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Saints Cyril and Methodius

Prayer for Feast Day
- February 14

Father, you brought the light of the gospel to the Slavic nations through Saint Cyril and his brother Saint Methodius. Open our hearts to understand your teaching and help us to become one in faith and praise. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- SISTERS OF SS CYRIL & METHODIUS
Villa Sacred Heart
Danville, PA



What to Do With That W-2: A Guide to Navigating an Important Tax Form

By Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

About this time every year, mailboxes across the country start to fill with tax forms. Among the most important is the W-2. A form W-2 is issued by an employer to an employee. The threshold for issuing a form W-2 is based on dollars. Every employer who pays at least \$600 in cash (or cash equivalent, including taxable benefits) must issue a form W-2. If any taxes are withheld, including those for Social Security or Medicare, a form W-2 must be issued regardless of how much was paid out to an employee.

As an employee, you get three copies of your form W-2. Those three copies must be issued by January 31 of each year.

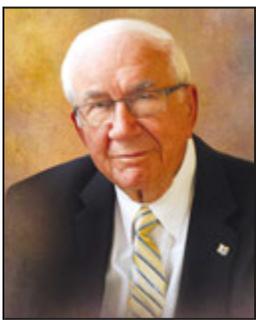
As more businesses move their payrolls online, it is increasingly critical to know how to access W-2 forms (online and offline) and how to read them correctly.

The left side of the form is for reporting taxpayer information; the right side of the form is used to report financials and codes. The bottom of the form reports local and state tax information.

Here's a closer look at each of the boxes on your W-2 and what each area means.

continued on page 3

National Officer Emeritus Regis Brekosky Passes



It is with sadness that the President, Executive Secretary, and all the National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada note the passing of Regis Brekosky on Monday, February 2. His positions with our Society included past National President, past National Vice President, past President of Jednota Properties, Inc., and Regional Director Emeritus. See page 16 for more details.

MARCH DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING:

- FCSU Scholarship, Graduating Seniors – your membership in our Society may award you \$1000 toward your education – plus an additional \$3,000 in life insurance.



See page 10 for details.



- Sign Up For The National Bowling Tournament, See pages 4 - 5

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You'll Fall in Love with our Rates!

8 Year Flex Premium Annuity or IRA	3.60%
6 Year Flex Premium Annuity or IRA	3.20%
6 Year Fixed Rate Annuity or IRA	3.10%



Get a FREE Chewy Čuvač with a minimum deposit of \$10,000 on any one of the above products.

Also Available

Park 2	2.15%
Park Free Plus	1.90%



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



Insights and Viewpoints



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

**February 22, 2015 – First Sunday of Lent
Gospel – Mark 1: 12 - 15**

This past Wednesday churches were full of people as we began the Season of Lent by having our foreheads marked with Blessed Ashes. Along with the Ashes was the Gospel in which Jesus instructs us about prayer, fasting and giving alms. What always gets my attention is that Jesus says, "When you pray..." "When you fast..." and "When you give alms..." Jesus speaks of "When" we do these things and he is assuming that we do them. His instruction is on how we do these devotions and acts. They call for personal reflection, reverence and a clear focus of doing them as an offering to God and not to build up our image among others. Thus we began our Lenten journey with the call to grow in holiness with the help of these three basic practices.

This first Sunday of Lent is about temptation, prayer and fasting. While the Gospel of Mark makes no mention of prayer and fasting, they are both part of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Mark also is different in that he says, "the spirit drove Jesus out into the desert," while Matthew and Luke say Jesus was "led" to the desert by the Spirit. With Mark it seems that the point is being made that the Spirit who appeared in the form of the dove at Jesus' baptism now drives him to the desert where he will face temptation. In a way it dramatizes Jesus as one who is driven to confront Satan and evil and thus begin his ministry. While being "led by the Spirit" is a nicer and a more common phrase, I think that when it comes to personal conversion more often than not we are "driven" by the Spirit. We might express a desire to grow in holiness and even feel driven to make radical changes in our lives, but there tends to be reluctance to truly embrace the challenges and changes that growing in holiness involves. For us being driven by the Spirit is more about getting pushed beyond our comfort zones, than just beginning something new.

As we begin Lent let us not resist the Spirit as it drives us to deeper lives of holiness. Let us take on prayer, fasting and almsgiving with a renewed vigor. May our Lenten prayer lead us closer in our relationship with the Lord to a deeper realization that, like any good relationship, our relationship with the Lord calls for daily and honest conversation that will lead us to talk to God not only about what we need, but also bring the needs of others to him. May our Lenten fasting lead us to reflect on how much we eat on a normal day. Do we consume more than we really need? May we become more aware of those who don't have the luxury of food that we most likely have, and act in concrete ways to relieve the hunger that is around us. May our almsgiving be more than just offering the extra to the needy, but will truly be sacrificial in our offering that involves truly doing without something we want.

As we move through Lent we will face temptation similar to Jesus in the desert. Temptations to think that we are already doing enough, or others are not worthy of our help, or it will make little difference. Do not give into these temptations, but rather allow the spirit to drive us through them so as to grow in holiness. May we grow in holiness throughout this Lent and continue to hold on to this gift long after the end of Lent.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

**March 1, 2015 - Second Sunday of Lent
Gospel - Mark 9:2-10**

The first reading presents to us one of the most difficult passages of the entire Bible: the story of the "Aqedah", meaning "the binding", of Isaac, and his barely avoided sacrifice at the hands of Abraham his father. The very idea of God asking a person to sacrifice another person—not to mention that person's own child—is abhorrent to us.

This story of the would-be sacrifice of Isaac is so vivid and so well-known among the narratives of the Bible that it is often used by those who deride Christianity and Judaism as a "proof" of the irrational or even cruel nature of our religious beliefs, which appear in this case to make us subservient to a God who demands human offerings in return for divine protection or favor.

While different interpretations of the Aqedah have been offered over the centuries in order to provide an explanation or to excuse the seemingly frightening image of God, the critical point to recall is that no matter how one reads this story, God does in fact ask Abraham for absolutely everything he has—his son Isaac—who was his unique connection to any hope for future progeny or remembrance.

Whether God's request to Abraham can ever be justified in the light of Jewish or Christian morality, it is clear that devotion to God is all-consuming. We might not sense this often, but there are moments in our lives when the self-giving that Christian discipleship demands cuts so close to the core of our existence that we realize personally the sting of the words Jesus spoke to his followers immediately before the Transfiguration recounted in today's gospel: "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it" (Mark 8:35).

Of course these same painful words would ultimately prove to be salvific for us, as it was through the all-consuming self-gift of Jesus on the cross that he was able to exult in his subsequent resurrection, and we are able to share in it, after we have accompanied him in giving everything to the Father.

The total self-surrender to God asked of Abraham, however that may be interpreted, stands in anticipation of the total self-offering of Jesus to the Father for the sake of our salvation. Unlike the offering of Isaac, who was a mute and passive figure, the offering of Jesus was free and voluntary, done out of love for all who had ever, or who would ever, walk the path of human life, hemmed-in as it is by sin and vulnerability.

Jesus exercises perfect freedom in giving of himself to the end, and thus he shows the fullness of our human potential which is realized when we let go of ourselves and give of ourselves in a myriad of ways, some peaceful and some painful—these are our sharing in Christ's cross. Such imitation of Christ requires strong faith and hope, and that is what the Transfiguration confirmed in Peter, James, and John. The glory they beheld, though they did not understand it, carried them through the doubts and anxiety of Jesus' passion and death, and enabled them to finally comprehend how this glory had to be brought about through self-giving.

The fear that struck the apostles when they saw Jesus transfigured would eventually turn to joy, but only after the resurrection had vindicated Christ's self-gift. Long before the resurrection, the Aqedah showed God's fidelity to Abraham and his descendants after him, sealed through Abraham's complete self-gift to God; on the cross Jesus perfected this fidelity through his own self-giving. During the Lenten season, enlivened in hope by the Transfiguration of Christ, may we demonstrate the same faithful spirit of self-offering to him which he showed for our sake, and thus enter into the fullness of Easter joy.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR 4	MONDAY, FEB 23
WEDNESDAY, MAR 18	MONDAY, MAR 9
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22	MONDAY, APRIL 13

Correspondents who are announcing events should allow ample time for them to be received by the readership, taking into account the publication schedule and the extra time in the postal system.

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What to Do With That W-2

continued from page 1

Boxes a-f: Personal and Business Information

Each W-2 includes information about your employer, including its name, address and tax identification number. It will also have your name, address, and Social Security number. It's important to check this information to ensure accuracy. Because a copy of your W-2 goes to the Social Security Administration to establish your work history and eligibility for Social Security benefits, mistaken Social Security numbers can lead to lower monthly payments in retirement or even denial of benefits entirely.

Box 1: Wages, Tips, and Other Compensation

Box 1 includes the figure that you'll include on your income tax form as taxable compensation. The number in Box 1 excludes benefits that aren't subject to tax, such as amounts withheld for your share of health-insurance premiums or contributions to employer-sponsored retirement plans.

Box 2: Federal Income Tax Withheld

Box 2 shows how much money your employer deducted from your paycheck to cover your income tax liability. You'll include this on your tax return as well. If it is more than what you owe in taxes, then you'll get a refund for the difference.

Boxes 3 & 4: Social Security Wages and Tax Withheld

Boxes 3 and 4 show how much of your wages were subject to Social Security tax and how much tax your employer actually took out of your paycheck. The amount can differ from what's in Box 1 because many items that are deductible for income-tax purposes aren't exempt from Social Security tax such as Social Security taxes on 401(k) and other employer-plan contributions. Also, if you earn more than the maximum amount on which Social Security charges payroll taxes -- \$117,000 for 2014 -- then Box 3 will be capped at that amount.

Boxes 5 & 6: Medicare Wages and Tips and Tax Withheld

Boxes 5 and 6 show the same calculations for Medicare taxation, only there's no upper limit on income subject to Medicare taxes, so the Box 5 figure will be higher than Box 3 for high-income earners.

Boxes 7 & 8: Social Security Tips and Allocated Tips

For those who work in jobs with substantial tip income, Box 7 will show what tips you reported to your employer. They're already included in Box 1, so no additional work is necessary on your part. But if you have an entry in Box 8, your employer likely didn't report enough tip income for you and other employees. As a result, you'll have to add this amount to your taxable income in Box 1 and also file Form 4137 to report and pay additional payroll taxes on your tip income.

Box 9: Intentionally Blank

Box 9 was once used to reflect advance payments of Earned Income Tax Credits your employer made to you. Under current law, employers no longer make such payments, so many W-2s have a blank area of the form where Box 9 used to be.

Box 10: Dependent Care Benefits

Wage earners getting financial assistance for caring for children or other dependents will have the amount received in Box 10. This number will help you calculate your Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit properly, as well as track the amount you paid out of your own pocket for care.

Box 11: Non-qualified Plans

Some employees receive money from non-qualified deferred compensation plans. For most employees, any amount included here will already be included in Box 1. But if your employer has contributed to such a plan for services in prior years, it will be included in Box 11 as well as in Boxes 3 and 5; but not necessarily in Box 1. Moreover, government employees who participate in Section 457 plans might have amounts here that won't be included elsewhere on the W-2.

Box 12: Catchall Area

Your employer can use Box 12 for several things. An explanation of each code is on the back of your W-2. Essentially, though, items you will find here are information about particular compensation or benefits you received. The important thing to note about Box 12 is that you'll most likely need these numbers elsewhere in your tax return as well to account properly for certain items.

Box 13: Specific Types of Workers

In Box 13, specific types of workers will have their boxes marked if they are statutory employees, participate in a company-sponsored retirement plan, or receive sick pay from someone other than your employer. This information can determine eligibility for certain tax benefits, and can also help the IRS identify individuals who would otherwise be treated as independent contractors.

Box 14: Other

Box 14 is for any other information an employer needs to give employees, such as union dues, payments for educational assistance, or taxes withheld for state disability insurance.

Boxes 15-20: State and Local Tax Information

Boxes 15 through 20 provide information that state and local tax authorities need to determine what you owe in state and local taxes. Income amounts will appear in Boxes 16 and 18, and any taxes you have withheld will appear in Boxes 17 and 19. You'll want to use those figures in preparing your state or local returns.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Jerry Costello for *The Christophers*

Soul Kitchen Feeds Bodies and Spirits

You've probably never had a meal at the Soul Kitchen in Red Bank. That's too bad, because the odds are that you'd enjoy it—especially when you're aware of the restaurant's back story. It's a good one, believe me.

To begin with, the Soul Kitchen is a project of Jon Bon Jovi, the rock singer who's a native of New Jersey and who keeps the state close to his heart. In turn, the restaurant is a project of the JBJ Soul Foundation, a nonprofit founded in 2006 and whose aim is simple and at the same time complex: tackling the twin problems of hunger and homelessness. I had seen a couple of references to the Soul Kitchen, but a recent article by Tammy La Gorce in *The New York Times* explained its operation in some detail. And when you hear it, I think you'll like it.

Here's the way the Soul Kitchen works: it operates more or less on the honor system, but with a twist. Diners in the 30-seat restaurant are asked to donate \$10 for their meal, but if they're unable to pay they join a host of volunteers who perform restaurant-related duties: folding napkins, filling water pitchers and the like.

Manager Lou Morreale explained the operation in more detail to La Gorce. "Some (volunteers) wash dishes, some clean windows. But we're always careful to preserve people's dignity. No one knows at any table whether you're paying or whether you've worked as a volunteer to eat."

Arrangements for either paying customers or volunteer laborers are made in advance with a coordinator, who provides each guest with a voucher. The ratio between those who pay and those who work for their meals hovers at about 50 per cent, the manager explained, but some do both—"because it's good company and good food in a good environment," he said.

Jimmy Elsby, 63, of Red Bank, gave vocal support to what Morreale had been discussing. Along with Howard Bianchi, 68, also of Red Bank, he dines at the Soul Kitchen two or three times a week in exchange for outdoor work.

"It's kind of like family here," he said.

The Soul Kitchen is located in a former auto shop, one that's been transformed into a smart-looking dining room. Communal tables foster a communal spirit where regular customers mingle with the volunteer work force. Manager Morreale is one of only four paid employees, but they supervise a list of volunteers that numbers in the hundreds. And it's been going strong since the foundation was established.

What exactly does Jon Bon Jovi lend to the enterprise? His name, for one thing, and his presence for another. With his schedule of personal appearances, of course, he's somewhat limited in the time he can put in at the restaurant. But when he and his wife are there, according to customer Elsby, "They talk to people and do whatever needs to be done." Bon Jovi's wife, Dorothea Hurley, "runs this place like it's her own kitchen," Elsby said.

Most of all, the rock music star is doing something about hunger rather than simply lamenting the fact that it's there. He's providing good food and good company at a minimal cost. That's a start, surely, and, as I said before, it's a good one.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, SERVING THE POOR, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org.

Henry Cole Hassay, Grandson of FCSU

Regional Director Henry Hassay

2015 Student Union President at John Carroll University



On January 15, 2015, H. Cole Hassay, grandson of Region 6 Director Henry Hassay of the First Catholic Slovak Union, was inaugurated as the 93rd President of the John Carroll University Student Union. John Carroll University is a private, co-educational Jesuit Catholic university in University Heights, OH, a suburb of Cleveland. The university has been ranked in the top 10 of Midwest regional universities by U.S. News & World Report's annual guide, "America's Best Colleges," for 25 consecutive years.

Cole is a junior political science and economics major from Canfield, OH. This is his third year serving on the John Carroll Student Union. In 2013, Cole served as a Senator for the Class of 2016, and, in 2014, Cole served as Vice President for Student Organizations.

Cole's future plans include attending law school, and running for public office one day.

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



ATTENTION JEDNOTAR BOWL



United Slovak Fraternal
4th Annual
Bowling Tournament
May 1-3, 2015

Friday:

Teams Event – Opening Ceremonies to begin at 5:45 pm with team events starting at 6:00 pm and 8:30 PM at Eastway Lanes.

Hospitality Night - Hospitality Night beginning at 6:00 PM at Eastway Lanes in Erie, PA. Enjoy food, refreshments, and socializing.

Hotel – Hilton Garden Inn and Courtyard by Marriott of Erie, PA will be housing our guests for the weekend. The phone numbers to the hotel are provided below. The hotels are connected by a convention center. You must identify yourself as a member of United Slovak Fraternal to receive the group rate: \$119 / night (plus tax)

Deadline for hotel reservations is April 1.

Hilton Garden Inn (50 rooms)
2225 Downs Dr.
Erie, PA 16509
814-866-1390

Courtyard by Marriott (25 rooms)
7792 Peach St.
Erie, PA 16509
814-860-8300

Saturday:

Doubles/Singles Event - To begin at 8:30 and 12:30 pm

Mass - will be held at 5:00 pm at the hotel.

Banquet - will be held in the Garden Atrium. Cocktails at 6 PM and Dinner at 7 PM.

Eastway Lanes: 4110 Buffalo Rd., Erie, PA – (814) 899-9855

If you require additional information, please contact Rudy Ondrejco at your convenience at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternal
Bowling Tournament
May 1-3, 2015
Erie, PA



Would you like to sponsor a lane?

It is only \$50.00 to have a sign placed on a lane and your generosity will go far in making this event an enjoyable weekend for all!

If you are interested in being a lane sponsor, please mail this form in with the wording for your sign printed below and check payable to "FCSU Activities".

Please feel free to contact Rudy Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director with any questions at 412-421-7967 or rudy.ondrejco@gmail.com

The deadline for sponsoring a lane is March 6, 2015.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Branch # / District: _____

Address: _____

Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Yes!! We would like to sponsor a lane. Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Wording for Sign: _____

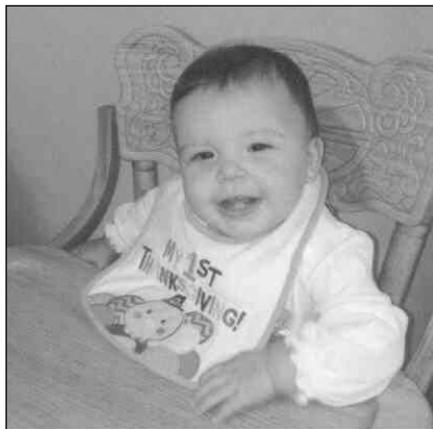
Mail to: FCSU Activities 234 Ilion St. Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Thank you in advance for your participation in this fraternal event.

Branch 493 Welcomes Newest Member Rylin Charley Bobo

Rylin Charley Bobo is the newest member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493, in Chicago. She was born in Winfield, IL, on February 20, 2014, to parents Edward and Jennifer Bobo. Her dad, sisters Maya and Macie, Aunt Kelly Bobo, and Grandma Melody Bobo, are also members of Branch 493.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Branch 493 Financial Secretary



Slovak Language Classes Start in February in Pittsburgh

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association is offering its 32nd year of Slovak language classes. These popular classes will be offered every Tuesday evening from February 17, 2015 through April 7, 2015, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mount Lebanon Library located at 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard in Pittsburgh, PA, 15228.

