisťovaných údajov. Sčítanie obyvateľov, domov a bytov sa vykoná na celom území Slovenskej republiky k 21. máju. Rozhodujúcim okamihom sčítania je polnoc z 20. na 21. mája. Pre účely sčítania je povinný poskytnúť údaje každý obyvateľ, okrem cudzincov, ktorí požívajú diplomatické výsady.

• **Fanúšikovia** rýchleho občerstvenia majú dôvod na radosť. Už o pár týždňov otvorí prvú pobočku na Slovensku svetoznámy reťazec Burger King. Pre svoju slovenskú premiéru si Burger King vybral nový bratislavský spoločensko-obchodný bulvár Eurovea, ktorý otvorí svoje brány pre obyvateľov a návštevníkov hlavného mesta 26. marca. Veľké plány však majú pre Slovensko aj fast-foodové reťazce, ktoré už na Slovensku pôsobia.

• **Za** účasti mimoriadneho a splnomocneného veľvyslancu Zvrchovaného maltézskeho Rádu na Slovensku Francisca Martina O Donnella valné zhromaždenie Zboru dobrovoľníkov Maltézskeho Rádu zvolilo vo štvrtok, 20. januára 2011 svojho nového prezidenta. Taliana Alberta Bochicchia, doterajšieho prezidenta, vystriedal na nasledujúce päťročné obdobie Slovák, Ing. Anton Šafárik doterajší viceprezident tejto dobročinnnej organizácie. Maltéžsky Rád má svoje zastúpenie v 94 štátoch sveta. Diplomatiek vzťahy dovoľujú rádu rýchlo a účinne konať v prípade prírodných katastrof a vojenských konfliktov. Neutralita rádu, nestrannosť a apolitická povaha mu umožňujú konať ako prostredníkovi aj v prípadoch, keď sa naň obracajú štáty pri riešení rôznych sporov. V súčasnosti pôsobí vo svete vyše 12 000 členov Rádu a takmer 100 000 dobrovoľníkov. Zbor dobrovoľníkov Maltézskeho Rádu pôsobí na Slovensku v Bratislave, Nitre, Topoľčanoch, Kežmarku a Košiciach a svoje aktivity rozvíja aj v mnohých iných mestách. Stará sa a pomáha chorým, núdzným, opusteným. Podporuje a spolupracuje s nemocnicami a hospicmi.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Pápež dostal oficiálne pozvanie na návštevu Slovenska

V rámci dvojdnovej návštevy Svätej stolice sa minister zahraničných vecí SR M. Dzurinda 12. januára 2011 osobne stretol s pápežom Benediktom XVI. na záver generálnej audiencie vo vatikánskej Aule Paula VI. V rozhovore s hlavou katolíckej cirkvi spomenul šéf slovenskej diplomacie nedávne 10. výročie podpisu a ratifikácie Základnej zmluvy medzi SR a Svätou stolicou, na ktorú nadviazali ďalšie dve čiastkové zmluvy o duchovnej službe katolíckym veriacim v ozbrojených silách a ozbrojených zboroch SR a o katolíckej výchove a vzdelávaní. Súčasne potvrdil záujem vlády SR o ďalší rozvoj bilaterálnych vzťahov so Svätou stolicou, ako aj vzájomnej spolupráce medzi štátom a cirkvou. Na záver stretnutia M. Dzurinda odovzdal Svätému Otcovi oficiálne pozvanie hlavy štátu na apoštolskú návštevu SR a vyjadril presvedčenie, že budeme môcť privítať hlavu katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku v rámci osláv 1150. výročia príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na územie našich predkov.



Mikuláš Dzurinda u pápeža Benedikta XVI.

V utorok, 11. januára 2011 sa minister zahraničných vecí SR M. Dzurinda stretol so sekretárom Svätej stolice pre vzťahy so štátmi Mons. Dominicom Mambertim. Oba partneri zhodnotili desaťročné plnenie platných zmlúv, ako aj Základnej zmluvy medzi SR a Svätou stolicou. Hovorili aj o ďalších záväzkoch, ktoré z nej vyplývajú. Minister Dzurinda informoval aj o prijatých a plánovaných krokoch vlády SR v oblasti postavenia a financovania štátnych, súkromných a cirkevných škôl, ako aj verejných a neverejných poskytovateľov sociálnych služieb. Taktiež rokoval o niektorých aktuálnych otázkach európskej a medzinárodnej politiky - implementácia Lisabonskej zmluvy v oblasti dialógu medzi EÚ a cirkvami, západný Balkán, blízkovýchodný mierový proces, vývoj situácie v Sudáne, ochrana náboženskej slobody a náboženských komunit.

