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**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS**



Deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2012 Scholarship Program Is Fast Approaching

The First Catholic Slovak Union is currently accepting applications for its 2012 Scholarship Program for those qualified members who are graduating from high school this year and entering an accredited college or university. But please be aware: the deadline to apply is fast approaching. Applications must be postmarked by midnight, February 28, 2012.

Scholarships Awarded

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 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.

Scholarship Rules & Requirements

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, 2008 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.

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Now is the Time to Think IRA

By Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

Back in the early 70s, the government created guidelines for a new type of investment plan called an IRA or Individual Retirement Account. It was designed to help people to start saving for retirement by allowing them to set aside money for retirement that would grow tax deferred –or sometimes, even tax free.

Now, in the beginning of a new year, well before the next tax filing deadline, is a great time to think about this investment tool – what it is, and how to choose the best IRA to help you save more and protect your savings until you and your loved ones need to access those funds during retirement.

The following is a basic question and answer to get you started in planning or enhancing your IRA strategy for 2012.

Q. What exactly is an IRA and how it is different from any other savings plan?

The term IRA stands for an individual retirement account (IRA). It's a form of retirement plan in the United States that is designed to offer taxpayers certain advantages for retirement savings – whether as tax deductions while you are earning income or as untaxed money when you withdraw your contributions upon retirement.

Q. Do any FCSU products qualify as IRAs?

A. Yes, some of our annuity products certainly do. The First Catholic Slovak Union offers several products that may be purchased as IRAs, combining all the benefits of an IRA with excellent rates:

- Eight-Year Flexible Premium IRA, with a current rate of 3.75% (minimum 3.00%)
- Six-Year Flexible Premium IRA, with a current rate of 3.50% (minimum 2.00%)
- Six-Year Fixed Rate IRA, with a current rate of 3.25% (minimum 2.00%)

continued on page 3

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.75% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.50% APY 3.25% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New "Park 2 Annuity"	2.50% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee (new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	2.15% APY
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	3.00% APY

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRA's,
Please contact your local branch officer or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682

Email: fcsu@aol.com

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Insights and Viewpoints



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

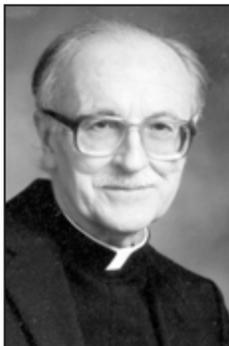
January 29, 2012

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 1: 21-28

Gospel Summary

Jesus goes to the synagogue in Capernaum with four of his disciples where people are astonished that he teaches with such authority. A man in the synagogue, possessed by an evil spirit, recognizes Jesus as the "Holy One of God" who has



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

come to destroy the spirits of evil. After Jesus casts out the evil spirit, the people in the synagogue are amazed at the power and authority that Jesus possesses, and go out to spread his fame throughout Galilee.

Life Implications

More of the implications of this passage may reveal themselves if we remember the narrative context into which Mark places it. After this cure of the demoniac, Jesus cures Simon's mother-in-law and many others afflicted either by illness or by evil spirits.

It is with these acts of power done out of compassion for the needs of others that Jesus begins his public life. Immediately before, Mark has told us of the baptism of Jesus, with the Spirit descending upon him and the voice from heaven saying to him, "You are my beloved Son." Jesus is then tempted by Satan not to trust that affirmation. After the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus goes to Galilee where he proclaims that the kingdom of God is at hand. He calls disciples to follow him, and together they go to the synagogue at Capernaum (today's gospel passage).

The cure of the demoniac represents the beginning of the messianic age when the power of Satan's kingdom will at last be destroyed ("Have you come to destroy us?"). Jesus enters a world in which Satan reigns, teaches with the authority of God, and with compassion casts out evil spirits that hold people in bondage and fear. Christ's mission, begun here, will not be completed until the end, "when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power . . . The last enemy to be destroyed is death" (1 Cor 15: 24-26).

Jesus called disciples to be with him as he began his mission at Capernaum; now he calls us to be with him as he continues his mission in the towns and cities where we live. The Spirit descends upon each of us at baptism, and a voice from heaven says to each of us, "You are my beloved." We, like Christ, will often be tempted by Satan not to believe these words when the power of evil seems to be invincible. We will also be tempted to use power and authority, not with Christ's compassion in service of others, but to advance our own reign.

Later in his gospel, Mark talks about authentic Christian discipleship. Two disciples who were with Jesus at Capernaum (James and John) seem to have assumed that discipleship means enjoying positions of power. Jesus summoned all his disciples and explained his notion of power. He said that among the Gentiles, rulers make their authority felt and lord it over people. But, he added, among his disciples, whoever wishes to be great must be the

servant of all. This was the notion of power that led Jesus to teach, to cast out demons, to cure illnesses, and finally to give himself up to death on a cross with the supreme power of love. "For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45).



February 5, 2012

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 1:29-39

Gospel Summary

In Mark's gospel, Jesus is presented as one who acts rather than as one who speaks. The lengthy discourses in Matthew, for example, are missing in Mark. This is in keeping with the biblical conviction that actions speak louder than words. It is the interventions of God in human history, at the Exodus of Israel and then in the definitive Exodus of the Resurrection of Jesus, that contain the essential source of biblical revelation. This reminds us also that we must personally participate in some way in those events of liberation in order to receive the salvation promised by the Bible.

In today's gospel, Mark draws our attention particularly to those who were possessed by demons. Whatever their malady may have been, it represented the sad condition that existed before God brought a light-filled, harmonious world out of the original darkness and chaos. Jesus continues this creative work and the demons, as contemporary agents of the old chaos, instinctively recognize him as their adversary.

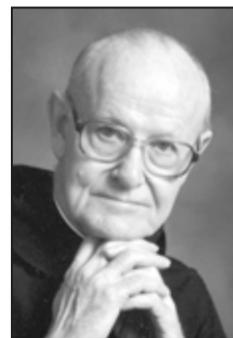
It is poignant to see how Jesus is already beginning to disappoint his disciples. They cannot wait for him to raise the flag of rebellion and to use his power to drive out the Roman occupiers of their land. But he goes off instead to a quiet place to commune with his heavenly Father. He has come to preach the good news of salvation through the power of love and sacrifice, rather than through the military power and domination that they seek.

Life Implications

We need not look far to find the reality of chaos and dissent in our world today. The ancient Hebrews saw in the original chaos an aggressive force that was constantly trying to take back the creation that God had brought forth. Their imagery may have been primitive, but their perception was very accurate. In fact, the forces of chaos seem at times to have the upper hand today, as nations are consumed by ethnic hatred, communities are divided by strife and families are often torn apart by sibling rivalries. Sometimes the chaos enters our own psyches as we struggle to see the meaning in our lives.

God is fully aware of these troubles and he has sent Jesus to give us the wisdom, which alone can bring us peace and happiness. This is the unlikely, but only truly valid, wisdom of loving concern. Jesus not only taught this wisdom but he lived it fully as he gave his life for us.

We, like the disciples, are all for making war to achieve our purposes, but Jesus goes away to pray. This does not mean that we should not strive to achieve legitimate objectives but it does mean that, ultimately, it is only prayerful attention to the Lord and sincere love of others that will heal the beautiful world that God has entrusted to us and bring the peace and harmony that Jesus came to offer us. For God certainly wishes, once again, to look at our world



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

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 FEBRUARY 1	MONDAY, JANUARY 24
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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.

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Now is the Time to Think IRA

continued from page 1

Q. How much can I put into an IRA in any given tax year?

When IRAs were introduced in 1974 with the enactment of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), taxpayers could contribute up to \$1,500 a year and reduce their taxable income by the amount of their contributions. The maximum annual IRA contribution since then has steadily risen over the years – \$2000 from 1982 to 2001, \$3000 from 2002 to 2004, \$4000 from 2004 to 2007, and \$5000 from 2008 to 2010. Beginning in 2002, those over 50 could make an additional contribution called a "Catch-up Contribution." Currently, for the 2011 tax year, you can contribute up to \$6,000.

Q. Who is eligible to participate in an IRA?

Initially, ERISA restricted IRAs to workers who were not covered by a qualified employment-based retirement plan. Then, in 1981, with the Economic Recovery Tax Act (ERTA) all taxpayers under the age of 70½ were able to contribute to an IRA, regardless of their coverage under a qualified plan.

Q. Can I withdraw the money at any time?

IRAs by definition are for retirement savings, and so are ideal for planning long term investments of your annuity funds. In general, withdrawals from IRAs before the age of 59 ½ are considered premature, and may incur IRS penalties.

Q. Is there more than one type of IRA?

Yes, IRAs come in several forms. The three main types are:

- A "traditional" IRA that allows contributions that are often tax-deductible and all transactions and earnings within the IRA generally have no tax impact. Withdrawals from a traditional IRA, however, are generally taxed as income.
- Named for Senator William V. Roth, Jr. and introduced as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, a Roth IRA that allows contributions made with after-tax assets to (generally) have no tax impact, and withdrawals are usually tax-free.
- A SEP IRA that is a provision allowing a self employed person or a small business employer to make retirement plan contributions into a traditional IRA established in the employee's name, instead of to a pension fund in the company's name.

For more information on FCSU IRAs, contact your local branch representative, call the FCSU Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA, or visit the FCSU website at fcsu.com and click on the Annuity tab.



*IRA deposits for the 2011
tax year must be made by
April 15, 2012*

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IRA'S ARE AVAILABLE AS TRADITIONAL OR ROTH

Eight-Year Flexible Premium	3.75%*	minimum 3.00%
Six-Year Flexible Premium	3.50%*	minimum 2.00%
Six-Year Fixed Rate	3.25%*	minimum 2.00%

* Current rates

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christopher

The Kindness That Changed Two Lives

One of the cornerstones of Christopher life is the old Chinese saying that became our motto: "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." It not only makes sense; it's something you can do in a hundred different ways. One of them is to take an interest in someone else, and that's exactly what Susan Porcello did a couple of years ago. And when she did, it made all the difference in the world.

That's New York Police Officer Susan Porcello of the 68th Precinct, to be precise, and Daily News writer Denis Hamill told her story in a column last November. It seems that back in 2008 she and her partner responded to a 911 ambulance call that took them to a one-bedroom apartment at a Brooklyn address.

There they found Gaspar Musso, an elderly diabetic who lived alone. He told them that he needed help, and that he had no family or friends. Officer Porcello felt she had to say something, and it was a simple statement. "Well," she told Musso, "I'm your friend."

As Hamill wrote, those four magical words of human kindness would forever change both their lives.

The first order of business was attending to Musso's health needs, which were significant.

He had accidentally overdosed on his diabetes medication, so Officer Porcello got him to Lutheran Medical Center and made sure he received prompt and caring attention. As they talked, she promised the man that she'd take him to a senior center and find him some friends.

"I told him I was making him my Grandpa," she recalled, "and if he liked, he could spend Thanksgiving with my family." In his apartment she had also seen evidence of his World War II service with the Marine Corps, and resolved to find out more about that.

Meanwhile Musso's health faltered, and while he was in critical care Portello not only became his proxy but also did some checking for herself. An only child, born in 1924, Musso had no living relatives. His lone friend had died not long before. And he was indeed a Marine veteran, having seen combat on the South Pacific island of Tinian in 1944. That impressed Office Porcello, who promised herself he'd never be buried in Potter's Field.

The old Marine rebounded, though, and when the hospital released him Porcello saw to it that he was admitted to a first-class nursing home in Brooklyn. There she visited him several times a week, reading to him and otherwise seeing to his needs. Musso perked up, and on a visit 10 days before Thanksgiving he eagerly accepted Porcello's invitation to join her family for a holiday dinner.

The next morning the officer received a call from the nursing home with sorrowful news: Mr. Musso had died in his sleep the night before.

Her work wasn't done, however. First, she paid for his wake and burial. Then she recruited six of her fellow officers from the 68th Precinct who would serve as pallbearers at his funeral Mass. Finally, at Musso's burial in Staten Island, next to his mother, she made sure that a Marine honor guard played Taps over his flag-draped coffin.

Officer Susan Porcello truly set an example for all of us. In lighting one candle, she brightened the last days of one man, a member of that "Greatest Generation" for which we can never do enough. And in the process, just as a full-fledged Christopher should, she lit up the entire world.

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



Tour Slovakia with Youngstown/ Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities

15th Heritage Tour Set For July 10 - 24, 2012



Bratislava is one of the many cities featured on the 15th Youngstown/Spisska Nova Vest Sister Cities Heritage Tour

Join us as we host the 15th Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour of Slovakia July 10 - 24, 2012, visiting such cities as Bratislava, Piestany, Trnava, Presov, Banska Bystrica, Nitra, Sliac, Spisska Nova Ves and more. Spend time in the Tatra's, raft ride on the Dunajec River, visit historical sites, see many beautiful churches and castles while enjoying cultural performances. Discover your roots—side trips to ancestral villages available with advance notice.

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

REFLECTIONS ON POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS January 2012

General Intention - Victims of Natural

Disasters That the victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.



God is Love, so why is the beautiful world God created subject to natural disasters like droughts, floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis?

There must be a good answer to this question, but we don't have it. Perhaps we are simply incapable of understanding God's reasons. Through the Prophet Isaiah, God said: "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts" (55:9).

We lack full understanding, but we can use natural disasters as an opportunity to live out our faith in a loving God.

After one disaster Pope Benedict said, "I would like to assure the people of my closeness in concern and prayer. May God, in his goodness, take pity on his people and hear the voices of those who call him (Psalm 5:3) and implore his aid! And with the Psalmist I

say: Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted (Psalm 10:12)."

We rejoice to be a part of a great outpouring of assistance immediately after a disaster. And we bring glory to God when we continue to remember those who suffer a long time after a disaster.

We pray with the Holy Father this month that victims of natural disasters may receive what they need to recover. Each natural disaster is an opportunity for us to pray, to work, and to give generously to help disaster victims rebuild their lives.

We may not understand why our loving God allows natural disasters, but we do know how we are called to respond—with love.

Reflection: Have you ever experienced a natural disaster? How was that disaster an opportunity to respond with love?

Reading: Romans 8:18-25 All creation is groaning in labor pains even until now.



teaching, works, death, and rising reconciled us to God and to one another. Jesus has given us peace beyond anything the world could give. Yet from the beginning many have rejected his peace, disbelieving that he was the Messiah and refusing to repent.

In the midst of a quarreling world, we Christians dedicate ourselves to Christ's way of peace by doing his will—the only basis for a just order that leads to peace.

This month we may be moved to pray especially for peace within in the Body of Christ. In January Christian churches of all kinds celebrate a week of prayer for Christian unity. Only through the union of all Christians will we be able to witness to the world that the name Christian means unity not division, peace not war.

Reflection: In what ways can you express the peace of Christ in the ordinary events of your daily life?

Reading: Ephesians 2:14-18 He came and preached peace.



Prayer of the Month



Mary, Model of Christian love, we know we cannot heal every ill or solve every problem. But with God's grace, we intend to do what we can. May we be true witnesses to the world that love for one another really matters. May our daily actions proclaim how fully our lives are modeled after yours, Mother of Perpetual Help.

-from www.catholic.org

Mission Intention - Dedication to Peace

That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will.



Pope Benedict has repeatedly condemned violence in God's Name. This month he calls us to dedicate ourselves through prayer and action to bearing witness to the world that the name of Christ means peace.

Praying and working for peace is essential to spreading the Gospel. Christians dedicated to peace are a powerful witness to the world that the true face of God is Christ. Jesus told the apostles at the Last Supper: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (John 14:27). Yet it is evident in our world, in our communities, and even in our families that the peace of Jesus brings conflict. Jesus himself said: "I have come to bring not peace but the sword" (Matthew 10:34).

