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From the President

It is with great sadness to inform you that my Administrative Assistant and friend for the past eight years, Piroška Merai, passed away on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at the age of 61 years.

Piroška was a loyal, extremely competent and dedicated person and employee - not only to me but to the First Catholic Slovak Union.

She had been hired by President Thomas Hricik as his Administrative Assistant in 2006 and then worked for me since 2007.

About fourteen years ago Piroška was stricken by breast cancer. She successfully fought the disease and had a full recovery. Unfortunately, the cancer reappeared in 2011. She continued to work on a reduced basis as she fought the cancer.

She was a fighter. She loved her family and also loved her work at the First Catholic Slovak Union. She came to work and used a walker. However, in 2013 the pain and the effect of medications became so intense she had to take several leaves of absence. She always planned to return to work.

She continued chemo medications until just recently. However, she was losing the fight.

I talked to her last week and she told me her illness was terminal and she stopped chemo. Her voice was not as strong but I could sense a feeling of calm.

Piroška was proud of her family and talked about them often. She was proud of her Slovak heritage, of her Catholic Faith and proud of her work at the Society.

As I said at the death of my daughter, Idka, in 2013, we know they both are with The Lord.

We Believe.

Z Bohom, Piroška.

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

Editor's Note: Please see page 17

FRATERNALISM ON THE INSIDE:



- 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 6 for details.



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

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Slovak 21-24

Hromnice (Candlemas) and Blažej (St. Blaise's Day) in Slovakia

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

Early February marks the midpoint of winter and Christians in Slovakia have traditionally observed these days as times to pay tribute to Christ and the Virgin Mary. Hromnice (Candlemas) and Blažej (St. Blaise's Day) were considered holy days and celebrated with elaborate ceremony.

February 2, which we identify in the USA as Groundhog Day, is known as Hromnice in Slovakia. In England, the day is known as Candlemas, and, as in Slovakia, the day is associated with the use of candles in ceremonies. Hromnice's origins stem from both Greek and Latin origins. The Roman Church observed the date as the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. The Greek feast, known as "Hypapante," commemorates the Purification of the Blessed Virgin.



St. Blaise blessing a child's throat.

continued on page 8

No matter what team
you root for,
you're always a winner
with FCSU!

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%



Also Available

Park 2 2.15%
Park Free Plus 1.90%

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

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



Insights and Viewpoints



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

**February 8th 2015 -
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mark 1: 29-39.**

"My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again" (Job 7:6-7). These are very strong words, but they were no exaggeration: they were spoken by Job, a man who truly knew the depths

of human suffering. Job had experienced the loss of all his property, the death of his children, and even the effects of an insidious disease which robbed him of his health.

He wonders how the tragedy which he was experiencing could befall a man like himself who so joyfully worshipped God and lived in a just and upright manner. In the midst of these sentiments Job asks a question which practically every human being has asked over the millennia: "Why has this happened to me?!" In exploring the meaning of his dilemma Job anticipates the bewilderment of every person who has ever encountered unmerited hardship or trial, things which can move us toward a sense of bitterness and anger with respect to God. The response to this dilemma which the Book of Job eventually provides goes beyond the expectations of Job and reveals a God who is utterly transcendent—and yet who is ever near to those who suffer.

A common misunderstanding of God, and the one held by Job's friends and would-be counselors, suggests that the Lord rewards good people, and punishes bad people, and that suffering can be attributed to this simple causality. For instance, if one is poor, it can be seen, according to this way of thinking, as requital for laziness; if one is ill, it can be understood as payback for unhealthy living; and if one is betrayed or abandoned by others, it is in return for one's own betrayals and infidelities. A surprising number of people in our world think in this way, even if they do so unconsciously!

However, when an unexpected tragedy strikes this outlook comes crashing down, and the people who have adopted this way of viewing life tend to lose their faith—for how could God allow something awful to happen to a good person? Job never adopts this facile point of view; in the midst of his suffering he cries out with faith and hope: "As for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the ground. From my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing. Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him" (Job 19:25-27).

In the Gospel of Mark, we see Christ's response to the suffering of those who come to him—whether they are upright or not in the eyes of society, whether they are rich or poor, lazy or industrious does not matter to him: he heals them, and gives them the possibility of a new beginning in life. For some that healing comes immediately through their restoration and rejuvenation, and for others the healing effected by Jesus will reveal itself only in their final and definitive healing, which comes along with the resurrection.

Job himself points ahead to the future reality of being raised up from his earthly grave to see God face to face. When we confront unexpected and undeserved suffering or difficulties we help to put things in the proper perspective by remembering the kindness of Jesus in healing so many sick and afflicted. We also ought to recall the patience of Job, who knew that life can be brief and challenging, that human woe is not tied to moral or religious



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

standing, and above all that in the one true God whom he worshipped as the Lord of Israel and whom we know as the God of Jesus Christ we have the hope of sharing in Christ's resurrection and glory if we persevere with him through the passing distress and doubts of this present life

**February 15, 2015 –
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel –Mark 1:40 - 45**

Today is the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, and this year it is the last Sunday before the Season of Lent. During these six Sunday's we have followed Jesus from the announcement of John the Baptist that Jesus is "The Lamb of God", the calling of the first disciples, the teaching in the Synagogue in Capernaum, the Healing of Simon Peter's Mother-in-law and numerous others miracles, and this Sunday we hear of the healing of the Leper. All of these are in the First Chapter of Mark's Gospel and give us the introduction of who Jesus is, how and what he teaches, and his miracles. This is a good preparation for us as we prepare to enter into the Season of Lent and reflect more deeply on the Passion and Death of Jesus, and our call to conversion and repentance.

In the Gospel for this Sunday we have the beautiful account of the healing of a leper. It begins with the leper approaching Jesus and making an act of faith that Jesus could heal him. Jesus honored this faith and the leper was immediately healed. As Jesus dismisses the leper we are told the he warned him sternly not to tell anyone. Human nature as it is, the former leper couldn't keep his experience to himself and the news quickly spread. Jesus remained in deserted places, but people kept coming.

Why would Jesus tell the leper not to tell anyone? This takes place throughout Mark's Gospel and is referred to as the Messianic Secret. Jesus wanted to keep it a secret that he was the Messiah. There are some who say that this was because he would be constantly surrounded by those looking for healings and would not be able to adequately preach his message. Others say that if his identity as Messiah became known at the beginning of his ministry, the Israelites would place all of their preconceived notions of an earthly ruler on him and he would have difficulty revealing God's plan of the work of the Messiah and the focus to eternal life.

This information about the Messianic Secret might help us understand these passages in Mark, but the reality is that for us it is no secret. We know that Jesus is not only Messiah, he is Risen Lord and Savior of the World. It might be better for us in our everyday faith to focus on the mighty works of Jesus. That he healed the leper, he healed numerous sick and cast out demons, and he preached a new message about the Kingdom of God that was and is not always easy to accept.

As we prepare for the observance of Ash Wednesday it would benefit us to take away whatever it is that prevents us from seeing who Jesus is. It might be pride that blinds us, a lack of reflection on the Gospel that has deafened us, or a spiritual smugness that dulls our minds from accepting the reality of the miraculous power of Jesus in our own day. Jesus can literally open the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf, and the minds of our ignorance. Jesus can also do this in a figurative way that would allow us to see him, hear him and understand him with our hearts. We can imitate the leper in the Gospel who approached Jesus and acknowledge that he could heal him of leprosy, by approaching Jesus with whatever it is that stands in the way of our receiving him more in our lives, and asking Jesus to help us.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, FEB 11	MONDAY, FEB. 2
WEDNESDAY, MAR 4	MONDAY, FEB 23
WEDNESDAY, MAR 18	MONDAY, MAR 9

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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A Big Thank You to Retiring FCSU Officers



The First Catholic Slovak Union thanks, recognizes, and honors the following National Officers who retired from their respective offices in 2014.

It is through the dedicated service of these good members, others that have gone before them, and those who are yet to come, that our Society continues to act as a mainstay and promoter of Slovak culture and Catholic fraternal life.



George F. Matta
National Treasurer



Joseph F. Minarovich
Region 1 Director



Carl Ungvarsky
Region 3 Director



Regis P. Brekosky
Region 5 Director

The First Catholic Slovak Union also thanks the following members whose service in their respective national offices ended in 2014:

- Susan Ondrejco, National Fraternal Activities Director
- Thomas A. Bardar, National Auditor
- Sabina A. Sabados, Supreme Court Secretary
- Leonard L. Gruss, PhD, Supreme Court Member
- Rudolf Ondrejco, Supreme Court Member

Saint Cyril Spiritual Center Offers Monthly Sessions

The Saint Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville will offer a series of 5 monthly sessions from January to May for pastors, deacons, ministers, and chaplains on "Creating Sabbath Space in Our Lives." The sessions, based on a video program by Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, will explore the importance of carving out time for Sabbath Space in our lives, the benefits and challenges of doing so today, and God's desire for us to celebrate life. The 5-part program started Jan. 22, and is scheduled to continue on Feb 10, March 5, March 24, and May 7, each running from 1:30-4:30. The sessions will include viewing a portion of the video, prayer, reflection, silence, discussion and fellowship. The program is free, but requires advance registration. To register call Sister Jean Marie Holup at (570) 441-1496.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable

**The First Catholic Slovak Union is now accepting
VISA, Mastercard and Discover credit cards
as newspaper subscription payments.
Contact the Home Office for details:
1-800-JEDNOTA or info@fcsu.com.**

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Peace Begins with a Smile

Riding the train into Manhattan every morning, I'm used to hearing the subway conductor make announcements about standing clear of the closing doors, being aware of suspicious packages, and taking all your belongings with you when you reach your destination. But one morning this past December, the conductor added a message of his own that was unexpected, yet welcome.

While I can't remember his exact wording, here is the gist of his message: Please be aware of any suspicious packages and notify a police officer if you see one. Another dangerous situation our city is facing has to do with a diminishment of social skills. We forget to do simple things like smile at one another and say hello. It seems if we did more of that, there would be less hatred and violence in our world. So as we enter this season of love and joy, don't forget to smile.

I admit that his message made me smile both because of its content and the novelty of it. But as I looked at the people around me, no one made eye contact so maybe it didn't get through to everybody. Then again, it didn't need to. I'm sure that message stuck with at least a few of the hundreds of people on that train so several seeds of kindness were planted. That's a pretty good result for a morning's work. And considering that Mother Teresa once said, "Peace begins with a smile," this subway conductor is in good company.

It might seem childish to give a simple thing like a smile so much importance in our complicated world. Then again, Jesus summed up God's law in this way in Matthew 22: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." That's pretty simple too when you get right down to it. If more of us did the simple things right, can you imagine how much better the world would be?

Former "Christopher Closeup" guest Brooke White understands that too. White is a singer-songwriter who gained attention on "American Idol," and has built a nice career for herself in the music industry. She's also chock full of wisdom when it comes to family, faith, and the things that make life special.

One day on her blog, she asked, "As you are reading this right now, what are you doing with your face?" She was reflecting on the fact that people's faces often look serious because of stresses they're enduring. But she also shared that the simple act of smiling can make us happier.

White wrote, "I'm not suggesting putting on a facade, or being inauthentic. What I am [suggesting] is finding it in ourselves to say, 'Despite these blues, despite the struggle, I believe happiness can be found. I can smile, and I will smile!' Sometimes, a smile is an act of faith. We will find, however, it is also a joy magnet. It attracts people, it opens the door to good things, new possibilities."

Speaking of "joy magnets," here's what Pope Francis had to say on the topic of smiling: "We always think of Jesus when He preaches, when He heals...even during the Last Supper. . . But we aren't used to thinking about Jesus smiling, joyful. Jesus was full of joy!"

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, *STAYING POSITIVE AROUND NEGATIVE PEOPLE*, write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

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 ½ 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 remember 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.

**IN LOVING MEMORY
OF MY GRANDMOTHER
THERESA KOVAL**

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.





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 Mariott (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.



Gifts for Homeless Children

Sisters Michael Ann Orlik(L), Donna Marie, (Center Right), and Barbara Sable (L), present Christmas gifts for children to Tom Dougher (Center Right), Director of the Danville Gatehouse Shelter for Homeless Families. More than 50 gifts were donated by the students of Saint Cyril Preschool and Kindergarten. Gifts will also be delivered to children at the Franciscan Center on St. Helena Island in South Carolina, another ministry of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius.

- Submitted by Sister Barbara Sable



Kelly Bobo, a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, married Daniel Colao on October 4, 2014 in New Buffalo, MI.

- Submitted by Robert Tapak Magruder,
Branch 493 Financial Secretary

ERS: 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 Fraternals 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 Fraternals

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: _____

League: _____

City: _____

Captain Name: _____

Address: _____

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

1st Team Events
2nd Team Events

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
COMPLETE INFORMATION

Saturday, May 2

Bowlers:
Events 8:30 AM
12:30 PM

1st Doubles/Singles
2nd Doubles/Singles

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

Sunday, May 3

Events 10:00 AM

Doubles/Singles
(if needed)

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

The Men's and Women's 4th Annual United Slovak Fraternals 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 Fraternals 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.

The Best of the Best!

Tops Guns For 2014



Helena T. Gaydos
First Place



Beata
Begeniova-Fedoriouk
Second Place



Alexander Fedoriouk
Third Place



Andrew R. Harcar
First Place



Kenneth Anthony Arendt
Second Place



Kimberly M. Meeker
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF INSURANCE SOLD

Name	Branch	Insurance
Gaydos, Helena T.	55	501,000
Begeniova-Fedoriouk, Beata	24	300,000
Fedoriouk, Alexander	24	300,000
Petrus, Dorothy J.	670	260,000
Rimarcik, Joseph C.	743	215,000
Daitova, Henrieta H.	716	195,000
Bauer, John N.	38	150,000
Marmol, James Robert	162	129,500
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	126,000
Tarquinio, Frances	320	125,000

TOP PROPOSERS BY AMOUNT OF ANNUITIES/IRA SOLD

Name	Branch	Annuities
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	367,383.86
Arendt, Kenneth Anthony	228	273,830.00
Meeker, Kimberly M.	166	195,000.00
Kopco, Robert J.	24	188,022.29
Matta, Florence K.	38	176,416.86
Sabados, Sabina	746	172,467.92
Hricik, Geraldine F.	181	166,969.43
Anderson, Ronald M.	75	128,159.91
Chupka, Theresa R.	173	120,000.00
Kirby, Thomas Patrick	152	104,214.34



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

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- 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.

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**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
March 31, 2015**



Andrew R. Harcar
First Place



Michael Eugene Lako
Second Place



James Robert Marmol
Third Place

TOP PROPOSERS BY TOTAL POINTS

Name	Branch	Points
Harcar, Andrew R.	40	521
Lako, Michael Eugene	2	376
Marmol, James Robert	162	352
Arendt, Kenneth Anthony	228	295
Kopco, Robert J.	24	273
Tarquinio, Frances	320	272
Bauer, John N.	38	247
Matta, Florence K.	38	240
Meeker, Kimberly M.	166	195
Ungvarsky, Carl J.	173	180

Bishop Donald Hying Installed In January



Sisters Joanne Marie Schutz, SS.C.M. (L) and Brigid Fasiang, SS.C.M. (R) attended the Installation of Bishop Donald Hying, the fourth Bishop of Gary, on January 6th at the Holy Angels Cathedral. The Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius currently serve the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, as Teachers, Pastoral Associates, Instructional Services Personnel, Visitors to the Sick, and as Bishop's Liaison for Women Religious.

