



Jednota

THE UNION

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Fr. Stephen Furedek
Our Founder

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

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2016 FEATURES FCSU FRATERNALISM:



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- 2015 Benevolent Scholarship Winners See page 3
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- Sign Up For The 2016 National Bowling Tournament, See pages 4 - 5



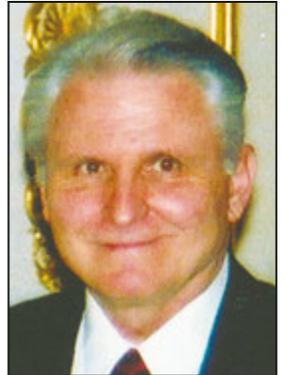
- 2015 Photo Contest Winners, Part I, See pages 12-13



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President's New Year Message ŠŤASTNÝ NOVÝ ROK - Happy New Year 2016



Andrew M. Rajec

Blessings and best wishes to you and your families in 2016. I would like to express on behalf of the First Catholic Slovak Union our sincere condolences to all of you who have experienced a loss of a loved one in 2015.

Our Catholic Faith teaches us that while our time on this Earth is short we can look forward to Eternal Life with our Father.

2016 promises to be another year filled with challenges, challenges we have met successfully these past several years. We are confident about the future.

We are investing carefully and with as much flexibility as possible to protect your money and the Society.

Remember! IRA and ROTH accounts are available with the FCSU with terrific rates for you and your family. Do yourself and them a favor and invest now. See the Jednota or our website at www.fcsu.com.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Rajec
National President

WHAT?!... HELLOOOO....
You forgot your IRA?!

What are you waitin' for?
Start your New Year off right.

Open or add to your IRA account by 4/15/2016

8 Year Flexible Premium IRA	3.60%
6 Year Flexible Premium IRA	3.20%
6 Year Fixed Rate IRA	3.10%

Contact your branch officer or the Home Office at 1.800.533.6682 for more info.
annuity@fcsu.com, www.fcsu.com

Insights and Viewpoints



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

**January 24, 2016 –
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Nehemiah 8: 2 – 4A, 5 – 6, 8 – 10
I Corinthians 12: 12 – 30
Gospel – Luke 1: 1 – 4; 4: 14 – 21**

For most of this year the Gospel readings will be from the Gospel according to Saint Luke. We begin with the brief introduction by Saint Luke and move to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. We are told that

after Jesus was baptized by John, and was tempted in the desert, he returned home. There is something rather touching in that of all the places Jesus could have begun his ministry, such as Jerusalem, he chose to go to his hometown. While Jesus came as Savior of the World, he never denied that he was born to Mary, and grew up in Nazareth where he learned the carpenters' trade. He returns to his hometown to his home synagogue and there reads from the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah, and preaches his first sermon.

Jesus chose the sixty-first chapter of the Prophet Isaiah for his reading, and when he completes it he announces that this passage is fulfilled in their hearing. In contemporary terms it could be said that Jesus began his ministry by presenting his mission statement. It's a passage in which we are told that he is anointed to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to prisoners, give sight to the blind, and set free those who are oppressed.

The rest of Jesus' ministry is his doing just that, and he continues to touch each one of us with his mission. He does so by his personal presence in our lives and in the ministry of the Church, and he does this by using his followers as instruments of his mission. In First Corinthians Saint Paul writes of how this mission of Christ is present within the Church. He speaks of the Church as the "Body of Christ", and goes on to make a beautiful and detailed analogy of the human body with the members of the Church who make up the Body of Christ. The numerous members of the Church are blessed with particular gifts and he gives a list of the individuals present in the church at his time; apostles, prophets, teachers, of their call to do mighty deeds. There is the list of the ministries that are present; healers, assistance, administration, those who speak in tongues and those who interpret. All of these gifts, so different in many ways, serve one purpose to build up the Body of Christ.

Paul is addressing one of the realities that was present in the early Christian communities, and is still present in the church today. The gifts that are meant to unite us together as one Body of Christ, can be the cause of jealousy and division. When we look at those around us and the particular gifts that are present, as well as the various jobs or ministries people are called to within the church, we can become judgmental and jealous. We know their faults and weaknesses and can become so focused on them that we fail to see their gifts. We can desire to do a certain ministry or job that we become jealous of those who are asked to do them, while we are not asked.

The lesson in these readings is one that calls us to follow the example of Jesus and go home, or stay home in our own parishes and communities to carry out the mission Jesus has given us. And to do so as Saint Paul teaches us by looking at our fellow Christians as brothers and sisters who are gifted, as we are, and to use these gifts together so as to truly be the unites as the Body of Christ.



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

January 31, 2016 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5, 7
Gospel - Luke 4:21-30**

The beautiful passage which we hear today from the First Letter to the Corinthians is familiar to most priests, since it is one of the most commonly chosen readings for wedding masses. It is only natural that couples would want to have this text proclaimed at their wedding, as it extolls the nature and power of love. A person would have to be pretty cynical not to be moved when hearing the eloquent description of this most precious of all virtues: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests... It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor 13:4-5, 7).

Every newly-married couple wants to relish the joy, trust, and strength that love brings into a relationship, and happily many do benefit from a loving marriage till the end of their lives. Others however experience the pain of a relationship that began with deep love but which grew cold over time, or which was torn by infidelity or selfishness—we do not like to think about such things but they take place in almost everyone's circle of family and friends. When a "till death do we part" commitment is broken it can make a person wonder about the very essence of love...is true love really attainable?

Turning to the gospel for a moment, we find that our Lord has returned to his hometown of Nazareth and preaches in the synagogue there. While the crowd is initially captivated by his words, they quickly turn against him and come close to throwing him off of a cliff. As Jesus himself says "no prophet is accepted in his own native place": the hometown hero became a pariah very quickly! Jesus himself felt the sting in that moment of the corruption of love that eventually finds its way into every human life. The important point to recall however is not his rejection at the hands of his fellow townspeople, but rather the fact that this event took place at the beginning of his ministry, and that he went on to dedicate his entire remaining life and ministry to helping people recover from the wounds that result when a loved one turns against them.

Through the long course of the gospel Jesus shows us that even when the "perfect" love we imagine when first falling in love shows itself to be less than perfect, we can still have hope that the virtues that derive from love will sustain us and lead us back to a relationship now marked by some dents and scrapes, but which is stronger and more devoted than we could have imagined at first. Patience, kindness, fidelity, humility, self-giving, and trust; these are the fruits of love which is tested by the ups and downs of life, and which comes through ever more beautiful than before.

Whether it be in a relationship with one's spouse or with one's children, whether within the family, the larger community, or in a person's relationship with God, love is a virtue which is both elusive and enticing. As the Church prepares to begin the Lenten season in little more than a week we would do ourselves a favor by renewing our focus on imitating the qualities of love that St. Paul describes in First Corinthians. Then this greatest of all Christian virtues will offer us in its many different forms an anchor in times of distress and insight into the fidelity and graciousness of God in moments of joy.



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27	MONDAY, JAN. 18
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10	MONDAY, FEB. 1
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 2	MONDAY, FEB. 22

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Teresa Ivanec, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com
First Catholic Slovak Union, Attention "JEDNOTA"
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398
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Check out the First Catholic Slovak Union website at www.fcsu.com

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CONGRATULATIONS!



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary: 2015 Benevolent Scholarship Winners

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Trustees of the Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc., congratulations to the 2015 Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc. Scholarship Award recipients. Each student will receive a one-time check for \$500.00. The following is the list of the students selected:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| David Ball | Coraopolis, Pennsylvania |
| Thomas E. Kocis | S. Connellsville, Pennsylvania |
| Casey L. Mrazik | University Park, Pennsylvania |
| Timothy Platko | Painesville, Ohio |
| Nicholas C. Uxa | St. Louis, Missouri |
| Kevin Weldon | Greensburg, Pennsylvania |
| Kelli E. Rossman | Fairview, Pennsylvania |
| Rachel Kozma | Elyria, Ohio |
| Amanda Pacanovsky | Parma, Ohio |
| James A. Staley | Whiting, Indiana |

We want to thank all the applicants who participated in the program and most especially the scholarship committee for their efforts and support in making the difficult decision of selecting the winners. We wish each and every participating applicant the best of luck in their future endeavors.

There's Still Time to be a Part of the Jednota Memorial



A Site Dedicated to Members & Their Families

As highlighted in the October 21, 2015 issue of Jednota, the First Catholic Slovak Union has recently dedicated a Memorial site for our members and their families on a permanently dedicated 1/2 acre of land of Jednota property fronting on Rosedale Avenue in Middletown, PA. It sits on land that was once occupied by the Jednota Orphanage, purchased at the urging of our founder Fr. Štefan Furdek for just such a purpose. A rebronzed "Doughboy" statue is a key highlight of this Memorial, honoring those who served in any wars and also giving the opportunity for our Members to honor and remember their ancestors and family members who have made and make our Society great.

Jednota Memorial Granite Bricks are Available for Purchase



It is important, however, to remember that this memorial is not restricted to veterans or families of veterans. You can remember a loved one, a branch or a district in our Society. All those who purchase a "brick" or "bricks" in the granite panels found throughout the Memorial will receive a photo of the panel on which their brick or bricks are mounted.

If you haven't yet ordered your "brick" you can go to www.fcsu.com to Jednota Memorial to download your order form or call the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Leadership in Mercy

This past December 8th marked the beginning of the Jubilee of Mercy, a year in which Pope Francis calls us to reflect on God's mercy in our lives and, in so doing, become conveyors of mercy to others. The Christophers applaud the Holy Father's mission and are taking part in it with our own special initiative.

Have you ever considered that a story from your life can change someone else's life for the better? We believe it can, so we invite you to join us throughout 2016 for "Leadership in Mercy - 52 Weeks," a storytelling platform on our website (www.christophers.org) aimed at highlighting the many ways that people have been transformed by the call to bring mercy into the world.

We encourage everyone to take a bit of time to consider the stories of mercy in their midst and the people whose lives have been transformed by the call to service. We are particularly interested in the kind of small vignettes that shed light on the unexpected connections people make when they open their hearts to those in need.

Father John Catoir, former Director of The Christophers, kicked things off with his own reflection: "When we began The Christopher Leadership Course," he wrote, "the idea behind it was to get more people to become Christ-bearers. As Father Keller said: you don't have to be a foreign missionary to bring Christ to others; you can be a carrier of Christ right where you live and work. It's one thing to be an idealist, but quite another to be effective in leading people to move beyond their comfort zones. Helping to make this a better world takes blood, sweat & tears."

Father Catoir continued, "Teaching leadership skills is a work of mercy; it is a way of helping people to make a difference. I was once very timid and not at all inclined to tell anyone what to do. For me, urging others to do more than they felt like doing was a no-no. But a grace hit me: Jesus did exactly that: 'What you do for the least of My brethren you do for Me.' These words were a call to action. Once I saw Christ in my weakest neighbor, it made a huge difference in how I responded to him or her...I wish you God's choicest blessings in the days ahead. May the Lord be your strength and your joy as you help change the world for the better."

We would love to hear your stories! You can email them to us at mail@christophers.org. Or you can write them down and send them to: The Christophers / 5 Hanover Square / New York, NY 10004.

In the meantime, if you need some ideas on practicing mercy, the Catholic website Aletheia offers some ideas: "1) Resist sarcasm; it is the antithesis of mercy; 2) Pare down possessions: share your things with the needy; 3) Learn to say this prayer: 'Dear Lord, bless [annoying person's name] and have mercy on me!'; 4) Be generous enough to allow someone to help you; people need to feel needed; 5) Take time in prayer to contemplate the good qualities of someone who is difficult for you. Do the same for each member of your family."

Again, please share your stories with us so we can share them on our website and offer words of encouragement to everyone in need of inspiration and mercy.

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

March for Life 2016



Our Presence at the 43rd Annual Right to Life March on Friday, January 22, 2016 in Washington, DC is extremely important. The First Catholic Slovak Union and the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association support the position of the Pro Life Movement.

The FCSU and the FCSLA are once again offering free transportation from the FCSLA Home Office in Beachwood, OH for this very important trip. For the past few years we have filled two buses for this march. Again this year, we will reserve

two buses for the March. Our organizations are proud to encourage our members along with many young students from area Catholic High Schools to participate. It is a very rewarding experience to actively participate and help relay this very important message of supporting the Right to Life mission.

Will you join us? Please call Kelly at the FCSLA home Office. Her phone number is 800-464-4642 EXT. 1051 or email her at Kelly@fcsu.org for details or questions and to reserve your seat on the bus before December 28th. The buses fill up quickly and seating is limited so don't wait until the last minute to reserve your seat. You can also go to our website www.fcsu.org for a tentative itinerary for the trip.

If you would like to attend and are unable to join those leaving from the FCSLA Home Office, please look online for information and transportation. Call your local church or diocese, they may be able to help.

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

THINK ABOUT IT!



ATTENTION JEDNOTAR BOWL



United Slovak Fraternal 5th Annual Bowling Tournament April 22- 23, 2016

Friday:

Teams Event – Opening Ceremonies to begin at 7:15 pm with the team event starting at 7:30 pm at Sawmill Lanes.

Hospitality Night - Hospitality Night beginning at 7:00 PM at Sawmill Lanes in Columbus, OH. Enjoy food, refreshments, and socializing.

Hotel – Holiday Inn Columbus, OH will be housing our guests for the weekend. The phone number to the hotel is provided below. You must identify yourself as a member of USF or United Slovak Fraternal to receive the group rate: \$114 / night (plus tax)

Deadline for hotel reservations is March 22.

Holiday Inn Columbus-Worthington (50 rooms)
7007 N. High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
614-436-0700

Saturday:

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

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

Banquet - will be held in the Holiday Inn. Cocktails at 6 PM and Dinner at 7 PM.

Sawmill Lanes: 4825 Sawmill Rd. Columbus, OH – (614) 889-0880

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

The 5th Annual United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament April 22-23, 2016 Columbus, OH



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 4, 2016.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Branch # / District: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

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

Wording for Sign: _____

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

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

Branch 162's Annual December Meeting



(L – R): Officers elected at the annual meeting on December 6, 2015 for Branch 162 and sworn in by Regional Director, James Marmol: Dolores Marmol, Secretary; Patty Marmol, Treasurer; Joanne Marmol, Vice-President; Mark Marmol, President; and Frank Marmol, Auditor.

- Submitted by James Marmol, Region 4 Director

Attention HS Seniors in Branch 670: You May Qualify for \$1,000 Scholarship



Branch 670 of Donora, PA is excited to announce that it is accepting applications for its 2016 Scholarship Program. The committee will award, to the candidates who best satisfy the criteria, up to three, one-time \$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, 2016

- Submitted by Joseph Matinko, Branch 670 Financial Secretary

ERS: SAVE THE DATE IN APRIL



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

2016 April 22 - 23, 2016
 Entries Close
 March 4, 2016

BOWLING ENTRY BLANK

Please Read Carefully

The 5th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Men's and Women's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

Hosted by First Catholic Slovak Union and
 National Slovak Society
 A/k/a the United Slovak Fraternal's

Sawmill Lanes
 Sawmill Road, Columbus, OH

Entry Fees - Members
 Prize Fee.....\$7.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$6.75
 Tournament Fee.....\$4.25
Total Each Event\$18.00

Entry Fees - Non-Members
 Prize Fee.....\$14.00
 Bowling Fee (3games).....\$6.75
 Tournament Fee.....\$4.25
Total Each Event.....\$25.00

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

Banquet Fees
 Member.....\$25.00
 Non-Member\$40.00

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, April 22
 Registration 6:30 PM
 Bowlers: 7:30 PM

Saturday, April 23
 Bowlers:
 Events 8:30 AM
 12:30 PM

Team Events

ALL BOWLING AND, ENTRY FEES
 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH
COMPLETE INFORMATION

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

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

The Men's and Women's 5th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Tenpin Handicap Bowling Tournament

This event is being sponsored by the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society 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 Union and the National Slovak Society wish to extend to all members a cordial invitation to the Host City, Columbus, OH, in this tournament.

The 5th Annual United Slovak Fraternal's Handicap Tenpin Bowling Tournament will be held at Sawmill Lanes, 4825 Sawmill Rd., Columbus, Ohio. The tournament will be held April 22-23, 2016. Opening Ceremonies will be held on Friday, April 22, at 7:15 PM.

