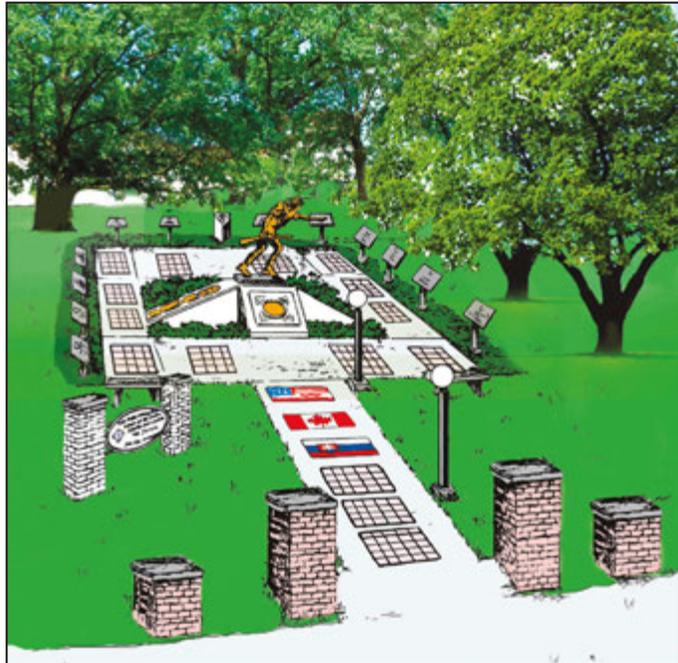




Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



The Jednota Memorial will honor members of our Society who served in the wars from WWI to the present and also be a permanent memorial for our Society on the land purchased by Fr. Furdek.

Message from the President: *EXCITING NEWS*

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I can unveil to you, our Members, the Jednota Memorial to be built on our Jednota Estates property in Middletown, Pennsylvania.

Pictured is a rendering of the Memorial based on the actual construction plans.

In the next several issues we will provide more detailed information on the Memorial project.

Construction will begin in the next few weeks on the project with completion expected in the Fall.

Purpose:
To build a permanent Memorial to honor the Members of our Society both past and present.

To honor the Jednota Members who served in the wars from WWI to the present, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

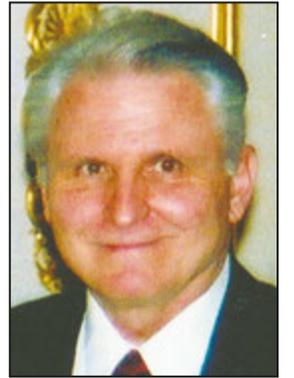
To honor our Society's founder, Fr. Stefan Furdek.

To commemorate our former Jednota Orphanage Home, which was just a few feet from the Memorial site, and remember the orphans who lived there and dedicated nuns who served there.

To build a lasting monument to our Society on the grounds that were purchased over 100 years ago by Fr. Furdek.

In our next Jednota issue I will explain in more detail about the Memorial itself, how it is constructed and how you, your family, your Branch or District can participate.

Fraternally,



Andrew M. Rajec

Andrew M. Rajec
President



The Officers and Members of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union extend their most sincere Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to all Members on the 4th of July!

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

Inside

- Editorial/Commentary..... 2
- FCSU National Office Candidates 3 - 7
- Top Guns..... 8
- Branch/District Info 14 - 15
- Slovak 21 - 24

May the Fourth Be With You!

- 8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA **3.60%**
- 6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA **3.20%**
- 6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA **3.10%**



Get a FREE Chewy Čuvač with a minimum deposit of \$10,000 on any one of the above products.
Effective on deposits received by August 15, 2014

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Park 2 **2.15%**
Park Free Plus **1.90%**



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



Insights and Viewpoints



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

July 13, 2014

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 13: 1-23

At first glance there seems to be some conflict between the reading from Isaiah the prophet and the gospel story of the sower and the seed. In Isaiah we hear how the word of God never goes forth without effect, and that as inevitably as rain soaks

the earth and makes it fruitful does the word of God penetrate and transform our world. When Jesus tells the parable of the sower and the seed however it appears that the situation has changed; much of the "word of the Kingdom" which he preaches is said to fall upon infertile ground.

Certainly people in the era of Isaiah, centuries before Christ, were not superior to those who lived at the time of Jesus' life and ministry, always being perfectly disposed to the word of God? No, the pages of scripture themselves tell us that there must be some other explanation, and we find it in the Catholic understanding of divine revelation.

As Christians we believe fully in the revelation found in the books of the Old Testament—indeed we soak in the wisdom of these words every Sunday at mass. At the same time we find the message which the Lord intends for his people has been delivered in a gradual manner, in a way that we and our ancient Israelite forbears would be able to accept and allow it to permeate our lives and existence. During the time of the prophets and the sages of the Old Testament the word of the Lord indeed called for a prompt and faithful response but it also allowed for the possibility that people would not yet fully comprehend God's plan for the salvation of all the nations or to see its implications.

But when the time of God's definitive revelation in the person of Jesus Christ took place, the fullness of the message being made manifest meant that those who heard the word of revelation now held the full responsibility of keeping the word they heard, no longer living in expectation but in the joyful (and at times painfully honest) light of Christ.

In Jesus Christ the revelation of God reached its completion; this is why the Church expects "no new public revelation...before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 66). Therefore when he preaches the word as in today parable, it is the fullness of God's self-communication to his people, something which makes known to us the majesty of the Kingdom of Heaven, and which at the same time requires of us a definitive decision to accept or reject it.

Whereas previously God spoke "in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets" (Hebrews 1:1) and thus his word stood on its own, in the time of Christ the word requires a complete and unstinting response—and this is where the thorns, the rocky ground, and the shallow soil can parch or choke off our spiritual growth.

Now that the fullness of God's word has been made known there can be no more waiting on our part: when we hear about the Kingdom we must either welcome it or, tragically, turn away from it. The seed of the living Word of God has indeed been sown in our midst by Christ and by generations of Christian believers and preachers since his time. His parable today is a reminder that since the fullness of revelation and redemption has arrived in our



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

midst each disciple of Christ has an obligation to respond to that word of revelation and to share in the redemption that follows. May our response to the seed of the word bring it to fruition in our own lives and in the lives of each person whom we encounter on our journey of faith.

July 20, 2014

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Gospel Matthew 13: 24 - 43

The Gospel today continues with some parables of Jesus. Parables are intended to cause the listener to think about them, and reflect on what Jesus meant in telling them. One can hear the same parable numerous times, and each time gain a different insight into its meaning. The three given to us today; the weeds among the wheat, the mustard seed, and the yeast, are about the Kingdom of Heaven. As I reflected on them the virtue that stands out is patience.

A common reaction when things in our lives don't go as planned is to quickly make changes without fully considering the consequences. When the farmer first realized that weeds were growing in the midst of his wheat he could have immediately began to get rid of the weeds so as to protect the wheat. But as Jesus points out, pulling out the weeds would also mean pulling out the wheat. Jesus calls them to be patient. Patience is a virtue that seems to be seen less and less today. The patience to wait for the right moment to speak or act is not always easy. Waiting for God to answer our prayer can be frustrating. We expect ourselves and others to act quickly in making decisions. The pressure is on for the quick fix, not the well thought out solution or resolution.

When a child is taught how a little seed grows into a plant, it is common for the child to keep watching the soil for the plant, then to keep checking every few moments. One of the first lessons we learn when it comes to planting is that it takes time. When we plant a seed we aren't going to see the plant, bush or tree mature for quite a while, sometimes years. Like the mustard seed in the parable, the seed is so small yet grows into the beautiful flower, spreading shrub, or mighty tree. It's hard to believe when we look at the seed to envision how with patience we will see the growth. The same is true in our spiritual lives. We might have experienced some conversion and we look at our lives and realize how much we have to change. That realization can become almost overwhelming and lead us to think that it is impossible to make all these changes. When the changes don't happen right away we can become frustrated and discouraged. God is patient with us and we would do well to imitate Christ by cultivating the virtue of patience. With patience we can walk to road of conversion, and progress in the spiritual life.

A friend of mine lost his job in a bakery for not allowing the dough to properly rise. He did mix in the yeast, but failed to place the dough in the right place, and the leaven wasn't able to do its' work. Instead of regular bread he ended up with mini-bread. Leaven is essential for baking bread, and just a little leaven and the right conditions causes the bread to rise. We are blessed with the leaven of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Present within us they do their work and help us grow in our Faith. Patience again is the ingredient we need to see this in our lives, and to wait for the time of the Heavenly Banquet.

It is patience that is needed for us to see the Kingdom of Heaven that is in our midst. Sometimes our vision of the Kingdom is small, but as we patiently grow in faith it becomes more and more evident in our lives.



Fr. Killian Loch,
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, JULY 23	MONDAY, JULY 14
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6	MONDAY, JULY 28
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17	MONDAY, SEPT. 8

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

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

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 22 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

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

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec, National President Announces Candidacy for Re-election

I PLEDGE THAT AS PRESIDENT AND CEO I WILL CONTINUE TO DEVOTE MY ENERGIES, USING OVER 40 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN LAW, FINANCE AND INSURANCE TO BENEFIT THE JEDNOTA AND ITS MEMBERS.



Andrew M. Rajec

PERSONAL

- Married 41 years to Idka Rajec (Riecan – born Ruzomberok, Slovakia)
- 3 children
- Life time Jednota member
- President FCSU 2007 – present
- General Counsel FCSU 2003 – 2006
- President Branch 89 17 years
- Regional Director FCSU 1996 - 1998
- President Jednota, Inc. and Jednota Properties, Inc. 1995 – 1998

EDUCATION

- Marquette University, B.S., Accounting
- Marquette University Law School, J.D.

MILITARY

- US Army – Armor 1964 – 1966 2 years active duty
- 1st Lt. – Troop XO, Company Commander

EXPERIENCE

- Price Waterhouse - International CPA firm – Accountant
- Arthur Young - International CPA firm – Tax Accountant
- Blue Cross of Wisconsin - Assistant Vice-President
- Association Life – Vice-President & General Counsel
- The Mutual Group - Vice-President, General Counsel, Treasurer

COMMITMENT

Committed to move to Cleveland. Moved December 30, 2006. Sold home, purchased home in Cleveland suburb with my wife.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Pledged to protect the financial strength of the FCSU. With approval of the Board hired an Investment Manager. As reported in Jednota, verified by outside accountants and actuaries, FCSU reached historic records in assets, \$343,107,420, and surplus, \$23,561,437, as of 3-31-2014, despite the worst world financial crisis since the Great Depression in 2007 and 2008. Continue to offer competitive insurance and high annuity rates.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC HERITAGE

Honored our Slovak, Catholic heritage in many ways including, retaining and improving Jednota newspaper including the Slovak section; participated in many Slovak functions, locally and nationally; supported many Slovak and religious causes.

I personally visited many Districts and Branches and Slovak events across the country, many on weekends. 2010 Convention was a tribute to our Slovak heritage, as will the 2014.

JOINT VENTURES

Continue meetings and events with other Slovak fraternal to explore common ground for joint ventures or “marriages”. Stronger we are financially the more other fraternal want to join us.

PROPERTIES

Holdings in Middletown are profitable but demand continued management. New memorial constructed in 2014.

OPERATIONS

Made many changes in operations - i.e. automatic premium payment, credit card acceptance, updated website, streamlined application approval, etc. Expenses are controlled.

MEMBERSHIP

180 new independent agents; new illustration system to sell products. Continue to recruit, continue to encourage recommenders. More agents will be added in planned, managed time frame. Instituted email campaigns and enhanced website increased new visitor traffic 71%; leveraged latest social media tools like Facebook. Controlled, managed growth remains my goal. Financial strength attracts new members and agents.

SUMMARY

Society is strong and my plan is to get stronger. I look forward to your support at the 2014 Convention.

“HONOR THE PAST – WORK FOR THE FUTURE”.

Z Bohom!
Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
President

FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

For God and Nation – Za Boha a Národ
David A. Lang
19425 Van Aken Boulevard, Shaker Heights, Ohio
216-751-7010



David A. Lang

Fraternal Experience: Treasurer – 35 years
First Catholic Slovak Union,
St. Andrew Society Branch 24

Assistant to John Sabol,
Executive Secretary, First Catholic
Slovak Union
1966 - 1971

Professional Experience: First Vice President – Investments
Assistant Branch Manager

Merrill Lynch – Advest, Incorporate, Beachwood, Ohio
1998 – 2007

First Vice President – Investments
Assistant Branch Manager

Member of Presidents, Directors and Pacesetters Club's Achievement Levels

Paine Webber, Incorporate, Beachwood, Ohio
1977 – 1998

Commercial Loan Credit Analyst
Graduate, Management Training Program

Society National Bank, Cleveland, Ohio
1974 – 1977

Education: BS Business Administration
Harvard University, Advest Institute, Continuing Education
John Carroll University
1974

Former ROTC ((Reserve Officer Training Corp)
Hobbies and AAPRCO
Memberships Canterbury Country Club
U.S. Merchant Marines
Dunham Tavern Society
Train Collectors of America
U.S. Naval Institute

General Counsel Gary J. Matta, Esquire Announces His Intent To Seek Re-election

President Rajec, National Officers, Regional Directors, Members, and Delegates of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada, please accept this letter as my official notification in accordance with the First Catholic Slovak Union bylaws section 8.02 as my publication to announce my intentions to seek reelection to the position of General Counsel of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada.

It is with extreme pleasure that I again contacted all of you to announce my intent to seek reelection to the position of General Counsel. As I began to create this publication I took the opportunity to reflect on the last eight years that I have served in the capacity of General Counsel. During those eight years the society has continued to grow and prosper. The Board of Directors has worked tirelessly together as a team in the best interests of the society. I believe that I've assisted the Board of Directors and provided the appropriate legal guidance that has positioned the society in its current favorable financial and fraternal status.

In addition to being General Counsel for the First Catholic Slovak Union, I also hold the position of partner with the law firm of Dodaro Matta and Cambest. My firm provides legal advice and services to various public and private entities as well as individuals within Western Pennsylvania. Being a partner in my own firm provides me the abilities to service the first Catholic Slovak union when the need arises.

I am licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I received my Juris Doctorate degree from Duquesne University School of Law. Duquesne University is located in the City of Pittsburgh and is one of the flagship Catholic Universities in the nation. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

In the past I have served the society in various positions at the branch and district levels including President and Fraternal Activities Director.

In closing I would like to first thank the Delegates from the two previous conventions for providing me the honor and privilege to serve as your General Counsel. I would also like to thank our current President, National Officers and Regional Directors for their cooperation and hard work over the past eight years. I would ask the Delegates of the coming convention for their support and vote to continue being your General Counsel. I can assure you that I will continue to strive to make the First Catholic Slovak Union the best fraternal organization it can be.

Fraternally,

Gary J. Matta
General Counsel

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

Expanded Jednota Newspaper Archive Now on FCSU Website



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

Or, for questions, email Jednota Editor Teresa Ivanec @ fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com or call her at the Home Office, 1-800-JEDNOTA (533-6682), x 123.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice-President, Announces Candidacy for Re-election

It has been an honor to serve as your National Vice President, and I am seeking re-election to that office. Here is a synopsis of my service in overseeing the sales and marketing functions of our Society.

Strengthening 180+ Sales Force in 27 States

As more recommenders reach retirement age and more states tighten licensing requirements, we have created proactive plans to offset potential challenges to our membership and premium income – FCSU mainstays – by actively recruiting insurance agents to complement our existing 180 independent agents and expanding the states in which we are licensed to 27. We now have two in-house agents to help coordinate home office communications with agents and branches.

Adding 184 New Members Myself

My own sales efforts speak to my continued commitment to our Society. During my tenure as an FCSU officer, I personally signed 184 new insurance members, with a total face value of \$2,803,000. I also brought in a total of \$3,289,676 in annuities. As of this year, my Branch 40 has 793 members, and has qualified for stipend every year.

Better Marketing through Technology

I'm proud of our email campaigns – increasing not only the number of people receiving them (an email database up 100% over last year), but also more than doubling the standard rate at which people open the emails (our 44% v the industry's 18%). We've increased new viewers coming to the website by 71%, and we're prioritizing and leveraging the best social media tools such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Conducting 71 Seminars in Person

Of course, nothing replaces the personal touch. As your marketing executive, I have set up and chaired 71 insurance and annuity seminars throughout our Society. I, along with our President and Executive Secretary, voluntarily set up and man FCSU information booths every year, including: the Fest in Wickliffe, OH; Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in PA; the Slovak Festival in Parma, OH; and the New Jersey Slovak Festival.

Supporting Tremendous Financial Success

I sit on the FCSU Financial Committee, where I work diligently to support our Society through the approval of new investments – part of an overall financial strategy that has yielded tremendous success the past four years. We hit a new record in assets of \$336,438,256.00 at the end of 2013, an increase of over \$102,143,344 since 2009. We achieved another new critical record at the end of 2013 – this time in surplus (our rainy day "reserves") of \$22,681,610, an increase of \$2,035,039 or a gain of 58.06% since 2009. In annuity sales alone, we exceeded our planned goal of \$20 million.

Our Society is doing great. With your help, I look forward to being a key member of your executive team that will keep it strong and solid for years to come. I ask for and appreciate your vote for my re-election as National Vice President at the upcoming Convention.

Thank you, and God Bless.



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President

Robert J. Kristofik for Vice President

Brothers and Sisters,

120 years ago, Father Stephan Furdek gave us his vision: improve the moral, mental and social conditions in sickness or death; perpetuate the doctrines of the Holy Roman Catholic Faith; and provide for the care and maintenance of aged and infirmed members. While these important and lofty goals remain at the core of our Society's mission, in modern America they seem merely quaint. No longer does our membership live in ethnic neighborhoods where the Catholic fraternal provides the social and financial underpinnings for the traditional family. Over the past century, this Society has spread near and far across a nation that has experienced unprecedented prosperity. Ironically and sadly, that very prosperity has left our membership greatly diminished. FCSU leadership for years has quietly consolidated branches.

With challenge comes opportunity. As a lifelong member who has seen this Society do great things, I am compelled to fight for its future. Today the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada must forge a new identity. We require new leadership willing to renew the FCSU's traditional values using 21st century technology within a changed culture that Father Furdek could not have imagined. We need bold thinkers who will pump new life and energy into Father Furdek's vision. After much prayer and discussion with my family, I announce my candidacy as national Vice President. I will do everything in my power to revitalize and help this organization grow again. Our first task must be to immediately expand membership. If elected I will launch an emergency program to assess the FCSU's current fiscal and organizational condition with the goal of revitalizing our branches where it makes good business sense to do so. Re-energizing every branch's community outreach will give this, and future generations, a reason to embrace and rally around our Society. To ensure that our voice is heard, we must commit ourselves to using modern electronic marketing tools and social media as a way to address untapped markets.

I am a parishioner in Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Previously I worked for four years as paid Secretary to a former F.C.S.U. National President. Currently I am working as the duly elected President of Branch 633 and President of Michigan District 5. I understand this organization's strengths and weaknesses. My education in Finance, Marketing and Computer Electronics gives me the experience to take on today's business challenges like rebranding this organization. My award winning career as a residential and commercial real estate sales and development executive, where I have managed 250 dedicated professionals, has provided me the skills and confidence to take the Society's marketing reins and help transform this organization into a leading 21st century Fraternal. To accomplish that, I ask for your prayers, your support, and most importantly your vote for Robert J. Kristofik for national Vice President at the F.C.S.U. National Convention this August. God bless you, your family, and our First Catholic Slovak Union.



