



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



The Jednota Memorial

In our last issue we unveiled The Jednota Memorial on our Jednota Estate grounds in Middletown, PA. Construction has begun. This article will give more information on the Memorial, as will the reprinted drawing on page 12 of this issue that now includes some highlights of the Memorial.

The drawing is an artist rendering of what the Memorial generally would look like and not exactly the finished Memorial.

The materials are high quality granite and intended to last at least 100 years or more.

The stone pillars were constructed in the 1920's as part of the entrance to the old Jednota Orphanage and have an historical significance to the Society. The two black light poles (bollards) will actually be placed on both sides of the walk.

The Slovak, Canadian and U.S. flags will not be embedded in the walkway. In fact they are four inch thick slabs of polished red granite etched with the respective flag images. These granite pieces will be sitting on a raised concrete bed. There is a three foot wide concrete walkway on both sides of the flags. Visitors will not be walking on these flags.

The Memorial site is on a permanently dedicated 1/2 acre of land on the Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue. It sits on the land once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage.

We are utilizing the existing "Doughboy" statue, re-bronzing it and also including those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

This is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans.

How can I, my family, loved one, Branch etc. be a part of the Memorial?

The cost of each 4" x 10" "brick" is \$100, including etching. An 8" x 10" brick is \$200. Please see the order form on page 13 of this issue for details.

We also will consider dedications for areas of the Jednota Memorial – i.e., the Doughboy statue, plaques, etc. Call the Home Office for more information.

I hope you're as excited as we are.



Andrew M. Rajec

Andrew M. Rajec
President



See pages 12 – 13 for more details on the Jednota Memorial

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F C S U
Announces

2014

Jednota
Scholarship Winners



The students pictured on pages 4 – 7 of this issue were chosen scholarship recipients by our Scholarship Committee as a result of their SAT scores, cumulative grade point average and class rank. In addition, each applicant was judged on the basis of his/her involvement in extra-curricular and volunteer activities. Emphasis was placed upon pride of being Catholic and Slovak as evidenced throughout the required essays on the applications. Finally, financial need and the cost of their chosen colleges were evaluated.

continued on page 4

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

August 3, 2014

**Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time,
Cycle A -- Modern**

Gospel Matthew 14 : 13 - 21

Place our sufferings, disappointments and cares into the hands of Jesus, and he will work great marvels in our lives. This is not merely a nice saying meant to give comfort to someone during a time of dis-

stress, it is the reality of God's care for us in every aspect of our lives. In the Gospel for today this can be seen in how Jesus deals with the news of John the Baptist's death, the multitude that sought him out and His concern for providing food for the crowd.

When Jesus received the sad news of the death of John the Baptist he tried to get away by himself to a deserted place. It is part of human nature to take time to process news and events that have an impact on our lives, especially the loss of someone close to us.

The human heart is complex and emotions come forth that we might not expect. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is a heart that pours forth love for us in the midst of our loss and grief. When that Sacred Heart was faced with the reality of John's death, it filled Jesus with sadness. His plan was to step away for a while, in a sense to make a little retreat

However, in Jesus' case he was not to be given the time alone, for the multitude tracked him down. His heart was moved from the sadness of John's death to pity over the multitude that seemed so lost. Jesus fed them with the Divine grace of his presence as he walked through the crowd healing the sick. It was a massive crowd of people, five thousand men plus women and children. I wonder what it must have been like to be there watching Jesus as he calmly and lovingly worked his way through the crowd. It is also a reminder to us that as Christians we can't get stuck as perpetual mourners at the tomb, there is a time for us to refocus on the resurrection and to move forward into the community where our presence and gifts are needed.

Next was the miracle that touched them all. There was little food to feed this crowd, but Jesus takes the little they have, five loaves and two fish, blesses them and instructs the apostles to pass this out to feed the crowd. How on earth can five loaves and two fish feed five thousand men, plus women and children? On earth we are like the apostles who didn't think this was going to work. This was a time when the kingdom of heaven showed its superiority over the kingdom of this world, and there was more than enough food. Actually, they end up with more leftovers than the five loaves and two fish they began with.

The lesson here for us is to trust Jesus. When we face bad news and want to step away for a while, at the same time entrust it to the Lord and allow him lift us up. When we are faced with the unexpected and have to change our plans, hand the frustration and disappointment to the Lord and trust in him for the grace and patience that is needed. When we face some problem and situation and it seems that we do not have enough of what it takes to get us through, trust whatever we have, how small it may seem, into the hands of Jesus and ask him to bless it. When we place our trust in the Lord, he will work great marvels in our lives.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

August 10, 2014

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 14: 22-33

Today's readings use rich imagery of the power and grandeur of the natural world to illustrate the even greater glory of God revealed to us in Christ.

Nature imagery is widely used in the bible as in other literature contemporary with the scriptures to convey an idea of the omnipotence and benevolence of God. In order to appreciate how effective such descriptions can be, one need only read the creation accounts in the first two chapters of Genesis, or the story of Noah and the flood, or peruse poetic texts such as Psalm 29, where the Lord is manifested through the appearance of a terrible storm, or the final chapters of the book of Job, where God reviews the mysteries of creation which are beyond human understanding.

Turning to the first reading, Elijah the prophet was one of the most courageous figures of the entire Old Testament, and so it is surprising that we find him cowering in a cave on Mount Horeb as he awaits the appearance of the Lord. A mighty wind rushes by, yet the Lord is not in the wind; then an earthquake shakes the very ground on which Elijah stands, but God is not to be found in the earthquake. Next a wildfire rages, yet the Lord is not to be seen in the consuming flames either.

Elijah eventually does perceive the presence of the Lord in a "tiny whispering sound" which relates to him that he is to complete his prophetic mission and appoint a successor to carry this mission forward after his departure. Elijah was wise enough to recognize that God is not bound by human ideas of what is important or impressive, and that the Lord can make use of the simplest and humblest means to reveal the most transformative and noble truths.

In the gospel we see that the elements of nature are subject to Jesus, who thus demonstrates his divinity: to the astonishment of the disciples he walks on the water of the Sea of Galilee and calms the stormy winds. We are as remiss as Peter was however if we go no further than simple awe over what we have heard recounted.

Jesus' actions are not meant to amaze his audience, as though he were performing a magic trick. Rather, here as elsewhere his miraculous gestures always point to something beyond themselves: in this case they reveal his divine sonship through his appropriation of the Father's words—"It is I; do not be afraid!" often spoken by the Lord in Isaiah's prophecies—and through his mastery over nature.

Jesus' gestures in this passage also point to his wish to share his divine glory with his disciples, if only they would accept it. We see the intense desire of the Lord to bring us into the fullness of his salvation when he says to Peter: "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" He would gladly give Peter everything, yet what Jesus means to give can only be received when a person comes to know him and then has faith in him.

As we see, Peter's faith falls short, and he ends up plunging into the waters of the Sea of Galilee. Eventually of course he would place all his faith and trust in Christ, and thereby experience the surpassing wonder of God's salvation, which transforms human life in a manner that is far more wonderful than the miracles which anticipate it.

Animated by the wisdom of Elijah and the faith that Peter would finally summon, let us come to know Jesus as the Son and revealer of the Father, and thus be able to say joyfully together with the disciples "Truly, you are the Son of God".



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, AUGUST 6	MONDAY, JULY 28
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17	MONDAY, SEPT. 8
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15	MONDAY, OCT 27

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

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for The Christophers

Thank You for Saving My Life

Almost no one was surprised last May when Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder was designated the Most Valuable Player in the National Basketball Association. He had led the league in scoring by a comfortable margin, and even his most likely competitors argued for his selection. The surprise came a couple of days later, when he gave his acceptance speech. It was a masterpiece of raw emotion, a triumph that matched the original award. If you haven't seen it already on your home computer, catch it as soon as you can. It's well worth watching.

Durant began, refreshingly enough, by thanking God "for saving my life." It's a little unusual to hear God's name at all in a talk of this sort, and Durant made it a point to open his acceptance that way. Next he spoke of his upbringing near Washington, D.C., and his plan to "stay home" and become a coach—but his own career was already on the move.

"Along the way I've had so much help," he said. "People believed in me when I didn't do well, when I didn't believe in myself. I fell so many times but I got back up. And I'm still standing."

Next he turned to his teammates, all of whom were present. Durant wept real tears as unapologetically he thanked them, one by one: "Late-night calls after tough games" ... "When I needed an extra push, you were there" ... "Words can't explain how I feel about you." For Russell Westbrook, a star in his own right, he saved a special mention. "You would run through a wall for me," he said. "You set the tone."

Nor did he forget the Oklahoma City fans. That was fitting, since the city has welcomed the franchise to an extraordinary degree. As part of its official greeting, it even made sure that team members saw some of the local sights, including Bricktown, the now-restored factory district full of parks and restaurants, and the Memorial at the site of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, where 168 Oklahomans lost their lives.

Finally the tears flowed freely as Durant paid tribute to his Mom (who was also there for the presentation). In the emotional highlight of an emotional speech, he chose his words carefully:

"I don't know how you did what you did. You were a single parent with two boys by the time you were 21. We moved from one apartment to another by ourselves. One of my best memories I have is when we moved into our first apartment. No bed, no furniture... We all sat in the living room, on the floor, and just hugged each other. We thought we had made it.

"When you didn't eat, you made sure we ate. You went to sleep hungry. You sacrificed for us. You're the real MVP."

Durant closed as he began, by thanking God again through his tears. "He is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega," he said. The final phrase of the speech, directed to God, was simple indeed: "Thank you for saving my life."

He didn't explain it, nor did he have to. The eloquence of his words saw to that.

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

2014 Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar in September

The 2014 Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar, under the auspices of the Slovak Catholic Federation, will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2014, at the Calumet College of St. Joseph, at 2400 New York Avenue in Whiting, Indiana. Attendees will gather at 1:00 pm for a delicious lunch catered by Steve's Lounge of Hegwisch. Afterward, Msgr. Joseph Semancik will speak about the life and legacy of Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, the first bishop of the Diocese of Gary, IN, who was very proud of his Slovak-American heritage. Attendees will then tour the Bishop Grutka Memorial Museum at the college. Cost: \$20.00. For more information, call John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810 or Geri Hletko at (708) 387-7812.

Robert Tapak Magruder

Seminar Publicist and Branch 493 Financial Secretary

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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 or call her at the Home Office, 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682), x 123.

Year of Faith: the Church in the Modern World, Parts V & VI

Dear Friends,

The summary of the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et spes*) from the Second Vatican Council continues here with teachings on abortion and artificial birth control. First, abortion is called an unspeakable crime, as well as infanticide. The Council affirms that, from the moment of conception, human life must be safeguarded with the greatest care.

Regarding artificial birth control, many people know the Church's teaching on this issue is contained Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical *Humanae vitae*. What many may not know is that *Humanae vitae* pretty much repeats the teaching of the Church presented three years earlier in *Gaudium et spes*. The teaching is presented here in the context of a term used by moral theologians, the "moral act." A moral act is one which is either to be done as good and holy or avoided as evil and sinful. Acts of conjugal love are moral acts and are to be honored with great reverence. Since there is no contradiction between divine laws pertaining the transmission of human life and those pertaining authentic conjugal love, the rightness or wrongness of this moral act must be determined as other moral acts, namely, by objective standards and not on personal intention or motives. What this means, *Gaudium et spes* says, is that it is not permitted for members of the Church to undertake methods of birth control that are contrary to teaching of the Church.

Children should be educated so that as adults they can follow their calling with a mature sense of responsibility and chose their state of life. Their parents or guardians should give prudent advice and proper guidance in regards to establishing a family. Simultaneously, no pressure, direct or indirect, is to be exerted to compel them to enter marriage or choose a specific partner.

Public authority has a sacred duty to recognize, protect and promote the authentic (read traditional) nature of marriage and the family. The rights of parents to have and educate their children are to be safeguarded. Children who do not live in a family setting are to be given protection and assistance by prudent legislation and other resources.

Following its discussion on Marriage and the Family, the Council turns its attention to the development of culture. The Church has used the discoveries of different cultures in her efforts to evangelize, to reflect and understand her mission, and to give better expression in liturgical celebration. At the same time, the Church is not bound exclusively and indissolubly to any race or nation, any particular way of life recent or ancient.

The next topic addressed is economics. Economic development is a work of human society as a whole. It is not to be left in the hands of a small numbers of people, groups possessing economic power, politicians alone, nor certain powerful nations. Citizens have the right and duty to contribute to the progress of their own community according to their ability. Those who withhold their unproductive resources or who deprive the community of the necessary material or spiritual aid it needs gravely endanger the common good. Efforts to remove large economic inequalities must be made.

Justice requires that migration be regulated in a way that prevents individuals and their families from becoming insecure and anxious. Workers coming from another country to contribute to the economic advancement of a nation or region by their labor are to be treated with justice and respect befitting human dignity. These workers are neither mere tools of production, nor are to face discrimination regarding their wages and working conditions. Assistance is to be given for their families to be brought and live with them, as well as for them to be incorporated into the social life of the country or region that receives them.

The next summary from *Gaudium et spes*, the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, continues with a presentation of a theology of human labor. The bishops teach that through labor offered to God, the human person is united with the redemptive work of Christ. From this follows the right to work for every person. Society has a duty to help the citizens to find sufficient employment. Finally, remuneration for labor is to be such that a person and one's dependents may be given the means to nurture worthily one's own material, social, cultural and spiritual life, in view of the function and productiveness of each worker, the conditions of the workplace, and the common good.

Workers should enjoy sufficient rest and leisure to foster the growth of their family, cultural, social and religious life. Freely founded unions should be able to represent workers, who have the right of partaking in union activities without risk of reprisal. Efforts must be made to come to a peaceful settlement when disputes occur between labor and management. If a settlement is not in the offing, a strike can be called as a last resort to defend the rights of workers and to fulfil their just desires. If this were to happen, ways to resume negotiations and discussions of reconciliation are to be sought.

Every person has the right to have a share of earthly goods sufficient for one's self and family. As a result, people are obliged to come to the relief of the poor and do so not merely out of their superfluous goods. In cases of extreme necessity, one has the right to procure for oneself what one needs from the riches of others.

More and more attempts are being made in many parts of the world to protect the rights of people to freely meet and form associations, to express one's opinion, and to profess one's religious faith both in public and in private. At the same time political systems in other parts of the world hamper civic or religious freedom, victimize large numbers through greed or political crimes, and divert the exercise of authority from the service of the common good to special interests or to rulers themselves. Political systems that do this are to be rebuked.

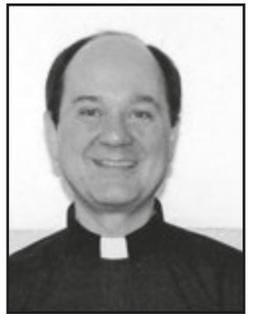
Political authority must always be exercised within the limits of the moral order and directed to the common good. Citizens are bound in conscience to obey political authority when it is carried out in this fashion. When political authority oppresses its citizens, however, people should not protest against things that are objectively required for the common good. Nonetheless, it is legitimate for the people to defend their own rights and the rights of their fellow citizens against this abuse of authority within the limits of God's law and the Gospels.

All citizens should be mindful of their right and duty to vote in elections. They are to recognize the legitimacy of different opinions regarding temporal solutions, and respect others who, even collectively, defend their points of view honestly. Political parties are to advance those things which in their judgment are needed for the common good. It is never permitted for the common good to become secondary to the interests of political parties.

People who desire to become involved in politics should prepare themselves for this noble work and seek to practice it without any regard for their own personal or material gain. They must act against any form of injustice and dictatorship, domination by an individual or political party, and any intolerance. They are to be of service to all with sincerity and fairness, charity and fortitude.

The Church does not identify itself in any way with the political community nor is it bound to any political system. The Church and the political community are autonomous and independent from each other. Yet both are devoted to the personal and social good of the same people.

A summary of the Council's teaching on war and peace is in the next issue of Jednota.



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

2014 Jednota Scholarship Winners

continued from page 1

Each FCSU 2014 Jednota Scholarship winner will receive a one-time grant of \$750.00. Included in these winners are Alexa Holmes, Sarah Nueslein and Todd Peters who were selected for the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund".

In addition to the above winners, there were two special awards given. Jeffrey Ruffing is the recipient of the "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and Maura Rose Vrabel is the recipient of the "Stephanie Husek Scholarship". These awards are also one-time grants and are in the amount of \$1,000.00 each.

