



Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

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

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NUMBER 5863

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Andrew M. Rajec

Happy Mothers' Day to all Mothers, most especially to those who are Members of the Jednota.

I have read that Mothers' Day is the busiest day of the year for most restaurants, with families thanking Mom and expressing their love.

Mothers play a special role in our lives. First of all, we would not be here if not for them. Their multiple roles of wife, teacher, nurse, confidant, cook, etc. is absolutely vital to a family's well-being. My own Mother was affected with a terminal illness called scleroderma, that first appeared in her late thirties. She endured 24 years of many multiple hospitalizations and suffering before her death at age 61. She continued to give of herself selflessly.

I cannot imagine the impact on a young child's life of losing a Mother prematurely. By the grace of God few of us have had the misfortune of being born into a world where our Mother was a drug or alcohol addict or had other afflictions. We can only have sympathy for those children and their fate in life. Mothers are not perfect, just as we are not perfect.

Our Catholic Faith tells us that Mothers are especially blessed and should be honored, as Christ honored his Mother, Mary, the Blessed Virgin.

I hope that all of us remember and honor their own Mothers and Grandmothers, whether living or deceased, on this special day.

A good way is to treat them a little special, if they are living, or visit their grave sites if deceased. Maybe offer a Mass for their intention.

Bring joy to your Mother if living and remember her sacrifices for you. Tell her you love her with feeling.

Happy Mothers' Day to all.

Andrew M. Rajec
President



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Use your smart phone to download a QR-code reader. Then take a photo of this icon for more information on our Society wherever you are - at home or on the go.

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Happy Mother's Day



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 Mothers and Members on Mother's Day!

Thank you for keeping the tradition alive.

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



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Insights and Viewpoints



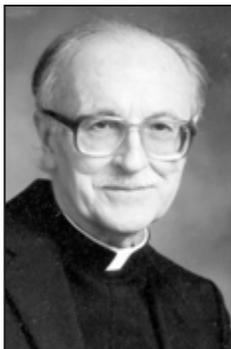
St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Campion P. Gavaler O.S.B., Father Demetrius R. Dumm O.S.B.

May 20, 2012

Seventh Sunday of Easter John 17:11b-19

Gospel Summary

This passage is part of the high-priestly prayer of Jesus that John uses as the climax of the Last Supper Discourse. Its beauty of poetic expression and depth of meaning cannot be captured in a prosaic summary. A summary at most serves as a focus for study in preparation for hearing the prayer in its



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

proper context of the Eucharistic liturgy.

Jesus prays that those who believe in him may be one just as he is one with God, his Holy Father. In his prayer Jesus says that he came into a hostile world to save those the Father gave him from destruction by the evil one. Jesus now is coming to the Father. He will consecrate himself for his disciples so that they may also be consecrated in truth. He will send them into the world as the Father sent him into the world.

Life Implications

A key for grasping the life implications of Jesus' prayer lies in the final verse: "And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth." To consecrate himself means that Jesus offers himself as sacrifice to God, his Holy Father. The word sacrifice, like consecrate or sanctify, refers to the realm of God, the Sacred or the Holy One. In opposition to the realm of the Holy in John's gospel is the "world," hostile to God because it is under the dominion of the "evil one." We who are of the world cannot by our own efforts cross the infinite divide into the realm of the Holy. It is only God who invites and enables us to come into the sanctifying presence through offering ourselves as sacrifice. The offering of self is not complete without God's acceptance. Only then are we consecrated through the gift of being touched by the Holy.

An essential consequence of giving oneself to God is that one belongs to God, and thereby exists for God's use. Otherwise, sacrifice would be as meaningless as giving someone a car, while retaining its use for one's own projects. The gift of consecration by God through sacrifice always involves a mission to advance God's projects in the world.

Of the great variety of sacrifices in the biblical tradition, one is particularly significant in regard to Jesus' high-priestly prayer at the Last Supper. In this tradition a person could offer an animal representing oneself to God. The animal is burned to signify passage into the realm of the Holy. God accepts those making the sacrifice, and invites them to share a sacrificial banquet as an expression of divine communion that has been given. The experience of communion with God is the reason that offering sacrifice of whatever kind in the biblical tradition is associated with joy.

Deuteronomy 16:11-12 illustrates the life implications of offering oneself in sacrifice: "You shall rejoice in his presence together with your son and daughter...with the alien, the orphan, and the widow among you. Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt." We see the joy of celebrating a sacrificial banquet with God. And we see that God uses the one consecrated by the divine presence to serve the destitute and the outcasts of society. If you give yourself to God in sacrifice, you will be used for love.

In his high-priestly prayer Jesus says: "But now I am coming to you...And I consecrate myself for them." Jesus' entire life was a coming to God as sacrifice. Jesus did not offer an animal representing himself; he gave himself in his entire humanity. The climactic completion of his sacrifice comes when he is lifted up on the cross and is accepted by the Holy Father in the resurrection.

At the Last Supper before the completion of his sacrifice, Jesus reveals the good news that his disciples will be consecrated as he is consecrated. With the same mission as was given to Jesus,

they will be sent to bring the fallen world, which God loves, into the joy of divine life. In the Catholic tradition, Christ's presence in the mystery of his eternal sacrifice is actualized in every celebration of the Lord's Supper. Today, we also hear the good news that our self-giving becomes one with the self-giving of Jesus. In the joy of this undreamed of communion with the sacrifice of Christ, we offer our prayer of thanks and praise. We share the sacrificial banquet to which God invites us, receiving Jesus himself as food and drink for eternal life. Then the Lord sends us into the world as he was sent to become bread and wine for others, so that all may rejoice in being one with him in the life and love of God.



May 27, 2012

Pentecost Sunday John 20: 19 - 23

Gospel Summary

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the wonderful good news that the risen Lord has poured out his Spirit upon us, first of all to convince us of his victory over sin and death, and then to enable us to continue his work of salvation by our own love and concern for others.

As we can well imagine, the disciples were filled with fear and foreboding after the death of their master. But suddenly Jesus is there among them radiant with life. He shows them his terrible wounds, which have now become beautiful emblems of his love for them. He offers them his peace—that deep, calm, resonant sense of confidence, which is so different from the peace that the world can offer—a superficial peace that amounts to little more than a temporary cessation of hostilities. This profound peace becomes possible through the presence of his Spirit in them.

And then Jesus tells them what possessing the Spirit will mean in their lives. Henceforth, they will need to be converted from their natural tendency to be self-centered to an attitude of loving concern for others. And this will be manifested first and foremost by their willingness to forgive others. This would be impossible if we did not enjoy the powerful presence of the Spirit who enables us to overcome our constant judgmental tendencies.

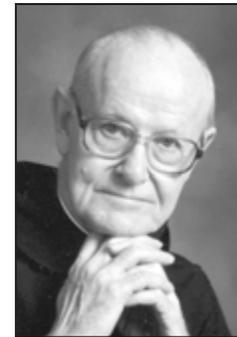
Life Implication

As fragile human beings, we know the experience of living in fear and of being anxious and worried about many things, some of which exist only in our imagination. Jesus, having absorbed the ultimate violence, offers us his peace and thereby enables us to be confident and joyful in the face of even severe uncertainty and threat. This represents a real experience of liberation from the paralysis of fear—a paralysis that often prevents us from doing beautiful and risky things, like giving cut flowers!

With this peace and joy comes the obligation to share our blessings with others. It was once thought that the command of Jesus to forgive or retain sins was addressed only to priests and referred only to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Now it is clear that this charge is addressed to all the followers of Jesus. We must all accept the wonderful and awesome responsibility of offering or withholding forgiveness. In this case, the sin of omission looms large and should make us all examine our consciences in regard to the many times that we may have persisted in nursing old injuries or have refused to make allowance for extenuating circumstances in the lives of those we call sinners.

In this regard, we should recall the very strong words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get" (Matthew 7:1-2). When we face the final judgment, we all hope to have a merciful judge and now we know how to assure that happy outcome.

It is, of course, very difficult to achieve such an ideal of forgiveness. And that is why Jesus offers us the Holy Spirit who, if given half a chance, will empower us to become the kind of gentle, caring and compassionate persons that can make a real difference in a world that desperately needs the witness of love and forgiveness. Let us all rejoice in this wonderful gift of the Spirit.



Demetrius R. Dumm
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23	MONDAY, MAY 14
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6	MONDAY, MAY 28
WEDNESDAY, JULY 11	MONDAY, JULY 2

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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Report of the National Vice President

Reverend Father, President Rajec, and members of the Board of Directors ...

As always, I want to start off my report by thanking the Membership and Marketing Committee, which is comprised of Brothers Andrew Rajec, Kenneth Arendt, and George Matta, for all the time and effort they spend with me on the problems and solutions that concern membership and marketing. Each member is very concerned with the growth and success of our Society.

Membership

As you will see by our annual statement, the First Catholic Slovak Union had another good year. Our assets grew by 16 million dollars and our surplus increased by 1.4 million dollars. Our risk based capital (RBC) ratio is over 650. Our recommenders and agents brought in annuities totaling over 15.9 million dollars. We will go into all the annuities and insurance statistics when we get into our marketing report.

Our existing sales force is doing a tremendous job for the First Catholic Slovak Union. The Membership and Marketing Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to those recommenders who consistently recommend new or increased business during the year.

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Insurance/Annuity Proposers by Total Points for the year 2011:

1. Robert Kopco
2. Cluey Sandy
3. Michael Lako
4. Frances Tarquinio
5. Theresa Chupka
6. Rose Froncek
7. Joseph L. Lucas
8. Joseph Scavina
9. John Jurcenko
10. Andrew Harcar, Sr.

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Insurance Sold for the year 2011:

1. Dorothy Petrus
2. Michael Lako
3. Michael Slovenkai
4. Audrey Balazik
5. Florence Matta
6. Rose Froncek
7. Joseph Rura
8. Mary Kapitan
9. Frances Tarquinio
10. Jeffrey Tisak

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by Amount of Annuity/IRA/Park Money brought in for the year 2011:

1. Robert J. Kopco
2. Cluey Sandy
3. Theresa Chupka
4. Joseph Lucas
5. Joseph Scavina
6. John Jurcenko
7. Andrew Harcar, Sr.
8. Andrew M. Rajec
9. Agnes Farcosky
10. Frederick Brunetti

Congratulations to the Society's TOP 10 Proposers by the Number of Policies Sold for the year 2011:

1. Michael Lako
2. Dorothy Petrus
3. Audrey Balazik
4. Florence Matta
5. Joseph Rimarcik
6. Carl Ungvarsky
7. Frances Tarquinio
8. Martha Zavada Wojcik
9. Frances Dinga
10. Barbara Holly

To each and every one who signed a member and/or who sent in an Annuity/IRA Park Money contract for the year 2011. My heartfelt thanks and congratulations for a Job Well Done!

Marketing

This past year the Membership and Marketing Committee ...



Andrew Harcar
National Vice
President

- Got the software illustration of our insurance and annuity products developed by MT Software, Inc. up and running. Our independent agents were instructed on how to use the program. This illustration system will also be available to our recommenders.
- Updated our current website – www.fcsu.com – and will be doing more marketing and advertising thru our website.
- Continuing to add more agents – as of this date, we have 80 agents under contract.
- Added an annuity suitability questionnaire as per state regulations. This form must be filled out and sent with the annuity application.
- On May 13, 14, and 15, 2011 – An informational booth was set up at the 54th International Pittsburgh Folk Festival at the Monroe Convention Center.
- On June 12, 2011 – A sales seminar was held at the Hampton Inn in Uniontown for the Holly District.
- On July 21, 2011 – An informational booth was set up at the 88th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park near Pittsburgh. Copies of the Jednota newspapers and information on FCSU products were distributed. The annual event draws large crowds each year from Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and West Virginia.
- On August 7, 2011 – An informational booth was set up at the Annual Fest Celebration at the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe, Ohio. The Fest is a day-long event that gathered over 30,000 people from across Northeastern Ohio. The Fest has grown to become one of the largest faith-based summer events. It is sponsored by the Cleveland Diocese.
- On September 4, 2011 – Attended the annual Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival held at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Parma, Ohio. Operated a booth at the festival where information was provided on the FCSU's insurance and annuity products.
- On September 25, 2011 – A booth was set up at the 34th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. The festival was held at the New Jersey Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey.
- On October 30, 2011 – A sales seminar was held for the members of the Msgr. John Rura District in Raritan, New Jersey.
- On November 3, 2011 – Had meetings with a group of insurance agents in Chicago.
- On November 14 – 18, 2011 – Held our membership meet on a four day Eastern Caribbean Cruise on Norwegian Sky.
- Added an addendum to the life insurance application as per state regulations. This form must be filled out and sent with the insurance application.

Activities

Some of my activities in the year 2011 were: Attended all monthly Executive meetings as well as meetings called by the President. Letters concerning marketing/seminars were sent to the recommenders. I wrote articles pertaining to insurance and had them published in the Jednota. From April thru December, I send the "Top Guns" to the editor. Inform all Regional Directors of their districts' insurance and annuity production. I attended various district meetings and/or social functions. I attended the Annual Illinois Fraternal Alliance meeting as a delegate in Springfield, Illinois. I am a director in the Indiana Fraternal Alliance and attend all their meetings. Attended Bruce and Bruce Seminar in Pittsburgh. I attended seminars in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Set up booths at festivals. I also chair the Membership and Marketing Committee.

At this time, I personally want to thank our Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their help and encouragement. I would also like to thank the branch and district officers for their untiring commitment to our great Society. Last, but certainly not least, I want to express my sincerest thanks to our great home office staff for the excellent help and cooperation given to me throughout the year.

Until next time,
Good luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.



Report of the National Treasurer

Reverend Father, President Rajec, and Brothers and Sister Officers:

I am pleased to report that all the financials and other reports as required by the various states where the First Catholic Slovak Union is licensed to do business have all been properly filed by March 1, 2012.

As we review the investment climate for the year 2011, we most likely would agree that economic conditions, although not as we would prefer, they appear to be at least tolerable. Negative reporting of the economic conditions of the United States and World economies continue to be prevalent throughout the year.

The international markets, particularly the economies of some of the European nations are a cause for concern. Interest rates have been maintained at low levels, encouraging banks to borrow from the U.S. Federal Reserves. In addition, FNMA and FHLMC securities are being called and they are reissuing bonds at lower interest rates and shorter maturities, resulting in the State of Ohio Department of Insurance saying that since those bonds were no longer considered "full faith and credit" backed by the U.S. government they put a 2% limitation for these bonds in our total portfolio. The NAIC ruled that those bonds were no longer exempt from the Asset Valuation Reserve resulting in an increase in the AVR.

Against this backdrop, the Society made decisions and changes that strengthened its investment procedure and promoted increased sales resulting in another favorable growth



George F. Matta

continued on page 4

Report of the National Treasurer

continued from page 1

year in our surplus, an increase of \$1,464,153 for a year ending total of \$18,984,017.

Surplus – 12/31/08	= \$ 9,059,592	a loss of	\$4,071,572
Surplus – 12/31/09	= \$ 13,169,012	increase of	\$4,109,420
Surplus – 12/31/10	= \$ 17,519,864	increase of	\$4,350,852
Surplus – 12/31/11	= \$ 18,984,017	increase of	\$1,464,153

Net investments income continues to do well. With most interest rates remaining low, and most projections to remain low through the year 2013, the emphasis is now on shorter maturities and CMO's which provide a flow of cash through mortgage pay downs. The Society has recently seen corporate bonds with higher coupons but unfortunately at higher cost, which brings the final yield much lower.

The Society continues to utilize interest funds available from the Federal Home Loan Bank and use those low interest rates to arbitrage investment in securities that pay a higher interest rate. In order to be eligible to borrow from the FHLB, one must be a member; this can be accomplished by purchasing shares of FHLB Common Stock, which the Society currently earns a 4.5% return. The amount of stock required is in relation to the amount borrowed. At the present time, the FCSU has an outstanding balance, in the amounts as reported by the Executive Secretary.

The Asset Valuation Reserve (AVR) was substantially restored by previous year's infusions. Therefore, only \$621,146 was required for the AVR, which is now only \$52,800 below the 2011 maximum.

The interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR) requires that most profits or losses realized when bonds or preferred stocks are matured, called, or sold, must be placed in this reserve and amortized to the original maturity date of the security.

The Society purchased almost \$87,000,000 of securities in the year 2011, while almost \$70,000,000 of securities were matured, called, or sold. The combined total of \$157,000,000 equals 55% of the current invested total assets. The large volume of trading in recent years is consistent with the volatile economic climate since 2003.

As we review the continued growth in the many facets of our Society, responses from our recommenders and sales agents and the outstanding job by our office personnel, all I can say is:

Thank you and let's do it again in 2012!

Respectfully submitted

George F. Matta
National Treasurer
March 16, 2012



Report of the Fraternal Activities Director

Fr. Nasta, President Rajec, and Members of the FCSU Board,

The 2011 Bowling tournament was held the weekend of April 29-May 1 in North Brunswick, New Jersey. There were 70 bowlers in the tournament and approximately 50 people for the banquet. The banquet was held at Sir John's Restaurant in North Brunswick. During dinner, the group enjoyed watching a magician. The "Don't Stand a Chance" and "Better Luck Next Year" Awards were presented at the banquet to the men's and women's team in last place. Saturday and Sunday Sweepstakes were added benefits, once again, to the Singles and Doubles competitions. The bowler who met certain criteria for each game was awarded a chance to win an extra cash bonus.