MZV SR

Zomrel spisovateľ Milan Ferko

V Bratislave 26. novembra 2010 vo veku 80 rokov zomrel spisovateľ Milan Ferko. Ferko v roku 1968 vydal ostrý protest proti okupácii Československa, ktorý publikovali v celej demokratickej Európe. Do augusta 1968 získal viacero ocenení, no potom dvadsať rokov nesmel byť ani nominovaný. Po novembri 1989 zasa dodržiaval zásadu, že človek vo vedúcich funkciách sa nemá uchádzať o pody a vyznamenania, tvrdí Pavol Janík zo Spolku slovenských spisovateľov. Posledná rozúčka so spisovateľom Milanom Ferkom bola v stredu 1. decembra 2010 o 9.45 v bratislavskom Krematóriu.

Milan Ferko (14. decembra 1929 Veľké Rovné - 26. novembra 2010 Bratislava) bol uznávaným básnikom, prozaikom, dramatikom, scenáristom, autorom literatúry pre deti a mládež, členom a niekdajším predsedom Spolku slovenských spisovateľov, ako aj významným občianskym aktivistom. Absolvoval právo na Právnickej fakulte Slovenskej univerzity v Bratislave. Bol redaktorom denníka Smena a týždenníka Kultúrny život, šéfredaktorom mesačníka Mladá tvorba a Slovenských pohľadov, redaktorom Vydavateľstva Slovenských spisovateľov a po roku 1976 profesionálnym spisovateľom. Od 1993 pôsobil ako šéfredaktor Slovenských pohľadov, neskôr ako sekčný šéf na Ministerstve kultúry SR. Od roku 1998 pracoval ako slobodný spisovateľ. Z všestrannej literárnej tvorby Milana Ferka vyniká najmä rad diel historickej beletrie a drámy, ktoré majú európske literárne i myšlienkové parametre a získali si veľký záujem čitateľov doma i v zahraničí.

Nemej závažná je aj spoločenská angažovanosť Milana Ferka v publicistike, v účasti na vytvorení Ústavy Slovenskej republiky a na činnosti viacerých občianskych združení. Milan Ferko dva razy zachránil pred zánikom najstarší stredoeurópsky literárny časopis Slovenské pohľady, v roku 1991 zostavil Deklaráciu zvrchovanosti a v roku 1995 Zákon o štátnom jazyku.



Milan Ferko

Mesto Modra si pripomenulo 155. výročie úmrtia Ľ. Štúra

Modra (TASR) - Politici a asi stovka študentov si 12. januára v Modre pripomenuli 155. výročie úmrtia Ľudovíta Štúra, ktorý patril k najvýznamnejším predstaviteľom slovenského národného obrozenia 19. storočia. Pri tejto príležitosti mohla verejnosť prvýkrát vidieť odevy, do akých sa obliekali štúrovci aj samotný Ľudovít Štúr.

Pamiatku si okrem študentov prišli ucíti predseda Bratislavského samosprávneho kraja Pavol Frešo, primátorka Modry Hana Hlubočká, poslanci NR SR a župní aj modranskí poslanci. "Pripomíname si človeka, ktorý položil základy našej národnej identity, to znamená jazyka, ktorý dnes používame," povedal bratislavský župan Frešo. Zároveň zdôraznil, že je veľmi dôležité pripomínať si korene, z ktorých pochádzame. Frešo považuje za najsilnejšie práve odhodlanie Ľudovíta Štúra a jeho súputníkov zápasit' za slovenský národ, slovenskú identitu a tiež to, ako sa v tomto zápase operali o svoju vieru aj Boha.

Mesto Modra má svoju históriu aj svoje tradície a podľa slov primátorky Hlubočkej chcú práve na históriu a tradíciách mesta stavať. "Ľudovít Štúr je jeden z predstaviteľov, ktorý má v Modre svoje miesto, pôsobila tu jeho rodina a je tu pochovaný. Našu ambíciou je dať túto historickú časť Modry do poriadku, aby sa mesto stalo dôstojným miestom na konanie takýchto slávností," dodala.