Additionally, each scholarship winner will be issued a \$3,000.00 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy upon proof of graduation from college.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretar



ANTOSY, MEGAN

Parents: Dennis and Beverly Antosy; Branch: 175K; Reading, PA; College: Penn State University; Major: Creative Writing



BABCANEC, JOSEPH

Parents: Joseph and Patricia Babcanec; Branch: 635K; New Brighton, PA; College: The Juliard School; Major: Music Composition



BABCOCK, JOSEPH

Parents: Burton and Catherine Babcock; Branch: 089K; Milwaukee, WI; College: St. Joseph College Seminary, Loyola University; Major: Philosophy and Computer Science, Double Major

Top Male
Philip Hrobak Scholarship



RUFFING, JEFFERY

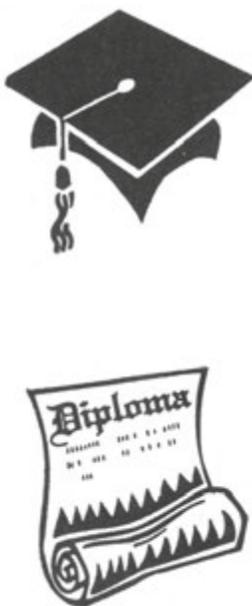
Parents: Jeffrey and Rebecca Ruffing, Branch: 670K; Donora, PA; College: Penn State University; Major: Mechanical Engineering

Top Female
Stephanie Husek Scholarship



VRABEL, MAURA ROSE

Parents: Richard and Kathleen Vrabel; Branch: 796K; Egypt, PAL; College: Drexel University; Major: Chemical Engineering



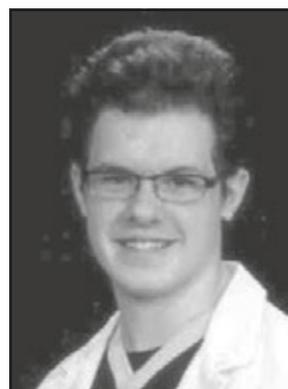
BAKALAR, JAMIE

Parents: James and Linda Bakalar; Branch: 731K; Poland, OH; College: Youngstown State University; Major: Dental Hygienist



BARCZYNSKI, HEATHER

Parents: John and Lisa Barczynski; Branch: 567K; Allentown, PA; College: Rochester Institute of Technology; Major: American Sign Language/English Interpreting



BARCZYNSKI, JOHN

Parents: John and Lisa Barczynski; Branch: 567K; Allentown, PA; College: University of Rochester; Major: Engineering

John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund Nursing Awards



HOLMES, ALEXA

Parents: William and Vanessa Holmes; Branch: 484K; Coral, PA; College: Duquesne University; Major: Nursing



PETERS, TODD

Parents: Ken and Sherrie Peters; Branch: 493K; Chicago, IL; College: Purdue Calumet; Major: Nursing



BARCZYNSKI, KRISTEN

Parents: John and Lisa Barczynski; Branch: 567K; Allentown, PA; College: Seton Hill University; Major: Psychology



BEIERLE, MICHAEL

Parents: John and Marian Beierle; Branch: 173K; Mountain Top, PA; College: Penn State University; Major: Business/Marketing and Advertising



BELECHAK, OLIVIA

Parents: John and Johnette Belechak; Branch: 213K; Valencia, Pa; College: DePaul University; Major: Graphic Design



NUESLEIN, SARAH

Parents: Mark and Angela Nueslein; Branch: 173K; Wilkes Barre, PA; College: College of Southern Maryland; Major: Nursing



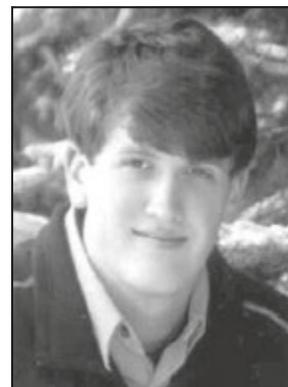
CAMPBELL, HANNAH

Parents: Shelly Woods and Benjamin Campbell; Branch: 162K; Uniontown, PA; College: Potomac State College; Major: Business



CHICHOWSKI, NICOLE

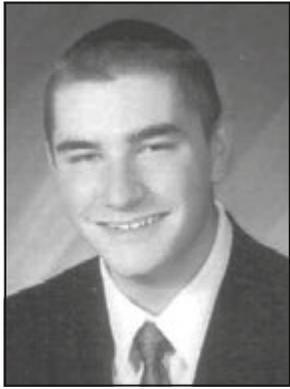
Parents: Joseph and Janet Chichowski; Branch: 019K; Trumbull, CT; College: East Stroudsburg University; Major: Physical and Health Education



COLUMBUS III, JOHN JAMES

Parents: John and Mecinda Columbus; Branch: 002K; Pittsburg, PA; College: Pennsylvania State University; Major: Computer Engineering

2014 Jednota Scholarship Winners



CZANKER JR., RANDY L.
 Grandparents: Albert and Barbara Czankner; Branch: 567K, Allentown, PA ;College: DeSales University; Major: Business Management/ Accounting



DALY, RYAN JAMES
 Parents: Ronald and Amy Daly; Branch: 002K; Piittsburgh, PA; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Biochemistry



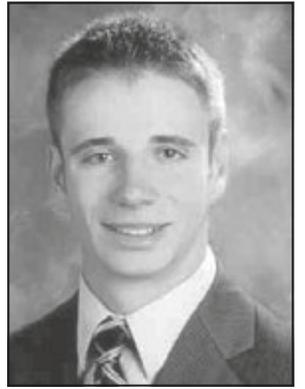
FIGURA, ALICIA
 Parents: Robert and Maria Figura; Branch: 041K; Yonkers, NY; College: Fordham University; Major: Mathematics, Pre-Veterinary/ Med



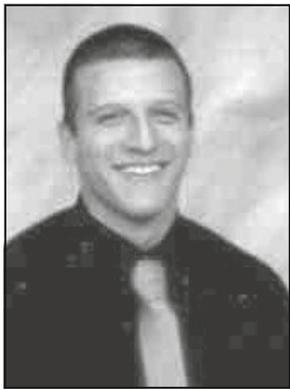
FOSTER III, RICHARD F.
 Parents: Richard F. Foster and Elaine M. DiGiacomo; Branch: 213K; Valencia, PA; College: Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Major: Nursing



FRANCOWIC, SARAH
 Parents: Michael and Michelle Francowic; Branch: 856K; Cary, NC; College: University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; Major: Communications and Journalism



GAYDOSH, ANDREW
 Parents: Jennifer Gaydosh and Mike Gaydosh (lives with mother); Branch: 484K, Carol, PA; College: Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Major: Safety Science



GILGER, MICHAEL PAUL
 Parents: Mark and Paula Gilger; Branch: 075K; Shamokin, PA; College: Wilkes University; Major: Journalism/Business Management



GREENE, BAILEY
 Parents: Steve and Darlene Greene; Branch: 024K; Independence, OH; College: Denison University; Major: Foreign Language



GREGA, MARY
 Parents: Thomas and Pamela Grega; Branch: 041K; Yonkers, NY; College: Binghamton University; Major: Psychology



GUIDARA, GABRIELLE B.
 Parents: Joseph and Judith Guidara; Branch: 175K; Reading, PA; College: Temple University; Major: Neuroscience



HARDEN, ALYSSA ABIGAIL
 Parents: Timothy and Patrice Harden; Branch: 162K; Uniontown, PA; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Civil Engineering



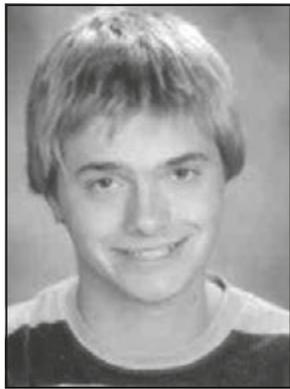
HETER, LUCAS
 Parents: Dale and Judith Heter; Branch: 380K; Canonsburg, PA; College: Regis University, Colorado Christian University, University of Northern Colorado; Major: Music Education



JONES, SARAH
 Parents: Timothy and Cathy-Straka Jones; Branch: 175K; Reading, PA; College: DeSales University; Major: Undeclared



KELLY, TYLER
 Parents: Kevin and Roxanne Kelly; Branch: 367K; Uniontown, PA; College: California University of Pennsylvania; Major: Criminal Justice



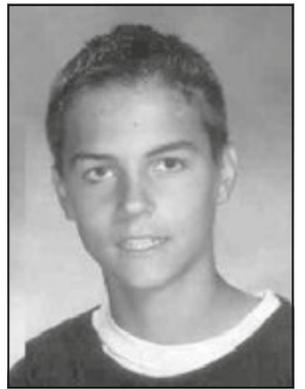
KENT, JARED
 Parents: Albert and Martha Kent; Branch: 024K; Independence, OH; College: Johnson and Wales University; Major: Culinary Arts



KING, SHANE
 Parents: Jesse and Sandra King; Branch: 738K; Munhall, PA; College: Washington and Jefferson University; Major: Pre-Med



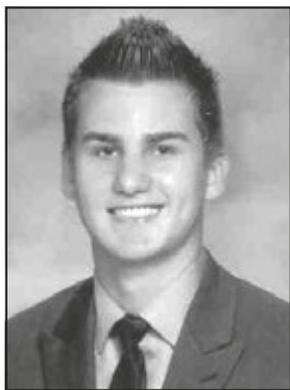
KLEIN, SYDNEY
 Parents: Paul and Paula Klein; Branch: 670K; Donora, PA; College: Mount Saint Mary's University; Major: Business



KOLESAR, JOSEPH
 Parents: Dusan and Viera Kolesar; Branch: 746K; Edison, NJ; College: Rutgers University; Major: Pre-Business, Entrepreneurship



KOPCO, ANNA
 Parents: William and Sally Kopco; Branch: 024K; Independence, OH; College: Ohio State University; Major: Undecided



KOTLAR, ANDREW
 Parents: Alvin and Teresa Kotlar; Branch: 670K; Donora, PA; College: Carolina University of Pennsylvania; Major: Sports Management



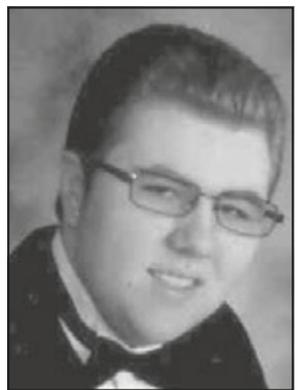
KOVACOVA, JULIA
 Parents: Jozef and Jana Kovacova; Branch: 743K; Sterling Heights, MI; College: Oakland University; Major: International Relations



KOZMA, RACHEL
 Parents: Mike and Cindy Kozma; Branch: 228K; Lorain, OH; College: Xavier University; Major: Business



KRAMER, STEPHANIE ANN
 Parents: Thomas and Jill Kramer; Branch: 900K; Independence, OH; College: Alverno College; Major: Nursing



KUBENIK, MICHAEL
 Parents: Michael and Kelly Kubenik; Branch: 716K; Ridgefield Park, NY; College: University at Albany; Major: Business Management

2014 Jednota Scholarship Winners



KYSEL, ELIZABETH

Parents: Andrew and Carol Kysel; Branch: 169P; Johnstown, PA; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Economics or International Business



LOZAW, JULIANA

Parents: Jerome and Patricia Lozaw; Branch: 484K; Coral, PA; College: Pennsylvania State University; Major: Food Science



MAGLEY, CLARISSA

Parents: Christopher and Christine Magley; Branch: 581K; Porter, IN; College: Indiana University of South Bend; Major: Dental Hygiene



MARMOL, MARIA

Parents: Mark and Suzanne Marmol; Branch: 162K; Uniontown, PA; College: West Virginia University; Major: Business Finance and Marketing



MATTA, AUSTIN

Parents: Gary and Rona Matta; Branch: 038K; White Oak, PA; College: Thiel College; Major: Political Science



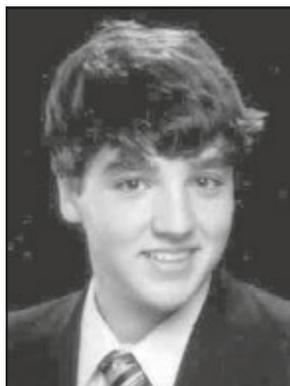
MIKLOS, DUNCAN

Parents: William Miklos and Janet Hardy-Miklos; Branch: 587K; Aliquippa, PA; College: Penn State Beaver; Major: Meteorology



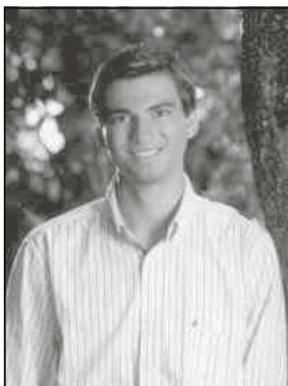
MURPHY, MORGAN

Parents: Tom and Maureen Murphy; Branch: 831K; Tarentum, PA; College: Saint Vincent College; Major: Marketing



**NESTER, BRENDAN
PATRICK**

Parents: Michael and Mary Ellen Nester; Branch: 419K; Mountaintop, PA; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Business/Law



PEGULA, MARK

Parents: Mark and Diane Pegula; Branch: 238K; Moscow, PA; College: University of Pittsburgh Greensburg; Major: Biological Sciences



PIPON, STEVEN

Parents: Joseph and Susan Pipon; Branch: 292K; Windber, PA; College: University of Pittsburgh; Major: Pre-Medicine/Biology



PRUZINSKY, HANNAH

Parents: John and Denise Pruzinsky; Branch: 567K; Allentown, PA; College: Villanova University; Major: Nursing



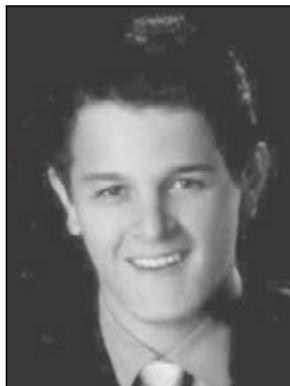
**PUNTURI, JACOB
SAMUEL**

Parents: Joseph and Jude Punturi; Branch: 213K; Valencia, PA; College: George Mason University; Major: Psychology



REMIS, ABIGAIL

Parents: David and Anne Remis; Branch: 200K; Ford City, PA; College: Allegheny College; Major: Geology with a minor in Environmental Writing or Non Western History



ROTH, STEFEN P.

Parents: Dennis and Diane Roth; Branch: 682K; Boardman, OH; College: Westminster College; Major: Pre-Medical Program/Chemistry



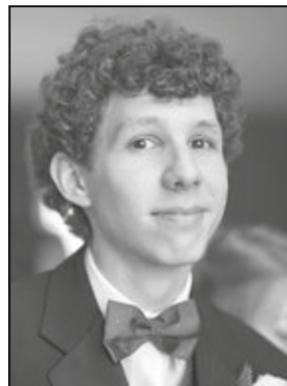
SAMBUCINI, GINA

Parents: Frank and Joanne Sambucini; Branch: 238K; Moscow, PA; College: Johnson and Wales University; Major: Hotel and Lodging Management



SCHWARTZ, EMILY

Parents: Christopher and Cynthia Schwartz; Branch: 652K; Califon, NJ; College: Rider University; Major: Elementary Education



SCIORTINO, FRANK

Parents: Frank and Patricia Sciortino; Branch: 041K; Yonkers, NY; College: St. Johns University; Major: Actuarial Science



SEBETICH, SARAH

Parents: Ted and Mary Ann Sebetich; Branch: 670K; Donora, PA; College: Point Park University Conservatory; Theatre Bachelor of fine Arts Degree



SMETANKA, LINDSAY

Parents: John and Sharon Smetanka; Branch: 211K; Latrobe, PA; College: Seton Hall University; Major: International Relations and Diplomacy



SNOVAK, AUSTIN LEE

Parents: Anthony and Kim Snovak; Branch: 260K; Campbell, OH; College: Youngstown State University; Major: Civil Engineering Technology



STACHNIK, MICHAEL J.

Parents: Jeffery and Bonnie Stachnik; Branch: 240P; Clarks Summit, PA; College: DePaul University; Major: Accounting



STALDER, COLLEEN

Parents: Bruce and Michelle Stalder; Branch: 166K; Windor, NY; College: Suny Binghamton; Major: Graphic Design



STAS, OLIVIA

Parents: Kenneth and Sandra Stas; Branch: 199K; Mt Pleasant, PA; College: Pennsylvania State University; Major: Kinesiology



**TODOROWSKI, JARED
WALTER**

Parents: Michael and Diane Todorowski; Branch: 002K; Pittsburgh, PA; College: St. Francis University; Major: Physical Therapy

2014 Jednota Scholarship Winners



TOTH, MELINDA

Parents: John and Mary Toth; Branch: 260K; Youngstown, OH; College: Youngstown State University; Major: Social Work



TROKAN, KAITLIN

Parents: Tim and Paula Trokan; Branch: 089K; Milwaukee, WI; College: University of Wisconsin Eau Claire; Major: Secondary Education English



TROKAN-TENORIO, JOZEF

Parents: Michael Trokan and Rita Tenorio; Branch: 089K; Milwaukee, WI; College: University of Wisconsin-Madison; Major: Physics



VELIKY, ROSA

Parents: John and Jane Veliky; Branch: 670K; Donora, PA; College: East Stroudsburg University; Major: Media Communications and Technology



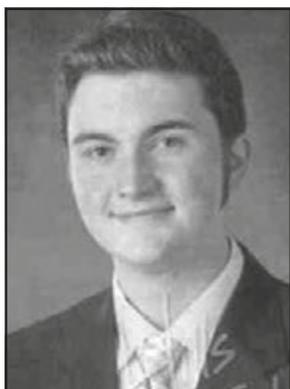
WARGO, MATTHEW

Parents: Dan and Lisa Wargo; Branch: 040K; Streator, IL; College: University of Texas at Austin; Major: Economics



WILHELM, STEFANI

Parents: Damian and Stacy Wilhelm; Branch: 853K; Pittsburgh, PA; College: West Texas A&M University; Major: General Studies



YOST, NATHANIEL

Parents: John and Lisa Yost; Branch: 038K; White Oak, PA; College: Duquesne University; Major: Liberal Arts/Theater Arts



ZAHOR, CHRISTOPHER

Parents: Christopher and Kim Zahor; Branch: 019K; Trumbull, CT; College: Western Connecticut State University; Major: Psychology



ZAVADA, AUDREY

Parents: Raymond and Corinne Zavada; Branch: 005P; Exeter, PA; College: Penn State University; Major: Nutritional Sciences



ZITTLE, SAVANNAH

Parents: Ernie and Kimberly Zittle; Branch: 003P; Hazleton, PA; College: York College of PA; Major: Business



ATTENTION

**THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC
2014 SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who attends an Approved Post Secondary Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship.
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - An official college transcript of grades and all standardized test scores achieved, including all ACT or SAT scores; (if applicable)
 - One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant;
 - Examples of applicant's community involvement;
 - A list and description of leadership positions held by applicant;
 - A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability;
 - A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives;
 - A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing.

For applications, please contact:

Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc.
 First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, Ohio 44131
 Phone 1-800-533-6682 - Fax 216-642-4310
 E-mail: fcsu@fcsu.com

OR, download a scholarship application by going to: www.fcsu.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 17, 2014

*Family members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.

Mark Your Calendars:

The following FCSU Sales Seminars have been finalized...



An FCSU Sales Seminar will be held on:

- **Sunday, September 28, 2014** at Tatra Hall, at 2526 Sixth Street, Muskegon Hts., MI, 49444. The seminar will be held directly after Branch 595's meeting at 2:00PM
- **Sunday, October 26, 2014** at the Slovak Club in Ford City, PA. The seminar will be held directly after the Monsignor Joseph Tiso District, District 11's, meeting at 2:00PM.

Editor's note: please watch for details of these meetings in upcoming issues of *Jednota*, as well as other pending seminars, time and place to be announced.



Reminder...

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

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, a cancellation or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Home Office, 6611 Rockside Rd., Suite 300 Independence, OH 44131-2398. Phone 1/800-JEDNOTA; fax at 216/642-4310 E-mail: info@fcsu.com

Slovakia's New President, Andrej Kiska

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

Slovakia has a new head of state, 51 year-old Andrej Kiska. President Kiska took his oath of office on June 15, 2014, becoming the fourth president since Slovakia achieved independence in 1993. Not belonging to any political party, Kiska pledged he would pursue non-partisan goals to help improve Slovak society.

Kiska had triumphed in the late March 2014 presidential election, which featured a record high 14 candidates competing for the office. Kiska managed to defeat the presumed favorite, Prime Minister Robert Fico (Smer -Social Democracy), in a run-off election, which many viewed as a referendum on the current government. Kiska garnered 59.38 percent of the citizens' votes. While Smer had won the 2012 parliamentary elections with a resounding victory, various scandals and tepid economic growth combined with continued high unemployment (12.4% in May 2014) have continued to hack away at Fico's popularity. Smer still retains a majority of 83 representatives in the 150-member parliament, another general election is scheduled for 2016.

