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NUMBER 5899



Brides in Tekov wear a wedding headdress shaped like a crown.

Slovak Village Weddings

Helene Cincebeaux

"Do rána" - to celebrate until dawn - after was the motto of Slovak village weddings long ago and of many today. Weddings are the most important life event providing traditions that span the centuries. Glimpses of the past linger in the rituals and customs connected with wedding, courtship and dowry preparation.

Dowry

To prepare for her dowry, a young girl began embroidering at an early age, learning stitches from her mother or godmother. A girl's father usually gifted her with a decorated dower chest, and then the long evenings of patient stitching began.

In western Slovak villages near Piešťany, a bride had five elaborately embroidered, bobbin lace-trimmed wedding outfits, each a different color. One was for each of the three Sundays when the banns of matrimony were called; another for going door to door to invite villagers in person, and the fifth for the wedding day. In many villages, all the females in the family spent late nights embroidering by flickering oil lamps to create the beauty that would glow and shine on that all-important day.

A dowry might include household items

continued on page 6

Deadline Approaches!

The deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2014 Scholarship Program is March 31.



See p 8 for details!

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

11.03 Qualification of Delegates

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

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National Coloring Contest Winners, Part II, p 12



Insights and Viewpoints



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

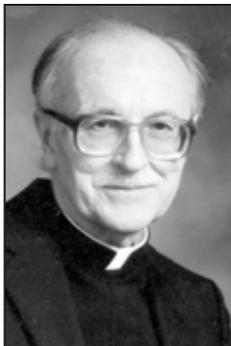
March 30, 2014

John 9: 1-41

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A

Gospel Summary

Jesus, in order that the works of God might be made visible, gives sight to a man who had been blind from birth. Members of the community then proceed to debate the meaning of the various aspects of the



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

event: why Jesus put clay on the man's eyes and sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam; whether the man was really the blind man they had known; the significance of Jesus' making the clay with his saliva on the Sabbath; the fear of the man's parents to acknowledge that Jesus was from God; the expulsion of the man who had been blind because he insisted that Jesus really was from God.

The passage ends with the judgment of Jesus that the man who was born blind now truly sees; while those who claim to see have closed their eyes to the works of God made visible before their eyes.

Life Implications

John uses the remembrance of Jesus' cure of a blind man to develop a universal, theological meaning of the event for us, the hearers of his gospel. We are aware that Jesus is the source of division among people today, just as he was in his own Jewish community during his lifetime and decades later at the time of the gospel's composition.

There are numerous actors in the gospel narrative with whom we might identify and then explore the implications for our own life situations.

We can identify with Jesus, the light which shines in the darkness. Christians who have accepted this divine light in turn must allow the light of Christ to shine through them so that the works of God might be made visible. The narrative seems to affirm that the blind man who has received the light of Christ, himself becomes a light shining in the darkness. His simple, to-the-point responses suggest that they might have been spoken by Jesus in similar circumstances. He, like Jesus, has become a source of division.

One might readily identify with the beggar, blind from birth. Here is a person who seeks the truth and has the courage to act upon it even though suffering is the result. The narrative illustrates the cost of discipleship in a world of darkness, which tries to overcome the light (Jn 1:5).

Most Christians would not think of identifying with those who refused to see the light and thus become hardened in their blindness. Jesus, however, also warns us that those who say "We see" may really be blind to the presence of God in their midst. Consider this sentence from the First Letter of John to his fellow Christians: Whoever hates his brother is in darkness; he walks in darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes" (1:11). A good prayer for this Sunday might be: "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief" (Mk 9:24).

Year of Faith: Religious Freedom, Part II

Dear Friends,

This is the second of a two-part summary of the Declaration on Religious Freedom (Dignitatis Humanae) from the Second Vatican Council.

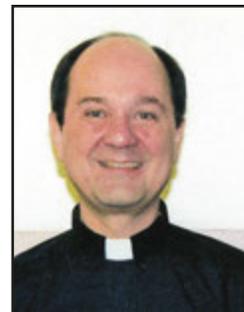
The family has right to live freely its own domestic religious life under guidance of parents. Parents have the right to determine in accordance with their own religious beliefs, the kind of religious education their children are to receive. Government must acknowledge the right of parents to make a genuinely free choice of schools and of other means of education. This right is violated if their children are forced to attend lessons or instructions which are not in agreement with their parents' religious beliefs, of if a single system of education from which all religious formation is excluded is imposed upon all.

Since the protection and promotion of the inviolable rights of people ranks among the essential duties of government, it is to assume the safeguard of the religious freedom of all its citizens, in an effective manner, by just laws and other appropriate means. Government is to see that the equality of citizens before the law is never violated for religious reasons. It follows that a wrong is done when government imposes upon its people, by force or fear or other means, the profession or repudiation of any religious, or when it hinders people from joining or leaving a religious community. It is a violation of the divine will and of the sacred rights of the human person and the family of nations when force is used in any way in order to destroy or repress religion, either in the whole of mankind or in a particular country or in a definite community.

Although people have a right to exercise religious freedom and this exercise takes place in human society, the exercise of religious freedom is subject to certain regulatory norms. Society has the right to defend itself against possible abuses committed on pretext of religious freedom. Government has a special duty to provide this protection. However, government not to act in arbitrary fashion on in a manner that displays unfair partisanship.

Near the end of the document, the Council Fathers offer these important reminders. Since an act of faith is of its very nature a free act, a major tenet of Catholic doctrine is that a person's faith response to God must be free is never to be coerced. Also, Christ's intention was to rouse faith in his hearers and confirm them in faith and not to exert coercion upon them.

The declaration concludes with the assertion that people today want to be able to freely profess their religion in private and public. Religious freedom has already been declared to be a civil right in most constitutions, and is solemnly recognized in international documents



Rev. Thomas Nasta

Fr. Thomas A. Nasta National Chaplain

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, APR 2	MONDAY, MAR 24
WEDNESDAY, APR 16	MONDAY, APR 7
WEDNESDAY, APR 30	MONDAY, APR 21

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

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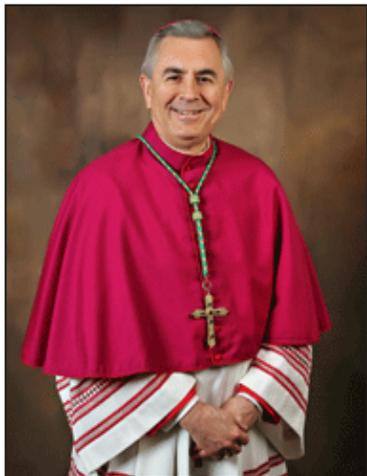
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Most Reverend Robert M. Gillelan Appointed Bishop of Harrisburg



The Very Reverend Robert M. Gillelan, Jr., Diocesan Administrator, has announced that Pope Francis has named Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, 66, as the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA. He succeeds Bishop Joseph P. McFadden, who died, May 2, 2013.

Bishop Gainer was born August 24, 1947, in Pottsville, PA. After studies for the priesthood, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Allentown on May 19, 1973. He was consecrated and installed as Bishop of Lexington, KY on February 22, 2003.

He will be installed as Bishop of Harrisburg on Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

Bishop Gainer completed studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia in 1973, earning a Master of Divinity degree, summa cum laude and has earned a licentiate degree in Canon Law

and a diploma in Latin Letter from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1986.

For much of his priesthood Bishop Gainer served in parish, campus ministry, marriages and family, and tribunal positions. As Secretary of Catholic Life and Evangelization for the Diocese of Allentown he supervised 14 diocesan offices and the promotion of the works of spiritual renewal and evangelization.

On the national level, Bishop Gainer is a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Administrative Committee and Committee on Priorities and Planning. He has served as Chair of the Region V of the USCCB as well as having served on the Committee on Catholic Education, the Committee for Canonical Affairs and Church Governance, as well as a regional representative to the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, and liaison with the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. He is also on the Sacred Heart School of Theology Board of Directors.

The Diocese of Harrisburg comprises 15 counties in Central PA, including: Adams, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, Union and York. The Diocese has 249,238 registered Catholics.

Reprinted with permission from The United Conference Of Bishops website www.usccb.org, January 24, 2014 By Japonick

- Submitted to Jednota by Branch 796 President Bernard Madeja who notes that Bishop Gainer served as pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Egypt, PA, before being appointed Bishop of Lexington, KY.

Attention Jednota Bowlers: Crowne Plaza Hotel Awaits



The FCSU's Third Annual Bowling Tournament with the United Slovak Fraternal will be held April 25 - 26, 2014, in Pittsburgh, PA. The Crowne Plaza Hotel offers complimentary parking, an outdoor pool, a fitness center, and a business center all at a convenient location, just seven miles from Downtown Pittsburgh. Enjoy shopping in over 130 stores at the South Hills Village mall across the street from the Crowne Plaza Hotel. It's just a short ride from several area attractions including: the Rivers Casino, the Meadows Casino, the Tanger Outlets, and Downtown Pittsburgh.

The group rate is \$104/night (single) and \$114/night (double), plus tax. Call 412-833-5300 to make a hotel reservation and state you are with the United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Group by April 4, 2014.

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LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Entering the Story of Christianity

So a rationalist and a mystic walk into a bar. Okay, it wasn't a bar; they walked into a writing class. That's not the opening of a weird joke. It's the way a life-changing bond was formed between two talented young writers whose personal journeys—told in the book "Love and Salt: A Spiritual Friendship Shared in Letters"—offer relevant, relatable and theologically-rich examples of growing in faith.

When Amy Andrews (the rationalist) and Jessica Mesman Griffith (the mystic) met in a writing course, they each had different religious experiences in their pasts. Griffith was raised Catholic in southern Louisiana and surrounded by the overt religious practices native to the region. When her mother developed a terminal illness, her parents defected to an evangelical church in search of a healing miracle that never came. Griffith's father became vehemently anti-Catholic, so she grieved both the loss of her mother and the loss of her childhood faith. Yet the soulprints of Catholicism never left Griffith, so she returned to the Church when she got older.

Andrews grew up with an agnostic mother and atheist father, yet she always felt naturally drawn to God. And though her parents weren't believers at the time (they've since converted), they held to a lot of the values of Christianity. Andrews was further attracted to God in college through her interest in literature and writing. During an interview on "Christopher Closeup," she told me, "I think God is everywhere, so of course I love reading theology, but it's not like that's the only place you can see God."

Griffith had a similar experience, saying, "I was reading so widely at the time because I was in graduate school in a writing program. Reading theology and the Bible alongside all of these other great works of literature, all of it seemed to be pointing in the same direction—the Church."

Following those literary lines, it was Andrews' desire to enter into the "story" of Christianity that eventually led her to the Catholic Church. She said, "Part of it was getting married. I realized that you can't know something 100 percent ahead of time; you have to do it. Then you have the transformation and knowledge that come from actually being married. With that example, I started to think about faith in the same way—that this was not a matter of knowing everything ahead of time; it was a matter of entering a story. And the story had become so beautiful, so true and so desirable to me that I thought, 'This is as much as I'm going to be able to know from the outside. What I need to do now is enter the story and see what happens.'"

Re-embracing Catholicism's rituals and traditions was also a boon for Griffith, especially on days when she didn't feel connected to God. She said, "Going through the motions and rote prayer, these things were very helpful to me because on days when I could not come up with the language to talk to God, the words were there for me in beautiful, ancient prayers."

When Andrews and Griffith met, they found an ideal, complementary friendship. Griffith agreed to be Andrew's sponsor into the Catholic Church, and they decided to write daily letters to each other as a lenten discipline that could help them work out their beliefs on paper. And working out those beliefs became a true blessing when life's troubles eventually arose.

Life Isn't Just About the Journey

To help work out their beliefs—and their struggles with their beliefs—they started handwriting letters to each other as a lenten discipline several years ago. Those letters have now been collected into the book "Love and Salt: A Spiritual Friendship Shared in Letters."

For Griffith, one of the biggest reasons she returned to the Church was the fact that we have a suffering savior. Specifically, the Way of the Cross helped her deal with the losses she'd endured in her life, especially the death of her mother when she was a child. During an interview on "Christopher Closeup," Griffith told me, "I needed to acknowledge death, to acknowledge that suffering was a reality and something I had endured. I wasn't getting that from the churches I had been in during my high school years with my family...I needed a way to feel that this story was not over with my mother and the other people we had lost—that we were going to be able to have some connection with them. It's not something we're waiting for, it's not something that's going to happen when we die. It's something that we have access to right now. There's not a wall between us and heaven. It's much more permeable than we might believe."

The challenge of dealing with death became a painful reality for Andrews and her husband when their baby died. She recalled, "I felt empty, like the hopes of my marriage, the hopes my parents had for me, the plans I had for my own life—everything was gone, and I was grieving this person."

Thankfully, Andrews found hope and consolation through her church community and friendship with Griffith: "Seeing Jess beside me, weeping when I was weeping, was more comforting than almost anything else. That's the incarnational nature of our faith. I was seeing God suffering through her, and that absolutely lightened my burden. It didn't make it go away, but it redeemed it."

As they chronicle in "Love and Salt," Andrews and Griffith have traveled a rewarding, profound, difficult road together, and they know their successes and stumbles through life will continue, like they do for everybody. They're firmly committed to keeping their endpoint in sight, however.

Andrews explained, "The reason I think it's unsatisfying to say that [life is] all about the journey is that you don't recognize that we, as Christians, believe in a destination. We believe that we are headed for union with God in eternity. It's not that I don't think the journey's important—I absolutely do. It's just that it's a journey with a specific destination in mind that then casts meaning back on the rest of life. If we just say it's all about the journey, we're lying to ourselves. There is something coming that is helping us make sense of what we are doing as we're walking down the road."

As we move through Lent, those are important insights to keep in mind. None of us escapes suffering. But with God's grace and the support of good people, that suffering can be redeemed and bring us one step closer to our final destination with the risen Jesus.

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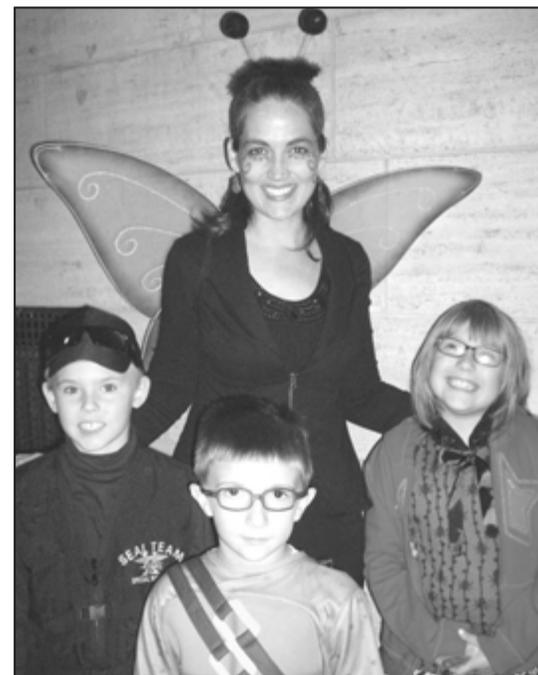


Branch 382K Members Celebrate Fall and Winter Holidays



NEPA Philharmonic Assistant Conductor Michelle Merrill greeted the young concert-goers at the Haunted Symphony Concert. Butterfly (Ms. Merrill) is shown (L - R) with John J. Slovenkai, Jr., Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr., and Briana C. Slovenkai. John is the son of Branch 382K Financial Secretary John J. Slovenkai, Sr. Michael and Briana are the children of Treasurer Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr.

Young members of Branch 382K, Scranton, PA, celebrated Halloween 2013 by attending the Haunted Symphony of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic on Sunday, October 20 at the Scranton Cultural Center. The children are pictured with the Philharmonic's Conductor and a special guest. Shown (L - R) are Bumble Bee (AKA Lawrence Loh, NEPA Philharmonic Conductor), Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle (AKA Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr.), John J. Slovenkai, Jr., Briana C. Slovenkai, and Frank Oden, actor and poet.



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On Sunday, December 8, our young music-loving Branch 382K members met Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus at the Annual Christmas Holiday Concert of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic in the Scranton Cultural Center, Scranton, PA. Standing (L - R) in front of the special visitors from the North Pole are John J. Slovenkai, Jr., Briana C. Slovenkai, and Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr.



As part of their CCD outreach program to live the true meaning of Christmas, Branch 382K members purchased toiletries and cold weather items for members of Scranton's homeless population. Shown packing gift boxes with these items are (L - R): John J. Slovenkai, Jr., Briana C. Slovenkai, and Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr. All three children are parishioners of St. Ann's Basilica Parish, Scranton, PA. John is the son of John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Branch Financial Secretary. Briana and Michael are the children of Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Branch Treasurer.

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

- Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai, Branch 382 Vice President

Legend of Ottoman Turks and the Trenčín Castle Well: Studňa lásky - The Well of Love at Trenčín Castle

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

Since I am teaching a course on the History of the Ottoman Empire at the University of Maryland University College this semester, I thought our readers might enjoy a legend associated with Trenčín Castle in western Slovakia. The legend dates from the 16th century, a time when the Ottoman Empire had reached its pinnacle of power, during the reign of the greatest Ottoman Turk ruler, Suleiman the Magnificent (ruled 1520-1566).

Historical Background

The Ottoman Turks occupied most of Hungary during the 16th century, and the seemingly invincible Ottoman army threatened to extend its power into the very heart of Europe. In August 1526, Suleiman's armies had routed the Hungarians at the Battle of Mohács. In the battle, Hungary lost not only 14,000 soldiers, but also the flower of its nobility, as many as a thousand souls. Fleeing the battlefield, Hungary's King Louis II also perished when he was thrown from his horse and weighed down by his heavy armor, drowned in a river near Csele. Subsequently, the Ottomans sacked Buda (on the western bank of Budapest), although they did not permanently occupy the city until 1541.

King Louis II's death meant the end of the Jagiellonian dynasty in Hungary and Bohemia. Many Hungarians consider the loss at Mohács to be among the greatest turning points in the kingdom's history, and "a national trauma that persists in the nation's folk memory." It meant the end of Hungarian independence and the subsequent occupation of most of the kingdom by the Ottoman Turks for nearly two centuries. Much of the Hungarian population fled northward to Slovakia, and Bratislava (Poszony in Hungarian) would become the capital and coronation city of the Hungarian kingdom (1536-1830).