The tuition is free, Bozena Hilko will be the instructor. For registration, call Joe at 412-956-6000 or at 412-531-2990 or by email at jtsenko@aol.com.



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

THINK ABOUT IT!

MEMBERS: SAVE THE DATE IN MAY



Requests - Please circle choice times			
Event	Date	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice
TEAM			
DOUBLES & SINGLES			

2015 May 1 - 3, 2015
 Entries Close
 March 6, 2015

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternalists Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

Hosted by First Catholic Slovak Union,
 National Slovak Society and First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association
 A/k/a the United Slovak Fraternalists

Eastway Lanes
 Buffalo Road, Erie, PA

Entry Fees
 Prize Fee\$7.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$8.00
 Tournament Fee.....\$3.00
Total Each Event.....\$18.00

Optional Events
 All Events\$3.00
 Senior Singles Event (60+).....\$5.00

Banquet Fees
 Member \$25.00
 Total Included\$_____

Mail Entry Fee Payable to:
 FCSU Activities

Mail to:
 Rudy Ondrejco
 234 Ilion St.
 Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Team Name: _____ Captain Name: _____
 League: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ Phone: _____

All Events (X)	Attend Banq (X)	CORRECT TEAM LINEUP (Print or Type)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	USBC NO.	ADDRESS	CERT./POLICY NO. MUST BE FILLED IN	BRANCH/ ASSM NO.
		1.					
		2.					
		3.					
		4.					
Singles (X)	Attend Banq (X)	TWO-MAN EVENT (Print or Type Full Names)	HIGHEST AVERAGE	Seniors (X)			
		1.					
		2.					
		1.					
		2.					

Friday, May 1
 Registration 5:00 PM
 Bowlers: 6:00 PM
 8:30 PM

Saturday, May 2
 Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM

Sunday, May 3
 Events 10:00 AM

1st Team Events
 2nd Team Events

1st Doubles/Singles
 2nd Doubles/Singles

Doubles/Singles
 (if needed)

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
 COMPLETE INFORMATION

INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE
 RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN AND
 MUST BE RESUBMITTED

Substitutes **must** bowl in the position vacated by the original entrant as per USBC.

The Men's and Women's 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternalists Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union, the National Slovak Society, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, for the purpose of promoting fraternalism and good sportsmanship, and to generate nationwide interest in the Slovak fraternal organizations. The National Officers of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the First Catholic Slovak Union, and the National Slovak Society, wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Erie, PA, in this rapidly growing tournament.

The 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternalists Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Eastway Lanes, 4110 Buffalo Rd., Erie, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be held the weekend of May 1-3, 2015. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, May 1, at 5:45 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 6, 2015. PLEASE NOTE: ALL FORMS MUST BE FILLED IN COMPLETELY. ENTRY FEES, AS STATED ON THE FRONT OF THIS ENTRY BLANK, MUST ACCOMPANY THIS ENTRY. ALL INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL BE RETURNED TO TEAM CAPTAIN FOR RESUBMISSION.

In submitting this entry, the captain and the team members agree to forfeit all rights to prize money as well as the total entry fees in the event that any information listed herein should be found to be false. We are not responsible for errors in averages made in filling out this entry form. No refunds of tournament entry fee.

USBC Bowling Rules shall govern in all matters concerning the actual play on the lanes in this Tournament.

ELIGIBILITY: This Tournament is open to all First Catholic Slovak Union, the National Slovak Society, and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, male and female bonafide MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. All winners will be checked before any prize money is awarded.

Only members with USBC Membership Cards will be eligible for the USBC special awards in this USBC Certified Tournament. Bowlers without USBC Membership Cards may purchase some from the Tournament Committee at current local fees prior to actual participation in this Tournament.

CONSENT RULES: Any unmarried grade or high school stu-

dent who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) must have written consent of his/her parents or guardian in order to participate in USBC Certified Tournament where cash or merchandise prizes are offered. Said written consent must be on a form approved by United States Bowling Congress and must be on file with Tournament Committee at least one week before the bowler is eligible for tournament competition unless the student is accompanied by his/her parents, in which case the parental consent form may be filed up to the time the student starts to bowl. USBC Rule No. 13

AVERAGES: All entrants will use their highest average of any USBC league of at least 21 games from the 2013-2014 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2013-2014 season and with at least 21 games in the 2014-2015 season will use their current league average. This must be designated as such on entry form by his name and a league year-to-date statistics sheet must be presented to the Tournament

Committee at the Tournament. Non-certified bowlers, with no certified league average, that have bowled in previous FCSU, NSS, or FCSLA tournaments will have their averages calculated from their three most recent tournaments. All male bowlers with no established USBC average will bowl a 175 scratch. All female bowlers with no established USBC will bowl a 150 scratch. Summer league averages will be accepted.

Any contestant whose current average of at least 21 games as of January 1, 2015, is TEN (10) PINS or more above his or her average from previous season, must use his or her current average and will indicate this on the entry form at time of entry.

AVERAGE CHANGES: The original averages submitted on the Entry Blank cannot be changed prior to participation by anyone except the Team Captain, who must submit written proof thereof to the Tournament Committee.

It shall be each bowler's responsibility to verify the accuracy of his average in handicap or classified tournaments, whether originally submitted by the bowler, his team captain, or others.

Failure to use the proper average shall disqualify score of submitted average if lower than actual average, thereby resulting in a lower classification or more handicap. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the actual average.

Corrections in averages can be made up to the completion of the first game of a series, or within 48 hours after completion of a series if the tournament manager prior to the completion of the

first game of the series has given written consent to the bowler authorizing such extension of time to correct his average.

TEAMS: Mixed teams comprising of 2 men and 2 women are allowed. Mixed teams will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed teams participate. If 21 or more mixed teams enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

DOUBLES: Mixed doubles are allowed. Mixed doubles will be grouped with men's teams for prize distribution (see PRIZES), unless at least 21 mixed doubles participate. If 21 or more mixed doubles enter, a separate mixed prize fund will be established and one prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries.

HANDICAPS: The handicap allowed will be 90% of the difference between 210 and the submitted average. The maximum handicap awarded to any bowler will be 65 pins. Under no circumstances will handicap be increased after participant has bowled.

PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every seven (7) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

All prizes will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee.

Any entrant who has qualified for a prize of \$300 or more in any event of a tournament in the 12-month period prior to entry, must report actual score, position, and amount won to tournament management at time of entry for possible rerating.

LINE-UP CHANGES: All participants must bowl according to where they are listed on the submitted entry form. Any replacement of participants originally scheduled to bowl on team or doubles will take same position on team and doubles event.

ABSENTEES: To alleviate absentee problems, the Tournament Committee will provide a replacement bowler when notified of the absentee.

TARDY BOWLERS: Tardy Bowler will receive zero for each frame missed. USBC Rule 322

SCORING: Errors in scoring or calculations must be presented to the Tournament Committee within 48 hours after completion of play. Captains of Teams or Doubles Partners have the option to pick up duplicate score sheets upon completion of play.

Scenes from the Slovak Ball in January

Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended the Slovak-American Cultural Center's (S-ACC) Slovak Ball on Saturday, January 24, 2015, at the Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ. Proceeds from the black-tie evening of celebration, fine dining, and dancing helped support the on-going mission of the non-profit Slovak-American Cultural Center to preserve Slovak heritage in the United States for the Slovak-American community, promote Slovak cultural, scientific, and athletic activities at home and abroad, and publicly recognize and promote the achievements of Slovak-Americans in the United States and abroad. This year's event also supported the Joseph Stasko Scholarship Fund which financially assists Slovak students studying at City University in Bratislava. Sabina Sabados, FCSU's Regional Director and Branch 746 President, serves as President of the Slovak-American Cultural Center.

Since 1993, S-ACC has organized annual Slovak Balls, and also used them as an opportunity to recognize and honor people of Slovak origin for their significant achievements. This year, the honoree was Oto Racek, founder of SlovakInfo.



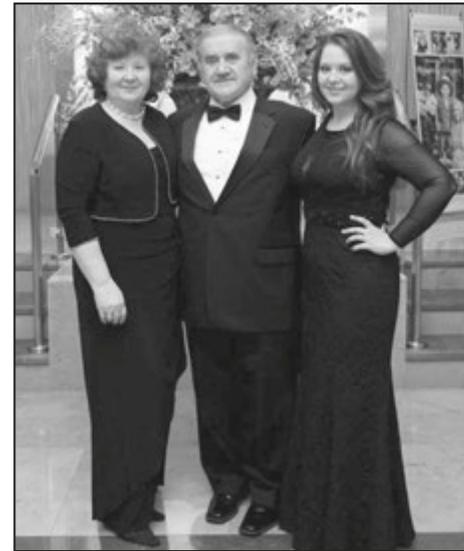
(L – R) Andrew P. Rajec; Albina Senko, Branch 254 Secretary; Joseph Senko, Honorary Consul to Slovakia from Pennsylvania; Monika Kmec; His Excellency Peter Kmec, Slovak Ambassador to the United States; and Daniel Rajec.



The Slovak Ball, a black-tie celebration of the Slovak American Cultural Center, was held this year on January 21, 2015, at the Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ.



(L – R) Andrew P. Rajec, Branch 89 and Home Office Staffer; Sabina Sabados, Region 1 Director and Branch 746 President; and Daniel Rajec, Branch 89 Member.



(L – R) Emil and Emilia Filak of Branch 746, with Branch 746 President and Region 1 Director Sabina Sabados, who also is the President of the Slovak-American Cultural Center.

PITT STUDENT SLOVAK CLUB SLOVAK STUDIES PROGRAM

University of Pittsburgh

Cordially invites you to

The Thomas Kukucka Memorial Lecture

Robert Dvorchak

Birds of Passage: Achieving the American Dream

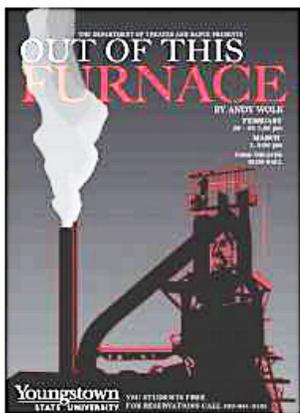
Sunday, March 22, 2015, 2:00 P.M.

1700 Posvar Hall, Pitt Campus, Oakland

Robert Dvorchak worked for 47 years as a journalist, including eight years as a national writer for the Associated Press in New York City. He has covered such stories as the original outbreak of Legionnaires Disease, the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, the Jeffrey Dahmer serial killings and the Oklahoma City bombings. During the first Iraq War, he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division as a war correspondent, and he last worked for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. A resident of Penn Hills, he is the grandson of Slovak immigrants who came to America from Spiš County, and he has taught Slovak culture to his two daughters and five granddaughters.

Refreshments will be served

Out of the Furnace Coming to Youngstown State University



There's a very exciting project that is coming to Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. Many of you may be familiar with the book by Thomas Bell, *Out of This Furnace*, that follows the story of a Slovak/Rusyn family from the old country to the new, from the coal mines to the steel mills... three generations from the 1880s to the late 1930s.

It is the story of all of the men and women who struggled to build a life in this new

country in the shadow of the steel mills that literally loomed over their lives. The novel was published in 1941 and was long out of print until it enjoyed a "rediscovery" and revival in the 1970's. The play by Andy Wolk was produced in the 1970s in Pittsburgh and was reintroduced there for Pittsburgh's 200th anniversary in 2008.

This play is being produced by the Youngstown State University theater department. Don't miss this chance to see the play that tells the story of so many of our relatives, their struggles, triumphs and tragedies. It's our story, it's where we came from and how we got here!

The play will be performed at Youngstown State University's Bliss Hall Ford Theater from **Thursday, February 26 to Saturday, February 28 at 7:30PM and on Sunday March 1st at 2:00 PM.**

The theater is located on Wick Avenue in Youngstown, across from the Butler Art Institute. **For tickets, call the University Theater Box Office at 330-941-3105 or order on-line at YSU.TIX.COM**

- Submitted by Loretta Ekoniak

VISIT SLOVAKIA---- "THE OLD COUNTRY"



Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as "the old country." Well now is the time for you to go to Slovakia and visit the ancestral homeland and villages of your family.

Join Kay and Jim Bench as they host the 18th annual Youngstown/Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Tour July 13-27, 2015.

See the capital of Slovakia—Bratislava, enjoy award winning folk groups, visit Litmanova where there were documented apparitions of the Blessed Mother appearing to three school children in the 1990's, enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas, enjoy shopping, go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River, the natural border between Poland and Slovakia, visit villages such as Cicmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichy Potok, stay in a beautiful spa in Sliac and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools and other amenities. Visit relatives and enjoy a luncheon reception with our Sister City Spisska Nova Ves. There are many more activities and cities too numerous to mention in this short article. For further information call Jim or Kay Bench.

Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com

Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900

Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel. Contact Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-mail Paul@advintravel.com

Winter Slovak Sports Roundup

Tichomir Miko*

*To sa chlapci, to sa, jak oltárne sviece,
keď letaju po ľade, celý sa trbliece.
hokejka, helma, a korčule dvoje:
To sa chlapci, to sa, potešenie moje!*

Translation:

*These be the boys, like flames upon the altar,
Flying along the ice, they set it a'shimmer
Hockey sticks, helmets, razor-sharp skates
These be the boys, who dare defy the Fates.*

When Slovak Jan Botto penned the epic poem *Smrť Jánošíkova* (the lines above are paraphrased from this work), the Slovak people were struggling to survive as a nation. To instill pride in his compatriots and inspire the Slovaks to defy the attempts by foreign overlords to annihilate their language and culture, Botto turned to a hero of Slovak mythology – Juraj Jánošík, the semi-legendary “Slovak Robin Hood”.

Although the Slovaks have achieved what Botto and his contemporaries could only envision, Slovakia still needs heroes. And that is what Slovaks witnessed at the IIHF World Championships co-hosted by Toronto, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec, Canada and played from December 26, 2014 through January 5, 2015 – new heroes to inspire them.

Now dubbed the “Cinderella Team” by many Canadian sports writers, the Band of Boys from the Land beneath the Tatra Mountains fought their way to a Bronze Medal on the podium. Underrated, undervalued by hockey critics at home and abroad, the young warriors remained undaunted even after an 8 – 0 thrashing in their opening game by the mighty Canadians; they simply bound up their wounds and less than twenty-four hours later skated back onto the ice to despatch the defending champion Finns 2-1 before a stunned audience. More losses but even more victories followed.

The “chalani” won the hearts of Canadian hockey fans with their sheer determination and courage. At all the Team Slovakia games which did not involve Canada, the Canadian fans cheered loudly for the Slovaks. Denis Godla, the Slovak netminder, is now a well-known name in hockey circles; he was declared Most Valuable Player of the whole tournament as well as Best Goalie. The Kežmarok native was passed over in last year’s NHL draft, but now no less than fifteen NHL clubs are hoping to acquire his playing rights.

The boys became modern heroes because they demonstrated that through hard work and determination one can defy odds and accomplish the near-impossible. For a short while, through their performances, they united all Slovaks – regardless of political stripe, religion, region, origin. They made us all happy and proud to be Slovaks or of Slovak origin.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Team Slovakia Juniors of 2015!!!

Sagan Prepares

Slovak cycling champion Peter Sagan, now racing for Team Tinkoff Saxo, outlined his program for the first half of the new season leading up to the Tour de France.

He will begin his season in Asia. From February 8th to the 13th he competed in the Tour of Qatar followed by the Tour of Oman from February 17th to 22nd. The Zilina na-



Slovak hockey fans celebrate during the IIHF World Junior Championships held in Canada this December through January.

tive will then return to Europe to race in the Tirreno-Adriatico in Italy from March 11th to 17th.

The Slovak’s main goal in the first half season is to win at least one of the Spring Classics (one day events) where he has reached the podium several times in the past. This year he will race in Milano – San Remo on March 22nd, Ghent – Wevelgem on March 29th, Tour of Flanders on April 5th, Scheldeprijs on April 8th and Paris – Roubaix on April 12th.

In May he will travel to the USA to take part in the Tour of California races, one of his favourite venues. In June he will race in the Tour of Switzerland and his final race before the Tour de France will be the Slovak Championships in his native Zilina at the end of June. He is currently training in Sicily.

Slovaks in Top Ten at Dakar Rally

Slovaks rally motor cyclists Štefan Svitko and Ivan Jakeš acquitted themselves very well at the most demanding motor rally in the world. When the 37th edition of the Dakar Rally began January 4th in Buenos Aires, 168 motorcycles were on the starting line. Fourteen days later, only 78 crossed the finish line. After 13 gruelling stages and more than 8000 km across some of South America’s most hostile terrain, Svitko finished fifth and Jakeš eighth.

Both motorcyclists improved their per-

formances significantly in the second half of the rally, with Svitko steadily finishing in the top ten and Jakeš finishing first in two of the latter stages. The very last stage of the rally saw Jakeš finish first with Svitko a close second.

This was Svitko’s sixth Dakar rally. The 32 year old from Orava also finished fifth in 2012. Jakeš first competed in the Dakar Rally in 2007 when it was still held in Africa. In 2013 the 41 year old from Brezova pod Bradlom captured 4th spot, the best ever for a Slovak. Both competitors are determined to return next year.

The racers crossed the Andes Mountain chain twice, experiencing high altitudes and the attending problems. Other terrains included the dunes of the Atacama Desert of Chile and the Salar de Uyuni, the world’s largest salt flat located in southwest Bolivia at 3,650 meters (just under 12000 feet) above sea level near the crest of the Andes.

Slovaks at the Australian Open

Slovakia’s number one tennis ace, Dominika Cibulkova fought her way to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open where she came up against the number one player in the world, Serena Williams on January 27th. Williams was on a roll having steamrolled her previous opponents in Melbourne. The American’s experience and sheer power proved too much for the 25 year

old Bratislava native and Williams won the match 6-2, 6-2.

The American then proceeded to defeat fellow American Madison Keys in two sets in the semis and finally Maria Shaparova of Russia in two sets in the finals to win the prestigious Australian Open for the sixth time. It was the 19th Grand Slam victory of her career, putting her three victories shy of Steffi Graf’s record of 22.

Cibulkova made it to the finals of the Australian Open last year where she faced the inimitable Li Na of China. It was Cibulkova’s best ever performance at a Grand Slam tournament.

Tennis fans also witnessed the rise of a future Slovak tennis star in Melbourne. Tereza Mihalíková from Topoľčany won the Junior Championship at the Australian Open on January 31st. The sixteen year old was unseeded but appeared to have little trouble eliminating seeded players on her way to victory. She defeated Greet Minnen of Belgium 6:4, 6:5 in the semi-final and Katie Swan of Great Britain 6:1, 6:4 in the final.

She was quick out of the gate, taking a 5-0 lead in the first set against Swan. In the second set she stumbled and fell behind 3-0 but rallied to come back and win the set and match 6:4. She demonstrated she has the skills and cool aplomb to go far in the sport giving up only one break point for the match – while creating 12 for herself – and blasted 25 winners to Swan’s 11.