Earlier in 2014, many analysts had thought that Prime Minister would be a shoe-in for the job of president, but the Slovak people thought otherwise. In many ways, this represents a positive aspect of learning democracy, because it shows that people shun away from the idea of one party having too much power, and prefer to see a president who can stand above party differences. Voters also elected a man with more global knowledge and some pragmatic experience with what is involved in founding a new business.

In his inaugural speech, Kiska stressed the need for politicians to work together to help resolve many of the problems which Slovakia's citizens face. He also underlined that "morality and decency" must improve. Kiska highlighted the challenge to seek "great goals," which are lacking in political agendas. "Many people have a feeling that it is almost an act of heroism to do something completely normal, for instance, not to take a bribe or stand up for the weak. We hear too often that moral and decency have disappeared from society."

The task now will be to translate Kiska's current popularity and new moral authority into actual change on the political scene. Slovakia's voters remain skeptical about politicians, whom they often see as enriching themselves at the expense of the citizenry.

Background to the Presidential Elections of 2014

Unlike the USA, where presidents have a four year term of office, Slovakia chooses a new president every five years and an elected official may hold office for a maximum of two terms. Under the constitution of the Slovak Republic, the president enjoys very limited powers compared to an American president. While a president may block a government's nomination for some leading state offices and institutions, he lacks the power to dismiss officials or propose legislation. But he may use the presidential office as a public forum to initiate new ideas, or as a form of bully pulpit, in the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt.

Previously, Ivan Gašparovič had served as Slovakia's president since June 15, 2004, after defeating former prime minister Vladimír Mečiar in a second round electoral contest; Gašparovič emerged a victor, largely a result of people fearing the consequences if the controversial Mečiar returned to power. While in office, Mečiar had developed a reputation of fostering corruption and questionable methods of governing. Before becoming president, Gašparovič had served as speaker of the parliament and had formerly belonged to Mečiar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia. Like many former presidents, Gašparovič held membership in the communist party, the sign of a professional politician. His term of office remained relatively lackluster and his performance centered largely around ceremonial functions.

With presidential elections coming up in March 2014, Fico thought that he could grab the office and enhance the prestige of his party and self. But it was not to be. In January 2014, Martin Ehl had already questioned whether Fico could grab the presidency without a run for the money. Ehl admitted that Fico held the advantage of public exposure in the media with his office, and Fico has a knack for effective speaking and communicating his ideas. He has continued to be the most popular Slovak politician in the polls, yet there existed evidence of a shift in voter sentiments. But Fico made some mistakes early in the election campaign. He had a professional video produced about his supposed Catholic childhood and Christian values in an attempt to win over Catholics and conservatives, but he neglected to mention his communist party membership prior to 1989. Fico even falsely alleged that Kiska had belonged to the Church of Scientology. Catholics knew better and doubted that Fico held any firm religious convictions. Rather it was a political ploy, which further discredited Fico in the eyes of voters.

Sociologist Martin Slosiarik, of the Focus research institute, noted Fico's masterful

skill before the 2012 parliamentary elections. Two days before the election, Fico effectively used International Women's Day to attract female voters. "It's hard to find a weakness ... Perhaps only if he behaved arrogantly, but he's a professional and that's unlikely." His own party's voter have remained fairly loyal, but he needed to attract voters from center and conservative parties to win outright. The division of his opposition remained a hope to rally his troops to electoral victory, but that did not happen.



Kiska with the slogan "We are going to change Slovakia."

The opposition succeeded in convincing voters that having Fico holding two major public offices could be dangerous. This scared voters into an "anyone but Fico" mentality. Former President Ivan Gašparovič had adopted a fairly passive role as president, but voters realized that Fico would plan to play a much more active and political role in office. Even former prime minister Iveta Radičová, who had been extremely popular in international circles, endorsed the "anyone but Fico" attitude. Polls were already suggesting that Andrej Kiska had a fighting chance of beating Fico in the second round of elections for president. Thus Fico lost the elections by a substantial margin.

Thus Fico lost the elections by a substantial margin.

Kiska's Background

What attracted Slovaks to Kiska was his personal history. Hailing from eastern Spiš city of Poprad, near the High Tatra Mountains, Kiska appealed to voters in the east. His distance from Bratislava might be compared with Americans' disdain for professional politicians who seem entrenched in Washington.

Kiska also could claim a substantial business background; he was not a professional politician like Fico. During the 1990s after the Velvet Revolution, he moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, to learn how to start a business and seek his fortune. He became a self-made man who learned the basics of doing good business. And he knows English, unlike his predecessor, Gašparovič, which will help him in diplomatic encounters.

Upon returning to Slovakia, Kiska founded three financial installment companies, which mainly featured catalogue sales of consumer goods, sold the goods by installment plans, and lent people money through high interest installment loans. The enterprises quickly earned him a small fortune of several million euros. In 2005, he sold shares in them and established Dobrý anjel (The Good Angel), a charity which assists families with children who are suffering from cancer. The charity quickly helped him acquire a stellar reputation as a philanthropist out to help people. In addition to his own contributions to the fund, the foundation raised money from tens of thousands of donors and provided assistance to over 5,000 families.

Although the public had just started to become familiar with Kiska as a person, he held the advantage of being a "civic" candidate, at a time when many voters in Slovakia have begun to look for other candidates besides the more established politicians such as Fico. The analyst Slosiarik noted, "The fact that he's gained on the political matadors testifies to the disappointment among voters following the elections in 2012 and that there's a mood here against the politicians who have ruled for the last 20 years."

While political analysts observed Kiska's political inexperience with politics and government, his personal appeal and call for morality in government garnered popular backing. He appeared to be less interested in seeking the presidency for political gain, and more about values which needed to be upheld or changed. As Grigorij Meseznikov, president of the Bratislava-based Institute for Public Affairs, stated, "For now he speaks more about values, but less about the state of which he wants to be president." His actions in helping others through charity rang home among Slovak voters.

Thus Kiska's rising popularity and triumph in the elections became ever more apparent as election day approached, and has continued to rise with his first days in office. Unlike the scene of the inauguration of Gašparovič, crowds of supporters gathered instead of protesters, and they cheered on Kiska and his message of moral uplifting. A personable man, Kiska followed his speech by shaking hands with people in the audience. Then for lunch, he dined with guests who included senior citizens, orphans and the homeless. It proved to be an auspicious start for creating a new image of the president.

Foreign Policy

While the Fico government has made a point of pursuing friendlier relations with Russia, even during the crisis over Slovakia next-door neighbor, Ukraine, Kiska has spoke of

continued on page 9



Andrej Kiska at his presidential inauguration



**Kiska
working
with
children.**

Slovakia's New President, Andrej Kiska

continued from page 8

a more international approach. Fico had criticized the rising deployment of NATO troops during the Ukrainian events, but in his inaugural speech, Kiska underlined the importance of safeguarding the security of Slovakia and other member states. Thus from the start, Kiska appears to be embarking upon a more activist approach for the presidency in foreign affairs, that goes beyond the cordial handshaking of Gasparovič's style.

After the Elections

Polls in late June showed the Smer's popularity had continued to plummet, though still commanding a plurality of 35.3 percent of voters. That still represents a 1.1 percent decline since May, not a positive sign for Smer. The new Siet' Party of unsuccessful presidential candidate, Radoslav Procházka, has continued to shoot up in the polls, going from 15.4 percent in May to 17.2 percent in June, making it the second most popular party in Slovakia. The other established parties are treading water as well, as people are looking for new alternatives. The Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) polled about 7.9 percent and the Most-Híd Party took 7.8 percent, which gives them each about 16 parliamentary seats each. The Party of the Magyar (Hungarian) Community (SMK) remained steady with 6 percent and would obtain 12 seats.

With his party's popularity on decline, Fico had pledged that he would allow some shakeup in his cabinet as a result of the presidential election results, and the Slovak media had anticipated some changes. The Smer Party board met on June 28 to agree to some shifts in positions after the disappointments in both the 2014 presidential and European Parliament elections.

Kiska was soon busy accepting some new ministers of state. On July 3, 2014, he accepted the resignations of the former Minister of the Economy, Tomáš Malatinský, as well as that of the Minister of Education, Dušan Čaplovič. He then appointed the state secretary for the Finance Ministry, Pavol Pavlis, to the post of Economy Minister; Smer's deputy chair, whom parliament elected on June 28, Peter Pellegrini, accepted his new post as Education Minister.

In accepting his new position, Pavlis pledged that increasing foreign investments would be his highest priority. SITA quoted him as stating, "I would be disappointed if announced investments ended up in Hungary or the Czech Republic.... My priority is to seek actively for those investments." To make that happen, he was replacing two state secretaries.

Likewise, the new Education Minister Pellegrini is taking a proactive approach, and indicated he would make substantial changes, which would make the ministry more "modern, flexible, and dynamic." He has prioritized making sure there will be enough textbooks for schools, which start in September, since some had lacked sufficient quantities in the past. He also hopes to try to raise teachers' salaries when budget negotiations begin later in the year.

Both Malatinský and Čaplovič pledged to help smooth the transition with the new appointments. Not a member of the ruling Smer Party, Malatinský wishes to continue assisting with some projects he had started in the ministry. Many expect that he will advise Fico on work with the National Property Fund. Malatinský hoped to initiate a new holding company which would keep watch on the major energy companies.

The changes indicate that all will not be the same, and Fico will try to reestablish his political base, while Kiska has to learn to swim in a turbulent political lake, and shift the currents in the direction which he envisions.

Conclusion

So for now, Kiska can enjoy the honeymoon milieu which has characterized his first few weeks in office. People in Slovakia appear optimistic about the new president and remain hopeful for substantial changes. While some have criticized the inexperienced Kiska's "lackluster campaigning and his dry personality," the new president has a record which shows an openness to learning quickly and innovation in business. Whether he can apply such skill and finesse to the art of governing and politics remains another question which will be answered over the next few years. Kiska will have to learn the ropes of politics by trial and error and will have to contend with the formidable political machine which Fico has built so successfully over the last decade.

On his webpage, Kiska laid out his general aims for his tenure as president when he was running. He speaks clearly about the need for all Slovak citizens to join together to work for a set of common goals, and pledges to be a president who will play an active part

in improving the country. His webpage succinctly lays out these goals.

"I promise and guarantee to be the president for all citizens. I want to bring people together and motivate them, not label, divide or classify them according to their political affiliation.

I will always stand by the people, whenever the state is failing. As president, I want to try to restore people's trust in the state, and I want to return authority and confidence to the office of the presidency.

I will remind politicians, why people vote for them - to fulfill promises made to citizens in elections. I will listen to and meet not only with politicians, but I will listen to citizens: how they living and what to do for them...."

Kiska promises to nominate experts to institutional positions and ensure that decent and honest judges hold office. He wants a Slovakia which is more democratic, more competitive, internationally committed, and upholds the rule of law.

So Kiska has his work cut out for him. The next few months will be telling about his success in achieving this grand vision for a better Slovakia.

Source:

"Millionaire Andrej Kiska elected first Slovak president with no communist past, Telegraph, March 13, 2014. (Accessed July 7, 2014), "

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/slovakia/10732435/Millionaire-Andrej-Kiska-elected-first-Slovak-president-with-no-communist-past.html>

"New Slovak President Andrej Kiska inaugurated," Prague Post, June 15, 2014 (Accessed July 7, 2014). <http://www.praguepost.com/eu-news/39608-new-slovak-president-andrej-kiska-inaugurated>

Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., "Slovakia's New President, Ivan Gašparovič," manuscript, published in Jednota, 2004. <http://www.statistics.sk/prezident2004/> (Accessed July 14, 2004).

Beata Balogová, "The president's speech," Slovak Spectator, Jan. 13, 2014 (Accessed Jan. 20, 2014). http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/52572/11/the_presidents_speech.html .

Martin Ehl, "Not a Done Deal," Transitions online. 14 January 2014. http://www.tol.org/client/article/24115-slovakia-elections-robot-fico-smer.html?utm_source=TOL+mailing+list&utm_campaign=7e96884816-TOL_newsletter_27_8_2012&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_35d0a711b5-7e96884816-298052382 (Accessed January 14, 2014).

"Iveta Radíčová: Len nie Fico" Sme.sk, no date given. <http://www.sme.sk/c/7065864/iveta-radico-va-len-nie-fico.html> (Accessed January 14, 2014).

Martin Ehl.

Ibid.

"Slovakia: A new president," The Economist, June 19, 2014 (Accessed June 19, 2014). <http://www.economist.com/blogs/easternapproaches/2014/06/slovakia> .

"Smer's support still dropping," Slovak Spectator, July 1, 2014, (Accessed July 1, 2014). http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/54509/10/smers_support_still_dropping.html.

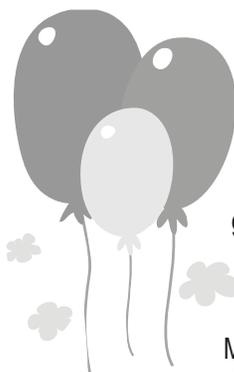
"Kiska appoints new ministers," Slovak Spectator, July 4, 2014, http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/54532/10/kiska_appoints_new_ministers.html. (Accessed July 6, 2014).

"Čaplovič and Malatinský out (UPDATED)," Slovak Spectator, July 2, 2014, http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/54514/2/caplovic_and_malatinsky_out_updated.html. (Accessed July 6, 2014).

AndrejKiska, <http://www.andrejiskiska.sk/> (Accessed July 6, 2014).

Minneapolis Parish Festival

Sunday, August 17, 2014



Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Minneapolis, MN, will hold their annual festival on Sunday, August 17, 2014, on the parish grounds.

The festival will begin with Mass at 10:30AM and conclude at 5:00PM with the cash raffle drawing.

There will be Slovak and Spanish food available, along with games for children, cake walk, pull-tabs, refreshments and door prizes.

All Jednota members and their families and friends are invited. Members will be volunteering at the food and game booths. Members are invited to register at the Big Raffle Booth for a free cash raffle entry and a food/refreshment ticket.

This activity replaces our annual family picnic.

James T. Genosky, Branch 3 Financial Secretary

Branch 24's Lilly Halley and Henry Strekal Make Professional Debut



On Saturday evening, July 12, 2014, Lilly Halley and Henry Strekal, danced before a packed crowd at the St. Charles Borromeo Festival in Parma Hts., OH. Both youngsters, aged 4, are members of Branch 24 as well as members of Lučinka, which is the junior dance troupe of the Lučina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland, OH. The performance marked the first time Lučinka performed before an audience.



The faithful in procession to the new church two miles away.

Branch 153's Fr. Jamnicky Leads Faithful to New St. Raphael the Archangel

On Saturday, June 29, 2014 members of St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church moved two miles from their old church to a new church in Old Mill Creek, IL. Most of the material for the new church came from closed churches in Chicago. The new church is not completed yet and will need the parishioners continued support.

Father John Jamnicky, a member of Branch 153, was instrumental in building the new church.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



Joe and Betty Mizikar were joined in holy matrimony on June 18, 1949, at St. Florian Church in United, PA.



The happy couple celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving on June 18, 2014 at St. Florian Church, and a catered luncheon with family and friends on the following Sunday.

Branch 181's Joseph and Betty Mizikar Celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversary

Joseph and Betty (Frena) Mizikar of Mammoth, PA, were recent celebrants on the occasion of their 65th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on June 18, 1949, at St. Florian Church in United, PA.

Their family consists of four children: Joyce (Jack) Klejka; Dennis (Carol) Mizikar; Karen Mizikar; and the late Donald Mizikar. Also eight grandchildren: Jason, Jeremy, Jon and Julie (Hoak) Klejka; Brian and David Mizikar, Amanda Dongili, and Nicholas Mizikar. Nine great grandchildren: Brandon and Allison Klejka, Madison Klejka; McKenna, Raygan, and Bentley Mizikar; Ava Mizikar, Anna and Elise Hoak.

According to Joe and Betty, "When we all get together, that's a houseful!"

Joe and Betty are both members of Branch 181, United, PA. Joe is active in the church as Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, and Altar Server. Betty is in the church choir. They both help with the Summer Festival.

The couple are great polka dancers. They received the Blue Ribbon for two years at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA, and report "We still like to do the polka, oberek, waltz, czardas, and jitterbug."



Betty and Joe hold Blue Ribbons won for their polka dancing at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

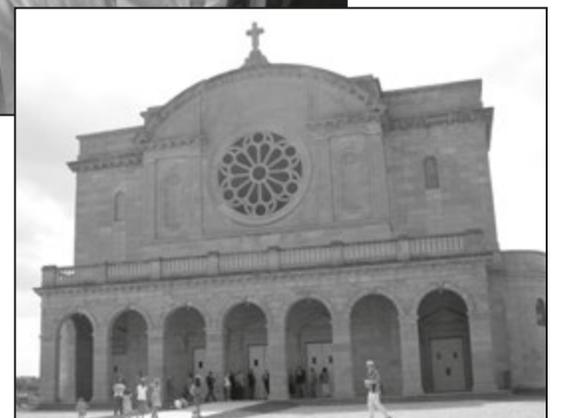
Joe was employed with the Elloit Co. in Jeanette, PA, and retired with forty years of service. Betty was employed as a secretary for Mount Pleasant Township Supervisors, and retired with thirty-one years of service. Now that they are retired, the couple volunteers at Excel Frick Hospital in Mount Pleasant. Joe helps with the installation of Lifeline Equipment and Betty is in the clerical field.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated for the Mizikars by Father John Sedlak at St. Florian Church in Wednesday, June 18, 2014. A catered lunch was shared by all at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Carol Mizikar, on Sunday, June 22, 2014.

"We thank God for all the blessings bestowed on us these 65 years together. One man, one woman."



Father Jaminicky carrying the Blessed Sacrament into the new church.



The new church integrates portions of two closed and deteriorating Chicago Catholic churches, St. John of God and St. Peter Canisius.

Branch 738's Kaycie Deyle Earns Ph.D

Dr. Kaycie M. Deyle, Ph.D. earned her doctorate from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, CA on June 13, 2014. Her degree is from the Department of Chemistry. Her thesis title was "Development of Protein-Catalyzed Capture (PCC) agents with application to the specific targeting of the E17K point mutation of Akt1", which involves the development of agents used for the detection and treatment of cancer. She will now be completing a post doctoral position at an (as of yet) undecided institution.

Kaycie earned her B.S. degree in Biochemistry from the Robert E. Cook Honors College at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in May of 2008 and is a 2004 graduate of Hempfield Area High School in Hempfield Twp., Greensburg, PA. She currently lives with her husband Casey in Sylmar, CA.

Kaycie is the daughter of Edward and Diane Butler and the granddaughter of Clarence and Mary Ann Badar all of Hempfield Twp., Greensburg, PA. Kaycie is also a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 738 in Munhall, PA.





(L – R) Lucille Dritlein, with Liz and Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



(L – R) Peggy and Bob Bernath with Branch 153 President John Jurcenko



(L – R) Ken and Pat Laport, Dorothy Jurcenko, and Laima and Andy Palenica.

