



# Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 123

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014

NUMBER 5900

## 2014 Easter Message from the President

A few patches of snow are still on the ground in Cleveland as I write this message, remains of the series of huge snowfalls that hit Ohio, Pennsylvania and the entire East Coast this winter.

The days are now becoming longer, and the gloom of winter is slowly changing. Along with spring comes the blossom of new and reawakened life. This includes human life.

As the Catholic Church reminds us, the focus of our salvation is the Risen Christ as we celebrate the feast of Easter. This, after all, is the foundation of our Christian/Catholic beliefs.

2015 will mark the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia, at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., which was funded by our Society. It also marks the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Fr. Stefan Furdek.

We plan to have a fitting event in Washington, D.C., to honor these milestones and what they mean to the First Catholic Slovak Union and to the Slovaks in North America. We will be providing more information later and throughout the year. We hope you and your family can attend.

I know many of you have visited the Chapel in D.C. It was one of the first, and still is one of the most moving, chapels in the Cathedral.

As many of the churches originally founded by Slovaks and staffed by Slovak priests and nuns are merged or closed, many of the old traditions slowly die out in the United States and Canada. We give credit and urge you to support and participate in your church to keep and respect these traditions where and while they exist.

Easter Greetings on behalf of myself and my family and all our Home Office employees. Best wishes and prayers for good health to you and your family.

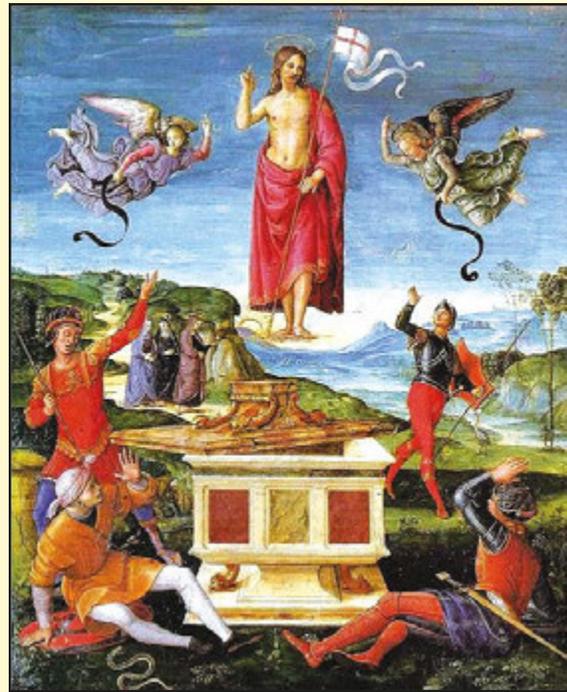
On a more temporal note, I'm pleased to report that 2013 again was a record year financially for the Society. Results will appear in a coming Jednota issue, along with my President's Annual Report.

Spring is here! Happy Easter!  
Christ is risen, let us rejoice and be glad!  
Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, radujme sa!



Andrew M. Rajec

## Alleluja! Happy Easter!



He is not here for He is risen."  
- Matthew 28:6

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

The Resurrection of Christ, Raphael (1483 - 1520)

## Our Rates Will Make You EGG-STATIC And That's NO YOLK!

Don't Delay! Add to Your Nest Egg Today!



8 Year Flexible Premium IRA **3.60%**

6 Year Flexible Premium IRA **3.20%**

6 Year Fixed Rate IRA **3.10%**

Call Us at 800.533.6682

Open or add to your IRA account by 4/15/2014



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union  
Contact your branch officer or the home office  
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,  
www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com



See pages 9 and 13 for Slovak Easter Recipes!

Andrew M. Rajec  
President

## Inside

Editorial/Commentary.....	2
Branch Info.....	14, 17
District Info.....	15
Slovak.....	20 - 24

# Insights and Viewpoints



## St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies, Father Killian Loch, O.S.B., Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B.

*Editor's Note: With this issue, Jednota is pleased to welcome two new homilists to our pages. For more on Fr. Loch and Fr. Mazich, please see page 3.*

**April 13, 2014**

**Palm Sunday**

**Gospel MT 26:14-27:66**

The Passion Reading for Palm Sunday is a three year rotation of Matthew's, Mark's and Luke's Gospel account of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of these Gospel accounts describes the Last

Supper, the arrest and trial of Jesus, his passion and death, and ends with his burial. The Divine Inspiration that produces these Gospels works through the unique perspective and teaching gifts of each of the Evangelists. Three different accounts speak of the same mystery of Faith that we profess each time we take part in Holy Mass; "We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again."

This year we hear the account from St. Matthew. His account of the Passion emphasizes how Jesus was obedient to the will of the Father, even to point of accepting death on the cross. Jesus speaks of this several times from the Last Supper, to Gethsemane where He prays, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass for me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." Throughout his arrest, trial, passion and death, Jesus stands firm in following the will of the Father. It is clear that Jesus is not just a zealous man willing to die for a personal cause; rather he is part of the Divine plan for our redemption in which the Son of God, the Word made flesh and Splendor of the Father is sacrificed for our sake. The annual sacrifice of the paschal lambs as expiation for sins is replaced by the one sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for the sins of the world.

As we enter Holy Week it might benefit us to connect what we hear on Palm Sunday with what we heard in Matthew's Gospel on Ash Wednesday, When you give alms..., when you pray..., when you fast... Jesus didn't suggest or give an invitation to give alms, pray and fast, he speaks under the assumption that we are doing these and gives an instruction on how to do so with sincerity and devotion. How have we been at our Lenten almsgiving, prayer and fasting? In the Passion account Jesus does not merely remind us, he shows us how to sincerely offer ourselves in obedience to the Father.

Jesus gave the ultimate alms when he gave himself completely to death on the cross. He gave all that he had without holding back anything. A very basic question for us is when we give alms do we merely give from our surplus or is it sacrificial in that it results in giving up doing or buying something that we really had our hearts set on. Jesus prays the ultimate prayer in Gethsemane when he says; "not as I will, but as you will." The "Thy will be done," in the Lord's prayer is not just a nice phrase, it is the way Jesus prayed and lived. We are gifted with a free will and when we freely surrender our will to the will of the Father we find that we will be both challenged to let go and enriched by a new sense of freedom that comes in trusting God. The last point is fasting. Fasting is very often directly connected to repentance Jesus, himself, has no need to repent for he is without sin. Rather he takes on our sins and accepts the punishment for our sins so that we might truly experience the forgiveness of sins in our lives, and ultimately be happy with him forever in heaven.



Fr. Killian Loch,  
O.S.B.

**April 20, 2014**

**Easter Sunday, Cycle A**

**John 20: 1-9**

The gospel reading on this glorious Easter Sunday tells us that Mary Magdalene "ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.'"

In the midst of grief and tragedy, Mary Magdalene thinks only of Jesus—she shows "great love" for him. Earlier in Jesus' ministry it was the same: he said of her "she has shown great love, hence her many sins have been forgiven." Already Mary seemed to have understood the transformation that Jesus was working during the course of his life and preaching in Galilee, and which he continues to work through the Church and the sacraments today. In spite of her sins, Mary recognized just who Christ was, and thereafter she was faithful to the end—the "Apostle to the Apostles" as many have called her.

Reflecting further on the words "she has shown great love" one sees that love is passionate, and can sometimes sweep us off our feet; yet ultimately love is honest—painfully so at times. Any married couple knows this; any parent who has raised children is aware of it too; among our extended families and our friends it is fair to say that each of us has experienced the joys and the hardships that love's honesty can bring to us.

True love is honest in recognizing sin, and in desiring to change; this is what Jesus saw in Mary Magdalene when he commented upon her love and concluded: "...her many sins have been forgiven." This is exactly what we try to do during the days of Lent as well: to recognize and root out the sin and the causes of sin that may be present in ourselves on account of our self-focused nature, and to cultivate in their place the other-centered and ultimately God-centered virtues of humility, constancy, mercy, and love.

Love finds the strength and reason to change in Christ, who taught us what perfect love really looks like—love which endures to the end, to the point of total self-giving. We witness this in Jesus' every word and action during his earthly life and we focus on his spirit of free self-giving in a special way during Passion Week and in its perfection on Good Friday.

As Mary Magdalene witnessed in the gospel, our human love, imperfect though it may be, is given the opportunity to make just such a dramatic change on the glorious feast of Easter when we celebrate the divine and perfect love of God shown to us in the person of Jesus Christ, once dead, now gloriously raised from the dead.

Through the renewal of our baptismal promises which we will make at the Easter Sunday liturgy shortly after hearing this gospel message, we testify publicly that we have united ourselves to Christ in his death on the cross, symbolized by immersion in water, and that we hope that one day we will be united with him definitively in the new and eternal life which he has won for us through his resurrection on that very first Easter Sunday.

The true meaning and joy of Easter are revealed to us in the mystery of Christ's self-offering love, seen in person by Mary Magdalene and reciprocated by her through her selfless concern for him. This same love is presented to us through our baptismal union with Christ, both in life and in death. Sharing in that love, we are called—just like Mary Magdalene was called—to count ourselves among those who have been sent forth to spread and share this good news, to: "go forth and make disciples." The first step toward answering this call is to run as fast as Mary ran in order to announce the redeeming power of Christ's selfless love, letting it shine forth in us anew as we celebrate this most holy day.



Fr. Edward Mazich,  
O.S.B.

## NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY OF THE WEEK 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, APR 16	MONDAY, APR 7
WEDNESDAY, APR 30	MONDAY, APR 21
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7	MONDAY, APR 28

Correspondents who are announcing upcoming events should remember that the JEDNOTA is printed EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, and should take into account the extra time lost in the postal system. Therefore, please plan to have your announcements to us in ample time for them to be printed and received by the readership.

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

## JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 22 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

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

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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

## Easter 2014 from the National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

Back on July 7, 1999, a person from Morocco named Hicham El Guerrouj did something no one else to date has been able to do better. He is the current record holder for running a mile. His time of 3 minutes, 43.13 seconds is almost 17 seconds faster than the first sub-four minute mile recorded in May of 1954, nearly 60 years ago. He ran the mile at the incredible speed of 16 miles an hour (25 km an hour), a very fast pace, indeed.

The evangelists wrote that some followers of the Lord all shared something in common on the Third Day. They ran. Mary Magdalen ran to tell Peter and the other disciples that she found the Lord's tomb empty. Peter and the Beloved Disciple ran to the tomb to investigate and found it just as Mary Magdalen had described. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus ran back to Jerusalem to tell them their unbelievable experience.

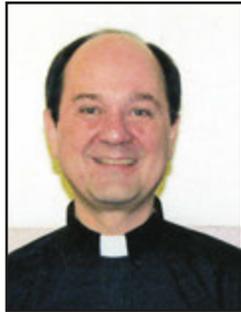
They probably did not run as fast as Hicham El Guerrouj, but we can just imagine Mary Magdalen, Peter, and the rest, running faster than they had ever run in their lives, exhausted and out of breath when they got to where they were going, but still bursting with joy to share their story.

You may be at an age when you are not able to run as fast as you once did, or are not able to run at all. But no matter what your age or our running ability, each of us by virtue of our Baptism is to be like these initial evangelists and waste no time in spreading the Good News of Easter. Death is conquered! Christ is risen!

However, this is not the only word we are to spread. We are also to make known without delay that the Resurrection is the event in Salvation History and that it offers hope to the world in every age. Because of the Resurrection, we believe that, no matter how dark our individual life situation may be at a particular time, there is always someone to live for, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns now and forever.

God bless you and have a Happy Easter.

Sincerely,



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta  
National Chaplain

## Easter Greetings from the National Vice President

Spring is the beginning of new life. As Easter approaches, daddy is helping the children color eggs while mommy is baking kolač and then we will be preparing for the Resurrection of our Lord. We will get our Sunday's best ready to attend Mass the next day. During Mass, we will reflect on our Lord Jesus who died so we could live. He rose again so we would believe. His Resurrection is the renewal of life; what more beautiful time to remember our Lord Jesus, than as the beauty and newness of nature is springing up around us?

On behalf of my wife, Maria, my family, and myself, may the blessings of Jesus guide you, protect you and be with you on Easter and always.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.  
National Vice-President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.



**ATTENTION Branches and Districts Electing Delegates to the 50th Quadrennial of the First Catholic Slovak Union: HAVE YOU MAILED IN YOUR DELEGATE FORMS?**

### 11.03 Qualification of Delegates

(c) Election of delegates must be completed no later than ninety (90) calendar days before the opening of the Convention. **Credentials must be forwarded to the Office of the Executive Secretary and postmarked, not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days after the election of the delegate.** Names of those elected delegates not received by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the above requirements will not be seated as delegates at the Convention.

## Easter Message from the Executive Secretary

Let us keep the joy of Easter morning in our spirits throughout this holy season, with the knowledge that Jesus is calling every one of us to his Resurrection where suffering does not have the last word. On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families all the blessings of Easter.

Kenneth A. Arendt  
Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

## An Easter Message from the National Treasurer

As we approach Holy Week, the saddest and holiest time of the church year, it gives us the opportunity to recall the suffering and crucifixion our Lord accepted on our behalf – and, ultimately, His glorious Resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday. May the Risen Lord's blessing be bestowed upon all of you.

On behalf of my wife Florence and my family, we extend our prayers along with the blessings of the Easter season to you and all your loved ones.

George F. Matta  
National Treasurer



George F. Matta

## Two New Homilists Continue Sunday Scripture Column

A seminary Scripture professor and a college campus minister from Saint Vincent Archabbey will team up to continue the Sunday Scripture homily column. Father Edward M. Mazich, O.S.B., Assistant Professor of Biblical Languages, Sacred Scripture and Systematic Theology at Saint Vincent Seminary, and Father Killian R. Loch, O.S.B., Director of Campus Ministry at Saint Vincent College, will take over the column started in 1998 by two monks of the archabbey, Father Campion P. Gavalier, O.S.B., and the late Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B. The column has been appearing in Jednota, since that time.

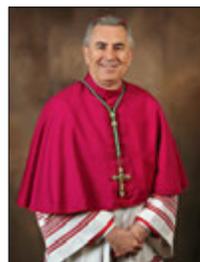
Father Edward, of Danville, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Penn State University, a Master of Arts degree in Theology from Saint Vincent Seminary, received a Licentiate degree after studying at the Biblicum and at the Gregorian University in Rome, and earned a Doctorate from the University of Oxford in Great Britain.

Father Killian, of Wilkes-Barre, has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Scranton in 1975; a Master of Divinity degree in Theology from Saint John Seminary, Brighton, Massachusetts and a Master of Education degree in Administration from Boston College in 1989. He was a priest of the Diocese of Scranton prior to joining the monastic community at Saint Vincent in 2010.

Father Edward was ordained in 2001. He previously served as president of the Saint Benedict Education Foundation, which raises funds for the international Benedictine University in Rome, Sant' Anselmo, as well as novice master of the monastic community. He began serving on the seminary faculty in 2007, teaching Sacred Scripture. He is also Director of Human Formation.

While serving as a priest in the Diocese of Scranton, Father Killian was director of religious formation for two years and spent five years as principal of a diocesan high school; worked in three pastoral assignments; served as regional vicar for the diocese and was vicar for priests for the diocese. He was appointed director of campus ministry at Saint Vincent College in 2011. Father Killian has been active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, serving as chairman of its National Service Committee and a member.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Cousins, Associate Director,  
Saint Vincent Archabbey and Seminary Public Relations



Correction: The Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, 66, has been appointed as the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, not the Most Reverend Robert M. Gillelan, as erroneously reported in the March 19 issue. Jednota congratulates Bishop Gainer on this new appointment and sincerely apologizes for the error.

## LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

### Born Again: Spiritual Themes in "Gravity"

Easter is the season in which we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, which gives us all the opportunity to enjoy eternal life with God. But it also reminds us that we sometimes need resurrections of sorts here on earth, times when we need to be born again after tragedy. That theme resonates in the Christopher Award-winning movie "Gravity" (now on DVD), which stars Sandra Bullock as astronaut Dr. Ryan Stone and George Clooney as mission commander Matt Kowalski.

Dr. Stone craves silence and isolation since her heart and soul were destroyed by the death of her four-year-old daughter in a freak accident. Though she initially finds those qualities in space, mission control in Houston sends word that unexpected debris is speeding toward her and the crew during their spacewalk. Soon after, Kowalski and Stone are bombarded by chunks of metal that cut their tether to the ship, while also killing the rest of their crew. From then on, the mission becomes survival as the two astronauts try to get to the international space station in the hopes they can find a space module that will return them home.

"Gravity" is a harrowing tour de force in which Murphy's Law repeatedly produces the worst possible circumstances. Beyond that, there's much more to the film as well. The space Stone must travel to find safety is also a metaphor for her mental and emotional journey to rediscover the will to live. The silence she wanted becomes a curse when her communication with Kowalski suffers a temporary interruption. And her connection to earth is destroyed when they can no longer hear updates from Houston.

When Stone and Kowalski reconnect, he keeps talking to mission control, and Stone doesn't understand why. He tells her that the two of them may not be able to hear what's happening on earth, but it's possible that Houston can hear them. No response doesn't mean you're not being heard, so it's always best to keep communicating just in case. In a movie with a spiritual overtones, that struck me as important. There are times when we feel like God doesn't hear our prayers, but a silent response doesn't mean we should stop praying. We have to continue with faith that we are being heard.

From a faith perspective, the film resonates in other ways too. For instance, Stone's quest for survival is driven more by instinct at first. But there's one shot in the movie in which she makes it into a ship, then the camera shows her floating, as if in a fetal position in the womb. It's a physical representation of the possibility of her being born again, of opening herself up to life again.

Stone can't be born again in a Christian sense here because she has no faith background. There's a touching scene in which she's faced with her own death, and wonders if anyone will pray for her soul when she's gone. She says she'd pray for herself, but she was never taught how. Is there someone looking out for her? A picture prayer card that looked like St. Christopher carrying the baby Jesus on his shoulder makes a brief cameo, so there's a suggestion that there's more to life and the universe than the material things we see around us.

Ultimately, "Gravity" is a heart-pounding thrill ride grounded in real, raw emotion. It also provides a deeper look at the difficult journey from the darkness of grief to the light of hope.

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](mailto:mail@christophers.org)

### His Excellency Peter Kmec from Slovakia among V4 Ambassadors in Atlanta

On March 11, 2014, Visegrad Four ambassadors – those ambassadors to the United States from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary – were in Atlanta, GA, at the invitation of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta. The council, affiliated with the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State, hosted the ambassadors as they spoke before Georgia State students, followed by a luncheon in downtown Atlanta at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Vincent Obsitnik, retired U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia, and member of the World Affairs Council of Atlanta, was involved in planning the event. Also, prior to the event, he and his wife hosted a reception at their home for the Slovak Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Peter Kmec. Approximately 22 people from the Atlanta area with primarily Slovak heritage attended. One couple drove four hours one way from Huntsville, AL, to attend the event.