Subsequently, the Habsburg dynasty came to rule in Hungary until 1918, as Ferdinand I of Austria claimed the throne by virtue of his marriage to Louis II's sister and a previously negotiated treaty with the Hungarian crown. The Habsburgs had a knack for marrying the right people to expand their empire! Part of the Hungarian nobility concurred and elected Ferdinand as their king, but Habsburg rule was confined to northern and western Hungary (mainly what is today Slovakia) due to the Ottoman occupation and continuing threat.

When Suleiman later returned to Hungary, he placed his own Transylvanian vassal, John Zápolya (Szapolyai János, in Hungarian) in charge of Hungary, and a rival faction of nobles supported Zápolya as king. In 1529, Ottoman armies threatened Vienna itself, but the Austrian defenses held, and the onset of winter convinced Sultan Suleiman to retreat.

The Ottomans remained a constant threat and collected tribute from its vassals in Hungary. The Ottoman cavalry (sipahi) continually raided Habsburg lands and Slovakia in northern Hungary. Thus over the next century, the Habsburg would erect a series of fortresses in Slovakia to defend against such incursions, the most widely known that in Leopoldov (Leopold-Neustadt in German).

Perhaps the most feared aspect of Ottoman Turk raids was the dreaded *devşirme* (meaning "collecting" in Turk). The practice involved the Ottomans seizing young boys, aged 8-18 years, from their families, enslaving them, converting them to Islam, and training them to become loyal Ottomans. They would lose their knowledge of their former families and be integrated into Ottoman society in Constantinople and elsewhere in Anatolia, far from their original homeland. The practice of *devşirme* aimed to find the most able and intelligent children and use them for the military or civil service in the Ottoman Empire. Although many could rise to high positions in the military and bureaucracy, they were technically slaves of the Sultan and not free to do as they chose, or return to their original homelands.

Some sources claim that Ottomans took as many as 3 million



In order to free Fatima from captivity, Omar promised to dig a well through the hard rock around the castle. After three years of digging, a rock actually seeped some water, but only a few of the exhausted diggers survived to see it. This is how the well looks today.

young boys from Hungary in the 16th and 17th centuries, including as many as 80,000-120,000 Slovak children.

Thus the 16th and 17th centuries were a time of continual unrest and civil war in Hungary as rivals vied for the throne of the Hungarian crown, with some using the Ottomans as allies for their claims, including the Zápoľský family.

The Legend

The Zápoľský family exerted enormous influence in Hungary and Slovakia, and while many backed the Ottomans, some members supported the Habsburg claim to the throne. One family member, Štefan Zápoľský, ruled Trenčín Castle with the assistance of a Habsburg garrison of soldiers. Trenčín Castle rose majestically from a towering cliff near the Váh River. It was one of a series of castles in the region that used fires to notify other castles when an Ottoman attack appeared to be an imminent threat.

The legend of the well at Trenčín Castle has become one of the oldest and most retold of love stories in Slovak lore – the story of Omar, Fatima, and the Well of Love. The legend tells of Omar, a Turkish nobleman ("pasha"), Omar and his passionate love for the beautiful Fatima, whom Štefan Zápoľský was holding captive in the castle.

Having fallen head over heels for Fatima, Omar pleaded with Zápoľský to set her free. After negotiations, Zápoľský agreed to free her, but only after Omar could dig a well so that the castle would have a reliable source of water in case of a siege.

Omar pledged to have the well dug, and he employed 300 men to dig down laboriously through the solid rock in the

castle courtyard. His men must have thought he was daft, but they had little choice but to follow orders. The arduous task lasted three long years and even cost many of the exhausted men their lives. But in the end, Omar's men struck water; he accomplished the seemingly impossible feat.

According to the legend, when Omar went to Zápoľský with the news and to obtain his prize of Fatima, he allegedly told the Hungarian noblemen: "Water hast thou, but not a heart." Zápoľský honored his end of the deal, and Omar could claim his fabulously beautiful Fatima as his bride and return to his homeland.

The legend concludes with yet another story that resonates to this day. As the couple was departing, the thorny bushes along the narrow and crooked lane from the castle snagged Fatima's veil, ripping away a piece of it. The bushes belonged to the parish house at the time, which was next to the Church of the birth of Virgin Mary. Later in the 16th century, a tavern was built on the spot and it was named "The Veil." The building stands there to this day and is now called simply "Fatima." One may see a picture of the tavern/restaurant in the photo.

Historical Reality

The legend makes for a good story, but historical documents present a slightly different picture of what really happened. In fact, we know that work to dig a well on the castle compound started during the 1530s. Rather than Omar's men breaking the rock to dig the well, we know that the soldiers of the Habsburg garrison along with other subjects from around Trenčín first began the gargan-



Karyna Khabskevich of Belarus with Dr. Michael Kopanic at Trenčín

antuan task. The digging lasted about 40 years and they finally found water when they attained a depth of about 80 meters (262.5 feet) below the rock's surface. The palatine Alexius Thurzo (Hungarian: Thurzó Elek) ruled when the well was completed around 1570. In reality, the excavators never did reach a spring, but they did find water. Rainwater drained to a sufficient level to create an artificial reservoir that would provide a source of water. To this day, the water level remains about 12-15 meters high (39-49 feet).

While the historical facts might tell more about the true story of the well at Trenčín Castle, the legend of Omar, Fatima, and Štefan Zápoľský continues to capture the hearts and minds of romantics in Slovakia. For all we know, there might be a bit of truth in the legend. But there is nothing like a good story!

Sources

"The Well of Love," The Official Website of the City of Trenčín, <http://www.trencin.sk/en/povesti> (Accessed March 10, 2014).

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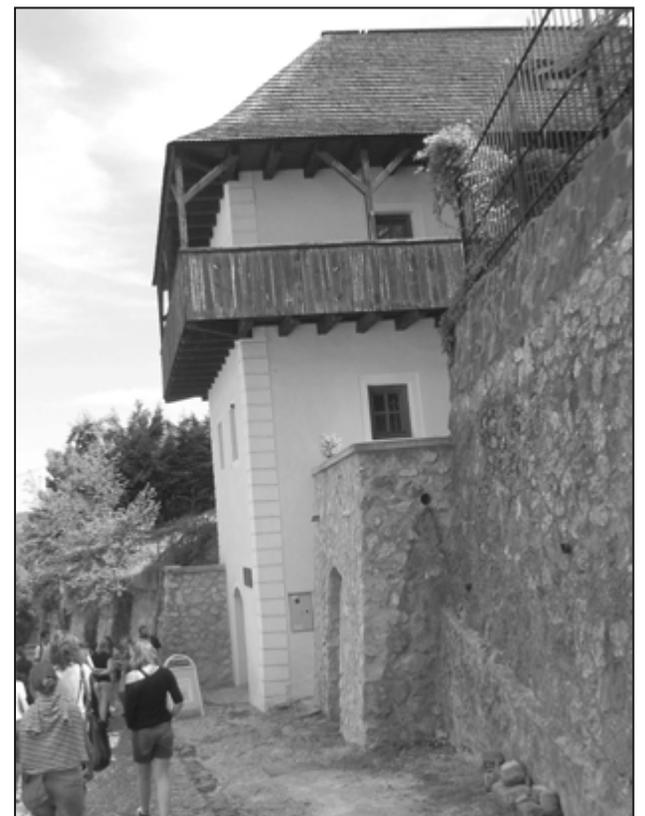
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The Palatine of Hungary ranked as the highest administrative and royal official in the realm, from the 11th century to 1848. Kings appointed them, but later the Hungarian parliament elected them.



A modern reenactment of Fatima riding away on a horse.



The first time the waters started to flow, Omar told Zápoľský: "You have water Zápoľský, but you have no heart." When Omar freed Fatima, as she was riding from the castle, a wild rose bush snagged her veil. At that spot, there still stands the oldest inn in Trenčín, appropriately called "Fatima," or in earlier times as "The Veil."



Trenčín Castle

Slovak Village Weddings

continued from page 1

such as sheets, pillow covers, bed covers, and of course, the wedding clothing, wedding shawl and other ritual cloths. Sometimes, the dowry preparation actually began with growing the flax or hemp and making the thread and the cloth. As each dowry piece was finished, it was lovingly folded and tucked away in the dower chest along with fragrant herbs.

Courtship

On the long evenings when the women and young girls spun or embroidered, village swains came to joke and tease; it was a time for courting. Once a young man fancied a maiden, he might carve a "love token" for her, a lasky dar. It might be a distaff (used for making thread) incised with hearts and flowers and her initials, or a chip-carved lace bobbin or a linen-smoother. His gift might take months to create. It was a symbol of their courtship; a sign they were promised to each other.

The godparents of the prospective bride and groom were deeply involved in the pre-wedding rituals. The godfathers met to discuss the dowry and then they were the witnesses at the wedding. The godmothers were in charge of making the wedding pastries. The bride's godmother provided the wedding bonnet and did the capping ceremony at the wedding.

Wedding Rituals

Thursday evening before the wedding was women's night. Young girls gathered at the bride's home on the eve of the wedding to braid her hair and to fashion her parta, wreath, from flowers and rosemary sprigs, while the older women sang wedding songs, both festive and sad, and prepared the baked goods for the wedding feast. The wedding bed was prepared to display the bride's plump podušky, feather pillows and periny, down-filled feather ticks. In some villages the wedding bed was topped with an elaborately embroidered bed cover, embellished with ancient motifs, such as goddesses and griffins, and sometimes the maker's name or initials, the year it was created or a religious verse.

Wedding Attire

Decades ago, bridal dress in the villages was not a white wedding gown but folk dress decorated with rich and elaborate embroidery. The bridal wreath was often a concoction of beads, sequins and mirrors believed to repel evil spirits (if the spirits saw their reflection, they would be frightened away). In some villages in western Slovakia, the čepiec, marriage cap, crown or bonnet was embroidered with genuine silver and gold thread and was so expensive it might cost the godmother a precious cow or even a field to have it made.

Village folk dress reflected that of the nobility centuries earlier, and varied greatly from village to village. Lace created in the 19th and 20th centuries by village women kept ancient Renaissance and Baroque motifs alive, providing the final touch of richness to festive dress. Many brides wore elaborate wedding shawls embroidered with protective symbols, as well as those promoting fertility.

The Wedding Day

As the wedding guests arrived, they were greeted with bread and salt, the ancient Slavic custom symbolizing the necessities of life. Sprigs of rosemary tied with a white ribbon were pinned on each wedding guest.

The festivities began at the groom's home where the družba, master of ceremonies, along with a younger man similar to our best man, greeted members of the wedding party. The groom wore an elaborately embroidered shirt made by his mother or godmother, often with ribbons and flowers in his hat. A ninety-one year old woman in the village of Chtelnica gave me the beaded ribbon she made and sewed on her beloved's wedding hat!

Next, everyone walked to the bride's home and the musicians led the way. On arrival, the družba rapped on the door three times, calling for the bride with humorous verses. When the bride appeared, shrouded under an embroidered cloth, they danced and joked a bit, but soon it was revealed that she was a false bride, sometimes even a male! To much laughter and merriment, he would try to call out the bride again. Finally, the third time was the charm



Maria Curilova made the wedding wreaths for the brides in her Liptov village.

and the bride would appear in all her glory, crowned with a beribboned, sequined, mirrored headdress.

Traditionally, the wedding couple knelt before the bride's parents to thank them for all they had done and to ask pardon for any misdeeds. The parents blessed their daughter and new son with the sign of the cross on their foreheads. Often, the bride and her bridesmaids paraded through the village in a horse-drawn cart, showing off her dower chest, plump pillows and feather ticks. Sometimes, the bridal couple walked to church with the musicians and all the guests. In some eastern Slovak villages, older women wrapped the dowry in woven red-striped cloths called zaida which they carried on their backs through the village lanes.

After the church ceremony, the atmosphere was festive. As the bride and groom stood in front of the church to greet their guests, the bride's best friends would cry symbolically. A custom that exists until today had guests bringing flowers to the bride. Trays of baked goods and glasses of palenka were passed around. Martin Hyross told me of an old custom; when he and his sister were born, bottles of wine and palenka were set aside for their wedding days far in the future. Peter Janiga from Velky Bysterec noted that in Orava, five bottles of palenka were required to fulfill this custom.

The joyful wedding party and guests paraded to the home or hall to celebrate, to the tunes played by the band. In some Rusyn villages near Stará Ľubovňa, the maid of honor carried a feathered concoction throughout the parade; it was about four feet tall and totally covered in feathers. If any of the feathers fell, they were saved and later sewn to the christening pillow for the bridal couple's first-born. A fixture at wedding parades long ago was a pole topped with a red "Turkish" shawl, flowers and an apple atop to denote virginity and fertility. I have heard that these devices were important in the bridal procession so that people wouldn't look "too hard" at the bridal couple and give them the evil eye!

Often the bridal couple was met at the door to the reception and given a taste of honey for the sweetness of life. Suddenly, the plate falls to the ground and shatters, depicting the sadness of life. The groom is handed a broom to sweep up the shards as friends stomp on them; it is believed that the number of pieces he misses predicts the number of children the couple would have.

A tradition we know well occurs when the groom gathers the bride into his arms and carries her over the threshold; then the party begins. The bride's family sits on one side of the room while the groom's relatives sit on the other, with the bridal party at a table between them.

continued on page 7

Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2014 Treasure Tours

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

by visiting www.fcsu.com and clicking on Slovakia & The World Tab or directly from Treasure Tours, Helene Cincebeaux, 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617, (toll-free) 888 529-7150, helenezx@aol.com

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



Bridegrooms wore ribbons and flowers on their hats and rooster feathers. Once married their feathers and ribbons were clipped and the flowers removed - they were taken!



Slovak Village Weddings

continued from page 6

In the Rusyn village of Torysky, each bride prepared a special linen handkerchief which was colorfully embroidered with ancient symbols, her name or initials and those of her groom-to-be, and the wedding date. This cloth was used to bind their hands together as they walked three times around a table, likely an old pagan custom. I witnessed a wedding a few years ago in a Lutheran church in Bardejov and was surprised to see the godmother take the bride's hand and walk her around the altar three times!



Stunning wedding headress that sparkles down the bride's back.

Toasts are very important and enhanced with the best home-made slivovica, plum brandy. The guests clink glasses with knives to get the blushing couple to kiss. The wedding feast begins with tureens of chicken soup. Slovak brides and grooms don't feed each other wedding cake; their tradition is to feed each other soup from one spoon to indicate their joining and signify abundance in their lives. Unlike our towering white wedding cakes, the bride's relatives bring cakes. Often they are horse-shoe shaped for good luck or heart-shaped for love or shaped like a book. The frosting is usually chocolate brown with bright colored trim.

An amusing custom in Torysky had the bride seated for the traditional capping ceremony with wedding breads piled on her lap and tied up with another specially embroidered cloth, a *travnička*, embellished with traditional symbols. The top loaf of bread was liberally dusted with powdered sugar which the bride licked for the sweetness of life; then it was the groom's turn. The godmother pushed his face into the cake and he came up covered with sugar which the bride licked off his nose to much laughter.

A hearty meal follows with liberal servings of wine and *pálenka*. Huge platters of wedding pastries fill the tables. The musicians play traditional wedding songs; the guests sing with gusto and dance. I recall a wedding in Gbley where the 13 member brass band played so enthusiastically that the musicians stood up and twirled and tossed their horns and trumpets high into the air.

The bridal dance of the newlyweds takes place as everyone gathers around. Sometimes this is followed by a special circle dance where everyone joins hands to take part. It's the beloved Handkerchief Dance where a cloth is waved by a male and then laid in front of a female; they kneel on the cloth and kiss; then, it is the woman's turn to choose a male. It is lots of fun and quite hilarious when someone steals the hanky.

The Broom Dance, *Metlach*, features couples but one person is left alone holding a broom. They dance a few bars until the music stops and then, all must change partners. This too is very funny to watch as people grab for a new partner as if their lives depended on it. The person who doesn't latch on to someone is left to dance with the broom.

Wedding feasts to this day feature several meals and abundant pastries in many varieties. In the old days there was always a Romany band that played till dawn. Today you might find a disc jockey.

In Torysky, as in many other villages, the bride was asked three times to give up her virginal wreath before she finally agreed. The *družba* lifted the wreath from her head with his sword and paraded it around the room before it was ransomed. The proceeds went to the married couple amidst many jests.

One of the loveliest customs still carried on at many weddings today is the capping ceremony. It usually takes place at midnight when the bride and groom re-appear in folk dress. The godmother removes the bride's wreath of flowers as a sad song is sung, often the *Redjova*.

The bride's hair is bound up and covered with a married woman's *cepiec*. Hair was considered to be magic and could entice other men and so had to be concealed after marriage. To this day, a few older women in remote villages in Slovakia still wear a *babuška*, a kerchief, at all times.

The large feather, flowers or beaded ribbon was removed from the groom's hat and the long ribbons decorating his vest cut off to denote the end of his bachelorhood.

After the capping, the bride danced in a circle with her dearest girlfriends; then, the groom rushes in, sweeps her in his arms and "kidnaps" her, harking back to another ancient custom.



Bride from Cataj with her beaded, beribboned crown; note the exquisite silver-thread embroidery in her blouse.

At some weddings, the bride and groom are seated in chairs surrounded by friends who raise them high in the air as the couple drink a toast and share a ritual kiss. Sometimes the godparents are raised up the same way - a precarious perch! Lots of merriment ensues with dancing and comical skits. Singing and dancing goes on until dawn; some songs incorporate lyrics about family and friends, as I observed a few years ago in Nizna Polianka, a Rusyn village in northeastern Slovakia near the Polish border.

In Helpa, central Slovakia, it was the custom for the bride, the groom and the *družba* to ride on horseback, with the wedding guests following on foot and carrying blessed

candles. The wedding party was sprinkled with holy water. A plate decorated with *oštiekok*, smoked sheep cheese, with 21 eggs set in it, was carried to ensure fertility. In the nearby village of Sumiac they danced the Sumiac *čardás* - a wild circle dance where people grasped arms and went around and around until they fell on the floor, got up and went around the other way. In Velky Lom, when the couple came out of church, doves were freed to fly around the newlyweds.

At some point the bride would be taken to her new home, the groom's house, where she would receive a gift from her new mother-in-law, often a kerchief. The bride would be subservient to her mother-in-law for the rest of her life. When my son got married a kerchiefed village woman asked if my daughter in law "minded" me. This was a cultural conflict moment and I could only smile; my daughter in law heads her award-winning graphics design studio in San Francisco!

