

Fr. Stephen Furedek  
Our Founder

## New Year Message from Our National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! May the Lord bless you and your family in 2013.

As we begin a new year, it is good that we, who are celebrating the Year of Faith, rediscover a special gift God give us through the church, the gift of indulgences.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines an indulgence in this manner:

An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead (CCC no. 1471).

The Apostolic Penitentiary last September identified the many opportunities for a person to receive indulgences during the Year of Faith. To obtain a Plenary Indulgence, one must first be truly repentant, receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. This is to be done in conjunction with any of the following:

1. Attend at least three sermons during the Holy Missions, or at least three lessons on the Acts of the Second Vatican Council or the Catechism of the Catholic Church, in a church or other suitable location.
2. Visit a cathedral church or a holy site designated by the local bishop and there participate in a sacred celebration, or remain for a period of time in prayer and meditation, concluding with the recitation of the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and prayers to Mary and, depending on circumstances, to the Apostles and patron saints.
3. Participate in a solemn celebration of the Eucharist or Liturgy of the Hours and adding the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form in any sacred place, on days designated by the local bishop for the Year of Faith.
4. Make a pious visit to the location of one's Baptism and renew baptism promises in any legitimate form.

Persons unable to leave their residences due to illness or other legitimate reasons can also obtain a Plenary Indulgence if they recite the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and other prayers associated with the Year of Faith, as well as offering up their sufferings and hardships while uniting themselves in spirit and thought with other members of the faithful.

Pope Benedict proclaimed the Year of Faith so that all members of the church can rediscover, study, and reflect upon the different articles of our faith. Through the gift of indulgences, the Year is also a means for us to experience the love and mercy of God.

Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain



Rev. Thomas Nasta

*Deadline for the 2012  
tax year on IRA deposits is  
April 15, 2013.  
There's still time!*

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Look for info on the National Bowling Tournament in the next issue of Jednota

## President's New Year Message ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK - Happy New Year 2013

Blessings and best wishes to you and your families in 2013. I would like to express on behalf of the First Catholic Slovak Union our sincere condolences to all of you who have experienced a loss of a loved one in 2012.

Our Catholic Faith teaches us that while our time on this Earth is short we can look forward to Eternal Life with our Father.

2013 promises to be another year filled with challenges, challenges we have met successfully these past several years. We are confident about the future.

Our Congress has just recently addressed the "fiscal cliff" issue at least partially. However, the larger issue of the national budget, deficit spending and entitlements, including Medicare and Social Security, were again put-off for a couple of months.

We are investing carefully and with as much flexibility as possible to protect your money and the Society.

Remember! IRA and ROTH accounts are available with the FCSU with terrific rates for you and your family. Do yourself and them a favor and invest now. See the Jednota or our website at [www.FCSU.com](http://www.FCSU.com).

Fraternally,



Andrew M. Rajec

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

## AVAILABLE AS TRADITIONAL OR ROTH ACCOUNTS

### FCSU LIFE ANNUITY & IRA INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA's	3.35% APY
with the "Cash Interest" Option	3.10% APY
New six-year fixed rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA—1st yr guarantee	1.90% APY
(new Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 PER PERSON)	
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.85% APY

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

Email: [fcsu@aol.com](mailto:fcsu@aol.com)

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary

## National Activities Inside this edition:



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- National Picnic Scheduled, ..... See page 5
- 2012 National Membership Meet..... See page 5
- 2012 Photo Contest Winners, Part I..... See pages 12-13

# Insights and Viewpoints



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

January 20, 2013

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 2: 1-11

### Gospel Summary

There are several unusual features about this story in today's gospel. First of all, it is not customary for Jesus to perform a miracle merely to help friends avoid embarrassment. Secondly, this is the only time in John's gospel that we see the mother of

Jesus intervene to ask a favor of her Son. Finally, Jesus addresses his mother as "woman," which is not the way one addresses one's mother, then or now.

All of these features warn us to be alert for symbolic meaning in this story. This should not surprise us, for symbolism has always been the language of religion. It gives wings, as it were, to earth-bound words so that they can rise to the level of divine meaning. Thus, contrary to what many suppose, symbolic interpretation is not opposed to what is "real" or "historical," it is opposed to what is spiritually meaningless!

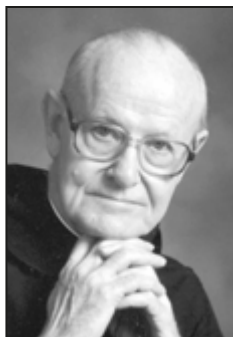
And so, when Jesus calls his mother "woman," he is recognizing in her the role of new Eve, "mother of all the living" (Gen 3:20), because she is his mother and he represents a new creation. When Jesus resists her request because his "hour has not yet come," we are reminded of the only other place in John's gospel where Jesus addresses his mother as "woman," and that is when his "hour" has in fact arrived (19:26-27). At that time, Mary, suffering now with her son on Calvary, becomes mother of all who are inspired by the new life of faith and who accept the wisdom of Jesus about unselfish living.

### Life Implications

We can accept as historical fact that Mary gave birth to Jesus. However, she bore him again on the spiritual level when she stood by his cross and became the spiritual mother of the whole Church, whose members are united with him in faith and in the Eucharist, sacrament of love. Thus, although Jesus is willing to respond to the family crisis at that wedding feast, John needs also to remind us that Jesus did not really come to make wine out of water but to save us by the kind of love that includes suffering and death. And his mother will be forever our model as she stands by her Son's cross and embraces his wisdom.

This new life is symbolized by zesty wine and is therefore so much better than the colorless and "watery" life that we experience before conversion. Faith enables us to begin already to experience this new life as we embrace the wisdom of Jesus and Mary. This will mean embracing the cross also because unselfish love is always a little dying, just as it is also learning to live in a "divine" way.

When the gospel tells us the "the disciples began to believe in him," it means that they began to see that Jesus alone could offer them the new life that is symbolized by the "good wine" that is saved till the end of the feast. In fact, Jesus has come in these latter days to save us all from the embarrassment of a meaningless existence as he offers us the secret of a truly festive life of gentle sacrifice and generous trust.



Demetrius R. Dumm  
O.S.B.

January 27, 2013

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

### Gospel Summary

With this passage Luke introduces his two-volume work—Gospel and Acts of the Apostles. Luke's work continues the narrative of God's liberation of humanity from the mess it had gotten itself into, alienated from its creator and alienated within itself. It is a narrative of the creative, divine action of the Spirit beginning with Israel, continued through Jesus, and now through the Church.

After linking the birth of Jesus to the fulfillment of God's promise of blessing for all nations given to Abraham and to Israel, Luke tells us that Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. He teaches in the synagogues to the acclaim of all. Then Jesus goes to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and as was his custom goes to the synagogue on the Sabbath. He stands to read the scroll from the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor..." (a combination of Is 58:6d and 61:1d). Rolling up the scroll, Jesus hands it back to the attendant and sits down. The eyes of all in the synagogue look intently at him. He says to them: "Today this passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

### Life Implications

Writing during the fifth decade of the Church's life, Luke wants us to understand that the same Spirit that was upon Jesus also came upon the Church at Pentecost. Peter said in his Pentecost speech: "Exalted at the right hand of God, he received the promise of the holy Spirit from the Father and poured it forth, as you see and hear" (Acts 2:33). All that Jesus began to do through the power of the Spirit during his earthly life he continues to do now as Risen Lord in the Church. It is through the power of the Spirit of Jesus that the Church brings glad tidings of liberation and new life to all the peoples of the world.

Today's gospel passage begins this liturgical year's cycle of readings taken principally from Luke's gospel. I would suggest a reading of Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles comparing how Jesus acted through the power of the Spirit during his earthly life and how he is acting now through the Spirit in our own lives and in the life of the Church. Gerard Manley Hopkins provides a word of encouragement with his observation: "To hear of him and dwell on the thought of him will do us good."

There is an immediate life-implication of today's passage that is easy to overlook. The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Jesus and comes upon the Church in order to bring glad tidings. The presence of the Spirit means joy. In the 21st century we're OK with entertainment and pleasure, but are suspicious of joy because it might be a pie-in-the-sky illusion. How can we talk about joy, or even allow ourselves to experience joy, when there is so much false hope, so much suffering, so much serious work to be done?

Luke and other writers of the New Testament, certainly as aware of suffering as much as we are, did talk about glad tidings and joy. When the holy Spirit came upon her at the Annunciation, Mary sang "My spirit rejoices in God my savior for he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness" (Lk 1:47-48). Repeatedly Luke tells us that Jesus was filled with the Spirit. He reports this reaction when Jesus recognized that though many people were rejecting him, Satan would finally be defeated: "At that very moment he rejoiced in the holy Spirit and said, 'I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and learned you have revealed the to the childlike'" (Lk 10:21). At the Last Supper when his own suffering was at hand, Jesus spoke of returning to his Father and sending their Spirit: "I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete" (Jn 15:11).

*continued on page 3*

## 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, JAN. 30	MONDAY, JAN. 21
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13	MONDAY, FEB. 4
WEDNESDAY, FEB 27	MONDAY, FEB 18

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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## Happy New Year From The Executive Secretary

The New Year begins in the hope of the fresh start that Christ extends to each of us every day. God of new beginnings, help us grow in wisdom and grace through your son Jesus. May we all advance on the spiritual path which has laid out for us in the coming months by continuing to focus on the shared faith and fraternalism of our Society.

From my family to yours, all the best for a happy and healthy 2013.

**Kenneth A. Arendt**  
Executive Secretary



**Kenneth Arendt**



## Year of Faith: The Mystery of the Church

Dear Friends,

The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (Lumen gentium) was promulgated by Pope Paul VI on November 21, 1964. The first chapter of this document is entitled The Mystery of the Church. The Council uses four metaphors to describe the inner nature of the Church. The Church is a sheepfold, a flock whose sheep, although ruled by human shepherds, are continuously led and nourished by Christ Himself, the Good Shepherd. It is also described as a piece of land to be cultivated, land that was planted by the heavenly farmer. The Church is referred to as the building of God, whose foundation is built by the Apostles with Jesus himself the cornerstone. It is also called our mother, the spotless spouse of the spotless Lamb, whom Jesus unites to Himself by an unbreakable covenant.

The Council reaffirmed its long standing teaching regarding the Church of Christ is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. It teaches that this Church subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter (the pope) and the successors of the apostles (the bishops) in communion with him. The Council also taught that though this is true, it is also true that many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside the visible structure of the Church.

The second chapter, On the People of God, tells of the manner in which God offers salvation to humanity. According to the Divine Plan, God does not make us holy and save us merely as individuals. Rather, He does so through as one people. Just as God chose a people he called his own (Israel) and established a covenant with them, Jesus calls together both Jew and Gentile and makes them one through the new covenant He instituted in His blood. This new people (the Church) is one, not according to the flesh, but of the spirit and has Christ as its head, his law to follow, and his Kingdom as its end.

Through Baptism, all are consecrated as priests and should present themselves as a living sacrifice before God, holy and ever-pleasing before Him as His witnesses in the world. It goes on to say there is a difference between ministerial priesthood and the priesthood of the faithful. The ministerial priest teaches and rules the priestly people. He acts in the person of Christ, makes present the Eucharistic sacrifice and offers it to God in the name of all the people. The common priesthood of all the faithful join in the offering of the Eucharist. They exercise their priesthood through reception of the Sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving and by living a holy life by self-denial and active charity. Although a difference exists between the two in essence and degree, they are both nonetheless interrelated.

Basing itself on Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, the Council teaches that the Church is necessary for salvation. Christ, present to us in His body, which is the Church, is the one Mediator and unique way of salvation. He Himself affirmed the necessity of faith and baptism and thereby affirmed also the necessity of the Church. The bonds which bind men and women to the Church in a visible way are the profession of faith, the sacraments, and ecclesiastical government and communion. Catechumens (the unbaptized who seek with explicit intention to be incorporated into the Church) are by that very intention joined to her.

The Council recognizes that the Church is linked with those who are baptized but do not profess the faith in its entirety or do not preserve unity of communion with the successor of Peter. It goes on to teach that those who have not yet received the Gospel are, too, related in various ways to the people of God. Reference is made to the Jewish people, Mohamed-ans, and those who through no fault of their own are uncatechized, yet sincerely seek God and are moved by grace to strive by their deeds to do His will as it is know to them through the dictates of conscience. Whatever good or truth is found among them is looked upon by the Church as a preparation for the Gospel.

The summary will continue next week with the hierarchical structure of the Church and the Episcopate.

Fraternally,

**Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain**



## Attention: FCSU Mobile Members!



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.

## New Year's Message From Your National Vice-President

The year 2013 is here. As you get older you may come to the conclusion that New Years Day arrives quicker and quicker every year.

Granted our time on earth is a brief stay – for some it maybe 80-90 years, for others a lot less.

Before we spend our Christmas's in heaven we must get our priorities in line here on earth. One of our top priorities should be making sure our families will continue to have many Merry Christmas's and Happy New Years after we are gone. The best way to do that is to be covered by sufficient life insurance.

A person buys life insurance primarily because a branch recommender convinces them they need it and prompts them to act before it's too late.

It bothers me to see the heads of household insure their homes, insure their automobiles and insure material items. Yet they refuse to insure their most valuable asset...the only asset they can't replace...his or her life. It is known with absolute certainty that mortality is 110% guaranteed. I don't know of anyone who cheated death...even God died to save us. So let's make it a point to save our family the agony of scrimping and saving to make ends meet by taking out sufficient life insurance.

The death of the principle wage earner could result in a significant social and economic crisis for the family. Unless adequate life insurance coverage is purchased, the children could go uneducated, the family's home could be lost and the surviving spouse could face a lifetime of insecurity and a lowered standard of living.

I read that this past Christmas the average American spent \$700.00 on gifts. How much was spent on one of the best present you can purchase...a life insurance policy?

Let's set a goal for every member of our society to pledge to sign up just one new member in 2013. Meeting this worthy goal is certainly within each of our member's ability. Surely, everyone knows someone who needs insurance.

The First Catholic Slovak Union has many quality, competitive and affordable insurance products. Contact your local branch officers and have them explain our various plans or call the home office at 1-800-533-6682.

On behalf of my wife Maria, my loved ones and myself, I want to wish you a yours a very healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. May God bless and protect all of you through the coming year.



**Andrew R. Harcar Sr.**

**Andrew R. Harcar Sr.**  
National Vice-President



## New Year Message from the National Treasurer

As we begin a new year 2013, we want to thank the good Lord for all the blessings and good health he has bestowed on us during the past year.

We pray that he continue to bless and watch over all of us and member of our families and to bless and protect our young men and women who are defending us in many foreign countries throughout the world.

My wife Florence and members of our family extend to you and yours a blessed and healthy New Year.

**George F. Matta**  
National Treasurer



**George F. Matta**



## Father Campion P. Gavalier

*continued from page 2*

The supreme paradox of Christian faith is the cross of Jesus. The cross symbolizes the pain and sorrow that Jesus and we know so well. At the same time, the cross of Jesus is the symbol of joy because it is the ultimate revelation of the love of his sacred heart for us. "For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God" (Heb 12:2). The joy that lay before him was not only that God would wipe away his every tear, but that through his self-giving love, his joy might be in us and our joy might be complete.

At our Eucharist today we pray for the gift of anointing in fullest measure by the Spirit so that even in this valley of tears we might share the joy of Jesus' heart. We pray too that as individual Christians and as Church, through the power of the Spirit, we will have the courage to bring glad tidings of great joy to the poor, liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed.

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

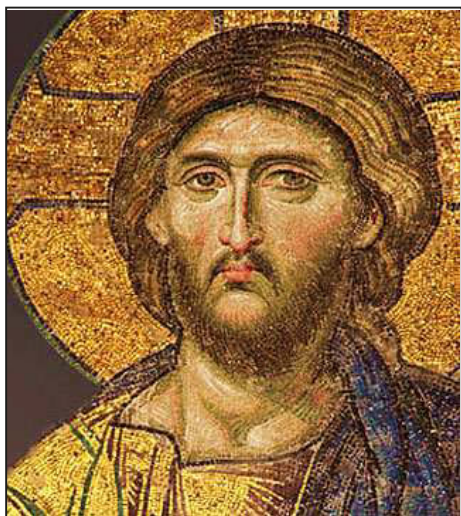
**THINK ABOUT IT!**



# REFLECTIONS ON THE PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI January 2013

## General Intention - The Faith of Christians

*That in this Year of Faith Christians may deepen their knowledge of the mystery of Christ and witness joyfully to the gift of faith in him.*



How is your Year of Faith going? Has it been a priority in your life since it began last October? Pope Benedict doesn't want us to lose track of this time of grace so he asks us to pray this month that our knowledge of Christ may deepen, that our faith in him might be more joyful and attract people to him.

In announcing the Year of Faith, the Pope wrote about "a profound crisis of faith that has affected many." He said, "We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to profess the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope."

We can do this, first, by making "a concerted effort to rediscover the fundamental content of the faith," especially through the Catechism of the Catholic Church. But we know

that at its deepest level our faith is in a person. This year each of us can seek an encounter with that Person, Jesus. The Pope wrote: "We will need to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ, the 'pioneer and perfecter of our faith' (Hebrews 12:2)." For, "in him, all the anguish and all the longing of the human heart finds fulfillment."

The Pope reminds us that "Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy." Our prayer this month should lead us to that great "experience of love" which we won't be able to keep to ourselves but will joyfully share with everyone. This love in us is the love in the Heart of Jesus.

### Reflection

What are some of the signs of the "crisis of faith"? How can our faith help the Church respond to that crisis?

### Scripture

1 Peter 3:13-17 Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for the reason for your hope.

## Mission Intention - Middle Eastern Christians.

*That the Christian communities of the Middle East, often discriminated against, may receive from the Holy Spirit the strength of fidelity and perseverance.*

This month Pope Benedict asks us to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. There Christians are caught amid conflicts between peoples and religions. Many Middle Eastern Christians have fled their homelands. We pray that those who remain may find strength through the Holy Spirit, who draws Christians into communion. The unity of Christians in the Middle East can be an effective witness for reconciliation.