The two quotations may seem contradictory, but they are not. Jesus knew that he and his teachings would divide people. His life,

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 Slovak Academy of Sciences
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 Slovak National Theater
 Slovak Television
 National Bank of Slovakia

Insights and Viewpoints

The Passing of Václav Havel, the last president of former Czechoslovakia

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr. Ph.D.

On December 18, 2011, the well known Czech intellectual, playwright, and former president Václav Havel passed away. He was 75 years-old. Czechs, Slovaks, and freedom-loving peoples across the world remember Havel as a man who stood up for the truth during the neo-Stalinist era of history, even at the risk of his own safety.

Soon after the news became public, a crowd in Bratislava assembled outside the Czech embassy, in a show of support for the deceased Czech leader. On Monday, December 18, throngs of people in Prague and Bratislava conducted a candle-light vigil to honor Havel. In Bratislava, people set up a shrine at the base of the statue dedicated to Czechoslovakia's first president in 1918, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk. Appropriately, Slovak authorities declared Friday, December 23, the day of Havel's funeral, a national day of mourning; state flags flew at half-mast.

Most of us recall Havel from the time of the Velvet Revolution of 1989, when he stood in Wenceslas Square in Prague, addressing hundreds of thousands of people who had gathered to hear this former Czech dissident and modern-day prophet. As the street demonstrations swelled every day in the capital after November 17, alongside Havel on the Melantrich building balcony stood the Slovak reform leader from the time of the 1968 Prague Spring, Alexander Dubček. In 1969, hard-line communists had forced Dubček out of politics and into internal exile for over two decades. Dubček's appearance with Havel drove home the fact that the revolution belonged to both Czechs and Slovaks.

Havel's background

Born on October 5, 1936, Václav Havel came from a family of businessmen and intellectuals who had thrived in the cultural and economic freedoms available in interwar Czechoslovakia. After World War II, everything changed with the communist takeover. A recent article put it well in characterizing the nature of the totalitarian regime: "In the former Czechoslovakia, the nightmare of communism imposed after World War II was employed with a Nazi-like oppressive intensity, leaving a bleak society whose citizens got by on lies, collaboration, mediocrity and rat-like survival ethics."

Because of his bourgeois background, the young Havel found many career doors closed in the early 1950s. The communists even refused to allow him to continue his education after finishing the required minimum years in grammar school.

Instead Havel found a four-year job as an apprentice for a chemical engineering lab. Intent on pursuing a career, he attended night school to complete his secondary education. Again politics intervened, and all universities refused him admission into a humanities program, where he wished to pursue further studies. Instead he started school studying economics at the Czech Technical University, but dropped out after two years for lack of interest.

In 1956, Havel met the love of his life, Olga Splichalová, and married her after eight years. She was not only a prolific writer and discerning judge of character, but she would prove to be a "pillar of strength" throughout his career until her death in 1996. (Havel married again in 1997, to the actress Dagmar Veškrnová, who later presided at his funeral.)

After doing his required two years of military service, Havel found work as a stage technician. Beginning in 1962, he started and successfully completed a four year correspondence course, studying drama at the Faculty of Theater of the Academy of Musical Arts. While pursuing his studies on the side, Havel found time to pursue his passion – writing plays. The gradual loosening of political orthodoxy in the 1960s allowed him more opportunities to publish. A Prague theater, Divadlo na Zbraslavi (Theater on the Balustrade), staged several of his plays, including "The Garden Party" (1963), "The Memorandum" (1965), and "The Increased Difficulty of Concentration" (1968). Havel quickly established a stellar reputation as a dramatist both at home and abroad. He wrote for the non-Marxist monthly publication Tvar (Face), served as "the chair of the Club of Independent Writers, and became a member of the Club of [Politically] Engaged Non-Partisans."

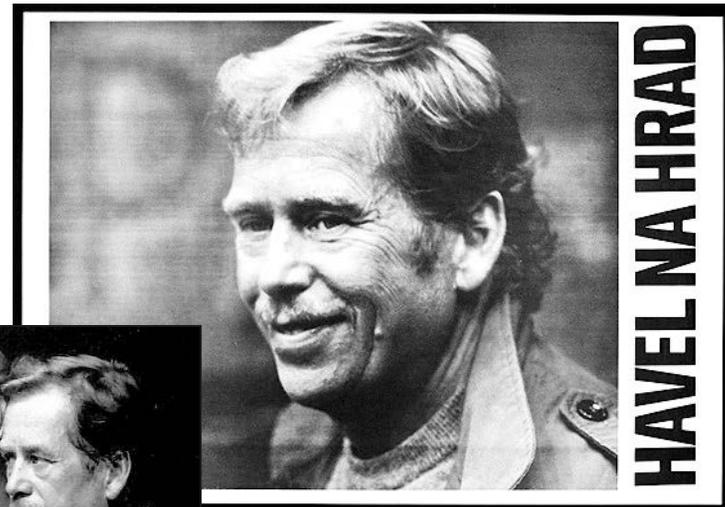
The short experiment with more freedom abruptly ended when the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion happened in August 1968. Over the next few years, the communist regime suppressed free expression; intellectuals such as Havel, who chose not to emigrate, found themselves to once again to become persona non grata. Many lost their professional employment and were compelled to find work doing physical labor jobs in order to earn a living. Havel was a prime target, since his plays had mocked the corruption, dishonesty, and mindless conformity which the communist regime inflicted on society.

When the Czechoslovak communist government signed the Helsinki Agreements in 1975, which guaranteed human rights, Havel was one of the few to challenge the hypocrisy of the regime. He

Havel with Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radičová in Bratislava, October 2011



Havel at Wenceslas Square in 1989



(L - R) Alexander Dubček with Václav Haval

composed a letter of protest against political persecution to then President Gustáv Husák, a Slovak communist who collaborated with the Soviet occupation and led the "normalization" movement to repress any taint of reformism. The regime ignored his protest, but Havel would not go away.

When police arrested members of a psychedelic rock band called "Plastic People of the Universe" in 1976, Havel responded with another formal protest. This time he and two other colleagues led a movement which came to be known as Charter 77, named for the document written in January 1977 and originally signed by 242 people, mainly intellectuals. The manifesto called on the regime to follow its own laws, based on the Czechoslovak constitution of 1960 and the Helsinki Accords. Authorities suppressed the document, but it leaked to foreign media and major foreign newspapers soon published it; Radio Free Europe broadcast it. Eventually, 2,000 people penned their names to the document, at considerable risk.

The communist regime's ire fell on Havel for instigating the manifesto. Police ransacked his house and confiscated materials he had written. The regime sentenced him to a four month jail sentence. Then again in 1979, Havel took the brazen step of co-founding the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted. The Committee circulated a petition and obtained the signature of ten thousand Czechoslovak citizens. The regime countered by incarcerating Havel in prison, where he spent the next four years of his life. He never gave up hope, as evidenced in his reflective letters to his wife Olga, which were later published in a book.

After he served his sentence, the secret police subjected Havel and his contacts to continual surveillance, bugged phones, and harassment. He refused to conform and continued to write what he thought to be the truth. Over the years, Havel always faced the danger of being arrested. "Havel learned always to carry toothpaste, razor blades and his favorite unfiltered cigarettes in case he was seized by the police. He stashed pages of his work in various hiding places and then smuggled it out to the West."

Having lived in communist Czechoslovakia, I experienced firsthand how the communist secret police would harass and follow people, interrogate them, and exile or jail them. When I lived in Slovakia, as an American citizen, I could always go home. Havel and other citizens in the communist state could not. If they left, they could not return home to friends and family. Those who stayed faced discrimination in employment, jail sentences, and even retribution against their families. We know about a few famous people like Havel because his plays were performed in the West. But many others who were not so well known suffered the consequences of refusing to live a lie, and without the world even knowing about it, or worse, hardly caring.

Havel served one more stint behind bars in early 1989, when the courts sentenced him to prison for eight months. He only served four months due to a protest signed by thousands of artists from across the country. Once released from prison, the country drafted him as its spokesman for change and reform. Ironically, Havel came to personify the very character of his play, "Largo Desolato," which Joe Papp produced for a New York performance. In the play, a human rights activist found himself compelled by circumstance to assume a leadership position, the very circumstance which Havel was thrust into in 1989. He had become the conscience of a nation.

Havel led a movement that toppled the communist government in December 1989. The Federal Assembly unanimously selected him to be the president of the country, which was renamed the Czech and Slovak Federative to show the equality of the two nations in the state. He served in that position until 1992, when he resigned his office as the country split in two; an independent Slovakia and separate Czech Republic emerged in 1993.

Though he never relished politics or serving as president, out of a sense of noblesse oblige, Havel agreed to run for Czech president and served two terms until February 2003. A bout with lung cancer plagued his health. Still he lobbied vigorously for the integration of East Central European states with the West; he considered his role in dismembering the Warsaw Pact and paving the way for entry into NATO and the EU among his greatest accomplishments as president.

In retirement, Havel continued to press for the observation of human rights across the globe and involved himself with many causes, especially freedom movements in Belarus, Burma, and Cuba. In 2006, he accepted an eight weeks position as a visiting artist in residence at Columbia University, which sponsored a host of forums and performances based on his ideas and plays. Former President

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2011

OPEN:

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and asked Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Susan Ondrejco (via teleconference by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the Minutes of the October 2011 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT:

The Treasurer presented a written report and answered all the Executive Committee's questions.

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented his monthly presentation by WebEx and Teleconference. He briefed the Executive Committee on our Investment Portfolio.

After he gave his report, Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led a discussion on our current annuity interest rates. It was decided to maintain the current interest rates and they will be reviewed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

The Executive Committee reviewed the Annuity Rate Survey Report by Robert Kopco, Branch and Agent Coordinator, concerning the current interest rates being offered by the other fraternal and financial institutions.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report in different Regions and answered the Executive Committee's questions. The Vice President also reviewed the sales production report of our independent agents, noting that we are continuing to add agents. Vice President Harcar reviewed the upcoming seminars for the remaining 2011 and encourages District and Branch officers to contact him if their District or Branch is interested in conducting a seminar in 2012.

Vice President Harcar updated the Executive Committee on the upcoming Membership Meet which will be held November 14-18, 2011.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

The Fraternal Activities Director Susan Ondrejco updated the Executive Committee on the upcoming joint Bowling Tournament with the Slovak Catholic Sokol, National Slovak Society and the Ladies Pennsylvania Catholic Slovak Union to be held May 4-6, 2012 in Eastlake, Ohio. The Fraternal Director stated plans are being made for a joint Golf Tournament in 2012 with the National Slovak Society and as more information becomes available the Committee will be informed. It was reported the Sports Committee made a recommendation that FCSU pay the total yearly league sanction fee of \$18.00 for each Jednota league bowler. President stated he would take that recommendation under advisement.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:**FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK**

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt submitted a written report to the Executive Committee which gave a complete update of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

The Executive Secretary updated the Executive Committee on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank, and found everything in order and answered the Committee's questions.

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

Disbursements for the month of October 2011:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 374,144.43
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 57,204.59
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.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President led a discussion on adding a digital lighted sign to our existing sign on Rockside Road in front of the Home Office. The President said he is still securing quotes and once he has all the information, he will inform the Executive Committee.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

The request for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

"PARK FREE PLUS" ANNUITY

Effective January 1, 2012 the "Park Free Plus" Annuity is earning 2.15% 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 2.15%. 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.

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Focus on Family

The Power of Language

Steve R. Hreha

My epiphany occurred late one June afternoon in 1977. I was sitting in the terrace café of the Hotel Devin in Bratislava. A short distance away stood Bratislava Castle (the Hrad), now an art exhibition hall and reception area for the President of the Slovak Republic. My wife Lucy, and my parents and I had just arrived in Bratislava after crossing into Slovakia from Vienna to begin a tour of the "old country" which my father had long wanted to do. After a long day, we were relaxing over a cup of coffee. I was not prepared for what happened next. Nor could I have predicted the powerful wave of emotion which flooded over me leaving me bewildered and wondering about who I was.

But more about this in a moment.

I was born in Montréal, Québec, shortly after the incubus of World War II ended. My parents, both immigrants, had come to Canada in the years preceding the Nazi partition and occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938. Until I went to school I was looked after by my mother and both my maternal and paternal grandparents. Although my mother was fluent in Slovak, English and French, my grandparents were not – they spoke only Slovak. When it came time to look af-

ter me, the simplest way to handle things, it seemed, was for everyone who interacted with me to speak Slovak. Consequently, my mother tongue was, quite literally, Slovak. I did not learn to speak English or French until I began to meet other children, in school and on the street.

Before I began my secondary education, summers, for me, were eagerly anticipated. I would spend my entire summer holidays with my maternal grandparents on their farm in St. Charles Borromée. Here I helped with the daily chores associated with running a small farm. I also helped my grandfather build a variety of outbuildings – including a barn and a chicken coop, although I am not sure how much I helped and how much I was a nuisance. The most important aspect of these summers away from home, however, was that I spoke Slovak all the time since my grandparents spoke neither English nor French. Years later, as I recalled my experiences on the farm, I smiled to myself in amusement at the thought that on this one small farm, in the depths of French Québec, a pet dog, and a generation of chickens, cows, pigs and ducks spent their entire lives responding to the sound of Slovak!

As I grew older, and after my grandparents died, I used Slovak less and less. By

the time I was a senior in high school I could no longer speak the language, although I did understand it, a little. And then, one day, it was gone – like a catspaw on a mountain lake. No time to reflect on this passing, no time to wonder what it meant. It had vanished from my life and, it seemed, from my consciousness.

And then there was that coffee at the Hotel Devin. By the time I sat down at the table it had been well over 20 years since I had spoken Slovak. And there I was, with people, young and old, on all sides, laughing, speaking in whispers over a coke. They were all speaking Slovak. The tables had turned – I was now in the minority unable to communicate effectively with those around me. And then it happened. I was overwhelmed, swept away, really, by a powerful and irresistible feeling – the feeling that I had finally come home. That here, in this café, a step from the Danube, I found where I belonged. A weary traveller come back home after a long absence. My eyes filled with tears and I almost wept. Was it fatigue? Was it sentiment? Or was it something much deeper, something hidden in a part of my brain for which I have no name.

I don't know. But I do know that other people have had similar experiences. So



what to make of this? At the very core of my being – who, or what, am I – and how is this linked with a language I no longer speak? What ghosts whisper to me in my dreams?

I do not know the answers to these questions. But I do know that language is more, much more, than a tool used for communication.

Slovak Self-taught

About the Slovak Language

Do you speak Slovak?

A little

Can you read Slovak?

I can

I cannot

You have good pronunciation

I cannot speak fluently

It is a difficult language

You will learn it soon

The accent is easy

It is on the first syllable

If you know Slovak, you

know something of all the

Slavic languages

Yet you cannot read

Serbian or Russian

Why not?

They use the Cyrillic

alphabet

Hovoríte slovensky?

Málo

Znáte čítať slovensky?

Znám

Neznám

Máte dobrú výslovnosť

Nemôžem hovoriť plynne

To je ťažká reč

Naučíte sa jej skoro

Prízvuk je ľahký

Je na prvej slabike

Jak znáte slovensky,

znáte dačo zo všetkých

slovanských jazykov

Predsa ale nemôžete

čítať srbský alebo rusky

Prečo nie?

Užívajú cyriliku

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as newspaper subscription payments.
Contact the Home Office for details: 1-800-JEDNOTA or fcsu@aol.com.