In Search of Family and Craft Roots

Judith Northup-Bennett, Branch 918

Reconnecting with family on the 2014 Slovakia Heritage Tour meant more than returning to family villages and finding relatives who still live in Slovakia. For Dana Gerberi, her father Mike and Uncle Larry, as well as cousins Marian Pezdek and Margie Gipson it was a chance to rediscover their own family ties and memories.

As the September tour traveled from the plains of Bratislava to the mountains of Eastern Slovakia, Dana, a health sciences librarian, heard many new family stories about her father and uncle growing up in a close Slovak community in Chicago, where lives were dominated by the United States Steel mill. Their grandfather and father worked there, as they did too, as teenagers, before going on to college and careers in medicine and computers.

For Mike and Larry, separated for many years by jobs in different parts of the United States, it was a time to catch up and remember their Slovak grandmother and extended family. They often rode their bicycles to her house after school to discover their favorite Slovak foods waiting for them on the porch. On the September Slovakia Heritage Tour, they bonded over stuffed cabbage, halušky, koláč, strudel, pierogi, and all the other traditional foods that brought out even more childhood stories. Dana was surprised to find out that her uncle cooks many of the traditional dishes that she's known her father to make on the holidays.

In addition to visiting their family villages in the Zemplín region, south of Michalovce, where Mike and Larry's grandparents and father were born, they also explored the rich pottery heritage for which the villages in this area are known.

Whether it's genetic or cultural, Dana feels a strong pull to the region's dark-brown pottery with its distinctive patterns of swirling dancers, colorful flowers and geometric designs. Before the tour Dana researched the well-known, multi-generational Parikrupa potters of Pozdišovce, a village near the Gerberi ancestral villages of Stretavka and Budkovce.

With the help of their guide, they knocked on Jan Parikrupa's door and were greeted warmly by the potter, the last of the dynasty who had recently retired from doing ceramics. Happy to have fans of his work from the United States, he took them through his pottery studio containing a beautiful display of the family's work. They also visited Jan Magara, a 90-year old man who worked in the Parikrupa pottery in various positions. They were welcomed into his house where he shared stories translated by their guide and showed off several pieces of Pozdišovce ceramics.

Dana's interest in the Pozdišovce ceramics and Slovakia traditional crafts spread over into the rest of the September Heritage Tour as she introduced the group to the Úľuv (pronounced oo-luv) Craft Centers, located in key cities around Slovakia, each one highlighting the traditional crafts of their region. Through stores, classes and studio space, Úľuv represents and preserves the traditional handicrafts of Slovakia.

"A visit to an Úľuv Center is important for travelers who are looking for authentic connections to the old country and the beautiful things our ancestors used to make, decorating and creating practical objects in an artistic way to brighten up their homes," Dana explained.

Tour leader Judith Northup-Bennett was happy to learn about the Úľuv Centers and what they are doing to preserve Slovak craftsmanship. "With Dana, we visited the large Úľuv shop and craft center in Bratislava (Bratislava has two Úľuv shops)," she explained. "It was a wonderful discovery as the work is very high quality and reasonably priced. It's a place for travelers to buy beautiful, locally-crafted, Slovak gifts to bring back to the States and support Slovak artisans." For more information on Úľuv, you can visit its web site: <http://www.uluv.sk/en/web/home/>

Cousins Marian Pezdek and Margie Gipson also grew up outside of Chicago and spent a lot of time together as children in their extended Slovak family. On the September tour, they took two side-trips to visit their parents' family roots in Stratená, just south of Poprad, and in Jablonka, an Oravan town, now just over the border in Poland. In Jablonka, Marian found the church where her 95-year-old mother made her first communion.

Not everyone on the 2014 Heritage Tour had Slovak roots, Juan Meza of Houston, TX returned for his second Heritage Tour of Slovakia after discovering the beauty of Slovakia and the history of Central Europe on the 2012 tour. Juan has traveled, studied and lived extensively in Spain and France but he's been drawn to Slovakia and the chance to experience European history and culture from an Eastern, Slavic, perspective.

"The 2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour will stay completely in Slovakia to make the most of exploring its history, culture, crafts, and beautiful countryside," said Northup-Bennett. "People love Slovakia and the chance to experience it up-close and personal at a relaxed pace. By staying in Slovakia we can include the Pezinok-Modra Wine Festival, and a visit to a small village. This year Vienna, Prague and Krakow are offered as extension tours for people who can spend a few more days and see some of the important cities that figure in Slovak history."

Author's Note:

The September 2015 Slovakia Heritage Tour starts Friday, September 11 in Vienna and ends Sunday, September 20 in Bratislava. For day-by-day details and other information visit our web site: www.slovakiaheritage.com or contact Judith Northup-Bennett, connectionswork4u@hotmail.com or 978-544-5144.

Dana Gerberi takes in a traditional folk art exhibit at the Šariš Museum in Prešov.



Dana Gerberi holds a classic vase from the Parikrupa Pottery in Pozdišovce.



The 2014 Slovakia Heritage Tour group poses in the view overlooking the ancient mining village of Špania Dolina.



(L – R) Dana Gerberi, Juan Meza, and Mike and Larry Gerberi start off on a hike in Špania Dolina.

(L – R) Juan Meza, Mike Gerberi, and Larry Gerberi relax in Prešov's central square.



(L – R) Cousins Margie Gipson and Marian Pezdek explore Spiš Castle.

(L – R) Marian Pezdek and Mike Gerberi join in a Bryndzove halušky cooking class.



Irene Clancy sits in a traditional carved wooden chair at the Úľuv Craft Center in Bratislava.

Hromnice (Candlemas) and Blažej (St. Blaise's Day) in Slovakia

continued from page 1

Origins

The Greek nomenclature for Hromnice is based on Mosaic law, which stated that a mother who gave birth to a male child remained unclean for 7 days. On the eighth day, the child would then be circumcised. Subsequently after this first week, the mother was expected to stay for 33 days in the blood of her purification." If a mother had a female child, the length required for purification doubled.

During that period of time, Hebrew law prohibited the mother from the sanctuary of the temple. However, after 40 or 80 days, the mother was supposed to take the child to synagogue, as "every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord" (Exodus 13:2, 12). The parents should "bring to the temple a lamb for a holocaust and a young pigeon or turtle dove for sin." At the temple, the priest would pray over her so that she would be cleansed (Leviticus 12:2-8).

Mary and Joseph complied with Jewish law and presented her son Jesus to the rabbi at the temple. Since they could not secure a lamb, in accord with Holy Scripture, the couple substituted two turtle doves and two pigeons. In the presence of the prophetess Anna, Simeon the Just beheld the child, as the Holy Spirit had promised to keep him alive until he saw the Messiah with his own eyes. Simon exclaimed: "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:22).

From earliest times, the Christian Church in Jerusalem had celebrated the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, but it gave the feast no formal name apart from "the fortieth day after Epiphany," since Epiphany was formerly the date when the Church celebrated the Nativity of Christ. Thus on February 14, early Christians celebrated the feast with a procession. Not until the fourth century, did the Roman date for Christ's nativity change to December 25, and thus the date for the Presentation changed to February 2.

Blessing candles and procession

The Church did not adopt the blessing of the candles on February 2 as common practice until the eleventh century. Based on the Roman Missal from the era, we know that the priest wore a purple stole and cope on this day. He would bless candles made from beeswax, sing or recite five prescribed orations, and then sprinkle holy water and incense on the candles. Following the blessing, the priest distributed the candles to the congregation, as the choir would sing the canticle of Simeon, "Nunc dimittis" (Now go). A procession would follow, and the faithful would all carry lighted candles as the choir sang "Adorna thalamum tuum, Sion" (Adorn your bridal chamber, O Zion), an antiphon composed by St. John of Damascus. The solemn procession symbolized "the entry of Christ, who is the Light of the World, into the Temple of Jerusalem."

When this procession occurs today, it takes place inside the church, but during the Middle Ages, the priests went outside the church and visited the cemetery, which was usually adjacent to the church. When the priest returned in procession, he would carry an image of the Holy Child, while the canticle of Zachary, "Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel" (Blessed be the Lord God of Israel). The ceremony concluded as he returned to the sanctuary, as the choir sang the responsorial chant, "Gaude Maria Virgo" (Rejoice Holy Virgin) or something similar to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Hromnice in Slovakia

In Slovakia, Hromnice abounded with folklore traditions, as it marked the midway point in the transition between winter and spring. Some customs stemmed from pagan times, and when Slovaks adopted Christianity, they modified and integrated their practices with their new faith. The early February holidays celebrated the start of nature awakening and looked forward to an early spring, especially when people had experienced a very harsh winter.

On 2 February, the faithful would attend Mass and obtain some of the consecrated candles, which they called Hromničké. The Hromničké represented Christ, the Light of the world who showed all the path to true happiness. People would light them in their homes during storms as protection from lightning. They also burnt the candles beside deceased members of the family to ward off evil spirits, and used them in burial ceremonies. Finally, Slovaks also used the candles to cure sore throats, a common affliction in the dead of winter.

Numerous proscriptions surrounded what could or could not be done on Hromnice. People in western Slovakia believed that lightning would strike a person sometimes during the year if he worked on Hromnice. Myjava banned all sewing, and in the Pontrie region, men could not work in the forest. In the central Slovak region of Turiec, people thought lightning



A priest in Kolarovce, Slovakia, blesses candles at the Mass.

would strike someone who wore clothes made on Hromnice. In eastern Slovakia, people believed lightning would strike the house of anyone who sewed on that day.

In the central Slovak region of Liptov, into the early 19th century, lore called for a gazdina to be sure to slide on ice so that she could count on tall hemp and flax (za dlhé konope a ľan). As recently as the interwar era of the 20th centuries, many whole families would sankovať (go sledding) so their crops would thrive. The longer they stayed out sledding, the taller would the crops grow, which sounds like a good excuse to enjoy the sled riding!

On Hromnice, farmers would also get together in their homes, and engage in conversations with a glass of refreshment near a warm oven. According to one source, the eldest reminisced that they would drink "muchovuo"; it was generally believed that if a man did not drink on Hromnice, flies and horseflies would sting him all year long. At the same time, the women also bought or used their own palenka (brandy) and drank "priatkou" so they would finish their priadky (spinning) chores.

Pranostiky (Weather lore)

Pranostiky (weather lore) and various poriekadla (proverbs or sayings) also warned people of signs to beware of. Unlike the US where the groundhog Punxatawney Phil welcomes a warm early February, in Slovakia people feared an early thaw as a sign of a longer winter, poor harvests, and even famine. If thawing water fell from the roof, it was a sign that the winter would continue. But if it was still cold and freezing, that meant that all should finish their winter chores, for spring would come early. Long icicles hanging from the roof portended a harvest of tall hemp that year.

One pranostika (weather saying) states it clearly:

"Raduj sa gazda, keď na Hromnice pre tuhu zimu musíš si obliecť dve kabanice – príde skorá jar."

Translation: "Rejoice farmer, when you have to dress for a bitter cold on Hromnice, and you have to wear two kabanice (tabards, which were short-sleeved coats common in the Middle Ages) - an early spring is coming.

Ak svieti slnko na Hromnice hojnosť žita a pšenice.

When the sun shines on Candlemas, there will be an abundance of rye and wheat.

Ak je na Hromnice mráz, bude ich ešte päťdesiat ráz.

When there is frost on Candlemas, it will come again fifty times.

Keď sú na Hromnice snežné povetrice, objaví sa skoro usmievavé líce.

When there are snowstorms on Candlemas, smiling faces will soon appear.

Na Hromnice chumelice, nebýva už zimy více.

A snowstorm on Candlemas, the winter will not last long.

Keď svetlo svieti na Hromničku, zbieraj slamu na chodníčku.

When light shines on Hromnice candle, collect the straw on the path.

Ak na Hromnice zo strechy tečie, zima sa dlho povlečie, ale ak je silný mráz, treba sa ponáhľať so zimnými prácami, lebo jar je pred dvermi.

If water drips from the roof on Candlemas, winter will drag on for a long time, but if there is a severe frost, one must hurry to finish one's winter work, because spring is at the door.

Radšej vidí bača na Hromnice vlka v košari ako sedliaka v košeli.

Better that a shepherd sees a wolf in a sheep-pen on Candlemas, than a farmer in a shirt.

Ak je hromničná Panna Mária mrazovitá, bude skorá a teplá jar.

If the Virgin Mary is frosted on Candlemas, there will be an early and warm spring.

Keď je na Hromnice jasno, budú dobré zemiaky.

When it is sunny on Candlemas, the potatoes will be good.



A Hromnice congregation with their blessed candles.

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Svätý Blažej - Saint Blaise

Saint Blaise Day was also celebrated on the day after Hromnice in Slovakia. The feast day has a long history in Europe and the cult of devotion to the saint dates from the 11th and 12th centuries, when most of the legends of his deeds were recorded in writing. But St. Blaise lived long before then, during the 4th century A.D.; he is first noted in the medical writings of Aëtius Amidenus, a court physician from the late 5th and early 6th century, who mentions people praying for his intercession for ailments of the throat. Western European legends of Blaise's saintliness started as early as the 9th century.

Of Armenian origin, St. Blaise served as a physician and the bishop of Sebaste in a part of western Armenia, which today lies in Sivas, Turkey. Sources tell us that St. Blaise suffered martyrdom when Roman co-emperor Licinius, who did not follow the toleration policy of his fellow ruler Constantine, sent an order calling for the persecution of Christians. In 316, the governor of Cappadocia and Lesser Armenia, Agricolaus, followed the imperial directive and had St. Blaise arrested. St. Blaise refused to renounce his faith, so his tormenters beat him with a stick, slashed his flesh with iron combs, and finally beheaded him. Thus he became a patron saint of wool combers and animals. His feast day is on February 3 in the Roman Catholic Church, and on February 11 in the Eastern Churches.

Prior to his martyrdom, St. Blaise established a reputation of miraculously healing both the bodies and souls of many people, thus many flocked to him hoping for cures. He is said to have healed animals as well, as animals also assisted him in his work. In paintings, St. Blaise is often depicted holding two crossed candles in his hand, or in a cave with wild beasts, where the Roman governor's hunters found him.

One legend tells that as the governor's hunters were taking St. Blaise back to Sebaste, they encountered a poor old woman who had lost a pig to a wolf. St. Blaise spoke to the wolf and it gave the unharmed swine back to the woman. When St. Blaise was awaiting his final fate, that same woman visited him, and brought him two wax candles to brighten up his dark cell of confinement.