- Submitted by Vincent Obsitnik, U.S. Ambassador, Retired, and Branch 856 Member

For more on the Visegrad 4 Ambassadors in Atlanta, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/ludm2pb>

(L – R) Slovak Ambassador Peter Kmec, Czech Ambassador Petr Gandalovic, Polish Ambassador Ryszard Schnepf, and Hungarian Ambassador Gyorgy Szapary.



A reception in the Obsitnik home, attended by those of Slovak heritage in the area as well as Slovak Ambassador Peter Kmec (seated, to the right), with hosts, Retired US Ambassador Vincent Obsitnik (standing directly behind) and Annemarie Obsitnik (seated to the left).

**Only \$14 a year?**  
**Hey, the benefits really add up!**  
**I'm callin' NOW**

To protect your children with a  
**Juvenile Insurance Policy**  
 call your branch officer  
 or the Home Office



**800.533.6682**



**FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union**  
 6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131,  
 800.533.6682, [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com), [annuity@fcsu.com](mailto:annuity@fcsu.com)



## FCSU LIFE

### Single Premium Insurance Spring Special!

<b>Newborn Male</b> \$5000 for \$410 \$10000 for \$820	<b>Newborn Female</b> \$5000 for \$345 \$10000 for \$690
<b>Male - age 5</b> \$5000 for \$475 \$10000 for \$950	<b>Female - age 5</b> \$5000 for \$410 \$10000 for \$820
<b>Male - age 10</b> \$5000 for \$565 \$10000 for \$1,130	<b>Female - age 10</b> \$5000 for \$485 \$10000 for \$970
<b>Male - age 15</b> \$5000 for \$670 \$10000 for \$1,340	<b>Female - age 15</b> \$5000 for \$570 \$10000 for \$1,140

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren and receive a **FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD** to present with the certificate!

**Features:**

- Pay one premium and have fully paid-up Insurance
- Issued in any amount (\$5000 or more) subject to current FCSU LIFE non-medical limits
- Excellent gift for children or grandchildren



*Editor's Note: The rates in the Winter Single Premium Special that ran on page 22 of the January 15, 2014 issue were published in error. Jednota apologizes for any confusion this may have caused.*

# 2nd Annual Slovak Jednota/Sokol Fraternal Bowling in Mississauga, Ontario

The 2nd annual Slovak Jednota/Sokol fraternal bowling event was held on Sunday March 2, 2014, at Planet Bowl in Mississauga, Ontario.

This was a social event for both adults and children. There were 44 adults and 31 children. Teams were picked at random. There were 4 people on each team and they bowled three games. After reviewing the scores, the top two teams were the winners. The winning teams were given a financial reward.

The children were also randomly assigned to teams. The bumper rails were raised on the alleys where the children bowled.

Larry Glugosh, President of Slovak Catholic Sokol, supplied pizza and drinks for all the children.

John Tokarsky from the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) and Ed Bajus Jr. from Slovak Catholic Sokol organized this event.

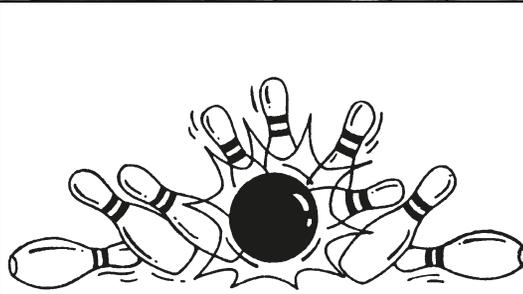
-Submitted by Jerry Siman, Branch 785



( L - R ) Helen Glugosh and Larry Glugosh, President of Sokol with assorted youth bowlers



(L - R): John Tokarsky, Jednota : Ed Bajus, Sokol,



# Palm Sunday Traditions and Throwing out the Winter Witch in Slovakia

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

Typically, winter is on its last legs as Easter approaches, and Palm Sunday signifies the much awaited beginning of new life and new hope in Christ resurrected. This article will summarize some of the Slovak customs associated with Palm Sunday and throwing out the last vestiges of winter, by literally throwing out Morena, the winter witch.

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

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

## Zvyky (Customs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other customs of Kvetná nedeľa also illustrat-

**Girls in Slovakia, often those of marriageable age, were assigned the task of parading Morena around the village.**



**Singing songs was part of the tradition of ridding the village of the old witch, Morena.**

**As with these girls in Orava, Morena was typically in articles of clothing donated by the young ladies.**



ed this fervid search for spiritual aid. In the Brezno area of central Slovakia, young mothers carried their infants to church in the belief that they might begin to speak at an earlier age. The child would blossom with the coming spring, just as plants were finding new life.

## Jedlá (Foods) on Palm Sunday

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

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

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

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

## Weather Beaters

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

Here are a few typical Pranostiky with accompanying translations.

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

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

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

Another way to ensure better weather and a bountiful harvest involved the throwing out of winter, the Vynášanie Moreny (The Throwing out of Morena). This often occurred near Kvetná nedeľa, usually the day or the week before. Morena's origins stemmed from the Old Slavic pagan era, when she represented the ancient goddess of death and winter. Later Morena came to symbolize the witch of winter.

During the Middle Ages, adults and later priests would carry a figure of Morena. By the 18th century, that changed and young girls of marriageable age were assigned the task of carrying Morena.

Early on Passion Sunday, or the night before, the girls would create Morena, each one donating an article of clothing. Typically, young Slovak girls dressed up an old woman's figure (a few villages used an old man), which they made out of sticks in the shape of a cross or parts from an old broom, and stuffed it with straw. They put a dress on the figure of Morena and paraded her around the village.

The girls would often bring her to the church, prop her against the wall, and attend a Mass or religious service. After the service, they would go to the upper end of town, arrange them-

*continued on page 7*

# Palm Sunday Traditions

continued from page 6

After creating the witch of winter, village girls would hoist her on to sticks or parts of an old broom made in the shape of a cross.



selves into a parade with Morena in the middle, and walk to the lower end of the town to the bridge, singing as they went, usually accompanied by the young men who would shout out to the pretty girls.

When they reached a bridge, a stream, or a river, they disrobed Morena, slipped her off the rod, set her afire, and tossed the blazing straw lady into the water. In some villages, after Morena was thrown into the river, each girl would also throw the piece of clothing she took off from Morena into the river and eagerly watch to see which piece of clothing would be the first to float to the shore. That might portend a future marriage. Then they tied red ribbons and silk kerchiefs on the rod, reassembled their parade form and proceeded singing along their way to the house of the mayor, who would reward them with money or a free meal for ridding the town of Morena.

During the ceremony of preparing Morena, the old witch (striga), for her fate and as they threw the old lady (stará baba) to her liquid grave, they would sing three times, as in this rendition from eastern Slovakia:

Ach Morena, Morena,  
Pre koho žeš umrela?  
My vieme, preto zaspievame:  
Pre staré dievky,  
Pre švarné dievky!

Translation:

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

A musical version from the famous 1967 film about Slovak folk customs, "Rok na dedine" (A Year in the Village): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70lq86qLjPE>.

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

One may view an old film version of the traditional throwing out of Morena from the 1933 film *Zem spieva* (The Land Sings) at this website. But we hear different songs in this rendition: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozHtY2y62Pw>.

A more modern version of the ceremony from the town of Kanianka, in the Prievidza District in the Trenčín Region of western Slovakia, may be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-I7x2IOacE>. The children in the film plead for the sun to come out and mark the coming of spring (jar), and say that Easter (Veľká noc) is beckoning to arrive.

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

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

Having experienced such a cold and snowy winter throughout much of the United States and Canada in 2014, many of us would love to throw out the old winter witch Morena and welcome back the buds of spring and the new life Christ brought for us with his glorious resurrection.

## Select Sources

Bosak, Martin and Bosak, Rudolf. Slovak Folk Customs and Traditions, eds. Helen Savinski and Darina Tuhy (Prešov: Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. Pa., U.S.A. and Michael Bosak Society, Slovak Republic, 2005): 128-132.

"BYLINKÁREŇ – PRANOSTIKY." Bylinky.biz (Accessed March 5, 2012). <http://bylinky.biz/pranostiky/april.htm>.

"Dievocký spolok," Slovenský ľudový umelecký kolektív, 2011 (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://www.ludovakultura.sk/index.php?id=3507>.

"FS Detva - Morena (Slovak Folk Songs)," Youtube (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33uLbMRoAE>.

Kalčík, Susan. "Slovak Spring Traditions: Fašiangy, Morena, Easter," Lecture at the Johnstown Community Arts Center (February 26, 2012).

Kanianka-Vynášanie Moreny 1.4.2012.f4v, Youtube (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-I7x2IOacE>.

Kopanic, Michael. "Palm Sunday Traditions in Slovakia: A Celebration with Willow Branches." March 28, 2007. <http://www.suite101.com/content/palm-sunday-traditions-in-slovakia-a17511> (accessed March 18, 2011).

Kopanic, Michael. "Slovak Customs during Holy Week: Morena, Pagan Goddess of Winter, is Set Aflame and Cast into Water." April 4, 2007. <http://www.suite101.com/content/the-coming-of-spring-a18059> (accessed March 18, 2011).

"Kvetna-nedela-2011-11." Farnosť Veľké Leváre, (Accessed March 5, 2012). <http://farnosť.velkelevare.info/sk/stalo-sa/2011/velka-noc-2011/kvetna-nedela-2011/kvetna-nedela-2011-11/>

"Kvetná nedela je poslednou pôstnou nedelou." Aktuálne.sk. March 27, 2010 (Accessed March 5, 2012). <http://aktualne.atlas.sk/kvetna-nedela-je-poslednou-postnou-nedelou/archiv/>

"MORENA a zvyky s blížiacou sa jarou na Slovensku." (Morena and the customs of a forthcoming spring in Slovakia). Jednota (March 16, 2011): 21.

"Pozvánka na farmu Veľká noc 2012," Detská farma humanita, April 21, 2011 (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://humanita.podlupou.sk/morena-morena>.

"Ridding the village of Morena," Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania. <http://www.shsnepa.org/Folktales%20and%20Legends/Seasonal/Spring/Morena.htm> (Accessed March 24, 2014).

"Rok na dedine - Jar I. avi," Youtube (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70lq86qLjPE>

Ondrejco, Susan. Slovak Radio Program, WPIT Pittsburgh. (March 20, 2011).

TASR (Press Agency of the Slovak Republic).

"V múzeách sa vrátia k tradíciám" Pravda, March 28, 2013 (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://spravy.pravda.sk/regiony/clanok/275757-v-muzeach-sa-vratia-k-tradiciam/>.

"Veľká noc má svoju moc" (Easter is powerful). Pluska.sk (accessed March 5, 2012)

<http://mamina.pluska.sk/mamina/relax/velka-noc-ma-svoju-moc.html>.

Wikipedia contributors, "Morena," last updated March 17, 2014 (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://sk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morena>.

"Zabacie stehienka a slimači kaviár: Nóbl menu? Nie, pôstne jedlá našich predkov," Plus 7 Dní, March 14, 2014 (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://www.pluska.sk/plus-7-dni/relax/zabacie-stehienka-slimaci-kaviar-nobl-menu-nie-postne-jedla-nasich-predkov.html>

"Zem spieva (1933) - Vynášanie Moreny.avi" Youtube. (Accessed March 24, 2014). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozHtY2y62Pw>

"Zvyky a tradície" (Customs and Traditions). Zitava.sk (Accessed March 5, 2012). <http://www.zitava.sk/zvyky-a-tradicie/kvetna-nedela.html>

[4 photos go with this article, in jpegs Palm Sunday 1 – 4, with captions to follow]

## Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2014 Treasure Tours

Treasure Tours is offering two trips this coming summer that visit Slovakia, continuing our strategy of immersing in the culture, traversing the country from east to west and north to south, and finding long-lost family for our travelers; proud of our 98% success rate! 2014 Treasure Tours offerings include Bratislava old town, Modra ceramics, Detva Folk Festival, Kežmarok Crafts Fest; two walled towns - Levoča and Bardejov - Prešov, Spiš Castle, staying in a castle overlooking Košice, charming Čičmany and more. July 11 to 20 - \$2,199 per person for the land trip. So new beginning of sen-



tence reads: More information is available by visiting [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) and clicking on Slovakia & The World Tab or directly from Treasure Tours, Helene Cincebeaux, 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617, (toll-free) 888 529-7150, [helenezx@aol.com](mailto:helenezx@aol.com)

**The traditional Slovak greeting of bread and salt was offered to Treasures of Slovakia tour-goer Perre DiCarlo at the beginning of a village wedding party.**

## ATTENTION POLKA LOVERS

You are invited to a

# POLKA BRUNCH

Cost: Only \$15.00 per person ~ Sunday, May 4, 2014 ~ 10a.m. to 3p.m.



10AM-12PM = Live Remote Broadcast of WDLW's

Polka Express Show featuring Tom Borowicz & Dick Bennetto.

12PM-3PM = Live Polka Concert by Jimmy K Polkas

Proceeds to benefit Valor Home of Lorain County and the United Slovak Societies charitable foundation to help fund their support of community service projects and organizations. The Polka Brunch is presented by the American Slovak Club and WDLW's "Polka Express" Radio Show.

For more information, call Len Ziilko at 440-988-3236 or e-mail him at: [nlenl@netscape.net](mailto:nlenl@netscape.net)

# Scenes from the FCSU Pittsburgh District Semi-Annual Meeting

The Pittsburgh District is working to keep our Slovak customs alive. Branch 2 hosted the annual Fall/Winter meeting of the FCSU/Pittsburgh District on Sunday, December 15, 2013 at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Attendance was excellent with 57 members representing nine branches. A Slovak Vilija dinner and Christmas Pageant followed the business meeting. The Vilija was open to the general public as well as to members. The traditional Slovak Christmas Eve dinner included oplatky, mushroom soup, baked fish, pirohy, bobalky, and homemade nut and poppyseed rolls. Following dinner, the Pittsburgh Slovaks performed a typical Christmas pageant. There were songs and dances depicting winter traditions as practiced in the Slovakia of our ancestors. Jasličkari retold the story of the coming of the Christ Child from the viewpoint of the poor shepherds. Books on Slovak Christmas customs were available for sale as well as hand-made straw ornaments.

District Officers for 2014 were elected at the business meeting, retaining the slate from 2013. Branch 38 agreed to host the spring meeting (April 6). Branch 254 will host the Fathers Day brunch (June 15). Many thanks to Rege and Barb Brekosky for providing these photos.



- Submitted by Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary



# An Easter Gift for My Readers: The Elusive Hrudka

By Allan Stevo

Easter is an important family holiday in Slovakia and "hrudka" is an Easter staple in Eastern Slovakia. I've been lucky over the years to spend Easter with close friends and family in Slovakia. I have not been able, however, to spend Easter with a family from the East, meaning that while I have heard of this food called hrudka, for 8 long years I have only been able to theorize about what this elusive food might taste like. Until now.

Over the last three weeks, I have been intensively asking people I encounter from Eastern Slovakia about hrudka. I did not expect the answers I received, but I should not have been surprised. To this point, I have not found one household that makes hrudka precisely like any other household. Despite its simple base recipe, the variations on this basic recipe are virtually endless.

Generally, hrudka, also known to some as "syrek," is made to taste salty. In some cities in Eastern Slovakia, however, the tradition is to make a sweet hrudka. Some families make their syrek very salty, akin to some very salty cheeses. One family I know of even makes hrudka that contains both a generous amount of salt and a more generous amount of sugar.

Any way you make it, hrudka tastes good. Below are two versions of hrudka that you can try at home.



Mixing the ingredients.



Creating curds and whey.



Straining with a cheesecloth or porous towel.

known for its bland taste, which isn't bad at all. Good eggs and good milk have a pleasant taste of their own.

The recipe is commonly made with 5 eggs, 10 eggs, and 15 eggs, and 0.5, 1, 1.5 liters of milk respectively.

Hrudka can be sliced thick like a piece of cheese and enjoyed alongside some meats, sausages, sliced vegetables, and horseradish on a Easter Table. Some even make sandwiches from left over hrudka.

## Recipe: Sweet Hrudka

**Ingredients:** 1 liter milk, 10 eggs, a few pinches of salt, a cup of sugar.

**Preparation Time:** 30 minutes of cooking, 3 to 4 hours setting time.

The basic recipe is the same as the savory version. Pour one liter of milk into a pot. Turn on low heat. Add 10 eggs to the milk. Add salt and sugar. Mix the mixture well with an egg beater, but do not beat vigorously. A double boiler is not needed for this process, but again be sure not to let the mixture scorch at the bottom, though honestly a little scorching will not harm anything. The sugar in the sweet hrudka, for some reason, seems to make it easier to avoid scorching than when cooking savory hrudka. Stir the mixture constantly (about 20-30 minutes) until the mixture separates into curd-like pieces and whey-like "white water." Cook the mixture for a few minutes after the white water appears.

Pour the mixture into a strainer lined with a cheesecloth or a porous kitchen towel. Pour off



Hanging to drip dry.

Tying the cloth tightly with string helps create the ball shape.



Finished hrudka can be stored for days.

the water, collect the solids. Squeeze out the liquid, being careful not to burn yourself. Tie the cloth tight and hang it in a place where it can drip dry. Some use a kitchen faucet for this purpose, others use a wooden spoon place across the top of a pot. Tie the top of the towel with a string to help create a more ball-like shape. Allow the hrudka to cool. Squeeze it a few more times before the process is complete, taking effort to really squeeze the water out of it. Place it in the refrigerator to protect from spoiling. Allow it to set for 3 or 4 hours and unwrap it. It can be stored for 2 or 3 days in aluminum foil and sometimes longer. When the hrudka has gone bad, it will be apparent that it is bad, because of the noticeable smell of rotten eggs. Until that point it is okay to eat.

The recipe is commonly made with 5 eggs, 10 eggs, and 15 eggs, and 0.5, 1, 1.5 liters of milk respectively.

As is the case with savory hrudka, the variations are unlimited with sweet hrudka as well. Freshly grated cinnamon, cardamom, a little ginger, a little ground clove, and a lot of freshly ground nutmeg and vanilla extract make a delicious sweet hrudka.

Sweet hrudka can also be sliced thick like a piece of cheese and enjoyed alongside other desserts at the end of a meal.

While delicious, it does not seem common in Slovakia to over-season hrudka. It seems that hrudka is generally known for its bland taste, which isn't bad at all. The simple ingredients, when of good quality, have a pleasant taste on their own.

I wish you a great Easter.

Reprinted with permission from the author from his post published April 21, 2011 on his popular 52 Weeks in Slovakia. To read more of Allan Stevo's writings, go to [www.52insk.com](http://www.52insk.com) or [www.AllenStevo.com](http://www.AllenStevo.com).

## Recipe: Savory Hrudka

**Ingredients:** 1 liter milk, 10 eggs, 1 tablespoon salt, 1 teaspoon pepper

**Preparation Time:** 30 minutes of cooking, 3 to 4 hours setting time.

Pour one liter of milk into a pot. Turn on low heat. Add 10 eggs to the milk. Add salt and pepper. Mix the mixture well with an egg beater, but do not beat vigorously. A double boiler is not needed for this process, just be sure not to let the mixture scorch at the bottom, but honestly a little scorching will not harm anything.