Ľudovít Štúr navštívil Modru viackrát, natrvalo sem prišiel bývať až v roku 1851, po smrti brata Karola. Päť rokov na to zomrel v Modre aj Ľudovít. Na jeho pamiatku sú postavené viaceré pamätníky ale aj budovy, ktoré nesú jeho meno. Podľa Viery Jančovičovej, riaditeľky SNM - Múzeum Ľudovíta Štúra v Modre, je najreprezentatívnejšou pamiatkou samotné múzeum venované tejto významnej osobnosti slovenských národných dejín. Založené bolo v roku 1965, v roku 2015 oslaví múzeum polstoročnicu a v rovnaký rok bude aj okružle 200. výročie narodenia Ľudovíta Štúra.



Ľ. Štúr



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota

O. Stefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

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

Ročník 120

STREDA, 2. FEBRUÁRA, 2011

Číslo 5836

My Slováci sa hrdo hlásime k dedičstvu sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Homília Mons. Františka Tondru na sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Nitre 5. júla 2010

Homily by Bishop František Tondra on the Feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius

Milovaní bratia a sestry!

Kto už bol na púti vo Svätej zemi a bol aj v Getsemanskej záhrade, iste si všimol staré olivy, stromy, pri ktorých mňa napadlo, že by mohli byť ešte pamätníkmi Pána Ježiša. Staré. Vo vnútri duté. Dalo by sa popod ne aj prejsť. Životaschopnosť olivy je známa v rastlinnej ríši. Staré, duté, s polámanými konármi zdajú sa na vymretie. Ale keď ich očistíte od hniloby a suchých konárov, znova ožijú, vyženú nové konáre, ktoré prinášajú úrodu.

Aj naša Európa sa nám zdá stará a opotrebovaná. Populačne na vymretie. Vzbudzuje skepsu. Mnohé pokusy oživiť ju vychádzajú nazmar; pritom pohlcujú veľké financie. Je skutočne Európa na konci svojej existencie? Treba povedať, že ak je stará, tak len na spôsob starej olivy. Európa má zdravé korene, hlboko zapustené do zeme, v poslednej dobe azda zanedbané, lebo sme začali budovať Európu bez pozornosti na tie korene. Sú veľmi dôležité. „Európa prešla – ako hovorí kardinál Tomko – z obdobia gréckej civilizácie cez rímske obdobie do kresťanskej civilizácie „ (prednáška v Bruseli 9.9.2009). Táto civilizácia nebola iba náboženská, ale zasiahla do všetkých oblastí ľudskej spoločnosti. Autor „Thomas E. Woods Jr. vypočítava rozmanité ovocie tejto činnosti na poli univerzít, vedeckého výskumu, medzinárodného práva, hospodárstva, charity, etiky a predovšetkým slobody a právneho štátu, pričom prispela aj k rozlišovaniu Cirkvi a štátu, k formulácii a uznaniu ľudských práv (spomeňme len podstatný príspevok francúzskeho katolíckeho filozofa Jacquesa Maritaina k Všeobecnej deklarácii ľudských práv z r. 1948), k uznaniu slobody svedomia a podobne“ (Tomko, cit. prednáška).

Symbolmi tejto kresťanskej tradície sú európski svätci, sv. Benedikt z Nursie, ktorého Pavol VI. r. 1964 vyhlásil za patróna Európy, a sv. Cyril a Metod, ktorých zasa Ján Pavol II. r. 1980 pridal k nemu ako spolupatrónov Európy.

My Slováci sa hrdo hlásime k dedičstvu sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Máme to aj v preambule Ústavy SR, je písaná „v zmysle cyrilometodského duchovného dedičstva“. Nuž aké je to dedičstvo? Oni neboli prví, ktorí tu hlásali božie slovo. Ale boli „účinní pre svoju inkulturačnú misionársku metódu, keď sa dostali k srdciam našich predkov cez znalosť reči, pre ktorú vytvorili aj vlastné písmo, hlaholiku. Tú použili tak v liturgii ako aj pri prekladaní zákonov z kvitnúcej byzantskej kultúry v Nomokanone a v trestnom zákonníku Zákon sudnyj ljudem. „(Tomko,cit.) Vytvorili tu školu a za krátku dobu vchovali veľa mladých ľudí, vzdelaných nielen v teológii, ale aj v pevných zásadách morálky a spoločenskej etiky. Ovplynuli celý verejný život. Toto potom zanesli aj medzi iné slovenské národy najmä na Balkáne.