Another story relates that while being led to captivity, a poor widow took her only son to him, for he was choking to death of a fish-bone. Standing at his feet, the child was immediately cured. As a result, believers asked for the intercessions of St. Blaise to protect the faithful against afflictions of the throat.

To this day, it is quite common to receive a blessing on the throat on the feast of St. Blaise. Typically, the priest places two consecrated candles in a crossed position on the throat of the believer, and he recites this prayer: "May Almighty God at the intercession of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr, preserve you from infections of the throat and from all other afflictions." The priest follows the prayer with a blessing.

Blažej - Saint Blaise Day in Slovakia

In Slovakia, priests bless throats of the faithful just as they do here in North America. But a few additional customs add to the traditions in the old country.

In some areas of Slovakia, the priest also blesses bread and the people place a piece of the blessed bread on the roof for good luck. People also used the weather of the day to predict their future health. When the sun shone on the morning of St. Blaise Day, it meant that the youth and children would be healthy in the coming months. An afternoon sun portended good health for the adults of a household; an evening sun promised good health for the elderly.

Unique to Slovakia, February 3 was also a day dedicated to teachers and students. Originally, both teachers and their pupils formed processions and visited households, where they would sing songs and make wishes for good fortune. The visited would reward them with some coins, koláče (pastries) and slanina (bacon). Later the teachers would just send the students to do the gathering. The collection of foodstuffs would serve to supplement teachers' incomes, which were agreed upon in a contract. The teachers would also receive a small amount of grains, beer, and/or wood. People raised money from baking breads or wafers and collecting donations on St. Blaise's Day, as well as on St. Gregory's Day, and the feasts of St. Havel and St. Martin. Upon finishing, the students would return with their takings to the school, where the collection would be recorded. The teacher's wife would then reward students with a supper of brinzové halušky (potato dumplings with sheep cheese) and give them each five pennies (groše).

Finally, St. Blaise Day was also used to predict weather and seek the saint's intercession for good health with some unique pranostiky. Here are few samples.

Na svätého Blažeja má ísť furman zo dvora.

On St. Blaise Day the wagonman has to go from the yard.

Na svätého Blažeja ešte trvá veja.

On St. Blaise Day, it still takes a veja (a tool for cleaning grain from the chaff).

Blažej vyprosuje, aby na jeho meno bolo pekné počasie, aby choroby z hrdla odniesla.

St. Blaise will be praying that in his name there will be nice weather, so that it removes any illnesses of the throat.

These rich traditions from Slovakia's culture help remind us of the lives which our ancestors experienced, and remain a call to holiness in our own time for Christians who take them to heart. For as our fraternal organization states, we dedicate our lives za Boha a národ, for God and nation.

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Vilija Celebration at St. Andrew Abbey of Cleveland

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Radio Club, hosted their annual Christmas Vilija on Sunday, December 7, 2014. Held in the cafeteria of Benedictine High School on the Abbey grounds, the Vilija featured a traditional meatless Christmas Eve "feast" of oplatky, mushroom soup, fish, green peas, bobalky, pierogi, and poppy seed and nutrolls. Food was prepared by members of the Radio Club, of which Henry Horvath is president. The first course (mushroom soup) was served by the monks. After the meal, entertainment was provided by the Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. The troupe performed dances from Slovakia and included numbers by its children's group, Lúčinka. Lúčina's director is Branch 24's Tom Ivanec. All members of the Abbey are also members of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Branch 24. Appropriately, many members of the First Catholic Slovak Union attended the Vilija, included several reserved tables (50 places) for Branch 24 members, under the direction of Branch 24 President Bob Kopco. Members of the First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) attended and worked the event, including Barbara Sutila (Branch 855), Ann Sutila (Branch 855), Andrew P. Rajec (Branch 89), Johanna Oros (Branch 24), Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450), and Vlad Cvicela (Branch 24). FCSU's National President Andrew M. Rajec and his wife Idka attended this year's event as well.



By the FCSU Booth, members: (L –R) National President Andrew M. Rajec, Idka Rajec, Bob Kopco, Kim Kuzminsky, Andrew P. Rajec, Terri Ivanec, Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, and Barb Sutila.



The monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey , all members of Branch 24, start their annual Vilija celebration with a hymn (L –R): Father Gerard Gonda, Father Michael Brunovsky, Abbot Gary Hoover, and Brother Gabriel Balazovic



The Right Reverend Gary Hoover, OSB, celebrates the Mass in the Chapel of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad to begin the Vilija celebration on December 7, 2014.



The monks served up mushroom soup as the first course of the traditional Slovak meatless Christmas Eve feast.



Branch 24's Vlad Cvicela greets Vilija attendees and offers copies of Jednota.



The sellout crowd at this year's Vilija, held on December 7, 2014, on the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad in Cleveland, OH.



Members of Lucinka and Branch 24 (L – R) Henry Strekal and Artem Fedoriouk entertain themselves while waiting to perform at the Vilija.



Branch 855's Barb Sutila sold raffle tickets and helped prepare the Vilija meal with members of the Slovak Radio Club of Greater Cleveland.



Branch 24 President Bob Kopco (C) takes a turn as guest performer with the Anthony Culkar Band who performed throughout the afternoon.



The children of Lúčinka performed the Train Dance as part of the day's entertainment.



The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland performed traditional dances from Slovakia.

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 or Pittsburgh; and Košice, 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.

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

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2015

February 11

March 4

March 18

April 22

May 6

May 20

June 10

July 15

August 12

Sept 9

Sept 23

October 7

October 21

November 4

November 18

December 9

February 2

February 23

March 9

April 13

April 27

May 11

June 1

July 6

August 3

August 31

Sept 14

Sept 28

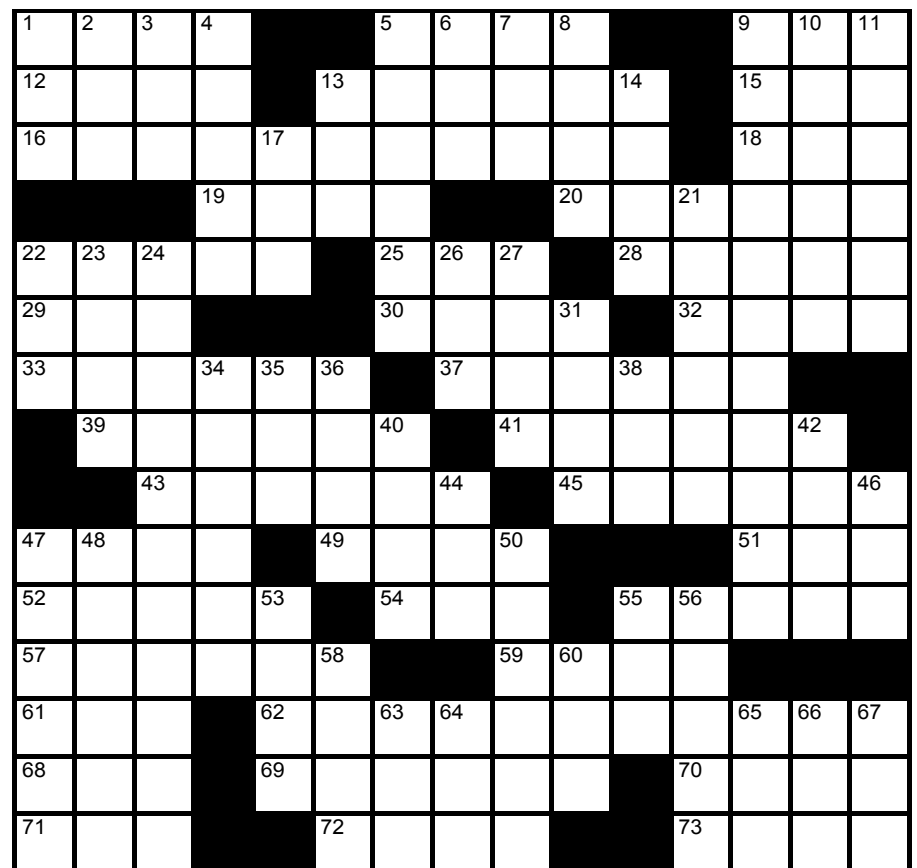
October 12

October 26

November 9

November 30

Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Shocked reaction
5 Mrs. Dithers in *Blondie*
9 Slough
12 ___ vera
13 Docking facility
15 401(k) alternative
16 First place awards, at times
18 Fleur-de-___
19 Lyra's brightest star
20 Raptors
22 Beeped
25 Journal
28 Lying facedown
29 Blackbird
30 Rational
32 Young newts
33 Variety shows
37 Shabby
39 Bank clerk
41 Trunks
43 At rest
45 Show to the door
47 Monthly expense
49 Cripple
51 Expire
52 Patriarch
54 Attorney F. ___ Bailey
55 Vesicles
57 Walk a beat
59 Mystique
61 Govt. watchdog
62 Thespian on the move
68 Query
69 Okay to eat
70 See socially
71 Casual attire
72 Neuter

Down

- 73 Footfall
42 Legal action
44 Quiche, e.g.
46 Your (Fr.)
47 Reiterate
48 Pass by
50 Paltry
53 Bench wear
55 ___-Magnon
56 Football gains
58 Boys
60 Shoshonean
63 Shred
64 Hoops group inits.
65 Thick flat pad
66 Fr. summer
67 Agent (Abbr.)
1 Prattle
2 Totally
3 Old French coin
4 Annoy
5 Secret cliques
6 Eyeball
7 ___ Bravo
8 Diarist Frank
9 Offered by a con man
10 Countries of Asia
11 Methane and butane
13 Russian fighter
14 Quickly, in memos
17 Scarlet
21 Grunge
22 Average
23 Dill seed
24 Exchange of views
26 Dinghy propeller
27 Pesky insect
31 Freudian topics
34 Heavy overcoat
35 Wing
36 Appear to be
38 Three, in Toscana
40 Authentic

See Solution on Page 18

Part II of the 2014

People



First Place – Anthony Rusnak
San Diego, CA

“Boy with Balloon”



Second Place –
Danielle Macmath
Bridgewater, NJ, Branch 290

“Paris, France”



Third Place – Jolanka Redd
Streator, IL, Branch 40

“Sisters in Conversation”

Nature or Environment



First Place – Ryan Ranahan
E. Brunswick, NJ, Branch 746

“Red Tail Hawk”



Second Place – Erika Boko
San Diego, CA

“Pumpkin Faces”



Third Place – Barbara Tomanek
Harvey’s Lake, PA, Branch 900

“Cascading Icicles”

Photo Contest Results

Travel or Destinations



First Place – Diane Chadwick
Mississauga, ON, Branch 785

“Winter Wonder”



Second Place – Graham Joiner
Aurora, ON, Branch 785

“Rome, Italy”



Third Place – Dorothy Jurcenko
Chicago, IL, Branch 153

“Sign Posts in Princess Cays
Beach”

FCSU Fraternal Activity



First Place – Jim Marmol
Uniontown, PA, Branch 162

“Fountain of
Love”



Second Place – Mary Colbaugh
Trafford, PA, Branch 35

“Convention Mass”



Third Place – Barbara Tomanek
Harvey's Lake, PA, Branch 900

“Princess Island”

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 10 – OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, K.J., First Catholic Slovak Union of Olyphant, PA, held its Annual Meeting, Audit and Election of Officers on Sunday, December 7 at the Regal Room, 216 Lackawanna Avenue, Olyphant.

Officers for 2015 were elected as follows: President, Daniel Spegar; Vice-President, Gaza Mika; Financial Secretary-Treasurer, William Spegar; Recording Secretary, William A. Nalevanko, and Auditors, Donna Mroczka, Florence Nalevanko, Carol Spegar, Mary Ann Spegar.

Donations in the amount of \$7,400 were approved for distribution in 2015 to the following: La Salle Academy, Jessup, Pa.; Holy Ghost Cemetery, Holy Cross Parish Religious Education and Youth Group Activities Fund, and the Mid Valley Senior Center, Olyphant, Pa.; Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Retirement Fund, Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius Holiday Fund and the Jankola Library and Archives, Danville, Pa.; Dickson City (Pa.) Civic Center; Valley Community Library, Peckville, Pa.; St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, Meals-on-Wheels of NEPA, Inc., South Side Senior Center, and the Valley Blood Council, Lackawanna County Chapter of the American Red Cross, all of Scranton, Pa., and V.F.W. "Blankets for Vets" Project.

Arrangements are being made for the annual Communion Breakfast that will follow the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Cross Parish at St. Patrick's Church, Olyphant, Pa., on Sunday, June 28, 2015. This celebratory Mass will be offered for all living and deceased members of the Branch.

Finally, the officers and members of Branch 10 wish to extend best wishes to everyone a joyful New Year!

William Nalevanko, 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 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 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, secre-

tary; 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 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.

The 595 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 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

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.

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 Kavulich, 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.

We would like to wish everyone a Holy, healthy and happy New Year.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 796 – EGYPT, PA

Branch 796 will be holding its semi-annual meeting on Sunday February 8th at 1pm. at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Egypt. All members are welcome to attend. At our annual meeting last November our President Bernie Madeja decided to step down after holding the position for 42 years. All of the members of Branch 796 would like to sincerely thank Bernie for his many years of service to our branch and wish him many more happy and healthy years ahead. Mike Fabian was elected as the new President and Monica Fabian was elected the new recording secretary. Andy Hudak was re-elected Vice President and Jerry Lloyd was re-elected as Treasurer. Good Luck new officers. Branch 796 wishes all a happy and healthy new year. God bless.

Jerry Lloyd, 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

**Plan ahead and leave a
positive legacy behind**

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

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

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FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union

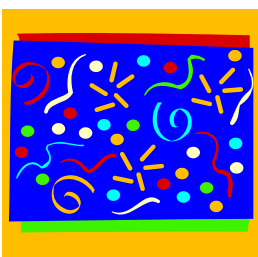
Contact Branch Officer or the home office

6611 Rockside Rd, #300, Independence, OH, 44131, 800.533.6682,

www.fcsu.com, insurance@fcsu.com



February Fašiangy Dance in Milwaukee



The Slovak League Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI, is hosting its traditional Fašiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) on Saturday, February 14, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at WG's Banquet Center the Knights of Columbus Hall), 3200 S. 103rd Street (103rd and Oklahoma Avenue). Delicious Slovak food and bakery will be available from 6 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided throughout the evening. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance at 7:30 p.m. Bury the Basa (Bass Fiddle) is scheduled

for 9:00p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. We are inviting all Branch 89 of Milwaukee members to join us.

For more information, contact Betty at 414-425-6137 or Ellen at 262-893-7483

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: February 2: Bob Dvorcak – Researching and Publishing Slovak Family History, 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

Faternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District 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

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.

Branch 382's Christmas Project



Children from Branch 382K of Scranton, PA, participated in a special Christmas project as part of their CCD program at St. Ann's Basilica, Scranton. They purchased socks and toiletries for the homeless, packed the items in boxes, and wrapped the boxes in colorful Christmas paper. After attaching bows and cards, they took their "gifts" and added them

to the other boxes at the church. Shown preparing their boxes are (L – R) John J. Slovenkai, Jr., Michael J. Slovenkai, Jr., and Briana C. Slovenkai. John is the son of John J. Slovenkai, Sr., Branch 382K financial secretary. Michael and Briana are the children of Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., Branch 382K treasurer.