Robert J. Kristofik

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary Announces Candidacy for Re-election

For the past 20 years, it has been my privilege and honor to serve as your Executive Secretary. I am now announcing my candidacy for re-election to the office. While I have worked diligently for the betterment of our Society throughout my tenure, our 2013 annual results speak more clearly to the financial security and successes of the FCSU than in any other time in recent memory. Specifically, we achieved a new record in assets of \$336,438,256.00 at the end of 2013, an increase of over \$102,143,344 since 2009; and yet another new critical record was reached in the all-important area of surplus of \$22,681,610, an increase of \$9,512,598 or a gain of 58.06% since 2009.

As a member of the Finance Committee, I have worked hard to ensure this economic success. Serving on the Membership and Marketing Committee, I have focused on the effective sale and promotion of our insurance and annuity products to increase premium income, as well. I have directed initiatives to make our sales seminar presentations more interactive, help recommenders get licensed, and extend the states in which we are licensed to 27, almost double the number over last year. I am in constant contact with all state Departments of Insurance to ensure that the FCSU is at all times in compliance with state regulations. We continue to meet all federal requirements. I also attend many seminars regarding current insurance trends and pending state and NAIC regulations.

Under my watch, we have continued to control operating expenses through procedural enhancements like automatic premium payments and annuity check deposits, as well as acceptance of credit cards for premium payments, annuity deposits, and loan payments. Finally, as membership is so vital to us as a fraternal, I have continued to investigate new and innovative ways to reach our members and attract new ones. I meet in person with as many Jednotars and other fraternal as possible – representing the Society at branch and district meetings and FCSU-sponsored seminars throughout the year as well as attending the annual American Fraternal Alliance Annual Convention. I also have directed our staff to employ the latest electronic and social media tools to communicate information about branch meetings, annuity and insurance policies, and other vital information. As a result of constantly updating and refining our website, we've increased new viewers coming to the website by 71%. Our email campaigns have experienced much success; we have more than doubled the standard rate at which people open the emails (our 44% v the industry's 18%). We are using social media tools such as Facebook and LinkedIn to their best advantage as well.

My family and I appreciate the trust you have placed in me as your current Executive Secretary and I ask for your support at the upcoming Convention to continue to build a strong future together.

Fraternally,

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary



Thomas Bardar Announces Candidacy for Election as National Treasurer

My parents, Vincent & Dolores Bardar, instilled in their seven children the importance of being in service to God and to others. I recall in my youth, my father waking all seven of his children early each Sunday morning and helping them get ready for the 8 a.m. Mass. Afterwards, we would have a family breakfast. It is this sense of service and family that inspires me to announce my candidacy for National Treasurer.

I am proud of my association with the First Catholic Slovak Union as a life-long member. My mother worked at the FCSU in the Treasurer's Department for many years, and my sister, Mary Kay Szabo, was a computer programmer for the organization. In January, 1994, I began working at the Home Office of the FCSU. I ran for National Auditor at the 1998 Convention in Toronto, Canada, and have been blessed to be elected to that same position since that time. I now wish to serve our Society family in an increased capacity by serving as National Treasurer.

I believe that my extensive business background and experience with nearly 20 years in the banking and insurance industries, as well as my previous employment as a tax advisor, would contribute to my success as National Treasurer. I earned my Bachelor Degree in Technical Management in Accounting and also have Certifications in Information Systems Auditing, Process Development & Continuous Improvement, and Project Management. While working in the banking industry, I have managed projects creating new corporate standards & processes and implemented advanced information systems. As National Auditor of the First Catholic Slovak Union, I audited areas of investments, mortgages, accounting, and technology, and created new audit programs and procedures within those areas. My experience has been focused primarily on accounting and information systems with changing technology. I have directed and planned department objectives, created and managed departmental budgets ensuring financial efficiency, and developed staff through training and motivation.

As National Treasurer, I pledge to bring financial leadership to our Society. My goal is to work collaboratively with the executive committee and investment managers in identifying financial options that reflect the goals and objectives of our Society. I seek to develop initiatives that will stimulate interest on investments and identify new avenues of income while enhancing existing ones. If given this opportunity, I will conduct this office with open communication and honesty.

Over the years I have developed many close relationships with members of FCSU and really enjoyed the opportunity to work with a great group of people. I am truly grateful for the support I have received during the past conventions and certainly appreciate your continued blessings as I pursue this endeavor. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to our 50th National Convention.

Fraternally,

Thomas A. Bardar
National Auditor



Thomas Bardar

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

George F. Matta II for National Treasurer

National Officers, Regional Directors and members of the FCSU, please accept this letter to announce my intention to seek the office of National Treasurer of our fraternal. Many of you have gotten to know me over the last 30 some years from attending our National Conventions as a Delegate and then as the Vice-Chairman/Chairman for the past 12 years at our National Conventions. I along with many of my family members have been life long members of the FCSU fraternal family. My wife Cathy, son Bradley and daughter Brittany are also members of Branch 38. My father currently serves as our National Treasurer. I have attended many fraternal and Slovak Cultural events.

As I seek this position I would like to share with you my qualifications, educational and professional background which I believe makes me an extremely qualified person for this position and to serve you and the FCSU.

Employment- Currently, I am a Managing Partner with Fusion Investment Group, LLC, serving as Vice President of Government Services in Pittsburgh Pa. We are a privately owned asset management firm emphasizing a global perspective to managing long and alternative tactical strategies.

- Prior to joining Fusion, I was Director of Business Development and Community Relations with Rivers Casino. In this position I was a part of the opening team that developed and implemented all policies and procedures for the gaming and employee aspects of the organization.

- I was a two term elected Clerk of Courts for Allegheny County where I oversaw a staff of over 60 professional employees and was responsible for all monetary collections for the Criminal Court System. I implemented a system to address the collection of over \$160,000,000.00 in uncollected court costs making my office the number one office in collection for the Commonwealth.

- I have been elected the Controller and for two terms Mayor of the City of Duquesne. As Mayor I oversaw a 10m yearly balanced budget and was one of the first cities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to implemented policies to address the underfunded pension crisis. I was the first mayor to be elected to a second term in over 40 years in the city.

Education- I hold a Bachelor of Science from Penn State University (1978) in Business Administration.

- Masters of Business Administration from Saint Francis University (1984).

I currently serve as the President of District 6 - Pittsburgh District of the FCSU.

I have served in numerous positions on a variety of boards serving Social, non-profit and business related organizations and businesses.

My understanding of business practices, investment policies and procedures and investment philosophy make me well rounded and equipped to be able to serve as our National Treasurer. It would be of great honor to serve you and the FCSU in this position and to be able to step in the steady shoes of my father. I ask you for your support and vote to continue growing the FCSU.

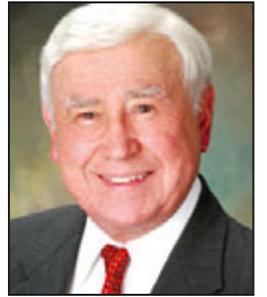


George F. Matta II

Experience Counts

Joe Senko For National Treasurer

The First Catholic Slovak Union has over 330 million dollars in investments. This is the largest asset on the balance sheet and a primary source of revenue. It is the responsibility of the National Treasurer, as a member of the Society's Executive Committee, to invest these funds in a sound portfolio and produce an above average return. With my educational background and years of financial experience, I can perform both of these functions. As a Certified Financial Planner since 1990, I have had 25 years of professional experience in investing large sums of money.



Joe Senko

Education

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting -Duquesne University
- Master's degree in Taxation -Robert Morris University

Professional Licenses/Credentials

- Certified Public Accountant (Pennsylvania, Ohio and D.C.)
- Certified Financial Planner since 1990
- Personal Financial Specialist since 1995
- Chartered Global Management Accountant

Prior Employment

- Internal Revenue Service -Agent (Pgh) and Tax Law Specialist (D.C.)
- Duquesne University -Adjunct Professor
- Certified Public Accounting Firms
 - KPMG (International)
 - Chiurazzi & Senko
 - Joseph T. Senko & Associates (President)
 - McKeever Varga & Senko (Retired)

Additional Financial Experience

- Treasurer of Brother's Brother Foundation for the past 18 years (Volunteer)
 - Over 250 million dollars in annual revenue
 - 34th largest foundation in the U.S.
 - Ranked among the five most efficient non-profit organizations by Forbes magazine
- During my professional career, I have served as Treasurer and/or President of over 20 different non-profit organizations.
- Treasurer of Western PA Slovak Day Association (Pgh.)

FCSU Involvement

- Chairman of the Auditors (1995-2006)
- Treasurer of Jednota Properties (1995 to present)

Slovak Activities

- Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania since 1997 (Volunteer)
- Founder and Executive Director of "Western PA Slovak Cultural Association"
 - Presented over 135 Slovak Programs in the past 16 years
- Chairman and Treasurer of "Friends of Slovakia" (D.C.)
- Honored as Slovak-American of the Year (2012) by Slovak Embassy
- Received Presidential Medal (2013) from the Slovak government
- Jankola Library and Slovak Museum -Board of Directors

Fraternal History

- President of Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (1995)
- Fraternalist of the Year (2008) -Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh

Other Pertinent Facts

- Married to Albina Senko (59 years)
- Six children, eight grandchildren
- Member of the Duquesne University Accounting Advisory Board
- Distinguished Accounting Alumnus (2006) - Selected by Duquesne University accounting faculty
- Member of Beta Alpha Psi -National Accounting Honor Society
- Member of Beta Gamma Sigma -National Business Honor Society
- Member of Knights of Columbus (fourth degree)
- Extraordinary minister of Holy Communion - St. Bernard Parish

Please help elect me to the office of National Treasurer of the First Catholic Slovak Union at the 50th Quadrennial Convention in Philadelphia. Thank you.

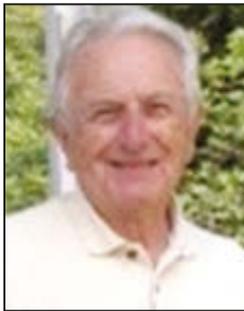
Joseph C. Rimarcik for National Treasurer

Dear FCSU Convention Delegates,

As required by section 8.02(c) of the FCSU By-laws this letter represents my announcement of candidacy for the position of National Treasurer.

My involvement with the FCSU comes from a long standing history of family service to the Society. My father, Joseph Rimarcik Sr. who was born in Czechoslovakia, served as an Officer of Branch 743, and a National Officer. He was active in the FCSU his entire adult life and was both proud and committed to further our Society.

As his son I too recognize the value of service and my Slovak heritage. Consequently I have contributed to the FCSU Society in the following ways:



Joseph C. Rimarcik

- Officer of Branch 743KJ and 370MO for over 50 years
- President of Branch 743 since 1988 as well as Financial Secretary since 2001 of Branch 743, Sterling Heights, Mi.
- Branch 743 has consistently maintained a membership of over 550 members
- Michigan District President 2010 and 2011
- Michigan District Treasurer since 2012
- Member of the Convention By-Law Committee in 2006 and acted as By-Law Chairman at the Convention

My formal education along with my Slovak upbringing include:

- University of Detroit (B.S. Accounting)
- Oakland University (B.S. Management)
- Wayne State University (M.B.A. Marketing)

My work experience in the financial and managerial arena include:

- Confection Division Controller, Marketing Specialist Corporation
- Paul Inman Associates, Vice President Accounting, Controller, Chairman of the Management Operating Group
- Vlasic Foods Corporation, Corporate Controller and Assistant Treasurer
- City of Sterling Heights, MI member of the Zoning Board of Appeals 2007/2010
- Sussex Park Homeowners Association Treasurer since 2008

After graduating from the University of Detroit, I began my business career in public accounting and later in the auto industry. At Vlasic Foods my responsibilities expanded to include Risk Management and Corporate Financing along with my Corporate Controller responsibilities. The company was national in scope with over 1,000 employees and sales exceeding one hundred fifty million dollars.

With my broad business background, I switched to the Food Brokerage Industry when I joined Paul Inman Associates as Corporate Controller. Over the years, management promoted me to Vice-President of Accounting and entrusted me with the position of Chairman "Management Operating Group" (MOG). As chairman of the MOG it was my responsibility to keep the focus on the Company's Strategic Vision, control costs and to upgrade operations. In 1999, the Inman Company was acquired by Marketing Specialist, a corporation of 6,000 employees and national sales, where I became Controller of the Confection Division.

In all, I bring over 50 years of dedicated service and commitment to the FCSU.

I sincerely believe that my education, financial and managerial experience will allow me to provide a substantial contribution to our Society as the National Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee.

I ask for your support and vote for Joseph C Rimarcik for the position of National Treasurer at the upcoming FCSU National Convention, August 2014.

God Bless the FCSU and its members.

Fraternally,

Joseph C Rimarcik

\$500 Award from New Jersey New York Fraternal Alliance Now Available



One of the most important fraternal programs offered by the New Jersey New York Fraternal Alliance (NJNYFA) is its Youth Volunteer Award Program. Each year the NJNYFA chooses deserving young students from a member society, based on their volunteer achievements with their society as well as the community at large. Each award winner will receive \$500 with an additional \$500 award to their designated charity.

Applicants must be residents of NJ or NY, members of a Society within the NJNY Fraternal Alliance, and between 16 and 22 years of age at the time of the application. The deadline for submitting applications is September 2, 2014. All applications must be post-marked by that date.

To obtain application forms and supporting information, please contact Karen at the First Catholic Slovak Union at 1-800-533-6682 or via email at kdavis@fcsu.com.

Rudolf Ondrejco for National Fraternal Activities Director

Dear President Rajec, National Officers, Regional Directors and Convention Delegates,

For more than thirty years, I have been an active member of the First Catholic Slovak Union and involved in various other Slovak cultural groups and fraternal. Over the last twelve years, I have had the privilege of assisting my daughters, Susan and Theresa, as they have served as National Fraternal Activities Director. Through their experiences, I have learned more about how our society functions as a business and gained a greater appreciation of the fraternalism we share. I would now like to increase my involvement by serving as your National Fraternal Activities Director.

I was born in Košice-Poľov, Slovakia and immigrated to the United States in 1969. I completed my education with trade school in Slovakia. I have been the co-owner and operator of Rudy's Auto Service in Munhall, PA, since 1994.

Since the late 1970's, I have served as co-host and co-producer of the Western PA Slovak Radio Hour and Co-Director of The Pittsburgh Slovaks Folk Ensemble. I have been awarded two Medals of Honor from the Slovak Embassy for my contributions to the Slovak community. In addition, I served as President of Branch 2 and Fraternal Activities Director of the Pittsburgh District. At the national level, I have been a Member of the Supreme Court for the last sixteen years. Since 2004, I have worked with my daughters as they have organized the National Bowling and Golf Tournaments, the Youth Christmas Coloring Contest, the Photo Contest, and National Picnics, and I believe that I can continue to make sure that these important events are well-run and enjoyable.

Through my relationships with various Slovak Cultural groups and fraternal societies, I have a strong understanding of and appreciation for the fraternal benefit system. My association and visible involvement in the Slovak Community is a positive reflection on the Jednota. Personally, it is important for me to be in a position to help our members acquire an interest in the benefits of fraternalism and respect for our Slovak Heritage. These are the reasons I am asking for your support as I seek election as the Fraternal Activities Director.

Thank you for your trust and support. I would appreciate your consideration for my election as the Fraternal Activities Director of the First Catholic Slovak Union.



Rudolf Ondrejco

Karen Hunka, Executive Chairman of Auditors, Announces Candidacy for Re-election

I am running once again for the position of Executive Chairman of Auditors. Given my experience as your Chairman of Auditors for the past eight years, I have inherent advantages to serve you once again.

I possess intimate knowledge of our organization's business activities, a critical factor in rendering high-quality audits. Working for the past eight years as your Chairman of Auditors, and as an auditor for four years prior, I have obtained valuable insight through extensive interaction with the home office staff and exposure to its operations. In this, I have obtained an excellent overall understanding of our organization's practices and procedures.

My working experience outside of FCSU gives me critical skills and experience needed for the position. As an accounting manager for a health-care agency in Pittsburgh I oversaw payroll, payables, month-end closing, and financial statements. I also oversaw work preparation for the annual audit and provided necessary coordination with the independent auditing firm. For nearly three years I held a position auditing many Agencies of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. One of the Agencies I audited perused me and now I am their Fiscal Officer. My leadership qualities give me the personality and skill needed to motivate and influence those auditors with whom I work, and my supervisory skills give me the ability to make sure the job is done correctly.

Since taking the position as your Executive Chairman of Auditors I have developed extensive Auditing Programs to use as a tool to complete accurate and thorough audits. Audits are conducted routinely in the areas of payroll, payables, death claims, interest rates, and travel vouchers as well as periodic checks of bank reconciliations, investment policies, petty cash, and more.

I have a lifelong connection to this organization. I have watched my parents, George and Florence Sprock, prepare for Jednota conventions, travel to the home office for Board of Director's meetings, and observed as my father diligently worked as one of your Regional Directors, selling insurance, annuities, and helping members obtain benefits entitled them when loved ones are lost. Unfortunately I lost my father last February, and this convention will be the first that he is not sitting by my side. At present I attend branch and district meetings whenever possible. Yearly I enjoy our branch picnic and district's Christmas Vilija dinner.

On a more personal note I am the mother of four children and a grandmother of one. I earned a Bachelor's degree from Washington and Jefferson College and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. I currently volunteer as an auditor for the American Youth Soccer Organization, one of the largest youth soccer organization in the United States. I am also a member of the National Association of Professional Women. In the past, I sat on Parish Council, acted as President of the PTA, and was a Regional Commissioner for the local soccer club.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve you as Executive Chairman of Auditors and I hope to continue to serve our organization for another four years.



Karen Hunka

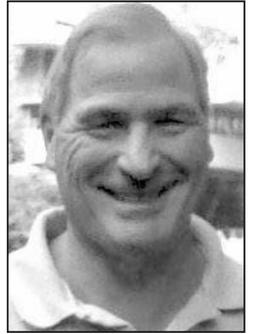
Karen Hunka

Raymond Lako Announces Re-election Candidacy for Auditor

I would like to, again, announce my candidacy for the office of auditor. I have served as an auditor for the FCSU for the last eight years.

My background includes a B.A. from Duquesne University, 30 years of employment with Norfolk-Southern Corporation, 20 of which were in a supervisory capacity. In that position, I was responsible for force management, inventory, and payroll. I also served for eight years as Financial Secretary for the Slovak Civic Federation, where I was responsible for preparing financial statements, payroll, budget projections, and tax reports.

An auditor has the responsibility of seeing that everyone does their job and insuring that the FCSU is operating as you, the Convention delegates have prescribed. Auditors have the task of looking over peoples' shoulders and questioning what is being done. I have, for the last eight years, done this for the good of the FCSU. I performed my job with honesty and integrity and would like to continue to do so for the next eight years. Thank you for taking the time to read my declaration of candidacy.



Ray Lako

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

John J. Leskovyansky, Jr. Auditor

First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada

Objective: Continue as one of the Auditors providing team continuity, working together, improving the quality and depth of audits, rotating areas for a revolving look at each area. Continue to apply objective review of practices during audits while providing recommendations for the improvement of the organization from prior knowledge and experience when indicated.

Education:

M.B.A., Accounting, March 1978:

Youngstown State University, 1975--1978. Graduate School, concentration in accounting.

Youngstown State University, 1973--1975, General business and accounting courses preparing for the MBA program.