Last September Pope Benedict travelled to the Middle East to show his support for Christians there. He issued his Apostolic Exhortation after the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, which had met in October 2010. In his Exhortation Pope Benedict reminded Middle Eastern Christians of their origin. "The example of the first community in Jerusalem," he wrote, "can serve as a model for renewing the present Christian community and making it a place of communion for witness. The Acts of the Apostles give us a simple yet touching early description of this community born on the day of Pentecost: a company of believers who were of one heart and soul. Communion is not the result of our own human efforts. It comes about, above all else, by the power of the Holy Spirit, who cre-

ates in us the faith which works through love."

"May Christ's followers in the Middle East, Catholics and other Christians as well, be one in courageously bearing this difficult yet exhilarating witness to Christ! May they know the encouragement and support of the Christian world as a whole."

In that Spirit, let us offer ourselves this month for Christians in the Middle East.

### Reflection

How are charity and unity in my own parish community a witness to the wider world that peace will only come through reconciliation?

### Scripture

Luke 12: 2-12 Do not be afraid ... the Holy Spirit will teach you what you should say.

## Prayer of the Month

*O God our Father, in Jesus you call all Christian families and homes to be signs of living faith.*

*By the light of the Holy Spirit, lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith, and by that gift may we grow in our relationship with Jesus, your Son, and be confident witnesses of Christian hope and joy to all we meet. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

--From the Diocese of St. Cloud



## Links

### LINKS FOR JANUARY, 2013 GENERAL INTENTION

Pope Benedict's letter announcing the Year of Faith  
Pope Benedict's homily at Mass for the opening of the Year of Faith  
Pope Benedict's General Audience beginning a series of reflections on faith

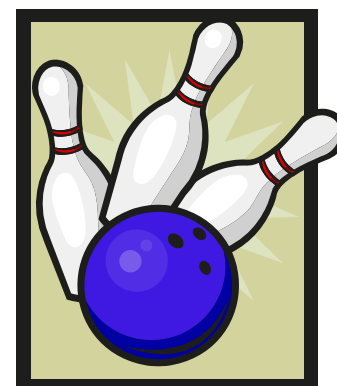
### LINKS FOR JANUARY, 2013 MISSION INTENTION

Pope Benedict's Apostolic Exhortation "The Church in the Middle East"  
Pope Benedict's Homily for the opening of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East  
Pope Benedict's address to youth when he visited Lebanon in September, 2012



## In the next issue:

Look for information on more upcoming national fraternal activities – the National Bowling Tournament, the National Golf Tournament, and the 2013 Photo Contest – in the next issue of Jednota, published on January 30, 2013.



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



# FCSU Members Met in Entertainment Capital of The World

The First Catholic Slovak Union held its annual Membership Meet in 2012 in Las Vegas. Members enjoyed fun and fraternalism from November 11 – 15, with accommodations at the four-star resort Bally's and all the amenities of the "Entertainment Capital of the World."



We are pleased to invite you to the

**FCSU National**

# Picnic

86 acres of beautiful grounds, with plenty to do for everyone: swimming, waterslides, tennis, softball, beach volleyball, basketball, bocce, soccer, hockey, miniature golf, golf driving range, and more. Food is served all day.

Watch the Jednota paper for more details!

*Frogbridge*

*7 Yellow Meeting House Rd.*

*Millstone Township, NJ 08510*

**Sunday, August 11, 2013**

# Save the Date!

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary



## CONGRATULATIONS!



### 2012 Jednota Benevolent Scholarship Winners

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Trustees of the Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc., congratulations to the 2012 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award recipients.

Each student will receive a one-time check for \$500.00. The following is the list of the students selected:

Mollie Ferlin  
Anna E. Gibson  
Breanna Marie Hlas  
Valerie Hudak  
Casey Parker  
John F. Patula  
Marie Plishka  
Jessica Salley  
James A. Staley  
Katherine Staley

Latrobe, Pennsylvania  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio  
Akron, Ohio  
Parma, Ohio  
Lakewood, Ohio  
Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania  
Gainesville, Georgia  
Andover, Massachusetts  
Whiting, Indiana  
Whiting, Indiana

We want to thank all the applicants who participated in the program and most especially the scholarship committee for their efforts and support in making the difficult decision of selecting the winners. We wish each and every participating applicant the best of luck in their future endeavors.



# Scenes From The Season: FCSU

## Branch 493 Members Attend Sv. Mikuláš Party

Members of the Assumption of the BVM Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, attended the Sv. Mikuláš (St. Nicholas) Party sponsored by the Czech and Slovak American Geneological Society of Illinois. The event took place at Bohemian Crystal Restaurant in Westmont, IL, on December 3, 2012. After the family-style dinner, attendees enjoyed musical entertainment, a raffle, and a visit from St. Nicholas.

- Submitted by Robert Ľapák Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary



Dolores Benes Duy and Sue Rolski checked in attendees.

Branch 493 Financial Secretary Robert Ľapák Magruder with the raffle prize he won.

Branch 493 Recording Secretary Val Vesely with Branch 493 Vice President Don Cummings



## Štedrý Večer Celebrated in Chicago, IL

The Slovak members of St. Simon the Apostle Parish on Chicago's South Side hosted a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve Supper on Sunday, December 16, 2012. The 320 attendees enjoyed a performance by Veselička Children's Folklore Ensemble, as well as music and Slovak Christmas carols.

- Submitted by Robert Ľapák Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary

(L – R) Honorary Slovak Consul for Chicago Rosemary Macko Wisnosky with Nikki Oliver



(L – R) Steve Hajek with St. Simon Pastor Rev. Alfredo Gundrum, OFM Cap.

The Hletko family



## Holiday Get-together in Linden, NJ

A festive holiday get-together followed the December 9, 2012, meeting of the St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746. The Sunday meeting started at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ - where officers were elected for 2013, and the membership discussed activities for the next year.

- Submitted by Mary J. Kapitan, Branch 746 Secretary



(L – R) Three of Branch 746's newly elected officers: Joanne Polt, Vice President; Mary Karch, Treasurer; Mary Kapitan, Secretary. Absent due to business travel: Sabina Sabados, President]





# Celebrations around the Country

## United Slovak Societies' Štedrý Večer in Lorain

By Michele Mager, Branch 228

A memorable evening was shared by all on December 9, 2012 as the United Slovak Societies hosted a splendid Štedrý Večer for 200 guests including members of FCSU br. 228, SCS wr.111, FCSLA br. 114 & NSS br. 180 at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, OH.

The hall was lavishly decorated in an advent theme with two Victorian Christmas trees. Fresh pines, wreaths and centerpieces of fruits and nuts garnished all tables. The Club's president, Mrs. Margaret Ann Thomas provided her family's heirloom nativity scene that was appropriately placed at the table that held a reserved place setting for Slovak ancestors.

The evening progressed with opening remarks given by United Slovak Societies President Leonard Zilko who recognized special guest Mrs. Marcella Slanina Walder, the daughter of the Club's founder, Mr. Paul Slanina. Mrs. Walder recently celebrated her 93rd birthday. Also acknowledged for their presence were Mr. Joseph and Mr. Scott Sloboda as they are the grandson and great-grandson, respectively, of the Club's past president, Mr. Dominik Sloboda.

Prior to the wine toast a moment of silence was observed as the last candle of the evening was ceremonially lit at the table of the reserved place setting to pay homage to Slovak ancestors and as a remembrance of recently departed American Slovak Club board members, Mr. Donald Firca (officer of SCS assembly 77) and Mrs. Bernadette Robertson (president of FCSLA br. 114).

A lovely dinner prayer and breaking of the oplatky was presented by United Slovak Societies Vice-President, (and Executive Secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Union) Mr. Kenneth Arendt. The generous table of assorted foods prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Slovak Club included their award winning perch, sauerkraut soup, peas, homemade pierohi and bobalki. Nut and poppyseed rolls with coffee were served for dessert.

Guests were enchanted throughout the evening with the musical delights of Eastern European folk musicians, "Harmonia". The Slovak program included a presentation of folk dances performed by the charming, Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland. The children's colorful finale was the effervescent "Cigany Tanec". The event's master of ceremonies, Secretary Michèle Mager, who also serves as the Director of Lucina Ensemble, recited the enjoyable "night before Vianoce". The Slovak program was topped off with performance of Christmas hymns by singer-songwriter, Mr. George Findish. Dancing, singing, and special eggnog drinks concluded the affair.

The event was a wonderful display of Slovak tradition that is surely to be passed to younger generations and will certainly not be lost in Lorain, Ohio. The United Slovak Societies founded during World War II to support the war bond effort continues its mission of supporting civic and cultural activities. The American Slovak Club of Lorain remains the foundation for the local fraternal organisations to work in concert for the promotion and preservation of Slovak culture and has just marked its semi-sesquicentennial anniversary.



Attendees at the United Slovak Societies' Štedrý Večer in Lorain, OH, enjoyed the music of the popular folk ensemble Harmonia

The children of the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland provided the entertainment portion of the evening.



Singer-songwriter George Findish treated Štedrý Večer attendees to Christmas hymns.

The event's Master of Ceremonies, USS Secretary and FCSU Branch Member 228 Michele Mager with USS President Leonard Zilko



## Branch 382 Members Celebrate Christmas in Scranton



Slovenkai cousins –all members of Branch 382 K of Scranton, PA – contributed to their CCD Christmas project at St. Ann's Basilica Parish, Scranton. With help from their fathers, they packed toiletries and articles of warmth for the homeless. Seated left to right are Briana C. Slovenkai, Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr., and John J. Slovenkai, Jr. Looking on and providing assistance are (L – R) Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. and John J. Slovenkai, Sr. who serve as treasurer and financial secretary of Branch 382, respectively.)

Some members of Branch 382 K in Scranton, PA, enjoyed the December 2, 2012 Holiday Train Excursion. A steam-powered locomotive pulled eight passenger cars from the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton to Gouldsboro, PA, where the passengers disembarked and entered a Charles Dickens Christmas with Scrooge and his ghostly visitors, Santa Claus, and strolling entertainers. Young members of Branch 382 were greeted by the carolers and were adorned with their hats. In the first row are (L – R) John J. Slovenkai, Jr., Briana C. Slovenkai, and Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr.



- Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai

## Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club Christmas Celebration

The Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club is an organization founded by and for Slovak and Slovak-Americans in the greater Cleveland area to keep alive the cultural and artistic traditions of Slovakia. The current president is Johanna Oros, Branch 1 Member. The Dramatic Club held its annual Christmas Party at the banquet hall of Holy Spirit Church in Parma Heights, OH. Many members of the First Catholic were in attendance including these young members



(L – R) Matthew Oros, Branch 1; Henry Strekal, Branch 24; Lily Halley, Branch 24; Sophia Carny, Branch 450; Jessica Chuba, Branch 450, Jacob Chuba, Branch 450; John Chuba, Branch 450; and Victoria Oros, Branch 1. Photo courtesy of Joe Chuba, Branch 450.



# Scenes From The Season: FCSU Celebrations around the Country

## CBSC Celebrates Christmas in Cleveland

Cleveland-Bratislava Sister Cities (CBSC), held their annual Christmas celebration for 2012 on Saturday, December 8, 2012. The fun event was in the Activities Center of St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church in Brecksville, OH. Marie Golias, Branch 1 Secretary, is currently CBSC president. Members, guests and friends – including many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) enjoyed an afternoon and evening of American and Slovak Christmas music and song, courtesy of the popular folk band Harmonia. Beata Beginova-Fedoriouk, Branch 24, was the featured soloist; FCSU Branch 24 President Bob Kopco was a guest artist. Along with tasty homemade delights such as sauerkraut and sausage soup, chlebicki, stuffed cabbage, pierogis, party goers enjoyed assorted party trays and a full array of delicious desserts. A very special appearance was made by St. Nicolas, along with the devil and an angel. In keeping with the tradition from Slovakia, all the children were invited to perform – say a poem or sing a song – for St. Nick and then each received a present of fruit and candies. The devil was on hand to remind them all to be good or get a lump of coal instead, which of course none in attendance did.



(L – R) Branch 24 Member Beata Beginova-Fedoriouk performs with Branch 24 President Bob Kopco at the CBSC Christmas party held on Dec 8, 2012, in Brecksville, OH.

St. Nicolas gives gifts to all the children at the CBSC Christmas party, as the devil and an angel look on.



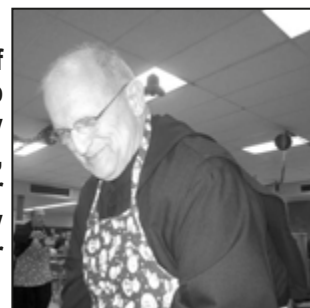
(L – R) Ann Kysilka (Branch 24), Barbara Sutilla (Branch 855), and Bob Kopco (Branch 24).



The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad, all members of Branch 24, opened the annual Christmas Vilija with a Slovak hymn



The first course of mushroom soup was served by the Benedictines, including (L) Father Michael Brunovsky and (R) Father Joachim Pastirik



Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union were among the many Vilija attendees.

## Christmas Eve Celebration at St. Andrew Abbey of Cleveland

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, hosted their annual Christmas Vilija on Sunday, December 9, 2012. Held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School on the Abbey grounds, the Vilija featured a traditional meatless Christmas eve "feast" of oplatky, mushroom soup, fish, green peas, bobalky, pierogi, and poppyseed and nutrolls. Food was prepared by members of the Radio Club, of which Henry Horvath is president. The first course (mushroom soup) was served by the monks. After the meal, entertainment was provided by the popular John Pastirik Band, with the local vocal ensemble the Slovenske Mamicky singing Slovak Christmas carols. All members of the Abbey are also members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 24. Appropriately, many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended the Vilija, included an entire reserved table (20 places) for Branch 24 members, under the direction of Branch 24 President Bob Kopco.

## Prince of Peace Vilija in Pittsburgh

Prince of Peace Parish on Pittsburgh's South Side hosted its Annual Slovak Vilija on Saturday, December 15, 2012. The Vilija – a celebration of a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner – featured homemade Slovak delicacies including a meatless meal of baked fish, mushroom soup, pirohy, nut and poppy seed rolls which were all made by parish volunteers. Guests – including many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union – were served their meals by young adults of the parish. All in attendance were encouraged to share memories of their own family Christmas traditions. The highlight of the evening was a performance by the popular folk ensemble the Pittsburgh Slovaks. Co-founded by Branch 2 members Rudy and Sue Ondrejco, the Pittsburgh Slovaks re-created the visit of the shepherds to the Christ Child entirely in Slovak songs, verse and dance.



Many FCSU Members, such as those pictured above, enjoyed the celebration of a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve at Prince of Peace Parish on Pittsburgh's South Side.



(L - R) Seated: Branch 181 Members James Sivak, William Valchar, Madelyn Sivak, and Evelyn Walchar with (standing) National President Andrew M. Rajec.



The Pittsburgh Slovaks recreated the visit of the Shepherds to the Christ Child entirely in Slovak song, verse and dance.





# THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING FRIDAY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2012 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO



Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union Board of Directors convened for a quarterly meeting in September 2012 (L - R) Back Row, Standing: Damian Nasta, Region 2 Director; Regis Brekosky, Region 5 Director; Gary Matta, General Counsel; Henry Hassay, Region 6 Director; Milos Mitro, Region 8 Director; and Father Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain. Front Row (Standing): Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary; James Marmol, Region 4 Director; Carl Ungvarsky, Region 3 Director; Joseph Minarovich, Region 1 Director; Andrew Harcar, Sr., National Vice President; Andrew Rajec, National President; George Matta, National Treasurer; and Rudolph Bernath, Region 7 Director. Front Row (Seated) Karen Hunka, National Chairman of Auditors and Susan Ondrejco, National Fraternal Activities Director

## FIRST SESSION

Friday, September 21, 2012

## OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the National Chaplain, Father Thomas Nasta, to offer the opening prayer.

## ANTHEMS

The President asked Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, to lead the singing of the national anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

## ROLL CALL

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call:

Rev. Thomas Nasta	National Chaplain
Andrew Rajec	President
Andrew Harcar, Sr.	Vice President
Kenneth Arendt	Executive Secretary
George Matta	Treasurer
Karen Hunka	Chairman of Auditors
Susan Ondrejco	Fraternal Activities Director
Gary Matta	General Counsel
Joseph Minarovich	Regional Director, Region 1
Damian Nasta	Regional Director, Region 2
Carl Ungvarsky	Regional Director, Region 3
James Marmol	Regional Director, Region 4
Regis Brekosky	Regional Director, Region 5
Henry Hassay	Regional Director, Region 6
Rudolph Bernath	Regional Director, Region 7
Milos Mitro	Regional Director, Region 8

All present and accounted.

## READING THE CALL

The Executive Secretary read the Call to the Quarterly September 21-22, 2012 Meeting.

## ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2012:

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by James Marmol to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of June 23, 2012, as presented. Motion carried.

## PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by James Marmol to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President read his report to the Board of Directors. The report will be printed in the Jednota newspaper.

## Scholarships

The Executive Secretary stated the applications for the FCSU Scholarship will be available to all our members that qualify. The applications will be mailed to the branch officers, available on our website, at the home office, and information will be printed in the newspaper.

## Printery Building:

The President stated we are in the process of securing a new real estate agent to handle the leasing of the building in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The President further stated that the installation of the new gas line has been successfully completed.

## Fraternal

The President and Executive Board attended the American Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting in New Orleans in September. They stated the sessions were very informative. One of the main topics discussed was the possibility of the government taxing the fraternal and how all fraternal need to be involved in lobbying their congressional representatives to prevent this from happening.

President Rajec has been appointed to the Law Review Committee for the American Fraternal Alliance for the coming year. Executive Secretary Arendt has been appointed as a Director for the Secretary/Human Resource Board.

The President instructed the Fraternal Activities Director to continue pursuing joint activities with the other fraternal.

## AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, at the invitation of the President, presented his report to the Board of Directors. A copy of his report was distributed to each Board Member. During and after his presentation, Mr. White answered the Board of Directors' questions.

Following the presentation, our Investment Advisor, Larry White, recommended an update to the First Catholic Slovak Union Investment Policy. A motion by Andrew Harcar to accept the proposal was made, seconded by Damian Nasta. Motion was carried unanimously.

## JEDNOTA NEWSPAPER EDITORS' REPORT:

President Rajec invited Teresa Ivanec, Jednota Editor, to give a presentation on our publication. She discussed some of the changes that have been made and some of the changes that will occur. Mrs. Ivanec also gave an overview of the paper and answered all the Board of Directors' questions.

## ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned to celebrate Mass with Father Thomas Nasta and to have lunch.

## SECOND SESSION:

The President led a lengthy discussion concerning branch mergers and stated that the Executive Secretary and he have completed most of the changes. The Executive Secretary passed out a detailed break down of the mergers that have taken place and were published in the newspaper. The President asked the Regional Directors for any recommendation they may have on any additional branch mergers.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 2012:

Secretary Arendt presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2012. After his report, he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2012 second quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

## Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors which gave a complete update of the investments and all current transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati.

## Matlin Patterson (MPAM)

Executive Secretary Arendt presented the Matlin Patterson Report and answered the Board's questions. The President stated at this time that we have significantly reduced our investment with MPAM and will consider other investment opportunities that are also within our investment policy guidelines.

## Portfolio Custodian

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

## Budget Review

The Executive Secretary presented a review of the 2012 budget which compares actual expenses to the budgeted amount for the first six months of the year. Secretary Arendt answered all the Board's questions.

*continued on page 10*



# THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING FRIDAY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2012 HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

*continued from page 9*

## State License

The Executive Secretary updated the Board on the process of becoming approved and licensed in new states. We have been approved to do business in the following additional states: Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Iowa, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. We are now licensed to do business in 25 states.

At this time the President introduced a local Investment Firm to give a presentation on alternate investments options for the First Catholic Slovak Union. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to give the Executive Committee the authority to invest up to \$5,000,000 on the recommended funds. The President asked for a vote and the motion passed 14-1.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President reviewed the sales production by Districts and also by General Agents and Independent Agents and answered all the Board's questions.

The Vice President updated the Board on the recruiting process for independent agents to sell our products. He informed the Board we already have 120 agents.

The Vice President further led a discussion regarding seminars for 2012 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding seminars within their regions. He also stated he is beginning to schedule seminars for 2013.

The Vice President updated the Board on the Membership Meet to be held in Las Vegas on November 11-15, 2012.

## **ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to conduct for the day, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Damian Nasta. Motion carried.

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

## **THIRD SESSION**

Saturday, September 22, 2012

## **OPEN:**

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Father Thomas Nasta led the Board in prayer.

## **ROLL CALL:**

The Executive Secretary took a visual roll call. He stated that everyone is present.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President continued his presentation and stated we are offering to pay one half of the cost for anyone of our members who is interested in obtaining his or her state insurance and annuity license. Vice President Harcar further stated the FCSU will also pay a portion of the cost for continuous education classes for interested members, depending on their production.

## **FRATERNAL ACTIVITY DIRECTORS' REPORT:**

Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activity Director, presented her report on planning joint events with the other Slovak Fraternals. She announced we will have a joint Golf Tournament with the National Slovak Society on July 20-21, 2013, in Canton, Ohio. The Fraternal Director stated the FCSU Bowling Tournament is set for May 3-5, 2013, in Buffalo, New York.

The President stated the Fraternal Director should continue to pursue joint events with the other Slovak Fraternals in the near future.

The Fraternal Director updated the Board on the possible sites for the 2013 National Picnic. She will inform the Board as more information becomes available.

## **JEDNOTA ESTATES MONUMENT PROJECT:**

Regional Director, James Marmol, presented a review of the final plans and cost for the monument project which will be located on Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania. The plans include the relocation of the "Doughboy" statue to the monument site which at present is behind the Printery Building. Director Marmol also made a suggestion of possibly selling bricks to help offset a portion of the cost of the project. Director Marmol also stated President Rajec is in the process of locating an engineering firm to complete the project.

## **CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:**

Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka, presented the 2012 Second Quarter Auditors' Report and answered the Board's questions. The Chairman stated that the internal auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything in order.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### Executive Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Executive Committee Meetings. He stated that in accordance with the Bylaws of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Executive Committee meets monthly and whenever else it is necessary to take care of the business of the Society.

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the directives adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

### Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, comprised of professional educators, and stated we are preparing the scholarship applications for 2013. The applications will be available on the website, through branch officers, or by calling the home office. The Jednota newspaper will also publish the scholarship information.

## **SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:**

Jednota, Inc.

The President of Jednota, Inc., George Matta, gave his report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions.

Jednota Properties, Inc.

The President of Jednota Properties, Inc., Regis Brekosky, presented his report to the Board of Directors and answered all the Board's questions.

The reports of Jednota, Inc., and Jednota Properties, Inc., are informational in nature.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept all reports as presented. Motion was carried.

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President led a discussion on the possibility of moving the Father Furdek statue now located on the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania, to the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. The President is investigating the Independence city code and to confirm that the city would allow this addition to our property.

The President also mentioned that the new LED Digital sign we want added to the Home Office property is still on hold. The President stated he is still waiting for the City of Independence to agree and issue a permit to install the new sign.

## **ELECTION OF SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COURT:**

The Executive Secretary stated that the death of Dr. Stephen Whisdosh, Secretary of the Supreme Court, created a vacancy in that office. This vacancy was advertised in the Jednota newspaper, and the Home Office received resumes and biographies from seven very qualified applicants. The resumes and biographies were distributed to the Board of Directors for their review. A vote by secret ballot was conducted by our General Counsel, and Sabina Sabodos was elected to fill the remainder of Dr. Whisdosh's term. The Secretary stated results will be published in the newspaper. The President and the Board thank all the applicants that applied for the position.

## **2014 CONVENTION:**

The President asked the Regional Directors for their suggestions on a possible site for the FCSU convention in 2014. The Executive Secretary will take the suggestions and investigate the locations and determine if any meet our criteria for our convention. The Executive Secretary stated he will make a report at the next meeting.

## **PAYMENTS OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:**

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Henry Hassay to pay all the bills associated with the meeting. Motion was carried.

## **DONATIONS:**

Donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

## **ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Rudolph Bernath to adjourn. Motion was carried.

Father Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary



## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

## We Will Get Our Lives Back

Hurricane Sandy left a lot in its wake: paths of death and destruction; ruined homes and upended lives; chaos, concern and confusion--and a million stories. This is one of them.

Some of the stories are truly tragic, some are about newly-minted heroes, some involve people trying to get their lives back to normal months after the superstorm hit. This is about one New York family, five grown brothers and their parents, hit by what might seem like an incredible run of terribly bad luck--but yet a story filled with hope and determination.

Meet the Sullivans, of Breezy Point, N.Y.

I first read about them in the Daily News, in a story by Denis Hamill. They all lived in homes in or near Breezy Point, a largely Irish-American enclave in the borough of Queens, on a peninsula hard by the Atlantic Ocean. (There are still two more Sullivan brothers, Hamill reported, both of whom live outside the New York metropolitan area.)

Breezy, as it's known to local residents, was not only hit hard by Sandy; it was walloped. Fire leveled 111 of the homes there, and the windstorm and the Atlantic did the rest. Almost every structure was heavily damaged--including the six residences owned by the Sullivans.

"It looks like the end of the world," said Michael Sullivan, 51. Hamill described the scene: "A sandy plateau of scorched dream homes and rubble bungalows, burnt and waterlogged vehicles, felled trees and toppled poles, and small hills of debris whispering with mournful memories."

Michael might have been the best-off in the family as far as damage is concerned. He, his wife Donna and their three children lived in a seven-year-old home with a reinforced concrete foundation that sustained major flooding but no structural damage. Still, they're probably nine months away from moving back in.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd have to relocate my whole family to Bay Ridge," he said.

His brother Eddie also rented in Bay Ridge after his Breezy Point home was heavily damaged. Their brothers Danny and Thomas had homes that were deemed unlivable after the storm (Danny was nearly finished with work on his home of four years; now he'll have to start from scratch), and in nearby Belle Harbor their brother Brian watched the waters of the Atlantic come up over the sea wall and then "drown" his house.

Thomas and Danny stayed with their parents, Russ Sr. and Ursula, who were trapped for a time--before the senior Sullivans were finally evacuated to the mainland in the middle of the night.

All in all, it's quite a story. But take their word for it: all the Sullivans will be back. As Michael summed it up: "We've all been forced out of our homes. But none of us was hurt or lost. We're all still alive. We'll all be back. Like everyone else down here, we're down but not out. We will rebuild. We will get our lives back."

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

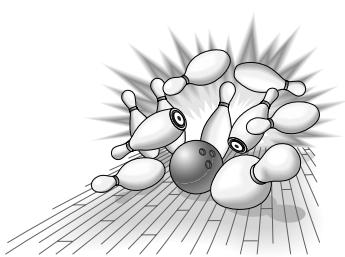


## February Fašiangy Dance in Milwaukee

The Slovak League Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI is hosting its traditional Fašiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) on Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street (103rd and Oklahoma Avenue). Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will be provided music for dancing and listening pleasure. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance at 7:30 p.m. We are inviting all Knights of Sts. Mary & Joseph Branch 89 of Milwaukee members to attend. For more information, contact Betty Valent at 414-425-6137 or Ellen Tavela at 262-893-7483.



## January Winter Bowling Party at Lorain American Slovak Club



The United Slovak Societies will host a winter fun bowling party for members of (SCS wr.111/FCSU br.228), for children ages 16 and under on Sunday January 27th at 2:00p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway Avenue, Lorain.

Please sign the children up at the bar or bowling alley prior to the event.

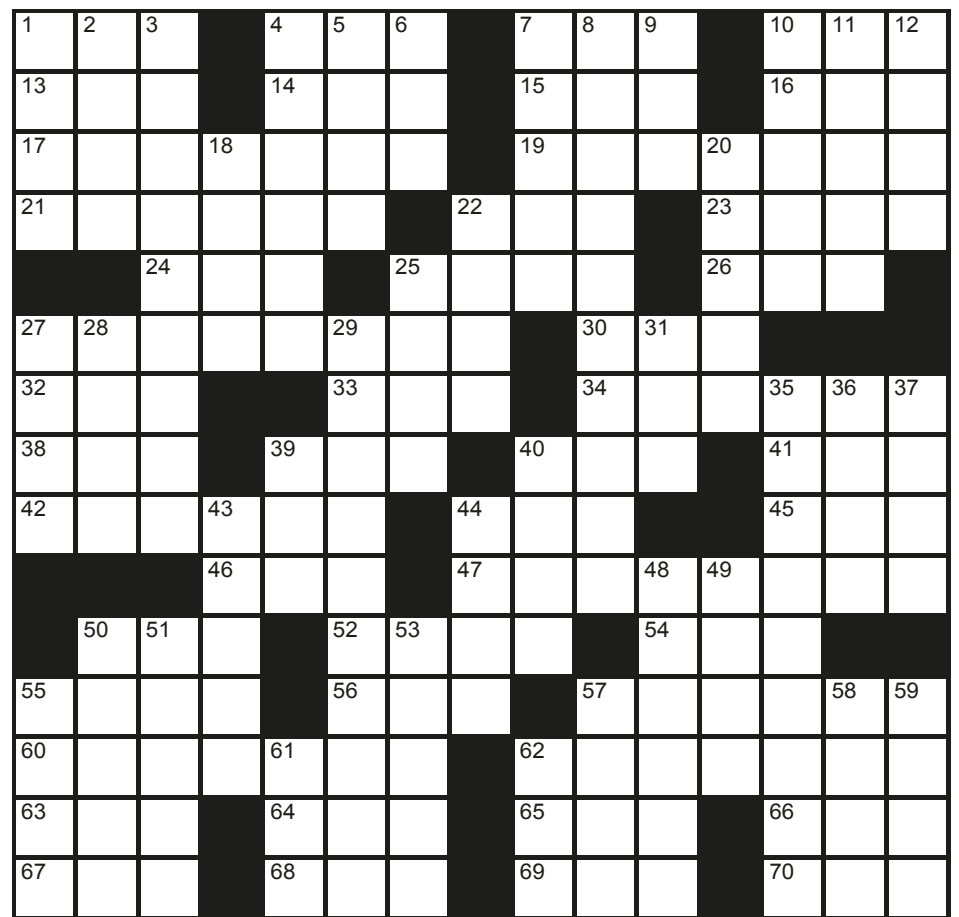
- Submitted by Michele Mager – Branch 228 Member; Secretary, United Slovak Societies; Board of Director, American Slovak Club

## 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-JED-NOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: FCSU@aol.com

## Jednota Crossword Puzzle



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## Across

- 1 Harem room  
4 Auto  
7 Air hero  
10 Coalition (Abbr.)  
13 Agent, for short  
14 Conceit  
15 Romaine lettuce  
16 Legume  
17 Narrowing  
19 See 4 Down  
21 Quenched  
22 Time units (Abbr.)  
23 Killer whale  
24 Meadow  
25 Family member  
26 Bit of butter  
27 Drawing aimlessly  
30 Deception  
32 Spanish gold  
33 Compass point  
34 First-aid item  
38 More, in Madrid  
39 Summer on the Seine  
40 Bearded antelope  
41 Neither's partner  
42 Slip by  
44 Take to court  
45 Old PC platform  
46 30-day mo.  
47 Brazen  
50 Average  
52 Beach shades  
54 Indian dish  
55 After-bath powder  
56 Manuscript count (Abbr.)  
57 Extemporizes  
60 Disneyland locale

- 62 Friendly  
63 Mal de \_\_\_\_  
64 Black cuckoo  
65 Dracula, at times  
66 Fate  
67 Shade tree  
68 Asian holiday  
69 Reserved  
70 Aliens, for short

## Down

- 1 Crumbs  
2 Card game start  
3 Riding horse  
4 Breakfast food  
5 Ancient  
6 Curtain holder  
7 Squirrel's stash  
8 Beaches and such  
9 Time zone  
10 La Bohème, e.g.  
11 Respond  
12 Apple variety  
18 Augmented  
20 Mooned about  
22 Enormous  
25 Green Gables girl  
27 Cupola  
28 Kind of exam  
29 Knit together  
31 Debtor's note  
35 Unerasable  
36 Twelve o'clock high  
37 Formerly, once

- 39 Psychic power  
40 Weapons  
43 Dry out  
44 Breaks a commandment  
48 Peculiarity  
49 \_\_\_\_ land; out of it  
50 Jury  
51 Scare  
53 Fess up  
55 Gentle  
57 Asian domestic  
58 Smudge  
59 Adjusts, as a clock  
61 Break bread  
62 Tummy muscles, briefly

See Solution on Page 20



# Part 1 of the 2012 P

Part II to be published in the

People



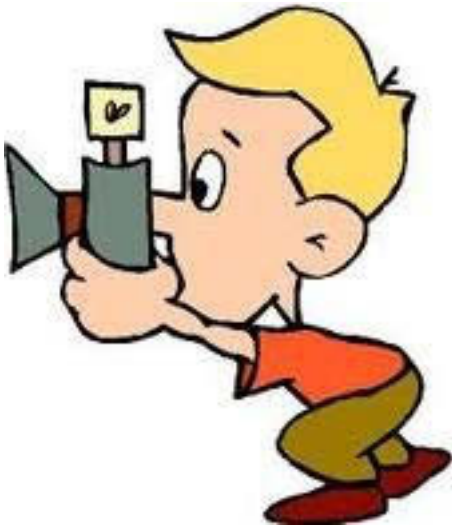
First Place – Liam Joiner  
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

“St. Donat, Quebec”



Second Place – Graham Joiner  
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

“Colville, France”



Nature or Environment



First Place – Mark Colbaugh  
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

“Dog Eating Snow”



Second Place – Elizabeth Debich  
Leechburg, PA

“In My Backyard”



Third Place – Liam Joiner  
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

“Parry Sound, Ontario”



# Photo Contest Results

January 30 issue of Jednota

Travel or Destinations



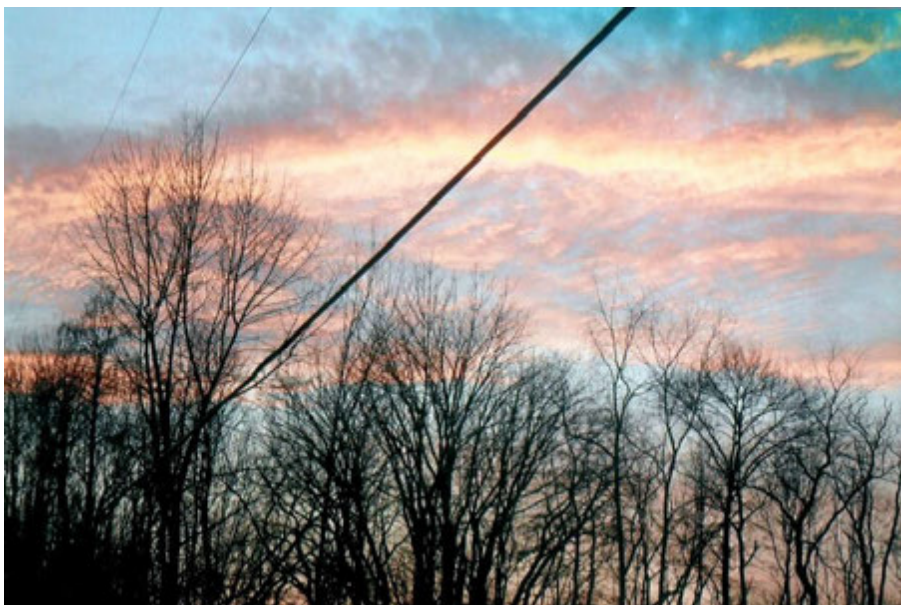
First Place – Graham Joiner  
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