- Submitted by Elizabeth Slovenkai



Slovak Documentary Film Fest

Presented by
Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association
And Czechoslovak Nationality Room Committee

Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association and the Czechoslovak Nationality Room Committee are pleased to invite you to see five documentary films with English subtitles during the month of February at various locations.

Film Schedule

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Posvar Hall @ University of Pittsburgh, Room 1700
230 S. Bonquet Street, Schenley Plaza Entrance
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

5:00 p.m. Reception with light refreshments
(R.S.V.P. required 412-956-6000 or 412-531-2990)

6:00 p.m. **The Final Mission (58 minutes)**

During World War II, 46 American Bombers and 8 fighter planes crashed in Slovak territory. 106 pilots died and approximately 370 were captured and taken to prisoner of war camps. However, many succeeded in escaping thanks to the Slovaks who hid them. They felt that they were risking their lives for us too, although many of them had no idea that Slovakia even existed. The fate of these Americans in Slovakia is the story of the fight for survival in the middle of an unknown country. This is the story of the will to not give in to hopelessness, but to confront it without losing self-respect.

7:15 p.m. **November + 20 (26 minutes)**

Events around November 1989 in Slovakia that brought about the collapse of Communism in the country. A documentary for all who did not and will not forget, as well as for those who did not have a chance to experience the drama.

Sunday February 8, 2015 Posvar Hall @ University of Pittsburgh, Room 1700 230 S. Bouquet Street, Schenley Plaza Entrance Pittsburgh, PA 15213

4:00 p.m. **Nicky's Family (96 minutes)**

Nicky's Family tells the nearly forgotten story of Nicholas Winton, an Englishman who organized the rescue of 669 Czech and Slovak children just before the outbreak of the World War II.

Nicky's Family has earned rave reviews from audiences and critics around the world, winning over 30 awards - including 14 audience awards from U.S. film festivals!

Saturday, February 14, 2015

Mt. Lebanon Public Library
16 Castle Shannon Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15227

2:00 p.m. **In the Shadow of Time (45 Minutes)**

The documentary describes the life story of Emil Svec, who was imprisoned by the Communists for 18 years. When he managed to flee across the Iron Curtain to freedom in Austria in the crop-duster airplane in 1959, he never expected to be back. But three years later, he was abducted by Communist spies dispatched from Prague.

Sunday February 15, 2015

St. Gregory Church
2005 Mohawk Road
Upper St. Clair, PA 15241

3:00 p.m. **Bratislava's 1988 Good Friday: Candle Manifestation (26 minutes)**

The memorable and daring open demonstration against Communism when Christians in Bratislava gathered to call for religious freedom more than a year before Central European regimes collapsed. The documentary includes interviews with participants and footage from secret police cameras as they tried to disperse the crowd.

Following the movie, there will be a question and answer session conducted by Rev. Valerian Michlik on the religious persecution of the Catholic Church in Slovakia during the Communist regime.

- Submitted by Joe Senko, Branch 254

OBITUARIES

LUDWIG PAVLO, M. D. BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CT

Ludwig Pavlo was born March 18, 1925, in Michalovce, Slovakia, into the family of a carpenter and a postmaster as the second child. After high school, he left for Bratislava where he started his studies at the Medical Faculty of the Comenius University. After the country's coup d'état in 1948, he was persecuted by the state police due to his membership in the Club of Democratic Academicians, his contacts with the representatives of the Democratic Party as well as with the Central Catholic Bureau. He was imprisoned and tortured. In prison he had to undertake the search for persons considered seditious by the state police. Soon afterwards on February 23, 1950, Dr. Pavlo, together with Father Stefan Fabera and other so called "enemies of the state," swam across the river Morava and from Austria went on to Germany. He continued his studies of medicine in Leuven in Belgium and finally concluded his university studies in Germany. There he met his future wife Maria Steinhübel who was a physician as well. After their short practice in Germany they decided to move to the USA. They had two children, a daughter Anne-Marie who is a physician and a son Lewis, a lawyer.

After several years of his work in hospitals Dr. Pavlo specialized as a family physician. Due to his dedication to his profession he became very popular and respected among his patients. A man of substance, he generously supported various cultural and social activities of the Slovak community in America and he also contributed to the election of political candidates he supported. He had contact with Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush, Sr., as well as the Clintons.

He was awarded the prestigious Medal of Honor by the Multiethnic Federation in 1996, and on January 1st, 1998 he received the highest award, the Pribina Cross of the 1st grade, from Michal Kovac, the president of the Slovak Republic.

After he had retired he served as the Executive Chairman of the Slovak League in America for several years. His speeches and presentations were occasionally published in the Slovak press in America. He was a member of the Association of Slovak Writers and was also a devoted member of Matica Slovenská.

After his wife's death in 2006, his health weakened. Gradually he became wheelchair bound and dependent upon nursing help. At that time he met his second wife Tatiana Merunka, a nurse living in New York, who had worked there since 1968 when she emigrated from Czechoslovakia. Thanks to her care and to an operation on both knees he was able to walk again. They moved from Derby, CT, to Florida and each summer they used to spend several months in Bratislava.

Last Spring, when they again flew to Slovakia, symptoms of Alzheimer disease became evident with Dr. Pavlo. Thanks to the attentive and loving care of his wife Tatiana, he spent his last months at home, in comfort and at peace.



EMILY BARICAK "TETA MILA" BRANCH 24 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

Emily Baricak "Teta Mila" of Mountindale, NY, passed away peacefully on Monday September 8, 2014 at Westchester Medical Center, surrounded by her family. She was 90 years old.

Emily was born as Emilia Swandiakova in the town of Vysoka nad Kysucou in former Czechoslovakia on April 19, 1924. She was the first child of late Maria Lucanova and Stefan Svandiak. She immigrated to the United States in 1969 and eventually settled in the town of Mountindale, N.Y. She became one of the first founders of a strong Slovak community, called the "Slovak Country Club." It was a home away from home. Emily was an avid baker, singer and gardener. Everyone was welcome at her home as she loved to host family and friends. She was well known for her kind character, which was reflected in her generosity. She was member of First Slovak Catholic Union of the United States and Canada, St Nepomucene Church of New York City, and the Immaculate Conception in Woodbourne, NY.

Emily is survived by her children: Jan Baricak, Peter Baricak and Maria Kajankova, 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Matus Baricak, her brother Stefan Swandiak Sr. and his son, Steven Swandiak Jr, her son Stano Baricak, her parents and several of her dear friends at the Slovak Country Club.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the wonderful staff at Catskill Regional Medical Center and Westchester Medical Center for their care and compassion.

Visitation was held from 6-9 pm on Thursday, September 11, 2014, and from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 pm on Friday, September 12, 2014, at the Colonial Memorial Funeral home, 396 State Route 52, Woodbourne, N.Y. A mass of Christian burial was celebrated at 9:00 am Saturday, September 13th at Church of the Immaculate Conception, 6317 St Rte 42, in Woodbourne, Interment followed at Faintinekill Cemetery, St. Rte. 209 Ellenville, NY.

The funeral luncheon was a reunion of family and friends. They all came from near and far to honor beautiful memories of Emily "Teta Mila". These wonderful memories will help the family as they all grieve her absence. Emily will always stay in our hearts.

God Bless you in Heaven.

You are an angel.

- Submitted by Maria Kajankova

MARGARET ANN STAPLETON BRANCH 173 – WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

Margaret Ann Stapleton, 89, of Stratford, PA, passed away on Dec. 3, 2014 with her family by her side. Born in Swoyersville, PA on Feb. 1 1925, Margaret moved to Bridgeport in 1941 where she met and eventually married Vincent J. Stapleton, her husband of 56 years. Margaret is survived by her five devoted children, Vincent Stapleton Jr. and his wife Pat of Stratford, Michael Staple-



ton and his wife Brenda of Trumbull, Mark Stapleton of Glastonbury, Anne Stapleton of Stratford, and her beloved Mary Stapleton and husband Mike Baneat of Shelton. In addition she is survived by her two grandsons, Zachary Stapleton and Alex Baneat, brother Elmer Kollar, dear friends June, Elizabeth and Edward Grace and several nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her husband Vincent, her parents Anna and Andrew Kollar, and 11 siblings. Margaret enjoyed sewing her entire life and owned and operated Devon Fabrics in Milford until her retirement. She loved spending time with her family and was an active member of Our Lady of Grace Church. She was an excellent cook and baker; her Christmas cookies were a family favorite. She loved the challenge of learning new ways to express her creativity through sewing, quilting, and painting. Friends called on Friday, December 5, 2014, from 4-7 p.m. at the Adzima Funeral Home, Stratford. Funeral services took place on Saturday, December 6, 2014, at 9:15 a.m. in the funeral home and at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Grace Church, Stratford, for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Trumbull, PA.

IRENE ROSE ZAMBORI BRANCH 362 – ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO

Irene R. Zambori, age 94, of Appleton, WI, formerly of Ashland, WI, passed away on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at the Cherry Meadows Hospice, in Appleton.

Irene was born on February 26, 1920, in Barton, OH, the daughter of Michael and Frances (Timko) Semancik. She and Andrew Zambori were united in marriage, in Barton, on June 15, 1946. She considered herself a homemaker. She was a cook at the Ondossagon School, until it closed, and then at the Washburn Elementary School, until she retired at age 82.

Survivors include: her children: Edward, of Appleton; Joyce (Tom) Sufak, of Barksdale, WI; and Iris (Gary) Evans, of Manassas, VA; her grandchildren: Stefanie and Mike Coleman; great-granddaughters: Mariah Busch and Kaley Hecimovich.

Irene was preceded in death by: her husband, Andrew, on December 30, 1986; her sons: Eugene and Francis; her grandson, Scott, and her parents, Michael and Frances Semancik.

A visitation for family and friends was held at the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, in Moquah, WI, beginning at 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 26, 2014, and continuing until the hour of her service.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Irene was held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, November 26, 2014, at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Moquah. Father Paul Paré, O.F.M., was the Celebrant. Her casket bearers included: James Zambori, John Zambori, Paul Zambori, Tom Galligan, Mike Galligan, and Ben Kosak.

Interment in the Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery, in Moquah, will take place in the spring of 2015.

- Submitted by Edward Zambori



THELMA CHOMA BRANCH 497 – CAMBRIDGE, OHIO

Thelma Choma, 82, of Pleasant City, OH, passed away Friday, July 25, 2014, at the Beckett House.

She was born March 28, 1932 in Taylor, PA and was the daughter of the late Michael and Julia (Monzel) Choma.

Miss Choma retired from the former National City Bank in 1992 (now PNC) after over forty years as a customer service representative. Following retirement she was a caregiver for her family and friends, a member of Cambridge VFW Post #2901 Auxiliary, a 1950 graduate of Pleasant City High School, and a member of Christ Our Light Parish. Thelma was the last survivor of all eleven children and enjoyed traveling, dancing, especially polka.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Albert, William and Peter Choma; and seven sisters, Julia Roka, Mary Lukevich, Helen Figer, Annie Fusco, Margaret Perrotti, Virginia Chuhuran and Irene Choma.

She is survived by two sister-in-laws, Sylvia Choma of Pleasant City and Mary Choma of Pensacola, FL; several nieces and nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Calling were Thursday, July 31, 2014, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Thorn-Black Funeral Home, Cambridge, OH, and 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Friday, August 1, 2014, at Christ Our Light Parish with services following at 11:00 a.m. Fr. Robert Borer officiated. Burial was in Guernsey Memory Gardens.

- Submitted by Kathy Polensek

GEORGE L. THOMAS BRANCH 580 – WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

George L. Thomas, age 82, of Greenacres, FL, passed away December 2, 2014. Mr. Thomas was an area resident since 1995, having come from Pittsburgh, PA. He was a U. S. Army Veteran of Korea. He was a member of St. Matthew Catholic Church, Lake Worth, FL, where he served as an usher. Mr. Thomas will be lovingly remembered by his family, including his wife of 57 years, Juanita Thomas, daughter, Teresa Williams, son, George L. (Kimberly) Thomas, Jr.; grandchildren, Leanne Williams, Dana Rose Thomas, great-grandchild, Hayley Robison, sister, Margaret (Angelo) Nese. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered at 9:30AM Saturday, December 6, 2014 at St. Matthew Catholic Church, Lake Worth, the Rev. Jacob Asiedu-Frempong, celebrant. The family received relatives and friends from 2:00PM to 4:00PM and 6:00PM to 8:00PM Friday, December 5, 2014, at Tillman Funeral Home & Crematory, West Palm Beach, FL, where prayers were said at 7:00PM. Inurnment took place 9:30AM Monday, December 8, 2014 at South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth.

- Submitted by Virginia Jasek,
Branch 580 Secretary



continued on page 17

OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

GEORGE A. HOVANEC, SR. BRANCH 618 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

George A. Hovanec, Sr., of Wilkins Twp., PA, formerly of Munhall, PA, passed away on November 21, 2014, at age 97. Beloved husband of the late Pauline Agnes (Mojta) Hovanec; father of Joan (late Philip) Rhody, Catherine (Richard) Litz and George (Andrea Sloan) Hovanec, Jr.; brother of Margaret Banish, Irene Batchen, William Hovanec, Emily Horvath, Agnes Povazan and the late John Hovanec, Frank Hovanec, Stephen Hovanec, Charles Hovanec and Lawrence Hovanec; grandfather of Pamela Rhody, David Rhody, Karen (Jim) Murray, William Litz, Andrew Litz, Jeffrey Litz, Matthew (Katherine) Hovanec, Timothy (Amanda) Hovanec and Daniel Hovanec; great-grandfather of Jimmy, Joshua and Jacob Murray, Morgan Litz, Kiley and Amora McNeal-Litz, Holly and Emma Hovanec; also survived by nieces, nephews and family. George was an Expeditor for U. S. Steel Homestead Works, a Marine veteran where he served proudly in Guadalcanal in the Pacific during WWII, a member of the Tri-Valley Seniors which he served as Treasurer for many years, and was a member of St. Michael Parish and St. Colman Parish. Friends were received at Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home, Munhall, on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 pm. The Funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 10 am, at St. Colman Church, Turtle Creek, PA.