The 2011 Golf tournament was held the weekend of July 16-17 in Sharon, Pennsylvania. Seventy-four golfers participated in the weekend-long festivities. The banquet featured music. In addition to the monetary prizes, donations were solicited to provide additional skill prizes. A hole in one contest took place on both Saturday and Sunday.

The 2011 Coloring Contest was again met with enthusiasm from our young members. We received 144 entries. Congratulations to all the entrants and especially to all the winners. An analysis of the number of entries over the past five years shows that most of the participation is in the 7-9 year-old age group, followed by the 4-6 year-old age group.

Plans for all scheduled events for this year are well underway.

The 1st United Slovak Fraternal's Bowling Tournament will take place the weekend of May 4 – May 6 at Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe, Ohio.

The Golf Tournament will take place July 14-15, 2012, at the Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Sharon, Pennsylvania. This will be a joint event with the National Slovak Society.

A national picnic is in the planning stages. Watch the Jednota paper for more details on this exciting event!

In conclusion, I thank the Members of the Board for supporting the various activities throughout the year, and I encourage all of you to promote participation in activities at all levels, of our organization. Please feel free to contact me if I can help to coordinate or promote any activities in your area.

Fraternally submitted,

Susan Ondrejco
Director of Fraternal Activities

Report of the Internal Audit Team

Father Nasta, President Rajec, and Board of Directors:

The Internal Audit Team comprised of auditors Thomas A. Bardar, Raymond G. Lako, John J. Leskovyansky, Jr. and I, Karen M. Hunka, performed audits of fiscal year 2011 activity in the following areas:

- Death Claims
- Payroll
- Credit Card Payments
- Certificate Loans
- Branch Stipend Payments
- Annuity Interest Calculation
- Fraternal Activities Financial Reports
- Vouchers submitted for payment
- Scholarship Awards
- Interest rate/guarantee rate change communication process

Each quarter, an effort was made to meet with President Rajec and Mr. Arendt to discuss our findings and recommendations. Any concerns presented were discussed and quickly resolved.

Contact was made with our external auditor, Mr. L. Edward Mertz, CPA. Mr. Mertz conveyed his opinion that at the time of our discussion the organizations financial statements conformed with the necessary accounting practices.

Also, in December, 2011, at the request of the President, an in-depth audit of funds for a nine year period of a branch was performed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas A. Bardar
Karen M. Hunka—Chairman
Raymond G. Lako
John J. Leskovyansky, Jr.

Scenes From The Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors which was held March 23 -24 at the FCSU Home Office.



(L-R) National President Andrew M. Rajec and National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.



National Chaplain Fr. Thomas A. Nasta celebrates Mass

(L - R) Chairman of Auditors Karen M. Hunka and Director of Fraternal Activities Susan Ondrejco



(L - R) National Treasurer George F. Matta and General Counsel Gary Matta

(Standing) National President Andrew M. Rajec addresses the Board of Directors. Shown (L - R) Region 8 Director Milos Mitro and Region 1 Director Joseph F. Minarovich



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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Andre Hlinka District Met in April

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 1:00PM, District 12, the Andre Hlinka District, held a meeting at King's Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. Some twenty members were in attendance, as well as James R. Marmol, Region 4 Director, and Andrew P. Rajec from the FCSU Home Office.

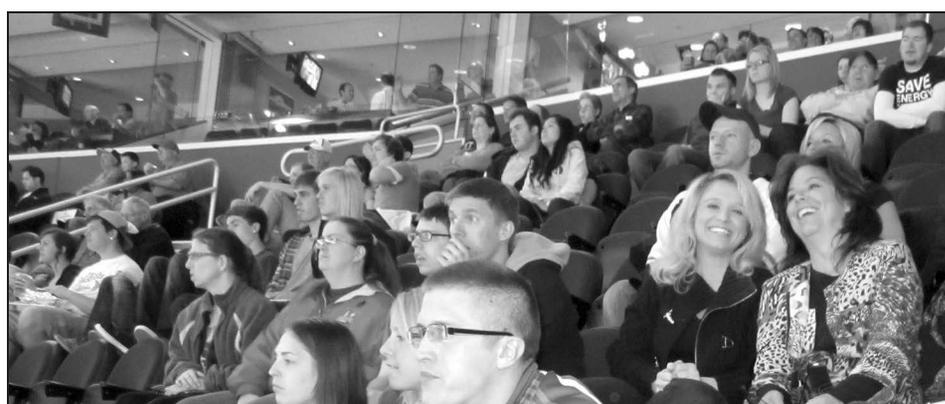


A Great Hockey Night in Cleveland Ohio, Thanks to Three Local Branches

Members and guests of Branches 24, 228, 450, and 855 enjoyed a fraternal night out to watch the Cleveland-area minor league hockey team the Lake Erie Monsters take on the Hamilton Bulldogs on Friday evening, April 13, 2012. In addition to the family-friendly discount on tickets that members of these FCSU branches were afforded, the evening included dollar hot dogs and dollar soda pop available at the sporting venue that evening. A great time was had by all 54 people in attendance with the FCSU!



Above (L - R) Michele Mager, Branch 228, Mrs. Ida Rajec and National President Andrew M. Rajec enjoy a great fraternal night out with many fellow FCSU members and guests from Branches 24, 228, 450 and 855 (below).



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for *The Christophers*

The Blessed Mother Helps a Criminal Become a Priest

Let's see, now: Alcohol, heroin, opium, cocaine. Drug-running for organized crime. An arrest, and a term in rehab. Finally, an ambition: living a life full of "beautiful girls, great music, and getting high."

Hardly the background you'd look for in a freshly-ordained priest, is it? Yet it really happened, and darned if the priest's assignment isn't director of vocations. That's the story, believe it or not, of Father Donald Callaway, MIC. And if you still have trouble believing it, read on.

The future Father Callaway tasted all that forbidden fruit while he was still a teenager, the son of a U.S. Navy man and his wife. When he turned 18 he was pretty much on his own, and it was about that time that his parents became Catholic. A couple of years later he came to live with them in Virginia, for the simple reason that he had nowhere else to go. He was 21, with some jail time behind him, and in a word he was lost.

"I had come to the end of my rope," he said.

Young Donald Callaway told his story to Maryann Gogniat Eidemiller of *Our Sunday Visitor*, which is where I first read about him. At the time he had no hope, no future and no faith—at least until he read a book about Mary in his parents' home. To say that it touched him deeply would be an understatement; he compared it to being hit with a spiritual two-by-four.

"I pretty much had no basic understanding of what life was about," he said. "I was living for pleasure and for things that felt good, and it was exciting. I didn't believe in God and my life was just messed up. When I discovered the faith that impacted how I lived, I cleaned up my act, cut my hair and started behaving like a normal human being."

It didn't take long for the transformation to become complete. He had considered studying for the priesthood even before he became a Catholic, and once he did he was drawn to the Marians' devotion to Mary. He was ordained a priest in 2003, began speaking to groups large and small about his conversion, and is now vocations director for the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception in Steubenville, Ohio.

"God allowed my past for a reason," he told Eidemiller. "I think that helps me now to preach with conviction from the personal element of having been so far away from the Lord."

Father Callaway has appeared before all kinds of audiences, including those in jails and rehab centers. When he does, he says, "I understand what they're talking about, and a lot of time they sense that and feel they can open up to me. They think, 'Wow! He understands!'"

But wherever his travels take him, he says, people are hungry for the same message.

"Some places have a lot of family problems, some a lot of drug problems, some have great poverty," he said. "But they're seeking happiness and they are only going to really find it in God. That's universal."

And there you have the story of Father Donald Callaway, MIC. His been-there, done-that background is anything but the usual path to the priesthood, to be sure—but then again, what is? The main thing is that at some point, God takes over. And from then on, it's smooth sailing all the way.

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

Planting Seeds: An Act of Faith Part of the Story of Maria Joseph Manor

**Sister M. John Vianney
Vranak, SS.C.M.**

On March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of Maria Joseph Manor in Danville.

The significance of this date as we reflect on what God has allowed us to do for the past fifty years is truly awe-inspiring. It reminds us of the parable Jesus once told: "A sower went out to sow some seed..." (Mt. 13:3)

Ever since the founding of the Congregation of Sisters in 1909, they have imitated their patrons who, in the ninth century, saw needs and met them. The need in 1909 was the education of the children; and the need in 1959 was to provide care for the parents of the children they had taught.

Ideas and inspirations are like seeds. We can plant them and allow them to be transformed into something else, or we can just leave them alone, denying them of the opportunity to grow and mature into something undreamed of.

In 1950, anticipating the necessity for trained personnel who could provide for the needs of the aging population, Mother M. Crescentia Bendik, General Superior at the time, sent Sisters to a variety of universities and nursing schools to study nursing, pharmacy, dietetics, and physical therapy. In 1957 she arranged for the purchase of land adjacent to the Congregation's original acreage. Thus, the seeds for what would become The Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community were planted.

The actual ground breaking and construction of Maria Joseph Manor became the responsibility of Mother Crescentia's successor, Rev. Mother M. Bernard Hudak. That began on August 11, 1960.

It was a great risk to plant the seeds of what would become Maria Joseph Manor. The project represented a significant financial outlay. The Sisters depended heavily upon donations from the parishes at which they were serving, the Slovak Catholic Fraternal Societies, their family members, former students, and even the children, then currently in their schools, who were invited to "buy a brick" for a dollar.

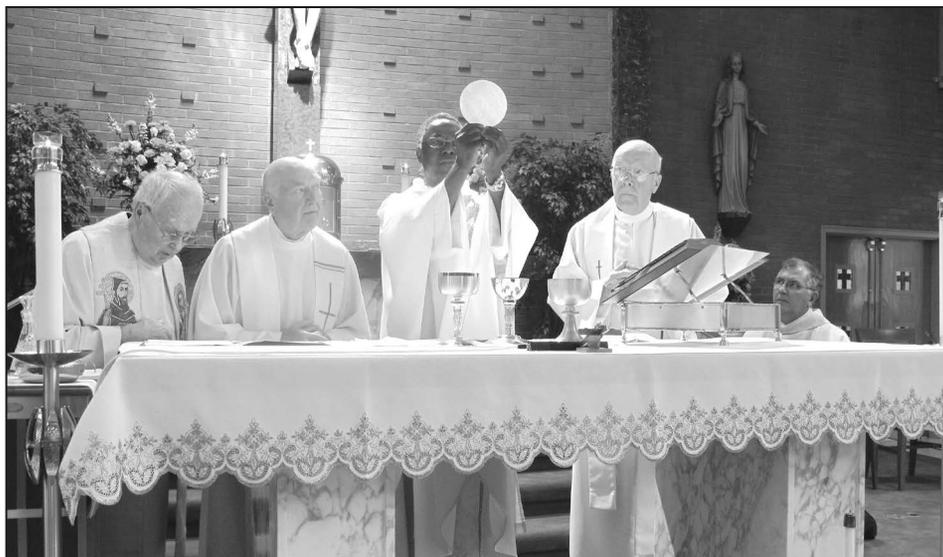
Little by little the seed money began to grow and blossom. The fruit of the service provided by the Sisters, their employees, volunteers, and benefactors have continued to benefit thousands of residents and their families.

Investing an idea into the soil of God's Providence in Danville has resulted in expanding the initial venture of Maria Joseph Manor to the varieties of services we now know as Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community. The outgrowth includes: The Meadows at Maria Joseph and its Community Center, Trinity Terrace, Emmanuel Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, and Nazareth Memory Center under the leadership of successive Major Superiors: Sisters M. John Vianney Vranak, Paracleta Amrich, Pamela Smith, and Linda Marie Bolinski.

While the Sisters risked investing in these inspirations, God seemed to have said: "Get started and I'll help you." May He continue to guard and protect what has been planted



Opened by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius and dedicated in 1962, Maria Joseph Manor has served thousands of elderly residents and their families. This initial venture has expanded to become The Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community with the expansion to The Meadows at Maria Joseph Manor, The Emmanuel Center for Rehabilitation, and Nazareth Memory Center. Daily Mass and other services as well as interdenominational services are offered for the spiritual benefit of all the residents.



Rev. Dominic Azagbor, OP, Maria Joseph Chaplin and presider at the Jubilee Mass, assisted by concelebrants (left to right) Rev. Gerard Heintzleman, Rev. Albert Oldfield, Rev. John Kilpatrick, and Deacon Thomas Conlin.



Sister Christopher Godlewski, proclaiming the Word of God during the Jubilee Mass at Maria Joseph Manor.

• Sunday, October 21

The Golden Anniversary Festivities will conclude with a Mass in the Chapel of Maria Joseph Manor at 2:00 p.m. A Reception will follow in the Manor Social Hall.

+++++

The seeds planted more than fifty years ago have not only grown and blossomed, they have also been fruitful in blessings. Residents have been blessed with security and the assurance of immediate care. The families have been blessed in knowing they have a facility for their loved one for whom they can no longer provide care. The staff has been blessed in having a place of employment where they are appreciated and their efforts are valued. The Sisters have been blessed in knowing that they are fulfilling the inspiration of their founder, Father Matthew Jankola, in ways he could never have dreamed to be possible.

For the abundance of blessings provided by our God, we bow our heads and offer our sincere praise and thanks. He, himself told us: "Without me you can do nothing."

It is very possible that among the readership are relatives, friends, and neighbors of former Manor residents who have moved away from their "homesteads" and would have no other means of knowing about the events mentioned in this article. We invite them to come to see how the Manor and its ministries have expanded. Another date to remember is Saturday, July 14, when the Sisters will host their annual Summer Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It would be a joy to reconnect with those whose paths have crossed ours.



Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, General Superior, and Sister Marguerite Hruby accept the Presidential Citation from Mr. Ronald L. Barth, President and CEO of LeadingAge PA honoring Maria Joseph Manor, one of the Association's founding members, for its achievements and service to the people of Pennsylvania.

so that our current and future staffs would guarantee its remaining "The Home with a Heart."

The commemoration of the Fiftieth Year of Maria Joseph Manor began on the Feast of St. Joseph, Monday, March 19, and will continue throughout 2012 with a variety of events, such as:

• Sunday, April 29

Friends of the Maria Joseph Community were invited to the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius for a Mass of Thanksgiving at 2:00 p.m.

Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden, Bishop of Harrisburg, presided. The Mass was followed by the blessing of the recently

restored Chapel at Maria Joseph Manor. Refreshments were served in the Manor Social Hall after the services.

• Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3

Maria Joseph Continuing Care Community which includes the Manor, Emmanuel, Nazareth and Meadows residents, staff, and families. All are invited to a festive, commemorative reception from 2-4p.m. on June 2nd the Manor building; or on June 3rd at The Emmanuel Center.

• Thursday, September 20

A formal—invitation only—reception will be held at The Meadows Community Center for Clergy, Doctors, Board Members, Civic Leaders, and Business Associates.

A Very Special Person ... Mom

Joseph D. Vrable



Every one of us has someone who mothered us. If not our birth mother, we have an adoptive mother, a foster mother, a mentor, a stepmother, a grandmother, or perhaps some other beloved person who filled those mothering shoes. Mother's Day gives us an opportunity to think about all the things a mother is.

From scares in the night to secrets about a teenage crush, we know we could count on Mom to be there when we needed her. Most of all, she listened and understood. She still does, even if only in our prayers.

We learned how to talk, how to treat people, what foods were good to eat, to appreciate music, and art and nearly all the important things in life during those growing up years with Mom. If it weren't for Mom's prodding, we still wouldn't be writing thank you notes.

Mom could tell by the look in your eyes if we didn't feel well. She brought meals to bed to cheer us up when we were sick. She sweetened the icky medicine. And she insisted we brush and floss our teeth. There's still nothing like Mom's chicken soup.

From our mothers, we learned, "I can," "Go for it," or "Try again, you'll do better next time," she said with confidence when our report card was disappointing. There she was at every game, pageant or recital, urging us to do our best. She drove us to lessons and rehearsals.

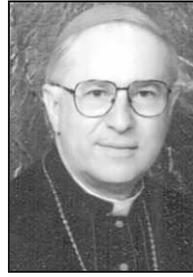
Mom made sure we all got to worship services with our shoes shined and our ties straight. Her grace before meals was a daily reminder that God leads us. From Mom, we learned what mattered most.

In pain or in trouble, we run to Mother. In distress or anxiety, in grief or joy – we look toward Mother first and she sees the message in our eye and understands. May God shower His choicest blessings on those who take the time to spend the day together in thought and deed to "Honor Thy Mother" on this Mother's Day and every day!

Reprinted from the May 10, 2000 Jednota.

Bishop Joseph V. Adamec Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination

By Daniel F. Tanzone



May 20th will mark an important milestone in the life and ministry of the Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop-Emeritus of Altoona, Johnstown, Pa. On that day Bishop Joseph marks the 25th anniversary of his Episcopal ordination. His quarter-century of ministry as a Bishop has born rich fruit in the spiritual lives of not only faithful of the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese but likewise to Slovaks and those of Slovak ancestry on both sides of the Atlantic.