Sunday Brunch with Branch 153

Members of FCSU Branch 153 enjoyed a fabulous Sunday Brunch at the Drury Lane in Oak Brook, IL on June 22, 2014. The brunch was a token of appreciation for attending all the events and meetings of Branch 153 during 2013. We hope this appreciation will encourage more members to attend Branch 153 meetings.

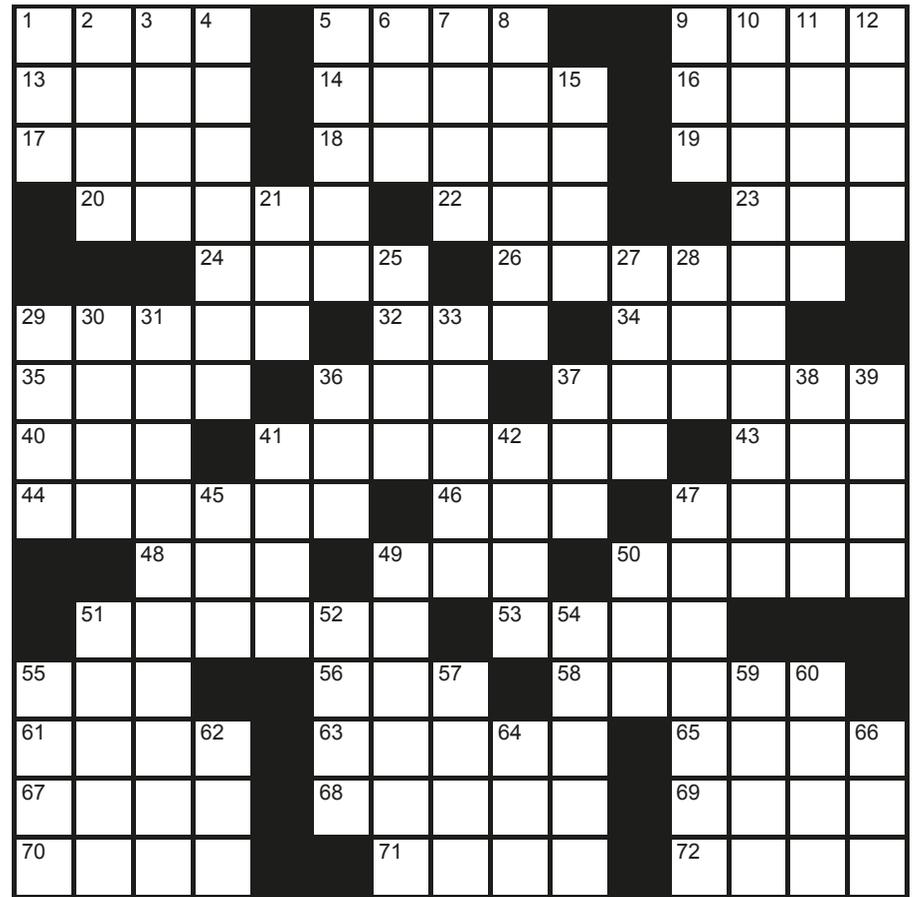
- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2014

Issue Date	Deadline
August 6	July 28
Sept 17	Sept 8
October 15	October 6
November 5	October 27
November 19	November 10
December 3	November 24

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Ottoman governors, once
- 5 Weeps
- 9 Crafts' buddies
- 13 Arrow poison
- 14 Face downward
- 16 Remedy
- 17 Amphibian
- 18 Do-nothing
- 19 Expel
- 20 Dishonor
- 22 Soft-finned fish
- 23 ___ relief
- 24 Hardy heroine
- 26 Second cup of coffee, e.g.
- 29 Gather
- 32 Sharp curve
- 34 Fruit drink
- 35 Burden
- 36 Follower (Suffix)
- 37 One-sided
- 40 Sealing wax
- 41 Honorable
- 43 Time period
- 44 Prunes
- 46 Buddhism forerunner
- 47 Spar
- 48 Porker
- 49 E. state (Abbr.)
- 50 Montana city
- 51 Saturnine
- 53 Pasturelands
- 55 Haul
- 56 Raises
- 58 Groom with elaborate care
- 61 Fishing gear
- 63 Slogan
- 65 Nickel, e.g.
- 67 On the ocean

- 68 Warhorse
- 69 Wager
- 70 Hairdo
- 71 Battleship Graf ___
- 72 Final

Down

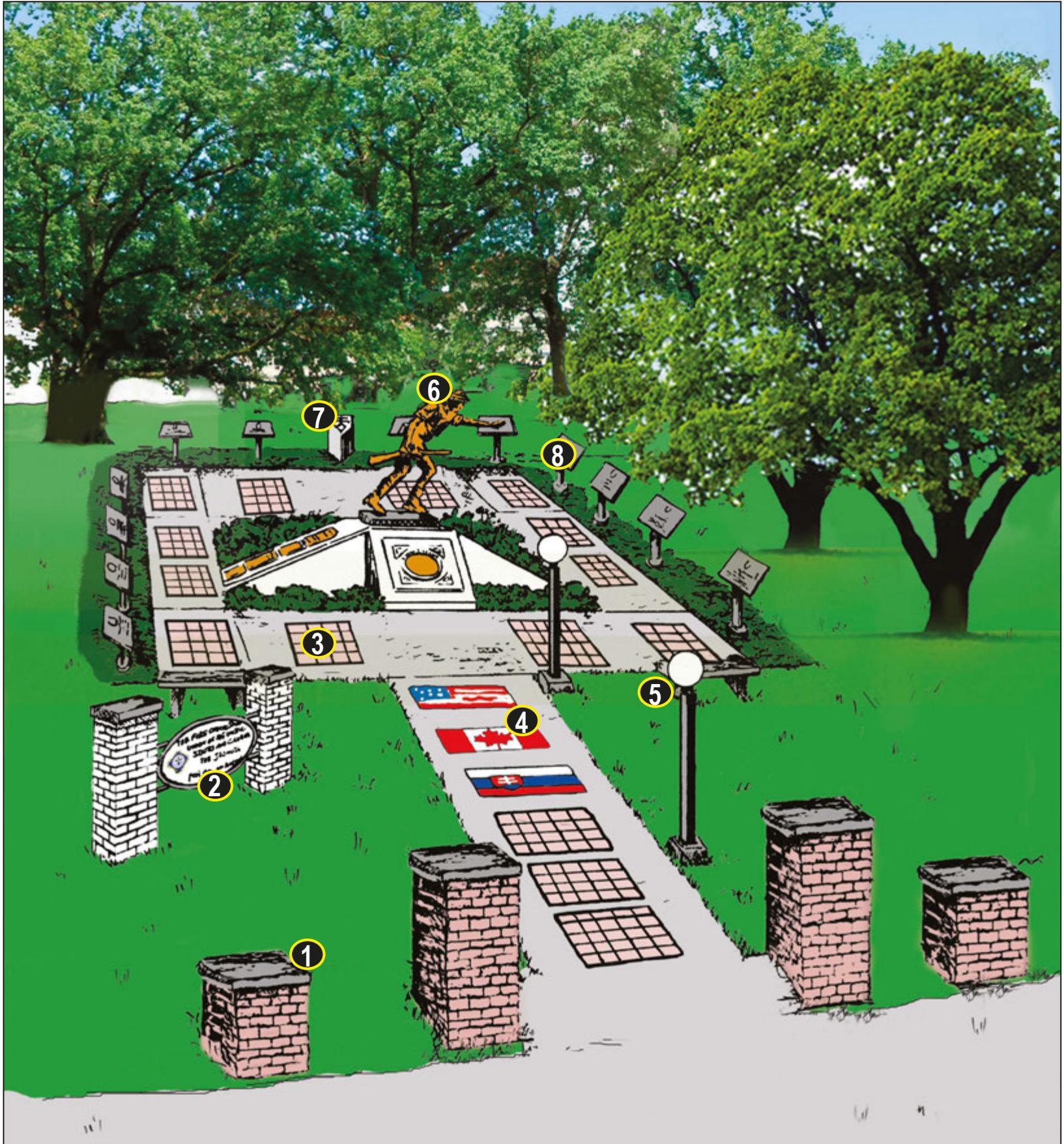
- 39 Appointment
- 41 Therefore
- 42 Prison part
- 45 Broadcast
- 47 Film genre
- 49 Terminals
- 50 Pub
- 51 Antlered cervid
- 52 Tallies
- 54 After song
- 55 Snare
- 57 Pace
- 59 *Black Beauty* actress Freeman
- 60 Cherry parts
- 62 *Cheers* character
- 64 Golf item
- 66 Fish catcher
- 1 Drill part
- 2 Adam's grandson
- 3 Slangy affirmative
- 4 Tranquillized
- 5 Secret agents
- 6 Australian river
- 7 Tree trunk
- 8 Smiles
- 9 Hotshot
- 10 Roadster feature
- 11 Court proceeding
- 12 Hardens
- 15 ___ Stanley Gardner
- 21 Mal de ___
- 25 Brother of Osiris
- 27 Strike out
- 28 Crete mountain
- 29 Ailments
- 30 Hebrew patriarch
- 31 Make-up
- 33 Clutch
- 36 Common contraction
- 37 Blackball
- 38 Formerly

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

See Solution on Page 19

Special Preview of Planned Jednota Memorial:



Highlights of Jednota Memorial:

1. Existing pillars leading to old Orphanage.
2. New stone sign identifying the First Catholic Slovak Union – The Jednota.
3. 15 blocks of red granite 40 inches wide x 40 inches long x 4 inches thick. Each of these solid blocks will be divided (etched) into 4 inch x 10 inch (or larger) “bricks” that will contain your memoriam message (see sample).
4. 3 flags, 3 ft x 5 ft of polished red granite, 4 inches thick etched with the national flags of the United States, Canada and Slovakia. The granite pieces will be sitting on a raised concrete bed. There will be a three foot wide concrete walkway on both sides of the flags.
5. Lights will automatically illuminate the site from dusk till auto shut-off. Separate lights will also illuminate the “Doughboy” statue.
6. The “Doughboy” statue, about 6 feet tall, will sit on a white stone pedestal – to serve as a memorial for all the Jednota members who served in any War beginning from WWI to the present and into the future. The statute currently is located behind the old printery. It is weathered. It will be re-bronzed along with existing memorial plaques.
7. Gray granite pedestal topped with hand-tooled Slovak “cross” emblem.
8. Twelve 2 ft x 1 ½ ft x 1 inch-thick, blank granite plaques etched with historic scenes i.e. Fr. Furdek, Jednota Orphanage, Korean War memorial, Vietnam War memorial etc.

Jednota Memorial at Middletown

3 EASY STEPS TO ORDER YOUR MEMORIAL GRANITE BRICK

- 1.** Fill out the below form with your message to be etched on your brick. You have up to three lines on each brick, and up to 20 characters per line INCLUDING spaces between the words. Each space counts as one character.
- 2.** Include payment for your brick (check or money order made out to the First Catholic Slovak Union). Each 4x10 brick is \$100. You may purchase more than one brick. Larger sized bricks are available. Contact the Home Office at 800.533.6682 for details.
- 3.** Mail the completed form and your payment to the Home Office at:

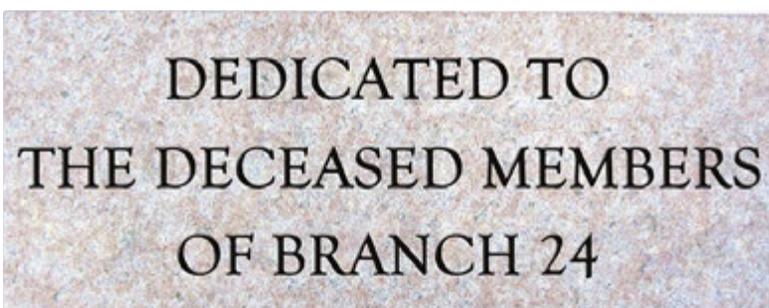
FCSU Corporate Center
 c/o FCSU Memorial
 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
 Independence, OH 44131



PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CONTACT INFO:

YOUR NAME: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 PHONE NUMBER: _____

Samples



Fraternal



Personal

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Society, will hold their annual meeting on Sunday, October 12, 2014, in Minneapolis, MN. The meeting will begin at 11:30AM in Father Dargay Hall, Church of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, 13th Ave., NE & 2nd Street. The agenda will include officers' reports, schedule of activities for 2015, and the election of officers.

A lunch will be available after the meeting.

Fraternally yours,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The semi-annual activities and meeting of St. Stephen's Society, Branch 006K, will be held at 1:00PM on Sunday, July 20, 2014, at Chippers Restaurant, 1733 N. Bloomington St., Streator, IL. All members of Branch 006K are invited to attend. A meeting followed by a lunch and then activities are planned for the children. Please call 815-672-1764 or 815-822-8851 for details and directions, if needed.

Paul Chismar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, August 10, 2014, at 9:00AM at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, PA. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold its regular meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2014, at 9:30AM in the Church Hall of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

We will report on the Convention in Philadelphia and discuss our plans for our breakfast brunch meeting, where we will award our members with scholarships for their college expenses. This brunch meeting will take place on November 9, 2014.

We cordially invite our members to attend our meetings which are conducted on the second Sunday of the month at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. Our annual meeting will be held on December 14, 2014.

Fraternally,

Henry Zack, Secretary

BRANCH 40 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday July 27th at 1:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members of Branch #40 are urged to attend the meeting. Lunch will follow. Please make reservations by calling (815) 672-6682 before July 24, 2014.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 75 will hold its next meeting on August 10, 2014, starting at 10:00AM, at the residence of Financial Secretary Ronald M. Anderson, 8 South Shamokin Street, Shamokin, PA, 17872. On the agenda of this general meeting: discussion of matters

relative to the 50th Quadrennial Convention; the financial status of the branch; acquiring new members; and any matters that are presented to the officers for their consideration and appropriate action. For more information, contact Ronald M. Anderson, (570) 648-7012 or chrisron@pro.net.

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 112 – MAHANAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 112, Mahanoy City, PA are invited to a day at Knoebels Amusement Resort in Elysburg, PA on August 18, 2014. Please call 570-640-1796 for information.

Karen Sterling, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 200 is proud to announce we are once again offering scholarships to 1st year students that reside in the Armstrong School District area. You do not have to be a member of the branch. We know how important furthering an education is and how financially difficult it can be. There is a great need for help and we hope to make some difference. This year we will be offering applications to all post high school persons that will be attending a college, university, vocational training, associate program, or trade school. Applications can be picked up at the C. U. Club 910 6th Avenue, Ford City, PA 16226 between noon and 9 pm daily or you can call Vicki Schaub @ 724-763-9229 to make arrangements to obtain an application. Leave a message if there is no answer. We will accept applications until July 31st. No applications will be accepted after that date. The scholarship committee will review all applicants and present to the Officers & Board of Directors at the regular meeting held on Thursday August 7, 2014. Selected applicants will be notified by phone and asked to be at the C.U. Club for a social and photo. I would like our members to spread the word.

Blessings,

**Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary/
Treasurer**

BRANCH 430 – SIMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Stephen's Branch 430 meeting will be held on July 13, 2014, at 2:00PM at the home of Elizabeth Pisarcik, 448 Main Street, Simpson, PA.

Sincerely,

Katherine Wisniewski, Vice President

BRANCH 493 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch #493 in Chicago, will have its Semi-Annual Meeting and Summer Luncheon on Saturday, August 2, 2014. Location: Bohemian Crystal Restaurant, 624 N. Blackhawk Dr., Westmont, Illinois. At 1:30 pm, attendees will gather for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. The meeting will start at 2:00 pm, with a delicious family-style dinner following. If you wish to attend, please call the branch financial secretary at (502) 244-6643 or (773) 558-5956 by Wednesday July 30th, so that we'll have an accurate head count for the restaurant.

Our Branch would like to congratulate our junior members who were winners in the District 2 Easter Coloring Contest: Sarah

Peters, Maya Bobo, Regina Turner, Jack Shelton, Logan Lazzara, and John Turner. We are very proud of our youth!

Sincerely,

**Robert Tapak Magruder,
Financial Secretary**

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

St. John the Baptist, Branch 553 will be holding the following events. Please mark your calendar now so you won't miss out on the activities of your branch.

August 3 - The branch is having a special Mass at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 10:00 am for the remembrance of all living and deceased members of Branch 553. Following the Mass a Communion Breakfast will be held at the Slovak "J" Club 485 Morgan Ave. Akron Ohio 44311.

August 6th - The branch has their monthly Spaghetti dinner at the Slovak "J" Club starting at 4:30pm. until 7 pm.

August 14th - Bus Trip to Wheeling call Slovak "J" Club to make your reservation as a great time is had by all on these trips.

September 3rd - Monthly Spaghetti dinner at the Slovak "J" Club.

September 20th Slovak "J" Club Annual Kielbasa Open Returns to be held at the Mayfair Country Club 2229 Raber Rd Uniontown, Oh 44685 with a Shot Gun Start at 8:00 am. Cost is \$55 per person \$220 per foursome. Breakfast Buffet 6:30 to 8am. Kielbasa at the turn, Lunch Buffet after your round is finished. Please call 330-773-4978 to make your reservations or to leave a message for a reservation. Prizes, gifts, and a 50/50 Raffle. We look forward to seeing you there!

September 28 - Branch Lodge Meeting will be held at the Slovak "J" Club 485 Morgan Ave Akron, Ohio 44311

October 1st - Branch 553 Spaghetti Dinner at the Slovak "J" Club from 4:30pm till 7:00pm.

October 4th - 2nd Annual Oktoberfest at the Slovak "J" Club with music by Eric Nolt-kamper.

Starts at 3:00pm till 7:00pm further details will follow at a later date.

November 5th -Branch 553 Monthly Spaghetti Dinner at the Slovak "J" Club from 4:30pm-7pm.

November 23 - Branch Lodge Meeting will be held at the Slovak "J" Club at 2:00PM for the election of officers.

December 7th - Annual Vilija Celebration - details will be published at a later date.

Hope to see everyone at these upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandie Klucar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 735KJ PORTLAND, OREGON

Branch 735KJ Annual Family Picnic will be Sunday, July 27, 2014, at Oaks Amusement Park (Area 11, same location), 7805 SE Oaks Park Way, Portland, Oregon 97202 (www.oakspark.com) beginning at 12:00 noon to 6:00pm. Admission to the Park and parking is free! Invite all of your family and

Slovak friends!! No reservations necessary.

Hot Dogs, Soda Pop, Coffee and Beer will be available. Suggested Donation:

Hot Dogs	50¢ each
Soda Pop	50¢ can
Beer	\$2.00 glass

Please do not bring alcoholic beverages. The Park has strict rules about alcoholic beverages brought into the Park. Discounted ride tickets will be available for purchase.

COME AND ENJOY THE DAY BY THE WILLAMETTE RIVER WITH YOUR SLOVAK FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!