A traditional wedding gift long ago was a sheepskin coat or vest. The fur side of the sheepskin was turned inside and the skin became a canvas on which embroidered folk decorations bloomed. The hearts, flowers and tree of life designs symbolized nature and fertility. It was believed that a newborn laid on the furry inside would have curly hair.

Old chronicles tell of another dowry, the *veno*, a settlement given by the bride's family; it is unclear how wide-spread this was. While the *veno* went to her new family, it was in her name

so she owned it separately from her husband. It was usually a piece of land or a few cows or a horse, to give her a measure of independence in her new household, a cushion to fall back on "just in case". Any income from the property or cattle was technically hers, although it was usually pooled in with the rest of the family's income. The *veno* usually was given a year or so after the wedding, often when the first child was born.



The decorative bridal wreath in Rejdova is shown by a woman who wore it 30 years earlier and her mother who make it stands behind her.

ATTENTION POLKA LOVERS
You are invited to a

POLKA BRUNCH

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





10AM-12PM = Live Remote Broadcast of WDLW's Polka Express Show featuring Tom Borowicz & Dick Bennetto.
12PM-3PM = Live Polka Concert by Jimmy K Polkas

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

For more information, call Len Zilko at 440-988-3236 or e-mail him at: nlen1@netscape.net

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.

Extended Deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2014 Scholarship Program Is Almost Here - March 31st



The First Catholic Slovak Union is still accepting applications for its 2014 Scholarship Program for those qualified members who are graduating from high school this year and entering an accredited college or university. **The deadline to apply has been extended to the end of March. Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 2014.**

Scholarships Awarded

Seventy (70) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS in the amount of \$750.00 each will be awarded to the winners. In addition, a ONE-TIME "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.

Three additional ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS of \$750.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, **upon proof of college graduation sent to the Home Office**, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

Scholarship Rules & Requirements

The rules and requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants must have a minimum of \$5,000.00 reserve insurance (Ordinary Whole Life, Twenty Pay Whole Life, or Single Premium Whole Life) with F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school; or an applicant must have \$10,000.00 or more of JEP Term Insurance with the F.C.S.U. for at least four years prior to April 1st of the year of graduation from high school. **All scholarship winners must maintain this insurance in force during their college years. Applicants must be insured prior to April 1, 2010 to be eligible under the rules of this period.**
2. Applicants must apply for grants in the Spring of their senior year of high school, between the ages of 17 and 19.
3. Applicants must have applied for the Fall term of 2014 at a qualifying institution. Proof of college admission must be sent to the Home Office with the application.
4. Applicants must submit an official Scholarship application that can be obtained from a branch officer, the scholarship department of the F.C.S.U.; or download an application from www.fcsu.com/scholarships.
5. **Applicants must submit a completed application to: Scholarship Program, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131 not later than March 31, 2014.**
6. Applications will be accepted only on the proper forms. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS (THOSE WHICH ARE RECEIVED NOT FULLY COMPLETED OR DO NOT HAVE ALL ATTACHMENTS) WILL BE INVALID AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE.
7. Winners will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee (an independent group of educators) according to their individual merit in categories of high school cumulative grade point averages, extracurricular activities, talents, achievements, initiative, communication skills, transcripts and S.A.T. and/or A.C.T. test scores.
8. Final award checks will be made payable to the winners upon submitting **a proof of college enrollment not later than the fall term of the following year** (fall semester of 2015).

Applications must be postmarked by **midnight, March 31, 2014**. All applications without the above stipulated postmark will be considered invalid.

Check List

PLEASE COMPLETE:
(Please follow this check list to prevent mailing us an incomplete application)

- Completed and signed application
- Photo
- Official Transcript
- S.A.T. or A.C.T. test scores
- Proof of college admission
- 3 Letters of recommendation

Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin

Hey Kids.....

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls ages 4 thru 12 that are members of District II for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, for age groups from 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. All entries will receive a "Certificate" for participating.

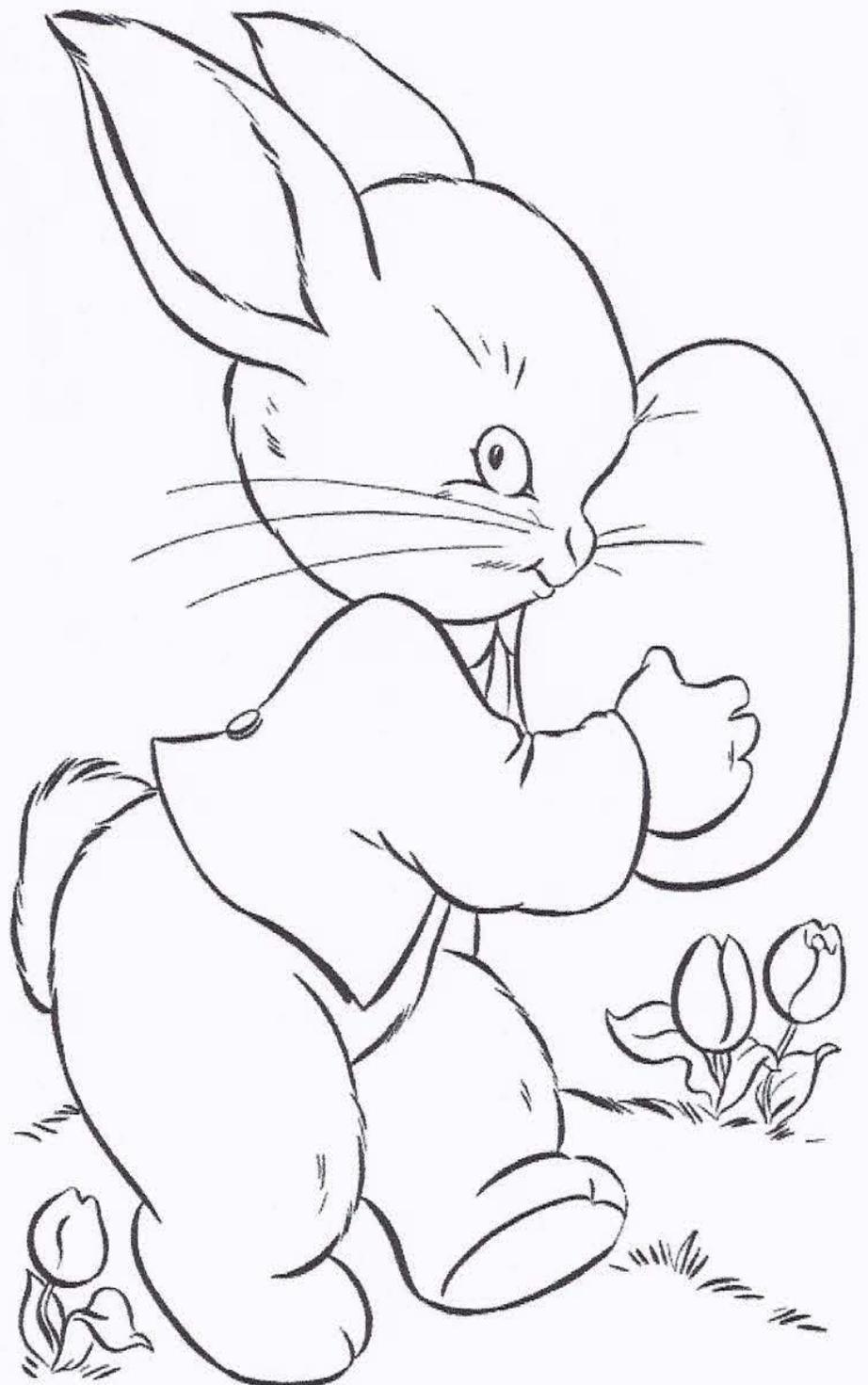
Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by March 24, 2014. You may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color, and if there are other children in family entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2014.

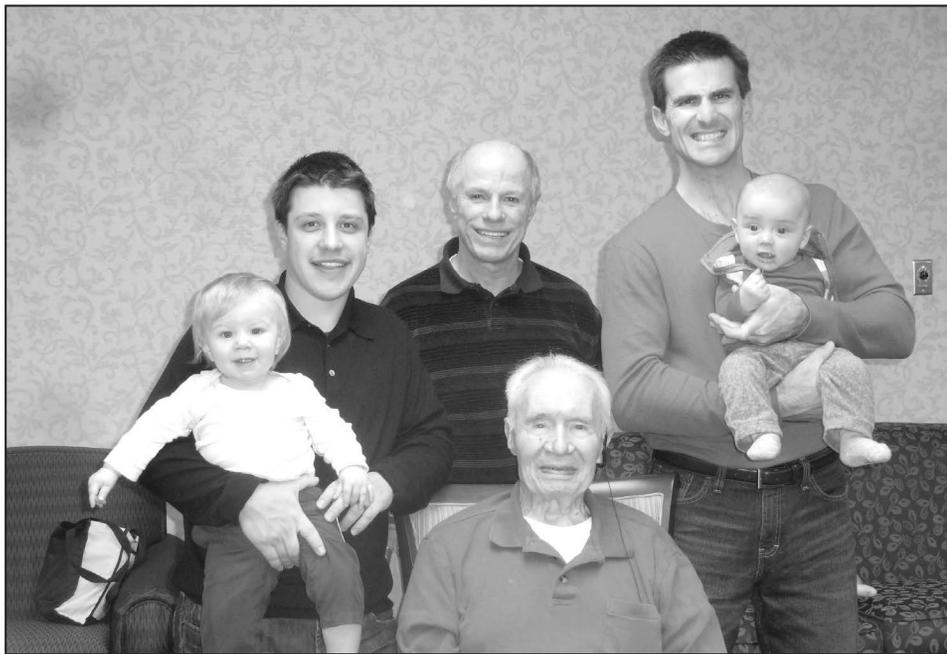
Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



Branch 716's Lalka Family



On the occasion of his 93 1/2 birthday, Slovak-born Stephen J. Lalka posed with four generations of the Lalka family: (L -R) Sawyer Lalka, Michael Lalka, Dr. Joe Lalka, (seated) Stephen J. Lalka, Matthew Longo, and Luke Longo.

Jednota Golf League Season Starts with March Organizational Meeting

Prior to the start of play, the Jednota Golf League will hold an organizational meeting on Sunday March 30, 2014, at 1:30pm at the Restaurant of Knoll Run Golf Course, 1421 Struthers Coitsville Rd, Lowellville, OH 44436. Members and new members are invited to attend. For more information, feel free to call Paul at 234-855-1233(H) or 330-397-8337(C).

Submitted by Paul Ritz, League Secretary



United Slovak Societies of Lorain Scholarships



The United Slovak Societies of Lorain Ohio will grant college scholarships to High School Seniors who are members in good standing in the following fraternal:

- First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 228,
- National Slovak Society Assembly 160,
- First Catholic Slovak Ladies Branch 114,
- Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, and
- Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union Branch 77

For rules and application, please contact Helene Vrant, 440/282-3325

Deadline for submission is May 30, 2014.

11th Consular Tour to Slovakia Planned for 2014



Joe Senko, the Slovak Honorary Consul for Pennsylvania, and his wife, Albina – both members of Branch 254 – are planning their 11th tour to Slovakia. It will take place from August 10 – 20, 2014.

The tour will include visits to the three largest cities in Slovakia: Bratislava, the capital city; Košice, named the EU's 2013 Culture Capital; and Prešov, the sister city of Pittsburgh. The tour also will include visits to Vienna, castles, churches, shrines, and two wine tastings. An overnight stay at the famous spa, Trenčianske Teplice, where you can relax with some health treatments, is included. We also will have meetings with several dignitaries. Our tour is the best dollar value of all the Slovak tours from the U.S. at \$3,599.

For a detailed daily itinerary and more information, go to fcsu.com and click on the Slovakia & The World tab or contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or at jtsenko@aol.com.

Feast Day of Saints Cyril & Methodius Celebrated in Youngstown, OH

For the past 21 years, the Youngstown Branch of the Slovak Catholic Federation has held a Mass honoring Saints Cyril and Methodius on their feast day, February 14. This year, a Mass and reception were held at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saints Cyril and Methodius Church in Youngstown, OH.

Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, which was erected in 1896, is deemed the "Mother Church" of many Slovak and other ethnically identified churches in the Youngstown and Mahoning Valley area.

Father Martin Celuch, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows and a native of Slovakia offered the liturgy in Slovak with Father George Franko, Chaplain of the Youngstown Branch of the Slovak Catholic Federation, as the concelebrant and homilist. The choir of Our Lady of Sorrows/Saint Matthias led those gathered in singing Slovak hymns during the Mass. A reception with light refreshments followed in the social hall.

In his homily, Father Franko noted that the brothers Cyril and Methodius are generally recognized as being responsible for bringing Christianity to the Slavs in Eastern Europe. Last year was the 1150th anniversary of their arrival in the region. With the consolidation of many parishes, the number of churches nationally which maintain a Slovak ethnic identity or have a large Slovak-American membership has been reduced by more than one third. Currently, Slovak parishes in the US are down to 96. These are concentrated in the areas where early Slovak immigrants settled and worked, mostly around the Great Lakes region, stretching through Pennsylvania to the East Coast and Lower New England.

In addition to the annual Feast Day Mass, the Youngstown Branch of the Slovak Catholic Federation sponsors a yearly pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows, the Patroness of the Slovaks, on the Sunday closest to her feast day in September. This year's pilgrimage will be Sunday, September 14, 2014, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, OH. For more information on this event or the Slovak Catholic Federation, Youngstown Branch, contact Father Franko at 330-782-9126 or Leonard Yurcho at 330-793-8064

- Submitted by T.L.Wagner, Slovak Catholic Federation, Youngstown Branch, Secretary/Treasurer



Those in attendance come forward to receive Communion from the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Father Martin Celuch, the principal celebrant and a native of Slovakia, who celebrated the Feb 14th liturgy in Slovak.

Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour

GET READY, GET SET, LET'S GO TO SLOVAKIA!

July 7 - 21, 2014

The time is **NOW** to get ready to go to Slovakia with the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Heritage tour set for July 7 - 21, 2014. Once again the tour will be hosted by Jim and Kay Bench of Derry, PA.

Start talking with your grandparents or older members of your family to get information on your ancestral home in Slovakia. You will have a wonderful feeling walking the streets of the village of your ancestors. Enjoy rafting on the Dunajec, visit Litmanova where there were sightings of the Blessed Mother in the 1990's, visit Nitra and the oldest church in Slovakia, the fairy tale castle Bojnice, enjoy museums, kolibas, traditional Slovak food, folk groups and attend the Kežmarok fair and watch craftsmen make their wares. These are just a few of the highlights of the tour.

Contact Jim and Kay Bench at jmbench@yahoo.com or phone 724-858-5843 or 724-771-7900 for further information. Paul Hudak at Adventure International Travel will be making travel arrangements. He can be reached at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174.

Also unique to our tour is an informative luncheon meeting with the tour participants regarding tips on currency, dos and don'ts, luggage preparations, clothing and other related tour items.

We fly out of Washington Dulles Airport to Vienna. A Mercedes Benz air-conditioned bus with a rest room awaits us there. Watch for the highlights of our very successful 2013 tour. Hope you will join us.

Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves 17th Annual Heritage Tour Itinerary is now available - including prices and how to register. Go to fcsu.com and click on the Slovakia and the World tab to download the information.



District 10 Branches Enjoy Fraternal Night in February



On Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 7:00pm at Quicken Loans Arena in downtown Cleveland, OH, some 54 members of District 10 of the First Catholic Slovak Union – Branches 24, 450, 553, and 855 members and their guests watched the Lake Erie Monsters win against Iowa Wild before an almost sold-out crowd!



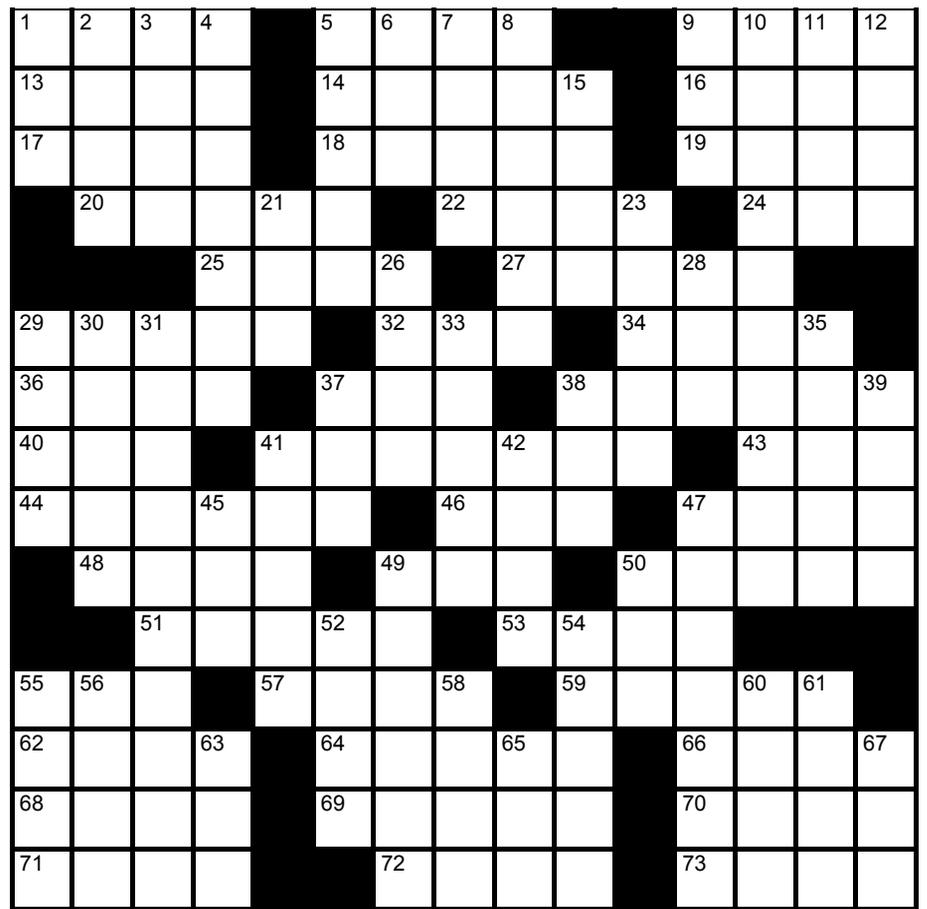


The elected district officers are (L – R): Geraldine Buchheit, Vice President; James Marmol, President; Dolores Marmol, Treasurer; Barbara Holly, Secretary; Tom Kocis, Auditor; and Kathryn Baranek, Auditor.