“I am absolutely delighted. I always dreamed of holding a big trophy in a beautiful stadium like this. I thank my parents, my coach and cousin Alica who travelled here to support me. I am looking forward to playing on the WTA professional circuit soon,” said the first Slovak to win a junior Australian Open title.

Sport Shorts

- Slovak Slalom skier Veronika Velez-Zuzulová had the fastest second run to finish in fifth place at the World Cup race in Flachau, Austria on Tuesday, January 13, 2015; the Bratislava native trailed the winner Frieda Hansdotter of Sweden by 71 one hundredths of a second. The result moves her up to fifteenth place in the World Cup Ranking and will play a large part in her seeding in upcoming World Cup races.

- FC Liverpool of the British Premier Football League is very satisfied with the play of Slovak National Team captain Martin Škrtel; the “Reds” are offering him a long term contract. “Liverpool is in my heart. I have experienced great times here and I am happy to be part of this team,” said the Handlova native on January 11th as he celebrated seven years with the team.

- Slovakia has won the right to host the 2019 IIHF World Championships. Perhaps “won” is too strong a word – there were no other candidates to host the games. Switzerland, who was also contending, decided they would rather host the event in 2020 and withdrew their bid. The official approval will come in May at the IIHF congress in Prague. Slovakia hosted the tournament in Bratislava and Kosice in 2011.

**Julo Behul, the editor of the Kanadsky Slovak helped with the piece on at the IIHF World Championships, which also ran in Kanadsky Slovak 2015 číslo 2.*

Scenes from District 3's Stedry Vecer

The George Onda District (3) of the First Catholic Slovak Union held its annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday, December 7, 2014. The event hosted 123 guests and members at the Bishop William G. Connare Center in Greensburg, PA. Mass in the Chapel was concelebrated by our Chaplain, Monsignor Larry Kulick, Pastor of St. James Parish in New Alexandria, PA.; Monsignor William Charnoki, retired from the diocese; and Reverend John Foriska, Pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Ligonier, PA. Our organist was Stephen Makar with Paul Mondock as cantor. Spotting the "first star" in the evening sky was Stephen LaPay, a 4th grader at Aquinas Academy in Greensburg, PA. Guests were treated to homemade Oplatki by Geraldine Kovacina, Branch 181 Secretary. After a delicious dinner on tables laden with fruit, nuts, candy and table favors, kolache were distributed. Monsignor Kulick presided as Master of Ceremonies and introduced the National Officers attending: National Treasurer George Matta and Mrs. Florence Matta; National Treasurer-elect, George Matta II and Mrs. Kathy Matta; National Chairman of Auditors, Karen Hunka and Supreme Court Member James Bench and Mrs. Kay Bench. District Officers present were: President, Clarence Pfeifer; Vice-President, Darlene Patty and Mr. William Patty; District Secretary Linda Gonta; and District Treasurer Stephen Gonta.

Numerous door prizes were awarded and George Matta gave some parting words upon his retirement from the National Treasurer's office. Upon return to the chapel, the Pittsburgh Slovaks provided traditional seasonal entertainment adding to the festivities.

- Submitted by Linda L. Gonta, Secretary, George Onda District



(L - R) District President Clarence Pfeifer, Helen Homulka, Geraldine Hricik



National Treasurer-elect, George Matta II and Mrs. Kathy Matta



District Chaplain Monsignor Larry Kulick (standing) served as emcee for the evening.



Geraldine Kovacina, Branch 181 Secretary



District Secretary Linda Gonta; and District Treasurer Stephen Gonta



(L - R) Florence Sprock, National Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka, Father Dennis Bogusz



William and Darlene Patty



(L - R) Father Foriska and Richard Mizikar



Russ and Marie Morgan



Stephen LaPay



(L - R) Darlene, Stephen, and Chris LaPay



Micki and Mark Smolleck



National Treasurer George Matta and Mrs. Florence Matta



Supreme Court Member James Bench and Mrs. Kay Bench



(L - R) Monsignor Kulick and Monsignor Charnoki

Branch 746 Rings in the New Year

On January 11, 2015, Branch 746 members gathered together to wish one another a happy, healthy, prosperous, and blessed new year. After a productive meeting members enjoyed delicious traditional Slovak food catered by Julie and Bart Rada.

- Submitted by Sabina Sabados, Branch 746 President and Region 1 Director



Branch 746 members.



Mr. and Mrs. John Balas



(L - R): Anna Balas, Maria Budis, Milka Choma, Viliam Choma, John Budis, and John Balas



(L - R): Anna Estok, Mary Tkach, Joan Tkach, Emil Filak, Emilia Filak, and Anne Zofchak



Mary Tkach and Joan Tkach



Mr. and Mrs. John Budis

Newly Elected Executive Board of Branch 746 (L-R): Joanne Polt (Vice President), Mary Kapitan (Secretary), Sabina Sabados (President), Mary Karch (Treasurer).



Mr. and Mrs. Viliam Choma



Emil Filak and Mary Kapitan

Hey Kids.....

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

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.

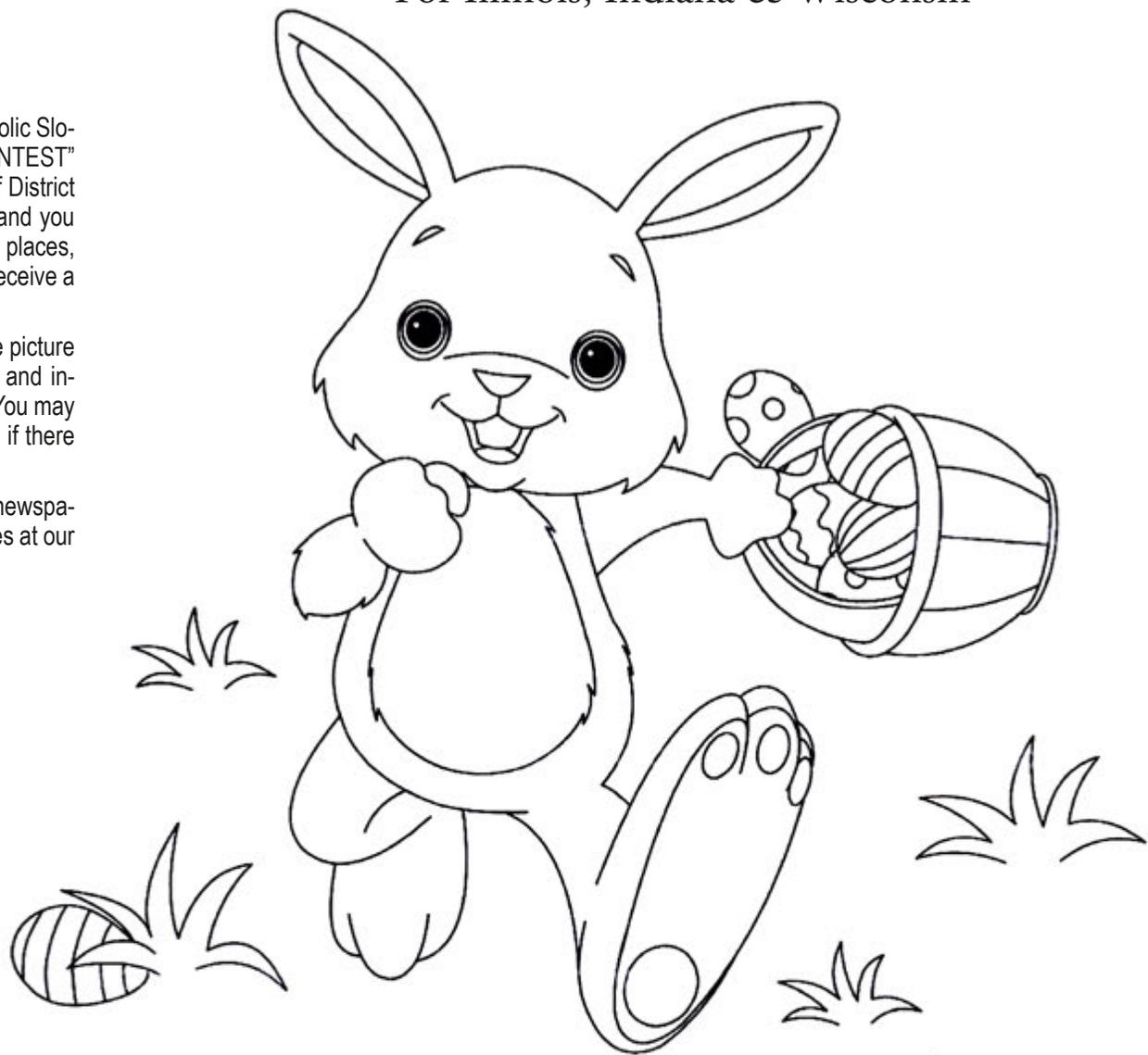
Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 14, 2015. You may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color, if there are other children in family entering the coloring 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, April 26, 2015.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



St. Thomas A'Becket 2014 Fish Fry Begins February 20, 2015



During the Lenten Season, St. Thomas A'Becket Church at 138 Gill Hall Road, Jefferson Hills, PA, will hold their Fish Fry on each Friday of Lent, beginning the First Friday of Lent, February 20, 2015, and including Good Friday. This will be held in the School Building at 139 Gill Hall Road. The hours are 3:30PM - 7:00PM. Take outs are available by calling 412-655-9966.

The menu includes: hand-breaded cod, baked cod dinners, fried shrimp dinner, combo platter (fried fish and shrimp), tuna melts, and baked or fried fish sandwich. We also have soup, fries, pizza, homemade mac-n-cheese, and haluski. Dinners include: 2 sides and a beverage. Children's menu available. Also homemade mac-n-cheese, haluski, soup, fries, pizza. Special additions: March 6 and 27 - Homemade Crab Cakes. 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

Branch 670 Now Accepting Scholarship Applicants

Branch 670 of Donora, PA, is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2015 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria, one \$500.00 scholarship in memory of Albert (Abby) John Marflak and up to three, onetime \$1000.00 scholarships. Any individual of Branch 670 that has had a policy for at least 4 years, is current in their premiums, is a high school senior and will attend an Approved Educational Institution is eligible to apply.



For applications, you may email your request or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1 of the following officers:

Dorothy Petrus, 545 Castner Ave., Donora, PA 15033
Joe Matinko, 85 Crestline Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022 (email: matinko305@comcast.net)
Cheryl Hyatt, 410 Sunset Hills Drive, Freedom, PA 15042 (email: hyattfamily@comcast.net)

ALL APPLICATION REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 15, 2015.

- Submitted by Joe Matinko

25TH ANNUAL SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST



Saturday, March 21, 2015

St. Adalbert Church So. 15th Street, South Side

9:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Holy Rosary (in Slovak)

10:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side

11:00 a.m. -- SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS

sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)
kolbasy (sausage) paska (sweet bread) kolace (baked goods)



- * Homemade Baked Goods for Sale
- * Cultural Displays
- * Imported Slovak gifts for sale
- * Slovak "Auction" / Raffles
- * Craft Demonstrations:
Decorating Easter Eggs, Braiding Palms, Stuffing Kolbasy, & MORE!

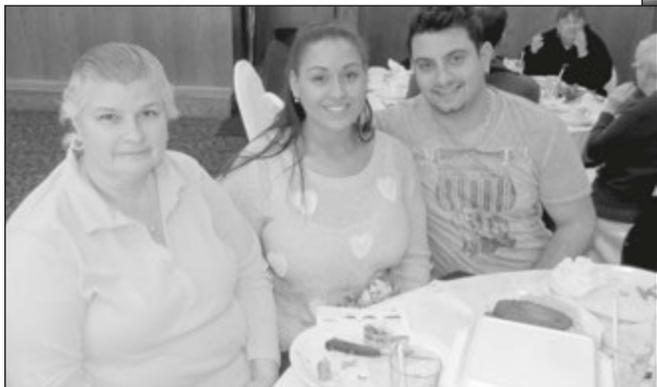
Donations Gratefully Accepted

For more information call (412) 481-8380

Branch 493 Christmas Luncheon & Meeting

Scenes from the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, and Christmas Luncheon. The events took place at Mabenka's Restaurant in Burbank, IL.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder, Financial Secretary



ATTENTION COLLEGE-BOUND FCSU MEMBERS

From the desk of the Executive Secretary
Kenneth A. Arendt

THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2015 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Eighty (80) ONE-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to the winners.

- 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of \$1000.00 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 and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

For rules, requirements and applications go to

www.fcsu.com/scholarships

or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 31, 2015



ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA

JEDNOTARS

An Evening of Fun & Fraternalism

Saturday, March 21, 2015

7:00pm

Monsters vs. Grand Rapids Griffins
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH

Special Offer Includes:

- **Discounted End Zone Tickets!!** (\$24 game day value)
 - Non-members: \$18 per ticket
 - Members: deep discount available through your branch
- **Rally Towel Giveaway!**

To get your branch discount and order tickets, please contact the representative in your branch:

- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 440-668-7797
- Branch 450: George Carny, 440-885-5702
- Branch 553: Greg Petrasek, 330-398-1888
- Branch 855: Tom Bardar, 216-956-5507



Special FCSU member rates, courtesy of your FCSU branch. Contact your branch officer for details!!

Deadline to order: Monday, March 2, 2015

METHOD OF DELIVERY:

From your branch officer or by pick up at the Q's will call (located near box office), if arrangements are made in advance through your branch.

All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. Video cameras are not allowed in Quicken Loans Arena. Offer and discounts not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.



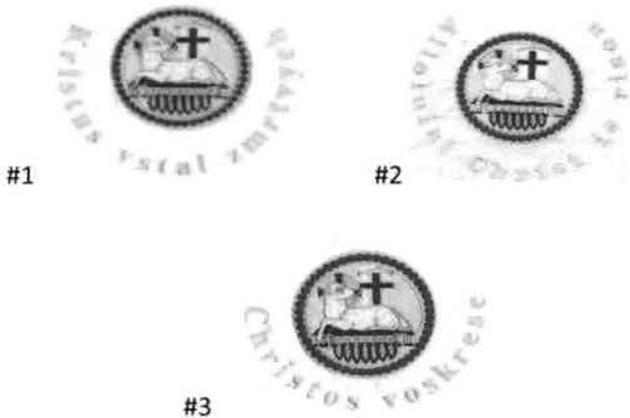
LakeErieMonsters.com

twitter.com/MonstersHockey

Facebook.com/LakeErieMonsters

FOR SALE

Embroidered Easter Basket Covers
 Three types of basket covers are available to bring your Easter Foods to Church for blessing on Holy Saturday
 Each embroidered cover is \$30 plus \$5 shipping



- 1st Slovak words "Kristus vstal zmrtvych"
"Christ is Risen"
- 2nd English words "Alleluia! Christ is risen"
- 3rd Byzantine Slovak words "Christos voskrese"
"Christ is risen"

Each cover is approximately 27" x 17"

Keep the traditions alive and pass these treasured covers from generation to generation.

Order by phone at 724-562-0782 or 724-277-4236
 Or use order form below

ORDER FORM

_____ Total Number of Covers ordered

_____ "Kristus vstal zmrtvych" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]

_____ "Alleluia! Christ is risen" [\$30 plus \$5 s&h]

_____ "Christos voskrese" [\$30 plus \$5 s & h]

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Kindly make checks payable to: Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
 Send this order form and check for \$35 to:
 Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
 St. Aloysius Church
 459 Ranch Road, Dunbar, PA 15431

Jednota Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13				14						15				16
17				18						19				
20			21							22		23		
	24								25		26			
			27				28	29						
30	31	32				33					34		35	36
37						38						39		
40			41		42					43	44			
			45		46					47				
48	49							50				51	52	
53				54		55	56							57
58			59			60						61		
62						63						64		
	65					66						67		

Across

- 1 Wine holder
- 4 Billiards shot
- 9 Hoagies
- 13 Spanish cheer
- 14 Reference book
- 15 Snares
- 17 Hit the jackpot
- 18 Christmas songs
- 19 Sharpshooter Oakley
- 20 Classroom activity for lower grades
- 23 Compass heading
- 24 Narrow ridges
- 25 Taxes
- 27 Preceded
- 28 Stock units
- 30 Fissile rock
- 33 US territory
- 34 Kind of collar
- 37 Heavy weight
- 38 The *It Girl* Bow
- 39 Dutch city
- 40 Himalayan legend
- 42 Bee house
- 43 White heron
- 45 Drink
- 47 Articulate
- 48 Descend a mountain
- 50 Brownish-orange horse
- 53 Notable period
- 54 Like some institutions
- 58 Bridal path
- 60 Incensed
- 61 Comic Charlotte
- 62 Alloy
- 63 Sounds of disappointment

Down

- 64 Egg cells
- 65 Blubbers
- 66 Beginning
- 67 Traffic stopper
- 41 Rascal
- 43 Sincere
- 44 Greek sandwich
- 46 Asian pepper plants
- 47 Mollify
- 48 Enlarge, as a hole
- 49 Zodiac sign
- 50 Some carpets
- 51 Mistake
- 52 Exit
- 55 Soybean paste
- 56 Ireland
- 57 Before heat or head
- 59 Chem classroom
- 1 Wedding words
- 2 Hilo hello
- 3 Singing voice
- 4 Sea cows
- 5 Repented
- 6 Iditarod items
- 7 Seasoner
- 8 To be, to Brutus
- 9 More hackneyed
- 10 Ornamental vase
- 11 First under-four-minute man
- 12 Backbone
- 16 Stitches
- 21 Water source
- 22 Peruvian beast
- 26 Victory sign
- 28 Debonair
- 29 Rabbit relative
- 30 Hog haven
- 31 Tiller's tool
- 32 It. appetizer
- 33 Smooth-tongued
- 35 Literary piece
- 36 Tennis court divider
- 38 Hot dish

JEDNOTA Publication Schedule for 2015

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| March 4 | February 23 |
| March 18 | March 9 |
| April 22 | April 13 |
| May 6 | April 27 |
| May 20 | May 11 |
| June 10 | June 1 |
| July 15 | July 6 |
| August 12 | August 3 |
| Sept 9 | August 31 |
| Sept 23 | Sept 14 |
| October 7 | Sept 28 |
| October 21 | October 12 |
| November 4 | October 26 |
| November 18 | November 9 |
| December 9 | November 30 |

See Solution on Page 18

A Valentine from Chewy

Hi, Kids (& All Those Young at Heart).



It's me, Chewy. How the heck are you, now that the holidays are over and most of us are settling in for the rest of a hard, cold winter? Keeping safe and warm, I hope. We've had some brutally cold days and snow here in Ohio, where I make my new home at the FCSU Home Office. Samozrejme (of course) not as cold as I remember on the family homestead high up in the Slovak mountains. Some winters we pups would barely peek our noses out of the barn, the air was so cold and the snow piled so high! Only Tato (Dad) would venture out on even the most blustery days. If not to herd the sheep who stayed in the barn as well in the worst weather but to patrol the perimeters of our Masters' land, letting all the wild critters

know to stay away. Not a lot to look forward to in those cold dark days. Except we always knew February had a very special day in it. February 14, to be exact, which the people of our homestead celebrated as a saint's feast day – but we were talkin' Saints Cyril & Methodius, and not St. Valentine! Now I hear, tho, that the kiddos there are starting to celebrate the 14th as Valentine's Day, too, exchanging cards and flowers like here. I even got wind that some Slovaks use the day as an excuse for a party. Imagine that. Slovaks needing an excuse to get together and enjoy good food and drinks;-) This year, it's probably even more so, since it falls so close to Fašiangy, or Fat Tuesday on Feb 17, when our people really party down before Lent.