For more information contact: Cindy Ďuriš Hirst, P.O. Box 220, North Plains, OR 97133-0220 503-647-4600 (h); 503-314-5065 (c); 503-647-5840 (f); e-mail: hirst@q.com or chirst811@gmail.com.

Cindy Ďuriš Hirst., Social Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph branch members will meet at noon on Sunday, August 17, 2014 at Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH. Preparation for the 50th FCSU Convention and our participation will be the main topic of discussion.

Fraternally,

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 780 – SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The Saints Peter & Paul Society- Branch 780 will hold a semi-annual meeting on Wednesday, August 6, 2014. It will be held at 2280 Taft Street, Saginaw, Michigan at 7:00 p.m. Members with questions or concerns may call Catherine Karlsen at (989) 280-4916.

Fraternally,

Catherine Karlsen, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 856 - WASHINGTON, DC AREA

Branch 856 announces a Mass in honor of the Slovak Chapel in The Basilica of the National Shrine Of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on September 14, 2014 at 11:00 am This year is the 49th anniversary of the dedication of Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel. Please come and join Branch 856 for this special occasion; The Mass is intended for all Slovaks in the area. Father Martin Kertz will be the main celebrant. The Bratislava Boys Choir, an award-winning choral group from Slovakia that has performed around the world, appeared on TV and in films, will take part in the Mass. The group also will perform afterwards.

FCSU members should note that after these events, the Rev. Stefan Furdek District 8 will hold their lunch and meeting [editor's note: see page 15 for details]. Members of this district are encouraged to attend.

For more information, please call: Marion Mistrik at 301-654-5638 or Stephen Matula at 703-671-3013.

**Katherine Nowatkoski,
Financial Secretary**

**Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union
website at www.fcsu.com**

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 1 – REV MATTHEW JANKOLA DISTRICT – NEW ENGLAND

The Rev. Matthew Jankola District 1 will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2014, at 11:00AM at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Hall (now called the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall), 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT. We will discuss our activities of the past year, including a report on the FCSU Convention held in August. We will also plan our next year's agenda. The election of district officers will take place at this meeting.

Members of the various branches are encouraged to attend this annual meeting. We look forward to seeing many members of the district at this meeting.

Jacqueline Zack, Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2014.

It will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Mass at 11AM in the chapel.

Luncheon will be served at 12:30pm.

The meeting will take place afterwards.

Donation for the lunch has not been determined yet. It will be on the credential forms.

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary



120th Anniversary of Yonkers, N.Y. Parish

Daniel F. Tanzone, Branch 41

Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers, NY, hosted its annual patronal feast with a procession and festive liturgy on Trinity Sunday, June 15, 2014. This year's observance marked the 120th anniversary of the parish's incorporation. Father George Oonnoony, pastor is shown far left, with veteran Slovak fraternalist and parish leader, John Fialkovich, third from the left. They are shown in front of the great mural of the parish patron, the Most Blessed Trinity. The painting was a gift of Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union which founded the parish. The painting formerly graced the main altar of the church from 1910 to 1960. Brother Fialkovich is past president and now Honorary President of the Holy Trinity Society. He is also a member of Assembly 219 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Shown on the photo are, from the left, Father George Oonnoony, who is chaplain of Branch 41; Christine Fialkovich Slattery, Brother Fialkovich, his wife, Mary; daughter, Susan Fialkovich, and James G. Holodak, a Branch 41 member and trustee of the parish. The parish had its beginnings under the leadership of Holy Trinity Society which was founded by a group of Slovak immigrant men in 1891. Later, the society petitioned the Archbishop of New York, Michael Corrigan to establish a parish for the Slovaks in Yonkers under the patronage of the Most Holy Trinity. Permission was granted and the parish was officially incorporated in 1894. The Yonkers Slovak parish has enjoyed an active and vibrant ministry over the past 120 years and Holy Trinity Society has been an integral part of that legacy.



Celebrating our Slovak Roots at the Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest

It's time for summer festivals and one of our favorite is the Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest in Youngstown, OH. This celebration of our Slovak roots will take place on August 10, 2014 on the grounds of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, St. Matthias Church. This location at 2800 Shady Run Road is in the Southside neighborhood of Lansingville, long a center of the Youngstown Slovak community. Slovaks began coming to the Youngstown area in the late 1800's for the opportunity to work in the area's steel mills and the supporting businesses. As the Slovak population grew, churches and schools were built and neighborhoods formed. Typical of the Slovak ethnic heritage, hard work and daily struggles meant that when there was a chance to gather and celebrate some event it was done enthusiastically and with food, music and camaraderie.

The Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest is our way of celebrating our heritage and passing these traditions on to the new generations. So if you have fond memories of the ethnic picnics and get togethers of bygone years or would like to create some new memories or just are looking for great food and music then mark the date on your calendar and come down to the festival!

There will be a Slovak Mass to start the celebration at 11:00 am at St. Matthias Church and after the Mass the activities will move outside to the parking lot and inside to the Fr. Snock Hall. Of course there will be plenty of Slovak foods and baked goods available all day long! All of these are made by local men and women from local Slovak parishes such as Our Lady of Sorrows (St. Matthias, Holy Name and SS. Cyril and Methodius) and Christ Our Savior (Holy Trinity Church)! There will also be indoor displays of Slovak crafts, outfits, pictures and books. There will be information about various Slovak organizations and projects, cookbooks and recipes, and maps for you to locate your ancestral villages.

Food will be available all day outside including halušky, klobasi, roast pork, pirohy and more. And of course, Slovak pivo (beer) will be available! For a Taste of Slovakia platter (haluški, klobasa, pork, holubki, sauerkraut, salad, cake, coffee), dinners will be served from noon till 3pm. There will also be wonderful Slovak baked goods for sale! (Come early for the best choice...there is a lot, but they go fast!)

Musical entertainment will be provided outdoors by the Eddie Vallus Band and the Del Sinchak Orchestra and Living Traditions Folk Ensemble will play inside the hall where they put on great traditional Slovak singing and folk dances after the dinners are finished.

As usual, the Slovak Fest also has many Slovak items on display or for sale including a selection of beautiful Slovak crystal and pottery. There will be a silent auction of baskets filled with all sorts of items, and a raffle of \$2000 worth of Get Go/Giant Eagle gift cards for gasoline or food! There will be children's games and other activities throughout the day. If you remember the Slovak picnics of your childhood, or if you don't, but would like to make some new memories, plug us into your GPS, jump in your car, and join us on August 10th at the 9th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest!

For more info: Loretta Ekoniak (330) 549-3760 or loretta.ekoniak@gmail.com.

OBITUARIES

LEONARD J. ZAVADA BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA



Leonard J. Zavada, 87, of Wyoming, PA, passed away peacefully, on Monday, December 9, 2013, surrounded by his loving family, in the Meadows Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Dallas, TX.

Born in Wyoming, he was a son of the late John and Helen (Warganin) Zavada. He was a graduate of the Wyoming Memorial High School, class of 1944, and a 1950 graduate of King's College, being part of the first graduating class. He also received his master's degree in secondary education and guidance counseling from the University of Scranton.

Leonard's passion was the U.S. Navy and on March 17, 1944, while a senior in high school, he enlisted to serve during World War II. He was later recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict. He retired in 1986 as a U.S. Navy captain with more than 42 years of service to his country.

Leonard was employed for many years as an office supervisor by John Hancock Life Insurance in both the Wilkes-Barre and Dupont offices. He retired in 1985.

Leonard was very civic-minded and was involved with numerous organizations. He was a regular at the monthly meetings of the Wyoming Borough Council. For many years Mr. Zavada served on the Wyoming High School Board, where he was elected chairman. In addition, he was former treasurer of Wyoming Borough.

Leonard was immersed in Slovak culture. He was a member of the former St. John The Baptist Roman Catholic Slovak Church of Pittston and past president of the Holy Name Society. He was also president of the Slovak League of America, Branch 474, was elected "Slovak Man of the Year," and was active in the First Catholic Slovak Union and branch president of Branches 005 and 105.

He was a member of Kingston VFW Post 283, Wyoming VFW Post 396 and the DAV. He was a life member of the Wyoming Hose Co. No. 2 and past vice president of Sampson WWII Navy Veterans. He was active in the King's College annual phonathon and was a past chairman.

Preceding him in death was an infant brother, Bernard Zavada; brother, William Zavada; and a sister, Theresa Wassil.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, the former Norma E. Pellegrini; and children, Raymond Zavada and his wife, Corinne, Forty Fort; Colleen Matthey and her husband, Jerome, Swoyersville; Lynne Mylet, Forty Fort; grandchildren, Danielle Grella, Erika Zavada, Jeffrey Mylet, Amanda Zavada, Audrey Zavada; brother, Paul Zavada, Ashley; nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were at 9 a.m. Monday, December 16, 2013, from the Metcalfe-Shaver-Kopczka Funeral Home Inc., Wyoming, where friends called the previous Sunday, December 15, 2013, from 5 to 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, December 16, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church, Pittston, PA. Interment in St John the Baptist Slovak Cemetery, Exeter, PA.

- Submitted by Martha Zavada

STEVE SKOLODA BRANCH 108K – CONNELLSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

Steve Skoloda 98 of Fredericktown, PA, Centerville Borough, died Tuesday, May 27, 2014 in the Uniontown Hospital. He was born December 21, 1915 in Whitney, PA a son of the late John and Sophia Skoloda. For 35 years Mr. Skoloda worked as an Underground Coal Miner and Assistant Mine Foreman at the U.S. Steel, Karen Mine and later in life became a Reflexologist and practiced Reflexology for 30 years. He was a 60 year member of the St. Agnes R. C. Church, Richeyville, PA and a member of the United Mine Workers of America. Mr. Skoloda enjoyed working around his home. On May 29, 1938 he married Catherine Forgach Skoloda who survives. They celebrated 75 years of marriage. Surviving in addition to his wife is a son, Dr. Tom Skoloda (Alice Newlon) of Bradenton, FL; two grandsons, Dr. Steve Sharkady and his wife Dr. Kavitha Sharkady of Elizabeth City, NC and Matthew Sharkady of Melbourne, Australia; three great grandchildren, Nina, Mila and Kiran Sharkady, sister, Margaret Hardy of Brook Park, OH; brother, Paul Skoloda of The Villages, FL and several nieces and nephews.

Deceased in addition to his parents is a daughter, Mary Ann Sharkady, son-in-law, Tom Sharkady, seven brothers, John, Frank, Peter, Andrew, Emro and Joseph Skoloda and Albert Skoloda who was killed in action during WWII. Friends will be received Friday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 P.M. in the John B. Greenlee Funeral Home, 2830 Main Street, Beallsville, PA where a prayer service will be held Saturday, May 31, 2014 at 9:30 A.M. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 A.M. in the St. Agnes R. C. Church, Richeyville, PA with Rev. Edward Yuhas as celebrant. Interment will follow in the St. John's Catholic Cemetery, Conneltsville, PA.

- Submitted by Catherine Ann Skoloda

MARGARET CECLIA CHUPKA BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Margaret Cecelia Chupka, of Hanover Township, PA, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2013, at her home.

She was born in Wilkes-Barre, PA. She was the daughter of the late Andrew J. (1964) and Sophie C. Demsky Chupka (1997).

She was a graduate of Sacred Heart Slovak Elementary School, a graduate of E.L. Meyers High School, class of 1939 and also attended Wilkes College. She was employed by the Wilkes-Barre Lace Manufacturing Co. and the Susquehanna Savings & Loan Association, later known as Atlantic Financial, until her retirement in 1983.

She was a member of the former Sacred Heart Slovak Church, known now as St. Andre Bessette Parish, Wilkes-Barre. She attended daily Mass.

She was a member of the Sodality C.D.A., Ct. St. Ann 1294, Slovak Catholic Federation, the Catholic Daughter Choir, Heritage Choir, Slovak Heritage Society of NEPA, Sacred Heart Foundation Inc., Wilkes-Barre, PA, whose mission was to preserve Sacred Heart Church and the Fr. Murgas artifacts of Slovak heritage. She also attended many conventions of the First Catholic Slovak Union, some as a delegate of Branch 173, St. John the Baptist Society.

She was preceded in death by her sisters Catherine T. Broderick (2013) and Helen P. Durkes (2001), and her brother, Joseph A. Chupka (1964).

Surviving are her sisters Mary and Theresa Chupka, at home; brother-in-law, George Broderick; several nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews and cousins.

A Mass of Christian Burial was at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2014, in St. Andre Bessette Parish/St. Stanislaus Church, 666 N. Main St., Wilkes-Barre, PA. Interment followed in Sacred Heart Slovak Cemetery, Dallas, PA. Family and friends called from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Arrangements were by the George A. Strish Inc. Funeral Home, Ashley, PA.

- Submitted by Mary and Theresa Chupka

ANNA M. (SVAGERKO) POLKABLA BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO



Funeral services were held Friday, June 20, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wasko Funeral Home, Campbell, OH, and at 10 a.m. at Christ the Good Shepherd Parish at St. Joseph the Provider Catholic Church, Campbell, OH, for Anna M. (Svagerko) Polkabila, 86, who passed away Monday morning, June 16, 2014, at her residence.

Anna was born Oct. 26, 1927, in Campbell, OH, on Fairview Avenue. She was the daughter of Michael and Margaret Kollar Svagerko.

She was a 1945 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School. Afterwards, she worked at General Fireproofing, followed by years as an Auxiliary School Clerk at St. Elizabeth's, St. Matthias, St. Dominic's and Cardinal Mooney.

Anna was a member of the former St. Elizabeth's Church in Campbell. She was a member of the Infant of Prague Guild, the treasurer of the Rosary Society and the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota).

She enjoyed baking, especially nut kiffles, and decorating birthday cakes for the family.

Most recently, she was a member of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish at St. Joseph the Provider Catholic Church.

Anna was a faithful listener on Saturday nights from 9 to 11 p.m. to the Slovak hour hosted by Dennis Spicak on the radio.

She married Michael Polkabila in August, 1947. They had four children, Margaret Polkabila, Michael (Joyce) Polkabila, Larry (Mary) Polkabila and Dorene (Paul) Roloff. She has six granddaughters, Jessica (Dan) Galich, Joy (Jerry) Byers, Rachel Roloff, Renee (Travis) Janzen, Sarah Polkabila and Kailee Polkabila; and six great-granddaughters, Maggie Byers, Madison Galich, Katie Byers, Olivia Galich, Sophia Galich and Jenna Janzen. She leaves her siblings, Margaret (Michael) Bajnok, Irene (Dom) Lefoer, Cy (Sara) Svagerko and Richard (Maria) Svagerko.

Besides her husband, Mike, Anna was preceded in death by her parents; and her brother, Carl Svagerko.

The Polkabila family entrusted their loved one to the care of the Wasko Funeral Home, where they received friends on Thursday, June 19, 2014, from 5 to 8 p.m.

ETHEL ELIZABETH LUKAC KRUPA BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO



Ethel Elizabeth Lukac Krupa, 90, formerly of Youngstown, OH, died Saturday afternoon, May 17, 2014, at Maplecrest Nursing Home in Struthers, OH, surrounded by family. She will be missed by her family, her many friends and all who knew her by her pleasant disposition and beautiful welcoming smile.

Mrs. Krupa was born Oct. 31, 1923, in Coitsville, OH, a daughter of Slovak immigrants, Andrew and Susan Jaros Lukac. Her parents were her role models for her entire life. Her children always enjoyed stories of her early years growing up on her parents' New Bedford, PA farm with her brother, sister and neighbors.

A 1940 graduate of Villa Maria High School, Mrs. Krupa moved to Youngstown in 1943 and attended the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, graduating in 1946. Mrs. Krupa worked 50 years as a registered nurse in various positions and facilities including St. Elizabeth Health Center, the office of Dr. W.H. Evans, Assumption Nursing Home, Maplecrest Nursing Home, Paisley House, private duty nursing, and part-time nursing at the YSU Health Clinic for 17 years. Mrs. Krupa was a member of the Youngstown Council of Catholic Nurses.

Mrs. Krupa's spirituality was the core of her life. She was a former member of St. Matthias Church and its Infant Jesus of Prague Guild and Altar and Rosary Society and a current member of St. James the Apostle Church in New Bedford. At St. James, she was a member of the Christian Women's Organization. In her later years, she served the Villa Maria community as a Humility of Mary associate. A member of her husband's Slovak singing group, the Slovak Balladaires, she was proud of her Slovak heritage.

Her beloved husband, Andrew A. (Gus) Krupa, whom she married Oct. 21, 1950, died March 25, 2000.

She is survived by her daughter, Mary Krupa of Youngstown; six sons, Andrew (Carole) Krupa of Twinsburg, OH; James Krupa of Youngstown, OH; John Krupa of Youngstown, OH; Phillip (Marie) Krupa of Cuyahoga Falls, OH; Paul (Jessica) Krupa of Washington, OH; Thomas (Carolyn) Krupa of New Wilmington, PA; and six grandchildren, Susan (David) McCune, Juliann, Justin, Zoe, Cleo, and Allyson Krupa. A loving mother, her children, their spouses and her grandchildren were central to her life.

Mrs. Krupa enjoyed and was inspired by her extended family and her many, highly valued friendships.

In addition to her parents and husband, Ethel was preceded in death by an infant son; brother Joseph Lukac; and sister Helen Rudy.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Thursday, May 22, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at St. James the Apostle Church. Interment followed at St. James Cemetery in New Bedford.

Family and friends were received Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Davidson-Becker Funeral Home, Struthers, OH, and Thursday from 9:45 a.m. until 10:15 a.m. at the church.

- Submitted by Mary Krupa

REFLECTIONS ON THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS • July 2014

Universal Intention - Sports

That sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth.



Pope Francis is a great sports fan. He appreciates the value of sports. He even called sports a "most noble vocation." Why would he say that?

Several reasons. The Pope said, "engaging in sports rouses us to go beyond ourselves and our own self interests in a healthy way; it trains the spirit in sacrifice." Sporting events, ideally, "display beauty, generosity, and camaraderie." He said that "the language of sports is universal; it extends across borders, language, race, religion, and ideology. It possesses the capacity to unite people."

But Pope Francis is concerned that sports lose something when they become "big business." Big business sports seek "victory at any cost" and "runs the risk of reducing athletes to mere merchandise for the in-

creasing of profit." When winning becomes everything and players are seen as objects, "harmony is broken."

The Pope has a message for athletes too. Addressing players from the national football (soccer) teams of Italy and Argentina, Pope Francis challenged them: "You are very popular: people follow you very closely and not only on the field but also off it. This is a social responsibility!" He went on to say: "You are a role model for better or for worse. Be aware of this and be an example of loyalty, respect, and altruism. You are also builders of concord and social peace of which are all in such great need. You are a reference point for many young people and a living model of real values."

We join Pope Francis in praying this month that all those involved in sports.