It was on May 20, 1987 that then Monsignor Adamec became a successor of the Apostles in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona, Pa. Consecrator was Cardinal Jozef Tomko, then Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Co-consecrators included the late Most Reverend James J. Hogan, Bishop emeritus of Altoona-Johnstown and the late Most Reverend Francis F. Reh, Bishop-emeritus of Saginaw. In addition of a Cardinal, several Arch-bishops and many Bishops joined in the rite. Representatives of the Slovak Catholic Federation as well as all our Slovak Catholic fraternalists were present. At the time of his appointment as ordinary, the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese, Bishop Joseph was serving as president of the Slovak Catholic Federation. The appointment was received with great joy within the American Slovak community where Bishop Joseph was active.

A native Bannister, Michigan, Bishop Joseph was born there August 13, 1935, son of Slovak immigrant parents, Michael Adamec and the former Elizabeth Ochran. He was baptized in St. Cyril Church and was a 1953 graduate of Ashley High School. Following two years of study at Michigan State University, he began studies for the priesthood in Rome. It was his desire that he serve as a missionary in Slovakia then under the domination of Communism. Following studies at the Pontifical Lateran University he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Nitra in Slovakia on July 3, 1960 by Cardinal Luigi Traglia, Vicar of Rome, at the Church of St. Anselm. Father Joseph celebrated his first solemn Mass in the chapel of the Nepomucene College, a residence for Slovak and Czech seminarians in Rome. Following his ordination, he remained in Rome until 1961 to complete studies for a Licentiate degree in Sacred Theology.

Unable to serve in the Nitra Diocese due to the opposition of the Czechoslovak Communist government, young Father Joseph returned to his home diocese of Saginaw, Michigan. He served in several positions in the diocesan chancery including that of secretary to the bishop and chancellor. In 1977, he was appointed pastor of St. Hyacinth's parish in Bay City and later served as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Saginaw. It was as pastor of the Saginaw parish that Msgr. Adamec was named the 7th Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown. And the rest is episcopal history!

Bishop Joseph's resignation as ordinary of Altoona-Johnstown was accepted by Pope Benedict XVI on January 14, 2011.

Bishop Joseph has been active within the American Slovak community throughout his episcopal ministry. He is a past president and currently serves as Episcopal Moderator of the Slovak Catholic Federation which remains dear to his heart. He has been a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union since his childhood. In addition, he enjoys membership in the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the National Slovak Society and is the Protector of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union. Following the fall of Communism in Slovakia, Bishop Joseph has spearheaded drives for funds to assist the Church there as well as the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome. In July 2007, the Bishops of Slovakia honored Bishop Joseph at the national celebration honoring SS. Cyril and Methodius in Nitra. On that occasion, he was principal celebrant and homilist at the national pilgrimage.

In quite retirement, Bishop Joseph continues to assist where needed in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, writes and enjoys a rich prayer life. On the occasion of his Silver Jubilee of Episcopal ordination, the American Slovak community in general and the First Catholic Slovak Union in particular extends prayerful best wishes. May God continue to shower Bishop Joseph with his choicest blessings of good health and happiness. Bishop Joseph, may you continue to be a tower of spiritual strength among us in the best traditions of our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith. Ad multos, gloriosque annos and Zdar Boh!

(Editor's note: those who would like to send Bishop Joseph a note of congratulation may do so by writing: Bishop Joseph V. Adamec, 125 Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648)

Reprinted from the Slovak Catholic Falcon, courtesy of Daniel F. Tanzone, Editor



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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2012

HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked Father Thomas Nasta to lead the prayer.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer
 Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain (by invitation of the President)
 Gary Matta, General Council (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the February 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT:

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

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President reviewed his report given to the Board of Directors at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting concerning sales production of our independent agents and answered the Executive Committee's questions. The Vice President stated we are continuing to add new agents.

Vice President Harcar led a discussion on the Membership Meet for 2012. Once the site is selected, the Home Office will announce the location.

The President is exploring an incentive plan to aid members in obtaining their insurance licenses. As more information becomes available, the Executive Committee will be informed.

ADVERTISING:

The President led a discussion on placing a digital lighted sign on the FCSU Corporate building that will be able to be changed to advertise the different products we offer. The President attended the city council meeting to obtain a sign permit. However, the city has placed a temporary hold on all sign permits until June. As more information becomes available, the Executive Committee will be informed.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:

The President reviewed the report given by Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, to the Board of Directors concerning the upcoming joint Bowling Tournament on May 4-6, 2012 at the Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe, Ohio and the joint golf tournament on July 14-15, 2012 in Sharon, Pennsylvania.

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

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

PORTFOLIO CUSTODIAN

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

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of February 2012:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 225,525.24
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 30,828.41
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 1,519.70

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Executive Secretary reviewed the IRS notices received by the branches concerning the new regulation that is required by our subordinate branches. The Secretary stated he is in touch with the IRS and hopes to have his solution in the next few weeks.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

The President asked Father Thomas Nasta to close the meeting with prayer.

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Kent Dudince Sister City Association Tenth Annual Anniversary Banquet

Sunday, May 20, 2012

**Kent Elks Lodge Hall, Elks Lane – State Route 59
 (behind Twin Star Bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59)**

 1:00 PM – Social Hour 2:00 PM – Dinner 3:00 PM – Program

**Music by Johnny Pastirik Band during Social Hour and Dinner
 Orchestra members: Johnny Pastirik, Len Jacko, and Ken Javor**

Dancing following the program

**Šarišan of Greater Detroit, Michigan
 Milan Straka, Founder & Director**

**Slovenske Mamičky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble
 Members: Milka Anderko, Maria Cvicela, Monica Smid**

**Lučinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland
 Nadia Oros, Choreographer
 Michele Mager, Director
 Tom Ivanec, Honorary Director**

**Tickets - \$20.00 per person – Catered by Tom's Country Place
 Donation of Baked Goods would be appreciated**

**Advance Ticket Sales Only Deadline for purchase: May 15, 2012
 Tickets with directions will be mailed. Please include all guest names.**

**Make checks payable to:
 Kent-Dudince Sister City Association
 1544 Vine Street
 Kent, OH 44240**

(Or for more information, call Rudy Bachna – 330-673-3255)

REFLECTIONS ON POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS May 2012

General Intention - The Family

That initiatives which defend and uphold the role of the family may be promoted within society.



Pope Benedict is concerned that our families are being torn apart by the secularization of society. Last year in Croatia he said that ever-growing secularization "leads to the exclusion of God from life and the increasing disintegration of the family."

This month Pope Benedict will attend the Seventh World Meeting of Families. No doubt he had this in mind when he asked us to join him in praying for the success of social initiatives which uphold the family.

Secularization erodes our consensus on fundamental values. For example, love between a man and a woman, Pope Benedict said, "is reduced to sentimental emotion and to the gratification of instinctive impulses,

without a commitment to build lasting bonds of reciprocal belonging and without openness to life."

Addressing ambassadors to the Vatican in January this year, Pope Benedict emphasized that society itself depends on strong families. Marriage of a man and a woman, said the Pope, "is not a simple social convention, but rather the fundamental cell of every society." Families in which spouses and children are challenged to grow beyond self-centeredness and to learn self-sacrificing love are the key to a healthy society in which individuals look to the common good of all.

In 2006 the Pope said that to properly recognize marriage is "one of the greatest... means of ensuring dignity, equality, and true freedom of the human person."

In 2009 the Holy Father asked leaders to promote "legal and administrative measures...that support families with their inalienable rights, necessary if they are to continue to carry out their extraordinary mission."

Reflection: How can you and I encourage society to support and strengthen the family?

Reading: Psalm 127 Behold, children are a gift from the Lord.



Mary is sometimes called the Star of Evangelization because her acceptance of God's will preceded the dawn, the birth of the Savior. As mother of the Son, Christ the King, Mary shares in his royalty. She is the Queen of the World, our Queen Mother. She cares for her human subjects, calling them to conversion throughout history. She always says to us what she said to her Son's disciples: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5).

We join Pope Benedict in asking Mary to be with missionaries. We ask her to help them proclaim the love of Jesus in their words and deeds so that there may be a new springtime of faith throughout the world.

Reflection: Although she wasn't an apostle, Mary was a missionary. How can you be a missionary like Mary?

Reading: Acts 1:13-14 All devoted themselves to prayer together with Mary, the mother of Jesus.



Prayer of the Month



Holy Mary, star of the new evangelization, make us the light of the world. We receive Christ in the Eucharist; help us build the Kingdom in the world. Teach us to do whatever He tells us. May our study of His life lead us to love Him, and our love for Him lead us to imitate Him. If we are what we should be, we will set the world ablaze and affect the culture. We ask your intercession to make this so, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

—Archdiocese of Portland, OR

Mission Intention - Mary, Guide of Missionaries

That Mary, Queen of the World and Star of Evangelization, may accompany all missionaries in proclaiming her Son Jesus.



May is Mary's month. The English Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkins honored her in his poem "May Magnificat":

All things rising, all things sizing Mary sees, sympathizing With that world of good, Nature's motherhood.

After Jesus was conceived in her womb, Mary rejoiced in the new life within and around her. So it is fitting that we honor the Mother of God during the month when Mother Nature is so active.

When he was dying on the cross, Jesus said to John, his beloved disciple, "Behold, your mother," and in so doing he gave Mary to us as our mother too (John 19:27). At the first Pentecost, Mary was in the Upper Room

praying with the apostles for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit so that the Church might spread throughout the world. She was both a guide and support for the apostles, the first missionaries.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE MAY 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

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Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Mamička's Golden Hands

by Helene Baine Cincebeaux

I first saw this charming embroidered show towel displayed on the wall of an ancient homestead in the village of Hrušov in southern Slovakia during the Hont Parade Festival last summer. These types of "show towels" were created to brighten a kitchen or cooking area.



This one really touched my heart! Embellished with rich embroidery the message on it translates to "my mamička has golden hands and a loving heart". This is so appropriate as we celebrate Mother's Day and honor our mothers, grandmothers and all the women who have gone before!

I think the message says it all. Mothers who had so little free time with caring for their families, watching the young children, baking bread and making butter still found time to spin, weave and embroider to make their clothing and to create

beauty in their homes.

Those golden hands fed the chickens, geese and rabbits, tended the vegetables, made the soup and patted the children's foreheads as they sang the songs and told the stories. They made sure all the traditions were kept and decorated their homes and their church for special festivities and celebrations.

Untrained as artists nevertheless the beauty these village women created lives long beyond them and brings joy to us who only can marvel at their work.

Usually village girls learned to embroider at their mother's knee or learned from aunts and grandmothers. The motifs were repeated generation after generation; sometimes they didn't know the meaning anymore just telling us, "we always did it this way, my mother did it and her mother"... an unbroken chain to the past.

Many learned to spin and weave in and in some cases to make lace. Knowing these skills was a necessity - they didn't have money to buy beautiful things so they created them with simple materials at hand and embellished their work with motifs and colors that sing to this day!

Village women used their skills to mark life events. They began work on their dowry at an early age when they were 9 or 10 and eventually made the ritual cloths that punctuated their lives.



Bed curtain from Jablonice

A village maiden might plant and grow the flax and then follow all the labor intensive steps to harvest and treat the flax to create linen thread, spin it and weave the material to make their treasures.

In some villages a linen wedding shawl was woven and then embroidered with ancient motifs to protect the bride on her all important day.

Some young women made their bridegroom's shirt - in other villages this very special shirt was made by his mother. One from Liptovská Teplička includes the names of the bride and groom and the date, 1937.

In southwestern Slovak villages of Vajnory, Viničné, and Slovenský Grob glorious wed-



Wedding Bed Cover from Vajnory

Christening Pillow Cover from Vesele



ding blouses were made. Many were embroidered with real gold and silver thread echoing the nobility who lived in nearby Bratislava, then called Pozsony. One of the most precious pieces in our collection has the maker's name and the year of her wedding, 1893.

In this region elaborate bed covers were embroidered; they look like altar cloths because they carry religious symbols the chalice, the Paschal Lamb and the IHS symbol but these were embroidered there to bless the union.

Another ritual cloth was the christening cloth decorated with colors and lace, you can identify this one easily as it is only decorated at one end - the other was wrapped around the babe.

A slightly different version in villages in old Nitra County depicted the Holy Spirit as a dove; this heavily beaded and embroidered cloth from Veselé was embellished with real gold and silver thread. It hung down from the pillow that the godmother used to carry the newborn infant to the church. In most cases infants were baptized a day or two after their birth.

Then there was the ritual cloth that segregated the mother and new born from the family for 6 weeks until the mother was "churched." Only the godmother could touch the mother and the newborn bringing special soup in special pots and singing special songs.

In Jakubany Spiš, garlic and blessed herbs were tied to the bed curtain and needles, knives and scissors were thrust into it to repel evil.

Could anything be more charming than this bed curtain from a village near Michalovce in old Zemplin County - I love the bird and the fanciful flowers. Ritual cloths from this region are famed for the rare combination of weaving and embroidery and for being so colorful - a magnificent display of ritual cloths from Zemplin and Uz villages is on exhibit at the kaštieľ in Michalovce, now a superb museum with a special section devoted to folk life of the region.

Textiles were made to celebrate the holidays and also for everyday use from one to cover bread which was considered precious and holy, the staff of life, to basket covers for the Easter blessing, my favorite has a basket filled with decorated eggs and pussy willows. Special cloths were also created with Christmas motifs.

I discovered an extremely large woven and embroidered ritual cloth in Očova in old Zvolen county. They confirmed that it was a coffin cover - the amount of work it entailed is daunting.

Countless village women proudly opened their wardrobes to show us all their clothes and their very best outfit set aside for when they went to heaven - they wanted to meet their maker dressed in their best. In many cases these precious cloths went to the grave as the maker's shroud.

In today's fast paced modern world it is good to look back and imagine the "golden hands" that made this enduring beauty under difficult circumstances and think of the joy and the tears that were embedded with each stitch and marvel that some of these treasures yet endure for our admiration and awe.

If you have heirlooms from your family - give them another look - that tablecloth may well be a ritual cloth or an Easter basket cover. If you want to e-mail or send me a photo - I would be glad to try to help you identify your family heirloom. And treasure what you have, for it was made with love and by golden hands!

About the author:

A member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Helene Baine Cincebeaux has traveled to thousands of villages with her mother over the past 38 years, collecting traditions and folk dress. Through her many exhibitions, lectures and publications, she has helped preserve the craft and understanding of Slovak folk dress, and has helped reunite Americans with their long-lost families in Slovakia through an extensive genealogical database. For more information, please visit www.our-Slovakia.com or e-mail her at helenezx@aol.com.



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Mother's Day

Much love from no other
Than to our very own blessed mother.

Often we forget how she bakes and cooks
Taking time out for us to study from our books.

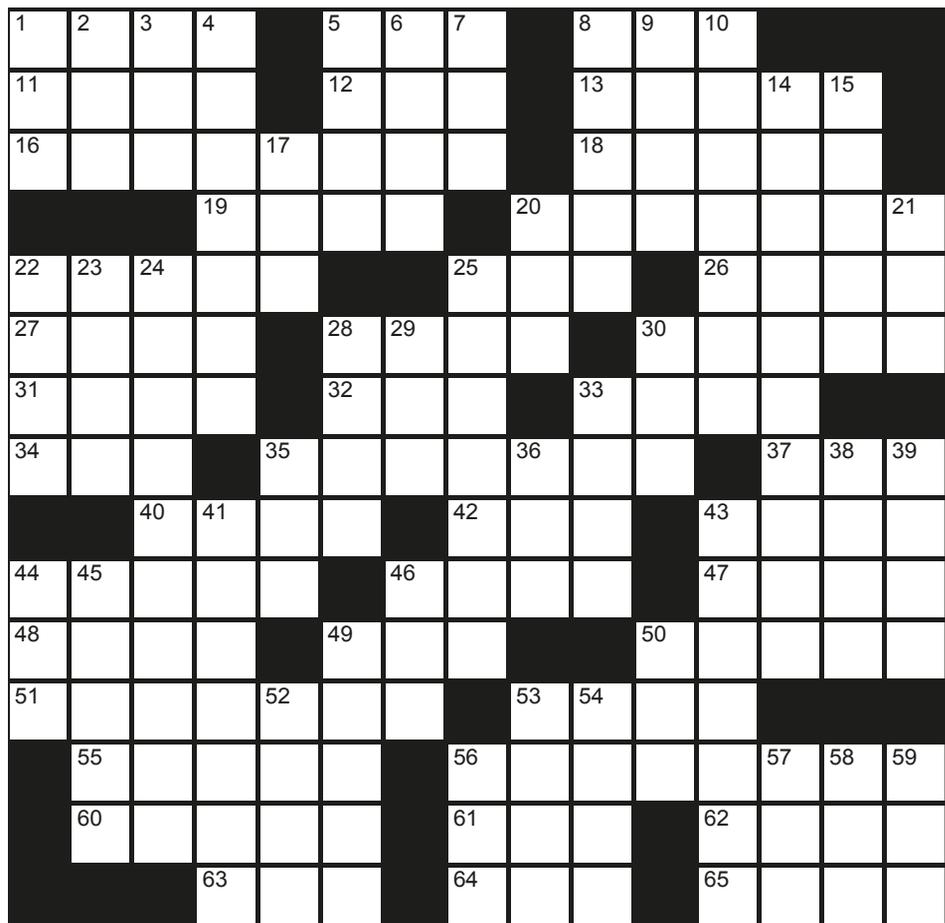
Today we celebrate this special day
For living or dead, as we pray.