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\$10000 for \$580

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\$10000 for \$500

Male - age 5

\$5000 for \$340
\$10000 for \$680

Female - age 5

\$5000 for \$290
\$10000 for \$580

Male - age 10

\$5000 for \$400
\$10000 for \$800

Female - age 10

\$5000 for \$340
\$10000 for \$680

Male - age 15

\$5000 for \$480
\$10000 for \$960

Female - age 15

\$5000 for \$405
\$10000 for \$810

Male - age 20

\$5000 for \$545.00
\$10000 for \$1090.00

Female - age 20

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The Passing of Václav Havel

continued from page 5

Bill Clinton engaged him in a public conversation at one event. Whether he liked it or not, Havel had become a world celebrity.

Havel and the Slovaks

Havel had always considered the Slovaks to be equal partners in the Czech and Slovak state. But like several other renown leaders such as Masaryk, Štefánik, and Murgáš, he believed in the partnership of the two peoples in one country. So when the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic broke apart in 1992, Havel felt deeply troubled that he was powerless to prevent the dissolution which then Prime Ministers Václav Klaus and Vladimír Mečiar had negotiated.

A recent article in the prominent British magazine *The Economist* argued that Slovakia did not understand Havel, though “the Czechs, along with much of the rest of the world, beatified Václav Havel.” Even today, the article claims that Havel “remains an ambiguous figure” for most Slovaks.

The article contains some truths, and but leaves out much. While it is true that Czechs embraced Havel more than most Slovaks because he was one of their own, many Slovaks held and have a deep respect for Havel. But many also think he misunderstood Slovaks, mainly because Havel spent most of his time in Prague, not in Slovakia. And he did not know, and more importantly, he did not FEEL, what Slovaks FELT about their own country.

Therefore, why many Slovaks wished to break their partnership with the Czech puzzled the Czech leader. For the same reason, the writer of *The Economist* was also puzzled. He does not understand the Slovaks and how they think.

The article pointed out how “the eastern part of communist Czechoslovakia suffered considerably less repression following the Soviet invasion in 1968.” Furthermore, the author wrote that “for the Slovaks the 1970s were less about politics than they were about improving living standards.” One could argue the same for much of the Czech lands during this era, for many Czechs were also heading to their chaty (country cottages) in the summers and making the best of a bad situation. It was true, however, that the communist invested proportionally more in Slovakia, particularly in the profitable arms industry. And that did help the Slovak economy. Still, the regime “built a wall of misinformation between the two parts of the country.” The communists portrayed Havel as a traitor.

Non-communist Slovaks never considered Havel a traitor, and Slovaks were not blind to communist propaganda. They admired him, but they embraced their own leader of reform, Alexander Dubček, who also suffered at the hands of the brutal communist regime. When I lived in Bratislava and a store clerk whom I had come to know flashed me a lapel with Dubček’s picture that she prized. She was not alone.

Dubček did not become an active dissident after 1968, for he remained an idealist who believed in socialism, and he thought that change would come with time. He also had a family to protect, unlike Havel who had no children of his own. It is much easier for a childless couple to become dissidents. Slovaks prize family life and putting children first.

Both Slovaks and Czechs felt somewhat powerless to change the situation, and they insulated themselves in their own family lives, where lies did not exist as in the outside world.

When I lived in Bratislava in 1982-83, I met a Slovak journalist who painted everything in her apartment white. Why? Because she said that out there, the country was full of lies and filth, but in her apartment, it would be clean and pure. It was her way of protesting a repressive regime. She was not alone in her thinking. I secretly met several dissidents while in Bratislava, and they were quietly working and writing the true story of what was going on in the country.

Even during the communist era, Havel had met secretly with Slovak dissidents, but he was not as well known in the Slovak part of the country. He did cause a tussle at the Bratislava Lyre music festival in 1988, when he stealthily accompanied the famous American folk singer Joan Baez as her guitar carrier. When the secret police discovered the guise, they quickly broke up the concert.

What the author of *The Economist* article also fails to comprehend is the whole history of Czechs and Slovaks, who lived in separate states for most of their existence. Hungary ruled Slovakia for a thousand years, while the Czech built their own separate state, until they united with the Austrian dominated Habsburg Empire. When Slovaks and Czechs decided to build an independent Czechoslovak Republic during World War I, Slovaks wanted to do so on the basis of equality, and many Slovaks wanted full autonomy for the Slovak part of the state. Going back to the Cleveland Agreement of 1914 and the Pittsburgh Agreement of 1918, the call for Slovak self-rule was evident. And that desire for self-rule persisted through the interwar period and during World War II when Germany compelled Slovakia to proclaim independence or be gobbled up by a revanchist Hungary.

When the Czechoslovak state reemerged after World War II, the Slovak desire for more self-rule did not disappear, despite the bitter political decisions made during the war. Even after the communists seized power and drowned the Slovaks with propaganda, they could not erase the Slovak desire for self-determination. Even the reform movement of the 1960s in Slovakia began with the assertion of Slovak national rights, and then proceeded to embrace other freedoms before Soviet tanks slowed down the natural course of history. It did not stop history though. Many Slovaks continued to aspire for national sovereignty, and that desire persisted after the Velvet Revolution.

After the revolution, many Slovaks felt the brunt of higher unemployment as a high proportion of former defense plants and polluting factories closed down. I remember at the time that many Slovaks noted how many similar arms plants did not close in the Czech Lands, which were also benefiting more than Slovakia from greater foreign economic investment. Wages were higher in the Czech Republic as well, even when doing the same work for the same company, or even for state firms. So Slovaks felt slighted.

As *The Economist* article noted, Havel did not help matters in relations with the Slovaks by some indiscreet comments. He refused to recognize the importance of Rev. Andrej Hlinka, the foremost proponent of Slovak autonomy in interwar Czechoslovakia. Havel also publicly referred to Petržalka, Bratislava’s large residential neighborhood on the south shore of the Danube, as a “rabbit hutch.” While Petržalka was no picture of perfection, such statements slighted many Slovaks.

When Havel attempted to give a speech alongside then Czech prime Minister Václav Klaus in Bratislava on October 29, 1991, the anniversary of the founding of the first Czechoslovak Republic, some national extremists hurled eggs at the two. But this hardly represented the views of the whole Slovak nation. Havel took the Reagan approach in shrugging it off with a joke: “Eggs are better than stones.”

In the end, Havel felt frustrated because he could not prevent the breakup of Czechoslovakia. When confronted with desires for more Slovak rule, he wished to present a referendum to Slovakia to choose between either a federation or full independence. The Slovak government and many Slovaks at the time would have wished to consider a third option – sovereignty. But the referendum never happened and the state proceeded to break up. Once the divorce happened, there was no going back,

or even the thought of doing so. Slovak independence was no panacea, but at least the Slovaks had no one else to blame for economic troubles over time.

Time has healed any hard feelings and most youth never experienced communism or the national controversies of the past. Most Slovaks today recognize the pivotal role that Havel played in standing up to the communist regime, and in so doing, providing Slovaks the sovereignty they had sought for over a century.

When Havel traveled to Slovakia in 2008 to speak at Slovakia’s huge summer music festival at Bažant Pohoda, he held a vibrant discussion under a big tent with a youthful crowd of 10,000 Slovaks. He shared his experiences and urged the eager listeners to work together to build a better world.

Just a week before his death, on December 10, it was fitting that Havel made his last appearance anywhere in public, to receive the Bratislava-based Jan Langoš Foundation Award for his contribution to the defense of human rights. The former Slovak ambassador to the U.S., Martin Bútora, wrote that Havel “thanked the Foundation for the award and me for the laudatio and shook my hand as vigorously as his strength permitted. Later on, when he sat in the corner of a big hall, he quietly told me and my wife Zora how happy he was to see small groups emerging and active citizens speaking up.”

It was a fitting memory.

The Church and Havel

Havel never was a practicing churchgoer, much like most Czechs, who rank among the most secular of European peoples. In this sense again, most Slovaks prized religion and differed very much from their Czech neighbors. In Slovakia, opposition to communism jelled around the underground Catholic Church, and not so much a group of secular intellectuals as in Prague.

While *The Economist* article mentions the “secret church” as “the pillar of anti-communist opposition in Catholic Slovakia,” it neglects going into detail about this very important subject. Just going to church was a form of protest in Slovakia. Many teachers and professionals, some of whom I knew personally, had to travel long distances to different towns every Sunday if they wished to attend Mass. Otherwise, they risked losing their jobs.

Numerous clergymen and women in Slovakia suffered tremendously under communism, and in some cases, even torture and death. Worth mention in particular is Cardinal Ján Chryzostom Korec, who stood out as a shepherd of the underground Church. For several decades, he helped train and ordained many Slovak seminarians despite danger to his own personal safety. When finally caught, communist authorities imprisoned him. He went public with defiance of communist authorities in the 1980s and served as an inspiration to the faithful of Slovakia. While he may not have captured the same headlines as Havel, His Holiness Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, and many others, even Václav Havel himself, recognized Korec’s role in preaching the Gospel despite persecution. Korec and other clergy helped inspire the Good Friday rosary prayer assembly in Bratislava in 1988, which communist authorities dispersed with water cannons and vicious guard dogs.

Archbishop Dominik Duka of Prague remembered Havel as a friend and fellow prisoner when they were confined together. He acknowledged the great debt which the nation and the world owed to this giant of a man. The Archbishop requested that the bells of all Catholic churches in the Czech Republic ring at 6 p.m. on December 18 in memory of Havel.

Václav Havel himself gradually came to appreciate the significant role of religion and God in his life and the world. After his inauguration as president in 1989, he immediately attended a Mass of thanksgiving in St. Vitus Cathedral, reinstating an old Czech tradition. He had an audience with Pope Benedict XVI during the papal trip to Prague in 2009.

On five other earlier occasions, Havel had met with Blessed John Paul II and he attended the former pope’s funeral at the Vatican in 2005. Both John Paul II and Havel recognized the contributions the other had made in the struggles against totalitarianism and “for freedom, human rights, human dignity and respect” for multinational cultures. When interviewed by the Polish Catholic news agency in 2000, Havel stated that “John Paul II is someone very close to me, who continually startles me with his personality and inspires me.”

On a final note, Havel admitted to an interviewer that he had made a confession to John Paul II when the pope had made his first pilgrimage to Czechoslovakia in April 1990. He came under “the spell of the pope’s charismatic personality.” Havel exclaimed: “I suddenly realized I was in fact confessing in front of him, even though I’m not accustomed to going to confession, since I’m not a practicing Catholic. I felt the need because of the great will to understand the other person that emanates from the person of the pope.”

Even Václav Havel could see the holiness that embodied the Polish pope. While Havel did not formally convert, his increasing references to God in speeches over the last two decades of his life showed that he was realizing that a higher power ruled the destiny of man.

Havel was never a nationalist, but a humanist who like Socrates, sought after truth. But the humanist was coming to see the truth as he had never envisioned it before. He has now passed on to a great Truth.

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“Prague archbishop remembers Havel as friend, ‘fellow prisoner.’” *Catholic News Service*. Last updated December 21, 2011. Accessed January 10, 2012. <http://www.cathnewsusa.com/2011/12/prague-archbishop-remembers-havel-as-friend-fellow-prisoner/>
Ibid.

January Marks Slovakia's Independence

In 1993, after the decision of political leaders, Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, with no conflict between the two regions.

Nad Tatrou sa blýska (English: *Lightning over the Tatras*) became the national anthem of the newly independent state of Slovakia. The origins of the anthem are in the Central European activism of the 19th century. Its main themes are a storm over the Tatra mountains that symbolized danger to the Slovaks, and a desire for a resolution of the threat. It was penned by 23-year-old Janko Matúška who wrote the lyrics early in 1844 as protest over the removal of his teacher Ľudovít Štúr from his position at the prestigious Bratislava Lutheran lyceum, or preparatory high school and college. Slovakia was part of the Kingdom of Hungary within the Austrian Empire then, and the officials objected to his Slovak nationalism.



Nad Tatrou sa blýska remained popular during the 1848 - 1849 insurgencies.

On 13 December 1918, the first stanza of Matúška's lyrics became one half of the two-part bilingual Czecho-Slovak anthem composed of the first stanza from a Czech operetta tune, *Kde domov můj* (Where Is My Home?), and the first stanza of Matúška's song, each sung in its respective language and both played in that sequence with their respective tunes. During the subsequent days of Czechoslovakia, the anthem was played in many Slovak towns at noon.

The Tatras provided inspiration for the Slovak National Anthem, as a storm above the mountains is a key theme.

The songs reflected the two nations' concerns in the 19th century when they were confronted with the already fervent national-ethnic activism of the Hungarians and the Germans, their fellow ethnic groups in the Habsburg Monarchy.

When Slovakia emerged as an independent nation in 1993, the second stanza was added to the first and the result legislated as Slovakia's national anthem and is now performed mainly at special events, including sporting events.

The competing national song *Hej, Slováci* was a version of the international pan-Slavic movement's traditional anthem, *Hey, Slavs*.

Nad Tatrou sa blýska

Nad Tatrou sa blýska

Hromy divo bijú
Zastavme ich, bratia
Veď sa ony stratia
Slováci ožijú

To Slovensko naše
Posiaľ tvrdo spalo
Ale blesky hromu
Vzbudzujú ho k tomu
Aby sa prebralo

Už Slovensko vstáva
Putá si strháva
Hej, rodina milá
Hodina odbila
Žije matka Sláva

Ešte jedle rastú
Na krivánskej strane
Kto jak Slovák cíti
Nech sa šable chytí
A medzi nás stane

Lightning over the Tatras

There is lightning over the Tatras

Thunder wildly beats
Let us stop them, brothers
After all they will disappear
The Slovaks will revive

That Slovakia of ours
Has been fast asleep so far
But the thunder's lightning
Is just rousing Her
To be awoken

Slovakia is already rising
Tearing off Her shackles
Hey, dear family
The hour has struck
Mother Glory is alive

Firs are still growing
On the slopes of Kriváň
Who is inspired to be a Slovak
Let them hold a sabre
And stand among us

Branch 670 Announces 2012 Scholarship Program for Members

Branch #670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2012 Scholarship Program. The committee will award up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships to the candidates who best satisfy the award criteria. Any individual of Branch #670 that has had a policy, other than JEP, for at least 5 years, is current in their premiums, and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship. For applications, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1 of the following officers, or you may email your request to 1 of the following addresses: Dorothy Petrus, 585 Castner Ave., Donora, PA 15033; Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net); Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: hyattfamily@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 29, 2012

Pre-Lenten "Fasigany" Celebration in Milwaukee

Sponsored by the Slovak League of America, Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI, Saturday, February 18, 2012, from 6:00PM to 11:00PM. Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street, (103rd & Oklahoma Ave) in Greenfield, WI.

Delicious Slovak food and bakery available from 6:00 – 10:00PM. A live band will provide music for dancing throughout the evening.

The Tatra Slovak Dancers will perform at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. For more information, please call Betty at 414-425-6137 or Emily at 414-464-1063.

We're inviting all Sts. Mary and Joseph Branch 89 members to join us.

For more information, please call Betty Valent at 414-425-6137 or Emily Kosso at 414-1063.

2012 Scholarship Program

continued from page 1

3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2012 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, 2012.

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 2013).

Reminder...

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 email address for 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.

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

New Bishop of Manchester Recognizes Slovak Ancestry in Coat of Arms

The coat of arms of the Most Reverend Peter Libasci, Residential Bishop of Manchester in New Hampshire, installed as a new bishop of the Diocese of Manchester, NH, incorporates the bishop's rich bi-ritual ecclesiastical heritage in both the Latin and Ruthenian Rites of the Catholic Church. As such, it likewise incorporates a special tribute to both his maternal and paternal ancestry and heritage and tribute to the Order of Saint Benedict, which was responsible for the Bishop's seminary training.