District 9 Elects Officers in March

Andrew Marmol (far right) swears in officers of District 9, the Frank T. Holly, Jr. District, newly elected at the annual meeting held on March 9, 2014 at Denny's Restaurant, Uniontown, PA.

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Stag
- 5 Paradise
- 9 Blue-pencil
- 13 Water holder
- 14 Energy
- 16 Ocean motion
- 17 Restaurant posting
- 18 Building block
- 19 Riding the waves
- 20 Like some baseball stadiums
- 22 Deli side
- 24 Lunch meat
- 25 Kind of school
- 27 Be theatrical
- 29 Ruhr Valley city
- 32 “___ show time!”
- 34 Wander
- 36 Agreement
- 37 Before bum or bunny
- 38 *Animal Farm* author
- 40 ___ *Gang* comedies
- 41 Lacking completeness, as a report
- 43 Fabrication
- 44 Meager
- 46 Escort's offering
- 47 Former Shea residents
- 48 Foil's relative
- 49 Actress Balin
- 50 West Pointer
- 51 Marina sights
- 53 Den denizen
- 55 Long, long ___
- 57 Conceal
- 59 Pointer
- 62 Play disaster
- 64 Invitee
- 66 News bit

Down

- 2 Skirt feature
- 3 Nevada city
- 4 Horn
- 5 Dodge
- 6 Who ___ that?
- 7 Freudian topics
- 8 Male aristocrats
- 9 Gr. letter
- 10 Rumpled
- 11 Inspiration
- 12 Squad
- 15 Enlarge, as a hole
- 21 Sea bird
- 23 Fret
- 26 Game fish
- 28 Pull
- 29 Heroic poem
- 30 Gravy, e.g.
- 31 Certain albums
- 33 Colossus
- 35 Blue bloods
- 37 Heavens
- 38 Electrical unit
- 39 For fear that
- 41 Fulton's power
- 42 Shellfish
- 45 *The Matrix* hero
- 47 Espoused
- 49 Supplied
- 50 Auto
- 52 Labels
- 54 Consumed
- 55 At a distance
- 56 Bond
- 58 Bingo relative
- 60 ___ von Bismarck
- 61 Proceed crookedly
- 63 Cal. hours
- 65 Compass pt.
- 67 Fmr. Chinese leader

Park 2 Annuity 2.15%



Interest Rate Effective July 1, 2013

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

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

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

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

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

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2014

Issue Date	Deadline
April 2	March 24
April 16	April 7
April 30	April 21
May 7	April 28
May 21	May 12
June 11	June 2
July 2	June 23
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

See Solution on Page 19

2013 JEDNOTA COLORING CONTEST RESULTS, PART II

REGION 6

..... Age Group 4-6



Kamden Dubber
First Place
Lakewood, OH



Suzanne Tassinari
Second Place
East Stroudsburg, PA



Nina Sinchak
Third Place
Youngstown, OH



Marianne Tassinari
First Place
East Stroudsburg, PA

..... Age Group 7-9



Joseph Valencik
Second Place
Brookly, OH



Aleksandra Gizewicz
Third Place
East Hampton, CT



Age Group 10-12

Kaylin Tassinari
First Place
East Stroudsburg, PA

REGION 6

..... Age Group 10-12



Mary Adamic
Second Place
Huntsburg, OH



Rachel Clay
Third Place
Birmingham, AL



Grace Remenar
First Place
Dowling, MI



Peter Jurcenko
Second Place
Chicago, IL

..... Age Group 4-6



Elizabeth Vadkerti
Third Place
Orange, CA



Aubrey Johnson
First Place
Tinley Park, IL



Alexa Bahu
Second Place
Brighton, MI

..... Age Group 7-9

REGION 7

Age Group 7-9



Emma Graves
Third Place
Streator, IL



Paige Remenar
First Place
Bannister, MI



Aiden Jurcenko
Second Place
Chicago, IL



Emily Bahu
Third Place
Brighton, MI

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 8

Age Group 4-6



Andrew Boyce
First Place
Roxboro, QC



REGION 8

..... Age Group 7-9



Lucas Boyce
First Place
Roxboro, QC



Sarah Hergel
Second Place
Toronto, ON

..... Age Group 10-12



Mayva Hergel
First Place
Toronto, ON



Ethan Joiner
Second Place
Aurora, ON



Congratulations to all our winners,
including those published in the
March 5 issue of Jednota

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).

Look What's Hatching for the
Easter (April 2nd) Issue of Jednota!



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OH

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

Cynthia Niznik, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

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

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

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

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

Fraternally,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 6 – STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society Branch 06K will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 23, 2014, at Chipper's Restaurant, 1733 N Bloomington St, Streator, IL. The meeting will begin promptly at 1PM and be followed with a lunch. Please call Bob at 815-672-1764 by March 22, 2014, if you plan to attend. The agenda will include: the election of delegates for the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held in August. We urge all our members to attend and hope to see you.

Paul Chismar, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 7 – HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 - BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

At its recent March 9th meeting, the branch decided to reschedule its next meeting from April 13 to April 27, 2014, as this year April 13th falls on Palm Sunday. All members are encouraged to attend.

Fraternally,

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 38 – DUQUESNE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Trinity Branch 38 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 7:00PM at DI's Komerstone Diner, 620 Long Run Road, McKeesport, PA. Refreshments will be served.

Discussion on the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Union to be held at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, from August 23 – 27, 2014. All delegates and alternates will be elected at this meeting. Additional discussion will be held concerning branch and society activities during the 2014 year.

Florence K, Matta, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Ronald M. Anderson, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 153 – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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

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

Dorothy Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

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

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

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

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 200 - FORD CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

Fraternally,

Vicki L. Schaub Financial Secretary

BRANCH 260 – CAMPBELL, OHIO

Branch 260 will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 23, 2014, at the Bedford Trail Restaurant, Coitsville, OH. On the agenda: election of delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of

the First Catholic Slovak Union. The meeting will start at 1:30PM, with a luncheon to follow.

Fraternally,

Paul J. Ritz, President

BRANCH 320 – STOCKDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Fraternally,

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

BRANCH 372 - BEVERDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Respectfully,

Michael P. Hudak, President

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380 will meet at Kings Restaurant, Canonsburg, PA, at 2:00PM on Sunday, March 23, 2014. On the agenda: the election of delegates to the FCSU's 50th Quadrennial Convention to be held in August in Philadelphia. Mark your calendars for our next, semi-annual meeting to be held at the same time and place (2:00PM, Kings Restaurant) on Sunday, April 27, 2014.

Fraternally,

Margaret Graytok, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 393 – GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 401 – E. VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Fraternally,

Patrick Froncek, Secretary

BRANCH 419 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Francis (Frank) Wassil, President

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

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

Lori Valencik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 553 – AKRON, OHIO

Due to the inclement weather on Sunday, January 26, 2014 St. John the Baptist Branch 553 had to cancel our lodge meeting that was scheduled to elect delegates and alternates to the upcoming convention. The meeting is being rescheduled for Sunday, March 23, 2014 to be held at the Slovak J Club, 485 Morgan Avenue, Akron, OH 44311 at 2 pm. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting that will include electing delegates and alternates to the convention. Attend the meeting and become active in our branch – learn all the exciting offers available to you through the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hanko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 567 KJ – ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

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

We will also discuss our fundraising plans for this year.

Thank you and God Bless You!

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Virginia Jasek, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 587 – ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society Branch 587 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at the home of Albert Valo, 1835 Brodhead Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001, at 2:00PM. All members are invited to attend. Delegates to the FCSU 50th Quadrennial Conven-

continued on page 17

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District for Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Election of FCSU Convention Delegates on Sunday, March 30th, at the Benedictine Convent in Oak Forest, IL. Location: 5900 W. 147th Street in suburban Chicago. Delegates will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship and refreshments. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. Delegates will enjoy a scrumptious dinner. During the meeting, we will elect our one Convention Delegate and one Alternate Delegate. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more involved in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

District 2 Spiritual Adviser Dorothy Jurcenko has resigned. We thank her for her years of service. District 2 President John Jurcenko has appointed Rev. Joseph Kelchak as the District 2 Chaplain. Father Joe is a member of Branch 581 in Gary, IN. His parents immigrated to Gary from Slovakia almost 100 years ago. He is a retired priest of the Diocese of Superior, WI.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT – WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

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

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

The district notice will be updated following the spring meeting.

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: March 3: Jerry Jumba – Slovak Music, April 7: John Righetti – Slovakia-Who, Why, Where, May 5: Rev Valerian Michlik – Greek Catholic Churches in Slovakia, June 2: Joe Bielicki – The Czechoslovak Room at Pitt.

** Slovak Language Classes will be held Tuesdays starting February 11. Call Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 during office hours for information about reservations and fees.

** A Slovak Lenten food demonstration will be held Saturday, February 15, 2 PM, at the St Gregory Byzantine Catholic Church in Upper St Clair. Admission \$20; limited to 25 participants. Call Joe 412-956-6000 for reservations.

** The Slovak Film Festival restarts on Saturday, March 22, 1 PM, at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. The feature film is "Night Riders."

** Prince of Peace parish in Pittsburgh will hold a Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast on Saturday, March 29. Events begin with the recitation of the Rosary in Slovak at 9:45 at St Adelbert, 160 South 15th Street on the South Side. Father Peter Haledaj of St. Aloysius Church in East Liverpool, Ohio, will celebrate Mass, starting 10 AM. After Mass guests are invited to sample a traditional Slovak Easter breakfast at the Prince of Peace Parish Center at 81 South 13th Street. Breakfast features: sunka (ham), sirek (egg cheese), hrin (beets & horseradish), kolbasy (sausage), paska (sweet bread), pysanky (decorated eggs) and kolace (baked goods). There will also be raffles, craft demonstrations, cultural displays and imported Slovak gifts. There is no charge for admission but donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information call (412) 481-8380.

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

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

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

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

** 11th Consular Tour of Slovakia – August 10-20. The tour features visits to Bratislava, Presov and Kosice. There will be two wine tastings and an overnight stay at a spa. For a detailed itinerary contact Joe at jtsenko@aol.com.

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

** The 15th Genealogical & Cultural Conference of the Czecho Slovak Genealogical Society International will be held on Oct 21-24, 2015 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See www.cgis.org. Cedar Rapids is the home of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. See www.ncsml.org.

** Various Slovak programs and courses are available through the University of Pittsburgh Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. See www.slavic.pitt.edu

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

** 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, Secretary

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

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

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

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 11 – MONSIGNOR JOSEPH TISO DISTRICT

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

Fraternally,

Grace Charney, Secretary

DISTRICT 12 – MONSIGNOR ANDREW HLINKA

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

Fraternally,

Dorothy Petrus, President

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Rev. Kostik District will hold a special meeting, Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 6:00PM at St Matthias Church, located on Shady Run Road Youngstown, OH. Delegate nomination & election will be held for representation at the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU in Philadelphia, PA. All member branches are urged to attend.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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

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

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben

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

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

On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of activities and other business.

We urge all district branches to send their representatives to this meeting. All members of the FCSU, not only district representatives, are welcome.

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

Fraternally,

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary/Treasurer

Address Changes?

Readers are reminded that all address changes for the JEDNOTA newspaper must be done at the Home Office in Independence, Ohio. If you have an address change, cancellation, or wish to receive the paper, write to: First Catholic Slovak Union, FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398; Phone: 1/800-JEDNOTA (1/800-533-6682); Fax: 1-216-642-4310; or E-mail: info@fcsu.com

OBITUARIES

MARGARET A. GRZYBOWSKI BRANCH 75 – SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA

Margaret A. (nee Sarisky) Grzybowski, 77, of Clifton, NJ, passed away on December 31, 2013. Born in Ashland, PA, Mrs. Grzybowski was raised in Mount Carmel, PA, moving in 1955 to Clifton where she has resided since. Prior to retiring, she had been employed as a secretary with the family business, Lexington Service Garage, in Clifton. She was a faithful parishioner of Ss. Cyril and Methodius RC Church in Clifton where she was also a member of the church Seniors Club.

Mrs. Grzybowski was predeceased by a brother, Leonard Sarisky.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Ted Grzybowski, of Clifton; three devoted children: Carl Grzybowski of Clifton, Gary Grzybowski, also of Clifton and Gail Pluchino and her husband, Robert, of Millstone Twp., NJ; two brothers: Robert Sarisky and his wife, Joanne, of Pennsylvania and Larry Sarisky and his wife, Betty, of California; a sister, Rita Seamans, of California; and four grandchildren: Brian and KellyAnn Grzybowski and Anthony and Jenna Pluchino. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Rose Laiosa, of Clifton.

Visitation was held in the Sunday, January 5, 2014, from 1:00-5:00 pm at the Bizub-Quinlan Funeral Home, Clifton, with funeral services held there on Monday, January 6, 2014, at 9:15AM from and at 10:00AM at Ss. Cyril and Methodius RC Church, Clifton. Entombment followed at Calvary Cemetery Mausoleum, Paterson.

GUY D. LALIC BRANCH 122 – EXPORT, PENNSYLVANIA



A memorial Mass was held for Guy D. Lalic, 93, of Bandon, OR, at 11AM on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

Guy was born March 1, 1920, in Mingo Junction, OH, the son of Joseph and Mildred (Stepanovich) Lalic. He died Jan. 22, 2014, at his home.

He was raised and educated in Ohio, then attended Pittsburgh and worked for Westinghouse until World War II when he served as chief radio officer. Following the war, he returned to work for Westinghouse and attended Johns Hopkins. He worked at Cape Canaveral for three years before transferring back to Baltimore, where he worked until his retirement in 1978. He was called back as a consultant for Westinghouse until 1983.

He married the love of his life, Mary Bizon, on November 17, 1944. They moved in November 1994 to Bandon, where he remained active with his greatest enjoyment of gardening. He was considered a master gardener and had been the state champion in Maryland for his flowers. He was a member of the Moose Lodge and Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Guy, along with his wife Mary, was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) for many years. Mary is the last surviving child of Mike Bizon, Sr. and his wife Ernestine who immigrated from Nitra, Slovakia. All five of their children were members of Jednota.

Guy is survived by Mary, his wife of nearly 70 years; brother, Nick Lalic; numerous nieces and nephews; and very close and

dear family friends, Dan and Sherri Smith.

Arrangements were under the direction of Amling Schroeder Funeral Service, Bandon.

- Submitted by Mary Lalic

JOSEPH A. FURCHAK BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Joseph A. Furchak, of Denville, NJ, formerly of Palisades Park, born in Canonsburg, PA, entered into eternal rest on November 28, 2013 at the age of 95. Born on August 15, 1918, he graduated from high school in 1937, took the civil service exam in 1938, and worked four years as a county clerk until his enlistment in the Navy after Pearl Harbor and was called to active duty on July 22, 1942. He was designated as a Marine in the Seabees for three years. He served in New Guinea, south and middle New Caledonia, Australia, and Okinawa. He returned from his years of service to his country, worked for General Electric in Erie, PA, and then was accepted at the University of Missouri to study in the linotype school. He was then recruited to work at the weekly newspaper in Aledo and Kewanee, Illinois, and then returned to work at the Daily News in Erie, PA. He migrated to warmer weather to work for the West Palm Beach, FL newspaper. He returned to the northeast where he worked for the New York Times for twenty years. In 1964, he met a waitress, Frances Vasile, whom he dated for two years and married in 1964. After 17 years of marriage, Frances died and he lived for the past 30 years with his beloved dogs and his good neighbors in New Jersey. Joe was a beloved role model for all nieces and nephews as a very obedient and devout Roman Catholic. He possessed an enduring spirituality and love of nature, flowers and his animals, especially his dogs Twinkle and Tootsie. His interest in his family, especially his wife Fran, was enduring. Although he was the youngest, he lived the longest. Although short in stature, he was always long on the love of all who knew him. Visitation was held on Monday, December 2, 2013, from 3 to 7 PM at Blackley Funeral Home, Ridgefield, NJ. Family and friends gathered at the funeral home on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at 9:15 AM to attend the Funeral Mass at St. Matthew's RC Church, Ridgefield on Tuesday at 10:15 AM. Burial followed at Ridgefield Cemetery, Ridgefield.

THE REV. HARRY WINCA BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Rev. Harry Winca, 96, of Broadview Heights, OH, passed away peacefully on Feb.

15, 2014, with family by his side. He was born on May 19, 1917, and ordained as a priest on May 26, 1945. Father Harry served the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland for more than 68 years, having been Pastor Emeritus at St. Edward Church in Parkman, OH, and St. Lucy Mission in Middlefield, OH, since May 19, 2002, after retiring as Pastor of those parishes on his 85th birthday. He attended St. Procopis Benedictine University in Illinois and St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland, OH. While in his 40s, he earned his Master's degree from John Carroll University, writing his graduate thesis on school bus safety. Father Harry served as Pastor at St.



Edward and St. Lucy from April 2, 1968 to May 19, 2002; Parochial Vicar at St. Leo the Great from June 14, 1962 to April 2, 1968; Parochial Vicar at St. Rita from Nov. 28, 1958 to June 14, 1962; Parochial Vicar at SS. Cyril & Methodist in Barberton from Jan. 7, 1955 to Nov. 28, 1958; Parochial Vicar at St. John the Baptist in Akron from May 19, 1950 to Jan. 7, 1955; and Parochial Vicar at St. Wendelin from June 14, 1945 to May 19, 1950. He also served as Dean of Lake and Geauga counties in the 1990s. While Pastor at St. Edward, Father Harry planned and oversaw the addition of a new social hall that opened in June 2000. Parish Council named the facility Rose Hall after Father Harry's mother. In 2011, Father Harry was featured in a video for the Catholic Community Foundation's \$125 million "Rooted in Faith – Formed in Hope" fundraising campaign, and was recognized at a campaign announcement event in Akron, OH. He loved to travel around the world, and his favorite locations included Rome and Australia. Upon a ceremony honoring the 65th anniversary of his ordination, Father Harry said he hoped he was able to convey the message, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all the things will be handed to you." He also thanked all that have enhanced his life and whose lives he has enhanced. Son of the late Frank and Rose (Krupar) Winca. Brother to John (May) Winch, Frank (Julia) Winch Jr., Jack (Jennie) Winca and The MSGR. Rev. George Winca, (all deceased). Uncle to John Winch, Jr. (deceased), U.S. Army Capt. Gerald Winch (deceased), David Winch, Jack (Patti) Winch, Raymond (Kathy) Winch, Lorraine (Frank) Palvogyi, Frances (Edward, deceased) Vozar and Rose (John) Budd (both deceased). He also is survived by many great-nieces and great-nephews, and very good friends of Judy and Dick Stone. Vespers were at 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, 2014, at St. Edward Church, Parkman, with visitation to follow until 8 p.m. There also was visitation from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014, at Assumption Church, Broadview Heights, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial. Internment was at Holy Cross Cemetery.

