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PRESIDENT'S EASTER MESSAGE 2012

"In your Easter bonnet with all the frills upon it", is a well known line from the song by Irving Berlin and performed by Judy Garland and Fred Astaire in the hit musical of 1948, "Easter Parade."

I'm sure most of you have heard it and many of you can sing the song. People of all ages have seen the picture with today's popularity of TMC (the Movie Channel).

Peter Lawford and Ann Miller were co-stars. Did you know that a much younger Gene Kelly was originally to be the male star, but broke his ankle just prior to filming. The much older Fred Astaire took his place.

The Easter Parade in the United States was most closely associated with the Easter Sunday event, officially unorganized, on Fifth Avenue in New York City. It started in the 1870's and was most popular in the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's. Originally, there was a recognized religious significance attached to the event which gradually became primarily secular. In fact, it was estimated that in 1947 the Easter Parade drew over one million participants and on-lookers in New York City. People would dress-up in their finery, particularly ladies in their hats, and stroll the closed Fifth Avenue. Today, the popularity is much diminished.



Andrew M. Rajec

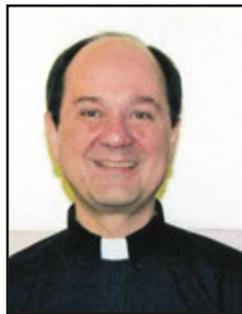
continued on page 3

Message from Our Chaplain Easter 2012

Dear Friends,

The Gospel that is read at this year's Easter Vigil comes from St. Mark, who tells of Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome going to the tomb of Jesus on the first day of the week, only to find the tomb empty. Instead, they meet a young man in a white robe who tells them that Jesus is risen from the dead. At that news, the three "fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

Being afraid is a characteristic in Mark of those who witnessed something extraordinary that Jesus did. The disciples were terrified when Jesus calmed the storm at sea and later when



Rev. Thomas Nasta

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Jesus and Mary Magdalene, Antonio da Correggio, circa 1534]

Easter 2012 - Allelujah, Allelujah!

The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all for a Blessed and Happy Easter



Rev. Thomas A. Nasta	Chaplain
Andrew M. Rajec.....	President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.....	Vice-President
Kenneth A. Arendt.....	Executive Secretary
George F. Matta	Treasurer

Easter Greetings from the Executive Secretary

As we enter this season of Easter, let us remember all our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us – his death, burial and resurrection in glory –and renew our faith in Him. On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families a Happy and Blessed Easter.



Kenneth Arendt

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

HOME OFFICE
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO
FRIDAY, MARCH 23 – SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on Friday, March 23, 2012 – Saturday, March 24, 2012.

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

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 16, 2012.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 16, 2012.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Insights and Viewpoints



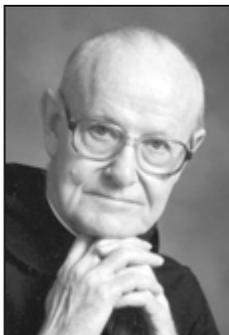
St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.S.B., Father Campion P. Gavaler O.S.B.

April 1, 2012
Passion Sunday

Mark 14:1-15:47

Gospel Summary

For us Christians, the story of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus represents the climax, not just of the earthly career of our Lord, but of all biblical revelation. The first part of this Passion story, without the Resurrection, is the gospel selection for this last



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

Sunday of Lent.

It is impossible to comment on all the elements of this lengthy and incredibly rich gospel passage, and so I have decided to offer some thoughts on a little "story-within-the-story," which is the anointing of Jesus by an unnamed woman at the very beginning of the narrative. At first glance, this episode appears to be completely irrelevant and we may be tempted to dismiss it until we read, at the end of the story, that it is indispensable to the Passion story itself: "...wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

This story is so important because it is related to the Passion of Jesus in the same way that a key signature is related to the music that follows. What this woman did, therefore, tells us how to read and understand the Passion of Jesus. Briefly stated, her seemingly extravagant anointing of Jesus represents, in microcosm, what Jesus himself is about to do for the whole world. Just as she breaks open the exquisite alabaster cruet and pours its precious and fragrant ointment on the head of Jesus in anticipation of his death and burial, so also Jesus will allow his body to be broken in death and will pour the precious ointment of his life-blood on all of us who are destined to die.

Her action is considered wasteful and foolish by the bystanders, so that Jesus must correct them as he praises this woman for her generosity. And, in like manner, what Jesus does may appear to be foolish and wasteful to an unbelieving and cynical world, but his Father will raise him from the dead and thereby confirm forever the wisdom of his generosity.

Life Implications

If we take this little story of the anointing of Jesus seriously, we will learn that the passion story is not primarily about how much Jesus suffered, but rather about how much he loved. He did suffer, of course, and his suffering was intense. But suffering as such is not necessarily redemptive. What makes the pain and suffering of Jesus the source of salvation for us is the fact that it resulted from his extraordinary loving. We all know that suffering can come from other sources than loving, such as, not getting our own way or being wedded to false goals, but this kind of selfish suffering has nothing in common with the suffering of Jesus.

And so, for example, when we make the Way of the Cross (the Stations), we may be tempted to say: "I'm with you, Jesus. I'm suffering just as you did!" But Jesus could very well say to us, "Are you suffering because you love? If so, by all means join me, and we will walk together toward Resurrection. Otherwise, please try to learn the real meaning of love."

The love of Jesus is unselfish and therefore will always involve the pain of self-denial. In like manner, good parents suffer as they make sacrifices for their children, just as children suffer when they try to be more mature and unselfish. Some suffering always results when we place the needs of others before our own interests. Old people also suffer when they trust God's goodness and promises in spite of the apparent hopelessness of their situation. But it is also true that such loving sacrifice always brings with it real joy, as well as the promise of eternal happiness.

In this very real human suffering that inevitably follows real loving, we can be comforted by the

assurance that we are being anointed with the precious blood of Jesus. This enables us to walk with him on the way of the cross—that loving, painful path that leads to glory. When we do this, we too will be called foolish and be told that we are wasting our lives by not working for ourselves alone. But Jesus will tell us, as he told that generous and sensitive woman, that what we do is not foolish but "a good thing." Nothing can be more comforting



April 8, 2012

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-9

Gospel Summary

John's gospel ends as it began, with the question: where does Jesus dwell? Immediately after his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan, Jesus noticed two of the Baptist's disciples following him. He said to them, "What are you looking for?" They replied, "Rabbi where are you dwelling?" Jesus said to them, "Come, and you will see" (1:38-39). Now at the end after his death and burial, Mary of Magdala goes to the tomb while it is still dark to visit this final earthly dwelling place of Jesus. Seeing that the tomb is empty, she finds Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, and says to them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

Peter and the other disciple run to the tomb. Peter enters the tomb first and sees the burial cloths there, and the "cloth that had covered the head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place." The other disciple follows Peter into the tomb; he sees and believes. John adds that they did not yet understand the Scriptures that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

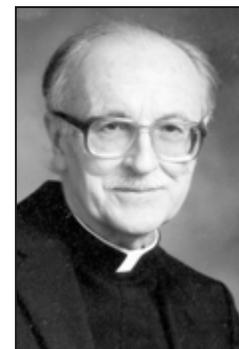
Life Implications

The climax of the Easter gospel and the essence of its implications for us lie in the statement "he saw and believed." Coming to believe in the Risen Lord is the purpose and the point of the entire gospel: "Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (20:30-31). John wants us to identify with the two disciples of John the Baptist who ask Jesus, "Where are you dwelling?" He also wants us to identify with the "beloved disciple" who runs to see where Jesus is so that we, like him, will see and come to believe. The end of John's gospel begins our encounter with the Risen Lord.

The "sign" that leads the beloved disciple to believe is the cloth that had covered the head of Jesus. John is the only evangelist who mentions this cloth so we know it is significant in his narrative. The disciple upon seeing it very likely connects its meaning with the head cloth that Moses put aside when he ascended to speak face to face with God (Ex 34:33-35). Now the beloved disciple realizes with an intuitive leap of faith that Jesus, one greater than Moses, has ascended to be face to face with God in glory. Jesus no longer dwells in a tomb; he is alive and has gone to dwell with the Father as he had promised. In the following episodes John then relates how the community of disciples comes to believe that Jesus has also kept his promise to return to be with them through the Spirit (14:3-18). It is now possible through faith to dwell where Jesus dwells, in God.

Was the head cloth that the beloved disciple saw proof that Jesus rose from the dead and had ascended to the Father in glory? Of course not. However, for him it was a sign like the other signs of the gospel that could lead to belief. A sign that leads to faith or to a deeper faith in the Risen Lord is unique for each of us: the head cloth led the beloved disciple to believe, but not Peter. For one of us, it may be hearing the gospel or homily on Easter Sunday. For another it may be the experience of seeing a spring flower or listening to Mahler's "Resurrection Symphony." What is needed on our part is unconditional commitment and openness in seeking truth: "Whoever lives the truth comes to the light..." (Jn 3:21).

Each of us is called to believe and to become a beloved disciple. Each of us is called to dwell where Jesus dwells and to have life in his name. For this gift of God's love we are grateful, and in this faith we can celebrate Easter with hope and joy.



Campion P. Gavaler,
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, MARCH 28	MONDAY, MARCH 19
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25	MONDAY, APRIL 16
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9	MONDAY, APRIL 30

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

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President's Easter Message

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The significance of parades or processions has a long history in Christianity. The Palm Sunday procession and welcoming of Christ by the people of Jerusalem is the first. Even more significant was Christ carrying his cross to Calvary.

Over the centuries in Europe there developed a tradition of procession of the Faithful for religious purposes, including during Holy Week. This spread to include processions to various shrines or other places of worship throughout Europe. We are all familiar with the short procession that is held as part of the Holy Week services.

As Slovaks, many of us are familiar with or even have participated in, the massive annual pilgrimage held on the first Sunday in July in Levoča, Slovakia. This tradition dates back to the 14th century. This is an example of a type of parade with a religious purpose and intent. However, as with many religiously intended activities there is also a social benefit in attracting people with a common purpose, i.e. to honor and pray to the Blessed Virgin.

Easter Sunday in Slovakia, as in the United States, is celebrated both as the Resurrection of Christ, and a social event with family.

The old Slovak Easter Morning custom of "oblievačka" (the pouring or sprinkling of water by young males on young girls or women) or the light spanking with a "korbač" or feather, have greatly diminished, especially in the larger cities as the younger generation became more "sophisticated".

So whether you attend an Easter Parade, or still practice the Slovak custom of "oblievačka" I urge you to attend Holy Week services and church on Easter Sunday with your family on the most holy day of the entire year.

"You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter Parade".

Happy Easter, Christ is Risen, Let Us Rejoice and be Glad!

Pán Ježiš vstal z mŕtvych, Radujme sa!

Andrew M. Rajec
President



Message from Our Chaplain

continued from page 1

they saw Jesus walking on the water. Peter, James and John were terrified at the Transfiguration of Jesus. The underlying message Mark conveys is that, because the disciples were full of fear when Jesus manifested His true identity, they were at that time unable to profess full faith in Him.

The notion of Jesus risen from the dead may not make us feel afraid or terrified. What may make us afraid, however, are the implications or consequences of living our lives in total harmony with His Risen Life dwelling within us.

The Risen Life of Jesus within all believers impels us to carry out the corporal works of mercy, but people can be afraid to do so because the task of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and caring for the sick is so overwhelming, the stress is so great, and the financial hardships to carry them out can become so burdensome.

When legislatures find themselves under certain political pressures to pass laws giving legal status for same sex marriages, one may be afraid to hold on to the divine intention concerning marriage, that it is a sacramental union between one man and one woman.

Sadly, because of the scandals that have affected our church, a man who believes deeply that God is calling him to the priesthood or a man or woman to the consecrated life may be afraid to seek admission to a seminary, a convent, or a house of formation due to the strong discouragement of family and friends.

The women left the tomb on that first Easter morning bewildered, terrified and afraid. But we know that they, and the disciples, did not remain that way for long. They saw Jesus risen from the dead. They believed, they preached, they evangelized. They overcame their fears, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and faithfully taught others about Jesus that led them, too, to believe in the Resurrection.

We believe in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, through the testimony of these original eyewitnesses. May we, like them, keep the Risen Jesus ever in our minds, our hearts and our lips.

Fraternally,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain



**ATTENTION ALL
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICANTS**



Deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2012 Scholarship Program Has Been Extended to March 31st

The First Catholic Slovak Union is still 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. The deadline to apply has been extended to the end of March. Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 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.

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 March 31, 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).

Send in your application today; don't delay. All applications without the above stipulated postmark of midnight, March 31, 2012 will be considered invalid.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ~ HOLIDAY HOURS



The Home Office and
Jednota Estates Office will be
closed on April 6, 2012,
in observance of Good Friday.

**The First Catholic Slovak Union is now accepting
VISA, Mastercard and Discover credit cards
as newspaper subscription payments.
Contact the Home Office for details:
1-800-JEDNOTA or fcsu@aol.com.**



Accent on Activities



2012 International Golf Tournament

March 2012

This year's golf tournament will be held in Sharon, Pennsylvania, at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course. This tournament will be a joint event with the National Slovak Society. The tournament will be held the weekend of July 14 and 15. Details are still being planned for this event.



Photo Contest

Get your cameras ready! We are having a photography contest for all members. There will be a 12 - 18 age group and an over 18 age group.

Submit your photo in one of the following categories:

- People
- Nature or Environment
- Travel or Destinations
- FCSU Fraternal Activity

Judging will be done by an outside professional and all photos will be returned. Judging is based on creativity.

For each category, the following prizes will be awarded.

- \$50 - First Place
- \$30 - Second Place
- \$20 - Third Place

An Overall Winner will be awarded \$100

Rules:

1. The photos have to be taken by the member submitting it (no computer generated photos, other than digital ones).
2. One Entry per Category
3. Any size photo up to 8" x 10", unmounted, in black and white or color is permitted. (No touched up or computer enhanced photos permitted.)
4. Name, address, Branch number, age, and where the picture was taken should be submitted on a **separate sheet of paper**. DO NOT MARK BACK OF PICTURE

Mail your entry to:

Susan Ondrejco
Photo Contest
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

postmarked by October 1, 2012.



Bowling and Golf Fee Reimbursements

As in past years, our First Catholic Slovak Union will give compensation to all Jednota bona fide Men's, Women's, Mixed Senior and Junior Bowling and Golf Leagues **SHOULD THE FOLLOWING RULES BE FULFILLED** as mandated by the Executive Committee and the Fraternal Activities Committee. This policy was updated at the 2011 meeting of the Fraternal Activities Committee.

All secretaries must comply with the listed requests and fill out all necessary forms and submit them to the Director of Fraternal Activities by the following deadlines: Bowling Leagues - July 1 of every year, for the season just completed; Golf Leagues - September 1 of every year, in order to be considered for Jednota compensation.

1. Each league must present a FULL roster, indicating both members and non-members. Only bona fide Jednota members will receive reimbursements and donations. Names, certificate numbers, and branch numbers for each Jednota member are needed to qualify for reimbursement.
2. All registrations must be filled out in their entirety and signed by a branch officer of the branch they are representing.
3. Your league schedule from the past year, list of officers, including addresses and phone numbers, and/or email addresses should accompany your registration forms and sanction requests.
4. The date of your league banquet honoring your champions should be given to the Director of Fraternal Activities.
5. All USBC sanction fee forms **MUST** be paid as shown and returned with receipt of payment of sanction. We will pay for one sanction per member participating in the International Bowling Tournament. Otherwise, we will pay for one half of the sanction per member.
6. \$25 per Jednota member on the winning teams will be awarded. Leagues can use this compensation for trophies or jackets as they wish.
7. The following compensation will be given to Jednota bona fide members - \$5 per person.
8. In order to receive compensation, at least three golfers from each league **MUST** participate in the International Golf Tournament.

It's that time of year again! Our Bowling Tournament will be held Friday, May 4, through Sunday, May 6, 2012. The *Jednota* sponsors the tournament Friday through Sunday and a banquet Saturday evening.

This year we are looking for bowling lane sponsors:

Lane Sponsor: \$50 – a sign will be placed on the lane with your Branch, District, or Region name.

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please send the wording for your sign and your check payable to "FCSU Activities" to:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is April 13, 2012.



REFLECTIONS ON POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS March 2012

General Intention - Contribution of Women

That the whole world may recognize the contribution of women to the development of society.



Although we differ from one another, men and women are equal in dignity before God. Sadly, throughout history this truth has not been recognized.

Many societies have denied the truth that men and women are both created in the image and likeness of God. The lie that women are inferior to men has led to discrimination and even, in some cases, abuse. Throughout history in many places throughout the world, women have often been treated as possessions or objects.

Discrimination against women continues today. Women justly seek equal rights. Sometimes, however, in their struggle for these rights, women are tempted to become

like men. The new lie is this: unless women do everything men do - and in the same way as men do - they are not equal to men. That notion denies the unique and complementary contribution women make to the human race. It denies what Blessed John Paul II called "the feminine genius." A 2004 Vatican Letter on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World spoke of this "feminine genius" in terms of women's "capacity for the other." That capacity manifests itself in the way women mature "quickly" with "a sense of the seriousness of life and of its responsibilities," and an understanding of "the value of every human life."