Hoping our days may last
Giving love at present or past.

Everyday our meals are made for us
Give her a break, take a plane ride or a bus.

Relaxation, or taking her out to dinner
We all know mothers are all winners.

- Clement A. Jurica, Branch 35 Member



Across

- 1 Fr. seasons
- 5 Insect
- 8 Fire residue
- 11 Soybean paste
- 12 Deer
- 13 Board game
- 16 Current
- 18 Accomplish
- 19 Alaska city
- 20 Boudoir
- 22 Ladies
- 25 Sibling
- 26 Gr. portico
- 27 Wood stork
- 28 Mackerel shark
- 30 Lizard
- 31 Animal skin
- 32 NV city
- 33 Sock
- 34 Hurricane part
- 35 Rebounds
- 37 Scot. cap
- 40 Aquatic bird
- 42 Fruit drink
- 43 Crown
- 44 Anticipate
- 46 Mild oath
- 47 Aeneid
- 48 Mantle
- 49 Chinese kitchen item
- 50 Swarms
- 51 Passage
- 53 Mix
- 55 Aspiration
- 56 Adolescent
- 60 Comic ____
- 61 Pallid
- 62 Pierce
- 63 Cunning
- 64 Morsel

Down

- 1 Flightless bird
- 2 Peak
- 3 Time zone
- 4 Earliest
- 5 Garden resident
- 6 Write down
- 7 Golf item
- 8 Land units
- 9 Outbuilding
- 10 Last ride vehicles
- 14 Package sealer
- 15 Rocked
- 17 Put on
- 21 Fmr. Chinese leader
- 22 Whisk off
- 23 Conform
- 24 Denver and New York, for example
- 25 Bird that sings at great heights
- 28 Hateful
- 29 Completely
- 30 Fuel
- 33 Root vegetable
- 35 Rodent
- 36 Crete mountain

- 41 Hotdogs
- 43 Aristocracy
- 44 Perform
- 45 Hospital areas
- 46 Morse code signal
- 49 Weak and ineffectual
- 50 Can
- 52 Cruise
- 53 Scorch
- 54 Camping tool
- 56 Deuce
- 57 Gazelle
- 58 Goof
- 59 Thing, in law

Lorain United Slovak Societies Making Scholarships Available

The United Slovak Societies of the American Slovak Club, Lorain, Ohio is proud to make \$1,000 scholarships available to qualifying members of the St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of Lorain, Ohio. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior who will enter a college in the fall of 2012 and must be a member of the FCSU for at least the past five (5) consecutive years. Applications and complete rules can be requested by contacting the: American Slovak Club, Attn: Scholarship Chairperson, 2915 Broadway Ave., Lorain, Ohio 44055. You may also contact Helene Virant at (440) 282-3325 or Tom Zuffa at (440) 282-2966. Deadline for applications is May 31, 2012.

This is an excellent opportunity to receive financial aid to help fund your education and we hope to see our members take advantage of it.

Thomas B. Zuffa
Recording Secretary
St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity, Branch 228

Branch 40 Youth Scholarships Available

St. Clement's Society, Branch 40, has announced it will be awarding scholarships to their youth members. Branch 40 will be giving out one, one-time \$500 scholarship for college and one, one-time \$250 scholarship for a student enrolled in a private grade school.

These scholarships are solely funded by Branch 40, not the national office.

For more criteria and an application, please call Theresa at (815) 672-6142 (leave message) or email her at ttegraves@mchsi.com to receive an application electronically.

Applications must be postmarked by May 18, 2012.

Theresa Graves, Scholarship Committee, Branch 40

See Solution on Page 19

Deň Matiek - Mother's Day for Slovaks

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

For Slovaks, mothers (*matky*) have always been special. Mothers are the rock and foundation of any solid family, and many of us have experienced the unconditional love which mothers have showed us. Slovaks and Slovak-Americans showed a great love for mothers, so much so, that they sang songs about them.

As a child, we used to visit our grandparents, and we were always at baba's on Mother's Day. But we were going to baba's house (*do baby* - grandma's), not to grandfather's house (*dedovi*, or *dzedovi* in eastern dialects). Moms and babas reigned supreme in the household.

In Slovak, Mother's Day is known as *Deň matiek* [Den maw-tyek, with a soft „n“]. Literally it means „the day of mothers,“ and uses the genitive plural case. Slovak wish their moms Happy Mother's Day by saying *Šťastný Deň matiek!* [Shtyawst-nee den maw-tyek]. The Slovak language also has diminutives for referring to mothers affectionately. Mom is simply *mama* [mah-mah], or *ma*, which adults would tend to use more. Another common word for mom is *mamička* [mah-meech-kah], which might best translate as “mommy.”

Historical Background

Deň matiek is widely celebrated across Slovakia today, but that was not always the case. Mother's Day traces its origins as far back as pagan times, and more recently, here in America. The pagan Greeks held feasts to honor Gaia or Rhea, whom they believed to be the mother of all gods. Romans observed the feast of *Matronalia*, which they dedicated to the pagan goddess Juno or to Cybele, the great mother. In the 16th century, English Christians started celebrating Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. On that day, even servants were permitted to return to their mothers' homes so they could spend the day with them. Roman Catholics dedicated May to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and even today pay special tribute to her throughout the month.

The modern day observance of Mother's Day is credited to a movement in the United States. The American Julia Ward Howe proclaimed Mother's Day in 1870 so that the world would disarm and live in peace. But it did not catch on. Then after 1907, Anne Marie Jarvis of Grafton, West Virginia led a successful effort to realize her deceased mother's dream of Mother's Day as a national American holiday. At first, she only reached some success at the local and state level. But when she obtained the assistance of John Wanamaker, the affluent Philadelphia department store entrepreneur, the movement gained valuable backing. After eight attempts at pushing through legislation, the US Congress finally approved declaring the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day nationwide, and President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill to make it official.

Jarvis did not foresee that commercial interests would soon exploit the holiday for commercial purposes; they used it to sell everything from Hallmark cards to colorful carnations for living mothers and white carnations for those who had passed away. Jarvis became so disillusioned with Madison Avenue's stealing the spirit of the holiday that she wound up opposing its existence during the latter years of her life.

Slovakia and Mother's Day

After World War I, other countries around the world started observing the holiday. The people of Czechoslovakia also began celebrating *Deň matiek* in 1923, largely due to the efforts of Alice Garrigue Masaryk, the American wife of President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the founder of the Czecho-Slovak state in 1918.

When the communists seized power in Czechoslovakia during 1948, they eliminated Mother's Day from the calendar and followed the Soviet Union's lead in replacing it with International Women's Day on March 8. The holiday was loosely observed from what I saw when I lived there in 1982-83, and many Slovaks considered it a communist imposed holiday. But the propaganda left an impression on some that lingers to this day.

After the Velvet Revolution of 1989 overthrew the communist dictatorship, people began to think about bringing back Mother's Day. After it acquired independence in 1993, Slovakia started celebrating *Deň matiek* on the same day as in other free countries, though today it is not an official state holiday. The same holds true in the Czech Republic, where many have complained about the over-commercialization of the holiday.

There was some controversy in Slovakia as center-right parties wished the May Mother's Day to replace the Marxist date. The left, led by Prime Minister Robert Fico's Smer-SD Party, argued that Women's Day on March 8 should become an official government sanctioned holiday. Prior to the 2010 parliamentary elections, Fico toured the country and recited poems and used humor in commenting on the issue. He did highlight the fact that the March Women's Day was not connected with communism but had its origins in the Women's Suffrage movement of the early 20th century. Regardless though, many people did not forget that the communists had banned Mother's Day as we know it, and for that reason, they preferred the May Sunday.

Mother's Day Today in Slovakia

Just as in the United States, Slovak children remember their moms on *Deň matiek*. In schools, they create small gifts for their *mamičky*, collect flowers, recite poems, and sing



songs. For instance, in the eastern Slovak town of Humenné, children bake *perníkové srdiečka* (ginger hearts) for their mothers. During 2008, the children of Humenné created a sensation with a huge gift that could go in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Some 3,325 pupils from all of Humenné's grammar schools made an impression in the middle of their soccer field. All the children wore white T-shirts and filled a gigantic moving heart in the playground. The formation measured 70 by 70 meters, and was photographed from a rented airplane. The mayor suggested, “It may be the biggest living heart that was ever created in the world.”

Slovak children also write poems for their mothers, and here is a good example below.

“Kvety pre mamu” (Flowers for mom)

<i>Všetky kvety do rúk mamy,</i>	All flower to mom's hands
<i>skladám ako drahokamy.</i>	<i>Made like precious gems.</i>
<i>Za jej lásku, plnú nehy,</i>	For her love, full of tenderness,
<i>za zelené detské brehy.</i>	For the green edges of the children.

<i>Za jej štedrosť, starosť v hlave,</i>	For her generosity, care on her mind,
<i>za dni šťastné, za dni hravé,</i>	for happy days, for playful days,
<i>za rozprávky nad kolískou,</i>	for fairy tales over the cradle,
<i>za to, že vždy stojí blízko.</i>	For that, she is always close by.

Mamička, prajem Ti všetko najlepšie ku Dňu matiek.

Mommy, I wish you a Happy Mother's Day!

Songs and Moms

American Slovaks have also shown a great dedication to their mothers, and I have seen that expressed mainly in songs (*piesne*). Slovaks brought with them from Europe many songs about their love for their moms. They might sound corny in English, but loving a mother and singing about that love in Slovak sounds simply wonderful. Slovak-American radio stations such as WKTL in Struthers, Ohio, the Pittsburgh Slovak Radio Hour on WPIT, and the two Slovak radio shows on WERE and WCPN always play songs to mom in May when *Deň matiek* comes around.

Here is „*Slovenské mamičky*“ (Slovak moms) by the Pavelkovič family, a good example of one of many Slovak songs which sings the praises of mothers who raise their sons so well. But the song also signals a bit of protest, against the forced draft of young men to go to war, one of the reasons that so many Slovaks emigrated and came to America. One may hear a rendition at the Youtube website: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MplEdolw_nM

Slovenské mamičky Slovak Moms

1. <i>Slovenské mamičky pekných synov máte,</i>	Slovak mothers, you have beautiful sons,
<i>vychovali ste ich na vojnu ich dáte.</i>	You have raised them to go to their war.
2. <i>Vychovali ste ich ako to vtáčatko,</i>	They were brought up like a little bird,
<i>za nimi zaplače nejedno dievčatko.</i>	For many a young girl will cry for them.

This Youtube link will take you to a 1946 recording by Mária Vlková singing “*Pieseň matky*” (A Song of Mother), accompanied by the Bratislava Radio Orchestra - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=045wghvZU9s>. It is well worth listening to.

We thank God for our Slovak mothers and grandmothers (*matky* a *baby*), and we will always treasure the love and many fond memories we have of them. *Ďakujem pekne mame, pre tvoju večnú lásku!* (Thanks so much mom, for your everlasting love!)

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Children in Humenné created this giant heart to honor their mothers in 2008.

Special, Limited-time Offer:

1st Year Premium Waived on Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)



Offered for a limited time from
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**Higher amounts available - please contact
your Branch Officer or the Home Office*

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 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 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

St. Andrew Svorad, Branch 24, will hold a short branch meeting on Sunday, May 27, 2012 at St. Andrew Abbey following the 1:00 Mass, luncheon, and presentation. For details on the day's program, see the related article in this edition of the Jednota newspaper.

To make reservations (required) or for more information, contact Susan Lang at 216/896-0957. Lunch will be complimentary for Branch 24 members. Non-members may purchase tickets by calling St. Andrew Abbey at (216) 721 - 5300.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

We encourage you to attend two upcoming summer events. The Cleveland Slovak Radio Club will hold their annual picnic on Sunday June 17th; The American Slovak Zemplin Club's picnic will be on Sunday July 15th. Both will be at St. Sava's Picnic Grove, 2151 Wallings Rd, Broadview Hts, OH, from 12 to 8 PM.

Why not join your fellow Jednota Branch 24 members for delicious Slovak food, refreshments, music and dancing? Please help support our fine Slovak organizations.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 K.J., will hold its Semi-annual Meeting on Saturday, June 9, 2012, in the Rectory of Most Holy Trinity, 18 Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, NY, after the 5:00PM Mass. Financial reports will be presented and suggestions will be discussed. We urge all members to attend this meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Fraternally,

Florence Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 41 - YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 K.J., is sponsoring our Annual Communion Breakfast on Trinity Sunday, June 3, 2012, following the 9:30AM Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It will be held at our Parish Hall, Trinity & Walnut Streets, Yonkers, NY. The menu will consist of: juice, eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, pancakes, French toast, rolls, donuts, sugar-free cake, coffee and tea.

An outdoor procession through the local streets will precede the Holy Sacrifice of Mass at 9:00AM.

Reservations and tickets are available for this parish event by contacting any of our Branch Officers: President Emeritus Jon Fialkovich at 914/965-7546, Financial Secretary/Treasurer Emeritus Albert Figura at 914/963-8229, President Paul Fialkovich at 914/375-1650, Vice President and Recording Secretary Florence Lutz at 914/337-2026, Financial Secretary and Treasurer Robert J. Lutz at 914/337-2026, and Auditor Robert Figura. Reservations and checks (payable to Jednota Branch 41 K.J.) can be mailed to Robert J. Lutz, 10 Meadow Avenue West, Bronxville, NY, 10708.

Breakfast is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under the age of 10. The deadline for making reservations is Wednesday May 30, 2012.

Reserve this date June 3, 2012, Trinity Sunday, for this parish event sponsored by Branch 41 K.J. Hope to see you there.

Fraternally,

Florence Lutz, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 60 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of President Ann Wargovich, 58 Lilmont Avenue, Swissvale, PA. On the agenda will be officer's reports and discussion of branch activities. All members are urged to attend.

Fraternally,

Julie Perla - Branch Secretary

BRANCH 85 - BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post, 411 Church Street, Jessup, PA. All members are asked to attend.

Bernard Skovira, President

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

We will have our Spring Communion Breakfast: Sunday June 3, 2012. Mass will be 9:00 AM at St. Margaret Mary Parish, 3970 N. 92nd St, Milwaukee, WI, 53222.

Immediately following the Mass all are invited to breakfast. Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own breakfast. Cost is \$12.00 per person.

Location: Mykonos Family Restaurant, 8501 W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Please call to make your reservation. Please call Mike Novak at 414-445-5382 by 5/31/2012

**Fraternal Regards,
Michael Novak, President**

BRANCH 132 - WHIPPANY, NEW JERSEY

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

Susan Salko, President

BRANCH 153 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at 12:00 Noon at the Jurcenko home, 7113 West Talcott Avenue. A fraternal luncheon will follow.

May God grant eternal rest to the following members who have recently passed away: Barbara Bronkala, Joseph Potocek, Raymond Tomaszek, and John Ivancik.

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 162 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2012, at 9:00AM at K2 Engineering Conference Room, 234 Pittsburgh Street, Uniontown, PA. Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given. All members of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Father's Day Breakfast will be provided for those in attendance following the meeting. Call for directions if needed. Any inquiries and updating information should be directed to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

BRANCH 169P - JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The semi-annual meeting of St. Michael's Society, Branch 169P, Johnstown, PA, will be held on Monday, June 11, 2012, at 1:00PM at the Slivosky residence: 1510 Emmett Drive, Johnstown, PA. All members are welcome.

Betty Slivosky, Secretary

BRANCH 213 - VALENCIA, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael Branch 213 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 10, 2012. It will be held at 2603 Eloquent Lane, Valencia, PA, at 1:30PM. All members are asked to attend.

Joe Belechak, Secretary

BRANCH 276 - MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will have their next regular meeting on Sunday, May 20, 2012, at 1:00PM at Woody's Restaurant in Versailles, PA. All members are asked to attend.

**Fraternally, Nancy Gerdich,
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 292 - WINDBER, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292 will hold their semi-annual meeting and celebrate the feast of their patron. This event will be held on Sunday, June 24, 2012 at the Slovak Club, 1300 Jackson Avenue, Windber, PA. A Mass will be celebrated at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, on June 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., for the living and deceased members of the branch. All members are asked to attend both events. A buffet dinner will be held after the meeting.

Edward T. Surkosky, F.I.C., 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 372 - BEAVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph's Society - Branch 372 - will have its semi-annual meeting in Sunday, May 20, 2012. The meeting will be held at the home of President Michael Hudak, 829 Cameron Avenue, Beaverdale, PA, 15921. The meeting begins at 2:00PM. All members are asked to attend.