ANN M DEHANES BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

Ann De Hanes, age 87, entered eternal life on Nov. 18, 2013. She was born in South Amboy to Jacob and Mary Kuc. She moved to Perth Amboy in 1949 when she married Michael De Hanes who passed away in 1993.

Ann worked for Maidenform as a seamstress. She was a parishioner of Holy Trinity Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Perth Amboy. She was a faithful member of the church choir for 22 years until 2009 when she became ill. She especially loved the services of Holy Week because the music is so reminiscent of the signs and symbols of Christ's Passion, which she so embraced.

Ann was a member of the Holy Trinity Rosary-Altar Society, deeply immersed in the recitation of the rosary, often saying three rosaries a day. As part of the Divine Mercy Prayer Group, Ann recited the chaplet every Sunday after Mass on behalf of the parishioners, priests and religious of Perth Amboy along with many special intentions



for which this group has come to be known. She was also a member of the Holy Trinity Senior Club.

And then there was the St. Ann's Novena, her favorite. She participated in this July, 9-day service from the early 1950s until this very year. By her example of piety, she was a living testament to faith and belief in the power of intercessory prayer.

As a homemaker, Ann was an excellent cook and loved to make both Polish and Slovak recipes, and she was a member of the baking group at church known as the "Holy Rollers." Her doors were always open for friends and family to stop by for a bite to eat or enjoy a backyard picnic.

Ann's unrelenting fight against cancer surprised even her doctors. Although it was often very difficult, she was compliant with medical and surgical intervention. She respected the healthcare professionals who tried to help her along the way. She was not afraid to try alternatives and natural therapies for a balance that she strove to achieve as she tried to help herself. Her daughter, Christine said, "She was remarkable to watch."

Honestly, Ann's focus was her Spiritual journey as she gracefully dedicated her life to prayer in its many forms as she went about her activities as a Catholic mother, grandmother, homemaker and friend. Anyone who knew Ann knew that she was a deeply religious woman whose kindness towards others is rarely matched! She fought the good fight in the face of agonizing pain. In fact, she prayed her pain away.

Ann leaves behind a daughter, Christine De Hanes of Perth Amboy; a son, Michael and his wife Heidi and a grandson, Matthew. She also leaves behind four sisters, Ceil Lacko, Helen Kuc and Josephine Starosciak, all of South Amboy, and Mary Adamecs of Bridgewater. She was predeceased by her three brothers, Peter, Jacob, and Frank Kuc. She leaves behind 5 nephews and 2 nieces. She is predeceased by 1 nephew and 2 nieces.

Her daughter, Christine, her son, Michael and her entire family and friends miss her very much, but know they will see her again.

Visiting hours were from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, 2013, at Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home, Perth Amboy, and at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013, followed by a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. Burial was at Holy Trinity Cemetery.

- Submitted by Christine A. DeHanes

JOSEPH P. GASPAROVIC BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Joseph P. Gasparovic, age 96 of Owosso, MI, passed away Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at his home.

A Mass of Christian burial was held 11am Saturday, February 8, 2014 at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Fr. Dave Fisher officiating. Burial followed at St. Paul Cemetery. The family received friends at the Nelson-House Funeral Home on Friday, February 7, 2014, from 2 to 8pm with a rosary prayed at 6pm.

Joseph was the son of John and Katarina (Yellen) Gasparovic born in Akron, OH, on August 21, 1917.



OBITUARIES

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He was a resident of Akron until 1932 and resided in Owosso until his death. Joseph worked at Pontiac Motor for 42 years and retired in 1983.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church where he was an usher for 50 years and was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota).

Joseph was always thinking of beautifying the homestead. He loved his garden and worked in it all these years.

Joseph is survived by his sisters Clara and Helen Gasparovic, brother-in-law Rudy Dvorski and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, brothers John, Frank and Paul Gasparovic and sisters Anna Dobrovic, Mary Fabian, Frances Dvorski and Agnes Maybik.

- Submitted by Stephen J. Patoprsty, Branch 756 Financial Secretary

ROBERT 'KELS' KLCO BRANCH 756 – OWOSSO, MICHIGAN

Robert "Kels" Klco, age 73 of Owosso, MI, passed away Thursday, February 06, 2014 at Memorial Healthcare Center.



A Mass of Christian burial was held 11am Monday, February 10, 2014, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Fr. Dave Fisher officiating with the assistance of Deacon Frank Klco, younger brother of Bob. The family received friends at Nelson-House Funeral Home on Sunday, February 9, 2014, from 2 to 8pm with a rosary prayed at 7 pm.

Bob was born July 4, 1939 in Owosso, the son of Joseph and Francis (Slahunek) Klco.

He attended St. Paul High School, served in the United States Navy, was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree. Bob enjoyed deer hunting, golf and playing pool especially the annual Shop Rat party. He looked forward to dancing and playing slow pitch softball for many years up into his 50's. He enjoyed time spent at Leisure Lake, spending time with his grandchildren, watching the Detroit Tigers and MSU sports.

Bob married Jo Ann Atwell at St. Joseph Catholic Church on July 11, 1964.

He retired from General Motors, Buick City where he had been employed as a tool and die maker until 1995.

Bob is survived by his wife Jo Ann; children Robert (Julie) Klco, Scott (Chris) Klco, Mark Klco and Dawn Klco (special friend Tony Colavecchi); 9 grandchildren Kelsey, Justin, Kourtney, Robbie, Megan, Lindsey, Abbi, Olivia, and Elishia; siblings Joseph Klco, Betty (Jerry) Strauss, Mary Jane (Harold) Stephens and Frank (Daly) Klco; sisters and brothers -in-law Barb (Alonzo) Cross, Tom Atwell, Karen (Gary) Rice, Janice (Mike) Chaltrow, Debbie (Bob) Cartier and many nieces and nephews and special friends.

He was predeceased by his parents, his mother and father in law Geraldine and George Atwell, sister in law Mary Klco and brother in law Aldowayne Atwell.

- Submitted by Stephen J. Patoprsty, Branch 756 Financial Secretary

THOMAS HUDAK BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PENNSYLVANIA

Thomas Hudak, 90, of Whitehall, PA, passed away peacefully Monday, February 10, 2014, in Whitehall Manor surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of the late Josephine (Lupcho) Hudak who died November 13, 2000. Thomas was born March 9, 1923 in Egypt, PA, and he was the son of the late Frank A. and Rosa (Machok) Hudak. He was a supervisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for many years. He honorably served his country in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of the Catholic War Veterans post #454. Thomas was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where he served as sexton, choir member, pierogie volunteer and a member of the senior group. He was active with men of Malvern and the First Catholic Slovak Union, where he served as Treasurer of Branch 796 for many years. Survivors: sons, Thomas J. Hudak and his wife Valerie, of Alburtis, Joseph T. Hudak, of Whitehall, James A. Hudak and his wife Gloria, of Whitehall, Frederick A. Hudak and his wife Gail, of Whitehall, Jeffrey J. Hudak, of Lehigh Township, daughters, Kathleen wife of Richard Vrabel, of Boiling Springs, Theresa Hudak, of Whitehall, Diane, wife of Kevin Lloyd, of Whitehall, JoAnne Sardella, of Coplay, Jane, wife of Raymond Horensky, of N. Whitehall, 21 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his son, William J. Hudak. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, February 15, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Whitehall, PA. Family and friends called on Friday, February 14, 2014, 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, February 15, 2014, 9 to 10 a.m., in the Reichel Funeral Home, Northampton, PA. Burial with military honors followed in St. Peter Cemetery, Whitehall.

- Submitted by Bernard Madeja, Branch 796 President

DEACON CYRIL J. KOWALCHICK

Deacon Cyril J. Kowalchick, 80, of Berner Avenue, Hazleton, died Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 25, 2014, at his residence.

He was born in Hazleton, son of the late Michael and Catherine Dill Kowalchick. He was a member of the Parish of Ss. Cyril and Methodius at the Church of St. Joseph, where he was a member of the Holy Name Society and a member of the church choir.

After retiring from working in local manufacturing, he was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Scranton in 1993 and served the Freeland Roman Catholic Parish Community until his death.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Theresa Evanko. He is survived by his sister, Mary Kish and her husband, Andrew; his nephew, Richard Kish; nephew, the Rev. Joseph Evanko, Mountain Top; and niece, Dolores Evanko, Hazleton.

The funeral was held at 11 a.m. Friday from the Parish of Ss. Cyril and Methodius at the Church of St. Joseph, Hazleton, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by his Excellency, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton. Interment followed in Calvary Cemetery, Drums.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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tion to be held in August 2014 will be elected. Other business will be the discussion of insurance and annuities.

Edith Valo, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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

Fraternally,

Cindy Bellefeuil, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 628 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Sincerely,

Sylvia J. Vehec, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 633 – FLINT, MICHIGAN

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

Eva Craine, Secretary

BRANCH 670 – DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 670 will hold its next meeting on May 4, 2014, at 11:30AM at King's Restaurant located in Bentleyville, PA. The agenda will include the election of delegates to the 2014 Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU, along with other items. Any questions, please call Dorothy at (724) 379-5881.

Fraternally,

Dorothy Petrus, President

BRANCH 682 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 2:30PM, Branch 682 will hold a special meeting to elect delegates from the branch to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the FCSU. It will be held at MRL, 290 N. Bridge St., Struthers, OH. This is the former school building behind Holy Trinity Church.

Please try to attend.

Thank you,

Andrew J. Hirt, President

BRANCH 716 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2014, at 1:00PM in the Parish Hall, St. John Nepomucene Church, 411 East 66th Street, NYC.

Our branch event will begin with a Mass at 11:00AM for all branch members, living and deceased. On the agenda at the following meeting will be a financial report and discussions of plans for the next season. Refreshments will be served after the meeting

All members are urged to attend.

Fraternally,

Henrietta H. Daitova, Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 elected officers at the annual meeting in December. Officers for 2014 are Grace Kavulic, President; Irene Makovec, Vice-president; James Bobby, Recording Secretary, Jacquelyn Bobby, Financial Secretary, John Kavulic and Edward Walko, Auditors. The first activity of the year is a Mass celebrating our Patron Saint, to be celebrated on March 22, 2014 at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH. Liturgy will be at 4 pm.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 738 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Patricia Guidish, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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

Then on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 12:00 noon, Branch 844 will hold a special meeting together with District 15 to elect delegates to the 50th Quadrennial Convention 2014. The meeting will be held at the

Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Suite A, Fullerton CA 92831.

Milan Konkol, Secretary

BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

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

Linda Kolesar, Secretary-Treasurer

BRANCH 856 – WASHINGTON, D.C. AND AREA

Branch 856-K will hold their first meeting for 2014 on Monday March 24, 2014, at 1:00pm. On the agenda will be discussion of district meeting, financial report and plans for celebrating 49th anniversary of our Slovak Chapel. Also the election of a delegate to the 50th Quadrennial Convention of the F.C.S.U. to be held in Philadelphia, PA. on August 23-27, 2014. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting and show support to the organization and your branch. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Mistrik 4513 Gladwyne Drive Bethesda, MD 20814 Phone for directions at 301-654-5638.

Katherine Nowatkoski, Financial Secretary

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

March Madness ...

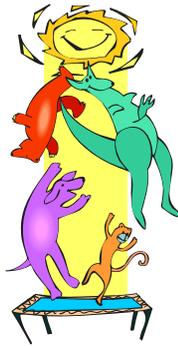
Funny things to help us think Spring!

Q: Why is everyone so tired on April 1?

A: Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March!

Q: What season is it when you are on a trampoline?

A: Spring-time!



Q: What flowers grow on faces?

A: Tulips (Two-lips)!

Q: Why is the letter A like a flower?

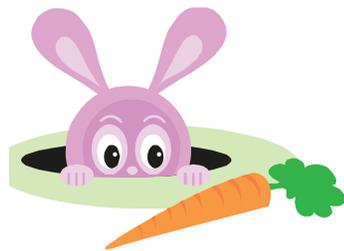
A: A bee (B) comes after it!

Q: What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

A: Bugs Bunny

Q: What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole?

A: A hot cross bunny



2014 September Slovakia Heritage Tour to End in Krakow

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

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



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

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



Kent-Dudince Sister City Association

Eleventh Annual Anniversary Banquet
Sunday, May 18, 2014

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

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

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

Pittsburgh Slovaks
Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, Directors

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

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

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

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

Name: _____ Number of Tickets _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

List others attending (if known) _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____

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

St. Thomas A'Becket 2014 Fish Fry



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

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

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

- Submitted by Sister Mary Judith Seman, SCN

Reminder For All Branches

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

14.01 General Rules

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

Learn to play Slovak Overtone Flutes This Summer:

Fujara and Koncovka Classes Offered in July 2014 at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD

Bob Rychlik

Class description: Overtone Flutes – Fujara and Koncovka

(Beginner to advanced) **FUJARA** is a large overtone flute with 3 side holes, a unique Slovak folk instrument with magic voice. For only the third time in the USA, a week-long FUJARA playing course will take place at McDaniel College the first week of July 2014.

Students will learn to play simple melodies, scatter, overblowing, and to access the whole tone range of fujara (2 octaves of full diatonic scale + upper registers). Advanced students will learn to play in different major and minor keys. Loaner fujara flutes are available. If you bring your own fujara for the class, the key of G is recommended. Contact the instructor for more information at fujara(at)gmail(dot)com.

(Beginner to advanced) **KONCOVKA** is very easy to play, and a perfect instrument for improvisation and jamming. Unlike a recorder it has no side holes and instead uses its natural overtone scale. Native to Scandinavia, Slovakia and other countries, overtone flutes have gained popularity in the USA for their unique tone and capabilities. Students will play simple melodies in the basic overtone scale, use "the other scale" with flute end closed, and then play melodies by combining both methods. Students will learn overblowing, vibrato and sliding between tones, including the "blue notes." By 3rd day everybody is ready to jam blues, play in minor pentatonic, or major diatonic. Bring your own koncovka (in key of "C"), or get a beginner overtone flute (koncovka) at the class.

Bring material for writing and a recording device if you have it.

For a printed catalog of all courses and a master schedule of classes, please send an email to the administration, and express your interest in fujara and/or koncovka overtone flutes. They will mail you catalog with detailed description of every course, and bio of every teacher. The email address is:

commongroundonthehill@gmail.com

All the information in the catalog also is available on-line at:

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

You can check the web site, <http://www.commongroundonthehill.org/>, as well and select other classes at other periods, including instrumental, visual arts and more.

There is also a whole day program for children (ages 5 – 12) called World Village. Sometimes whole families come for the program as a family vacation.

Tuition depends on the number of classes taken.



About the F U J A R A [foo-ya-ra]

Bob Rychlik

"Fujara" is a rare folk musical instrument from Slovakia, with a unique voice. Many say they would always remember hearing the fujara for the first time. It is a very large (up to 6 feet high) fipple overtone flute with 3 side holes and a parallel smaller tube, which supplies air to the top of the flute. Cherished in the seclusion of Slovakian mountains by shepherds, the fujara and its rich spectrum of healing overtones were preserved over the centuries. Until recently the fujara was not known outside of Slovakia, where only a small number of traditional musicians play the instrument, and a handful of craftsmen there can make one. But now people all over the world are discovering beauty and unique qualities of fujara, and there is growing number of fujara players.

Fujara can play full 2 octaves of harmonic overtones in diatonic scale, in several keys, and more tones in the 3rd octave, when it's normally soft haunting voice would change into shrill high overtones at "scatter", common at the beginning of a typical Slovak folk song. Both tubes of the instrument are traditionally hand drilled from trunks of elder tree (*Sambucus nigra*), or other hardwood, and usually richly decorated. Traditional fujara melodies are in slow tempo (often in Mixolydian mode), and the lyrics are folk-poetry about shepherd's daily hard life, about love, beauty of nature, and about forest outlaws and their hangings. Most current Slovak fujarists preserve the traditional fujara music, but now other musicians of the world are discovering fujara, and they are finding many new ways to play this magnificent instrument.

"Koncovka" ("Overtone flute") is a shorter flute, also called "End flute", because it doesn't have any side holes, and the technique of playing involves closing, and opening the end of the flute with a finger, it's range is 1,5 octave in Lydian mode. It is favorite instrument for jamming in many current styles.

About Bob Rychlik

Bob Rychlik has been sharing fujara's voice with other people at more than 90 performances at Folk Festivals, Kennedy Center, St. Petersburg Russia, the US Library of Congress, the Slovak Embassy, appeared on Czech and American TV, organized and was teaching fujara workshops in USA, Slovakia and Czech republic, he has been also composing for fujara and guitar, and working on his second CD.

To learn more about Bob's performances, go to:

<http://www.dusafujary.sk/bob-rychlik-en.php>

fujara performance at Library of Congress:

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/events/BotkinArchives/Botkin2010.html#may27>

(or see it on YouTube, search for: "Fujara – Library of Congress")

Learn how to play fujara and koncovka at the next Common Ground on the Hill, Traditions Week 1, in Westminster, Maryland, register for "Overtone flutes" course:

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

Contact:

If you would like to add your name and e-mail address to my (e)mail list or need further information, please contact Bob at: fujara@gmail.com

Slovak Easter Mass & Custom's Breakfast at Prince of Peace Parish, Pittsburgh

Prince of Peace Parish, South Side, Pittsburgh, PA, will host the annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast on Saturday, March 29, 2014. This much-loved spiritual and cultural program is sponsored by the Slovak Customs Group/Cultural Diversity Committee of the Parish. Proceeds, in part, benefit the School Sisters of St. Francis in Ruzomberok and the Oz Barlicka Institute in Presov. Both organizations focus on the well-being of young people in Slovak. For many years, the School Sisters operated an orphanage and now care for elderly Sisters, while the Barlicka Institute provides life-skills training for young adults. Initially, the Barlicka concentrated on providing life-skills training for young adults with disabilities, but in recent years has expanded their program to include recuperative and rehabilitative care of the elderly, as well as training and support for new mothers and basic child care services.



Display of Slovak wooden artifacts.