B.A., March 1973: Youngstown State University, 1967-1973. History Major; Political Science Minor; extensive coursework in Psychology and Philosophy. Gamma Pi Chapter, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

Professional: Retired after over 30 years in governmental sector (over 26 years) and private, or corporate accounting, finance, and management.

- Completed various Auditor of State auditing and investment seminars including Commercial Paper and Banker's Acceptance; Treasurer of State continuing education investment classes.
- Audit experience includes cash, loans, collateral, fixed assets, income and expense items, checking and savings accounts, internal control reviews, embezzlement investigation, and consolidation of affiliated bank year end income statements during audits of affiliated banks and branches throughout Ohio.
- Adept at reading, interpreting, and applying local, state and federal statutory and regulatory laws, codes, and rules.
- Experienced in analyzing financial and trend information, and financial forecasts; determine and identify potential challenges; plan and recommend changes and alternative courses of action.
- Performed City Administrator duties nearly four years in addition to responsibilities as Director of Finance.
- Experienced in reviewing, analyzing, and negotiating contracts.

2007 - Present Auditor, First Catholic Slovak Union

2011 - 2014 Accountant/Budget Analyst, Portage County, Ohio, Department of Budget and Financial Management, Ravenna, Ohio

2003 - 2009 Director of Finance, City Of Campbell, Campbell, Ohio

1986 - 2003 Project Accountant, Auditor of State of Ohio, Local Government Services Division

1984 - 1985 Trust Operations Officer, Second National Bank, Warren, Ohio

1982 - 1984 Accounting Manager, Woods Of America, INC., Lordstown, Ohio

1979 - 1982 Cost, Budget, Warranty Analyst, E. W. Bliss Division, Gulf + Western Manufacturing Co., Salem, Ohio

1978 - 1979 Staff Auditor, Internal Audit, Huntington Bankshares, Inc, Columbus, Ohio

Military Service: Enlisted in U.S. Army Reserves December 1969. Received an Honorable Discharge after completing twenty-four qualifying retirement years of reserve service. Placed in Retired Status, effective April 21, 2009. Twelve years with a Petroleum Unit (six years as Assistant Petroleum Operations Sergeant and Unit Training NCO). Three and a half years as (8" SP Howitzer) battalion S1 NCO, PAC (Personnel Action Center) Supervisor; responsible for soldiers' personnel actions, strength accounting and analysis, and battalion headquarters office administration and coordination. Five years in a Quartermaster Supply Company (Petroleum Platoon Sergeant, additional duties as Mobilization NCO and Movement NCO). An instructor for two and one-half years with the 2077th USARF School and 84th Division (Training), teaching Petroleum Supply Specialist and Motor Transport Operator (Truck Driver) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Courses.

25th Anniversary Exhibit of the Velvet Revolution In PA

As 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) and the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum have jointly found a unique way to tell the story of the Communists' departure from Czechoslovakia. To commemorate this milestone in Czech and Slovak history, WPSCA will be displaying six panels (36"x72") highlighting the first-hand experiences of Americans who were in Czechoslovakia during this period.

"Witness to the Revolution" will be on display from July 12-18 at the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum located at 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, PA 15317. There will be an opening reception with a speaker, dvd and refreshments from 1-3p.m. on Saturday, July 12. RSVP to jtsenko@aol.com or call Joe at 412-956-6000.

- Submitted by Joseph T. Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul and Branch 254 Member

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

Leonard Zilko Announces Candidacy for Auditor

I am announcing my candidacy for the office of auditor for the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada. I am a life-long member of our Society, and currently serve as president of our local branch in Lorain. I also am active in other Slovak fraternal. On a professional level, I am an experienced, organized, accounting professional who takes pride in my work and project ownership. I have a proven record of working well as a key member of a team to meet timeframes and manage concurrent and interactive multiple tasks, including:



Leonard Zilko

- * Month End Closing/Journal Entries
- * Inventory Control
- * Year End Closing
- * Analyzing GL Accounts
- * Project Accounting
- * Cycle Counting
- * Cash Management
- * Physical Inventory
- * Standard Costs
- * Variance Analysis
- * Standard Roll to New Costs
- * Payroll

EXPERIENCE:

Robert Half, Accountemps: OM Group, Cleveland, OH
Accountant 10/04 – 10/08
Major clients included Bettcher LLP and Sparton Medical Systems

Lepley Farm Lines, Bellevue, OH
Accountant 2003
Family owned Logistics Company. Operated forty units primarily between Ohio and Florida. Twenty units were company owned and twenty were owner-operators.

Lear-Romec Division of Crane Company, Elyria, OH
Cost Accounting Manager 1999-2002
Manufacturer of fluid handling devices for the commercial and government aerospace industry.

Fair Publishing House Inc., Norwalk, OH
Controller 1996-1999
Manufacturer and printer of county and state fair awards and supplies for the lower 48 states.

Self-Employed Public Accountant, Amherst, Ohio
Public Accountant 1992-1996
Public accounting for small firms and individuals in the area surrounding Amherst, OH
Previous Professional Experience encompasses:
• Controller, Bay Mechanical Corporation, Lorain, OH
• Assistant Corporate Office Controller, Invacare, Elyria, OH
• Accountant, Lorain Products Corporation, Lorain, OH
• Collection Manager, Lorain National Bank

EDUCATION:

Bachelor of Arts, Accounting, Baldwin Wallace College
Associated Degree, Management, Lorain County Community College

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

President, Branch 228, First Catholic Slovak Union
President, American Slovak Club, Lorain, OH
President, United Slovak Society, Lorain, OH
Past President, Lake Erie Central Chapter, Institute of Management of Accountants
Past Member National Society of Accountants
Past Member Notary Association

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to seeing you at the 50th Quadrennial Convention, and I hope to win your vote.

- From the Office of The Vice President – Attention All Recommenders: Win up to \$500 in the FCSU's Convention Cash Drawing

Each new contract on which you are the recommender for any FCSU product – insurance or annuity – between May 1, 2014 and August 15, 2014, will automatically enter you into our Convention Cash Drawing.

What's a recommender? For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a recommender is simply an FCSU member who recommends, or sells, an FCSU product. It's not that hard to do. The FCSU has an excellent portfolio of insurance and annuity products that you can tell family, friends, neighbors, church and club members about. FCSU forms and applications are available on line at www.fcsu.com/forms.

Now, for a limited time, you have the possibility of getting an additional cash bonus when you sign them up. Your name will be entered into the Convention Cash Drawing as many times as you produce a signed contract. Names will be drawn at random, but the entries are limitless.

The more you sell, the more chances you have to win one of 5 cash prizes:

- First name drawn - \$500
- Second name drawn - \$250
- Third name drawn - \$100
- Fourth name drawn - \$100
- Fifth name drawn - \$100

The names will be drawn during our 50th Quadrennial Convention, which will be held in Philadelphia, PA, from August 23 – 27, 2014. You do not have to be present to win. Winners will be announced from the convention floor and also published in a post-convention issue of Jednota.

All contracts need to be postmarked to the Home Office no later than **August 15, 2014**. No exceptions. All contracts must be approved and issued to be eligible to receive prizes.

So start today, and keep those entries coming! Send in your signed contracts to:

FCSU Corporate Center
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131
Until next time, good luck and God Bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President



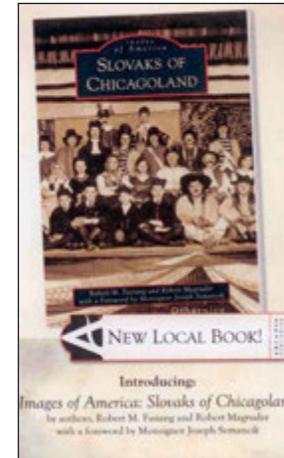
Book Corner

Discover Chicagoland's Slovak Heritage

The newest title to Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, Slovaks of Chicagoland by Robert Fasiang and Robert Magruder, chronicles the countless "rags to riches" stories of Slovak Americans who immigrated to the Chicago area and northwest Indiana creating a better life. Equipped with a grammar school education and few assets, immigrants attended schools, learned the English language, and became naturalized, productive citizens.

Local Slovaks worked hard and became leaders in their respective communities. Some of those leaders include Bishop Andrew G. Grutka, Dr. Peter Hletko, Peter Visclosky and Msgr. Victor Blahunka, all of which are featured in this new title.

Religion is an important role in the lives of Chicagoland's Slovaks. Many of their native traditions and customs are maintained and kept alive through their local churches. Monsignor Joseph Semancik penned the forward of this title. He states, "Slovaks of Chicagoland complements and adds to the other books that describe ethnic communities in the Midwest. We need to be grateful to Fasiang and Magruder for their work."



Highlights of Slovaks of Chicagoland include:

- Chapters focusing on Slovak churches, schools, organizations, festivals, arts and sports.
 - Many Slovak customs and traditions were carried over and retained in the churches built here
 - More than 200 historic images
- Available at Chicago-area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers such as amazon.com, or through Arcadia Publishing at (888)-313-2665 or online at <http://www.arcadia-publishing.com>.

Slovaks of Chicagoland

by Robert M. Fasiang and Robert Magruder
Images of America Series
Price: \$21.99
128 pages/ softcover

About the Authors

Robert Fasiang, son of Slovak immigrants, is a 1948 graduate of Indiana University's Walton School of Commerce. He spent 40 years as an accountant. He's a member of the American Legion, including service as Post Commander, a United States Army veteran, lifelong Boy Scout, and current member of St. Victor Church in Calumet City. His hobbies include photography, participating in senior Olympics, and singing in his church choir. Fasiang's previous works include Hitters Handbook and The Fifty Year History of Troop 216.

Robert Magruder is a native of Whiting, Indiana and attended the University of Chicago where he received Bachelor and Master degrees. Robert is active in several Slovak American organizations, including the First Catholic Slovak Union where he serves as Financial Secretary for Branch 493.

Results of 72nd Slovak Bowling Congress

Luis Palos of Lorain, OH, captured top honors in the Jednota All Events Bowling Sweepstakes at the 72nd Slovak Bowling Congress of American Tournament, held recently at Free-way Lanes in Warren, OH.

Luis' winning score was 20154. His actual series was 1775 plus 279 handicap pins over the nine game total.

Congratulations to Brother Palos. A sincere Jednota "thank you" to all participants. Hope to see you in the Spring of 2015 at Midway Lanes in Akron, OH.

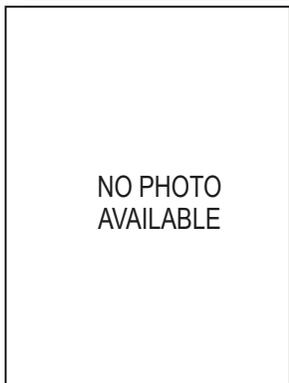
- Submitted by Joe M. Harkulich, Secretary

2014 Jednota All-Events Sweepstakes

Name	City	Score
Luis Palos	Lorain, OH	2054
Terry Eller	Akron, OH	1935
John Golias	Brecksville, OH	1930
John Polak	Youngstown, OH	1831
Mike Wahl	Akron, OH	1822
George Kacsanek	Akron, OH	1802
Frank Rigelsky	Youngstown, OH	1788
Rusty Groner	Lorain, OH	1709
Len Gmerek	Akron, OH	D & S 1369
Tim Girard	Cleveland, OH	Team 610

The Best of the Best!

Top Guns Through May 2014



Helena T. Gaydos
First Place



Beata
Begeniova-Fedoriouk
Second Place



Alexander Fedoriouk
Third Place



Andrew R. Harcar
First Place



Kenneth Anthony Arendt
Second Place



James Robert Marmol
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance
Gaydos, Helena T.	55	501,000
Begeniova-Fedoriouk, Beata	24	300,000
Fedoriouk, Alexander	24	300,000
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	200,000
Zack, Henry J.	19	80,000
Rimarcik, Joseph C.	743	70,000
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	65,000
Yuros, Joseph J.	35	55,000
Rura, Joseph Edward	484	50,000
Matta, Florence K.	38	50,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

Name	Branch	Points
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	421
Arendt, Kenneth Anthony	228	270
Marmol, James Robert	162	207
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	177
Hricik, Geraldine F.	181	166
Tarquino, Frances	320	156
Kopco, Robert J.	24	155
Matta, Florence K.	38	115
Kirby, Thomas Patrick	152	104
Schaub, Vicki Lynn	200	103



Andrew R. Harcar
First Place



Kenneth Anthony Arendt
Second Place



Geraldine F. Hricik
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	361,271.18
Arendt, Kenneth Anthony	228	270,450.00
Hricik, Geraldine F.	181	166,969.43
Kopco, Robert J.	24	127,426.52
Kirby, Thomas Patrick	152	104,214.34
Tarquino, Frances	320	102,857.22
Nowatkoski, Katherine	856	100,000.00
Chupka, Theresa R.	173	100,000.00
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	92,530.00
Rajec, Andrew P.	89	85,908.80

Park 2 Annuity
2.15%
Current Interest Rate



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

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

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

Please contact your Branch Officer, the Home Office or visit our web site at FCSU.com

FCSU Life * 6611 Rockside Road - Suite 300 * Independence Ohio 44131
Phone 1-800-533-6682 * Fax 216-642-9410 * E-Mail: annuity@fcsu.com

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

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.

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association Held its 12th Annual Anniversary Banquet

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association celebrated its 12th Annual Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, May 18, 2014, at the Kent Elks Lodge Hall in Kent, OH.

The event started with a 1:00PM with a social hour, followed by 2:00PM dinner catered by Tom's Country Place. A cultural program featuring the Pittsburgh Slovaks, directed by Sue and Rudy Ondrejco (Branch 2), and the Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland, directed by Tom Ivanec (Branch 24), started at 3:00PM. The Johnny Pastirik Band played during the social hour and dinner for the listening pleasure of the attendees, and dancing followed the cultural program.

In addition to a welcome by Kent-Dudince Founder and President Emeritus Rudy Bachna, the mayor of Kent, Jerry T. Fiala, offered greetings and a toast. Keynote speakers included Bob Kopco from the First Catholic Slovak Union (Branch 24), Steve Hudak from the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, and invocations from Dr. Bob Stevenson and Rudy Bachna. John Keleciny, President of Kent-Dudince Sister Cities, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Kent established a relationship in 2003 through Sister Cities International with Dudince, a small spa town of about 1,500 people in southern Slovakia. The relationship was and resulted in the formation of the Kent-Dudince Sister City Association to promote learning and understanding of the Slovak culture. The group meets regularly and organizes cultural exchanges and programs that feature Slovak dance and music. Cultural exchanges have included a performance of a choir from Kent's Theodore Roosevelt High School in Dudince in 2004 and tour groups from Kent visiting in 2006 and 2008.



(L - R) Kent Dudince Sister Cities President Emeritus Rudy Bachna with John Keleciny, the current president of the organization



The 91st Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park: Bishop David A. Zubik To Celebrate Liturgy



The 91st Annual Slovak Day will take place Thursday, July 17, 2014 at Kennywood Park, West Mifflin, PA. It will be an exciting day for Americans of Slovak descent to celebrate their heritage with each other while enjoying colorful displays, authentic costumes, a Slovak liturgy, spectacular Slovak Folk Dance

performances, scrumptious Slovak food, special children's activities as well as foot-tapping music for dancing. These combine to build a treasure chest of memories—many to be remembered and still more waiting to be created.

A highlight of Slovak Day is the con-celebration of the Slovak Liturgy in the Main Pavilion directly behind "Garfield's Revenge" at 4:00 pm. The Main Celebrant of the Liturgy will be Bishop David A. Zubik, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, along with several Catholic priests from the Pittsburgh, Greensburg and Johnstown-Altoona Dioceses. Immediately following will be the vibrant repertoire of Slovak music, songs and dances presented by the "Pittsburgh Slovaks" and the "Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble" (PAS).

Tantalize your taste buds at the Slovak Kitchen where you will be able to enjoy holubky (stuffed cabbage), haluski (sweet cabbage and noodles), and kolbasy. Your sweet tooth can be satisfied with the homemade favorite - ceregi. Enjoy this delicious dinner or ala- carte foods and relax amid the echoes of Slovakia, as the strolling musicians play all of the "Slovak favorites". Food will be served in Pavilion #4 behind the ride "Garfield's Revenge" from 12:30 p.m. until the food is sold out.

In Pavilion # 3 you will be able to see an exhibit on "Slovak Easter" prepared by the "PAS" Jr. and Maly Ensembles. The exhibit will include Slovak heirlooms of folk treasures that show the incredible skill and artistry found in the Slovak villages.

In the Main Pavilion # 5 there will be Slovak Cultural Displays provided by the Slovak Fraternal as well as the popular "Kroj" Slovak National Costumes Exhibit. The First Catholic Slovak Union also will have a booth available, for members and the general public to stop by and learn more about our fraternal.

A special youth area will feature activities just for children. The children's program will include games and treats beginning at 12:30 pm by the Main Pavilion. Every child participating in these activities will receive a free treat.

From 2 to 4 pm, one can sit back and enjoy the music or kick up your heels dancing, grab a partner and twirl to traditional Slovak music of the George Batyi Ensemble at the Kitchen Pavilion.

For a day to remember, join all Slovaks on Thursday, July 17, 2014, Kennywood Park. The cost of tickets are \$25 for Fun Day General Admission, \$15 for those 55 years of age and over, plus a coupon will be available for those 70 years and over to be paid at the gate for \$10.50 + tax. Tickets and coupons are available by contacting Sue Ondrejco at (412) 421-1204 or Rev. Joseph Grosko at (412) 466-6545.

For general information about the 91st Slovak Day contact Chairwoman Dolores Sakal at (412) 243-0438.

Slovak Minister & Other Dignitaries Visit Pittsburgh

Dusan Caplovic, the Minister of Education of the Slovak Republic, along with Dr. Karol Micieta, President of Comenius University of Bratislava, Slovakia; Dr. Ladislav Mirossay, President of Safarik University in Kosice, Slovakia and Peter Zelenek, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Slovakia in Washington, D.C. recently visited Pittsburgh, PA. While in Pittsburgh, they visited several nationality rooms at the University of Pittsburgh, including the Czech-Slovak Room as well as the University of California (PA) Campus where they met with some of the faculty; and visited the gravesite of Andy Warhol. Honorary Consul Joe Senko hosted a reception in their honor which was attended by approximately 50 Slovak-Americans from the area.



(L - R) Dr. Ladislav Mirossay, President of Safarik University in Kosice, Slovakia, and Dr. Karol Micieta, President of Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.

(L - R) Peter Zelenak, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of the Slovak Republic, and Dr. Dusan Caplovic, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport.



Focus on Family

Events to Remember: Graduation

Stanislav J. Kirschbaum

It is that exiting time of the year when university students in their final year who only recently wrote their last exams are waiting for their graduation to take place, for their university to grant them their degree. This particular event, which regularly takes place in North America at this time of the year, is officially called a commencement or convocation; it combines historical tradition with some contemporary modifications and a lot of pomp and circumstance. But first and foremost, as I have observed over the years, it is a very special event for family and friends.

In an academic career spanning over four decades, I attended many commencements, although not my bachelor's, much to my chagrin because I learned afterwards that I had been conferred the faculty's gold medal, which was mailed to me. I attended my Master of Arts convocation a couple of years later where I heard the chancellor of the University of Toronto say to me in Latin: "Admito te ad gradum." In those days, one knelt before him to be ceremoniously hooded and be told that you that you were "conferred the degree." At the Université de Paris, where I earned my doctoral degree, there was no convocation; the degree was unceremoniously mailed many months after my thesis defence.