Of course both men and women need those values, but women lead the way.

The letter goes on to say, "women should have access to positions of responsibility which allow them to inspire the policies of nations and to promote innovative solutions to economic and social problems."

Pray that the world may better recognize women's unique and essential contribution to the development of a just society.

Reflection: What uniquely feminine characteristics contribute to making a better world?

Reading: Genesis 1:27-31 Male and female God created them.



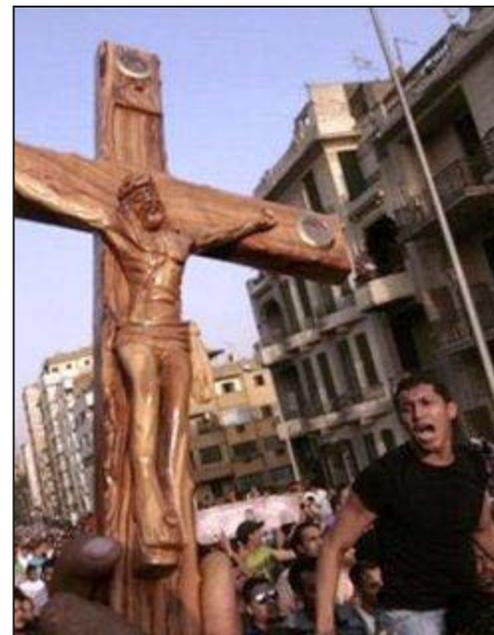
and many who bring Christ to them are persecuted. As we prepare through our Lenten prayer and fasting for the celebration of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, let us keep these suffering members of the Body of Christ in our hearts.

Pope Benedict has asked us to pray that the Holy Spirit may grant that those who suffer persecution may have the strength to persevere in the faith. The Holy Spirit has always given to Christians the courage to witness to their faith despite persecution.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of those who suffer persecution. May they know your love and the love of their brothers and sisters who are praying for them.

Reflection: How is it true, as a Church Father wrote, that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the faith"?

Reading: Revelation 2:10-11 Remain faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life



Prayer of the Month



Father, you make your sun to shine on good and bad alike. Your Son Jesus Christ suffered and died for all. He now sustains those who suffer persecution and martyrdom for their fidelity to the Church. May persecuted Christians everywhere remain, like Mary, at the foot of the cross of Christ. Comfort those menaced by violence. May your Holy Spirit of love make fruitful the witness of those who die forgiving. Amen.

- from *Aid to the Church in Need*

Mission Intention - Persecuted Christians

That the Holy Spirit may grant perseverance to those who suffer discrimination, persecution, or death for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia.



In last year's message for the annual World Day of Peace, Pope Benedict pointed out that "Christians are the religious group which suffers most from persecution."

Every year the U.S. State Department examines the world with regard to the human right to religious freedom. In 2010, 8 of 198 nations were designated as "Countries of Particular Concern." Six of those are in Asia, including Burma, China, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Uzbekistan.

Fr. Gabriel Sindhunata, S.J., the Apostleship of Prayer Director for Indonesia, reports that between 2004-10, 2,442 churches in his country were destroyed or shut down. He attributed the persecution to the "radicalism and fundamentalism of other religions."

Countries often see Christian evangelization as a threat to their traditional religions,

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2012

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.75% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's	3.50% APY
with the "Cash Interest" Option	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



Easter Traditions From Slovakia

Lubos Brieda, slovakcooking.com



Raisin Bread (Vianočka)

1 pack of yeast
8 cups flour
two handfuls sugar
water
1tbsp baking powder
oil
raisins



This sweet raisin bread is prepared for both Easter and Christmas. In fact, its name comes from *Vianoce*, the Slovak word for Christmas.

Start by preparing leavened dough from all the ingredients except the raisins. Dissolve in water and stir until you get a smooth dough that doesn't stick to the wooden spoon. Work in enough water so the dough is like honey. Let rise covered for few hours. Then scoop the dough onto a floured board. Dust top with flour and gently roll out. Brush top with oil and fold over. Repeat this rolling, brushing, and folding two more times.



Cut the dough into three pieces. Each will be used to make a loaf. Or you can use the other ones to make other Slovak treats like the poppy seed roll, cheese cake, or fruit-filled dumplings. Knead in raisins, and roll out to a rectangle about one inch thick. Cut into into 6 strips. Take 4 of these and join them at one end. Braid them until you run out of dough. Then twist the remaining two strips and place on top. Bake in a an oven preheated to 375F until nicely brown.



Bear Paws (Medvedie Labky)



1 yolk, 2 cups flour, 2 sticks margarine, 100g ground walnuts, 100g powdered sugar, 1 packet of vanilla sugar

Mix all ingredients until you get a sticky dough with the consistency of play-dough. Grease and dust with flour crescent-shaped metal baking forms. Press the dough into the forms and bake for 8 minutes at 375F. Coat with powdered sugar or dip ends in chocolate.

Hearts (Srdiečka)



4 cups flour, 2 cups powdered sugar, 1.5tsp baking powder, 200g margarine, 2 eggs

Knead the dough until you get a smooth texture. Then roll out and cut out various shapes. Bake for for 12 minutes at 350F. Join two matching halves with jam (raspberry and red currant work great) and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Rings (Venčeky)



250g flour, 250g margarine, 100g ground hazelnuts or almonds, bit of salt, half a spoon of cinnamon, 1 teaspoon of orange zest and juice, 1 egg, 5 spoons of white wine

Combine the ingredients to make the dough. Roll out and use dough circle cutters of two different sizes to cut out the ring. Bake for 15 minutes at 350F. Coat in powdered sugar combined with vanilla and cinnamon. Combine the cut out dough and repeat.

Rum Balls (Rumové Guľky)



2 cups powdered sugar, 2 cups ground walnuts, 1 yolk, shot of rum

Mix all ingredients together and roll into a ball. Coat in powdered sugar, chocolate, or coconut shavings. That's it, no baking required!

Walnuts (Oriešky)



Dough: 150g ground walnuts, 5 cups flour, 1.5 sticks butter, 1-2 eggs, 0.8 cups sugar, 2 tbsp cocoa

Cream 1: 4 eggs, 0.5 cups powdered sugar, 1 packet vanilla sugar. Cream 2: 1.5 sticks butter, 0.5 cups powdered sugar

Mix the dough ingredients together and bake in a greased and floured metal form for 8 minutes at 375F. Whisk ingredients for Cream 1 in a double boiler until it becomes like honey. Let cool down. Whip Cream 2 ingredients together and add to Cream 1. Use the cream to join two halves to make a delicious walnut.

Chocolate Truffles (Šuhajdy)



Chocolate: 150g chocolate, 3/4 stick of Crisco, 3 tsp cocoa
Filling: 100g of ground nuts, 150g powdered sugar, 1/2 stick of Crisco, 2 teaspoons of cocoa, 0.4 cups milk

Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or on low heat. Stack paper cups on a tray and pour quarter inch of chocolate into each. Save half the chocolate for later. Let cool. Cook the ingredients for the filling on low heat. Spoon onto the chocolate. Top off with the remaining chocolate and a walnut for decoration.

Fánky



2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 2 yolks, 2 tbsp powdered sugar, half a stick unsalted butter, 4 tbsp cream, 2 tbsp white wine (or rum), 1/2 cup of milk

Mix the ingredients and place the dough in a fridge to cool. Then roll out to 1/6th inch. Cut into rectangles the size of your palm. Cut two slits near the short edges. Tread the ends through the slits to make bow ties. Fry in hot oil until golden brown. Top with powdered sugar.

Šišky (Donuts)

2 cups flour, one yolk, 3/4 cups milk, one packet yeast, 2 tablespoons powdered sugar, 1/5 stick unsalted butter, dash of salt. Topping: jam filling and powdered sugar



Mix all ingredients to get a smooth dough. Let rise. Then roll out on a dusted board to one inch thick. Dust the rim of a drinking glass with flour and use it to cut out circles. Fry in oil. Top with jam and sugar.

Easter Treats!



Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls – ages 4 thru 12 – that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by **April 14, 2012**. You may make a copy to color, and you may make additional copies for any other children in the family who are entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



"Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style"

* Customs

* Traditions

* Recipes

* Folklore

* Crafts

In this delightful ethnic book, "Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style", Lawrence G. Kozlowski has gathered together a wealth of treasured Slovak Eastertide practices, rituals, foods, crafts (including egg decorating and palm weaving) and traditions whose usage goes back to antiquity.

With early Slavonic origins as a backdrop, "Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" takes the reader on a remarkably realistic six week journey throughout a poignant Slovak Lenten Season, culminating in a majestic Easter Sunday filled with grandeur, glory, radiance and splendor un equated at any time or any place in history.

For those familiar with Slovak Lenten and Easter customs and still observing them, "Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" sets out each custom and each ritual like taking favorite pieces of well-loved jewelry from a jewelry box and looking at them as though seeing each piece in all of its beauty for the first time.

For the reader familiar with Slovak Lenten/Easter customs but for one reason or another longer observing them, "Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" awakens memories of a time when their observance filled the heart with indescribable piety, childlike awe and joy.

For the reader who would like to add another dimension to the celebration and meaning of the Lenten Season and Easter without having to wade through page after page of boring facts and figures, "Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" offers fascinating, easy reading and also a section dedicated to one's own family tree, treasured family traditions and family recipes to personalize the book for future generations.

For everyone "Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" provides a wealth of charming illustrations, easy to follow folk craft instructions and some of the most delicious recipes to celebrate the best holiday ever!

The "Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" sells for \$13.75 each. Quantity orders are available at a discount for churches, clubs, gift shops and organizational fund raising. Please make check payable to: L.G. Kozlowski. Do not send cash. Individual books will be shipped first class mail for faster delivery.

"Celebrate Easter ... Slovak Style" Order Form

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Please send _____ Slovak Easter Books-----@ \$13.75 Each	\$ _____
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808 Phineas Street
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Palm Sunday Traditions in Slovakia: Kvetná nedeľa

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

What we call Palm Sunday in the United States is referred to as *Kvetná nedeľa* in Slovakia, literally meaning “Blossom Sunday” or “the Sunday of Flowers.” Celebrated on the Sunday before Easter, *Kvetná nedeľa* commemorates Jesus Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a last moment of glory before He experienced His painful passion and death on the cross.

A second name which some Slovaks have used for Palm Sunday was *Smrtná nedeľa*, which translates as Passion Sunday. But this appears to be a more recent usage in the Roman rite since Vatican II.

Zvyky (Customs)

Because Slovaks did not have palm trees, they used *zelené konáriky*, or green branches, to serve as reminders of the palm branches which the crowd used to wave as Jesus passed by them on his donkey.

The use of branches to pay tribute dated from pagan practices in pre-Christian times. Beginning in the seventh century A.D., Christians across Europe began to bless them and use them for this feast day. When Slovaks converted to Christianity in the ninth century, they adapted what was available for them – the willow branch.

Slovaks have used a variety of names for the willow branch, which we call in English, “catkins,” because they resemble a cat’s tail. One of the most common terms Slovaks have favored is a *bahniatka*, “a drooping, deciduous scaly spike of unisexual flowers without petals (Webster). We see such branches on poplar, walnut and birch trees as well. In addition to calling them *bahniatka*, Slovak dialects in different regions have referred to them as *púzalky*, *maňušky*, *barky*, *barišky*, *búziky*, *baburence*, *kočičky*, and *mládniky*.

On *Kvetná nedeľa*, Slovak priests would bless these branches with holy water. After Holy Mass, a customary procession ensued around the church and village. People would take these treasured branches home and typically place them behind holy pictures and icons on their walls. In some cases, Slovaks would place some of the branches behind the wooden beams of their ceilings in order to protect their homes from lightning. During severe storms, many people would place the branches in the window or break off a twig and toss it into the fireplace as a safeguard against bad luck. The peasant believed that *bahniatka* offered spiritual powers to those who placed them in the proper place.

How people specifically used the *bahniatka* varied from village to village. For example, in the Zvolen region of central Slovakia, the locals would smoke the willow buds in the belief that it would cure sore throats. In the northern region of Orava, peasants placed the buds into the first furrows they dug for spring planting, in the hope that they would reap a bountiful harvest that year.

In eastern Slovakia, peasants used the buds when planting their staple crop, the potato. In the Horehronie area of central Slovakia, peasants drove their cattle out of the barn with the *bahniatka* during their first trip out of the stable and into the pastures during the spring. In several communities in the southern counties of Hont and Novohrad, Slovaks proceeded directly from the church to the cemetery, where they placed the *bahniatka* on the graves of their loved ones. Even today, many Slovaks in the villages continue to decorate the graves of their ancestors on *Kvetná nedeľa*. Folklore legend alleged that one could arouse the good spirit of one’s ancestors, because nature was starting to spring to life with the improving weather.

In the pre-Christian era, pagans believed that souls dwelt within various trees and plants. The pagan Slavs considered plant life acted as an intermediary between the spirits of the living and the dead. Trees and plants could supposedly facilitate the return of the spirits of those who had already passed away. When adapted to Christianity, the placing of the willow rod on their predecessors’ graves served a plea for assistance, so that the spirit of former loved ones would help them in their daily chores.

During Holy Week, Slovaks also placed eggs on the graves of their loved ones. Some even put all sorts of foods there. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Slovakia banned such practices during the late 16th century in Gemer and Malohont counties, as a reaction against Catholic ritualism.

Other customs of *Kvetná nedeľa* also smacked of egging on spiritual aid. In the Brezno area of central Slovakia, young mothers carried their infants to church in the belief that they might begin to speak at an earlier age. The child would blossom with the coming spring, just as plants were finding new life.

Rezance s makom - Noodles with poppy seed - is a dish often eaten on Palm Sunday



SOURCE: TASR

Bahniatka - pussy willows - blessed in Byzantine rite



SOURCE: TASR

Bahniatka - pussy willows - in Slovakia at Mass

Jedla (Foods) on Palm Sunday

Slovaks also paid close attention to their diets on *Kvetná nedeľa*. Traditionally, the people ate different types of pasta filled with poppy seeds (*mak*). Folklore predicated that this would help bring an abundant harvest of fully grown corn. In central Slovakia, people even attempted to plant as much corn as they could at sunrise so that they would reap beautiful and tasty ears of corn that year.

In some regions, Slovaks also cooked legumes (*strukoviny*). They ate these all through the year in the hope of helping make for an abundant harvest.

Great care was given to cook only those vegetables (*zeleniny*) which they wished to blossom early. Therefore, Slovaks did not partake of cabbage (*kapusta*), for they feared that the cabbage would blossom instead of providing them with cabbage heads at harvest time.

On *Kvetná nedeľa*, Slovaks traditionally did not eat meat. They believed that the consumption of meat might force them to sell their livestock because it would induce inclement weather.

Weather Beaters

Pranostiky (weather-lore) also figured into customs on *Kvetná nedeľa*. Good or bad weather served as a premonition of future climate and precipitation. In western Slovakia, some peasant women gathered the morning dew (*rosa*), for they believed that dew collected on that morning would provide a cure for illnesses throughout the year.

Here are a few typical *Pranostiky* with accompanying translations.

Jasná kvetná nedeľa - dobrý rok.
A clear Palm Sunday - a good year.

Daždivá kvetná nedeľa - zlý rok.
A rainy Palm Sunday - a bad year.

Keď sa na kvetnú nedeľu spustí dážď, každú nedeľu bude pršať.
When the rain starts on Palm Sunday, it will rain every Sunday.

Another way to ensure better weather and a bountiful harvest involved the throwing out



Kvetna-nedela in Velke Levare church-2011-11

Palm Sunday Traditions

continued from page 8

of winter, the *Vynášanie Moreny* (The Throwing out of Morena). This often occurred near *Kvetná nedela*, usually the week before. Morena's origins stemmed from the Old Slavic pagan era, when she represented the ancient goddess of death and winter. Later Morena came to symbolize the witch of winter.

Typically, young Slovak girls dressed up an old woman's figure (a few villages used an old man), which they made out of sticks in the shape of a cross or parts from an old broom, and stuffed it with straw. Then they paraded it around the village. When they reached a stream or river, they undressed the figure, set it afire, and tossed the blazing straw lady into the water.

Then as they prepared the old witch (*stryga*) for her fate and threw the old lady (*stará baba*) to her liquid grave, they would sing three times, as in this rendition from eastern Slovakia:

*Ach Morena, Morena,
Pre kohožeš umrela?
My vieme, preto zaspievame:
Pre staré dievky,
Pre švarné dievky!*

Translation:

Oh Morena, Morena,
Whom do you die for?
We know, therefore, we are singing:
For the old girls,
For the dark maidens!

The exact words of the song could vary from village to village, but the spirit of expelling winter and drowning of the old witch were common across Slovakia.

Following the ceremony, the young girls would return to their homes in silence, confident that the worst days of winter had passed and spring was just around the corner.

Generally for all Slovaks of long ago, as it is for us today, *Kvetná nedela* and early spring customs associated with it symbolized a time of hope and renewal. The long winter was finally ending and prayer with the right ritual would bring about a bountiful and happy year. As Christ rose from the dead, so would the plants and spirits of the faithful arise in a new flowery celebration of life.