ENTRIES WILL CLOSE MIDNIGHT MARCH 4, 2016. 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 and National Slovak Society 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 student 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 2014-2015 season. Bowlers with no such average from the 2014-2015 season and with at least 21 games in the 2015-2016 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 or NSS 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, 2016, 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 comprised of at least 1 person of the opposite gender 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 five (5) 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 five (5) 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 five (5) 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.

Slovak Dignitaries Hosted by FCSU in December

Dr. Ján Varšo, newly appointed President of the "Office of Slovaks Living Abroad" headquartered in Bratislava, Slovakia, on his inaugural visit to the United States during the first week of December 2015, included stops in Cleveland, OH and Pittsburgh, PA.

Accompanying Dr. Varšo was his assistant, Dr. Pavel Meleg, and Jana Trnovcová, Slovak Consul General in New York. While in Cleveland, they visited the Slovak Cultural Gardens and the Cleveland Slovak Institute, and were later hosted by National President Andrew M. Rajec at the home office of the First Catholic Slovak Union where a reception was held in Dr. Varšo's honor. Attendees included representatives from the Slovak and Slovak-American community in the Greater Cleveland area.

While in Pittsburgh, Dr. Varšo presented a medal to Joseph Senko for his service and effort to spread Slovak culture to Slovaks abroad and for many years of keeping the Slovaks in the U.S.A. informed about Slovakia. They also visited the NSS Heritage Museum, had a city tour, visited the Heinz History Center, the Nationality Rooms and met with Professor Martin Votruba, head of the Slovak Department at the University of Pittsburgh.



FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec welcomes attendees to a reception for Dr. Ján Varšo held at the home office on the evening of December 2, 2015.



Dr. Varšo (R) presents a medal to Honorary Consul to Slovakia Joseph Senko (L) during a visit to Pittsburgh, PA. Part



Attendees at the December 2nd FCSU reception included: (Seated, L – R): FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec; Dr. Ján Varšo, President of the "Office of Slovaks Living Abroad" headquartered in Bratislava, and Jana Trnovcová, Slovak Consul General at Consulate General of Slovakia in New York. Standing (L – R): Henry Horvath, President, Cleveland Slovak Radio Club; Paul Brunovsky President, Lakewood Slovak Civic Club; Paul Cisarik, Doctor of Internal Medicine; Miriam Visnovsky, Director, Cleveland Slovak Language School; Marek Visnovsky, Pastor, St. Mary's Church; Milan Kobulsky, Program Director, Cleveland Slovak Radio Hour; Joseph Hornak, Interim-Director, Slovak Institute; George Terbrack, President, Cleveland Slovak Cultural Garden; Andrew P. Rajec, FCSU Director of Independent Agents; ; Vladimir Cvicela, Trustee, Lakewood Slovak Civic Club; George Balak, Secretary, Cleveland Slovak Dramatic Club; Thomas Ivanec, Director, Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble; Teresa Ivanec, Jednota Editor; George Carny, President, Zemplin Slovak Club; Ida Rajec, wife of President Rajec; Dr. Pavel Meleg, assistant to Dr. Varšo; Robert Kopco, FCSU Branch Liaison; Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J. Professor, Slavic Languages and Literature, John Carroll University; and Beata Fedoriouk, FCSU Assistant to the President.



(L – R) National President Andrew M. Rajec presents Dr. Ján Varšo, newly appointed President of the "Office of Slovaks Living Abroad", with an FCSU commemorative plate.



Part of the tour of the Cleveland Slovak Cultural Garden led by the Garden's President George Terbrack included a stop at the statue of General Milan R. Stefanik: (L – R) Andrew M. Rajec; Dr. Ján Varšo, George Terbrack, Jana Trnovcová, and Andrew P. Rajec.



(L – R) Dr. Pavel Meleg looks on as FCSU National President Andrew M. Rajec presents flowers to Jana Trnovcová, New York's Slovak Consul General, in honor of her birthday that same day.



(L – R) Joseph Hornak, Interim-Director, Slovak Institute, welcomes Slovakia's Dr. Varšo, and the FCSU's Andrew M. Rajec and Andrew P. Rajec to the facility which is on the grounds of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey and, since its dedication in 1952, has continued to be a source for knowledge about Slovakia with material in the Slovak language.

Branch 2's Rachel Bowman Graduates Cadet Program

Rachel Bowman, an eighth-grade student at Northside Catholic School, recently graduated from the Allegheny County Camp Cadet program. Participants in the week-long program live in an atmosphere similar to a police training academy with emphasis on discipline, building self-esteem, and confidence. It is a camp run by state police across Pennsylvania. The free camp reaches kids what it's like to be law enforcement officers with an emphasis on building confidence and leadership skills and making good decisions.

The camp offers a variety of activities such as interviewing witnesses at mock crime scenes and getting through a rope course. The cadets bike down to Pittsburgh from Sharpsburg to watch a demonstration by the River Rescue Team. They also participated in physical training. The

cadets that go through this program come out empowered. What they feel they can accomplish is greatly enhanced. As an alumni, she is part of the Annual Sweat for Vets Program and will be collecting new sweat-shirts, in all sizes, to present to the veteran's facility on Highland Drive on December 19th.

Rachel is a member of Jednota Branch 2, North Side, Pittsburgh, PA.

- Submitted by Michael Lako, FCSU Region 5 Director and Branch 2 Financial Secretary

(L- R) Michael Lako and Rachel Bowman, both of Branch 2.



Štedrý Večer Celebrated by Lorain-area Slovaks in December at American Slovak Club

Lorain, OH-area Slovaks hosted their annual Stedry Vecer on Sunday December 6, 2015 at the American Slovak Club. The event was hosted by United Slovak Societies of Lorain. United Slovak Societies is made up of the local Lorain lodges including First Catholic Slovak Union Branch 228, Slovak Catholic Sokol Wreath 111, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Branch 114, National Slovak Society Assembly 160, and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union Branch 77.

The evening included all the traditional foods enjoyed at the Christmas Eve supper in a Slovak home.

Branch 228 President Len Zilko opened the dinner with a wine toast followed by prayer and breaking of the oplatky with honey given by Branch 228 Vice President and FCSU Executive Secretary Ken Arendt. The meal included sauerkraut soup, perch, bobalky, pierohi, and peas. The award winning perch was prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Slovak Club.

Entertainment throughout the evening was provided by violinist Jozef Janis, a native of Puchov, Slovakia, and special guests, the Celebration Ringers of Strongsville, OH, a handbell choir who performed enchanting Christmas music.

A delightful evening was had by all and are looking forward to next year's celebration. The United Slovak Societies extends holiday greetings to all and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

- Submitted by Michele Mager,
Secretary-United Slovak Societies FCSU Br. 228



(L - R) Jon Hudak, two Stedry Vecer attendees, Len and Joyce Zilko, and Theresa and Kenneth Arendt.



Members of the Zilko family were among the attendees who enjoyed the annual traditional Christmas eve meal at the American Slovak Club of Lorain, OH.



(L - R) FCSU Executive Secretary and USS Vice President Kenneth A. Arendt, USS Secretary and Branch 228 Member Michele Mager, Lorain International Slovak Princess Rachel Elwer, and Branch 228 President and USS President Leonard Zilko.



Slovak-born violinist Jozef Janis



Traditional Fašiangy in Milwaukee Feb 6, 2016

The Slovak League Assembly 20 of Milwaukee, WI is hosting its traditional Fašiangy (Pre-Lenten Dance) on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the WG Banquet Hall (formerly Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street in Greenfield). Slovak food and bakery will be available. A live band will be provide music for dancing and listening pleasure. The Tatra Slovak Dancers will have a performance at 7:30 p.m. We are inviting all Knights of Sts. Mary & Joseph Branch 89 of Milwaukee members to attend.

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

- Submitted by Kathy Valent, Slovak League Assembly 20 Vice President



50th Anniversary Luncheon Honors Fr. Andrew Sipek



Pictured presenting the plaque are [L - R]: Bertha Vrablik, Anna Dobos, Father Sipek, Irene Kominar Timko, and Mary Boldizar Jacko.

Four Slovak organizations in Windsor, Ontario surprised Reverend Andrew Sipek during the commemorative luncheon honoring him on the occasion of his 50th year in the vineyard of the Lord on November 15, 2015. The luncheon was held in the St. Michael Slovak Byzantine Church Hall. The Canadian League, Slovak Domovina Dancers, Rozmarin Slovak Dancers, and Branch 789 of the First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) presented Fr. Sipek with a commemorative plaque to show their appreciation of his constant support of the Windsor Slovak Community since his arrival in Windsor in 1979, Fr. Sipek continues to minister to the faithful even in his retirement.

All of his former parishioners at St. Michael Slovak Byzantine Church, Windsor, Ontario, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slovak Church, Windsor, Ontario, and the aforementioned Slovak Societies wish Fr. Andrew Sipek many more years in the service of the Lord.

God Bless you, Father Andrew!

- Submitted by Mary Boldizar Jacko, Branch 789 President

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

THINK ABOUT IT!

The George Onda District's Annual Štedrý Večer

On Sunday, December 6, 2015 at the festive Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg, 160 members and guests gathered for the George Onda District's (3) annual "Stedry Vecer". Our Chaplain, Monsignor Larry Kulick, pastor of St. James Parish, New Alexandria, PA, celebrated Mass at 4 P.M. in the Chapel assisted by Reverend Dennis Bogusz, Chaplain of St. Anne Home, Greensburg, PA. Steven Makar, organist of St. Florian Church in United, PA, provided music of Slovak and traditional Christmas carols. Marge Klimchok acted as cantor.

Following Mass, the group proceeded to the banquet hall to tables laden with fruit, nuts, candies and favors. After the first star in the evening sky was spotted by ten year old Stephen LaPay of Branch 181, the traditional meal began. All were given a homemade Oplatki to dip into honey,



Jana Lokajova and James Bench



FCSU National President
Andrew M. Rajec



The Pittsburgh Slovaks



District Chaplain
Monsignor Kulick



Stephen and Darlene LaPay



(L - R) Florence Matta and
Geraldine Hricik



George Onda District Secretary
Linda Gonta



Mark and Micki Smolleck



Brad Musselman and
Marilyn Young

courtesy of Geraldine Kovacina, Secretary of Branch 181. Everyone was then served: mushroom/sauerkraut soup; baked fish; pagach; bobalki; pierogies; prunes and wine. For dessert, we all were treated to apricot and nut kolaches.

Monsignor Kulick presided as Master of Ceremonies for the evening and introduced the National Officers who were in attendance: National President Andrew M. Rajec with wife Idka; Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents; Treasurer George Matta II with wife Cathy and mother Florence; Chairman of Auditors Karen Sprock Hunka with mother, Florence Sprock; Supreme Court member, James Bench with wife Kay; and Region 4 Director James Marmol with wife Patty. The George Onda District officers attending were: President William Patty; Vice President Darlene Patty; Secretary Linda Gonta; and Treasurer Stephen Gonta.

A highlight of the evening was the introduction of Jana Lokajova, a houseguest of James and Kay Bench visiting from Bratislava, Slovakia. She addressed the group in both Slovak and English. She commented that she loved attending our Stedry Vecer but especially loved meeting the "people".

Numerous door prizes were awarded and the group returned to the Chapel for a presentation of the Jasliskari by the renowned Pittsburgh Slovaks under the direction of Sue and Rudy Ondrejco.

We encourage all to return again next year and keep this "beautiful custom" alive in our lives and that of our children and grandchildren.

- Submitted by Linda Gonta, District Secretary
All photos courtesy of Linda Gonta.

WPSCA Offers 11th Summer Scholarship



For the eleventh consecutive year Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association is offering a scholarship to attend the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Program at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia, from August 2 to August 22, 2016. WPSCA will award \$2,500 from the Stephanie Husek Scholarship Fund to cover transportation, tuition, and room and board to the successful candidate. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a full time college student
- Must be of Slovak heritage
- Must not have previously attended the program
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when requested to discuss the program

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia and is designed to enable students to improve and enhance their Slovak language competency as well as increase their knowledge of Slovak literature and culture. For further information or for an application, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com, (412) 531-2990 or (412) 956-6000. Completed applications must be received by WPSCA on or before April 15, 2016 at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

More information can be found at: <http://staryweb.fphil.uniba.sk/index.php?id=899>

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Branch 254



Reflections of a Past SAS Scholarship Recipient

Bethany Kaylor, Branch 2

Not a day goes by that I don't think of Slovakia. I miss it all so much – biking along the Danube River in Bratislava, wandering around the streets of Košice, visiting churches and castles around the countryside. Thanks to the generous scholarship from the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA), I was able to attend SAS – or Studia Academica Slovakia – a summer institute for the Slovak language. SAS is headquartered at Comenius University in Bratislava; students are housed in the Hotel Druzba, a nearby highrise dormitory.

SAS hosted over 150 students from all over: Russia, Italy, Germany, Turkey, England, Austria, Costa Rica, Egypt, Canada, Belgium, France, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, and more. Only a handful were from the United States! This was by far the most eye-opening experience of my experiences at SAS – meeting and becoming friends with people from so many different countries, languages and cultures. Never have I ever had an opportunity like this one – it was truly once in a lifetime.

While in Slovakia, I fell in love with the language. Slavic languages fascinate me – the syntax, the grammar, the phonetics. Slovak was not easy going; I struggled a lot in the beginning. However, the terrifying frustration quickly led to pure delight as I slowly started to understand rudimentary Slovak. This experience meant so much to me; it has made me a better (and more empathetic) critical thinker.

I hope to continue learning Slovak in the upcoming years. Trying on a new language gave me confidence to connect with strangers in a foreign land, even as I was stumbling through my words. I am forever grateful to the Slovak people who listened patiently as I tried to ask where the bathroom was, or how to use the accusative form.

And I am forever grateful to the WPSCA for the opportunity the scholarship given me. I am not being hyperbolic when I say that Slovakia changed my life.

(A note: this essay is far overdue. Far, far, overdue. And I am so sorry for its tardiness. But please believe me when I say that my mind, to some extent, is always on Slovakia. When I'm lucky, I dream in Slovak. Extremely broken Slovak, but Slovak nonetheless.)

- Submitted by Joseph Senko, Branch 254

St. Nicholas in Toronto

On December 6th kids and members of the Byzantine Catholic Slovak Cathedral of the Nativity of the Mother of God in Toronto were visited by St. Nicholas. Kids were very joyous to see St. Nicholas and were not disappointed as they all received presents and chocolates and also were served their favorite lunch. Many thanks to St. Nicholas!

- Submitted by Helen von Friedl, Branch 785



28th Treasures of Slovakia Tour in July 2016

Treasures Tours is conducting the Treasures of Slovakia trip for the 28th year in a row! It includes all the best of Slovakia from east to west and north to south. The trip will run July 8 - 17, 2016 with an early bird special on July 7.

The popular trip includes highlights of Bratislava, then medieval Banka Bystrica, the folklore festival at Detva with talented performers young and old and hundreds of craftspeople. Then our celebration dinner with very special musical entertainment.

Kezmarok international Crafts Festival is another major highlight with over 100 crafts people, a medieval parade, local delicacies and continuous folklore performances by groups from all over the country. Then time to enjoy the high Tatras. Villagers from nearby come to share wedding customs and songs and dance with us!

We'll visit walled Levoca to admire Master Paul's altars from the 1500s and explore glorious Spiš Castle, followed by our mountain village Rusyn wedding party with traditional foods, customs and dancing galore.

Love Stara Lubovna's museum of village homes depicting birth, wedding and death customs. Something new, a visit to a Rusyn village to meet the locals, learn about life there and feast on home-made kolac!

A raft ride on the Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park is another highlight followed by a Goral picnic with lively local tunes. A special museum visit showcases the daily life of your ancestors.

Tour Presov and Kosice to marvel at St. Elizabeth's Cathedral and enjoy the spectacular Singing Fountain, ending up with an elegant candlelight dinner in our castle hotel overlooking the city.

A special favorite is Bardejov, the Pearl of Saris, a UNESCO treasure and Slovakia's other walled town. St Egidius Church has so many precious tryptch altars. Then we visit a unique icon museum and head into the hills to have our hearts touched by Anna who tells us the history of her village's ancient onion-domed wooden church.

We follow the Vah River on a castle-studded ride and then immerse in charming Cicmany with homes decorated with folk motifs.

A village wedding in Krakovany is lots of fun as we participants get pinned with a corsage of



A medieval parade at the Kezmarok Crafts Festival

A special music performance on 17 instruments including the accordion.



The number of young people on trip surprised us all (and maybe themselves) by dancing every night!



Charlene Cervene, from Colorado, tried her hand piloting the raft on the Dunajec, and did a super job.