“Vimy, France”



Second Place – Liam Joiner  
Aurora, Ontario, Branch 785

“Ottawa, Ontario”



Third Place – Holly Pravlik  
Norvelt, PA, Branch 181

“In My Backyard”

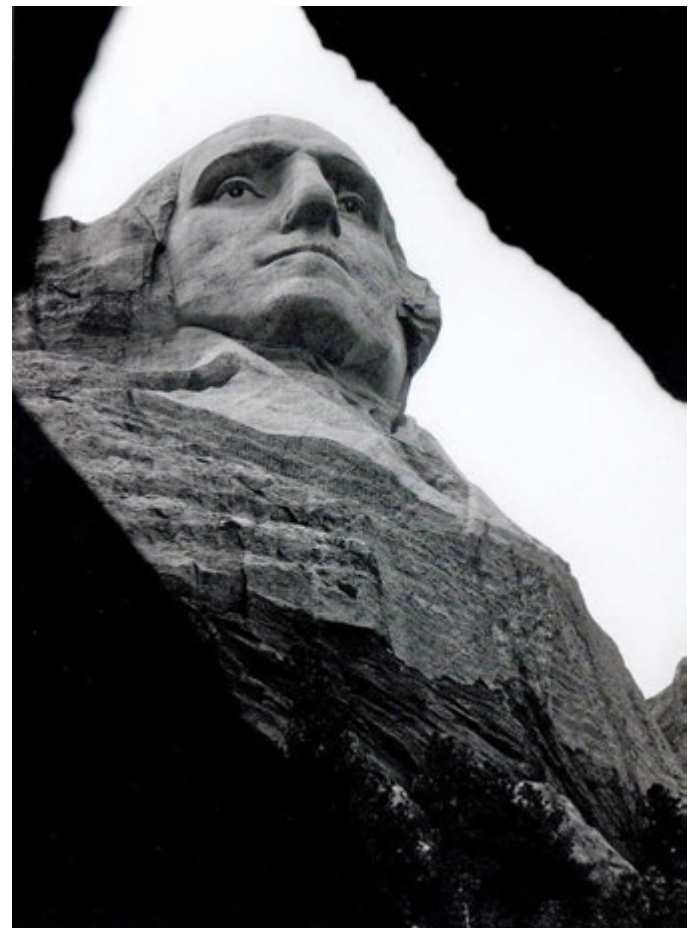
Overall Winner – Ages 12 - 18



Elizabeth Debich  
Leechburg, PA

“Seward, Alaska”

Overall Winner – Over 18



Jessica Kohler  
Canyon, TX, Branch 853

“George Washington”



## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24 will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2013, at the Beachwood Hilton, 3663 Park East Drive, Beachwood, OH, 44122. The meeting will begin at 1:00PM in Porter's Restaurant, the Elton John Room, after which a light lunch will be served. Please call Susan Lang at 216-896-0957 before January 16, 2013, to make a reservation.

**Bob Kopco, President**

### BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 20, 2013, at 2:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting. A buffet luncheon will follow. On the agenda will be scholarships and elections of officers. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 18, 2013.

**Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 invites all members to join us for our meeting and election of officers, with a luncheon to follow. Social time will be from 12:30 – 1:00pm. The meeting will be held from 1:00 – 2:00pm (approximately), with lunch to be served at 2:00pm.

Location: Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Cost: lunch for members is complimentary; guest's cost is \$20.00. Res-

ervations: reservations must be made by February 12, 2013 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. This is necessary as the restaurant requires the number of people attending in advance. Payment: make checks payable to: KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89. Mail to: Mike Novak, 3237 N. 93rd St., Milwaukee, WI, 53222. Meeting topics: some topics of discussion will be: Election of officers, donations, and 2013 activities.

Thank you.

**Mike Novak, President**

### BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold a meeting on Saturday, February 9, 2013, immediately following the 5PM Mass at St. Florian Church on the church grounds in the St. Florian Formation Building, 4261 Rt. 981, P.O.Box 187, United, PA, 15689. On the agenda: plans for the new year.

**Geraldine Kovacina, Secretary**

### BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2013, at noon at Panera's restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria mall located at the corner of Washington and Gillespie Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

**Albina Senko, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2013, at the Christ Our Savior (Holy Trinity) Church Hall in Struthers, OH at 10:00AM. We will conduct an audit and discuss upcoming events for the coming year. All members are encouraged to attend.

The Officers of Branch 259 want to wish all members a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

**Vivian Sedlacko, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 312 – BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312 will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 3, 2013, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck's home, 1121 Monastery Drive, Latrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of officers.

**Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, Scranton, PA, will hold its Annual March Meeting at noon on Sunday, March 3, 2013, in the VFW Post 3474, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

Auditing of the books will take place before the meeting begins.

The agenda will include spring and summer plans, donations, District 17 news, and up-dates from the Home Office. Copies of the 2012 Annual Report to the Home Office will be available.

Light refreshments will be provided. All members are invited to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is president. Other officers are Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president;

Michael Czankner, secretary; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

**Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President**

### BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682, will hold a meeting on Sunday, February 10, 2013, at 2:30PM at Material Research Laboratories, located at 290 North Bridge Street, Struthers, OH, 44471. On the agenda: upcoming events for 2013. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Andrew J. Hirt, President**

### BRANCH 743 - STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 10, 2013, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30 am at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy.

All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph's Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

A Branch meeting will take place at 1:00 pm in the Slovak Heritage Room.

Any member who has recently moved or requires Branch services should contact the Branch secretary Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone 586-254-0225.

**Joseph C. Rimarcik,  
President/Financial Secretary**

## November Meeting of Branch 686



(L – R) Rudolph Glogovsky, President Branch 686, Anita Glogovsky, Treasurer Branch 686, Mark Davis, Vice-president Branch 686, Terry Davis, Secretary Branch 686, Liz Bernath, Branch 153, and Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director.

Pictured is Terry Davis' aunt who reached 100 years old on Thanksgiving Day 2012.



(L – R) Steve and Gloria Solava, Lucille Dritlein, Dorothy Jurcenko, Branch 153 Treasurer, and Bob Bernath.



(L – R) Bob and Peggy Bernath, Liz and Rudy Bernath, FCSU Region 7 Director, and John Jurcenko, Branch 153 President.

## Branch 153 Enjoys December Play

Branch 153, Chicago, IL, held a fraternal event on December 9, 2012 to see a performance of "Plaid Tidings," a holiday takeoff of the popular musical revue "Forever Plaid" which plays on the close-harmony "guy groups" of the 1950s. Branch 153 subsidized the cost of the play which put those members who attended the play and brunch in a holiday mood.

Branch 686 held a meeting on November 18, 2012, at the home of Mark & Terry Davis in Genoa City, WI. Next year the branch will celebrate their 100th anniversary.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



# MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2012

### LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

**OPEN:**

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:**

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

**AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:**

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his monthly presentation by Teleconference and the Executive Committee each had a copy of the presentation. Mr. White presented an extensive monthly transactions report and briefed the Executive Committee on our Investment Portfolio. After the report, Mr. Larry White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led an extensive review on the current annuity interest rates and it was decided the rates will remain the same as the following:

Eight Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.60% APY
Six Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.35% APY
With the "Cash Interest" Option	3.10% APY
New Six-Year Fixed Rate Deferred Annuity or IRA	3.25% APY
New "Park 2 Annuity" (not available in the State of New York)	2.40% APY
New Park Free Plus Annuity or IRA – first year guarantee	1.90% APY
(New Park Free Plus maximum deposit \$25,000.00 per person)	
New Settlement Options are based on an interest rate of	2.85% APY

The annuity interest rates will be reviewed again at the next Executive Committee Meeting in December.

The President presented the additional information requested from the local national investment firm on the new investment strategies available to our society. No action was taken at this time.

**SALES AND MARKETING:**

The Vice President reviewed our sales production report for the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President reviewed the 2013 seminar schedule. He is asking the Regional Directors for their assistance in setting up the seminars for 2013.

The Vice President has asked the Regional Directors to contact the Executive Secretary to assist them in helping the branches in their regions to qualify for their stipends in 2012.

**ADVERTISING:**

The Executive Secretary stated he will continue advertising our products and annuity rates in our Jednota newspaper, mailings, and on our website. The Executive Secretary stated we plan to use more social media such as Facebook and Twitter so that our products may reach and be advertised to a wider market. The Executive Secretary further stated we

are now using the current email addresses we have on record to advertise our products and inform our members of updated information.

The Executive Secretary reported it is mandatory for all independent agents to receive prior approval from the Home office on all advertising.

**FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES:**

Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, announced the Bowling Tournament will be held jointly with the National Slovak Society, The Slovak Catholic Sokol and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union on May 3-5, 2013, in Buffalo, New York. The Fraternal Director further stated the Golf Tournament will be held July 20-21, 2013, in Canton, Ohio.

The President stated the Fraternal Activities Director is still researching possible sites for the 2013 National Picnic. As information becomes available, the Executive Committee will be informed. When the final decision is made, the site will be announced.

The Fraternal Activities Director made a report on the most recent Sports Committee Meeting held in Pittsburgh, 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 October for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

**MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS**

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

Disbursements for the month of October 2012:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 216,674.60
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 54,874.53
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

The President updated the Executive Committee on the Monument Project on the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania, and stated the project will begin in early spring of 2013.

**REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:**

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

**ADJOURN:**

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary

## 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.**

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

**THINK ABOUT IT!**





# 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	Francis J Plachko	152K	Pauline R Gregory	312K	Regina T Skwara	731K	Jeanne M Cronie
002K	Elizabeth H Wirth	152K	John F Grontkowski	313K	Albert G Hutman	731K	Sylvia T Kelemen
005P	Edward C Griglock	156K	William S Check	315K	Edward W Kollar	731K	Thomas J Vagas Sr
007K	Vincent E Surkovich	156K	John F Dugas	320K	Genevieve Boyd	738K	Barbara A Sturms
016P	Joseph M Baloga	156K	Stephen M Skomitz Jr	320K	Carole Ann Pavelko	743K	Leona Furchak
016P	Rudolph C Chernitsky	156K	Robert J Zupa	323K	Mary A Senker	743K	William G Essary Jr
016P	John A Hudak	157K	Bernard T Dougherty Sr	324K	Erik Jon Nelson	743K	Julia A Myszka
023K	Mary C Emeigh	157K	Dorothy B Mark	362K	Rose Marie Smolenak	754K	Anna A Lengen
024K	Joseph John Harcar	157K	John Maderic	381K	Ann Laga	746K	Francis J Seaman
024K	Frank J Havrilla Jr	162K	Frances M Tajc	414K	Linda J Stanton	746K	Irene Mitrik Hattersley
024K	James A Pesta	162K	Mary Hoferka	414K	Paul Joseph Varga Jr	746K	Joseph Kvara
040K	Margaret A Dye	166K	Therese A Anthony	429K	Sophie Valvano	746K	Anne Mika
040K	Robert E Fialko	166K	Mary M Madej	484K	Helen D Galinsky	746K	Mary Jane Muelle
040K	Ronald E Mehalic Sr	173K	John J Blizman	484K	Stephen J Olexo	746K	Donna J Szalontair
055K	Elizabeth Jane Cantafio	173K	Irene M Dubiel	493K	Edward J Kedzuch	746K	Rose D Ivan
075K	Norman E Hertzog	173K	Vincent F Husovsky Sr	497K	Andrew H Beros	769K	Dorothy H Burba
075K	Irene Lagerman	181K	Genevieve L Dlugos	510K	William J Chernich	780K	Fred G Stefanovsky
075K	Eleanore Weisen	199K	Margaret R Bodner	514K	Irene Julian	780K	Paul P Farkas
085K	Helen T Begliomine	200K	Rose M Popolis	567K	Robert I Hanzlik	796K	Adam Kushner
085K	John J Kozik Jr	200K	James M Ronto	571K	Stephen G Plank	831K	Henry Sobotka
085K	Anne E Lancia	200K	Paul Ursiak	581K	Joseph A Levenda	831K	John A Lucas
085K	Julia R Pitoniak	224K	Ronald G Zemont	581K	Charles J Myszka	855K	John J Skvasik
086K	Raymond R Brier	260K	S Jane Kostik	615K	John J Balok	856K	Beate M Korfonta
089K	Catherine M Radocha	260K	Joseph M Sebest Jr	615K	David L Galka	900K	George J Kolka
089K	Louis J Dodulik	276K	Diane Marie Detore	618K	Elizabeth A Hankowitz	900K	Mildred M Thomas
112K	William Danchision Sr	278K	John J Milkovich Jr	635K	Joseph Musuta		
112K	Florence E Zemantauski	293K	Dolores M Kirkendall	667K	Anna Marie O'dell		
128K	Anna A Griffith	293K	Dan J Rimsky	670K	Margaret J Jarson		
132K	Edward M Mraz	294K	Michael P Mizenko	670K	Helen A Baron		

\*Processed through the month of December 2012

## OBITUARIES

**MARY E. (LUCOTCH) BURIK  
BRANCH 181 –  
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mary E. "Tootsie" (Lucotch) Burik, 79, of United (Mt. Pleasant Township), PA, went home peacefully to the Lord on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012. Born Nov. 23, 1933, in Trauger, she was the daughter of the late Michael and Elizabeth (Secosky) Lucotch. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Mary; and brother, Raymond Lucotch. She married her soul mate, Joseph S. Burik, and loved him through 58 years of marriage. They raised five children together, all of whom she gave the greatest love and care. She found the most joy in spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Although she battled multiple health conditions, she remained strong through her faith in God and support of her family and friends. She never asked for anything except a new pair of legs, always smiling with her request. She enjoyed cooking, solving the puzzles on the "Wheel of Fortune," playing cards with her husband and spoiling her grandchildren with her church bingo winnings. She actively participated in her parish, St. Florian Catholic Church, and its Altar Society. She was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Greek Catholic Lodge and Hungarian William Penn Association. She religiously prayed for the well being of her family and others. She will be deeply missed by those surviving: her husband, Joseph S. Burik; children, Joseph J. Burik and wife, Beth, of Greensburg, PA; Lawrence J. Burik and wife, Barbara, of Fullerton, CA; Chris Anne Taylor and husband, David, of Greensburg, PA; Dymphna M. Novak and husband, David, of Greensburg, PA; and Caroline E. Walor and husband, Thomas, of Greensburg, PA; grandchildren, Jessica Yeager, of Fullerton, CA; Jonathan D. Taylor and fiancée, Sarah Criner, of Frederick, MD; Megan A. Novak and fiancée, Oliver Lenge, of Germany; Jacqueline D. (Novak) Zarnich and husband, Nick, of Beaver,

Natalie A. (Taylor) Gordon and husband, Craig, of Youngwood, PA; Bradley T. Walor, of United, PA; and Craig N. Walor, Emily M. Taylor and Victoria Novak, all of Greensburg, PA; and a great-granddaughter, Blake Elizabeth Gordon, who loved her "GiGi." Also surviving are two brothers, Michael Lucotch and wife, Audrey, of Greensburg, PA, and Leonard Lucotch and wife, Rita, of United, PA; and a sister-in-law, Elizabeth Lucotch, of Mt. Pleasant, PA. Mom, we will never be able to thank you enough for all you have done for us. You were the best wife, mother and grandmother. Thank you for your example of living your faith. We love you and we will miss you. You will be with us always. Family and friends were received Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 3 and 4, in the JAY A. HOFFER FUNERAL HOME, Norvelt, PA. A blessing service was held Wednesday, Dec. 5, in the funeral home, followed by her Mass of Christian Burial in St. Florian Catholic Church, United, with the Rev. Richard P. Karenbauer as celebrant. Interment followed in Forty Martyrs Cemetery, Trauger, PA.

**GENEVIEVE L. DLUGOS  
BRANCH 181 –  
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Genevieve L. (Domurat) Dlugos, 86, of Latrobe, PA, formerly of Trauger, PA, went to be with the Lord Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012. Born Feb. 27, 1926, in Dorothy, PA, she was a daughter of the late John and Rose (Garstecki) Domurat. In addition to her parents, Genny was preceded in death by a daughter, Beverly Ann Folcik; a sister, Blanche Tylka; and brothers, Edward and John Domurat. She was a former member of St. Florian Catholic Church, United, and later St. Johns Evangelist, Latrobe, PA. Prior to retirement, Genny had been employed for 20 years at Oak Hill Nursing Home. Genny's warm and gentle nature was felt by all who knew her. She lived and loved to make people happy. She always had an open ear, a kind word and a warm smile for anyone she

met. She was an ideal daughter, sweet sister, devoted wife, loving mother, loyal friend, dependable aunt, doting grandmother and a gentle great-grandmother. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, John L. Dlugos; five children, Diane (Henry) Sobota, of Armbrust, John (Darla) Dlugos, of Latrobe, Debra (Nicholas) Vlanich, of Mt. Pleasant, Sandra (Charles) Zera, of Latrobe, and Thomas (Beth) Dlugos, of Latrobe; six grandchildren, Tim, Jacob, Jenna, Rachel, Maryann and Charley; and one great-grandson, Max. Also surviving are two sisters, Helen Suscovich and Josephine Kaminsky; along with numerous nephews and nieces. She will be dearly missed. Family and friends were received Thursday, October 25, 2012, from 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 p.m. in the Jay A. Hoffer Funeral Home, Norvelt, PA, where the Altar Society also prayed the rosary at 3:00PM. A blessing service was held 9:15 a.m. Friday, October 26, 2012, in the funeral home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Florian Catholic Church with the Rev. Richard P. Karenbauer as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Florian Cemetery, Trauger.