Anyhoo, I know for sure that you guys here are big into the day. So from the bottom of my little doggy heart, I want to wish you and yours a Happy Valentine's Day. I also want to share with you this little ditty. I think of it not so much as a love poem to any particular female, as it is an ode to my first and truest love – the land of my birth, Slovakia.

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

Your friend (tvoj priateľ'),

Chewy



Waters Gently Flowing

Waters gently flowing
Through this cherished countryside.
For whom do you forsake me?
Please, my sweetheart, here abide.

Leave you, yes, I must leave you.
Well, you know the reason why.
May my words carry home to
You, and ease such a wistful sigh.

Back home I long to be, dear,
At our window with my love.
For this do I now weep here.
Just as you, my little dove.

Tečie voda tečie

Tečie voda tečie, cez velecký majer,
Komus' ma zanechal starodávny frajer,
Komus' ma zanechal starodávny frajer.

Nechal som t'a nechal, dobre ty vieš komu,
Čo tie reči nosil do nášieho domu,
Čo tie reči nosil do nášieho domu.

Do nášieho domu, pod naše okienko,
Čo som sa naplakal, sivá holubienko,
Čo som sa naplakal, sivá holubienko.

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks Available for Purchase

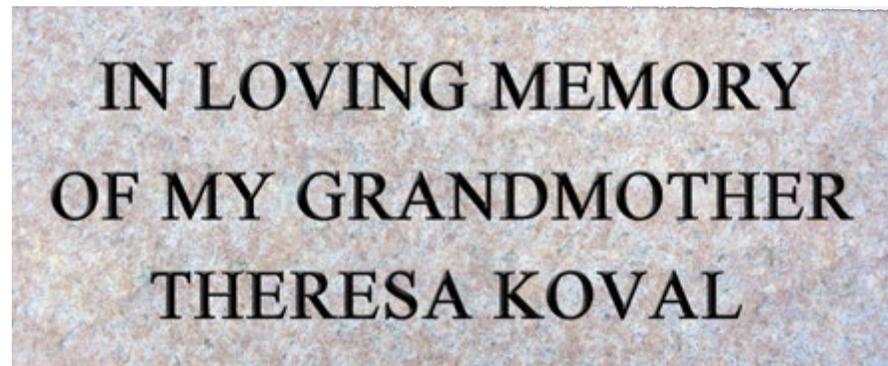


The Jednota Memorial is located on the First Catholic Slovak Union's Jednota Estate grounds in Middletown, PA, on a permanently dedicated 1/2 acre of land fronting Rosedale Avenue. This land was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage. We are re-bronzing an existing "Doughboy" statue, dedicating it to those who died in any national war. The Memorial also is a great opportunity for our Members to honor and re-

member their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

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

Bricks are still available for purchase to commemorate loved ones in your branch, district, or family.



Example of a personal brick

For more information on purchasing a brick, go to our website at www.fcsu.com or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

To view all the Memorial photos, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FirstCatholicSlovakUnion.



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

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Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren (0 -18) and receive a FREE \$10.00 Gift Card

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\$10,000 for \$820	\$10,000 for \$690

Reach out to us at 800.533.6682



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Contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office

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This Valentine's Day



Do Something For Someone You Love ...
 Call the Home Office and
 Check your Beneficiaries Today!
1-800-533-6682 (JEDNOTA)

FREE

Estate Planning Booklet from the First Catholic Slovak Union



First Catholic Slovak Union

Estate Planning Booklet



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ARE YOU PLANNING ON PASSING YOUR ASSETS TO LOVED ONES?



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WEALTH TRANSFER

Wealth management

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Here are the benefits:

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- Avoid probate
- Cash value growth

Interested? Call 800.533.6682 today!

As National President Andrew M. Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth A. Arendt state in the beginning of the 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).



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



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 2 St Michaels will hold their annual skating party at North Park Skating Rink, on Friday, February 13, 2015, from 6:30 to 10pm. Skating starts at 7:30pm. We will also hold our semi-annual meeting before the festivities begin.

Jo Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Branch 3 will hold their annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 29, 2015. Mass will be offered for our living and deceased members at 9:00AM at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Second Street and 13th Ave., NE.

After Mass, a full breakfast will be served by the St. Cyril Slovak Mass Club is Father Dargay 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!

Fraternally,

James T. Genosky, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19K, will hold its breakfast meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2015. A Mass in honor of our patron saint, St. Joseph, will be offered for our members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, CT.

Following the Mass, members are invited to come to the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall in the lower level of the church for our regular meeting and breakfast.

The Margaret Evancho Award will be given to the following members who reached their 16th birthday in 2014:

- Julia Rose Farell
- Matthew Gerics
- Patrick M. Jezierny
- Alex C. Kuruc
- Zachery Piroh
- Connor Joseph Prince
- Rachel Ann Radwill
- Sara Ann Serdy

This award recognizes the dedication and the many years of service that Margaret Evancho gave to Branch 19K, especially to its youth.

We cordially invite our members to attend this special meeting. Mark your calendars for upcoming branch meetings; we also will meet on April 12, 2015 and June 14, 2015.

Henry Zach, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2015, 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 89 – MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Branch 89 invites all members and their guests to a meeting and social, with luncheon to follow on Saturday, February 14, 2015, at Allio's Restaurant, 3041 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Social time is from noon until 12:30pm; the meeting is from 12:30pm to 1:00pm (approximately); with lunch to be served directly following the meeting at 1:00pm. On the agenda: election of officers and a discussion of donations and 2015 activities.

Lunch for members is complimentary; guest's cost is \$20.00. Make checks payable to: Knights of St. Mary & Joseph, Br 89. Reservations must be made by February 11, 2015 by calling Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. Reservations are required in order to give the number attending to the restaurant.

Fraternally,

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2015, at 11:30AM at Meloni's Restaurant Conference Room, 105 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA.

Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given as well as upcoming events for the current year. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and luncheon. Call for reservations by March 1, 2015, and for any address changes or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, 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 26, 2015, 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. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 24, 2015, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 181 – UNITED, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 181 will hold a meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2015, immediately following the 5PM Mass in the St. Florian Formation Building, 4261 Rt. 981, United, PA, 15689. On the agenda: to plan and set dates for 2015 branch activities. All branch members are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Gerry Kovacina, P.O.Box 24, Mammoth, PA, 15664, 412-216-5527.

Gerry Kovacina, Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union holds meetings at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, OH, on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club.

Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities.

Come to our meetings. They are fun, informative and help to promote fraternal camaradery.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, February 15, 2015, at 11:45am at Panera's restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria mall located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. On the agenda will be: election of officers for 2015; review of 2014 branch activities; and plans for 2015 business. Lunch will be provided. For reservations, contact Albina Senko at 412-343-5031

Albina Senko, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 259 – STRUTHERS, OHIO

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 259, will hold a meeting on February 15, 2015, at 10:00AM at the Church Hall of Christ Our Savior Parish (Holy Trinity).

We will conduct our Annual Audit and also discuss the activities for 2015.

We want to wish all members a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its first meeting of the New Year on Sunday March 15, 2015 at St Patrick's Roman Catholic church on 32nd Street in McKeesport, Pa. at 1:00 P.M. All officers are urged to attend.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382K of Scranton, PA, will hold its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2015, at noon in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

On the agenda will be future branch activities as well as District 17 programs. Copies of the Annual Branch Report to the Home Office will be available.

The annual auditing of the books will be conducted.

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

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. is president. The other executive officers include Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, vice president; Michael J. Czankner, secretary; John J. Slovenkai, Sr., financial secretary; and Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., treasurer.

Fraternally,

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Branch 450 Annual Meeting will be held at Holy Spirit church hall 5500 West 54th Street, Parma, OH, 44129 (between Snow and Brookpark Roads) on February 21, 2015 at noon. At this meeting we will be electing officers. All members interested in becoming officers should plan to attend.

Lori Valencik, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HTS, MICHIGAN

Branch 595 will hold its annual meeting, which will include the election of officers, on February 18, 2015, at 6pm. The meeting will be held at 2526 Sixth Street Muskegon, MI. In general, Branch 595 holds a meeting every third Wednesday of each month at Tatra Hall.

Other events include:

February 15 - Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner: \$8.00 per person, 11:30 am - 3:00pm

February 22 - All you can eat Breakfast: \$8.00 per person, 8:30 am - 12 noon

March 1 - Polka Dance: 3:00pm - 6:00 pm: \$5.00 per person at the door, food available for purchase

March 15 - Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner: \$8.00 per person, 11:30 am - 3:00pm

March 22 - All you can eat Breakfast: \$8.00 per person 8:30 am - 12 noon

All events take place at Tatra Hall, 2526 Sixth St., Muskegon Heights, MI.

The meeting hall is open daily from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Come and enjoy the company of fellow members.

Cindy Bellefeuil, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Saint Joseph Branch 731 elected officers at the annual meeting held on December 21, 2014. The following officers we elected: Grace Kavulic, President, Irene Makovec, Vice-president, James Bobby, Recording Secretary and Jacquelyn Bobby, Financial Secretary.

Plans for 2015 were made beginning with our Patron Saint Mass on March 22, 2015. The liturgy is at 11 am at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church, 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St Joseph on Sunday, March 22, 2015, with a Slovak Mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI.

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

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

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

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

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

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 12:30 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church in Linden, NJ. The agenda will include discussion of plans for the fall planned bus trips. Okres meeting will follow at 1:00 PM. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764 will be hosting a lunch at St. Mary/St Joseph; 131 West Quarry St. Newton Falls, OH on March 22, 2015 at 12 noon. The tentative menu will be baked chicken, parsley potatoes, salad, bread, dessert, coffee and a punch. A free will offering will be accepted.

Officers for 2015 were recently elected: Bill Hrusovsky, President; Fred Brunetti, Vice-President; Joy Brunetti, Secretary; and Rosemary Heald, Auditor.

If you are interested in FCSU Annuities with great interest rates, Life Insurance, or Wealth Transfer with Single Premium Whole Life Insurance please call Fred Brunetti at 330-240-4142 or George Yuricek at 330-394-8249.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 888 – WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

The Holy Trinity Society, Branch 888, will hold its next meeting on Monday, February 16, 2015, at 6:00 pm at 6921 Isla Vista Drive, West Palm Beach, Florida 33412. Contact David Rafaidus, President at (561) 776- 0449 or jednota888@yahoo.com for directions and further information.

The agenda will include the nomination/election of officers. All Branch members are invited to attend.

David Rafaidus, President

11th CONSULAR TOUR TO SLOVAKIA

August 23, 2015 to September 2, 2015 Escorted by Joseph & Albina Senko



Slovak Honorary Consul Joseph Senko has visited Slovakia 25 times since 1995, including ten tours which he has arranged and escorted. His wife, Albina, was born and raised in Slovakia. With their experience, they have created a customized tour for 2015 which will take you across Slovakia. Each night, we will stay at a first class hotel. Over 270 people from the United States have enjoyed these tours with Joe and Albina.

In addition to touring many historic towns in Slovakia, we will also visit famous historic sites in neighboring countries - Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary. Our tour of Slovakia will take us from west to east through Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia; Trnava, known as the "Little Rome" of Slovakia; Modra, where we will be seeing a demonstration in a ceramic factory; the world famous spa town of Piešťany; historic Banská Bystrica; the High Tatras; the famous town of Levoča; Bardejov, which is included in the UNESCO list; Presov, the sister city of Pittsburgh; and Kocise, the second largest city in Slovakia.

In addition to visiting several famous castles and museums, we will enjoy listening to live folk music, touring many historic churches, and dining in several typical Slovak restaurants.

Unique to this tour is: receiving a spa treatment; attending a mock Slovak wedding; rafting on the Dunajec river; several wine tastings and meeting with several Slovak dignitaries.

As we travel through the various regions of Slovakia, we can make arrangements for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages at an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour. The 11 days you will spend with us will be enjoyable, educational and you will be pleasantly surprised what Slovakia has to offer visitors.

For a detailed itinerary and payment schedule, contact Joe Senko at 412-956-6000 or jtsenko@aol.com. For a list of hotels, flight schedules, payment schedule and restrictions, contact Joe Senko.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2015 at 1:00 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, 2806 Parkway Avenue, Linden, NJ. A lunch will be served after the meeting. Please call Mary Karch @732-572-2331 if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 276 hosted the annual Fall/Winter meeting of the FCSU/Pittsburgh District on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at the Holy Trinity Parish Hall in West Mifflin. Members enjoyed a dinner of ham and stuffed cabbage. Branch 2 and the Pittsburgh Slovaks provided entertainment. There were songs and dances depicting winter traditions from in the Slovakia of our ancestors. Jaslickari retold the story of the coming of the Christ Child from the viewpoint of the shepherds.

A new slate of district officers was elected for 2015. They are: chaplain Fr Joseph Grosko, president David Matta, vice-president Karianne Barnes, financial secretary Joseph Yuros, secretary Margaret Nasta, chair of auditors Flo Matta, auditor Anne Berezna, auditor Anna Wargovich, activities director Susan Ondrejco, and sergeant-at-arms Mary Beth Colbaugh.

Branch 35 will host the spring business meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 1PM at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. Branch 35 requests an RSVP by April 1. Please contact Janet Sullivan at 412-824-4185.

Branch 738 will host the Fathers Day brunch on Sunday, June 21. Karianne Barnes of Branch 628 will do the ad booklet. More details will be provided at the spring meeting. Branch 38 will host the annual winter meeting at a date to be determined later.

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:

** WPSCA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library. Topics are: March 2: Larry Kozlowski - Slovak Easter Customs

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees.

** Slovak Day at Kennywood – Thursday, July 16, 2015. Tickets available on Father's Day.

** Pittsburgh Folk Festival – Monroeville Convention Center – see www.pghfolkfest.org/

** Tour of Slovakia with the Senko's – August 23 to September 2, 2015 – Includes Vienna and Budapest. Contact Joe Senko for information about the itinerary.

** 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, Slovakia has a number of major universities, some of which have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

** The National Slovak Society Museum in McMurray PA is available to visitors Monday-Thursday from 9-3. Contact Sue Ondrejco for information and reservations.

See www.nsslife.org/Museum.php

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730

** FCSU information and forms can be found at www.fcsu.com

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

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

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, March 22, 2015. It will be held in the Auditorium of the Wesley Enhanced Living Complex, 8401 Roosevelt Blvd., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152.

There is private parking available behind the building.

Mass will be at 11AM in the auditorium.

Dinner will be served immediately after Mass.

The meeting will start at 1PM.

Dinner will be catered, therefore reservations are required by March 10, 2015. The cost is \$20.00 per person. That includes the dinner and sandwiches following the meeting.

The Cleveland Slovak School for Adults & Children Resumes for 2015



The Cleveland Slovak School for Adults and Children will resume Saturday classes for the 2014-2015 school year on February 21, 2015. The second semester will conclude on May 30. There will be no class on Saturday, April 4 and May 23.

Classes are held at the St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church located at 8111 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH.

Levels and class times are as follows:

Level 1 - 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. beginner child age 4 to 11

Level 2 - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. child age 12 and older to adult, no previous Slovak language fluency

Level 3 - 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. child age 12 and older to adult who have beginner fluency or have completed Level 2

Level 4 - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. child age 12 and older to adults who have more advanced fluency or have completed Levels 2 and 3

If you are uncertain as to what level would be appropriate, please give Instructor Miriam Visnovsky a call at 440-638-9921. Class fees are \$10 per class for the first family member and \$5 per class for each additional family member and may be paid at the first class or by completing an application available on the web site at www.slovakschool.com and sending the application and check made payable to Cleveland Slovak School to Miriam Visnovsky, 4600 State Road, Cleveland OH, 44109.

Fees are nonrefundable and due at the first class.

The text used in the Level 2 and 3 class is Slovincina pre Cudzincov by Dratva and Buznova and can be purchased online through Bolchazy Publishing at www.bolchazy.com. Materials for Level 4 will be provided during class

For directions, please call the Secretary of Branch 55 at 215-637-6530 or the President at 610-356-7956.

Any questions, please call Loretta Dashner at 610.432.8350.

Loretta Dashner, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 9 – THE FRANK T. HOLLY, JR. DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 8, 2015 at Meloni's Restaurant, 105 W. Main Street, Uniontown, PA, at 1PM. Everyone attending is asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal.

Reservations are to be made to President Marmol at 724-437-0892 by Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

There will be an election of officers and information pertaining to district business. Branch members are invited to attend.

Barbara A. Holly, District Secretary

DISTRICT 13 - JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District #13 will hold a semi-annual meeting on March 8, 2015, following a complimentary luncheon. The time is 2:00pm at Cozy Corners in Osceola Mills, PA, 16666, on Route 53 South from Philipsburg, PA, 16866.

All members from Branches 007K, 149K, 198P, 233K, 299K, 333K, 417K, 456K, 623K, and 667K are welcome to attend.

2015 district dues are due and can be brought to the meeting or sent to Rosemary Deliman, District Financial Secretary, at 203 Dogwood Drive, Philipsburg, PA, 16866.

Please contact via phone or fax: Rosemary at 814 342 5592 or e-mail rosemarydeliman@me.com if you are able to attend.

Rosemary Deliman, District Financial Secretary

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT

The Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 of Broome County in New York and Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania will conduct its Annual Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2015, in the Shrine Meeting Room of St. Ann's Basilica Parish, 1250 St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA.

District treasurer and auditors will meet at 12:30 P.M. to audit the books. The meeting will follow at 1:00 P.M.

On the agenda will be the following: auditors' report, Commemorative Memorial Brick, District dues, District summer picnic, donations for 2015, and the Regional Director's Report.

Refreshments will be served.

All branches are urged to send a branch representative. To confirm attendance, branches should contact President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 by Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., District President

Branch 280's Daniel Shemon Receives Eagle Scout Rank



Daniel J. Shemon, son of Jude and Donna Shemon of Imperial, PA, has achieved Boy Scouting's highest rank, that of Eagle Scout. He was awarded the rank on November 11, 2014.

Daniel, 15, is a member of Boy Scout Troop 830, sponsored by Clinton United Presbyterian Church, of the Laurel Highlands Council.

Daniel began his scouting career when he was 6 years old as a Tiger Cub with Pack 911 and continued through Cub Scouting to achieve the highest award, the Arrow of Light.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Daniel constructed an English-style sheep shed at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. The project entailed fundraising (over \$6,200), project management, leadership/time management skills, as well as carpentry and construction work. Daniel logged almost 250 hours of work on this project himself. He also had many hours of work time on his project donated by other adult and scout volunteers.