At the wedding party in western Slovakia the Hat Dance was a big hit - especially for tour goers (L - R) David Niswonger from Indiana and James Dixon from South Carolina.

greens, feast on local food and take part in wedding customs - the hat dance is a favorite!!

A tour of medieval Cerveny Kamen Castle with its priceless exhibits is another highlight as well as traveling the Royal Carpathian Wine Road and visiting a wine museum to learn about 700 years of wine making traditions and sample local vintages.

Trip ends in Bratislava with a festive farewell dinner in a village inn.

We can find your long-lost family and have driver-guides who will take you to your ancestral villages - we have a 98% success rate!

Land price is \$2,299 and we can help people find flights. A Prague add on offers a hotel in the old town, two half days sightseeing to the Castle and Old Town with a super local guide, and then time to shop for garnets, crystal and crafts.

Another trip offered spends several nights in Slovakia... the 5 Countries, 5 Cultures trip July 23 - Aug. 1 which includes a stay in Bratislava, a visit to the Modra ceramics outlet, and a stay in Zdiar in the Beliansky Tatry.

The 5 Countries trip also includes a cruise on the Danube in the gorgeous Wachau Valley with castles on every hilltop and vineyards everywhere. Romantic Budapest with sightseeing both on land and on the Danube and magical Krakow with options to visit the Royal Salt Mine and Auschwitz Camp high on tour goer's lists. And everyone loves charming Straznice in the Czech Republic enjoying sampling the wine and kolacky and the rich folk culture in the Skansen museum and Straznice and Milotice Castles as well as dinner in a family vineyard, watch the wine drawn up in a crystal wine pipe. This trip is also \$2,299 for the land tour.

The tours are organized by Helene Cincebeaux and Jozef Kaufmann who have led more than 80 trips over the past 27 years. Contact Helene for day-by-day itineraries and other info - helenezx@aol.com or call 585 342-9383 or write her at 151 Colebrook Dr, Rochester NY 14617. Helene is the Director of the Slovak Heritage & Folklore Society International and Editor of Slovakia for the past 26 years. She has authored 4 books on Slovakia and numerous articles and maintains Slovak Pride, a 33,000 surname and village data base.

- Submitted by Helene Cincebeaux, Branch 278

2015 Vilija Celebration at St. Andrew Abbey of Cleveland

The Benedictine monks of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland, OH, in conjunction with the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club, hosted their annual Christmas Vilija on Sunday, December 6, 2015. 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), Johanna Oros (Branch 24), Milan Kobulsky (Branch 450), and Vlad Cvicela (Branch 24).



Officers of the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club (L - R): Second Vice President Maria Cvicela, Program Director Milan Kobulsky, President Henry Horvath, and Recording Secretary Milka Anderko.



FCSU Members (L - R): Ann Sutila, Branch 855; Milan Kobulsky, Branch 450; Bob Kopco, Branch 24; Vlad Cvicela, Branch 24; Henry Horvath, Branch 855; and Barbara Sutila, Branch 855.



The sellout crowd at this year's Vilija, held on December 6, 2015, on the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey Svorad in Cleveland, OH.



Members of Branch 24 were among the many who enjoyed a traditional Slovak meatless Christmas Eve feast.



The Lúčina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Greater Cleveland performed traditional dances from Slovakia, including the young children of Lucinka, pictured here.



ATTENTION CLEVELAND-AREA

JEDNOTARS

An Evening of Fun & Fraternalism

Saturday, March 19, 2016

7:00pm

Monsters vs. Manitoba Moose
Quicken Loans Arena-Cleveland, OH



Special Offer Includes:

Discounted End Zone Tickets!!

(\$24 game day value)

Non-members: \$18 per ticket

Members: \$16 per ticket with possible deeper discount available through your branch

To get your branch discount and order tickets, please

contact the representative in your branch:

- Branch 24: Tom Ivanec, 216-668-7797
- 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, February 29, 2016

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.



Jednota Crossword Puzzle

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

Across

- 1 Metric units
- 5 Attention getter
- 9 Mojave plant
- 14 Genesis victim
- 15 Distort
- 16 Checked out, illegally
- 17 Mesozoic era creatures
- 19 Matchmaker, possibly
- 20 Giant planet
- 21 Saskatchewan capital
- 22 Tennis item
- 23 Confetti starter
- 24 Rustic digs
- 28 Holy person
- 30 Blonde shade
- 33 Hero
- 34 Squid's squirt
- 35 Director Preminger
- 36 *New Yorker* cartoonist
- 37 Gives up
- 39 Young lady
- 40 Headliner
- 41 Wonder
- 42 Sun block?
- 43 Human race
- 44 Hilltop
- 46 Lets out
- 47 ___-ski
- 49 Gardner of film
- 51 Musically inclined snakes
- 53 Bemoan
- 57 Ancient Greek theater
- 58 Like some plans
- 61 Pooh's creator

Down

- 62 Donegal Bay feeder
- 63 Departed
- 64 Chips in
- 65 Gusto
- 66 Old dagger
- 35 Gawk at
- 37 Gives a darn
- 38 Rams' mates
- 42 Muscle problem
- 44 Long-necked wading birds
- 45 Claws
- 48 Inclined
- 50 Manservant
- 51 Robin Cook thriller
- 52 Norse war god
- 54 Work units
- 55 Midday
- 56 Pitch
- 58 Shriner's cap
- 59 Refinable rock
- 60 Retainer
- 1 Certifiable
- 2 Nile wader
- 3 Musical Horn
- 4 Opening
- 5 Savvy
- 6 Frequent hangouts
- 7 Drop the ball
- 8 Army cops
- 9 Endure
- 10 Guesstimate
- 11 Cherished desire
- 12 Blood carrier
- 13 Icelandic epic
- 18 Bright
- 21 Grades
- 23 Conifer
- 24 Great divide
- 25 See 12 Down
- 26 Area of clement weather
- 27 Operatic prince
- 29 White House workers
- 31 Swagger
- 32 Supports

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2016

Issue Date

Deadline to Receive Information

January 27

January 18

February 10

February 1

March 2

February 22

March 30

March 21

April 20

April 11

May 11

May 2

June 15

June 6

July 20

July 11

August 17

August 8

Sept 7

August 29

Sept 21

Sept 12

October 5

Sept 26

October 19

October 10

November 2

October 24

November 16

November 7

December 7

November 28

See Solution on Page 19

Part 1 of the 2015

Part II to be published in

People



First Place – Mark Wascovich
Waxhaw, NC, Branch 24

“Westlake, Ohio”



Second Place – Jason Chadwick
Mississauga, ON, Branch 785

“Girl Taking Photo of Ocean”



Third Place – Elizabeth Debich
Leechburg, PA, Branch 823

“In My Pool”

Nature or Environment



First Place – Ben Wascovich
Waxhaw, NC, Branch 24

“Cane Creek Park, NC”



Second Place – Ethan Joiner
Aurora, ON, Branch 785

“Aurora, ON”



Third Place – James Adamic
Huntsburg, OH, Branch 1

“Niagara Falls, NY”

Photo Contest Results

the January 27 issue of Jednota

Travel or Destinations



First Place – Caryn Wascovich
Waxhaw, NC, Branch 24

“Vermillon, OH”



Second Place – Anna Catherman
Clearfield, PA, Branch 7

“Assateague Island, MD”



Third Place – Elizabeth Debich
Leechburg, PA, Branch 823

“Smallest Bridge in China”

Overall Winner – Ages 12 - 18



Anna Catherman
Clearfield, PA, Branch 7

“Assateague Island, MD”

FCSU Fraternal Activity



First Place – Alex Bramer
Genoa City, WI, Branch 686

“Branch 686 100th
Anniversary”

Overall Winner – Ages 18+



Maura Vrabel
Boiling Springs, PA, Branch 796

“‘The Bean’ in Chicago, IL”

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 2 - PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

St. Michael the Archangel Society Branch 2 will hold their annual skating party at North Park Skating Rink on Friday, January 29, 2016, from 6:30 to 10 PM. Skating starts at 7:30 PM. A short meeting will take place before the skating begins.

JoAnne Lako, Secretary

BRANCH 24 - CLEVELAND, OHIO

Branch 24, St. Andrew Society, will hold a branch meeting at 1:00 PM, Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the Old Town Hall, 6652 Brecksville Rd. (Rt. 21) in Independence, OH. Parking is available behind the gazebo on the town square.

Refreshments will be served.

The agenda will include discussion of branch activities and a financial report.

Please phone Activities Director Susan Lang at 216/896-0957 evenings after 6:00 PM if you plan to attend. Thanks.

Bob Kopco, President

BRANCH 40 - STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold its annual meeting on Sunday January 31st at 1:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill, 1733 North Bloomington St. Streator, Illinois. All members are urged to attend the meeting. A buffet luncheon will follow. Election of officers will take place. Please make reservations by calling Maria Harcar at (815) 672-6682 before January 29, 2016.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2016, at 12:30 PM after the Slovak mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and 1th Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Maria Jurasi, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 - NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's Society Branch 45, is organizing an indoor soccer tournament which will take place on Saturday of January 23, 2016 at 2:00pm held at St. John Nepomucene Hall in New York City. Interested participants may contact the sport directors for further detail and information: Jozef Korcak: (201) 841-8814 or Jan Zeman: (347) 578-4419. Winners will be awarded with great prizes. We are looking forward to see you.

Jozef Jurasi - Sport Director

BRANCH 89 - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Saturday February 13, 2016
Please join us for our meeting and Election of Officers with a LUNCHEON to follow.

Social time from 12:30PM until 1:00PM
Meeting from 1:00PM to 2:00PM, approximately

Lunch to be served at 2:00PM
Location: Allio's Restaurant
3041 North Mayfair Rd.
Wauwatosa, WI

Lunch for members is complimentary; guest's cost is \$20.00. Reservations must be made by February 9, 2016 call Mike Novak @ 414-445-5382. Reservations are required as Allio's needs the number attending.

Make Checks payable to KNIGHTS OF ST. MARY & JOSEPH BR 89

Mail to: Mike Novak 3237 N. 93rd St. Milwaukee, WI 53222

Some topics of discussion will be:
Election of Officers, Donations, 2016 activities.

Mike Novak, President

BRANCH 254- PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Wenceslaus Society will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, February 7, 2016, at 11:30am at Panera's Restaurant in the Mt. Lebanon Galleria located at the corner of Washington and Gilkeson Roads. The meeting will include the election of officers. 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 21, 2016, at 10:00AM in the Church Hall of Christ Our Savior Parish (Holy Trinity).

We will conduct our Annual Audit and also discuss the activities for 2016. All members are encouraged to attend and take part in this fraternal function.

On behalf of all of our officers, we want to wish all members a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivian Sedlacko, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 312 - BAGGALEY, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 312K will hold its next meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2016, at 1:00PM at the home of President Mark Smolleck, 1121 Monastery Drive, Latrobe, PA, 15650. On the agenda: election of

officers for 2016. For more information, contact Micki Smolleck at 724-539-8326.

We wish all our members a very blessed Christmas, and a Happy and Health New Year.

Micki Smolleck, Secretary/Treasurer

BRANCH 410 - UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Members of Branch 410 are invited to a branch meeting at the Titlow Grille, 92 W. Main Street in Uniontown, PA at 1:30 on January 21, 2016.

Elections of officers for 2016 will be on the agenda. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Geri Buchheit,
Recording & Financial Secretary.**

BRANCH 553 - AKRON, OHIO

"J" Club 553 Monthly spaghetti dinner dates to keep in mind.

Jan 6, Feb 3, March 2, Please bring your friends and support the club.

Special note: With the upcoming Tax Season Please consider a donation to the Club's Heating and Air Conditioning Fund.

Fully Tax Deductible and very much needed. Our first Fish Fry of the season is February 12th.

To seat as many as possible we will not be accepting reservations in advance. Feel free to come early and get your tables, but we cannot hold empty tables when there is a line.

Bus Trip Feb 17th to Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh call Joe at 330- 784-5073

Respectfully Submitted:

Sandie Klucar, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 - MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you have several hours that you care spare each month, Tatra Hall needs YOU.

Sunday, Jan. 24 Breakfast 8:30am-12noon all you can eat and the best breakfast in town.

Sunday, Feb. 7 Polka Dance 3pm-6pm food available for purchase.

Meeting Sunday, Mar 20 2pm.

Burritos every third Thursday of the month, to-go only. Call ahead to order.

Refreshments every Tuesday and Thursday .50 off

Hours are Mon - Fri 1pm-8pm Sat 12noon-8pm Come down and enjoy yourself!

All events take place at Tatra Hall 2536 Sixth St. Muskegon Heights, MI 733-7525.

Susan Hornik, Secretary

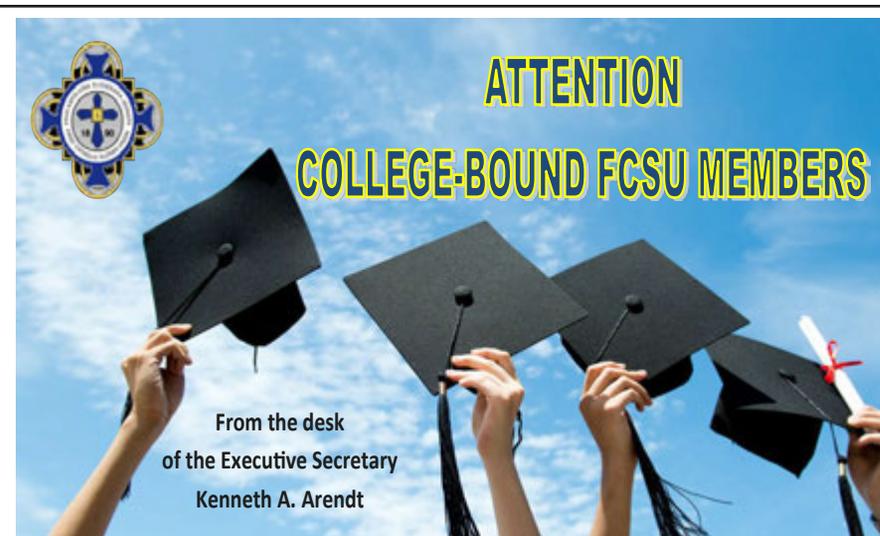
BRANCH 764 - WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764's next meeting will be held on January 26, 2016 at 12:30 at the Covered Bridge Restaurant. The address is: 22 W Broad St, Newton Falls, OH 44444.

This meeting will be for planning activities for 2016. All members are urged to attend.

At the last meeting officers were elected for 2016. They are: President, Bill Hrusovsky, Vice President, Fred Brunetti, Treasurer, George Yuricek, Secretary, Joy Brunetti, and Auditor, Rosemary Heald.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary



THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION IS NOW ACCEPTING 2016 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

- 75 scholarships in the amount of \$1000.00.
- A "Philip Hrobak Scholarship" and "Stephanie Husek Scholarship" in the amount of \$1,250.00 each will be awarded to the highest ranking male and female applicants respectively.
- Three Scholarships of \$1000.00 each will be given from the "John A. Sabol Nursing Scholarship Fund" to applicants who have been accepted into either an approved three or four year hospital nursing program or a fully-accredited college of their choice.

In addition, upon proof of college graduation and completed insurance application, each recipient will be issued a paid up \$3,000 Single Premium Life Insurance Policy.

For rules, requirements and applications go to

www.fcsu.com/scholarships

or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
February 29, 2016**

Tickets are \$130 per person includes cocktail hour, dinner,
entertainment, &
OPEN BAR until 1am!

You can reserve by calling Zuzana at 973-357-1209, visiting
our website



(SlovakAmericanCC.org)
or by sending your check
(made payable to: S-ACC)
directly to:

c/o Slovak-American Cultural
Center
33 Weasel Drift Road
Woodland Park, NJ 07424

Hope you can join us for
a wonderful evening of
entertainment, dancing,
and great food!

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 11 – THE MONSIGNOR TISO DISTRICT

District 11 will arrange/subsidize transportation (by school bus and/or 15-passenger van) for our Branch members and guests from their communities to attend the first performance of the 80th season of the Tamburitzans (formerly known as the Duquesne University Tamburitzans) at 2:00 PM at the Palace Theater in Greensburg on January 31, 2016. We invite and encourage all members of Branches 164, 200, 280, 401, 429, 600, 701, and 831 to join us for this joyful celebration of Eastern European traditional music and dance, to promote this event among your friends and neighbors, and to consider this as a Christmas gift that highlights our Slavic heritage and fraternal good will.