Fraternally,

Michael Hudak, President

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 410, invite their members to attend the branch's next meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn of Uniontown, Route 40 W, Uniontown, PA.

Geri Buchheit, Recording/Financial Secretary

BRANCH 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

A semi-annual meeting of the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 484 will be held Sunday June 10, 2012 beginning at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the home of the financial secretary Joseph E. Rura, 43 Rugh Road, Coral, PA 15731.

Joseph E Rura, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

The following is the schedule of events and meetings for Tatra Hall. We invite all of our members to come and enjoy themselves. May 6th, Sunday, Polka Dance from 4:00-7:00PM, music by Fred Walker & the New Tones with sloppy joe, chips & pickle for \$2.50. May 19th, Saturday, Golden Oldies; Karaoke from 3:00-7:00PM. May 20th, Sunday, Tatra Hall Monthly Member Meeting will be held at 2:00PM. May 27nd, Sunday, Tatra Hall Breakfast from 8:30-12:00PM for \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for kids. Hope to see you all at these activities.

Sue Moore, 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 628 - MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Sunday, June 24, 2012, at 2:00 PM at the Eat

& Park Restaurant at the Waterfront in Homestead, PA. The agenda will include ongoing business of the branch and the plans for the remainder of the year.

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 682 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2012, at 2:30PM at Material Research Laboratories, located at 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, OH, 44471. On the agenda: planning for the 100th anniversary. All members are encouraged to attend.

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 731 - YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On May 20, 2012 at 1:00 pm, Saint Joseph Branch 731 members will meet at Saint Matthias Church Rectory, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

We will be planning the activities for the remainder of the year.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 held their monthly meeting on April 17, 2012 at Bella Women's Center that included a tour of the facility. We were able to view the bottle-less water dispenser that our Branch donated to them. Lunch was provided by Bella.

We had discussions about the upcoming breakfasts planned at St. Mary & St. Joseph Church in Newton Falls in September and also a breakfast at St. Cyril & Methodius in Warren in November.

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2012 at Bella Women's Center, 1192 North Park Road, NE, Warren, OH.

Hope to see you there!

**Joy Brunetti
Recording Secretary**

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, DC

Our Mother of Sorrows Society, Branch 856, will hold its first meeting of the year on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at 1:30PM at the home of Recording Secretary Marion Mistrik at 4513 Gladwyne Drive, Bethesda, MD. On the agenda will be discussion of the district meeting, activities for the coming month, and if Branch 856 should continue having Mass in September in honor of the Slovak Chapel. In recent years, the Mass has been poorly attended. Would like to see folks from the Bethesda area that were merged into Branch 856 at the meeting. For directions, call Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Katherine Nowatkoski at 703-860-1693.

Fraternally,

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 6 - PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

The Pittsburgh District of the FCSU will hold its annual Fathers Day Brunch on Sunday, June 17, at the church hall at Holy Trinity parish in West Mifflin, PA. Sunday Mass begins at 9:30 AM. Brunch will follow and the program should wrap up by noon or 1 PM. Branch 38 is hosting the brunch. Prices are \$12 (\$7 for those under 13). RSVP by June 1 to either Flo Matta 412-466-7460 or Brittany Matta at 412-672-5330. Please include the number of men over 18 who will be attending.

Branch 628 is doing the program booklet. Fees are the same as last year. Please contact Karianne Barnes at kvehec@hotmail.com about your ad by the middle of May

We look forward to seeing everyone on Fathers' Day. There are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention. For example:

** 55th International Pittsburgh Folk Festival: Monroeville Convention Center Friday, May 18, through Sunday, May 20th. Festival hours are Friday, 4-10 pm, Saturday, 11 am-10 pm, and Sunday, 11 am-7 pm. Advance tickets: \$8.00 each (\$10 at the door). Children under 10 are free. Make checks payable to: Pittsburgh Slovaks & mail to 234 Ilion St, Pittsburgh, PA. 15207

** Cooking, Crafts and Customs Workshops at the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum: -- Saturday, June 16: The NSS Heritage Museum will sponsor a workshop on the art of Slovak paper cutting, the making of TRDELNIK, a traditional cake, and sweet pastry made over a spit popular in Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Saturday, September 8: Christmas-in-September will be celebrated at the NSS Heritage Museum. Participants will learn to make traditional straw ornaments, medovniki (honey cakes), and salónky and more to decorate their Christmas trees Slovak style!

Cost is \$20/person and includes all materials and light refreshments. The classes are held at the NS-SHM, 351 Valley Brook Rd in McMurray. Call 1-800-488-1890 for reservations. Everyone is welcome!

** 89th Annual Slovak Day will be held Thursday, July 19 in Kennywood Park. Sue Ondrejco and Fr. Grosko will have tickets for sale at the Father's Day Luncheon

** 30th Annual Dinner-Dance for the Western PA Slovak Radio Hour will take place on Saturday, October 6 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Center in Southside, Pittsburgh. Contact Sue Ondrejco for more information.

** 22nd Annual Slovak Heritage Festival will take place on Sunday, Nov 4, Pitt Cathedral of Learning, 1-5 pm, Admission is free.

Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary, Pittsburgh District

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 10 – STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT

The Stephen Furdek District #10 meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2012 at the home office, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, Ohio 44131 at 1 pm. Please come and take an active roll in your District and learn the latest news about our organization. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Linda Hanko at 330-706-0151 or via email @ Lhanko@neo.rr.com. We would like to have an approximate count of those attending. If you have questions or concerns please contact Linda.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Hanko, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 16 – MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT – NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District, District 16, will hold a Semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 24, 2012, at 1:00PM in the Rectory, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, New York City.

On the agenda: a financial report, a discussion of activities, and other business.

We urge all District branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU – not just delegates – are welcome.

Refreshments will be served by Branch 45, St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, NYC, after the meeting.

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

55th Congress of the Slovak League set for June 8-9 in Bridgeport, Conn.

The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry, will host its 55th Congress in Bridgeport, Conn. at The Holiday Inn, June 8-9, 2012. Founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 1907 by the Rev. Stephen Furdek and Peter P. Rovnianek, its founding assembly attracted more than 10,000 Slovaks from all across the United States, representing every original purpose was to alert the United States to the plight of the Slovaks who were then one of the subject peoples of old Austria-Hungary. Working together as a unified body, they sought to press for the rights of the Slovaks at home to seek political self-determination. The Slovak League was a major force in helping to emancipate the Slovaks at home from Hungarian domination. Through its efforts, the first Republic of Czecho-Slovakia was established in 1919 with the blessings of President Woodrow Wilson. In addition to promoting Slovak rights at home, the Slovak League for more than century has hosted programs promoting Slovak culture and heritage in the United States. It has promoted higher education among Americans of Slovak ancestry and has assisted hundreds of students through its scholarship program. Over the years, it has also published numerous works in both Slovak and English related to Slovak culture and history. Since the independence of Slovakia, the Slovak League has participated in many educational and cultural exchange projects between the United States and Slovakia. From its earliest years, the organization has enjoyed the full support of the Slovak fraternal which enjoy institutional membership in the Slovak League of America.

The Keynote Address at the 55th Congress will be given by retired U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, the Hon. Vincent Obsitnik. Ambassador Obsitnik, who was born in Slovakia, represented the United States in the Slovak capital from 2007-09. He is a well-known Slovak cultural and fraternal leader and has promoted numerous projects. The 55th Congress will be held at The Holiday Inn located at 1070 Main Street conveniently located in downtown Bridgeport, Conn. Overnight accommodations are \$139.00 plus tax. A block of rooms has been reserved under the Slovak League of America. For reservations call (203)334-1234. Registration will open on Thursday evening, June 7. The business sessions will begin on Friday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m. The gala banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 9 beginning with a reception at 6:30 p.m followed by dinner at 7:15 p.m. Banquet tickets are \$40.00 per person. A commemorative journal with patron listings including: Diamond - \$100; Golden - \$50; Silver - \$25.00 and individual patron listing at \$10 will be published. Make checks payable to Slovak League of America and send same to Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055. For additional information on the 55th Congress, feel free to call the Slovak League's national office in Passaic, N.J. at 973-472-8993, fax: 973-835-3723.

A local 55th Congress Committee has been organized under the very capable leadership of well-known Slovak fraternal and cultural leader, Eileen S. Wilson. The Bridgeport area has enjoyed an important role in the history of the Slovaks in America. One of the country's oldest Slovak colonies, it organized its first Slovak society in 1884. As their numbers increased, the Slovaks established Roman Catholic, Byzantine Catholic and Lutheran churches. St. John Nepomucene Roman Catholic Parish in Bridgeport founded in 1891, was the first Slovak church established in the New England States. It remained an important center of the area's Slovak community until its closing in 2001. The current generation of Slovak activists look forward to welcoming delegates and guests of the Slovak League from all parts of the U.S. for what looks to be a memorable and enjoyable weekend.

Daniel F. Tanzone
National President, Slovak League of America



Two Heritage Tours Explore the Heart and Heartland of Slovakia

Not everyone can go back to the unchanged landscapes and villages of their ancestors, but in Slovakia, a visitor can step back in time to medieval city centers, villages of wooden houses, and timeless landscapes to relive Slovakia's rich heritage.

Two 2012 Slovakia Heritage Tours will offer participants a chance to explore Slovakia, up close and personal, as part of a small-group, relaxed-pace, ten-day tour.

From June 29-July 8, the **Two Festivals, One Heritage Tour**, will step off with the lively traditional folk music at the Vychodna Folklore Festival of Dance and Music nestled in the Tatra Mountains. It will finish at the Detva International Folk Festival, well-known as a place where visitors can experience traditional dance, music and crafts first-hand.

From September 7-16, the **Slovakia Heritage Tour** will celebrate the beautiful fall weather and harvest season with a visit to the Modra/Pezinok Harvest and Wine Festival in the small Carpathian Mountains outside of Bratislava. A day trip to Budapest will highlight the thousand-year influence of the Hungarian empire on Slovakia.

On the way, both groups will experience picturesque villages, spectacular mansions and castles, folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, pastoral rural landscapes, a blend of well-preserved historic buildings and Soviet era remnants, as well as Slovakia's vibrant new role as a part of the European Union.

Through special programs and visits to historic sites, participants will step back in time to discover the culture and traditions that recall a bygone era when many Slovaks left their country for new worlds.

Tour participants will also be able to arrange personal visits to family and ancestral villages, as well as to arrange for genealogical research to trace their family history.

"Since this is a small group tour, our comfortable minivan provides a lot of flexibility to follow the interests of the group. We like to add on special cooking, film, religious, craft, and social service visits if the group is interested" said Judith Northup-Bennett, the tour organizer. "With this tour I want to help people interested in Slovak culture find their own ties. I think there is a persistent yearning in all children and grandchildren of immigrants for our country of origin.....a yearning that can only be satisfied when we discover our important cultural roots."

To strengthen the personalized touch of the tour, Slovakia heritage has partnered with Peter Blazicek of Best Slovakia Tours who is committed to sharing his passion and love of his native land with people from many countries. "I like leading small groups because we can be flexible and enjoy everything. We can make the tour fun and interesting for everyone," he explained.

For a packet and more information on the September tour, contact Judith Northup-Bennett at Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 and at connectionswork4u@hotmail.com; or visit the web site at: <http://slovakiaheritage.com> where there are detailed itineraries of each tour.

OVERVIEW:

2012 SLOVAKIA HERITAGE TOURS

June 29-July 8 & September 7-16, 2012

<http://slovakiaheritage.com>

PRICE: \$1,999 complete, land-only package

Limited small-group tour. Ask about our \$100 Early Bird discount.

TOUR INCLUDES: 10 day minibus tour across Slovakia; 9 nights in 3 & 4 star hotels/lodges(double w/bath); breakfast each day & 3 dinners; full-time tour leader; 24/7 native Slovak guide/interpreter; admissions to historic sites, festivals, museums, cultural activities and special programs.

ADD-ONS AVAILABLE: Genealogical research & optional personal visits to ancestral villages; special guides & interpreters; extension tours to Prague, Krakow, Vienna.

Contact:

Slovakia Heritage Tours

Judith Northup Bennett

6 Cooleyville Rd Ext, New Salem, MA 01355

(978)-544-5144

connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

Reminder For All Branches

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

14.01 General Rules

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



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	William E Kelly	162K	Paul Bubnash	430K	Francis J Kacer Jr	703K	Richard S Zidek
003P	Elaine M Zelenak	162K	John L Kravets	450K	Andrew J Javorsky	731K	Joann M Gilliland
004K	Joseph A Gronsky Jr	162K	Emily Ann Utlak	465K	Helen Nemchik	731K	John A Kelemen
005P	Eugene Denardi	189K	Paul E Maloskey Jr	484K	Andrew Bendzella	731K	John C Yavorsky
005P	Theresa F Wassil	211K	Anna C Mayger-small	484K	George Joseph Hanyok	743K	Elizabeth Jean Duda
019K	Irene Evelyn Tomis	240P	Stanley L Darlak	484K	John A Katchmer	746K	Stephen L Rusin
024K	Catherine M Wargo	266K	John M Yenko	484K	Louis Paul Stager	780K	Michael D Mcgrath
038K	Mary Jane Baginski	290K	John F Stafurik	493K	William J Jakab Sr	823K	Catherine C Kubina
040K	Edward Burash	299K	Edward J Rogus	514K	Joseph Paul Halmi	831K	Anna T Emrisek
040K	Ethel Leskanich	308K	Valeria Ann Tomo	514K	Gertrude R Kanitra	831K	Richard James Golgan
041K	Ruth C Hylas	320K	Leonard Andrew Kotch	567K	Randy L Czankner Sr	888K	Joseph P Babkowski
089K	Michael A Novak	326K	Thomas W Burke	567K	Eugene J Huttie	900K	Zofia Glodek
089K	Mary J Vukovic	335K	Anthony R Fancovic	580K	Grace M Tarczy		
098K	Edward John Lauf	367K	Justine M Klebick	587K	John E Komar		
153K	John Andrew Mayer	393K	Lena A Nalevanko	633K	Mark S Chamburs		
153K	Steve Zmrazek	403K	Joseph E Chontos Sr	703K	Joseph M Hudetz		

* Processed in the month of March, 2012

OBITUARIES

JOHN E. KOMAR BRANCH 587 - ALQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

John E. Komar, age 90, a Moon Township resident since 1988, passed away peacefully with his wife of 41 years by his side on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at Heritage Valley Sewickley.



He was born in West Aliquippa on August 7, 1921, to the late Michael and Elizabeth (Duras) Komar. In 1940, after high school, he worked at CCC in New Mexico followed by 39 years at LTV Steel, Aliquippa Works, as a line and wire man. As a member of the 'greatest generation', he proudly served in the U.S. Army with Co C, 691st Tank Destroyer Battalion and was a participant in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of St. Margaret Mary Church and former member of St. Joseph Church in West Aliquippa.

On October 3, 1970, he married the love of his life, Florence (Sabol) Komar, in St. Joseph Church in Braddock.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sister, Mary Ann Kon, Center Township; his sisters and brother-in-law, Eleanor Sabol, Bernadette Adams, and Victor Sabol and also many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by siblings, Agnes, Helen, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Michael.

Visitation took place at COPELAND'S MOON TOWNSHIP on Wednesday, March 28, 2012, with prayer on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 10 a.m. followed by Mass at St.

Margaret Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. Burial followed in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies with full military honors.

The officers and members of Branch 587 offer their condolences to the family.

Submitted by Albert R. Valo
, Branch 587 President

RITA D. KRALOVICH BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Rita D. Kralovich, 80, formerly of Cortland, passed Thursday, April 5, 2012.

She was born Oct. 28, 1931, in Uniontown, Pa., the daughter of Nicholas and Anna Dolney.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Thomas; two daughters, Kathy Ziegler and Margaret Kralovich; two grandchildren, Jordan and Allyssa Ziegler; two sisters, Eleanor Novotny and Irene Stemock; and four brothers, Edward, William, John and Ray Dolney.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nicholas and Anna Dolney; a sister, Anna Mae Conetsco; and a brother, Joseph Dolney.

Rita grew up in the Uniontown, PA area and moved to Ohio in 1955. She lived in Cortland, OH until she moved to Florida in 1992.

Rita was a lifelong member of the Jednota. She and her husband were active in the Lodge, both as officers and attended many conventions.



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- Excellent gift for children or grandchildren



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

Reminder...

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

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

Slovak Grandmothers

By Lubos Brieda, copy and photos taken posts on his website slovakcooking.com

The story of Slovak food would not be complete without mentioning the true artists of Slovak cooking, the Slovak grandmothers. Call them *starká*, *babička* or *babka*, these women can turn the simplest ingredients into the most amazing meals. In their hands, flour and water become melt-in-your mouth fluffy *buchty*, cuts of meat turn into juicy *rezeň*, and chicken becomes the most delicious chicken noodle soup you have ever tasted.

My grandma makes, hands-down, the best ever **chicken noodle soup**. Part of her secret is her hand-made noodles. The other part is the recipe, which as you will see, is quite simple.