Daniel is a sophomore at West Allegheny High School where he maintains a 4.2 GPA. He also is a member of the cross-country team and a trumpet player for the Concert Band, Brass Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble. He is also a proud member of the school's JROTC program. Right now, he's leaning towards a career in the military and possibly attending the Air Force Academy.

Daniel is an active member of St. Columbkille Roman Catholic Church, where he is an altar server and a Vacation Bible School volunteer. He, along with his brother, Andrew, and sister, Claire, is a triplet fourth generation member of Branch 280 in Natrona Heights, PA. Both his great-grandfather, John Jancech and grandmother, Dolores Carlson, were past presidents of Branch 280.

- Submitted by Donna Shemon

2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour Takes Off September 11-20, 2015



Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2015 Slovakia Heritage ten-day, small group tour. From September 11-20, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical research and ancestral village visits available.

For more information: Visit www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, Slovakia Heritage Tours, 978-544-5144 or connectionswork4u@hotmail.com

Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
001P	Jeanette A Lesh	181K	Lois A Lucas	493K	Anthony Pasko	831K	Richard A Buday
024K	Michael James Barnes	189P	Dorothy J Sikoski	493K	Valeria M Pasko	831K	Raymond J Collins
035K	Carol L Sells	199K	John E Goodman Jr	497K	Thelma Choma	831K	Lawrence M Lisco
038K	Ruth C Mihal	200K	Marie Kamer	567K	Bernard J Hanzlik	856K	Ellen Marie Fenchak
040K	David Karl Harcar	200K	Reba J Mikula	652K	John Paul Loh	857K	Carole J Kuhs
040K	Rosemary Shackley	315K	Mary Lenart	670K	Florence Huntoon	857K	Ann M Morpurgo
085K	John R Green	320K	Michael V Sekel Jr	682K	Richard P Kollar	890K	Thomas Francis Pitoniak
162K	Josephine M Pascia	324K	Nancy A Wasco	721K	John A Skapik	916K	James Hamilton
162K	Paul Stefanko	388K	Mary Ann Palmer	731K	John R Seman		
166K	Ruth M Mitrowitz	410K	John J Zidek	733K	Richard A Melko		
173K	Catherine Lydia Kinsley	425K	Frances E Slota	764K	Stephen V Shader Sr		

*Processed through the month of January 2015

OBITUARIES

JEANNE PUTKA CARRICK BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Jeanne Putka Carrick passed away on January 1, 2015. Born in Cleveland, OH on May 16, 1924, the daughter of Andrew G. Putka and Lillian Putka nee Koryta, Jeanne relocated to Sarasota in 1996 from Shaker Heights, OH. She received a B.A. Degree from Notre Dame College of Ohio and a Master's Degree in Social work from Catholic University of America, School of Social Work. She retired in 1995 after 26 years as a clinical social worker employed by the Cleveland Veteran's Administration Medical Center. During the Korean conflict, Jeanne was an assistant Field Director with the American Red Cross, assigned to military hospitals. As wife of a US Army officer, Jeanne lived in Japan, Okinawa, California, Virginia and Turkey. Jeanne was preceded in death by her younger daughter, Martha C. Ryan, of Monroe, LA, and is survived by her older daughter, Barbara Carrick Dumbaugh and son-in-law John Dumbaugh of Sarasota, FL, and grandchildren: Elizabeth Johnstone Dumbaugh and daughter-in-law Kate Dumbaugh of Sarasota, Victoria Jeanne Dumbaugh of Boston, Taylor Ryan of Paris, France and Spencer Ryan of Monroe, LA, and a brother, Andrew C. Putka of Rocky River, OH. Jeanne was an active member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church during her residence in Sarasota, and a member of the church's women's club as well as a volunteer in several of the Church's ministries. She loved the theater, ballet, bridge and politics. She was an inspiration to her daughters. For 10 years she was an election day volunteer Poll Worker. A Requiem Mass was held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church on January 22, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

JOHN HARCAR BRANCH 652 – TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

John F. Harcar, 98, of Las Vegas, NV, passed away Sept. 14, 2014. He was born Sept. 1, 1916, in Trenton, NJ, and was a 26-year resident of Las Vegas. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He is survived by his wife, of 65 years, Edna; son, Richard Harcar; daughters, Judy Har-

car, Janet Harcar, Susan Levine, Cynthia Lukowicz, Mary Ellen Hrico, Kathryn Mulryne, Patricia Rockal and Barbara Castelli; sisters, Sister Martha Harcar, Agnes Harcar and Kathryn Folse; and 12 grandchildren. Visitation was 8:30-9:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 22, 2014, at Palm Mortuary, Las Vegas, NV. Services followed at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, Roman Catholic Church, Las Vegas, NV.

- Submitted by Edna Harcar

LAWRENCE M. LISCO BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Lawrence Michael Lisco, 72, of Poland, OH, formerly of Natrona Heights, PA, passed away Monday, November 3, 2014, at his home, with his family by his side. He was born Sept. 12, 1942, in Natrona Heights, a son of the late Michael Joseph and Margaret Joan (Steffan) Lisco. Lawrence had lived for the past 37 years in Poland. He was a purchasing agent for Hunt Valve Co., Salem, OH. He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, Poland, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Liberty University, WV. Lawrence enjoyed gardening, was a Pittsburgh sports fanatic and especially enjoyed spending time with his family. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Dianna Jean (Staricek) Lisco; and sons, Mike (Emiko) Lisco, of Virginia Beach, VA., Mark (Kana) Lisco, of Columbus, OH, and Matt (Renee) Lisco, of Colorado Springs, CO. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Alexander "Alex," Michelle and Daniel Lisco, all of Virginia Beach, VA, and Joshua and Erika Lisco, of Columbus, OH. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Sylvia Grayson and Lillian Vidmar. Visitation was in the DUSTER FUNERAL HOME Tarentum, PA, from 9:30 a.m. Friday, November 7, 2014, until the time of the Christian funeral Mass at 11:30 a.m. in St. Ladislaus Church, Natrona, PA. Interment was in Mt. Airy Cemetery, Natrona Heights

- Submitted by Dianna Lisco



National Officer Emeritus Regis Brekosky Passes Into Eternal Life February 2

Regis P. Brekosky of West Mifflin, PA, passed into Eternal Life on February 2, 2015, at the age of 86. Beloved husband of 57 years of Barbara (Cypher) Brekosky; father of Karen (Rick) Cirincione, Janet (Kevin) Hanley, Diane (Edward) Mohrbach and Regis (Amanda) Brekosky; brother of John Brekosky, Lawrence (Mary) Brekosky and James (late Florence) Brekosky; grandfather of Tony (Sasha) Cirincione, Emily Cirincione, Mariya Mohrbach, Lucas Mohrbach, Grace Mohrbach, Samantha Brekosky and Jamie Brekosky; great-grandfather of Aiden and Dominic Cirincione; he also is survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Regis was an Air Force veteran serving during Korea. He was a Past President, Vice President and Regional Director of the First Catholic Slovak Union, and retired as a manager from Union Railroad in 1986. Friends were received at the Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home in Munhall, PA, on Thursday, February 5, 2015, from 2 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, February 6, 2015, at 10 a.m. at Resurrection Church in West Mifflin.



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Traditional Funeral Customs in Slovakia, Part I

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

How one dies is very important, as are the ceremonies surrounding death. Death (smrt') is part of life, signifying the end of life in this world and beginning of a new life, and for Christians, hopefully a life in union with Christ in heaven.

Customs associated with death have always held significance in most cultures, with Slovaks having their own ways of traditionally handling death and the passing of loved ones. When Slovaks began immigrating to the USA and Canada in the late 19th century, they also expressed concern about a death with dignity. Slovak-owned funeral parlors were one of the early businesses which sprang up in many immigrant neighborhoods.

Concern for a proper funeral (pohreb) and burial (pochovanie) was one of the reasons that the First Catholic Slovak Union and other fraternal societies formed in the 1890s. At a time when social security did not exist, fraternal organizations also provided accident insurance. With this protection, members might afford to die with the appropriate ceremonies, while ensuring that their loved ones had a financial cushion after their passing.

In all cultures, death and the funeral rites have a long history dating from the early beginnings of civilizations. Even cave men employed ritual practices in order to send off their deceased and attempted to reconcile the living with dead. Many thinkers and prophets have entertained the idea of the fate of man after death, and the idea of the new life of spirits of ancestors. Likewise, grief and mourning for the deceased has manifested itself universally, and displaying respect for the dead has been a cross-cultural theme. Thus, while fear of death has remained a constant since time immemorial, traditional cultures have often realized it to be one of the natural stages of human life.

The Burial of Pre-Slavic Peoples and the Ancient Slavs

Before looking at the funeral customs of Slovaks in more recent centuries, let us briefly discuss what we know about death and burials before Christianity came to Slovakia. Burial rituals appeared shortly after people in Slovakia started to cultivate the land, meaning they were more sedentary. Scholars have found Neolithic skeletal burial sites in Nitra and Veľký Grob, and cremation sites in Lužianky, a small village near Nitra in western Slovakia. Cremated remains were typically put in urns, a borrowing from Mediterranean cultures. The Celts in Slovakia buried their dead, while Romans practiced cremation.

The earliest Slavs in Slovakia initially practiced cremation and the practice continued in eastern Slovakia as late as the 10th century. But during the time of Great Mora-



Pohrebny voz, a funeral wagon.

via, burial sites predominated around the churchyards in the Nitra region. The practice of placing cemeteries in more remote locations only started in the 18th century to save space and for hygienic reasons after plagues. Nobles often had their bodies interred in church crypts, monasteries, or family mausoleums.

The first pagan Slavs in Slovakia believed in an afterlife and some of the oldest customs we know come from the unearthing of burial sites. Only those considered witches, wizards, or vampires continued to be cremated, and that practice continued for some years after the dawn of Christianity. The Slavs believed that the dead could help or do harm to the living, and they thought Death itself was a supernatural being. Ceremonial adornments assisted in dealing with death, such as showing respect for graves and mourning rites. Graves also contained material provisions prepared for those going to the afterlife (foods, drink, tools, presents, etc.). Gender and social status often determined the nature of the materials.

The Slavs believed that the behavior of animals, strange dreams, and unusual occurrences offered clues of upcoming death. A man could even call death upon himself, but such behavior was forbidden by custom. The early Slavs imagined they could also ward off death with certain rituals. Among those rituals was drinking the blood of a black rooster.

Pagan priests performed lamentations and ceremonies which praised the deceased before burial. Any objects used for dealing with the dead had to be disposed of, for they thought this could lead to more deaths. The Slavic women displayed their sorrow by splitting apart (rending) or cutting their cheeks. Some even were interred with their husbands, and servants of those with higher social status were often buried with

their masters.

After the burial, the ancient Slavs used to celebrate at the gravesite, but they later moved the festivities to their homes. Pre-Christian Slavs even put on drama performances, with masked actors to keep away demons and evil spirits.

Following the Christian conversion of the Slavs in the 9th century by Saints Cyril and Methodius and their fellow missionaries, many of these customs disappeared, but a few continued or were modified. For instance, until recent times, people thought certain omens portended oncoming death: pictures falling from walls, doors opening by themselves, knocking on windows, pots clanging in the kitchen, a clock suddenly stopping, or ominous dreams. If one had a dream about the deceased, it was believed that he/she had to pray or else the spirit of the dead might take someone else. White remained the color of mourning for some time after Christianization, and depending on the location, youth still performed some plays after the burial. Folk beliefs held that the soul of the deceased became embodied in various forms, such as a plume, in steam, as some sort of spirit, a bird (most often a white dove), or even a breeze. The simple folk thought that the dead would come to say their last goodbyes to their relatives and friends.

While Slovak funerals and burials retained some elements from pre-Christian times, interactions with other peoples from the Byzantine Empire, Western Europe, and even oriental cultures influenced their evolution and syncretism. During the Middle Ages, Slovakia became part of the multi-ethnic Kingdom of Hungary, and Slovaks interacted with Magyars (Hungarians), Germans, Jews, Roma (Gypsies), Croats, Czechs, Poles, Carpatho-Rusyns, and other peoples who migrated to Slovak territories. Funeral rites in Slovakia became even more reli-

giously diverse when the Roman Catholic-Orthodox split occurred in the 11th century, and again when the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century resulted in Lutheran and Calvinist variants.

(To be continued; please look for Part II in an upcoming issue of Jednota)

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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.

News From Slovakia

NBS Expects Faster Growth and Zero Inflation This Year

Bratislava, January 27 (TASR) - Slovakia's central bank NBS expects the growth of the country's economy to accelerate and prices to stay put this year, TASR learnt on this date from an update to the bank's forecast going back to December.

A major update compared to the prognosis from December concerns the recent plunge in oil prices and slump in the exchange rate of the euro.

"On the back of a positive supply shock, prospects for Slovakia's economy are getting better from the mid-term perspective," said the bank. NBS expects economic growth to reach 2.9 percent this year before speeding up to 3.6 percent of GDP next year in Slovakia.

Lower oil prices are envisioned to benefit Slovakia's main trade partners, which should spur higher demand for Slovak products and services abroad in the next two years. That said, domestic - rather than foreign - demand will be pivotal for this year's GDP growth.

Pavlis: Central Slovakia Could Gain German Investment This Year

Bratislava, January 27 (TASR) - Central Slovakia should soon benefit from an important investment from a engineering company from Germany, stated Economy Minister Pavol Pavlis at a conference of the Slovak Trade and Industry Chamber (SOPK) on this date.

In addition, Pavlis mentioned that a total of four big investors could come to Slovakia in the near future. Apart from the aforementioned one, another investment should appear in the area of services and engineering. These two investments could contribute to the creation of around 2,000 new jobs.

Pavlis went on to say that the Government hasn't reached an agreement as to whether to support the incoming investors via a direct subsidy and/or tax relief. "We'll attempt to prepare a 'cocktail' that would be interesting for new investors but be acceptable to the Finance Ministry at the same time," said the minister, revealing that the Government is planning to announce the actual arrival of the investors by the summer, so that the firms in question can carry out their plans in the second half of the year.

Another Ten Slovaks Recognized as 'Righteous Among the Nations'

Bratislava, January 29 (TASR) - Another ten Slovaks have been awarded the 'Righteous Among the Nations' honorary title for risking their lives to help Jews during the Holocaust.

The award was presented by Israeli Ambassador to Slovakia Alexander Ben-Zvi and Consul Avital Gershon in Bratislava on this date. The award ceremony was attended by Slovak President Andrej Kiska, Parliamentary Speaker Peter Pellegrini and parliamentary vice-chairs Jana Lassakova, Erika Jurinova and Jan Figel.

The people who were recognized as 'Righteous Among the Nations' were Katarina and Frantisek Sedlacek, Imrich Krsak, Alzbeta and Arpad Hajdu, Maria and Jan Kustra, Julia and Lukac Brna, and Magdalena Slamkova.

In his speech at the ceremony, Ben-Zvi said that although the Holocaust was one of the cruelest and most tragic events in the whole history of humanity, even in that unfortunate period it is possible to find stories that have changed the lives of many Jews forever.

President Kiska also spoke. "It's here at this ceremony that I've fully recognized how important it is to remind ourselves of Nazi brutality, and it's even more vital to award those who were able to stand up to these atrocities, those who didn't turn a blind eye to the suffering of others, found courage and determination to give a helping hand to the persecuted. Even though they weren't Jews themselves, they did their utmost to save Jewish families, men, women and children, preventing their deportation to detention camps from where there was no way back," stated Kiska, adding that he's proud that hundreds of similar stories of courage have been recognized by Israel.

Righteous Among the Nations awards are presented annually to express respect and admiration for the heroic actions of ordinary people who risked their lives to save persecuted Jewish fellow citizens. They serve as an expression of the gratitude of the Jewish people towards non-Jews who have saved Jews. A total of 549 Slovaks have been honored in this manner so far.

Heavy Snow Blocking Roads in Banska Bystrica and Trnava Regions

Ziar nad Hronom, January 30 (TASR) - The highest first-level alert has been declared for roads in districts of Ziar nad Hronom, Zarnovica and Banska Stiavnica (Banska Bystrica region) due to intensive snowfalls, TASR learnt on this date.

According to the Banska Bystrica Despatcher Office, roads are maintained according to their importance. Because of heavy snowfall, roads are being recovered by a considerable

layer of snow only 15 minutes after being cleared. Donovaly mountain pass has been completely shut down to all traffic.

"Every piece of equipment is out in the field. Our work hasn't stopped since the morning. We're doing all we can," said Peter Jagos from Technical Services, which maintains road infrastructure in Ziar nad Hronom.

Roads and pavements are covered by layers of slush. "Sometimes people think that we haven't ploughed them at all, despite the fact that they've already been ploughed maybe even four or five times since the morning," said Jagos.

In Trnava region the police have called on motorists in Trnava, Hlohovec and Piestany districts to reconsider using their cars and to opt for rail transport instead. According to the Trnava police operational center, all roads in the region are difficult to navigate, with trees falling across some. "We ask drivers to restrict the use of their cars to a minimum if possible," said Klaudia Izoldova of the Trnava police operational center.

Foreign Minister Lajcak Visits Shanghai to Discuss Cooperation

Shanghai, February 2 (TASR) - The options of more intense cooperation between Chinese and Slovak regions and the higher level of involvement of Slovak companies in Chinese high-tech projects were discussed in Shanghai by Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak and Shanghai Vice-Mayor for Foreign Affairs and Finances Tu Guangshao on this date.

This is the first ever visit of the Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister in Shanghai.

Shanghai represents a financial and economic center of China that comprises one-tenth of Chinese imports and exports. It is home to stock-exchange market and also the greatest number of foreign investment firms in the country. Together with nearby provinces, Shanghai produces 30 percent of Chinese GDP and makes up almost 40 percent of international trade.

Slovakia has an interest in Chinese projects with higher added value such as in the fields of industrial automatization, robotics and the use of renewable energy sources. There's room for cooperation also in the aviation industry (trainings for pilots and supplies of flight simulators).

In May 2015, the second Confucius Institute in Slovakia is slated to be opened in Bratislava as a result of contacts between the Comenius University and Shanghai University of International Business and Economics.

Shanghai has experienced the most extensive Slovak touch among all Chinese cities, as renowned Slovak architect Ladislav Hudec designed and built more than 60 buildings there in the 1930s. His works are commemorated to this day by the Cultural Heritage House in the city center.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

Ash Wednesday Comes and Social Ball Season Ends

Allan Stevo

It was once commented to me “In Slovakia every minority has their own ples.” And I’ve found that in many ways to be true. Ples is the Slovak word for “social ball.” They take place en masse at this time of year.