The left side of the shield contains the Diocese of Manchester shield, with elements that represent the Bishop's heritage. Four symbols appear on this side. First, a bundle of wheat represents Bishop Libasci's paternal ancestry in Sicily where his great-grandfather made a living as a wheat merchant; on the wheat is a Latin Rite Cross representing the Bishops Latin Rite Heritage. Second, a pinecone of the Pinus Cembra, a species of pine tree indigenous to the Tatra Mountains represents the Slovak, maternal heritage of the Bishop. On the pinecone is an Eastern Rite Cross which also is blue in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Third, the apostolic rose honors the Blessed John Paul II. The base of the bishop's side of the shield has been rendered in green representing both Christian charity and the rejuvenation of one's soul through good works. Green is also the color of everlasting life and of the ordinary time in the Church (thereupon a secondary color of priesthood).

- Submitted by Joseph Neslusan, Branch 282, Portsmouth, NH
Originally printed in Parable Magazine, 2011 Special Issue.



Levoča tourist guide on GPS

Do you have a mobile phone or GPS and you are heading to Levoča? You can use the services of a new innovative product, developed within the project "Stary Sącz and Levoča – Carpathian towns with an atmosphere".



Levoča

It provides domestic and foreign visitors to Levoča with current and comprehensive information on 50 cultural and social facilities and sports recreational facilities in a digital form. Each point of interest is represented by 3D panoramic photography, general photography, text, audio recordings, an indicative map, GPS coordinates, and information about the distance and time to reach such point of interest. The service is available in Slovak, English and Polish versions. Just enter www.levocagps.sk in your phone or download the offline version.

The project was cofunded by the European Union from resources of the European Regional Development Fund and the state budget within the Crossborder Cooperation Programme between Poland and the Slovak Republic for 2007-2013.

source: Mesto Levoča/ Informačná kancelária mesta Levoča





8 YEAR FLEXIBLE PREMIUM DEFERRED ANNUITY OR IRA
3.75%
Rate effective 1/1/2012

FCSU Annuity policy owners now have an additional opportunity to earn increased interest earnings.

This product is ideal for members planning long term investment of their annuity funds. The "8 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity" holders will receive .25% higher interest rate than that payable on the FCSU 6 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.

The "8 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity" will offer the highest annuity interest rate paid by FCSU. To receive the benefit of this product, the annuitant agrees not to withdraw funds for an eight year period from the date of issue. If the funds are withdrawn within the first year, the surrender charge is 8% of the amount withdrawn. Thereafter, the withdrawal penalty decreases by 1% each year through the eighth year. After the eighth year there is no longer a surrender charge. (Withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may be subject to a Federal Tax Penalty)

After the first year, emergency withdrawals are permitted from the "8 Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity" for up to 10% annually without a FCSU surrender charge. (Withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may be subject to a Federal Tax Penalty)

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Phone 1-800-533-6682 fax 216-642-4310 Website www.FCSU.com



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6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131

Phone 1-800-533-6682 Fax 216-642-4310 E-mail FCSU@aol.com Website www.FCSU.com

John's Tours Sets 15-day Slovakia Tour for September 2012

This year, John's Tours offers a 15-day tour of Slovakia and the surrounding countries of Poland, Vienna, Austria, and the Czech Republic.

The tour which departs on September 10, 2012 will include: visits to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Levoča, Sponia Dolina, Presov, Banska Steavnica, Stara Lubovna, Poprod, Nitra, Kosice, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, a "castle" which actually consists of three castles – upper, central, and middle. This tour also will include a raft ride – Rajecka Lesna – on the Dunajec River which runs between the Slovak and Polish border. The tour will feature two folklore programs with dinners.

We will see sights in Vienna, Austria, such as Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Platz, as well as a visit to Schoenbrunn Place. 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 – breakfasts and dinners; 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



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Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
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73					74						75			
76					77						78			

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Across

- 1 Yucatan native
- 5 Jaunts
- 10 Stagnate
- 14 Ajar
- 15 Readjust
- 16 Yuletide
- 17 Author's goal
- 19 Bird feature
- 20 Annex
- 21 Muse of poetry
- 23 Locomotive type
- 26 Formal wear
- 30 Paddle
- 31 Lynx
- 35 Current
- 36 Midge
- 38 Oracle
- 39 A great deal
- 41 Mark of Cain
- 43 Actress Gardner
- 44 Half-baked
- 45 Cruelty
- 47 Before Las Vegas voce
- 49 Coin
- 52 Spoil
- 53 Eternal
- 56 Gesture of assent
- 57 Scabbard
- 59 Words of resignati
- 61 Bellow
- 64 A Gershwin
- 65 Light seeker
- 68 Fascinated with fa
- 73 Great Lakes lake
- 74 Implied
- 75 Pocketbook
- 76 Some bills
- 77 Sales outlets
- 78 Obligation

Down

- 1 Throng
- 2 Emulator
- 3 Okay
- 4 Wagers
- 5 Vine support
- 6 Elec. unit
- 7 ____ of Wight
- 8 Equal
- 9 Rock layers
- 10 Memo holder
- 11 Deer
- 12 Cow pasture
- 13 Cervid
- 18 Murdered
- 22 Coach
- 23 Pet
- 24 Author Fleming
- 25 Expunction
- 27 Interlace
- 28 Scot. river
- 29 Possess
- 32 Exit
- 33 The Tempter
- 34 Thirst for
- 37 Poet. contraction
- 40 Rage
- 42 Below (Poet.)
- 45 Radio bands
- 46 Exclamation of disgust

- 48 Abets
- 50 I (Fr.)
- 51 Time zone
- 54 Poltergeists
- 55 Class
- 58 Fire aftermath
- 60 Exposed
- 62 W. state
- 63 Mexican snack
- 65 Assembled
- 66 Pay dirt
- 67 Metallic element
- 69 Rend
- 70 Shoshonean
- 71 Young carnivore
- 72 Ditty bag

See Solution on Page 19

Part II of the 2011 P

People



First Place – James Marmol
Uniontown, PA, Branch 162

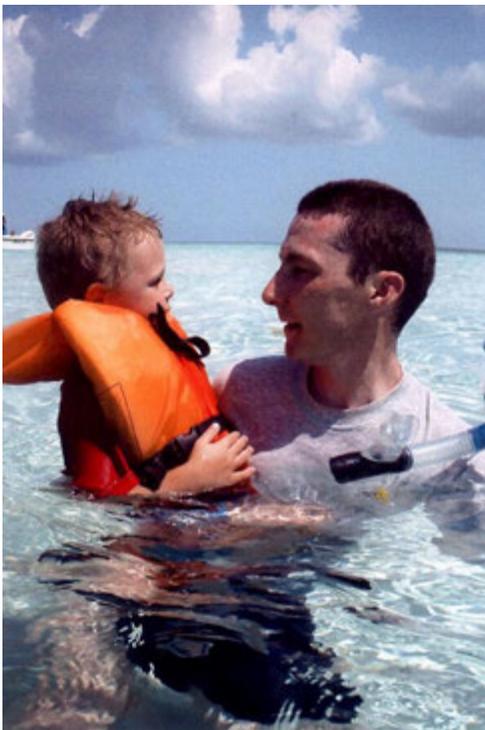
“Summer Fun”

Nature or Environment



First Place – Jeannie Blake
Uniontown, PA, Branch 162

“Family Vacation to Hawaii”



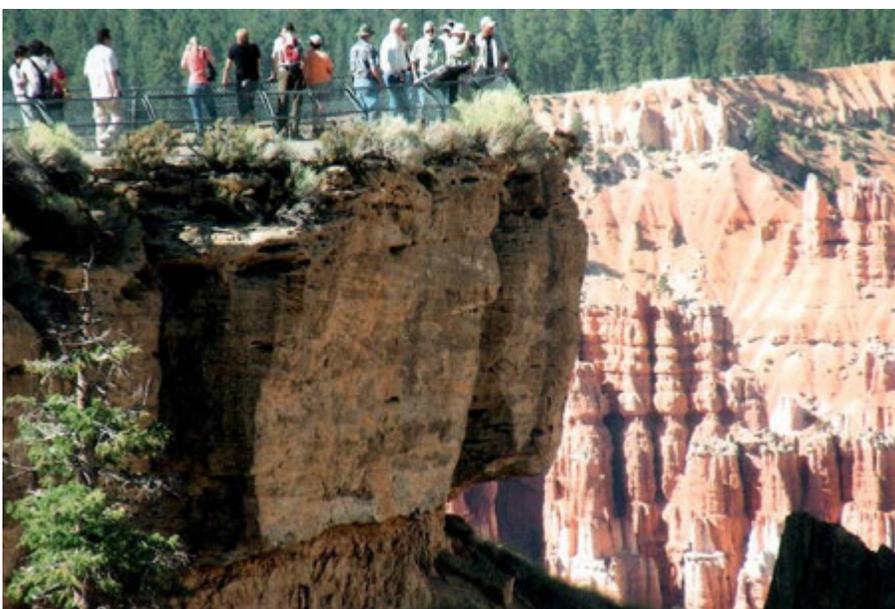
Second Place –
Michele Mayger-Skwirut
Latrobe, PA, Branch 211

“Stingray City”



Second Place –
Michele Mayger-Skwirut
Latrobe, PA, Branch 211

“Sailing Back from
Stingray City”



Third Place – Dorothy Jurcenko
Chicago, IL, Branch 153

“Bryce National Park”



Third Place – Karen Minarovich
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290

“Bee on a Purple Flower”

Photo Contest Results

Travel or Destinations



First Place – Rachel Popovich
White Oak, PA, Branch 276

“If You Like It, Then You
Should Make a Ring for It”



Second Place – Karen Minarovich
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290

“View of Snorkelers through a
Rock Formation”



Third Place – James Marmol
Uniontown, PA, Branch 162

“Bygone Era”

FCSU Fraternal Activity



First Place – James Marmol
Uniontown, PA, Branch 162

“Three Musketeers and a Picnic”



Second Place – John Jurcenko
Chicago, IL, Branch 153

“Boarding Boat for River
Cruise at Convention”



Third Place – Rachel Popovich
White Oak, PA, Branch 276

“Bubbles will Burst, but
Family Persists”

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 4 –

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 4, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2012, at 3PM at the home of Financial Secretary Anna Marie Hanlon, 2338 Lucina Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15210.

Election of officers and other Branch activities will be discussed.

Fraternally,

Anna Marie Hanlon, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 10 –

OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10 K. J., held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 4 at the home of Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, 405 North River St., Olyphant, PA.

Officers for 2012 were elected as follows: President, Daniel Spegar; Vice-President, Gaza Mika; Secretary-Treasurer, William Spegar, Recording Secretary, William A. Nalevanko, and Auditors, Carol Spegar, Mary Ann Spegar and Florence M. Nalevanko.

Donations in the amount of \$6,500 were approved for distribution in 2012 to the following: La Salle Academy, Jessup, PA; Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, and the Mid Valley Senior Center, Olyphant, PA; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund, Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Holiday Fund and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, PA; Valley Community Library, Peckville, PA; and, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, PA.

Arrangements are being made for the annual Communion Breakfast, to follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, PA, on Sunday, June 24, 2012. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Fraternally,

**William A. Nalevanko,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 40 -

STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch #40, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday January 29th at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting and dinner at no cost. On the agenda will be scholarships and elections of officers. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 26, 2012.

**Maria Harcar,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 45 -

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2012, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 89 –

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, January 21, 2012. 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.

The meeting location is Alliot'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 18, 2012 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.

Some topics of discussion will be: election of officers, donations, 2012 activities.

Thank you,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 132 –

WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

All meetings will be held the second Sunday of the month at 1:30PM on every second month throughout the year. Meetings are held at the home of President Susan Salko. Please phone Susan at 973-906-1145 if you plan on attending.

Susan Salko, President

BRANCH 181 -

UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold its next meeting on Saturday, February 19, 2012, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian's. The meeting will be held in St. Florian's Formation Building, 4261 Rt. 981, PO Box 187, United, PA, 15689. This meeting represents the first meeting of the year to plan activities for 2012. All members are welcome.

Fraternally,

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 200 -

FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Bylaw committee of Branch 200 will be meeting @ 6:00pm Thursday, February 2, 2012.

Our regular monthly meetings will be held March

1st, April 5th, May 3rd, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, & Dec. 6th.

There will not be any monthly meetings in June, July, or August.

Vicki L. Schaub, Beneficial Financial Sec./ Tres.

BRANCH 228 –

LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, will begin holding their monthly meetings again at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held.

Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current and future activities.

See you at the Club!

**Thomas B. Zuffa,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 259 –

STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will be having a meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2012, at Christ Our Savior Church at Holy Trinity at 1:30PM.

We will be discussing this year's upcoming events; increasing membership and conducting an audit.

All members are encouraged to attend and take part in this meeting.

The Officers of Branch 259 wish all members a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 312 –

BAGGLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2012, at 1:00PM at the home of Branch President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive, Labrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of officers. For more information, please contact Secretary/Treasurer Micki Smolleck at 724-539-8326.

Fraternally,

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 450-

CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold its annual meeting at the home of Jozef Valencik on Saturday, February 11, at 2:00 pm. The address is 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, OH. The

election of officers will be held at this time. All members are encouraged to attend.

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 –

MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

Monthly meetings are held at Tatra Hall, Sixth Street and Sherman Blvd., on the third Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. (September through May).

As always, you can call 231 733 7525 for additional information of current events.

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 11, 2012, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

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 at 1:00 pm. in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch 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 25, 2012 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. Okres meeting will follow at 1:00 PM. Agenda will include discussion of planned activities for the upcoming year.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 780 -

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society, Branch 780, will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday January 24, 2012, at 7:00 pm at the home of Financial Secretary Catherine Karlsen, 2280 Taft Street, Saginaw, Michigan. Election of officers will be held. Members are invited to attend.

**Fraternally,
Catherine Karlsen, Secretary**



St. Matthew's Society - Branch 45 - To Host Fasiangy Dance Party in New York City

We are kindly inviting you to the annual Fasiangy Dance Party, which will be held Sunday, February 19, 2012 after the Slovak mass at 12:30 p.m. in the church hall of St. John Nepomucene on 411 East 66th Street, New York City. The admission is \$25.00 Lunch, coffee, and Slovak-style homemade cookies will be included in the price of the admission ticket. During the dance party the raffle will be drawn and children from the Slovak school will have a special performance. Entertaining will be a well-known Slovak music band Kontakty. We are looking forward to your attendance.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary



Check out the redesigned
FCSU website @ www.fcsu.com.

Same great resource –
now with a great new look!

Let us know what you think.
We want to hear from you.

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.

Reminder For All Branches

Among the requirements to complete in order to qualify for your branch stipend, under Bylaw Section 14. RULES GOVERNING LOCAL BRANCHES, is the following:

14.01 General Rules

a) Branch and district meetings must be held in the close proximity of the hub of its members. The meetings shall be held at least semiannually, one of which must be for the elections of officers, who shall assume their duties upon election. **Notice of each of these meetings shall be published in the Official Organ at least thirty (30) days in advance of such meeting.**

OBITUARIES

**ANNE C. HACALA
BRANCH 743 –
STERLING HTS, MICHIGAN**

Anne C. Hacala, age 99, of Chesterfield, MI, died on December 25, 2011. Born November 25, 1912 in Stare, Slovakia. Survived by her dear daughters, Dorothy (Jack)



Lietke, Ann Gannon, Christine Luhrs, and Joyce (Earl) Lardner; 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, one great-great-granddaughter. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph; grandson, Jimmy Kaiser; great-granddaughter, Amilia Kirk. Instate 10a.m. until time of Liturgy at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 28, at St. Mary Queen of Creation Church, New Baltimore. Visitation was at 2:30-8:30 p.m. with a scripture service at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday December 27, at Gendernalik Funeral Home, , New Baltimore.



Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep

In those quiet moments in the still of the night
Remember to rejoice and celebrate life
Do not think of me gone and weep
I am not there, I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints on snow
I am the sunlight on the grain
I am the gentle autumn's rain
When you awaken in the morning hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
of quiet birds in flight
I am the soft stars that shine
You will hear my gentle voice
and remember to rejoice
Never give up your fight
and remember always
to Celebrate Life....
Author Unknown

Publication Schedule for 2012

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
January 4	December 27 (Tuesday for Christmas holiday hours)
January 18	January 9
February 1	January 23
February 15	February 6
February 29	February 20
March 14	March 5
March 28	March 19
April 25	April 16
May 9	April 30
May 23	May 14
June 6	May 28
July 11	July 2
August 8	July 30
August 22	August 13
September 5	August 27
September 26	September 17
October 10	October 1
October 24	October 15
November 7	October 29
November 21	November 12
December 5	November 26



"Park 2 Annuity" 2.50% APY

Rate Effective January 1, 2012

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.**
- ✦ 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



Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA 3.50%

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Rate Effective January 1, 2012 ~ 3.50%

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

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

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- ♥ Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income.
- ♥ 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 WWW.FCSU.COM

FCSU LIFE 6611 Rockside Rd., Independence OH 44131
Phone 1-800-533-6682 – Fax 216-642-4310 – E-mail FCSU@aol.com



Coming in the next issue of Jednota ...
Scenes from the Membership Meet of the
First Catholic Slovak Union,
November 14 - 18, 2011
Aboard the Norwegian Sky Cruise

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THE UNITED STATES & CANADA
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

1-800-JEDNOTA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PRIVACY – PERSONAL FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Protecting the privacy of your personal financial and medical information has always been and will continue to be a matter of top priority for us. When used in this notice, the following terms have the meaning shown.

Public Information means information that is lawfully available to the general public from: Federal State or local government records; widely distributed media; or, disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by Federal, State or local law.

Non-Public Information means personally identifiable financial and medical information. It also means any list, description or other grouping of individuals, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived from any personally identifiable information that is not publicly available.

Consumer Reporting Agency means an entity, which regularly provides reports (Consumer Reports) including information regarding an individual's: general reputation, character, personal characteristics or mode of living and financial status. The information may be obtained through interviews with the individual or third parties such as the individual's: business associates, family members, friends, neighbors, acquaintances or financial sources.

We obtain information about you from the following sources:

- information you provide to us in an application or other form;
- information about your transactions with us (such as premium payments, loans, claims, etc.), or others; and
- information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

We do not disclose any personal, Non-Public Information about you to anyone, except as permitted or required by law. We will not disclose personal medical information about you, except as permitted by law or as you may authorize.

We restrict access to your personal, insurance and medical information to those of our employees who need to know that information in order to provide insurance or service to you. We are, and will continue to be, vigilant in the safeguarding of your personal, financial, and medical information. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to comply with Federal and State regulations regarding the safeguarding of Non-Public Information.

It is our sincere desire to maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date records. You may contact us to access, as provided by law, information included in your file. We will promptly correct any error in our information. To protect your privacy, you will need to identify yourself by providing us with your name, date of birth and social security number.

Treasures of Slovakia Celebration Trip Set for July 2012

Helene Cincebeaux's 75th Treasures Tour will be a Celebration Tour traversing Slovakia from east to west and north to south. A good portion of the cultural immersion trip will be spent in eastern Slovakia where so many American-Slovaks have roots to immerse in history, culture and traditions from folk dance, music, song and crafts to stories and legends and to learn about the life of ancestors long ago.

The Treasures of Slovakia Celebration trip, July 7 – 16, 2012, includes a folk festival, crafts festival, castles and village parties. Trip leaders are Jozef Kaufmann, Slovak native and world-famed chandelier designer, and Helene Cincebeaux, Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International and editor of "Slovakia" for the past 25 years and the Slovak Pride data base with some 30,600 surnames and villages.

Ancestral village visits can be arranged with an English speaking driver/guide; Treasures Tour is proud of our 98% success rate in finding long-lost family for our travelers. The Celebration Tour will stay several nights in the Spiš Paradise and visit Spišská Nová Ves and charming walled Levoča to marvel at historic St. Jakub's Cathedral filled with Master Paul's exquisite life-like altars dating from the 1500s. Levoča is a lovely place to stroll the old square and learn the legends of the "White Lady" and visit the archives, a lovely example of Spiš architecture. Explore Spiš Castle with magnificent views and take a mini wildflower and butterfly walk – 12 varieties of butterflies were spotted here last year. Top off the day with a party in a Rusyn village – we'll feast and dance! Explore Košice's colorful old town with grand St. Elizabeth's Cathedral and the beloved Singing Fountain. Stroll Prešov's historic square and visit the Greek Catholic (in America, Byzantine) Cathedral with icons galore and the Catholic Cathedral with its green marble decorated altar. Sample fabled Tokaj wine from this region. Stroll Michalovce's famed square and enjoy the museum in the castle to glimpse village life long ago. Visit a village potter where you can pick your plates right off the wall and try your hand at the wheel. On through scenic roads to tour Humenne's charming palace and then taste the town's famed ice cream. Bardejov, the Pearl of Šariš and another of Slovakia's walled towns, charms. St Giles Cathedral dominates the cobbled square and the tryptch altars are fabulous as well as a visit to the unique icon museum.

The tour will travel to nearby Bardejov Skansen, a village of museum homes at Bardejov Spa. On through the verdant countryside to an onion-domed wooden church treasure from the 1700s with roses and saints painted around the low doorway and a gorgeous wall of icons. Then to Zobor where all the hosts for Slovakia are made and see its magnificent church with the sacred icon and heavenly grotto. The trip will spend two nights in the High Tatras with a dramatic lift to a Tatra peak and a spectacular view and then up to the Polish border to raft on the Dunajec River and hear the legends from the Goral drivers. Visit Red Cloister Museum to learn about mad monk Cyprian who cured locals with herbs and flew with wings of wax. (A recent Slovak movie about him laced a lot of fiction with the facts.) Historic Kezmarok's streets are filled with craft demonstrations, folk dancers, medieval parades and local delicacies at the International Crafts Festival. It's fun to buy treasures from the makers from wood carvings to jewelry, pottery, paintings and even musical instruments.

Stop in a Liptov mountain village to visit a craftswoman for hand-made dolls and lace. Enjoy a Celebration Party in a western Slovak village and take part in the wedding customs. Bratislava's old town is a joy with a local guide to learn the history and legends and see the quirky artworks that are making this a "must see" capital. Admire the view from newly refurbished Bratislava castle then on to Devin castle with its Celtic roots and sample the rare black currant wine made only there. The Celebration trip farewell will take place in a



Slovak Folk Festivals are a perfect place to get great photos and meet new friends. Tour leader and FCSU Member Helene in the floppy hat.



Barb and Tom Snape (center) won't soo forget their 50th wedding, celebrated on a Treasures Tour.

historic village inn with local vintages. The trip is \$1,999 for the land portion and Helene will help travelers find a flight.

Several other tours are offered for the summer of 2012. The Castles, Festival, Spis Villages and Royal Wine Road June 19 -28, \$1,999 per person, will explore eight fascinating castles 7th to 19th century, Gothic ruins to masterpieces of medieval, renaissance and baroque architecture including Orava and Devin.

Experience two days at the heart of Helpa's Folklore Festival. Village lanes are decorated with re-ribboned birch trees and locals young and old are in traditional dress at this annual celebration of music, song, dance, foods, customs and crafts right outside our restored manor house lodging with its lovely gardens. Traverse the High Tatra Mountains visiting quaint Goral villages in the Spis regions of Poland and Slovakia with breath-taking views of Alpine mountain scenery. Stay in Zakopane nestled in the Tatra mountains where a feast of craft-people offer treasures. Explore architecturally amazing Banska Stiavnica which sits atop an ancient collapsed volcano and dates back to the Bronze Age. This newly restored UNESCO treasure town was famed for its rich gold and silver mines. Today's visitors marvel at the outstanding Plague Pillar, the New Castle and the town's total hilly charm. Then a folklore performance and wedding rituals at a specially arranged village party just for us.

Follow Slovakia's Small Carpathian Wine Road in western Slovakia as we drive through vineyards in a dozen villages, stopping to sample along the way! Learn more about this ancient tradition at the Pežinok Wine Museum and close the day at an internationally recognized wine cellar learning about and tasting the vintages.

Walk the narrow streets of Bratislava's Old Town to discover Michael's Gate, the Coronation Church, vibrant Roland Square, Bratislava Castle, historic quirky street sculptures and more. Farewell dinner at a 250 year old uniquely painted & decorated village inn. The 5 Countries, 5 Cultures Trip.

Also, there will be a Treasures Tour from July 17 - 25, \$1999 per person, which travels the magical byways of Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Austria.

For more info on any of the Treasures Tours call Helene Cincebeaux toll free at 888 529-7150 or 585 342-9383 or write for a tour brochure to 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617. The website at www.our-Slovakia.com has trip info, click on the individual trip name for day-by-day itineraries, plus trip videos, photos and travel tips.



Village women from Hrusov made loksa and lekvar for tasting at the Detva Folk Festival.



A craftsman at the Kezmarok crafts festival shows off his necklace made from sections of deer antlers, which Helene gave a home.

Folk Festivals in Slovakia are colorful and charming; sometimes the spectators are as much fun as the performers as with this young couple from Dobra Niva.



A first! Eileen Sullivan discovered her ancestor Bartolomej Sekerak's blacksmith workshop from Torysa on display at the Stara Lubovna Skansen Museum.



News From Slovakia

Analysts: Labor Market Can't Expect Positive Year in 2012

Bratislava, January 4 (TASR) - The concerns about further growth in unemployment are justified, Postova Banka analyst Eva Sadovska told TASR.

"Economic growth will only be moderate and it won't be enough to ensure job creation, so the queues at the job centers won't get any shorter this year either," said Sadovska, who expects the unemployment rate to approach 14 percent.

Sadovska also pointed to Slovakia's strong export orientation. "They [consumers abroad] dictate how much will be produced in Slovakia, so consequently they decide on whether companies, especially exporters, will employ new people," she said.

According to Volksbank Slovensko analyst Vladimir Vano, the situation won't be as bad as it was in 2009, when the economic crisis hit Slovakia. "If there aren't any extraordinary negative events on the financial markets, it can be expected that the weakening of economic activity in the eurozone won't be as significant as in 2009," he told TASR.

Gasparovic Expresses Sorrow at Death of Former Macedonian President

Bratislava, January 3 (TASR) - Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic sent a telegram of condolences on this date to his Macedonian counterpart Gjorge Ivanov in reaction to the death of former Macedonian president Kiro Gligorov.

Gligorov, the first democratically elected president of Macedonia, died on Sunday at the age of 94.

"I heard with sorrow the news of the death of the first democratically elected president of the Republic of Macedonia," wrote Gasparovic in the telegram. The Slovak president stated that Macedonia has lost a respected statesman who significantly contributed to the emergence of Macedonian statehood in a constitutional way.

President Calls on Slovaks to Choose Politicians Who Will Serve Them

Bratislava, January 1 (TASR) - With the early election set for March 10 approaching, President Ivan Gasparovic appealed to the people of Slovakia in his New Year's speech to vote for politicians whose mission will actually be to serve them.

"It depends on you, whom you give the responsibility for the management of your state," Gasparovic said.

According to him, many mistakes, shortcomings, faults and sometimes also legislative interventions into the rights of people have been made over the years in the search for the right decisions regarding health-care, education, culture and judicial reforms.

"We often speak about the need to increase the quality of education, the school system itself, culture; but at the same time we accept that we can't react flexibly enough to meet the needs [of the labor market] for knowledge," he pointed out. He went on to explain that the gap is in knowledge with practical application.

"We are satisfied with the trivial 'culture of kitsch'," the president went on to say in his hard-hitting speech. "Spirituality is pushed away by consumerism and materialism."

Gasparovic also mentioned the recent strike-like action of the Slovak hospital-based doctors. "In November we witnessed how the problems in the health-care system escalated. Nobody casts any doubt on the rights of the doctors; but patients also have their rights. And I'm asking which group is more vulnerable," he said, adding that he was really worried about the health and lives of people.

In the end Gasparovic called on people not to become pessimistic and resigned because of the host of problems emerging. "In the 19 years of a sovereign Slovakia and the many tests we have gone through in the previous centuries we proved that we're able to manage our public affairs and we can learn from our mistakes. Believe that this crisis is just another such test that we can overcome thanks to our persistence," urged Gasparovic, adding that we have a beautiful country that deserves our care.

Dzurinda: Euro a Good Currency, Crisis Caused by Irresponsible Poles

Brussels, January 1 (TASR) - Even though the euro is celebrating its tenth birthday on Sunday in the shadow of a crisis, it is a good currency, according to Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Mikulas Dzurinda (SDKU-DS).

As a financial unit itself the euro hasn't caused the financial crisis. The culprits have to be found among politicians instead.

"This project is good and in perspective. It's always necessary to say that for countries such as Slovakia, stability of the currency has immense importance," said Dzurinda during his official visit to Brussels at the end of last year.

According to him, it's necessary to explain calmly to people that the euro isn't responsible for what is going on in the European Union at the moment. "Politicians, in the best-case scenario, were overlooking [the growing debts] for all those years; in the worst case, they were lying and cheating," said Dzurinda.

More Than 20,000 Foreigners Live and Work in Slovakia

Bratislava, December 28 (TASR) - There are more than 20,000 foreigners from all over the world working in Slovakia (with a population of approximately 5.4 million), according to October statistics drafted by the Labor, Social Affairs and Family Ministry.

Most of the foreigners are men (17,407), with only 4,495 women present. Romanians, Czechs, Hungarians and Poles make up the largest foreign communities in the labor market. "However, people from exotic countries are also living and working here, too, such as from the Ivory Coast, Nepal, Madagascar and Cape Verde," said ministry spokesperson Slavomira Selesova.

People from other countries often find themselves obstructed by the need to acquire work permits. With this in mind, Labor Minister Jozef Mihal (Freedom and Solidarity/SaS) discussed the possible cancellation of such documents with representatives of the Afghan, Chinese, Somalian, Ukrainian, Vietnamese and Islamic communities at the end of 2011.

"However, it isn't possible to resolve this issue because it would require making changes to the Act on Employment Services," said Selesova, adding that Parliament has rejected a related bill submitted by the ministry.

Volkswagen Extends Non-stop Production of SUVs until Mid-2012

Bratislava, December 22 (TASR) - Volkswagen Slovakia has decided to extend non-stop production of sports utility vehicles (SUVs) until June 30, 2012, the plant's spokesman Vladimir Machalik revealed on this date.

This is in light of continued high global demand for the SUVs produced at the plant, said Machalik.

Barring several holidays during and shortly after Christmas, the plant will use its SUV-production capacity to the maximum. This applies to all production operations.

Non-stop production of the Volkswagen Touareg, the Audi Q7 and the Porsche Cayenne at the plant was launched in September 2010 and has been extended three times since then.

Car production will be re-launched after the plant-wide holiday on January 16, 2012, and with boosted capacity. The assembly lines are currently undergoing modifications in order to lay the groundwork for increased capacity after the holidays.

Average Pensioners in Slovakia Receive €362 from State per Month

Bratislava, December 25 (TASR) - The average monthly old-age pension in Slovakia reached €362 in November, which represents a month-on-month increase by 22 euro cents, state-insurer Socialna Poistovna states on its website.

The number of pensioners receiving the old-age pension was 955,485 in November.

The height of the allowance for the early pensioners, who decided to retire before their official retirement age, reached €357. The disabilities pension remained at €322.