The Slovak version of chicken [noodle] soup (*kuracia* or *slepačia polievka*) is bit different from the American kind. First, it is always clear and "brothy". Second, Slovaks use slightly different ingredients. While celery is an integral part of the American version (or at least the canned version I buy in the supermarket), celery is not used in the Slovak chicken soup. Instead, we use **parsley** (*petržlen*). The root that is. While in America parsley is used almost exclusively for its leaves, in Slovakia it is used predominantly as a root vegetable. For those unfamiliar with parsley, it looks like a small carrot, but is white. Besides parsley, you will also need carrots (*mrkva*), and onion (*cibula*).



Cover and let cook for a while. Once the soup starts boiling, lower the heat, otherwise the soup will end up muddy. Once the soup is done, i.e., the vegetables are getting soft, take a small strainer and scoop out the brown muck that formed on the surface. Also add salt (sol') to taste. We used two of these small spoons.



You can also use **parsley leaves** (*petržlenová vnat*) and **kohlrabi** (*kaleráb*). Peel the root vegetables and the onion and fry for about 2 minutes on **oil** (*olej*).



Let the soup go through few more bubbles, so the salt has a chance to dissolve. Serve by placing cooked noodles in the bowl and then topping off with the soup. Enjoy! It goes great with the home baked flat bread and rolls.

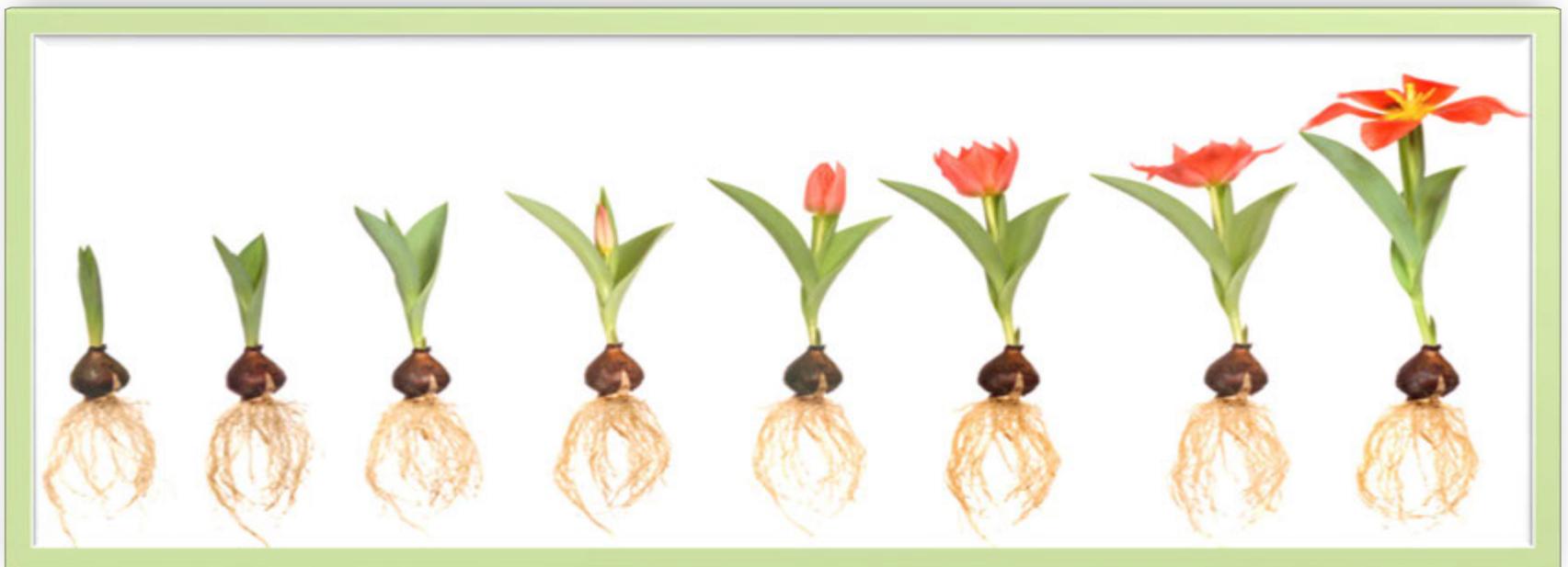


Add a small chicken (*kura*) and top off the pot with water (*voda*)



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VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT FCSU.COM

U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick and Bratislava Mayor Milan Ftacnik To Visit Cleveland



Cleveland Council on World Affairs (CCWA) and Cleveland Bratislava Sister Cities (CBSC) present U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick and Mayor of Bratislava Milan Ftacnik.

To register, visit www.ccwa.org and click on the Speaker Programs tab and follow instructions to register or call 216-255-9002.

Date : Thursday, June 14, 2012 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Admission: \$15 for members of CCWA and Cleveland Bratislava Sister Cities, \$25 for nonmembers and \$10 for full-time students

Location: The Union Club of Cleveland, 1211 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH

Program:

6 PM - Registration and Reception

6:30 PM - Program begins, followed by a questions and answers session.

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF
THE UNITED STATES & CANADA
6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300
INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

1-800-JEDNOTA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

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

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

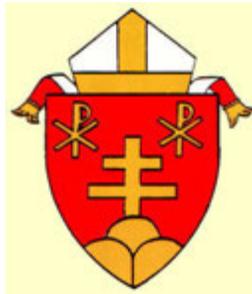
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- information that we may receive from a Consumer Reporting Agency.

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1:00 PM MASS

2:00 PM LUNCH ~ 3:00 PM PRESENTATION
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THE SLOVAK INSTITUTE; SCF - CLEVELAND CHAPTER;
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Phone: 1- 800-533-6682
Fax: 1- 216-642-4310
Email: fcsu@aol.com

New Jersey/New York Fraternal Alliance Announces Youth Award Program

One of the most important fraternal programs offered by the New Jersey New York Fraternal Alliance is its Youth Volunteer Award Program. Each year, the NJFC chooses deserving young students from a member society such as the First Catholic Slovak Union. Selection is based on the volunteer achievements with the FCSU as well as the community at large.

Thanks to the generosity of the Recreation Farm Society, each award winner will receive \$500 with a matching award of \$500 to their designated charity.

In addition to belonging to the FCSU, a recipient must be a resident of New York or New Jersey, and be between the ages of 16 – 22 at the time of application.

For an application form, including a complete list of all award requirements, please contact the home office of the First Catholic Slovak Union:

By mail:

First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, Ohio 44131
Attention: NJFC 2012 Youth Volunteer Award Application Request

By phone:

1 – 800- JEDNOTA, ask for Karen

By email:

fcsu@aol.com , be sure to mention NJFC 2012 Youth Volunteer Award in the subject line



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

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.

Fujara Course Offered This Summer

Every Slovak knows the fujara, majestic symbol of Slovak folk music, many heard the instrument and loved its tone and some even have fujara at home, on the wall as a decoration only. Now is the chance to learn to play fujara in one week, enjoy the music, and play for your community. Please register early, the course is limited to 12 students. Level: beginner, no music experience necessary. Let your friends know, this might be a one-time opportunity.

For the first time (in USA), a week-long fujara playing course will take place at McDaniel College in Westminster Maryland, first week of July 2012. The number of participants is limited to 12, please register early at Common Ground on the Hill, here:

<http://www.commongroundonthehill.org/index.html>

To see Master schedule of all the courses offered, click:

Traditions Week 1 / Master Schedule

For description of the class, click "Overtone flutes – Fujara and koncovka", for teacher's Bio, click his name.

Fujara class is every day, Mo - Fri, in the 1st Period (9:00 – 10:15), from 7/2 to 7/6, 2012.

Check the web site, you can pick other classes at other periods, instrumental, visual arts and more, tuition depends on number of classes taken.

There is also a whole day program for children (ages 5 – 12) called World Village. Sometimes whole families come for the program as a family vacation, the campus is one of the best I have seen, in hilly area on the outskirts of a small town.

Bohuslav (Bob) Rychlik



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, Špania Dolina, Prešov, Banská Štiavnica, Stará Ľubovňa, Poprad, Nitra, Košice, Trnava, Piešťany, Spišský Hrad, a "castle" which actually consists of three castles –upper, central, and middle. This tour also will include a raft ride – Rajecká Lesná – on the Dunajec River which runs between the Slovak and Polish border. The tour will feature two folklore programs with dinners.

We will see sights in Vienna, Austria, such as Schoenbrunn Place, St. Stephen's Cathedral, and the Platz, as well as a visit to Schoenbrunn Place. In the Czech Republic, you can look forward to seeing Old Town Square, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, plus many other sights.

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

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

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

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



Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

E	T	E	S		A	N	T		A	S	H				
M	I	S	O		D	O	E		C	H	E	S	S		
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News From Slovakia

Kia Motors Slovakia Launches Production of Second Generation of Cee'd

Teplicka nad Vahom, April 3 (TASR) - Kia Motors Slovakia in Teplicka nad Vahom (near Zilina) has just launched serial production of the second generation of Kia Cee'd, whereby the plant has begun to run at full capacity in a three-shift operation, Eek-Hee Lee, CEO of Kia Motors Slovakia said at a press conference on this date.

Eek-Hee Lee stated that the original Cee'd represented a milestone for Kia Motors Slovakia in terms of changing people's view of this brand.

"We believe that the new model will help us to increase production this year to a total of 285,000 vehicles. Kia Motors Slovakia invested €200 million in production technologies last year. We've hired more than 900 people thanks to the new model, and we've had a three-shift operation since January 2012. We plan to invest around €110 million this year, while production of the wagon version of Cee'd will be launched in the second half of the year," said Eek-Hee Lee.

Kia Motors Slovakia spokesman Dusan Dvorak reported that the plant has produced a total of 635,000 Cee'ds since production was launched in late 2006. More than 13,000 Cee'ds have been sold in Slovakia, and 900 Cee'ds have been bought by the Slovak Police Corps.

Eustream: Slovakia to Remain Key Player in Gas Transport Routes

Bratislava, April 3 (TASR) - Slovakia will continue to form a long-term part in one of the most important routes for delivery of Russian gas into Europe.

"Eustream company has a contract for transportation of 50 billion cubic metres of gas annually, valid until 2028. The gas transportation trade employs ship-or-pay principle, meaning that a client pays for reserved transportation capacity regardless of the degree to which it is used," said Eustream external communication specialist Vahram Chuguryan.

According to Chuguryan, Eustream also engages in other activities designed to increase the volume of traffic, including comprehensive modernization of the transport grid, adaptation of products and services to the most stringent market demands and the construction of new network extensions and connections. "In other words, Eustream hasn't been satisfied with the task of passive observer. The company actively reacts to changes in the market environment as well as growing competition in the field of gas transportation," he claimed.

"The market demands increased flexibility when ordering transportation capacities and the gas transport itself. Also, short-term or even one-day contracts are gaining popularity among customers, especially so if concluded on-line. Eustream meets the expectations of its clients and comes up with new products and services," said Chuguryan.

Eustream has also launched a re-engineering of the whole transport grid with an eye towards replacing obsolete technologies with newer and more ecological ones.

New MPs Take Oath in Parliament

Bratislava, April 4 (TASR) - The 150 MPs who were elected to Parliament in the March 10th early general election were sworn in according to the Constitution on this date.

Outgoing Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Hrusovsky (Christian Democrats/KDH) was first to take the oath before departing Parliamentary Vice-chairman Bela Bugar (Most-Hid). Bugar himself came next to swear loyalty to Slovakia, followed by fellow House vice-chair Robert Fico (Smer-SD) and members of the 'old' Cabinet.

Newly elected MP for 'Ordinary People and Independent Personalities' (OLaNO) Igor Hrasko somewhat stood out from the rest of his peers, as he, a folklorist and dance teacher by profession, was sworn in wearing a folk costume.

After all the MPs were sworn in, Hrusovsky interrupted the session to allow President Ivan Gasparovic to appoint Smer-SD party chairman Fico as the new prime minister. The appointments of cabinet ministers will follow shortly afterwards.

The parliamentary session will then resume, with MPs due to become members of the incoming government replaced by substitutes, who will then take their oaths.

Notably, the secret election of the new parliamentary chairman will ensue, with Smer vice-chairman Pavol Paska set to take up the post. The parliamentary vice-chairs will be elected next - Smer has nominated MPs Renata Zmajkovicova and Jana Lassakova, while the Opposition has put forward KDH leader Jan Figel and OLaNO MP Erika Jurinova.

Smer is set to take up 83 seats in Parliament, with its caucus to be led by Jana Lassakova. KDH's and OLaNO's 16-member caucuses each are to be headed by Pavol Hrusovsky and Jozef Viskupic, respectively. Most-Hid is to have 13 legislators, with Laszlo Solymos as its caucus head. SDKU-DS's and Freedom and Solidarity's (SaS) parliamentary groups of 11 MPs each are to be led by Ludovit Kanik and Juraj Miskov, respectively.

639,000 Cars Produced in Slovakia Last Year, 780,000 Expected in 2012

Bratislava, April 18 (TASR) - A total of 639,000 cars were churned out from car plants in Slovakia last year, and the figure even topped the pre-crisis output of 575,000 as seen in 2008, head of Slovakia's Automotive Industry Association (ZAP) Jozef Uhrík told a press conference on Wednesday.

He added that, based on reports from the car plants, 2012 should see an even higher number - 780,000 cars.

The ratio of the car industry in the country's industry as a whole has been on a constant rise, too - from 34.3 percent in 2008 to last year's 39 percent.

The plants in Slovakia - Volkswagen in Bratislava, PSA Peugeot-Citroen in Trnava and Kia in Zilina - rank among top quality and most advanced plants in the world, said Uhrík. This is why the individual car manufacturers place the production of their top-notch models in Slovakia.

The competitiveness of the sector in Slovakia is also pre-conditioned by a set of system-based changes, particularly in the areas of education, the legal framework and infrastructure. The car plants are seriously feeling the shortage of qualified workers, obstructions in their investment initiatives and a lack of a road network - especially highways - as one heads east in Slovakia.

President Gasparovic to Host V4 Meeting in Early May

Bratislava, April 23 (TASR) - Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic will host his counterparts from the Visegrad Four countries [Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic] in the High Tatras on May 5-6, TASR learned from the President's Office on Monday.

The presidents are to discuss the joint agenda with which to go to the May NATO Summit in Chicago and ways how to boost the regional identity of the Visegrad area with closer cooperation in tourism and promotion of the region abroad. Also on the agenda is the EU policy towards the Eastern Partnership.

The V4 Presidential Summit will also provide scope for potential bilateral talks between heads of states. The last such meeting took place in Slovakia in Piestany (Trnava region) in September 2008.

The current rotating presidency of the V4 is held by the Czech Republic.

NBS: Slovak Banking Sector Posted Net Profit of €142 million in 1Q12

Bratislava, April 30 (TASR) - The net profit of Slovakia's banking sector reached almost €142 million in the first quarter of 2012, down €32.8 million year-on-year, the Slovak central bank (NBS) announced on this date.

Slovak banks posted a total operational loss of €78.091 million, which was almost twice as much as in the same period of 2011, when the operational loss stood at €30.326 million.

Operating expenditures reached more than €294 million in 1Q12, with depreciation amounting to €19.551 million and amortization reaching almost €16 million.

Net interest income of Slovak banks stood at €123.5 million in the January-March period. Meanwhile, net fee and commission income reached more than €137 million.

Publication Schedule for 2012

Issue Date	Deadline to Receive Information
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

Otec Rev. Martin Svitan vo večnosti

Navždy sa zastavilo srdce nášho drahého duchovného otca Martina, ktorého sme všetci poznali, vážili si ho a mali sme ho radi. V skorých ranných hodinách v utorok dňa 10. apríla 2012 v oktáve Veľkonočného obdobia – po zmŕtvychvstaní nášho Spasiteľa, si ho náš Pán života a smrti povolal k sebe.

Otec Svitan sa narodil dňa 6. novembra 1939 v Kravanoch pod Tatrami na Slovensku. Už na Slovensku mal túžbu stať sa kňazom, čo však za vtedajšieho totalitného, komunistického zriadenia nebolo možné a tak sa na Bohosloveckú fakultu Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave nedostal študovať a ani v Litomeřiciach v Čechách. Vyštudoval Strednú priemyselnú školu stavebnú v Košiciach. Do Spojených štátov Amerických prišiel dňa 6. februára 1969 ku svojej sestre, ktorá bývala na Long Islande a rozhodol sa vybudovať nový domov v Amerike. Jeho túžba, stať sa kňazom ho neopustila. Ťažko pracoval a odkladal si peniaze na štúdiá, čo sa mu splnilo. Mal šťastie, pretože otec Reverend George Torok, ktorého požiadal o pomoc, mu jeho rozhodnutie podporil a tak dňa 13. septembra 1972 odišiel študovať na vlastné náklady do Ríma v Taliansku.

Teologické štúdiá ukončil na Pápežskej Univerzite v Ríme. Za diakona ho vysvätil arcibiskup Jozef Tomko 2. decembra 1979 a za kňaza 23. decembra 1979 Msgr. Cardinal Giovanni Canestri v kaplnke Slovenského inštitútu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme, kde 26. decembra 1979 celebraval svoju prvú svätú omšu. Dňa 23. apríla 1980 sa otec Martin Svitan vrátil do mesta New York, kde začal svoje kňazské účinkovanie ako kaplán Msgr. Štefana J. Hudáčka v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC.