Reflection

In what ways am I challenged to keep sports in their proper perspective?

Scripture

1 Corinthians 9: 24-26 Run so as to win.

Evangelization Intention - Lay Missionaries

That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.

In The Joy of the Gospel Pope Francis wrote: "In all the baptized, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelization." Thus, "all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples" and "whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization."

Very often, in the past, the work of evangelization—of spreading the Gospel—was seen as something that priests, sisters, and brothers did. Now it is more clear than ever that everyone is called to witness to the faith so that society will be transformed. Pope Francis pointed out that the laity, in particular, must work for "a greater penetration of Christian values in the social, political, and economic sectors."

This task is urgent and involves a focus on those who are most victimized by sinful structures in society—the poor. As Pope Francis wrote, "God's heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that he himself 'became poor' (2 Cor. 8: 9)." "If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them."

Moved with pity, we reach out in prayer to lay missionaries working in the poorest coun-

tries. May their proclamation of the Gospel bear fruit.

Reflection

How is my conscience "troubled" as I reflect on the material and spiritual needs of people in the poorest countries?

Scripture

Matthew 9: 35-38 At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity.

Prayer of the Month

Lord God, in sports and in life we seek a goal. This search—the search for the goal—is strenuous, it demands a struggle, a commitment. And it is important not to run alone! In order to arrive we must run together. We move forward together until we reach the goal. Then we celebrate! Help me live with the discipline necessary to attain my goal—eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

-- from Pope Francis' address to Italian and Argentine rugby teams

Attention: FCSU Mobile Members!



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

Plan ahead and leave a positive legacy behind

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

According to a recent article in TIME magazine the cost of a funeral is between \$6,000 and \$15,000 with an average of \$7,775?

Don't leave a financial burden
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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA MARCH 21-22, 2014 • PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

FIRST SESSION:

Friday, March 21, 2014

OPEN MEETING:

Reverend Thomas Nasta opened the meeting by celebrating a Memorial Mass for our deceased officers and members who passed away in 2013.

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked Reverend Thomas Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President asked Susan Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director, to lead the Board in singing the Anthems of the United States, Canada, Slovakia and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call with the following members present:

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

READING OF THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Annual March 2014 Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2013:

A motion was made by Father Nasta and seconded by James Marmol to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of December 14, 2013 as presented. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

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

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES:

The President appointed the following committees:

<u>DONATION COMMITTEE</u>	<u>RESOLUTION COMMITTEE</u>
George Matta	Reverend Thomas Nasta
Rudolph Bernath	Gary Matta
	James Marmol

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:

The President read his welcome to the Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT:

President Rajec turned the meeting over to Vice President Harcar, who recognized President Rajec. President Rajec read his 2013 annual report. At the conclusion of the President's Report, a motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Milos Mitro for its acceptance. Motion carried. (The President's Report is to be published in the Jednota Newspaper).

OUTSIDE AUDITORS REPORT:

John Zivkovic, CPA, of the accounting firm of Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood, LLP, presented his annual report to the Board. He found all FCSU financial reports in excellent order. Mr. Zivkovic answered all the Board's questions.

ACTUARIAL REPORT:

Edward DePersis, of Bruce and DePersis, presented the actuarial report for 2013. Mr. DePersis stated that since each board member received a copy of the report, he will not read

the entire report, but will just give the highlights. He gave a very extensive positive report for 2013. The actuary recommended that a dividend be paid in 2014. The President stated his recommendation is to pay a dividend in 2014 using the same format as used in 2013. A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to pay a dividend in 2014 using the same format as used in 2013. Motion carried.

AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Larry White and Byron White, representing AQS Asset Management at the invitation of the President, presented their report to the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. During and after their presentation, Larry and Byron White answered questions from the Board.

RECESS OF SESSION:

The Board broke for lunch.

SECOND SESSION:

Friday afternoon, March 21, 2014

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec opened the afternoon session with a prayer and called the meeting to order. The Executive Secretary stated that all members were present.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2013:Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth Arendt presented the financial summary report for the year ending 2013 and answered the Board's questions.

The Executive Secretary also presented a comparison report between what was budgeted for 2013 and the actual expenditures.

Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati

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

Portfolio Custodian

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

Investment Updates

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS Fund, and MAI Fund, and gave a complete transaction report for the month.

Following the reports, the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

The President reviewed the current annuity interest rates and announced that new interest rates were established by the Executive Committee and will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

The Executive Secretary stated that his 2013 Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer George Matta presented the Treasurer's Report for 2013 and answered all the Board members' questions. The Treasurer's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented the 2013 Auditor's Annual Report and answered the Board's questions. The Chairman stated that the internal auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything in order.

The Chairman of Auditors' Report will be published in the Jednota Newspaper.

STATE OF OHIO TRI-ANNUAL STATE AUDIT:

The Executive Secretary announced the Auditors from the State of Ohio have completed their 2011, 2012, and 2013 Tri-Annual State Audit of the FCSU and stated everything is in excellent order. The Executive Secretary said once we have received the final report, a copy will be given to the Board for their review.

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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, May 23, 2014 • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer. The President stated the meeting is being held in Pittsburgh in conjunction with the Bruce and Bruce Seminar.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta, Treasurer
 Regis Brekosky, Regional Director (via telephone by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the April 2014 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented his extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, Mr. White answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led a discussion on our current annuity rates. It was decided to keep the rates the same and review them again at the June meeting.

INVESTMENT UPDATES:

The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Executive Committee for its review of the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS Fund, and MAI Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

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

MONTHLY DISBURSEMENTS

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

Disbursements for the month of April 2014:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 357,102.32
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 62,283.06
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

PORTFOLIO REVIEW:

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

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a detailed sales production report on the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents and now have 180 agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Vice President stated he is still scheduling seminars for 2014 and asked the Regional Directors to contact him with available dates.

The Vice President reminded the Executive Committee there will be a FCSU Convention Cash Drawing Campaign this year at the Convention in Philadelphia. Recommenders will be encouraged to participate. A recommender will be automatically entered into the Cash Drawing for each new insurance or annuity contract signed between May 1, 2014 and August 15, 2014. The more signed contracts a recommender produces, the more chances

he or she has to win 1 of the 5 cash prizes. There is no limit to the amount of entries a recommender can make. First prize is \$500.00. Recommenders neither need to be delegates nor be present at the convention in order to win.

ADVERTISING:

The Executive Secretary stated we have been advertising the insurance and annuity products in our mailings, on the website, and through e-mail. The Executive Secretary stated we have been utilizing social media more and more to reach our members and our branches.

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that we have received excellent response from our members on the Wealth Management/Personal Estate Planning Booklets. The booklet is a fraternal benefit and is still available to all members upon request.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the convention. The Executive Secretary stated the delegate credential forms are in and we are reminding the delegates to make their room reservations at the hotel. We are also reminding them to return their information on the cruise and bus tour as we need an attendance count.

The President gave an update on the Middletown Memorial Project and stated the contractor is ready to break ground. The President stated the Executive Committee will be kept informed as the project progresses.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

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

 Andrew M. Rajec
 President

 Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

continued from page 18

ACTUARY FIRM AND ACCOUNTING FIRM:

The President stated that the actuary firm Bruce and Bruce is on a year to year contract with the FCSU. The Board was informed that our accounting firm, Hosack, Specht, Muetzel, & Wood, is under a three year contract.

MICELLANEOUS:

The President recognized Regional Director James Marmol, who gave a detailed presentation on the drawings and costs associated with the Jednota Monument in Middletown, Pennsylvania. He said construction will begin this year.

The President announced that January 18, 2015 will mark 100 years since the death of our founder, Father Stephen Furdek. The 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. will be in September 2015. The chapel was made possible by a gift from the FCSU. The President stated there has been some discussion to have a joint celebration with the Slovak Catholic Federation. Father Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain, will be on the Planning Committee. The President will be informed as more information becomes available. The President also noted that the August 2014 Convention will be the 50th Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States of America and Canada, an historic event, and that 2015 will also mark the 125th birthday of our Society.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL:

General Counsel Gary Matta gave his 2013 report and answered the Board's questions.

The President asked General Counsel for his legal opinion on a question posed by one of our convention delegates about bylaw section 14.01 (a) regarding the publishing of branch announcements in the Jednota newspaper 30 days before a meeting. General Counsel stated that this same bylaw also pertains to the meeting announcements for election of delegates to convention.

DIRECTOR OF FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES REPORT:

Director of Fraternal Activities, Susan Ondrejco, gave a Power Point presentation to the Board of Directors summarizing the 2013 activities and answered their questions.

The Director of Fraternal Activities also presented an update on the Annual Bowling Tournament to be held with the National Slovak Society and The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association on the weekend of April 25-26 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She also announced the Annual Golf Tournament will be held in Blairsville, Pennsylvania on July 19-20, 2014.

The Director gave a report on the photo contest and coloring contest. She also stated the National Picnic held at Frogbridge Picnic & Special Events Entertainment Park in Millstone Township, New Jersey on August 11, 2013 was very successful.

The Fraternal Activity Director's Report will be published in the newspaper.

The Executive Secretary announced that, at the close of today's session, there will be a tour of the hotel facilities, including the registration area, rooms, meeting space, and conference rooms that will be used during our convention. This will give the Board an overview of what is available.

There being no further business, Henry Hassay made a motion to adjourn for the day and James Marmol seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Father Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

THIRD SESSION:

Saturday, March 22, 2014

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President recognized the Vice President, who presented his annual report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions. The report covered membership and marketing, seminars, agent recruitment and information for the proposers to assist them in obtaining their state licenses. The Vice President stated we have over 160 active independent agents and we are continuing to recruit agents. The Vice President also reviewed his 2014 seminar schedule and is trying to accommodate branches and districts. The Vice President asks for the Regional Directors' assistance in scheduling seminars in their regions.

Membership and Marketing

The Vice President distributed a written report to the Board of Directors. The report con-

tained a listing of the top proposers of insurance and annuity sales, a detailed report of sales production by districts, and a five year comparison report broken down by districts.

The Executive Secretary stated we are continuing to upgrade our Power Point presentation and have it available for our seminars.

The Vice President's Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

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

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the investment policy adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members work very closely with the Society's Investment Advisor, AQS Asset Management.

Pension Committee

The Executive Secretary gave an update on the FCSU Pension Plan. He stated that we are in full compliance with all federal regulations and answered the Board's questions.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the Scholarship Committee, which is comprised of three independent professional educators. The applications for FCSU scholarships are being received and will be sent to the Scholarship Committee. The Executive Secretary also gave a report on the Jednota Benevolent Foundation and answered the Board's questions.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:

The Regional Directors and our National Chaplain presented their annual reports and answered all the Board's questions. All reports will be printed in the Jednota newspaper.

A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept all the reports as presented and the motion was carried.

2014 CONVENTION:

The President stated the planning for the convention is going very well. Contracts are being finalized for transportation to the planned activities. The Executive Secretary stated that as the delegate credentials are certified, information will be sent out to the delegates.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:

Jednota, Inc.

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

Jednota Properties, Inc.

The President then turned the meeting over to Regis Brekosky, President of Jednota Properties, Inc., for his report and answered the Board's questions.

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

Donation Committee

George Matta made the report of the Donations Committee. All requests were reviewed and acted upon.

Resolutions Committee

Father Thomas Nasta gave the report on the Resolutions Committee. All requests were reviewed and acted upon.

The Executive Secretary announced that at the conclusion of the meeting, the Board will go on a narrated Big Bus City Tour of Philadelphia. Delegates will be offered the same tour during the convention.

PAYMENT OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING:

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

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to adjourn. Motion carried. Father Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

Správy zo Slovenska

Predsedníctvo SR vo V4 sa zameria na ekonomiku či boj proti daňovým únikom

Bratislava 30. júna (TASR) - Slovenská republika prevezme od 1. júla jednoročné predsedníctvo vo V4 po Maďarsku. Hlavným mottom je „Dynamický Vyšehrad pre Európu a svet“. Informoval o tom dnes minister zahraničných vecí Miroslav Lajčák. Slovensko bude šéfovať V4 po štvrtýkrát. Ako dodal, slovenské predsedníctvo sa chce orientovať na posilnenie koordinačných mechanizmov V4 na pôde Európskej únie. „Po voľbách do Európskeho parlamentu a v súvislosti s následným obsadzovaním postov v Európskej komisii bude našou úlohou nastaviť komunikačné kanály krajín V4 s novými orgánmi EÚ,“ doplnil šéf slovenskej diplomacie

Ako dodal, jedným z cieľov nášho predsedníctva bude aj pokračovať vo formáte rozšírenej spolupráce tzv. V4+.

Podľa jeho slov sa V4 nachádza v jednom z najproduktívnejších a dynamických období vo svojej histórii a v treťom desaťročí svojej existencie je považovaná za rešpektovaného, efektívneho a iniciatívneho partnera. „Slovenská republika chce naďalej využívať Vyšehradskú štvorku ako prioritný formát regionálnej spolupráce v strednej Európe. Sme radi, že táto spolupráca sa čoraz viac sústreďuje na praktické témy a projekty, ktoré prinášajú úžitok našim krajinám a obyvateľom regiónu V4,“ doplnil Lajčák.

V4 je zoskupenie štyroch stredo-európskych krajín – Slovenskej republiky, Českej republiky, Maďarska a Poľskej republiky. Ide o neformálnu regionálnu štruktúru štyroch susediacich členských krajín EÚ a NATO, ktoré sa hlásia k rovnakým hodnotám. Spolupráca V4 funguje na báze ročných predsedníctiev, ktoré trvajú od 1. júla do 30. júna nasledujúceho roka.

PREZIDENT: Udelil štátne vyznamenanie Catherine Ashtonovej

Bratislava 1. júla (TASR) - Prezident SR Andrej Kiska udelil prvé štátne vyznamenanie od nástupu do svojej funkcie. To si dnes z jeho rúk prevzala v Prezidentskom paláci šéfa európskej diplomacie Catherine Ashtonová.

Za mimoriadny prínos k posilneniu a presadzovaniu spoločnej zahraničnej a bezpečnostnej politiky EÚ a za mimoriadne zásluhy o upevnenie postavenia SR v medzinárodných vzťahoch získala Rad Bieleho dvojkríža II. triedy.

Podpredsedníčka Európskej komisie je dnes na krátkej návšteve Slovenska, na ktorú ju pozval minister zahraničných vecí SR Miroslav Lajčák. Ashtonová okrem rozhovorov s Lajčákom vystúpila na porade veľvyslancov SR v zahraničí, ktorá sa začala v Bratislave.

PREZIDENT: Osobný príbeh sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda vnímam ako inšpiráciu

Bratislava 4. júla (TASR) - Prezident Kiska vníma osobný príbeh sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda ako inšpiráciu a nabáda spoluobčanov, aby pri príležitosti ich sviatku hľadali inšpiráciu aj sami pre seba a pre našu prítomnosť. Vyhlásenie hlavy štátu TASR poskytla Elena Bianchi z tlačového oddelenia Kancelárie prezidenta SR.

„Sviatok sv. Cyrila a sv. Metoda je prvý štátny sviatok počas môjho výkonu funkcie prezidenta. Zdá sa mi, že niekedy viac, inokedy menej, máme na Slovensku tendenciu vnímať štátne sviatky iba cez oficiálne podujatia, alebo dokonca len ako voľné dni,“ uviedol prezident. Podľa jeho slov je zrejme, že starší Metod i mladší Konštantín boli veľmi pracovití, vzdelaní a rozhladení ľudia a vďaka svojim schopnostiam a energii sa uplatnili v mnohých oblastiach, ako je teológia, filozofia, právo, diplomacia či rétorika. Solúnski bratia sú podľa Kisku skvelým príkladom toho, že rozvíjať svoj talent, vzdelávať sa, pracovať na sebe má zmysel.

„Konštantín a Metod zažili aj príkoria, krivdy či podrazy, opakovane však dokázali vstať a obhajovať svoje názory. Toto môže byť inšpiratívne aj pre nás. Život bežne prináša aj prekážky či osobné prehry, mali by sme sa však pokúsiť aj napriek nim kráčať za svojimi cieľmi. Aj za cieľmi, ktoré sa na prvý pohľad môžu zdať nedostupné,“ uviedla hlava štátu. Doplnila, že odvaha, nepoddajnosť a húževnatosť sú dobré vlastnosti pre každého človeka.

Byzantskí súrodenci boli podľa Kisku otvorení svetu, prijímaniu nových myšlienok, a to aj preto, že ovládali viacero jazykov. „Pokojne mohli zostať pôsobiť iba vo svojom rodisku. Výzvy, ktoré im priniesol osud, však prijali, neboli alibistickí a nepovedali si, že nech to urobí niekto iný,“ uzavrel prezident.

A. KISKA: Značka Made in Czechoslovakia je minulosťou

Bratislava/Praha 9. júla (TASR) – Značka „Made in Czechoslovakia“ je podľa slovenského prezidenta Andreja Kisku minulosťou. „Máme Made in Czech a Made in Slovakia, a tieto značky si bude každá krajina budovať k svojej hrdosti a svojej prosperite,“ vyhlásil na dnešnej tlačovej konferencii so svojim českým partnerom Milošom Zemanom. Kiska je v Prahe na svojej prvej oficiálnej zahraničnej návšteve od nástupu do funkcie.

O možnej propagácii a oživení značky Made in Czechoslovakia niekoľkokrát hovoril slovenský premiér Robert Fico. Vysvetlil to tým, že v niektorých regiónoch sveta si stále nevšimli rozdelenie Československa a nerozumejú označeniam ako Made in Slovakia alebo Czech Made. Zároveň avizoval, že sa v spolupráci s predstaviteľmi českej vlády bude na zahraničných trhoch pokúšať o oživenie tejto značky, keďže mala v strojárskych, ale najmä v zbrojárskych brandži vysoký cveng a bola zárukou kvality.

Kiska dnes poznamenal, že Slovensko a Česko sú si z pohľadu prílevu zahraničných investícií v niektorých smeroch konkurenciou, čo ale nesťažuje vzájomnú dobrú spoluprácu. Privítal však niektoré už

realizované spoločné československé investície. „Pokiaľ sa vieme spojiť, tak to treba využiť v prospech oboch krajín,“ podčiarkol.

Prezidenti sa zhodli na potrebe nutného dopravného prepojenia medzi SR a ČR. Zeman pripomenul, že existuje iba jedno, a to do Bratislavy, čo je podľa neho málo.

M. Zeman: V súvislosti so zavedením eura majú Česi strach z neznámeho

Praha 9. júla (TASR) – Slovensko je pre českého prezidenta Miloša Zemana v zavedení eura príkladom inšpirácie. Okrem iného sa v tejto súvislosti odvoláva na prieskum verejnej mienky, na základe ktorého je so spoločnou európskou menou spokojných 70 percent Slovákov.