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WPSCA Sets April Deadline for Scholarship to Study in Slovakia This Summer

For the seventh consecutive year, WPSCA is offering a scholarship to attend the 2012 Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. WPSCA will award \$3,000 to cover transportation, tuition, room and board to the successful candidate. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

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

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

For more information, or for an application, contact WPSCA Executive Director and FCSU Member Joe Senko at (412) 531-2990. All complete applications must be received by WPSCA on or before April 15, 2012 at its office at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15220.



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- ✦ 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

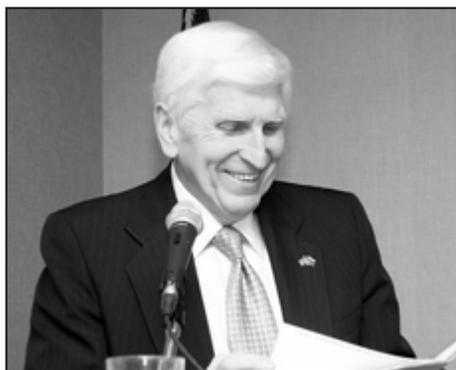
First U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia of Slovak Descent Visits FCSU, Addresses Greater Cleveland Slovak Community

Some 140 people, including Jednota members and those of the Greater Cleveland Slovak community attended an engaging presentation by former U.S. Ambassador and Branch 856 Member, Vincent Obsitnik, on February 27, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza in Independence, OH, from 5:30PM -7:30PM. The evening was the premier event in the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU)'s Father Furdek Lecture Series and encompassed a welcome and introduction by program coordinator and Branch 89 Member Andrew P. Rajec and a slideshow by the Ambassador, followed by a lively question and answer session and the presentation of the Lecture Series award to the Ambassador. The evening kicked off with a reception during which hearty hors d'oeuvres, punch, and Slovak pastries homemade by Mrs. Ida Rajec, Branch 89, were served. The event was sponsored by leading Slovak-American organizations in the area: the American Slovak Club of Lorain, the American Zemplin Social Club, Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the First Catholic Slovak Union, Kent-Dudince Sister Cities, the Slovak Dramatic Club, and Youngstown-Spisška Nová Ves Sister Cities.

During his 45-minute presentation, Ambassador Obsitnik treated the capacity crowd to rare glimpses into the process of becoming and serving as an Ambassador from the United States to Slovakia. He served from 2007 – 2009. He also shared personal details such as his birth in eastern Slovakia, his family's immigration to the United States, and his impressions of Slovakia today. The Ambassador's wife, Annemarie, Branch 856, also was in attendance.



(L-R) Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik accepts the Father Furdek Lecture Series Award from Program Coordinator Andrew P. Rajec. The award is based on the Pieta in the FCSU-supported Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, DC.



Guest Speaker and FCSU Member Vincent Obsitnik gave an engaging talk on his time as U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, as well as his views on Slovakia and Europe today.



Photos by Jim Stracensky, Picture Yourself Photography & Video

(L-R) Sponsors of the Father Furdek Lecture Series: Top row, standing: FCSU Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt, FCSLA President Cynthia M. Maleski, Former FCSLA President Mary Ann S. Johaneck, Youngstown-Spisška Nova Ves Sister Cities President Robert Petruska, Ambassador Obsitnik, Kent-Dudince Sister Cities President Rudolph Bachna, American Zemplin Social Club President George Carny, Slovak Dramatic Club President Johanna Oros, Fr. Furdek Lecture Series Program Coordinator Andrew P. Rajec, Slovak Radio Club President Henry Horvath, FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec, Slovak Radio Hour Program Director Milan Kobulsky; Bottom Row (seated) FCSLA National Vice President Irene Drotleff, Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities President Marie Golias, American Slovak Club of Lorain Board of Directors Member Michele Mager, Slovak Radio First Vice President Joseph Oros, Slovak Dramatic Club Treasurer John Buydos



A capacity crowd of more than a hundred people from the Greater Cleveland Slovak-American community attended the first Father Furdek Lecture on the evening of February 27, 2012.

An Interview with Jednota

Earlier in the afternoon when he was scheduled to speak as the Father Furdek Lecturer, Ambassador Obsitnik visited the home office of the First Catholic Slovak Union. In addition to meeting the staff and touring the Home Office Museum, the Ambassador graciously agreed to an interview with Jednota Editor and Branch 24 Member, Teresa Ivanec, and shared special insights with our readers.

Jednota Editor: Please tell our readers a little more about your Slovak heritage.

Ambassador Obsitnik: My family came from the East, in the Prešov region. In fact, I was born in a thatched log cabin in a little village near the town of Humenne, in the (then) Czechoslovakia. My father had previously been to America, to look for work, and when I was less than a year old, in 1938, he and my mother returned with me to the States.

Jednota Editor: Where did they settle?

Ambassador Obsitnik: Like a lot of Slovak immigrants of the time, Dad found steady employment in the coal mines. We settled in the Pennsylvania town of Nanty Glo. About eight years later, we moved to New Jersey when my father got a factory job. Or as he liked to say, he wanted to work "above ground."

Jednota Editor: How did your appointment as Ambassador to Slovakia come about?

Ambassador Obsitnik: That's an interesting question, and one I get asked often. My best answer is it was a miracle followed by a bigger miracle. The first miracle came after I was set to retire [editor's note: A Naval Academy graduate and former officer in the U.S. Navy, Ambassador Obsitnik led a very interesting business career that included time with IBM, Unisys, and Litton Corporations. He also started and became President of International Investments Inc., a consulting company, working in the areas of joint ventures, technology

licensing and privatization projects between the U.S. and Central Europe]. The call came when my wife Annemarie and I were heading down to Florida. The White House asked if I would accept the position of Ambassador – to Slovenia. Of course, I accepted, and it was preliminarily announced. Members of the Slovenian-American community may even remember this. But then, a few weeks later, a bigger miracle happened. The appointment was amended to offer officially the position of U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia.

Jednota editor: What happened?

Ambassador Obsitnik: It's hard to say. Getting the opportunity to serve my country as an Ambassador to a foreign country in and of itself was a huge honor, and one I believe anyone would accept without question. As to the final appointment to Slovakia, I can only surmise that my background and ties to Slovakia came to light by the time the offer was officially extended. For my part, I attribute the opportunity to go to my birthplace, representing my current homeland, as nothing less than the grace of God.

Jednota Editor: I see you also were appointed by President George W. Bush to the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, and you helped restore Greek Catholic wooden churches in eastern Slovakia. Were the churches assigned to you, or did you initiate the effort to restore them?

Ambassador Obsitnik: The Commission leaves the focus of a project totally up to each appointee. Being Byzantine rite and having visited churches near my hometown area of Humenne, I was drawn to the plight of these beautiful structures.

Jednota Editor: How many were you able to restore?

Ambassador Obsitnik: I am very happy to say we were able to restore two churches during



Flanking the Ambassador, FCSU home office staff and executives (L-R): Amber Germ, Joe Mitrik, Andrew M. Rajec, Rosanne Krockner, Andrew P. Rajec, Adriana Scally, Beata Begeniova-Fedorouk, Barbara Sutila, Karen Davis, Kenneth A. Arendt. Not pictured: Julie Cherryholmes, Teresa Ivanec, Bob Kopco, Piroška Merai, and Marge Szczepaniak.

my time on the Commission. I was even happier to see that the Slovak government successfully petitioned to have the wooden churches of the Slovak Carpathian Mountain area added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2008.

Jednota Editor: Anything you'd like to impart to our readers, many of whom are of Slovak descent?

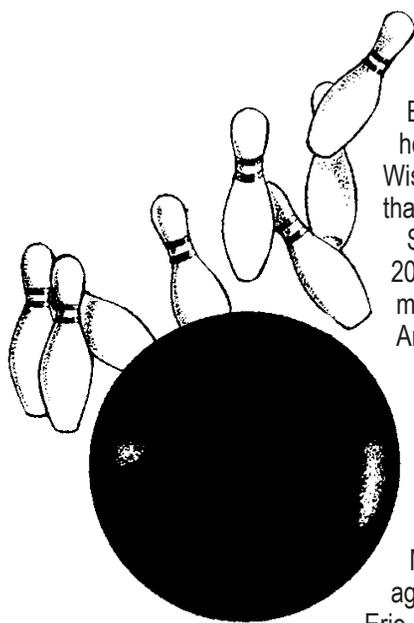
Ambassador Obsitnik: I like to remind all of



Ambassador Obsitnik views displays of the Home Office Museum with President Andrew M. Rajec

us who share this wonderful heritage to keep our ties with Slovakia strong, and not count on the relationships of the past to keep the lines open between Slovakia and North America. The advances in today's Slovak Republic, including and especially their inclusion in the eurozone – while wonderful – naturally pull that nation's attention in the direction of Europe. I encourage everyone to work to support and strengthen our bonds with Slovakia.

The Slovak Bowling Congress Proudly Presents 70th American Slovak National Bowling Tournament at Midway Lanes in Akron, OH, April - May



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

Since that time the tournament has grown to almost 200 teams, 815 bowlers participating in the tournament still known as the Slovak Bowling Congress of America Slovak National Bowling Tournament.

The tournament is held in the month of April. The 2012 tournament will cover the weekends of April 14th through the weekend of May 6th, in Akron OH, at Midway Lanes. Past Slovak National Tournaments have been held in Milwaukee, Chicago, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lakewood, McKee's Rocks, Warren, Cicero, Sharon, Hermitage, Struthers, Oak Forest, Natrona Heights, Farrel, Erie, Sandusky, Detroit, and this year back to Akron, OH. These tournaments have enjoyed entry of 13,255

teams, 32,322 doubles teams, and 75,543 singles and 54,527 all-events bowlers. All time payouts total over \$830,970.01!

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

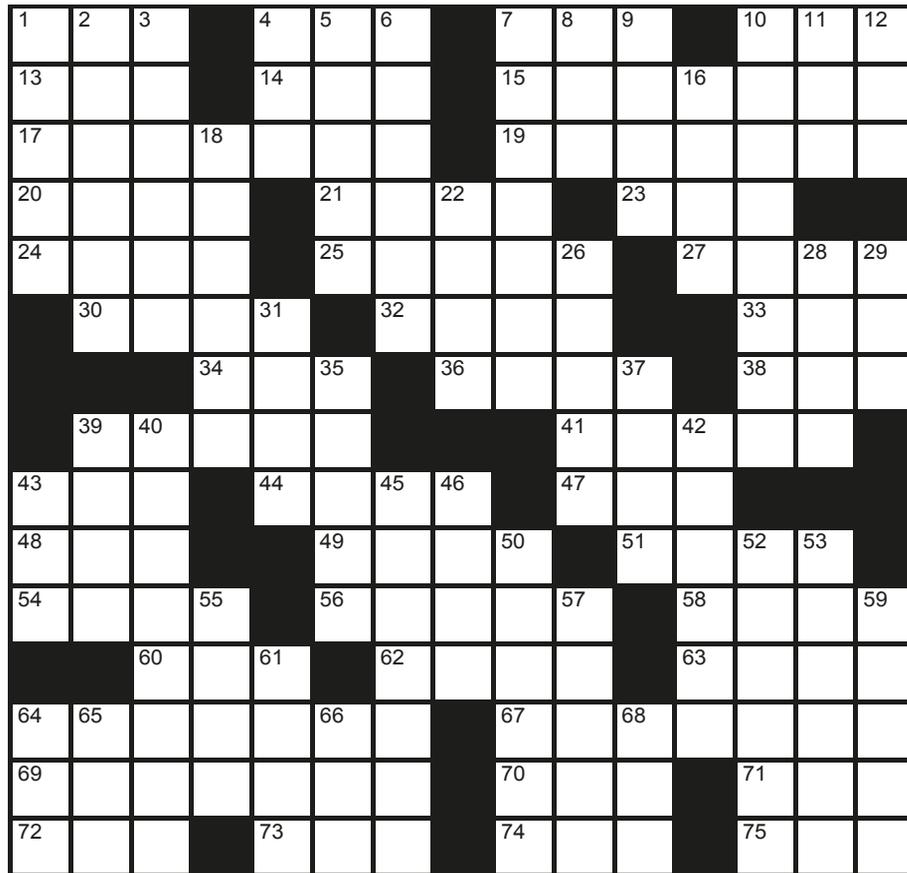
As a special incentive to Slovak Bowlers, the following Slovak organizations are offering special prizes and trophies to their members who participate in the tournament. The First Catholic Slovak Union "Jednota," The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association "Zenska Jednota," The National Slovak Society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

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

Thank You,

John "Jack" M. Golias, President Slovak Bowling Congress of America,

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Elec. unit
- 4 Veneration
- 7 Conger
- 10 Sports official (Abbr.)
- 13 Eggs
- 14 Gazelle
- 15 Chocolate treat
- 17 Craft fairs
- 19 Obstructing
- 20 Norse deity
- 21 Fast
- 23 Month (Abbr.)
- 24 Adolescent
- 25 Abominable snowmen
- 27 Hebrew patriarch
- 30 Fumble
- 32 Taxied
- 33 Caviar
- 34 Conifer
- 36 Cool!
- 38 Compass pt.
- 39 Tough question
- 41 Without restraint
- 43 Girl, to some
- 44 Stride
- 47 Woodwind, for short
- 48 Football player
- 49 Wordplays
- 51 Tinted
- 54 Allot
- 56 Ringworm bush
- 58 Metric weight unit
- 60 Feverish
- 62 Dewdrop
- 63 Jane Austen novel
- 64 Caribbean island
- 67 Musician
- 69 Kitchen implemer

Down

- 1 Automaton
- 2 Dodged
- 3 More slothful
- 4 Turkish title
- 5 Verbose
- 6 Less difficult
- 8 Period of time
- 9 Duke
- 10 Imaginary creatures
- 11 Time period (Abbr.)
- 12 Oarlock
- 16 Small brown bird
- 18 Chafes
- 22 Brit. school
- 26 Secures
- 28 First-rate
- 29 Carve
- 31 Secret look
- 35 Enfolds
- 37 Frog
- 39 Window glass
- 40 Graybeard
- 42 Water compone
- 43 Jewel
- 45 Billiard item
- 46 Fem. suffix
- 50 Dapper
- 52 Shorttail weasel
- 53 Maiden
- 55 Flair
- 57 Good-bye
- 59 Broderick and Modine, for sho
- 61 Actress Eichhor
- 64 Bottle
- 65 Consumed
- 66 102, Roman
- 68 Branch

Tour Slovakia with Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Cities

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



Spiš Castle is one of the many cities featured on the 15th Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Sites Heritage Tour

Join us as we host the 15th Youngstown/Spišska Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour of Slovakia July 10 - 24, 2012, visiting such cities as Bratislava, Piešťany, Trnava, Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Nitra, Sliac, Spišska Nová 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.

Special Leap Year Discount: The price from Pittsburgh, PA, is \$3699.00 ---from Washington D.C. is \$3649.00

For more information contact:

Jim and Kay Bench
428 West 4th Ave.
Derry, Pa. 15627
Phone 724-694-5101---cell phone 724-858-5843
e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com
or
Adventure International Travel
PO Box 770410 Lakewood, Ohio 44107
Phone 216-228-7171 (Toll free 800-542-2487)
e-mail paul@aits.webmail.com

See Solution on Page 19

2011 JEDNOTA COLORING C

REGION 4

..... Age Group 4-6



Isabel Owens
First Place
Murfreesboro, TN



Katrina Mullen
Second Place
Springfield, VA



William Jeffries
Third Place
Export, PA

..... Age Group 7-9



Andrew Wilhelm
First Place
Amarillo, TX



Ethan Soltis
Second Place
Massillon, OH



JJ Davis
Third Place
Ramey, PA



REGION 4

..... Age Group 10-12



Abbey Scekere
First Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA



Olivia Rose Stroble
Second Place
Williamsport, PA



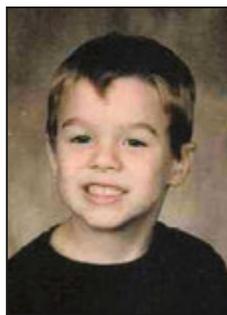
Jonathan Sprock
Third Place
Latrobe, PA

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6



Janelle Meinert
First Place
Buford, GA



Josiah Meinert
Second Place
Buford, GA



Timothy Costel
Third Place
Butler, PA



REGION 5

..... Age Group 7-9



Zachary Hanlon
First Place
Oakmont, PA



Raymond Stierer
Second Place
Sewickley, PA



Jamie Meinert
Third Place
Buford, GA



Danielle Hanlon
First Place
Oakmont, PA



Jenna Meinert
Second Place
Buford, GA



Hanna Formica
Third Place
South Park, PA



REGION 6

..... Age Group 4-6



Suzanne Tassinari
First Place
E. Stroudsburg, PA



Sarah Fels
Second Place
Greenville, SC



Joseph Valencik
Third Place
Brooklyn, OH



Rylee Smith
First Place
Vandalia, OH



Grace Kolesar
Second Place
Olmstead Twp, OH

..... Age Group 7-9



CONTEST RESULTS, PART II

REGION 6

Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



Kaylin Tassinari
Third Place
E. Stroudsburg, PA



Jared Dubber
First Place
Lakewood, OH

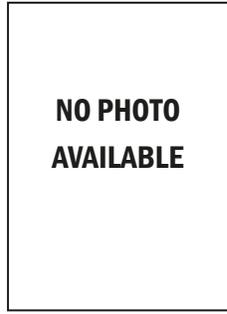


Ryan Kolesar
Second Place
Olmstead Twp, OH



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Paul Spencer
Third Place
Brunswick, OH



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Joseph Cave
First Place
E. Peoria, IL



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Emma Jill Graves
Second Place
Streator, IL



Camden Novak
Third Place
Plint, MI

REGION 7

Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



Sarah Peters
First Place
Highland, IN



Logan Rimarcik
Second Place
Linden, MI



NO PHOTO
AVAILABLE

Evan Jurcenko
Third Place
Chicago, IL



Mary Fayta
First Place
Shorewood, IL



Matthew Manzella
Second Place
Normal, IL



Joseph Hawes
Third Place
Greentown, IN

REGION 8

Age Group 4-6

Age Group 10-12

Age Group 10-12



Sarah Hergel
First Place
Toronto, ON



Mayva Hergel
Second Place
Toronto, ON



Ethan Joiner
Third Place
Aurora, ON



Jason Chadwick
First Place
Mississauga, ON



**Congratulations to all our
Coloring Contest Winners, including
those published in Part I
in the previous
(Feb 29th) issue.**



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OH

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 1, 2012. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Men's Club in Father Darray Hall.