This mini-cultural festival begins at St. Adalbert Church, 14th Street (South Side) with recitation of the Holy Rosary (in Slovak) at 9:45 a.m. Father Peter Haledej, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in East Liverpool, OH, will celebrate Holy Liturgy in Slovak at 10:00 a.m. Geri Walters, organist, and the Prince of Peace Choir will lead the congregation in singing the beautiful Slovak hymns. After Mass, everyone is invited to the Prince of Peace Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) for a complementary Slovak Easter breakfast and the opportunity to experience a few of the A B C's of beautiful Slovak Easter traditions:

Authentic Slovak treasures -- books, crystal, linens, dolls, pottery and costumes;

Bake sale -- featuring homemade nut and poppy seed rolls, paska and cookies;

Craft demonstrations -- including the art of decorating colorful Easter eggs (pysanky), weaving palms, stuffing kolbasy and more;

Delicious traditional foods enjoyed on Easter morning in a typical Slovak village -- paska (sweet bread), sunka (ham), sirek (egg-cheese) and hrin (beets with horseradish).

Guests are also encouraged to browse among a number of displays depicting the folk culture and village life of our Slovak ancestors, and to share personal experiences of growing up, visiting family members in, or dreams of, traveling to the beautiful homelands of parents or grandparents. Master folk artist, Larry Kozlowski, will demonstrate traditional folk crafts such as decorating eggs Slovak-style and braiding palms. Timmy Zatek will be hand-stuffing kolbasy, a delicious craft learned at the knees of his dad, Paul, and grandmother, Helen Zatek. A basket full of Slovak delights will be raffled, and a "Slovak Auction" is also planned. Selected imported gifts of Slovakia will be available for sale.



Folk art demonstration - braiding palms.

The Prince of Peace Annual Slovak Easter Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast in Pittsburgh's South Side is a great way to introduce your children or grandchildren to the cultural treasures of their ancestral homeland. It's a wonderful opportunity to rekindle treasured memories, too. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the treats and treasures of Slovakia!

ADMISSION TO THE SLOVAK EASTER BREAKFAST IS FREE. Donations are gratefully accepted. Please call the Prince of Peace Parish Center at 412-481-8380 for more information. If you would like to display your own Slovak treasures, demonstrate a folk craft, or make a donation, please call Paul or Connie Zatek at (412) 488-8238.

Plan to join the friends and families of Prince of Peace Parish on Saturday, March 29, 2014. It will be like coming home again.

Please note the move to an earlier time from past years.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Comenius University Ranked Among Top 500 Universities in World

Bratislava, February 24 (TASR) - Comenius University in Bratislava was placed 495th in the 2013 University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP), TASR learnt from head of the public relations department at Comenius University Andrea Foldvaryova on this date.

Comenius University was the only Slovak university to make it into the top 500 universities.

Each year, the URAP ranking system ranks the 2,000 best (or best-performing 10 percent) of universities around the world. Comenius University improved from the 527th place recorded in 2012.

"The top 500 ranking in 2013 is evidence of the significant research potential of our university. Our academic activity is comparable to the world leaders," said Comenius University Rector Karol Micieta.

The URAP ranking was first created in 2009 at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. The URAP criteria are based on objective and measurable parameters such as the number of articles published combined with the number of citations of this work, academic productivity and the degree of international co-operation in which the university is involved.

Fico: No Influx of Immigrants from Ukraine So Far

Poprad, March 2 (TASR) - Slovakia hasn't registered any problems with an influx of immigrants or deliveries of natural gas and crude oil concerning the Ukrainian-Russian conflict, Prime Minister Robert Fico said at a press conference in Poprad (Presov region) this date.

"We're in contact with all responsible bodies in Slovakia and abroad, as we're a neighbouring country of Ukraine, and we want to know what are the risks, and we also would like to contribute with our modest share towards calming down the situation in our neighboring country. We care about our national interests in the first place, however," said Fico.

The prime minister announced that he is ready to convene Slovakia's Security Council to discuss the boosting of security measures on the Slovak-Ukrainian border, mainly to tackle what he described as the possible uncontrolled movement of migrants, opportunists and various people who have been engaged in criminal activities in Ukraine.

At the moment, Slovakia hasn't registered an increased number of either visa, or citizenship requests, said Fico.

"For us, it's our energy interests that are far more important - this concerns gas, oil, coal and ore. As far as gas is concerned, [gas utility] SPP hasn't registered any problems with deliveries of gas to our territory. We have reserves of 1.77 billion cubic metres of gas, which is enough for us for five months," said Fico, adding that Slovakia also has similar reserves of crude oil.

Nonetheless, Slovakia may face certain problems if deliveries of coal and ore are halted. Slovakia is keeping an eye on the situation through its intelligence services, said Fico.

"There's still our offer to Ukraine to provide medical care to injured persons. There's a list of around 20 persons who may be admitted to our health-care facilities," said Fico, adding that Slovakia is also ready to receive several hundreds of migrants.

Interior Minister Robert Kalinak at the press conference stated that Slovakia is able to admit around 1,000 refugees immediately without any problems.

"It's always necessary to provide them with accommodation, food and medical care. If there's a larger wave of refugees, we're able to increase our capacities to several tens of thousands of people, but this would be complicated and very expensive. The European Union enters into such situations, however, and helps individual states to bear the cost," said Kalinak.

Fico: Slovakia Disagrees with EU's Climate-energy Proposals

Kosice, March 2 (TASR) - The Slovak Government can't agree with a proposal of the European Commission on reducing emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy sources, Prime Minister Robert Fico has said.

Fico met U.S. Steel Kosice president George Babcock on Saturday to discuss the recent climate/energy plans of the European Commission. Fico, who was accompanied by Environment Minister Peter Ziga, was walking with the use of a crutch, as he one week ago suffered a serious injury of the Achilles heel playing football. Fico is running for president in the March 15 vote.

"We can't agree with the Commission's goal on a 40-percent reduction of greenhouse gases. We can't agree with setting an exact amount of electrical energy to be produced from renewable sources. The Commission proposes 27 percent. We insist on having a market with emission quotas [that may be bought by] large companies, such as U.S. Steel, so that they would be able to compete in this difficult environment," said Fico.

The prime minister pointed out that the Government one year ago made a prodigious effort to keep the American company in Slovakia.

"We didn't expend such an effort a year ago to keep this important plant in Kosice only to

agree now with a document that would return us to the Ice Age - especially considering that the steel industry provided the basis for what is now the EU," said Fico.

The Slovak prime minister said that there are also other countries with similar attitudes towards the Commission's plans. The EU can't be a leader in environmental protection and at the same time be last in terms of ability to compete with other regions, said Fico. "We have Ukraine 80 kilometres away from here, with completely different conditions," Fico pointed out.

Rybakova: Ukraine Shouldn't Give Up Crimea

Bratislava, March 6 (TASR) - Ukraine certainly shouldn't give up Crimea, representative of the Ukrainian ethnic minority in the Slovak Government's Committee for National and Ethnic Minorities Maria Rybakova told TASR on this date.

Rybakova was reacting to the decision of the Crimean Parliament earlier in the day to announce a referendum on attaching the peninsula to Russia on March 16. The Parliament also decided to send to Moscow a request to prepare the accession of Crimea to Russia - in effect, a declaration by the Crimean Government that is no longer part of Ukraine. Rybakova said that the decision disappointed her deeply, adding that the Ukrainian Government should insist on retaining Crimea.

"I'm in favour of peace talks, with Ukraine not pulling back from its legitimate claim for Crimea," said Rybakova. She added that if Kiev gives in, Russia may want to extend its claims further. [Ukraine gained Crimea in the mid-1950s under the Soviet leadership of Nikita Khrushchev, who was himself of Ukrainian origin. - ed. note]

V4 Ministers Call on EU to Sign Association Treaty with Ukraine

Bratislava, March 6 (TASR) - The foreign affairs ministers of the Visegrad Four (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland) on this date sent a letter to High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton and EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule to launch preparations for signing the Association Treaty and a free trade agreement with Ukraine without delay.

The Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Ministry told TASR that the letter was sent at the initiative of Slovak minister Miroslav Lajcak.

The call of Lajcak, Janos Martonyi (Hungary), Radoslaw Sikorski (Poland) and Lubomir Zaoralek (the Czech Republic) was based on the decision in the lead up to the Eastern Partnership in Vilnius in November to sign the treaties when Ukraine is ready, and a similar statement of the new Ukrainian Government from late February. [Under pressure from Moscow, Ukraine opted not to sign the Association Treaty on the eve of the summit. - ed. note]

Fico And Yatsenyuk Discuss Gas Reverse Flow to Ukraine

Brussels/Bratislava, March 6 (TASR) - After an extraordinary summit of the European Union on this date in Brussels, Prime Minister Robert Fico stated that he spoke with new the Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk about possibilities of gas supplies to Ukraine via a reverse flow from Slovakia.

Fico recalled that the Slovak side has been working on the possibility of reverse flow for several months, Ukrainians, however didn't come to sign Memorandum of Cooperation, which provided for this possibility in legal terms.

"I asked the Prime Minister whether he can guarantee that new Ukrainian operators will act in a standard way, whether there are guarantees that signing of the contract between Eustream [Slovakia's gas-pipeline operator] and Ukrainian operators is ready," said Fico.

Fico specified that without concluding the aforementioned contract between the two countries, gas from Slovakia to Ukrainian territory won't be supplied as the Slovak side needs assurance that Ukrainians will duly pay for it.

If the agreement is signed, about 20 million cubic meters of gas could be supplied to Ukraine per day, which would cost Slovak gas utility SPP an estimated €20 million. However, if the EU assesses that gas supplies through the reverse flow from Slovakia are of strategic importance and not just of a commercial interest for Ukraine, it's expected that the EU would financially contribute to the completion of the measurement stations and other technical equipment needed for the supply of gas.

"Prime Minister Yatsenyuk assured me that there are changes to the relevant Ukrainian gas companies' leadership taking place and that he will do everything possible to renew negotiations between the Slovak and Ukrainian side," said Fico. Yatsenyuk expressed hope that the new leadership in the Ukrainian gas companies will have a different approach than the previous management and will seek to conclude the agreement with Slovakia.

Správy zo Slovenska

ŠKOLSTVO: Univerzita Komenského je v prvej päťstovke celosvetového rebríčka URAP

Bratislava 24. februára (TASR) - Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave (UK) potvrdila aj v medzinárodnom meradle svoje významné postavenie. V celosvetovom rebríčku zostavenom na základe objektívnych kritérií za rok 2013 - University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP), čo je rebríček univerzít na základe ich akademického výkonu, obsadila 495. miesto. Dokazuje to aj certifikát, ktorý univerzita obdržala od zostavovateľskej inštitúcie. Univerzita Komenského je jedinou slovenskou vysokou školou v prvej päťstovke svetových univerzít.

Na základe rankingového systému URAP je každoročne zostavovaný rebríček najlepších 2000 vysokých škôl z celého sveta, ktoré predstavujú 10 percent najvýkonnejších vysokých škôl na svete. Univerzita Komenského si v aktuálnom rebríčku zlepšila svoju pozíciu z 527. miesta v roku 2012. „Umiestnenie v prvej päťstovke rebríčka je dôkazom významného vedeckého potenciálu našej univerzity. Naša vedecká aktivita je porovnateľná so svetovou špičkou,“ uviedol rektor UK Karol Mičieta.

Rebríček URAP bol prvýkrát vytvorený v roku 2009 na pôde Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turecko). Jeho kritériá vychádzajú zo šiestich objektívnych a merateľných parametrov, akými sú počet vedeckých článkov kombinovaný s počtom citácií prác vedcov, vedecká produktivita, význam časopisov a miera kvality citácií vo väzbe na impakt faktor časopisu, v ktorom boli citované články publikované, či miera medzinárodnej spolupráce danej univerzity s inými zahraničnými univerzitami.

Premiér ubezpečil, že situácia na Slovensku je v súvislosti s Ukrajinou pokojná

Poprad 2. marca (TASR) - Situácia na Slovensku je zatiaľ pokojná. Uviedol to dnes na tlačovej konferencii v Poprade predseda vlády SR Robert Fico (Smer-SD) v súvislosti s rusko-ukrajinským konfliktom. Podľa neho má naša krajina momentálne dostatok plynu aj ropy a na slovensko-ukrajinskej hranici nezaznamenali žiadne väčšie problémy ani zvýšený pohyb osôb.

„Komunikujeme so všetkými zložkami na území SR, ale aj v zahraničí, pretože sme krajina, ktorá susedí s Ukrajinou a chceme vedieť, čo nám hrozí, čo nám nehrozí a chceme nejakou troškou prispieť k upokojeniu situácie v susednej krajine. Nás však predovšetkým zaujímajú naše národno-štátne záujmy,“ upozornil Fico s tým, že na hranici s Ukrajinou je realizovaný tzv. zvýšený výkon. Premiér zvažuje zvoliť zasadnutie bezpečnostnej rady, aby Slovensko posilnilo hranicu, najmä pokiaľ ide o nekontrolovaný prechod migrantov, zbohatlíkov a ľudí, ktorí sa angažovali na Ukrajine v rôznych druhoch trestnej činnosti a chceli by prísť do SR.

Slovensko zatiaľ neviduje ani zvýšený počet žiadostí o pridelenie víza či občianstva. „Podstatne dôležitejšie sú pre nás energetické záujmy SR, teda v oblasti plynu, ropy, čierneho uhlia, železnej rudy. Pokiaľ ide o plyn, tak SPP zatiaľ nevidoval žiadne ťažkosti v dodávkach zemného plynu na naše územie. V zásobníkoch, ktoré máme k dispozícii, je 1,77 miliardy metrov kubických plynu, čo nám garantuje jeho dostatok na najbližších päť mesiacov. Len samotné SPP disponuje takmer 800 miliónmi metrov kubických, čo nám postačuje na štyri mesiace, v prípade, že by došlo k úplnému odstaveniu dodávok plynu, čo zatiaľ nebolo avizované, ale to máme zabezpečené,“ ubezpečil Fico s tým, že to isté platí aj o ropy. Jediné, čo by mohlo Slovensko trochu ohroziť, je podľa neho zastavenie dodávok uhlia a železnej rudy na naše územie. Aj toto však vláda SR cez spravodajské služby monitoruje.

„Pokračuje aj naša ponuka vo vzťahu k Ukrajine, pokiaľ ide o zdravotnú starostlivosť pre zranených ľudí. Je tu zoznam približne 20 ľudí, ktorí by mohli byť prevezení do našich zdravotníckych zariadení,“ doplnil Robert Fico. Slovensko je stále pripravené prijať niekoľko stoviek emigrantov.

„V tej prvej vlně sme schopní prijať tisíc utečencov v rámci našich kapacít bez väčších problémov. Vždy im treba poskytnúť ubytovanie, stravu a zdravotné ošetrovanie. V prípade, že by nastala ďaleko väčšia vlna, tento počet vieme znásobiť na niekoľko desiatok tisíc, čo je už ale komplikované a mimoriadne nákladné. Do týchto pravidiel už vstupuje Európska únia so svojou pomocou a tieto náklady pomáha každému štátu znášať,“ doplnil minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák. V prípade, že by Slovensko muselo prijať viac ako 10.000 utečencov, v susednom Poľsku by to boli podľa neho státisíce, a to by musela byť humanitárna katastrofa obrovských rozmerov.

PREMIÉR: Vláda SR nesúhlasí s návrhmi EK na klimaticko-energetické opatrenia

Košice 1. marca (TASR) - Slovenská vláda nemôže súhlasiť s návrhmi Európskej komisie (EK), zameranými na znižovanie emisií a zvyšovanie využívania obnoviteľných zdrojov energie. Uviedol to dnes premiér Robert Fico po rokovaní s prezidentom U.S. Steel Košice Georgom Babcockom.

„Nemôžeme napríklad súhlasiť s cieľom EK, ktorá hovorí o 40-% redukcii skleníkových plynov. Nemôžeme súhlasiť s tým, že bude stanovená presná suma, koľko má byť tvorba elektrickej energie z obnoviteľných zdrojov, v tomto prípade je návrh 27 %. Trváme na tom, že musí existovať trh s tzv. voľnými emisijnými povolenkami, najmä pre také firmy ako je U.S. Steel, aby boli schopné konkurovať vo veľmi ťažkom prostredí,“ vyhlásil predseda vlády.

Nový rámec EÚ pre klimu a energetiku do roku 2030 bude témou nadchádzajúceho marcového európskeho summitu. EK v návrhu v januári predstavila balík opatrení, ktorého zámerom je zníženie emisií skleníkových plynov v celej EÚ do roku 2030 o 40 % z úrovne v roku 1990. Ďalším záväzným cieľom má byť dosiahnutie podielu obnoviteľných zdrojov energie v rovnakom období na úroveň najmenej 27 % z celkovej energetickej výroby.

Premiér poukázal na to, že pred rokom po zložitých rokovaniach došlo k dohode medzi vládou a U.S. Steel o zotrvaní americkej firmy v Košiciach. „My sme nie preto pred rokom zviadli spoločne s U.S. Steel Košice úspešný súboj o zotrvanie tejto významnej fabriky tu v Košiciach, aby sme teraz súhlasili s dokumentom, ktorý by nás vrátil do doby ľadovej, ak by som to mal zobrať z pohľadu podpory oceliarstva, ktoré bolo základom vzniku EÚ,“ povedal Fico.

Odmietavý pohľad na prezentované ciele EK nemá podľa Fica len vláda Slovenska, ale začína sa presadzovať aj v okolitých krajinách. EÚ nemôže byť podľa neho lídrom v ochrane životného prostredia a súčasne byť posledná v schopnosti konkurovať iným regiónom. „My sme tu 80 kilometrov od Ukrajiny, kde sú úplne iné pravidlá. Preto, ak máme podporovať oceliarsky priemysel na Slovensku, tak je našou povinnosťou tieto jasné posolstvá komunikovať aj na pôde EÚ,“ dodal.

Zástupkyňa ukrajinskej menšiny v SR

Rybáková: Ukrajina sa nesmie Krymu vzdávať

Bratislava 6. marca (TASR) - Ukrajina by sa rozhodne nemala vzdávať Krymu. V reakcii na dnešné rozhodnutie krymského parlamentu, ktorý sa vyslovil za pripojenie polostrova k Ruskej federácii, to pre TASR povedala Mária Rybáková, zástupkyňa ukrajinskej menšiny na Slovensku vo Výbore pre národnostné menšiny a etnické skupiny (VNMEŠ) pri Úrade vlády SR.