This is the carnival season, or “Fasiangy” in Slovak, and during this time Pleses abound. From the Crystal Ball (a fancy event) to the International Businessman’s Ball (a high ticket price event) to the Homeless Ball (2 euro to enter if you’re an authorized vendor of *Nota Bene* – the Bratislava-based magazine sold by the homeless), from the Policeman’s Ball to the 90th Annual Doctor’s Ball, the Orava Ball (thrown by people from Orava now living in Bratislava) to the Electro-technic Faculty Ball or the Theological Seminary Ball, the Russian Ball to the U.S. Marine Corps Ball—dozens of balls are held each weekend, catering to scores of different sub-cultures, both large and small, in Slovak society.

The ball is an excuse for a formal get-together. For most people, formality and decorum are not a daily part of life in the way that they once were, and sometimes an excuse is needed to be formal. You dress up, come with a date, socialize a bit, and of course, you dance the waltz, which almost every Slovak knows how to do simply from living in Slovakia.

There is often evening entertainment – sometimes done by famous personalities, or maybe just emceed by a person from the group who sounds good on stage. The entertainment is usually full of inside jokes. The theology students may tell jokes about Luther, Melancthon, Zwingli, and Hus. Jozef Murgas, a Slovak Catholic priest and an early experimenter with radio technology might be mentioned at a ball of Catholic Priests or Ham Radio Operators or at any ball where people don’t feel like they get enough respect. Soldiers might joke about Stefan Banic who developed and patented a parachute for military use before giving the patent to the U.S. Army. Travelers and adventurers might make jokes about Moric Benovsky – the Slovak who became governor of Madagascar in the midst of his extensive world adventures.

A ball is that group’s own special corner of the world for that evening—their shared jokes, their shared jargon. Stepping into a ples gives you a sneak peek into the group’s shared memory, their culture, their shared humor. In addition to the evening’s entertainment, which reveals the inside jokes and the concerns of the group, the opportunities for discussion at a ples also allows you to hear a bit about this subculture’s perceived place in society. The shared concerns of this minority group will often come out in these discussions.

At the event, people might get drunk together, or have a fun time drinking nothing at all; they might finally get to meet a friend’s husband; they might finally get to meet their doctoral student’s parents; they might sit with a friend’s wife and reminisce about their shared childhood. A ball might have 30 people, 100 people, or 1,000 people, but it’s a celebration of the group. It might be very expensive or quite cheap. The key is that there be some formality, some dancing, some feasting and plenty of fun.

Dinner is often served. A common meal is an appetizer consisting of a slice of ham filled with horseradish and whipped cream, followed by something simple like a chicken breast covered in cheese and a half peach, a few balls of rice, and some vegetables. After that coffee will likely be served and a plate of sweets will be put out for dessert as well as a plate of salty bread sticks or *pagace* for snacking on.

A live band might play or CDs might be played by a DJ. A folk group might appear – playing live Slovak folk music, dancing, and singing. Couples take to the parquet, or maybe just a section of carpet that has been left free of tables to serve as a dance-floor. “Tombola” almost always makes an appearance – this is the word used in Slovakia and beyond for “a raffle.” Gifts might be expensive and a real honor when received, or they might be gag gifts like “a romantic dinner for two” that is really just a tea light and a can of sardines.

Kapustnica or Gulas is regularly served at midnight. Commonly, unless the evening comes to an early end, there is often a *Svedsky stol* (literally – “Swedish table,” or “smorgasbord” as we might say in English), put out late in the night, hours after dinner has been served.

Regardless of the fanciness of the event, the right company makes the evening quite nice. The ples is a time for members of a group to say, “we are going to organize something special for ourselves this year” and often it ends up being special and memorable.

However, there are those balls that feature two hours of poorly organized tombola—a real misery—or those balls that are overpriced but deliver little. Evenings like that make you want to never return to balls organized by that organization.

The Ball Season - Fasiangy

Ples takes place especially at this time of year, called “Fasiangy” in Slovak. Since Slovakia is a place with strong German influence, the term Fasiangy is used instead of the term Carnival, which Americans are more familiar with based on our more prominent connection to Latinate languages.

In German-speaking lands, such as across the border in Austria, it’s common to refer to this time of year as “fasching.” This is where the Slovak word Fasiangy comes from. Fasching in German has unclear roots. Accordingly, we also do not know exactly where the word Fasiangy comes from. The etymology of this word perhaps means something akin to “fasting.” Or perhaps it comes from “fastenschank,” meaning the last drink before the Lenten fast. As a side note, in case you’ve noticed the similarity between this last word and the English word “fast,” “fast” is indeed a cognate with the German word for fast. More common is the Latinate version of this concept. The word “carnival,” recognized throughout the world in reference to this time of year, may literally mean “goodbye to meat” – *carne vale*, or a “removal of meat” – *carne levare*. It’s not entirely certain where this word comes from either.

Slovakia has much Germanic influence. It was once ruled from Vienna and even to this day has small pockets of German-speaking colonists who first moved here centuries ago. These colonists were once all over Slovakia and did quite well for themselves. The Czech



Republic has an even greater level of German influence and some German terms were surely brought into popular usage in Slovakia through the Czech language.

Fasching begins November 11 in some traditions or after January 6 in others and lasts until Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the start of Lent. Since Ash Wednesday is 40 days before Easter and Easter is determined by the position of the moon, the date of Ash Wednesday, and therefore the length of Carnival season varies from year to year. In Vienna, Fasching seems to start on November 11 – St. Martin’s Day. However, in Slovakia Fasiangy does not seem to start until January 6. With the exception of the U.S Marine Ball, which does not seek to be a harbinger of Slovak culture, balls are almost exclusively held after January 6 and before Ash Wednesday.

All in all, this time of year tends to be a time to encourage revelry and relaxation, but the way it is done in Bratislava – with dances, a little staid and formal – has long appealed to me. It is fun going to balls each weekend and trying your best not to trip over your date’s feet as the two of you seek to keep time with the band. In a time where it has become strange for people to dress in their best when they go to work, in a time where it has become strange for a person to dress to look nice instead of just comfortable, it feels good to step out of the ordinary and to have an excuse to dress in your finest, to ask a date out for the evening, and to observe the formalities that good parents once taught you to observe. It reminds one that while man may fit biologically among animals, man is not a beast; he can aspire to something better, something more refined.

From an original post of February 28, 2011

Allan Stevo writes on Slovak culture at www.52inSk.com. He is from Chicago and spends most of his time travelling Europe and writing. You can find more of his writing at www.AllanStevo.com.

Explore Your Heritage This Summer with 2015 Treasure Tours



The 85th Treasure Tour continues our strategy of immersing in the Slovak 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! 2015 Treasures Tour offerings include Bratislava Old Town, Detva’s 49th Folk Festival, Kezmarok International Crafts Fest; the walled towns of Levoča and Bardejov, Prešov, Spiš Castle, charming Cicmany, the High Tatras, and much, much more. July 10 to 19, 2015 - \$2,199 per person for the land trip.

For more information, contact Helene:

151 Colebrook Drive, Rochester, NY 14617

Phone: (585) 342-9383

Email: helenezx@aol.com

Or visit www.our-Slovakia.com

REFLECTIONS ON THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS • February 2015

Universal Intention - Prisoners

That prisoners, especially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.



Henri Pranzini, a murderer, repented at his execution, as St. Therese of Lisieux, 13, had prayed.

There are about 2.2 million people in 4,575 U.S. prisons. Each one is a person made in the image and likeness of God, someone for whom Jesus suffered and died. They and prisoners around the world need our prayers to learn to live a life of dignity in often dehumanizing circumstances.

One of our early members, St. Therese of Lisieux, began praying for a prisoner named Henri Pranzini when she was 13. He had murdered two women and a girl and was sentenced to death. She was afraid that he was going to die unrepentant and alienated from God. She joined various sacrifices to her prayers, skipping dessert and offering up unpleasant tasks—all for his conversion.

The day of his execution came and went, and Therese wanted to find out if he had gone to confession before he died. But her father had forbidden his children from reading the papers. Therese wrote in her autobiography: "I didn't think I was disobeying when reading the passages pertaining to Pranzini." In doing so she discovered that he had not gone to confession, but that, at the very last second, he lifted his head from the guillotine and kissed the cross that the priest was holding out to him three times. Then, Therese wrote, "his soul went to receive the merciful sentence of Him who declares that in heaven there will be more joy over one sinner who does penance than over ninety-nine just who have no need of repentance."

Therese was convinced that her prayers and sacrifices had played a role in that last-second conversion. She called Pranzini "my first child."

In a world that Pope Francis calls a "disposable culture," it's easy to forget those who are locked away from society. This month we want to remember them in a special way. We believe that our prayers, like those of a 13-year-old member of the Apostleship of Prayer, can work miracles of conversion and healing.

Reflection

What is my attitude toward those in prison? How can I see God's image in them?

Scripture

Acts 16: 16-34 Paul and Silas sing hymns in prison while others listen.?

Evangelization Intention - Separated Spouses

That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.

In the last few months there has been a lot of turmoil in the Church over the Extraordinary Synod and next fall's Regular Synod of Bishops. The focus is on the family "as the essential agent in the work of evangelization." It's within the family that the future generations will hear the Gospel and grow in the faith.

The family itself is a witness to the world of God's love. The marriage of a man and a woman is a sign to the world of the spousal relationship between Christ and the Church. Since the relationship between Christ and the Church is permanent, faithful, and fruitful, married couples are called to witness to those same qualities.

The final document of the Extraordinary Synod said that "separation and divorce are always wounds which cause deep suffering to the married couple and to their children." They also have "serious consequences for society as a whole."

"In accordance with Christ's mercy, the Church must accompany with attention and care the weakest of her children, who show signs of a wounded and lost love, by restoring in them hope and confidence.... Merciful love, as it attracts and unites, transforms and elevates. It is an invitation to conversion."

Pope Francis has called the Church a "field hospital." We share his concern for the wounded of our world, while at the same time we never forget the obligation to address the root causes of their brokenness. As we pray for separated spouses, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us find ways, in the words of the final document, "to accompany these people with solicitude" and "great respect."

Reflection

How am I and my community reaching out to and supporting spouses who are separated?

Scripture

Ephesians 5: 31-33 The two shall become one flesh. I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

Prayer of the Month

Jesus, crucified as victim and convict, remember us who turn to you. Remember us with the healing and peace that only you can give to lives that are broken and lost. Remember us this day and everyday that we may be one with you in paradise. Amen .

--from the Dismas Ministry's Union of Prayer which unites people on both sides of prison walls: www.dismasministry.org

Slovak Catholic Federation Seeks Contributors for 2015 The Good Shepherd Annual

Dobry Pastier (The Good Shepherd), edited by Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M., and published annually by the Slovak Catholic Federation, is compiled of articles focusing on topics which are of interest to Slovak-American Catholics. The Federation is once again accepting articles for inclusion in its 2015 edition. Potential contributors should note that while the scope of the publication is broad, articles solely political in nature will not be accepted.

The deadline for all articles is June 1, 2015. Due to the publication schedule, articles received after the deadline will not be included in the annual. The annual will be available for distribution in the latter part of 2015.

In order to facilitate the editing and printing of The Good Shepherd, the following guidelines are established for authors who would like their work to be considered for inclusion in the annual:

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All articles must be type-written, double-spaced, in Microsoft WORD format in 12 point, Times New Roman font. For the sake of the editor, please do not capitalize all words (or entire sentences), unnecessarily use exclamation points, etc. The article layout should be similar to articles printed in daily newspapers and magazines.

- It is strongly preferred that English articles be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie Ondus, SS.C.M, Editor, at: bondusscm@gmail.com. In this age of modern technology, it is faster and more cost effective to work from a text that is provided digitally instead

of having to retype the entire article.

- If it is not possible for an article to be e-mailed, an original "hard copy" may be mailed to Sister Bernadette at Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, PA 17821-1698. "Hard copy" means that articles are either typed or hand-written by the author. Please do not send photo copies of articles or photos.

- To be accepted for publication, articles must be between three and ten typewritten pages. Articles fewer than three pages or beyond ten pages will not be accepted.

USE OF PHOTOS

- If using photos within the article, photos must be included at the same time the article is sent to the Editor. (If sending photos digitally, save as separate JPGs to accompany the article.) Please indicate where photos are to be placed within the body of the article. Be sure to properly identify the persons, places and/or situations depicted in the photo(s). If no indication is given as to where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted, the photos will not be used.

- In the event that an article is e-mailed and photos are not included as attachments, the actual photographs, along with a hard copy of the article, must be mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie for inclusion in the article. (If more convenient, photos can also be saved to a CD which the printer can then link up with the article.) Once again, please be sure that the photos are properly identified and note where, within the article, the photos are to be inserted. Photos must always accompany the article for which they are intended.

- Captions must be included with the photos. This allows readers to better understand the relationship of the photo to the content of the article.

ARTICLES IN SLOVAK

- Slovak articles can be e-mailed to Sister Bernadette Marie, but a hard copy (including all accents) must also be mailed to her. (Please indicate that the article was both mailed and emailed.) Frequently, accent marks, diacritical characters, and other special characters do not come through properly when articles are e-mailed. Having a hard copy of the article, appropriately marked, will save valuable time and minimize errors.

As Editor, Sister Bernadette Marie retains the right to correct grammatical errors, delete repetitions, rearrange ideas to make them clearer, etc. Sister Bernadette Marie also retains the right to determine the appropriateness of articles for the publication. However, she will not substantially change the author's ideas without first consulting the author.

Our sincere thanks to all the faithful contributors to The Good Shepherd! Your contributions, year after year, ensure that the Slovak Catholic Federation is able to provide a quality annual which helps celebrate our Catholic faith, preserves our Slovak heritage, and allows our readers to stay in touch with what's happening in the Catholic Church, in Slovakia, and in the Slovak-American community.

We are looking forward to your contributions again this year.

Communications Committee

Správy zo Slovenska

MO SR: Američania ponúkli slovenskej armáde vrtuľníky Sikorsky Black Hawk

Američania ponúkli Slovensku možnosť nakúpiť vojenské vrtuľníky Sikorsky Black Hawk prostredníctvom amerického fondu Foreign Military Sales (FMS). Minister obrany Martin Glváč chce o tejto ponuke do konca januára informovať Bezpečnostnú radu, vládu a brannobezpečnostný výbor.

O nákupe nových vrtuľníkov, ktoré by nahradili v súčasnosti používané sovietske Mi-17, sa hovorí už dlhšie a armáda ich chce postupne obmeniť do šiestich rokov. Obmena je podľa Glváča pripravená na dve etapy. V prvej etape má prísť deväť vrtuľníkov s tým, že by boli dodávané postupne a zároveň by boli hneď uhrádzané. Peniaze na takéto riešenie má Glváč podľa vlastných slov predpokladať s ministrom financií aj s premiérom.

Cena prvých vrtuľníkov vrátane výcviku a údržby by mala byť do 300 miliónov dolárov. Podľa šéfa rezortu obrany, ak by Slovensko túto ponuku prijalo v krátkom čase, americká strana prisľúbila skrátenie niektorých procesov pri akvizícii tak, že prvé dva vrtuľníky by na Slovensku mohli byť do konca roka.

Hokej: Slovensko jediným kandidátom na usporiadanie MS 2019

Švajčiarska hokejová federácia oznámila stiahnutie kandidatúry na usporiadanie svetového šampionátu v roku 2019. Jediným kandidátom na organizovanie MS 2019 tak zostalo Slovensko. Informáciu priniesol oficiálny web Medzinárodnej hokejovej federácie (IIHF).

Pod Tatrami sa v ére samostatnosti uskutočnil svetový šampionát doposiaľ jediný raz. V roku 2011 hostili hokejovú elitu Bratislava a Košice. Hlavné mesto SR zažilo atmosféru MS aj v rokoch 1959 a 1992, keď podujatie v rámci Československa spoluorganizovalo spoločne s Prahou.

Chceme, aby sa o MS 2019 hovorilo ešte ako o vydaterejších ako v roku 2011, ktoré mali obrovský úspech," povedal pre hockeyslovakia.sk prezident SZLH Igor Nemeček, ktorý bol v roku 2011 šéf organizačného výboru MS.

AUTO: VW plánuje vybudovať v bratislavskom závode novú zvarovňu za 500 mil. eur

Volkswagen Slovakia, a. s., (VW SK) plánuje asanáciu logistickej časti existujúcej zvarovne a vybudovanie novej a modernejšej zvarovne. Vplyva to zo zámeru, ktorý spoločnosť predložila na posúdenie vplyvu investície na životné prostredie (EIA). Predpokladané investičné náklady dosiahnu približne 500 miliónov eur. Kapacita novovybudovanej zvarovne bude predstavovať 450 kusov automobilov typu SUV za deň. Navrhovaná činnosť sa bude nachádzať na pozemkoch investora v juhovýchodnej časti areálu VW SK. Začiatok výstavby sa predpokladá v apríli tohto roku, ukončenie výstavby v decembri 2016. Skúšobná prevádzka zvarovne by sa mala začať v 2. štvrtroku 2017.

Zdravotníctvo sa na Slovensku mierne zlepšuje

Slovensko má priemerný systém zdravotnej starostlivosti. V porovnaní s inými európskymi krajinami dáva dôraz na elektronické služby v zdravotníctve. Znížiť by však malo počet úmrtí na srdcovocievne ochorenia, malo by venovať zvýšenú pozornosť nemocničným nákazám a korupcii lekárov. Takýto imidž má slovenské zdravotníctvo v celoeurópskom

hodnotení zdravotnej starostlivosti. Aktuálny európsky konzumentský index zdravotnej starostlivosti za rok 2014 bude v Bruseli prezentovať švédka spoločnosť Health Consumer Powerhouse, ktorá meria výkonnosť zdravotnej starostlivosti v Európe a Kanade na základe verejných štatistík, patientskych ankieta a vlastného prieskumu. Z 36 krajín sa Slovensko umiestnilo na 20. mieste. Lepšie obstálo Česko, za Slovenskom však skončilo Maďarsko či Poľsko.

REALITY: Obchodné centrá sa presúvajú do užších centier menších miest Slovenska

Rok 2014 sa pre maloobchod na Slovensku niesol v znamení pozitívnej nálady a optimizmu, obchodníci spúšťali svoje prevádzky s omnoho väčšou chuťou ako v minulosti. Výsledkom je otvorenie viacerých obchodných centier nielen v hlavnom meste SR, ale aj v regiónoch. Uviedli to nedávno predstavitelia realitno-poradenskej spoločnosti CBRE na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave. Nové projekty, ktoré prichádzajú na trh, sú jednak obchodné centrá v užších centrách miest, kde už existuje konkurencia.

V kurze sú dnes aj tzv. retail parky sústreďujúce sa obzvlášť na menšie mestá, pri ktorých je lokalita menej dôležitá, no rozhoduje dostupnosť. Takéto parky sa otvárajú v mestách, ktoré majú menej ako 20.000 obyvateľov, výnimkou nie sú ani desaťtisícové mestá ako Stará Ľubovňa, Bánovce nad Bebravou či Čadca. Tento rok prinesie podľa CBRE druhú vlnu optimizmu obchodných centier, na trh by malo vstúpiť niekoľko nových projektov v Poprade, Trnave alebo Lučenci.