Socialna Poistovna pays out pensions to more than 1.29 million people in Slovakia. Their number grew by 4,056 month-on-month in November. One pensioner may receive more than one allowance at a time. The number of allowances paid out by Socialna Poistovna in total reached 1.6 million.

Lipsic: Police Corps Has Achieved Groundbreaking Success in 2011

Bratislava, December 21 (TASR) - The Slovak police have reached historic success in various areas during 2011, Interior Minister Daniel Lipsic (KDH) said at a press conference on this date.

"In areas such as safety on the roads, the fight against corruption and organized crime, this has been an extremely successful year - maybe a groundbreaking one," said Lipsic.

According to Lipsic, the number of car accidents has gone down, as has the amount of money collected from fines.

The Road Act ushered in heavier fines for the most serious violations. Drivers have been cutting down on the number of minor infractions, however. In addition, the death toll on roads has also seen a drop.

"This means that the new evaluation system [of Slovak police officers] has proven to be good. This represents an overall change in philosophy, and it seems to be working well," said Lipsic.

When it comes to corruption, the average amount of bribes investigated within 2011 has been 23-times higher than a year ago. "We're not prosecuting minor corruption only," Lipsic stressed, adding that investigators are also looking into white collar crimes such as tax evasion - up €9 billion compared with 2010.

Homemade Donuts (Šišky)

By Lubos Brieda from his website slovakcooking.com

I bet our great-grandparents had an amazing time growing up in Slovakia! The whole year revolved around partying and merrymaking. Okay, so that's probably a simplification. But the villagers of the days gone knew how to celebrate life. Winter was the season for parties and holidays – I guess this was the time between when harvest was collected and new seeds were planted. The first set of celebrations occurred in winter, before Christmas advent set in. But as soon as the Three Kings day rolled around, signaling the end of the Christmas season, it was time to put on the dancing shoes, round up some musicians, and start frying šišky.

The period between Three Kings day (January 6th) and the Ash Wednesday (Popolcová Streda, which is February 22 in 2012) is known in Slovakia as Fašiangy. This is when people dressed up in costumes, just like is done nowadays at the Mardi Gras or at the Carnival in Rio.

The most famous of these are šišky or pampúchy. Think of these as Slovak donuts. Actually one well known Slovak fairy tale (rozprávka) tells the story a small pampúch, pampúšik. In the fairy tale, grandpa asks grandma if she could make him one of these donuts. Well, times are hard, and there is no flour to be found. But grandma goes to the pantry and dusts the shelves for flour. She manages to dust off enough to make one jam donut. She sets it on the windowsill to let it cool. Well, the donut starts looking around, and decides he (?) wants to go see the world. So he rolls off, meeting a bunny, wolf, and a bear along the way. All of them want to eat him! But he is faster and escapes. That is, until he meets a clever fox (foxes are always clever and conniving in Slovak fairy tales, if you see a fox, you better watch out!) Of course, back in the hut, grandpa and grandma are crying, their only donut has gone missing! Well, grandma makes her way to the mill and asks the miller to spare some flour. The miller has a kind heart and offers her some. Happy ending, grandpa got his sweet breakfast, and the fox got to eat.

If you ever wanted to make home-made donuts, the Slovak way, here is the recipe. Of course, I recommend you go to your grocery store to buy flour instead of dusting it off your shelf.

Ingredients: 2 cups (250g) flour, one yolk, 3/4 cups milk, one packet yeast, 2 tablespoons (20g) powdered sugar, 1/5 stick (20g) unsalted butter (melted), little bit of salt, dash of rum (optional), jam filling and topping, powdered sugar for topping

Prep Time: 30 minutes to mix up the dough, few hours for it to rise, another hour or so to make and fry the donuts

Mix the dough



To start making these Slovak fried pastry donuts, we first need to make the dough. Start by dissolving yeast in little bit of warm water or milk. Combine all ingredients, except for jam in a bowl, and add the yeast. If you want, you can use the left-over egg white to make strawberry frosting. Mix for about 15 minutes, folding over, until the dough becomes smooth and no longer sticks to the wooden spoon (varecha). Dust with flour, cover with a cloth, and let rise. I put it in my cool basement and let it rise overnight.

Filling the donuts



After the dough has fully risen (meaning that after you poke it with a finger, the dough does NOT snap back and the dimple remains), transfer it out onto a board dusted with flour. Separate into manageable pieces. Roll the dough out to about half inch thick. Then dust the rim of a small drinking glass with flour and use it to cut out circles from one side of the rolled out dough with a twisting motion of your wrist. Mark off the same number of circles on the other side. Place about a teaspoon worth of apricot jam (marhuľový lekvár) to the center of these marked circles.



Cover each with one cut out piece, and press shut by pressing down with your finger as you go around the circle. Then take the glass again, and cut out the donut. This will further help seal the jam in.

I ended up with five of these filled donuts. The second half of the dough was used to make a simpler version of šišky: ones that are topped with jam after frying. To make these, roll the dough slightly thicker and just cut out circles. Done, no filling required. Cover the donuts with a cloth and let rest for 15 minutes.

Frying homemade donuts



Then to fry them, put quite a lot of oil into a pot or a frying pan. There should be enough oil so the donuts float. Keep the oil temperature low. Fry them from both sides until they start turning pink/light brown. I used two butter knives to flip them over.

Carefully spoon them out with a spatula onto a plate covered with paper towels to soak up the oil. Then top with powdered sugar by shaking a strainer over them.



Then top some with raspberry jam (malinový lekvár) or with your strawberry foam frosting (jahodová pena). Enjoy! These were really delicious, and not too over-sweet as so many other deserts out here.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

M	A	Y	A		T	R	I	P	S		I	D	L	E
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B	E	S	T	S	E	L	L	E	R		B	E	A	K
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T	E	N	S			S	H	O	P	S		D	E	B

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Independence, OH 44131-2398**



Luba Mason Greguš na medzinárodnom festivale v Havane, Kuba

Festival sa konal v dňoch 3. - 5. novembra 2011 v Gran Teatro Havana Garcia Lorca Hall. Na festivale malo zastúpenie 40 štátov. Ameriku reprezentovali 2 umelkyne a dvaja umelci z muzikálov z Broadway, N.Y. Jednou z nich bola Luba Mason Greguš, známa slovenskej verejnosti z výstupov na slovenských programoch a muzikáloch na Broadway.

Americkí reprezentanti predstavili kubánskemu obecnstvu vynikajúci umelecký program. Program trval dve hodiny. V preplnenej divadelnej miestnosti program uviedol Robert E. Nederlander, zakladateľ a prezident Nederlander worldwide entertainment, jedna z najdôležitejších produkčných spoločností na Broadway theater circuit. V jeho úvodnej reči povedal, že toto je pre neho ako aj pre americkú prezentáciu česť vystúpiť v takej krásnej divadelnej miestnosti a mať možnosť predstaviť muzikálnu produkciu z Broadway. Mimo toho je to aj privilegium byť účastným na tejto kultúrnej výmene s Kubou.

Program začala Luba Mason piesňou „All that jazz“ z muzikálu CHICAGO. Nasledovali ďalšie piesne z West Side Story, Hello Dolly, Phantom of the Opera, Jekyll and Hyde a iné. Celý program doprevádzalo 15 hudobníkov z Havana's Gran Teatro Orchestra. Ako finále, štyria „Ambasadori“ muzikálnej produkcie z Broadway spoločne zaspievali dve najznámejšie piesne vo svete: „Aquarius“ a „Let The Sun Shine In“. Obecnstvo odmenilo účinkujúcich dlhotrvajúcim potleskom a ováciami. Ani recenzia nešetřila chválou: „vynikajúci umelecký program, „fantastický, magic večer“ a iné prejavy uznania a obdivu.

Predstavenie si prišla pozrieť dvakrát dcéra vládaru Castru. Americká delegácia bola pekne prijatá, ľudia milí a privetiví.

V polovici októbra 2011 Luba Mason účinkovala na programe „Broadway Ball“, Tampa Bay, Florida. V programovej brožúrke sme si prečítali tento zaujímavý posudok: „A powerfully emotional song interpreter“ (All Music Guide). Mason is blessed with „A celestial voice“ (Los Angeles Times) and genuine incandescence that draws unsolicited attraction when she enters a room. It is not simply the tall blonde's Slovak beauty, but her electrifying musical blending of Latin and Jazz rhythms mixed with the raw emotionality of Folk and Pop. Mimo toho v brožúrke je opis Luby Mason's kariéry, účinkovanie na Broadway, medzinárodné hudobné festivaly, (Costa Rica, Panama), filmy, večerné programy a ďalšie iné.

Gratulujeme Lubke Mason k jej úspechom a želáme jej mnoho ďalších do budúcnosti.



Luba Mason Greguš



Príhovor kardinála Tomka na prahu nového roku

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Predseda Rady kardinál Stanislav Rylko poukázal na úlohu veriacich laikov svedčiť o Bohu aj vo verejnom živote ako službu dnešnému človeku. Medzi iným povedal: „Križa Boha“, ktorá sa rozšírila v post-modernej kultúre, spôsobuje hlbokú „križu človeka“, pretože vzťah človeka k Bohu je základný pre jeho vzťah k sebe samému a k svetu. Keď človek vylúči Boha zo svojho života, ostane tajomstvom pre seba samého“. Benedikt XVI. využíva každú vhodnú príležitosť, aby zdôraznil, že človek potrebuje Boha pre svoje vlastné dobro, aby si získal osobnú istotu, vnútornú rovnováhu i pokoj a našiel zmysel vlastného života, sveta a vesmíru, o ktorom hovoril Habermas. Otázka o Bohu je teda otázka o človeku a o jeho šťastí, skrátka: otázka o zmysle. Preto je Boh centrálna otázka pre jedinca i pre spoločnosť. Preto je náboženstvo a viera dôležité aj pre verejný život a všade, kde žije človek. Benedikt XVI. to znovu vyzdvihol, keď už dopredu vyhlásil „Rok viery“, ktorý sa začne 11. októbra 2012, na päťdesiate výročie otvorenia Druhého vatikánskeho koncilu. Aj vatikánsky denník L'Osservatore Romano uverejnil dňa 1. decembra zaujímavý štúdiu o návrate náboženstva na verejnú scénu, ktorý badať najmä v mimoeurópskych krajinách; článok nesie pozoruhodný nadpis: „Prebudenie sa Boha a prebudenie sa človeka“. Ľudia začínajú chápať, že ani technika, ani veda, ani politika im nemôže dodať osobnú mravnosť, ani nahradiť hlas svedomia, ani odpovedať na najdôležitejšie otázky o zmysle života a sveta.

Benedikt XVI. stále zdôrazňuje aj druhú dôležitú pravdu, a to že veda a technika nemôžu nahradiť vieru. Viera a veda sa dopĺňajú, nie vylučujú. Veda nás môže priviesť k poznaniu mnohých vecí, ale nakoniec sa zastaví pri určitej hranici, za ktorú už nesiahá. Aj ľudská skúsenosť nás privádza až k hranici života, ku skúsenosti hrobu, smrti, konca. Viera však nám dopĺňa tieto poznatky, vedie nás za tieto hranice, rozširuje horizonty nášho poznania a obohacuje nás ako jedincov i ako spoločnosť, ako ľudskú rodinu. Ozajstná veda a ozajstná viera si teda neprotirečia.

Vieru však treba prijať ako veľký dar a pestovať ju ako kultúru ducha. Benedikt XVI. vyzdvihol poslanie osobnej modlitby ako základného prostriedku, ktorým sa môžeme dať do styku s Bohom, ktorý je čistý duch, nesmierny a pritom natoľko blízky. Osobnosť Ježiša Krista, v ktorom sa Boh stal človekom, nám Boha nesmierne priblížila a aj teraz približuje. Dnešný pápež poukázal na túto cestu v trojväzbovom diele „Ježiš z Nazaretu“, ktorý má trvalý úspech a už prináša ovocie, ako o tom svedčí vedecký záujem, keď knihu znovu predstavujú profesori na mnohých talianskych štátnych univerzitách. Sám autor sa predstavil s dvoma menami: ako Joseph Ratzinger ale zároveň aj ako Benedikt XVI, teda ako pápež-teológ a dokazuje, že Ježiš z Nazaretu, ako ho opisujú evanjeliá, je skutočný, naozaj historický Ježiš. Kresťanstvo sa teda opiera o historickú pravdu a o skutočnú osobu Ježiša. Moderný človek môže teda spokojne a celkom rozumne budovať svoju vieru na evanjeliách. Tie sú historicky pravdivé aj vtedy, keď prinášajú správy o mimoriadnych udalostiach v živote Ježiša z Nazaretu, akou je predovšetkým jeho zmŕtvychvstanie. Taký Ježiš je aj pre náročný rozum naozaj „cesta, pravda a život“, jemu sa dá veriť.

Benedikt XVI. každý deň ohlasuje Boha, ako nám ho ohlasoval Ježiš z Nazaretu, ktorý nám ešte dnes hovorí prostredníctvom kresťanov. Ich poveril, aby hlásali evanjelium. Všetci vidíme, že najmä veľké európske mestá i celé kraje zabúdajú na Boha a potrebujú „novú evanjelizáciu“. Keď pápež nedávno ustanovil v Ríme centrálny úrad na vzpruženie hlásania evanjelia, to nebolo prázdne gesto. Ako on sám napísal: „V tejto chvíli našej histórie potrebujeme predovšetkým ľudí, ktorí svojou osvietenou a žitou vierou ukazujú, že Boh je hodný dôvery v tomto svete“ („L'Europa di Benedetto nella crisi delle culture“, Cantagalli 2005, 63).

(TK KBS, RV; ml)

ZIMA

V januári, vo februári, zima veľká je,
viator fučí, vtáčik mlčí, dedinu, chotár snehom pokryje.
Na ulici, živej duše niet, všetko sedí doma, pri krbe.
Spev a vrava utíchla, zavládlo akési ticho, ako na pohrebe.

Aj verný pes Dunčo, z budy von nevykukne,
babke, aby nebolo zima, pridala si, dve sukne.
Starý dedko, ten u šporáku, si našiel miesto,
tam teplúčko je, iba, že mu fajka zhasla,
keď zadriemal, babka ho tam spiaceho našla.

Všade ticho je, iba vrana zakvákala kdesi na plote,
akoby sa pýtala gazdinky, čo nového je po sobote.
Aj sova, zahúkala kdesi pri stodole, to zlá správa je,
ktosi ťažko chorý je, snáď, ani do rána nedožije.
Ach, tie babky, čo driapali po večerach perie,
spievali pesničky o láske nevernej, o ktorej nik nevie.

Decká, a vám nie je zima? Nos a líčka sú červené,
choďte rýchlo dnu, pre vás je čaj a mliečko, pripravené.
A ten starý, čierny kocúr, veľmi rozumné zviera je,
ten vie, že len pri teplej pecku, za vždy dobre zohreje.
Aj tá, stará petrolejová lampa, akosi čudne čmudí,
do maštale, by mala ísť svietiť, jej svetlo je, nie pre ľudí.
Ach Bože, koľko že tých sťažností, na tomto svete máme?
Radšej za všetko Pánu Bohu modlitbou, „Vďaku vzdajme“.

Jozef Smák

Podujatia v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Pokračovanie zo str. 22

Druhým veľmi úspešným podujatím bolo usporiadanie tradičnej Štedrovečernej večere – Vigílie v nedeľu dňa 11. decembra 2011 v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Na tento sviatočný deň, keď celé Kresťanstvo oslavuje pamiatku narodenia Ježiša Krista, sme si všetci spolu zasadli k Štedrovečernému stolu, aby sme podľa starej obyčaje konzumovali slávnostné jedlá, ktorých bolo neúrekom. Ako to býva zvykom v slovenských domácnostiach, zaspievali sme si niekoľko slovenských kolied, ktoré sme zakončili piesňou: „Tichá noc, svätá noc ...“

Zúčastnení odchádzali z tejto slávnostnej večere povzbudení na tele i duši, aby svetlo Pánovo niesli do svojich domácností a tiež tým, ktorí sú ďaleko za morom.