All are welcome to share in local pickup provided as needed in or near Butler, Ford City, Leechburg, East Vandergrift, Vandergrift, Natrona Heights, New Kensington, and Tarentum, but participants are responsible for procuring their own tickets/choice of seating. The Palace Theater Box Office (724-836-8000) is open Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and its website offers 24/7 service at www.thepalacetheatre.org; ticket prices are \$24/orchestra, \$20/loge, and \$16/balcony. District 11 also has a limited number of loge seats reserved; these are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Interested participants should get in touch with your appropriate Branch officer/ contact point and ask him/her to coordinate transportation need with Grace at (724) 664-7184 no later than Wednesday, January 12.

Grace Charney, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 15 – PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Prince Pribina District will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday January 16, 2016. The meeting will be held at 11:00 AM at Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. On the agenda will be: plans for 2016 activities, election of officers for the year 2016, and a financial report. All Branches in our area are encouraged to participate and have their concurrent annual meetings.

The officers of Prince Pribina District wish all the members of FCSU a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

Paul Skuben, President



President Len Zilko and Secretary Michele Mager of United Slovak Societies with the children.

United Slovak Societies of Lorain Hosted Spook-tacular Event

The United Slovak Societies of Lorain, OH, hosted a children's Halloween costume party on Sunday, October 25, 2015 at the American Slovak Club for the children of the local lodges.

The spook-tacular event consisted of an afternoon of bowling in Slovak Lanes followed by pizza and sweets. The highlight of the afternoon was the breaking of the piñata that was abundantly filled with toys and candy. The Halloween party is an annual affair that is sponsored by United Slovak Societies. Additionally, USS sponsors a Vilija dinner and spring polka brunch to benefit veterans, both events are open to the public. To learn more about events at the club visit www.americanslovakclub.com.

- Submitted by Michele Mager, United Slovak Societies Secretary and Branch 228 Member



Receiving the Freedom Award on Saturday, December 12, 2015, member of the Cleveland-OH based folk music group Harmonia: (L – R) Jozef Janis, Ken Javor, Walt Mahovlich, Beata Begeniova-Fedoriouk, Alexander Fedoriouk, and Steven Greenman.

East-European Folk Ensemble Harmonia Receives Award and Commendation

The Cleveland-based East European folk ensemble, Harmonia, was presented with the Freedom Award of the American Nationalities Movement on December 19, 2015. In addition, the group also received a commendation from the General Assembly of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio. The award comes in recognition of the cultural and educational work the ensemble has been engaged in for nearly a quarter of a century. The group diligently works to present and to promote understanding of the cultures of Eastern and Central Europe.

The group was founded in Cleveland in 1991 by accordionist Walt Mahovlich who continues to lead the ensemble. Over the years, Harmonia has striven to perform and present authentic traditional music from Eastern Europe. The group has been performing for Cleveland's Slovak and other ethnic communities from its inception. Harmonia has performed across the length and breadth of the United States: from New York to Honolulu, from North Dakota to New Orleans. Among the many prestigious venues in which they have performed are the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Slovak and Ukrainian Embassies and repeated performances Kennedy Center in Washington DC, and the National Folk Festival. In addition to performing concerts, Harmonia has presented education programs and workshops at universities throughout the United States. Their aim has to been to introduce East European culture to those who might not be familiar with it as well as to preserve and nurture it among Americans of East European backgrounds. In 2013 Harmonia was selected and documented by the United States Library of Congress for their permanent archives.

The ensemble includes three members who were born in Slovakia: vocalist Beata Begeniova from Prešov, violinist Jozef Janiš from Puchov, and bassist Branislav Brinarsky from Sečovce. Clevelanders Ken Javor whose family is from Zemplin county also performs with the group. Other members are cimbalom-player Alexander Fedoriouk, Steven Greenman on violin, and Andrei Pidkivka on folk-flutes. In addition to their work with Harmonia, all of the members have had distinguished musical careers both in the United States and Europe.

For further information visit them at www.harmoniaband.com.

Join Us for Our 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia and its Neighbors

August 28 – September 10, 2016



Slovak Honorary Consul Joe Senko and his Slovak born wife, Albina, have assembled a deluxe tour of Slovakia which includes history-rich cities of Bratislava, Šaštín, Skalica, Trenčín, Bojnice, Rajecké Teplice, Čičmany, High Tatras, Ždiar, Stará Ľubovňa, Košice, Bardejov and Prešov.

As you travel through the various regions of Slovakia, arrangements can be made for you to visit relatives or family towns and villages for an additional cost. These are just some of the highlights of our tour.

What makes this tour unique is that it includes a tour of the Dobšinská Ice Cave, a tour of two castles, a mock wedding, two wine tastings, rafting between Slovakia and Poland, spa treatments, and a welcome reception with the Mayor of Prešov.

At no extra cost, Joe and Albina have included a tour of Vienna and Poland.

While in Poland we will visit the famous shrine of Czestochowa, Zakopane, and Krakow, including tours of Auschwitz and the Wieliczka salt mine.

The tour includes airfare from Pittsburgh or Newark, two delicious meals daily, four-star hotels, air-conditioned bus, and a professional guide and more. At \$3899, this is the lowest price of any deluxe tour to Slovakia. For a detailed daily itinerary, contact Joe Senko at jtsenko@aol.com or 412-956-6000.

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

Jan Chryzostom Cardinal Korec (1924-2015): Part I

Very Rev. Matthew-Peter Butrie



In Nitra, Slovakia on 24 October 2015, in his 92nd year, the most senior Catholic bishop in the world fell asleep in the Lord Jesus Christ: Jan Chryzostom Cardinal Korec, S.J., Bishop emeritus of Nitra. He was a priest for 65 years and bishop for 64 years. Though a bishop for so long, he was the head of a diocese for only 15 years (1990-2005) having been named to the ancient see of Nitra in 1990 by St. John Paul II and then named cardinal in 1991. From 1951 to 1989 Cardinal Korec had to minister in secret and in prison due to the communist regime that held sway in Czechoslovakia from 1948 to 1989.

It is this time of trials and even joys that he recounts in his memoirs, *The Night of the Barbarians*. In Slovak there are three volumes to his work: *Od barbarskej noci I - The Night of the Barbarians I.*, *Od barbarkesej II - Listy z väzenia - The Night of the Barbarians II - Letters from Prison*, and *Od barbarskej noci III - Svoboda - The Night of the Barbarians III - Freedom*.

Only the first volume has been translated into English and it is easily available through the publisher, Bolchazy-Carducci (<http://www.bolchazy.com/The-Night-of-the-Barbarians-Memoirs-of-the-Communist-Persecution-of-the-Slovak-Cardinal-P3323.aspx>) or through online booksellers.

In this first volume of his memoirs, Cardinal Korec recounts the dissolution of all monasteries and religious orders on 13 April 1950, "The Night of the Barbarians" as he called it because on that night the communist regime sought to extinguish the thousand year heritage and blessings of monastic life in Czechoslovakia. He was a member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and together with his classmates and friends was rounded up and eventually sent out into the world, their former way of life in religious community now a shambles.

Cardinal Korec writes about working as a laborer during this time, studying people, getting to know the day to day cares and pressures on his fellow human beings. He writes, "My original intention had been to enroll in the University and begin studying human psychology, but here I discovered I could learn much more by living and working with real people, and getting to know them in a deeper and truer sense." This he considered a blessing as he lived as a shepherd "with the 'odour of the sheep,'" as a shepherd among his secret flock, a fisher of men.

He "realized that there is not one human being in this world with whom it wouldn't be possible to make contact. The fact is that the most universal language for communicating with everyone is friendship, camaraderie, a smile, helpfulness, sacrifice and respect. In Christianity, we speak about love, which is even richer, because it is deeper." Cardinal Korec valued the tenderness God calls us to show one another in the same way that God sends His tender mercy upon us.

Cardinal Korec also writes of his secret ordination as a priest on 1 October 1950 by Bishop Róbert Pobožný of Rožnava who also ordained Korec's fellow Jesuit, Pavol Hnilica two days previously. At this time the communist regime pressed harder on the Church in an attempt to divide it or at least keep the bishops from having anything to do with their flocks, thereby weakening the practice of the faith. In these circumstances Pavol Hnilica was secretly consecrated a bishop by Bishop Pobožný on 2 January 1951. It was hoped that Bishop Hnilica could move about with ease and meet with seminarians of the religious orders to continue their instruction and ordain them as priests. In the summer of 1951 the authorities released a warrant for Bishop Hnilica and so, on 24 August 1951, the 27 year old Jan Chryzostom Korec was consecrated a bishop by the 30 year old Bishop Hnilica.

Cardinal Korec worked in various jobs in Bratislava, teaching seminarians in secret, preparing retreats, and ordaining men to the priesthood until 1960. In that year he was arrested and sentenced to twelve years in prison, eight years of which he served. His "crime" was "undermining the republic" that is, carrying out his duties as a bishop.

As he was being arrested, he spontaneously prayed "Our Father...hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come...thy will be done.' Never before was this biblical prayer so close and meaningful to me as it was at that moment. With a slight thrill, I repeated a prayer of Saint Ignatius to myself, one we used to sing at the time of taking and renewing vows: 'Suscipe, Domine universam libertatem meam...' - 'Accept, my Lord, all of my freedom! You gave me all that I own. All of this I am offering to you. Give me only your love and your mercy, and I will be rich enough!'"

As he sat along in his cell, rather than feeling abandoned by God he felt God's presence more intensely. He writes, "No believer is ever alone. I felt that the Lord was present there in that prison, so I began speaking to him in my prayers. In my entire life I had never prayed so devotedly and sincerely as I prayed during those many years in prison."

In addition to his prayer life wherein he would recite from memory the entire Latin Mass he also gave solace to his fellow prisoners who shared in the same affliction as he. And without regard to their guilt or innocence or the gravity of their crime, he sought to bring a ray of light into the darkness and oppressive conditions of prison life. He recounts one Easter Sunday, the Sunday of the Resurrection, entertaining his cellmate with stories to make him laugh. "When I finished my story, Klaučo (his cellmate at the time) told me that he had forgotten, at least for a short time, that he was in jail, and he thanked me for that... I intentionally wanted to cheer up my cellmate a little so that he would forget at least for a while where he was and what he was undergoing. Like a slice of bread to the hungry and a glass of water to one who thirsts, is a little human joy for the oppressed."

Cardinal Korec knew that in prison he had started journey to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in prisoner's clothes as so many had done in the preceding centuries and now were continuing to do in the twentieth century. And as he writes of one of the times when he was placed in handcuffs, "The handcuffs were meaningless. Saint Paul also stood in handcuffs before King Agrippa, and our Church didn't die; our Church thrived! The Bible tells us about the police laying hands on our Lord: 'they captured Jesus and tied him up,' and they put him together with Barrabas, a thief. Jesus was then crucified on Golgotha, where 'he was counted among criminals.' Yet, even there he gained one criminal for God and the kingdom of heaven through love."

To be continued in the next issue of Jednota ...

Source:

The Night of the Barbarians, p. 84.

ibid. p. 153.

Bishop Róbert Pobožný (1890-1972) Bishop of Rožnava (1949-1972) as Apostolic Administrator because the communist regime would not allow him to be named Diocesan Bishop.

Bishop Pavol Hnilica, S.J. (1921-2006), Bishop of the silenced Church.

Saint Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), founder of the Society of Jesus.

The Night of the Barbarians, p. 166.

ibid. p. 172.

ibid. p. 215.

ibid. p. 231.

ibid. pp. 240-241.

Visit Slovakia "The Old Country"



Join the 19th Annual Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities Tour July 8-July 22, 2016

Remember how your parents or grandparents referred to their birthplace as the "the old country?" Well now is the time for you to sit down and talk with the oldest members of your family to learn about their birthplaces in the old country. There is so much beauty and charm in their ancestral land, and it's all there just waiting for your visit. So get your passport and let's go.

Join Jim and Kay Bench as they host the 19th Annual Youngstown/ Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour from July 8-July 22, 2016. We will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities agreement so get your dancing shoes ready for the time of your life.

In 2016, you will see the capitol of Slovakia, Bratislava, located on the Danube River. Since joining the European Union, you will see how the villages, towns and cities have been restored to their former beauty. Unique to our trip is a reception with the mayor of our sister city, Spišská Nová Ves, complete with entertainment and a formal signing of the city registry for all tour participants. You will enjoy traditional Slovak food, attend several kolibas, enjoy shopping, go whitewater rafting on the Dunajec River (the natural border between Poland and Slovakia), visit villages such as Čičmany where you will see decorated homes, visit historic Tichý Potok (a village of 324 people), stay in a beautiful spa in Sliach and enjoy the thermal waters, indoor and outdoor pools, saunas and other amenities. Visit many of the Unesco sites, castles, and churches - especially the oldest church in Slovakia located in Nitra. Attend and participate in a mock wedding in traditional Slovak kroj. Wine tasting is a favorite to many participants. There are so many things to see and do, too numerous to mention in this short article. Remember, our trip is fourteen days so you really get to see Slovakia, visit family, and have time for shopping.

A Youngstown/Spišská Nová Ves Sister Cities tour includes an English speaking tour guide, large air conditioned bus with restroom, first class hotel accommodations, great food and entertainment.

Kay and Jim are seasoned travelers, who must be doing something right as people are returning for their 5th and 6th time! The tour makes changes yearly. They have a luncheon several weeks before the tour leaves, along with travel agent Paul Hudak, to answer questions. They tell you what type of clothing to take, how to pack, weather conditions, money exchange, where and how to carry your money, medications etc.

For additional information contact Jim or Kay Bench:

- Jim Bench cell phone 724-858-5843 e-mail jmbench@yahoo.com
- Kay Bench cell phone 724-771-7900 e-mail skbench@gmail.com

Travel arrangements are made through Adventure International Travel. Call Paul Hudak at 216-228-7171 or 800-542-2487 or Fax 216-228-7174. E-Mail Paul@advin-travel.com

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Example:	
Newborn Male	Newborn Female
\$5,000 for \$410	\$5,000 for \$345
\$10,000 for \$820	\$10,000 for \$690

Reach out to us at 800.533.6682

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

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

THINK ABOUT IT!



Rest in Peace, Our Departed Members

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

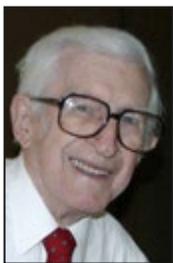


Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name	Branch	Name
002K	Richard J Blazek	153K	Jewel I Glines	312K	Frank E Slifka	670K	John D Moravec
002K	Eleanore A Sinagra	153K	Stephen Paulov	313K	Edward Frank Doczy	706K	Shirley M Uram
010K	Sophia Holeva	153K	Joseph R Tybor	315K	Robert J Koribanic Jr	729K	Cyril Drndak
016P	Margaret E Tomascik	157K	Irene Mcauliffe	320K	Clare A Chatlak	731K	Lawrence T Hockicko Jr
023K	Emma June Devorick	157K	John J Roman	327K	Russell Uhas	785K	Helen M Hrcka
023K	Mary Ann Harman	157K	Stephen T Slahta Jr	373K	Fr Bernard Krajcovic	831K	Stephen J Butko
024K	Terry J Martin	162K	Irene C Gorol	380K	Rev George V Jackovic	842K	Thomas Pollak
024K	Edward P Sanoba	162K	Margaret R Sintich	380K	Michael M Talpas	855K	Mary Davala
035K	Martha Dadamo	166K	Joseph M Balok	419K	William A Olson	855K	Kathleen Ann Feltrin
038K	George F Matta	169P	Joseph John Prebola	510K	Raymond M Arbet	900K	Helen P Harris
040K	Virginia L Thomas	181K	Alberta Lancianese	567K	Shirley A Mlynek	900K	Helen D Kuzma
041K	Margaret M Connell	181K	Bernard L Lazor	581K	Joseph W Gulvas	900K	Carol A Tessmer
075K	George A Dorko	181K	Edward L Milyak	581K	James R Smitka	917K	Hayward E Glidewell
096K	Michael Bobby	189K	Anna M Golden	584K	Pauline Wisniewski		
112K	Gary A Zitkus	240P	Ann Kristoff	595K	Margaret T Petersen		
128K	Ronald E Ulrich	254K	Margaret C Kepich	628K	Michelle A Dzvonic		
136K	Gloria E Donahue	292K	Christine A Nosal	628K	John J Jacobs Jr		
152K	Edward J Tomek	312K	Samuel S Laciak	628K	Margaret Shimrock		

*Processed through the month of December 2015

OBITUARIES

EDWARD A. FRENOCK BRANCH 136 – NUREMBERG, PENNSYLVANIA



Edward A. Frenock passed away unexpectedly of a sudden stroke at Good Samaritan Hospital, Lebanon, PA on Saturday, November 21, 2015. He was 97 and still living independently at his home in Gretna Springs, Manheim, PA where he had resided since 2008.