Stir constantly (about 20-30 minutes) until the mixture separates into curd-like pieces and whey-like "white water." Cook the mixture for a few minutes after the white water appears.

Pour the mixture into a strainer lined with a cheesecloth or a porous kitchen towel. Pour off the water, collect the solids. Squeeze out the liquid, being careful not to burn yourself.

Tie the cloth tightly and hang it in a place where it can drip dry. Some use a kitchen faucet for this purpose, others use a wooden spoon placed on top of a pot.

Tie the top of the towel with a string to help create a more ball-like shape. Allow the hrudka to cool. Squeeze it a few more times before the process is complete, taking effort to really squeeze the water out of it.

Place it in the refrigerator to protect from spoiling. Allow it to set for 3 or 4 hours and unwrap it. It can be stored for 2 or 3 days in aluminum foil and sometimes longer. When the hrudka has gone bad, it will be apparent that it is bad, because of the noticeable smell of rotten eggs. Until that point it is okay to eat.

The variations are unlimited. Fresh ingredients like chopped parsley or chives can be added when the white water appears and should be stirred in. Some families make very salty hrudka. Some families add a little sugar to this recipe. Some families make their hrudka very spicy.

While any of these variations will make a delicious hrudka, it seems that hrudka is generally

# REFLECTIONS ON THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS • March 2014

## Universal Intention - Respect for Women

*That all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women.*

At the end of the Second Vatican Council, the bishops published a message for women, as well as for other groups. The bishops recognized that women have an essential and unique role in nurturing human life and civilization.



"You women have always had as your lot the protection of the home, the love of beginnings, and an understanding of cradles. You are present in the mystery of a life beginning. You offer consolation in the departure of death. Our technology runs the risk of becoming inhuman. Reconcile men with life and above all, we beseech you, watch carefully over the future of our race. Hold back the hand of man who, in a moment of folly, might attempt to destroy human civilization."

Pope Francis also spoke of the valuable and beautiful contributions women make to society. He asks us to pray with him this month that all cultures may respect the rights and dignity of women so that their unique role can be fulfilled.

In *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis wrote: "The Church acknowledges the indispensable contribution which women make to society through the

sensitivity, intuition, and other distinctive skill sets which they, more than men, tend to possess." As a result, he said, "In the cultural crisis of our time, woman finds herself on the front line in the battle for safeguarding what is human."

Let us pray with the Pope and with all the Apostles of Prayer throughout the world that people everywhere may respect the rights and dignity of women. Let us pray that women may be strong in the battles against the cultures of death.

### Reflection

What are some of the "distinctive skill sets" that women possess and which make an "indispensable contribution" to society?

### Scripture

Luke 23: 27-31 Many women mourned and lamented him. Jesus, turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me...."

## Evangelization Intention - Vocations

*That many young people may accept the Lord's invitation to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.*

"Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community."

Pope Francis said this last year on Good Shepherd Sunday and continued: "Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." He reminded his hearers that Jesus himself told us to ask God the Father to "send out laborers for his harvest" (Matthew 9: 37-38). Like Jesus, the Pope is asking us to pray for vocations to religious life.

God is still calling many to serve as priests and consecrated persons, but often the call is drowned out by other voices seeking to lure people away from giving their lives to God's service. The devil would also like to discourage us from praying for vocations. He is masterminding a crisis of vocations, especially in the developed nations, including the United States and the countries of Europe, which historically have provided innumerable "laborers for his harvest."

But prayer amplifies God's voice. We must understand that our prayers are essential. Then we will pray with the faith that allowed Jesus to work miracles. Remember: there were times when Jesus "did not work many mighty deeds because of their lack of faith" (Matthew 13: 58). The Lord includes us in his work. He calls us now to pray that many will hear his call.

Speaking to seminarians and those discerning a vocation, Pope Francis said, "Evange-

lization is done on one's knees." Let us do our part this month, get on our knees, and join Pope Francis in praying for many young people to consecrate their lives to proclaiming the Gospel.

### Reflection

Where have I seen God use my prayers to bring about changes?

### Scripture

Luke 10: 1-9 "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.."

## Prayer of the Month

*Mary, you are the woman of the "yes". You said "yes" throughout your life! You learned to recognize Jesus' voice from the time when you carried him in your womb. Mary, our Mother, help us to know Jesus' voice better and better and to follow it, so as to walk on the path of life! Amen.*

*--Adapted from Pope Francis' Regina Caeli Message, April 21, 2013*



## Last Chance for Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Cities Tour 2014



What are you waiting for? This trip is a go. This is the last chance for you to get on board. Don't postpone making the decision a minute longer. We're awaiting your call or e-mail. Contact Jim Bench at 724-858-5843 or Kay Bench at 724-771-7900 or e-mail us at [jmbench@yahoo.com](mailto:jmbench@yahoo.com). This is a trip of a lifetime.

The cost of the trip including airfare, hotels, admissions, breakfast and dinners daily is \$3849.00 from Washington D.C. and \$3899.00 from Pittsburgh, Pa. We spend three nights in Bratislava, 1 night in Piešťany/Trenčín region, 2 nights in the Tatry Moun-

tains, 3 nights in Levoča, 2 nights in Košice, and 2 nights in Silač. All the hotels are 4-5 star. Remember our trip is 14 days. No matter what state you are from Paul Hudak of Adventure International will arrange for you to meet us in Washington D.C. He can be reached at Adventure International at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487.

Side trips are available to visit relatives with advance planning. Hope to hear from you.

## JEDNOTA

### Publication Schedule for 2014

#### Issue Date

**April 16**

**April 30**

**May 7**

**May 21**

**June 11**

**July 2**

**July 23**

**August 6**

**Sept 17**

**October 15**

**November 5**

**November 19**

**December 3**

#### Deadline

**April 7**

**April 21**

**April 28**

**May 12**

**June 2**

**June 23**

**July 14**

**July 28**

**Sept 8**

**October 6**

**October 27**

**November 10**

**November 24**

# Branch 784 Ann Janega Appointed Canadian Citizenship Judge

Ann Janega was sworn in as Canadian Citizenship Judge for Halifax, Nova Scotia, on January 27, 2014 in Ottawa, Canada.

As Provincial Vice-President of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, Ann Janega works with businesses, consumers, and non-governmental organizations to create and sustain economic prosperity for the community. Because of her commitment to helping businesses succeed, she was recognized as a Champion for Women in Business. Ann Janega is a former RCMP constable and the former Director of Public Affairs at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Judge Janega is a lawyer and former Deputy Minister for the Province of Nova Scotia.



In Canada, Citizenship Judges are responsible for making decisions on citizenship applications, presiding over citizenship ceremonies and administering the oath of citizenship to new citizens.

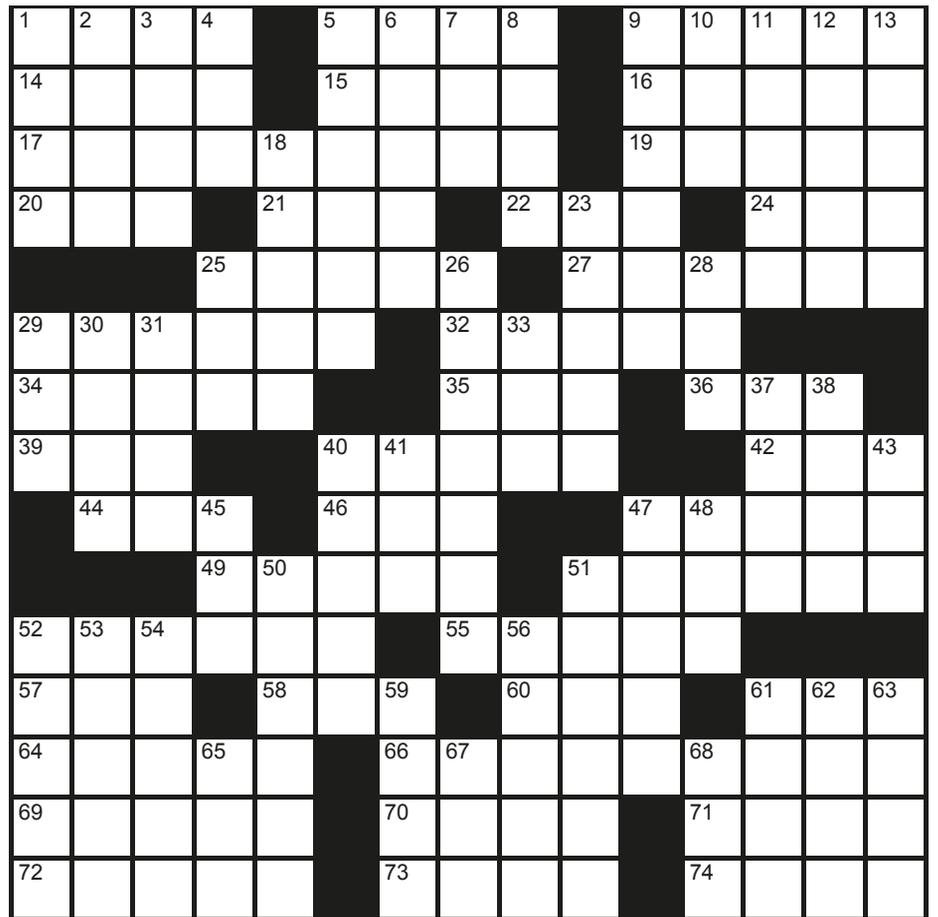
Ann Janega is a daughter of the late Matthew (Matus) Janega (Košeca/Ilava, Slovakia, and Halifax, NS) and the late Anna Micak (Budkovce, Slovakia, and Montreal, Quebec).

She is a member of Branch 784, Montreal, Canada.

Congratulations from all your family and friends.

- Submitted by Michael Micak, President of Branch 784, Montreal, Canada

# Jednota Crossword Puzzle



## Expanded Jednota Newspaper Archive Now on FCSU Website



Looking for information in a past issue? Now you can browse through 5+ years of Jednota that we have digitized. Just go to <http://www.fcsu.com/newspaper> and click on the words Newspaper Archive to access the appropriate PDF.

Or, for questions, email Jednota Editor Teresa Ivanec @ [fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com) or call her at the Home Office, 1-800-JEDNOTA, x 123.

### Across

- 1 Arizona river
- 5 Droops
- 9 Befuddle
- 14 Cupid, to the Greeks
- 15 Sheltered, at sea
- 16 Reef material
- 17 Tennessee city
- 19 Fine fiddle
- 20 Aardvark's morsel
- 21 \_\_\_ de France
- 22 Curtain holder
- 24 UN agency
- 25 British biscuit
- 27 Tiny flower
- 29 Big cat
- 32 Primitive weapon
- 34 Slacker
- 35 Prospector's need
- 36 Bar bill
- 39 Honey maker
- 40 Decelerates
- 42 Lad
- 44 Beak
- 46 Debtor's note
- 47 Sedate
- 49 Talipot palms
- 51 Drink makers
- 52 Musical passage
- 55 All
- 57 Pa. neighbor
- 58 Venomous snake
- 60 Cholera
- 61 Broke bread
- 64 Squirrel's stash
- 66 Legendary English outlaw
- 69 Craze
- 70 Assist, in a way
- 71 Against
- 72 Coasters
- 73 Overlook

### Down

- 1 Actress Rowland
- 2 Persia, now
- 3 Bewildered
- 4 Fire remnant
- 5 Jack-tar
- 6 Kind of wrench
- 7 Hair goo
- 8 Merlin, e.g.
- 9 Maine's National Park
- 10 Actor Deluise
- 11 Certain accent
- 12 Carver's
- 13 *Four Quartets* poet
- 18 Parish priest
- 23 Roasters
- 25 Petition
- 26 Marry
- 28 Crumb
- 29 Triangular sail
- 30 Gulf port
- 31 Delight
- 33 Feline foot
- 37 Fr. holy man
- 38 Orange Free State settler
- 40 Grange towers
- 41 Mauna \_\_\_
- 43 Calendar spans (Abbr.)

- 45 Slough
- 47 Femme fatale
- 48 Moron starter
- 50 Climbing vines
- 51 Deserves
- 52 Monroe's successor
- 53 Stick-on
- 54 Deserted
- 56 Good or bad feelings
- 59 Baby buggy
- 61 First-class
- 62 Carryall
- 63 Rework a paper
- 65 Purge
- 67 Japanese sash
- 68 Prosciutto

## Park 2 Annuity

# 2.15%

Interest Rate Effective July 1, 2013



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

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

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

Please contact your Branch Officer, the Home Office or visit our web site at [FCSU.com](http://FCSU.com)

FCSU Life \* 6611 Rockside Road - Suite 300 \* Independence Ohio 44131  
Phone 1-800-533-6682 \* Fax 216-642-4310 \* E-Mail: [annuity@fcsu.com](mailto:annuity@fcsu.com)

THE PARK 2 ANNUITY IS NOT AVAILABLE IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

See Solution on Page 19

# Slovak Easter Customs



The Easter customs of Slovakia are as varied as the talents of the Slovak people in their usage and adaptation. They are similar throughout the country, but vary in the three regions of Western Central, and Eastern Slovakia, as well as from city to city, village to village, and home to home.

With the approach of Holy Week, the Lenten season gives way to the joy and anticipation of the Savior's resurrection and mankind's redemption. Easter – or as it is called Slovak, Vel'ká Noc (The Great Night) – is the holiest of all religious holidays because it fulfills the promise of God's gift of salvation. Holy Saturday morning (Bielá Sobota or White Saturday) calls for the preparation of Easter breads and cakes throughout Slovakia. In Eastern Slovakia, this special bread is called Paska; in Orava and Liptov it is called Vel'konočná Babka; and in Western Slovakia instead of the Easter Paska or Babka, a cake is baked in the form of a lamb – the Vel'konočný Baránok. Bielá Sobota is also the day of the preparation and blessing of Slovak Easter baskets.

#### Staples of the Slovak Easter Basket

The staples of a Slovak Easter basket throughout Slovakia are the Paska or Babka, butter, beet-horseradish, smoked slab bacon, hard boiled eggs, salt, smoked sausage, and cooked ham. In Eastern Slovakia, a regional delicacy called Syrek (the Little Cheese) is also part of the standard Easter basket fare. Other additions to the special Slovak Easter basket may be nut and/or poppyseed rolls (orechovník and makovník) wine, specially decorated Slovak Easter eggs (called kraslice in Western and Central Slovakia and pisanky in Eastern Slovakia) and, in some regions of Slovakia, a blessed candle.

Depending on local custom, these items – either wholly or representative portions of the various foodstuffs – are placed in a basket lined with

a prized, sentimental, or favorite piece of Slovak needlework. The basket is then covered with another piece of Slovak needlework or a specially made Easter basket cloth cover of elaborate and fastidious Slovak needlepoint design. It was then taken to the church for the special blessing of Easter foods by the priest, and then brought home – the food to be eaten at the traditional Slovak Easter breakfast on Eastern Sunday morning.

Throughout Slovakia, the main course for Easter dinner is ham, but this also is accompanied with or supplemented by lamb in some parts of Slovakia. In Hlohovec (Fraštak), Nitra, Topol'čany, and their environs, as well as in other parts of Southwestern Slovakia, besides ham, another regional specialty is a part of the main course and that is a Vel'konočný Baránok made into a meatloaf, consisting of ground pork, smoked sausage, ground veal, white bread rolls, eggs, and various spices. It is baked, as is the lamb cake, in a metal form shaped like a lamb.

Easter Sunday is a day of rejoicing, feasting, and the exchange of gifting of Slovak Easter eggs to sweethearts, godchildren, relatives, and family friends.

#### Easter Celebrations throughout Slovakia

The celebration of Easter does not end on Easter Sunday, however, but continues through Vel'konočný Pondelok (Easter Monday) with the customs of Kúpanie/Oblievačka and Šibačka (dousing and switching).

Again, throughout Slovakia, these customs vary as to their observance. In some areas, only dousing is done and in others only switching, while still in other regions both customs are observed. In the areas of Bratislava and Zahoria, the tradition calls for young boys to go switching on Easter Sunday, while in Myjava, the boys switch the girls on Easter Monday. In Hlohovec, older youths instead of dousing their frajerky (sweethearts) with buckets of water, sprinkle

them with perfumed water and often in the company of musicians, they all sing, dance, drink, and eat the afternoon and evening away.

In Leopoldov, only switching was customary until the early 1990s when dousing was re-introduced as a custom. In Orava County, in the villages of Habovka and Zuberec and the surrounding area, the women douse the men on Easter Sunday and the men in turn get even on Easter Monday when they douse the women. But the women still have the last say, as they switch the men on Easter Tuesday. The custom dictates, however, that the men go house to house to perform the dousing of women and are feasted and entertained in the process, while the women have to catch the men outside of the houses to do their dousing. The customs of Oblievačka and Šibačka are practiced with variations in Trenčín, Spiš, Orava, Liptov, Šariš, Zemplín and all the other regions of Slovakia.

The Easter customs of the land of our ancestors are indeed many and varied and much of their original meaning has been lost or obscured in our pre-Christian past, which is well over a thousand years old. The Slovaks were the first Slavic people to accept Christianity officially in 863 A.D. from Saints Cyril and Methodius. But likewise, many of our Eastern customs are Christian in origin, such as the foods which are significantly tied to Christian religious symbolism. And although the switching and dousing customs may have their origin in pre-Christian times, a plausible theory could argue that they someone represent the scourging of Christ at the pillar and the rite of baptism, since unlike today where baptism is a year around sacrament, it previously took place usually only at Easter.

Radostné Aleluja!

- Reprinted From *Easter Customs*  
by Thomas Klimek Ward in Zornicka

# Chewy and the Korbáč



## Hi, Kids (and those Young at Heart).

It's me, Chewy. How's been by you? Crazy busy here. Even though Easter is later this year, I can hardly believe it's almost upon us. Of course, I really couldn't forget what time of year it is because my buddies here at the First Catholic Slovak Union dusted off this costume and stuck me in it once again. Not that I mind: it's all in good fun.

I do look smokin' cute in these bunny ears, if I do say so myself. What's with the braided stick, you ask? It's called a korbáč and it has a very special purpose during the Easter season in Slovakia. Check out the extremely cool article on the next page. That smart dude talks about our Easter customs in Slovakia, and he's so right! I remember every year, way up in the Tatra Mountains where I was born, suitors would visit the girls from our homestead on Easter Monday morning —“whipping” them with the korbáč or dousing them in cold water. No worries, the guys don't seriously whip them (not like when my brother got caught stealing a slice of šunka right off of the dining room table. I may have mentioned this unfortunate incident before. Now that was bad). This is more like a flick in the general direction of your sweetie. I've been told the korbáč - made from fresh stripling wood -symbolizes a wish for health and strength. That's all good, right? Ditto getting “hit” with water, meant as a kind of good luck gesture for freshness and new life. The ladies I knew never got soaked. It was really more like a few sprinkles than a big ol douse of H<sub>2</sub>O. Especially if the guys were smart and wanted a certain young lady to like them; better not ruin her hair or dress!