- Submitted by Diane Sobota

**GEORGE R. LININGER  
BRANCH 199 –  
HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA**

George R. "Georgie" Lininger, 33, of Greensburg, PA, was taken by the Lord Monday, Nov. 5, 2012, in Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital. Born Sept. 6, 1979, in Latrobe, Georgie was the son of the late George A. and Joanna M. (Quidetto) Lininger. He had always been a very active boy and enjoyed playing with his keys and turning the light switches off and on. He was a huge Steelers fan as well. Georgie attended The ARC of Westmoreland, where he attended a day program that he really enjoyed. Georgie is survived by his loving family including Susan Puskar, his legal guardian, of Latrobe; a stepsister, Tabitha Puskar and her husband, Jim, of Monticello, IN; and a step-

brother, Brian Puskar and his wife, Carrie, of Lafayette, IN; and also numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Family and friends were received from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2012, in the John J. Lopatich Funeral Home, Latrobe. A funeral Mass was celebrated at 10 a.m. the following Friday in St. Vincent Basilica, Latrobe.

**LORI A. ULISHNEY  
BRANCH 199 –  
HOSTETTER, PENNSYLVANIA**

Lori A. Ulishney, 49, of Ruffsedale, PA, formerly of Indiana, PA, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012, at the home of her sister after a short and courageous battle with cancer. She was born Feb. 10, 1963, in Latrobe, a daughter of the late Eugene and Beatrice Short Ulishney. Lori was a graduate of Latrobe High School and she attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She resided in Indiana for several years. She had been employed at Lenox Crystal for the last 12 years and she considered those that she worked with as her second family. Lori was well-known for baking her "gobs" which she made in many flavors and which were requested by many for holidays and family events. She was an avid sports fan and loved the Steelers, Penguins and Pirates. She is survived by her siblings, Eugene P. Ulishney Jr. and his wife, Roseanne, of Florida, Larry Ulishney, of Tennessee, Ken Ulishney, of Houston, Texas, Valerie DeVincentis and her husband, Dom, of Mt. Pleasant, David Ulishney, of Scottsdale, and Scott Ulishney and his wife, Sherrie, of Maryland; her nieces and nephews, Gretchen Zeglin and her husband, Alan, and their daughter, Galatea, Ashley Morris and her son, Titan, Paul Ulishney, James Ulishney and Nikki Lynn, and Nick and Nate DeVincentis; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Family and friends were received from 5 until 7:30 p.m., the hour of a memorial service, Friday in the BROOKS FUNERAL HOME INC., Mt. Pleasant, PA.



## OBITUARIES

### ROSE POPOLIS BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Rose Popolis, 88, of Ford City, PA, died Tuesday, October 23, 2012, at ACMH Hospital. She was born Oct. 3, 1924, in Kittanning, PA, a daughter of the late Pasqual Luini and Maria (Celli) Luini and she was a lifelong resident of the area. Rose was the wife of the late Stephen Popolis, who died on Jan. 20, 2007. She was a former member of Holy Trinity and Christ Prince of Peace Parish and a past member of the Holy Trinity Christian Mothers. Rose owned and operated Rose's Beauty Salon in Ford City for 12 years. She worked at PPG Glass Plant in Ford City during World War II and the Ford City High School Cafeteria for four years. She also worked as a waitress at the CU Club, where she was an assistant cook with the CU Club Ladies Auxiliary. She was a member since Jan. 27, 1959 until present and a past member of the board of directors and two-time president of the Ladies Auxiliary. In addition to her parents and husband, Rose was preceded in death by her son, James Popolis; and two sisters, Lena Kudelka and Ines Popolis. She is survived by her sons Rudy and Marsha Popolis, of Denver, PA, Stephen and Debbie Popolis, of Ephrata, PA, and Jerry Popolis and Alberto Martin, of New York, NY; six grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandson; and also survived by her daughter-in-law, Lee Ann Popolis of Kittanning. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Christ Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City.

– Submitted by Rudy Popolis

### JOSEPH C. METIL BRANCH 388 – LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph C. Metil, 87, of Marguerite, PA, died Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, at Greensburg Care Center, Hempfield Township, PA. He was born Aug. 16, 1925, in Marguerite, a son of the late John and Anna K. (Chockota) Metil. He was a graduate of St. Vincent Prep School and St. Vincent College, attended St. Vincent Seminary and was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II. Prior to retirement, he was a school teacher with the Connellsville School District. Joe was a member of St. Benedict Catholic Church and its Holy Name Society, served as a local representative of the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 388, was a life member of Marguerite Volunteer Fire Department and member of American Legion Post No. 515, Latrobe, and VFW Post No. 8643, Pleasant Unity. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, John, Dr. George and Michael Metil; a sister, Anne V. Como; and co-worker and longtime friend, Virginia Mottle. He is survived by a sister, Mary M. Graham and husband, C. Dale, of Unity Township; and a number of nieces and nephews. Friends were received from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, December 11, 2012, at the Gaut-Bacha Funeral Home Inc., Pleas-

ant Unity. Prayers were held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 12, 2012, in the funeral home, followed by a funeral Mass celebrated at 1:30 p.m. with the Rev. Martin R. Bartel, OSB, as celebrant. Interment followed in St. Vincent Cemetery, Unity Township.

– Submitted by Benedict Janecko

### VERONICA KOPAS BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Veronica "Vera" Kopas, 100, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2012, at home in Linden, NJ. Friends and relatives were invited to attend the visitation at Werson Funeral Home, Linden, on Friday, Nov. 2, 2012 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral services began in the Werson Funeral Home, on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012 and proceeded Holy Family R.C. Church, Linden, for a funeral Mass at 10am. Interment followed at Rosedale Memorial Park, Linden. Vera was born in Westmoreland, Pa., and lived in Linden the past 80 years. She was employed by Janet Lynn in Elizabeth, NJ, as a seamstress for 10 years, retiring in 1960, and prior to that she was employed by Arthur Dress Co. in Roselle, N.J. for many years. Vera was a member of the Linden Golden Age Club and the First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 746. She was a communicant of Holy Family R.C. Church, Linden, and a member of its Slovak Rosary Society. She loved gardening, crocheting and sewing. Vera is predeceased by her beloved husband, John Kopas, July 21, 1975. She is survived by her loving daughter, Anne M. Zofchak; cherished grandchildren, Edward Zofchak and his wife, Anna, Susan Zofchak-Zandberg and her husband, David, Diane Wurzbarger and her husband, Peter; great-grand children, Matthew Zofchak, and Christian and Jonathan Wurzbarger.

### MILDRED WEST BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Mildred A. West, 90, of Chicago, IL, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012, at home. Mildred was born Aug. 1, 1922, in the Parnassus section of New Kensington, to the late Frank and Julia Mihalik Shutak. She is survived by her children, Rick (Erin) West, Judy (David) Gorecki and Greg West; dear grandmother of Hayley, Peter and Gavin West and David, Chris and Randy Gorecki; dearest great-grandmother of Drake, Dayna and Dylan; and a brother, John Shutack. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Henry West; and her siblings, Joseph, Gabriel, Marian and Ann. Family and friends were invited from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, to the Robert Peters Funeral Home, Natrona Heights, PA, where parting prayer services were held at 10:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian burial followed at 11 a.m. in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Natrona Heights, PA. Burial followed at Mt. Airy Cemetery, Natrona Heights.

– Submitted by Rick West



Stephan and Veronica Patoprsty wore Slovak kroj to help the Lansing, MI Diocese celebrate its 75th Anniversary

## Patoprstys Celebrate Slovak Heritage At Lansing Diocese Anniversary

The Diocese of Lansing celebrated their 75th anniversary in August 2012 with representatives of the original nationalities of the diocese. Individual presentations were made during the Offertory of a special mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Lansing, MI, which also was marking its 100th Anniversary. Stephan J. and Veronica V. (Sivak) Patoprsty, Branch 756, Owosso, MI, represented Slovak Catholics from the area in traditional Slovak costumes. Steve then made a short Slovak prayer in petition for blessings for the farmers, food producers and other skilled laborers in the Lansing area. Other nationalities included Hungarian, German, Polish, French, and Italian.

Stephan and Veronica wore clothing from various regions of Slovakia-- Trnava, Nitra and the mountain regions of Poprad and Spis. Stephan Patoprsty's heritage is centered in the Trnava and Bohna area of Slovakia, and Veronica's ancestors came from Nitra and Sereď area. Stephan and Veronica, both born in the Owosso area, have visited Slovakia many times.

Several years ago, Stephan spent a 3-month period in a Sereď Slovak Catholic School, under the direction of Arch Bishop Jan Sokol. He served as an American Culture teacher for the Slovak students. Stephan developed a close relationship with the Archbishop and is honored to have him as friend today. Stephan continues to send English language books, for the schools and Libraries. He also donated Kof C Memorial Chalice and other religious articles to Slovakia.

## JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2013

Issue Date	Deadline
January 30	January 21
February 13	February 4
February 27	February 18
March 13	March 4
March 27	March 18
April 24	April 15
May 8	April 29
May 22	May 13
June 12	June 3
July 17	July 8
August 7	July 29
September 4	August 26
September 25	September 16
October 9	September 30
October 23	October 14
November 6	October 28
November 20	November 11
December 4	November 25

## Useful Websites

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

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



## Insights and Viewpoints

*My Point of View:*

### The Historical Memory

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

An article from a young Czech citizen, Joseph Novotný, born in 1989, appeared in the pages of the weekly Kanadský Slovak/the Canadian Slovak in November on the need to remember the events of November 1989, in particular the student protests in Prague on 17 November. These protests are generally seen as having launched the "Gentle Revolution" in Czecho-Slovakia (in the Czech Republic it is known as the "Velvet Revolution"), which brought about the end of communism, the introduction of democracy, and ultimately also the dissolution of the common state of the Czechs and Slovaks. Whilst the article, which summarized what happened on that day in Prague, was a "cri de coeur" for remembering the events of that fateful year, it did not indicate the reasons for doing so, except to say that one should not forget. Actually, in both the Czech Republic and in Slovakia, 17 November is remembered annually because it is a state holiday known as "The day of the struggle for freedom and democracy." Has something happened that encouraged Joseph Novotný to write his appeal? Has something influenced the historical memory of that day, particularly in Slovakia?

Let us first consider the meaning of a statutory holiday. Generally speaking, it is a day that celebrates a particularly significant event or series of events in the history of a country, or, in certain cases, specifically of a nation. In Canada, we celebrate "Remembrance Day" on 11 November; it is the day the armistice was signed in Europe in 1917, set aside to honour those Canadians across the land who gave up their lives in the battlefields of Europe during the Great War, but also in all subsequent wars of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Since 1834, on 24 June, Quebec has considered Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day a national holiday of the French Canadians, specifically of the Québécois, to celebrate their language and culture. Today, it is a provincial, but not a federal statutory holiday. The difference that characterises the two holidays is clear, but they do share one characteristic, namely overwhelming support from the political class as well as the public. Each is accompanied by celebrations that highlight the reasons for remembering and/or celebrating. Remembrance Day ceremonies are official, dignified, and often very emotional. The emotions shown on 24 June are quite different; that day celebrates joyfully the very essence of a nation, its culture, language, and history. Neither suffers a crisis of historical memory.

Does 17 November suffer a crisis of historical memory? Is this the reason why Joseph Novotný wrote his "cri de coeur" and is it actually applicable to Slovakia? The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (formerly known as the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies) recently held its 44th annual convention in New Orleans at which the research of three American scholars was presented by Carol Skalik Leff, one of the authors and a distinguished political scientist from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and specialist on the Czech Republic and Slovakia. It addressed the issue of historical memory in Slovakia with specific reference to 17 November. Not surprisingly, these scholars found that there is ambiguity in Slovakia about the importance of this date.

To begin with, as we pointed out in these pages, in an article entitled "The lens of history", published on 14 November 2009, there is reason to consider November 16 and not November 17 as the day that launched "the struggle for freedom and democracy" in Slovakia, a view that the study indicates some people in Slovakia also hold. Secondly, as Professor Skalik Leff outlined, their study shows that there is a relationship between events of 1989 and the political competition before and after 2009, and more broadly between events, memories and political outcomes in Slovakia. Consider, for example, what happened on the twentieth anniversary: Róbert Fico was prime minister of Slovakia. About 1989 he is quoted as having said that "I didn't notice the revolution," thereby suggesting a lack of commitment to the post-1989 political regime. On the eve of the 2009 anniversary, he was in Moscow and on the very day, he was first in London before returning to Bratislava for evening ceremonies. The three authors make an interesting observation on his movements that year: "Whether intentional or not, Fico's November 16-17 travel odyssey offers an apt metaphor: Moscow (a reference to his communist past and the social protection of that era), London (a reference to democracy and his rightful place as a defender of it), and Bratislava (a reference to his commitment to an independent Slovakia)." In 2007, he had been in Prague for government meetings and in 2008 he had inspected a new stretch of highway away from Bratislava. In each case, there was a strong reaction from the other Slovak political parties. In other words, the degree to which 17 November has been celebrated in Slovakia depends on what party is in power and the importance they give it! Thirdly, there is the question of public support for the holiday. A recent study in Slovakia indicates that the "Gentle Revolution" is by far the most approved of Slovak historical events to be commemorated, but its 57% support is hardly consensual, and 14% of respondents regard 1989 negatively.

Unlike the two Canadian statutory holidays mentioned above (also "Canada Day" on 1 July or "July the 4th" in the United States), the date of 17 November seems to be on weak ground as an important commemoration in Slovak political consciousness as well as in overall historical memory. Apart from weak public support, its manipulation by the political class, which the study of the three American scholars shows to be quite extensive, devalues it even more. That this might result in the distortion of the historical memory is not surprising; it is, however, troubling.

Joseph Novotný's appeal was made to a Czech reading public. It was published in Kanadský Slovak/the Canadian Slovak because it is also applicable to the Slovaks to the extent that both nations share in the legacy of the events that brought down the Communist regime. Yet each nation can also claim a specific day to celebrate it. Slovak citizens should commemorate the day when they launched the struggle for freedom and democracy. The second Slovak Republic, in which they now live, is the heir to that struggle. Perhaps if the date were changed to 16 November, to link it to the Bratislava student demonstration, its manipulation by the political class might end and all Slovaks might celebrate what they achieved since and what they now have. National commemorations should unite, not divide the citizenry. The historical memory would not, in this way, end up being undermined. That much Slovaks owe to those who took on the Communist regime in 1989 and the legacy they left their country and the world.



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# Diverse Interests Draw People to Slovakia's Beautiful Landscapes and Rich History

Beautiful weather, lively wine festivals, and an unusually bountiful apple, plum and grape harvest set the stage for last September's Slovakia Heritage Tour. The 2012 tour group was an interesting and amiable combination of people tracing their family roots, and others, with no Slovak heritage, drawn to the history, culture and mountains of Slovakia.

"I was surprised as inquiries came in for the 2012 tour to realize that people with no Slovak heritage were drawn to this small, relaxed-pace tour as a way to immerse themselves in Slovakia's fascinating history," said tour organizer, Judith Northup-Bennett. "The bigger tour operators skirt Slovakia and don't go into the heartland. People like the balance of delving into history, experiencing the Slavic culture, meeting people, and having time for short hikes through the dramatic landscape."

At the tour's first stop in Nitra, Carolyn Gantner asked the grounds keeper at St. Emeram's Basilica a few questions only to discover that the seminary that her great-uncle attended was just down the hill. She remembers, as a child, receiving news about Father Josef who was a parish priest in what is now western Slovakia. In Kosice, she also began to unravel the history of her Hungarian-speaking grandfather with the help of a photo of him taken in Kassa which she learned was the Hungarian name for Kosice.

Juan Meza, of Mexican-American heritage, saw the tour as a way to explore another part of Europe. He had spent time in France and Spain, but "knew nothing about Slovakia." "As Americans, we see everything from a Western European perspective, but there's so much more to this history when you add an Eastern European perspective," Juan explained. "The tour had a nice pace, going from the earliest Roman times in Nitra through the medieval to the many invasions, Hungarian control, and the Soviet Era. Peter Blazicek, our guide, was great on giving us a complete picture."

Ruth and Sam Knowles came to Slovakia with no family roots but left with new family ties. Their daughter had married into a Slovak family from Sabinov and they wanted to understand the Slovak culture that their new granddaughter would grow up with. They bravely agreed to spend an afternoon in Sabinov with their daughter's mother-in-law's brother, who spoke no English. "They were nervous

when I dropped them off and thought the pick-up time we set gave them too much time," said Judith Northup-Bennett. "When I called to pick them up, they begged to stay longer. When I finally picked them up, they had their last 'Na Zdravie!' and marveled at how at home they felt in this town with their new family. Since returning, Ruth has been telling people, 'I'm half Slovak since I've had pirohy and slivovica in the old country.'"



**Carolyn Gantner stands in front of the seminary in Nitra where her Uncle studied to be a priest.**

**Ruth Knowles and Don Goulden buy lace from a villager's window**



**The tour group at the top of the mining heap, overlooking Spania Dolina village.**

**Ruth Knowles samples the new wine Burciak at the Modra Wine Festival.**



Another tour member with no Slovakian ancestry, Donald Goulden came with his own expertise of the history and culture of the entire Eastern European region. Long a student of Slavic history, culture and languages, he was a great resource for the group. He said he usually travels alone and doesn't do large group tours. "But this small group tour worked for me," he explained. "The itinerary took me to the places I wanted to go, and included enough free time for me to explore." After the tour he spent a week traveling by bus and train to other parts of Slovakia.

Another heritage traveler, Pat Snider, summed up what Slovakia has to offer. She has traveled to a few other Eastern European countries but had never visited the birth country of her grandparents. "You're offering something very unique with travel off-the-beaten track," she said. She was pleased that Slovakia offered comfortable accommodations and interesting sites, but was less touristy than other countries. She hopes to return to spend more time in the Tatry Mountains and to go further east to visit the Ruthenian region of her grandparents.

For the first time, the Slovakia Heritage tour included a day trip to Budapest, Hungary, which for centuries ruled Slovakia as part of the upper region of the Kingdom of Hungary. Taking advantage of the beautiful weather, the tour also included a few short hikes, tailored to individual ability, in the former mining village of Spania Dolina and in the Tatry Mountains.

Next year's Slovakia Heritage Tour (September 5 – 15, 2013) will add another day to the tour, because of the enthusiasm of this year's group for exploring both the spectacular natural areas of Slovakia and the lovely, historic towns and small cities.