U Slovákov nastalo pevné spojenie medzi kresťanskou vierou a kultúrou každodenného

Pokračovanie na str. 21



Sv. Cyril a Metod

Zomrel významný slovenský spisovateľ a publicista Ladislav Ťažký

Nenahraditeľná strata

Oznamujeme všetkým – celému slovenskému národu aj všetkým kultúrnym ľuďom sveta – predovšetkým však priateľom majstra Ladislava Ťažkého, ctiteľom jeho diela a obdivovateľom jeho obetavej a záslužnej práce pre slovenský národ, že tento vzácný a obdivuhodný človek a výnimočná osobnosť slovenskej, ale aj všeľudskej kultúry už nie je medzi nami – zomrel 20. januára 2011 ráno v 87. roku svojho plodného, čestného a statočného života. Slávnostná zádušná omša za zomrelého majstra Ladislava Ťažkého sa konala v piatok, dňa 21. 1. 2011 o 12.00 hodine v Dóme sv. Martina v Bratislave.

Majster Ladislav Ťažký bol jedným z morálnych štítov nielen našich Združení slovenskej inteligencie, ale aj celého slovenského národa. Ako náš dlhoročný člen a Čestný predseda Slobodnej rady slovenského národa – obnovenej SNR do posledných chvíľ svojho života stál na čele všetkých aktivít, ktorých cieľom bolo pozdvihnutie národného sebavedomia Slovákov a zabezpečovanie nášho slobodného a ľudsky dôstojného života. Celý jeho život a rozsiahle dielo sa nám prihovára úprimnou a prajnou ľudskosťou človeka, ktorý dokázal chápať aj iných ľudí, vedel odpúšťať a nezištne pomáhať nášmu svetu, aby si zachoval ľudskú tvár. Slovenský národ a slovenská kultúra, ale aj celý náš čoraz viac odludšťovaný svet strácajú v osobnosti Ladislava Ťažkého jedinečného tvorca a nezištného obetaveho človeka – humanistu. Naďalej však zostáva súčasťou živého svedomia ľudstva a excelentným príkladom tvorcu, ktorého ideály sa stotožňujú s jeho životom. Ladislav Ťažký bol a zostáva príkladom, ktorý hodno nasledovať! Jeho dielo však zostane nevyčerpatelným zdrojom úprimnej a činorodej lásky k svojmu národu pre naše i budúce generácie Slovákov. Vyslovujeme úprimnú sústrasť jeho najbližšej rodine a všetkým blízkym. Odpočívaj v pokoji a nech Ti je zem slovenská ľahká.

V mene Združení slovenskej inteligencie KORENE, Slovakia plus a obnovenej SNR

Akad. mal. Viliam Hornáček predseda

Pokračovanie na str. 21

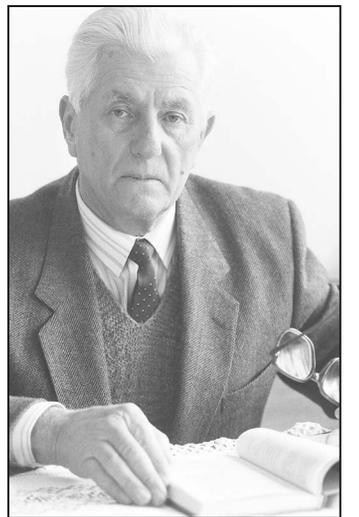


FOTO TASR - Vladimír Martinka

Na archívnej snímke zo 7. januára 1993 Ladislav Ťažký vo svojej pracovni v Bratislave.

Noted Slovak Writer and Publicist Ladislav Ťažký Dies



FOTO TASR – Milan Kapusta

Na snímke Pietny akt, ktorý sa konal 19. januára 2011 v obci Hejce v Maďarskej republike pri príležitosti 5. výročia tragickej udalosti, pri ktorej zahynulo 42 ľudí po páde slovenského vojenského špeciálu An-2. Vojenský špeciál An-24 so 43 príslušníkmi armády SR havaroval pred piatimi rokmi na kopci Borsó, pri maďarskej obci Hejce, asi 50 km pred cieľom svojej cesty v Košiciach. Haváriu prežil len jeden člen kontingentu, ktorý sa vracal z mierovej misie v Kosove. Martin Farkaš však v súčasnosti pôsobí na ďalšej vojenskej misii v Afganistane a dnešného spomienkového pietneho aktu sa nemohol zúčastniť.