Anyway, I do hope whatever you do this Easter, you and your loved ones have a Happy, Happy Day. I'll be thinking of you!

Until next time, keep your ears up and your tail waggin'



Tvoj Priateľ  
Chewy

## Easter Traditions From Slovakia

Lubos Brieda, [slovakcooking.com](http://slovakcooking.com)

### Bear Paws (Medvedie Labky)



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

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

### Hearts (Srdiečka)



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

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

### Rings (Venčeky)



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

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

### Rum Balls (Rumové Guľky)



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

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

### Walnuts (Oriešky)



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

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

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

### Chocolate Truffles (Šuhajdy)



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

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

### Fánky



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

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

### Šišky (Donuts)

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



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

You will find all these recipes along with step-by-step photo instructions at [SlovakCooking.com](http://SlovakCooking.com)

# BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OH

The Saint Joseph Society- Branch 1 will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. At this meeting they will elect the delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions please call 216.228.8179.

**Cynthia Niznik, Secretary**

## BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2014. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Avenue, NE.

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

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

Branch 3 will hold their delegate elections to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at 9:00AM at Sts Cyril & Methodius Church Hall.

Fraternally,

**James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

At its recent March 9th meeting, the branch decided to reschedule its next meeting from April 13 to April 27, 2014, as this year April 13th falls on Palm Sunday. The meeting will be held after the Mass, at approximately 9:30AM, in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. All members are encouraged to attend.

Fraternally,

**Henry Zack, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

**Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 75KJ will hold a meeting on April 6, 2014, at 10:00AM at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 17872. This will be the branch's annual meeting, held for the election of officers for the 2014 calendar year. On the agenda: election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention in August. For more information, contact Ronald M. Anderson at the above address or by calling 570-648-7012.

**Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 55 – BROOMHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 55 K.J. will hold a meeting on

Sunday, May 4, 2014, at 2:00 P.M. at the residence of Steve and Josephine Gerba at the Wesley Enhanced Living Complex, 8401 Roosevelt Boulevard, Apt. P114, Philadelphia, PA. Elections will be held for Delegates and their Alternates to the FCSU's 50th Quadrennial Convention. This 2014 Convention will be held in Philadelphia, and hosted at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel on August 23-27, 2014.

If you wish to attend, please call the President at (610) 356-7956 or the Secretary at (215) 637-6530, as we need a head count for the lunch that will be catered. For directions to the meeting, please call either number.

Fraternally yours,

**Helena T. Gaydos, President**

## BRANCH 85 – BLAKELY, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Florian Society, Branch 85K, will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 7:00PM at the Jessup American Legion Post 411, Church ST., Jessup, PA.

The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Convention of the FCSU to be held in Philadelphia, PA, August 23 – 27, 2014.

**Bernard Skovira, President**

## BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

St. Stephen Branch 153 will hold a meeting at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 5. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the August 2014 convention in Philadelphia, along with other business.

Please call Dorothy Jurcenko at 773 763-0810 for the meeting location and directions.

**Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, April 13, 2014, at 1:15 P.M., at Hibachi Grill and Sushi Supreme Buffet, Town Square Mall, 2433 Vestal Parkway East, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. In addition, delegates and alternate delegates from Branch 166 will be elected to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU to be held at the Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia Hotel on August 23-27, 2014. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Sue Gabriel at 607-729-8034 or Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 10, 2014, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

**Arlo Meeker, President**

## BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 will be holding a special meeting at 7:00PM on April 10, 2014 to reelect delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union which will be held in Philadelphia in August.

My apologies to our members on the incorrect date for Br. 200's anniversary. Our 125th/Quasiquicentennial anniversary will be in 2020 not 2015. Since we have a few years to organize this, I am asking our members to send me copies of pictures, stories, memorabilia, etc. to compile a "history" booklet. All and any information will be greatly appreciated. I would gladly sit down with anyone to hear your stories. My email address is: vschaub123@hotmail.com, phone: 724-763-9229, address: 623 5th Avenue, CU Club's address: 910-6th Avenue, Ford City. Let's all work together to

make this a great success.

Fraternally,

**Vicki L. Schaub Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their next meeting on Monday, April 21, 2014 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and by-law review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 15, 2014. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. I appeal to our younger members to become active in our lodge to help direct our branch as well as becoming involved with the Slovak Club and the United Slovak Societies. This is the convention year and a lot of items will be discussed at our meetings. Input from any and all members is appreciated. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

**Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 254 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 254 will hold a meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2014, at noon at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria Mall located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031.

**Albina Senko, Financial Secretary/ Treasurer**

## BRANCH 290 – RARITAN, NEW JERSEY

St. John the Baptist, Branch 290, will hold a meeting at 7:30PM on May 7, 2014. We will elect our delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union at this meeting. Please call Joe at (732) 469-5256 after 6PM for information on the meeting place.

**Joseph F. Minarovich, President**

## BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 320 will hold its next meeting on May 4, 2014, at 11:30AM at the home of Frances Tarquinio at 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, along with other items. Any questions, please call Frances at (724) 929-9788.

Fraternally,

**Mary Anne Higginbotham, President**

## BRANCH 372 - BEVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

There will be a special meeting will be held at 2:00PM on Sunday, April 6, 2014, for the election of delegate(s) for the 2014 FCSU Convention in August. The meeting will be held at the residence of President Michael P. Hudak, Sr., located at 829 Cameron Ave., Beaverdale, PA. The only business to be discussed will be the election of delegate(s) to the 2014 Convention.

Respectfully,

**Michael P. Hudak, President**

## BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Cyril & Methodius Society, Branch 382K, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold a Pre-Convention Meeting at noon on Sunday, May 18, 2014. Branch members will gather in the VFW Post 3474, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

On the agenda will be information on the Quadrennial Convention set for August 2014. Members will have the opportunity to offer suggestions regarding items to be brought to Convention.

In addition, members will discuss possible summer activities for young members of Branch 382K. The District 17 picnic will also be discussed.

A report of the District 17 spring meeting will be given. Members will hear any updated information from the Home Office.

Light refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to attend.

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is president. Other officers are Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael J. Czankner, recording secretary; Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer; and John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary.

**Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President**

## BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 2:00PM at New City Buffet, 5142 State Route 30, Suite 175, Greensburg, PA, 15601. On the agenda: election of two delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU to be held in Philadelphia in August. All members are invited. For reservations, please call Mary Ann Nalevanko at 1-724-834-6386.

**Mary Ann Nalevanko, Financial Secretary**

## BRANCH 401 – E. VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 401 will hold its semiannual meeting on April 13, 2014, at 1:00pm at the residence of Patrick Froncek, 1223 Wysocki Ave., N. Apollo, PA. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU. All interested members are encouraged to attend. Any questions please call 724-664-8216.

Fraternally,

**Patrick Froncek, Secretary**

## BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 419 will hold a meeting/luncheon on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 12:30PM at Norm's on Sherman Street in Wilkes-Barre, PA. General business as well as convention plans will be discussed. Also we will pay tribute to our recent past president, Marie Gryczko.

**Francis (Frank) Wassil, President**

## BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 450 will be holding a meeting on Saturday April 26, 2014 at 10 am at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma Ohio 44129. (between Snow and Brookpark Roads).

**Lori Valencik, Recording Secretary**

## BRANCH 567 KJ – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Branch 567 KJ will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 1:00PM at 419 East Hamilton St., Allentown, Pa. 18109. The officers for the year 2014 are: President, Bernadine Gerhard; Recording Secretary, Financial

*continued on page 17*

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 26, 2014 following the 5:00P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, PA. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the Convent. On the agenda will be the election of one delegate and one alternate for the FCSU 2014 Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA. All branches are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

**Linda L. Gonta, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 38 will host the spring meeting for the Pittsburgh District starting 1PM at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin, PA. The meeting date is April 6, 2014. The meeting will include officers' reports and discussion of district business. Branch 254 will have the details for the Fathers Day Brunch on June 15.

District activities for the 50th FCSU convention will also be discussed at this meeting. We will elect our District Delegate and Alternate. The district will be scheduling a delegates' meeting in early summer. (The Call for Convention can be found at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com).)

The district notice will be updated following the spring meeting.

While we look forward to seeing everyone at the FCSU district meetings, remember there are many other local Slovak events that also merit your attention:

\*\* A Slovak Wine Tasting will be held Saturday, April 5, 1 PM, at Sonoma Grill in Pittsburgh. Admission \$35 payable in advance; limited to 60 participants. Call Joe at 412-531-2990 for reservations.

\*\* WPSCA is again offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava. Completed applications must be received by April 15.

\*\* Pittsburgh Folk Festival – Monroeville Convention Center – Friday, May 9, 2014.

\*\* Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 17. Discount tickets will be available at our Fathers Day Brunch on June 15 or email Sue at [smosr@verizon.net](mailto:smosr@verizon.net).

\*\* The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is open Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations at 412-421-1204 or by email to [smosr@verizon.net](mailto:smosr@verizon.net).

\*\* The 15th Genealogical & Cultural Conference of the Czecho Slovak Genealogical So-

ciety International will be held on Oct 21-24, 2015 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See [www.cgsl.org](http://www.cgsl.org). Cedar Rapids is the home of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. See [www.ncsml.org](http://www.ncsml.org).

\*\* Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See [www.slavic.pitt.edu](http://www.slavic.pitt.edu)

\*\* If you're interested in study abroad, the University of Presov has a number of interesting programs, including the study of Rusyn Language and Customs. Check out [www.unipo.sk/en/](http://www.unipo.sk/en/).

\*\* Western PA Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

Anyone with additional Slovak events in Western Pennsylvania that they wish to be included in our district notice should send information to [manasta@verizon.net](mailto:manasta@verizon.net)

Fraternally,

**Margaret A. Nasta, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 7 - THE REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT - BLAIR, CAMBRIA, INDIANA, SOMERSET, AND BEDFORD COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA

The Semi-annual meeting of the Rev. John Martvon District will be held May 18, 2014, at the Beaverdale Fire Station, 411 Cedar Street, Beaverdale, PA. The meeting will begin at 2:00PM with St. Joseph's Society, Branch 372, as the host.

On the agenda will be a discussion on the upcoming 50th Quadrennial Convention and other district business.

**Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary**

### DISTRICT 11 – MONSIGNOR JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT

District 11 will be holding its biannual meeting on Sunday, April 27th at the Slovak Club Br. 200 located at 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA @ 2:00 pm. Delegate nomination & election will be held for representation at the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU in Philadelphia, PA. Please send a branch representative to the meeting. Look forward to seeing each of you!

Fraternally,

**Grace Charney, Secretary**

### DISTRICT 12 – MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA

District 12 will hold its next meeting on May 4, 2014, at 1:00PM at King's Restaurant in Bentleyville, PA. The agenda will include the election of our delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, along with other items. Any questions, please call Dorothy at (724) 379-5881.

Fraternally,

**Dorothy Petrus, President**

### DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

The Rev. Kostik District will hold a special meeting, Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 6:00PM. Please note the meeting place has been changed to: Inner Circle Pizza, 1816 Boardman Poland Rd, Rt. 224, Poland, OH. Delegate nomination and election will be held for representation at the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU in Philadelphia, PA. All member branches are urged to attend. The district is also planning bus transportation to the convention. Any one interested from Youngstown/Akron area please call Carla Peshek at 330-779-3927 for more information.

Fraternally,

**Carla Peshek, President**

### DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will celebrate a Mass on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014. The celebration begins at 12:00 noon at St. John Bosco Chapel at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. The celebrant will be Fr. Pavol Sochulak from Ontario, CA. The meeting will follow in the cafeteria. On the agenda will be: Preparation for 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, considerations of recommended changes to the existing Bylaws of the FCSU, the promotion and schedule of District fraternal activities, and First Catholic Slovak Union Insurance program information. After the meeting there will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a Slovak gourmet lunch, dessert and refreshments will be served. Children will enjoy traditional Easter Egg hunt.

Then, on Saturday, April 26, 2014, District 15 together with Branch 844 will hold a special meeting to reelect delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia, PA. This meeting will be held at 12:00 noon at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Suite A, Fullerton CA 92831.

Sincerely,

**Paul Skuben**

### DISTRICT 16 - MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT - NEW YORK CITY

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District, District 16, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at 1:00PM in the Rectory of St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, 1st Avenue, New York, NY 10065.

On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities and other business. We urge all district branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU, not only district representatives, are welcome.

After the meeting, refreshments will be served, courtesy of The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, NYC.

Fraternally,

**Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer**

## ALL – NEW TOURS!

## VISIT SLOVAKIA & THE WORLD



At the First Catholic Slovak Union, we are constantly updating our website to make it more useful, more informative – fresher. We have just added an entirely new list of tours to Slovakia guided by FCSU members under our informational tab called SLOVAKIA & THE WORLD. Here you can also find information on news and views related to our shared heritage – such as the latest video highlighting beautiful Slovakia.

Visit [www.fcsu.com/slovakia-and-the-world](http://www.fcsu.com/slovakia-and-the-world) today.

## R eminder...

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](mailto: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., Suite 300 Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: [info@fcsu.com](mailto:info@fcsu.com)



# 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
003K	Michael Stanley Tomczyk	181K	Alexej Demacek	367K	Ann Obertach	731K	Steve J. Yanek Sr.
003P	Dolores Ann Hanincik	199K	Joseph J Menarcheck	380K	Joseph A Furchak	731K	Rosella M Fiumara
023K	Louise A. Paige	199K	Joseph J Menarcheck	380K	Helen Tulock	731K	Thomas E Kuropchak
024K	Robert S Bender	200K	Betty J Canzano	388K	Susan C Sass	733K	George Zawoysky
024K	Donald George Zeleznik	213K	George Ivanko	401K	Andrew J Vida	743K	Magdeline M Westmore
038K	John Krajnak	228K	John W Dziak Sr	410K	Theresa Kostelnik	746K	Margaret Swentko
040K	Rita M Adamchak	228K	Kathleen A. Holiday	414K	Paul A. Matis	746K	Susan Tkach
041K	Ethel K Fedorcza	228K	Kathleen Russo	419K	Emily Marie Mully	756K	Helen M Gasparovic
060K	Mildred J Schur	240P	Jean M Ahearn	553K	Ann D. Kline	784K	Anthony A. Peltzner
075K	Margaret A. Grzybowski	260K	Helen J. Lencyk	553K	Marian L. Marzick	796K	Paul A. Neupauer Sr.
089K	Katherine Igorski	266K	Eleanor M Novitsky	567K	Catherine M Solga	796K	Anna V. Kluscarits
089K	Rudolph S Pagach	276K	George Yunecko	581K	Ryan Andrew Yates	831K	Keith D. Vaughan
090K	Alberta Peranich	280K	John M. Strapac Jr.	628K	Anthony Zilka	855K	Wallace I Kerczewski
122K	Guy D Lalic	293K	Paul L. Getz	671K	Robert V. Delso	855K	Agnes V Kolosky
162K	Irene R. Briscar	293K	Margaret Ann Suto-Hausel	682K	Mary E Deley	855K	Phyllis N Lipaj
163K	Stephen J. Jenco Sr.	308K	Rudolph R. Schlosser	682K	Dorothy Ann Colucci	890K	Mary T Bachleda
166K	John R Urban	308K	Pauline M Sabo	702K	Michael D. Genczo	890K	James G. Waversak Jr.
173K	Bernardine V Kalna	313K	Rudolph Bartak	706K	Raymond Kuratnik	900K	John P. Straneva
181K	Nicholas Adam Tarasky	327K	Margaret I Messer	729K	Theresa Opatik		
		333K	Agnes K Lidgett				

\*Processed through the month of March 2014

## OBITUARIES

**WALTER ROBERT (BOBBY) URBAN**  
BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY



Walter Robert (Bobby) Urban, 67, of Hillsborough, NJ, passed away on February 11, 2014, in Cripple Creek, Colorado.

A Memorial Mass was held at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 20, 2014, at Mary, Mother of God Church, 157 South Triangle Road, Hillsborough, NJ.

Walter was born in Newark, NJ, on October 19, 1946 to Walter and Rose (Betlow) Urban. He was married to Cathleen Cuper on November 5, 1966 at Holy Family Church, Linden, NJ. They resided in Linden until 1977, when they moved to Hillsborough with their two daughters.

Walter worked for CBM of America in Edison, NJ, for the past eight years. He had previously worked for Danly Die Set in Union, NJ, for 40 years. He had enjoyed numerous activities with his wife, including fishing and boating, and especially treasured spending time with their daughters and their families. He also enjoyed playing with and caring for his dog, Skye.

Walter is survived by his wife, Cathleen, daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and George Benenati of Cripple Creek, CO, and Kimberly and Jonathan Swank, of Woodland Park, CO, and three granddaughters, Courtney, Madison and Lauren Swank. He is also survived by two sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Margaret and John Syarto of Jackson, NJ, and Susan and Jacob Strassburger of Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ, numerous nieces and nephews and cousins.

- submitted by Cathleen Urban

## St. Thomas A'Becket 2014 Fish Fry



During the Lenten Season, St. Thomas A'Becket Church at 138 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA, began their Fish Fry beginning the First Friday of Lent, March 7, 2014. Following that, a Fish Fry is scheduled every Friday in Lent. This will be held in the School Building at 139 Gill Hall Road. The hours are 3:30PM – 7:00PM each Friday, including Good Friday. Take outs are available by calling 412-655-9966.

The menu includes: hand-breaded cod, baked cod dinners, fried fish sandwich, shrimp dinner, combo platter (fried) fish and shrimp, tuna melts. Dinners include: 2 sides and a beverage. Children's menu available. Also homemade mac-n-cheese, haluski, soup, fries, pizza. The Special for Good Friday will be pierogies (pirohy).

All are welcome! For more information, call 412-655-2885 or 412-653-4322.

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN



Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

A great source for the latest information about our Society - and events in the greater Slovak community.

## Pageant Seeks Young Ladies of Slovak Descent to Participate



The Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant is on the search for the 2014 Miss Czech-Slovak US. For over 27 years the Miss Czech-Slovak US has been producing heritage ambassadors for all Slovaks and Czechs across the United States.

Now, we are looking for more. The national website [www.miss-czechslovakus.com](http://www.miss-czechslovakus.com) has been updated with the 2014 Rules and Pageant Entry Form.

The goal of the Miss Czech-Slovak US organization is to award scholarships to young women who are excited to preserve our wonderful traditions. The Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant is the only heritage pageant where contestants participate completely 100% in kroj (traditional dress). An outstanding representative is proud of her heritage and enjoys speaking about her culture.