Born in Leisenring, PA of Jozef and Maria (Farkašovsky) Friňák on February 3, 1918, Mr. Frenock was the youngest of ten children and was raised in Clairton, PA where he was a graduate of Clairton High School. His parents and siblings predeceased him. He was a veteran of WWII, serving in India and China in the Pacific theatre with the Army Air Corps. Mr. Frenock graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. He enjoyed 63 years of marriage with Dorothy A. Turchik from 1949 until her death in 2012. They met walking down the aisle as members of her uncle's wedding party. They were original Levittown, PA homeowners, moving there in 1952 until 1988 when they built their retirement home in the Poconos near Shepton, PA.

Mr. Frenock was a proud member of the fraternal First Catholic Slovak Union (Jednota) for 83 years beginning at the age of 14. He was a founding member of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Levittown, PA as well as the founder and scout master of Cub Scout Pack 120 at the same parish. He was employed at the New Jersey Farm Bureau as an accountant until his retirement in 1984. After retiring, Mr. Frenock and his wife enjoyed traveling all over the country in their RV from 1987 until 2004. He particularly enjoyed hunting, fishing, woodworking, outdoor life, his Slovak genealogy and heritage and Penn State football. Mr. Frenock was a devout Roman Catholic, a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cornwall, PA, participated in the Sacred Heart Society and prayed the rosary daily. Loving father of the late Charles who died in infancy, the devoted father of Andrew E. and Denise (Withey) of Florida; Michael J. of Oregon; Robert A. and Stephanie (Bragg) of Oregon; Lawrence E. and Christian Saint-Girard of Lebanon, PA; Edward J. and Darlene (Schluth) of Yardley, PA; James A. of Oregon and Gerald J. and Karen (Wilson) of Croydon, PA. Mr. Frenock was the proud grandfather of 14, great grandfather of 6 and great-great-grandfather of 2. He will also be greatly missed by many surviving nieces, nephews and cousins.

Family and friends were invited to call on Sunday, November 29, 2015, from 7 until 9 p.m. and on Monday, November 30, 2015, from 8:15 until 9:15 a.m. at the James J. Dougherty Funeral Home, Levittown, PA. His Funeral Mass was celebrated on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 10 a.m. at Saint Michael the Archangel Church, Levittown. Rite of Committal with military honors followed in Washington Crossing National Cemetery, Newtown, PA.

MARGARET (PEGGY) KEPICH BRANCH 254 – PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Margaret C. "Peggy" Kepich (Yourick) of Greenfield, PA, died unexpectedly after a brief illness on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at the age of 84. Beloved wife of the late Paul A. Kepich, Jr.; loving mother of Theresa M. (Keith) Hartman, Kenneth P. (Mimi) Kepich, Lorraine C. (Anthony) Mazzocca, Barbara L. (the late Charles) Falkowski, Paula A. Kepich, and Karen M. (Stanley) Osborne; sister of the late Ann Barone, Mary Lustig, Eleanor Abbott, Theresa Baver, Frank, George, Regis, Edward, Bernard and Robert Yourick. She is also survived by nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Friends were received Saturday, October 3, 2015, 5-8 p.m., and Sunday, October 4, 2015, 2-4, 6-8 p.m. in the Edward P. Kanai Funeral Home, Pittsburgh, PA. Funeral services were observed Monday, October 5, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in the funeral home, followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated at St. Rosalia Church, Pittsburgh, at 9:00 a.m.

FRANK E. SLIFKA BRANCH 312 – LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA

Frank E. Slifka, 87, of Bradenville, was called home to his Lord's side on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, at Bethlen Home. Frank was born March 24, 1928, in Latrobe, a son of the late Michael and Veronica (Plavecki) Slifka. Frank was a member of St. Rose Church. He proudly served in the Army during World War II. He was an exceptional bricklayer who was proud of his membership in the BAC Local 9 of Pittsburgh. Throughout his years, he worked as a bricklayer for local contractors, Danko Construction, Dill Construction and Pevarnik Brothers. He also donated his time and masonry talent to many community projects. Frank enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his four grandchildren. He was a member of the American Slovak Club in Snyderstown and American Legion Post 982 in Unity Township. Frank was preceded in death

by his wife, Teresa (Gera) Slifka; his daughter, Kathleen (Slifka) Kachik; his fiancée, Alba Upholster; brother, Steven Slivko; and sisters, Mary McCreery, Madeline Palanko and Margaret Makosky. He is survived by his two sons, David (Yvonne) Slifka and Richard (Carol) Slifka, both of Derry; his son-in-law, Larry Kachik, of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; a grandson, Justin (Sarah) Slifka, of Derry; granddaughters, Tessa Slifka and fiancée, Colin Kracinovsky, of Pittsburgh, Sarah Slifka, of Blairsville, and Emily Slifka, of Derry Township; his sisters-in-law, Veronica Harshell and Evelyn Gera; in addition to many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends were received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, October 23, 2015, at the John J. Lopatich Funeral Home, Latrobe. A military service was conducted at 8:15 a.m. Saturday, October 24, 2015, in the funeral home by the Latrobe-Derry Veterans Honor Guard. A funeral Mass was celebrated at 9 a.m. Saturday in St. Rose Church with the Rev. Anthony Carbone as celebrant. Interment was private.

The family would especially like to thank all of the staff at Bethlen Home and Bethlen Hospice for their love and care of Frank during his stay and all those who took time to visit him and brighten his day.

ROBERT J. KORIBANIC BRANCH 315 – MUNHALL, PENNSYLVANIA

Robert J. Koribanic, age 49, of West Mifflin, PA, passed peacefully on September 8, 2015. Born December 16, 1965, in Homestead, PA. Son of Robert W. and Vilma (Kampe) Koribanic, he is also survived by his loving wife, Suzanne (Rezes) Koribanic; a stepson, Brandon Schnelzer; and a sister, Stephanie (Glen) Higby. He was a staff accountant at Walnut Grove Ministries, West Mifflin. Family and friends were received Friday, September 11, 2015, from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. in the William S. Skovranko Memorial Home, Duquesne. A Liturgy of Christian Burial was held Saturday, September 12, 2015, at 10 a.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church, Duquesne.

JOZEF VALENCIK BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

JOZEF VALENCIK, age 86, of Brook Park, OH, passed away peacefully on December 14, 2015, while surrounded by family; Jozef is survived in life by Margaret M. (nee Gersna), his beloved wife of



58 years; loving father of Joseph (Tina) Valencik, Janeen (deceased) Pizzagani, Teresa (Jeff) Mains, Lori Valencik, Carolyn (Michael) Gimza, and Margaret Valencik; beloved brother of Stefan (deceased); cherished grandfather of Joseph, Johnny, Jeffrey, Nicholas, Austin, Jaret, Jessica, Shari, and Todd (deceased); Great-grandfather of Olivia and James. He was a member of the Slovak Radio Club; the Slovak Civic Club, SO-KOL, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, of the First Catholic Slovak Union, where he had also served as branch president. The family received friends in celebration of Jozef's life at Humenik Funeral Chapel, Brook Park, on Thursday, December 17, 2015, from 4-8 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 9:30 AM on Friday, December 18, 2015, at Mary Queen of the Apostles Church, Cleveland, OH. Interment followed at Holy Cross Cemetery, Brookpark.

JOHN VINCENT RADACHI BRANCH 754 – ELYRIA, OHIO



John Vincent Radachi, 89, of Elyria, OH, passed away Wednesday October 21, 2015, at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky, OH, following a lengthy illness. He was preceded in death by his wife Irene (nee Cibrik), parents Frank and Anna (nee Krupelak), and brother Joseph of Omaha, NE. He was born June 11, 1926, in Rudnik, Slovakia, and travelled to the United States in 1939. John served in the U.S. Navy during WWII on the USS Kadashan Bay in the Pacific and was a lifetime member of VFW post # 1079 in Elyria. John was employed by York International as a machinist. John was a strong supporter of the Greater Cleveland Slovak community, often seen at Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble activities as his daughter Mary Ann Radachi Dzurec and grandsons John and Kazmir Dzurec were members. He was the Secretary/Treasurer of FCSU Branch 754, Elyria, OH, for many years. He also enjoyed gardening, card playing and volunteering at the former Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Elyria. In addition to daughter Mary Ann (Daniel) of Avon Lake, OH, survivors include daughters Kathleen (Raymond) Radachi-Murphy of Vermilion, Ohio, Susan (Darren) Radachi Metzger of Williamsport, OH, sons Timothy (Christine) of Wellington, OH, and Robert (Deborah) of Toledo, OH; 9 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and brother Frank of Elyria.

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THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING THURSDAY AND FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 10 – 11, 2015 WASHINGTON, DC

FIRST SESSION:

Thursday, September 10, 2015

OPEN MEETING:

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked the National Chaplain, Father Thomas Nasta, to offer the opening prayer, after which he celebrated Mass for the Board.

The President stated the Board of Directors Meeting was being held in the Washington, DC area in order for the Board to be present for the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC taking place on September 12, 2015. The Slovak Catholic Federation is also having a pilgrimage to the celebration.

ANTHEMS:

Sabina Sabados, Regional Director led the singing of the national anthems of the United States, Canada, and Slovakia and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING THE CALL:

The Executive Secretary read the Call to the Quarterly Meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Kenneth Arendt, Executive Secretary, read the roll call:

Rev. Thomas Nasta	National Chaplain
Andrew Rajec	President
Andrew Harcar, Sr.	Vice President
Kenneth Arendt	Executive Secretary
George Matta	Treasurer
Karen Hunka	Chairman of Auditors
Rudolf Ondrejco	Fraternal Activities Director
Sabina Sabados	Regional Director, Region 1
Damian Nasta	Regional Director, Region 2
Martha Zavada-Wojcik	Regional Director, Region 3
James Marmol	Regional Director, Region 4
Michael Lako	Regional Director, Region 5
Henry Hassay	Regional Director, Region 6
Rudolph Bernath	Regional Director, Region 7
Milos Mitro	Regional Director, Region 8
Gary Matta	General Counsel

All present and accounted.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 2015:

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr., and seconded by James Marmol to accept the minutes of the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of June 20, 2015, as corrected. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA:

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Father Thomas Nasta to accept the agenda and to allow the President to change the order of the agenda, if necessary. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President stated he attended Region 7's celebration in Chicago honoring our 125th anniversary on August 23, 2015. He wanted to thank John Jurcenko for making the event successful. The President asked Executive Secretary Arendt to report on Region 8's event he attended on August 23rd in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. The Executive Secretary stated it was a great event enjoyed by many. He gave special thanks to Michael Kapitan and Regional Director Milos Mitro for all their hard work for organizing the event.

The President also reported on the joint celebration of the 125th anniversary of the First Catholic Slovak Union and the 100th anniversary of the death of our founder, Rev. Stephen Furdek, held on August 29th. He stated it was well attended with over 300 attendees and very successful. He stated that he, the Executive Secretary, and the home office staff spent many hours in organizing this event.

The President announced there will also be a celebration for the 125th anniversary held in Scranton, Pennsylvania on September 25, 2015. This event is being organized by Regional Director Martha Zavada-Wojcik.

The final 125th anniversary celebration for the year will be held in the New York/New Jersey area on November 7, 2015. Regional Director Sabina Sabados stated they are expecting a large crowd and they are in the final planning stage for the event.

The President stated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC will be held on September 12, 2015 in conjunction with the Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage. The President announced there will be a reception immediately following the Mass at the Slovak Embassy. The President thanked Father Thomas Nasta, Regional Director Sabina Sabados, and the

home office staff for their efforts in organizing this event, which took many hours to prepare.

The President reminded the Board that on Sunday, September 13, 2015, the Jednota Memorial Dedication would take place at 1:00 pm at the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania with a picnic luncheon following the Mass and ceremony.

The President led an extensive review of our current annuity rates and, with the recommendation of the Board of Directors, it was decided to have the rates remain the same.

AQS ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, Inc., presented his report to the Board of Directors by teleconference. A copy of his report was distributed to each Board Member. During and after his presentation, Mr. White answered the Board of Directors' questions.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE SECOND QUARTER 2015:

Secretary Arendt presented a detailed summary of the Financial Report for the second quarter of 2015. After his report, he answered the Board's questions. The Executive Secretary stated that the 2015 second quarter Financial Report will be published in the Jednota newspaper. Thus far, 2015 has shown records in assets and surplus. Secretary Arendt stated the preliminary third quarter looks very good.

Investment Updates

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

A Regional Director asked a question concerning the FHLB report wondering why the Fannie Mae and Jennie Mae bonds held by FHLB as collateral were reporting \$0. interest. Larry White, representing AQS Asset Management, informed the Board that the bonds reporting \$0. interest were inverse floaters. These bonds actually earn about 9% interest currently. However, the report generated by FHLB shows this particular bond in a different way because of their reporting system.

Portfolio Custodian

The Executive Secretary updated the Board of Directors on the report from our portfolio custodian, Key Bank. Everything was found to be in order and the Executive Secretary answered the Board's questions.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer George Matta II, presented a written report and answered the Board's questions.

PRESENTATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee

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

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the directives adopted by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members work very closely with AQS Asset Management Company and all investments are approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITY DIRECTORS' REPORT:

Rudolf Ondrejco, Fraternal Activity Director, updated the Board on the Bowling Tournament which was held May 1-3, 2015. The site for the 2016 Golf Tournament has not yet been selected. There was some discussion on the way the golfers are paired. It was suggested to have golfers with a low handicap play in foursomes separately from golfers with a high handicap in order to improve pace of play.

The President also stated he is interested in holding a joint event with the other Slovak fraternal in the very near future.

The President announced he would be interested in sponsoring a soccer camp for our members and non- members. He thought it might be easier to co-sponsor with an existing soccer camp.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned and lunch was served. Father Thomas Nasta closed the session with prayer.

SECOND SESSION:

The President opened the meeting at 1:15 pm and asked Father Thomas Nasta to offer the opening prayer.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING:

The Vice President reviewed the sales production by Districts and also by General Agents and Independent Agents and answered all the Board's questions.

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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The Vice President updated the Board on the recruiting process for Independent Agents to sell our products. He informed the Board we have over 220 Independent and General Agents.

The Executive Secretary stated we are recruiting new agents in our newly licensed states, such as Nebraska, Texas, Nevada and the Carolinas, and the response has been very favorable.

The Vice President further reported on the remaining scheduled seminars for 2015 and encouraged the Regional Directors to contact him regarding scheduling seminars within their regions in 2016.

The Executive Secretary stated we are continuing to advertise on Facebook with new material being added daily, as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including new ad material in our home office mailings. The Vice President stated if any branch or district is planning a fraternal activity to please contact the home office or the Editor and we will advertise the event through Facebook, email, and our mailings.

The Executive Secretary stated we are installing a program where our members will be able to view their annuity statements online.

The Vice President stated the campaign to reintroduce the special offer of waiving the first year premium on the JEP Policy is very successful and will continue through December 31, 2015. He further stated the advertising campaign will continue in the newspaper, through email, and on our Facebook.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on placing member telephone numbers on branch reports. Due to the privacy issue, the President will look into the legal aspect of including more or less information on the branch reports.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT:

Chairman of Auditors Karen Hunka presented the 2015 Second Quarter Auditors' Report and answered the Board's questions. The Chairman stated that the internal auditors conducted a thorough audit and found everything in order. By request of the President, the Chairman was asked to audit the books for Branch 425's Bar and Restaurant in Barberton, Ohio. The Chairman stated the books were not in proper order. The President said that he and the Executive Secretary plan to go to Barberton to talk to the manager. The Chairman of Auditors also stated she has not heard from Branch 23 regarding arrangements to transfer the books to the new officers.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President announced that Edward Cowman, actuary for FCSU, has left Bruce and Bruce Actuarial Company on September 1, 2015, and has joined the Miller & Newberg, Inc. firm in Kansas. The President stated we plan to continue our relationship with Mr. Cowman, as he has been our actuary for many years. We will cease our relationship with Bruce and Bruce Company, except as it relates to the FCSU Employees Pension Plan. We will continue to use the services of Mr. Edward DePersis as necessary.