V závode Kia absolvovalo odbornú prax už vyše 530 študentov stredných škôl

Spoločnosť Kia Motors Slovakia ponúkla od školského roku 2007/2008 možnosť absolvovať vo výrobnom závode v Tepličke nad Váhom odbornú prax už vyše 530 študentom stredných škôl z celého Slovenska. Študenti podľa neho získavajú vďaka odbornej praxi praktické skúsenosti a zručnosti. V školskom roku 2014/2015 si vďaka spolupráci so strednými odbornými školami a univerzitami počas práce s najmodernejšími technológiami zdokonalilo praktické zručnosti 73 študentov.

Spoločnosť Kia sa od vzniku zameriava aj na osobnostný a odborný rast zamestnancov, ktorý považuje za kľúč k svojmu úspechu.

IT: Amazon plánuje vytvoriť na Slovensku 100 pracovných miest

Spoločnosť Amazon koncom januára oznámila, že plánuje na Slovensku v roku 2015 vytvoriť 100 nových pracovných miest vo svojej pobočke v Bratislave, v ktorej v súčasnosti pracuje 600 zamestnancov. Otvorené sú pozície expertov v oblasti finančných operácií, podpory obchodníkov predávajúcich na európskych platformách Amazonu a tímy podporujúce katalóg produktov na webových stránkach Amazonu. Bratislavské centrum otvorili ako prvú pobočku Amazonu na území Slovenska v roku 2011.

TASR a zo slovenskej tlače



Putovanie po regiónoch Slovenska

(Pokračovanie)

Horné Považie

A to sme už na západnom Slovensku v regióne, ktorým Váh preteká Žilinskou, Ilavskou a Trenčianskou kotlinou, predstavuje romantiku, ktorá je najvýraznejšia na miestach, kde sa rieka prediera horstvami. Jeho krásu charakterizujú panoramatické pohľady na zrúcaniny stredovekých hradov: Starhrad, Strečno, Budatínsky zámok, Považský a Trenčiansky hrad...

Strediskom regiónu je starobylá Žilina s pravidelným štvorcovým pôdorysom okolo štvoruholníkového námestia s obrubou podjazdov zvaných laubne. Medzi najstaršie stavby mesta patrí neskororománsky kostol sv. Štefana z 13. storočia.

V rokoch 1429 - 1434 obsadili Žilinu husiti, ktorí mali silný vplyv na národné povedomie Slovákov. V revolučných rokoch 1848-49 sa pri Budatínskom zámku strhla bitka medzi maďarským vojskom a hurbanovcami. Naši národovci Štúr a Hurban rečnili tam na veľkom zhromaždení. V r. 1923 tam vzniklo Interhelpo, ktoré zorganizovalo v dôsledku hospodárskej krízy a značnej nezamestnanosti v regióne vysťahovanie 303 Slovákov do niekdajšieho Sovietskeho zväzu.

V neďalekej Bytči je pozoruhodný renesančný kaštieľ z 15. st., ktorý patrí medzi stavitel'ské skvosty na Slovensku. Takzvaný Sobášny palác, ktorý je vedľa neho, sa vyznačuje bohatou grafitovou ornamentikou s figurálnymi a rastlinnými motívami. Mesto je rodiškom prvého prezidenta Slovenskej republiky Dr. Jozefa Tisa v období 2. sv. vojny (1939 - 1945).

Svojím hradom z r. 1432, ktorý husiti v období nájazdov vypálili, je pozoruhodná aj Považská Bystrica, ktorá neskôr trpela viacerými neuhmi. V 19. storočí ju zastihli také pohromy ako: povodne, požiare a epidémie. V r. 1813 po rozvodnení Váhu zahynulo tam vyše sto ľudí. V r. 1831 mor skosil 135 ľudí. V r. 1832 zhorela jedna a o dva roky druhá časť mesta. V r. 1858 sa pri zemetrasení zrútila veža hradnej väznice.

V 17. st. bol už známy aj Púchov, predovšetkým súkenníctvom. Tam sa zrodil a doposiaľ uchováva kroj zdobený modrotlačou, ktorý patrí k špecifikám mesta a regiónu.

Turistov obzvlášť priťahuje Terchová, rodiško Jura Jánošíka, bojovníka za práva poddaných a bezprávie. Obec je známa aj folklórom s dominantnou muzikou: husle, kontra a basička, na šírení ktorej majú podiel viaceré rody. Najznámejší sú Muchovci. Okrem sláčikovej muziky sú Terchovčania známi aj ako chýrni hráči na ťahacej harmonike - heligonke. Na počesť terchovského rodáka, Jánošíka, sa tam každoročne koná trojdňový festival piesni a tancov pod názvom Jánošíkove dni za účasti nielen našich, ale aj zahraničných súborov.

A kto by nepoznal široko-daleko známu rázovitú obec Čičmany na rieke Rajčianke so 140 maľovanými drevenicami, ľudovým krojom, ktorý vyniká prevládajúcou žltou, zelenou a červenou farbou na bielom podklade a patrí medzi najhodnotnejšie na Slovensku.

Neďaleké Rajecké Teplice s termálnymi prameňmi 38°C patria medzi najnavštevovanejšie a najznámejšie v regióne. Liečia sa tam viaceré choroby. Prostredie spestrujú dva parky: anglický a francúzsky.

O Rajčianke sa zachovala aj obľúbená pieseň Vy stromčeky...



Vrátna dolina.



Rodný dom Dr. J. Tisa.



Bytča kaštieľ.



Kriváň.



Dom Čičmany.

**Vy stromčeky okolo Rajčianky,
vy ste tomu príčinou,
že môj milý každúčku nedeľu
na Rajčianku chodí za inou.**

Hrad Strečno bol domovom aj Žofie Bosniakovej, telo ktorej aj po 45 rokoch po jej smrti sa našlo neporušené, hoci nebolo balzamované. Bolo vystavené v kostole v Tepličke nad Váhom, no v r. 2009 ho psychicky narušený muž spálil a zničil tak mimoriadne cenné dedičstvo.

Donedávna takmer neznáma Rajecká Teplá sa stala pozoruhodnou magnetom pre turistov a obdivovateľov unikátneho majstrovského diela, Betlehema. Jeho majster, Jozef Pekara, pracoval na ňom 18 rokov. V r. 2010 ho dokončil a odovzdal verejnosti. Je 8.5 m dlhý, 2.5 m široký, 3 m vysoký a z 300 postáv v ňom, sa polovica pohybuje. Jeho ústredným motívom je narodenie Ježiška, avšak sú tam zvýraznené aj dejiny Slovenska, zastúpené jednotlivými regiónmi, mestá, kultúrne pamiatky, ba i hrady, v pozadí ktorých je legendárny Kriváň - symbol Slovákov a Vysokých Tatier.

Pozornosť si zasluhuje aj Vrátna dolina (toho roku postihnutá a značne poškodená prírodným živlom), obľúbené turistické stredisko, jedna z najkrajších dolín Slovenska so skalnými miestami, vodopádmi a kaňonmi. Atraktívne sú aj Súľovské skaly na ploche 543,66 ha s bizarnými a skalnými miestami.

K centru regiónu sa viaže aj pieseň:
**My sme chlapi od Žiliny,
milujeme Kataríny ...**

Andrej Štelmák, Sliač, Slovakia

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Fašiangová zábava v Milwaukee, Wisconsin

20. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Milwaukee usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu, **14. februára 2015** v WG Banquet Center (bývala K.C. Hala) 3200 S. 103rd Street v Greenfield, Wisconsin. Začiatok bude o 6:00 do 11:00 hodiny večer. V kultúrnom programe sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers o 7:30 hodine večer. Tradičné „Pochovanie basy“ bude o 9:00 hodine. Vstupné je \$5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. O bližšie informácie volajte: Betty Valent tel.: 414- 425-6137; alebo Ellen tel.: 262- 893-7483. Pozývame všetkých členov č. 89 z Milwaukee. Srdečne ďakujem.

Betty Valent

Národný slovenský spolok oslávi 125. výročie

Národný slovenský spolok (NSS) je najstaršou slovenskou fraternalistickou organizáciou v Amerike. Založený bol 16. februára 1890 v Pittsburghu. Medzi dnešnými slovenskými fraternalistickými organizáciami je na 3. mieste v hodnote majetku.

V súčasnosti má NSS sídlo vo vlastnej budove Na adrese 351 Valley Brook Road, McMurray, Pa, v predmestí Pittsburghu. Predsedníctvo NSS oznámilo, že jubilejná oslava sa bude konať v sobotu **7. marca 2015** v hoteli Hilton Garden Inn na južnej strane Pittsburghu. Oslavy budú zahŕňať slávnostný banket a iné aktivity.

Spomienkova oslava Slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New York City za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 a Spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických spolkov si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu Slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu dňa **15. marca 2015** o 1.00 hodine odpolednia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého, 411 East a 66st Street New York City. Spomienkovú oslavu zaháji slovenská svätá omša o 11.00 hodine doobeda v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého, obetovaná za Dr. Jozefa Tisu a obeť slovenského národa. Ako prvým bodom programu bude Výročná členská schôdza I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v NYC. Za tým bude pokračovať oslava Slovenskej štátnosti, ktorej hlavný rečník bude mať príhovor o minulosti Slovenska, ktoré dosiahlo samostatnosť dvakrát a to 14. marca 1939 a po dlhom čase boja za slobodu opäť dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie slovenského národa na ceste k sebaurčeniu a štátnej samostatnosti. Po programe sa bude podávať občerstvenie a v bare bude možnosť zakúpenia nápojov. Vstup je voľný! O bližšie informácie volajte: Milan a Henrieta Dait: (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilik: (718) 353-654.

Členská schôdza spolku sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v NYC

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedeľu 22. marca 2015** o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši - pokladníčka

Ludovít Štúr – život a pamätné miesta

Prvou publikáciou edície Osobnosti Slovenska je kniha Ludovít Štúr – život a pamätné miesta. Venuje sa jednej z najvýznamnejších osobností histórie a kultúry Slovenska a pripomína udalosti a miesta, ktoré v jeho živote zohrali rozhodujúcu úlohu. Jeho dielo inšpiruje aj v súvislosti s blížiacimi sa oslavami 200. výročia jeho narodenia. Autorom knihy je Beáta Mihalkovičová. Bežná cena knihy : 9,95 €. Jazyk slovenský. Počet strán 80; Väzba tvrdá. Vydavateľ: DAJAMA.



Fašiangy na dedine

Túto nám nedali, túto nám dajú, komára zabili, slaninu majú...
(*Takto si mládenci spievajú na Fašiangy, keď navštívia rodinu, kde majú slobodné dievčatá.*)

Fašiangy, to sú veľké sviatky, chlapani a dievčatá, by ich chceli spiatky. Mládenci, beňári vykrúčia gazdinú, ba aj starú babku, by ich neohovárala a nemali s ňou žiadne hádky. Veď, čardáš, jej pripomína jej mladé roky, keď po tanci, boleli ju boky.

V utorok ráno, mládenci sa schádzajú pred hostincom, na hornom konci, kde cigánska kapela ich už čaká, pridajú sa aj dajakí, mladí vdovci Navštívia všetky domy, kde majú mladú dievku a či staršie dievky. Hej, vyzvítajú ich raz vľavo, raz vpravo, nezabudnú ani na gazdinú. Ak nie, tá by ich ohovárala a vykričala aj nepravdu, cez celú dedinu. Gazda má však oko orla a pálenku v ruke, na zdravie si pripíjajú všetci A kus údenej slaniny a rebierka, uschované v bielom vreci.

Kým mládenci pochodia celú dedinu, je už neskoré odpolednie, Je čas na veselú hostinu a očakávané, večerné, fašiangové pobavenie. Tu sa mládež do sýtosti vyskáče, vyzvíta v polke, valčíku, čardáši. Pre niektorých to bude, už posledný raz, bo čoskoro budú mať po sobáši. Hej, o jedenástej večer, začne zvláštny ceremoniál „Pochovanie Basy“ Kedy všetci pokľaknú na zem a lúčenie s basou, je zaujímavý kus krásy. Pospominajú sa veci, klebety, ktoré aj mŕtveho človeka rozosmejú. Nakoniec však všetko dobre skončí, každý na posledy „Pobozká basu“ Prv, než ju s plačom von vynesú A za pár minút, je tu „Popolečná Streda“, čas modlitieb a smútku.

Jozef Smák

Úspešné vianočné podujatia v New York City

Vianočné podujatia Farskej rady Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC sa konali za spolupráce Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 a sv. Matúša č. 45 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a Slovenského katolíckeho sokola.

Mikulášske odpolednie s Mikulášskou nádielkou sa uskutočnilo v nedeľu 7. decembra 2014 o 1.00 hodine poobede. Modlitba otca Štefana Chanasa zahájila toto vianočné podujatie. Deti zo Slovenskej školy, ktorá bola v jeseni obnovená pri Slovenskom kostole, privítali sv. Mikuláša pekným kultúrnym programom. Za odmenu im sv. Mikuláš rozdával darčeky, o ktoré sa postaral otec Štefan Chanas a pripravili ich pre deti členky Farskej rady. Za tým sa podávalo občerstvenie približne 85 prítomným deťom, ich rodičom a ostatným prítomným podujatia.

Za úspešný priebeh odpolednia je potrebné poďakovať hlavne otcovi Štefanovi Chanasovi, členkám Farskej rady a všetkým členom ostatných fraternalistických spolkov. Na záver si zaslúži vďaka aj Lacko Korček a jeho syn, ktorý stvárnil postavu sv. Mikuláša.

Štedrovečerná večera – „Vigília“, ďalšie tradičné podujatie Slovákov sa konalo v nedeľu 14. decembra 2014 o 1.00 hodine odpolednia. Zahájil ho otec Štefan Chanas modlitbou a požehnaním jedál, ktoré sa postupne podávali pri večeri podľa starodávnej obyčaje. V kruhu Farskej rodiny sa oslávila Štedrá večera a prítomní prosili nášho Pána Ježiša Krista, aby v túto svätú chvíľu zavítal aj On k nám, k nášmu spoločnému Štedrovečernému stolu.

Dalej sestra Henrieta H. Daitová, na tento sviatočný deň, kedy kresťanský svet oslavuje pamiatku narodenia Ježiša Krista, privítala prítomných, ktorí zasadli k spoločnému štedrovečernému stolu, aby konzumovali slávnostné jedlá. Zároveň ako to bolo v našich domácnostiach zvykom si zaspievali slovenské koledy za doprovodu našej organistky, Márie Rechterikovej a zaspomínali si na našich blízkych a vzdialených príbuzných i priateľov. Túto časť programu sme ukončili vianočnou piesňou „Tichá noc, svätá noc“.

Na záver sestra Henrieta H. Daitová poďakovala hlavne otcovi Štefanovi Chanasovi, Márii Rechterikovej, Lackovi Korčekovi a ostatným členom a členkám zúčastnených spolkov, ktorí sa akýmkoľvek spôsobom pricinili o zdarný priebeh tohto krásneho podujatia a zakončila týmto veršom: *Na krásne pokoja sviatky, prijmite ešte pozdrav môj krátky: Prežité chvíle Vianočné v radosť, pokoji a láske spoločne. Tiež zvítajte sa s Novým rokom v dobrej vôli, pohode, starosti nech idú bokom, odplavia sa po vode. S úprimnosťou svoje čase zdvíhajte tiež vozvyšok nech je pevné zdravie Vaše, nech je šťastný Nový rok. Dúfame všetci, že sa takto o rok v zdraví stretne pri našom Štedrovečernom stole. „Pochválený buď Ježiš Kristus“.*

Henrieta H. Daitová
kultúrna referentka Farskej rady



Štedrá večera – Vigília v kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého dňa 14. decembra 2014. Zľava: organistka Mária Rechteriková, Henrieta H. Daitová a otec Štefan Chanas.



Jasličky v Slovenskom kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC.



Na Štedrovečernej večeri zľava: otec Štefan Chanas, Henrieta H. Daitová a Milan R. Dait.



Bratislavské Divadlo Astorka Korzo'90 znovu v USA

V sobotu 31. januára odcestovalo bratislavské Divadlo Astorka Korzo'90 do USA. Herecký súbor absolvuje na Floride viaceré besedy s krajanmi o divadle a umení. Vyvrcholením jeho prezentácie bude 7. februára krajanský večer, kde ich okrem rozhovorov rozosmeje ukázkou z inscenácie Na koho to slovo padne.

Predstavenie je bláznivá komédia, ktorá v podaní mladých hercov Mariána Miezgu, Vladimíra Kobielskeho, Lukáša Latináka, Róberta Jakaba a Juraja Kemku pobaví publikum každého veku. Ide o groteskný príbeh piatich individuí uzavretých v jednej miestnosti v spoločnosti jedného revolvera. Každého z nich tento revolver láka, pretože mu dáva príležitosť vládnuť nad ostatnými. Sú to piati zvláštni a hlavne smiešni pánkovia a každý z nich má celkom odlišnú predstavu o moci.

Táto divadelná hra patrí k najobľúbenejším slovenským činohrným titulom. S inscenáciou sa súbor predstavil v Austrálii, USA, Kanade, Francúzsku, Bielorusku, Srbsku, Maďarsku a Česku. Zo zahraničia si Astorka priniesla ceny, diplomy, ďakovné listy a dokonca aj veľký gobelín.

„Astorka má nielen v Európe, ale aj v zámorí obrovský úspech. V USA hosťovali už niekoľkokrát, teraz sa tam na pozvanie opäť vracajú, aby odprezentovali kus slovenského umenia. Aj to svedčí o kvalite divadla,“ zdôvodnil Pavol Frešo, predseda Bratislavského samosprávneho kraja (BSK), ktorý je zriaďovateľom tohto divadla.

TASR

Luba Greguš Mason stále činná

Luba Greguš Mason je stále činná v muzikáloch a divadelných predstaveniach. Keďže slovenská verejnosť nepočula o jej činnosti istý čas, pisateľ chce aspoň v krátkosti uviesť, že ako produktívna umelkyňa pripravila prezentáciu ktorej dala meno *Mixtura*. Mixtura je slovensko-americká a latinská zmes – umelecký to dar Luby Mason. Každé jednotlivé predstavenie Mixtury bude obsahovať národne zdedenú charakteristiku, prijateľnú pre formát mixtury. Hudba tohto divadelného revue je nenapodobiteľná: bas, bubon, gitara a husle – talentovaní hudobníci týchto nástrojov boli skutočne na výške.