Rozhodnutie parlamentu na Kryme je pre Rybákovú veľkým sklamaním. Zastáva názor, že terajšie vedenie Ukrajiny musí trvať na tom, aby bol zachovaný súčasný stav a Krym ostal ukrajinským územím. „Som za mierové rokovania, pri ktorých však Ukrajina neustúpi zo svojho legitímneho nároku na Krym,“ uviedla Rybáková. Osobne si myslí, že ak by Ukrajina Rusku ustúpila, Krym by nemusel byť poslednou oblasťou súčasnej Ukrajiny, ktorú by Rusko chcelo pričleniť k svojmu územiu. Krymský parlament sa dnes principiálne vyslovil za pripojenie polostrova k Rusku.

Krymský parlament dnes prijal aj rozhodnutie o vypísaní referenda o štatúte Krymského polostrova na 16. marca, čím zmenil termín jeho konania, vytýčený pôvodne na 30. marca.

Občania sa budú v referende vyjadrovať k dvom otázkam: či sa Krymský polostrov má stať

súčasťou Ruska s právmi subjektu Ruskej federácie alebo či sa má obnoviť účinnosť ústavy republiky Krym z roku 1992 a štatút Krymu ako súčasť Ukrajiny, informovala agentúra Ukrinform.

MZVaEZ: Ministri V4 vyzývajú na skoré podpísanie Asociačnej dohody s Ukrajinou

Bratislava 6. marca (TASR) - Ministri zahraničných vecí krajín V4 listom vyzvali vysokú predstaviteľku EÚ pre zahraničnú a bezpečnostnú politiku Catherine Ashtonovú a európskeho komisára pre rozširovanie a európsku susedskú politiku Štefana Füleho na bezodkladné začatie príprav na podpísanie Asociačnej dohody a Dohody o prehĺbenej a komplexnej zóne voľného obchodu (AA/DCFTA) medzi EÚ a Ukrajinou. TASR o tom dnes informoval tlačový odbor slovenského rezortu zahraničných vecí.

List ministri zaslali na základe iniciatívy podpredsedu vlády a ministra zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslava Lajčáka v stredu 5. marca.

Výzva šéfa slovenského rezortu zahraničných vecí Lajčáka a jeho kolegov z Maďarska Jánosa Martonyiho, Poľska Radoslawa Sikorského a ČR Lubomíra Zaorálka vychádza z rozhodnutia summitu Východného partnerstva vo Vilniuse umožniť Ukrajine podpísať AA/DCFTA hneď, ako na to bude pripravená, a z vyhlásenia predsedu vlády Ukrajiny z 26. februára 2014 o záujme jeho vlády podpísať predmetnú dohodu čo najskôr.

Zasadnutie zvolali najvyšší predstavitelia EÚ z dôvodu eskalácie napätia na Kryme a v ďalších oblastiach Ukrajiny spôsobenej aktivizáciou vojenských síl v regióne. Na summite sa zúčastnil aj ukrajinský premiér Arsenij Jaceňuk.

R. Fico hovoril s A. Jaceňukom o možnostiach reverzných dodávok plynu na Ukrajinu

Brusel 6. marca (TASR) - Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico po skončení mimoriadneho summitu Európskej únie uviedol, že využil prítomnosť nového ukrajinského premiéra Arsenija Jaceňuka v Bruseli a hovoril s ním o možnostiach dodávok plynu na Ukrajinu prostredníctvom reverzného toku zo Slovenska.

Premiér pripomenul, že slovenská strana už niekoľko mesiacov pracuje na zabezpečení možnosti reverzného toku, avšak Ukrajinci neprišli na podpis memoranda o spolupráci, ktoré malo túto možnosť právne zabezpečiť.

„Spýtal som sa premiéra, či vie garantovať, že nový ukrajinský operátor sa bude správať štandardne, či sú garancie, že je pripravený podpísať zmluvu medzi spoločnosťou Eustream a ukrajinským operátorom,“ uviedol Fico počas tlačovej besedy.

Premiér spresnil, že bez uzavretia predmetnej zmluvy k dodávkam plynu zo slovenského na ukrajinské územie nedôjde a dodal, že slovenská strana potrebuje záruky, že Ukrajinci budú riadne platiť za dodávaný plyn.

Ide o objemy okolo 20 miliónov m3 plynu denne, pričom v prípade dohody, na ktorú je SR pripravená, bude musieť Slovenský plynárenský podnik, a.s., vynaložiť odhadom okolo 20 miliónov eur. Odlišná situácia by nastala iba v prípade, že EÚ by zhodnotila, že dodávky plynu cez reverzný tok zo Slovenska majú strategický a nie iba komerčný význam pre Ukrajinu. V takejto situácii SR očakáva, že EÚ by sa finančne zaangažovala na dobudovanie meracej stanice a iných technických zariadení, potrebných pre zabezpečenie dodávok plynu.

„Premiér Jaceňuk ma ubezpečil, že dochádza k výmene vedenia príslušných plynárenských spoločností na Ukrajine a že urobí všetko pre to, aby sa obnovili rokovania medzi slovenskou a ukrajinskou stranou,“ uviedol Fico. Ukrajinský premiér vyjadril nádej, že nové vedenie v ukrajinských plynárenských firmách bude mať iný prístup ako predošlý manažment a bude sa snažiť dospieť k dohode so Slovenskom.

Prezidentský Grasalkovičov palác v Bratislave

Sídlom prezidenta Slovenskej republiky (SR) je Prezidentský - Grasalkovičov - palác v Bratislave. Stal sa ním v roku 1996. Grasalkovičov palác patrí k jednej z dominant Bratislavy už od roku 1770, keď ho dal postaviť prezident Kráľovskej uhorskej komory, šľachtic chorvátskeho pôvodu Anton Grasalkovič ako svoje letné sídlo. V tom čase stál za mestom, v tesnej blízkosti brány na Suchom mýte.

Patril k nemu aj jeden z najväčších bratislavských parkov. Gróf Grasalkovič, obľúbenec cisárovnej Márie Terézie, v paláci usporadúval mnohé letné slávnosti a bály, na ktorých sa zúčastňovali členovia cisárskeho dvora. História paláca je spojená aj s mnohými ďalšími osobnosťami, ktoré ho navštevovali. Patril k nim napríklad aj predstaviteľ viedenského klasicizmu, hudobný skladateľ Joseph Haydn, ktorý v jeho priestoroch uvádzal premiéry svojich diel. Poslednými obyvateľmi Grasalkovičovho paláca počas Rakúska-Uhorska bol arciknieža Fridrich s manželkou Izabellou. Klenotom trojpodlažného Prezidentského paláca je kaplnka svätej Barbory. Prvému podlažiu dominujú reprezentačné priestory, pracovňa prezidenta SR, hudobný salón, banketová a divadelná sála. Na druhom podlaží sú odpočinkové priestory pre hlavu štátu ako aj veľká časť kancelárskych priestorov.

Prvý prezident samostatnej SR Michal Kováč prevzal symbolický kľúč od paláca 30. septembra 1996. Predchádzajúce rekonštrukčné a reštaurátorské práce na novom sídle hlavy štátu trvali vyše troch rokov a vyžiadali si náklady takmer 280 miliónov Sk (9,29 milióna eur). Michal Kováč bol za prezidenta SR zvolený 15. februára 1993 a do úradu hlavy štátu ho inaugurovali 2. marca toho roku.

Prvé kolo volieb sa na Slovensku koná v sobotu 15. marca. Pokiaľ v ňom ani jeden kandidát nezíska nadpolovičnú väčšinu platných hlasov oprávnených voličov, v sobotu 29. marca sa uskutoční druhé kolo. V ňom sa stretnú dvaja najúspešnejší kandidáti z prvého kola. Zvolený kandidát sa ujíma funkcie prezidenta SR zložením sľubu. Skladať ho bude 15. júna, keď sa skončí funkčné obdobie súčasnej hlavy štátu Ivanovi Gašparovičovi.

TASR



Grasalkovičov palác v Bratislave.

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Pripravované podujatia Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

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

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

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

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

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

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

Polročná členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa **30. marca 2014** o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční členská schôdza vo farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street v New York City. Polročnú schôdzu zahájime sv. omšou o 11:00 hodine doobeda za živých a zosnulých členov nášho spolku. Na schôdzi bude podaná finančná správa a za tým diskusia o návrhoch na ďalšiu činnosť. Vyzývame všetkých členov, aby sa tejto dôležitej schôdzi zúčastnili. Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

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

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

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

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

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

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka

Popoludnie slovenskej poézie

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko pozýva milovníkov slovenskej poézie na kultúrne popoludnie v nedeľu **30. marca 2014** o 2.00 hodine popoludní na farskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 E66th Str. v New Yorku. V kruhu priateľov plánujeme stráviť príjemné chvíle čítaním a prednášaním našich obľúbených básní.

Záujemcovia si môžu pripraviť obľúbenú slovenskú poéziu, ktorú budú mať možnosť aj zarecitolovať. Podávané bude aj občerstvenie. Bližšie informácie: Zuzana, tel. č.: 973-357-1209.

Schôdza Okresu Princa Pribinu v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

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

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

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Folklórne súbory na Slovensku ponúkajú spoluprácu

Vážení krajanovia, Krajské múzeum Matice slovenskej nám preposlalo nasledujúcu informáciu:

Sme MO MS v Sebechleboch, ktorý vznikol v máji 1990. Do svojho vienka sme si okrem oživovania zvykoslovia, piesní a tancov, dali aj propagovanie slovenskej kultúry a slovenskej gastronómie pre krajanov žijúcich v zahraničí.

Obraciam sa na Vás v zastúpení dvoch kolektívnych členov nášho MO.

1. Folkórna skupina Geľovianka ponúka naše hontianske tradičné zvyky, tance z oblasti Hontu, hontianske piesne /máme vydané 2 CD albumy piesní/.

2. Dychová hudba Sebechlebskí hudci ponúka koncertovanie, ale aj tanečnú zábavu.

3. Veľmi radi pripravíme pre svojich krajanov typické slovenské jedlá.

Radi by sme si tak, ako doteraz vymenili kultúrne podujatie, alebo návštevu s krajanmi. Doteraz sme si takéto spoznávanie vymenili s krajanmi v Rumunsku, Chorvátsku, Srbsku, Poľsku, v Čechách, Francúzsku. Ubytovanie a stravovanie sme riešili v rodinách, aby sme sa navzájom lepšie spoznali a znížili náklady na ubytovanie, či stravovanie.

Prosím Vás postúpte náš list krajanom, možno by prijali takúto formu výmeny. Kontakt na pani Kempovú: eva.kempova@gmail.com Za porozumenie ďakujeme

Eva Kempová, predsedníčka MO MS v Sebechleboch

Príspevok do magazínu Slovensko

Vážení priatelia, milí krajanovia,

Krajské múzeum Matice slovenskej Vás chce oboznámiť s možnosťou autorského prispievania do magazínu Slovensko. Magazín by mal záujem o kratšie publicistické články (max. 2 – 3 normostrany) zo života krajanov, prípadne o článok, zaoberajúci sa krásami Slovenska. Témy, ktoré spracujete, môžu byť z hociktojej oblasti Vášho života (okrem politických tém). Pre prípadnú inšpiráciu a zorientovanie sa, si môžete pozrieť archív magazínu na http://www.matica.sk/index.php?id_menu=73125 K článku môžete pripojiť obrázkový materiál s uvedením jeho autora/zdroja. Príspevky môžete zasielať páňovi Dušanovi Mikolajovi – šéfredaktorovi časopisu na: dusanmikolaj@gmail.com

So srdečným pozdravom

PhDr. Zuzana Pavelcová, vedecká a vývojová pracovníčka



Eva Virsíková v galérii Steinway Artist

Koncertná pianistka slovenského pôvodu Eva Virsíková získala významné ocenenie od najznámejších klaviristov. Túto poctu jej udelili „ako uznanie jej vynikajúcej umeleckej kariéry v obore hudby a za jej lojalitu voči klavírom značky Steinway“.

Eva Virsíková je medzinárodne známou pianistkou a je známa aj Slovákom na východe USA. Viac ráz účinkovala na kultúrnych podujatiach Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska v New Yorku a na spoločenských podujatiach Slovenskej misie pri OSN. Pôsobí tiež ako profesorka hudby na UNH univerzite.



Na snímke Eva Virsíková a Joshua Tuckman v Galérii Steinway Piano vo Westport, Conn.

Eva Virsíková (left), after a recent performance at the Steinway Piano Gallery in Westport, Conn. with Joshua Tuckman, representing Steinway and Sons.



Americký veľvyslanec krstil alobalom knihu R. Hromca

Slovenský výtvarník Robert Hromec má novú knihu, ktorú vydalo americké vydavateľstvo Cantor Art Press v New Yorku. Má názov New Mixed-Media Paintings on Aluminum Plate a v stredu 12. februára ju predstavili v bratislavskej Univerzitnej knižnici, kde bola príležitostná výstava jeho tohtoročných obrazov.

„Umelca považujeme za polovičného Američana, lebo tam bol deväť rokov. Sme hrdí na takéto naše kultúrne vzťahy. K nim patrí aj širšia spolupráca s riaditeľom Galérie mesta Bratislavy Ivanom Jančárom, ktorý napísal text do knihy,“ povedal na jej slávnostnej prezentácii veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Theodor Sedgwick, ktorý s manželkou Kate pokrtili publikáciu postrihaným alobalom. Tento netradičný materiál má súvis so sivým podkladom - hliníkovým plechom, na ktorom kombinovanou technikou tvorí maliar nové obrazy. Okrem olejových a akrylových farieb diela dotvára brúsením a rytím.

Do knihy textom prispel jeden z najvýznamnejších historikov umenia z New Yorku Rick Kinsel, recipient ceny MAD Award 2013. Je riaditeľom nadácie The Vilcek Foundation. Založil ju svetovo uznávaný mikrobiológ slovenského pôvodu profesor Ján Vilček, ktorý si pred niekoľkými dňami prebral na Univerzite Komenského čestný doktorát.

„Robert Hromec patrí k najvýznamnejším predstaviteľom súčasného slovenského výtvarného umenia. Spoznal som ho počas jeho pôsobenia v New Yorku pred dvadsiatimi rokmi a už vtedy som bol presvedčený, že v malej slovenskej krajine vyrástol obrovský talent. Čas ukázal, že som sa nemýlil a jeho nezameniteľný rukopis vyzrel do hodnotnej, originálnej a zaujímavej umeleckej tvorby,“ hodnotí ho Rick Kinsel. Publikácia bola zaradená do knižničného fondu prestížnej americkej Kongresovej knižnice vo Washingtone. Celosvetovo ju distribuuje Amazon.com, na Slovensku je to vydavateľstvo Slovart.

Robert Hromec sa narodil v Žiline (1970). Od roku 1990 študoval a pôsobil v USA, okrem iných inštitúcií aj v prestížnom Metropolitnom múzeu umenia v New Yorku (1992–1998). V roku 2002 získal titul ArtD po úspešnom završení doktorandského štúdia na Katedre dizajnu Fakulty architektúry Slovenskej technickej univerzity v Bratislave. Od roku 1990 prezentoval tvorbu na vyše 70 výstavách v USA, Kanade a Európe. Jeho obrazy sú súčasťou zbierok na Slovensku a v zahraničí.

TASR



Matica slovenská otvorila Hlaholskú akadémiu

Záujemcovia, ktorí by sa chceli naučiť základy hlaholiky a dozvedieť sa viac o jej histórii, sa môžu prihlásiť na kurzy a prednášky v rámci Hlaholskej akadémie Domu Matice slovenskej v Bratislave. Slávnostne ju 16. februára otvorili v kostole sv. Kríža v Devíne.

„Matica slovenská založením Hlaholskej akadémie chce oživiť hlaholiku a tým postaviť v národe živý pamätník epochálnemu dielu svätého Cyrila a Metoda,“ prečítal dnes z oficiálneho vyhlásenia Hlaholskej akadémie podpredseda Matice slovenskej Jozef Šimonovič. Poslaním akadémie je podľa vyhlásenia pestovať hlaholskú gramotnosť Slovákov. Akadémia je otvorená pre všetkých bez ohľadu na ich svetonázor. „Je otvorená ľudom, ktorých oslovuje odkaz našich prvých učiteľov Konštantína Filozofa a jeho brata Metoda, a ktorí chcú ďalej pokračovať v jeho naplnení,“ dodal Šimonovič. Matica slovenská do akadémie pozýva aj umelcov, učiteľov, ale hlavne mládež.

Prihlášky na kurz hlaholiky možno zasielať na adresu Hlaholská akadémia Domu Matice slovenskej, Grösslingová 23, 812 51 Bratislava alebo mailom na dms.bratislava@matica.sk a do predmetu uviesť Hlaholská akadémia.

TASR

Pohľad na Prvý kalendár kanadských Slovákov

Pred 80 rokmi v Montreale, vtedajšej bašte všestranného slovenského tvorivého diania v Kanade, vyšiel Prvý kalendár kanadských Slovákov na obyčajný rok 1934, označený ako „prvá dejinná práca zvečňujúca život Slovákov v Kanade.“

Kalendár vydala Slovenská vydavateľská spoločnosť nákladom vtedajších novín Slovákov v Kanade, uprostred panujúcej deštruktívnej hospodárskej depresie, „hlavne preto, aby naši potomkovia vedeli, čo my tu za našej doby v tejto novej vlasti robili a tvorili s nádejou, že sa zachovajú už v tomto a budúcich ročníkoch kalendára všetky dôležité udalosti zo života predválečných a poválečných Slovákov v Kanade.“

V úvode kalendára vyslovili želanie, „aby touto prácou v každej duši zavládlo to zlaté heslo: Nech je svornosť a bratstvo medzi nami!“ s pripomienkou: „Sme v začiatkoch so všetkým. Všade vidíme nedostatky a zmätky, ale pri dobrej vôli a snahe všetko sa dá uskutočniť.“

V spojení s vydaním kalendára bolo veľa pochybovačov a škodlivcov, ale aj takých, ktorí urgovali kalendár na rok 1934 čím skorej vydať, „prv než veľa originality zapadne do mora večnosti z nášho verejného života.“

Kalendár zostavil Gabriel Kurdel za spolupráce Fr. Zemana, J. Pavloviča redaktorov a kalendárneho výboru Fr. Kvetana a Rev. Urbana Kovaľa. Vyšiel ako I. ročník (II. ročník (1935) bol posledný), na 168 stranách v prevažne väčšine zaplnených článkami a spoločenskými snímkami domácich autorov, jednoduchých robotných ľudí, nezvyklých narábať perom, ktorí vo svojich slovách a svojím spôsobom sprítomnili slovensko-národný, spolkársky, náboženský a spoločenský život vo svojich strediskách roztratených po veľkej Kanade, obohatených osobnými snímkami jednotlivcov, ktorí s vlasteneckou vervou zapojili sa do budovania rydzo-slovenského tvorivého života v Kanade. Kalendár bol zaobalený do trojfarebnej obálky symbolizujúcej našu kanadsko-slovenskú prislusnosť. Cena kalendára bola 10¢ pre Kanadu a 15¢ do starého kraja.