V Čechách si naopak platenie eura dokáže predstaviť iba 30 percent populácie. „Hovorím tomu strach z neznámeho. Neviem o eure nič, tak sa ho bojím,“ uviedol na dnešnej tlačovej konferencii po rokovaní so svojim slovenským partnerom Andrejom Kiskom. Ten je na oficiálnej návšteve v Prahe.

Zeman dúfa, že k zavedeniu eura príde v Českej republike v relatívne krátkom čase, keďže plnia všetky tri mastrichtské kritériá. Dodal, že spoločnú európsku menu si prajú tri štvrtiny českých exportérov. Podľa nich by to podporilo ďalší príliv zahraničných investícií do krajiny.

S Kiskom chce počas spoločného pracovného obeda prebrať aj tému, ktorá sa rieši na úrovni Európskej únie. Ide o návrh Európskej komisie (EK) týkajúci sa klimaticko-energetického balíčka.

V ňom komisia stanovila ako základné piliere nového rámca EÚ pre klímu a energetiku do roku 2030 zníženie emisií skleníkových plynov o 40 percent pod úroveň z roku 1990, ako aj zvýšenie podielu energie z obnoviteľných zdrojov minimálne na 27 percent (cieľ záväzný pre celú úniu). S týmto balíčkom má problém celá Vyšehradská štvorka.

IVO: S príchodom nového prezidenta sa zlepšila kvalita demokracie na Slovensku

Bratislava 10. júla (TASR) – Prvé kroky Andreja Kisku vo funkcii prezidenta SR mali vplyv na zlepšenie kvality demokracie na Slovensku, tvrdí Inštitút pre verejné otázky (IVO). „Podľa očakávania prvé kroky nového prezidenta pôsobili v smere znižovania koncentrácie moci v rukách jednej politickej strany a posilnili mechanizmy delby moci a ‚brzd a protiváh‘,“ uviedli dnes na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave predstavitelia IVO, ktorí predstavili výsledky IVO Barometra. Ten ukázal, že vývoj kvality demokracie na Slovensku za druhý štvrťrok dosiahol priemernú známku 3,1, čo je mierne zlepšenie o 0,1 bodu oproti predchádzajúcemu hodnotenému obdobiu.

Grigorij Mesežnikov z IVO v prípade nového prezidenta hodnotí kladne najmä jeho aktivitu v oblasti súdnictva. „Pozitívne je, že kroky nového prezidenta v tejto oblasti hodnotíme ako pozitívne a nádejné,“ uviedol Mesežnikov. Ako dodal, pozitívom je, že súčasný prezident konal rýchlo pri vymenovaní a nevymenovaní ústavných sudcov. Mesežnikov taktiež ocenil vymenovanie nových členov Súdnej rady SR či rozhodnutie o stiahnutí námietok v kauze Čentéš. „Toto všetko sme považovali za dostatočný dôvod na zlepšenie ratingu za minulý štvrťrok,“ ozrejmil Mesežnikov.

V oblasti legislatívy IVO upozornil na viacero nedostatkov. Išlo najmä o novelu ústavy z mája tohto roka. „Na margo novelizácie ústavy si dovoľujeme podotknúť, že k podobným legislatívnym iniciatívam by sa malo pristupovať inak, než to urobili Smer-SD a KDH. O vážnych právnych zmenách sa majú viesť vážne odborné diskusie, o to viac, ak ide o novelu ústavy a zásadné zmeny vo fungovaní jednej moci v štáte,“ uviedli predstavitelia IVO. Problémy sa vyskytli aj pri iných zákonoch. Napríklad pri legislatíve, ktorá reguluje volebné procesy, novele zákona o sudcoch a prisediach či pri zákone o nadobúdaní vlastníctva poľnohospodárskeho pozemku. Podľa IVO sa v týchto legislatívnych normách objavili problematické ustanovenia, vrátane podozrení na protiústavnosť. „Celkovo situácia v oblasti legislatívy nevybočovala natoľko z doterajších trendov, aby sme prišli k zhoršeniu ratingu,“ doplnil Mesežnikov.

Cieľom projektu IVO Barometer je pravidelne hodnotiť stav kvality demokracie na Slovensku v piatich kľúčových oblastiach: demokratické inštitúcie a právny štát, legislatíva, ochrana ľudských a menšinových práv, nezávislé médiá a médiá verejnej služby a občianska spoločnosť a tretí sektor. Hodnota známky IVO Barometra sa pohybuje na škále od 1,00 do 5,00, pričom známka 1,00 vyjadruje optimálny stav kvality demokracie.

AGRO: R. FICO: Dobrá úroda neznamená automatické znižovanie cien

Sokolce 10. júla (TASR) – Tohtoročná úroda je nádejná. Povedal to dnes predseda vlády SR Robert Fico po stretnutí s poľnohospodármi v okrese Komárno. Premiér navštívil spolu s ministrom pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka SR Lubomírom Jahnákom a predsedom Slovenskej poľnohospodárskej a potravinárskej komory Milanom Semančíkom Poľnohospodárske družstvo Sokolce, kde sa oboznámil so stavom žatevných prác a aktuálnou situáciou v poľnohospodárstve.

Ako Fico uviedol, svojou účasťou na dnešnom stretnutí chce vyjadriť svoju veľkú podporu poľnohospodárom. „Odmietam ironické poznámky na adresu tohto rezortu, práve naopak, musíme urobiť všetko pre to, aby miera potravinovej bezpečnosti bola čo najvyššia,“ zdôraznil premiér s tým, že poľnohospodárstvo nie je len iba výroba potravín, ale zamestnávanie ľudí, tvorba krajiny. Zdôraznil, že tento sektor sa nesmie opomínať, ale treba mu vyslovať plnú podporu.

Na krátkom mítingu predseda vlády skonštatoval, že na základe vyjadrení farmárov je tohtoročná úroda dobrá. „Môže to spôsobovať tlak na znižovanie cien komodít na trhu, to však automaticky neznamená pre našich obchodníkov a predajcov, aby znižovali ceny výrobkov,“ upozornil.



Graduácia

Mesiac jún je tradičným mesiacom na graduácie. Tisíce študentov opustia školské lavice a budú hľadať primerané zamestnanie. Nebude to vďačná úloha, lebo tento svet je ešte pre graduantov neznámy a aj neľútostný. Potrebná bude ostražitosť a opatrnosť, aby kroky boli pevné a isté. Nezaškodí pripomenúť, že mladý človek aby ostal v životných bojoch, potrebuje čosi viac ako diplom. Mnohí z nás sme zistili, že cesta života sa ľahšie znáša ak má človek duchovnú podporu a aj voľnosť uchýliť sa ku nej vo chvíľach núdze a životných ťažkostiach. Toto je jasný a jednoduchý odkaz, ktorý hodno spomenúť pri gradučných oslavách.

Pre tohtoročných graduantov máme aj ďalšie pripomienky. Majte radosť zo sviežosti a krásy vašej mladosti. Možno škoda o tom hovoriť. Lebo krásu mladosti porozumiete až vtedy, keď zvädne. Netrápte sa veľmi o budúcnosť. Uvedomte si, že starosť o jej výsledky sú asi také, ako pokus rozriešiť veľmi komplikovaný matematický projekt. Držte dávne ľúbostné listy a odhadzujte staré bankové výkazy.

Možno budete ženatí, možno nie. Možno budete mať deti, možno nie. Čokoľvek budete robiť, negratulujte si. Váš životný výber je asi polovica možností. Tak, ako každého druhého. Buďte milí a starostliví ku vašim deťom. Oni sú najlepším spojitím s vašou minulosťou a pravdepodobne budú stáť pri vás. Majte na mysli vašich rodičov, pretože neviete, kedy ich stratíte. Rozumejte, že priatelia prichádzajú a odchádzajú. Ale držte si tých niekoľkých vzácných. Neočakávajte od nikoho, že vás bude podporovať. Možno máte fondy a úspory, alebo bohatú manželku. Ale nikdy neviete, kedy a ako sa tieto rezervy vyčerpajú.

Ostatné rady, založené na mojej pútnickej skúsenosti nemajú spoľahlivého dôkazu, preto ich vypúšťam zo záväzku.

Rada je istou formou oživenia spomienok. Je to cesta hľadania minulosti ktorú oprášime, potešíme sa s ňou a ozdobíme viac ako je hodná.

Ešte mi je potrebné spomenúť, že medzi graduantami budú aj synovia a dcéry slovenských rodičov. Keď im úprimne blahoželáme ku skončeniu štúdia, očakávame, že nezabudnú na svoj slovenský pôvod a budú jeho živými nositeľmi.

Rudo L. Greguš

Čachtický hrad na Slovensku sprístupnili verejnosti

Čachtický hrad, ktorý je známy najmä vďaka legende o krvilačnej grófke Alžbete Báthoryovej, oficiálne otvorili verejnosti po jeho dvojročnej rekonštrukcii v piatok 20. júna 2014. Sídlo legendami opradenej krvilačnej grófky Alžbety Báthoryovej obnovili za 1.2 milióna eur vďaka európskym zdrojom z Regionálneho operačného programu ministerstva pôdohospodárstva a rozvoja vidieka. Desiatimi percentami sa na rekonštrukcii podieľal štát a piatimi ako majiteľ objektu obec Čachtice. Na snímke herečka stvárňuje grófku Alžbetu Báthoryovú.

The Čachtický Castle, known for the legend of Countess Elizabeth Bathory, was reopened after a two-year period of reconstruction. In the photo an actress portrays Countess Elizabeth Bathory in period dress.



FOTO TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Slovenská katolícka púť do Marian Shrine do West Haverstraw, NY

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City Vás pozýva na tradičnú slovenskú katolícku púť v nedeľu dňa **10. augusta 2014** do **Marian Shrine, West Haverstraw, New York 10993**. Spoveď bude pred slovenskou svätou omšou, ktorá bude o 11.00 hodine dopoludnia. Obed bude nasledovať o 12.30 hodine odpoľudnia. Ružencová procesia začne o 2.30 hodine odpoľudnia. Bližšie informácie Vám podajú: Jozef Bilik (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922. Kto má záujem na túto púť cestovať autobusom, ktorý bude pristavený pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, má sa prihlásiť u Márii Božekovej (347)612-1934. Autobus bude k dispozícii ak bude dostatočný počet záujemcov.

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.

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

Slovenský festival v Sterling Heights, MI

V sobotu 23. augusta a v nedeľu 24. augusta 2014 bude na pozemkoch farnosti sv. Cyrila a Metoda, 41233 Ryan Rd. v Sterling Heights, MI 24. slovenský festival. V sobotu bude od 2.00 hodiny popoludní do 11.00 hod. večer a v nedeľu od 12.00 hod. naobed do 8.00 hod. večer.

Na predaj budú slovenské a americké jedlá, koláče a slovenské pivo. V kultúrnom programe sa predstavia folklórne súbory Šarišan z Detroitu, MI, Lúčina z Clevelandu, OH, Domovina z Windsor, Ontario a hudobné skupiny Tri-City Plus Band (v sobotu) a Hank Haller Ensemble (v nedeľu). V piatok 22. augusta bude od 6.00 hod. do 11.00 hodiny večer Talent Show Competition a Family Night „Karaoke“. Jedlo sa predávať nebude. Vstupné a parkovanie budú bezplatné.

CSWGA v Toronte Vás pozýva do svojich radov

Zaujíma Vás golf? Neviete kde a ako začať? Alebo už s golfom máte nejaké skúsenosti a radi by ste sa podelili so svojimi postrehmi a nezodpovedanými otázkami? Využite jedinečnú možnosť od CSWGA (Czech and Slovak World Golf Association), Česko-Slovenskej golfovej komunity v GTA, založenej v roku 1987, ktorá má pre Vás pripravené golfové kliniky pre malé skupiny ľudí.

Platí sa dobrou náladou a chuťou sa stretnúť s golfovými nadšencami z Vašej komunity. V prípade záujmu, pošlite email na info@cwga.org a jeden z našich členov Vám poskytne ďalšie detaily. Golfu zdar! www.cswga.org

Celosvetové stretnutie rodákov - Banskobystričanov v dňoch 12.-14. septembra 2014

V tomto termíne sa konajú každoročné Dni mesta Banská Bystrica spolu s vychýreným Radvanským jarmokom, ktorý sa môže popýšiť 357-ročnou tradíciou. Pre účastníkov celosvetového stretnutia Bystričanov mesto pod Urpínom pripravilo celý rad zaujímavých podujatí, vrátane prijatia u primátora mesta, pána P. Gogolu.

Radi by sme Vás chceli poprosiť o rozširovanie tejto informácie aj cez sociálne siete (facebook, twitter a pod.) medzi Vám známymi rodákmi z Banskej Bystrice a blízkeho okolia, za čo Vám dopredu pekne ďakujeme. V prípade záujmu pošlite prosím kontaktný mail, prípadne mailovú adresu Vám známych Bystričanov na: HYPERLINK "mailto:info@permon.eu" info@permon.eu Tešíme sa na hojnú účasť pri celosvetovom stretnutí rodákov z Banskej Bystrice na Dňoch mesta / Radvanskom jarmoku 12.-14. septembra 2014.

S úctou a krajanským pozdravom

Dušan Klimo



Mestečká v Michigane prežívajú vzostup duchovných povolání

Denník New York Times priniesol v pondelok 16. júna správu o dvoch susediacich mestečkách v Michigane, ktoré napriek nízkemu počtu obyvateľov v posledných rokoch oplývajú povolániami ku katolíckemu kňazstvu a zasvätenému životu. Mestá Fowler a Westphalia majú dohromady len trochu viac než 2000 obyvateľov, vyrástlo v nich už ale 44 kňazských a 80 rehoľných povolání. Zo 477 kandidátov, ktorí tento rok prijmu kňazskú vysviacku v Spojených štátoch, dvojčky Todd a Gary Koenigsnechtovci pochádzajú práve z Fowleru v Michigane.

Denník New York Times si v reportáži tiež všimol, že z desiatich súrodencov, ktorí sa narodili v rodine Koenigsnechtovcov, je v seminári ešte ďalší brat. Bude možno kňazom, ktorý posunie bilanciú kňazských povolání zo súčasnej remízy v prospech Fowleru: dodnes vzišlo tak z Fowleru ako aj z Westphalie 22 katolíckych kňazov. Zo štatistiky amerického Centra pre aplikovaný výskum v apoštoláte pri Georgetownskej univerzite však podľa denníka zároveň vyplýva, že na udržanie počtu 38 600 kňazov, ktorí v súčasnosti pôsobia v pastorácii rastúceho počtu amerických katolíkov, by do budúcnosti bolo potrebných trikrát viac kňazských vysviacok, než je súčasný ročný priemer.

TKKBS

Náš jubilant – Šimon Turkyňák 75- ročný

Náš milý priateľ a nový člen spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty Šimon Turkyňák dňa 11. mája 2014 sa dožil svojich okrúhlych 75. narodenín. Šimon sa narodil 10. mája 1939 v Jarabinej na Slovensku. Svoje jubileum oslávil v prítomnosti svojej rodiny a priateľov v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Pri tejto príležitosti mu prišli zablahoželať aj duchovní Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, Msgr. Lawrence Connaughton, farár a otec Štefan Chanas, ktorí na úvod osláv sa pomodlili a požehnali jedlá, ktoré na jubilantovú oslavu pripravili Helenka Kopčeková za pomoci Marienky Božekovej a ostatných členiek a členov Spolku sv. Štefana.

Oslávencovi s radosťou všetci zaspievali „Happy Birthday“ a v mene Spolku sv. Štefana zapriali veľa zdravia, Božieho požehnania a ešte veľa rokov šťastného života, tajomníčka Spolku, Henrieta H. Daitová. Za rodinu sa prihovril Šimonov synovec Ján Turkyňák. A tak na záver prítomní zdvihli čaše, aby sladkým cvengotom za nich vraveli „Nech Ti dá Pán Boh veľa šťastia a zdravia.“

„Tie časy tajdú, žitia obrazy, miznú jak tône blankytu, a hned' zbúria výchrice skazy, hned' štastia výslnie svi-tá. Za letom, leto sa prudko valí, a kto dnes ešte tvár svoju chváli, zajtra už padá bez vlády, hodina každá pás v čele ryje, ale kto láske a kráse žije, ten večne zostane mladý ...“ (Andrej Sládkovič: Marina)

Henrieta H. Daitová
tajomníčka Spolku sv. Štefana



Oslávenc Šimon Turkyňák, krája svoju narodeninovú tortu.



Spoločná snímka zúčastnených osláv 75. narodenín Šimona Turkyňáka.

Miestny odbor Matice slovenskej v Marianke Spoločnosť Andreja Hlinku

Marianka, 5. 6. 2014

Realizácia busty Andreja Hlinku v Marianke – žiadosť o podporu

Miestny odbor Matice slovenskej a Spoločnosť Andreja Hlinku, v spolupráci s Občianskym združením Tál Marianka a Kongregáciou bratov Tešiteľov z Getseman, pripravujú realizáciu busty Mons. Andreja Hlinku, kňaza, politika a národného dejateľa, ktorá bude inštalovaná v kláštornom komplexe v Marianke.

Už dlhšie pripravovaný zámer chceme ukončiť v najbližšom čase, aby slávnostné odhalenie mohlo byť zakomponované do rámca podujatí pripomínajúcich 150. výročie narodenia tejto výnimočnej osobnosti našich dejín, ktoré pripadá na 27. september 2014.

Dôvodom pre túto iniciatívu je okrem iného skutočnosť, že Andrej Hlinka mal v úcte toto najstaršie pútnické miesto na Slovensku a Marianku niekoľko krát osobne navštívil, napríklad 20. septembra 1936 na pozvanie bratov Tešiteľov Božského srdca v Marianke, keď tiež posvätil základný kameň pre kaplnku dvanásteho zastavenia Krížovej cesty.

Busta Andreja Hlinku je dielom významného sochára Jána Koniarka. Jej osadenie architektonicky pripravujeme na doske zo vzácneho kameňa s príležitostným textom tak, aby zodpovedalo vysokým výtvarným, resp. umeleckým kritériám.

Celkový rozpočet realizácie predstavuje 2300 €, momentálne nám chýba ešte 1300 €.

Obraciam sa preto na Vás s prosbou, finančne podporiť tento zámer a pomôcť tak k jeho úspešnému završeniu. Ak by ste sa rozhodli prispieť, Váš dar môžete poslať na číslo účtu MO MS v Marianke: 2949685957/0200, SWIFT SUBASKBX, alebo nás v prípade potreby kontaktovať (olexa.marianka@gmail.com, pavol.stano@gmail.com).

Ďakujeme za Vašu ochotu a veľkorysosť v nádeji, že úspešná realizácia diela prispeje k naplneniu odkazu Andreja Hlinku v dnešných časoch a Marianka s Vašou podporou dostane v podobe pamiatky na tohto zanieteného kňaza a „Otcu národa“ nový duchovný rozmer.