The Miss Czech-Slovak US pageant awards over \$10,000 in cash and prizes to contestants across the United States. The 2014 Miss Czech-Slovak US will win \$2000 cash and \$2500 towards a trip to the Czech or Slovak Republic. 1st Runner Up receives a \$1500 Cash Prize and 2nd Runner Up receives a \$1000 Prize. We also provide awards for Best Americanized and Authentic Kroj, Grand and Runner Up Talent, Best Oratory Skills, Lois Fiala Spirit Award, Miss Congeniality, Sokol Talent, and Heritage Involvement.

Contestants for the pageant must be single, female, aged 16-26, of Slovak or Czech descent. The pageant is held August 1, 2, and 3, 2014, in Wilber, NE, located 30 minutes south of Lincoln, NE.

The pageant has 9 states with state pageant competitions (IA, KS, MO, MN, NE, OK, SD, TX, and WI) and all other states qualify through our at-large program. There are four categories of competition: private interview, kroj modeling, onstage interview, and talent. Talent presentations include a variety of skills including dancing, singing, presentations on heritage, poetry, orations and much more!

If you know a young lady who is excited to preserve our culture please send this to them. You may discover the next Miss Czech-Slovak US!

- Submitted by MaryElizabeth Lackey, Miss Czech-Slovak US Pageant Director

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

# FREE

## Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the newly published Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) - the very foundations of our Society have been built on values that honor and protect our loved ones. The FCSU portfolio of insurance and annuity products itself, they point out, is designed with the financial protection of loved ones in mind, as well.

Now, as a member of the FCSU, you can receive a valuable tool for free that allows you to help your loved ones once again. Inside the pages of this personal record keeper are easy ways to record and centralize all the pertinent information for processing your estate – from personal, medical and financial information to life insurance policies, real estate holdings and other assets to final wishes for your family.

To request your free copy of the First Catholic Slovak Union Estate Planning Booklet, please call at 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682).

## BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

*continued from page 14*

Treasurer/Secretary, Loretta Dashner and Auditor, John Dashner.

A discussion will be held concerning the upcoming FCSU 50th Quadrennial Convention being held in Philadelphia, PA in August 2014.

We will also discuss our fundraising plans for this year.

Thank you and God Bless You!

**Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Sacred Heart Branch 580 will hold a meeting on April 6, 2014, after the 9:30 Mass in the Holy Trinity Social Hall at 529 Grant Ave Ext., West Mifflin, PA 15122. All members are welcome.

**Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary**

### BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 will hold its next meeting, April 13, 2014. This meeting has been moved to the second Sunday of the month due to Easter. If unable to attend this meeting, please mark your calendar for the May meeting to be held at 2:00PM, May 18, 2014. Both meetings will be held at 2526 Sixth Street, Muskegon Hts., Michigan, 49444. All members are encouraged to attend and to show support of the organization and branch.

Branch 595 also will be having a HARD TIMES PARTY on April 26, 2014. Donate your used household items and receive a dinner ticket for a wonderful BBQ, CHIPS, PICKLE & DESSERT. There will be raffles, 50/50 drawings, silent auctions and fun for everyone. April 27, 2014 is our breakfast. Make sure you invite your family and friends to meet them for a nice Sunday Breakfast.

Fraternally,

**Cindy Bellefeuil, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

A meeting of Branch 628, St. Michael Archangel will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM at 141 Bellevue Drive, Penn Hills, PA. The agenda will consist of the election of delegates for the upcoming convention.

Sincerely,

**Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary**

### BRANCH 633 – FLINT, MICHIGAN

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 633, will hold its first meeting of 2014 at 1:00PM on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Teppanyaki Grill & Buffet at G-3583 Miller Road in Flint (former Old Country Buffet) by the Target store. All members are urged to attend.

**Eva Craine, Secretary**

### BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 670 will hold its next meeting on May 4, 2014, at 12:00 PM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, PA. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, along with other items. Any questions, please call Dorothy at (724) 379-5881.

Fraternally,

**Dorothy Petrus, President**

### BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 2:30PM, Branch 682 will hold a special meeting to elect delegates from the branch to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU. It will

be held at MRL, 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH. This is the former school building behind Holy Trinity Church.

Please try to attend.

Thank you,

**Andrew J. Hirt, President**

### BRANCH - 735 PORTLAND, OREGON

Branch 735's Annual Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner will be Sunday, April 13, 2014 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church at NW 19th & NW Savier Portland, Oregon 97202, with the meeting beginning at 1:00 pm and dinner served at 1:30 pm. Turkey breast slices will also be available. Included with dinner will be mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, green salad with dressing, bread, coffee, tea and punch. Please bring a dessert to share. The cost for the dinner will remain the same as last year: \$4.00 per person; \$12.00 for an immediate family of four or more.

This year we will have a special door prize! Sharon and Joe Daggy have passed along two lovely framed Slovak embroidery pictures. In 2003-2004 their son, Adam, was an exchange student in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. A friend gave him the samples of traditional embroidery that were crafted by her grandmother. Every person attending the Dinner will receive a Raffle Ticket and after dinner a ticket will be drawn for the winner of these two beautiful pictures.

Contact for more information: Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, 503-647-4600 (h), 503-314-5065 (c); chirst811@gmail.com.

**Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, Event Coordinator**

### BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael's Branch 738 will be holding its semiannual meeting on Tuesday April 8, 2014, at 6:30 pm at the VFW Post on Whitaker Way in Munhall, Pa. All members are encouraged to attend. In addition to the regular business meeting nominations and election of delegates to the National Convention in August 2014 will be held. Come join us and become a more active member of your branch.

**Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer**

### BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold a Mass on Pam Sunday April 13, 2014 at St. John Bosco High School located on 13640 Bellflower Blvd., Bellflower, CA 90706. Mass will begin at 12:00 noon. Refreshments will be served after Mass in cafeteria and children will enjoy traditional Egg hunt.

Then on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 12:00 noon, Branch 844 will hold a special meeting together with District 15 to elect delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention 2014. The meeting will be held at the Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Suite A, Fullerton CA 92831.

**Milan Konkol, Secretary**

### BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Branch 855 hereby gives notice to all members of a meeting to be held on April 27, 2014, in the Borromeo Room of the Parish Activity Center of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church at 5891 Ridge Road, Parma, OH 44129. The purpose of the meeting is the election of eight [8] delegates and alternate delegates from our branch to the upcoming 2014 National Convention. The meeting will convene at 2:00PM. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Linda Kolesar at 1-440-886-0206 by April 18, 2014 if you plan on attending.

**Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer**

## Edward U. DePersis Named 2014 FSGP Fraternalist of the Year



The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) has named Edward "Ed" U. DePersis – longtime consultant for many fraternal benefit societies, which includes the First Catholic Slovak Union – as their 2014 Fraternalist of the Year.

Ed has been serving the fraternal benefit society community since 1970, when he joined the Catholic Knights of St. George as corporate secretary. In 1980, he joined the firm of Bruce & Bruce Consulting Actuaries and has been serving Pittsburgh/Cleveland area domiciled fraternalists. In 1996, in recognition of his contributions to the firm, the Pittsburgh office was designated as Bruce & DePersis. He has made presentations on insurance and fraternal-related topics on the national, state, and local level, and has had numerous articles published in trade magazines.

Ed received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh. He is the father of four children and five grandchildren; and he has four stepchildren, with 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. His late wife, Valerie Wojciak DePersis, was a former vice president for the Polish Falcons of America, and secretary of the FSGP for 10 years. She was honored as FSGP Fraternalist of the Year in 2006. She died of cancer in 2010. Ed is a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 38. He was recently installed into membership in Legatus, an organization of Catholic business leaders.

FSGP is comprised of 17 fraternal benefit societies and nine business-associated groups. Each year, FSGP selects a member who displays active leadership in promoting the fraternal spirit and who has made valuable contributions to the fraternal benefit community. Ed was honored by the FSGP at a banquet on Saturday, March 22, 2014, at the Sheraton Hotel-Station Square in Pittsburgh, PA.



(L- R.) Sister  
Barbara Sable,  
Sister Jeanne Ambre

## Baking Girl Scout Cookies

Sister Jeanne Ambre, SS.C.M. and Sister Barbara Sable, SS.C.M. recently baked Girl Scout Cookies based on the original Girl Scout cookie recipe as part of an observance of the 102nd anniversary of Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts began in the United States in 1912, and cookie sales were initiated as a tool to bring in funds to help the troops, starting in 1917. The cookies were baked by the Scouts and their mothers from 1917 – 1936, at which time the baking was turned over to professional bakers. March 12 marked the 102 anniversary of Girl Scouts in the United States, and coincided with Girl Scout Cookie Sales. Through today's Girl Scout Cookie Program, Girl Scouts learn skills essential to success in life, like financial literacy, innovation, and more. Scouts can earn badges through the cookie program that teach life and business skills such as goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.

Sister Jeanne Ambre is a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA, and is Spiritual Advisor for the Harrisburg Diocesan Committee for Catholic Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls. Sister Jeanne and Sister Barbara were themselves Girl Scouts through the Senior level in Gary, Indiana.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable, SSCM



*Kent-Dudince Sister City Association*

**Eleventh Annual Anniversary Banquet**  
**Sunday, May 18, 2014**

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

1:00 pm -- Social Hour      2:00 pm -- Dinner      3:00 pm -- Program

**Music by Johnny Pastirik during Social Hour and Dinner**  
Dancing following the program

**Pittsburgh Slovaks**  
Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, Directors

**Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland**  
Nadia Oros, Choreography      Tom Ivanec, Director/Program Coordinator

**Tickets - \$20.00 per person**  
**Catered by Tom's Country Place of Avon, Ohio**  
**Advance ticket sales only**  
**Deadline for purchasing tickets: May 9, 2014**

Ticket orders with directions will be mailed. Please include names of all guests.  
**Donation of Baked Goods would be appreciated**

**Ticket Order Form ---- Kent-Dudince Sister City ---- Anniversary Banquet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

List others attending (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ticket orders with directions will be mailed  
Make Check payable to: Kent-Dudince Sister City Association  
Mail to: Dr. George Wargo, Treasurer,  
858 Stonewater Drive, Kent, Ohio 44240 (330-677-9094)



## 2014 September Slovakia Heritage Tour to End in Krakow

This September's Slovakia Heritage Tour (September 4-14, 2014) will finish with a day in Krakow, Poland. This small group, 10-day tour will travel the heartland of Slovakia from Bratislava and the Tatry Mountains to Košice and Bardejov with time to get out into the countryside and cities to meet the people and learn about the history and culture. People will have time to visit their family villages, if they choose. Other positives to ending the tour in Krakow: the city has very good air connections for those returning to the states, and it will be a good launching point for trip extensions to Prague, Warsaw, or other eastern locations. Another plus for devout Catholics, is that it is the spiritual home of Pope John Paul II and there are museums and churches dedicated to his memory.

For more information on the September Slovakia Heritage Tour (Sept 4-14), visit the FCSU website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com) and click on the Slovakia & The World tab or go directly to the Slovak Heritage Tour website at [www.slovakiaheritage.com](http://www.slovakiaheritage.com) or contact Tour Director Judith Northup-Bennett at 978-544-5144 or [connectionswork4u@hotmail.com](mailto:connectionswork4u@hotmail.com).

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



(L-R): Ivan S. Kralik and Edward Michuda of Branch 313; Marion Cioe (nee Petrusek) Branch 194; and Angelyn Lindberg (nee Michuda) Branch 180.

## Jednota Members Help Donate to Catholic University of Ružomberok, Slovakia

Ivan S. Kralik presented a letter of appreciation from the Rector of the Catholic University of Ružomberok to the committee of former parishioners of Holy Rosary Slovak Church, Roseland, IL, for their \$1000.00 donation to help fund the library's book collection. The Catholic University of Ružomberok was established in the year of 2000 and is the only Catholic university in Slovakia. Mr.Kralik made the donation arrangements.

- Submitted by Edward Michuda, Branch 313

## Slovaks on the Move in the NHL

Tichomir Miko



Very rare indeed are the players who spend their entire career with one team as did Stan Mikita who spent 22 years with the Chicago Blackhawks. Today, with thirty teams in the league, the life of an NHL hockey player is not unlike that of a desert nomad - here today, gone tomorrow. Not even Wayne Gretzky was allowed to stay put, wandering from Edmonton to Los Angeles and St. Louis before finally hanging up his skates in New York.

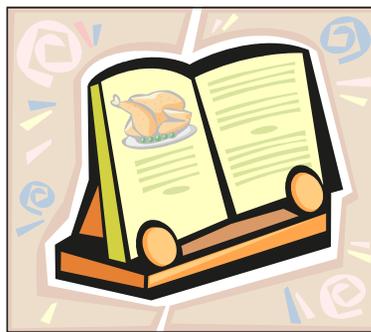
Wednesday, March 5, 2014, as the NHL trade deadline, and several Slovak players found themselves suddenly packing their bags and heading for new oases. Net-minder Jaroslav Halak had already been uprooted from St. Louis and transferred to Buffalo the previous week only to be used as a bargaining chip by the struggling Sabres to acquire much needed fire power for their offensive ranks. Hours before the noon deadline on Wednesday, he was on the move again to Washington where he will don a Capitals jersey. In 40 games this season, Halak is 24-9-4 with a 2.23 goals-against average and .917 save percentage. He can be an unrestricted free agent after this season.

Speedy Slovak right winger Marian Gaborik will be donning a Los Angeles jersey for the remainder of the season. Los Angeles is currently in sixth place in the Western Conference and is virtually assured of making the playoffs. Three teams in the NHL have scored fewer goals than the Kings; Gaborik will be expected to help remedy that situation. Gaborik was traded on NHL Trade Deadline day last season as well, when the New York Rangers moved him to the Blue Jackets. Gaborik played in 34 of 74 games with the Blue Jackets. He missed 40 games this season with injuries, including 23 with a broken collarbone that prevented him from playing for Slovakia in the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

The Philadelphia Flyers recently traded Slovak defenseman Andrej Meszaros to the Boston Bruins for a conditional third-round pick in the 2014 NHL Draft. The Bruins have been looking to add veteran depth on defense since the season-ending knee injury sustained by Dennis Seidenberg last December.

Meszaros has five goals and 12 assists in 38 games averaging 17:22 of ice time. Though he has played six of the past seven games, he was a healthy scratch 23 times in the Flyers' first 55 games. He played four games for Slovakia at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. In Boston, he will be re-united with Team Slovakia's captain, Zdeno Chara. The 28-year-old Meszaros is healthy for the first time in three seasons after back, shoulder and Achilles injuries.

## Carpathian Cookery Features Easter customs & Recipes



The Carpathian Cookery cookbook, has entered its 15th printing, having sold over 15,000 copies, is available for sale. This cookbook was requested by the Library of Congress to be in their ethnic cooking collection. The 330-page cookbook has a new look and features a protective plastic cover.

The book includes sections on Easter customs and recipes (as well as Christmas recipes), traditional Rusyn and Slavic foods, other ethnic dishes, and many other tried-and-true recipes of

St. John's parishioners. There is a variety of paska bread and kolachi (filled roll) recipes, as well as meatless dishes and Lenten recipes, suitable for the Great Fast, as well as the Pre-Christmas Fast.

The cost of the cookbook is \$14.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling (\$17.00). If ordering from Canada, please send a \$25.00 U.S. Postal money order payable in U.S. dollars to reflect the difference in the exchange rate and postage cost.

To order please send a check or money order to: Ethnic Craft Club, St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E. Main Street, Uniontown, PA 15401, or call (724) 438-6027 for more information. You may contact us at: [carpathiancookery@gmail.com](mailto:carpathiancookery@gmail.com).

## Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport 2014 Scholarship



The Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Inc. announces that the Guidelines and Procedures and Application Forms for its \$1,000 Scholarships are now available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Chairperson Eileen Wilson, 395 Pilgrim Lane, Stratford, CT, 06614. No requests via phone, please.

Among the requirements to receive a 2014 Scholarship: applicant, grandparent(s), parent (s) must be a member of the Alliance for a minimum of three years and of Slovak descent, and shall reside in the state of Connecticut.

Deadline for the return of forms is May 12, 2014. Recipients will be notified by June 2, 2014, and the award will be presented at the June meeting. NOTE: the Scholarship award will be paid directly to the recipient's school.

Fraternally,  
Eileen Wilson  
Chairperson, Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport, Inc.  
Member, Branch 19, First Catholic Slovak Union

## Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at [www.fcsu.com](http://www.fcsu.com)

# News From Slovakia

## Official Results: Fico to Face Kiska in Second-round in Two Weeks (2)

Bratislava, March 16 (TASR) - According to the official results of the first round of the 2014 presidential election released by the Slovak Statistics Office on this date and confirmed by the Central Electoral Commission (UVK), the two candidates due to advance to the second-round run-off of the vote scheduled for March 29 are Prime Minister Robert Fico and philanthropist Andrej Kiska.

While Fico won the first round garnering 28 percent (531,919 votes), Kiska received 24 percent (455,996 votes).

In terms of the voter support across individual election districts, Fico did best in Svidnik (Presov region; 48.35 percent), Cadca (Zilina region; 46.09 percent), Topolcany (Nitra region; 46.02 percent), Stropkov (Presov region; 44.03 percent) and Vranov nad Toplou (Presov region; 43.93 percent). Conversely, he received the smallest support in Dunajská Streda (Trnava region; 5.06 percent), Komarno (Trnava region; 9.78 percent), Senec (Bratislava region; 15.18 percent), Bratislava (16.32 percent) and in Sala (18.82 percent).

Kiska achieved best results in his native Poprad (Presov region; 39.53 percent), Kezmarok (Presov region; 37.36 percent), Senec (Bratislava region; 30.14 percent), Senica (Trnava region; 29.80 percent) and in Malacky (28.99 percent). He received the smallest support mainly in the areas dominated by Fico - Vranov nad Toplou (15.59 percent), Svidnik (15.83 percent), Cadca (15.87 percent), Banovce nad Bebravou (Trencin region; 17.68 percent) and in Humenne (Presov region; 18.16 percent).

As to the results of other candidates, independent candidate Radoslav Prochazka ended third, supported by 21.24 percent of the vote (403,548 votes). Next came Milan Knazko on 12.86 percent (244,401 votes), ethnic-Hungarian SMK nominee Gyula Bardos (5.1 percent or 97,035 votes), KDH MP Pavol Hrusovsky backed by the People's Platform (3.33 percent or 63,298 votes), OLaNO MP Helena Mezenska (2.37 percent or 45,180 votes).

The remaining candidates garnered less than 1 percent of the vote: candidate of the Communist Party of Slovakia (KSS) Jan Jurista (0.64 percent or 12,209 votes), first KDH chairman Jan Carnogursky (0.64 percent or 12,207 votes), prominent heart surgeon Viliam Fischer (0.5 percent or 9,514 votes), non-partisan candidate Jan Behyl (0.48 percent or 9,126 votes), university professor Milan Melnik (0.4 percent or 7,678 votes), mayor of Rimavska Sobota Jozef Simko (0.24 percent or 4,674 votes), and independent Stanislav Martincko (0.13 percent or 2,547 votes).