"People were taken with the beautiful countryside and suggested we add a few more easy or moderate hikes to the tour. They also wanted to spend more time walking the narrow streets and experiencing all that the charming towns like Banska Bystrica, Bardejov and Presov have to offer. It's like stepping back in time," explained Northup-Bennett. The 2013 tour will add a day in the spectacular Pieniny region and a night in Bardejov.

For more information on the 11day/10 night tour contact: Judith Northup-Bennett, 978-544-5144, connectionswork4u@hotmail.com or visit our web site <http://slovakiaheritage.com>.

## Vinšovania nového roku – New Year Wishes in Slovakia

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

In the past, Slovaks always expressed their New Year's wishes at great length. Just as traditional Christmas wishes (Vianočné vinšovania) were very detailed, so were traditional wishes for the New Year. We in America often just say "Happy New Year," which is simply expressed in Slovak as Šťastný nový rok [Shtyaast-nee no-vee roke].

For New Year's well wishers, Slovak women made sure that everything was spotlessly cleaned, and anything that happened that day portended what would come throughout the year. So it was important to get it right, and treat people properly. Families enjoyed a meal with pork, for that would bring good luck.

Typically, males would visit and enter any house first. A female entering a home before a man was considered an omen of ill fortune. The first thing a male Slovak did upon entering a household was to recite a long litany of wishes for good fortune and God's blessings for the household.

Just as the Jasličkári made the rounds in the village with Christmas greetings, on New Year's Eve (called Silvester in Slovak, after the saint) and on the morning of January 1st, young men and boys would go from door to door. These wishing visitors (Vinšovníci) would recite the lines below, or some similar variation, depending on the village and region.

Vinšujeme vám, vinšujeme, tento Nový rok,  
aby vám dal Pán Boh zdravie, šťastie, hojné Božské požehnanie  
a po smrti kráľovstvo nebeské obsiahuť.

Translation

We wish you, we wish you, this New Year  
that God gives you health, good fortune, abundant divine blessings  
and after death, that you reach the kingdom of heaven.

Oftentimes the Vinšovníci would crack jokes and play musical instruments, while expressing their wish that the household be blessed. They usually carried a sack and people would give to them some apples, dried pears, and sweet pastries (koláče). The youngsters would wait until Epiphany

(The Feast of the Three Kings - Sviatok Troch kráľov) to partake in the treats they collected. Each would also have a few coins in their pockets, so that they would have enough money throughout the whole year.

In some villages, a wishing visitor (Vinšovník) would come to door of a household singing carols and carrying green branches (vetvičky) for good luck. Here is simple vinš (wish) in two verses.

Vinšujem, vinšujem, na zdravie, na šťastie,  
ten starý rok prežiť,  
nového sa dožiť.

I wish, I wish (you) health, happiness,  
to get through the old year  
to live into the new year.

Vinšujem vám šťastlivé sviatky, hody,  
Aby ste nepili pálenky ani vody,  
Len víno, rozolíš,\*  
tak milý hospodár si rodinku pri zdraví  
udržiš.

I wish you happy holidays, feasts,  
so that you drink brandy, not water  
Only wine, rozolíš,  
so that you stay healthy as the beloved head of the household.



*continued on page 20*



Milestone during the Year of Faith

International Congress in Rome to Honor Spiritual Legacy of SS. Cyril and Methodius

Daniel F. Tanzone

A group of Slovak scholars living in Rome and working at the various Pontifical Universities as well as those in Slovakia are preparing an academic Congress in Rome to honor SS. Cyril and Methodius on the occasion of the 1,150th anniversary of their arrival in Great Moravia. Titled "SS. Cyril and Methodius Among the Slavic Nations," the congress will be held in the Eternal City on February 25th and February 26th at the Pontifical Oriental Institute and the Pontifical Gregorian University. Under the patronage of His Eminence, Cardinal Jozef Tomko, Prefect-emeritus of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and His Excellency, Archbishop Cyril Vasil, S.J., Secretary of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, the Congress hopes to expand the knowledge about the Apostles of the Slavs in the Universal Church during the current Year of Faith as announced by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Congress will include a host of presenters representing the various Slavic nations who are heirs of the Cyrilo-Methodian legacy of faith. Blessed Pope John Paul II, himself an heir of that faith legacy, had great devotion to SS. Cyril and Methodius. In 1980 on the occasion of the 1100th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Nitra in Slovakia, Pope John Paul named the brother saints, Co-Patrons of all of Europe. Later in 1985 to commemorate the eleventh centenary of the death of St. Methodius, he issued his historic encyclical "Slavorum Apostoli" (The Apostles of the Slavs). It was the first time in history that an encyclical, the highest form of papal teaching addressed to all the bishops and the faithful, had honored the Apostles of the Slavs. Among the Church's great evangelizers, SS. Cyril and Methodius brought the message of the Gospel to the family of Slavic nations beginning their mission in 863 A.D. in what is today Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Coordinating the Congress will be the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius which was built a half century ago by American and Canadian Slovak Catholics united in the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Quite appropriately, the Congress will open with the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chryzostom celebrated in the Basilica of St. Mary Major with Archbishop Jan Babyak, S.J., Metropolitan Archbishop of Presov and head of the Greek Catholic Church in Slovakia as principal celebrant. It was in this very basilica that Pope Adrian II approved the Slavonic Liturgy as prepared by SS. Cyril and Methodius in 869 A.D. The opening session will be presided over by Cardinal Jozef Tomko, president of the Congress, with Bulgarian Bishop Christo Proykov as moderator. The opening presentation will be given by the Rev. James McCann, S.J., rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University. Among the Slovak presenters will be Bishop Viliam Judak of Nitra, Slovakia. Nitra is the oldest diocese on the territory of the Western Slavs. Other Slovak presenters include Archbishop Stanislav Zvolensky of Bratislava, Archbishop Cyril Vasil, S.J. as well as scholars from the Slovak Academy of Sciences and other universities in Slovakia.

In addition, scholarly presentations will be given by individuals representing the family of Slavic nations. These will include, Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Czech Cardinal Dominik

Duka, O.P. of Prague, Croatian Cardinal Josip Bozanic of Zagreb, Slovenian Cardinal Franc Rode, among others. Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture and Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization will also participate.

Cardinal Tomko in announcing the Congress, extends an invitation to American and Canadian Slovaks to participate in this historic gathering in the very heart of the Catholic Church. He recommends that celebrations be held in the United States to commemorate the 1,150th anniversary of the beginning of the Cyrilo-Methodian mission among the Slovaks. Our pioneer Slovak priests who came to America to serve the Slovak immigrants brought with them the cult of SS. Cyril and Methodius, which has been for centuries suppressed by the Hungarian authorities. A total of 65 Roman Catholic parishes were founded in the United States and Canada and dedicated to SS Cyril and Methodius. 35 of these were founded by the Slovaks. The first Slovak parish in American dedicated to the brother saints was founded in 1891 in Minneapolis, Minn. and is still active. A second Slovak parish dedicated to SS. Cyril and Methodius, was also established in 1891, in Bethlehem, Pa. Today it is the worship site of the Parish of the Incarnation of the Lord. Of special pride to the American Slovak community is the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius, the only basilica in the world dedicated to the Apostles of the Slavs in Danville, Pa. at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Today, altars, mosaics, statues, paintings and frescoes honoring the Apostles of the Slavs may be found in hundreds of churches throughout the United States and Canada including the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.. Other Slavic immigrant groups also established churches in America dedicated to their spiritual legacy.

Today, three great institutions dedicated to the Apostles of the Slavs continue to contribute immeasurably to the vitality and fabric of American Catholicism. These include the Congregation of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa. founded in 1909 by the Rev. Matthew Jankola; SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich. founded by the Poles in 1885; and SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pa. which serves Byzantine Catholics.

During this Year of Faith, let us take the time during the jubilee of 2013 to recall the great faith legacy which we have inherited from our ancestors who first received the good news of the Gospel from SS. Cyril and Methodius 1,150 years ago. It was in 863 that the Byzantine Emperor Michael of Constantinople answered Prince Rastislav's call for missionaries and sent the brother saints to Great Moravia in 863. In a letter written by the Emperor sent to Rastislav in subsequent years, referring to the faith and the Glagolitic alphabet devised by St. Cyril, he wrote "Receive this gift, greater and more valuable than all gold and silver, precious stones, and transitory riches...."

And finally, we recall the words of Pope Benedict XVI regarding SS. Cyril and Methodius who revolutionized evangelization in the history of the Church during his General Audience homily given on June 17, 2009. He concluded his observations with these words, "The brother saints have left a testimony...from which the Church today continues to draw inspiration and guidance."



Vinšovania nového roku –  
New Year Wishes in Slovakia  
continued from page 19

\* Rozóliš is a weaker alcoholic beverage, which Slovak peasants traditional drank, and is somewhat obsolete in usage. Of course, it was homemade!

New Year's wish from Dzedo Michael Kopanic, Sr.  
My 94 year-old father always recites this wish every new year's day in the Spiš dialect of eastern Slovakia. This is a New Year's vinš (wish) from my dzedo's (grandfather's) village of Ruskonovce.  
Ja vám tu vinšujem na tento nový rok  
žeby Pán Boh dával zdravie, do druhého nový rok.  
Menšie hriechami, väčšiu radosť, božskú milosť,  
Pokojnejšie, spokojnejšie, a rok ako ty prežil,

Pochvalený buď Pán Ježiš Kristus!

Translation:  
I wish you in this new year,  
That the Lord God will grant you good health to next year.  
May you have fewer sins, greater joy, God's grace,  
A more peaceful and more satisfying year than what you lived through.  
Praise be to the Lord Jesus Christ!

The visited male of the household would then answer: Na veky vekov Amen. (Forever and ever. Amen.)

The customs of the Slovak people and the Slovak immigrants remain a treasure that we should not simply discard amidst all the noise and commercialization that bombard us in contemporary society. We can honor the memory our ancestors and Our Lord by helping to continue to preserve in our memories these wonderful Slovak customs. Learning them might help us realize the true meaning of the season.

Vinšujem Vám, našim čitateľom a bratským členom, aby ste mali šťastlivý a požehnaný nový rok!  
Translation: I wish you, our readers and fraternal members, a Happy and Blessed New Year 2013!

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Answer to Puzzle  
Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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



# Za poznaním svojich:

## Kvetanova storočnica

„Putujúc za dlhé roky po ceste, ktorá bola posiatá viac trním a bodliáčim, ako ružami a slasťou, viac námahou, ako pohodlím, viac obetavosťou, ako pôžitkom, viac sebazaprením, ako bezstarostnosťou, dosiahli sme túžené návršie s pevným hradom, ktorým je Kanadská Slovenská Liga. Z tohoto bezpečného útočiska hľadáme dnes na hmlistú minulosť prežitých rokov a na mizivý obzor našich skromných začiatkov. Pred dojomom takého rozjímania do sfíc nám vstupuje pocit sebaľahoty a spokojnosti, že sme vytrvali, že sme sa nedali zviesť na mylné chodníky, že sme nepodľahli zarytým nepriateľom.“

Takto sa prihovárал k rodnej svojeti roztratenej po veľkej Kanade v raných začiatkoch nášeho emigrantského tvorivého života v Kanade František (Frank) Kvetan, po našsky „brat Kvetan“, významný národno-slovenský, spolkársky a kultúrny buditel' slovenského etnika v Kanade, ktorý v prvých januárových dňoch nového roku 2013 bol by sa dožil 100-ročných narodenín svojho pionierskeho života.

Hovorí sa, že život človeka nemerá sa jeho prežitou dĺžkou, ale tým, čo urobil pre seba, pre svoje okolie, pre svojeť, pre svoj národ a pre ľudstvo. Kvetanova účasť v slovenskej tvorivej podnikavosti má svoj široký rozmer a tiahne sa jeho životom ako nepretržitelná reťaz umocnená jeho rodovou činnosťou, ktorou sa zapísal nevymazateľnými literami do histórie kanadských Slovákov. Preto pri jeho storočnici spomeňme si na neho s úctou a uznaním aké mu právom patria.

Pochádza z Bohdanoviec pri Trnave kde sa narodil pred 100 rokmi, konkrétne 3. januára 1913. Do Kanady odišiel roku 1929 k otcovi v Montreale, kde prežil takmer celý svoj život až na krátky pobyt v baníckom meste Sudbury (Ontario), kde sa venoval organizačnej, osvetovej a publicistickej činnosti. Začal ako robotník pri stavbe Sun Life budovy, vtedy najvyššej v Britskom impériu, odkiaľ v roku 1931, zásluhou vtedajšieho kňaza slovenskej katolíckej farnosti, Urban Kovaľa, prešiel k učiteľstvu na slovenskej škole zriadenej pri St. Jaques School pod jurisdikciou Catholic School Commission of Montreal, o čom sa obšírne zmienil v svojich spomienkach Tri roky na slovenskej škole v Montreale uverejnených v kalendári Kanadských Slovákov na rok 1935, kde učenívo pôsobil do roku 1938. Súčasne bol aj organistom v slovenskom kostole a výpomocným redaktorom, neskorej redaktorom vtedajších novín Slovák v Kanade. Bol aktívnym členom a funkcionárom fraternalistických spolkov, najmä Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy, ktorej zasvätil dobrú časť svojho života. Po odchode Šefana Hrehu z redakcie novín Kanadský Slovák k vojsku, stal sa ich redaktorom (1942-46). Z jeho iniciatívy bol usporiadaný prvý Slovenský deň v Montreale (1944).

Zostavil prvé kalendáre Kanadských Slovákov na roky 1934 a 1935, ktoré obohatil svojou básnickou tvorbou prekladmi a beletriou. Napísal estrádne dramatické pásmo Pochod dejín. Prispieval článkami a úvahami so spolkársym a politickým zameraním do slovenských novín a kalendárov Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy, v ktorých sa prihovárал za spojenie Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy a Kanadského Slovenského Podporného Spolku.

Pri reorganizácii KSL z podporného na poisťujúci systém, zohral hlavnú úlohu. Pripravil deklaráciu An Act to incorporate the Canadian Slovak League schválený kanadským parlamentom v roku 1954. Následne zostavil poreorganizačné stanovy v obochvoch rečiach s novým odznakom reprezentujúcim našu duševnú príslušnosť. Nesporne, intelekt slovenskej tvorby v Kanade.

Za tri volebné obdobia účelne zastával funkciu generálneho tajomníka Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy. V tejto spojitosti vydal niekoľko Obežníkov v prospech organizácie a jej dedičnej kontinuity. Zostavil dobové rezolúcie a memorandá na vládne kruhy v záujme slovenského národa a slovenskej identity v Kanade. Bol vedúcim organizátorom oslavy 1100-ročného Cyrilo-metodejského jubilea v Montreale (1963) s heslom: Dedičstvo otcov zachovaj nám Pane! V roku 2007 Kanadská Slovenská Liga, pri príležitosti oslavy jej 75-ročného založenia, poctila ho posthumne jubilejnou trofejou.

Oženil sa s Máriou Matuskou, prvou slovenskou graduatkou v Montreale na D'Arcy McGee High School. Spolu vychovali dcéru Margitu, ktorá po vyškolení bola univerzitná bibliotekárka v Toronte. Osvedčila sa ako schopná administrátorka Kanadského Slováka a aktívna spolkárika.

F. Kvetan bol tichej povahy. Úslužný. Artikulárny v reči a písme. V tunajšej terminológii „Real Gentelman“ Človek hlboké viery, vysokých mravných hodnôt, hrdý na svoj slovenský pôvod a do špičky kostí lojalný svojej adoptovanej vlasti – Kanade.

Neobišli ho obvyklé polemické konfrontácie, intrigárske útoky a politické konflikty z opozičnej strany slovenskej orientácie.

Po odchode z tajomníckeho postu Kanadskej Slovenskej Ligy venoval sa výlučne svojej profesii a verejno-notárskej službe vo forme Kelen Travel do odchodu na zaslúžený odpočinok, bohužiaľ pretrhnutý zákernou Parkinsonovou chorobou, následkom čoho strávil vyše tri roky na liečbe v Montreale Neurological Institute, kde aj skončil svoj plodný, Bohu, národu a svojeti zasvätený život 9. januára 1989 vo veku 76 rokov.

Česť jeho pamiatke!

Štefan Hreha, Montréal, QC



## 20 rokov od vzniku samostatnej Slovenskej republiky

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

iného schválený návrh Dohody vlád SR a ČR o spoločnom postupe pri prechode práv a povinností z pracovno-právnych vzťahov zo štátnych orgánov a štátnych organizácií ČSFR v súvislosti so zánikom federácie.

Na námestiach slovenských miest sa od polnoci 1. januára 1993 uskutočnili polnočné oslavy vzniku SR. V ten deň sa uskutočnila aj spoločná schôdza Národnej rady (NR) SR a vlády SR, na ktorej prijali vyhlásenie k vzniku samostatnej SR. Už počas prvého dňa existencie nezávislej SR ju diplomaticky uznalo 93 štátov sveta, medzi nimi aj USA, Ruská federácia, Čína, Veľká Británia, Nemecko a Francúzsko. Prvým, kto 1. januára 1993 odovzdal vtedajšiemu premiérovi SR Vladimírovi Mečiarovi oficiálne dokumenty o nadviazaní diplomatických stykov so SR, bol 30 minút po polnoci nemecký generálny konzul.

V ďalších hodinách a v prvých januárových dňoch roku 1993 sa SR stala členom významných svetových organizácií a inštitúcií: napríklad Svetovej banky, Organizácie Spojených národov (OSN), UNESCO. Aj v ďalších mesiacoch roku 1993 sa SR stala členom významných inštitúcií a organizácií: od marca bola členom Stredoeurópskeho združenia voľného obchodu (CEFTA), ďalej Rady Európy (RE) a ďalších.

Od prvých dní existencie sa SR usilovala integrovať do európskych a atlantických štruktúr. So vznikom SR začala svoju činnosť aj Armáda SR, ktorá sa neskôr transformovala na terajšie Ozbromené sily SR.