With the expansion of post-secondary education in the 1960s in Canada and the USA, convocations on this continent became even bigger events and many changes were introduced. Recently, my wife and I attended my oldest daughter's convocation at New York University (NYU) in New York City. NYU has many commencements and the ceremony that we attended was that of the Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS) which boasts this year 2,598 master's and doctoral students enrolled in over 50 degree-administering units; it was held at Avery Fisher Hall (home of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra) at Lincoln Center in Manhattan. But three days later, there was another ceremony, the All-University Commencement, held at Yankee Stadium, which officially marked the conferring of degrees and certificates by the president of the University after all classes were recognized by their deans. The deans introduced each class as a whole and a representative selected in advance received a symbolic diploma for degree categories. This convocation, attended by around 8,000 graduates and 25,000 guests, concluded with the ceremonial passing of the University torch. We did not attend this commencement. I should point out that whereas for most degrees, the commencement is the date of graduation; in the case of the PhD degree it is the date of the dissertation defence that is determinant. My daughter Olga's defence took place in September 2013.

The GSAS commencement was very impressive. Once family and guests were seated, a pipe band of seven pipers and two drummers entered the hall playing Scottish marches, followed by faculty members decked in their respective doctoral gowns and the degree candidates, all of whom wore a gown and a mortar board or tam, carrying their hood on their arm. When all were in, the Symphonic Brass Alliance played two classical pieces, before welcome words were spoken by three officials, various awards were presented, and NYU Professor Perri Klass gave an interesting convocation reading about her own academic career. Following a musical interlude, the candidates were presented and hooded. The GSAS commencement was for candidates for the Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees only. There were a little less than two thousand candidates present and each was called to the stage, hooded by one of three faculty hooders, and photographed with the dean and then individually before returning to their seat. Some three hours later, the pipe band marched out, indicating the end of the commencement. Particularly moving was the singing early on of "America the Beautiful" by mezzo-soprano Ann J. Kirschner just before the welcome words of Professor Robin Nagle, who presided over the ceremony. The audience was invited to join in and they did.

What I have just described is generally the order of ceremony of most university commencements, which normally are those of faculties and schools. But NYU, a private university with over 40,000 students and over 3,100 faculty members, founded in 1831 and proud to be the second university in the United States to grant graduate degrees, also has the All-University Commencement where honorary degrees are granted. At this 182nd NYU commencement, five honorary degrees were bestowed to Janet Yellen—the first woman to serve as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Mariano Rivera—greatest relief pitcher in baseball history; Elena Kagan—U.S. Supreme Court Justice; Aretha Franklin—"the Queen of Soul," winner of 18 Grammy awards; and Martin Edelman—distinguished international real estate and corporate attorney.

What I witnessed in New York was not that very different from the commencements I have attended these past few years as a faculty member at York University's Glendon College, Toronto, Canada, a bilingual faculty of liberal arts with around 2,500 students. For many years, in fact, Glendon's commencement ceremony was not only different, but very unique, based on certain medieval traditions: after the entrance of the faculty (the candidates were already in their seats) led by two pipers, the ceremony began with a Latin prayer, followed by various addresses, the granting of an honorary degree, a valedictory address by a graduating student, and the presentation of prizes along with the hooding of each candidate who then shook hands with the university chancellor, the university president, and Glendon's principal. After a concluding Latin prayer, the faculty, led by the pipers, marched out and mingled with graduates and their families as refreshments were offered. Some 15 years ago, the Glendon ceremony was brought in line with other commencements at York University: the Latin prayers, the valedictory address, and the granting of prizes were dropped. This "less



Professor Stanislav Kirschbaum with his daughter Dr. Olga Kirschbaum, both Branch 785 members, on the occasion of her graduation from New York University (NYU) in New York City.

historical" version is interesting but nowhere near as impressive as the earlier one was; it has robbed York University of the claim that it celebrates diversity.

One hears many interesting congratulatory speeches at a commencement ceremony, whether from the chancellor, the president, or the honorary degree recipient. All wish the graduating class well. It is also customary for speakers to remind the graduating class of the help, if not the sacrifices, their families made to make this day possible. It is heartwarming to hear their appreciation. Equally heartwarming is to be presented to the proud parents at the reception. The pomp and circumstance of a commencement may be seen as the university's outward celebration of its role, importance, and place in society; but it is also a uniquely dignified way to recognize academic accomplishments and to wish the graduates success in their future endeavours. Unless circumstances really make this impossible, students and parents should not miss a graduation. It is one of those moments in life that make for wonderful memories. Congratulations to this year's university graduates in our community.

Enjoy Slovakia at Harvest Time with the September Slovakia Heritage Tour

September's small-group Slovakia Heritage Tour offers a chance to enjoy Slovakia's rich heritage and culture amidst the beauty of colorful landscapes, rich harvests, orchards ripe with fruit and celebrations of the new wine, burciak. From September 4-14, 2014, the Slovakia Heritage Tour will explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit. See how our ancestors lived years ago, and meet Slovaks to hear about life in Slovakia today.

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

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

THINK ABOUT IT!



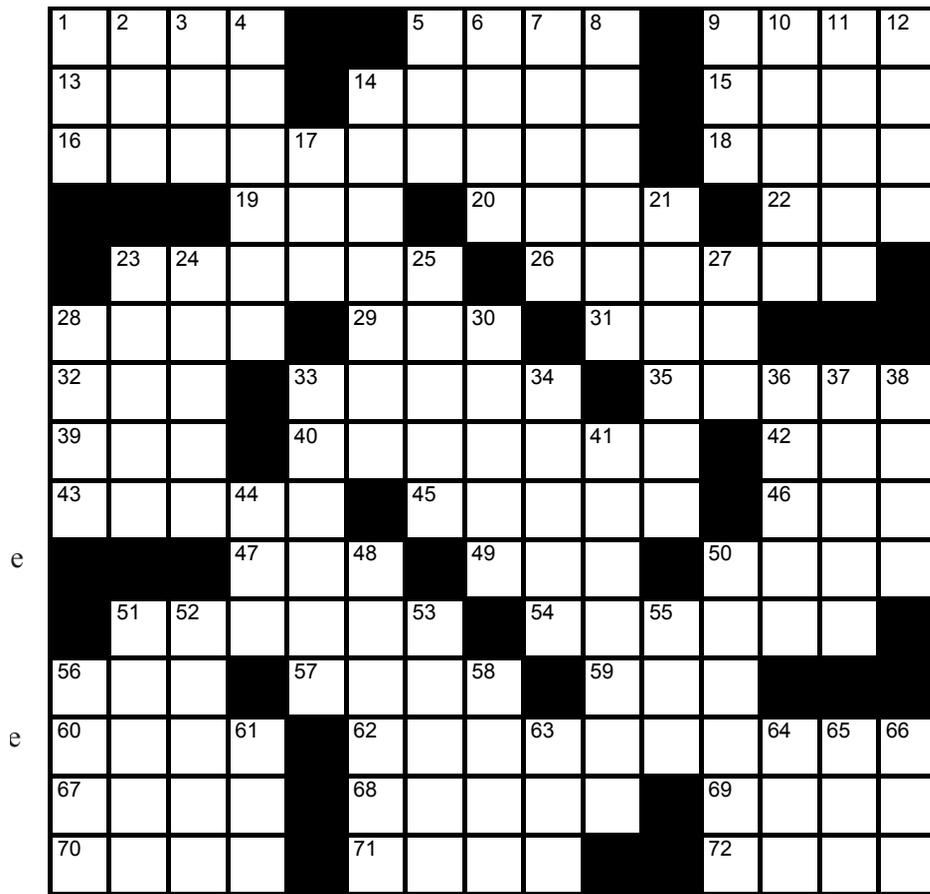
Todd Peters with Branch 493 Recording Secretary Valerie Vesely at his graduation party.

Branch 493's Todd Peters Graduates

Todd Peters recently graduated from Highland High School in Highland, IN. He will attend Purdue Calumet College in Hammond, IN in the fall. He was accepted into the nursing program, and received a nursing scholarship. Todd belongs to the Assumption of the BVM Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, IL.

- submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 With 14 Across, Twister star
- 5 Direction finders
- 9 Aficionados
- 13 Bread spread
- 14 See 1 Across
- 15 Iridescent stone
- 16 Caribbean island
- 18 Malay canoe
- 19 Drunkard
- 20 Hawaiian tuber
- 22 Mischief-maker
- 23 Type of smile
- 26 Himalayan language
- 28 Barbecue entree
- 29 Corn serving
- 31 Comic Caesar
- 32 Actor Vigoda
- 33 Chocolate substitute
- 35 Blue hue
- 39 Thumbs-up word
- 40 Peculiarity
- 42 Decay
- 43 Pilfer
- 45 Binge
- 46 State of southwestern India
- 47 Chop off
- 49 ___ Lanka
- 50 Clutter
- 51 Howled
- 54 Bear witness
- 56 Order's partner
- 57 Gilbert of Roseanne
- 59 Strike
- 60 Earthen pot
- 62 Celebration device
- 67 Brews
- 68 Below
- 69 Singer Falana

Down

- 1 Jump
- 2 Eskimo knife
- 3 Born
- 4 Trunks
- 5 French sea
- 6 Dismounted
- 7 Pie choice
- 8 Saws logs, noisely
- 9 Dandy
- 10 Fools' day month
- 11 One of the Judds
- 12 Prelude to a duel
- 14 Temper tantrum grouch
- 17 Moppet
- 21 Narcotic
- 23 Sherpa's domain
- 24 Corpulent
- 25 Cloth measure
- 27 Cutting tool
- 28 Beams
- 30 Frolics
- 33 Red, white and blue, e.g.
- 34 Baseball's Yogi
- 36 Impulses
- 37 Fowl pole
- 38 Gr. letters

- 41 Not either
- 44 ___ provençale
- 48 Goober
- 50 Alloys
- 51 Come from behind
- 52 Young hooter
- 53 Stingless bee
- 55 Tiny one
- 56 Rich soil
- 58 Assistant
- 61 Fire remnant
- 63 Rep.'s counterpart
- 64 Colorful carp
- 65 Brownie
- 66 Rodent

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2014

Issue Date	Deadline
July 23	July 14
August 6	July 28
Sept 17	Sept 8
October 15	October 6
November 5	October 27
November 19	November 10
December 3	November 24

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

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 for your family or loved ones.

Inquire today about FINAL EXPENSE INSURANCE

The sooner you do, the less it costs!

Call 800.533.6682 or visit www.fcsu.com



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
Contact Branch Officer or the Home Office
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,
www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



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

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



800.533.6682



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131,
800.533.6682, www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com



FCSU FINANCIAL Single Premium Insurance Summer Special

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

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren and receive a

FREE \$10.00 GIFT CARD

to present with the certificate!

Features:

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



ARE YOU PLANNING ON PASSING YOUR ASSETS TO LOVED ONES?



Then consider

WEALTH TRANSFER Wealth management

through our Single Premium Whole Life Policy

Here are the benefits:

- Avoid income tax
- Avoid probate
- Cash value growth

Interested? Call 800.533.6682 today!



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



Chewy's Fun Facts For Independence Day

HI, KIDS AND ALL THOSE YOUNG AT HEART.



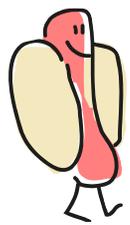
It's me. Your old pal Chewy. Here to wish you a Happy 4th of July. You, my American friends, probably know all the details of this fine Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July. Like the fact that it is a federal holiday in the United States. And that it commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. And that it declares independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain (aka today's United Kingdom). Of course you do.



But me ... I'm only a little pooch from high up in the mountains of Slovakia. So I did all this crazy research on my new adopted homeland. Here are some fun facts I found out.

Maybe you'll enjoy them, too!

1. We owe a Big Thank you to John and Tom: Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird but was overruled by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who wanted the bald eagle.



2. Did someone say DOG? The 4th is the biggest hot dog holiday of the year, people. You guys chow down about 155 million in one day!

3. Patriotic, schmatriotic: "Yankee Doodle," that ultra patriotic tune, was originally sung by the British military to mock the American colonists. Yeah, apparently, they thought you guys were a disheveled and disorganized lot when they fought alongside you during the French and Indian Wars.

4. Not so fast: While Americans began observing the Fourth of July as early as 1777, when the first-ever major celebration in Philadelphia included a parade and a thirteen-shot cannon salute and fireworks, and the first official Fourth of July party was held at the White House in 1801, AND Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870, AND in 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday ... the 4th of July it wasn't declared a national holiday until 1941. Whew.



5. Jednota (Slovak for Union), indeed: The most common patriotic-sounding word used within place names is "union" with 136. Pennsylvania, with 33, has more of these places than any other state. Other words most commonly used in place names are Washington (127), Franklin (118), Jackson (96) and Lincoln (95).



6. Did you know the old joke about the Liberty Bell? (Yes, it cracked me up) Well, no joke: every 4th of July, in order to preserve this important symbol of freedom, the Liberty Bell isn't rung, it's just tapped ... 13 times in honor of the original 13 colonies.

7. What did one US flag say to the other? Nothing, it just waved! Ha. Seriously, Folks, a few facts about Old Glory: the flag was adopted on June 14, 1777. 50 flags are flown 24 hours a day at the Washington Monument. And those stars? Originally, they were all in a circle so all the Colonies would



appear equal.

8. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? At bottom, Silly. Actually, the Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies but only John Hancock signed the on the day we know and love, July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.

Well, that's it for now. I wish you all a safe and happy Independence Day.

Keep your ears up and tails waggin!
Your friend (in Slovak, tvoj priatel),
Chewy



FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



Your Personal Record Keeper

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

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

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St Michael's Branch 2 will be holding our semi-annual meeting on Tuesday July 8th at 7 pm at Kretzlers on Babcock Blvd. to discuss the upcoming convention. All delegates from Branch 2 should attend. For reservations please contact Joanne Lako at 412 766 3222.

Fraternally,

Joanne Lako, Recording 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 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 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 7th. 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 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 410 will meet at the Highland House in Uniontown, PA at 1:00pm on July 17, 2014. Convention information will be on the agenda.

Members are encouraged to attend.

Geri Buchheit, Recording & Financial Secretary

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 484 - CORAL, PENNSYLVANIA

The semi-annual meeting of the St. Joseph's Society, Branch 484, will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2014, beginning at 1:30PM at the home of Financial Secretary Joseph E. Rura, 43 Rugh Road, Coral, PA, 15731. On the agenda will be a discussion of the May 18 district meeting of the Rev. John Martvon District, also the coming 50th Quadrennial Convention and any other branch business.

Joseph E. Rura, Financial Secretary

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 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 774 - MERRILL, MICHIGAN

A meeting will be held on Sunday, July 20, 2014, at the home of Frank Radosa. You can call 989-643-7592. The meeting will be held at 1:00PM. Please let us know if you are attending.

Sincerely,

Katherine Stevens, 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

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

Annual July Pierogi Fest in Whiting IN



THE WHITING PIEROGI FEST is a three-day "street festival" in Whiting, Indiana, located about 20 minutes from Chicago, IL. It is presented by the Whiting Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce and draws almost 200,000 visitors each year. The Pierogi Fest is held the last full weekend in July, which means this year it runs July 25 - 27, 2014, from 11am to 10pm on Friday and Saturday and from 11am to 5pm on Sunday.

Jam packed with street vendors selling food, drinks and fun novelty items like t-shirts, the fest also features events like the Polka Dance Off, judged by

Mr. Pierogi and Ms. Paczki.

Not only can you tap your toes to the live and pulsating music of polka bands each day, but you can sit and watch the beautifully costumed young men and women from different Slovak dance troupes -The Lúčina Slovak Folk Ensemble from Cleveland, OH; Šarišan Slovak Folk Ensemble from Detroit, MI; Veselica Slovak Folk Ensemble from Chicago, IL; and the Vychodna Slovak Dancers from Mississauga, Ontario - many of whom are FCSU members. Lúčina is directed by Tom Ivanec, Branch 24; Šarišan is directed by Milan Straka, Branch 743; and Vychodna's Executive Vice President of Cultural Events Dušan Dorich is a member of Branch 785.

The dancers perform from 2 - 4PM on Saturday and noon - 2PM on Sunday.

For more information, visit the official Pierogi Fest website: www.pierogifest.net or call toll free 1-800-659-0292

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 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

There is a meeting for all convention delegates from Region 5 (District 6 and District 11) on Tuesday, July 22, 6:30 PM at the Holy Trinity Church hall at 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, PA 15122.

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

** 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the birth of Slovakia as a modern nation. "Witness to the Revolution" will be on display at the National Slovak Society Heritage Museum in McMurray, PA from July 12-18. There will be a reception for the exhibit opening on July 12 from 1-3 PM. RSVP to Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com.

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Meetings resume in the Fall. The Western PA Slovak Cultural Association features their events on Facebook. Consider joining WPCSA to get their quarterly newsletter.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood Park – Thursday, July 17. For discount tickets email sue.ondrejco@gmail.com

** The McKeesport International Village at Renzi Park, August 12-14, 3-10 PM features ethnic foods and dancing from many countries, including Slovakia.

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is open Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations at 412-421-1204 or by email to sue.ondrejco@gmail.com The web address is www.nsslife.org/Museum.php. Watch for "Christmas in September" on September 27.

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 19 – MSGR. MICHAEL SHUBA DISTRICT

Region 8 Annual Family Day Picnic- It is a Great Day !

Sunday, July 6, 2014 at Creditvale Park in Mississauga, ON. Mass at 12:00pm (noon) Lunch for purchase following the Mass. Entertainment for the kids, ice cream, races, inflatables etc.

Any questions call Mike Kapitan 416-621-1534

Anne Mitro, Recording Secretary

Year of Faith: The Church in the Modern World, Parts III & IV

Dear Friends,

The summary of the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et spes*) continues with the Council recalling some basic truths about the human person and society, examining them under the light of revelation, and then presenting the implications of the teaching to the present day. What is presented in this section forms the basis of the Church's teaching on social justice.

The two great commandments, love of God and love of neighbor, are recalled as the starting point for the discussion. These two commandments are inseparable. One cannot love God without loving neighbor, and vice versa. Without exception, every person is to consider every other person as another self and has a special obligation to actively give aid to the other in need.

The social order must be founded on truth, built on justice and animated by love. It requires constant improvement and development, a work under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Using this as a basis, the Council then goes on to list basic, fundamental human rights. Every person has the right to food, clothing and shelter; to choose a state of life freely and have a family; to education, employment, and a good reputation; to respect, appropriate information, and act in accord with the upright norm of one's own conscience; to protection of privacy and freedom.

It then details all infamies that "poison human society" and give "supreme dishonor to the Creator." This includes whatever is opposed to life itself (any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia or willful self-destruction), whatever violates the integrity of the human person (mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce with will itself), whatever insults human dignity (subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children), and disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere tools for profit.

As a corollary to the above list of what are deemed to be mortal sins, the Council repeats two important, traditional teachings of the Church. First, it is necessary to distinguish between the error itself, which always deserves renunciation, and the person in error, who never loses his or her human dignity. Second, the teaching of Jesus that requires one to forgive injuries extends to include every enemy.

Every human person is the same and yet different. Every person possesses a rational soul and is created in God's likeness. Every person has the same nature and origin. Every person has been redeemed by Christ and enjoys the same divine calling and destiny. But not every person is the same regarding physical power, or intellectual and moral development. However, with respect to the fundamental rights of person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, based on sex, race, color, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent.

Therefore, although differences do exist between people, the equal dignity of persons demands a more humane and just condition of life be brought about. Excessive economic and social differences between individual members of the one human family or groups of people cause scandal, militate against social justice, equity, the dignity of the human person, as well as social and international peace.