Henrieta H. Daitová
tajomníčka spolkov



Záber na plnú sálu farníkov a hostí.



Na snímke príprava chutných jedál zľava: hlavný kuchár Štedrovečernej večere – Lacko Korček so svojimi pomocníkmi.



Štedrá večera – Vigília začala predriekaním modlitby otca Štefana Chanása na snímke v prostriedku; zľava: Henrieta H. Daitová, Jozef Bilik – predseda Farskej rady; Mária – organistka; Rado Lesay – spevák a Milan R. Dait.

Oznámenia Spolkov a okresov

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City
Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu 29. januára, 2012 o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová – pokladníčka

Fašiangová zábava Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v NYC

Srdečne Vás pozývame na Fašiangovú tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v nedeľu dňa 19. februára 2012 po svätej omši o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je \$25.00. V cene vstupenky je započítané hlavné jedlo, káva a koláč. V priebehu zábavy bude losovaná tombola a predstavia sa aj deti zo slovenskej školy. Zabávať vás bude skupina Kontakty. Tešíme sa na vašu účasť.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Kultúrne a spoločenské podujatia

Tradičný Slovenský ples v NYC bude 4. februára

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku (SAKS) pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na tradičný reprezentačný Slovenský ples, ktorý sa bude konať v sobotu 4. februára 2012 v priestoroch prestížnej New-yorskej spoločenskej inštitúcie The New York Athletic Club na adrese 180 Central Park South.

Na tomto plese bude poctený Dr. Zoltán Meško, ktorý pred 15 rokmi zorganizoval v spolupráci so SAKS-om akciu Srdce k srdcu (Heart to Heart), v rámci ktorej bolo založené Detské kardiocentrum v Bratislave a viacerí slovenskí lekári dostali možnosť študovať v Londýne a USA na zdokonalenie ich odbornosti.

Ples sa začne recepciou o 6. hodine a bude pokračovať večerou o 7. hodine. Tanečná hudba bude hrať od 7. hodiny. Na programe je aj krátky zábavný a spoločenský program a bohatá tombola, v ktorej bude možné vyhrať (na vstupenku) letenky na Slovensko a iné hodnotné ceny.

Pozvánky na ples alebo ďalšie informácie si možno vyžiadať od Zuzky Krčmár – tel. číslo: (973) 357-1209. Do videnia na 20. výročnom Slovenskom plese v New Yorku.

Výbor SAKS-u

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

20. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 18. februára 2012 v Knights of Columbus Hall 3200 S. 103rd Street v Greenfield, WI. Zábava bude od 6:00 do 11:00 hodiny večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstavia slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 hodiny večer. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Vstupné je \$ 5. 00 za osobu. Na toto podujatie zároveň srdečne pozývame aj členov Knights of SS. Mary & Joseph Society, Spolok č. 89 IKSJ v Milwaukee, WI.

Bližšie informácie: Betty Valent, tel. č. (414) - 425- 6137 alebo Emily Kosso, tel. č. (414) 464 - 1063.



Na internete je možné nájsť meditácie Ľubomíra Stančeka

Šíriť Božie slovo písmom i slovom medzi širokou verejnosťou prostredníctvom internetu je hlavnou myšlienkou projektu, ktorá sa zrodila u kňaza Ľubomíra Stančeka. Na internetovej stránke www.evanjelizacia.eu ponúka každý deň meditáciu v textovej, audio- a video- podobe. Všetci záujemcovia, ktorí chcú meditáciu denne odoberať, môžu zaslať svoju e-mailovú adresu, na ktorú im text i odkaz na nahrávku zamyslenia, bude denne zasielaný. Duchovné meditácie sú posielané všetkým zadarmo.

TK KBS informovala Júlia Kubicová



Novoročný príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča v Bratislave 1. januára 2012

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

k dobrej vôli, dodržia slovo i medzinárodné záväzky. To platí tak pre medzinárodnú politiku, ako aj pre naše domáce, slovenské pomery,” konštatoval prezident.

Gašparovič však považuje za správne, že sa Európska únia nevybrala cestou zvyšovania hranice štátneho dlhu. “Oceňujem aj našu Národnú radu, že takmer jednomyselne určila hranicu štátnych dlžôb. Vidím to tak, že dobré vzťahy sa do EÚ môžu vrátiť len cez zvyšovanie zodpovednosti za príjmy, ale najmä výdavky každého jej štátu,” poznamenal v príhovore. Prezident je presvedčený, že len tak môžeme podporiť hospodársky a kultúrny rast a dať prácu ľuďom, ktorí na ňu čakajú. “Samozrejme, musíme si aj my sami, tu doma, prezieravo určiť, čo potrebujeme urobiť už dnes a čo nám to prinesie v budúcnosti. Nečakajme, kde nám kto a kedy ponúkne prácu, či nám ju dokonca prinesie až domov. Nesmieme zostať večnými nádejníkmi ani večnými začiatovníkmi,” dodal.

Občanov zároveň vyzval, aby napriek zložitosti doby nepodliehali trudnomyselnosti a rezignácii. “Doterajších 19 rokov samostatného Slovenska i mnohé zvládnuté ťažké skúšky v predchádzajúcich storočiach nám potvrdzujú, že dokážeme viesť správu svojich vecí verejných a že sa vieme poučiť zo svojich chýb. Verte, že aj terajšia kríza je len ďalšou z takýchto skúšok, ktoré našou húževnatosťou a vytrvalosťou zvládneme,” avizoval s dôvetkom, že máme krásnu krajinu, v ktorej sa oplatí žiť a ktorá si zaslúži našu najvyššiu ochranu a starostlivosť.

TASR

Nekrológ

Dr. Frank (František) John Lysy

Diplomat, politik a redaktor a významný Slovák zomrel 7. novembra 2011 v Delaplane, Virginia.

Pochádzal zo spišských lazov, kopcov a zelených dolín, narodený 5. februára 1916 počas I. svetovej vojny, za Rakúsko-Uhorska v mestečku Spišské Vlachy, ktoré sa vtedy úradne volali „Szepesolaszi“. Rodina mala sedem detí a „Ferdo“ bol z nich najnadanejší a tak po ľudovej a strednej škole študoval na slovenskej univerzite v Bratislave v rokoch 1938-1943 slavistiku a filozofiu. Následne študoval filológiu na Univerzite v Padove (Taliansko), ukončenú doktorátom.

Svoju verejnú dráhu začal ako učiteľ slovenských detí Podkriváni v malej ľudovej škole, ktorá mala iba jedinú triedu. Čoskoro sa prepracoval na profesora na strednej škole v Bratislave a po II. svetovej vojne v roku 1945 stal sa členom ministerstva zahraničných vecí ČSR a pôsobil ako attache na Československej legácii v Berne (Švajčiarsko). Od roku 1947 stal sa diplomatom a tajomníkom na veľvyslanectve ČSR v Oslo (Nórsko) z ktorého postu rezignoval v roku 1949 po Februárovom puči komunistov v roku 1948. V roku 1950 emigroval do USA spolu s manželkou Editou L. rodenou Andrejčakovou a synom Dušanom, kde začal pracovať ako redaktor v rádiu Slobodná Európa vo Washingtone. V roku 1953 bol zamestnaný ako analytik a výskumník v Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) a v roku 1956 prevzal redakciu ako vedenie slovenského vysielania v Československej agentii Hlas Ameriky, kde pracoval ako redaktor, editor a publicista.

Rodina Lysych vychovala štyroch synov, dnes všetkých vo vedúcich akademických funkciách.

Jeho manželka Edita žiaľ predčasne zomrela v roku 2009, čo „Ferdo“ ťažko znášal. Jeho zdravotný stav sa zhoršil po operácii výmene aortalnej chlopne a aortalnej aneurizmi, keď podľahol následnej slabosti srdca a zlyhaniu obličiek.

Drahý „Ferdo“: vzácný priateľ, roduverný Slovák a humanista, budeš nám veľmi chýbať, ale ostaneš navždy v našej svetlej pamäti.

Nech Ti je slobodná zem Ameriky ľahká a vďačná za všetky Tvoje obete a služby.
God Bless Amerika.

**Zoltán George Meško, M.D.
SvA**

Podujatia v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

Podujatia sa konali v spolupráci Farskej rady pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ a Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola.

Mikulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou pre deti našej Slovenskej farnosti sa konalo v nedeľu odpoľudnia dňa 4. decembra 2011 v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Tohoto tradične úspešného podujatia sa zúčastnilo približne 100 väčších a menších detí s rodičmi a starými rodičmi. Na úvod odpoľudnia tajomníčka Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Henrieta H. Daitová povedala v krátkosti o histórii pôsobenia Sv. Mikuláša. Za tým sa deťom rozdávali mikulášske balíčky a deti prítomných potešili svojimi príspevkami či básničkou, alebo spevom. Vďaka patrí pánu fararovi Martinovi Svitanovi za občerstvenie a sladkosti, ktoré deti dostali ako aj Slovenskému katolíckemu Sokolovi za balíčky s ovocím, čokoládou a pečivom.

Na záver podujatia deti Sv. Mikulášovi, ako vďaka za darčeky, zaspievali nasledovnú peknú mikulášsku pieseň:

Mikulášku, dobrý strýčku, modlím sa Ti modlitbičku, daj nám z darov Tvojich trošku, či koláčka makového, či konička mädového ...

Pokračovanie na str. 21



Pri rozdávaní darčiekov zľava: Henrieta H. Daitová, Lacko Korček a jeho syn predstavujúci Sv. Mikuláša.



Zoskupené deti spolu so Sv. Mikulášom a usporiadateľmi podujatia.

Krátké správy zo Slovenska

• **Slovenskej** agentúre pre rozvoj investícií a obchodu (SARIO) sa podarilo v tomto roku dotiahnuť 26 investorov. Tí sa postarajú o viac ako 4, 300 nových pracovných miest, pričom na Slovensku preinvestujú takmer 520 miliónov eur. „Ide o najväčší prílev za ostatné tri roky“, povedal šéf agentúry Róbert Šimončíč. V porovnaní s vlašajškom k nám prišlo iba šesť investorov navyše, avšak vytvoria skoro dvojnásobne viac miest. Najvýznamnejším investorom je švédsky Dometic.

• **Výsledky** sčítania obyvateľov, ktoré Štatistický úrad pôvodne ohlasoval na začiatok decembra 2011, budú čoskoro známe. Spracovanie totiž sťažujú problémy, s ktorými štatistici nepočítali. Kampaň proti sčítaniu spôsobila, že ho mnohí ľudia bojkotovali - odmietli sa zúčastniť, podvádzali pri lepení identifikátorov či pri uvádzaní osobných údajov. Sociológovia napriek tomu sčítanie nespochybňujú. Pripomínajú, že je veľmi dôležité, lebo sa nedá nahradiť iným spôsobom zbierania dát. Definitívne výsledky májového sčítania bude úrad zverejňovať priebežne v tomto roku. Všetky by mali byť známe najneskôr do marca 2014.

• **Rekonštrukcia** Zimného štadióna Ondreja Nepelu stála takmer dvakrát toľko, ako pôvodne mala. S peniazmi sa narábalo neohospodárne. To sú závery kontrolórov, ktoré 16. decembra zverejnil Najvyšší kontrolný úrad (NKÚ). Kontrolu vyslali na magistrát Bratislavy v júli poslanci NR SR. Kontrolóri odhalili, že projektant i stavebník boli vybratí v rozpore so zákonom o verejnom obstarávaní. Magistrát a jeho organizácia Generálny investor Bratislavy s peniazmi daňových poplatníkov šafáril a vo viacerých prípadoch ich minuli otáznym spôsobom. Úrad na základe svojich zistení však neudelil žiadne sankcie. Primátor Bratislavy Milan Ftáčnik by však mal napríklad „zabezpečiť“ od príslušných organizácií vymorenie všetkých neohospodárnych výdavkov použitých na stavbu.“

• **Rómska** hudobná skupina z Kokavy nad Rimavicou Sendreiovcí, dostala angažmán, o akom snívajú mnohé skupiny. Ich piesne odzneli vo filme Sherlock Holmes 2: Hra tieňov. Členovia skupiny sa zúčastnili aj filmovej premiéry v Londýne. Líder skupiny Vladimír Sendrei povedal: „Prešli sme sa po koberci ako prví, našou hudbou sme premiéru otvárali. Moderátorka nás predstavila, že sme Sendreiovcí zo Slovenska, ľudia si nás fotili a tleskali nám. Pocity boli krásne, lebo dovtedy sme to videli len v televízii“.

• **Úroveň** cestovného ruchu sa na Slovensku zlepšuje, obsluhujúci Slováci však stále nevedia byť takí milí a priateľskí ako ich kolegovia zo zahraničia. Tvrdí to generálny riaditeľ Slovenskej agentúry pre cestovný ruch (SACR) Peter Belinský. Zahraniční novinári a touroperátori, s ktorými Belinský prichádza do kontaktu, si pochvaľujú najmä zlepšujúcu sa infraštruktúru vybavenosť niektorých regiónov. Počet zahraničných návštevníkov v slovenských ubytovacích zariadeniach v prvých troch kvartáloch tohto roka stúpol oproti rovnakému obdobiu minulého roka o desať percent. Najviac turistov na Slovensko chodí z Česka, Poľska, Maďarska, Nemecka, Rakúska, Ukrajiny a Ruska.

• **Pracujúci** na Slovensku sa nemusia mať vždy lepšie, ako nepracujúci. Systém sociálnych dávok je totiž nastavený tak, že niekedy sa skôr oplatí byť bez práce, aby človek neprišiel o peniaze od štátu. V praxi sa o tom presvedčili i v Krompachoch, kde chceli zamestnať ľudí na aktívnych prácach na protipovodňových opatreniach. Nezamestnaní ponuku mesta odmietli s tým, že ak by sa zamestnali, schudobneli by.

• **Predajom** primátorského punču získalo mesto 13, 100 eur. V čase od 5. do 23. decembra sa predalo 1, 891 litrov primátorského punču. Primátor Košíc Richard Raši bol vďačný všetkým Košičanom, ktorí prispeli na dobrú vec. Výťažok z predaja bude rozdelený medzi tri organizácie v poslednú januárovú nedeľu na benefičnom koncerte. Peniaze získa nezisková organizácia Svetielko pomoci na prepravnú službu pre deti s onkologickým ochorením, ako aj príspevková organizácia Cesta nádeje, ktorá zabezpečuje opatrovateľskú službu pre seniorov a občanov s ťažkým zdravotným postihnutím. Tretiu časť zbierky dostane Klub cystickej fibrózy na špeciálne poradenstvo pre rodičov s deťmi, ktoré trpia na toto ochorenie.

• **Podľa** predbežných odhadov by malo počas tohtoročnej zimnej sezóny dovolenkovat' v slovenských horách približne 10,000 rusky hovoriacich turistov. Podľa slov riaditeľky popradského letiska Ivany Herkeľovej by malo priletieť počas zimnej sezóny do Popradu približne 20 charterových letov, 13 z Ruska a sedem z Ukrajiny. Podľa jej slov na Slovensko v tomto roku priletia mohutnejšie typy lietadiel, ktoré môžu previezť väčšie množstvo dovolenkárov.