Od 8. februára 1993 začala na území samostatnej SR platiť nová mena - slovenská koruna (Sk). Nahradila dovtedajšiu korunu česko-slovenskú (Kčs). Aj slovenská koruna 1. januárom 2009 ustúpila do minulosti, keďže ju na území krajiny nahradilo euro ako nová národná mena na Slovensku. V čase od 1. januára do 16. januára 2009 platil na slovenskom území duálny obeh oboch mien. Od 17. januára 2009 sa slovenská koruna začala sťahovať z obehu.

Dňa 15. februára 1993 poslanci zvolili za prvého prezidenta demokratickej povojnovej SR kandidáta HZDS Michala Kováča. Pri príležitosti sviatku Dňa vzniku SR udeľuje prezident krajiny štátne vyznamenania osobnostiam spoločenského, kultúrneho a politického života.

Od roku 2004 je SR členským štátom NATO a Európskej únie, od decembra 2007 je členom schengenského priestoru. Dňa 1. januára 2009 sa SR stala členom eurozóny. Prijatím eura za bežné platidlo sa zavŕšil integračný proces do EÚ.

TASR

## Kocúrove Novoročné vinše

Starý rok nám rýchlo ušiel, ako keď sa blysne,  
a už sa nám zase nový z kalendára tisne.  
Nuž teda so starým rokom lúčime sa všetci,  
spomínajúc, že zanechal dobré i zlé veci.  
Len za všetko, čo priniesol, dnes mu patrí vďaka –  
dúfajúc, že len dobré nás v novom roku čaká.

Do vinšov tiež zahrnieme domovinu milú,  
nech jej Pán Boh aj naďalej dáva vzrast a silu.  
A podobne vinšujeme našej starej vlasti,  
aby sme ju o rok našli radosť sa v šťastí.

Kocúr žičí čitateľom po čom každý túži –  
v prvom rade dobré zdravie nech každému slúži.  
Nech vám úsmev po celý rok nevymizne z tváre  
a nech sa vám každá práca bez ťažkostí darí.

Na svete nech vládne pokoj bez vojny a vraždy  
a slobody požehnanie nech dosiahne každý.  
Naše rady nech svornosť ako reťaz spojí,  
nech svet vidí podľa lásky, že sme všetci svoji.

Každú dievku vinšujeme nech je ako ruža  
a nech si do roku isto nájde muža.  
Mládencom tiež vinšujeme tú radostnú zmenu,  
nech si nájdu nielen drienču, lež aj dobrú ženu.  
Vdovičkám a vdovcom nech sa ujde radosť daka  
a nech ich v tom novom roku potešenie čaká.

Naše hnevy, zvady, škriepky nech sa teraz minú  
a nech nám dni v novom roku iba v šťastí plynú.  
Nuž nech žiari iba radosť teraz v každom oku  
a nech vás Boh požehnáva v tomto novom roku.

Ján Okál'



FOTO TASR – František Iván

V Košiciach 17. decembra 2012 v parku pri spievajúcej fontáne umelci z Maďarska a Poľska vytvorili ľadové sochy Znovuzrodenie III.

*Beautiful ice sculptures were unveiled on December 17 in the park by the Singing Fountain in Kosice. The work was done by artists from Poland and Hungary.*

## Žičím radostné sviatky Narodenia Ježiša

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

význam pre všetkých ľudí, lebo prináša spásu, oslobodenie a teda radosť celému ľudstvu. Toto milé a útle Dieťa, ktoré sa narodilo v chudobnej maštaľke pre zvieratá, je sám Boží Syn, ktorý sa stal človekom, slovami evanjelistu Jána „Božie Slovo, ktoré sa stalo telom a prebývalo medzi nami“.

Na Vianoce je naša radosť veľká, lebo oslavujeme osobu, ktorá je veľká, dokonca prevyšuje ľudskú veľkosť, je ľudská i nadľudská. Je to útle ľudské dieťa, zavinuté do chudobných plienok, pritom však mu spievajú nebeskí anjeli, lebo je to sám vtelený Boží Syn. Ako On je nad všetkých ľudí a pre všetkých ľudí, tak aj ohlásená radosť z jeho narodenia patrí všetkým ľuďom, všetkým rasám a všetkým generáciám. Teda patrí aj nám, aj našej dobe, aj v tomto roku. Aj pre nás sa narodil a prišiel medzi nás. Ukryl svoju božskú velebu a moc do ľudskej slabosti malého Dieťaťa. Práve tá slabosť a chudoba majú byť zvláštnym znamením pre pastierov, podľa ktorého ho poznajú.

Čo ho vlastne priviedlo k tomu, aby sa natoľko ponížil a zakryl svoju Božiu tvár? Aká silná pohnútko ho pohla k tomu, aby zostúpil z neba do chudobnej maštaľky, ktorá je znakom ľudskej biedy? Tu sme pri tajomstve Vianoc: v betlehemskej maštaľke k nám prichádza Boh, ktorý je Láska. V jeho príchode sa nám zjavuje Božia láska. Apoštol Ján píše prvým kresťanom: „Boh je láska. A Božia láska k nám sa prejavila v tom, že Boh poslal svojho jednorodeného Syna na svet, aby sme skrze neho mali život. Láska je v tom, že nie my sme milovali Boha, ale že on miloval nás a poslal svojho Syna ako zmiernu obeť za naše hriechy...A my sme spoznali lásku, akú má Boh k nám“ (Jn 4, 8-10.16). Aj nám dnes sa Boh stal nesmierne blízky v malom Ježiškovi, ktorému nebeský Otec dal meno „Emanuel“ – „Boh s nami“. Podstata a pravá hĺbka Vianoc je v tom, že v betlehemskej maštaľke poznávame Boha ako nekonečnú Lásku, ktorá sa stala človekom. Toto Dieťa nám prináša vnútornú istotu, že Boh nás miluje, a to naozaj, neustále, bezpečne, bez možnosti klamstva.

On je najväčší dar všetkým ľuďom všetkých čias. Ježiš Kristus, vtelený Boží Syn, je už naveky náš brat, priateľ, osloboditeľ, spasiteľ. Ako v Betleheme prišiel fyzicky, tak aj teraz prichádza duchovne zmieriť nás so sebou a medzi nami. Prichádza klopať na dvere každého človeka dobrej vôle, prinášať jednotlivcom, rodinám a národom dar bratstva, svornosti a pokoja (cfr. Benedikt XVI, 2.dec.2006). Tak ako pastierom pri Betleheme, prináša aj nám svoje dary: lásku, radosť, pokoj, odpustenie, dar Božieho synovstva, lebo „tým, ktorí ho prijali dal moc stať sa Božimi deťmi“ (Jn 1,11). Sv. Pavol nás ešte dôraznejšie uistuje: „Keď sa zjavila dobrota Boha, nášho Spasiteľa a jeho láska k ľuďom, spasil nás skrze Ježiša Krista, aby sme ospravedlnení jeho milosťou, boli podľa nádeje dedičmi večného života“ (Titovi 3, 4.7). Jeho dary sú predovšetkým duchovné, ale sú to prejavy najväčšej lásky a zasahujú naše vnútro a srdce, prinášajú radosť a pokoj.

K tomu tajomnému jadrú Vianoc sa chceme prebiť cez materiálne starosti a iné životné ťažkosti, a zachovať cez tieto sviatky, ale aj po nich, niečo z radosti a pokoja, ktoré prináša betlehemskej maštaľke. V tomto jubilejnom cyrilometodskom roku majú Vianoce celkom zvláštny význam. Jedno z prvých kultúrnych slov staroslovienského písomníctva, ktorými vystúpili naši predkovia na javisku dejín, bol práve začiatok Jánovho evanjelia v preklade našich vierozvestov: „Iskoni bie Slovo i Slovo bie u Boga i Bog bie Slovo“ – „Na počiatku bolo Slovo a Slovo bolo u Boha a to Slovo bolo Boh“ (Jn 1,1). Naše kultúrne dejiny sa začínajú vianočným evanjeliom – to je naozaj niečo mimoriadne! V tomto jubilejnom roku budeme ďakovať za svetlo viery a kultúry. Táto vianočná blahozvešť je aj výzvou, aby sme ako národ uznali Ježiša Krista ako stredobod našej osobnej i národnej histórie.

Drahí krajanovia, prajem vám zo srdca, aby náš jubilejný rok bol už v tomto vianočnom období „čas radosti, veselosti“ a aby nám priniesol „pokoj ľuďom dobrej vôle“, ktorý ohlasovali anjeli.

TK KBS, RV



## Oznamy o konaní spoločenských podujatí

### Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, WI

20. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v Milwaukee, WI usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 9. februára 2013 v Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street v Greenfield, Wisconsin. Začiatok zábavy je o 6.00 do 11.00 hodiny večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 večer. Vstupné je \$ 5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Bližšie informácie: Betty Valent – tel. č. (414) 425 - 6137, alebo Ellen Tavela- tel. č. (262) 893 -7483.

### Výročná členská schôdza I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku

Pozývame všetkých členov I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku, ako i hostí na výročnú členskú schôdzu ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 27. januára 2013 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East 66th Street, New York City.

Na programe schôdzy je plánované vyhodnotenie práce I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy za uplynulé obdobie, finančná správa, voľba výboru a plán podujatí na rok 2013. Očakávam, že sa na tejto schôdzy v hojnom počte zúčastníte. Po schôdzy sa bude podávať občerstvenie. Dovoľujem si Vám všetkým zaželať Šťastný Nový rok 2013.

Milan Dait,  
Predseda SL v NYC

### Slovenský ples v New Yorku bude 9. februára 2013

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko pre New York a okolie (SAKS) oznamuje, že nasledujúci ples Strediska bude v sobotu 9. februára 2013. Ples bude znova v priestoroch Prestížnej inštitúcie New York Athletic Club. Organizačný výbor plesu pozýva slovenskú verejnosť.

Ďalšie informácie o plese a o Stredisku možno získať na webstránke strediska: [www.SlovakAmericanCC.org](http://www.SlovakAmericanCC.org) alebo od predsedníčky Zuzky Krčmárovej, tel. 973-357-1209.

## Slávnostné odhalenie portréту kongresmana Johna L. Micu

Za účasti členov Kongresu USA a veľvyslancov SR a Talianska v USA bol 5. decembra 2012 vo Výbore pre dopravu a infraštruktúru Snemovne reprezentantov oficiálne odhalený portrét odchádzajúceho predsedu výboru, kongresmana Johna L. Micu. Mica je kongresman slovenského pôvodu. Členom snemovne reprezentantov, kde zastupuje štát Florida, je od roku 1992. Počas svojho šesťročného pôsobenia vo Výbore pre dopravu a infraštruktúru zastával funkciu podpredsedu (2007-2011) a predsedu výboru (2011-2013). Vzhľadom na procedurálne pravidlá sa Mica nemohol uchádzať o predsednícku funkciu v nadväzujúcom 113. Kongrese (3.1.2013 – 3.1.2015). Na slávnostnej ceremónii, ktorej sa zúčastnila aj manželka Patricia Mica, členovia rodiny a najbližší spolupracovníci, nechýbal ani veľvyslanec SR v USA Peter Kmec. Portrét Johna L. Micu odhalil nastupujúci predseda výboru, kongresman Bill Shuster (Republikán, Pensylvánia). Kongresman Mica sa počas príhovoru hrdó prihlásil k svojim slovenským a talianskym koreňom a prítomným prezentoval fotografiu svojich predkov, ktorí sa prisťahovali do USA pred viac ako 100 rokmi. Autorom portrétu, ktorý zostane na stene kongresového výboru, je umelec Ned Bittenger zo Santa Fe, štát Nové Mexiko.

MZV SR

**Slovenský Folklórny Súbor**  
**VESELICA**  
♦ Vás pozýva na ♦  
**SPOLOČENSKÝ**  
**PLES**  
**2. február 2013 o 17:30 hod.**  
Paradise Elegant Banquets  
9220 South Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview, IL 60455  
Hudba - DJ Michal a Folklórna Hudba Veselica  
"Family style" večera s tromi druhmi mäsa a prílohou, dezert a káva  
OPEN BAR po celú noc a fľaša vodky na každom stole  
Bohatá tombola  
\$52 na osobu - Všetko zahrnuté v cene lístka  
Rezervácie a Info - 773.780.8599 alebo 630.544.0162  
Vstup v spoločenskom oblečení.  
Lístky v predpredaji len do 28. januára 2013  
On-line na [www.veselicaples2013.eventbrite.com](http://www.veselicaples2013.eventbrite.com)  
Osobne na adrese Tatra Shipping, 7250 W 90th Street, Bridgeview, IL 60455  
Šekom na poštovú adresu Veselica, 8500 S. 77th Ct., Bridgeview, IL 60455

## Vianočné podujatia pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC

### Mikulášske odpoľudnie

Mikulášske odpoľudnie s Mikulášskou nádielkou Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ sa pre deti farnosti Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého uskutočnilo v nedeľu 9. decembra 2012 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale v spolupráci Farskej rady a ostatných slovenských fraternalistických spolkov.

Vďaka patrí otcovi Štefanovi Chanásovi, ktorý otvoril toto odpoľudnie modlitbou. Deti okrem darčiek dostali bohaté občerstvenie, ktoré pripravili členovia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a hlavne manželia Lysákoví a Mária Božeková.

Približne 100 detí sa zúčastnilo tohto vianočného podujatia na ktorom vystupovali svojím spevom, či básničkami a na záver spoločne s vďakou za darčeky zaspievali sv. Mikulášovi peknú slovenskú pieseň:

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



Počas rozdávania darčiekov zľava Henrieta H. Daitová, Lacko Korček a postavu Sv. Mikuláša predstavuje mladší syn Lacka Korčeka.



Spoločná fotografia detí, ktoré sa zúčastnili Mikulášskeho odpoľudnia spolu s usporiadateľmi a Sv. Milulášom.

### Štedrá večera – Vigília

Ďalšie zaužívané vianočné podujatie, Štedrá večera – Vigília sa konala v nedeľu 16. decembra 2012 tiež v osadnej hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, ktorú otvoril modlitbou otec Štefan Chanás a účastníkov privítal predseda farskej rady, brat Jozef Bilik. V tento sviatočný deň, keď kresťanský svet oslavuje pamiatku narodenia Ježiša Krista, si všetci prítomní posadali k Štedrovečernému stolu, aby podľa starej obyčaje konzumovali niekoľko slávnostných jedál. Zároveň ako to bolo zvykom v slovenských domácnostiach prítomní si zaspomínali na všetkých vzdialených príbuzných, priateľov ako aj zaspievali niekoľko slovenských kolied, ktoré ukončila pieseň: „Tichá noc, svätá noc ...“

Prítomní odchádzali z tejto slávnostnej večeri povzbudení na tele i duši a svetlo Pánovo niesli nielen do svojich domácností ale aj tým, čo sú ďaleko za morom v našej rodnej vlasti.

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka



Štedrú večeru 2012 pripravili na snímke zľava: Lacko Korček, Vierka Lukačovičová, Magda Vančová, Helenka Nigrovič a Veronika Packová.



Pohľad na zaplnenú osadnú halu prítomných Vianočnej Vigílie.



# Krátko správy zo Slovenska

• **Predstavitelia** mesta Trnava a trnavskej spoločnosti City-Arena, a. s., podpísali zmluvy umožňujúce realizáciu projektu City Arena, ktorá nahradí súčasný futbalový štadión Antona Malatinského a oživi centrum Trnavy. Mestskí poslanci na zastupiteľstve odsúhlasili, že dohromady 3.5 hektára pozemkov spolu s nehnuteľnosťami v hodnote asi 7.5 milióna eur získa investor - spoločnosť City-Arena za 1 euro. Za to sa zaviazala zrekonštruovať a odovzdať do vlastníctva mesta futbalový štadión v hodnote 15 miliónov eur. Do výstavby moderného športového štadióna s polyfunkčnými komerčnými aktivitami plánuje dohromady investovať 76 miliónov eur. Štadión je projektovaný podľa technických parametrov a požiadaviek UEFA a FIFA s kapacitou 19,000 miest. Súčasťou areálu budú aj dvojpodlažné podzemné parkovisko s 1150 miestami, administratívne priestory, obchodné centrum na ploche 24,150 štvorcových metrov s multikinom so 600 miestami.

• **Telo**, ktoré našli nedávno na palube jachty uviaznutej pri opustenom atole v Pacifiku, patrilo Slovákov. Na lodi sa tiež nachádzalo viac než 200 kilogramov kokainu. Informoval o tom austrálsky rozhlas na svojej stránke radioaustralia.net.au. Pozostatky vo vysokom štádiu rozkladu, ktorá polícia ostrovného štátu Tonga objavila na 13-metrovej jachte JaReVe, patrili 35-ročnému Martinovi R. Medzinárodná policajná jednotka, v ktorej boli aj príslušníci austrálskej federálnej polície, loď sledovala od chvíle, ako opustila Južnú Ameriku. S plavidlom ale stratila kontakt, až kým ju dvaja potápači neobjavili uviaznutú pri neobývanom atole nachádzajúcom sa v skupine ostrovov Vava'u. Okrem tela bolo na palube aj 204 jednokilových balíčkov s kokainom v hodnote vyše 90 miliónov eur, ako aj pasy a peniaze z Poľska.

• **V Arcibiskupskom paláci** v Trnave bola na štrnásť dní pripravená výstava betlehemov. Do výstavnej siene Galéria priviezla Trnavská arcidiecéza rozmerne jasle z piatich kostolov, kde bývajú tradičnou súčasťou slávania vianočných sviatkov. Betlehemy z chrámov v Bolerázi, Šúrovciach, Hurbanove, Hrnčiarovciach a Trnave sú ukážkou, ako rôznorodo v použití materiálov i vyjadrení myšlienky možno stvárať narodenie Ježiša. Vyobrazenie betlehemov je rôzne, niektorý je zasadený do prírodnej scenérie, ďalšie do mestského prostredia "starého" Betlehema v Palestíne. Do Galérie inštalovali tie, ktoré bolo možné previezť pre ich veľkosť a zároveň aby transport aj vydržali.