- Submitted by Joan L. Rohdy



RAYMOND J. COLLINS BRANCH 831 – TARENTUM, PENNSYLVANIA

Raymond J. "R.J." Collins, 80, of Tarentum, PA, passed away Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014, at the VA Hospital, Aspinwall, PA, after being ill the past month. He was born Sept. 4, 1934, in Frazer Township, PA, a son of the late Henry and Teckla (Altman) Collins. R.J. lived his entire life in the area. He was a municipal police officer for Tarentum Borough for 32 years before retiring in 1996. He was a Navy veteran, serving in the Korean War. He was a member of Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum, Oregon Club, Elks, Brackenridge American Legion 226,



Pioneer Fireman's, Tarentum Eagles, American Slovak Club, Tarentum, FOP Lodge 91, Pittsburgh, North Hills, and Tarentum Police Association, Summit Hose Co., Western PA and State for over 50 years. R.J. graduated from Tarentum High School in 1953. R.J. loved providing service to his community and veterans. He loved to camp and travel and spend time with his family, but he especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. Survivors include his daughter, Sharon P. (Carl) Arabia, Lower Burrell; and three grandchildren, Ashleigh, Corey and Kelsea. Also surviving are his brothers, Joseph (Ellen) Collins, Lower Burrell, and Kenneth Collins, St. Petersburg, PA. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Lou (Sutton) Collins. Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, November 11, 2014, and from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, November 12, 2014, in the Duster Funeral Home Inc., Tarentum, PA where a blessing service was held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday followed by a Christian funeral Mass that was celebrated at 10 a.m. in Holy Martyrs Church, Tarentum, with the Rev. Aaron J. Kriss officiating. Interment in Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Frazer Township, with full military honors by Brackenridge American Legion 226, Tarentum VFW 5758 and the Navy. Various organizations met prior to the funeral Mass to honor his memory, including the Summit Hose Co., the Oregon Club, the Tarentum Elks Lodge, the American Legion Post 980, Boy Scout Troop 180, and the Brackenridge American Legion.

- Submitted by Kathy Persun,
Branch 831 Financial Secretary

PIROSKA MERAI BRANCH 855 – PARMA, OHIO

Piroska Merai (nee Elek), age 61, loving wife of 42 years of Frank Meray, dear mother of Monika (David) Gizewicz, Karin (Tim) Scally, loving daughter of Piroska (nee Seregely) Elek and the late Stefan Elek, grandmother of Matthew, Aleksandra, Allison, Abigail and Christian, dear sister of Stefan (Marika) Elek and Vojto Elek. Entered into rest on Sunday, January 18, 2015. Piroska was the Administrative As-



sistant to the President of the First Catholic Slovak Union. Family received friends on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 from 3-7 PM at the Joseph Misencik Funeral Home, Lakewood, OH. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, January 22, 2015, at 10AM at Transfiguration Parish (formerly Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church), Lakewood. Interment was in Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, N. Olmsted, OH.

Condolences for the family can be sent to Frank Meray, 13502 Cowley Road, Columbia Station, OH, 44028.

Who was Piroska?

She was a devoted wife, caring mother, best friend, inspiration and our Baba. She was a woman who had a lot to live for and lived life to the fullest. Piroska never rested, whether it was working multiple jobs, cooking, helping others, being a mother, reading and learning, watching her favorite reality show or being Baba to her five most important people in the world...her grandchildren.

Piroska was an amazing mother who instilled good, strong qualities in her two daughters. She listened like a best friend but cared and shared like only a mother could. Piroska was always taking time for her daughters, always willing to help regardless of the sacrifice. She was very proud of both of her daughters and they were proud of their mom. Proud of how she lived life, how she battled her cancer, how she never gave up and how she helped make this world, our world, a much better place.

She was an incredible Baba, from her gentle touch to hush a crying grandchild, to patiently helping with schoolwork, to encouraging and cheering them on from the sidelines or from far away. The grandchildren loved spending time with Baba whether it was swimming at Kalahari, playing Uno, reading together or just listening to her Slovak stories.

Cancer might have taken Piroska, Mom, Baba from this life but she will live on. We can see her in her daughters and her grandchildren. We have so many happy memories, so many lessons learned, that we will continue to live as she had, with passion, love and to live life to the fullest.

She was our Mom, our Baba....she was the BEST!

- Submitted by David Gizewicz

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



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.

2014 You Can Make a Difference Day Goes Global

In the past our efforts for "Make a Difference" were local. For 2014, however, we decided to extend our outreach to a global project.

This project was the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund. Established in August 2014 to help displaced Christians and other minorities who continue to face violent persecution and the very real prospect of extinction.

As in the past, Eileen Wilson, Branch 19 Member, coordinated donations for the cause from various fraternal groups, including the Rev. Matthew Jankola District of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Slovak Catholic Sokols, the National Slovak Society, and the Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport. Eileen Wilson, who was a personal donor as well, is proud to report the contributions netted \$2,000.00.

Knights of Columbus Treasurer Michael J. O'Conner sent a letter to each fraternal donor, gratefully expressing appreciation for their contributions to this worthwhile endeavor.

Presentation of the donations was made by Eileen Wilson to Robin Festa, Senior Coordinator of Endowments and Disaster Relief at the Knights of Columbus National Headquarters in New Haven, CT.



According to Eileen, "I think I can safely say I speak for all who contributed to this project – WE HAVE TRULY MADE A DIFFERENCE. Thank you and God Bless."

- Submitted by Eileen Wilson, FCSU Branch 19

(L – R) Robin Festa, Senior Coordinator of Endowments and Disaster Relief at the Knights of Columbus accepts donations from the FCSU's Eileen Wilson, Coordinator, Slovak Societies for the Knights of Columbus Christian Relief Fund.

Branch 784's Dr. John V. Lovasik, Optometrist, Recipient of the CIQ Merit Award in 2014



Perhaps few of us know important Slovak personalities in our small Slovak community in Montreal. Undoubtedly among them is the very quiet and modest Dr. John Vincent Lovasik. Today, we are recognizing him in connection with prestigious "Merit" award of the Inter-professional Council of Quebec (Conseil Interprofessionnel du Quebec, or CIQ) for 2014 which he received as a respected optometrist.

The CIQ is given to a member of a professional order who has distinguished himself in the heart of his profession and has contributed to its advancement. The Administrative Council of the CIQ wished to pay tribute to Dr. John Vincent Lovasik, BSc, OD, MSc PhD, optometrist, for his immense involvement and contributions to the profession of optometry.

In the early 1990's, the Université de Montréal recruited Dr. Lovasik, then a full professor at the University of Waterloo in Ontario Canada, to modernize the École d'optométrie Université de Montréal (EOUM) and establish a viable and functional department in vision research. Dr. Lovasik succeeded brilliantly in this mandate. He did so by renewing the core of established professors and attracting young promising researchers who have since become internationally recognized experts in their respective research areas. He thus changed and modernized the professional doctoral program in optometry and assured EOUM's accreditation by the American Council on Optometric accreditation. Now, the EOUM ranks top among the schools of optometry in North America.

In this sense, Dr. Lovasik has contributed significantly to the enhancement of clinical training of optometrists in Quebec, and his legacy continues nearly 30 years later. Let's not forget that Dr. Lovasik also contributed significantly to research in optometry and the training of numerous optometrists in his role as professor, researcher, as well as the director of the EOUM.

It was principally because of Dr. Lovasik's expertise, commitment and close collaboration with the l'Ordre des Optométristes du Quebec that the petitions made for authorizing optometrists to use diagnostic and therapeutic medications in everyday practice bore fruit. He subsequently contributed significantly to the creation of a continuing education program for training optometrists in the proper use of these medications.

For all these reasons, Dr. John Vincent Lovasik, optometrist, shaped modern Quebec optometry and may be considered as one of its pioneers.

For his contribution to science especially in the sphere of optometry all Slovaks in Montreal are very proud of Dr. Lovasik. We all sincerely wish him a lot of success in the scientific field as well as joy and peace in the family circle. Let his hard work make visible also our little Slovakia.

- Submitted by Marta Fuska, Branch 784

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.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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REFLECTIONS ON THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS • January 2015

Universal Intention - Peace

That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace



It has been said that the first casualty in a war is the truth. That may be so, but the fact remains that wars are often caused by lack of truth.

Jesus declared "I am the truth" (John 14: 6) and told Pontius Pilate "For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth" (John 18: 37). Because he is the Son of God, Jesus is the truth about who God is, and, because he is fully human, he is the truth about the human person.

What is that truth? First, that God is Love, love that is willing to give all, even life itself, for the good of the beloved. Second, that the human person is precious to God, precious enough to die for.

When this truth is denied, the human person becomes subhuman, an object, or a threat. It becomes easy to destroy a mass of cells viewed as a threat. The human person may seem like a cancer on humanity and be treated as such, rather than as an individual for whom Jesus suf-

fered and died.

We begin this month with the annual World Day of Peace. The theme Pope Francis has chosen for this day is "Slaves No More, But Brothers and Sisters." That theme confronts one of the root causes of war—seeing others as objects to be enslaved, bought, and sold.

So we pray that all people of good will from all the world's religious traditions may know and hold fast to the truth of the human person and work together for peace.

Reflection

What are some practical ways in which I can remember that others, including my enemies, are precious to God?

Scripture

James 4: 1-12 Where do the wars and conflicts among you come from?

Evangelization Intention - Consecrated Life

That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal..

Do you know any religious sisters, brothers, or priests? While there are fewer of them today than there were 50 years ago, they continue to play an important role in the life of the Church. According to St. John Paul, "the consecrated life is at the very heart" of the mission of the Church. Consecrated persons make visible to the world "the characteristic features of Jesus—the chaste, poor, and obedient one." They show the world that every person is called to an intimate relationship with God that can best be described as "spousal."

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's document "On the Renewal of Religious Life." That document called for congregations to return to their sources and to adapt "to the changed conditions of our time."

Himself a member of a religious order, Pope Francis has given us a Year of Consecrated Life, which runs from November 29, 2014 to February 2, 2016. He asks all Catholics to reflect on the gift of consecrated life, to support those who are called, and to pray for new vocations.

When he announced the Year of Consecrated Life, the Pope said: "The Church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, acting, living! It's possible to live differently in this world."

We pray that consecrated persons help us all to live differently.

Reflection

Vatican II spoke of "a wonderful variety of religious communities." What are those that I am familiar with and how have they enriched me and the Church?

Scripture

Romans 12: 1-8 Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed.

Prayer of the Month

Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will.

- from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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\$5,000 for \$410	\$5,000 for \$345
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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



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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, December 12, 2014 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

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

ROLL CALL:
Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President (Via telephone)
George F. Matta, Treasurer
Damian Nasta (Via telephone)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES:
The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the November 2014 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:
The Executive Secretary led a review on the third quarterly financial statements. He answered all the Committee's questions and stated the report will be printed in the newspaper.

The Executive Secretary presented the projected 2015 budget and answered all the questions from the Executive Committee. He stated the budget will be presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual March Meeting for approval.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:
Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc., presented his extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report via web ex and telephone. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his review. Following the report, he answered the Executive Committee's questions.

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

SALES AND MARKETING:
The Vice President presented a written detailed sales production report to the Executive Committee on the different regions and the report of our independent agents. This report is always mailed to our Regional Directors for their information. The Vice President stated we are still continuing to recruit new agents and now have 190 agents. Following the report, the Vice President answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The Executive Secretary stated we have continued advertising on Facebook with material being added daily as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including ad material in our home office mailings.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

INVESTMENT UPDATES:
The Executive Secretary submitted a written report to the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee on the investments and transactions with the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), the Matlin Patterson Fund (MPAM), UBS Fund, and MAI Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

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

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES
The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of November for the Committee's review and answered their questions.

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

Disbursements for the month of November 2014:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 222,921.39
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 44,685.18
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	\$ 0.00
Trust Fund	\$ 0.00

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

MISCELLANEOUS:
The President gave a progress report on the Middletown Memorial Project and stated the contractor is on schedule. The Executive Secretary stated we are still accepting memorial granite brick orders. Order Forms are available on our website, in our newspaper, or through the home office.

The President stated we are still in the planning stage for the 2015 special events including the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Rev. Stephen Furdek, and the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our Sorrowful Mother Chapel at the National Shrine in Washington DC. The Executive Committee will be kept informed.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:
The request for donations and ads were reviewed and acted upon.


ADJOURN:
There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

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

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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Správy zo Slovenska

Niki začne od apríla 2015 lietat' z Bratislavy do Bruselu a na Malorku

Rakúska letecká spoločnosť Niki, dcérska firma leteckého prepravcu airberlin, začne od apríla 2015 lietat' z Bratislavy do Bruselu a na Malorku. Do Bruselu spočiatku bude lietat' s lietadlom typu Embraer 190, neskôr s Airbusom. Na Malorku sa budú využívať stroje typu Airbus. Oznámil to na tlačovej konferencii v Bratislave predseda predstavenstva a generálny riaditeľ Letiska M. R. Stefánika - Airport Bratislava Ivan Trhlik spolu s generálnym riaditeľom spoločnosti Niki Christianom Lesjakom.

Letecká spoločnosť Niki bude podľa Lesjaka ponúkať od apríla 2015 medzi Bratislavou a Bruselom v čase od pondelka do piatka dva lety denne.

Letecká spoločnosť Niki bola založená v roku 2003. Je druhým najväčším leteckým prepravcom na letisku vo Viedni. V roku 2013 prepravila približne 5 miliónov pasažierov.

Spoločnosť airberlin ako druhá najväčšia nemecká letecká spoločnosť prepravila v roku 2013 vyše 31.5 milióna cestujúcich, každoročne lieta do 171 destinácií.

Poprad spája s lotyšskou Rigou nová pravidelná letecká linka

Od 13. decembra 2014 je lyžovačka v Tatrách pre pobaltské štáty omnoho bližšie. Je to vďaka novej pravidelnej leteckej linke medzi lotyšskou Rigou a Popradom, ktorá bude prevádzkovaná jedenkrát do týždňa celú zimnú sezónu. Linku spúšťa letecká spoločnosť Air Baltic a letisko Poprad-Tatry.

Rovnako zaznamenalo ministerstvo nárast počtu turistov aj z Litvy. Tieto krajiny začínajú objavovať Slovensko, a práve dopravné spojenie je dobrým predpokladom, aby sa ich počet ešte zvýšil.

Koncom októbra odštartovala aj nová letecká linka Londýn – Poprad, a tak turisti z Veľkej Británie a pobaltských krajín by mali vyplniť chýbajúcich návštevníkov z Ukrajiny a Ruska.

„Zima sa rozbehla a verím, že čoskoro sa rozlieta aj nová linka spájajúca naše Tatry s Pobaltím. Po výpadku ukrajinskej klientely, sú pre nás aj občania Lotyšska, Litvy a Estónska veľká výzva. Linku sme spolu s partnermi podporili aj finančne, čo tiež významne pomohlo k rozhodnutiu a sprevádzkovaniu nového leteckého spojenia. Nespoliehame sa však len na linku, ale beží nám na Pobaltí už aj marketingová kampaň a veríme, že nám pomôže naplniť lietadlá a následne aj naše ubytovacie kapacity a strediská,“ dodala výkonná riaditeľka Oblastnej organizácie cestovného ruchu Región Vysoké Tatry Lenka Maťašová.

Hamšík oslavoval na San Paolo zisk Superpohára s 30-tisíc fanúšikmi

Fanúšikovia talianskeho futbalového klubu SSC Neapol si v piatok na otvorenom tréningu ich miláčikov vychutnali v hojnom počte oslavy zisku národného Superpohára. Podľa informácie na webe slovenského kapitána SSC Mareka Hamšíka ich napriek chladnému počasiu prišlo v piatok na tribúny štadióna San Paolo viac ako 30-tisíc.