• **Príslušníci** Ozbromených síl (OS) SR pôsobiaci v mierovej misii OSN UNFICYP na Cypre prežívali tohtoročné vianočné sviatky v duchu slovenských zvyklostí a tradícií. Mužom a ženám v uniformách nasadeným v zahraničných vojenských misiách k zvládaniu chvíľ odlúčenia s trpezlivosťou a duševnou silou pomáhala aj duchovná služba prostredníctvom prítomného vojenského kaplána Ivana Bojčuka. Vianočné sviatky v operáciách boli totiž bežnými dňami, ktoré sa ničím neodlišujú od ostatných dní. Nezabudnuteľnú atmosféru im v tomto roku priniesla možnosť stráviť vianočnú bohoslužbu v chráme svätého Kolumba na veliteľstve misie v Nikózii. Slovenský kontingent na Cypre má za úlohu zabrániť obnoveniu bojov medzi cyperskými Grékmi a Turkami, zabezpečiť dodržiavanie prímeria medzi znepriatelenými stranami a prispieť k obnove a udržaniu práva a poriadku na ostrove. V súčasnosti na rozdelenom ostrove v Stredozemnom mori pôsobí 159 slovenských vojakov.

• **Nová** eurominca smeruje do peňaženiek Slovákov. Národná banka Slovenska nedávno emitovala do obehu pamätnú 2-eurovú mincu pri príležitosti 10. výročia uvedenia eurových mincí a bankoviek do obehu. Prvého januára 2002 prišlo k najväčšej výmene platidiel v dejinách ľudstva. Obyvatelia Belgicka, Nemecka, Írska, Grécka, Španielska, Francúzska, Talianska, Luxemburska, Holandska, Rakúska, Portugalska a Fínska si museli svoje franky, marky, libry, drachmy, pesety, líry, guldeny, šilingy a escuda zameniť za úplne novú, jednotnú menu euro. K týmto 12 krajinám eurozóny sa v roku 2007 pridalo Slovensko, v roku 2008 Malta a Cyprus, v roku 2009 Slovensko a zatiaľ poslednou krajinou, ktorá prijala euro za svoju menu, bolo v roku 2011 Estónsko. Pri súčasných problémoch, ktoré eurozóna má, nie je veľa dôvodov na oslavu. Napriek tomu sa 17 krajín eurozóny rozhodlo pripomenúť si toto jubileum spoločnou pamätnou 2-eurovou mincou, ktorá bude mať vo všetkých krajinách rovnakú rubovú stranu, líšiacu sa len názvom príslušného štátu.

• **Bratislava** Oceliarska spoločnosť U.S. Steel Košice hrozí Slovensku súdnou žalobou. Dôvodom je zavedenie takzvanej emisnej dane, voči ktorej majú Američania výhrady. Štátu už preto zaslali list, v ktorom mu oznamujú začatie sporu. Súčasťou predmetného listu majú byť aj požiadavky spoločnosti. V nich okrem iného žiada daň zrušiť. Ak sa tak nestane, Slovensko zažaluje.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Farnosť Ľubica, kde je jeden z najkrajších neskorogotických oltárov Majstra Pavla z Levoče, ukončila na slávnosť Nepoškvrneného Počatia Panny Márie farský mariánsky rok korunováciou Madony z tohto hlavného oltára.



FOTO : Miroslav Kruk

Bishop Emeritus František Tondra celebrated a special Mass recently marking the conclusion of the Marian Year and the 500th anniversary of the statue of Our Lady with Child at the historic church in Ľubica. This statue is one of the most beautiful works of Meister Paul of Levoča dating from the early sixteenth century.

Korunovali Madonu od Majstra Pavla z Levoče

Pri príležitosti ukončenia mariánskeho roka na počesť 500-ročnice sochy Panny Márie s Dieťaťom, ktorá dominuje hlavnému oltáru, slávnostnú svätú omšu celebroidal a Madonu korunoval emeritný biskup Mons. František Tondra. Farnosť, kde kostol zasvätený tajomstvu nanebovzatia Panny Márie vznikol už v 13. storočí, žila vyše roka mottom ... aby všetci zakúsili, že si Matkou všetkých. Už rok predtým pritom po domácnostiach farnosti putoval obraz s majstrovsky stvárnenou Madonou, aby sa vo farnosti prehlbila úcta a dôvera ku Kristovej i našej Matke. Mons. F. Tondra v homílii osobitne poukázal na veľkosť Božieho diela v Márii, ktoré sa uskutočnilo pre spásu každého z nás. Miestni veriaci všetkým želajú a vyprosujú, aby zakúsili, že Mária je Matkou všetkých. V novembri 2010 vyšlo vyobrazenie Ľubickej Madony aj na poštovej známke.

KN 50/2011



Druhé vydanie vzácnej publikácie „Klenoty knižnej kultúry“

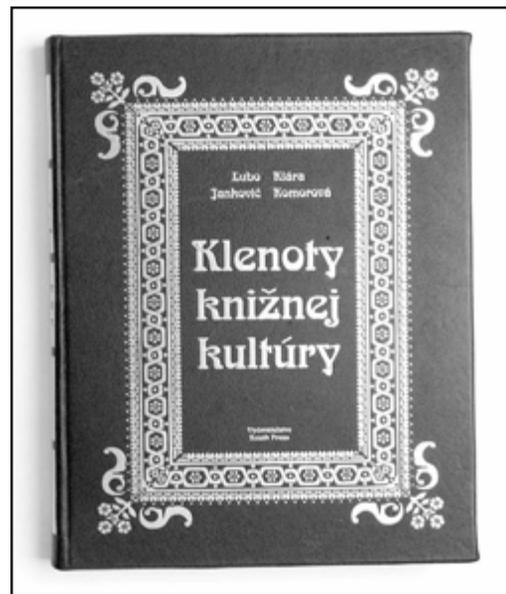
Dovoľujem si Vám predstaviť výnimočnú publikáciu s názvom - „Klenoty knižnej kultúry“ a dokumentárneho dedičstva zachované vo fondoch a zbierkach Slovenskej národnej knižnice / Treasures of the Book Culture and Archival Documentary Heritage from the Collections of the Slovak National Library in Martin“. Ide o doposiaľ knižne nepublikované rukopisné, tlačené a grafické klenoty z depozitov Slovenskej Národnej Knižnice.

V publikácii sú zahrnuté: – Stredoveké kódexy a ich fragmenty, literárne a hudobné rukopisy – Prvotlače 15. storočia slovenskej aj celoeurópskej proveniencie – Tlače 16. storočia celoeurópskej proveniencie – Staré a vzácne tlače 17. až 19. storočia, ex librisy, mapy, rarity a unikátne atlasy, grafické obrazy, umelecké knižné väzby. Textovou súčasťou reprezentatívnej publikácie je odborný výklad k uvedeným dokumentom. Technická špecifikácia knihy: formát: 27 cm x 34 cm, papier 170 g NPL, počet farieb 4 + 4, obálka – časť nákladu je zrealizovaná v pravej koži so zlatou ražbou a časť z materiálu „Nebraska“ (veľmi dobrá imitácia kože), vnútro rozsah 416 strán, slovenská, anglická a nemecká mutácia textov. Balenie publikácií jednotlivito vo fólii. Tlač knihy je na špičkovej polygrafickej úrovni a chce byť „výkladnou skriňou“ zbierok SNK v Martine a slovenskej kultúry. Publikácia je určená na reprezentačné účely či už samotnej Slovenskej národnej knižnice vo svete, alebo Slovenska ako takého.

Publikácia bola opäť vydaná iba v limitovanej sérii 450 ks. Nakoľko sa jedná iba o limitovanú sériu, kniha nie je distribuovaná prostredníctvom veľkých knižných distribúcií, ale iba cez vydavateľstvo Kozák – press. Publikácia je určená vyložené ako VIP prezent ! Nie je to však kniha pre každého, ale iba pre tých, ktorí to vedia oceniť ! Autormi publikácie sú: PhDr. Ľubomír Jankovič, PhD. a PhDr. Klára Komorová, PhD.; Úvod: Profesor Dušan Katusčák, PhD. – Generálny riaditeľ Slovenskej národnej knižnice; Anglické texty lektorovala: Miss Hannah Cherry Collins, School of Modern Languages; Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies The University of Nottingham, U.K.

Prvé vydanie publikácie sa vypredalo od polovice mesiaca december 2010 do februára 2011. Dnes už máme vytlačené druhé vydanie publikácie a už sme dostali aj cenu za knihu od Slovenskej akadémie vied v Bratislave. Cena publikácie: Obálka prevedenie v pravej koži- 108,-€; Obálka prevedenie „Nebraska“ -88,-€; Ceny sú bez poštovného!

Kontakt: Vydavateľstvo Kozák-press, Viliama Žingora 19, 036 01 Martin, Slovensko; mail: kozakpress@kozakpress.eu, mobil: 0903 500 897





Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Ročník 121

STREDA, 18. JANUÁRA 2012

Číslo 5856

Prezidentský pár prijal koledníkov Dobrej noviny



Foto: TK KBS/ Peter Zímen

Prezidentskému páru, 4. januára 2012 prišli zavinšovať koledníci Dobrej noviny z Považian, Dolnej Ždane a Liptovských Sliachov. Ivan Gašparovič s manželkou Silviou ich prijali na tradičnom novoročnom stretnutí v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave. Deti a mladí páru zahrli a zaspievali vinše zo svojich regiónov, vianočné piesne a nechýbala ani betlehemska hra. Prezident im poďakoval za vystúpenie a do pokladničky prispel finančným darom.

On January 4, 2012, the Good News Carolers performed at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava. They gave wishes from the various regions of Slovakia, sang Christmas songs and performed the traditional Bethlehem play. President Ivan Gasparovic thanked them for their performance.



Novoročný príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča v Bratislave 1. januára 2012

Čaká nás neľahké obdobie, no napriek všetkým zlým správam o budúcnosti je zvládnuteľné. Podmienkou však je, aby politici všetko neváľali len na bedrá občanov, tí sa nemôžu donekonečna hrbiť a uťahovať si opasok. Vo svojom novoročnom príhovore to zdôraznil prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič.

„A nemôžeme od občana žiadať ani to, aby nebránil svoje sociálne a právne istoty, ktorých má, žiaľ, čoraz menej a ktoré sú čoraz ťažšie dosiahnuteľné. Nepochybujem, že sa viacerí aj v tejto chvíli pýtate, ako je to možné, že to došlo až tak ďaleko. Odpoveď, podľa môjho názoru, treba hľadať v počínaní tých politikov, ktorí sa až priveľmi vzdialili od občana, od jeho základných ľudských potrieb,“ tvrdí hlava štátu. Podľa jeho slov namiesto toho, aby sa politici s občanom zhovárali o jeho problémoch, sú hašteriví, urážajú sa navzájom, v čom im často pomáhajú niektoré médiá.

Hlava štátu podľa svojich slov rozumie, že značná časť občanov prestáva dôverovať politikom i politickému systému a myslí si, že nejdeme správnym smerom. „Skúsení pozorovatelia hovoria, že nedôvera vzrástla preto, lebo taká nezhoda medzi politickými silami v jednotlivých európskych krajinách i v EÚ ako celku tu ešte nebola,“ poznamenal. Prezident je preto presvedčený, že politici sa musia starať o úspech spoločnosti, nie o to, či sú ich názory politicky správne. „Život dnes vyžaduje úzke stranické záujmy nahrádzať národno-štátnymi i vyššími, v našom prípade záujmami EÚ. Vieme, že cestu k takýmto kompromisom môžu nájsť len tí, ktorí sa zbavia hašterenia a zámerných priekov, vrátia sa



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Ivan Gašparovič Prezident SR

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Príhovor kardinála Tomka na prahu nového roku

Základné problémy ľudstva dnes

Bratislava, 2. januára 2012 - Slovenská redakcia Vatikánskeho rozhlasu priniesla príhovor slovenského kardinála Jozefa Tomka s názvom Základné problémy ľudstva dnes. JEDNOTA prináša jeho text v plnom znení.

Na konci starého a na začiatku nového roka môže byť zaujímavé pozastaviť sa nad situáciou ľudstva a nad hlavnými otázkami, ktoré sú dôležité pre dnešného človeka. Na prvý pohľad sa môže zdať najväčšou starosťou ľudí svetová hospodárska kríza. Čiastočne je to pravda, ale kríza kladie ďalšie otázky o jej príčinách. Všade sa o nich debatuje, množia sa často protichodné mienky, hľadajú sa aj riešenia. Stále jasnejšie sa vynárajú hlbšie hodnoty, ktoré sú v hre: chápanie človeka, jeho činnosť a poslanie, otázka života, rodina, spoločnosť, štát, medzinárodné a nadštátne



Kardinál Jozef Tomko

útvary, hospodárstvo, politika, výchova, zdravie, kultúra, blahobyt, príroda. Znovu a znovu sa v úzadí ukáže aj náboženstvo ako dôležitý činiteľ, ktorý nemožno obísť. Po mnohých desaťročiach priameho popierania a prenasledovania viery vo viacerých krajinách sme boli v posledných dvoch-troch desaťročiach skôr svedkami premysleného vytlačenia náboženstva z verejného života a jeho zatlačovania do čisto súkromnej oblasti človeka za cieľom jeho praktického vylúčenia a zníženia jeho dôležitosti. Na miesto bojovného ateizmu nastúpil zdanlivo racionalistický agnosticizmus, čiže postoj človeka, ktorý jednoducho necháva stranou otázku o Bohu, o náboženstve a viere, ako keby sa ho tieto otázky vôbec netýkali. Je to akýsi obnovený stav, ktorý sme poznali pod menom „bez vyznání“. Na miesto ideologického materializmu moderný človek ľahko prijal praktický materializmus, ktorý priviedol mnohých k životu uprostred vyprázdnených hodnôt, ako keby Boha nebolo, „tamquam Deus non esset“.

Hlboký mysliteľ a teológ Joseph Ratzinger už dávnejšie pozoroval tento vývoj najmä v niektorých západných kultúrach. Keď sa po hlasoch o „smrti Boha“ začali stavať oltáre novo objavenému božstvu Rozumu – osvietenskej bohyni la Raison, profesor Ratzinger mal verejnú debatu s vedúcim nemeckým osvietencom Juergenom Habermasom, ktorému postavil otázku: „Má sa postupne vylúčenie a prekonanie náboženstva považovať za pokrok potrebný k tomu, aby sa ľudstvo dostalo na cestu slobody a všeobecnej tolerancie?“. Habermas priznal, že v dnešnom svete, kde je rozum stále viac podrobený nadvláde technickej vedy, náboženstvo ostáva veľkým rezervárom a zásobárňou zmyslu života, ktorý novodobý sekularizmus vysušil.

Dnes ten istý teológ, ktorý zasadol na pápežský stolec ako Benedikt XVI., neustále kladie otázku o Bohu a o jeho dôležitosti pre človeka ako jeden z najhlavnejších bodov svojho učiteľského úradu. Na plenárnom zasadnutí Pápežskej rady pre laikov v novembri 2011 sa prítomní členovia z rôznych strán sveta venovali práve „Otázke o Bohu dnes“.

Pokračovanie na str. 21

Volby 10. marca 2012 do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky

Slovenskí občania dlhodobo žijúci, pracujúci alebo študujúci v zahraničí môžu využiť svoje volebné právo a zúčastniť sa volieb do Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky, ktoré sa konajú **10. marca 2012**, môžu tak urobiť písomne, t. j. poštou.

Ak slovenský občan chce využiť toto svoje volebné právo a voliť zo zahraničia písomne, t. j. poštou, môže tak urobiť len ak sa zaregistruje najneskôr do **20. januára 2012**.

Občan môže svoju žiadosť naskenovať a poslať elektronickou poštou (e-mail) alebo faxom.

Viac informácií ako voliť zo zahraničia nájdete na vlákne:

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