Po smrti otca Reverenda Roberta J. Tomliana, ktorý zomrel v januári 1999, Cardinal John O'Connor menoval ho farárom Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC, kde do tejto funkcie nastúpil 3. apríla 1999. Počas jeho pôsobenia v tejto farnosti dal zrenovovať kostol a prilahlé miestnosti. Pre nás všetkých bol otcom, poradcom, priateľom a vzácnym duchovným. Vždy privítal chudobných, pocestných a všetkých, ktorí o jeho pomoc požiadali. Neľutoval čas, aby sa nám venoval – bol duchovným vodcom slovenskej farnosti. Podporoval Slovenskú katolícku federáciu, Slovenskú ligu v Amerike, ako i všetky fraternalistické spolky. Po oznámení, že už nie je medzi nami, ale vo večnosti, zavládol hlboký smútok a pocit veľkej straty. Hneď v deň úmrtia nášho duchovného otca Reverenda Martina vo večerných hodinách otec Štefan Chanas odslúžil sv. omšu za veľkej účasti smútiacich farníkov.

Dňa 15. apríla bola ďalšia sv. omša za otca Reverenda Martina, ktorú odslúžil otec

Reverend Peter Kvašňák. V tento deň o 3:00 hodine odpoľudnia bola pietná rozlúčka pri telesných pozostatkoch otca Reverenda Martina až do 7:30 hodine večer. Svätú omšu za neobohého otca Reverenda Martina Svitanu, odslúžil biskup Gerald T. Walsh, pri ktorej sa o nebohom otcovi Svitanovi vyjadril v peknej kázni otec Reverend George Torok. Za tým sa rozlúčili najbližší príbuzní, Nina Holá za slovenské spolky, ktoré pracujú pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, ako aj jeho spoluosadníci zo „Slovak Country Club“. Po zádušnej omši sa konalo pohostenie - „kar“ - ako je to zvykom na Slovensku, na prípravu ktorého sa podieľali mnohí ochotní farníci.

V pondelok dňa 16. apríla 2012 bol pohreb nášho milovaného kňaza a priateľa Reverenda Martina Svitanu, ktorý začal sv. omšou o 10.00 hodine dopoludnia v našom Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, ktorú odslúžil, Jeho eminencia kardinál Timothy M. Dolan. Nádhernú a hlboko precitenu rozlúčkovú kázeň povedal otec Reverend Štefan Chanas, ktorý sa skutočne zaslúžil o dôstojný priebeh všetkých omší a modlitieb, za čo mu farníci vyslovujú: „Pán Boh zaplať a obdaruj ho svojou milosťou“.

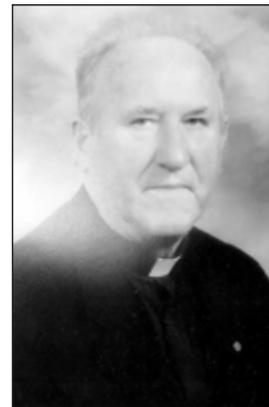
Po tejto rozlúčke, telo otca Martina Svitanu odviezli k jeho chate v Mountindale, NY a konečnému odpočinku do blízkeho cintorína v Ellenville, NY. Po tejto ceste ho odprevádzal otec Štefan Chanas s mnohými kňazmi, s blízkou rodinou a niekoľkými priateľmi, aby sa s ním rozlúčili s piesňou: „Blíž k Tebe Bože môj ...“.

V osadnej hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého sa po sv. omši tiež podávalo občerstvenie pre všetkých, ktorí sa prišli rozlúčiť s nebohým otcom Martinom a bolo ich viac než 300 ľudí. My nikdy nezabudneme na nášho otca Martina, jeho dobrotu, milosť, obetavosť a budeme všetci spomínať na jeho odkaz:

„Lúčim sa s vami priatelia milí, stisk ruky dnes už vám nemôžem dať. Srdce mi dotklo, odišli síly. Mal som vás všetkých, mal som vás rád.“

Henrieta H. Daitová

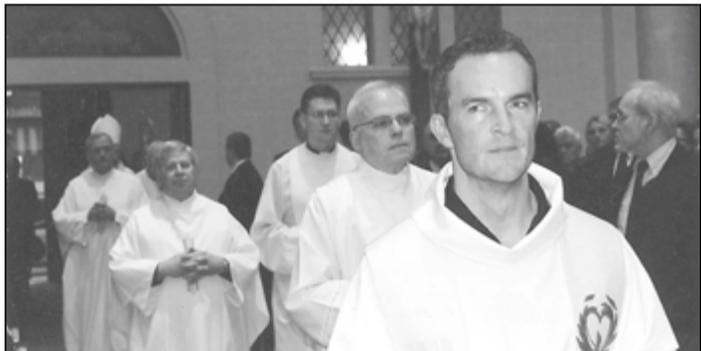
členka Farskej rady pri Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého



Rev. Martin Svitan



Smútočné posedenie na fare Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C. s Jeho eminenciou kardinálom Timothy M. Dolanom. Na snímke sediaci zľava: Rev. Štefan Chanas, kardinál Timothy M. Dolan, Nina Holá. Druhý rad stojaci zľava: Rev. Richard Baker, Daniel F. Tanzone, Henrieta H. Daitová, Milan R. Dait, Jozef Bilik, Ján Holý, Rev. Martin Kertys.



Záber na zástup kňazov prichádzajúcich na svätú omšu v popredí Rev. František Čonka, Daniel F. Tanzone, Rev. Štefan Chanas, Rev. Anthony J. Pleho a ďalší.



Svätá omša obetovaná za neobohého otca Svitanu dňa 15. apríla 2012 o 11.00 hodine dopoludnia v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Dôstojní otcovia zľava: Štefan Chanas a Peter Kvašňák zo Slovenska.



Pri svätej omši večer 15. apríla 2012 v zástupe v popredí sprava Rev. Peter Kvašňák zo Slovenska s ďalšími kňazmi.



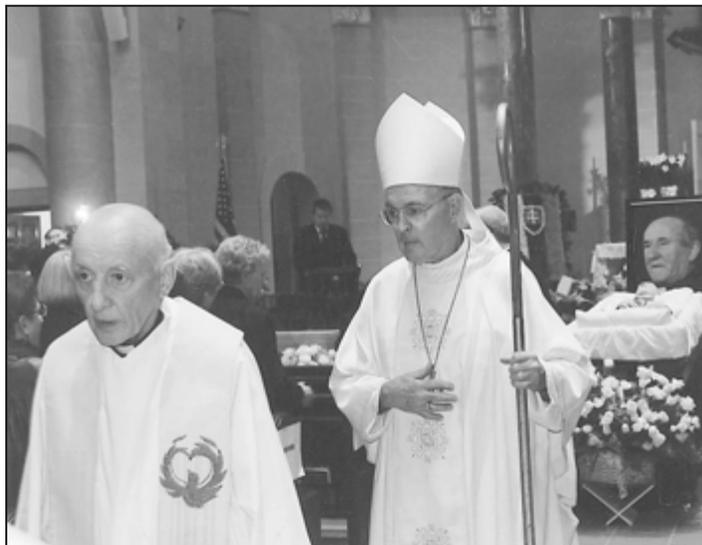
Počas večernej omše pri čítaní Henrieta H. Daitová.



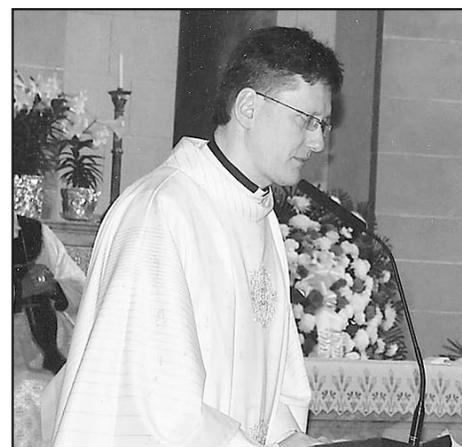
Po svätej omši večer dňa 16. apríla 2012 Jeho eminencia kardinál Timothy M. Dolan požehnával vychádzajúcich farníkov z kostola.



Svätú omšu za neobohého o 7:30 hodine večer slúžil 15. apríla 2012 biskup Gerald T. Walsh.



Pri svätej omši večer dňa 15. apríla 2012 zľava: Reverend George Torok a biskup Gerald T. Walsh.



Rev. Štefan Chanas počas kázne na pohrebnej svätej omši 16. apríla 2012 o 10:00 hodine doobeda.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasuľu, Spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa 24. júna 2012 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia na fare Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City.

Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie ako aj finančnú správu. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

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

Začína sa projekt Google Street View na Slovensku

Spoločnosť Google spúšťa aj na Slovensku projekt Google Street View. Špeciálne autá vyrazili 11. apríla do ulíc 19 dôležitých slovenských miest vrátane hlavného mesta Bratislavy. Cieľom je zachytiť historicky a kultúrne dôležité miesta a mestá na Slovensku v podobe panoramatických fotografií, ktoré neskôr pribudnú na Mapách Google.

Autá jazdili len na verejne dostupných priestranstvách a fotodokumentácia sa bude následne niekoľko mesiacov spracovávať pomocou špeciálnej technológie na ochranu súkromia. Tá automaticky rozmazáva tváre a ŠPZ áut tak, aby ich nebolo možné identifikovať.

Street View autá bude možné vidieť v Banskej Bystrici, Bardejove, Bratislave, Humennom, Komárne, Košiciach, Leviciach, Liptovskom Mikuláši, Martine, Nitre, Nových Zámkoch, Poprade, Prešove, Prievidzi, Rimavskej Sobote, Spišskej Novej Vsi, Trenčíne, Trnave a Žiline.

Google spúšťa projekt Street View po ukončení rokovaní s Úradom na ochranu osobných údajov SR a splnení všetkých lokálne špecifických podmienok pre ochranu súkromia.

Street View je jednou z najpopulárnejších funkcií na Mapách Google dostupnou už vo viac ako 30 krajinách na svete. Vďaka tejto funkcii sa môžu používatelia virtuálne preniesť na rôzne miesta a overiť si, kde sa nachádzajú hotely, obchody alebo reštaurácie, ktoré plánujú navštíviť.

Dôležitým aspektom pri zbere fotodokumentácie je ochrana súkromia. Pred akýmkoľvek zverejnením zozbieraných snímkov dochádza k ich spracovaniu a pomocou špeciálnej technológie sa tváre ľudí a poznávacie značky budú rozmazávať tak, aby ich nebolo možné identifikovať a chránilo sa ich súkromie.

TASR

Milan Rastislav Štefánik

Tu orlom z hniezda vyletel
na krídlach ducha po oblohu
v hniezd svetoch hľadajúc si cieľ.
Tam však, keď poklonil sa Bohu
v obdive Jeho slávnych diel,
Ním hnutý k zemi zvrátil let,
keď našiel cieľ, čo česť i zdar má:
svoj národ vyslobodil z jarma,
v ňomž upel prez tisícku liet.
To zmôžuc v sláve vzletel späť.

P.O. Hviezdoslav



Zástava k 120. výročiu založenia Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45.

Oslava 120. výročia Spolku č. 45 sv. Matúša v NYC spojená s Fašiangovou zábavou

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

v New Yorku drotársku dielňu. V rokoch 1892, za účelom stretávania sa a modlenia sa v rodnom slovenskom jazyku, založil spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. V tom čase duchovným otcom bol Msgr. Štefan Krasuľa. Za tým počas programu sa predstavila členka spolku sv. Matúša, Renáta Jurášiová, ktorá zarecitovala báseň od P. O. Hviezdoslava „Blahá pamiatka Štúra“. Po krátkom kultúrnom programe sa podával slávnostný obed s kávou a koláčom, ktorý pripravili Milka a Veronika. Počas zábavy nechýbala ani veselá hudba Jozefa Jurášiho, tanec, slovenské nápoje a tombola.

Nasledujúce fotografie sú vhodnou spomienkou na vydarenú, pekne pripravenú zábavu v osadnej hale pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. za prítomnosti hojnej účasti členov spolku a hostí. Tešíme sa na ďalšie podobné stretnutie s vami.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka



Zľava Jozef Juráši a Renáta Jurášiová.



Všetci spoločne pri tanci.



Hostia v sále počas obeda.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

• **Slováci** v šetrení príliš úspešní nie sú. Aspoň to vyplýva z prieskumu spoločnosti Home Credit Slovakia, podľa ktorého až 42 percent obyvateľov Slovenska mesačne neušetrí ani jedno euro. Oproti vlnajšiu sa v tomto smere takmer nič nezmenilo. V roku 2011 rovnakú odpoveď uviedlo v prieskume 43 percent opýtaných. Aj napriek tomu, že štatistiky vykazujú ekonomický rast, na domácnosti to podľa Home Creditu nemá príliš veľký vplyv. Podľa neho príjmy tejto skupiny obyvateľov stačia iba na pokrytie základných životných potrieb. V porovnaní s vlnajškom vzrástol počet ľudí, ktorí dokážu ušetriť do sto eur.

• **Slovenský** honorárny konzulát slávnostne otvorili nedávno v japonskom meste Ucnomija, ktoré je metropolou prefektúry Točigi. Honorárny konzul Eiji Išikawa bude poskytovať konzulárnu pomoc a ochranu slovenským občanom v núdzi a podieľať sa na rozvoji dvojstrannej hospodárskej, obchodnej a kultúrnej spolupráce. Na otvorení úradu sa zúčastnil slovenský veľvyslanec Drahomír Štos, guvernér prefektúry Tomikazu Fukuda a primátor mesta Eiji Sato. Pri tejto príležitosti sa uskutočnil seminár pre vyše 100 pozvaných podnikateľov z regiónu, na ktorom veľvyslanec Štos predstavil prítomným Slovensko a jeho investičné prostredie. Nový honorárny konzulát má pôsobnosť pre prefektúry Točigi, Gunma a Ibaraki, ktoré sa nachádzajú na ostrove Hansjú v strednom Japonsku.

• **Konvergencia** slovenskej ekonomiky k ekonomikám západnej Európy sa v poslednom desaťročí zrýchlila. Slovensko zaznamenalo v rokoch 2000 - 2010 nadpriemerný ekonomický rast. Spomedzi všetkých krajín EÚ rástla slovenská ekonomika dokonca najrýchlejšie (v priemere o 4,9 % ročne). Hlavným ťahúňom ekonomického rastu bol priemysel ťažiaci z prílevu zahraničného kapitálu a rastu produktivity práce. Priemyselná výroba zaznamenala v poslednom desaťročí v priemere dvojciferný medziročný rast (o 10,9 % ročne). Takmer polovica rastu ekonomiky tak pripadala práve na priemysel. Na raste ekonomiky v poslednom desaťročí sa však výraznejšie podieľalo aj stavebníctvo, obchod a energetika. Naopak, klesali odvetvia služieb v oblasti dopravy a skladovania, hotelov a reštaurácií. Z hľadiska odvetví priemyslu rástli najrýchlejšie spotrebná elektronika a automobilový priemysel. Tieto dve odvetvia sa v priebehu posledného desaťročia stali ťažiskovými odvetviami slovenského hospodárstva.

• **Spoločnosť** Kia Motors Slovakia dosiahla v roku 2011 tržby 3.328 miliardy eur, čo predstavuje medziročný nárast o 15 %. Závod exportoval takmer 99 % vyrobených automobilov, pričom tržby z exportu tvorili 3.278 miliardy eur. Čistý zisk po zdanení za minulý rok dosiahol 68,6 milióna eur. V roku 2011 vyrobila Kia Motors Slovakia viac ako 252.000 automobilov, čo predstavuje 10-% medziročný nárast produkcie, a 359.000 motorov, čo je nárast o 12 %. Spoločnosť prijala vlni viac ako 900 zamestnancov a v januári 2012 spustila výrobu v trojzmennej prevádzke.

• V bratislavskom závode Volkswagen Slovakia (VW SK) sa v marci začala sériová výroba 5-dverovej verzie mestského vozidla Volkswagen up!. Na celkovej produkcii modelu Volkswagen up! sa bude táto verzia podieľať približne polovicou. Na nemecký trh sa dostane v máji, kde ho možno predobjednávať už od marca, a začiatkom leta príde na ďalšie európske trhy. Slovenskú premiéru bude mať toto inovatívne malé vozidlo na bratislavskom Autosalóne. Návštevníkom spoločnosť predstaví aj exkluzívnu štúdiu buggy up! Volkswagen up! v 5-dverovej verzii.