The next major part of *Gaudium et spes*, the Pastoral Constitution of the Church in the Modern World, centers on the way the Church views herself existing in the world, living and acting with it. The section begins with an examination of the inner desire of humanity to know the meaning of life and death. Only God, who created human beings in his image and likeness and redeemed us from sin, provides the most adequate answer, and that answer is Jesus. Whoever follows after Jesus, the perfect human being, becomes more of a human being.

The Church has a sacred reverence for the dignity of conscience and human freedom, constantly advising that all human talents be used in the service of God and others.

The Council calls upon Christians to conscientiously carry out their earthly responsibilities through a daily living of the Gospel. It is a mistake to think that this can be neglected. A more serious error of the day is for persons to hold the life of faith they profess can be separate from the actions in the daily lives. The Christian who neglects duties toward neighbor and God places his or her eternal salvation in jeopardy.

Marriage and the family is the next major topic undertaken. The Council states its intention here is to give guidance and support to Christians and others who are trying to preserve the holiness and foster the dignity of marriage, which is being torn apart because of two phenomena taking place in the modern world. The presence of divorce, polygamy, free love, and what the Council calls other disfigurements run contrary to the very nature of marriage as an exclusive, faithful, permanent union between a man and a woman. Also, excessive self-love, the worship of pleasure, and illicit practices to prevent the conception of new human life are against the traditional belief that married love is intended to be selfless and life-giving.

The Council affirms the traditional teaching of the Church regarding marriage. Married life and love was established by God, who endowed it with various benefits and purposes. Among these benefits and purposes are having children and educating them. By means of their irrevocable personal consent, a man and a woman enter into a relationship which, by divine will and in the eyes of society, is lasting.

In marriage, man and woman render each other mutual help and service through an intimate union of their persons and their actions. Through this union they come to experience the meaning of their oneness and strive to attain it each day. This intimate union and the good of children impose total fidelity on the spouses and offers rationale for an unbreakable oneness between them.

Authentic married love is caught up in divine love and is governed and enriched by Christ's redeeming power and the saving activity of the Church. For this reason, Christian spouses have a special sacrament by which they are strengthened and consecrated in the duties and dignity of their state. By virtue of this sacrament, they are penetrated with the spirit of Christ as they fulfil their conjugal and family obligations and responsibilities.

Actions within marriage by which a couple are united intimately and chastely are noble and worthy. Divine law reveals and protects the integral meaning of conjugal love. As a result, spouses should be mindful they are to be governed according to a conscience conformed to that divine law and follow the church's teaching office when she authentically interprets that law in light of the Gospel. Marriage by its very nature is an unbreakable and indissoluble bond between two persons. It persists and maintains its value, even when the couple has no offspring.

The summary continues in an upcoming issue.

Fraternally,

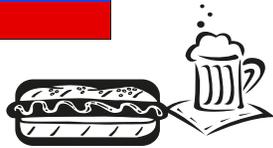


Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain

AMERICAN SLOVAK ZEMPLIN CLUB

SPONSOR



SLOVAK PICNIC
SUNDAY JULY, 20, 2014

Noon until 8 PM

SLOVAK SOKOL CAMP
2069 ROYALWOOD ROAD
(BETWEEN STATE AND BROADVIEW RD.)
BROADVIEW HTS.

SLOVAK FOOD, BEER-PIVO, PASTRIES and DANCING



Music by **JOHNNY PASTIRIK BAND**

INFORMATION: 440/885-5702 440/888-7028 440/238-4177
440/934-5482 330/239-2256 440/843-2305
440/237-9012 216 / 721-5300 - ext. 213

Admission : \$ 4.00 (At the gate)



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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



Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
005P	Louis P Vos	181K	Irene Yasher	381K	Marian Kolackowsky	701K	Velma Joan Klaric
024K	Janet Lynn Dark	199K	Joseph E Stas	403K	Ronald J Evans	731K	John E Yohman
024K	Margaret Dybzinski	228K	Mary Ann Kutting	419K	Joseph E Hovancak	746K	Stephana Dombrowiecki
038K	Albert T Soltis	254K	Mary Pilyih	450K	James F Hricovec	746K	Louise M Sadowski
045K	Helen A Baine	259K	Helen M Tomasec	484K	James M Ulicny	764K	Timothy P Kubicina
075K	Cyrylla E Riester	260K	George F Garchar	497K	Tamera Lynn Wallo	774K	Marjorie A Radosa
102K	Mary E Sujansky	260K	George J Rudy	567K	John R Schlosser	823K	Elizabeth Kellner
162K	Eleanor M Bellini	276K	Andrew J Matta	581K	Peter Chovanec	855K	Anna Doctor
165K	Edward M Gluvna	292K	John R Pipon	581K	Michael J Moricz Sr	907K	Ardis A Mc Alpine
165K	Andrew J Lucas	293K	Mary Louise Lesisko	670K	Joseph D Simonik		
166K	Velma Gerlock	293K	Paul Frank Praskac Jr	682K	Ethel E Krupa		
173K	Theresa Kollar	380K	James A Sickles	682K	Edward Winsen		

*Processed through the month of June 2014

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH JAMES MIKO BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT



Joseph James Miko, age 97, passed away on D Day at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport on June 6, 2014. He wished he

could have watched the Belmont for the Triple Crown Winner as he was a life-long fan of thoroughbred and trotter horse racing.

Of Slovak descent, he was born in Olyphant, PA, on February 27, 1917 to Andrew and Julia Miko. He grew up on the East side of Bridgeport until his marriage to Mary C. Pace in 1951. They resided together in Stratford where they raised their two children.

At the age of 16 he was accepted into Joe Stripes Baseball School (in preparation to the Major Leagues) in Florida. During his school years he was a member of several basketball teams. However, his true love was not discovered until he was 35 and that was golf. He was known to sit in the parking lot at Fairchild Wheeler at 4:00 in the morning to be the first one on the tee. He played every course in CT and was a member at H. Smith Richardson Golf Course in Fairfield. Throughout his amateur career, he made six holes in one and won many golf tournaments in the Senior Divisions. From the late 1980's until he suffered a stroke, he couldn't wait to spend the winter months in Mid-Pines, North Carolina where he golfed daily. In Pinehurst he belonged to the Knollwood Sandblasters and sang in the choir at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. Traveling back home in the spring, he attended the PGA and Masters Tournaments, which were the highlights of his year.

He was an aficionado of local theatre and frequented Broadway Theatre during his entire life when not playing golf.

As a parishioner of Holy Name Parish in Stratford for over 60 years, he enjoyed being a member of the Men's Society. He was active in the Old-timers of Bridgeport, the Stratford Old Timers and the VFW. Always proud of his heritage he became a member of the First Catholic and Slovak Union.

Joe was affectionately known by his family and friends as Jocko, Tiger and his alias Gaylord Esterbrook.

A veteran of WWII he served as a Quartermaster in the Battle of the Bulge and received a Marksman Award.

After graduating from Bridgeport Trade School, he continued a four year study in Architectural Drafting at the Mechanics Institute in New York. He later became a member and Gold Card Recipient of the Bricklayer's Union Local # 2 and honed his trade in Bermuda. He held a partnership in Miko Brothers, Inc. with his father and brother until 1975. His craftsmanship is evident on various buildings and churches throughout Fairfield County. Some of those include the Huntington Firehouse, Shelton Methodist Church, Good Shepard Lutheran Church, Monroe, Central Food Service Facility and the Hall of Records, Mc Levy Hall in Bridgeport, in addition to many public schools.

He was predeceased by his wife Mary C. Pace and his sisters Estelle Miko Robbins of R.I. and Margaret Miko Hurd of Stratford. He leaves behind a daughter Mary Phyllis Miko Migliaro, son-in-law Joseph Migliaro, of Madison, son, Joseph E. Miko, daughter-in-law, Jennifer Foley and his 2 grandchildren, Dylan and Elena, from West Haven. He is also survived by a brother, William S. Miko, sister-in-law, Mary Miko of Bridgeport and Boca Raton, FL and a sister-in-law Eva Pace of Chino Hills, CA. He was very fond of several nieces and nephews: William and Judy Miko of Shelton, their children Johnny and Lauren, Dennis and Janice Miko of Trumbull, their children Gregory and David, Dennis Robbins, Henderson, NV, Gail Robbins, San Diego, CA, Patti and Michael Page of Adelaide, Australia, Francine Miko, Boca Raton, FL, Carol Hurd, Stratford, Linda and Richard Fohrenbach of Palo Alto, CA and Richard and Patti Pace of Diamond Bar, CA.

Since 2006, he resided at St. Joseph's Manor and will be eternally grateful for weekly visits from his dear deceased friend, Jake Cavaliere and his cousins, Joe and Dottie Miko.

His parting advice to all "Keep smiling, it doesn't cost anything".

- Submitted by Mary Miko Migliaro

MARGARET L. PANCURAK BRANCH 38 – WHITE OAK, PENNSYLVANIA

Margaret L. Pancurak, 88, of Port Vue, PA, died Monday, May 26, 2014. She was born May 23, 1926, in Duquesne, PA, daughter of the late Michael and Anna Gombita Pundzak.

She was a member of St. Michael's Parish in Port Vue, Branch 38 of the FCSU, and a former member of Versailles AARP No.

2911.

She is survived by her loving husband of 67 years John Pancurak daughters Cheryl Pancurak of Liberty Borough, PA, and Donna (Thomas) Price of Monroeville, PA; grandchildren Beth Williams and Lynn Price; great-grand daughter Carys Williams; and siblings Helen Getner of West Mifflin, PA, and Michael Pundzak of Sheffield Lake, OH.

She was preceded in death by siblings Mary Parenicka, Anna Peklansky, Pauline Rohall, and John and Joseph Pundzak.

Friends were received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8PM on Wednesday, May 28, 2014, and from 10 to 11:30AM on Thursday, May 29, 2014, at Strifflers of White Oak Cremation and Mortuary Services, White Oak, PA. Funeral liturgy outside of Mass was held at 12 noon on Thursday, May 29, 2014, in St. Mark's Parish, Port Vue. Burial followed.

- Submitted by Florence K. Matta,
Branch 38 Secretary/Treasurer

MARY LOU (DEMCHAK) KRNA BRANCH 166 – BINGHAMTON, CAPITAL AREA, PEEKSKILL, POUGHKEEPSIE, AND SYRACUSE, NEW YORK



Mary Lou (Demchak) Krna, 84, died Wednesday, June 11, 2014. She was predeceased by her infant son, Charles Matthew Krna; parents, William and Helen Demchak; her sister, Rita; and brother, Bill. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, John; her daughters, Pam K. Barry, Barbara E. Krna and her husband Brian Sindon; grandson, Matthew Sindon; her son, Thomas J. Krna and his wife Wendy; grandson, Andrew Krna and granddaughter Emily. Mary was a graduate of the Charles S. Wilson School of Nursing and the United States Air Force School of Anesthesia at Sampson Air Force Base Geneva, NY. She was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving as an officer, nurse, anesthetist at Ladd Air Force Base, Fairbanks, AK. After her service, she was employed by The Associates and Anesthesia, Binghamton General Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital for the rest of her career. She served as Chaplain of Branch 166, and was a recommender and 50-year member of the First Catholic Slovak Union. She was a member of St. Cyril's Church, very active in the kitchen, Altar Rosary Society, the La-

dies Club and made thousands of rosaries for the sick. She enjoyed her many summers rowing her pram on the Genegantslet Lake, entertaining her friends and relatives. She will also be missed by all her poker and pinochle club friends. Funeral services were held Monday, June 16, 2014, at 9AM at the Sedlock Funeral Home Inc., Binghamton, and at 930AM at St. Cyril's Church where a Funeral Mass was offered. Burial was in Slovak Catholic Cemetery. Family received friends at the funeral home Sunday, June 15, 2014, from 2-5PM.

RONALD J. POLAK BRANCH 276 - MC KEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA



Take time to remember our brother, Ronald J. Polak (9/1/1935-8/24/2013). Born and raised in McKeesport, PA, he was a member of Holy Trinity Church in McKeesport prior to moving to North Las Vegas. Graduating from MHS in 1953, he earned his Bachelor of Music from St. Vincent College in Latrobe in 1957 and Masters of Science Education Duquesne University in 1959. He returned to his roots to work as a music educator and music coordinator for McKeesport Area School District for 36 years. He was past President of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association and the St. Vincent Alumni Association. Ron passed away on August 24, 2013 at home unexpectedly. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Vera, his daughter, Karen, of North Las Vegas and brother John of North Ridgeville, Ohio. Services were held at St. John Neumann Church in North Las Vegas. Ron will be laid to rest at the grounds of his beloved Alma Mater, St. Vincent College in Latrobe, PA.

The memorial Mass will be at the Saint Vincent Basilica Parish in the Crypt of the Basilica on July 24th at 10:00 a.m. A Class of 1957 Scholarship has been established at St. Vincent College by his fellow Bearcats to remember not only Ron, but all of the class of '57. Donations by those who remember him will support the current and future students of St. Vincent. Donations should be made to: Class of 1957 Scholarship and sent to Joan Davis, Director of Individual Giving, St. Vincent College, 300 Fraser Purchase Road. Latrobe, PA. 15650. If every

OBITUARIES

student, friend, associate who touched his life donated, the scholarship will touch those deserving in his memory.

RICHARD FURDEK BRANCH 313 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Richard J. Furdek, age 82, passed away Sunday, February 23, 2014 at the University of Chicago Hospital. Survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Patricia (nee Ruettiger); his children, Pamela Perona, Michael Furdek and Stephen Furdek; grandchildren, Jillian Perona, Stephanie Kozora, Kele Cristofaro, Jacob and Amanda Furdek; great grandson Brantley Lerner and two sisters. Preceded in death by his parents, Stephen M. and Louise J. (nee Brnca) Furdek; one brother and two sisters. Richard was a U.S. Army Veteran. Family received friends on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at Kurtz Memorial Chapel, New Lenox IL, from 3:00 until 9:00 pm. Funeral services were held on Friday, February 28, 2014, with chapel prayers at 9:30 AM at St. Mary Church, Mokena, IL, followed by a 10:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial. Interment was in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

- Submitted by daughter Pamela Peron



ALBERT JOHN MARFLAK BRANCH 454 – CLAIRTON, PENNSYLVANIA

Albert (Al) John Marflak was born in Donora, Pennsylvania on July 10, 1945 and passed into eternal life April 14, 2013 at MUSC, Charleston, SC. He was a faithful husband and loving father to wife, Carmen Choate Marflak, and daughters Heather Marflak (John) Braut and Etta Koleen Marflak both of Beaufort. He was a doting grandfather to grandson, Joshua Albert Braut. He is survived by brother, Frank Marflak, Jr of IL, and three sisters, Patricia Sandis, Mary Ann Hull and Helen Marflak of Donora, PA. He was preceded in death by his parents Frank Sr and Helen Marflak, and brothers Michael (Father Albert) and Ronald Marflak. He was a loving cousin and uncle to several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews whom affectionately called him "Abby".

After graduation from Donora High School in 1963 he joined the US Navy and served his country first at the Beaufort Naval Hospital and then with M Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines in Vietnam as a Navy Corpsman. He was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Service, Vietnam Service, and Vietnam Campaign medals while serving in the Navy. Following discharge he graduated from York College and St. Joseph's Hospital in Lancaster, PA with a degree in health sciences and respiratory therapy. He was a practicing respiratory therapist for the next 40 years. For the last 25 years he worked at Memorial Medical Center in Savannah, GA before retiring in 2011.

Al was an active member of Live Oak Christian Church in Bluffton, SC and Com-



munity Bible Church mens' bible study. He was also actively involved with Gideons International Beaufort Chapter and the Marine Corps League as a docent at the Parris Island Museum. He held membership with organizations such as VFW and AMVETS.

Al was an avid Pittsburgh sports fan. He enjoyed watching and rooting for his Steelers, Penguins and Pirates. Upon retirement he enjoyed gardening and frequenting the Port Royal and Bluffton Farmers' Markets. One of his favorite hobbies was preparing home cooked meals for family, friends and community organizations, especially Frogmore Stew for out-of town guests. He was a generous giver to charitable organizations and people in need such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Disabled American Veterans, United States Navy Memorial, Northwest Haiti Christian Mission, and Samaritan's Purse. For the last 25 years he has supported several children at the American Indian Christian Mission in Show Low, AZ.

A Memorial Mass for Albert (Abby) John Marflak, will be held at Our Lady of the Valley Church, Donora, PA Saturday, July 12, 2014 at 10AM.

EDWARD T. SEDLOCK BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Edward T. Sedlock, 88, of Bradenton, FL, passed away June 1, 2014. He was born in Canonsburg, PA, on January 28, 1926. Edward was the son of the late John and Veronica (Balas) Sedlock. Edward earned a Bronze Star when serving in the US Army in WWII in Europe. Edward worked for Republic Steel and Wean United in Warren, OH, as a draftsman and after moving to Bradenton, at various jobs including custodian at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Edward is survived by his daughters; Patricia (Eddie) Stacey of Rigby, ID, Barbara Sedlock of Defiance, OH, and Kathy (Ken) Larson of Palm Coast, FL; 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; a sister Martha Gilbert of Mineral Ridge, OH. He was preceded in death by six siblings. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Manasota Memorial Park and Funeral Home is assisting the family.

- Submitted by Barbara Sedlock

SISTER MARY AUGUSTA JANCEK, SCN

A Sister of Charity of Nazareth, died peacefully in the Lord in Lourdes Hall at St. Louise Convent on June 13, 2014, at the age of 97 and in the 81st year of her religious life. She had been a resident at the Vincentian Home in Pittsburgh, PA, where she served in prayer ministry as much as her health permitted. Sister originally entered the Vincentian Sisters of Charity from St. Mathias Parish in Natrona, PA and received her Bachelor and Master of Education Degrees from Duquesne University. Her teaching ministry included 29 years in elementary and 36 years in secondary education in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Greensburg in PA, Mobile, AL and Youngstown, OH. Sister Augusta also studied French at Mt. St. Joseph and Millersville State College in PA. She accepted two grants from Ohio State University in order to increase her fluency in



speaking French. A highlight in her teaching career was a trip to Paris, France, and also to Quebec, Canada, with her students. After 35 years as a French and religion teacher at St. Joseph High School in Natrona Heights, PA, Sister retired from the educational profession. Sister was a multi-talented individual, who also greatly enjoyed playing the violin and cello and working at arts and crafts in her early years. Sister Augusta was predeceased by her parents, Michael and Mary Jancek; her four brothers, William, Michael, Victor, and Steven; and her two

sisters, Mary and Irene. She is survived by her nieces, Noreen Jandura and Rebecca Kushsner, and nephew Michael Jancek; great-nephews; along with her Sisters in Community. Friends will be received at St. Louise Convent, 8200 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh, PA on Monday, June 16, 2014, from 2 to 8 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at 11 a.m. in the St. Louise Convent Chapel. Interment will follow in the Sisters' cemetery on the convent grounds.



(L – R) Sisters Brigid, Joanne Marie, Carol Marie, Denise Marie prepare baked goods for the July 12th Annual Summer Festival in Danville, PA.

ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL IN DANVILLE

Sister Barbara Sable

The 41st annual Summer Festival, sponsored by the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA will be held on Saturday, July 12. Activities will begin at 10:30 a.m.

The festival will feature a large Flea Market, a silent auction, home-made baked goods, handcrafted items, a book store, and Religious and Slovak articles. There will be a variety of ethnic foods such as Holubky and Halusky, as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, ice cream and much more. There will be a variety of games for children and adults plus special attractions like raffles, bingo and a cake-walk.