The President stated he and Executive Secretary Arendt have a meeting on Monday, September 14th with Landmark Realty concerning the Printery building and property in Middletown. The President announced plans to have the Middletown property appraised.

The President announced an inquiry has been made to lease the Printery building for it to be used as a technical school for the area schools that do not offer such a program for their students. The school would offer plumbing, carpentry, and other trades for the interested student.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to adjourn for the day. Motion was carried. Father Nasta, National Chaplain, closed the meeting with a prayer.

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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OBITUARIES

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The Funeral Mass was held October 24, 2015 at St. Agnes Church in Elyria, celebrated by Reverend Father Albert Veigas, Pastor. Interment followed with full military honors by VFW post # 1079 in St. Mary Cemetery, Elyria. Arrangements were by Laubenthal-Mercado Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Elyria.

- Submitted by Mary Ann Radachi Dzurec

REVEREND MONSIGNOR MARTIN SUSKO BRANCH 764- WARREN, OHIO



Reverend Monsignor Martin Susko, 81, passed away peacefully late Friday morning, Nov. 6, 2015, at his residence with the Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Monsignor Susko was the son of the late John and Margaret Hovanic Susko, and was a native of Warren. He attended public elementary school and then St. Mary High School (predecessor to John F. Kennedy High School). He studied for the priesthood at St. Gregory, Mount St. Mary of West, and Xavier University, all in Cincinnati, and earned Masters degrees in divinity and education.

He was ordained May 27, 1961, by Bishop Emmet Walsh at the Cathedral of St. Columba in Youngstown.

Following ordination, Monsignor Susko served as assistant pastor at St. Columba (1961-1963) and Holy Name Parish, Youngstown (1963-1964). He began teaching at Ursuline High School and then became assistant principal in 1967 while earning a licentiate in canon law from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He became vice officialis of the diocesan Marriage Tribunal in 1971 and assumed the top post of officialis in 1975, retaining the role he had held since 1972 as rector of St. Columba Cathedral. In 1985 he was appointed pastor of St. Mary, Mineral Ridge in addition to his tribunal position. In 1993 he was appointed pastor of St. Rose, Girard. He was named a prelate of honor in March 1997 with the title of Monsignor. Monsignor Susko retired Sept. 1, 2004.

He also served as executive secretary of the diocesan Liturgical Commission and the diocesan Planning Commission; assistant director of the diocesan Family Life Office and was active on various community boards and agencies. He had been active in professional canon law associations. He chaired the Youngstown Fair Employment Practices Commission and is a past president of the Gilead House board.

Monsignor served as Dean of Mahoning County and on Priests' Council, the Priests Retirement Board, and the Board of Mediation and Arbitration for the Diocese of Youngstown Office of Conciliation. He was also a 3rd-degree member of the Knights of Columbus in Girard.

He is survived by two sisters, Martha Petracco of Warren and Thelma (Bernard) Bast of Gaylord, Mich.; a brother, Bernard (Bonnie) Susko of Akron; six nieces and nephews, Michael Petracco, Mark (Beth) Petracco, Gregory (Darcy) Bast, Molly Bast, Jenna Susko, and Jacob Susko; three great-nieces and great-nephews, Giovannina Petracco, and Mara and Gavin Bast; and many cousins and extended family members.

A brother Theodore Susko, a brother-in-law, Michael Petracco, and a nephew, Trevor Bast, are deceased.

Visitation took place from 4 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, November 11, 2015, and from 10 to 11 a.m., Thursday, November 12, 2015, at St. Rose

Church in Girard, OH. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m., Thursday, at St. Rose Church, with Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J., Bishop of Youngstown, officiating.

Interment followed at All Souls Cemetery in Cortland.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Kinnick Funeral Home, McClurkin Memorial Chapel, in Girard.

His calling, vocation in caring, spoke for his earthly life and he will be greatly missed by many. God Bless Monsignor Martin Susko.

THOMAS POLLAK BRANCH 842 - WINNIPEG, CANADA



It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved Husband, Father, Dido and Uncle, Thomas Pollak, on October 21,

2015, surrounded by the love of his family both near and far after a brief illness at Seven Oaks General Hospital.

Left to cherish Thomas' memory are his wife Mary, and his children Diane, Sharon (Al), Ernest (Tammy), Pauline (Fred), Paul (Evelyn), and Donna (Al). He will also be fondly remembered as Dido to his 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren as well as numerous family members in the Slovak Republic. He was predeceased by his parents Jan and Karolina Pollak, a brother, two sisters, and other close family members.

Thomas was born on October 3, 1919 in Dubovce, the Slovak Republic. He served in the Slovak Army for four years fighting against communism. He emigrated in 1949 eventually settling in Winnipeg where he met his future wife and started their family. Thomas was very active in the Slovak community helping to build the first Slovak church in Winnipeg, the Church of Visitation, and volunteered his time singing in the choir and helping with church activities. He was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union for over 60 years.

Dad was a very hard-working man and had a very strong work ethic. He was also very independent and if something needed to be done around the house he was quick to get it done.

We would like to thank the Doctors and Nurses at Seven Oaks General Hospital for their kind and compassionate care for Thomas.

A Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 10:00 am at St. John Cantius Church, Winnipeg, with reception following.

- Submitted by Pauline Bauer

MARY DAVALA BRANCH 855 - PARMA, OHIO



Mary Davala (nee Pachuta), passed away at the age of 90, on October 25, 2015. Beloved wife of Anthony 'Tony' (deceased); loving

mother of Jim (Marie), Mike (Denise), Mary Ellen Adams (Bill) and Ken (Cory); dear grandmother of Brianne, Angela, Kyle, Miranda, Anthony, Cassandra and Bill Adams, Jr.; great-grandmother; loving sister of John Pachuta, Helen Schultz, Nellie Bodner, Margaret Flannick and the following deceased: Ann Kalafa and Michael Pachuta; aunt and great-aunt. The family received friends on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at The Mallchok Funeral Home, Parma, OH, and prayer services were held there at 11:30 a.m. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Thomas More Catholic Church at 12 noon.

Interment followed at St. Michael's Cemetery, Pleasant City, OH.

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

OPEN:

President Andrew Rajec opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and asked Vice President Andrew Harcar to lead the prayer.

The President stated the Executive Committee Meeting was being held in conjunction with the 2015 Membership Meet on board the Carnival Liberty Cruise Ship.

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer
 Karen Hunka, Chairman of Auditors (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the October 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar, Sr., and seconded by George Matta II to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

AQS MANAGEMENT, INC.:

The President led a discussion on the AQS Management Report which included an extensive Investment Portfolio Transaction Report sent to the Committee by Larry White, representing AQS Management, Inc. Each member of the Executive Committee received a copy of the presentation in advance for his or her review. A lengthy discussion followed the report.

ANNUITY RATES:

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

TREASURER REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a written report on the investment update.

The President led a discussion on the proposal we received from Visia Marketing Firm. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta II to accept the proposal and not to exceed \$40,000 in expenses for 2015. Motion carried. The President stated Visia Marketing is in the process of developing a marketing plan for FCSU. As more information becomes available, the Executive Committee will be informed.

The Executive Secretary stated the budget will be increased to allow for the Visia Marketing Firm expense.

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, MAI Fund, and Clutterbuck Fund. Following the report, the Executive Secretary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

The President led a discussion on the MPAM investment and stated we may consider liquidating our funds in the near future because the investment is not meeting our expectations.

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 October 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 October:

Disbursements for the month of October 2015:	
Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 125,298.93
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 50,499.84
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.

SALES AND MARKETING:

The Vice President gave a production report on our agents. He stated we are still recruiting new agents and at present have over 200 agents.

The Vice President said he has notified the Regional Directors to help in scheduling sales seminars for 2016 in their regions. The Vice President stated we would not finalize the schedule until the new marketing firm has completed its new approach on our seminar material.

The Vice President announced the program to reintroduce the special offer of waiving the first year premium on the JEP Policy is selling well and we will offer the special through December 31, 2015.

The Executive Secretary stated we are continuing to advertise on Facebook with new material being added daily, as well as on the FCSU website and email, while including new ad material in our home office mailings. The Vice President stated any branch or district planning a fraternal activity is to please contact the home office or the Editor and we will advertise the event through Facebook, email, and our mailings.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President announced the company preparing the panels for the Jednota Middletown Memorial will be installing additional panels as the weather allows. Once they are in place, we will begin to photograph the panels and mail a copy to the members who purchased the bricks.

The President stated Region 3 held their 125th anniversary celebration in Scranton, Pennsylvania and had over 100 in attendance. It was a very nice evening and many thanks to Regional Director Martha Zavada-Wojcik and Elizabeth Slovenkai for all their hard work and dedication. The 125th anniversary celebration for Region 1 took place in Linden, New Jersey and there were over 250 in attendance. A big thank you to Regional Director Sabina Sabados and all the workers for all the planning and support to hosting a successful celebration.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

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

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

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

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THIRD SESSION:

Friday, September 11, 2015

The President opened the meeting at 9:00 am and asked Father Thomas Nasta to offer the opening prayer.

ROLL CALL:

The Executive Secretary took a visual roll call and said all members were present and accounted for.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT:

Jednota, Inc.

The President of Jednota, Inc., Andrew Harcar, Sr., gave his report to the Board of Directors and answered the Board's questions.

Jednota Properties, Inc.

The President of Jednota Properties, Inc., James Marmol, presented his report to the Board of Directors and answered all the Board's questions.

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

PAYMENTS OF BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH THE QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING:

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

ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REPORTS:

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept all reports given. Motion carried.

DONATIONS:

Donation requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Sabina Sabados and seconded by Henry Hassay to adjourn. Motion was carried.

Father Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Správy zo Slovenska

M. MAĎARIČ: Nespochybniteľným kandidátom na šéfa diplomacie je Miroslav Lajčák

Podpredseda Smeru-SD a minister kultúry Marek Maďarič je prekvapený informáciou o ambíciách bývalého predsedu parlamentu Pavla Pašku na funkciu ministra zahraničných vecí. Paška v rozhovore priznal, že nebude na kandidačnej listine strany pre budúcoročné parlamentné voľby. Zároveň však avizoval, že ak by dostal ponuku na post ministra zahraničných vecí, tak by sa nad ňou určite zamyslel. „Funkcia šéfa parlamentu v sebe niesla aj významný zahraničnopolitický rozmer,“ konštatoval.

Na Slovensku lekárom chýbajú vakcíny

Zdravie dočiat na Slovensku je v ohrození, lebo lekárom chýbajú vakcíny. Už pol roka totiž chýbajú vakcíny, ktoré sú potrebné na povinné základné očkovanie detí do jedného roka. Najhoršia situácia je podľa hlavného odborníka pre všeobecnú starostlivosť o deti a dorast Martina Oleja na západe, juhu a východe Slovenska. Dočiatka pre nedostatok očkovacích látok môžu vážne ochorieť, niekedy sú dokonca ohrození na živote. „Tento rok je problém s vakcínami už od jarných mesiacov,“ hovorí Olej. V septembri bol nedostatok vakcín v okolí Prešova, v júli v Brezne. Málo vakcín je tento rok všade v Európe. Slovenskú situáciu zhoršuje ich reexport.

Košické oceľiarne navrhujú nechať ľudí cez sviatky doma

Košický U.S. Steel, ktorý zamestnáva zhruba 10.400 ľudí a nepriamo cez svoje dcérske spoločnosti dáva prácu ďalším 2000 zamestnancom, obmedzuje výrobu. Časť zamestnancom hrozí, že počas vianočných sviatkov zostanú doma a oceľiarne im zaplatia iba 60 percent z ich mzdy. „Je to zatiaľ len návrh, ktorý musí byť prerokovaný vnútri odborov. Už dnes je však jasné, že počas sviatkov pôjde výroba na 50 percent. Odbyt zvykne byť v tomto období nižší, firmy majú dovolenky. Nemáme zatiaľ informácie, ktorých prevádzok a koľkých zamestnancov sa obmedzená výroba dotkne. Viem, že výrobu obmedzia napríklad v koksovni,“ povedal pre denník šéf Konfederácie odborových zväzov Slovenskej republiky (KOZ SR) Jozef Kollár. Podľa informácií by malo ísť len o dočasné riešenie, začiatkom budúceho roka sa dlhšia odstávka výroby v košickej oceľiarni neplánuje.

Z osád sa chystajú na univerzity

Súkromné gymnázium v Kežmarku má čisto rómsku maturitnú triedu. Na Slovensku je to unikát, nič podobné tu podľa pedagógov ešte nebolo. Snahu gymnazistov si vážia o to viac, že mladí ľudia pochádzajú z chudobných pomerov. O historickom okamihu hovorí aj zástupkyňa riaditeľa školy Helena Akimova. „Som Rómka a maturovala som v roku 1973. Na celom Slovensku vtedy nematurovalo ani desať Rómov. Toto je niečo unikátne.“ Väčšina z nich chce študovať ekonómiu, niektorí chcú vyskúšať herectvo či teológiu.

Slováci jedia alarmujúco málo mäsa

Spotreba mäsa, nutričného pre výživu organizmu, dramaticky klesla. Môžu za to potravinové škandály, ale aj životné pomery niektorých ľudí. Naposledy zarezovala správa Svetovej zdravotníckej organizácie (WHO) o tom, že konzumácia červených druhov mäsa môže byť príčinou vzniku onkologických ochorení. Bez ohľadu na alarmujúce informácie WHO však obyvateľstvo Slovenska trvale znižuje spotrebu mäsa. V roku 2014 po prvý raz klesla pod 50 kilogramov, keď sa v prepočte na jedného obyvateľa skonzumovalo priemerne len 47 kilogramov mäsa. Je o celých desať kilogramov menej, ako je ročná spotreba odporúčaná odborníkmi na výživu. Signalizuje to trvalé zmeny vo výžive ľudí, veď v porovnaní s rokom 1990 klesla spotreba mäsa o viac ako 30 kilogramov. Niektoré rodiny majú mäso len raz do týždňa, ale odborníčka na výživu Alžbeta Béderová odporúča konzumovať mäso tri razy, pričom raz do týždňa by na stole nemalo chýbať mäso z ryby.

Betlehem tvoril 2 roky

Vianoce v predstihu mali na dvore rodinného domu Ukovcov v Trenčianskych Bohuslaviciach pri Novom Meste nad Váhom. Bývalý elektromechanik Ján Uko (68) nedávno dokončil pohyblivý betlehem, ktorý obdivuje celé okolie. Betlehem je uzavretý v drevenej almare v historickom štýle. Presklené dverka sa otvárajú diaľkovým ovládaním, ktorým sa spúšťa aj pohyb postaviek starého biblického príbehu. Centrom pôvabnej otáčavej scény je Svätá rodina s Ježiškom v jasličkách. V kruhu okolo sa pohybujú Traja kráľi. Zručný majster Ján Uko povedal, že betlehem mu zbral dva roky práce.

Slovákov prosia o prácu aj Japonci

Majú smolu, lebo byrokratický proces prijímania odborníkov z tretej krajiny je príliš zdĺhavý. Od nájdania vhodného uchádzača až po jeho reálne prijatie môže prejsť niekoľko mesiacov a stáť stovky eur. „Proces vôbec nie je prispôsobený dynamicky sa meniacemu IT odvetviu. Pri veľkej migrácii špecialistov, ťaháme za kratší koniec“, vysvetľuje Petra Sedláčiková, MR manažérka zo spoločnosti Pantheon Technologies, ktorej sa hlásia záujemcovia napríklad z Ukrajiny či Japonska.

STU oficiálne otvorila svoj univerzitný vedecký park v Bratislave

Študenti Slovenskej technickej univerzity (STU) budú môcť využívať dve nové auly. Tie nedávno za prítomnosti predsedu parlamentu Petra Pellegriniho, ministra školstva Juraja Draxlera a predstaviteľov univerzity slávnostne otvorili v priestoroch Fakulty informatiky a informačných technológií v Mlynskej doline. Študenti, ale aj pedagógovia môžu v rámci parku využívať novú výpočtovú techniku, cloudové riešenia, dátové centrum či laboratória vybavené novou technikou pre výskumné a vedecké bádanie.

Správy čerpané z TASR a slovenských časopisov

Legendu hokeja Petra Bondru uvedú do Siene slávy IIHF

Legendu slovenského hokeja Petra Bondru na budúci rok uvedú do Siene slávy Medzinárodnej hokejovej federácie (IIHF). Spolu s bývalým elitným útočníkom sa rovnakej počty dostane aj ruskej dvojici Sergej Fiodorov, Valerij Kamenskij. Slávnostná ceremónia sa uskutoční 22. mája v záverečný deň majstrovstiev sveta 2016 v Rusku. Ako informoval oficiálny web organizácie, okrem trojice bývalých hráčov uvedú do Siene slávy IIHF aj kanadského trénera Pata Quinna a jeho amerického kolegu Bena Smitha.