Šestnásťfinalista Európskej ligy UEFA 2014/2015 vyhral taliansky Superpohár koncom minulého roka, keď v katarskej Dauhe zdolal v rozstrele z 11 m rivala majstrovský Juventus Turín. „Pôvodný začiatok tréningu museli posunúť, lebo fanúšikovia Neapolu obkľúčili prichádzajúcich hráčov, oslavovali ich a nechceli ich pustiť na štadión. Aj špilmacher slovenskej reprezentácie sa tak na San Paolo dostal až vďaka polícii. Na samotnom štadióne sa pôvodne očakávalo, že sa otvorí iba jeden sektor. Avšak napriek chladnému počasiu prišlo viac ako 30-tisíc fanúšikov, a preto museli na San Paolo otvoriť ďalšie miesta. Po prvej časti tréningu nasledovali oslavy hráčov so svojimi fanúšikmi. Keď Marek zdvihol nad svoju hlavu trofej, šialenstvo nemalo konca kraja,“ uvádza sa oficiálnom webe 27-ročného Slováka.

Keďže talianska najvyššia súťaž pokračuje 6. januára, už v prvý deň roku 2015 mali Neapolčania tréning. Súčasťou neho bol aj turnaj šesťčlenných tímov. Víťazom sa stalo mužstvo vedené Hamšíkom, vo finále vyhral jeho „oranžový“ tím 3:1 a práve slovenský stredopoliar dal dva góly.

Prioritami v roku 2015 diaľnice i modernizácia železníc

Pre ministerstvo dopravy budú prioritami v roku 2015 financovanie rozvoja diaľnic a rýchlostných ciest a tiež modernizácia železničných koridorov.

„V tomto roku očakávame aj väčšie investície do modernizácie ciest prvej triedy,“ priblížil pre TASR hovorca Ministerstva dopravy, výstavby a regionálneho rozvoja (MDVRR) SR Martin Kóňa. Pôjde podľa neho predovšetkým o cesty, ktoré ležia na trasách transeurópskej dopravnej siete (TEN-T), kde ešte dnes nie je vybudovaná diaľničná infraštruktúra. Rezort chce zároveň pokračovať aj vo výstavbe diaľnic z európskych fondov. Rok 2015 je totiž rokom, kedy dobiehajú projekty financované z končiaceho sa obdobia eurofondov a zároveň sa zazmluvňujú projekty z nového eurofondového obdobia. „Preto očakávame ešte intenzívnejšiu výstavbu ciest, železníc a ďalších projektov v oblasti dopravy, ktorá by mala prekonať aj súčasné historicky vysoké čísla,“ odhadol Kóňa. Napríklad momentálne sú už vypísané predbežné oznámenia na tri diaľničné úseky na severe a východe Slovenska.

Vyrobia kvasinky za 12 mesiacov

K receptom úspechu spoločnosti Hubert patrí jeho dlhoročná tradícia, ktorá siaha až do roku 1825. Vtedy založili v Bratislave jednu z prvých fabrik na výrobu šumivého vína mimo Francúzska. Pokročilá technológia a výborná kvalita začali spoločnosti prinášať úspech nielen doma, ale aj v zahraničí. V roku 1846 bola ocenená zlatou medailou za čistotu, chuť a kvalitu, ktorými sa šumivé vína z Bratislavy najviac približovali francúzskym šampanským. Bratislavský mešťan Johann



Nová kniha fotografa Igora Grossmanna

„ Moja dedina - My Village“

Autentické momenty zo života slovenskej dediny v 50. a 60. rokoch 20. storočia zachytáva nová kniha fotografa Igora Grossmanna Moja dedina - My Village. V dvojязыčnej slovensko-anglickej mutácii ju vydalo vydavateľstvo Maticeslovenskej.

Obrazová monografia podáva reprezentatívny prierez významnou časťou tvorby autora. Podľa historika a teoretika fotografie Václava Maceka patril Grossmann (1924–2013) k autorom, ktorí tvorbou vymykajúcou sa oficiálnosti a propagandistickým tendenciám prispeli k novej tvári slovenskej fotografie, zásadne oživil jej charakter. Potvrdzujú to zábery z obcí Rajecká Lesná, Liptovská Lužná, Čičmany, Fačkov, Ždiar, Zuberec, Suchá Hora, Habovka, Vychylovka, Lenčák, Makov, Štiavnik, Likavka, Šuňava, Banská Belá, Zázrivá a iných.

Grossmannove dielo je nielen jedinečným dokumentom vyvierajúcim z dôvernej znalosti prostredia, ale aj dôležitým príspevkom do dejín našej fotografie. Presvedča, že fotograf patrí medzi veľkých majstrov slovenskej čiernobielej fotografie v druhej polovici 20. storočia. Pred očami diváka sa rozprestiera svojské univerzum vidieckeho sveta. Tradície, na ktorých spočívala existencia dediny celé stáročia i prvé náznaky moderných čias. Očarený fotograf zachytil objektívom jeho krásu a pravdivosť, odkryl dôstojnosť vo všednosti, zvečnil pominuteľnosť práve tak ako strohý pôvab vidieckej krajiny a jej skromných obydľí, radosť a smútok i tváre ľudí zrkadliace ťažobu prežitého.

„V knihe sú fotografie z rokov 1953 až 1968. Vyberali sme ich z veľkej otcovej pozostalosti, mnohé neboli publikované. Pred niekoľkými dňami boli otcove nedožitie 90-tiny, takže aj tento podtón na vydanie knihy. Ohraničenie tvorby rokom 1968 je preto, že vtedy sa definitívne stal profesionálnym fotografom,“ zdôvodnila jeho dcéra Anna Schirlbauer, publicistka žijúca v Rakúsku, ktorá knihu zostavila a napísala sprievodný text.

V ňom prezrádza neľahký život svojej rodiny v období začínajúceho socializmu. Vyštudovaný magister farmácie Igor Grossmann mal po otcovi prevziať v Žiline rodičovskú lekareň. Po jej zoštatnení a zhabaní majetku ani nie 30-ročný s čerstvo založenou rodinou bol preložený na oravský vidiek (1953). V Rajeckej bol správcom lekárne, ktorá sa vzhľadom na jeho všestranné umelecké záujmy stala neoficiálnym intelektuálnym centrom.

Nadalej pretrvala veľká záľuba vo fotografovaní, s fotoaparátom na krku chodil do polí a dedín. Objavoval tradície a zvyky, hľadal krásu, v ktorej bola harmónia človeka s prírodou, kde všetko malo ľudské dimenzie s nemennými kanónmi kresťanského náboženstva a morálky. Vychádzky s fotoaparátom boli aj únikom pred skutočnosťou, boli jeho azylovou krajinou. V čase začínajúcej násilnej kolektivizácie súcitil s roľníkmi, s ktorými často komunikoval.

TASR

Hubert a jeho žena Paulína zavádzali do výroby najnovšie technické vymoženosti, vďaka ktorým Huberta obľuboval aj cisár František Jozef I. Po znárodnení sa v roku 1952 prevádzka presunula do Serede.

Biblia sa po 250 rokoch dostala k Slovákom!

Pred 300 rokmi sa narodil v Jánovciach pri Poprade Romuald Hadbavný, ktorý ako prvý preložil Bibliu do slovenčiny. Bolo to dávno pred kodifikovaním slovenčiny. Preklad dokončil v roku 1756. „Celý preklad je písaný ručne a sú v ňom aj latinské liturgické poznámky a vysvetlenia,“ povedala knihovníčka Mária Senderáková z Podtatranskej knižnice. Preklad sa na nejaký čas stratil a až v roku 1944 ho našli na fare v Číferi. Kým prvý český preklad Biblie patrí k českým historickým skvostom, o tom našom verejnosť skoro vôbec nevedela. Situácia sa zmenila v roku 2002, keď nemecký vydavateľ vytlačil niekoľko výtlačkov odfoteného originálu knihy, ktoré sa dostali na Slovensko. Podtatranská knižnica dostala oba zväzky.

Slováci minulý rok navštívili aj nie celkom štandardné destinácie

Slováci podľa rezortu diplomacie cestujú do takmer všetkých kútov sveta, pričom sa nevyhýbajú ani destináciám, ktoré nie sú pre našinca veľmi štandardné. K nim patrili napríklad Južný Sudán, malé, prevažne hornaté kráľovstvo vtesnané uprostred Juhoafrickej republiky Lesotho, Mikronézia, ostrovy Trinidad a Tobago alebo ostrovy v karibskej oblasti Turks a Caicos.

Vyplyva to z údajov registračného formulára ministerstva. Ten pred vycestovaním do zahraničia k 22. decembru 2014 vyplnilo 17.160 občanov. Rok predtým to bolo 16.835 ľudí.

Formulár funguje na báze dobrovoľnej registrácie, pričom umožňuje konzulárnym pracoviskám slovenských zastupiteľských úradov lokalizovať občanov SR, upozorniť ich na nepriaznivú situáciu v mieste ich pobytu a varovať ich pred hroziacim nebezpečenstvom. V krajných prípadoch sa im zabezpečí evakuácia z postihnutých oblastí.

Projekt Zlatej uličky v Tatrách zamrzol

Projekt Zlatej uličky v Tatranskej Lomnici, za ktorým stojí veľkopodnikateľ Jan Telenský a spoločnosť Tatry Mountain Resorts je zmrazený. Mal to byť veľkolepý projekt, ktorý by za 50 miliónov eur spravil z hlavnej ulice lyžiarskeho strediska Tatranská Lomnica výkladnú skriňu s obchodmi, reštauráciami či hotelmi. Neskôr sa hodnota projektu zmenšila na 20 miliónov eur. Nie je pritom ani isté, či sa projekt v budúcnosti ešte oživi. Pod zastavením projektu sa podpísal fakt, že britský podnikateľ Telenský prehodnocuje svoje aktivity na Slovensku. Chce sa sústrediť predovšetkým na rozvoj svojho akvaparku (Aquacity Poprad) a projektu futbalového tréningového centra v Poprade.

Z lacnej ropy v Európe najviac ziska Slovensko

Ekonómovia z britského Oxfordu si vybrali 45 krajín sveta a vypočítali, ako by sa na ich ekonomikách prejavilo zlacnenie ropy z 84 dolárov za barel na 40 dolárov. Ako informovala Bloomberg, tento scenár sa postupne naplňa. Ekonómovia prišli na to, že z európskych krajín by po zlacnení najviac poskočil hrubý domáci produkt Slovenska, a to v rokoch 2015 a 2016 asi o 1,3 percenta. Z hodnotených krajín sveta by lacná ropa viac prospela už len Filipínam. Na opačnej strane rebríčka sú Saudská Arábia a Rusko, ktorým by ekonomika spadla takmer o 3,5 percenta. Slovenská ekonomika je jedna z najotvorenejších. To znamená, že vonkajšie vplyvy ňou zahýbu viac ako v iných krajinách. V prípade ropy sa tak môže teraz ukázať, že tak ako sa nás výrazne dotýka negatívny vývoj vo svete, rovnako je to v prípade pozitívnych udalostí.

TASR a slovenská tlač

Tradičná Slovenská zabíjačka

Ludia na vidieku, no aj v menších mestách, sa v poslednom období vracajú k tradícii domácich zakáľáčiek. Predovšetkým kvôli kvalitným vlastným výrobkom, ale nezanedbateľná je aj nevšedná atmosféra a nezvyčajný zážitok zo zakáľacky, často pre celú rodinu. Je to totiž často tiež rodinná spoločenská udalosť, pri ktorej deti aj dospelí radi pomáhajú. Čistia cesnak, cibuľu, krájajú a melú mäso, kúria pod kotlami, či topia masť. Tvrdí to mäsiar Ján Bolfík z Malinovej, ktorého v tejto podhorskej obci v okrese Prievidza, ale aj v širokom okolí, považujú za najväčšieho odborníka na zakáľacky a zakáľáčkové špeciality. Na snímke domáca zakáľacka.



Family and friends gathered in villages and small towns for the traditional preparation of klobasy and other homemade delicacies.

FOTO: Teraz.sk

Pozdravný telegram pápeža Františka prezidentovi SR

Svätý Otec František pri svojej apoštolskej ceste z Filipín počas preletu 19. januára 2015 nad územím Slovenskej republiky zaslal jej prezidentovi Andrejovi Kiskovi nasledujúci telegram:

Jeho Excelencia Andrej Kiska, prezident Slovenskej republiky, Bratislava
Pri prelete nad Vašou krajinou na mojej ceste z Filipín do Vatikánu posielam Vašej excelencii srdečné pozdravy. Uistujem Vás o mojich modlitbách za Vás i za ľud Slovenskej republiky a zároveň pre Vás všetkých vyprosujem Božie požehnanie, pokoj a prosperitu.

Pápež František

Podobným spôsobom pozdravil Svätý Otec František Slovensko aj v auguste, keď sa vracal z jeho apoštolskej návštevy Južnej Korey.

TK KBS

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 zahrňovať slávnostný banket a iné aktivity.

„Dejiny jezuitov, od Ignáca po Františka“

Vo vydavateľstve Dobrá kniha vyšla nová publikácia: „Dejiny jezuitov, od Ignáca po Františka“ Jej autorom je známy jezuitský historik John W. O'Malley.

V roku 2014 jezuiti oslávili 200 rokov od obnovenia Spoločnosti Ježišovej. Jej dejiny - dejiny jezuitov – sú bezpochyby napínavým príbehom o ľuďoch, ktorí sa podujali veľkodušne žiť podľa charizmy svätého Ignáca. Za takmer poltisícrobie existencie zažila rehoľa obdobia búrlivého rozkvetu, obdobia hľadania svojej identity v meniacich sa podmienkach i obdobia útlaku a nepriateľstva zo strany Cirkvi i jej neprajníkov. Táto kniha v štyroch kapitolách poskytuje čitateľovi prehľad toho najdôležitejšieho, čo Spoločnosť Ježišova vo svojich dejinách zažila, dokázala, vytrpela, priniesla. Pre všetkých, ktorých zaujíma história, bude istotne zaujímavým čítaním. Publikácia má 128 strán, je v tvrdej väzbe s prebalom. Jej cena je 6.90 - €, v internetovom a zásielkovom obchode 6.21 €. Objednávky na publikácie vydavateľstva Dobrá kniha prijíma na adrese: dobrakniha@dobrakniha.sk, na telefónnom čísle 033/59 34 221 alebo stránke www.dobrakniha.sk. Novinku je možné nájsť aj v knižkupectvách Dobré knihy: Bratislava – Hviezdoslavovo námestie 22, Trnava - Štefánikova 44, Piešťany – Teplická 32 a Košice – Hlavná 89.