The Summer Festival has been a blessed opportunity for the Sisters to keep in touch with former students, their parents, and family members; to reconnect with friends they've made over the years, and to make new friends. The day never seems long enough for visitors to see all the people they had really hoped to see.

Bus parking is available. The Festival will take place rain or shine, and will close with a Mass at 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please call: Sister Barbara Sable at: 570-275-3581, Ext. 302 570-317-8920.

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.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2014 • HOME OFFICE, INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES:

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

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., gave his extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report via Telephone and WebEx. 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.

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 March 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 March:

Disbursements for the month of March 2014:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 212,202.38
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 43,851.79
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.

The President led a discussion on our current annuity rates. It was decided to keep the rates the same and they will be reviewed again at the May meeting.

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 stated we are in the final stages of introducing the two new programs; the first will be a Final Expense Program and the second will be a Wealth Management/Transfer of Wealth Program. The information is going out to all branches, is being published in the Jednota newspaper, sent to all members via email, and will be on our website.

The Vice President announced 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 to 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 President stated the planning for the convention in Philadelphia is going very well. While at this time it appears there could be less than 300 delegates attending, more delegate forms are expected to come in. The President further stated our branches and branch officers are getting older and are not able to travel and participate. It is unfortunate that younger members are not as involved and being elected as delegates.

The Executive Secretary stated the delegate credential forms have been certified and a letter of acknowledgement will go out to him or her along with a tentative schedule and information on how to register at the hotel.

The President stated James Marmol, Regional Director, has been very active in working on the Middletown Memorial Project. The President stated the artist came to the home office with the final sketches of the memorial and after a few minor changes we are now ready to proceed. Regional Director Marmol informed the Executive Committee that he has received samples of the materials to be used and will forward them to the home office. The President stated we expect a time line with a start date and schedule for completion in the near future. 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 Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar 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

84th Annual Slovak-American Day in Milwaukee

Sunday, July 13, 2014, starting at 11:00AM

Croatian Park, 9140 S. 76th St., Franklin, WI

Holy Mass at Noon – Fr. John Jamnicky

2:30PM Program: Singing of the National Anthems

Presentation of Slovak Culture:

Wreath 93 Slovak Catholic Sokol Drillers

Tatra Slovak Dancers of Milwaukee

Children's Cultural Scavenger Hunt

Live Music for Dancing

Slovak food, bakery, and refreshments available

Slovak/Czech handmade ornaments, jewelry, crafts and artifacts

Complimentary golf cart transportation available at the park for the "Young at Heart"

Free admission to the park, \$1.00 raffle tickets for sale

For more information, please call Betty @ 414-425-6137 or Ralph at 262-893-2972

Everyone welcome! A very special invitation to Branch 89, Knights of Sts Mary and Joseph!

Slovak Sports Roundup

Tichomir Miko

Martikán Takes Gold



Michal Martikán

Slovak whitewater slalom canoeist Michal Martikán won gold at the third World Cup meet of the season at the Troja course in the suburbs of Prague. Although the 35 year old from Liptovsky Mikuláš was assessed a two second penalty for touching one of the gates on the slalom course, his time was still fast enough to finish ahead of David Florence of Britain and Benjamin Savšek of Slovenia. The two other Slovaks in the competition, Alexander Slafkovský and Matej Beňuš finished sixth and seventh respectively.

Slovaks also took gold in the C2 competition. Slovak cousins and current European champions Ladislav and Peter Škantár were also assessed a two second penalty but still finished ahead of the tandems from Poland and Slovenia.

"We are very happy with our win. It is our first time at the World Cup meet in Prague and we won a gold," said Ladislav. His cousin Peter added, "We finally broke the jinx we had been having – we only touched the seventh gate and in the final calculations we came out ahead."

The Slovak K1 ace Jana Dukátová narrowly missed the podium, finishing 42 one hundredths of a second behind the third place finisher Štěpánka Hilgertová from the Czech Republic.

Sagan in Switzerland



Slovak cyclist Peter Sagan won the points classification for the fourth year in a row (2011 - 2014) at the Tour of Switzerland which concluded on Sunday, June 22. The overall race (general classification) was won by Rui Alberto Faria Da Costa of Portugal who unseated the leader Tony Martin of Germany on the very last day of the tour; Martin had led the tour since day one.

Sagan, who excels at sprinting, finished among the top five racers in six of the nine stages of the Tour. He won the 203 km third stage from Sarnen to Heiden. "Today's stage was very demanding, the riders from the Omega team led almost all the way, later others joined them. There were a few breakaways – up and down two or three kilometers.

I felt in shape, my team mates kept me in front, but the finish up the hill was difficult. I made a small mistake, striking out a bit late. I was able to give my maximum in the final sprint and win. Thanks belong to the whole Cannondale team. I feel fit and look forward to the upcoming stages," said Sagan after his win.

In the 184 km sixth stage on Thursday from Büren A.D. Aare to Delémont Sagan attempted a superhuman feat, breaking away by himself from the peloton on the final climb. He crested the hill alone but the field managed to reattach themselves to his wheel on the descent back down to Delémont. He continued to set a fast pace on the way down the hill. The peloton could barely stay on his wheel as he leaned sharply through each switchback. The breakaway took its toll and in the final sprint to the finish he was passed by Matteo Trentin of Italy and four others; all five riders were assigned the same time. Nevertheless, the fifth place result assured the Zilina native the victory in the points classification competition with only three stages remaining.

Sagan took the lead in the points classification on the second day of the tour and held on to it to the end, constantly amassing more points. Sagan feels he is in good position and conditioning for the Tour de France, the most prestigious of all cycling races which will run from Saturday July 5th to Sunday July 27th 2014. At the Tour de France Sagan will be the defending points classification champion; this will be his attempt at winning the green jersey three years in a row.

2014 Slovak Catholic Federation Mid-Year Annual Appeal Report

Fr. Andrew Hvozdovic

Since 1978 the Slovak Catholic Federation has been conducting the SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal which begins each year in the month of February during the closest weekend to the Feast of SS. Cyril & Methodius. To date I wish to report that \$13,069.41 has been collected, roughly \$2,000.00 short from last year's mid-year report. In its 36th year, this appeal has primarily been taken up in parishes in the United States of Slovak heritage. As we are all very much aware, the days of "ethnic parishes" are becoming a thing of the past. More and more Slovaks reside in different parts of the country and no longer claim to belong to a parish of Slovak heritage. For this reason may Slovaks may not have the opportunity to hear about, let alone participate in this Annual Appeal. If it were not for the Slovak Catholic Fraternal Societies and their publications, communication to American and Canadian Slovaks would not be possible. In recent years we have seen an increase in individual donations apart from the parish collections. Also most of the Slovak Fraternal Societies have also been making contributions to this collection from their National Board of Directors, along with a number of local branches, wreaths, assemblies, and lodges. The appeal continues during the entire calendar year 2014.

This appeal assists the Church in Slovakia by supporting the training mission of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril & Methodius in Rome, Italy (formally known as the Slovak Institute or Ustav). In addition, funds are distributed to those Religious Communities of both men and women which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Conference of Religious. These Communities being: Vincentian Sisters of Charity (Ruzomberok); Dominican Sisters (Dunajska Luzna); School Sisters of St. Francis (Zilina); Daughters of St. Francis Bratislava-Prievoz); Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great Secove and Presov); Franciscan Friars Minor (Bratislava); and House of St. Benedict (Bacurov).

As various groups will be holding summer picnics along with several Fraternal National Conventions, I ask that consideration be given to kindly taking up a collection in support of the Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. In 2013 this Annual Appeal totaled \$39,678.41.

Individuals, Groups, picnics, etc are all welcome to make a donation to this appeal, make all checks payable to: Slovak Catholic Federation and send directly to Dolores Evanko, National Secretary-Treasurer, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201.

I pray that Almighty God reward all of us who participate in the support of the Church in Slovakia through the Slovak Catholic Federation 36th Annual SS. Cyril & Methodius Appeal.

From the Desk of the Executive Secretary – Holiday Hours



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2014, in observance of Independence Day.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville PA 17821

Summer Festival
July 12 2014
Saturday, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm

Fun · Food · Baked Goods · Games · FleaMarket · Dinner

Saturday Mass for Sunday 5pm in the Basilica

News From Slovakia

Kiska Takes Oath, Assumes Post of Slovak President

Bratislava, June 15 (TASR) - Andrej Kiska was sworn in by Chair of Constitutional Court Ivetta Macejkova as President of the Slovak Republic at the Slovak Philharmonic on this date.

"I promise upon my honor and conscience that I will be faithful to the Slovak Republic. I will care about the welfare of the Slovak nation, national minorities and ethnic groups living in Slovakia. I will carry out my duties in the interest of the public, observe the Constitution and other laws. I promise," said Kiska, citing the relevant text prescribed by the Constitution.

If he had refused to take this oath or if he had taken it with some reservation, he wouldn't have been allowed to become president.

Macejkova confirmed that Kiska took the oath in line with the Constitution, and has thereby officially assumed the office of president.

Paska: History Will Remember Gasparovic as President for All Citizens

Bratislava, June 15 (TASR) - History will remember Ivan Gasparovic as a president for all citizens, Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Paska said at the ceremonial parliamentary session at the Slovak Philharmonic hall, during which Gasparovic handed over the office to Andrej Kiska on this date.

Paska thanked Gasparovic for his two five-year terms in office, during which, according to the parliamentary speaker, he represented Slovakia in a dignified manner both at home and abroad.

"Your service in the highest constitutional office deserves our recognition," said Paska, adding that Gasparovic managed to connect professionalism and humanness, as well as an accent on the social and national principles while in office.

Kiska in First Speech Encourages Moral Heroes of Everyday Life

Bratislava, June 15 (TASR) - Newly-sworn in Slovak President Andrej Kiska in his first speech in office stated that he will encourage people who haven't otherwise resigned themselves to promote decency and morality.

"These people are the everyday heroes. There are many such people in Slovakia. Most people don't allow thefts to take place in their households; that offenses take place and lies are told. At home, we all realize that everybody must do something for this to be the case," said Kiska, adding that trust and engagement are also necessary in public life.

Kiska in the speech told the public that it's normal not to give a bribe and defy injustice and unlawfulness.

The new president stated that, according to statistics, Slovakia has never been better off in the past - but most people are still convinced that the country isn't going in the right direction.

"We frequently hear that morality and decency have disappeared, that it's egoism, cynicism, nepotism, political affiliation and ruthlessness that dominate the public arena. I want to tell people who want a change that they must fight [for it]," he said.

Kiska noted that he ran in the election as non-partisan, and he'll also remain independent - both of the Government (run by Smer-SD) and the Opposition.

"There are many challenges ahead ... there should be no place for personal wars and rivalries," he stated, adding that he will co-operate with the Parliament and Government when the welfare of the public is at stake.

Turning to foreign affairs, Kiska said that he is ready to continue with the foreign policy priorities promoted by the Slovak political representation so far.

"I'll continue in the tradition of Slovak presidents, who have always acted as staunch advocates of Euro-Atlantic co-operation," said Kiska.

With the Slovak presidency of the European Union already in view (2016), Kiska stated that this is an opportunity to highlight the fact that Slovakia's EU membership isn't only about drawing EU funds, but it also has a deeper meaning, particularly in promoting peace in Europe.

"Slovakia shouldn't rely on others ensuring our security without us fulfilling our commitments," added the new president in his inauguration speech.

Kiska Meets Cheering People in Streets of Bratislava

Bratislava, June 15 (TASR) - New president Andrej Kiska after taking oath in Bratislava on Sunday walked around the historical center of the capital city for chats with ordinary people.

A few of them approached by TASR said that they expect decency and optimism from the new president.

"I think that he'll finally be a president who'll represent the country with decency," said Michal from Presov. He conceded that president's powers are rather ceremonial, but said

that he believes that Kiska will do a lot to fight against corruption.

"I trust him," said Michal.

According to Marek from Piestany (Trnava region), Kiska may bring optimism to society and an approach that change is possible.

"It seems to me that it isn't a pose, that he's far more humane; that he isn't a typical politician. I think that this gentleman may be trusted," said Pavol from Bratislava.

Kiska Appoints New Judicial Council Members

Bratislava, June 18 (TASR) - President Andrej Kiska has dismissed three members of the Judicial Council, Maria Bujnakova, Gabriela Simonova and Eduard Barany and replaced them with Jan Klucka, Jozef Vozar and Elena Berthotyova, TASR learned on this date.

Kiska pointed out that the newly appointed members of the Judicial Council shall hold office independently. At the same time, Kiska added that after discussions he found that all three new members of the Judicial Council have similar views on the vote of the Supreme Court chairman.

Kiska, who has made no secret of his desire to see two-times Supreme Court chairman Stefan Harabin not receive a third term, hopes the new chair will be elected as early as the next vote. It has been declared by current Supreme Court Chairman Stefan Harabin - who remains in the chair until Sunday, June 22, on September 16. As an unsuccessful candidate in the first round which was held on May 19, Harabin can't run in the next round.

"I've signed a presidential decision on the establishment of an advisory committee for assessment of the suitability of candidates for judges of the Constitutional Court," said Kiska. The role of the advisory committee is to assess the six candidates for Constitutional Court judges elected by Parliament and to propose three who should be then appointed by president replacing outgoing judges Jan Luby, Juraj Horvath and Jan Auxt. Their term in office expires on July 4. The committee's decision won't be binding, with the president having the final say in the selection.

Six candidates elected in a secret ballot in Parliament in April include Supreme Court judge Jana Baricova (nominated by Supreme Court chairman Stefan Harabin), Nitra Regional Court judge Jan Bernat (nominated by Prosecutor-General Jaromir Ciznar), notary and university teacher Miroslav Duris (nominated by head of the Chamber of Notaries Karol Kovacs), Bratislava I District Court chair Eva Fulcova (nominated by Kovacs as well as dean of Comenius University's Faculty of Law Pavol Kubicek) and Kosice Regional Court chairman Imrich Volkai (a nominee of dean of the Kosice-based Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Safarik University Gabriela Dobrovicova). Kosice Regional Court Senate chairman Juraj Sopoliga became the sixth candidate following a vote in Parliament in mid-May.

RAF Unveils Memorial Plaque to Slovak and Czech Aviators in Bratislava

Bratislava, June 18 (TASR) - A commemorative plaque in honor of Slovak and Czech aviators who served in the British Royal Air Force during WWII was unveiled at Milan Rastislav Stefanik Square in Bratislava on this date.

The plaque was sponsored by the British communities living in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

"Seventy years ago, 2,500 young men from your countries - from their own will - decided to take part in WWII. They flew with RAF ... and they were courageous. We're now unveiling a plaque in the spirit of their heroism," said Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart William Peach at the ceremony near the left bank of the Danube River.

Peach also praised current military relations between Slovakia and the UK. "Our militaries are currently serving together in Afghanistan, for example," he said.

A memorial in the shape of a winged lion was unveiled in Prague on Tuesday. The British communities in the two countries raised a total of €120,000 for both memorials within less than a month. Money was divided in order to produce the two memorials and what was left over will be used for care for WWII veterans and widows of veterans in the Sue Ryder old people's home in Prague.

Unemployment Rate in Slovakia Drops Further to 14.27 percent (2)

Bratislava, June 20 (TASR) - The overall unemployment rate in Slovakia in May was on 14.27 percent, a reduction of 0.19 percentage points month-on-month and down 1.12 p.p. year-on-year, general director of the Labour, Social Affairs and the Family Center (UPSVaR) Marian Valentovic said at a press conference on this date.

When only those who are immediately available to assume jobs were included, the unemployment rate stood at 12.8 percent in May, down 0.16 p.p. m-o-m, and down 1.46 p.p. y-o-y.

The unemployment rate fell in all regions but Kosice region in annual terms.

Labour, Social Affairs and the Family Minister Jan Richter described the unemployment rate fall as a continuation of a long-term trend, which also includes reductions in the number of long-term unemployed and jobless graduates.

"The results of some of the key indicators are on the four-year best ... It's partly due to efficient legislative measures ... and job creation policies," said Richter.

Správy zo Slovenska

Andrej Kiska zložil sľub, ujíma sa funkcie prezidenta SR

Bratislava 15. júna (TASR) - Andrej Kiska zložil do rúk predsedníčky Ústavného súdu SR Ivetty Macejkovej ústavou predpísaný sľub a ujíma sa funkcie slovenského prezidenta. Urobil tak na dnešnej slávnostnej inauguračnej schôdzi Národnej rady SR v priestoroch Slovenskej filharmónie v Bratislave.

„Sľubujem na svoju česť a svedomie vernosť Slovenskej republike. Budem dbať o blaho slovenského národa, národnostných menšín a etnických skupín žijúcich v Slovenskej republike. Svoje povinnosti budem vykonávať v záujme občanov a zachovávať i obhajovať ústavu a ostatné zákony. Sľubujem,“ citoval Kiska Ústavu SR. Ak by sľub odmietol, alebo by ho zložil s výhradou, nemohol by stáť na čele štátu.

P.PAŠKA: História si bude I. Gašparoviča pamätať ako prezidenta všetkých občanov

Bratislava 15. júna (TASR) - História si bude Ivana Gašparoviča pamätať ako prezidenta všetkých občanov. Vyhlásil to predseda Národnej rady SR Pavol Paška (Smer-SD) na dnešnej slávnostnej inauguračnej schôdzi Národnej rady SR tesne predtým, ako Andrej Kiska zložil ústavou stanovený sľub a ujal sa funkcie prezidenta.

Paška poďakoval odchádzajúcej hlave štátu Gašparovičovi za službu v prospech Slovenska a za dôstojné reprezentovanie doma i v zahraničí. „Vaše pôsobenie v najvyššej ústavnej funkcii si zasluži naše uznanie,“ adresoval Gašparovičovi.

Ocenil, ako sa exprezidentovi podarilo skĺbiť profesionalitu a ľudskosť a tiež jeho silný dôraz na sociálny a národný princíp. Paška zároveň poďakoval Gašparovičovi za spoluprácu a za to, že pomohol udržať stabilitu v krajine.

PREZIDENT: Angažovanosť by nemala končiť za dverami príbytkov

Bratislava 15. júna (TASR) - Prezident SR Andrej Kiska je pripravený povzbudzovať ľudí, ktorí nerezignovali, vyznávajú slušnosť a morálku a pomáhajú tomu, aby sa dobrý pocit nekončil za dverami ich príbytkov. Vyhlásil to dnes v inauguračnom prejave na slávnostnej schôdzi Národnej rady SR v sídle Slovenskej filharmónie.

„Sú to hrdinovia bežných dní a takých ľudí je na Slovensku dosť. Väčšina ľudí nedopusť, aby sa doma kradlo, aby sa používali urážky a klamstvá. Doma si uvedomujeme, že každý musí niečo pre to urobiť. Angažovanosť, záujem a dobrý pocit by sa ale nemali končiť za dverami príbytkov, mali by pokračovať ďalej,“ apelovala hlava štátu. Kiska je presvedčený, že dôveru a odhodlanie potrebujeme aj vo verejnom živote, a že napriek problémom rozumieme ceste, po ktorej ideme. „Má zmysel sa pokúsiť veci meniť,“ podotkol.

Občanom odkázal, že je normálne nedať úplatok a vzoprieť sa nespravodlivosti alebo nezákonnosti. Opirajúc sa o štatistiky Kiska povedal, že na Slovensku sa nikdy nešlo lepšie, napriek tomu väčšina ľudí nie je presvedčená, že ideme správnym smerom. „Často počujeme, že sa u nás vytratila morálka, slušnosť, že verejný priestor ovládol egoizmus, cynizmus, rodinkárstvo, politická prislusnosť a široké lakte. Ľuďom, ktorí chcú zmenu, chcem odkázať, nech bojujú,“ zdôraznil.