Voter turnout reached 43.4 percent, whereas in the first round of the vote in 2009 it was 43.63 percent.

## Analysts: Fico's Low Support the Biggest Surprise of First Round

Bratislava, March 16 (TASR) - What's most surprising about the results of the first round of the presidential election is the unexpectedly low support garnered by Prime Minister Robert Fico, political analysts Grigorij Meseznikov and Jan Baranek concurred on this date shortly after the Central Electoral Commission (UVK) confirmed the results of the vote.

Fico won the first round on 28 percent. Nevertheless, the last polls published in March prior to the election measured Fico's support at between 35-38 percent.

Conversely, non-partisan candidate Andrej Kiska's results can be viewed as a good outcome. He ended up second, only 4 percentage points behind Fico. "These are very good results considering he has no experience in politics," said Meseznikov, adding that Kiska withstood the race as an equal competitor to Fico, who has an extensive political history and who's backed by the governing party.

Meseznikov added that Radoslav Prochazka's results (21.24 percent of the vote) can be also considered a success. "His performance in presidential debates and his activities in the final stage of the campaign have helped him a lot," said the analyst, adding that Prochazka's political potential has already exceeded the potential of some well-established political parties.

As concerns the election result of People's Platform candidate Pavol Hrusovsky, the experts said that this has been a fiasco for the People's Platform, which is made up of KDH, SDKU-DS and Most-Hid with an overall support of some 25 percent of voters in general polling. Hrusovsky ended up far behind the most successful candidates and garnered only 3.33 percent. According to Baranek, Hrusovsky's unflattering results can be attributed to several factors. "One of them was the candidacy of Gyula Bardos [who ran with the support of the Hungarian Community Party (SMK) and who received 5.1 percent]. Until he announced his candidacy, ethnic Hungarian voters were inclined towards casting their vote for Hrusovsky [because he was backed by ethnic Hungarian Most-Hid], so Bardos deprived Hrusovsky of some 5 percent in fact. And then there was the lack of unity even within the People's Platform, including various appeals sent out from SDKU [undermining Hrusovsky's candidacy], and the fact that some SDKU MPs signed the petitions of other presidential candidates," summed up Baranek.

[Alluding to considerably low support for Hrusovsky in the latest polls, SDKU-DS chairman Pavol Freso in the final days of the campaign said it was reasonable for party supporters to

vote for any of the leading right-wing candidates, who were likely to advance to the potential second round of the vote – so a vote for Milan Knazko or Radoslav Prochazka was acceptable - ed. note]

## Interior Ministry Takes Measures to Prevent Scam Votes

Bratislava, March 22 (TASR) - Cases of multiple votes per voter seen in the first round of presidential election are unlikely to re-occur in the run-off, set for March 29, Interior Ministry officials claimed on this date.

As a precaution taken against scam voting, people without permanent residence in Slovakia will be allowed to cast their vote in future elections only after the Citizen Register confirms that they don't have permanent residence in the country.

The Interior Ministry ushered in new measures after four cases of individuals voting twice were uncovered in the first round of election. Those responsible will be prosecuted for obstructing the franchise, classified as a crime and punishable by jail.

A week ago, civil activist Martin Dano carried out a scam triple-vote in the presidential election, posting a video on the internet with instructions on how to vote three times.

Dano voted once with his ID card and then twice using his two Slovak passports. In these two cases he said that he didn't have permanent residence in Slovakia. If convicted, he could face up to five years in jail.

## Fico: Four Potential Replacements Available for Post of Premier

(Slovak Radio, March 22, 'Sobotne dialogy')

Ministers Robert Kalinak (interior), Marek Madaric (culture), Peter Kazimir (finance) and Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Paska (are four potential replacements to take over at the helm of the Government if Prime Minister Robert Fico manages to become president in the run-off vote set for March 29.

Speaking on Slovak Radio's politics show 'Sobotne dialogy' (Saturday Dialogues), Fico didn't specify who would be the most likely candidate to replace him as premier. "There are at least four candidates under consideration. It's up to Smer-SD structures to decide," he said.

Fico added that if he were to assume the role of president, government continuity would be maintained to the fullest, in strict accordance with the Manifesto.

Fico proclaimed that he would act in a non-partisan manner in the new role, although he wouldn't relinquish his strong social leanings.

However, such a view doesn't sit well with his rival Andrej Kiska, also on the show, who sees little stability in having all top three constitutional officials (president, premier and parliamentary speaker) come from a single party. "You ran for premier and gave some promises to people, so, please, deliver on those promises. What you're doing now, however, looks more like running away from accountability. People are unhappy, and you aren't making good on promises you gave them," Kiska told Fico.

## SNS Lends Support to Volkswagen Employees on Strike Alert

Bratislava, March 22 (TASR) - The non-parliamentary Slovak National Party (SNS) has expressed its support for Volkswagen Slovakia employees, who have gone on strike alert, TASR was told by SNS vice-chair Rafael Rafaj on this date.

"Two years ago, I came up with a proposal to introduce the institution of average labor costs in the EU, aimed at removing the enormous gaps in salaries between workers in the same posts at global firms such as Volkswagen," said Rafaj.

SNS wants to send a message to Germany, which it sees as the driving force behind EU integration, that 25 years after the transformation of Slovakia's economy and system Slovaks deserve "not further salary cuts but rather to see their living standards, including salaries, catch up with those in western states". Rafaj stressed that Slovak workers deliver good and high-quality work for car manufacturers and so are entitled to an appropriate share in the firm's prosperity, similar to that seen by their colleagues in Germany.

"It's quite sad that salary cuts for Bratislava workers are tabled by the same management that tops the list of shocking gaps between the remuneration of management and average employees in Germany. According to the DAX Index, 30 average employees at Volkswagen receive salaries 170-times lower than those of managers," added Rafaj.

On Friday (March 21), employees of Volkswagen Slovakia went on strike alert after collective negotiations failed. The bone of contention in the case are the employer's intentions to introduce 4-percent salary cuts as part of austerity measures, while shortening working shifts, a proposal rejected by the union.

Volkswagen Slovakia employs 9,400 people at three facilities in Bratislava, Martin and Kosice. The average gross monthly salary of its employees is more than €1,500.

# Správy zo Slovenska

## Oficiálne výsledky: R. Fico a A. Kiska zabojujú o prezidentské kreslo

Bratislava 16. marca (TASR) - Víťazom sobotňajšieho prvého kola prezidentských volieb sa stal premiér Robert Fico (Smer-SD), ktorého volilo 28 percent ľudí (531.919 hlasov). V druhom kole, ktoré sa uskutoční 29. marca, sa stretne s Andrejom Kiskom. Tomu hlas odovzdalo 24 percent voličov (455.996 hlasov). Volebná účasť bola 43,4 percenta. Vyplýva to z oficiálnych výsledkov volieb Ústrednej volebnej komisie.

Fico si najlepšie viedol vo volebných obvodoch Svidník (48,35 percenta), Čadca (46,09 percenta), Topoľčany (46,02 percenta), Stropkov (44,03 percenta) a Vranov nad Topľou (43,93 percenta). Najmenej hlasov získal premiér vo volebných obvodoch Dunajská Streda (5,06 percenta), Komárno (9,78 percenta), Senec (15,18 percenta), Bratislava (16,32 percenta) a Šaľa (18,82 percenta).

Kisku volili ľudia najviac v obvodoch Poprad (39,53 percenta), Kežmarok (37,36 percenta), Senec (30,14 percenta), Senica (29,80 percenta) a Malacky (28,99 percenta). Najmenej ho volili v obvodoch Vranov nad Topľou (15,59 percenta), Svidník (15,83 percenta), Čadca (15,87 percenta), Bánovce nad Bebravou (17,68 percenta) a Humenné (18,16 percenta).

Tretie, nepostupové miesto obsadil podľa oficiálnych výsledkov Radoslav Procházka (21,24 percenta, 403.548 hlasov). Nasleduje Milan Kňažko (12,86 percenta, 244.401 hlasov), Gyula Bárdos (5,1 percenta, 97.035 hlasov), Pavol Hrušovský (3,33 percenta, 63.298 hlasov), Helena Mezenská (2,37 percenta, 45.180 hlasov). Ani jedno percento hlasov nezískali Ján Jurišta (0,64 percenta), Ján Čarnogurský (0,64 percenta), Viliam Fischer (0,5 percenta), Jozef Behýl (0,48 percenta), Milan Melník (0,4 percenta), Jozef Šimko (0,24 percenta) a Stanislav Martinčko (0,13 percenta).

## Politológovia: Najväčším prekvapením je slabý výsledok R. Fica

Bratislava 16. marca (TASR) - Najväčším prekvapením prvého kola prezidentských volieb je slabý výsledok Roberta Fica. Zhodujú sa na tom politológovia Ján Baránek a Grigorij Mesežnikov. „Znížený výsledok oproti očakávaniam môže byť do druhého kola pre Roberta Fica dosť nepríjemný,“ uviedol pre TASR Baránek s tým, že pravdepodobne časť Ficových voličov odovzdala svoj hlas Radoslavovi Procházkovi.

Podľa Mesežnikova dobrý výsledok dosiahol Andrej Kiska, ktorý zaostal za Ficom približne o štyri percentá. „Je to veľmi dobrý výsledok pre človeka, ktorý nikdy predtým v politike nebol a dokázal v podstate zvíťaziť s kandidátom, ktorý má za sebou silnejšiu stranu z hľadiska podpory aj z hľadiska mocenského postavenia,“ uviedol. Za veľmi dobrý považuje aj výsledok Procházku. „Teraz sa to dá spätne vysvetliť, že jeho úspešné pôsobenie v debatách a vôbec jeho aktivity v tom záverečnom štádiu mu pomohli. Čiže ten výsledok nad 21 percent je naozaj veľmi dobrý a veľmi sľubný do budúcnosti vzhľadom na to, že má politické ambície,“ dodal Mesežnikov s tým, že jeho politická sila teraz prekračuje potenciál, ktorý majú niektoré etablované strany. „Teraz sa spätne ukazuje, že KDH nevyužilo príležitosť, ktorá sa ponúkala vtedy, keď chcel svoje politické ambície realizovať cez KDH. Ukázalo sa, že toto nebola schodná cesta a dnes v podstate bude silným konkurentom pre KDH v prípade, ak sa rozhodne pre samostatnú politickú kariéru,“ priblížil Mesežnikov.

Podľa politológov budúcnosť Ľudovej platformy je spečatená. „Ja si myslím, že Ľudová platforma skončila. Ten výsledok Pavla Hrušovského je zlý,“ povedal Baránek. Podľa Mesežnikova je výsledok Pavla Hrušovského fiaskom, pretože získal niečo cez tri percentá pre spoločného kandidáta troch strán so sumárnou podporou okolo 25 percent je zlé. Pod Hrušovského výsledok sa podľa Baránka podpísalo viacero faktorov. „Jeden z nich, ktorý bol vlastne nezavinený, bola kandidatura Gyulu Bárdosa. Kým neoznámil kandidatúru, maďarskí voliči mali na prvom mieste Hrušovského, takže on mu reálne zbral tých päť percent. A potom tá nejednotnosť v rámci Ľudovej platformy, rôzne výzvy, ktoré išli aj z SDKU, aj to, že podpísali kandidatúru aj iným kandidátom. Bolo tam toho viac,“ dodal.

Obaja politológovia očakávali taktiež vyššiu volebnú účasť, a to nad 50 percent. „Je to istá forma nezáujmu o politiku, možno znechutenie z politiky,“ myslí si Baránek. Upozornil, že ani v predchádzajúcich prezidentských voľbách nebola účasť veľká. Predpokladá však, že v druhom kole príde k urnám viac voličov. „Myslím si, že volebná účasť bola ovplyvnená v tomto prípade negatívne tým, že Smer nedokázal svojich voličov zmobilizovať. Predpokladám, že značná časť voličov Smeru zostala doma,“ ozrejmil Mesežnikov. Očakáva, že v druhom kole bude silná mobilizačná kampaň. „Robert Fico má potenciál, aby tých ľudí presvedčil,“ dodal Mesežnikov.

## Viacnásobné hlasovanie by sa už nemalo opakovať

Bratislava 22. marca (TASR) - Viacnásobné hlasovanie z prvého kola prezidentských volieb by sa v druhom kole opakovať nemalo. Voliči bez trvalého pobytu na Slovensku totiž môžu hlasovať až po tom, čo Register obyvateľov potvrdí, že skutočne nemajú trvalý pobyt v krajine.

Ministerstvo vnútra k tomuto opatreniu pristúpilo po tom, ako spätnou kontrolou po prvom kole volieb zistilo štyri prípady dvojnásobnej voľby. Orgány činné v trestnom konaní by sa nimi mali zaoberať pre podozrenie z trestného činu marenia priebehu volieb prezidenta.

Viacnásobné hlasovanie ukazuje aj video, ktoré sa na webe objavilo počas volebného dňa. Hovorí o tom, ako možno trikrát odvoliť v rôznych volebných miestnostiach. Jedenkrát na občiansky preukaz, čím volič potvrdzuje svoj trvalý pobyt na Slovensku. V ďalších dvoch prípadoch na cestovný pas.

Dosiaľ mohli občania bez trvalého pobytu na Slovensku hlasovať po tom, ako predložili volebnej komisii cestovný pas a vyhlásili, že nemajú trvalý pobyt v krajine. Aby nedochádzalo

ku viacnásobnému hlasovaniu, pri druhom kole sa bude vyhlásenie o trvalom pobyte preverovať v Registri obyvateľov.

Volit' môžu plnoletí občania SR s trvalým pobytom na Slovensku aj bez neho. V deň hlasovania však musia byť na Slovensku, zo zahraničia sa volit' nedá. Hlasovať možno v mieste trvalého bydliska, ale aj mimo neho. Na voľbu mimo svojho domova je potrebný voličský preukaz. Vďaka nemu možno hlasovať v ktorejkoľvek volebnej miestnosti na Slovensku. Volič s trvalým pobytom na Slovensku sa musí preukázať občianskym preukazom, volič bez trvalého pobytu v krajine cestovným pasom.

Druhé kolo volieb sa uskutoční v sobotu 29. marca. Zídu sa v ňom premiér Robert Fico, ktorého v prvom kole volilo 28 percent ľudí, a Andrej Kiska, ktorého v prvom kole podporilo 24 percent voličov. Jeden z nich nahradí súčasnú hlavu štátu Ivana Gašparoviča. Funkčné obdobie sa mu skončí 15. júna. Vtedy bude inaugurovaný nový slovenský prezident.

## V hre o premiérske post zostávajú naďalej štyria ľudia

Bratislava 22. marca (TASR) - Robert Kaliňák, Marek Maďarič, Peter Kažimír, Pavol Paška. To sú štyri mená, ktoré zostávajú naďalej v hre o premiérske post v prípade, ak by súčasný šéf exekutívy Robert Fico (Smer-SD) zvíťazil v sobotu 29. marca v druhom kole prezidentských volieb.

Ktorý z nich to nakoniec bude, nechcel Fico v dnešnej diskusnej relácii RTVS prezradiť. „Sú minimálne štyria kandidáti, ktorí prichádzajú do úvahy. Rozhodnú štruktúry Smeru-SD, kto z nich bude premiér,“ ozrejmil.

Ubezpečil však, že ak by sa aj presunul do Prezidentského paláca, naďalej bude zachovaná maximálna kontinuita vo vládnutí a naplnenia programového vyhlásenia.

Zároveň deklaroval, že v novej pozícii by pôsobil nadstranícky, avšak naďalej by mu ostalo, ako zdôraznil, jeho silné sociálne cítenie. Poznamenal, že ukázal veľa príkladov, keď bol schopný postaviť sa mimo straníckej pozície. „Úlohou prezidenta nie je nahrádzať opozičné strany a parlament,“ konštatoval na margo úlohy hlavy štátu, ktorá má predovšetkým hľadať riešenia tam, kde sa ťažko hľadá dohoda. „Je potrebné, aby prezident spájal,“ upozornil.

Na poznámku moderátora, že podľa prieskumov verejnej mienky patrí medzi dlhodo- bo najdôveryhodnejších, ale aj najnedôveryhodnejších politikov, čím v podstate polarizuje spoločnosť, reagoval, že „vízie spájajú a rozhodnutia rozdeľujú“. Pripomenul, že prezident neprijíma exekutívne rozhodnutia, ale koná podľa ústavy, kde sú jeho právomoci také, ktoré nevedú ku konfrontácii.

Jeho súper Andrej Kiska však nevidí stabilitu, tak ako o tom hovorí premiér, v tom, aby hlava štátu, predseda vlády aj parlamentu pochádzali z jednej politickej strany. „Išli ste za premiéra a dali ste nejaký sľub ľuďom, tak ho, prosím, naplňte, lebo toto teraz vyzerá ako útek pred zodpovednosťou. Ľudia sú tu nespokojní a vy nenaplníte tie sľuby, ktoré ste im dali,“ adresoval Ficovi.

Rovnako odmietol tvrdenie, že po zvolení bude predĺženou rukou opozície. „Vždy by som hovoril za ľudí a hľadal riešenia, aby sa situácia zlepšila,“ deklaroval. Nie je ani zástancom posilňovania právomocí hlavy štátu. „Koncentrácia moci v rukách jedného človeka môže prinášať isté riziká, hlavne ak by sa do tej funkcie dostal človek, ktorý vďaka svojmu populizmu alebo manipulácii ľudí nezastával tie postoje, ktoré by sme na Slovensku potrebovali,“ upozornil Kiska. Ako príklad uviedol, že pred desiatimi rokmi bolo Slovensko blízko k tomu, aby sa stal najvyšším ústavným činiteľom vtedajší predseda HZDS Vladimír Mečiar.

## SNS podporuje štrajkovú pohotovosť vo Volkswagene

Bratislava 22. marca (TASR) - Slovenská národná strana (SNS) podporuje štrajkovú pohotovosť pracovníkov bratislavského Volkswagenu, najmä ich požiadavku na zvýšenie plátov. Pre TASR to vyhlásil prvý podpredseda SNS Rafael Rafaj.

„Už pred dvoma rokmi som prišiel s požiadavkou zaviesť v Európskej únii inštitút priemernej ceny práce, ktorý by sa mal zavádzať na odstránenie obrovských rozdielov v platoch pracovníkov v tých istých pozíciách v globálnych firmách ako je Volkswagen,“ pripomenul Rafaj.

SNS podľa neho odkazuje Nemcom, ktorí sú lokomotívou európskej integrácie, že Slováci si po 25 rokoch od transformácie ekonomiky a systému zaslúžia „nie ďalšie škrtenie miezd, ale urýchlené vyrovnanie ich životnej úrovne, vrátane plátov s priemerom západných štátov“. Dodal, že slovenskí robotníci pre automobilky odvádzajú poctivú a kvalitnú prácu, preto majú právo na primeraný podiel na prosperite firmy, podobne ako ich kolegovia v Nemecku.