The breakfast is free for all members of Branch 3, and the former St. Joseph Branch 226. Please – No parking in the school lot!

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 05P, will hold a meeting Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 1:00 pm.

The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, Vice President, 67 9th St. Wyoming, PA. Members are encouraged to attend.

Marion Rubino

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 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2012. A Mass in honor of our patron St. Joseph will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Ss Cyril & Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. Following the Mass, members are invited to return to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall at the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

The Margaret Evancho Award of US Savings Bonds will be given to the following members who have reached their 16th birthday in 2011:

- Emily Agoglia
- Sierra Frye
- David Gerics
- Joseph Paglia
- Christopher Zahor

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

We cordially invite our members to this special

meeting. We also will meet on April 15 and June 10, 2012.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 24- CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 invites all of its members to enjoy Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Hamilton Bulldogs at 7:30PM on April 13, 2012 at the Q for only \$5 a ticket. Enjoy a family-friendly night of minor league hockey, dollar hot dogs and dollar soda pop – PLUS a special Cavs promo and an open skate after the game. For details, see flyer in this issue of Jednota or call Tom Ivanec at 216-668-7797.

BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 38, the Holy Trinity Society, will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2012, at 7:00PM at the home of Florence Matta, 3409 Eisenhower Ct, White Oak, PA. The agenda will consist of the financial report; Fathers' Day Brunch at Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin, PA; and participation in Slovak Day at Kennywood Park. Refreshments will be served.

Florence K. Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK CITY

St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 22, 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 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 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

All Branch 153 members are invited to the May 20, 2012 district event - A brunch and performance of "Making God Laugh." This district event will be at The Theatre at the Center in Munster, Indiana. The Brunch is at 12:45 p.m. and the show at 2:30 p.m. The cost for Branch 153 members who have attended previous shows will be \$19.50. For Branch 153 members attending for the first time the cost will be \$29.50. Guests who are not FCSU members the cost will be \$54.50. The cost is kept low to encourage fraternalism. The district is subsidizing this event along with Branch 153 subsidizing \$15.00 for its members. Please call Dorothy Jurcenko at (773) 763 0810 before April 6, 2012.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEK- SKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 15, 2012, at 1:15 P.M., at Ponderosa Steak House, 1261 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Sue Gabriel at 607-729-8034, or Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 12, 2012, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

Our winter rest will soon come to an end as the St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity, Branch 228, will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers

and bylaw review as is done during each December meeting. The exact date for this year is December 17, 2012. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. This is an opportune time to get active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. Input from any and all members is appreciated. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its first meeting for the new year on Sunday March 18 at 1:00 P.M. at Woody's Restaurant on Walnut Street in Versailles. On the agenda will be discussion of the District meeting to be held at Holy Trinity Church hall in West Mifflin hosted by our branch on Sunday, April 18. All members are invited to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 260- CAMPBELL, OHIO

St. Matthews, Branch 260, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2012, at 1:30PM at Bedford Trails Golf Course, Coitsville, OH.

Plans for the new year will be discussed and other business pertaining to the betterment of the Society will be acted upon. We urge all members to attend and take an active part in the proposals that will be discussed.

Fraternally submitted,

Charles M. Terek, President

BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

Branch 290, St. John the Baptist, Raritan, NJ, will hold a meeting on March 21, 2012, at 7:30PM. Please call Joe as to the location of the meeting at 732-469-5256 after 6PM.

Fraternally,

Joe Minarovich, President

BRANCH 320 - BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of SS Peter & Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday June 24, 2012, at noon, at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. Since lunch will be served, please call Fran at (724) 929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, April 22, 2012, at King's Restaurant in Canonsburg, PA, at 2:00PM.

Fraternally,

Margaret Graytok, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 450- CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 450 invites all of its members to enjoy Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Hamilton Bulldogs at 7:30PM on April 13, 2012 at the Q for only \$5 a ticket. Enjoy a family-friendly night of minor league hockey, dollar hot dogs and dollar soda pop – PLUS a special Cavs promo and an open skate after the game. For details, see flyer in this issue of Jednota or call Margaret Valencik at 216-676-0497

BRANCH 567 – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will have their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 1:00pm at 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa. 18109.

We will discuss plans for our fundraisers for this year.

Loretta Dashner, Recording 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 633- FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its first meeting of 2012 at 1:00PM, Saturday, April 21, 2012, at the Empire Wok Restaurant, located at 4211 East Court Street in Burton, MI, across from Courtland Mall. All members are asked to attend.

Eva Craine, Secretary

BRANCH 670 - DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of St. Anton of Padua, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 706 – ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Branch 706 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Friday, March 16, 2012, at 3:00pm at the home of Vice President, Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. If you plan on attending, please call Barbara at 219-864-8251, so arrangements for refreshments can be made. Dinner will follow the meeting. On the agenda discussion on insurance sales, and new business will be discussed. If you have moved or know of a member that has moved; please send us their address so we may update our files.

Sincerely,

Barbara Fayta, Vice-President

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday 4/24/12 at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post 6673, Whitaker Way, Munhall, PA. The meeting will discuss fraternal activities and ways to increase branch involvement and membership. All members are invited to attend.

Patricia Guidish, 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 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold its annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, April 8, 2012, at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA, 90706. Mass will begin promptly at 11:00AM. A delicious, authentic Slovak lunch will be served after Mass, along with an Easter egg hunt conducted for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

Also, following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officer reports and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you all there and would like to wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

Fraternally yours,

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 invites all of its members to enjoy Hockey Night as the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Hamilton Bulldogs at 7:30PM on April 13, 2012 at the Q for only \$5 a ticket. Enjoy a family friendly night of minor league hockey, dollar hot dogs and dollar soda pop – PLUS a special Cavs promo and an open skate after the game. For details, see flyer in this issue of Jednota or call Linda Kolesar at 440-886-0206.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II Semi-Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, Illinois. We will enjoy a short period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments starting at 1:30 pm.

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

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

Robert Tapak Magruder, District 2 Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 – GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Semi-Annual meeting on Saturday, April 21, 2012 following the 5:00 P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church in United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the Convent. National Vice President, Andrew Harcar, will be present to conduct a Sales Seminar and answer any questions you may have. We look forward to a great attendance. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – MSGR RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue in Linden, NJ. Election of officers will take place. Please join us. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, District Secretary



Members of Branch 764 enjoyed a delayed Christmas celebration in January, including dinner and a later meeting with election of officers.

Scenes From Branch 764's January Celebration

Branch 764, Warren, OH, celebrated a delayed Christmas Dinner at Alberini's Restaurant in Niles, OH, on January 14, 2012. A short business meeting was held following dinner, and the following officers for 2012 were installed: Bill Hursovsky, President; Fred Brunetti, Vice President; George Yuricek, Treasurer; Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary; and Rosemary Heald, Auditor.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary



Attention Branch 581 & Former Br. 762 Members: Special Fraternal Event In May



At our Nov. district meeting it was voted to offer interested members of Branch 581, Gary, IN, as well as former Branch 762 members, Whiting, IN, the opportunity to attend the Theatre at the Center's matinee performance of "Making God Laugh". In this new comedy, you can go home again, but are you sure it's a good idea? Empty nesters welcome home their children over family holidays spanning three decades. As the parents & grown children adapt to their new relationships, their dreams, unresolved issues, old family traditions & dubious recipes are trotted out on Thanksgiving, New Year's & Christmas holidays. You will find that home is not only where the heart is, but also where the laughs are.

It will be held at Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Rd, Munster, IN on Sunday, May 20, 12:45 pm Brunch & 2:20 pm Show time. Cost is: 54.50 per ticket. FCSU members that attended any previous shows will receive a rebate of 20.00 making your cost 34.50 per ticket. New, first time FCSU members will receive a 10.00 rebate making your cost 44.50 per ticket.

Forty tickets have been reserved. Deadline is April 14, 2012. Make checks payable to Spitkovsky, Dist 2 & mail to George Kelchak, 953 Portage Ave, Porter, IN, 46304. For further info, call 219-926-2410. George Kelchak, Director of Fraternal Activities.

Ann Buczek, Branch President

DISTRICT 5 – MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at the Tatra Hall in Muskegon Heights, MI. Our day will begin with dinner being served at 1:00PM, with the business meeting following. The Tatra Hall is located at 2526 6th Street and Sherman Blvd.

Branch 595 is hosting this meeting and Emmett Moore should be notified at (616) 901-1791 by April 25, 2012, of delegates attending from your branch.

Spring should be here by then so let's make it a good turn out!

Remember: Branches must attend these meetings in order to get branch compensation from headquarters.

Anna Magusin, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District Spring Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 15, at 1PM at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 276 will host. Please RSVP by April 1 by contacting Branch President Margaret Nasta. Please email manasta@verizon.net or leave a message at 412-672-0379.

The meeting agenda will include officers' reports and discussion of national and district business items. We will also discuss upcoming national and district events for 2012. Please email the district secretary if you have an item for the agenda or an upcoming Slovak cultural event that you would like to advertise.

The Annual Meeting in the Fall is still in the planning phase. There is, as yet, no host branch. Please consider hosting and contact the district president in April.

Plan to attend the District Fathers' Day Brunch on Sunday, June 17, at Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Branch 38 will host and Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. Mass begins at 9:30 with brunch to follow. Further details will be provided later.

The district is still collecting e-mail addresses from each branch in order to improve communications. If we don't already have your e-mail, please contact the district secretary at manasta@verizon.net. The Pittsburgh District thanks everyone who attended the meeting in December. We had the largest crowd in many years. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the April meeting. Watch for our district notices on-line and in the Jednota.

Fraternally

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 7 – REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT – BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012, in Saints Cyril and Methodius Church Hall in Windber, PA, beginning at 2:00PM. The host will be St. John the Baptist, Branch 292.

Member branches should have received their dues notices by now. These dues may be paid at the meeting. Spring will be here, and the weather is nicer; so let's show our fraternalism with a good turnout of delegates.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 8 - REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT - EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2012. There will be a Mass at 11 AM at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church, 600 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pa. 17948. Afterward, the dinner will be at 12:30 PM at A & C Catering Hall, 505 West Mahanoy Street, Mahanoy City, Pa. The meeting will then take place at 1:30 PM in the hall.

Donation for the dinner is \$15.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Branch 112. All checks and credentials must be returned by Saturday, April 21, 2012. PLEASE be prompt!!

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350. Thank You!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 11 - MSGR JOSEF TISO DISTRICT

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Msgr. Josef Tiso District will be on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, PA, at 2:00 PM.

Delegates from all branches should call okres secretary Grace Charney at (724) 763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

This notice is also a reminder to Branches that representation at District meetings and up-to-date payment of District dues are requirements for eligibility for your annual membership reimbursements from Headquarters.

Grace M. Charney, Secretar

DISTRICT 12 – ANDRE HLINKA DISTRICT

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 1:00PM, a meeting of the Andre Hlinka District will be held at King's Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Members of the various branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

DISTRICT 14 – THE REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold its next meeting Tuesday March 20, beginning at 6:00pm, at St. Matthias Church Rectory, The agenda will include discussions of the year's activities, including a casino trip.

Carla Peshek, District President

DISTRICT 15 PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold a Meeting on Palm Sunday April 1, 2012. The celebration begins at 11:00 AM with a Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706.

The Meeting will follow in the cafeteria. After the meeting will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a Slovak gourmet lunch, with dessert and other refreshments to be served. Children will enjoy a traditional Easter Egg hunt. All members are invited and all branches in our area are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting.

On the agenda will be: Promotion and schedule of District fraternal activities and First Catholic Slovak Union Insurance program information.

**Sincerely,
Paul Skuben, President**



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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



Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001K	Agnes L Hlivak	055K	Robert Andrew Hilp	260K	George Joseph Barry	615K	Julia A Churchvara
002K	Michael R Jablonsky	083K	Alice Pauline Valek	320K	Michael J Soltis	628K	John B Hallas
002K	George E Tritinger	085K	Joseph M Masko	324K	Robert M Cholewa	682K	Margaret Rose Eperjesi
002K	Anthony F Vrecenar	122K	Caroline A Mahoy	324K	Jessica L Kushner	716K	George K Lalka
007K	Dorothy M Sklar	156K	Andrew Kmita	326K	Jean F Brownmiller	731K	Stephen J Sepesy Sr
016P	Margaret Ann Godek	157K	Mary H Burda	380K	Joan M Gonglik	738K	Geraldine M Perhac
019K	Mary A Bruzenak	162K	Carl B Brownfield Jr	381K	John F Rusnak	738K	Clare Volk
019K	Ronald J Bruzenak	162K	George Ferens	484K	John Joseph Lutch Jr	743K	Anne C Hacala
023K	Mary J Fatula	162K	Thomas C Frederick	497K	Margaret Ann Eibel	746K	Elizabeth Koltun
024K	Michael Kizak	162K	Marcella Kosco	512K	Edward C Potosky	746K	Stephen Michael Tirpak
024K	Irene M Lonjak	165K	Mary A Gerlock	514K	Barbara Dzienciol	764K	David M Yandura
024K	Mary Lou Pollack	166K	Gabriel Kollar	543K	Dennis Walter Ganski	831K	Steve J Karney
024K	Joan Elaine Sopko	181K	Richard P Spirko	553K	Andrew A Ference	855K	Lawrence James Hanzo
035K	Ruth B Yuros	189K	Mary A Hitchcock	553K	Fred B Kmetz	855K	Lucille L Palko
040K	Jessie M Norris	189K	John Joseph Novak	580K	Elizabeth Bernadette Sperhac	856K	John C Kasper
045K	Joseph Bulko	200K	John C Novak	581K	Helen Dzurilla	856K	Ladislav Topolsky
045K	Mary A Otruba	238K	Joseph S Ceresko	581K	John J Vrlík		
055K	John Paul Batcho	254K	Mary H Sobek	591K	Raymond John Pikna		
055K	Margaret J Graves	259K	Andrew Botsko	591K	Frank P Pulek Jr		

* Processed in the month of Feb. 2012

OBITUARIES

Mary Lou Popiolkowski

Branch 380 –
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

Mary Lou Popiolkowski, 82, of Houston, died unexpectedly at 7:29 a.m. Friday, February 17, 2012, in Canonsburg General Hospital.

She was born July 15, 1929, in Canonsburg, daughter of the late Joseph A. and Mary Bauer Graytok.

Mrs. Popiolkowski graduated in the Class of 1947 from Canonsburg High School, where she had been a majorette.

She was a member of St. Patrick Church in Canonsburg and had lived in Houston for the past 48 years.

Mrs. Popiolkowski was last employed modeling clothing for Phyllis' Fashions in Meadow Lands and was known for baking wedding cakes.

She enjoyed bingo, going to casinos and traveling with her husband.

On November 11, 1951, she married Louis J. Popiolkowski, who survives after celebrating 60 years of marriage.

Also surviving are two sons, Gary (Lori) Popiolkowski and Lou (Lori) Popiolkowski, both of Canonsburg; a daughter, Lori Popiolkowski of Houston; two grandchildren, Jennifer (Andrew) Weiss and Matthew Popiolkowski; a brother, William (Lois) Graytok of the state of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

Deceased are a brother, Joseph Graytok, and two sisters, Helen Peed and Elizabeth Graytok.

Friends were welcomed from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, February 19, and Monday, February 20, in Salandra Funeral Service Inc., Canonsburg, where a blessing service was held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 21, followed at 10 a.m. by a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Patrick Church, Canonsburg. Entombment followed in Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Peters Township.

- Submitted by Margaret Graytok, Branch Financial Secretary

Elizabeth Jean Duda Branch 743 – Sterling Heights, Michigan

While very accomplished in many ways herself, much of Elizabeth's life was devoted to those around her, and she derived considerable pleasure and satisfaction from assisting others



to achieve their utmost. Friends, family, and acquaintances were graced by her loving, attentive, and warm personality, her cheerful disposition, and her beaming smile. She was born in Daisytown, PA, on January 13, 1922.