S úctou

Milan Olexa
predseda
MO MS Marianka

Pavol Stano
predseda
Spoločnosti Andreja Hlinku

V Bratislave vystavuje štvornásobný víťaz World Press Photo S. McCurry z USA

Jeden z najvýznamnejších svetových fotografov súčasnosti Američan Steve McCurry má v Stredoeurópskom dome fotografie (SEDF) v Bratislave slovenskú výstavnú premiéru. Výber z jeho tvorby na dvoch poschodiach potrvá do 31. augusta.

Autor svojimi trpezlivými zábermi dokáže odfoťiť vnútro človeka. Ojedinelosť a význam výstavy potvrdzuje skutočnosť, že na jej otvorení sa zúčastnili veľvyslanci ďalších piatich krajín. Nielen podľa nich je to vzácna príležitosť spoznať tvorbu tohto úspešného fotografa.

V jeho tvorbe je dominantou ľudská tvár. Tá sa objavuje takmer na všetkých záberoch, či ide o svetové konflikty, miznúce kultúry, starodávne tradície alebo súčasnú kultúru. Za svoje fotografie získal mnoho ocenení vrátane Zlatej medaily Roberta Capu, National Press, National Press Photographers Award a je štvornásobným držiteľom prvej ceny najväčšej fotografickej súťaže World Press Photo. Jeho fotografie sú v zbierkach najprestížnejších galérií na svete.

TASR

Tisícky veriacich si uctili odkaz sv. Cyrila a Metoda na národnej púti

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Podľa Budzika po jedenástich storočiach kresťanstva uprostred Slovanov vidíme celkom jasne, že dedičstvo Cyrila a Metoda zostane pre Slovanov základom hlbším a pevnejším než akékoľvek rozdelenie. "Obidve kresťanské tradície, východná a západná, vznikli v lone jednej cirkvi, hoci v rozličných kultúrach a pri rôznom prístupe k tým istým problémom. Táto rozličnosť sa môže stať len obohatením pre európsku kultúru a jej náboženské tradície a takisto sa môže stať primeranou základňou pre jej vytúženú duchovnú obnovu," povedal. Misia vierozvestcov je podľa lublinského arcibiskupa príkladom inkulturácie, vtelenia evanjelia do domácej kultúry a jej začlenená do života cirkvi. "Ich dielo je tak vážne, že keby dnes diskutujeme o novej podobe Európy, nemôžeme vynechať ich činy."

TASR



Mariánsku horu v Levoči krásnila opäť modlitba a pokánie

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Noc zo soboty na nedeľu bola rekordnou v počte účastníkov púte a najmä vo vysluhovaní sviatosti zmierenia. Veriaci sa spovedali nepretržite od ôsmej hodiny v sobotu ráno až do skončenia slávnostnej odpustovej svätej omše. Mons. F. Dlugoš celebroid v sobotu svoju 25. otváraciu svätú omšu na Mariánskej hore pred vyše 200 tisícovým zhromaždením pútnikov. V nedeľu prišlo k levočskej Božej Matke a jej vernému synovi kardinálovi J. Tomkovi zhruba 300 tisíc mariánskych ctiteľov. Vyše stočlenný tím usporiadateľov spolu s dobrovoľníkmi zvládol organizáciu tohtoročnej hlavnej púte na Mariánsku horu s maximálnym vypätím síl a nesmiernou obetavosťou.

TK KBS



Odhalené pamätne tabule don Heribanovi a don Nádaskému

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Pokračoval v štúdiu biblických vied v Ríme, odkiaľ ho potom predstavení poslali vyučovať biblické vedy do Japonska, kde horlivo pôsobil ako misionár takmer 20 rokov. V roku 1976 sa vrátil do Ríma a začal pôsobiť na Pápežskej saleziánskej univerzite. Obhájil doktorskú prácu, prednášal a publikoval. Zomrel v Ríme 16.4.2009. Jeho telesné ostatky boli prevezené na Slovensko a pochovaný bol v rodnej obci.

Činnosť don Heribana v odbore biblických vied významne ocenili v r. 1989, keď ho v Dubline zvolili za člena medzinárodnej organizácie *Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas*, v ktorej sa združujú významní bádatelia v odbore Nového zákona. Meno prof. Heribana sa uvádza aj v knihe uverejňujúcej informácie o najznámejších odborníkoch a bádateľoch v odbore biblických vied a archeológii, ktorú vydali r. 1993 vo Washingtone. Ako hosťujúci profesor prednášal biblické vedy na viacerých univerzitách vo svete, zúčastnil sa na viacerých medzinárodných kongresoch biblistov.

Prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič mu 1. januára 2005 udelil za významné zásluhy o kultúrno - duchovný rozvoj Slovenskej republiky Pribinov kríž III. triedy. 12. decembra 2005 Trnavská univerzita mu udelila čestný doktorát a 5. marca 2006 Štefan Bošňák, primátor mesta Trnavy, ho poctil čestným občianstvom tohto mesta.

Augustín Nádaský, pedagóg a jeden z najväčších odborníkov na slovenskú literatúru sa narodil 2.10.1930. Do saleziánskeho noviciátu vstúpil v roku 1946. Prvé rehoľné sľuby zložil 9. augusta 1947. Po zatvorení kláštorov aj on ušiel v roku 1952 cez Moravu a Rakúsko do Talianska, kde pokračoval v štúdiu teológie a 1. júla 1959 bol vysvätený za kňaza. Pôsobil v Turíne a v San Benigno Canavese. Odtiaľ odišiel do Ríma, kde pomáhal založiť Slovenský Ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda a hlavne Slovenské gymnázium Antona Bernoláka, na ktorom bol 12 rokov školským radcom (od roku 1964) a počnúc rokom 1976 dvadsaťpäť rokov jeho riaditeľom. Vyučoval slovenčinu, nemeckú literatúru, dejepis, zemepis, taliančinu a filmológiu. Ako uviedol jeden z odchovancov tohto gymnázia – „don Nádaský bol salezián a pedagóg, čo do nás vlieval lásku ku Slovensku, k slovenským dejinám a k slovenskej literatúre.“ Okrem toho pripravoval vo Vatikáne rozhlasové slovenské vysielanie. Na Slovensko, do Šaštína sa vrátil v roku 1991, kde pomáhal založiť Gymnázium sv. Jána Boska, ktorého bol istý čas aj riaditeľom. Až do svojej smrti, 6.8.2008, pôsobil v Šaštíne, kde je aj pochovaný.



Rudolf Greguš oslávil 90. narodeniny

Dňa 4. júla 1924 sa v New Yorku narodil známy kultúrny a národný pracovník Rudolf Greguš. Keď mal dva roky odišiel s matkou do rodného kraja jeho rodičov – dedinky Makov na Orave. Tam prežil študentské roky. Po štúdiách na právnickej fakulte sa rozhodol vrátiť do USA.

Najprv bol v utečeneckom tábore v Nemecku a v roku 1951 sa vrátil do Spojených štátov. Po príchode pokračoval v štúdiu na Ohio State University.

Po skončení školy sa vrátil do New Yorku, kde stretol svoju budúcu manželku Elenu, rodenú Poliakovú. Spolu vychovali dve dcéry – Ruženu a Ľubu. Pracoval v New Yorku Stock Exchange, neskôr v OSN a IBM. Po skončení ďalšieho štúdia na Hunter College v New Yorku bol učiteľom v high school. Do dôchodku odišiel v roku 1989.

Bol aktívny v mnohých slovenských spolkoch a organizáciách a členom Farskej rady v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City. Okrem toho zastával aj funkciu predsedu 1. zboru Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, bol spoluzakladateľom Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska v New Yorku, Svetového kongresu Slovákov a členom Hlavného súdu Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Je dlhoročným členom 182. zboru Slovenského katolíckeho sokola a Spolku č. 716. Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty v New York City. Pravidelne prispieval do slovenských časopisov. Zapájal sa aj do organizovania slovenských piknikov, zábav, púti, osláv a kultúrnych podujatí.

Oslávencovi k jeho jubileu blahoželáme a prajeme mu veľa zdravia a úspechov.

SKS



Slovenská republika slávi aj Deň zahraničných Slovákov

Slovenská republika (SR) si 5. júla pripomína Deň zahraničných Slovákov. Deje sa tak od roku 1993 na základe zákona NR SR č. 241/1993 Z. z., ktorým sa 5. júl stal pamätným dňom. Poslanci NR SR Zákon o zahraničných Slovákoch upravovali v rokoch 1997 a 2002. Pri výbere Dňa zahraničných Slovákov brali poslanci do úvahy aj iný sviatok pripadajúci na 5. júla - Deň sv. Cyrila a Metoda, ktorý je štátnym sviatkom SR.

Sviatok si pripomínajú aj slovenské komunity na celom svete – stretávajú sa, organizujú rôzne spoločenské a kultúrne podujatia. Uvedomujú si spolupatričnosť k Slovákom žijúcim nielen na rodnom Slovensku, ale aj v každom kúte sveta. Záujmy zahraničných Slovákov reprezentuje Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ) a Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí.

Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí vzniklo v roku 2002 na základe rozhodnutia delegátov Stálej konferencie Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí. SZSZ nadviazalo na integračné úsilie Svetového kongresu Slovákov a podarilo sa mu združiť všetky významné komunity slovenského zahraničia a všetky ich najväčšie spolky.

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí vznikol v roku 2006 na základe zákona o Slovákoch žijúcich v zahraničí. Spravuje grantový systém, vydáva osvedčenia Slováka žijúceho v zahraničí, predkladá materiály na rokovanie vlády SR a NR SR. Organizuje Dni Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, Stálu konferenciu Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí, vzdelávacie a odborné kurzy, podujatia a súťaže pre mládež, folklórne prehliadky, výstavy a iné akcie.

TASR



Krajaniam v zahraničí dostali dotácie

Krajaniam v zahraničí dostali minulý rok na svoje projekty 1,158,540 eur. Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ) v riadnom dotačnom konaní rozdelil najskôr 777,757 eur a ďalších 380,783 eur ako mimoriadnu dotáciu. Vyplýva to zo správy o štátnej politike vo vzťahu k Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí, ktorú schválila vláda SR.

ÚSZZ sa zamerala na podporu projektov s dlhodobým účinkom. Ďalšou prioritou bola podpora zvyšovania úrovne národného povedomia detí a mládeže. Do konca januára minulého roka úrad zaevidoval 819 elektronických žiadostí, z nich 37 sa vyradilo z dôvodu duplicity. Dotačná komisia z nich odporučila predsedovi ÚSZZ na schválenie 500 žiadostí. V porovnaní s rokmi 2011 a 2012 to bola o približne 10 percent vyššia úspešnosť. Financie sa rozdelili do štyroch oblastí, a to do vzdelávania, vedy a výskumu, kultúry: informačnej a médií. Najviac (438) žiadostí sa týkalo kultúrnych projektov, nasledovala informačná oblasť (204), vzdelávanie, veda a výskum (142) a médiá (35).

Najvyššia priemerná pridelená suma na jeden projekt dosahovala 2,500 eur vo Veľkej Británii. Stopercentnú úspešnosť mali žiadatelia z Cypru, Čiernej Hory, Španielska, Švajčiarska a Švédska. Okrem riadneho dotačného kola existovala možnosť predloženia žiadosti o mimoriadnu dotáciu, kde ich prišlo 70. Predseda ÚSZZ rozhodol o schválení 46 žiadostí vo výške 380,783 eur.

TASR



Rudolf Greguš





Tisícky veriacich si uctili odkaz sv. Cyrila a Metoda na národnej púti



FOTO TASR - Henrich Mišovič

Cyrilo-metodskou národnou púťou sa 5. júla 2014 začali v Nitre oslavy 1151. výročia príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu. Na slávnostnej svätej omši na Svätoplukovom námestí sa zúčastnili tisícky veriacich zo všetkých kútov Slovenska. Hlavným celebrantom bol lublinský arcibiskup – metropolita Stanislav Budzik.

The Cyril-Methodius national pilgrimage began in Nitra on July 5, 2014. It marked the 1151 anniversary of the arrival of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Great Moravia.

Cyrilo-metodskou národnou púťou sa začali v Nitre oslavy 1151. výročia príchodu sv. Cyrila a Metoda na Veľkú Moravu. Na slávnostnej svätej omši na Svätoplukovom námestí sa zúčastnili tisícky veriacich zo všetkých kútov Slovenska. Hlavným celebrantom bol lublinský arcibiskup – metropolita Stanislav Budzik. "Toto je prvá omša, ktorú celebrujem v slovenskom jazyku," povedal.

Národné oslavy sviatku sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Nitre sa uskutočnili pod záštitou predsedu vlády SR Roberta Fica. Apoštolský nuncius na Slovensku, arcibiskup Mario Giordana, priniesol pozdrav a apoštolské požehnanie Svätého Otca Františka. Pozdrav účastníkom cyrilo-metodskej národnej púte poslal aj prezident SR Andrej Kiska.

Arcibiskup Budzik pripomenul význam misie solúnskych bratov pre celú Európu. "Cyril a Metod sa stali apoštolmi pre Slovanov, priniesli evanjelium Ježiša Krista veľkej rodine slovanských národov. Položili základy pod slovanskú kultúru, vniesli slovanským národom nádej, ktorá umožní človeku prežiť všetky ťažkosti, ktoré ho sprevádzajú celý život."

Pokračovanie na str. 23



Štátny tajomník P. Burian prijal pracovníkov americkej diplomacie a Kongresu

Štátny tajomník Ministerstva zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Slovenskej republiky Peter Burian prijal 10. júla 2014 pracovníkov americkeho rezortu diplomacie a Kongresu, ktorí sú zapojení do študijného programu washingtonského think-tanku CEPA (Center for European Policy Analysis) a Medzinárodného vyšehradského fondu. Súčasťou programu bola aj osobná návšteva krajín Vyšehradskej skupiny.

Š účastníkmi programu hovoril štátny tajomník P. Burian hlavne o aktuálnych bezpečnostných otázkach. Informoval tiež o prioritách slovenského predsedníctva vo V4, ktoré Slovensko 1. júla prebralo od Maďarska. Ďalšou dôležitou témou vzájomnej diskusie bola situácia na Ukrajine a s tým súvisiace otázky jej stabilizácie, vrátane energetickej bezpečnosti. Slovensko ponúka Ukrajine predovšetkým svoje skúsenosti z transformácie a koordinuje projekty rozvojovej spolupráce s ostatnými krajinami V4 aj cestou podpory z Medzinárodného vyšehradského fondu.

Na stretnutí sa diskutovalo aj o blížiacom sa summite NATO vo Walese, ktorý bude príležitosťou strategicky sa pozrieť na súčasné a budúce výzvy Aliancie. Štátny tajomník P. Burian v diskusii informoval i o postojoch Slovenskej republiky k rozširovaniu Aliancie, ako aj o pôsobení slovenských vojakov a projektoch na ich spoločné pôsobenie s partnermi z V4. Spomenul aj význam pripravovaného Transatlantického obchodného a investičného partnerstva (TTIP), ktoré by značne podporilo rast vzájomného obchodu medzi EÚ a USA, môže však zohrávať dôležitú úlohu aj ako strategický faktor v medzinárodných vzťahoch.



Peter Burian

MZV SR

Mariánsku horu v Levoči krásnila opäť modlitba a pokánie

Tohtoročná Levočská púť sa zaradi medzi historicky prelomové nielen kvôli výročným jubileám, ale najmä vďaka hlbokej, úprimnej a vŕcnnej zbožnosti, s akou prichádzali státisíce pútnikov na Mariánsku horu a prežívali chvíle stíšeného meditovania i kresťanskej súdržnosti v pútnickom súpoločenstve. Rok Sedembolestnej Panny Márie, patrónky Slovenska, a tridsiate výročie erigovania baziliky menšej na levočskej hore dominovali nielen v nedeľnej slávnosti, ale počas celého odpustového týždňa.

Slávnostnú pontifikálnu svätú omšu celebraval kardinál Jozef Tomko, ktorý sa vo svojej homílii sústredil na presah vzoru svätosti Panny Márie do našich dní, ľudských osudov i každodenných problémov. Nabádal rodičov, aby svojim deťom súmerne poskytovali dostatok existenčného zázemia, ale aj duchovných, mravných, kresťanských hodnôt. Varoval, že nemožno výchovu mladého pokolenia zveriť televízii. Povzbudil státisícový zástup pútnikov, aby nestrácali dôveru v milosťplnosť Sedembolestnej patrónky národa a čerpali neutíchajúcu nádej práve v levočskej mariánskej svätyni.

Pokračovanie na str. 23

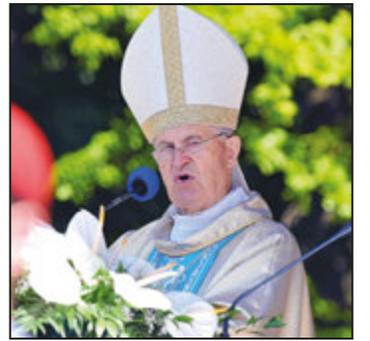


FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Na snímke emeritný kardinál Jozef Tomko káže cez slávnostnú odpustovú omšu počas Mariánskej púte v Levoči 6. júla 2014.

Cardinal Jozef Tomko was the principal celebrant at the Mass during the annual pilgrimage to Marian Hill.



FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Na snímke veriaci stúpajú na Mariánsku horu neďaleko Levoče počas posledného dňa Mariánskej púte v Levoči 6. júla 2014.

Pilgrims make their way up Marian Hill near Levoča for the annual pilgrimage on July 6, 2014.



Odhalené pamätné tabule don Heribanovi a don Nádaskému

Dňa 5.7.2014 na slávnosť sv. Cyrila a Metoda sa konala v Šelpiciach pri Trnave milá slávnosť. Z iniciatívy miestneho obecného a farského úradu boli slávnostne odhalené a požehnané pamätné tabule dvom rodákovi, významným osobnostiam, saleziánom – don Heribanovi a don Nádaskému. Počas svätej omše, ktorú celebraval miestny správca farnosti vdp. František Mrkva a koncebroval i kázal bývalý provinciál saleziánov don Karol Manik, kazateľ predstavil tieto dve osobnosti a ich nasadenie pri ohlasovaní Krista, šírení kresťanstva a prínos pre vedu a kultúru. Po svätej omši nasledovalo požehnanie tabúl, ktoré sú umiestnené na priečelí kostola.

Jozef Heriban, bibliista a vedec svetového mena sa narodil 7.5.1925. V roku 1943 vstúpil do saleziánskeho noviciátu v Hronskom Svätom Beňadiku, kde o rok zložil prvé rehoľné sľuby. V roku 1950 po zlikvidovaní kláštorov komunistickým režimom sa mu podarilo ujsť do zahraničia, kde potom študoval teológiu a bol vysvätený za kňaza v Turíne 1.7.1955.

Pokračovanie na str. 23