TK KBS informoval František Sočufka SJ



Odišla do večnosti Piroška Merai

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Piroška Merai bola členkou Spolku č. 855 IKSJ v Parma, Ohio. Nebohá Piroška, rodená Elek zanecháva za sebou: manžela Franka Meray(42 rokov manželstva); drahé dcéry Moniku (David) Gizewicz, Karin (Tim) Scally; matku (rodenú Seregely) Elek a nebohého otca Štefana Elek; vnúčatá Matthew, Aleksandra, Allison, Abigail a Christian; drahých bratov Štefana (Marika) Elek a Vojta Elek. Najbližšia rodina a priatelia sa mohli rozlúčiť s nebohou Piroškou v stredu 21. januára 2015 v popoludňajších hodinách v pohrebnom ústave Joseph Misencik Funeral Home, Lakewood, OH. Pohrebná svätá omša sa konala vo štvrtok 22. januára 2015 o 10.00 hodine doobeda v kostole Transfiguration Parish (bývalý kostol sv. Cyrila a Metoda) v Lakewood, Ohio. Telo nebohej pochovali na cintoríne Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery, N. Olmsted, OH. **Odpočinutie večné daj jej Pane a nech jej večné svetlo svieti. Nech odpočívá v pokoji!**

Smútočné kondolencie rodine môžu byť zaslané na adresu: First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH, 44131.



Zachovajme si našu slovenčinu

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Škola mala troch neplatených učiteľov, ktorí si mimo svojho zamestnania našli čas (obyčajne cez weekend) a nacvičovali žiakov spev, čítanie a písanie po slovensky, recitácie i menšie rozhovory. Raz do mesiaca sa konala schôdza učiteľov spolu so školským predsedníctvom. Učitelia podávali referáty a návrhy ako zlepšiť vyučovanie činnosť školy. Na hodiny slovenčiny dochádzali matky a dedkovia a priviedli vnukov a vnučky. Vychádzali aj noviny menšieho formátu: *Hlas Mládeže*. Do novín prispievali národní a spolkový pracovníci. Noviny finančne podporovali jednotlivci a slovenské organizácie. Na konci roka žiaci mávali predstavenie buď so slovenským spevom, alebo recitáciou slovenských básnikov. Učiteľom sa dokonca podarilo nacvičiť detské divadielko. To bola veľká radosť. Divadelná miestnosť zaplnená do posledného miesta – to bolo niečo milého, radostného a národne hodnotného. Viacerí pracovníci prišli s myšlienkou *Babkárskych scén* pre mládež v New Yorku. S prácou sa aj začalo, ale pre veľký rozsah práce a finančných výdavkov - zhotoviť bábičky, kulisy, scénu, slovenské kroje, Hi-Fi systém, osvetlenie, elektrikára a iné sa tento veľký projekt nemohol uskutočniť.

Pisateľ schválne uviedol čo dokázali starší pospolití pracovníci a čo konali a sa starali aby ich synovia a dcéry sa po slovensky dohodovorili so svojimi rodičmi a starými rodičmi, i keď ich slovenčina nebude zdokonalená. Tí starší pracovníci neboli školení ľudia a predsa dokázali, čo pre nich znamenala slovenčina. Dobrý boj oni bojovali, veľké obety prinášali, slovenský národ venčí ich hlavy vencami slávy a uznania.

Máme nádej, že slovenské rodiny v Amerike a Kanade budú dbať aby ich deti už v útlom veku vedeli mená dedín, kde sa ich rodičia narodili. Potom vedeli zaspievať rezké ľudové piesne a neskoršie mali čiastočnú vedomosť z dejín Slovenska. Ďalej dúfame, že sa nájdu Slováci a Slovenky, učitelia a jednotlivci, ktorí by časť svojho voľného času venovali slovenskej mládeži za účelom vyučovania slovenčiny. Škôlky slovenského jazyka by mali byť v každom slovenskom stredisku. Učebné pomôcky (šlabikáre) by nám na požiadanie zaiste mohli poslať zo Slovenska.

Niektor (slabej viery) by mi mohol povedať: Všetko pekné, priateľ môj, je to krásny a vznešený sen. Ale iba sen. Odpovedal by som mu: Beda človeku, ktorý nesníva a neusiluje sa ísť za čímśi väčším a svätejším, ale myslí len na svoje pohodlie, bohatstvo a každodenný chlieb. Najhoršie, najosudnejšie by bolo keby sme zmárnili azda tú poslednú nádej a stali sa suchou ratolesťou na strome slovenského národa. Potom by už „nastalo len ticho a mlčanie cintorínov“. Tak to svojho času povedal básnik Mikuláš Šprinc.

Rudo L. Greguš



Auditórium na konferencii v Nadlaku

Z činnosti Krajského múzea MS počas roku 2014

Dianie v Matici slovenskej bolo počas roku 2014 v mnohom turbulentné i búrlivé. Celý rok 2014 bol poznačený nedostatkom financií. Krajské múzeum MS tak muselo obmedziť svoje činnosti len na tie nevyhnutné, takmer základné.

KM MS si počas roku 2014 plnilo svoje úlohy vo viacerých oblastiach. **V oblasti vedy** zostavilo 31. ročník zborníka Slováci v zahraničí, do ktorého prispeli krajanovia z Chorvátska, Rumunska, Maďarska i Francúzska. Zborník však zatiaľ čaká na svoju printovú podobu.

V oblastiach stykovej činnosti s krajanmi a iných príbuzných činností sme v roku 2014 rozvíjali kontakty najmä pomocou elektronickej pošty. Počas roka sme zasielali krajanom informácie z matičného diania, vyzývali ich k rozličnej spolupráci (zborník Slováci v zahraničí, časopis Slovensko, súťaž Prečo mám rád slovenčinu,...) a zodpovedali im na rôzne otázky. Naďalej sme naše komunikačné databázy rozširovali a aktualizovali. Naším krajanom sme počas roka zasielali SNN, časopis Slovensko a zborník Slováci v zahraničí. Styk s krajanmi udržujeme i naďalej pomocou našej stránky a v neposlednom rade sa o našej činnosti dozvedajú krajanovia aj vďaka krajským periodikám, ktoré publikujú naše články.

V oblasti archívnej činnosti, akvizície fondov a rozvoja knižnice KM MS, výpožičiek a konzultačných služieb sme naďalej pokračovali v preregistrovaní fondov KM MS. Momentálne máme na pôžičky pripravených 68 769 kníh a časopisov. V roku 2014 nám pribudlo 6051 akvizícií.

Počas roka sme opätovne registrovali najmä knižný fond do elektronických databáz. Takmer kompletne sme spracovali všetky neviazané krajské periodiká, ktoré sa ešte nachádzali vo fondoch KM MS. Medzi novoregistrovanými fondmi za rok 2014 nájdeme časopisy od roku 1887 až do súčasnosti. Sú medzi nimi zastúpené kompletne ročníky časopisov *Bratstvo* (USA), *Čechoslovák* (Anglicko), *Dobrý pastier* (USA), *Evanjelický hlásnik* (Srbsko), *Floridský Slovák* (USA), *Hlas ľudu* (Srbsko), *Horizont* (Švajčiarsko), *Jednota* (USA), *Kanadský Slovák* (Kanada), *Kanadský Sokol* (Kanada), *Krajský pozdrav* (Nemecko), *Ľudové noviny* (USA aj Maďarsko), *Národné noviny* (USA), *Osadné hlasy* (USA), *Pravda* (USA), *Svobodné Slovensko* (Rakúsko), *V boj!* (Taliansko), *Život* (Poľsko) a mnohé iné.

KM MS pracuje aj na neustálej registrácii audiovizuálneho materiálu i archívneho fondu. Do konca októbra 2014 zaregistrovalo celý archívny fond súboru Dolina. V roku 2014 mu bol darovaný aj fond historika Štefana Baranoviča, ktorý postupne spracováva.

Z audiovizuálneho materiálu KM MS spracovalo a pripravilo pre bádateľov 4829 fotografií, ktoré dokumentujú cestu delegácie MS do USA a matičnú činnosť na poli krajských stykov v rokoch 1987 – 1989. KM MS spracovalo aj databázu mikrofilmov, mikrodiskov, negatívov a diapozitívov z rôznych oblastí krajského života. Všetko, čo v KM MS bolo pretriedené, je popísané, uložené a pripravené na bádanie i výpožičky.

V roku 2014 sme zrealizovali približne 300 výpožičiek, vybavili sme 29 bádateľov. Pre bádateľov sú v sídle KM MS pripravené najnovšie vydania najdôležitejších krajských periodík. Podarilo sa nám obnoviť zasielanie časopisu *Slovenská vzájomnosť* a časopisu *Slovákia*.

Pre projekt Digitálny archív MS sme pripravili viac ako 16 000 periodík, 500 fotografií, 1020 diapozitívov, 26 mikrofilmov, 69 VHS kaziet a 24 LP. Žiaľbohu, projekt sa dostal len do prípravného štádia a pred digitalizáciou objektov bol ukončený.

V oblasti styku so slovenskou verejnosťou a mládežou sme naďalej sprístupňovali a lektorovali expozíciu k životu a dielu Hronského. V roku 2014 k nám prišlo 4182 návštevníkov.

V roku 2014 sa v KM MS udiala aj jedna špeciálna udalosť. KM MS dostalo do daru od pani Viery Horvátovej z Bratislavy krojované bábičky a kroje, za čo jej vyslovuje srdečné a úprimné poďakovanie.

V roku 2014 KM MS spolupracovalo s MK, MŠ, ŠPÚ a Jazykovedným ústavom Ľudovíta Štúra v Bratislave na súťaži *Prečo mám rád slovenčinu, prečo mám rád Slovensko...*. V roku 2014 bolo KM MS oslovené v rámci spolupráce na rôznych projektoch tromi európskymi organizáciami. Prvou z nich bola School for leaders Association so sídlom vo Varšave, ktorá nás oslovila s výzvou o zapojenie sa do medzinárodného projektu „Seaminars: Diaspora leaders in promoting national bands“; druhou výzvou bola výzva vojvodinského archívu do projektu s názvom „Affirmation of cultural diversity – Slovaks in Vojvodina through archives records“ a posledným projektom bol slovinský projekt Fóra slovanských kultúr v Ľubľane s názvom „Živa Award“.

Krajské múzeum nedávno vstúpilo do roku 2015. Veríme, že rok 2015 bude v mnohom žilivejší i prajnejší ako rok 2014, že bude plný i hodnotnejší v stykovej oblasti s našimi rodákmi. Na rok 2015 sme naplánovali zasadnutie Rady pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri Matici slovenskej, ktoré sa nám dúfam podarí spokojne uskutočniť.

Zuzana Pavelcová



Bábičky od pani Horvátovej



Prezentácia knihy F. Vrábla

Zomrel spisovateľ Drahošlav Machala

Slovenský spisovateľ a publicista, autor literatúry faktu Drahošlav Machala zomrel v Bratislave 1. januára 2015 po ťažkej chorobe vo veku 67 rokov. Posledná rozlúčka so spisovateľom a novinárom Drahošlavom Machalom sa konala za účasti verejnosti v stredu 7. januára v evanjelickom kostole v Bratislave.

Drahošlav Machala sa narodil 16. novembra 1947 v Zemianskom Podhradí. Vyštudoval žurnalistiku na Filozofickej fakulte UK v Bratislave. Bol novinárom vo viacerých slovenských denníkoch a týždenníkoch, vo Večerníku, v kultúrnej rubrike týždenníka Nové Slovo a denníka Pravda. Od roku 1990 pracoval ako redaktor týždenníka Slovenské národné noviny a v roku 1993 pôsobil vo funkcii šéfredaktora denníka Republika. V rokoch 1996–98 bol riaditeľom Národného literárneho centra. Napísal množstvo článkov, z ktorých najmä jeho originálne reportáže, úvahy a rozhovory sa stali trvalou súčasťou klenotnice slovenskej žurnalistiky. (TASR)



FOTO: TASR

Drahošlav Machala

Trikrát Machala

(Spomienkový text, ktorý napísal Jozef M. Rydlo pre zborník na počesť zosnulého spisovateľa Drahošlava Machalu.)

Keď sa v roku 1968 rozbiehala Dubčekova jar, bol som prvákom archivistiky na Filozofickej fakulte Univerzity Komenského. Stál som pri kolíske Zväzu vysokoškolákov Slovenska a stal som sa jedným z jeho podpredsedov s presným určením: zastupovať nezáväzkov, rozumej komunistických poslucháčov. V tom čase sme si naivne mysleli, že to pôjde... Do minulosti odišiel prezident Novotný a s ním aj iní papaláši. Na mocenskú scénu prišli iní, predovšetkým Dr. G. Husák. Vtedy som sa na Gondovej stretol s Drahošlavom Machalom po prvý raz. Spomínam si naňho s rešpektom. Vedel som, že bol poslucháčom novinarstva a mal talent písať. Od neho sme sa dozvedeli, že adeпти novinarskeho umenia sa učili písať kurzívky na príkladoch Šaňa Macha, ktorého „kurzívkový tón“ sa slovenskej žurnalistike dodnes nepodarilo prekonať. Bol to on, Drahoš Machala, čo vymyslel povestné heslo: „Čo nie je v Echu, je v stole [s.] Pechu“. Potom sme sa videli na mnohých ďalších akciách či to už bol Štúrov Devín, Štefánikovo Bradlo, oživotvorenie čínskej základne Matice slovenskej alebo povestná diskusia v aule UK či by sa univerzita Komenského nemala premenovať na univerzitu Ľudovíta Štúra.

21. august 1968 položil tragickú bodku za našimi ilúziami. Zmenili sa osudy jednotlivcov, zmenili sa osudy Slovákov i Čechov... Drahoš Machala vyštudoval novinarstvo v Bratislave, ja som vyštudoval najprv univerzitu v Padove, potom archivistiky vo Vatikáne.

Roky sme sa nevideli, iba sme o sebe počuli. Ja som vždy čítaval všetko, čo sa mi z jeho pera dostalo do rúk. Môj otec mi pravidelne posielal jeho knihy a v Slovenskom ústave sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Ríme som systematicky čítaval slovenskú tlač, čo sme tam dostávali a odoberali, a bol som rád, keď som našiel na jeho články.

V roku 1985 sa stal malý zázrak. Vo výstavných priestoroch moderného Paláca humanitných vied Štátnej univerzity v Lausanne vo Švajčiarsku sa v jeseni podarilo inštalovať výstavu Slovenský pietista Matej Bel. Konala sa v rámci osláv UNESCO pri príležitosti 300. výročia narodenia tohto veľkého syna Slovenska za spolupráce Matice slovenskej v Turčianskom Sv. Martine a Strediska slovenských štúdií William Ritter, ktoré som spoluzakladal. Prišiel rektor univerzity a hlavným rečníkom bol Georges-André Chevallaz, dlhoročný člen švajčiarskej federálnej vlády a prezident Švajčiarskej konfederácie. Následne sa konalo vedecké kolokvium, na ktorom som o. i. prednášal aj ja. To, že podujatiu venovala pozornosť celá slovenská diaspora vari nikoho neprekvapí. Ale že v rokoch doznievajúcej normalizácie sa o ňom zmieni v Bratislave Nové slovo, týždenník pre politiku, hospodárstvo a kultúru, to nás prekvapilo. V komunistickom časopise uverejnil plagát akad. mal. Jany Šlahorovej-Trnkovej a tlačovú správu. Bola to práca Drahošlava Machalu. Ale nemôžem zabudnúť, že keď dorečnil švajčiarsky prezident Chevallaz, tak prišiel ku mne jeden český diplomatický úradník z česko-slovenského veľvyslanectva v Berne, ktorý mi celkom nediploticky povedal: „Pane profesore, mne to nezajímá, ja tomu nerozumiem, ja jdu pryč“. V Matici slovenskej boli kvôli výstave v Lausanne opletáčky, ale tí, ktorí ich mali vybrlí z nich poukázaním na to, že o podujatí písalo aj Nové slovo... Bola to práca Drahošlava Machalu, a dodnes som mu za to vďačný.