While still in her teens and then living in Detroit, MI, Elizabeth lost her mother on July 20, 1937. Elizabeth took on the responsibility of managing the Mager family household at this early age while also assisting in operating the family business. Recreation and holidays with brothers John, Andrew, George, and Joseph, and sisters Mary, Pauline, Anne, and Irene were joyous occasions interrupting long periods of intense work. Her father John presided over all with a twinkle in his eye, and much merriment in greeting his many grandchildren. Sunday drives and time spent relaxing or canoeing on Belle Isle were a special source of enjoyment. Elizabeth was multilingual, adept at communicating in Slovak as well as English. She completed her formal education in Detroit.

A new phase of her life began in the post-World War II years when Elizabeth married Clifford Duda on July 4, 1950. They created a wonderful learning environment for their children Kenneth and Nancy at their home in Detroit, MI. Both parents took pride in their strong and active roles in nurturing their children's academic, sporting, and professional successes. In addition, Elizabeth engaged in community events, met regularly with a group of neighborhood friends and fellow St. Gerard church members, participated in charitable and fundraising activities, and happily hosted many large family gatherings. Following Cliff's retirement, they moved next to her sister Anne in Redford, MI. Elizabeth and Clifford remained married until parted by Cliff's death on November 8, 1987.

Always inquisitive and an avid reader, Elizabeth remained fully informed of national and international current events, enjoyed many books and periodical publications, and closely listened to a variety of radio broadcasts discussing key events. She was also an excellent cook, and derived satisfaction from creating mouthwatering dishes for family and friends. Many of the vegetables prepared during the summer months came from the backyard garden that she and Nancy tended with care.

Elizabeth moved in 1993 with her son Ken from Redford to East Lansing, MI. This began a very pleasant period of close proximity to Nancy and her family, with the opportunity to spend much joyful time with young grandchildren Re-

becca, Jessica, and Marcus. When Ken moved to South Dakota in 1999, Elizabeth's spirit of adventure and confidence in being able to overcome any obstacles inspired her to join him in relocating halfway across the country at the age of 77. Though it was difficult to be so far from her daughter and grandchildren, she readily adapted to this new location and made many new friends. She especially looked forward to visiting with community members prior to weekly St. Mary church services. Elizabeth maintained close bonds with widely distributed family members and friends through letters and regular telephone calls, always remembering to recognize birthdays and other special occasions.

She enjoyed travelling around Sioux Falls and nearby communities for symphonies and other musical events, as well as for dining and shopping. When riding around town during the warm season, she always took special delight in observing the progress of evolving flower gardens. Whether the temperature was 40 degrees below zero or 100 above, Elizabeth adapted without

complaint to whatever harsh conditions were encountered and simply went about her business.

Elizabeth experienced a variety of health problems, especially in her later years. However, she was a tenacious fighter who enjoyed life, and especially her family, so fully that she always managed to overcome increasing physical adversity and remained living at home until she passed away in Sioux Falls on September 8, 2011, about four months before her 90th birthday. She had been looking forward to enjoying some fresh garden tomatoes and sweet corn again that evening with her son during a week of perfect temperatures and cheery sunshine.

Elizabeth radiated a joyful peace and tranquility that were absorbed by all she encountered, enriching many lives through her innate goodness. Her wonderful gentle spirit, quick mind, and insightful guidance will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She returned to rejoin her husband in final rest at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, MI.

- Submitted by Ken Duda



Krista Louise Glugosh, Wife of Larry Glugosh, Supreme President, Slovak Catholic Sokol, Passes Into Eternal Rest, February 29, 2012



God, put Krista on this earth 42 years ago for a special purpose, and she left our world to return to her Creator on February 29, 2012. For the past 20 years she has experienced life, happiness and fulfillment with her best friend and soul mate, her husband Larry. Their four little angels – Jennifer, Jessica, Julianne and Joanna – were the benefit of Krista's tremendous heart, passion, talent, and loving smile every day. Those who truly knew her will say that we are all better people for knowing this shining star. Predeceased by her mother Connie, Krista also leaves behind her father Jim; Helen Glugosh, whom she often referred to as her 2nd mother; father in law Ron (Jackie); sisters Tracy and Tammy; sisters in law Diane and Malinda; brothers in law Stephen, Andy, Derek, Joe, Mike, and Michael; special son Michael; numerous nephews, nieces, uncles, and aunts, from the Glugosh, Gombita, and Terry families.

A Funeral Mass Celebrating Krista's Life was held at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Roman Catholic Church, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada on March 5, 2012 at 10:30 am. Friends called at Turner & Porter, Mississauga, from 2 - 4 pm and 6 - 9 pm on the preceding Sunday.

The thoughts and prayers of the Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union are with Larry and his family in their time of sorrow. Condolences may be sent c/o Slovak Catholic Sokol, 205 Madison Street, P.O. Box 899, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055.

We faithful believe that Krista is now with our Lord and our mission is to merit joining with her in Eternal Life. Eternal Rest grant unto Krista, O Lord. And may perpetual light shine upon her; may her soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the great mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. May her memory be eternal.

Fraternally yours in Christ,
Andrew M. Rajec,

75th Treasures of Slovakia Celebration Tour Set for July

A cultural immersion trip to Slovakia - north to south and east to west - is set for July 7 - 16 - it's the 24th Treasures of Slovakia Celebration Tour as it will be the 75th tour we have led.

The trip includes colorful Detva Folk Festival with folk dancing and folk craft and Slovakia's unique fujara named a UNESCO treasure; the annual Crafts Festival in Kezmarok with 180 exhibitors, folk dancing and super local foods; chair lift ride to a Tatra peak; raft ride on the Dunajec River in glorious Pieniny Gorge on the Polish border with legends and sighting the rare black stork; tour of Červený Klastor Museum and visit Monk Cyprian's herbarium (this healer, botanist, inventor, explorer and Renaissance man created a device and actually flew from a Tatra peak in the 1700s - he's the focus of a current Slovak film); tour of historic castles - Spiš, Humenné, Michalovce, Trenčín and Devin Castles and something new - a butterfly and wildflower walk where you can see more than a dozen varieties of each.

A highlight of the Celebration Tour - village parties with food and wedding customs in eastern and western Slovakia, plus feast in a koliba with cymbal music, dance at a Goral party in Ždiar with mountain peaks all around; and wine tastings. The trip includes tours of Bratislava, Košice - love the Singing Fountain - Prešov, Michalovce, Humenne, and two medieval walled towns Levoča and Bardejov (2 night stay and visits to a 200 year old, icon-filled wooden church and the skansen museum of log homes that showcase life long-ago.)

Also included visits to village craftspeople such as a famed potter near Michalovce where you can pick your plates off the wall and try your hand at the potter's wheel and to a Liptov woman who dresses dolls in authentic folk dress and sings the old songs.

This is our 75th tour - so on the Treasures Celebration Tour we will be toasting with everything from Slovak champagne and wonderful wine and beer to slivovica and Slovakia's own herb liqueur Demanovka and the rare black currant wine made in only one village. Breakfasts are substantial buffets with many Slovak specialties and our dinners are chosen to include many of the village foods we fondly remember from childhood family celebrations.

The trip costs \$1,999 for the land part and includes 2 substantial meals each day plus



Village parties are fun! The 75th Treasures of Slovak Celebration tour features all the best of local foods, music and dance.

admissions to museums, castles and special events. Everything is included - no add ons. An additional two nights in Prague with local guide is available at \$399 and what's odd is the air fare into Vienna and out of Prague is running a good bit less than flying round trip to Vienna. We help our travelers find good flights. We get many repeaters on our trips - a retired history teacher is coming for his 10th trip with us and a couple who were on this very trip 20 years ago are signed on. We are known for individualizing for special needs and desires.

A highlight of our trips is finding long-lost family - we have a 98% success rate and can arrange for English speaking driver/guides who are also genealogists and take travelers for a day or more to their ancestral villages. Important to get this going way in advance so the family can gather from all over Slovakia and in some cases the young people come home from their EU jobs to welcome their long-lost family.

For a day by day itinerary (just click on the tour name) or to read about our other tour offerings this summer - go to www.our-Slovakia.com

e-mail me at helenezx@aol.com or call toll free 888-529-7150.

Helene Baine Cincebeaux, Branch 278

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

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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)

This is a **can't-be-beat** opportunity to earn extra interest on your long term annuity savings. Anyone who wants to take advantage of this opportunity to earn higher interest is eligible to participate.

Contact your local Branch Officer or the Home Office!

First Catholic Slovak Union ~ 6611 Rockside Road ~ Independence OH 44131

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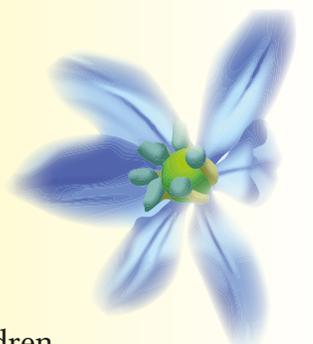
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News From Slovakia

U.S. Officials Praise Slovakia's Joining Open Government Partnership

Bratislava, February 23 (TASR) - A group of five U.S. Congress members, who met Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicova at Government Office on Wednesday, February 22, were highly appreciative of Slovakia's subscribing to the Open Government Partnership initiative and Cabinet's anti-corruption measures, the Office told TASR on this date.

The U.S. legislators were also intrigued to learn more about Slovakia's moves vis-a-vis the consolidation of public finances and the country's relations with Russia and Hungary. Radicova's view on how to come to grips with problems plaguing the Roma community was also broached.

The meeting, which was also attended by U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick, included talks on the ongoing economic woes both in Europe and the USA as well. Radicova emphasized the cross-border influence that economic hardship of one country has on the economy of other countries. She pointed to the story of Lehman Brothers in September 2008 that triggered the global credit crunch, with 100,000 Slovaks losing their jobs in the process.

Radicova also briefed the U.S. Congress members on Slovakia's standpoints within the EU. "We declined to partake of a cash loan to Greece some time ago, and it doesn't make me happy to say now that we were right," said the Slovak premier.

U.S. congressmen Danny Lee Burton, Gregory Meeks, Ruben Hinojosa, Terri Sewell and Frederica Wilson also met President Ivan Gasparovic and Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Hrusovsky during their two-day visit to Slovakia.

Government Okays Slovakia's Participation in EU Fiscal Treaty

Bratislava, February 22 (TASR) - The Government on Wednesday approved Slovakia's participation in the new fiscal treaty drawn up by the European Union.

The treaty, which was adopted by EU leaders at their summit in Brussels in January, introduces stricter fiscal rules for participating countries. It still has to be approved by Parliament and signed by President Ivan Gasparovic in order to be fully ratified by Slovakia.

The parties to the contract oblige themselves to manage public finances with a balanced or surplus budget, while the annual structural deficit mustn't exceed 0.5 percent of GDP. If the public finance deficit is well below 60 percent of GDP and the risks linked to the sustainability of public finances are relatively low, the limit increases to 1 percent of GDP.

If a member state breaks the rules, one or more of the other signatories of the treaty will submit the matter to the Court of Justice of the European Union, which will issue a binding ruling. If the ruling isn't respected by the country violating the rules, other parties can demand sanctions. Countries will inform EU institutions in advance about the emission of state bonds and treasury bonds.

The new fiscal treaty will be interconnected with the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), which should come into existence in mid-2012. The provision of any potential bailouts from ESM will be directly conditioned by the troubled country ratifying and implementing the fiscal treaty in its own legislation.

The treaty is to be signed by eurozone countries and other countries of the European Union that decide to join. It will be valid if at least 12 countries with the euro currency ratify it. When all the conditions are met, it will come into effect as of January 1, 2013. The treaty doesn't include the option of termination by individual countries.

EU: Slovakia and Estonia Only Eurozone States with GDP Growth in 2012

Brussels, February 23 (TASR-correspondent) - Slovakia and Estonia will probably be the only eurozone-member countries to record economic growth in 2012, European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro Olli Rehn stated on Thursday.

While the European Commission expects a slump in GDP in the 17 eurozone countries (averaging -0.3 percent), Slovakia and Estonia can expect 1.2-percent y-o-y growth each in 2012.

In terms of the EU as a whole, in which GDP is expected to stagnate, Slovakia and Estonia are set to occupy sixth place in GDP growth in 2012, below Poland (2.5 percent), Lithuania (2.3 percent), Latvia (2.1 percent), Romania (1.6 percent) and Bulgaria (1.4 percent).

The prognosis for Slovakia notes that the country is benefiting from a stronger-than-expected fourth quarter of 2011 (0.9 percentage points higher than the Commission's expectations). The latest prognoses of industrial production and construction indicate a slight drop in 2012, however. This deterioration will be largely due to the overall situation in the region, given that as much as 80 percent of Slovakia's exports head for EU markets.

Meanwhile, the European Commission expects inflation in Slovakia in 2012 to reach 1.9 percent according to the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP). Inflation averaged 4.1 percent in 2011.

Re-division of Tatra National Park Left to Future Government

Bratislava, February 22 (TASR) - The Government at its session on Wednesday absolved the Environment Ministry of the task of re-dividing the Tatra National Park (TANAP) into zones, TASR learnt later in the day.

Environment Minister Jozsef Nagy announced before the Government session that the new zone system will be left to the new cabinet that emerges from the upcoming early election.

A panel of experts from a number of fields, such as conservation, forestry, zoology and botany, has worked on the new system. That said, some sticking points remained after the panel's latest session.

According to the ministry, the discord lay primarily in objections raised by the owners of the land concerned to the proposed compensation for land-use restrictions.

The division of the Slovak Paradise Park was also postponed, as objections of property owners there haven't been resolved, either.

Skrtel Crowned Slovakia's 2011 Footballer (Soccer Player) of the Year

Bratislava, February 27 (TASR) - FC Liverpool defender Martin Skrtel was crowned Slovakia's 2011 footballer (soccer player) of the year on this date.

Skrtel, 27, won the Jan Popluhar Award for the third time after topping the vote of football (soccer) experts in 2007 and 2008 as well. He won the trophy for 2011 on 338 points from 36 experts, a mere three points ahead of SSC Napoli midfielder Marek Hamsik in what was the tightest contest in the history of the voting that has already seen 19 editions. The third place went to Genoa midfielder Juraj Kucka, with Spartak Trnava player Miroslav Karhan coming in fourth.

The award for Slovakia's best football (soccer) player of the year was named after Jan Popluhar last year. Popluhar, who has been named the best Slovak football (soccer) player of the 20th century, played in the 1962 World Cup final in which Czechoslovakia lost 1:3 to Pele's Brazil. It was Popluhar who used to present the award for footballer of the year since Slovakia gained independence in 1993 until his death last year.

Slovakia's Misery Index Last Year Worst Since 2006

Bratislava, February 23 (TASR) - Slovakia's economic misery index in 2011 stood at the worst level since 2006, Postova Banka announced on Thursday.

"This comparatively depressing indicator is based on the assumption that a rapid growth in prices and a rising jobless rate have an adverse impact on the economic environment and living standards," said the bank.

The 'Misery Index' adds the unemployment rate to the inflation rate over a determined period of time. The higher the index, the worse the country is doing. Given that unemployment in Slovakia stood at 13.4 percent in 2011 and inflation was calculated at 4.1 percent, this puts the index for Slovakia at 17.5 percent in 2011, the worst result since 2006.

A similar deterioration in recent times has been observed in most EU-member countries, with Slovakia ranked sixth from the bottom within the Union.

Useful Websites

www.skonline.sk
www.travelguide.sk
kosice.region.sk
www.slovakia.org
www.vtaty.sk
www.tatry.net
www.hotel-net.sk
www.skonline.sk
www.kultura.sk
www.snm.sk
www.savba.sk
www.government.gov.sk
www.snd.sk
www.stv.sk
www.nbs.sk

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

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christopher

A Chance Encounter?

It was just a chance encounter, an unlikely meeting on a city street between strangers that happened a long time ago. But today the two people who met that way will tell you that it was simply meant to be. And who's to say they're wrong? Anyway, here's how it happened:

One day back in 1986, a 35-year-old newspaper executive named Laura Schroff was walking on a street in Manhattan when she was approached by a boy who asked if she had any spare change. At first she ignored him by simply walking on by, but something made her turn and go back. The boy's name was Maurice Mazzyk, and he was 11. Schroff had no change to give him, but asked him instead if she could buy him a lunch at McDonald's. Since lunch was the reason he was asking for change to begin with, that was fine with him. And that meal would begin a friendship that has endured down through the years, one that would change both their lives forever.

I read Laura and Maurice's story in an article by Alex Tresniowski in Parade, based on a synopsis of a book he and Laura have written. Unlikely might not be the best word to describe their friendship; unbelievable is probably more like it. One was an adult, the other a child; she is white, he's black; she lived in a luxury high-rise, and he in a welfare hotel. Still their relationship flourished as it grew.

Maurice's background was predictably troubled: his father a gang member who left home when the boy was 6; his mother a jobless drug addict. "I know my mother did the best she could," he says today.

Three days after that first meeting, Schroff went looking for the boy, and found him on the same street corner. They agreed to keep meeting once a week, and while she first took him out to eat eventually she brought him home and cooked for him there. It was there, too, that he found a completely different world: setting the table, doing laundry, conversing. Soon she was doing things she had missed out on in her own childhood--taking him to his first baseball game, buying him a bike, letting him decorate his first Christmas tree.