Kalendár splnil svoje poslanie aj po inej stránke. Oboznámil čitateľov s bohatou históriou Kanady. Ako bola kolonizovaná a koľko strádania museli prežiť jej prví priekopníci je zachytených v obsiahlom článku „Stručné dejiny Kanady“ uverejnenom pod značkou Z-n (Zeman). Končí výzvou na Slovákov v Kanade, aby boli lojalni svojej adoptovanej kanadskej vlasti a aspiráciám slovenského národa.

V záverečnom článku „Slovák v Kanade“ Ján Hurný, predseda Zboru direktorov Slováka v Kanade, zaoberá sa politicko-ideologickým poslaním novín, pričom zdôraznil, že „Slovák v Kanade nesúhlasí s terajším vládnym režimom v Česko-Slovensku, a nebude, dokiaľ národ slovenský nedostane to, čo mu právom prináleží.“ Nabáda k slovenskej spolupatričnosti a svornosti, lebo „Svornosťou malé veci vzrastú, nesusvornosťou najväčšie sa rozpadnú.“

V časovom odstupe 80 rokov, Prvý kalendár kanadských Slovákov poskytuje celkový pohľad na vývojové začiatky roduverného slovenského tvorivého života, pretkaného politickou, ideologickou, spolkárskou, náboženskou i spoločenskou fragmentáciou Slovákov v Kanade, ktorá sa ich držala ako nejaká nákazlivá choroba. Dnes je významným historickým, relikvijným dokumentom živototvornej borby slovenského etnika v Kanade.

Štefan Hreha

Zimná Olympiáda v ruskom meste Soči

Skončila sa Zimná Olympiáda v ruskom meste Soči, Víťazi odchádzali domov s radosťou a úsmevom ... Tí, čo prehrali, odchádzali smutní a mali zaslzavené oči. Ale, aj tak ďakujeme všetkým, čo reprezentovali naše malé, ale tak krásne Slovensko, veď tam medzi inými, majestátne viala naša slovenská zástava, dvojité kríž a tri vrchy, videlo na TV milióny ľudí, čo nás robí hrdými a ešte k väčšej láske budí. Nie, nie, neplačme nad rozliatým mliekom, Olympiády boli, aj budú, snáď šťastie bude našim liekom. Zatiaľ nám vyrastú noví športovci, nepodliehajúci hriechom. A slovenská zástava, bude zase viať a my v pozore budeme stáť.

Jozef Smák

Prezidenta Slovenskej republiky bude voliť viac ako štyri milióny ľudí

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Prvé kolo volieb sa na Slovensku uskutočňuje v sobotu 15. marca. Pokiaľ v ňom ani jeden kandidát nezíska nadpolovičnú väčšinu platných hlasov oprávnených voličov, v sobotu 29. marca sa uskutoční druhé kolo. V ňom sa stretnú dvaja najúspešnejší kandidáti z prvého kola. Zvolený kandidát sa ujíma funkcie prezidenta SR zložením sľubu. Skladať ho bude 15. júna, keď sa skončí funkčné obdobie súčasnej hlavy štátu Ivanovi Gašparovičovi.

Oficiálnymi kandidátmi sú premiér Robert Fico (Smer-SD), podnikateľ a filantrop Andrej Kiska, expredseda KDH Ján Čarnogurský, šéf klubu KDH Pavol Hrušovský (KDH, Most-Híd, SDKÚ-DS), Jozef Behýl, expolitik Milan Kňažko, nezaradený poslanec NR SR Radoslav Procházka, nominant SMK Gyula Bárdos, Milan Melník, kardiológ Viliam Fischer, Stanislav Martinčko, kandidát KSS Ján Jurišta, primátor Rimavskej Soboty Jozef Šimko a poslankyňa NR SR Helena Mezinská z OĽaNO.

TASR

Pôst so Svätým Otcom Františkom

Myšlienky Svätého Otca po spustení projektu KBS prijíma okolo 10-tisíc ľudí

Myšlienky Svätého Otca po spustení nového projektu Konferencie biskupov Slovenska (KBS) prijíma denne okolo 10-tisíc záujemcov. Vyplýva to zo štatistik KBS. Cieľom tejto novinky je spoločne sa duchovne pripraviť na Veľkú noc, najstarší a najvýznamnejší sviatok kresťanského cirkevného roka. Medzi prihlásenými sú nielen kňazi, ale aj laici. Do projektu, vďaka ktorému je možné získať každý deň bezplatne krátke zamyslenie Svätého Otca, sa dá zapojiť aj počas jeho trvania jednoduchým prihlásením na oficiálnej stránke post.kbs.sk (pôst.kbs.sk).



Záujem o projekt rastie po jeho spustení každý deň. Okrem e-mailu sa dajú myšlienky v slovenskej a v maďarskej verzii prečítať aktualizovane na stránke post.kbs.sk, šíria sa aj prostredníctvom Rádia LUMEN a Televízie LUX, na sociálnych sieťach Facebook a Twitter a na stránke netradičnej pôstnej prípravy 40dni.sk. Grafickú realizáciu projektu na sociálnych sieťach zastrešuje Výveska.sk, ktorá tiež aktívne zverejňuje všetky myšlienky. Podľa štatistik zo sociálnych sietí, šablóny s myšlienkami, si prečítalo už viac než 20-tisíc ľudí. Ďalšie stovky ľudí ich medzi sebou zdieľajú, komentujú a preposielajú.

Projekt, ktorý potrvá až do 21. apríla 2014, je určený pre všetkých ľudí dobrej vôle na Slovensku i v zahraničí. Zo štatistik napríklad vyplýva, že myšlienky pápeža sledujú vďaka slovenskému projektu v Českej republike, Poľsku, Maďarsku, Rakúsku, Nemecku, Taliansku, Švajčiarsku, Veľkej Británii, Holandsku, Francúzsku, Írsku, Belgicku, Švédsku, Slovinsku, Portugalsku, Rusku, Nórsku, ale aj na Novom Zélande, v Austrálii či Keni. Tí, čo nemajú prístup na internet, môžu projekt podporiť svojou modlitbou, pôstom alebo inými skutkami milosrdnej lásky.

Projekt „Pôst so Svätým Otcom Františkom“ KBS spustila deň pred Popolcovou stredou (4. marca). Registrovaní získajú celkom takmer 50 zamyslení Svätého Otca Františka. Myšlienky, ktoré sú na rozličné duchovné témy, pochádzajú z jeho posolstiev, homílií a listov. Sú z oficiálnych zdrojov - z internetových stránok Arcidiecézy Buenos Aires a Svätej stolice. Svätý Otec ich povedal v čase, keď pôsobil ako arcibiskup v argentínskom hlavnom meste. Druhú časť tvoria zamyslenia po jeho zvolení za pápeža. Z talianskeho a španielskeho jazyka ich do slovenčiny preložili dobrovoľníci projektu. Ten nadväzuje na vlnajšie putovanie relikvie svätého vierozvestcu Konštantína - Cyrila po viacerých slovenských komunitách v USA a Kanade, a zamyslenia biskupov na adventné a vianočné témy.

TK KBS

Adama Žampu slávnostne prijal primátor Vysokých Tatier

Úspešného slovenského olympionika Adama Žampu v pondelok 3. marca 2014 slávnostne prijal na Mestskom úrade primátor mesta Vysoké Tatry Ján Mokoš. „Veľmi nás teší, čo dokázal, pretože úspech Vysokých Tatier, či je v športe alebo iných oblastiach života, je pre nás veľmi významný. Je to reprezentácia nielen Slovenska ale aj nášho mesta. Každé mesto má radosť z toho, keď športovci aj iní občania dosahujú úspechy. Držím Adamovi palce, aby touto cestou pokračoval aj ďalej,“ konštatoval primátor.

V rámci možnosti sa samospráva usiluje aj finančne pomôcť tomuto slovenskému lyžiarovi a chce v tom aj pokračovať. Tatraneč sa na zimnej olympiáde v ruskom Soči zaskvel piatym miestom v superkombinácii a šiestym miestom v slalome, čo sú po biatlonistoch tretie najlepšie slovenské umiestnenia. „Bol to veľmi dobrý pocit, taká odmena za tvrdú drinu, aj odmena pre mojich rodičov,“ zhodnotil svoje výkony Žampa. Prijatie u primátora, na ktoré prišiel s celou rodinou, ho veľmi potešilo. „Je to niečo nové pre mňa, bolo to veľmi príjemné a ja verím, že takáto podpora zo strany mesta bude pokračovať aj naďalej,“ uviedol Žampa. Vysoké Tatry sú pre neho domovom odmalička a podľa jeho slov je to najkrajšie mesto s najkrajšími horami na svete. Rodák zo Starého Smokovca chystá aj Žampa Ski Kemp pre menšie deti, s ktorými by chcel niekoľko dní lyžovať.

TASR



FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Na snímke úspešný reprezentant Slovenska v zjazdovom lyžovaní na uplynulých ZOH 2014 v Soči Adam Žampa (vpravo) preberá z rúk primátora Vysokých Tatier Jána Mokoša obraz počas slávnostného prijatia 3. marca 2014.

On March 3, 2014, High Tatra mayor Jan Mokoš presented a gift to Slovak skier Adam Zampa for his successes at the Sochi Winter Olympics.

◆◆◆

Celosvetové stretnutie rodákov z Banskej Bystrice

Celosvetové stretnutie rodákov – Banskobystričanov sa bude konať v dňoch 12. - 14. septembra 2014. V tomto termíne sa konajú každoročné Dni mesta Banská Bystrica spolu s vyhláseným Radvanským jarmokom, ktorý sa môže popýšiť 357-ročnou tradíciou. Pre účastníkov celosvetového stretnutia Bystričanov mesto pod Urpínom pripravilo celý rad zaujímavých podujatí, vrátane prijatia u primátora mesta, pána P. Gogolu.

Túto prvú informáciu o plánovanom stretnutí krajanov v Banskej Bystrici posielame do krajského sveta už teraz, v dostatočnom časovom predstihu, tak aby si každý mohol včas naplánovať svoju letnú dovolenku a krajania zo zámoria si mohli zakúpiť letenky za výhodnú cenu.

Radi by sme Vás chceli poprosiť o rozšírenie tejto informácie aj cez sociálne siete (facebook, twitter a pod.) medzi Vám známymi rodákmi z Banskej Bystrice a blízkeho okolia, za čo Vám dopredu pekne ďakujeme. V prípade záujmu pošlite prosím kontaktný mail, prípadne mailovú adresu Vám známych Bystričanov na: info@permon.eu Priebežne Vám budeme posielat ďalšie aktuálne informácie.

Tešíme sa na hojnú účasť pri celosvetovom stretnutí rodákov z Banskej Bystrice na Dňoch mesta / Radvanskom jarmoku 12.-14. septembra 2014. S úctou a krajským pozdravom

Marián Slivka

O. Štefan Furdek
Náš zakladateľ

Emeritný košický arcibiskup Mons. Alojz Tkáč sa dožíva 80 rokov

Emeritný košický arcibiskup Mons. Alojz Tkáč oslávil v nedeľu 2. marca významné životné jubileum - 80 rokov. Narodil sa 2. marca 1934 v Ohradzanoch. Po maturite v Humennom študoval na Filozofickej fakulte Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave a po dvoch rokoch pokračoval v štúdiu na Cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulte v Bratislave. Kňazskú vysviacku prijal z rúk biskupa Ambróza Lazíka 25. júna 1961.

Po skončení štúdií a kňazskej vysviacke pôsobil Alojz Tkáč v rokoch 1961-1963 ako kaplán v Zborove. Po skončení základnej vojenskej služby bol v období 1964-1975 archivárom Biskupského úradu Košice. V rokoch 1975-1983 bol bez štátneho súhlasu, mimo pastorácie, pracoval ako vodič električky a lesný robotník. Aj v tom čase sa však tajne venoval pastorácii, stretával sa najmä s mládežou, s rodinami, zúčastňoval sa na duchovných obnovách a pripravoval púte. Následne do roku 1990 pôsobil ako správca farnosti Červenica.

Dňa 14. februára 1990 Alojz Tkáč vymenovali za biskupa, biskupskú vysviacku prijal 17. marca 1990 v Košiciach. Za košického arcibiskupa-metropolitu bol Mons. Tkáč vymenovaný 31. marca 1995 a 2. júla toho istého roku mu pápež Ján Pavol II. odovzdal pálium. Po takmer 20-ročnej službe sa stal emeritným košickým arcibiskupom a dodnes vykonáva mnohé pastoračné a duchovné aktivity.

Emeritný košický arcibiskup Alojz Tkáč si pripomenul svoje životné jubileum - 80 rokov v sobotu 1. marca spolu s ďalším jubilantom, kardinálom Jozefom Tomkom, významným cirkevným hodnostárom, emeritným prefektom Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov, ktorý oslávil 90 rokov 11. marca tohto roku. Svätá omša pri príležitosti ich životného jubilea sa uskutočnila v sobotu v košickej Katedrále sv. Alžbety. Alojz Tkáč si 80. narodeniny pripomenul aj so svojimi rodákmi, a to v nedeľu 2. marca v Ohradzanoch. Jubilejná sv. omša sa konala v tamojšom farskom Kostole Nanebovzatia Panny Márie.

TASR



FOTO TASR - František Iván

Svätá omša pri príležitosti životného jubilea kardinála Jozefa Tomka (uprostred) a arcibiskupa Mons. Alojza Tkáča (vľavo v pozadí) v Dóme sv. Alžbety v Košiciach 1. marca 2014.

A Mass was celebrated on March 1, 2014 in Saint Elizabeth Cathedral in Kosice on the occasion of the 90th birthday of Jozef Cardinal Tomko and the 80th birthday of Bishop Alojz Tkac.

Prezidenta Slovenskej republiky bude voliť viac ako štyri milióny ľudí

Slovenského prezidenta môžu voliť len doma, zo zahraničia to nejde

Slovenského prezidenta nemôžu slovenskí občania voliť poštou, ani cez internet, ani na zastupiteľských úradoch. Ak teda chcú rozhodnúť o hlave štátu, musia byť v čase voľby na Slovensku. Vo vlasti možno hlasovať kdekoľvek, nie je nevyhnutné byť v mieste trvalého bydliska. Ak však chcú hlasovať v inom mieste ako vo svojej obci, musia mať voličský preukaz. Trebalo oň požiadať obec, do 14. marca.

Podľa zákona právo voliť prezidenta SR majú slovenskí občania, ktorí v deň voľby dovŕšili 18 rokov. Hlasovať môžu oprávnení voliči s trvalým pobytom na Slovensku, ale aj bez neho. V deň voľby však musia byť na Slovensku. Voľbu poštou, hlasovanie na zastupiteľských úradoch či elektronické hlasovanie zákon neupravuje.

Pokračovanie na str.23

Kardinál Jozef Tomko na návšteve u prezidenta SR

Prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič nedávno prijal v Prezidentskom paláci v Bratislave významného cirkevného hodnostára, náboženského spisovateľa, emeritného prefekta Kongregácie pre evanjelizáciu národov Jeho Eminenciu kardinála Jozefa Tomka, ktorý 11. marca tohto roku oslávil 90 rokov.

Prezident zablahoževal kardinálovi Tomkovi k jeho vzácnemu životnému jubileu, poprial mu veľa zdravia a síl v jeho ďalšom duchovnom pôsobení a vyjadril presvedčenie, že aj naďalej zostane morálnou oporou katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku. Poďakoval mu v mene veriacich a všetkých obyvateľov Slovenska za to, že vždy stál, aj v ťažkých časoch, pri nás, za čo si ho Slováci vďaka. Prezident takisto vyzdvihol skutočnosť, že kardinál Tomko sústavne povzbudzoval Slovákov k národnej obrode a ocenil jeho iniciatívu a zásluhy o vybudovanie Slovenského ústavu sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme, informoval po stretnutí hovorca prezidenta SR Marek Trubač.

Hlava štátu v diskusii s kardinálom Tomkom ocenila, že aj napriek neľahkým časom je spolupráca cirkvi a vlády veľmi dobrá. Práve vďaka takémuto vzťahu sa darí v spoločnosti udržiavať sociálny zmier. Za veľmi dobrú prezident označil aj spoluprácu s apoštolským nunciom na Slovensku Mons. Mariom Giordanom a Svätou stolicou. Počas rozhovoru sa obidvaja predstavitelia nevyhli ani aktuálnym spoločenským a politickým témam, ktoré sa týkajú života občanov Slovenska.

V súvislosti so životným jubileom daroval Ivan Gašparovič kardinálovi Tomkovi drevený detviarsky kríž s ľudovými motívami a jubilant venoval hlave štátu svoju najnovšiu knihu s názvom Hľadieť za obzor.

Kardinál Tomko na krátkom brífingu po stretnutí uviedol, že s prezidentom Gašparovičom hovorili aj o rozvoji Slovenska. "Potešil som sa zo všetkého pekného, vidím ako to na Slovensku predsa len rastie a krajina napreduje. Veľmi sa z toho teším," povedal.

TASR



FOTO: TK KBS/ Marian Garaj

Prezident SR zablahoževal k jubileu kardinálovi Tomkovi.

Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic congratulated Jozef Cardinal Tomko recently on his 90th birthday in the Presidential Palace in Bratislava.

Velkonočná poštová známka

Slovenská pošta vydala 10. marca 2014 veľkonočnú poštovú známku. Motívom známky Veľká noc 2014: Ukrižovanie – vitráže obdobia romantizmu s nominálnou hodnotou 0,45 eura, je detail vitráže z Kaplnky Svätej studne v Marianke. "Ústredným motívom vitráže je Ježiš Kristus na kríži, pod ktorým stoja po stranách Panna Mária a svätý Ján," povedala hovorkyňa Slovenskej pošty Stanislava Pondelová.

The Slovak Postal Office issued a new stamp for Easter on March 10, 2014 depicting the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.



FOTO TASR - Slovenská pošta, 4. marec 2014