Ako prezident chce tráviť na Slovensku dosť času, aby mohol takýchto ľudí povzbudiť. „Ako prezident budem klásť otázky v mene občanov aj v mene svojom. Budem klásť otázky členom vlády, poslancom NR SR, inštitúciám zodpovedným za spravodlivosť, vzdelávanie či zdravotnú starostlivosť. Vždy je našou povinnosťou pýtať sa, čo môžeme urobiť viac. Preto sa budem pýtať, kým nedostanem odpoveď,“ uistil.

Sľub, ktorý dnes Kiska zložil a silný mandát od voličov, sú podľa jeho slov záväzkom, ktorý si bude uvedomovať každý deň. „Budem prvým slovenským prezidentom bez politickej a straníckej minulosti. Nezávislá pozícia je tým, čo odo mňa ľudia očakávajú,“ vyhlásil.

Kiska zdôraznil, že nebol kandidátom vlády ani opozície a takto nadstraníckym aj ostane. „Budem stáť za všetkými ľuďmi bez ohľadu na ich politické presvedčenie a národnosť. Pred Slovenskom sú také výzvy, že v politike a medzi politikmi by nemalo byť miesto na osobné vojny či nepriateľstvá,“ upozornil.

Vláde aj parlamentu odkázal, že im bude oporou a partnerom vždy, keď pôjde o pomoc ľuďom. „Budem podporovať všetky dobré nápady a riešenia. Verím, že aj keď budeme mať odlišný názor, budete si môcť povedať, že prezident je partner do diskusie,“ povedal.

Kiska sa nevyhol ani zahraničnej politike. „Som pripravený v spolupráci s vládou a celou diplomaciou presadzovať záujmy Slovenska v kontinuite doterajších vlád. Budem pokračovať v tradícii doterajších prezidentov, ktorí sa vždy prejavili ako pevný zástancovia euroatlantickej spolupráce,“ deklaroval.

Na margo slovenského predsedníctva v EÚ v roku 2016 poznamenal, že to bude príležitosť, aby sme viac hovorili o tom, že naše členstvo v EÚ nie je len o fondoch, ale že únia má hlbší zmysel - je to najmä projekt mieru v Európe. „Slovensko sa ale nemôže spoliehať, že nám našu bezpečnosť zariadia iní bez toho, aby sme si plnili naše záväzky. Nie je to správne, perspektívne, ani to nie je pre našu vlast bezpečné,“ dodal.

Predseda Národnej rady SR Pavol Paška (Smer-SD) na záver slávnostnej schôdze parlamentu Kiskovi zaželal, aby sa mu darilo naplňovať jeho ústavné povinnosti k spokojnosti občanov SR. „Želám vám, aby ste v spolupráci s Národnou radou SR upevňovali sociálnu, ekonomickú a politickú stabilitu, a aby ste pomáhali dotvárať silnú pozíciu SR v EÚ,“ povedal.

Ľudia očakávajú od A. Kisku slušnosť či zmeny k lepšiemu

Bratislava 15. júna (TASR) - Nový prezident Andrej Kiska sa po zložení sľubu a prehliadke jednotiek Ozbrojených síl SR pozdravil s ľuďmi, ktorí sa zhromaždili pred budovou Slovenskej filharmónie v Bratislave. Tí od



V Bardejovských kúpeľoch vybudujú kongresový hotel

V Bardejovských kúpeľoch postupne rekonštruujú hotely a liečebné domy. V tomto roku už preinvestovali niekoľko tisíc eur, avšak najväčšou bude rekonštrukcia hotela Alexander, ktorý bude prebudovaný na kongresový.

S rekonštrukciou by sa malo začať najneskôr do jedného mesiaca a trvať by mala 12 až 15 mesiacov. Z hotela Alexander vznikne veľký kongresový hotel s kapacitou 60 lôžok.

Podľa technického riaditeľa Bardejovských kúpeľov Jozefa Baču po rekonštrukcii v hoteli Alexander vzniknú tri kongresové sály a tri poschodia budú určené na predaj ako apartmány, z nich jedno bude novovybudované ako nadstavba. Okrem toho budú dve poschodia slúžiť



Ilustračné foto Foto: TASR/Milan Kapusta

na ubytovanie. V podzemí vzniknú parkoviská a na prvých dvoch nadzemných podlažiach reštauračné zariadenia.

Bardejovské kúpele chcú v budúcnosti ešte vybudovať vonkajšie kúpaliská, zrekonštruovať hotel Alžbeta, v ktorom kedysi prebývala cisárovna Sisi, a tiež obnoviť hotel Dukla.

TASR

neho očakávajú, že prinesie do spoločnosti najmä optimizmus a slušnosť.

„Ja si myslím, že to bude konečne prezident, ktorý bude reprezentovať túto republiku hlavne slušnosťou,“ uviedol Michal z Prešova. Ako dodal, vie, že prezident nemá veľké kompetencie, ale verí, že Kiska sa popasuje najmä s korupciou. „Verím v neho,“ dodal. Podľa Mareka z Piešťan nový prezident prinesie do spoločnosti optimizmus a vedomie, že zmeny sú možné. „Mne sa zdá, že to nie je pretvárika, že je omnoho ľudskejší, že to nie je typický politik. Myslím si, že tomuto pánovi sa dá veriť,“ uviedol Pavol z Bratislavy, ktorý sa taktiež prišiel pozrieť na novú hlavu štátu.

SOČIÁLNE: Nezamestnanosť v SR v máji klesla na 14,27 %

Bratislava 20. júna (TASR) - Miera nezamestnanosti na Slovensku v máji 2014 dosiahla 14,27 %. V porovnaní s predchádzajúcim mesiacom ide o pokles o 0,19 percentuálneho bodu (p. b.), medziročne o 1,12 p. b. Miera evidovanej nezamestnanosti predstavovala v piatom mesiaci tohto roka 12,80 %, pričom medzimesačne klesla o 0,16 p. b. a medziročne o 1,46 p. b.

Vo všetkých krajoch Slovenska s výnimkou Košického kraja sa v máji 2014 miera nezamestnanosti znížila. Najväčší pokles zaznamenal rezort práce v Žilinskom kraji (0,31 %). V rámci jednotlivých okresov došlo k poklesu v 57, pričom v 22 okresoch zaznamenali podľa Valentoviča nárast nezamestnanosti.

Minister práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny Ján Richter (Smer-SD) označil pokles nezamestnanosti za pokračovanie pozitívneho trendu. V rámci neho došlo aj k zníženiu počtu dlhodobozamestnaných či absolventov bez práce. „Výsledky v niektorých rizikových ukazovateľoch sú najlepšie v uplynulom štvorročnom období. Je to pre nás záväzok pokračovať v týchto trendoch, ale zároveň je to aj výsledok toho, že v legislatívnej oblasti sme prijali dobré efektívne opatrenia. Som presvedčený, že aj projektové zábery, ktoré sme aplikovali a ktoré pokračujú, sú tiež dobre nastavené. Je to výsledok aj dobre nastavenej aktívnej politiky trhu práce,“ zdôvodnil Richter. Cieľ dosiahnuť priemer eurozóny je podľa neho stále viac reálny.

Šéf rezortu práce vyzdvihol aj nárast počtu všetkých zamestnancov na Slovensku v období od januára 2013 do mája 2014. Ich celkový počet sa zvýšil o 69.000 osôb na súčasných 1,797 milióna ľudí.

Prezident odvolal troch členov Súdnej rady, menoval Kľučku, Vozára a Berthotyovú

Bratislava 18. júna (TASR) - Prezident Andrej Kiska odvolal troch členov Súdnej rady SR, Máriu Bujňákovú, Gabrielu Šimonovú a Eduarda Barányho. Na ich miesta vymenoval Jána Kľučku, Jozefa Vozára a Elenu Berthotyovú. Hlava štátu to oznámila dnes na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave.

Kiska zdôraznil, že novovymenovaní členovia Súdnej rady budú funkciu vykonávať nezávisle. Dodal však, že zo spoločných rozhovorov zistil, že s novými členmi Súdnej rady majú podobné názory na voľbu predsedu Najvyššieho súdu (NS) SR. Dúfa, že bude zvolený už v najbližšom kole voľby. Predseda Súdnej rady Slovenskej republiky Štefan Harabin vyhlásil 17. júna novú voľbu predsedu NS SR na 16. septembra 2014. V tejto voľbe on osobne kandidovať nemôže, keďže v poslednej voľbe neuspel.

„Podpisal som rozhodnutie prezidenta o ustanovení Poradného výboru pre preskúmanie vhodnosti kandidátov na sudcov Ústavného súdu (ÚS) SR,“ informoval ďalej prezident. Úlohou poradného výboru je posúdiť šesť kandidátov na sudcov ÚS SR a navrhnúť prezidentovi trojicu, ktorú by mal vymenovať do funkcií. Rozhodnutie výboru nie je pre prezidenta záväzné, konečné slovo pri výbere bude mať on sám.

Za kandidátov na ústavných sudcov boli zvolení: predseda senátu Krajského súdu v Košiciach Juraj Sopoliga (nominant prezidentky Združenia sudcov Slovenska Dany Bystrianskej), sudkyňa Najvyššieho súdu SR Jana Baricová (navrhla ju predseda Najvyššieho súdu SR Štefan Harabin), sudca Krajského súdu v Nitre Ján Bernát (navrhla ho generálny prokurátor Jaromír Čížník), notár a externý vysokoškolský pedagóg Miroslav Ďuriš (navrhla ho prezident Notárskej komory Karol Kovács), predsedníčka Okresného súdu Bratislava I Eva Fulcová (nominoval ju dekan Právnickej fakulty Univerzity Komenského Pavol Kubiček a šéf Notárskej komory Karol Kovács) a predseda Krajského súdu v Košiciach Imrich Volkai (navrhla ho dekan Právnickej fakulty Univerzity Pavla Jozefa Šafárika v Košiciach Gabriela Dobrovičová).

BRATISLAVA: Briti odhalili československým letcom pamätnú tabuľu

Bratislava 18. júna (TASR) - Československým letcom, ktorí počas druhej svetovej vojny bojovali v britskom Kráľovskom letectve (RAF), odhalili dnes na Námestí Milana Rastislava Štefánika v Bratislave pamätnú tabuľu. Tú im venovala britská komunita v Čechách a na Slovensku.

„Pred 70 rokmi sa 2500 mladých mužov z našej krajiny samostatne a z vlastnej vôle rozhodlo zúčastniť bojov v druhej svetovej vojny. Lietali s kráľovským letectvom a lietali odvážne. V duchu ich hrdinstva dnes odhalíme pamätnú tabuľu,“ uviedol britský hlavný maršal letectva Stuart Peach. Ako dodal, vzťahy medzi Veľkou Britániou a Slovenskom sú aj dnes silné. „Dnes naše armády, britská a slovenská, slúžia spoločne napríklad v Afganistane,“ dodal.

Okrem Bratislavy odhalili v utorok (17.6.) pamätník aj v Prahe, a to v podobe okřídleného leva. Britskej komunite v oboch krajinách sa podarilo vyzbierať na oba pamätníky sumu približne 120.000 eur za menej ako mesiac. Peniaze boli rozdelené na oba pamätníky a zvyšok popuťuje na starostlivosť o vojnových veteránov a vdovy po nich z druhej svetovej vojny v domove dôchodcov Sue Ryder v Prahe.



Telesné ostatky Štefana Náhaliku previezli z Ríma do jeho rodiska

V sobotu 21. júna 2014 o 11.00 hodine vo farskom kostole v Liptovskej Tepličke bola svätá omša spojená s uložením telesných ostatkov Mons. Štefana Náhaliku. Hlavným celebrantom bol spišský diecézny biskup Mons. Štefan Sečka. Po svätej omši boli telesné ostatky Mons. Štefana Náhaliku uložené na cintoríne v rodnej obci. Mons. Náhalika bol doteraz pochovaný v Ríme na cintoríne Flaminio, v hrobke Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Na svätej omši sa zúčastnila aj posledná žijúca príbuzná - sestra Mons. Štefana Náhaliku, Františka Mišútová (92), ktorá v súčasnosti žije v Topoľčanoch. Štefan Náhalika sa narodil 16. marca 1916 v Liptovskej Tepličke. Po maturite na levočskom gymnáziu v septembri 1937 vstúpil do kňazského seminára v Spišskej Kapitule. V novembri 1939 pokračoval v teologických štúdiách v Ríme, kde bol 19. decembra 1942 vysvätený za kňaza. Po návrate do vlasti bol kaplánom v Ružomberku. Od roku 1946 bol tajomníkom biskupa Jána Vojtaššáka a prednášateľom v seminári i na učiteľskom ústave v Spišskej Kapitule. V roku 1947 získal doktorát z teológie. Od roku 1950 sa začal skrývať a bol prenasledovaný. Na základe poverenia spišského biskupa bol počas celého tohto obdobia tajným generálnym vikárom diecézy. Z 13. na 14. mája 1953 cez Novohradské hory utiekol do Rakúska. Do Ríma sa dostal 6. júla 1953. Tam pracoval v prospech cirkvi na Slovensku, ale aj v prospech Slovákov v zahraničí. Od roku 1957 bol menovaný za člena Najvyššej rady pre emigráciu pri Apoštolskej stolici. Bol jedným zo zakladateľov Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme a v rokoch 1961 až 1973 zastával funkciu riaditeľa ÚSCM. Dňa 14. augusta 1967 ho pápež Pavol VI. vymenoval za pápežského prelata. Zomrel 6. marca 1975 v Ríme. Pochovaný bol v Ríme. Z hrobky Slovenského ústavu, z Cimitero Flaminio bol prevezený na Slovensko. V Liptovskej Tepličke bol pochovaný 21. júna 2014.



FOTO: Jednota archív Mons. Štefan Náhalika

TK KBS

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 Bilík (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922. Kto má záujem na túto púť cestovať autobusom, ktorý bude pristený 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 Bilík (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922; Mária Božeková (347) 612-1934.

Slovensko-americký deň v Milwaukee, WI

Federácia slovenských spolkov v štáte Wisconsin usporiada v nedeľu 13. júla 2014 84. Slovensko-americký deň v Chorvátskom parku na adrese 9140 South Street, Franklin, WI. Začiatok bude o 11:00 hodine dopoludnia. O 12:00 hodine bude svätá omša. Kultúrno-zábavný program, počas ktorého vystúpia gymnasti Slovenského katolíckeho sokola a folklórna skupina Tatra Slovak Dancers, začne o 2:30 hodine. Počas popoludnia budú na predaj slovenské jedlá, slovenské pivo a rôzne pamiatkové predmety. Bližšie informácie: Betty Valent, tel. č. (414) 425-6137, alebo Ralph Haas, tel. č. (262) 893-2972.

Piknik v Broadview Hts., Ohio

Americko-slovenský klub Zemplin usporiada v nedeľu 20. júla 2014 v Slovak Sokol Camp, 2069 Rooyalwood Road, v Broadview Hts. slovenský piknik. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, koláče a pivo. Počas popoludnia bude hrať Johnny Pastirik Band. Vstupné je \$ 4.00. Bližšie informácie na tel. č.: (440) -885-5702.

Halový futbal a pingpongový turnaj Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City



Spoločná fotografia všetkých zúčastnených členov a hostí pingpongového turnaja 2014. Zľava: Ľuboš Matlak, Jozef Lukačovič, Ján Duch, Peter Lapar, Jozef Ofčanský, George Sikorjak, Jozef Korčák, Ján Zeman a Laco Korček.

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City zorganizoval 1. februára 2014 futbalový a pingpongový turnaj. Hlavnými organizátormi boli Jozef Korčák a Ján Zeman. Futbalovej súťaže sa zúčastnili štyri mužstvá: Brooklyn, Fofo, Supermani a Smetiari. Víťazom sa stalo mužstvo Supermani a druhé miesto získalo mužstvo Smetiari. V pingpongovom turnaji prvé miesto patrí Georgeovi Sikorjakovi, druhé miesto získal Vladimír Šesták a na treťom mieste sa umiestnil Ján Duch.

Atmosféra a snaha súťažiacich bola vynikajúca. Po súťaži sa všetci pohostili gulášom, ktorý pripravil športový referent Ján Zeman.

Jozef Juráši, športový referent



Ján Zeman, športový referent, prvú cenu odovzdáva Georgeovi Sikorjakovi, víťazovi Pingpongového turnaja.



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 povoláním 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, dvojčičky 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 bilanciu 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 pastoračii rastúceho počtu amerických katolíkov, by do budúcnosti bolo potrebných trikrát viac kňazských vysviacok, než je súčasný ročný priemer.

TKKBS

Birmovka v chráme Najsvätejšieho srdca Ježišovo, Wallington, NJ

Dňa 13. mája 2014 do slávnostne vyzdobeného chrámu Najsvätejšieho srdca Ježišovo vo Wallingtone, New Jersey, za zvukov organu a slávnostného „Alleluja“ vstupovalo 60 študentov a študentiek so svojimi birmovnými otcami, alebo birmovnými matkami končiaci 8. ročník katolíckej školy Najsvätejšieho srdca Ježišovo, aby prijali sviatosť birmovania z rúk otca biskupa Rev. Johna W. Fleseyho z Newarku N.J. Obrad birmovania sa konal počas slávnostnej svätej omše, ktorú celebroval otec biskup Flesey za koncelebrácie viacerých kňazov farnosti. Medzi študentami s radosťou a vierou prijal Sviatosť birmovania aj náš mladý člen Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ Karol Vida, ktorý si vybral birmovné meno Štefan.

Srdcia študentiek a študentov boli naplnené láskou k rodičom a starým rodičom, ktorí ich viedli k poznaniu pravdy, ako aj s vdácnosťou k ich duchovným, ktorí ich pripravili na túto nádhernú slávnosť, prijatím najvzácnejších darov Ducha Svätého. Nech Duch Svätý, ktorý bude prebývať v ich srdciach, je vždy zdrojom viery, nech im dáva silu, aby ostali vernými synmi a dcérami svätej Cirkvi katolíckej.

Biskup John W. Flesey udeľuje sviatosť birmovania mladému členovi Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ, Karolovi Vidovi.

Henrieta H. Daitová
tajomníčka Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ



Na snímke študenti vchádzajú do kostola Najsvätejšieho srdca Ježišovo na udelenie sviatosti birmovania.



V spoločnosti biskupa (v strede) Johna Fleseyho rodičia birmovanca zľava: Karol a Zuzana Vida, (sprava) birmovanec Karol Vida a jeho starí rodičia Milan a Henrieta Daitová.

Zaujímá 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



Golfu zdar!

Golfu zdar!

Gáborík deviatym Slovákom so Stanleyho pohárom

Marián Gáborík sa stal v poradí deviatym slovenským hokejistom, ktorý zdvihol nad hlavu uctievaný Stanleyho pohár. Trofej pre víťaza zámorskej NHL získal 32-ročný krídelník v noci na sobotu 14. júna, keď v piatom zápase finále play off pomohol gólom svojmu tímu Los Angeles Kings k víťazstvu 3:2 pp nad NY Rangers a celkovému triumfu 4:1 v sérii. Gáborík zdvihol strieborný grál nad hlavu ako v poradí tretí hráč "kráľov", hneď po kapitánovi Dustinovi Brownovi a veteránovi Robynovi Regehrovi.