Unlikely it might have been, but the friendship brought something to both Schroff and young Maurice Mazzyk. He accepted her offer to fix him a lunch to bring to school, but asked that she put it in a brown bag. "When kids see you walk in with a paper bag," he explained, "they know someone cares about you." What about Laura Schroff? "Sometimes blessings are right in front of you, just as Maurice was in front of me," she said. "Sometimes you just have to open your eyes and open your heart."

With an interruption or two, this is a friendship that has gone on and on. When Mazzyk's mother died, he told Schroff she was his mother now. A 37-year-old with his own construction firm, he's married and has seven children. The family has Schroff over for dinner once a month, often around the same kind of big table he remembers she showed him as a boy.

Looking back today, Laura Schroff reflects on why she went looking for Maurice after that first meeting: "I felt like he'd entered my life for a reason."

Just a chance encounter? Maybe. And maybe, too, a lot more.

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



MEP Peter Stastny Authors Petition

Tichomir Miko

On March 1st, Peter Stastny, Slovakia's MEP, (Member of European Parliament), together with Polish MEP colleague Marek Migalski, circulated a petition on the internet calling for the revocation of the right of Belarus to organize the 2014 World Hockey Championships. A year ago, Europe's last dictatorship began a brutal crackdown that left many peaceful protesters injured or imprisoned. Even as democratic change takes root around the world, the government of Belarus persists in crushing the legitimate aspirations of its people.

The first two paragraphs of the petition read:

[We] Urge the International Ice Hockey Federation to suspend its 2014 Ice Hockey Championship in Minsk, Belarus until that country's long-time dictator, Alexander Lukashenko, releases all the country's political prisoners and issues a moratorium on the death penalty in Belarus.

Often known as the "last dictatorship of Europe," the Lukashenko regime has earned international notoriety and scorn for its appalling human and political rights record.

Even though Rene Fasel, president of the IIHF, swept aside similar requests in past weeks, it was announced that the IIHF will bring up the topic of Belarus and the 2014 championships at their meeting in Helsinki in May due to the swell of protests from human rights organizations. Stastny's petition puts further pressure on the executive of the IIHF to cancel the 2014 championships in Minsk and move them elsewhere.

On January 3, U.S. President Barack Obama signed the "Act on democracy and human rights in Belarus in 2011." This document extends the sanctions imposed on Belarus in 2004. Among other things, the drafters of the bill call for the International Ice Hockey Federation to abandon its plans for the World Championship - 2014 in Minsk.

Last November, Stastny spoke in a public hearing in the European Parliament calling for free and fair elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to help stem the poverty there and to aid the development of that country and its people.

Having grown up under a communist regime in Czechoslovakia, the member of the IIHF and NHL Hockey Halls of Fame is well placed to comment on the importance of democracy.

Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, CT, INC 2012 Scholarship



Application, Guidelines and Procedures Forms for this year's \$1,000 scholarship are available from the Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Scholarship Chairperson Eileen S. Wilson, 395 Pilgrim Lane, Stratford, CT 06614. Mail requests only, please.

Among the requirements: the applicant, parent(s), grandparent(s) must be a member of the Alliance for a minimum of three years and of Slovak descent. RSVP for returned

forms is May 11, 2012.

The Alliance is independent of any other Slovak Fraternal or Society.

- Eileen S. Wilson, Scholarship Chairperson and FCSU Branch 19 Member

Publication Schedule for 2012

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
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

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

R	E	L	A	W	E	E	E	L	U	M	P		
O	V	A	G	O	A	B	R	O	W	N	I	E	
B	A	Z	A	A	R	S	B	A	R	R	I	N	G
O	D	I	N	D	I	E	T	D	E	C			
T	E	E	N	Y	E	T	I	S	N	O	A	H	
	D	R	O	P	R	O	D	E	R	O	E		
		Y	E	W	N	E	A	T	N	N	W		
	P	O	S	E	R	L	O	O	S	E			
G	A	L	P	A	C	E	S	A	X				
E	N	D	P	U	N	S	D	Y	E	D			
M	E	T	E	S	E	N	N	A	G	R	A	M	
	I	L	L	B	E	A	D	E	M	M	A		
J	A	M	A	I	C	A	P	I	A	N	I	S	T
U	T	E	N	S	I	L	P	E	R	N	E	T	
G	E	R	A	I	L	Y	U	M	E	L	S		

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Treats and Treasures of Slovakia Featured at 22nd Annual Slovak Mass & Easter Customs Breakfast at Prince of Peace Parish, Southside, Pittsburgh PA

The 22nd annual celebration of a Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast will take place at Prince of Peace Parish (South Side, Pittsburgh) on Saturday, March 31, 2012. It's the perfect opportunity to learn more about the rich spiritual culture and traditional Easter customs of Slovakia.

This mini cultural festival begins a little earlier this year. The Holy Rosary, recited in Slovak, will begin at 9:45 a.m. at St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th Street, Pittsburgh, PA. The Holy Liturgy follows at 10:00 a.m. The Prince of Peace Choir, under the direction of Gerri Walters, will lead the congregation prayers, hymns and responses sung in the beautiful Slovak language. Father Peter Haladej will celebrate the liturgy in Slovak and offer his homily in English. Father Haladej, originally of Slovakia, is currently assigned to St. Aloysius Church in East Liverpool, OH.

After Mass, the community is invited to gather at Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) to sample a traditional Slovak Easter breakfast of šunka (ham), paska (sweet bread), sirez (a "cheese" made of eggs), klobasy (sausage) and pysanky (dyed, hard boiled eggs). There is NO CHARGE for the meal, but donations are gratefully accepted and will help defray breakfast expenses.

Also featured at the Slovak Easter Customs Breakfast are cultural displays depicting the folk culture and village life of our Slovak ancestors. Master folk artist, Larry Kozlowski, will demonstrate traditional Slovak-style and braiding of palms and have a large variety of hand-decorated pysanky, basket covers and other traditional items available for your own Easter celebration. Selected imported giftware will also be available for sale.

The Prince of Peace bake sale will have plenty of delicious favorites available to satisfy any sweet tooth, and reasonably priced, too: choose from homemade nut and poppy seed rolls, paska, kolače and assorted cookies. Raffles include a "Slovak Auction" and a basket

brimming with traditional Easter foods, crowned with an embroidered basket cover.

The Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast Program is sponsored by the Cultural Diversity Committee of Prince of Peace Parish. Its goal is twofold: to introduce for the youth, and re-create for the elders, Lenten and Easter traditions and customs of Slovakia; and raise funds to benefit two organizations in Slovakia which focus on the well-being of young people – the orphanage in Ružomberok operated by the School Sisters of St. Francis, and the OZ Barlička Institute in Prešov, which provides life-skills training for young adults with disabilities.

The Prince of Peace Annual Slovak Easter Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast in Pittsburgh's South Side is a great way children and grandchildren to experience some of the cultural treasures of their ancestral homeland. It's a wonderful opportunity to rekindle treasured memories, and to help others while enjoying a relaxing and informative morning.

ADMISSION TO THE SLOVAK EASTER BREAKFAST IS FREE, but donations are gratefully accepted. Please call the Paul or Connie Zatek at 412-488-8238 for more information, to make a donation, or to learn how you can participate with a display or craft demonstration of your own.

Join the friends and families of Prince of Peace Parish on Saturday, March 31, 2012. Doors to the breakfast hall open following the Mass (approximately 11:15 a.m.). Please note the move to an earlier time from prior years.

St. Thomas A' Beckett Lenten Fish Fry

The Annual St. Thomas A' Beckett Fish Fry is held this year at the St. Thomas A'Beckett School Building on 139 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA. It is held every Friday from March 1st until Good Friday, which is April 6th this year. Hours are 3:30PM – 7:30PM. Take outs are available by calling 412-655-9966.

All the baked and breaded fish is quality cod. The dinner choices are: fried platter (fish & shrimp), fried fish, baked fish, fried shrimp. All are served with two sides and a beverage. Ala carte items are: giant fried fish sandwich, French fries, baked potato, haluski, macaroni and cheese, pizza, coleslaw, applesauce, soup, and beverages. Pirohy/pirogi will be the SPECIAL for Good Friday. Homemade desserts are also available.

The public is invited to enjoy these special foods. For more information, call: 655-2885 or 653-4322.

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, Vandergriff, PA, 15690
1-724-567-7341 OR 1-724-568-3215 OR toll free at 1-800-260-8687

Branches 24, 450, and 855: \$5 Lake Erie Monsters Hockey Game, Plus Dollar Dog/Pop



Friday, April 13, 2012
7:30pm
Monsters vs. Hamilton Bulldogs
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH



Special Offer Includes:

- \$5 Ticket!! (\$18 game day value)
- \$1 hot dogs & \$1 sodas
Presented By Pepsi & FS Ohio
- Free post game skate
-must provide own skates
- Cavaliers Night at the Monsters!

To order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:

- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 216-668-7797
- Branch 450: Margaret Valencik, 216-676-0497
- Branch 855, Linda Kolesar, 440-886-0206



Special FCSU member rate of only \$5 per ticket, courtesy of your FCSU branch
Deadline to order: March 19, 2012

Upper Endzone	Total
# OF \$5 TICKETS <small>(\$18 game day value; lower level end zone and corner seats)</small>	\$

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please fill out completely)

NAME _____ DAY PHONE () _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
EMAIL _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

CHECK/MONEY ORDER (MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO YOUR LOCAL BRANCH)

METHOD OF DELIVERY:
pick up at will call (near box office)

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in Quicken Loans Arena. Orders must be placed online, by mail, fax, or phone. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.

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.



Rímskokatolícka cirkev je najpočetnejšou cirkvou na Slovensku

Rímskokatolícka cirkev zostáva najpočetnejšou cirkvou na Slovensku. Vyplýva to z údajov vybraných definitívnych výsledkov sčítania obyvateľov, domov a bytov, ktoré bolo v máji 2011. Účasť na náboženskom živote, respektíve vzťah k Rímskokatolíckej cirkvi vyjadriť podľa výsledkov 62 percent obyvateľov Slovenska. Pred 10 rokmi ich bolo 68,9 percenta obyvateľov. Novinárov o tom informovali predstavitelia Štatistického úradu (ŠÚ) SR.

„62 percent obyvateľov s trvalým pobytom na Slovensku si pri sčítaní 2011 uviedlo v rubrike Náboženské vyznanie Rímskokatolícku cirkev,“ potvrdila predsedníčka ŠÚ SR Ľudmila Benkovičová. Druhou najpočetnejšou cirkvou je podľa výsledkov Evanjelická cirkev augsburského vyznania (2011 – 5,9 %; 2001 – 6,9 %) a tretou je Gréckokatolícka cirkev (2011 – 3,8 %, 2001 – 4,1 %). V ostatných cirkvách zostal buď stabilný stav alebo sa počet osôb, ktoré sa k nim hlásia, mierne zvýšil.

Rímskokatolícka cirkev má dominantné postavenie vo všetkých krajoch Slovenska. Najviac obyvateľov si ju uviedlo v Nitrianskom (70,5 %), v Trnavskom a v Žilinskom kraji (zhodne 70,1 %). Najmenej si ju vlni zapísalo v Košickom kraji (51,4 %). Gréckokatolícka cirkev má najsilnejšiu pozíciu na východnom Slovensku – v Prešovskom (14,1 %) a v Košickom kraji (9,5 %). Najmenej obyvateľov sa k nej prihlásilo v Trnavskom a v Trenčianskom kraji (zhodne 0,2 %).

Príslušnosť k ďalším cirkvám a náboženským spoločnostiam obyvatelia SR deklarovali v oveľa nižšej miere. „Zároveň, podiel obyvateľstva bez vyznania, sa v porovnaní so sčítaním pred desiatimi rokmi mierne zvýšil,“ povedala Benkovičová. Kým v roku 2001 ich bolo 13,0 % (697 308 osôb), minulý rok štatistici zaznamenali 13,4 % (725 362). Najviac obyvateľov bez vyznania je v Bratislavskom (26,8 %), v Banskobystrickom (16,6 %) a Trenčianskom kraji (15,3 %). Výsledky ukázali, že sa zvýšil počet tých, ktorí na otázku o náboženskom vyznaní neodpovedali. „Zatiaľ, čo v roku 2001 na otázku o náboženskom vyznaní neodpovedalo 3,0 percenta obyvateľstva, v roku 2011 sa tento podiel zvýšil na 10,6 percenta, čo je viac ako 571-tisíc osôb,“ uviedol riaditeľ odboru štatistiky obyvateľstva Marián Horecký. Vzrástol i počet tých, ktorí sa prihlásili k netradičným a novým náboženstvám (2011 – 0,5 %; 2001 – 0,1 %).

Obyvateľstvo podľa náboženského vyznania (rok 2011 - 5 397 036 obyvateľov; rok 2001 - 5 379 455 obyvateľov)

Rímskokatolícka cirkev: 2011 - 62 % (3 347 277 osôb); 2001 – 68,9 % (3 708 120 osôb)

Evanjelická cirkev a. v.: 2011 – 5,9 % (316 250 osôb); 2001 – 6,9 % (372 858 osôb)

Gréckokatolícka cirkev: 2011 – 3,8 % (206 871 osôb); 2001 – 4,1 % (178 733)

Bez vyznania: 2011 – 13,4 % (725 362 osôb); 2001 - 13 % (697 308 osôb)

Nezistené: 2011 – 10,6 % (571 437 osôb); 2001 – 3,0 % (160 598 osôb)

Iné vyznania: 2011 – 0,5 % (23 340 osôb); 2001 – 0,1 % (6214 osôb)

TK KBS

Liturgický význam požehňávania jedál

Ak sa niekto pýta na požehňávanie pokrmov v rámci slávania veľkonočnej liturgie, ide o starobylý zvyk. Jeho pôvod môžeme hľadať v dvoch rovinách. Tá prvá vychádza zo skutočnosti, že Pôstne obdobie pred veľkonočnými sviatkami bolo veľmi prísne. Starobylá disciplína, ktorá dodnes pretrváva vo východných cirkvách, vyžadovala od veriacich nielen odoprieť si mäsité pokrmy, ale aj vajcia a syry, prípadne mliečne výrobky. Tieto dlho odriekané pokrmy sa potom požehnávali na Veľkonočnú nedeľu. Veriace spoločenstvo vo veľkonočnom baránkovi, v koláčoch, chlebe, šunke, vo vajciach, v mlieku a mede videlo znamenie Kristovho veľkonočného víťazstva nad hriechom a smrťou.

Eucharistické spoločenstvo veriacich potom pokračovalo ako agapé, stolovanie lásky, ľudia si uvedomovali, že pokrmy sú Božím darom. Požehnanie je slávnostnou chválou za tieto dary. Všetko sa stavia pod Božie slovo a tým sa zvýrazňuje viera jednotlivca i spoločenstva. Toto je teda chvála Boha. Keďže každé požehnanie vychádza z Eucharistie, ktorá je výlučným vdakyvzdávaním a požehňávaním cez Krista, požehňávanie jedál môžeme v liturgii zaradiť do svätej omše buď po homílii po bohoslužbe slova, alebo na záver svätej omše pred záverečným požehnaním. Požehnaním sa naplnia aj druhý pôvod tohto chvályhodného zvyku. Vychádza od Krista, ktorý pri Poslednej večeri požehnával chlieb a víno. Pripomína aj rozmnoženie chlebov, ako aj pozvanie zmŕtvychvstalého Krista na hostinu.

Vzhľadom na to, že často zabúdame Bohu dostatočne ďakovať za dary a plody zeme, bežne plytváme potravinami, je iste chvályhodný veľkonočný zvyk požehňávania jedla aj výzvou, aby sme sa naučili viac myslieť aj na tých, ktorým chce Kristus cez nás lámať a dávať chlieb.

Daniel Dian
Katolícke noviny



FOTO TASR - František Iván

Telo Konštantína-Cyrila, ktorý zomrel 14. februára 869 v Ríme pochovali na pravej strane od hlavného oltára v Bazilike sv. Klimenta v Ríme. Pri prestavbe baziliky preniesli jeho relikvie do novej časti, kde boli do 18. storočia. Začiatkom 19. stor. sa dostali do vlastníctva šľachtickej rodiny Mattei. Rodina sa neskôr aj s relikviami presťahovala z Ríma do mesta Recanti pri Jadranskom mori. Od nej boli prevzaté relikvie a slovenskí biskupi a kňazi žijúci v Ríme ich odovzdali pápežovi Pavlovi VI. dňa 14. novembra 1963 v Sixtínskej kaplnke. Neskôr ich uložili v hornej časti Baziliky sv. Klimenta v Ríme, kde sú dodnes. Z tejto relikvie bola v roku 1964 jedna časť kostičky venovaná katedrále v Nitre. Táto „nitrianska“ relikvia putuje dnes po diecézách a eparchiách Slovenska a momentálne je v Košiciach v Gréckokatolíckej eparchii.

A reliquary containing relics of St. Cyril are display in different cities in Slovakia. Presently they are on display in Kosice.

Veľkonočný baránek je symbolom obety

Veľkonočný baránek ako symbol obety patrí k neodmysliteľným symbolom Veľkej noci a spája v sebe dve tradície. Tak, ako sa verilo, že krv baránka zachránila židovský národ, Ježiš Kristus ako Baránek Boží svojou obetou spasil svet.