• **Cestujúci** sa môžu vo vybraných InterCity vlakoch na trase medzi Bratislavou a Košicami pripojiť na internet. Osobný dopravca Železničná spoločnosť Slovensko (ZSSK) začala so skúšobnou prevádzkou bezdrôtového internetového pripojenia - wifi. Počas troch mesiacov tak bude ZSSK skúšať wifi v IC vlakoch Gerlach, striedavo na trase medzi Bratislavou a Košicami a späť. "Zisťovať sa bude kvalita signálu, objem prenesených dát a spokojnosť ľudí," priblížil Buzinkay. Po vyhodnotení skúšobnej prevádzky sa rozhodne o ďalšom postupe. "Naším cieľom je zaviesť postupne bezdrôtové pripojenie v IC vlakoch vo všetkých vozňoch prvej triedy," opísal generálny riaditeľ ZSSK Pavel Kravec. Kvalita poskytovaného signálu pozdĺž trasy medzi Bratislavou, Žilinou a Košicami kopíruje štandardnú mapu pokrytia mobilných operátorov a umožňuje bežné využívanie internetu na prácu i zábavu. Technické zázemie wifi pripojenia poskytla ZSSK na skúšku zdarma firma Molpir.

• **Študenti** Gymnázia na Poštovej ulici v Košiciach sa prebojovali na marcovom veľtrhu študentských firiem na prvé miesto v kategórii Najlepšia marketingová prezentácia a skončili zároveň ako tretí najlepší marketingový tím. Vďaka tomu postúpili na európske finále súťaže JA-YE Company of the Year Competition v júli v rumunskej Bukurešti. Ide o prestížnu ekonomickú súťaž pre stredoškôľakov v Európe. Košičania porazili v Žiline vyše 50 slovenských študentských firiem. Spoločnosť Aim predstavila na trhu inovatívny produkt, ktorým je energetická čokoláda. Gymnazisti vytvorili typ čokolády na prírodnej báze, ktorá má vďaka prímеси ovocia Goji a Acai výrazne posilnenú energetickú zložku. Spolupracovali pri tom s výrobcami kvalitnej čokolády v Čechách a vo Švajčiarsku.

• **Ziaci** bilingválnych tried bratislavského Gymnázia Bilíkova majú mimoriadnu príležitosť nielen spoznať športoviská tohtoročných letných olympijských hier v Londýne, ale o nich aj diskutovať s rodeným Angličanom. "Putovnú výstavu nám poskytol British Council v Bratislave. S ňou aj z britského ministerstva zahraničných vecí mladého chlapca, ktorý je tu na stáži. Pri ňom sa za dva dni v debata vystrieda všetkých 30 tried nášho štvor-, päť- a osemročného gymnázia," povedal jeho riaditeľ Ján Dančík.

• **Takmer** každý druhý Slovák bez práce si ju nevie opätovne nájsť dlhšie ako jeden rok. Ako vyplýva z februárových údajov Ústredia práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny (ÚPSVaR) SR, presne ide o skupinu 193,357 nezamestnaných. Najviac, 44,668 takýchto ľudí je v Prešovskom kraji. Vysoké čísla vykazujú aj Košický a Banskobystrický kraj. V každom je približne po 40,000 ľudí bez práce dlhšie ako 12 mesiacov. Naopak, najmenej ich je podľa februárových údajov ústredia tradične v Bratislavskom kraji, a to 5, 144.

• Na bratislavskom námestí Gallerie Eurovea prezident Slovenského olympijského výboru (SOV) František Chmelár slávnostne zapálil slovenský olympijský oheň, ktorý od 1. apríla až do 23. júna ponese štafeta cez celé Slovensko. Z Chmelárových rúk oheň prevzal najstarší olympionik žijúci na Slovensku, legenda rýchlostnej kanoistiky Jan Matocha. Jediný zo žijúcich slovenských olympionikov štartoval už na OH v Londýne v roku 1948 a aj preto symbolicky následne pochodeň odovzdal dvom súčasným olympionikom, ktorí sa pripravujú na tohtoročné jubilejné hry v Londýne - strelkyni Danke Bartekovej a gymnastovi Samuelovi Piaseckému. Obaja športovci spoločne zapálili veľkú čašu.



TASR a slovenské časopisy

Historické hotely na Slovensku

Na výstave ITB Berlín pripravili nedávno slovenské historické hotely niekoľko špeciálnych zážitkových produktov s rozmanitou tematikou. Oddych v historických zariadeniach je poprepletaný návštevou kultúrnych a historických pamiatok, prírodných krás, hlavného mesta Bratislavy, najmenších veľhôr Európy Vysokých Tatier, Košíc - Európskeho hlavného mesta kultúry 2013, kúpeľného mesta Piešťany či Žitného ostrova. Súčasťou ponuky boli gastronomické pôžitky, ochutnávka vín, romantika, wellness, ale aj aktívny oddych ako je lyžovačka, golf či turistika.

Asociácia Historické hotely Slovenska (AHHS) by chcela svojimi zážitkovými balíčkami oslovit predovšetkým zahraničných touroperátorov. Historické hotely Slovenska sú výber kvalitných historických zariadení, ktoré reprezentujú vysokú úroveň hotelierstva a gastronómie v kombinácii s jedinečnými zážitkami a originálnou atmosférou. Sú členmi nadnárodnej organizácie Historic Hotels of Europe, ktorá združuje vyše 600 hotelových zariadení v rámci 22 asociácií z rozličných krajín Európy. Boli založené v septembri 2009. Jedenástimi členmi sú Chateau Béla (Belá), Hotel Bankov (Košice), Kaštieľ Péchy - Lovecký Dom a Park (Hermanovce), Kaštieľ Villa Nečas (Žilina), Hotel Sandor Pavillon (Piešťany), Hotel u Leva (Levoča), Grand Castle (Liptovský Hrádok), Hotel Amade Chateau (Vrakúň), Hotel Jeleň (Hlohovec), Hotel Hviezdoslav (Kežmarok), Castel Pensión & Restaurant (Mierovo). Členmi sú vidiecke sídla šľachticov, meštianske domy, kaštiele, tiež bývalé kúpeľné hotely. Dôkazom nadštandardnej úrovne členských hotelov na Slovensku je ich začlenenie do prestížnej asociácie Historic Hotels of Europe so sídlom v Paríži.

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FOTO TASR - Vladimír Benko

Prezident Slovenskej atlantickej komisie (SAC) Rastislav Káčer (vpravo) privítal 12. apríla 2012 v hoteli Kempinski Hotel River Park v Bratislave slovenského premiéra Roberta Fica, ktorý sa zúčastnil na slávnostnom otvorení trojdňového globálneho bezpečnostného fóra GLOBSEC 2012.

President of the Slovak Atlantic Commission (SAC) Rastislav Kacer (right), welcomes Slovak Premier Robert Fico on April 12, 2012 in Kempinski Hotel in Bratislava for the opening of the three day global security forum (GLOBSEC) conference.

Globsec nie je len bezpečnostná konferencia

Bratislavské globálne fórum Globsec už nie je len bezpečnostnou konferenciou. Jednou z hlavných tém, ktorou sa začínali diskusné panely, boli ekonomické otázky. Dnes je viac viditeľné ako kedykoľvek predtým, čo všetko je bezpečnosť. Kedysi sme tradične hovorili o bezpečnosti skôr z teritoriálneho pohľadu tradičných výziev, dnes je kľúčovou otázkou bezpečnosti stabilita inštitúcií, ktoré definujú rámec európskeho fungovania a stabilita vzťahov, ktoré z toho vyplývajú. Preto sú dnes ekonomické otázky bezpečnostnými témami viac ako kedykoľvek predtým," priblížil prezident a predseda Správnej rady Slovenskej atlantickej komisie (SAC) Rastislav Káčer.

V prvý deň konferencie vo štvrtok 12. apríla sa hovorilo o európskej ekonomickej integrácii a budúcnosti eura. "Tu sa nám podarilo dohodnúť partnerstvo s najvplyvnejším európskym ekonomickým think-thankom Bruegelom," uviedol zakladateľ fóra a generálny tajomník SAC Róbert Vass. Do Bratislavy mal prísť šéf Bruegelu Jean Pisani-Ferry, ako aj autor viacerých talianskych daňových reforiem a bývalý minister financií Giulio Tremonti. Medzi pozvanými figurovali aj novovymenovaný minister financií SR Peter Kažimír.

V sobotu 14. apríla uzatvárala Globsec ďalšia ekonomická téma, ktorá sa zaoberala tým, koho pravidlá sa hrajú vo svete po globálnej kríze. Organizátori aj pri tomto paneli sľubovali zaujímavých hostí. Vystúpiť mali poradca Európskej centrálnej banky pre európsku finančnú integráciu Ignazio Angeloni či hlavný šéf investičnej divízie jednej z najväčších bánk na svete Goldman Sachs Jim O'Neill.

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Slováci v zahraničí by mali dostávať aspoň toľko ako menšiny na Slovensku

Nová vláda SR by mala navýšiť finančné prostriedky v dotačnom systéme pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí minimálne na úroveň, ako dostávajú menšiny na Slovensku.

Konštatuje to Únia Slovákov v zahraničí (ÚSZ) v desaťbodovom zozname svojich základných požiadaviek, ktoré adresovala premiérovi Robertovi Ficovi (Smer-SD) a poslancom Národnej rady (NR) SR.

Od kabinetu Fica očakávajú krajanania aj novelizáciu zákona o občianstve. Tá by mala umožniť získať slovenské občianstvo každej osobe, ktorá má aspoň jedného predka slovenského pôvodu, a to bez ohľadu na počet predchádzajúcich generácií alebo dĺžku pobytu na území Slovenska.

Novelizovať by sa podľa ÚSZ mal aj zákon o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí. Krajanania by pritom mali mať šancu dohliadať a pripomienkovať túto zmenu počas celého procesu novelizácie. "Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZ) by sa mal stať samostatným orgánom štátnej správy s vlastným rozpočtom. O predsedovi ÚSZ by rozhodovala NR SR, pričom Slováci žijúci v zahraničí by dostali možnosť navrhnúť aj vlastného kandidáta," priblížila ÚSZ.

Od novej vlády tiež očakáva zriadenie stálej komisie pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri zahraničnom výbore NR SR i vytvorenie legislatívneho rámca a zabezpečenie financií na podporu vzdelávacích centier a škôl s vyučovacím jazykom slovenským v zahraničí.

Požiadavky únie krajanov sa týkajú aj verejnoprávnej televízie. Od vlády očakáva, že im zabezpečí voľný príjem programov STV v zahraničí. Tiež požaduje, aby sa v televízii vytvorili podmienky na pravidelné vysielanie o živote, činnosti, kultúre a práci Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

TASR

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Aktívny výbor zľava: Renáta Jurášiová, Anton Kucharovič, Želmíra Becková-Kucharovič, Dušan Migas, Jozef Juráši, Mária Žakovic, Jozef Juráši Jr., Mária Juráši, Jozef Korčák, Antonia Krajkovič a Anna Korčák.

Oslava 120. výročia Spolku č. 45 sv. Matúša v NYC spojená s Fašiangovou zábavou

Počas fašiangového obdobia v nedeľu 19. februára 2012, Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City usporiadal oslavu 120. výročia založenia Spolku, spojenú s Fašiangovou zábavou.

Oslava sa začala slovenskou svätou omšou v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C., ktorú odsľúžil kaplán slovenského kostola, otec Štefan Chanas. Úvodné slová, ako obyčajne, patrili predsedovi spolku Jozefovi Jurášimu, ktorý privítal všetkých hostí z New Jersey, Connecticut, Pensylvánie a z New Yorku. Za tým slovo odovzdal duchovnému otcovi Štefanovi Chanasovi, ktorý sa spoločne s prítomnými pomodlil. Krátkym príhovorom o histórii Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ informoval Jozef Juráši. Medziiným sa zmienil o skromných začiatkoch zakladateľa Spolku Martina Challana, rodáka zo Slovenska z dedinky Vysokej v Trenčianskej župe. Do Ameriky prišiel v roku 1872 a založil si

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Blahoželanie KBS k jubileu a k výročiu voľby Benedikta XVI.

Predseda KBS Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský zaslal list Svätému Otcovi Benediktovi XVI. pri príležitosti jeho 85. narodenín a siedmeho výročia jeho voľby za nástupcu sv. Petra. Prinášame ho v plnom znení.

Vaša Svätosť,

spolu s Božím ľudom po celom svete sa dnes aj my, katolícki biskupi spolu s našimi veriacimi na Slovensku, úprimne radujeme z Vášho životného jubilea.

Sme vďační Pánu Bohu za Vás i za Vašu službu Kristovho námestníka. Uvedomujeme si, že je veľmi namáhavá. I my chceme svojimi každodennými modlitbami a obetami za Vás prispieť k šíreniu evanjelia pravdy po celom svete. Uistujeme Vás o našom rozhodnutí byť vernými synmi a dcérami katolíckej Cirkvi a poslúchať Vás ako Najvyššieho veľkňaza a nástupcu apoštola Petra. Denne prosíme o Božie požehnanie pre Vás a modlíme sa za Vás aj v nádeji, že Vás privítame v jubilejnom cyrilometodskom roku na Slovensku.

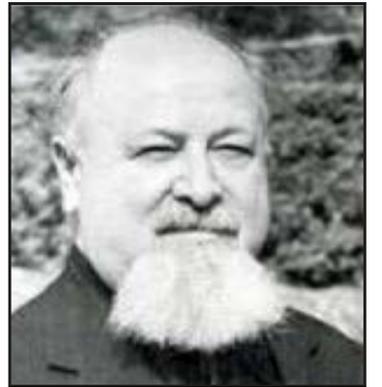
Vaša Svätosť, do ďalších rokov Vašej jedinečnej a pre nás tak životodarnej služby Vám zo srdca na príhovor našich vierozvestov a patrónov Európy, sv. Cyrila a Metoda, vyprosujeme hojné Božie požehnanie a ochranu Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, patrónky Slovenska.

So synovskou úctou a vďakou v mene Konferencie biskupov Slovenska a celého Božieho ľudu v Pánovi

Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský
Bratislavský arcibiskup a metropolita
Predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska
TKKBS

Spomienkové slávnosti na 30. výročie úmrtia pátra Lacka

V Košiciach sa v dňoch 21. až 24. marca konali spomienkové slávnosti pri príležitosti 30. výročia úmrtia pátra Michala Lacka SJ. Michal Lacko, rodák z Krásnej nad Hornádom (dnes košická mestská časť) bol významným historikom, ktorý sa venoval najmä cyrilometodským dejinám a dejinám gréckokatolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku. Bol profesorom histórie na Pápežskom východnom inštitúte a celý jeho život bol naplnený prácou nielen pre svojich rodákov, ale aj pre každého, kto to potreboval. Jeho neúnavná činnosť viedla napokon k jeho predčasnej smrti. Po svojej smrti boli jeho telesné pozostatky uložené najprv v jezuitskej hrobke na rímskom centrálnom cintoríne Campo Verano, neskôr boli prenesené na Slovensko a uložené na cintoríne sv. Rozálie v Košiciach.



Michal Lacko S.J.

Spomienkové slávnosti začali v stredu 21. marca, vo výročný deň jeho smrti, zádušnou sv. liturgiou v chráme sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Krásnej nad Hornádom. Potom v piatok 23. marca slávnosti pokračovali panychidou pri jeho hrobe na cintoríne sv. Rozálie, po ktorej nasledovala prezentácia knihy Ondreja Miháľa „Náboženský život Slovákov v Kanade.“ Spomienkové slávnosti vyvrcholili v sobotu 24. marca seminárom, na ktorom sa účastníkom prihovorili pamätníci, ktorí Michala Lacka osobne poznali, ako aj tí, ktorí čerpajú z jeho odkazu aj dnes. Po seminári sa predstavila kniha Michala Lacka „Užhorodská únia,“ ktorá viac ako po päťdesiatich rokoch od svojho napísania vyšla po prvýkrát v slovenskom jazyku. Slávnosti, ktorých sa zúčastnili aj súrodenci Michala Lacka (brat aj sestra), sa ukončili slávnostnou liturgiou v chráme Božského Srdca Ježišovho na Komenského ulici v Košiciach, ktorú slávil protosynkel košickej gréckokatolíckej eparchie o. Vladimír Tomko.

Týmto spomienkovými slávnosťami sa Centrum spirituality Východ-Západ pokúsilo vzdať hold významnej osobnosti Slovenska, ktorá pre Slovensko a Slovákov urobila obrovské množstvo práce, ale ktorá ostáva zatiaľ stále málo docenená.

TK KBS

Moja mama ...

Ďakujem Ti Pane Bože, že najkrajšia,
a najlepšia žena na svete, bola moja „Mama“.
Po Bohu, bola prvá, čo život mi dala.
Láska ku mne, bola tým najkrajším darom,
jej náruč, bola mojím chrámom.

Ten vreľý bozk, bol prejavom čistej lásky,
keď pohladila moju tvár, upravila vlásy,
privinula na jej zlaté, materinské srdce,
uložila do postieľky, urobila na čelo krížik,
zaspievala uspávanku, odovzdala do Božej vôle
a poprosila môjho Anjela strážcu,
by chránil ma od všetkého zlého,
najmä od nepriateľa Cirkvi, diabla zradcu.

Šeptom tíško priala: spi sladko moje srdiečko,
spi s anjelíčkami, kým nevýjde, ranné slniečko.
Neviem, čo ešte viac, mi mohla dať ...?

Ďakujem tisíckrát ďakujem, Všemohúcemu Bohu,
že mi dal do daru „Moju Zlatú Mamu“.

Jozef Smák