Peter Bondra sa narodil v roku 1968 v Lucku na Ukrajine, je jeden z najúspešnejších slovenských hokejistov v NHL, majster sveta z roku 2002. Bondra je majstrom sveta z Göteborgu 2002, vo svojej zbierke má aj bronz z Helsínk 2003. V národnom tíme SR odohral celkovo 47 zápasov s bilanciou 35 gólov. Slovensku pomohol na olympijskej kvalifikácii v Sheffielde v lete 1993 postúpiť na ZOH 1994 v Lillehammeri. Vo finálovom zápase MS 2002 strelil víťazný gól proti Rusku, vybrali ho do All-Star tímu šampionátu a so siedmimi presnými zásahmi bol najlepším strelcom podujatia. V rovnakom roku ho vyhlásili za najlepšieho športovca Slovenska, najlepším hokejistom krajiny bol trikrát (1998, 2002, 2003).

Do zámorskej NHL sa dostal po vstupnom drafte v roku 1990 zo 156. miesta. V profilige celkovo odohral 1081 zápasov v základnej časti, v ktorých zaznamenal 503 gólov a 389 asistencií. Na klubovej úrovni pôsobil v Poprade, VSŽ Košice, Washington Capitals, Detroit Vipers, Ottawa Senators, Atlante Thrashers a kariéru zakončil v Chicagu Blackhawks.

Od roku 2007 do roku 2011 pôsobil vo funkcii generálneho manažéra národného tímu SR. Aktuálne figuruje v realizačnom tíme výberu Európy pre Svetový pohár 2016 v pozícii skauta.



Photo: TASR

Hokejista Peter Bondra

TASR

Metropolita Bratislavy zveril hlavné mesto Slovenska Panne Márii

Každoročný úkon zverenia Hlavného mesta SR Bratislavy Panne Márii sa konal aj tento rok na slávnosť jej Neпоškvrneného počatia. Tento rok bola slávnosť obohatená o duchovné spojenie so Svätým Otcem Františkom, ktorý práve na 8. decembra stanovil začiatok mimoriadneho Svätého roku milosrdenstva a otvoril Bránu milosrdenstva na Bazilike sv. Petra v Ríme.

Keďže Brána milosrdenstva sa najbližšiu Tretiu adventnú nedeľu otvorí aj na Katedrále sv. Martina v Bratislave, pre zvýraznenie tohto súvisu sa aj pontifikálna slávnosť a úkon zasvätenia v tomto roku preniesli z farského Kostola sv. Jána z Mathy (Trojička) do Katedrály sv. Martina v Bratislave. Svätej omši predsedal bratislavský arcibiskup metropolita Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský za koncelebrácie viacerých kňazov. Liturgickým spevom dodali sláveniu lesk speváci Katedrálneho zboru sv. Martina pod vedením dirigenta Jána Miškoviča.

Arcibiskup Zvolenský v homílii zhrnul katechizmus, keď prešiel dejinami spásy od stvorenia, cez prvotný hriech, jeho dedičné následky až po Boží plán záchrany ľudstva cez poslanie a obeť Syna, Ježiša Krista. V tomto prehľade majú svoje miesto obidva významné duchovné momenty dňa: Otcovo milosrdenstvo voči svetu prejavene v dare Spasiteľa i Máriino Neпоškvrnené počatie, ktoré bolo prípravou na príchod Záchrancu.

V závere slávenia, po modlitbe po svätom prijímaní predniesol arcibiskup pred obrazom Božej Matky, ktorý bol do Katedrály prenesený z kostola trinitárov, modlitbu zverenia mesta Panne Márii.

TK KBS

Farníci z Pruského pečú vianočné oblátky



Farníci z Pruského pečú vianočné oblátky pre celú farnosť, čo je deväť dedín. Do každej domácnosti vo farnosti sa dostane balíček chutných vianočných oblátok. V Pruskom ich napečú až tridsaťtisíc kusov. V Pruskom, 14. decembra 2015.

FOTO TASR - Radovan Stoklasa

Rada pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí opätovne naštartovala svoju činnosť

Od roku 2010 nastalo v činnosti Rady pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí pri MS (ďalej len RSZZ pri MS) hluché obdobie. Rada prestala zasadať, stratila svoju činnosť... Podľa Stanov Matice slovenskej je však RSZZ pri MS veľmi dôležitý orgán, ktorý funguje ako poradný orgán MS pre styk a spoluprácu so slovenským zahraničím. RSZZ pri MS sa spravidla stretávala raz za rok. Po dlhšej časovej odmlke i absencii jej výstupov bolo potrebné nielen opätovne naštartovať jej nenahraditeľnú činnosť, ale Radu i legislatívne „podkúť“ – opätovne ju kreoovať, prijať jej štatút a priamou voľbou zvoliť jej predsedu, podpredsedov, členov i prípadných náhradníkov.

Krajanské múzeum MS začalo prvotné snahy k jej oživotvorení vyvíjať už v polovici júla tohto roku. Dňa 11.11.2015 sa v Martine, na pôde Výborovne Matice slovenskej, strelo pätnásť delegátov zo zahraničia, spoločne s činovníkmi Matice slovenskej. Kvôli vzdialenosti i zdravotným problémom svoj súhlas s členstvom v Rade vyjadrili ďalšie štyri krajiny (Ukrajina, Česko, Čierna Hora a Kanada), ktoré na rokovanie sice svojho delegáta neposlali, ale príspevky do KM zaslali elektronicky a priamou voľbou ostaných zúčastnených s volebným právom, boli zvolení za členov RSZZ.

Zasadanie RSZZ pri MS otvoril v mene predsedu Matice slovenskej, Mariána Tkáča, predseda Dozorného výboru MS, Štefan Martinkovič, ktorý hostí srdečne privítal a poďakoval im za spoluprácu s MS. Na jeho slová nadviazal tajomník MS, Marek Hanuska, ktorý pri tejto príležitosti dal delegátom vyhotoviť pamätné listy. Tie delegátom spoločne s knižnými darmi odovzdal. Predseda MS, Marián Tkáč, sa hosťom prihovril v poobedných hodinách, po príchode zo služobnej cesty v Čadci.

Schvaľovanie programu, rokovacieho poriadku, návrhu štatútu RSZZ pri MS, volebného poriadku, kandidačných listín a samotné riadenie volieb viedol riaditeľ Členského ústredia MS, Martin Fejko. RSZZ si na nasledovné, štvorročné obdobie zvolilo priamou voľbou v tajnom hlasovaní za svoju predsedníčku Katarínu Melegovú-Melichovú (predsedníčka Matice slovenskej v Srbsku). Podpredsednícke miesta budú zastávať: Alžbeta Hollerová-Račková (predsedníčka Celostátnej slovenskej samosprávy v Maďarsku) a Adrian Miroslav Merka (predseda Demokratického zväzu Slovákov a Čechov v Rumunsku). Členmi RSZZ pri MS sa stali: za Chorvátsko – Mirko Vavra (predseda Zväzu Slovákov v Chorvátsku) a ako náhradníčky boli zvolené: Sandra Kralj Vukšić, šéfredaktorka časopisu Premeň a riaditeľka SKC Našice, Miroslava Gržinič, podpredsedníčka Zväzu Slovákov v Chorvátsku pre kultúru a Branka Baksa, tajomníčka Zväzu Slovákov v Chorvátsku. Za Česko v Rade bude zasadať Peter Lipták (prvý podpredseda Obce Slovákov v Českej republike), za Švédsko: Dušan Daučík (čestný predseda Švédsko-slovenského spolku), za Kanadu: Marry Ann Doucette (predsedníčka Kanadskej Slovenskej ligy); za Ukrajinu: Jozef Hajniš (predseda Matice slovenskej na Ukrajine); za Francúzsko: Edita Manáková (predsedníčka Spolku francúzsko-slovenského priateľstva); za Poľsko: Ludomír Molitoris (generálny tajomník Spolku Slovákov v Poľsku) a ako jeho náhradníčka bude v Rade participovať Milica Majeriková-Molitoris (redaktorka krajanského periodika Život). Za Čiernu Horu bude mať v Rade mandát Michal Spevák (predseda Čiernohorsko-slovenského priateľstva).

Svoje zastúpenie v Rade bude mať aj zástupca Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Pavol Meleg a predseda Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí, Vladimír Skalský. Za jeho náhradníka bol zvolený Pavel Obrcian. Členmi Rady ex offio budú tiež zástupcovia Matice slovenskej, II. podpredseda MS, Marián Gešper a riaditeľka KM MS, Zuzana Pavelcová.

Zasadania sa priamo zúčastnilo pätnásť zahraničných delegátov z ôsmich štátov Európy (Chorvátsko, Švédsko, Maďarsko, Francúzsko, Srbsko, Rumunsko, Česko, Poľsko). Mandát v RSZZ pri MS bude mať aj Kanada, Čierna Hora a Ukrajina (ktoré s MS spolupracovali diaľkovo). Rada vo svojom štatúte definovala frekvenciu svojho stretávania sa spravidla raz ročne. A tak o rok, opäť na jeseň, bude môcť novozvolená Rada bilancovať, hodnotiť i vytyčovať si nové ciele.

Zuzana Pavelcová

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Výročná schôdza Princa Pribinu v Kalifornii

Okres Princ Pribina bude mať výročnú schôdzu v **sobotu 16. januára 2016**. Výročná schôdza začne o **11:00 hod.** v Slovak American Center, 1690 Placentia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831. Na programe je plán aktivít na rok 2016, voľba funkcionárov na nasledujúce obdobie, finančná správa. Členovia všetkých spolkov v okolí sú pozvaní a doporučuje sa základným organizáciám v Distrikte FCSU vykonať súčasne výročné voľby. Funkcionári okresu Princ Pribina želajú všetkým členom FCSU požehnané a radosťné Vianočné sviatky.

Pavol Skuben, predseda

Členská schôdza spolku sv.

Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v nedeľu **17. januára, 2016 o 12:30 hodine** v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskaivo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdži.

Mária Jurášiová, pokladníčka

Halový futbalový turnaj v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ pri kostole sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC usporiada halový futbalový turnaj v sobotu dňa **23. januára 2016 o 14:00 hodine** v kostolnej hale sv. Jána Nepomuckého v NYC. Záujemcovia sa môžu prihlásiť u športových referentov: Jozef Korčák: (201) 841-8814 alebo Ján Zeman: (347) 578-4419. Výhercov čakajú pekné ceny. Tešíme sa na Vašu účasť.

Jozef Juráši, športový referent

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko

usporiada 23. slovenský ples

Slovenská a zároveň medzinárodná jazzová legenda Peter Lipa, ktorého mnohé pesničky zľudoveli, poctí svojou prítomnosťou ako Guest of Honor už 23. Slovenský ples, ktorý sa bude konať pod záštitou Slovensko-Amerického Kultúrneho Strediska v **sobotu 30. januára 2016** v priestoroch Royal Manor v Garfield, NJ. Koktail odštartuje večer od 7. hodine plný skvelej hudby, neútlachajúceho tanca, chutných jedál a miešaných nápojov (open bar do 1am). Svojim talentom k programu večera prispeje aj mladý, slovenský husľový virtuóz Filip Pogady, ktorý sa v ostatných rokoch dostal do širokého povedomia nielen Slovákov žijúcich v tri-state area. O dobrú náladu sa počas celého večera postará hudobná skupina EXPRESS. Ako minulého roku, ani tentokrát nebude chýbať tombola s jedinečnými cenami. Lístky sú **\$ 130.00** za osobu a môžete si ich zakúpiť buď na webstránke S-ACC (slovakamericanc.org) alebo u Zuzany Krcmarovej na tel. čísle: 973-357-1209. Alebo zaslaním šeku na adresu: 33 Weasel Drift Road, Woodland Park, NJ 07424. **Rezervácia lístkov je možná do 13. januára 2016.** Tešíme sa na stretnutie s vami na ďalšej vynikajúcej večeri plnej zábavy a dobrého jedla.

Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka Slovenského plesu

Fašiangová zábava v Greenfield, Wisconsin

20. zbor Slovenskej Ligy v Milwaukee usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v **sobotu, 6. februára 2016** v WG Banquet Hall, 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 večer. Vstupné je \$ 5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče. Bližšie informácie: Betty Valent, tel. č. 414-425-6137 alebo Ellen Tavela, tel. č. 262-893-7483.

**Kathy Valent
podpredsenička 20. zboru SLvA**

Vo Washingtone o spoločnom postupe USA a EÚ v aktuálnych krízach

Podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Miroslav Lajčák absolvoval v polovici decembra krátku pracovnú návštevu vo Washingtone, kde rokoval na Ministerstve zahraničných vecí USA a vystúpil v centrále politickej nadácie German Marshall Fund.

Na stretnutí so zástupcom ministra zahraničných vecí USA Anthonym Blinkenom sa minister M. Lajčák venoval otázkam spolupráce Slovenska a Spojených štátov amerických tak v bilaterálnej rovine ako aj v rámci Severoatlantickej aliancie a na medzinárodnej pôde.

Spoločne prebrali otázku migračnej krízy, energetickej bezpečnosti v Európe, vývoj na Ukrajine a na západnom Balkáne. V súvislosti s reformným procesom na Ukrajine minister M. Lajčák zdôraznil, že pri koordinácii reforiem by mala hrať Európska únia vedúcu úlohu.

Počas pobytu na Ministerstve zahraničných vecí USA rokoval minister M. Lajčák aj s námestníčkou ministra pre medzinárodné organizácie Bathshebou Crockerovou. Témou ich rozhovoru bolo efektívne fungovanie medzinárodných organizácií, najmä OSN, pri riešení aktuálnych globálnych problémov a výziev.

Minister M. Lajčák vo Washingtone navštívil aj centrálu nadácie German Marshall Fund, ktorá sa venuje posilňovaniu politickej a bezpečnostnej spolupráce medzi USA a Európou. Na stretnutí s vedením nadácie a následne v rámci okrúhleho stola diskutoval o aktuálnych výzvach, ktorým čelia Spojené štáty a Európa, a ako by mohli pri ich prekonávaní postupovať spoločne.

Minister M. Lajčák sa počas pobytu vo Washingtone stretol aj s bývalou ministerkou zahraničných vecí Madelaine Albrightovou, s ktorou hovoril o angažovanosti USA v súčasných krízach na Ukrajine a v Sýrii a vymenili si názory na migračnú krízu a vývoj na Balkáne. Zároveň ju pozval na návštevu Slovenska.

TASR

Desiate – výročné Vianoce slovenských detí v Connecticut



Toho roku už po desiatykrát sa stretli slovenské a české deti, aby privítali Mikuláša, ktorý im doniesol balíčky s dobrotami. Mikuláš sa s deťmi porozprával a deti mu prezradili, čo si prajú na Vianoce. Z detských očí žiarila radosť a veselosť zo spoločného stretnutia a spoločnej práce na vianočných projektoch: zdobenie perníkov, vyrábanie vianočných ornamentov na stromček a robenie ikebany (centerpiece) z trvalo – zelených vetvičiek stromov a krikov. Ikebanu zdobili ornamentami, mašličkami a zvončekmi. Deti sa spolu pohrali, porozprávali a tým si utužili svoje priateľské vzťahy.

Vianočné stretnutia slovenských detí začala organizovať Agáta Slivková v roku 2005 v čase, keď bola moderátorkou v Slovenskom rádiu „Jožko pre Slovákov“ vysielanom na stanici WDJZ Bridgeport, CT. Rádio viedol Jozef Kilian, skvelý a veselý moderátor, ktorý pozdvihol všetkým náladu. Ďalšími členmi rádia bol Martin Cernuch a Peter Belas. V čase vysielania rádia mala Agáta dvojročnú vnučku Raynu a polročného vnuka Jasona, tak dala dokopy skupinu slovenských detí a začala pravidelne organizovať Vianočné stretnutia a Maľovanie Veľkonočných vajčiek. Detičky z roku 2003 už vyrástli, pribudli noví vnuci, ale záujem detí a rodičov o stretnutia stále pretrváva.