Tri predstavenia Mixtury sa konali 11. septembra; 2. októbra; 6. novembra 2014 v Metropolitan Room v New York City. Pisateľ bol prítomný na jednom predstavení a s pocitom hrdosti pozorne sledoval celý program. Najprv skvelý hudobný direktor Filipe Fournier z Equadoru majstrovsky predviedol vibe solo v latinskej úprave. Potom nasledoval elegantný, hodvábný a romantický spev Luby Mason. V morrison's rendition „Moondance“ hlas Luby Mason akoby vyletoval zo začudenej horiacej pary do veľmi hlasného soprana, čo vyznelo ako hlas trúbek keď oznamujú príchod kráľa. Ak mal niekto pochyby o slovenskom pôvode Luby Mason, mohol sa presvedčiť keď zaspievala slovenskú ľudovú pieseň: Materinská moja reč (Motherland). Vysvetlila prítomným, že táto pieseň znamená pre ňu mnoho a že jej prvá reč bola slovenčina. Ďalej spomenula, že sa narodila v USA v meste New York a že Spojené štáty sú pre ňu teplým domovom. Obecenstvo ju odmenilo hlučným potleskom. Pisateľ nespomenul celý program v týchto riadkoch. Uvedol aspoň tú časť programu, ktorá ho najviac zaujímala. Milovníci hudby a podobných programov si prišli na svoje. Zaplnili Metropolitan room do posledného miesta, takže asi 15-20 ľudí uvádzajú predstavenia vrátili záujemcov domov. Pisateľ mal skvelý zážitok.

Kritici Tonya Pinkins a Stephen Sorokoff hodnotili tvorbu a výkon Luby Mason veľmi pozitívne: „Mrs Mason je klasicky školená speváčka, tanečnica a herečka. Má čaro, pôvab. Len jej samotný zjav na javisku pôsobí vzrušujúcim dojmom. Má prenikajúci talent, ktorý ju ženie stále dopredu. Ja známa na Broadway, televízii a možno povedať, že je produktívna umelkyňa“.

Úprimne blahoželám pi. Mason ku umeleckej tvorbe *Mixtura*, ako aj ku osviežujúcemu hodnotnému programu. Slováci a Slovenky môžu byť hrdí, že Američanka slovenského pôvodu sa hlási ku slovenskej ľudovej tvorbe a oboznamuje americkú verejnosť, že Slováci sú kultúrnym národom tak ako mnohé iné národy. Veď každý kút Slovenska sa hrdí irečným podaním svojskosti.

Po skončení predstavenia Mixtury Luba Mason neodpočívala, ale so svojím manželom Ruben Blades účinkovala v koncerte (jazz) v Lincoln Center Orchestra, ktorý sa konal 13.-15. novembra 2014. Všetky tri predstavenia boli vypredané. Mr. Blades je známy ako Panamský majster prominentného Latino tanca Salsa. Obdržal už po 10-krát Latin Grammy Reward za jeho posledný album Tangos.

Zo správ, ktoré podávam vidieť, že pi. Mason bude činná vo svojom divadelnom svete a pisateľ verí, že jej činnosť bude úspešná.

Spravodajca



Cieľ zrekonštruovať kaštieľ v Rusovciach zostáva

Vláda nerezigovala na obnovu kaštieľa v Rusovciach. „Do rekonštrukcie sa ide,“ povedal v rozhovore pre TASR premiér Robert Fico. Pôvodne sa počítalo s tým, že by sa mohol využívať na reprezentačné účely počas slovenského predsedníctva v Európskej únii v druhej polovici roku 2016. Zámer pokračovať v rekonštrukcii kaštieľa v Rusovciach súčasný kabinet schválil v auguste 2012. Koncom septembra 2013 sa na rokovanie dostal návrh ministra financií Petra Kažimíra na zabezpečenie peňazí na tento účel. V ňom sa hovorilo o viacerých zdrojoch - daroch od nadácií, občianskych združení a podnikateľských subjektov v kombinácii s eurofondmi, Nórsnym finančným mechanizmom a adekvátnym spolufinancovaním zo štátneho rozpočtu. Kažimír vtedy uviedol, že vláda má prisľúbených 20 až 25 miliónov eur vo forme darov od rôznych spoločností.

Ako informoval tlačový odbor ministerstva, v štátnom rozpočte je v rokoch 2015 až 2017 na rekonštrukciu kaštieľa vyčlenený každý rok jeden milión eur. Rovnako tomu bol aj vlani.

Úrad vlády sa rozhodol vypísať verejné obstarávanie najprv na projektovú dokumentáciu a následne na uskutočnenie stavebných prác. „Aby sa možné riziká spojené s tak náročnou rekonštrukciou, ktorú si národná kultúrna pamiatka vyžaduje, eliminovali na najnižšiu možnú mieru,“ vysvetlil tlačový a informačný odbor úradu vlády. Verejné obstarávanie na projektovú dokumentáciu rekonštrukcie čeladníka a kaštieľa Rusovce s príslušným areálom vypíše úrad na prelome januára a februára.

Kaštieľ v Rusovciach s parkom je národnou kultúrnou pamiatkou evidovanou v Ústrednom zozname pamiatkového fondu SR. Je v správe Úradu vlády SR. Tento areál účelového zariadenia pozostáva z objektu neogotického kaštieľa, čeladníka, vrátnice, vodojemu a anglického parku s rozlohou cca 13,2 ha. Objekt, ktorý je v havarijnom stave, sa vyše 25 rokov nevyužíva pre neukončenie jeho komplexnej rekonštrukcie. S tou sa naplno začalo v roku 1996, ale pre krátenie financií sa od júla 2000 práce úplne zastavili.

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Kaštieľ v Rusovciach

Kresťania slávia Hromnice – sviatok obetovania Pána

Kresťanský sviatok Obetovania Pána, ľudovo nazývaný Hromnice, veriaci slávia 2. februára. Je to deň spomienky na obetovanie Ježiša v chráme a slávi sa na 40. deň po jeho narodení. V katolíckych kostoloch sa na sviatok Obetovania Pána koná obrad požehnanie sviec, liturgia svetla ako symbol očisty a procesia. Posväteným sviecam nazývaným Hromničky sa podľa tradície pripisovala ochrana pred hromom a bleskom. Na vidieku ich v minulosti zapalovali počas búrok a dodnes sa používajú pri pohrebných obradoch.

V gréckokatolíckej cirkvi sa Hromnice nazývajú Stretnutie Pána Boha a Spasiteľa Ježiša Krista.

V Evanjelickej cirkvi augsburského vyznania (ECAV) si 2. februára pripomínajú Predstavenie Pána, udalosť, keď Jozef a Mária prišli do jeruzalemského chrámu, aby predstavili Ježiša. V niektorých evanjelických cirkevných zboroch sa na Hromnice konajú služby Božie.

Korene kresťanského sviatku Obetovanie Pána siahajú do 5. storočia nášho letopočtu. Názov Hromnice je odvodený od posvätených sviečok, ktoré veriaci pokladali za symbol Ježiša Krista. Pápež Gelasius v roku 494 zaviedol v cirkvi tradíciu sprievodu okolo kostola s horiacimi sviečkami, špeciálne požehnanými pre tento účel, aby tak nahradil sprievod so sviečkami, ktorý bol súčasťou pohanskej slávnosti.

Hromnice sa považovali za prechodné obdobie medzi zimou a jarou. Sú tiež symbolom pribúdajúceho svetla, o čom svedčia aj ľudové prislovia, napríklad: Na Nový rok o slepačí krok, na Tri krále o krok ďalej, na Hromnice o hodinu viac. Na Slovensku sa k tomuto sviatku viazali tiež rôzne ľudové zvyky: gazdiné v tento deň varili dlhé cestoviny, aby rastliny narástli dlhé, v niektorých oblastiach platil zákaz pracovať v lese a iné. Hromnice znamenali takisto dôležitý deň pri predpovediach počasia. Podľa ľudových práností teplé počasie na tento sviatok bolo neželané, lebo signalizovalo dlhú zimu, slabú úrodu a chudobu. Naopak, zima na Hromnice znamenala skorý príchod jari. Svedčia o tom viaceré ľudové porekadlá, napríklad Radšej vidí bača na Hromnice vlka v kožiari ako sedliaka v košeli alebo Raduje sa gazda, keď na Hromnice dve pre zimu musí obliecť kabanice - príde skorá jar.

TASR



On January 26, 2015, Prime Minister Robert Fico visited the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Nitra Jan Chryzostom Cardinal Korec at his residence in Nitra to congratulate him on his 91st birthday.

FOTO TASR - Henrich Mišovič

Predseda vlády SR Robert Fico navštívil emeritného biskupa Nitrianskej rímskokatolíckej diecézy Jána Chryzostoma kardinála Korca pri príležitosti kardinálových 91. narodenín v priestoroch jeho nitrianskeho sídla 26. januára 2015. Na snímke emeritný biskup Nitrianskej rímskokatolíckej diecézy Ján Chryzostom kardinál Korec (vpravo) dostáva kyticu kvetov od predsedu vlády Roberta Fica.

Vedci zo SAV zaujali NASA

Plášť magnetickej neviditeľnosti, ktorý zhotovili vedci z Elektrotechnického ústavu SAV v roku 2012, zaujal vedcov v NASA Ames Research Center v americkej Kalifornii. Cieľom projektu je simulovať stav, keď sa živý organizmus nenachádza v dosahu magnetických polí. Vedci predpokladajú, že bez magnetického poľa nebude živý organizmus správne fungovať.

„Kolegovia z NASA sledujú dlhodobější program, ako zemské magnetické pole vplyva na živé organizmy. Potrebujú to vedieť pre to, aby vedeli, čo sa môže stať kozmonautom, ktorých budú posilať na dlhší čas do vesmíru,“ priblížil Fedor Gömöry z Elektrotechnického ústavu SAV. Pripomenul, že kozmonauti, ktorí sa nachádzajú v okolí Zeme, nie sú až tak ohrození, keďže okolo nej sa magnetické pole ešte nachádza. „Tu ide o lety do hlbokého vesmíru, čiže keby sme poslali kozmonautov k Marsu,“ dodal.

Podľa jeho slov, plášť magnetickej neviditeľnosti je vhodný na to, aby sa vytvorilo prostredie, v ktorom je nulové magnetické pole. Vznikne tak vhodný priestor na experimentovanie v zemských podmienkach. V súčasnosti pracujú na vytvorení nulového magnetického poľa v malej rúrke, ktorú chcú postupne zväčšiť tak, aby sa do nej dostala myš. V pláne to majú už o rok.

So slovenskými vedcami v súčasnosti spolupracuje doktorand z NASA Yoh Nagasakiho, ktorý tu na Slovensku je na trojmesačnom pobyte. Projekt je od roku 2013 financovaný z Agentúry pre podporu výskumu a vývoja (APVV).

TASR



Sviatok sv. Cyrila a Metoda

Pápež Ján Pavol II. v decembri 1980 vyhlásil svätých bratov Cyrila a Metoda za spolupatrónov Európy a tento cirkevný sviatok sa slávi 14. februára.

Kresťanstvo začína výraznejšie prenikať medzi Slovanov, žijúcich na území súčasného Slovenska, v prvej tretine 9. storočia. Už jeho relatívne zakorenené pozície dokazoval kostol v Nitre vysvätený v roku 828 salzburským biskupom Adalrámom, kde vládlo pohanské knieža Pribina. Okolo roku 833 dobytím Nitrianskeho kniežatstva moravským Mojmirom I. vznikla Veľká Morava.

Učenie Ježiša Krista nadobúda medzi Slovanmi čoraz významnejší dosah. Kresťanský panovník Veľkej Moravy Rastislav ponímal toto náboženstvo ako silný fenomén, ktorý bude schopný podporiť existenciu ranostredovekého štátu. Veľkú Moravu stále ohrozovala rozpínavosť Frankov. V ich službách boli aj duchovní preferujúci latinskú liturgiu. Viacerí z nich chceli svojou činnosťou oslabiť Veľkú Moravu a dostať ju do priameho područia Východofranskej ríše. Obmedzili by tým postavenie

Rastislava. Ten sa obrátil na pápeža, aby mu poslal učiteľa, ktorý by uprednostňoval šírenie kresťanskej viery v reči, akou hovorí jeho ľud. Učiteľ by mal ďalej vychovať miestny klérus a bol by oddaný vládnucej dynastii. Posolstvo nenašlo odozvu u pápeža, ale kladne naň reagoval byzantský cisár Michal III. Na Veľkú Moravu vyslal dvoch vierozvestov. Na misiu išli Konštantín a Metod. Pochádzali zo Solúna, v okolí ktorého v tom čase žila početná slovenská menšina a jej jazyk obaja ovládali.

Konštantín ešte pred odchodom na misiu vytvoril písmo, prispôbené pre slovanštinu, hlaholiku a preložil základné state súvisiace s kresťanskou vieroukou: výber evanjeliových čítaní - Evanjeliár. Po takejto príprave prišli obaja zvestovatelia viery v roku 863 na Veľkú Moravu. Obyvateľstvo spolu s miestnou vládnucou mocou byzantskú misiu prijalo. Východofranskí mocenski predstavitelia a ich klérus sa na to pozerali s nevôľou.

Po trojročnom pôsobení na Veľkej Morave na spiatocnej ceste do Byzancie oboch šíriteľov Kristovho učenia zastihlo v Benátkach pozvanie pápeža Mikuláša I. do Ríma. Vo Večnom meste ich už však vítal nový pápež Hadrián II., pred ktorým obhajili svoje dielo. Dosiahli kodifikovanie slovanskej reči ako ďalšieho liturgického jazyka, v ktorom možno vykonávať kresťanské obrady. Chorľavý Konštantín ostal v Ríme, kde sa utiahol do kláštora, prijal meno Cyril a v roku 869 skonal.

Slovanské knieža v Panónii Koceľ krátko po Cyrilovej smrti požiadal pápeža, aby sa Metod vrátil ako učiteľ. Druhý z vierozvestov sa vracia na Veľkú Moravu. Pri návrate v Blatnove v Panónii, kde vládol Pribinov syn Koceľ, sa zastavil a na základe jeho žiadosti o obnovenie panónskej diecézy (s vedomím Rastislava i Svätopluka), sa vracia späť do Ríma. Pápež ho vo Večnom meste vysvätil za panónskeho, respektíve moravsko-panónskeho arcibiskupa a pápežského legáta pre kraje ovládané Rastislavom, Svätoplukom (Nitriansko) a Koceľom okolo roku 870. Metod sa už ako arcibiskup vracia na Veľkú Moravu. Počas cesty ho zajali Frankovia. Po necelých troch rokoch ho intervenciou pomohol vyslobodiť pápež Ján VIII., pravdepodobne na žiadosť Svätopluka I. V roku 873 sa Metod ujal správy cirkvi na Veľkej Morave. V roku 880 v Ríme opäť obhajoval svoje pôsobenie a uspel. Po jeho smrti v roku 885 však postupne získava rozhodujúci vplyv latinský klérus a Metodovi žiaci, obhajujúci slovanskú liturgiu, museli z Veľkej Moravy odísť. Usadili sa najmä na území vtedajšej Bulharskej ríše. Duchovný odkaz vierozvestov a patrónov Európy je silný aj v súčasnosti. Konštantín (Cyril) a Metod sú zdrojom nábožnosti, solidarity a slovanskej vzájomnosti, najmä pre Slovákov, Moravanov, Čechov, Bulharov i Macedóncov.

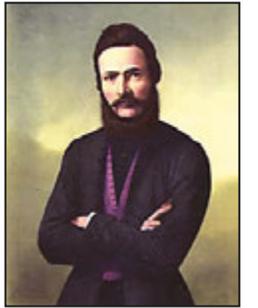
Bronzová plastika sv. Cyril a Metoda v Prievidzi.



Ľudovít Štúr (1815 - 1856) reformátor slovenskej spoločnosti

Ľudovít Štúr (28. 10. 1815 Uhrovec - 12. 1. 1856 Modra) patrí bezpochyby k najvýznamnejším osobnostiam moderných slovenských dejín. Zapísal sa do nich ako ideový tvorca, iniciátor a aktívny realizátor zmien slovenskej spoločnosti v mimoriadne citlivej etape jej vývoja, v čase prechodu od stavovskej spoločnosti k spoločnosti občianskej. Svojou mnohostrannou činnosťou sa zaslúžil o rozvoj slovenského národného hnutia, ktoré pod jeho vedením nadobudlo schopnosť viesť zápas za národné práva Slovákov v ťažkých podmienkach národnostného útlaku ústiaceho do snáh o pomäťarčenie Slovákov. Hlavným cieľom životného snaženia Ľudovíta Štúra bolo povzniesť Slovákov ako svojbytný národ cestou všestrannej modernizácie na úroveň vyspelých európskych národov. Tento cieľ však nemali dosiahnuť na úkor iných, ale vlastným pričinením.

Výstava SNM-Historického múzea na Bratislavskom hrade venovaná 200. výročiu narodenia Ľudovíta Štúra, predstavuje na 19 tematických paneloch a prostredníctvom múzejných, galerijných a archívnych exponátov jeho život a dielo v kontexte slovenských dejín od čias Veľkej Moravy po súčasnosť. Pripomína zdroje, na ktoré Štúr nadviazal, podrobne mapuje jeho životnú dráhu a dielo, ktoré vytvoril a ukazuje ako sa v jednotlivých historických obdobiach až po súčasnosť naplňoval jeho ideový a mravný odkaz. Výstava tým nesie náboj posolstva dnešku.



TASR

Svätý Otec povzbudil Slovensko k odvahe pri podpore rodiny

Na rannej svätej omši 22. januára pápeža Františka v kaplnke Domu sv. Marty vo Vatikáne sa zúčastnila skupina Slovákov. Išlo o 25 mladých ľudí študujúcich alebo pracujúcich v Ríme, ktorí sa podieľajú na živote Slovenskej katolíckej misie v Ríme (SKM).

Svätý Otec už pri úvodnom privítaní vyjadril radosť z ich aktívnej účasti na živote Rímskej diecézy a vyjadril svoj záujem o súčasnú situáciu na Slovensku. Ocenil pozornosť, aká sa na Slovensku venuje úsiliu o ochranu hodnoty rodiny v súvislosti s pripravovaným referendum. Slovákov v tomto smere povzbudil k odvahe, aby mali „coraggio“.

Pri svätej omši, ktorá sa konala vo zvyčajnom čase o siedmej hodine ráno, koncelebrovalo so Svätým Otcom desať mladých kňazov študujúcich v Ríme, pochádzajúcich z viacerých slovenských diecéz a reholí. Viac ako polovicu tvorili aktívni laici, ktorí sa každú nedeľu stretávajú na slovenskej omši v kostole San Girolamo della Carità v centre Ríma.

Prítomné boli aj tri rehoľné sestry Satmárky z Pápežského slovenského kolégia sv. Cyrila a Metoda. Duchovný správca SKM Ľubomír Majtán v mene všetkých na záver odovzdal Svätému Otcovi album fotografií zo života SKM s uistením o modlitbe za neho a s prosbou, aby aj on v modlitbe pamätal na slovenské rodiny.

TK KBS, RV

The third annual "Tatry Ice Master" sculpture show was held in the High Tatras on February 1, 2015. Ice sculptors from all over the world participated in the event.



FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš

Na snímke pohľad na osvetlené ľadové sochy vystavené počas tretieho ročníka neoficiálnych majstrovstiev sveta v tesaní sôch do ľadu Tatry Ice Master na Hrebienku vo Vysokých Tatrách 1. februára 2015.

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