Slovenský rodák získal Stanley Cup už v roku 1961, keď triumfoval s Chicagom Stan Mikita. Odvtedy ho vybojovali zo Slovákov Jiří Bicek, Martin Cibák, Miroslav Šatan, Zdeno Chára, Michal Handzuš a dvakrát Marián Hossa a Tomáš Kopecký. Posledným slovenským menom, ktoré vyryjú na pohár, je Gáborík. Jeho zásluhou sa trofej opäť ukáže v Trenčíne, už piatykrát v priebehu posledných siedmich rokov.

TASR

Zákon o občianstve pripravil o slovenský pas doteraz 830 ľudí

Zákon o štátnom občianstve pripravil za necelé štyri roky (od 17.7.2010 do 13.6.2014) o slovenský pas 830 ľudí, z toho 359 mužov a 471 žien. Najviac z nich (320) stratilo slovenské občianstvo pre prijatie českého. Vyplýva to zo štatistik Ministerstva vnútra SR.

O slovenský pas prišli aj osoby, ktoré prijali občianstvo nemecké (168), rakúske (117), britské (71), maďarské (53), americké (20), nórske (15), holandské (14), belgické (12), talianske (7), írské (6), švajčiarske (5), francúzske, austrálske a kanadské (všetky po 4), islandské, čínske a švédské (všetky po 2), ukrajinské, ruské, dánske a novozélandské (všetky po 1).

Slovenský pas strácajú ľudia na základe zákona o štátnom občianstve, ktorý prijala prvá vláda Roberta Fica (Smer-SD). Niekdajší kabinet reagoval právnou normou v roku 2010 na maďarský zákon, ktorý od roku 2011 zjednodušuje udeľovanie dvojakého občianstva zahraničným Maďarom. Na základe súčasného zákona prichádzajú o slovenský pas tí, ktorí prijali občianstvo iného štátu. Od prijatia zákona sa objavili viaceré pokusy o zjemnenie tejto právnej normy, avšak ani jeden z nich nebol úspešný.

V súčasnosti sa zmiernením zákona zaoberá ministerstvo vnútra. Do medzirezortného pripomienkového konania by sa mala dostať opravená novela v najbližších týždňoch. Hovorca ministra vnútra Ivan Netík nedávno uviedol, že získanie cudzieho občianstva bude naďalej viazané na trvalý pobyt. To bude dostatočná väzba slovenského žiadateľa na danú krajinu a nebude sa tak musieť obávať straty slovenského občianstva. Tí, ktorí oň pre súčasný zákon prišli, budú môcť znova o občianstvo požiadať.

Súčasná právna norma je momentálne na Ústavnom súde SR. Skupina poslancov Národnej rady SR, ktorú vedie Gábor Gál (Most-Híd), namieta, že ustanovenie zákona hovoriace o strate štátneho občianstva SR tým, že občan prijme štátne občianstvo iného štátu, je v rozpore s Ústavou SR. Ústavný súd SR o tom stále nerozhodol.

TASR

Poštová pečiatka z príležitosti inaugurácie nového prezidenta

Pri príležitosti inaugurácie nového prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku, ktorý je rodákom z Popradu, 16. júna na hlavnej pošte v metropole pod Tatrami označovali špeciálne obálky príležitostnou poštovou pečiatkou. "Touto pečiatkou s nápisom Popradský rodák Andrej Kiska prezidentom sme si chceli pripomenúť túto významnú udalosť," uviedol predseda Klubu filatelistov v Poprade Rastislav Ovšonka.

Popradský klub inicioval pečiatku, Slovenská pošta vydala známku, obálku prvého dňa vydania a tiež pamätný list. Na známke sa nachádza podobizeň nového prezidenta, na pečiatke je okrem uvedeného nápisu aj prezidentská štandarta, domicil pošty Poprad 1 a dňa dátum.

Známka bude v predaji až do odvolania. Popradský klub filatelistov pripravil príležitostnú pečiatku aj pred dvoma týždňami, keď si popradská pošta pripomínala 205. výročie svojho vzniku. Autorom prezidentského návrhu známky je Vladislav Rostoky, rytcom známky Martin Činovský a autorom pečiatky Adrián Ferda.

TASR

Biskupi vydali vyhlásenie proti šíreniu rodovej ideológie

Konferencia biskupov Slovenska (KBS) na svojom 78. plenárnom zasadnutí, ktoré sa 18. júna skončilo na Donovaloch, prijala vyhlásenie k šíreniu rodovej ideológie. Ako novinárov informoval generálny sekretár KBS Marián Chovanec, biskupi sú znepokojení a znova sa obracajú na všetkých veriacich a na ľudí dobrej vôle i verejných predstaviteľov, aby sa vzopreli aktivitám, ktoré šíria ideológiu rodovej rovnosti.

"Rodová ideológia sa v našej spoločnosti naďalej šíri. Svedčí o tom napríklad nový vzor prihlášky na vysokoškolské štúdium, ktorý namiesto otca a matky hovorí len o rodičovi a rodičovi," uviedol Mons. Chovanec. Podľa neho ďalším dôkazom je aj "zákazka ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny v hodnote viac ako 550,000 eur na vytvorenie mediálneho priestoru pre publicitu a propagáciu rodovej rovnosti".

"S poľutovaním konštatujeme, že tento dokument je neúplný a ideologicky zaťažený. Napriek našim opakovaným návrhom vôbec nezohľadňuje tieto témy: právo na život nenarodených detí, právo na výhradu svedomia, práva rodičov a náboženskú slobodu. Na druhej strane z viacerých príloh je zjavné, že výrazne napomáha šíreniu rodovej ideológie v našej spoločnosti a zavedeniu registrovaných partnerstiev. Takýmto spôsobom dochádza k zmrzačeniu rodín a ich rozvratu," dodal Mons. Chovanec.

Pre všetkých 16 biskupov, ktorí sa zúčastnili na dvojdňovom zasadnutí KBS, je súčasná situácia výzvou, aby nielen upozorňovali na znevažovanie ľudskej prirodzenosti, ale sa aj sami usilovali o rozvoj kultúry života v našej spoločnosti.

TASR

V slovenskej spoločnosti sa prejavuje starnutie populácie

Hlavným vývojovým trendom demografického vývoja obyvateľstva SR ostáva starnutie obyvateľstva, ktoré je podľa štatistických zistení intenzívnejšie, ako predpokladali aktuálne prognózy vývoja obyvateľstva SR. Na nedávnej tlačovej konferencii to skonštatovali zástupcovia Štatistického úradu (ŠÚ) SR. Ako informovala predsedníčka ŠÚ SR Ludmila Benkovičová, v posledný deň roka 2013 mala Slovenská republika 5, 415,949 obyvateľov, z toho 2,776,889 žien. V jednotlivých medziročných procesoch demografického vývoja zaznamenali štatistickí vysokú stabilitu. "V roku 2013 sa narodilo 54,823 živých detí, čo je o 712 menej ako v roku 2012," informovala Benkovičová. "Zomrelo 52,089 osôb, teda o 348 menej ako v predchádzajúcom roku," dodala. Prirodzený prírastok dosiahol teda hodnotu 2,734 osôb, čo je o 364 osôb nižší počet ako v roku 2012.

V slovenskej spoločnosti sa naďalej prejavuje starnutie populácie, ktorej hlavnou príčinou je zmena reprodukčného správania vedúca k znižovaniu plodnosti populácie SR. Svoj podiel na starnutí populácie má aj zlepšovanie zdravotnej starostlivosti a predlžovanie života jednotlivcov. Ako uviedla riaditeľka odboru štatistiky obyvateľstva ŠÚ SR Zuzana Podmanická, zistenia o starnutí obyvateľstva sú nepriaznivejšie, ako predpokladali aktuálne prognózy vývoja obyvateľstva. "Očakávané zisky z pôrodnosti a migrácie sa nenaplnili, proces starnutia sa zintenzívnil," uviedla Podmanická.

TASR

Inaugurácia nového prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

"Keď sa modlíme, je primerané, aby sme prosili i za tých, ktorí vedú spoločnosť," povedal arcibiskup Zvolenský, po slávnostnom sprievode, v ktorom pri príležitosti inaugurácie nového prezidenta kráčali za sebou zástupcovia Katolíckej cirkvi, Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania, Reformovanej a Pravoslávnej cirkvi a ostatných cirkví a spoločností.

Po prežehnaní a úvodnom pozdrave zaznel v starobyľom gotickom chráme hymnus k Duchu Svätému ako prosba o dary Ducha Svätého pre novú hlavu štátu. Potom nasledovala modlitba za prezidenta. "Všemohúci Bože, (...) preukáž nám svoje milosrdenstvo a vypočuj naše pokorné modlitby: žehnaj svojho služobníka Andreja a pomáhaj mu v jeho zodpovednej úlohe, na ktorú sa podujíma, aby zachovával tvoje zákony, zaručoval slobodu a poriadok v našej krajine a usiloval sa o blaho všetkých občanov," uvádza modlitba.

Po čítaní z Prvej knihy kráľov (3, 3 - 15), ktoré predniesol biskup Reformovanej kresťanskej cirkvi László Fazekas, reponzóriom žalme, alelujovom speve a evanjeliu (Mt 5, 1 - 16), ktoré predniesol pravoslávny arcibiskup metropolita Rastislav, nasledovali dva príhovory.

Najvyšším kritériom a základom činnosti politika, ktorý vedie spoločnosť, nesmie byť podľa predsedu KBS Mons. Stanislava Zvolenského úspech a materiálny zisk. "Je prirodzené, že politici hľadajú úspech. Bez neho by totiž v politike nemohli pôsobiť. Ale úspech musí byť podriadený spravodlivosti, snahe o pochopenie, čo je správne," povedal metropolita Bratislavy.

TK KBS



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke zvolený prezident SR Andrej Kiska (vľavo) skladá sľub predpísaný Ústavou SR do rúk predsedníčky Ústavného súdu SR Ivety Macejkovej (vpravo), v pozadí odchádzajúci prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič, počas slávnostnej schôdzy NR SR v budove Slovenskej filharmónie 15. júna 2014 v Bratislave.

The newly elected President Andrej Kiska signs an oath to the Slovak constitution during ceremonies in Bratislava on June 15, 2014. Looking on are the President of the Constitutional Court Iveta Macejková and former President Ivan Gasparovic.



TK KBS / Peter Zimen

Ekumenická bohoslužba slova k inaugurácii prezidenta SR.

Ecumenical services were held in St. Martin Cathedral during inauguration ceremonies.



Dohoda medzi EÚ a USA

"Transatlantické partnerstvo v oblasti obchodu a investícií"

Rodiaca sa dohoda medzi Európskou úniou (EÚ) a Spojenými štátmi americkými (USA) s názvom Transatlantické partnerstvo v oblasti obchodu a investícií (TTIP) – teda zóna voľného obchodu – bude veľkým prínosom nielen pre EÚ a USA, ale najmä pre malú a otvorenú ekonomiku, akou je Slovensko. Uviedol to riaditeľ Podnikateľskej aliancie Slovenska (PAS) Róbert Kičina na tlačovej konferencii 17. júna v Bratislave v rámci prezentácie výsledkov analýzy o vplyvoch dohody na ekonomiku SR.

"V prípade úplnej liberalizácie transatlantického obchodu sa pre slovenskú ekonomiku očakáva nárast hrubého domáceho produktu o 3.96 až 4.22 %," vyčíslil Kičina. Uvoľnenie môže Slovensku priniesť tiež zvýšenie tržby podnikov zhruba o 2.57 % či vzostup exportu a importu slovenských producentov o približne 3 %. Za ďalší benefit označuje riaditeľ PAS nárast zamestnanosti o 1.19 %, čomu zodpovedá 27.600 nových pracovných miest. Celkový prínos pre slovenskú ekonomiku by mohol podľa neho predstavovať až 3.6 miliardy eur.

PAS v spolupráci s Veľvyslanectvom USA v Bratislave uskutočnila prieskum medzi slovenskými podnikateľmi s cieľom identifikovať možnosti a hrozby, ktoré z dohody vyplývajú. Zapojilo sa doň 453 podnikateľov. Viac ako polovica respondentov predpokladá, že dohoda prinesie nové podnikateľské príležitosti a pomôže oživiť ekonomiku Slovenska.

"Najvýraznejším prínosom transatlantickej zóny voľného obchodu by pritom podľa podnikateľov malo byť zvýšenie počtu obchodných partnerov, zintenzívnenie zahraničného obchodu a jednoduchší transfer know-how a technológií," priblížil Kičina. Naopak, najčastejšie pociťovanou obavou je zintenzívnenie konkurencie na trhu. Podnikatelia očakávajú, že odstránenie obchodných a regulačných bariér bude mať pozitívny vplyv jednak na ich tržby o 17 %, ale aj na počet zamestnancov, ktorý by mal podľa nich vzrásť o 7.8 %.

Londýnske Centrum pre výskum hospodárskej politiky odhadlo, že ambiciózne a komplexné transatlantické obchodné a investičné partnerstvo by mohlo pre hospodárstvo EÚ znamenať prínos 119 miliárd eur ročne a pre americké hospodárstvo 95 miliárd ročne.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke odchádzajúci prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič (vpravo) s manželkou Silviou (druhá sprava) a prezident SR Andrej Kiska s manželkou Martinou pôzujú počas symbolického odovzdania úradu 15. júna 2014 v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave.

In the photo are outgoing Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic (right) with his wife Silvia and the new president Andrej Kiska with his wife Martina during the symbolic transfer of office on June 15, 2014, in the Presidential Palace in Bratislava.

Inaugurácia nového prezidenta SR Andreja Kisku

Andrej Kiska zložil v nedeľu 15. júna napoludnie pred stovkami hostí v bratislavskej Redute sľub ako štvrtý prezident Slovenskej republiky (SR). Po slávnosti, prehliadke jednotiek Ozbrojených síl SR a stretnutí s občanmi v uliciach hlavného mesta navštívil Katedrálu sv. Martina, kde sa konala ekumenická bohoslužba slova Te Deum.

Slávnostná ekumenická bohoslužba slova začala prezidentskými fanfárami a skladbou Jubilate Deo od M. Schneidera - Trnavského v podaní Slovenského filharmonického zboru. Predsedal jej bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska, ktorý zároveň privítal prezidenta, ústavných činiteľov a všetkých prítomných.

Pokračovanie na str. 23

Moja Kanada

Zem slobody, chleba a pokoja,
nádej ľudí svetskej krivdy a boja,
rozpätá medzi troma šírinami mora
a dobrých susedov hranicami spojená;
to je moja Kanada, moja domovina.

Vidím tundru, nebotyčné préríjne pláne,
rovné – sťa mladých rúk jemné dlane,
obohnané majestátom Skalnatých hôr,
kde tam, na kraju temnej húšťavy,
týči k nebu dvojkříž slovenskej slávy
s javorovým listom našej zástavy,
a zhora azúr oblohy neúnavne nazerá
na tie rozľadné divy veľkej krajiny,
odveké dravé rieky, roztratené jazerá
i tie nevýslovné omamné pohľady,
na svetochýrne niagarské vodopády;
to je moja Kanada, moja domovina.

Ó, Kanada, neodnateľná vlasť moja,
už nás svetské zdroje nerozdvoja,
do nenávratnej večnosti budeš moja!

Štefan Hreha

Súťaž Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko

Celoslovensky známa súťaž *Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko...*, s tradičným medzinárodným presahom za naše „hranice“ uzatvorila svoj 22. ročník. Bol venovaný 170. výročiu vzniku slovenskej hymny a 170. výročiu založenia spolku Tatrin.

Nové Zámky dňa 5. júna 2014 ožili národnou hrdosťou, silným slovenským duchom i ľubozvučnou slovenskou rečou zo všetkých kútov sveta. Rok, čo rok, toto malé mestečko na brehu rieky Nitry hostí šikovných slovenských žiakov i študentov z celého sveta a oceňuje ich tvorivosť.

Táto súťaž je tvorená niekoľkými kategóriami. Na samostatnej IV. kategórii participujú Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a Matica slovenská. Tento rok sa do súťaže zapojilo 618 žiakov. Z pier krajanov prišlo 133 súťažných prác, z ôsmich krajín sveta – z Česka, Chorvátska, Maďarska, Rumunska, Srbska, Ukrajiny, ale i zo zámorskej Kanady a USA.

Vyhlasenie súťaže oslovilo žiakov z radov najmenších, i študentov stredných škôl a gymnázií. Porotkyne si teda mohli prečítať hravé básničky, kratšie prózy, dramatickú tvorbu i hlboké, emotívne ladené vyznania. Takpovediac „ľúbostné listy“ venované našej slovenčine či vlasti reflektovali obraz vzťahu detských duší k Slovensku a vytvorili akúsi mozaiku komplimentov našej materčine.

Špecifikom tejto súťaže v IV. kategórii prác je udeľovanie Osobitnej ceny predsedu Matice slovenskej, ktorú tento rok získala Andrea Grňová zo Základnej školy v Pivnici (Srbsko): „*Slovenčina je krásnym ľubozvučným jazykom a pre mňa najkrajším jazykom na svete. Veď, ktorý jazyk má také milé slová ako sú batôžtek, ľalia alebo púpavka? Jej slová znejú ako sladká hudba. Slovenčina, moja vila.*“

Tento rok bol aj z pohľadu martinských matičiarov o niečo výnimočnejší. Krajania (pedagógovia i žiaci z troch krajín sveta – Rumunska, Chorvátsko, Srbsko), ktorí boli ocenení vo svojej kategórii, zavítali i do Matice slovenskej v rámci poznávaco-vlastivedného pobytu organizovaného ÚSZZ. Vo výborovni Matice slovenskej ich v mene predsedu MS Ing. Mariána Tkáča, PhD. privítal doc. Pavol Parenička, tajomník MS, ktorý im vo forme prednášky pripravil krátky exkurz do dejín našej najstaršej kultúrnej ustanovizne.

Ani krajania matičiarov neopomenuli...Darovali im knižky, ručne robené drobnosti i sladkosti a najmä nefalšovanú radosť z toho, že prišli na Slovensko, že sú v krajine svojich prastarých mám a otcov.

Po 22. ročníku súťaže ostali Martinu už len príjemné spomienky. No ešte v Nových Zámkoch bol vyhlásený v poradí už 23. ročník súťaže, ktorý, dúfajme, bude zrovnateľný, a verme, že ešte i o kúsok lepší ako ten krásny, výnimočný a bohatý (matičný i krajanský) dvadsiaty druhý.

Zuzana Pavelcová



FOTO: Ludo Pomíchal

Students from all over Europe and the United States and Canada took part in the annual competition, "Why I like the Slovak language, why I like Slovakia", in Bratislava.



Kardinál Tomko zastupoval pápeža na oslavách v Užhorode

Svätý Otec vymenoval kardinála Jozefa Tomka, emeritného prefekta Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov, za svojho osobitného vyslanca na oslavách 25. výročia prinavrátenia slobody Mukačevskej gréckokatolíckej eparchie. Oslavy sa konali v kňazskom seminári v Užhorode 28. júna 2014.

Mukačevská eparchia začala oslavy východu tamojšej Cirkvi z katakomb už 28. apríla. V tento deň sa konal Moleben k Najsvätejšiemu Srdcu Ježišovmu na starodávnom cintoríne na kalvárii v Užhorode. Práve 28. apríla v roku 1989, na Veľký piatok, o. Jurij Fedaka na tomto mieste slúžil prvú verejnú Veľkú večiereň s vnesením plaščenice.

TK KBS, RV