„Je smutné, že redukciu plátov pre bratislavských robotníkov navrhuje to vedenie koncernu, ktoré vedie v Nemecku rebríček šokujúcich rozdielov v odmeňovaní manažmentu a priemerných zamestnancov. Podľa indexu DAX 30 priemerní zamestnanci vo Volkswagene mali na výplatoch až 170-krát menej než manažéri,“ uviedol prvý podpredseda SNS Zástupcovia zamestnancov slovenskej dcéry nemeckej automobilky Volkswagen vyhlásili v piatok (21.3.) štrajkovú pohotovosť. Naplnila sa tak niekoľko týždňov trvajúca hrozba, vyplývajúca z bezvýsledných rokovaní v rámci kolektívneho vyjednávania. Zamestnávateľ pôvodne navrhoval zníženie plátov zamestnancov o 4 % z dôvodu šetrenia, pri skrátení pracovnej doby. To odborári odmietli, nesúhlasia ani s krátením pracovných zmien bez toho, aby sa zvyšovali mzdy. Vedenie firmy sa ku kolektívnemu vyjednávaniu nevyjadruje, spraví tak až po jeho skončení.

Automobilka Volkswagen zamestnáva na Slovensku 9,400 ľudí v troch závodoch v Bratislave, Martine a Košiciach. Priemerná hrubá mesačná mzda zamestnancov je vyše 1,500 eur.

## Pripomíname si rok od inauguračnej svätej omše Svätého Otca Františka

Svätý Otec František presne pred rokom - 19. marca 2013 - celebraval inauguračnú svätú omšu vo Vatikáne. Nástupca Benedikta XVI. na nej prevzal pápežské insignie, vďaka čomu oficiálne začal pontifikát 266. pápeža. Na inauguráciu prišlo okolo 200-tisíc veriacich. Medzi hosťami boli desiatky prezidentov, zástupcovia kráľovských rodín, premiéri, predstavitelia rôznych cirkví a náboženstiev. Slovensko zastupovali takmer všetci biskupi a prezident SR. Medzi zástavami z celého sveta, ktoré viali námestím, nechýbali ani tie slovenské.

TKKBS



Inauguračná svätá omša pápeža Františka, Vatikán 19.marca 2013.

The Inauguration Mass of Pope Francis in the Vatican on March 19, 2013.

## Súťaž na návrh mince k 100. výročiu Clevelandskej dohody

Národná banka Slovenska (NBS) vyhlásila verejnú anonymnú súťaž na výtvarný návrh striebornej zberateľskej mince v nominálnej hodnote 10 eur k 100. výročiu podpísania Clevelandskej dohody.

„Cieľom jej vydania je pripomenúť 100. výročie podpísania Clevelandskej dohody, prvého dokumentu o spoločnom postupe Čechov a Slovákov v boji za národné oslobodenie, ktorá v roku 1915 vytvorila základné predpoklady pre vytvorenie spoločného štátu,“ uvádza sa v podmienkach súťaže.

Averz mince musí obsahovať štátny znak SR, názov štátu, letopočet a vhodné motívy viažuce sa ku Clevelandskej dohode. Na reverze musí byť okrem charakteristických motívov umiestnený názov udalosti spolu s dátumom. Nesmie chýbať označenie nominálnej hodnoty mince. „Výtvarné stvárnenie averzu mince, typ písma a jeho umiestnenie by malo tvoriť s výtvarným riešením reverzu mince kompozične a umelecky vyvážený celok,“ uvádza sa ďalej v pravidlách.

Mince s priemerom 34 milimetrov a hmotnosťou 18 gramov budú razené zo zliatiny striebra a medi v obyčajnom vyhotovení a vo vyhotovení proof (v najvyššej možnej kvalite). Súťažiaci musia doručiť svoje návrhy NBS najneskôr do 12. mája tohto roka. Tri najlepšie návrhy ocení banka sumou 2700 eur, 2000 eur a 1400 eur. Víťazný návrh zberateľskej mince sa bude realizovať.

TASR

## Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

### Pripravované podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City Vám oznamuje, že pripravuje pre Vás tieto zaujímavé podujatia:

Dvojdňovú katolícku púť do chrámu Božieho milosrdenstva – **National Shrine of The Divine Mercy Stockbridge, Massachusetts v máji 2014.**

Tradičnú slovenskú katolícku púť do **Marian Shrine, West Haverstraw, New York** spojená so slovenskou svätou omšou, ružencovou pobožnosťou a obedom v nedeľu dňa **10. augusta 2014.**

Zájazd na divadelné predstavenie s náboženskou tematikou „Mozes“ do divadla **Sight & Sound Lancaster, Pennsylvania** (pravdepodobne 2-dňový s nocľahom) **jeseň 2014** – presný termín bude oznámený – podľa záujemcov.

Žiadame záujemcov o uvedené podujatia, aby sa prihlásili do konca mája 2014.

Bližšie informácie Vám podajú: Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.

### Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku v nedeľu **6. apríla 2014** o 12:30 hodine, po slovenskej svätej omši v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66. ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

**Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka**

### Polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasul'u č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že polročná členská schôdza Okresu Štefana Krasul'u Spolok č. 16 sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa **1. júna 2014** o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia na fare Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Prosíme predsedov všetkých spolkov, ktoré patria do nášho Okresu, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov. Upozorňujeme, že aj nedelegáti sú vítaní. Program schôdze bude podanie finančnej správy a príprava plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie. Po polročnej schôdzi sa bude predávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravujú členovia spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

**Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka**

### Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Okres Princa Pribinu bude mať svoju schôdzu na Kvetnú nedeľu **13. apríla 2014.** Oslava začne slovenskou svätou omšou o 12:00 hodine v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, CA 90706. Hlavným celebrantom svätej omše bude Fr. Pavol Sochul'ak z Ontária, CA. Po svätej omši bude kvalitný slovenský obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti ako už tradične budú sa zabávať hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek.

Voľba delegátov Okresu č. 15 a Spolku č. 844 IKSJ na blížiacu sa 50. Konvenciu IKSJ vo Philadelphii, PA, sa uskutoční v sobotu 26. apríla 2014. Na programe je okrem prípravy konvencie aj plán aktivít a informácie o poistení prostredníctvom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Všetky spolky v okolí úctivo pozývame na toto dôležité posedenie.

**Pavol Skubeň, predseda**

### Folklorný súbor Tamburitzans vo Wayne, NJ

Slovanský folklorný súbor Tamburitzan z Duquesne University v Pittsburghu, PA predvedie svoj nový program slovanských folklorných spevov a tancov v nedeľu **6. apríla** v Rosen Theater vo Wayne YMCA, One Pike Drive, Wayne, NJ. Začiatok bude o 2.00 hodine. Vstupné je \$25.00. Vstupenky a bližšie informácie na tel. č. (877) 826-6437.

### Koncert slovenského speváka Petra Stašáka

V nedeľu **27. apríla** o 2.00 hodine popoludní bude v Crakovia Manor, 96 Main Ave., Wallington NJ koncert slovenského speváka Petra Stašáka. Vstupné je \$50.00. V cene vstupenky je jedlo na bufetový štýl, víno, káva a koláč. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie: Stanka, tel. č. (201) 375-5488.

### Skupina Driš'ak na turné v USA

Skupina Driš'ak zo Slovenska, ktorá bude na turné v USA bude mať nasledovné vystúpenia:

V sobotu **3. mája** o 7.00 hodine v Harristown, NJ. Informácie: Olga (609) 529-1522, (609) 771-6736.

V nedeľu **4. mája** o 2.00 hodine popoludní v Cliftone, NJ. Informácie: Martina (201) 751-8481.

V sobotu **10. mája** o 7.00 hodine v hale kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Manhattan, NY. Informácie: Mária (347) 612-1934; Domink (914) 403-7877.

## Výzva pre všetkých katolíkov a slovenské katolícke farnosti

Katolíci, obraciame sa na Vás s úpenlivou prosbou, aby ste sa 12. apríla 2014 v sobotu o trištvrté na sedem ráno z príležitosti výročia justičnej popravy prezidenta Tisu pridali vo svojich modlitbách k pútnikom, ktorí v tom čase obetujú svoju 25-kilometrovú púť nočným lesom z Rajca do Veľkej Bytče, od busty prof. JUDr. Ferdinanda Ďurčanského k Rodnému domu prezidenta Tisu na úmysel vyzdvihnutia na oltár mučeníka viery katolíckej a národa slovenského.

V prípade, že je Vám to len trocha možné, pridajte sa i Vy k pútnikom, ktorí sa 11. apríla 2013 v piatok o 23:30 z námestia v Rajci vydajú na cestu Memoriálom mučeníka Jozefa Tisu. Viac informácií získate na [www.jozeftiso.sk/memorial](http://www.jozeftiso.sk/memorial), na adrese Rodný dom prezidenta Tisu, ul. 1. mája 35/4, 014 01 Veľká Bytča, na t. č. 0948 266 999 a 0907 25 47 01 a na e-maili [memorial@jozeftiso.sk](mailto:memorial@jozeftiso.sk).

Vtedy, ale i na Veľký piatok tohto roku.

Modlime sa: Bože náš, nechaj sa našou horlivosťou za Teba uzmiert', vyslyš nás a ak je potrebné, zmiluj sa a odpusti nášmu mučeníkovi pre všetko dobré a spásnosné, bohobojné a kajúčne čo v Tvojom mene k väčšej Tvojej sláve a pre blaho národa slovenského a spásu duší jeho ľudu bol vykonal ako Tvoj rovný kňaz a jeho neohrozený vodca.

Kriste náš, zmiluj sa a dovoľ nám oslavovať ho v Tvojej Cirkvi a ubezpeč nás, že jeho duša spočinula v nebeskom zástupe všetkých Tvojich verných Svätých, od ktorých si môžeme vyprosovať posilu pre naše úpenlivé volania k Tebe.

Sedembolestná patrónka naša, svätá Mária, matka Božia, oroduj za nás a za slovenských kňazov Tvojho Syna, aby mu zostali verní v zachovávaní zázračnej Jeho premeny, a aby v tento deň tajomne preliali krv Tvojho Syna vo Svätej Obeti za dušu mučeníka Jozefa, lebo Najsvätejšie Srdce Ježišovo krvácalo i za neho, za jeho spásu v živote budúceho veku. Amen.

**Igor Cagaň**

správca Rodného domu prezidenta Tisu

## Minister M. Lajčák na prestížnej medzinárodnej konferencii v USA



**Miroslav Lajčák**

Podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Miroslav Lajčák sa v dňoch 18.-19. marca 2014 vo Williamsburgu v Spojených štátoch amerických zúčastnil na prestížnej medzinárodnej konferencii organizovanej renomovaným americkým think-tankom Centrum pre strategické a medzinárodné štúdie. Cieľom podujatia je diskutovať o aktuálnych procesoch prebiehajúcich v rámci EÚ, otázkach integrácie a rozširovania, podpore ekonomického rastu a konkurencieschopnosti, zvyšovaní demokratickej legitimacy inštitúcií EÚ, ale aj o spolupráci medzi EÚ a USA pri riešení aktuálnych bezpečnostných a zahraničnopolitických výziev. Konferencia svojim obsahom reagovala aj na súčasné dianie na Ukrajine.

M. Lajčák sa ako hlavný rečník v panelovej diskusii venoval úlohe politických lídrov pri definovaní budúcej podoby Európskej únie, ako aj globálnych politických vzťahov, keďže aj ich súčasný stav je podľa ministra do veľkej miery odrazom pôsobenia osobností, ktoré ich formujú. Poukázal pritom na kľúčový význam koordinovaného postupu EÚ a USA. „Transatlantické partnerstvo je jediným globálnym partnerstvom založeným na spoločných hodnotách,“ povedal vo svojom vystúpení. „Nemá zmysel, aby sme súperili. Úspešní sme boli vždy, keď sme dokázali konať jednotne.“

Na konferencii sa zúčastnilo viacero popredných a renomovaných medzinárodných diplomatov, osobností a expertov na zahraničné vzťahy a bezpečnostnú politiku.

**MZV SR**



## Aleluja ako inšpirácia pre klasickú hudbu

Zvolanie aleluja je najtypickejšou súčasťou liturgickej hudby veľkonočného obdobia. Svoju dynamiku čerpá z udalosti zmŕtvychvstania Ježiša Krista. Ako výraz veľkonočnej radosti sa aleluja od stredoveku stalo inšpiráciou pre vznik nespočetných hudobných kompozícií rôznych štýlových období.

Hudobný výraz aleluja označuje spevný prejav jasavého charakteru, ktorý sa v kresťanských liturgiách uplatňuje oddávna mnohokrátmi spôsobmi. Je odvodený z hebrejského halelu-jáh (chváľte Pána), ktorého stredoveká latinizovaná podoba bola haleluia, tiež alleluia. V Biblii sa toto slovo nachádza pri viacerých žalmoch, ktoré sa spievali aj počas slávenia židovskej Paschy (hallél, t. j. žalmy 113 – 118). Prví kresťania prevzali slovo aleluja zo židovských modlitieb. Používali ho ako samostatnú aklamáciu, aj ako rezponziálny spev. Ten tiež prevzali zo synagogálnej praxe, v ktorej na sólovo prednášané verše odpovedalo zhromaždené spoločenstvo spevom rezponza aleluja. Alelujové zvolania boli od stredoveku súčasťou repertoára omše a oficiá vo Veľkonočnom období nielen ako samostatné kompozície, ale aj ako pripojenia k existujúcim spevom (na ich záver), na ktoré sa viazali modálne aj melodicky. Neskôr sa tieto pripojenia osamostatňovali a najmä od baroka sa z nich stávali hudobne uzavreté kompozície väčšinou pre zbor alebo aj sólové hlasy v podobe sólových árií alebo kantát. Pridávali sa k nim aj dodatočne nové texty, zväčša v próze. Nevznikli už výhradne vo väzbe na liturgiu, ale aj ako duchovné kompozície určené na koncertné uvádzanie.

### Halleluja (Aleluja) z oratória Mesiáš

Jednou z najznámejších a najpopulárnejších „alelujových“ skladieb vôbec je Aleluja („Halleluja“) pre štvorhlasný zbor a orchester z oratória Mesiáš od veľikána neskorobaro-kovej hudby Georga F. Händla (1685 – 1759). Händel, pôvodom Nemeč, sa v roku 1712 usadil v Anglicku, kde žil až do svojej smrti v roku 1759 (je pochovaný vo Westminster-skom opátstve). Vytvoril obdivuhodne veľké množstvo diel rôznych žánrov.

Dňa 22. augusta 1741 začal komponovať oratórium Mesiáš, ktoré napísal s veľkým nasadením a za veľmi krátky čas – 24 dní. Jeho premiéra sa konala 13. apríla nasledujúceho roka v Dubline a výtazok z nej bol venovaný na charitatívne účely – na pomoc vážnym a nemocnícam. Dielo bolo prijaté s veľkým úspechom. Dobová tlač ho označila ako veľké posvätné oratórium (Sacred Grand Oratorio). Londýnska premiéra diela v roku 1843 bola chladnejšia. Úspešnejšie bolo uvedenie v roku 1750, ktoré viedlo k vytvoreniu tradície jeho každoročného uvádzania v období okolo Veľkej noci.

### Oratórium

Oratórium bolo typom vokálno-inštrumentálnej skladby pre sólových spevákov, zbor a orchester, ktorý sa pestoval od začiatku 17. storočia. Oratórium Mesiáš má 3 časti, ktoré možno vnímať aj v kontexte liturgického roka. Obsahom prvej je príchod Mesiáša vyjadrený najmä starozákonnými proroctvami (súvislosť adventu a Vianoc), druhá zobrazuje jeho smrť, zmŕtvychvstanie a nanebovstúpenie a tretia reflektuje jeho návrat na konci čias, jeho oslávenie a vládu. Libreto je v angličtine a pozostáva z krátkych biblických pasáží najmä zo Starého zákona, textov z Nového zákona je menej. Ježiša zobrazuje libreto ako Božieho Syna, v ktorom sa naplňujú starozákonné proroctvá, Spasiteľ a sveta a Kráľ. Autorom libreta je Charles Jennens. Händlom zhudobnený Mesiáš je excelentným dielom, plným nádherných melódií. Mozaiku textov Händel zjednotil do úžasného hudobného celku, ktorého kompozičná štruktúra je proporčná a vyvážená a jednotlivé čísla v častiach majú vnútornú myšlienkovú kontinuitu. Dielo je určené pre sólové hlasy (soprány, alt, tenor, bas) a zbor, ktoré sprevádza orchester. Händel ho neskôr niekoľkokrát upravil podľa možnosti a dispozícií príslušných interpretov. Od zvyčajného typu oratória sa Mesiáš odlišuje tým, že nerozpráva príbeh a nie sú v ňom dialógy.

### Aleluja v koncertantnom motete Exsultate, jubilate

Moteto je koncertantnou áriou pre soprán, hoboje, lesné rohy, sláčiky a organ. Mozart ho skomponoval, keď mal 16 rokov. Bolo to počas jeho tretieho pobytu v Taliansku, kde v Miláne pripravoval premiéru svojej opery Lucio Silla. Hoci 16-ročný Mozart mal na napísanie moteta veľmi krátky čas, vytvoril majstrovské dielo, ktoré je dodnes vyhľadávaným a prestížnym kusom speváckej literatúry. Moteto otvára rýchla časť, po nej nasleduje recitativ, potom ária v pomalšom tempe a Aleluja. Bravúrne zhudobnenie Aleluja ako finále moteta v rýchlym tempe je výrazom radosti a chvály, kde sa striedajú lyrické línie s hravými, virtuóznymi, extatickými a expresívnymi pasážami. (Krátene)

**Silvia Urdová, Muzikologička  
Katolíckej noviny**

## Veľkonočné trojdnie v kostole i rodine?

Veľkonočné triduum je spojené s obsažným liturgickým slávením v kostole. Aj v rodinnom kruhu si však možno sprítomniť Ježišovo umučenie i radosť zo zmŕtvychvstania

Slávenie Veľkonočného trojdnia je centrálnym bodom v rámci liturgického roka. Na prvom mieste je, prirodzene, liturgické slávenie v spoločenstve, teda v chráme, kde sa naplno môže prejavíť podstata liturgie – oslava Boha a posvätenie človeka. Prežívanie Veľkonočného trojdnia (od večernej svätej omše na Zelený štvrtok cez Veľký piatok, Bielu sobotu a Veľkonočnú nedeľu) môže mať živý ohlas aj v rodinnom kruhu, no treba pripomenúť, že rodinné slávenie nenahrádza účasť na liturgii a ani nie je postavené na jej roveň. Môže byť však impulzom na hlbšie pochopenie tajomstiev viery, ktoré počas týchto dní prežívame. Ako by mohlo vyzerat' sprítomnenie si udalostí umučenia a zmŕtvychvstania Pána v rodine?