Symbol baránka nachádzame už v predkresťanských tradíciách. V židovskej tradícii sa baránek používal ako obetné zviera za hriechy a v podobe pokrmu aj ako pripomienka vyslobodenia židovského národa z egyptského otroctva. „Bol to taký bod, kedy Izraelci verili, že Boh je s nimi a že na nich nič nedopustí. A keď niekedy dávno v Egypte pri Veľkej večeri jedli baránka, boli duchovne spojení s Mojžišom, ktorý im povedal: 'Zahubené bude všetko prvorozené, ale keď budete mať potrebu dvere krvou baránka a budete ho jesť, tak vám sa nič nestane',“ uviedol evanjelický farár Marián Bochnička z Liptovského Mikuláša a dodal, že práve baránek je spojený s obrovskou dôverou v Boha, že nám odpúšťa hriechy.

V izraelskom národe vyhnanie baránčeka do púšte symbolizovalo aj to, že nesie hriechy celého ľudu a k Bohu prichádzal ako obeta.

V kresťanskom chápaní je podľa Bochničku veľmi úzky súvis medzi baránčekom a Baránkom. „Baránek je pre nás Ježiš Kristus, pretože aj on na sebe niesol hriechy sveta a vykúpil nás, aby sme mali opäť tú istú dôveru a nádej, že s Bohom môžeme zažívať veľmi pekný vzťah.“ Ježiš Kristus, ktorý sa ako Baránek Boží obetoval za spásu sveta, predstavuje znamenie čistoty, nevinnosti a poslušnosti.

Veľká noc sa spája s obetovaním baránčeka aj v ľudovom zvykosloví a obetovanie baránkov počas Veľkej noci vychádzalo u našich predkov aj zo zásad dobrého hospodárenia. Baránek patril k typickým veľkonočným pokrmom. V chudobnejších rodinách sa skutočný baránek nahradil pečeným baránčekom z treného alebo kysnutého cesta ozdobeného cukrom, zelenou jarnou vetvičkou a mašličkou so spiežovcom. Pečený baránek aj dnes znamená obnovu života a víťazstvo nad smrťou a symbolizuje pamiatku Krista.

TASR



Pohľad na sviatočne vyzdobenú halu a prítomných osláv.

Oslava 70. narodenín Milana R. Daita

Pokračovanie zo str. 22

kostola sv. Nepomuckého ako aj otcovi Štefanovi Chanasovi, ktorý zahájil oslavy svätou omšou za prítomnosti najbližšej rodiny a priateľov jubilanta.

Henrieta H. Daitová
tajomníčka Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ a I. Zboru SLvA

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu pripravuje schôdzu, ktorá sa bude konať na Kvetnú nedeľu, 1. apríla 2012. Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine ráno v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, BELLFLOWER, CA 90706.

Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný slovenský obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa budú zabávať tradičným hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek. Po obede bude schôdza pokračovať v jedálni.

Na programe je príprava plánu aktivít na ďalšie obdobie a informácie o poist'ovacom programe Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Na toto posedenie pozývame všetkých našich členov ako aj delegátov jednotlivých spolkov nášho Okresu Princa Pribinu.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v NYC

Oznamujeme členom Spolku sv. Matúša, č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku, že sa uskutoční členská schôdza v nedeľu 22. apríla 2012 o 12:30 hodine, po slovenskej svätej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66. ulici. Láskaivo žiadame všetkých našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Slovenská liga oznamuje

55. kongres Slovenskej ligy bude 8. a 9. júna v Bridgeporte, CT

Na základe rozhodnutia Výkonného výboru Slovenskej ligy oznamujeme, že 55. kongres Slovenskej ligy sa bude konať v piatok a sobotu 8. a 9. júna 2012 v hoteli Bridgeport Holiday Inn v Bridgeport, Connecticut. Adresa hotela je: Bridgeport Holiday Inn, 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport CT 06640. Telefónne číslo na rezervácie je 1-888-465-4329.

Prvé zasadanie kongresu bude v piatok 8. júna o 1:30 hodine popoludní a ďalšie zasadanie bude v sobotu o 9. hodine a bude pokračovať popoludní. Banket bude v sobotu 9. júna. Recepčia začne o 6.30 večer a banket bude o 7:30 hodine.

Slovenská liga pozýva na 55. kongres členské organizácie, spolky, zbory Slovenskej ligy a doživotných členov, ako aj slovenskú verejnosť. Bližšie informácie a inštrukcie budú poskytnuté v písomných komunikáciách v ďalších tlačových správach Slovenskej ligy.

Daniel F. Tanzone, predseda

W. Nina Holy, tajomníčka

IN MEMORIAM

Jozef Biroš, je už jeden rok na večnosti

Áno, už je tomu jeden rok, čo nás 29. marca 2011 navždy opustil náš priateľ, kamarát, manžel, Jozef Biroš z Middletown, PA. Zdá sa, že ani po jednom roku, nevyschli v očiach slzy smútku. Pán života a smrti si ho povolal k sebe, aby ho odmenil, za celoživotnú prácu, tu na zemi.

V ten smutný deň, Jozef ako obyčajne si po večeri ľahol v obyvacke na teplý koberec a pozeral svoj obľúbený TV program. Jeho manželka, Anička si dokončievala svoju prácu gazdinky a pripravovala sa na nočný odpočinok. Keď bola hotová, zavolala na Jozefa menom. Keď sa ani po druhýkrát neohlásil, myslela, že asi zadríemal. V kroči do izby a na jej veľké prekvapenie zistila, že Jozef ani nedýcha. Hneď privolala k nemu lekársku pomoc, ktorá už bola márna. Anjel strážca, odprevadil Jozefa tam, odkiaľ už nie je návratu.

Za nebohého Jozefa Biroša sa v kostole Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Middletown, PA ktorej bol po mnohé roky osadníkom, konala za veľkej účasti priateľov a známych, zádušná sv. omša. Po nej bol pochovaný so všetkými vojenskými poctami na cintoríne v Middletown, PA.

Jozef Biroš sa narodil vo Wilkes-Barre, PA z dobrej, slovenskej a katolíckej rodiny. Vzorná výchova rodičov, pochádzajúcich zo Slovenska, ho vystrojila do sveta s vierou a charakterom rodoľuba USA, ako aj Slovenska. Na výchove sa podieľal aj ich slovenský kňaz, otec Jozef Murgaš, slávny vedec bezdrôtovej telegrafii. Po absolvovaní potrebného štúdia sa Jozef usadil v Middletown, Pa, kde ako účtovník, pracoval pre vládu. S jeho manželkou, ktorá ho predišla odchodom na druhý svet, vychovali dve deti. Osud mu však doprial vypit' aj horký kalich života, keď im pri požari, tragickou smrťou zahynul ich 22-ročný syn. Jozef ako taký, prijíma z rúk Pána každý Jeho rozkaz.

Nebohý patril do všetkých slovenských organizácií a spolkov. Avšak Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednote venoval celý svoj život. Za dobu niekoľko desaťročí bol predsedom, alebo tajomníkom čísla 278 IKSJ v Middletown, PA, ktorá mala 352 členov. Ako taký, sa zúčastnil všetkých konvencií. Pisateľovi tohto článku bol vždy a vždy, veľmi nápomocný. Obľube slovenského jazyka venoval veľa času. Slovensko navštívil niekoľkokrát. Keď sa Slovensko stalo slobodným štátom a Jozef bol už v dôchodku, išiel si svoju slovenčinu zdokonaľiť na univerzitu do Bratislavy. Jeho profesorkou bola dcéra Inž. Aničky Dubišovej, ktorá ich vzájomne zoznámila. Zo stretnutia vyrástla pekná láska, ktorá skončila pri oltári vo Wilkes-Barre, PA. Šťastní Birošovci potom žili pol roka na Slovensku a pol roka v USA. Treba ešte spomenúť, že Birošovci podporili finančne každú dobrú slovenskú vec. Menovite, je to kostol Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Streženienciach, pri Púchove, kde Birošovci darovali krásny obraz Patróny Slovenska, Sedembolestnej Panny Márie. Malým darčekom na kostol prispeli aj americkí Slováci a ich americkí priatelia.

Pri tejto príležitosti si ten veľký kruh jeho priateľov a známych na neho spomína a vyslovuje rodine Birošovej a Dubišovej srdečnú a úprimnú sústrasť.

Jozef Smák



Jozef Biroš

Oslava 70. narodenín Milana R. Daita

Predseda I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC, Milan R. Dait sa dňa 12. februára dožil 70. narodenín. Jubilejná oslava z tejto príležitosti sa konala v malej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, ktorej sa zúčastnili traja jeho synovia s manželkami, vnučka, dvaja vnuci ako aj priatelia zo Slovenského kostola a ostatných organizácií. Náš priateľ, Ján Škrkoň s manželkou pripravili slávnostnú večeru za pomoci Márie Božekovej, členov Spolku sv. Štefana a ďalších priateľov.

Milan R. Dait je známy svojou činnosťou v rôznych Slovenských fraternalistických spolkoch. Je predsedom I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC vo funkcii, ktorú zastáva už 9 rokov. Taktiež je pokladníkom už 8 rokov v Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v NYC. Tradične pripravuje oslavy Slovenskej štátnosti za spolupráce a spoluúčasti ostatných slovenských a fraternalistických spolkov pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Na týchto podujatiach už zaužívané prednáša oslavnú reč.

Pri tejto príležitosti je vhodné sa poďakovať hlavnému farárovi otcovi Svitaňovi za použitie priestorov Slovenského

Pokračovanie na str. 21



Snímka manželov Daitových s otcom Štefanom Chanasom.



Obetné dary počas svätej omši niesli zľava: vnuk Tomáško; krstná dcéra Nicolka a vnučka Michaelka.



Spoločný tanec manželov Daitových.



Zľava Milan R. Dait s priateľom Jánom Škrkoňom.



Na snímke v prostriedku jubilant, Milan R. Dait s manželkou Henrietou a najbližšou ich rodinou, trojmi synmi: Karolom, Petrom a Palkom s manželkami; dvoma vnukmi: Karolom, Tomáškom a vnučkou Michaelkou.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• V Kostole Svätého kríža v mestskej časti Devín sa nedávno konalo slávnostné uctenie pamiatky sv. Cyrila a Metoda pri príležitosti výročia úmrtia sv. Cyrila, ktoré sa každoročne 14. februára slávi v celej katolíckej cirkvi ako sviatok týchto spolupatrónov Európy. Hlavným celebrantom slávnostnej svätej omše bol emeritný biskup Dominik Tóth. Ten vo svojej homílii poukázal na biblickú múdrosť, ktorú nám zanechali vierozvestovia Cyril a Metod. Pripomenul základné piliere cyrilo-metodského poslania, a to život podľa Biblie, sviatosti a usporiadanie ľudskej spoločnosti na večne platných princípoch prirodzeného zákona. Citoval slová Benedikta XVI. jeho spolurodákom pri návšteve Nemecka, že národ bez Boha nemá žiadnu budúcnosť. Súčasná kríza v politike, ekonomike a spoločenskom živote, ktorej čelí aj Slovensko, je podľa biskupa Tótha spôsobená práve zanechaním životodarného duchovného dedičstva Cyrila a Metoda a bez návratu k nemu nemá žiadnu šancu na zmenu a uzdravenie.

• **Odchádzajúca** premiérka Iveta Radičová (SDKÚ-DS) pripravuje knihu, v ktorej sa verejnosť dozvie aj isté informácie týkajúce sa aktuálnej kauzy Gorila, ale aj pádu jej vlády. Pracuje na nej spolu s novinárkou a spisovateľkou Ľubou Lesnou, ktorá momentálne pôsobí ako analytička Úradu vlády SR. Mali by v nej byť veci zo zákulisia, ktoré sa ešte nedostali na verejnosť. Premiérka však garantuje, že to nevyvolá žiadny škandál ani politickú búrku. Spisovateľka Lesná má na svojom konte knihu o únose syna bývalého prezidenta Michala Kováča a publikáciu, ktorá približuje zákulisie slovenskej tajnej služby. V roku 2007 vydala detektívny román Pripad medička, pri ktorom sa inšpirovala únosom a vraždou Ľudmily Cervanovej.

• **Počet** nepracujúcich Slovákov v prvom mesiaci tohto roka mierne narástol. V januári 2012 sa totiž miera evidovanej nezamestnanosti medzimesačne zvýšila o 0,10 percentuálneho bodu (p. b.) a dosiahla tak 13,69 %. Podľa údajov Ústredia práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (ÚPSVaR) SR v uplynulom mesiaci bolo na úradoch práce evidovaných celkovo 408,874 uchádzačov o zamestnanie. Z nich mohlo okamžite do práce nastúpiť 369,948. Ich počet v porovnaní s decembrom vzrástol o 7,520. Ak by sa miera nezamestnanosti počítala z celkového počtu uchádzačov o zamestnanie, dosiahla by 15,13 % a oproti decembru 2011 tak stúpila o 0,14 p. b. V takom prípade by sa do ich počtu započítavali aj nepracujúci, ktorí nemôžu okamžite nastúpiť do zamestnania.

• **Archeológovia** kopali pod podlahou nitranskej Katedrály sv. Emeráma v nádeji, že nájdu aj Pribinov kostol, no neuspeli. Ich pozornosť sa teraz obracia na areál bývalých kasární pod Zoborom, na lokalitu Martinský vrch. Vo vysokej trávě sa skrývajú hneď dva prastaré kostoly. Zvyšky jedného z nich, ktorý pochádza z románskeho obdobia, sa dajú vidieť. Pod nimi je ešte jedna staršia stavba, ktorá by mohla pochádzať z obdobia vládnutia Pribinu. „Nie je to žiadna fantázia, naozaj tam je jeden z najstarších kostolov, ktoré máme na Slovensku. Len potrebujeme ešte spresniť to datovanie“, naznačil riaditeľ Archeologického ústavu SAV Matej Ruttkay. Do výskumu by sa chceli pustiť v lete tohto roka. A to aj napriek nedávny škrtom v dotáciách pre archeologické výskumy. Podľa Ruttkaya sa budú hľadať všetky dostupné zdroje, aby sa výskum rozbehol.

• **Slovensko** sa pripravovalo na popredné miesto v počte väzňov. Vyplýva to z údajov, ktoré zverejnilo Medzinárodné centrum pre väzenské štúdie. V rebríčku počtu väzňov na 100,000 obyvateľov Slováci skončili na šiestom mieste z 27 krajín Európskej únie (EÚ). Na Slovensku počet väzňov každoročne stúpa a väznice sú už preplnené. Momentálne v slovenských väzniciach sedí 9,286 odsúdenencov, čo sa odráža aj na nákladoch štátu.

• **Rómovia** z Levoče a Smižian na Spiši hľúfne opúšťajú svoje domy. Odchádzajú vraj za lepšimi podmienkami do Kanady. Podľa miestnych osadníkov v Smižianoch si informácie vyhládávajú aj z internetu. Čo tam presne robia, nikto z nich nedokázal presne povedať. V Smižianoch žije celkom 2,600 Rómov, z toho do Kanady odcestovali alebo sa chystajú cestovať 150 z nich. Aj z Levoče opúšťajú svoje domy desiatky rodín. Najbližší odchod majú naplánovaný na začiatok marca. Rómovia sa už odhlasujú aj z úradov práce. V Spišskej Novej Vsi sa z evidencie odhlásilo 11 rodín s celkovo 21 nezaopatrenými deťmi. Kanada bola zaujímavá už dávnejšie aj pre Rómov z Česka. Práve pre masívnu imigráciu týchto občanov do Kanady zaviedla krajina javorového listu víza pre českých občanov v júli 2009. Slováci zatiaľ túto povinnosť nemajú.

• **Na 50 hektároch** vyrastá v Bratislave neďaleko nákupného centra Avion nový administratívno-obchodný komplex Pharos. Výška investícií sa bude pohybovať v desiatkach miliónov eur. Plánujú sa stavať najmä obchodné a administratívne priestory. Je tu priestor na vybudovanie hotela, keď o to prejaví záujem iný investor. V okolí je totiž dobre vybudovaná infraštruktúra a letisko. Investor uvažuje, že súčasťou komplexu by sa mohlo stať aj logistické centrum. Koncom tohto roka by sa na pozemkoch malo začať stavať. Pred Vianocami v roku 2013 už plánujú privítať prvých návštevníkov.

• **Komárňanský** lodný podnik nedávno ohlásil prepustenie všetkých svojich 300 zamestnancov. Riaditeľ podniku Peter Bulla upresnil, miestnemu úradu práce oznámili, že k úplnému odstaveniu prevádzky dôjde do 30. septembra tohto roka. Informácie ohľadne časového postupu prepúšťania zamestnancov doposiaľ neboli zverejnené. Prvé výpovede doručia zamestnancom po 20. marci. Ako Bulla dodal, na tento mimoriadne ťažký krok sa rozhodli z toho dôvodu, že ich objednávateľia už dlhší čas nedostali dlhodobé úvery na výstavbu lodí, a preto výrobu nie je z čoho financovať. V komárňanskom okrese aj bez týchto prepúšťaní dosiahla koncom januára tohto roka miera nezamestnanosti 18 percent.