Od roku 1989 po rok 1993 nebolo slovenského emancipačného podujatia, na ktorom by sa ako protagonista nebol zúčastnil Drahošlav Machala. Najprv som počúval o jeho aktivitách v rozhlase a čítal v Slovenských národných novinách. Potom, keď sa zo mňa utečenca stal navrátiliec, ktorému vrátili štátne občianstvo, sme sa stretli opäť. Najviac som sa tešil z Deklarácie zvrchovanosti 17. júla 1992 – boli sme vtedy v srdci Európy, na Krahuliach. A potom 1. januára 1993 nám obom vytryskla slza radosti na námestí SNP, námestí Slovenských národných práv, keď sme boli s tisíckami ďalších Slovincov a Slovákov svedkami obnovenia štátnej samostatnosti Slovenska. Nie každému Boh doprial stáť na pulze histórie: len málokomu je dopriate, že sa spĺňa to, za čo žertvovali generácie slovenských žien a mužov.

Ad multos felicissimosque annos, Drahošlav!

Jozef M. Rydlo

Želal by som si, aby výsledok referenda nezanechal rany

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska 20. januára 2015 poukázal na to, že predstavitelia cirkví a náboženských spoločností na Slovensku môžu nenahradiť povzbudzovať a apelovať na ľudskosť každého jedného človeka. „Myslím, že od vás spoločne ľudia najpresvedčivejšie prijímajú aj šírenie vzájomnej úcty a rešpektu k inému názoru alebo vierovyznaniu,“ adresoval im na novoročnom prijatí v Prezidentskom paláci.

V tejto súvislosti poznamenal, že môžu prispieť nielen k tomu, s akým výsledkom sa skončí februárové referendum, ale aj s akým pocitom z neho spoločnosť vyjde ako celok. „Ako občan aj ako prezident som presvedčený, že v živote nie je dôležitý iba výsledok, ku ktorému dospejeme, ale aj spôsob, akým k nemu dospejeme,“ podčiarkla hlava štátu.

Vyslovila želanie, aby spôsob, akým ľudia dospejú k výsledku hlasovania, nech by dopadol akokoľvek, nezanechal rany na ľuďoch, na schopnosti diskutovať a počúvať sa navzájom. „Aby sa argumentovalo úctivo a pravdivo, aby sme nevyšli z referenda rozdelení na nepriateľské tábory. Aby sa pre túto tému dokonca nerozpadávali priateľstvá,“ vyzval.

Kiska zároveň dúfa, že po referende bude Slovensko schopné pokračovať v diskusií o viacerých podstatných príčinách rozpadu rodín, o spoločenskom a sociálnom postavení neúplných rodín a opustených detí aj nástoživejšie pomenovať veci, ktoré môže ovplyvniť štát.

TASR



FOTO TASR – František Iván

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska (vpravo) a minister obrany SR Martin Glváč sa zúčastnili 19. januára 2015 na pietnej spomienke v maďarskej obci Hejce pri príležitosti 9. výročia leteckého nešťastia slovenských vojakov. Lietadlo AN-26, ktoré viezlo slovenských vojakov z Kosova, havarovalo 19. januára 2006 neďaleko slovensko-maďarských hraníc.

On January 19, 2015, President Andrej Kiska and Minister of Defense Martin Glvac placed a wreath at the memorial in the Hungarian village of Hejce on the 9th anniversary of the airplane disaster that killed Slovak soldiers returning from Kosovo.

Modlitby v rodinách za rodiny v Černom

Farnosť Fatimskej Panny Márie vo Vranove nad Topľou – Černom 19. januára 2014 pred referendom o ochrane rodiny odštartovala aktivitu s názvom Modlitby v rodinách za rodiny. Cieľom tejto aktivity je návšteva rodinných príbytkov v sprievode kňaza alebo bohoslovca so sochou Fatimskej Panny Márie s cieľom pomodliť sa posvätný ruženec alebo iné modlitby na konkrétne úmysly rodiny a prosiť o požehnanie všetkých rodín. Úmysel modlitieb zahŕňa aj aktivity týkajúce sa ochrany a podpory ľudského života a rodiny. Táto aktivita bude prebiehať až do 7. februára.

TK KBS



Okázalá oslava stých narodenín Dr. Kružliaka v Mníchove

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

a neskôr ako šéfredaktor slovenského kultúrneho vysielania. Jeho komentáre a správy vysielané pod pseudonymom Anton Prokop sa stali na Slovensku populárnymi. Spolu s inými exilnými činiteľmi a s podporou Slovenskej ligy v Amerike bojoval s čiastočným úspechom za vytvorenie osobitného slovenského oddelenia v RFE. V r. 1972 založil mesačník Horizont, ktorý redigoval až do pádu komunizmu. Okrem toho prispieval do viacerých exilných a americkoslovenských časopisov.

Dr. Kružliak má za sebou aj bohatú publicistickú činnosť. Patrí medzi najproduktívnejších slovenských literátov povojnových čias. Je autorom desiatky kníh, z ktorých najznámejšie sú diela V čakárni dejín a Útek z tiesne – v tóni dvoch totalít. Písal aj básne, ktoré boli uverejňované pod pseudonymom Marián Žiar v slovenských časopisoch po celom svete. Avšak knižne vyšla len jediná zbierka jeho básní s titulom Piesne a smútky. Prekladal tiež do slovenčiny básne a prózu poľských, ruských a maďarských autorov. Patrí tiež medzi najlepších znalcov americkoslovenskej histórie a americkoslovenského života.

Na konci 60. rokov bol Dr. Kružliak dôverným spolupracovníkom Štefana Romana a Dr. Kirschbauma, s ktorými vytvoril koncept svetovej organizácie Slovákov na sústredenia boja proti komunizmu a na zjednotenie exilných a krajanských združení v celom svete, aby boj za osamostatnenie Slovenska bol sústredený a efektívnejší. Tak vznikol v roku 1970 Svetový kongres Slovákov, v ktorom zastával funkciu podpredsedu. Vo verejnom živote Dr. Kružliaka boli známe aj jeho aktivity v prospech Matice slovenskej na začiatku 90. rokov.

Dr. Kružliakovi želáme do ďalších rokov života dobré zdravie, optimizmus a všeobecne dobrú pohodu v kruhu svojej rodiny a priateľov.

Ad multos annos!



Medzi mnohými gratulantmi boli aj (zľava) Dr. Vilma Privarová a ÚSSZ a bývalý poslanec SR František Mikloško.

O. Štefan Furdík
Náš zakladateľ

Zachovajme si našu slovenčinu

*Motto: Zriekni sa čoho chceš, len nie rodnej reči.
Lebo tým sa zriekaš existencie svojho národa.*

Bolí nás, keď pozorujeme ako sa slovenčina stráca či už v slovenských organizáciách, spolkoch ba aj v slovenských novinách. Vidíme, že už nie je dosť dopisovateľov ako kedysi bývalo.

Čítame v slovenskej tlači, že v niektorých slovenských strediskách sú škôlky slovenského jazyka pre mládež. Ale nevieme aký ohlas nachádzajú u slovensko-amerických rodičov a u americko-slovenskej mládeže. Mimo oznámenia v novinách, radi by sme počuli viac správ od učiteľov. Koľko je žiakov v týchto škôlkach, program vyučovania, skúsenosti učiteľov a koľko hodín mesačne sa koná vyučovanie.

Drahí rodáci, krajanovia, Slováci, naliehame na vás a prosíme vás, zachovajte pri živote poklad náš najvzácnejší: našu ľubozvučnú slovenčinu. Nedajte zabudnúť svojim deťom reč tú sladkú, ktorou vás máti do života uvádzala a ktorou vám uspávanky spievala.

Či je niečo krajšie, sladšie, milšie ako materinská reč?

Ludovít Štúr takto vítal slovenčinu: Tak vítaj nám, vítaj slovenčina naša – Ty dcéra Tatier pekná, oddávna utajená pred svetom – vítaj nám drahá. Sila tvoja vyvoláva nás ...

I keď ste sa rozhodli žiť v Amerike, ste občania tejto krajiny, vaša národnosť zostane navždy slovenská. Nehanbite sa za svoj slovenský pôvod. Ten najlepšie zdôrazníte živou rečou slovenskou. Buďte lojálni tejto krajine slobody, ktorá nám dala väčší kus chutnejšieho chleba, ale nedajte sa utopiť v „Melting pot“. Zachovajte si svoju identitu a ukážte ju svojim deťom, aby oni boli hrdé a vedomé si svojho slovenského pôvodu. Konajte tak, zakaiaľ sú vaše deti v útľom veku.

Keď hovoríme o výučbe slovenčiny pre slovenskú mládež, pisateľ si pamätá, že za národ vykonávajú často najviac drobní, neúnavní a obetaví pracovníci, ktorí potichu prikladajú polienku na vätru slovenskosti. A to sú vzácní budovatelia slovenskej spolupatričnosti. Tak tomu bolo pred rokmi keď existovala Slovenská národná škola pre slovenskú mládež v New Yorku.

Pokračovanie na str. 22



Rudo L. Greguš

Okázalá oslava stých narodenín Dr. Kružliaka v Mníchove

200 priateľov, známych a verejných činiteľov prišlo 8. decembra do Mníchova osláviť sté narodeniny významného exilného činiteľa, literáta a historika Dr. Imricha Kružliaka. Oslava sa konala v luxusnom kaštieli Seidlvilla v mníchovskom predmestí. Usporiadalo ju Slovensko-nemecký kultúrny spolok v Mníchove v spolupráci s Úradom pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí (ÚSZZ). Medzi hosťami bol aj veľvyslanec SR v Nemecku Igor Slobodník, ďalej predseda Matice slovenskej Marián Tkáč, čelní pracovníci ÚSZZ Dr. Peter Procházka a Dr. Vilma Privarová, gen. konzulka SR v Mníchove Veronika Lombardini, vedúci Slovenskej katolíckej misie v Paríži mons. Imrich Toth a slovenský kresťanský politik František Mikloško. Hlavnou organizátorkou oslavy bola predsedníčka Slovensko-nemeckého kultúrneho Klubu Viera Horch.



Imrich Kružliak

Vzhľadom na vysoký vek jubilanta, program slávnosti bol časovo obmedzený. Hlavný prednes o živote a práci jubilanta (laudatio) mal jeho osobný priateľ, známy filmový producent viacerých oscarových filmov Ján Mojto, Slovak, ktorý žije a pracuje v Nemecku.

Dr. Kružliak sa narodil v Detve 14. decembra 1914. Už ako univerzitný študent bol aktívny v Katolíckom študentskom hnutí, bol tajomníkom Slovenskej ligy na Slovensku a redigoval jej časopis. Počas prvej Slovenskej republiky pracoval na Generálnom sekretariáte HSES a neskôr ho prezident Tiso vymenoval za šéfa slovenskej tlače. Vrátil sa však do Slovenskej ligy ako gen. tajomník. Po bombardovaní Bratislavy presťahoval sekretariát SL a jej archív do Mošoviec pri Martine. Tu ho zastihlo povstanie. Tam začal pracovať v redakcii Národných novín, ale o krátky čas ho komunisti žalárovali. Po skončení druhej svetovej vojny pracoval znova v redakcii Národných novín a pritom sa aktivizoval v katolíckom krídle Demokratickej strany, keď komunisti nepovolili založenie plánovanej Republikánsko-demokratickej strany.

Po komunistickom puči v r. 1948 predstavitelia tohto hnutia boli prenasledovaní a väznení. Medzi nimi bol aj Dr. Kružliak. Podarilo sa mu utiecť do zahraničia a usadil sa v Nemecku. Tu pracoval 29 rokov v americkom Rádiu Free Europe (RFE) ako redaktor

Pokračovanie na str. 23

Slávnostný novoročný obed v Prezidentskom paláci



FOTO TASR – Archív Kancelárie prezidenta

Slovenský najvyšší ústavný činiteľ Andrej Kiska (druhý sprava) pozval na slávnostný novoročný obed svojich predchodcov. Jeho pozvanie vo štvrtok 15. januára 2015 do Prezidentského paláca prijali Michal Kováč (druhý zľava), Rudolf Schuster (vpravo) a Ivan Gašparovič (vľavo).

On January 15, 2015, Slovak President Andrej Kiska hosted a New Year Luncheon for former presidents Rudolf Schuster, Ivan Gasparovic, and Michael Kovac in the Presidential Palace.

Odišla do večnosti Piroška Merai

*(Smútočný príhovor hlavného
predsedu IKSJ, Andreja M. Rajeca)*

S hlbokým zármutkom oznamujem, že v nedeľu 18. januára 2015 odišla na večný odpočinok, vo veku 61 rokov, moja administratívna asistentka a priateľka za posledných 8 rokov, Piroška Merai.

Piroška bola obetavou, mimoriadne schopnou a oddanou pracovníčkou nielen pre mňa, ale aj pre našu organizáciu IKSJ. V roku 2006 ju zamestnal do funkcie jeho administratívnej asistentky bývalý hlavný predseda IKSJ Tomáš M. Hricík a za tým od roku 2007 pracovala so mnou.

Asi pred 14-timi rokmi ju postihla choroba rakoviny. Piroška podstúpila liečbu z ktorej sa úspešne uzdravila, ale v roku 2011 zákerná nemoc sa znovu zjavila. Popri liečbe rakoviny pokračovala vo svojej práci skráteným pracovným úväzkom. S odhodlaním a nádejou bojovala proti tejto nemoci.

Milovala svoju rodinu ako aj prácu v Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednote. Do zamestnania chodievala invalidným chodítkom. Predsa len v roku 2013 bolesti a účinky liekov boli natoľko silné, že ju prinútili si vybrať niekoľkokrát práceneschopnosť. Neustále mala v pláne vrátiť sa do zamestnania. Až donedávna pokračovala vo svojej liečbe. Napriek jej silnej povahe ju neúprosná choroba premohla.

Zhovárал som sa s ňou ešte minulý týždeň a povedala mi, že dovŕšila poslednú fázu svojej nemoci a ukončila chemoterapiu. V jej hlase, ktorý bol slabší, som cítil kl'ud.

Piroška bola hrdá na svoju rodinu o ktorej veľmi často hovorievala. Bola hrdá na svoj slovenský pôvod, katolícku vieru ako aj prácu v našej organizácii IKSJ. Ako som povedal pri smrti mojej dcéry Idky v roku 2013, veríme, že obidve sú už u svojho nebeského Otca.

Zbohom Piroška



Piroška Merai

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