• **Tri** zrubové drevenice chce umiestniť výtvarník Tomáš Džadoň (31) na streche košického paneláka. Pamätník ľudovej architektúry, ako svoje dielo nazval, by mal byť hotový v septembri budúceho roka, stáť bude zhruba 55,000 eur. Vhodný panelák hľadal výtvarník niekoľko mesiacov. Na streche budú tri domy inšpirované architektúrou zo stredného Slovenska alebo zo Spiša. Pamätník ľudovej architektúry na streche paneláka by mal byť lákadlom pre turistov na dva roky.

• **V priebehu roka 2013** by sa mal zavŕšiť proces integrácie českej a slovenskej UniCredit Bank. Znamená to, že po spojení bude na Slovensku UniCredit Bank, zahraničná pobočka banky. Podľa slov generálneho riaditeľa UniCredit Bank Slovakia Miroslava Štorkendla tieto organizačné zmeny v žiadnom prípade neznamenajú obmedzenie aktivít banky na Slovensku, skôr naopak. Sústreďenie zdrojov umožní aktivity ešte viac zintenzívniť. Taktiež sa bude pokračovať v rozširovaní retailovej siete. Zmena by sa nemala nijako dotknúť klientov. Očakáva sa, že predpokladané synergie začne nové usporiadanie prinášať v roku 2014.

• **Najlepším** zamestnávateľom na Slovensku v kategórii malých spoločností do 250 zamestnancov je Philip Morris Slovakia, ktorý sa v aktuálnej štúdii Best Employers pre región strednej a východnej Európy (SVE) medzinárodnej poradenskej firmy Aon Hewitt umiestnil na treťom mieste. V kategórii stredne veľkých firiem do 1,000 zamestnancov sa do prvej desiatky najlepších zamestnávateľov v regióne SVE dostala jedna spoločnosť zo Slovenska - Telefónica Slovakia na 8. mieste. Štúdie Best Employers 2012 sa zúčastnilo viac ako 400 firiem s vyše 250,000 zamestnancami z ôsmich štátov - Bulharsko, Česká republika, Litva, Maďarsko, Poľsko, Rusko, Slovensko a Turecko. Aon Hewitt organizuje túto štúdiu v regióne SVE od roku 2001. Jej cieľom je oceniť spoločnosti vyznačujúce sa vysokou kvalitou a efektivitou HR praktík, ktoré majú pozitívny dopad na obchodné výsledky. Pre získanie objektívneho obrazu zohľadňuje perspektívu zamestnávateľa, samotných zamestnancov, ako aj obchodné ukazovatele spoločnosti.

• **Prepojiť** školskú teóriu a prax, aby študenti vysokej školy boli lepšie uplatniteľní na trhu práce a do svojho zamestnania nastupovali so znalosťou problematiky. S takýmto cieľom predstavitelia Strojníckej fakulty Slovenskej technickej univerzity (STU) a automobilovej spoločnosti PSA Peugeot Slovakia podpísali v decembri novú zmluvu o spolupráci, ktorá bude platiť až do konca roka 2017. Prínos projektu ocení aj generálny riaditeľ súkromnej spoločnosti Patrice Peslier. Od začiatku spolupráce trnavskej automobilky so slovenskými školami klesá vo firme počet pracovných úrazov, ako aj chýb pri výrobe vozidiel. To všetko súčasne s rastom objemu výroby.

• **Slovensko** je v najnovšom rebríčku vnímania korupcie na 62. mieste. V celosvetovom rebríčku zostavenom Transparency International je toto umiestnenie piatym najhorším výsledkom spomedzi krajín Európskej únie a vôbec najhorším v prípade krajín V4. Celkovo sa hodnotilo 176 krajín. Horšie ako Slovensko skončili z krajín EÚ v hodnotení iba Rumunsko, Taliansko, Bulharsko a Grécko. Podľa rebríčka, ktorý reflektuje úroveň vnímania podnikateľov a expertov z roku 2011 a úvodu 2012, je z krajín V4 najlepšie Poľsko (41. miesto), potom Maďarsko (46.) a Česká republika (54.). Celkovo najčistejšími krajinami sú podľa rebríčka Nový Zéland, Dánsko a Fínsko. Naopak, najskorumpovanejšími sú Afganistan, Severná Kórea a Somálsko.

• **Slovenská** pošta vydala 1. januára 2013 poštovú známku „20. výročie vzniku SR: Košice - Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013“. Vyobrazená je na nej silueta Bratislavy, ktorá pozvoľne prechádza do siluety Košíc. To bude spolu s francúzskym Marseille európskym hlavným mestom kultúry na rok 2013. Motívom FDC obálky je koláž dvoch najznámejších historických dominánt oboch slovenských metropol - Dómu sv. Martina v Bratislave a Dómu sv. Alžbety v Košiciach. Obrazový motív FDC pečiatky tvorí erb mesta Košice. Autorom výtvarného návrhu poštovej známky, FDC a FDC pečiatky je akademický maliar Peter Augustovič a autorom oceľoforytiny FDC je Jozef Česla.

• **Prezident** Ivan Gašparovič pri príležitosti 20. výročia vzniku samostatnej Slovenskej republiky udelil 20 osobnostiam spoločenského života štátne vyznamenania počas štátnych osláv, ktoré sa uskutočnili 1. januára v bratislavskej Redute. Na oslavách sa zúčastnilo približne 700 hostí. Gašparovič udelil Rad Ľudovíta Štúra I., II. a III. triedy, Pribinov kríž I. a II. triedy, Rad Andreja Hlinku I. triedy a Rad Bieleho dvojkríža III. triedy. Štátne vyznamenania sú rady (vyššie) a kríže (nižšie). Prezident udeľuje aj Kríž Milana Rastislava Štefánika.

TASR a slovenské časopisy



Košice, ilustračné foto Foto: TASR/František Iván

American news agency CNN recommends Kosice as one of the top travel destinations for 2013.

## Americká CNN odporúča Košice ako jednu z top destinácií na rok 2013

Americká spravodajská televízia CNN zaradila Košice medzi Top turistické destinácie roka 2013. Do sedmičky cestovateľských tipov sa Košice dostali po boku Škótska či Subsaharskej Afriky alebo napríklad holandského Amsterdamu.

"Pri zostavovaní rebríčka brala CNN do úvahy viac faktorov, ako sú napríklad významné udalosti, nové služby, dôvtipný marketing, ekonomická situácia, história, ale aj vplyv pop kultúry," vymenovala manažérka pre komunikáciu a PR aktivity Slovenskej agentúry pre cestovný ruch (SACR) Zuzana Nemcová.

Každá destinácia v zozname ponúka v roku 2013 podľa jej slov niečo zaujímavé, čo stojí za objavenie. "Podmanivé východoslovenské mesto Košice, v ktorom pulzuje mix renesancie, baroka a secesnej architektúry, bolo zvolené za Európske hlavné mesto kultúry 2013," uvádza portál CNN. Čitateľov pozýva na úvodný ceremoniál, ktorý sa bude konať 19. a 20. januára, ale aj na ďalších 300 podujatí počas roka. Podľa autorky článku budú akcie čerpať zo slovenského a maďarského dedičstva a návštevníci sa môžu tešiť na hudobné festivaly, divadlo, umenie a pouličné performance. Prijemnou je podľa CNN aj prechádzka po Hlavnej ulici, na konci ktorej je gotický Dóm svätej Alžbety, a po pritom popíjanie špeciálneho nápoja Košické zlato s tajnou receptúrou.

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### Vyššie 400 mladých koledníkov sa stretlo 23. decembra 2012 v Konkatedrále sv. Mikuláša v Prešove



FOTO TK KBS/ Jakub Halčák

Na vianočné a novoročné koledovanie ich vyslal a požehnal košický arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Bernard Bober.

Archbishop Bernard Bober blesses more than 400 young Christmas carolers on December 23, 2012 in the Cathedral of St. Mikulas in Presov.

## Ľadový betlehem na Rainerovej chate vo V. Tatrách

Na podujatí Trojkráľové poludnie na Rainerovej chate 6. januára mohli návštevníci prvýkrát vidieť nový ľadový betlehem. Ten za približne tri týždne postavil miestny chatár Peter Petrás so svojim synom a na pomoc im prišiel aj kamarát.

Betlehem je široký päť metrov a vysoký niečo viac ako tri metre, v jeho vnútri je Mária s Jozefom a dieťaťom v kolíske. Samotný chatár s úsmevom dodáva, že na jeho tvorbu použili 27,000 a pol lopaty snehu, ktorý museli zväzať aj z okolia chaty, keďže ho nebolo príliš veľa. Podľa neho musia dávať pozor na to, aby turisti nepoškodili betlehem, nie vždy sa to však darí. Veľa ľudí doň pichá palicami a fotia sa vo vnútri, čo samotnú stavbu poškodzuje. Tradičné trojkráľové poludnie na Rainerovej chate vo výške 1,301 metrov nad morom sprevádzala goralská hudba v podaní kapely ZBUJE a folklórneho súboru z Lendaku. Nový betlehem si prišlo pozrieť niekoľko stoviek nadšencov.

Trojkráľové poludnie na Rainerovej chate sa prvýkrát uskutočnilo už v roku 1999, kedy to sám Petrás bral ako novoročné posedenie s priateľmi. Tento Betlehem je takým symbolom Vianoc vo Vysokých Tatrách a je to veľmi pekné, že nám takouto formou na chate pripomínajú narodenie Ježiša," dodáva turista zo stredného Slovenska.

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## Slováci víтали Nový rok 2013



FOTO TASR - Pavel Neubauer

Na snímke novoročný ohňostroj nad Bratislavským hradom pripomínal aj 20 rokov od vzniku samostatnej Slovenskej republiky.

*Fireworks from the Bratislava Castle marked the 20th anniversary of the independent Slovak Republic.*

### 20 rokov od vzniku samostatnej Slovenskej republiky

V dôsledku rozdelenia Českej a Slovenskej Federatívnej Republiky (ČSFR) na dva samostatné štáty - Českú republiku (ČR) a Slovenskú republiku (SR) - vznikla 1. januára 1993 samostatná SR, keď na spoločnej schôdzi vlády SR a Národnej rady SR prijali poslanci vyhlásenie k vzniku nezávislej SR. Obyvatelia Slovenska si 1. januára pripomínajú štátnym sviatkom Deň vzniku SR.

Rozdeleniu ČSFR predchádzalo v rokoch 1990-1992 množstvo stretnutí a rokovaní československých, českých aj slovenských politikov i štátnych inštitúcií. Dňa 21. januára 1992 Federálne zhromaždenie (FZ) ČSFR neprijalo návrhy prezidenta ČSFR Václava Havla - novelu ústavného zákona o referende a ústavný zákon o prijatí novej Ústavy ČSFR. Jedenásteho marca 1992 sa prerušili rokovania medzi Slovenskou národnou radou (SNR) a ČNR o štátnom práve usporiadaní a mali v nich pokračovať novozvolené parlamenty.

V parlamentných voľbách 1992 zvíťazila v ČR koalícia Občianska demokratická strana (ODS) - Kresťanskodemokratická strana a na Slovensku Hnutie za demokratické Slovensko (HZDS). Následne sa začala séria rokovaní vedúcich predstaviteľov ODS a HZDS.

Dňa 17. júla 1992 prijala SNR Deklaráciu o zvrchovanosti SR. Prvého septembra 1992 SNR prijala Ústavu SR, ktorá nadobudla platnosť o mesiac neskôr, 1. októbra 1992. Dňa 25. novembra 1992 prijala Federálne zhromaždenie ČSFR ústavný zákon o zániku ČSFR, ktorý nadobudol platnosť o polnoci z 31. decembra 1992 na 1. januára 1993.

Na poslednom zasadnutí vlády SR pred vznikom samostatnej Slovenskej republiky bol okrem

Pokračovanie na str. 21

## RORÁTY

Zdá sa, že v modernej dobe, už ani nepoznáme, čo sú RORÁTY. Iba v krásnych spomienkach na čas, duchovne, tak veľmi bohatý. Kedy pred Vianocami, sme šli pred východom slnka na sv. Omšu. Decembrové, studené dni a noci, nám pripomínajú Sibír, Aljašku. Zamrznutý sneh nám vŕzgal pod nohami a vietok štipal do tváre. Všetko kolo nás, bolo zamrznuté, živej duše nebolo vidieť na chotári. Staré babky, so sviečkovým lampášom, hľadajú akýsi, malý chodník, Na ústach nám zamrzal sneh a starším chlapom, pokrútené fúzy. Veľmi nám nepomáhali dlhé zimné kabáty, ani teplé, zimné blúzy.

Ach Bože, v kostole bola veľká zima, iba, že nefúkal, ten studený vietor. Ľudia stáli bližšie vedľa seba, iba pri vchode, bol väčší, voľný priestor. A predsa sa spev ozýval, až sa steny triasli, veď sme čakali narodenie Malého Ježiška.

Ale márne sme čakali, že na Vianoce, sa dožijeme toho teplého slniečka. Nie, neľutujem, že sme boli snád' vtedy veľmi - veľmi mladí ľudia.

Spomienky sú, akoby dar Boží, že v nás, že v nás silne vieru vzbudila.

Ano, chcel by som, ešte raz, zažiť, také krásne, studené RORÁTY. Musel by som však ísť ďaleko za more, na naše Slovensko, naše Karpáty.

Jozef Smák

## Žičím radostné sviatky Narodenia Ježiša

*Slovenská redakcia Vatikánskeho rozhlasu priniesla vo svojom vysielaní príhovor slovenského kardinála Jozefa Tomka na Slávnosť Narodenia Pána 2012. Príhovor prinášame v plnom znení.*

Dnes je na celom svete sviatok radosti. Oslavujeme narodeniny veľkej osobnosti našich ľudských dejín, Ježiša z Nazaretu. Navzájom si prajeme „radostné Vianoce“. Ja vám tiež zo srdca žičím radostné sviatky Narodenia Ježiša Krista.

Veriaci, ba aj neveriaci sa tešia z toho sviatku. Aká je to vlastne radosť, aká jej príčina a ovocie? Je to radosť zdanlivá, povrchná, chvíľková? Je to ako sviatočný oblek, ktorý spolu s inými zo slušnosti a zvyklosti obliečime na ten sviatočný deň a potom sa všetko vráti do starých koľají, bez dobrodenia a úžitku? Čo nám tie sviatky povedia? Sú naše priania radosti úprimné a realistické?

Zaiste sa radujeme darčekom, ktoré si vymeníme. Nielen deti, ale aj starší sa potešia aj malej pozornosti zabalenej pod stromčekom. Radujeme sa, keď sa rodina alebo aj užíš priatelia stretnú pri vianočnom stole, keď sa na polnočnej alebo dennej omši môžeme pozdraviť so známymi, ktorých sme dlho nevideli. Aj tí, čo slabšie veria, sa trochu dojmú, keď počujú vianočné koledy, najmä keď je to v nabitom kostole. Tešíme sa na zasneženú krajinu, na lyžovačku, na priateľské posedenia, na vôňu jedličky alebo chutného jedla, a podobne. Tak neutrálne povediac, je to radosť z atmosféry, ktorú však možno aspoň trochu vyvolať hockedy.

Radosť, ktorú prinášajú Vianoce, je však hlbšia. Oslavujeme narodenie zvláštneho Dieťaťa. Sú to neobyčajné narodeniny. Pripomíname si radosť, ktorú oznámil posol z neba chudobným pastierom pri malom, ale kráľovskom mestečku starozákonného Dávidovho rodu: „Zvestujem vám veľkú radosť, ktorá bude patriť všetkým ľuďom: Dnes sa vám v Dávidovom meste narodil Spasiteľ, Kristus Pán. A toto vám bude znamením: Nájdete dieťaťko zavinuté do plienok a uložené v jaslach“ (Lk 2, 10-12). Kúzlo Vianoc je v tomto tajomnom dieťati. Jeho narodenie má



Kardinál Jozef Tomko

Pokračovanie na str. 21

## Nina Holá oslávila osemdesiatku

Tajomníčka a pokladníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá oslávila osemdesiatku v sobotu 24. novembra 2012. v kruhu svojej širšej rodiny a blízkych priateľov. Oslava sa konala v podniku The Grand Chalet vo Wayne, N.J. Vážnym i veselým spôsobom ju pozdravili jej dcéry Luby Masi a Jane Konzelmann, vnučka a vnuk Jane a John Masi, vnukovia Mark a Andrej Konzelmann a jej manžel Ján Holý. Zať Tomáš Masi viedol program a zhodnotil obetavú prácu jubilantky v jej rodine a v slovenskom živote v Amerike, i vo vzťahu k Slovensku.

Nina Holá bola zvolená do funkcie tajomníčky a pokladníčky Slovenskej ligy na kongrese v roku 2002, kedy z tejto funkcie rezignoval jej manžel Ján Holý. V slovenskom živote zastávala významné funkcie už mnoho rokov predtým. Vyše 10 rokov je spolupredsiedničkou Festivalu slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey, desiatky rokov je aktívna v 1. katolíckej slovenskej ženskej jednote a už v šesťdesiatych rokoch minulého storočia ako tajomníčka Slovensko-amerického klubu spoluorganizovala prvé formálne slovenské plesy v popredných hoteloch v New Yorku, na ktorých uniformovaní kadeti z West Point doprevádzali slovenské debutantky. V rámci Slovenskej ligy iniciovala a viedla zbierku na Furdekovu sochu v Bratislave na budove Matice slovenskej. SLvA tak mohla tento projekt financovať sumou desať tisíc dolárov.

Obetavosť a pracovitosť jubilantky ocenil aj prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič, ktorý jej udelil štátne vyznamenanie SR. V roku 2010 jej udelilo poctu aj Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku.

Jubilantke želáme mnoho rokov dobrého zdravia a vytrvalosť v jej národnej práci.

Milan Čuba



Oslávenkyňa Nina Holá v kruhu rodiny.