• **Členovia** Stálej rady Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) 23. februára v Bratislave zablagoželali pražskému arcibiskupovi a metropolitovi Dominikovi Dukovi k jeho vymenovaniu za kardinála. Predseda KBS, bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Stanislav Zvolenský novovymenovanému kardinálovi v mene všetkých veriacich na Slovensku odovzdal vzácny dar - obraz Sedembolestnej Panny Márie (patrónky Slovenska) od akademickej maliarky Ivy Štrbovej-Jarošovej, informovala Tlačová kancelária KBS v Bratislave. Kardinál Duka za dar i gratuláciu poďakoval a poznamenal, že má so Slovenskom úzky vzťah i vďaka tomu, že sviatosť birmovania prijal počas vojenskej služby v Trnave. Pápež Benedikt XVI. vymenoval nových členov kardinálskeho zboru počas uplynulého víkendy na riadnom verejnom konzistóriu v Ríme. Pražský arcibiskup Dominik Duka je jedným z 22 nových kardinálov.

• **Prognózy** Európskej komisie (EK) pre ekonomiku Európskej únie (EÚ) a eurozóny v roku 2012 sú málo priaznivé. Oproti prognózam z novembra 2011 došlo k miernemu zhoršeniu ekonomických výhľadov, potvrdil 23. februára komisár EÚ pre menové a ekonomické záležitosti Olli Rehn. Slovensko s Estónskom sú jediné dve krajiny eurozóny, v ktorých sa očakáva mierny ekonomický rast.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Pápežovi udelil popol slovenský kardinál Jozef Tomko

Pápež Benedikt XVI. slávil 22. februára svätú omšu pri príležitosti Popolcovej stredy, ktorá začína 40-dňové pôstne obdobie pred Veľkou nocou. Počas bohoslužby v rímskej Bazilike svätej Sabíny pápež vykonal tradičný obrad udelenia popola. Cirkevným hodnostárom, kňazom i laikom pri ňom urobil na čelo kríž z popola na znak pokánia.

Samotnému Benediktovi XVI. udelil takzvaný "popolec" slovenský kardinál Jozef Tomko, ktorého titulárnym chrámom je práve starobylá Bazilika svätej Sabíny na Aventínskom pahorku, uviedla agentúra Rome Reports, prinášajúca správy týkajúce sa pápeža a Vatikánu.

Vo svojej kázni hlava katolíckej cirkvi vyzdvihla význam symboliky Popolcovej stredy ako dňa ľútosti nad hriechmi a pôstu v rámci príprav na slávenie Veľkej noci.

TASR

Návrh na pamätník sv. Cyrila, Metoda a Gorazda má víťazov

Matica slovenská, Rada Konferencie biskupov Slovenska pre vedu, vzdelanie a kultúru a Spoločnosť svätého Gorazda vyhlásili verejnú anonymnú súťaž na výtvarný návrh súsošia sv. Cyrila, Metoda a Gorazda v Bratislave. Odborná porota, menovaná vyhlasovateľmi súťaže 21. februára, posúdila súťažné návrhy.

Návrhy na súsošie boli posúdené anonymne podľa hesiel, ktoré si určili autori. Odborná porota vybrala tri najlepšie návrhy, pričom rozhodla, že neurčí ich poradie. Po dopracovaní týchto návrhov vyhlasovateľa súťaže rozhodnú o návrhu, ktorý sa bude realizovať. Ohodnotené budú tri víťazné návrhy: Proglas (Mgr. art. Peter Beňo, Lipany), Rotunda (akad. sochár Anton Gabrík, Modra), Cyril (akad. sochár Ján Leško, Trebišov).

Pamätník bude odhalený v jubilejnom cyrilo-metodskom roku 2013 pri príležitosti 1150. výročia príchodu solúnskych bratov k našim predkom. Svoje návrhy do tejto verejnej anonimnej súťaže v stanovenom termíne odovzdalo 24 výtvarníkov, ktorí návrh súsošia predložili v samostatnom vyhotovení vo veľkosti cca 50 cm. K návrhom patrila fotografická vizualizácia a architektonické riešenie umiestnenia v priestore.

Matica slovenská plánuje v spolupráci s Magistrátom hlavného mesta Bratislava vystaviť súťažné návrhy na súsošie sv. Cyrila, Metoda a Gorazda od 13. do 18. marca v Primaciálnom paláci v Bratislave.

TK KBS informoval Peter Mulík

„Job Fair“ v Košiciach

Už 13. ročník podujatia Job Fair pripravila 29. februára Americká obchodná komora (AmCham) v SR v Košiciach. „Účelom tohto trhu práce je, podobne ako v predchádzajúcich rokoch, pomôcť vysokoškolským študentom a absolventom získať prehľad o prosperujúcich spoločnostiach pôsobiach na Slovensku a pokúsiť sa nadviazať s nimi prvé kontakty, ktoré v budúcnosti môžu efektívne využiť“, povedal Rastislav Puchala z košickej kancelárie AmCham. Dodal, že Job Fair znamená tiež obohatenie pre spoločnosti, ktoré majú záujem o perspektívnych a iniciatívnych zamestnancov.

„Toto jednodňové podujatie je zamerané predovšetkým na oblasť ponuky pracovných miest pre študentov vysokých škôl v posledných ročníkoch a absolventov. Ďalej poskytuje možnosť získať informácie o príležitostiach na pracovnom trhu, ktoré ponúkajú slovenské a zahraničné firmy pôsobiace v rôznych sektoroch, ako napríklad informačné technológie, automobilový priemysel, personalistika, poradenstvo či hutnícky priemysel“, doplnil Puchala. Zdôraznil tiež, že účasť študentov, ale aj spoločností, ktoré ponúkajú prácu má stúpajúci trend. „Pred siedmimi rokmi tu bolo sedem firiem a prišlo asi 200 študentov, teraz očakávame okolo 1,300 študentov a vystavuje tu 18 slovenských a zahraničných spoločností pôsobiach na Slovensku.“

Job fair predstavuje jednu z mnohých aktivít Americkej obchodnej komory v SR, prostredníctvom ktorých sa snaží zlepšiť podnikanie svojich členských spoločností na slovenskom trhu. Americká obchodná komora v SR chce zároveň pomocou svojich členských spoločností rozšíriť možnosti pre mladých ľudí nájsť si atraktívne zamestnanie na Slovensku.

TASR

MK SR podporí projekty k výročiu príchodu Cyrila a Metoda

Ministerstvo kultúry SR uverejnilo kritériá na získanie dotácií, ktoré sa dotýkajú aktivít v súvislosti s budúročným 1150. výročím príchodu Cyrila Metoda na naše územie. Objem finančných prostriedkov, vyčlenených na tieto aktivity v oboch programoch, je spolu jeden milión eur. Dotácie je možné získať v rámci Dotačného systému 2012. Výzvy sú súčasťou už otvorených dotačných programov 4 – Umenie a programu 7 - Nehmotné kultúrne dedičstvo. Termín uzávierky na podávanie projektov je 30. apríl 2012.

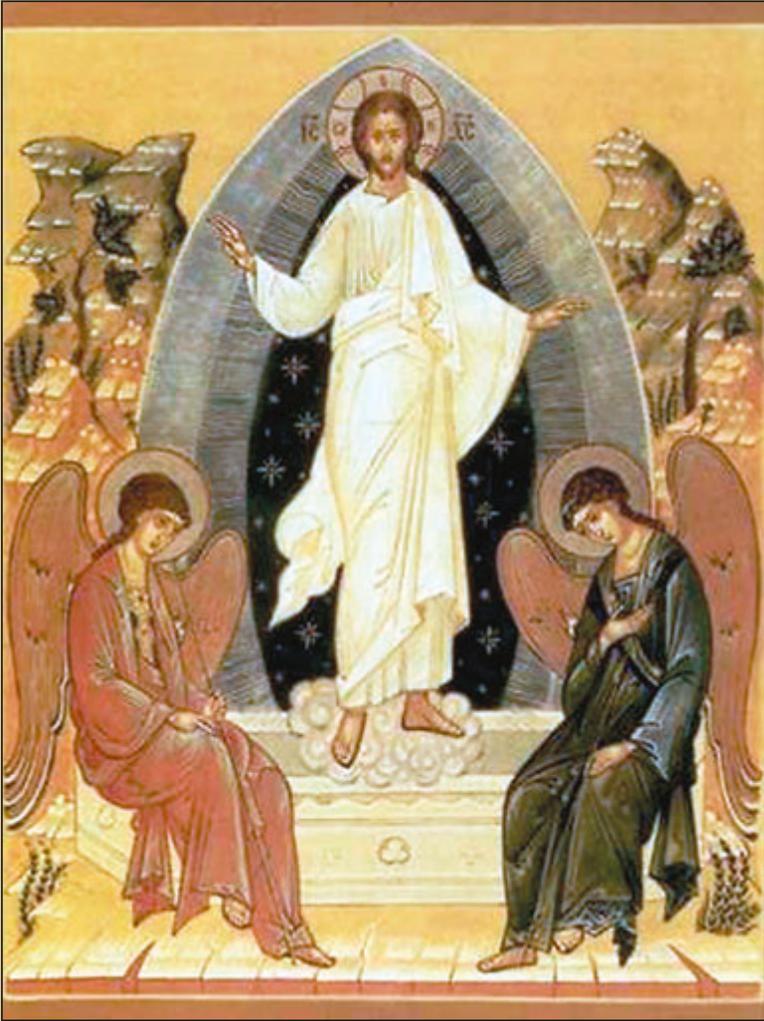
V programe UMENIE je to podprogram Tvorba a aktivity reflektujúce 1150. výročie príchodu Cyrila a Metoda na územie Veľkej Moravy. Podprogram je zameraný na podporu nekomerčnej umeleckej tvorby a aktivít s tematickým zameraním na život a dielo vierozvestov Cyrila a Metoda počas ich pôsobenia na území Veľkomoravskej ríše. Cieľom podprogramu je poskytnúť podporu prioritne na vytvorenie nových umeleckých diel a realizáciu aktivít z oblasti divadla, hudby, výtvarného umenia, literatúry a knižnej kultúry, ktoré sa dotýkajú príchodu sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda, významu ich pôsobenia na našom území, histórie Veľkomoravskej ríše, udržiavaniu cyrilo-metodskej tradície v ďalšom období a jej odkazu pre dnešok.

V programe Nehmotné kultúrne dedičstvo a kultúrno-osvetová činnosť je to podprogram Cyril a Metod a 1150. výročie ich príchodu na územie Veľkej Moravy. Je zameraný na podporu medzinárodných, celoslovenských a krajských festivalov, prehliadok a súťaží, edukačných aktivít zameraných na vzdelávanie detí, mládeže a dospelých prostredníctvom kultúrno-osvetových aktivít, amatérskej umeleckej tvorby a záujmovej vzdelávacej činnosti, rozvoj nových a inšpiratívnych metód a foriem trávenia voľného času s dôrazom na ich výchovno-vzdelávací a kultúrno-spoločenský rozmer, podporu vzniku novej autorskej tvorby a prezentácie interpretačných zručností a tvorivého umenia, podporu vedecko-výskumných projektov a vydávanie odborných publikácií zo zameraním na 1150. výročie príchodu Cyrila a Metoda na územie Veľkej Moravy.

TK KBS

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Velká noc 2012



*Nech je Kristova cesta utrpenia,
smrti a zmŕtvychvstania cestou k novému životu*

Pokoj vám ...

Velkonočná premena srdca

„Blahoslavení tí, čo šíria pokoj, lebo ich budú volať Božími synmi“ (Mt 5,9). „Nemyslite si, že som priniesol pokoj na zem: Nie pokoj som priniesol, ale meč“ (Mt 10, 34). Tieto druhé Ježišove slová nás prekvapujú, pretože Boh sa v dejinách spásy vždy predstavoval ako Boh Pokoja. V Starom zákone sa stretávame aj s Obrazom Boha vojsk, ktorý vojnu prijíma ako nevyhnutný prostriedok na ochranu vyvoleného Božieho ľudu. V Ježišovej dobe bola vojna proti rímskemu okupantovi takmer posvätnou povinnosťou. V samotnom Bohu však niet rozporu. Už pri príchode na tento svet všetkým ľuďom dobrej vôle želaný pokoj. Pokoj prial aj svojim učeníkom, keď sa im zjavil po zmŕtvychvstaní a pri nanebovstúpení. Jeho pokoj však nemožno zamieňať s pokojom ľudí. Ľudia totiž definujú pokoj ako mlčanie zbraní, no nedbajú na príčiny konfliktov. Príčiny nedostatku pokoja v spoločnosti, ba aj v kruhu rodín sú tie isté: človek nikdy nie je spokojný s tým, čo má a čím je. Jestvuje jediný spôsob, ako nájsť pravý pokoj a šíriť ho – stretnúť Boha a nadviazať s ním vzťah lásky. Od chvíle, keď človek dá Bohu prvé miesto, končí sa jeho zápas protichodných túžob. Pokoj a mier vo svete je úzko spätý so spravodlivosťou, s rešpektovaním svedomia a kultúry druhých. Pokoj však nie je iba v rukách politikov, ale nás všetkých. Nebuduje sa v niektorých oblastiach spoločenského života a v iných nie. Sv. Pavol napísal, že Ježiš položil základy pokoja v našom svete svojim krížom, keď zomrel za všetkých a preto je jeho láska adresovaná všetkým. Kríž nám hovorí o odpustení gratis. Cirkevní otcovia jednomyselne tvrdia, že v srdci každého tvorcu pokoja musí predovšetkým vládnuť pokoj. „Nemôže šíriť pokoj ten, kto ho nemá vo vlastnom srdci,“ napísal sv. Gregor Naziansky. Sv. Bazil zasa upozorňuje, že „pokoj v srdci človeka sa rodí z obrátenia a prijatia Božieho odpustenia“. Sv. Ján Chryzostom varuje pred pokrytectvom toho, kto chce šíriť pokoj, ale nie je ochotný odpúšťať. Človek blahoslavenstva pokoja vie, že trvalý pokoj je Boží dar, hoci jeho spoluprotvorcami sú ľudia. Preto sa o pokoj nielen usiluje, ale sa zaň aj modlí.

P. František Sočufka SJ
Katolícke noviny

Cesta na Golgotu ...

Cesta, tá krížová cesta, na Golgotu je ďaleká ...
Drevený kríž, príťažký je, bolesť, neznesiteľná.
Pane Ježišu Kriste, či nepotrebuješ pomoc Šimona?
Tu som. Starý, ale rád Ti pomôžem niesť Tvoj kríž.
Ťažký je. Oba pod ťarchou, padneme na kolená.
Len, Ty si Ježišu môj, len Ty si prosím, veľa neublíž.
Ako ďaleko a koľko ich je, tých krížových stanic?
Ešte si ďaleko, kde Veronika Ťa s ručníkom čaká.
Vojak nemá milosti, trňovú korunu na hlavu vkladá.
Ty, vysílený si, pod ťarchou kríža, na zem padáš,
keď v dave, svoju matku Máriu, ubolestenú zbadáš.
A rozhnevaný zástup reve: „Ukrižuj ho, Ukrižuj ho!“
Darmo Pilát, umýva si ruky, nevidí žiadnu vinu ...
Barabáša im prepustí, ale oni, žiadajú Krista, osobu inú.
Už, skoro nad ránom je, veď počuť kikirikať kohúta.
A Peter tam smutný, pri ohníku stojí, pomoc neponúka.
Ba, trikrát Ťa zaprie, bezbožného davu sa bojí.
Keď kopija, srdce Tvoje prebodne „blyška sa a hrmí“.
Opona sa roztrhne a celá obloha sa zotmí.
Slová prorokov sa splnili, že On, jediný Syn Boží,
svoju ľudskú dušu, nebeskému Otcovi, do rúk vloží.
Dokonané je! Pán Ježiš, už viac nepotrebuje Šimona.
Pane, prosíme odpusť nám, a zmiluj sa nad nami,
lebo aj my sme, Tvoje prehorké umučenie, zavinili.

Jozef Smák



Z Výročnej schôdzy SL A sediaci zľava: Jozef Bilik, Milan Dait, Jozef Korčák, otec Martin Svitaň, farár Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Stojaci zľava: Mária, organistka; Marta Catalano, Henrieta H. Daitová, Nina Holá, Ladislav Korček, Anna Korčák a Ján Holý.

Výročná schôdza Slovenskej ligy v NYC

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New York City mal svoju Výročnú členskú schôdzu v nedeľu 15. januára 2012 v miestnosti Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Po správach a plánovaní programu činnosti sa previedli voľby do výboru I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy na rok 2012. Novozvolený výbor je v nasledovnom zložení: Milan R. Dait, predseda; Jozef Korčák, podpredseda; Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka a zapisovateľka; Mária Božeková, kultúrna referentka; Marta Catalano a Anna Kočák, revizorky.

Nakoľko tento rok sa bude konať 55. kongres Slovenskej ligy v Bridgeporte, Connecticut, prebiehali tiež voľby delegátov na tento Kongres v zložení: Milan R. Dait, predseda; Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka; Mária Božeková, kultúrna referentka; Anna Korčák, revizorka a ako náhradník bol zvolený Jozef Korčák.