• Na Zelený štvrtok predpoludním sa môžeme zúčastniť spolu s deťmi na svätej omši sporej s pozhnaním olejov a svätením krizmy, ktorú slávi diecézny biskup, pričom rodinným príslušníkom môžeme spraviť katechézu o používaní týchto olejov. Večer po svätej omši na pamiatku Pánovej večere zotrvajme na adorácii, kde si pripomenieme Kristovu opustenosť v Getsemanskej záhrade. Doma pri večeri môžeme deťom vysvetliť udalosti, ako Pán Ježiš práve v rámci večere ustanovil Eucharistiu. Na to nám môže poslužiť Sväté písmo a vhodné biblické komentáre. Potom si môžeme v rodine pripomenúť sviatosť kňazstva, takisto ustanovenú na Zelený štvrtok, spoločnou modlitbou za kňaza, ktorý nás pokrstil, u ktorého sme boli na prvom svätom prijímaní, ktorý nás pripravoval na sviatosť birmovania či na sobáš. Takisto môžeme pridať prosbu o milosť, aby nám bol k dispozícii kňaz, ktorý by nás pred odchodom z tohto sveta zaopatril sviatosťami. Keďže Zelený štvrtok je aj dňom charity, môžeme sa v rodine dohodnúť, že spolu podporíme nejaký dobrý cieľ Cirkvi.

• Slávenie Veľkého piatka začneme modlitbou liturgie hodín v kostole alebo v rodine. K tomu možno pridať i tzv. veľkopiatočkové lamentácie. Deťom vysvetlíme zmysel pôstu a odriekania si mäsitého pokrmu. Taktiež si môžeme doma alebo inde vykonať pobožnosť krížovej cesty (jednotlivé zastavenia môžu byť doma na rôznych miestach), do ktorej sa môžu zapojiť všetci členovia rodiny. Potom si uctíme kríž a zúčastníme sa na obradoch. V tento deň je vhodný pôst aj od televízora a počítača.

• Na Bielu sobotu spolu s deťmi i so starými rodičmi navštívme Boží hrob. Kto by chcel, môže si dobrovoľne predĺžiť pôst až do večerného slávenia. Nezabudnime si pripraviť veľkonočnú sviecu a vysvetliť, že symbolizuje vzkrieseného Pána – Svetlo sveta. Večer sa celá rodina zúčastní na Veľkonočnej vigílii.

Na Veľkonočnú nedeľu, ak je vo vašom regióne zvyk požeňovať veľkonočné pokrmy, odporúčame zachovať túto tradíciu. Svätá omša zameraná na oslavu Ježišovho víťazstva nad hriechom a smrťou nech je pre nás všetkých silným zážitkom. Doma si môžeme zaspievať veľkonočné piesne a na rodinných stretnutiach sa vzájomne potešiť s radosťou u Kristovho zmŕtvychvstania.

Doc. ThDr. PETER CABAN, PhD., KN 13-14/2010



## Kysucká muzika ide do sveta

Kysucká muzika namixovala energetický, hudobný nápoj, ktorý sa opláti vyskúšať. Namieste je pocitové konštatovanie, že na jednom, práve čerstvo vydanom cédečku sa zračí množstvo piesní veľmi chytlavých, dobre znejúcich, pritom emočne silných, pôvodných, kysuckých ľudových songov na rockovú nótu, ale s originálnymi aranžmánmi. Sú tu však zastúpené viaceré štýly (funky, R&B, soul, džez a pod.). Pri všetkej skromnosti majú úplne prirodzenú ambíciu stať sa hitmi nielen v kysuckom historickom regióne, ale na celom Slovensku, ak nie aj ďalej. Pekným príhovorom do knižky, v ktorom sa nachádza CD-čko, prispel legendárny Maťo Ďurinda z rockovej skupiny Tublatanka.

Dvadsať rokov známu čadčiansku rockovú kapelu Veľký dom s frontmanom Miroslavom Murčom netreba kysuckému publiku osobitne predstavovať. Rovnako vyše dvadsať rokov vystupuje na folklórnych podujatiach doma aj v zahraničí špičková sólová speváčka slovenských ľudových piesní Janka Holeštiaková, ktorá svojím albumom Cez ten kraj žilinský oslovila široké publikum folklóru na Slovensku.

Kysucká muzika načrela do klenotnice kysuckých ľudových piesní, niekedy neprávom zabudnutých, ktoré teraz prichádzajú na svet v plnej paráde. Nielen mne z kysuckých piesní bola donedávna známa prakticky len jedna jediná, naša kysucká hymna Kysuca, Kysuca. Predsa len, trávnicie dnes neoslovujú každého. Takže skutočne Kysucká muzika namixovala energetický, hudobný nápoj s kvalitnými vokálmi Janky Holeštiakovej či Petra Kováčika, takže môžeme hovoriť o nadčasovej hudbe. Neveríte? Skúste si ju vypočuť na koncerte alebo z nového cédečka. Viac informácií nájdete o nej na FB a na <http://www.kysuckamuzika.sk/>



## Kraslica je za každým humnom iná

Vajíčko ako svedectvo nového života dotvára symboliku Veľkej noci už dlhé desaťročia. Zdobenie kraslíc patrí aj do slovenského folklóru a naši kreatívni predkovia vyvinuli hneď niekoľko zaujímavých, no aj na jemnú motoriku poriadne náročných techník. Ako všelijako sa teda dajú vajíčka dekorovať?

Vyfúknutá vaječná škrupinka sa zvykne nazývať aj výdušok alebo výduvok. Kraslice, inak aj „pisanky“, sa robia zo slepačích, husacích či kačacích vajec, ale kde-tu sa objavajú aj umelecké výtvyry zo pštrosích alebo, naopak, miniatúrnych z prepeličích vajec.

### Aj včely by hĹkali

Zdobenie vajíčok je známe najmä vo východnej Európe. Napriek tomu, že techník výzdoby existuje skutočne veľké množstvo a niekedy sa dokonca prelínajú, každý kút Slovenska je niektorým spôsobom dekorovania výnimočný.

Jednou z najstarších, no pomerne zriedkavých techník, je voskovanie. Na zafarbené alebo prírodné vajíčko sa nanáša roztopený včelí vosk

alebo parafín – dvojfarebný či dokonca viacfarebný. Dnes dekoratéri zvyknú používať na zafarbenie vosku anilínové farby prípadne rozpustené voskové farbičky, ktoré buď pridajú do včelieho vosku, alebo maľujú priamo nimi. Vzory sa na vaječnej škrupine vytvárajú špendlíkom (aby sa lepšie držal v ruke, šikovní „krasličiar“ si ho zapichnú napr. do drevenej varešky), ale ornamentálne prvky sa dajú kresliť aj zápalkou alebo kovovou rúrkou, podľa toho, aké hrubé majú byť čiary vzorov.

Voskovanie bolo tradične rozšírené na severovýchodnom Slovensku, v povodí Laborca, ako aj v Hornonitrianskej kotline či v okolí Bratislavy.

### Zdobenie vĹtačkou

Madeirové kraslice sú kombináciou voskovania a dierkovania. Do vaječnej škrupiny sa vysokoobrátkovou modelárskou vĹtačkou robia dierky najrôznejších tvarov – krúžky, srdiečka, kvietky... Okraje dierok, ktoré vytvorili vzory, sa potom tradičnou voskovou metódou farebne obkresľujú. Používajú sa najmä kačacie alebo husacie vajcia, pretože majú tvrdšiu a pevnejšiu škrupinu.

### Batikovanie nielen pre „deti kvetov“

U nás najrozšírenejšou metódou výzdoby veľkonočných kraslíc je batikovanie. Postup práce pri tejto technike sa začína rovnako ako pri voskovaní, teda na vyfúknutom vajíčku sa farebným voskom vytvorí rôzne vzory a ornamenty. Takto dekorovaná škrupina sa ponorí do farebného roztoku. Potom sa vosk jemným kusom látky odstráni. Miesta pokryté voskom sa nezafarbujú a vytvorí vzor.

Batikovanie kraslíc môže mať viaceré varianty – biely ornament na zafarbenej vaječnej škrupine, farebný ornament na vybielenom vajíčku (takýto efekt dosiahneme, keď vajíčko najprv zafarbíme, ihlou nanesieme voskové vzory a nakoniec ponoríme do octového roztoku, až kým sa voskom nevyzdobené časti škrupiny úplne nevybielia) alebo farebné ornamenty na farebnej škrupine – veľmi pekne tu vynikajú rôzne farebné odtiene od najsvetlejších až po syté tmavé.

Táto technika je známa a kraslice sa ňou zdobia takmer po celom území Slovenska, vo viacfarebnom batikovaní boli majstrami najmä umelci z Levočskej doliny a z Považia, z okolia Domaniže.

### Prírodný „look“

Oblepovanie veľkonočných vajíčok si azda každý vyskúšal už v škole, keď sme na hodine výtvarnej výchovy natreli škrupinu vajca lepidlom a pokúšali sa na ňu prichytiť farebné bavlnky tak, aby vytvorili rozoznateľný vzor. Takýmto spôsobom sa vytvárajú takzvané obtáčané veľkonočné vajíčka. Najkrajšie vyzerajú pestré melírované.

Tradičné techniky oblepovania kraslíc pracujú s dužinou močiarny tráv – sitiny, slamou z obilia (jačmeňa alebo ovsu), kúskami textilu alebo vlny.

Stebľá trávy sa opatrne rozrežú a vyberie sa z nich dužina, ktorá sa na vajíčka do ornamentálnych tvarov pripevňuje zmesou múky a vody, škrobom alebo modernejšie a jednoduchšie – lepom. Na získanie farebnej sitiny stačí, ak sa vajíčko na čas ponorí do farebného nálevu. V okolí Gbeliec, Slovenského Grobu alebo Seliec sa pred vyzdobovaním vajíčok dužinou z trávy oblepili škrupiny najprv farebnými stuhami.

Oblinové stebľá sa pred nalepovaním na vajíčko musia zmäkčiť namáčaním do vody. Potom sa z nich vystrihujú rôzne geometrické tvary – pásiky, štvorce, kosoštvorce či obdĺžniky, ktoré sa práce postupne priliepajú na škrupinu. Slamová technika je zaužívaná predovšetkým na južnom a západnom Slovensku.

### Nekončiacia inšpirácia

Ďalšou zo širokej palety techník je vyškrabovanie alebo gravírovanie, používané na celom našom území. Pôvodne bolo obľúbené na západe, dnes je živé pod Tatrami, v Batišovciach, Mengusovciach či Gerlachove. Na zafarbené vajíčko sa ostrým predmetom – nožom, pilníkom, ihlou – vyrývajú krátke biele čiarky, ktoré vytvárajú rozmanité rytinové vzory.

Biele ornamenty sa získavajú aj leptaním. Na zafarbenú škrupinu vajca sa zápalkou, ceruzkou alebo iným nástrojom nanáša leptadlo. Môže to byť ocot, šťava z kyslej kapusty alebo citrónu, prípadne soľný roztok. Túto techniku majú najradšej v blízkosti Rožňavy a na vidieku okolo nášho hlavného mesta.

V obciach, kde bolo rozšírené drotárstvo, majú tradíciu drôtované veľkonočné vajíčka – tenkým ohybným drôtom sa okolo vajíčka postupne vytvorí ornamentálna sieťka. Vajíčko vnútri sa buď ponechá, alebo sa škrupina rozbije a ostane len vyformovaná sieť. Šikovné ruky milovníkov háčkovania dokážu zasa okolo vyfúknutého vajíčka vytvoriť krásne nitkové vzory. Techník zdobenia kraslíc je teda skutočne dosť, stačí si vybrať.

Gabriela Miškovičová  
Katolícke noviny

O. Štefan Furdík  
Náš zakladateľ

## Velká noc 2014

*Radostné a požehnané veľkonočné sviatky želáme všetkým Jednotárom a priaznivcom KSKJ*



Ty si vstal z mŕtvych, Pane! A z hrobu vďaka Tebe vyšiel víťazný život. Odteraz ten prameň nikdy nevyschne. Nový život sa ponúka všetkým, aby nás navždy znovustvoril, deti Boha, ktorý nás čaká v každodenných veľkých nociach, vo večnej radosi.

Michael Quoist

## Ježišovo vzkriesenie je pre všetkých ľudí prejavom Božej lásky

Veľká noc je pre kresťanov najväčším sviatkom roka. Pripomíname si a oslavujeme dejinnú udalosť, že Boží syn a človek Ježiš Kristus bol vzkriesený z mŕtvych. Ježišovo vzkriesenie je pre všetkých ľudí prejavom Božej lásky a odpustenia. Veľkonočná udalosť zmŕtvychvstania Pána Ježiša prináša nový pohľad a konečnú odpoveď na základné otázky o zmysle ľudského života a smrti. „Náš život je časom a priestorom na obnovu a rozvíjanie vzťahu lásky s Bohom. Prejavom tejto lásky je viera vo vzkrieseného Ježiša Krista a láskavé skutky k našim ľudským bratom a sestrám. Veľkonočná udalosť a jej slávenie sú preto pevným a nenahraditeľným bodom nášho ľudského jestvovania a každoročným pozvaním pre každého z nás, aby sme sa v srdci otvorili pre Božiu lásku a odpustenie“.

Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský  
Bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita

## Zem slovenská

Zem slovenská domov náš,  
naša odveká materská krajina,  
od Dunaja po velebné Tatry,  
dravé rieky, žirné polia, i tie valné horské riavy,  
to zem slávy, rajskej krásy  
z krivdy ľudu stvorená,

do Božej milosti zverená;  
zo všetkých strán letia hlasy,  
do diaľ sveta rodnej rasy;  
žije, a žiť bude na veky vekov,  
tá posvätná zem slovenská,  
naša vzkriesená slobodná otčina.

Štefan Hreha

## Keď sa spovedáme, Boh nás objíma

Témou katechézy Svätého Otca pri generálnej audiencii 19. februára bola sviatosť zmierenia. V nadväznosti na úvodné čítanie z Evanjelia podľa Matúša o uzdravení ochrnutého poukázal na úlohu Ježiša ako lekára ľudskej duše i tela. Vysvetlil, že sviatosť pokánia a zmierenia je darom, ktorý vychádza z tajomstva Veľkej noci.

Keď sa idem spovedať, idem sa dať uzdraviť: dať si uzdraviť dušu, uzdraviť si srdce z niečoho, čo som vykonal a čo nie je v poriadku. Biblický obraz, ktorý najlepšie vystihuje hlboký súvis týchto sviatostí, je príbeh odpustenia a uzdravenia ochrnutého, kde sa Pán Ježiš zjavuje ako lekár duše i tela zároveň (porov. Mk 2, 1 – 12; Mt 9, 1 – 8; Lk 5, 17 – 29).

Sviatosť pokánia a zmierenia vyvierajú priamo z veľkonočného tajomstva. Bolo to práve vo veľkonočný večer, keď sa Pán zjavil učeníkom zavretým vo večeradle a po pozdrave „Pokoj vám!“ dýchol na nich a povedal: „Prijmite Ducha Svätého. Komu odpustíte hriechy, budú mu odpustené, komu ich zadržíte, budú zadržané“ (porov. Jn 20, 21 – 23). Nemôžem povedať: „Odpúšťam si hriechy.“ Odpustenie sa žiada, prosí sa od niekoho iného a v spovedi si prosíme odpustenie od Ježiša. Odpustenie nie je ovocím našich snáh, ale je darom; darom Ducha Svätého, ktorý nás zaplavuje kúpeľom milosrdenstva a milosti, ktorá prúdi z otvoreného Srdca ukrižovaného a vzkrieseného Krista. Na druhom mieste nám pripomína, že iba vtedy, keď sa zmierime v Ježišovi s Otcom a s bratmi, môžeme byť naozaj v pokoji. A toto sme už všetci v srdci pocítili: keď sa ideme spovedať, ideme s ťarchou v duši, so smútkom. A keď prijmeme Ježišovo odpustenie, sme v pokoji, ktorý môže dať len Ježiš. Preto je potrebné pokorne a s dôverou vyznať svoje hriechy služobníkovi Cirkvi – kňazovi.

Niektorí by mohli povedať: „Ja sa spovedám iba Bohu.“ Isteže, môžeš Bohu povedať: „Odpusť mi“ a vysloviť svoje hriechy. Naše hriechy sú však aj proti bratom, Cirkvi, a preto potrebujeme poprosiť o odpustenie Cirkvi i bratov v osobe kňaza. „Ja sa však hanbím, otče!“ Aj zahanbenie je dobré, je zdravé mať trochu hanby, pretože zahanbenie je uzdravujúce. O niekom, kto sa nehanbí, hovoríme v mojej vlasti, že je človekom „bez hanby“, „nehanebníkom“. Hanba prospieva, pretože nás robí pokornejšími.

Kto stojí v rade na spovedi, pociťuje všetky tieto veci, aj zahanbenie, zo spovede však vychádza slobodný, veľký, zbavený hriechov, belostný, šťastný. V tomto tkvie krásna spovede! Chcel by som sa vás opýtať, neodpovedajte však nahlas, ale každý vo svojom srdci: Kedy si sa naposledy vyspovedal/a? Sú to dva dni? Dva týždne? Dva roky? Dvadsať, štyridsať rokov? Každý nech si to zráta a nech si odpovie, kedy sa naposledy spovedal. Ak odvtedy uplynulo veľa času, nestrácaj ani deň, choď do toho s vedomím, že kňaz bude dobrý. Je tam Ježiš a Ježiš je lepší ako kňazi, Ježiš ťa prijme. Prijme ťa s veľkou láskou. Buď odvážny a choď na spovedi!

Sláviť sviatosť zmierenia znamená byť vo vrúcnom objatí, ktoré je objatím nekonečného Otcovho milosrdenstva. Zakaždým, keď sa spovedáme, Boh nás objíma a má sviatok! Vykráčme po tejto ceste. Nech vás Boh žehná.

VRSK/Katolícke noviny



## Pochod za život v Košiciach

V rámci 14. ročníka kampane „25. marec – Deň počateho dieťaťa“ sa pod heslom „Každý má právo sláviť narodeniny“ konal Pochod za život v Košiciach. Pozvaní boli všetci, ktorým nie je ľahostajná otázka ochrany ľudského života od počatia po prirodzenú smrť. Program sa otvoril sv. omšou v Dóme sv. Alžbety, ktorú celebrol emeritný arcibiskup Mons. Alojz Tkáč. Pri sv. omši bola možnosť vstúpiť do spoločenstva Duchovnej adopcie počateho dieťaťa. Po skončení nasledoval modlitbový pochod k budove Ústavného súdu. Tu sa účastníkom prihovorili vzácní hostia z pro-life organizácií: Ing. Jana Ray-Tutková z Centra pre bioetickú reformu a europoslankyňa MUDr. Anna Záborská. Za ochranu života v tento deň Košiciach pochodovalo viac ako 1,500 ľudí.



Foto: Peter Kmetek

Čelo sprievodu Pochodu za život v Košiciach 24. marca 2014.

A March for Life was held in Kosice on March 24, 2014. This was part of the 14th annual "Beginning of Life" Day held on the feast day of the Annunciation on March 25.