Katarína z Connecticut



Vianočný koncert „Christmas in Slovakia“

Zastupiteľský úrad SR vo Washingtone hosťoval v piatok 11. decembra 2015 tradičný vianočný koncert „Christmas in Slovakia“. Akcia bola organizovaná v spolupráci s Washington International Piano Arts Council (WIPAC). Táto nezisková organizácia bola založená v roku 2001 s cieľom poskytnúť edukačnú platformu pre profesionálnych a amatérskych klaviristov a podporiť záujem o tento druh umenia. WIPAC organizuje sériu klavírných koncertov v spolupráci s univerzitami, múzeami a veľvyslanectvami vo Washingtone DC a okolí; nedávno otvorili nové pobočky v Pensylvánii a Južnej Karolíne. Viac ako 12 rokov organizuje hudobný festival a medzinárodnú klavírnú súťaž pre amatérskych klaviristov nad 31 rokov.

Hosťom večera bola vynikajúca americká sopranistka Michele Fowlin v sprievode klaviristu Jamesa Glovera. M. Fowlin pravidelne koncertuje na domácich pódiiach, i v zahraničí, ako aj pre významných predstaviteľov americkej administratívy (bývalý US prezident Bill Clinton, bývalý viceprezident Al Gore, prezident B. Obama). Diváci si na koncerte vypočuli klasické diela od Scarlattiho a Händela, ako aj vianočné spirituálne skladby. Hostia počas recepcie ocenili ukážky tradičnej slovenskej kuchyne, ako aj výstavu mladých slovenských výtvarníkov inštalovanú v priestoroch slovenského zastupiteľského úradu.

MZV SR

Otvorenie výstavy „Mílniky života Ľudovíta Štúra 1815-1856“ v New Yorku

Pri príležitosti návštevy riaditeľa Ústavu Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Jána Varša 30. novembra 2015 otvoril slovenský generálny konzulát v New Yorku výstavu „Mílniky života Ľudovíta Štúra 1815-1856“ vo svojich priestoroch.

Ľudovít Štúr bol najvýznamnejší predstaviteľ slovenského národného života a kodifikátor slovenského spisovného jazyka. Návštevníci generálneho konzulátu majú možnosť vzhliadnuť túto výstavu v našich priestoroch počas úradných hodín.

MZV SR

IN MEMORIAM

Národný pracovník v Clevelande

Jozef Valenčík na večnosti

V pondelok 14. decembra 2015, po dlhšej chorobe odovzdal svoju dušu Pánovi dlhoročný, slovenský aktivista, Jozef Valenčík. Jozef sa narodil na Slovensku 28. apríla 1929 v spišskej obci Bystrany. Po povinných školských triedach pokračoval v ďalších štúdiách, kde sa stal učiteľom. V tom čase na Slovensku panoval už totalitný režim a tak učiteľia škôl sa museli orientovať podľa komunistického režimu. Počas letných prázdnin učiteľia boli posielaní presvedčať roľníkov, aby sa zapojili a dali svoje polia do národného družstva. Bola to nepríjemná povinnosť, ktorú Jozef musel vykonávať proti vlastnému kresťanskému presvedčeniu. Dostal sa do nemilosti komunistov a tak nebolo iného východiska, iba odísť z tohto „raja“ za hranice republiky. A tak našiel spôsob a ľudí, ktorí mali ten istý úmysel. Prechod naplánovali cez rieku Moravu na Záhorí. Najprv sa ich združilo asi 20 ľudí, medzi nimi aj deti v istej stodole a na určitú noc prišli sprievodcovia a viedli túto skupinu ku hranici. Táto okolica bola veľmi strážená. Pohraničníari mali tajne namontované dróty okolo pobrežia rieky a keď sa ich niekto dotkol, tak rakety vystrelovali a upozorňovali pohraničnú stráž, že niekto sa blíži ku hranici. Keď ich už polovica prechádzala rieku a iní ešte boli na brehu, niekto z neopatrnosti sa dotkol týchto drôtov. Rakety začali strieľať a po nich zahraničná stráž strieľala na prechodcov. Zabili a poranili niekoľko, avšak väčšina prešla do Rakúska. Jozef bol tiež ranený a guľku, ktorú mu vtedy strelili do tela si odniesol až do hrobu.



Jozef Valenčík

Za čas žil v rakúskych lágroch. Potom sa dostal do USA a usadil v Clevelande, kde už dávno predtým žil jeho otec. Tu sa oženil v Amerike s rodenou Slovenkou Margaret Gerna. Ich manželstvo bolo požehnané šiestimi deťmi. Keďže Jozef nemohol pokračovať v jeho pedagogickom odbore, naučil sa inštalatérstvu (plumbing) a tiež ovládal aj elektrické práce a kódy. Stal sa vedúcim majstrom v týchto odboroch. Pomimo jeho zamestnania a roboty okolo svojej početnej rodiny, Jozef sa húževnate zapojil do slovenského organizačného života v Clevelande. Bol zapisovateľom a neskôr aj za niekoľko rokov predsedom spolku č. 450 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty a jeho manželka bola tajomníčkou. V Lakewoode Slovak Civic Klube sa stal pokladníkom a keď bolo treba robil aj inštalatérské opravy na budove klubu a to vždy zadarmo. V dramatickom Klube bol zapisovateľom a keď tento klub zorganizoval Slovenský festival, Jozef s manželkou výdatne pomáhali pri jeho budovaní a ďalšej existencii. Hoci nebol Zemlínčan, pomáhal a organizoval aj tomto klube kde bol aj jeho zapisovateľom. A keď Slovenský Rádiový Klub potreboval nového riaditeľa pre svoje nedeľňajšie vysielanie, Jozef bol znovu ochotný pomôcť. Riadil tento rádiový program každú nedeľu pomaly šesť rokov.

Jozef sa zúčastňoval na mnohých konvenciách Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenskej ligy v Amerike a Svetového kongresu Slovákov. Národnostné skupiny z krajín utlačaných komunistami založili v Clevelande, pod vedením Clevelandského primátora Ralpa Perka, „Nationality Movement“. Táto organizácia poukazovala americkej verejnosti na krivdy páchané na ich národov komunizmom. Tu bol Jozef tiež poctený plakietou za jeho spoluprácu a obetavosť. Veľa by sa dalo popísať o práci a obetavosti zosnulého Jozefa. Celá jeho rodina patrí do slovenských organizácií a klubov. Bol hrdý na svoj slovenský pôvod a v tomto duchu vychovával aj svoju rodinu.

Na cintoríne sa so zosnulým lúčili jeho smutná početná rodina s manželkou Margaret, deti a vnúčatá. Slováci, priatelia záverom zaspievali národnú hymnu „Hej Slováci!“

Odpočívaj v pokoji priateľu a nech Ti je zem americká ľahká!

Palo Brunovský



FOTO TASR – Milan Kapusta, 17. december 2015

Unikátne fotografie a relikvie prvého slovanského pápeža Jána Pavla II. si mohla verejnosť pozrieť od 15. do 18. decembra 2015 v mobilnom múzeu Jána Pavla II. v Košiciach pred Steel Arénou. Bola to tohoročná posledná zastávka tohto mobilného múzea pred odchodom do Krakova, kde ho počas zimy odstavia. Od roku 2011 bolo múzeum okrem domovského Poľska v Nemecku, Francúzsku, Portugalsku, Španielsku, Ukrajine, Taliansku a Slovensku. V múzeu sú viaceré predmety, ktoré používal Ján Pavol II.

A traveling exhibit of photos and memorabilia of Pope John Paul II was shown in the Steel Arena in Kosice December 15-18, 2015. The exhibit made stops in Poland, Germany, France, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, Italy as well as Slovakia.

Vláda SR podpísala investičnú zmluvu s automobilkou Jaguar Land Rover

Investičnú zmluvu s automobilkou Jaguar Land Rover podpísali 11. decembra 2015 na Úrade vlády SR v Bratislave predstavitelia slovenskej vlády. Ešte predtým k tomu mimoriadne zasadol vládnny kabinet.

Výberu Slovenska podľa automobilky predchádzala dôkladná analýza viacerých lokalít v Európe, Spojených štátoch a Mexiku. V prospech SR hovorila silná sieť dodávateľov a dobrá logistická infraštruktúra.

Automobilka, ktorá patrí indickému koncernu Tata Motors, si vybrala slovenskú Nitru za miesto pre svoj nový závod s výrobnou kapacitou 300.000 vozidiel ročne. V krajine už majú svoje závody nemecký Volkswagen, juhokórejská Kia aj francúzska automobilka Peugeot. Zo zverejneného investičného návrhu „Automotive Nitra Project“ v rámci procesu EIA vyplýva, že nový závod pri Nitre s kapacitou 150.000 až 300.000 vozidiel ročne vytvorí 2000 až 4000 nových pracovných miest. Predpokladané investičné náklady sú vyčíslené na viac ako 1 miliardu eur. Začiatok výstavby závodu sa očakáva v roku 2016, začiatok prevádzky v roku 2018 až 2019. Výmera plôch výrobného závodu bude predstavovať 200 až 300 hektárov.



FOTO TASR - Martin Baumann

Na snímke vpravo predseda vlády SR Robert Fico a vľavo generálny riaditeľ Jaguar Land Rover Ralf Dieter Speth počas slávnostného podpisu investičnej zmluvy.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico and General Director of Jaguar Land Rover Ralf Dieter signed an investment agreement between the Slovak government and Jaguar Land Rover in Bratislava on December 11, 2016. On the basis of this agreement 300,000 automobiles will be made annually in Nitra and employ 2,000 to 4,000 people.

TASR

Spomienkové podujatie v Trstenej

Mesto Trstená v spolupráci s Oravským kultúrnym strediskom v Dolnom Kubíne, Matica slovenská a Miestny odbor Matice slovenskej v Trstenej usporiadali 10. novembra 2015 spomienkovú slávnosť pri príležitosti 160. výročia narodenia a 100. výročia úmrtia Štefana Furdeka, ktorá sa konala v Trstenej, v kinosále Kultúrneho domu.

Akciu otvoril krátkym príhovorom a privítaním hostí, primátor mesta Trstená Juraj Bernaták. Príhovor mal tiež predseda Matice Slovenskej Marián Tkáč, ktorý v roku 2012, navštívil mesto Cleveland, OHIO - USA, kde väčšinu svojho života pôsobil rev. Štefan Furdek. Svoje osobné pocity a skúsenosti z návštevy Clevelandu (Slovak Institute, Benediktínsky kláštor, FCSU, cintorín, Slovak park) v krátkom príhovore tiež zhodnotil aj Jozef Fábry, spoluzakladateľ Matice Slovenskej v Trstenej. V závere, čestný predseda Matice Slovenskej v Trstenej Gustáv Šinál predniesol jednu z početných básní, v ktorej vyjadroval hlbokú úctu k slovenskej zemi a jeho ľudu. Na slávnosti sa zúčastnilo veľa študentov ale aj „matičiarov“, kde treba vyzdvihnúť to, že boli prítomní všetci traja doterajší predsedovia Matice Slovenskej v Trstenej - Zlatica Lenčuchová, Gustáv Šinál aj Lubomír Lucký. Po slávnosti v kinosále, pokračovala akcia, malým občerstvením a výstavou života a diela rev.Štefana Furdeka. Celkom na záver sa ešte uskutočnila, pietna spomienka pri jeho rodnom dome, kde má náš rodák na čelnej fasáde aj umiestnenú spomienkovú tabuľu.

Jozef Fábry

„Nebol dôvod, aby migračná kríza vytláčila domáce starosti“

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Čo sa týka vzdelania, Kiska upozornil, že sa k nemu, ako aj k učiteľskému povolaniu stratila úcta. Poukázal na to, že pokiaľ v minulosti bolo základné školstvo kvalitné, tak dnes sa v medzinárodných porovnaníach postupne prepadáva. Preto vyzval na to, aby sa riešenie tejto problematiky ďalej neodkladalo.

Zároveň sa obrátil na občanov, aby sa nevzdali práva vybrať si, koho pôjdu v marci voliť a nenechali za seba rozhodnúť iných. Spomenul tiež ďalšiu pre Slovensko významnú udalosť, a tou je historicky prvé predsedníctvo v Európskej únii. Želá si, aby SR v tejto úlohe prispela k obnoveniu sebadovedomia Európanov, že Európska únia zvládne všetky výzvy, ktoré pred ňou stoja.

TASR



Foto: TASR/Michal Svítok

Pohľad na ohňostroj počas novoročných osláv 1. januára 2016 v Bratislave.
Fireworks lit up the sky in Bratislava marking the New Year 2016.



„Nebol dôvod, aby migračná kríza vytlačila domáce starosti“

Prezident Kiska v novoročnom príhovore:

Prezident SR Andrej Kiska nevidí dôvod na to, že migračná kríza odsunula vo veľkej časti minulého roka do úzadia pozornosť, ktorá sa na Slovensku mala venovať domácej problematike.

„Sme a chceme zostať neoddeliteľnou súčasťou jednotnej Európskej únie a v nej súčasťou funkčného Schengenu. Preto bolo a je prirodzené, že sme boli účastníkmi diskusií a aj obáv z toho, ako sa dokáže Európa postaviť k náporu utečencov a migrantov. Ale neboli sme a nie sme ako krajina týmto fenoménom zasiahnutá takým spôsobom, aby sme museli mať pocit ekonomického, sociálneho, kultúrneho či dokonca bezprostredného bezpečnostného ohrozenia dramatických rozmerov. Myslím si, že nebol dôvod, aby nám táto téma vytlačila väčšinu roka na okraj naše domáce starosti,“ zdôraznil vo svojom novoročnom príhovore prezident. Za politickú manipuláciu považuje spájanie teroristických útokov so súčasťou utečeneckou vlnou. To podľa neho v skutočnosti vyhovuje zámerom teroristov šíriť v Európe a po svete strach, povzbudzovať politický extrémizmus a vyvolávať nedôveru medzi ľuďmi. Ako poznamenal, to im nesmieme dovoliť, lebo inak hrozí, že sa ostražitosť a strach stanú jediným pánom našich rozhodnutí a postojov.

„Pokúsme sa na to myslieť vždy vtedy, kedy vidíme, ako sa do slovníka a postojov v našej verejnej aj politickej diskusii presadzujú slová nevráživosti, skrytého alebo otvoreného nepriateľstva či zámerne podporovaného strachu. Žiaľ, niekedy až otvorenej nenávisti. Voči sebe navzájom, voči inému názoru, voči nášmu okoliu, alebo dokonca voči celým skupinám ľudí. Minulý rok sa nám to stávalo často,“ podčiarkol prezident. V príhovore neobišiel ani tému marcových parlamentných volieb. V tejto súvislosti spomenul najmä dve oblasti, o ktorých by sa v prvom rade mala viesť diskusia. Konkrétne zdravotníctvo a vzdelávanie na základných školách.

Podľa neho zrejme na Slovensku neexistuje taká oblasť, kde je toľko svojvôle, chaosu v systéme, neprehľadných záujmov a neporiadku ako v zdravotníctve. „Štát voči vlastným občanom v tejto oblasti dlhodobo a zahanbujúco zlyháva. A považujem za vec základnej úcty budúcej vlády a parlamentu voči ľuďom na Slovensku, aby sa poriadok a transparentnosť v zdravotníctve konečne stali najvyššou prioritou,“ zdôraznil.

Pokračovanie na str. 23



Prezident SR Andrej Kiska

Ján Varšo na dvojtýždňovej pracovnej návšteve v USA

Nový predseda Úradu pre Slovákov v zahraničí, Ján Varšo navštívil v dňoch od 29. novembra do 13. decembra 2015 v USA krajské komunity, významné spolky, kľúčové kultúrne a duchovné inštitúcie, ako aj tradičné médiá Slovákov v USA a Kanade v niekoľkých mestách, v ktorých krajanovia rozhodujúcou mierou prispievajú k udržiavaniu národného povedomia a rozvíjaniu kultúrnej identity na prospech všeobecného utužovania krajskej vzájomnosti.

V stredu 2. decembra mal predseda ÚSZZ celodenný pracovný program v Clevelande. Najskôr sa stretol s predstaviteľmi Prvej katolíckej slovenskej ženskej jednoty, popoludní absolvoval návštevu Slovenského inštitútu. S časťou krajskej komunity, ktorá má v tomto meste svoje významné historicko-spoločenské poslanstvo, sa Ján Varšo stretol v Slovak Cultural Gardens, následne zasadol za okrúhly stôl so zástupcami krajských spolkov, ktorý v Clevelande zorganizovala Prvá Katolícka Slovenská Jednota. Bodkou za mimoriadne inšpiratívnym dňom v Clevelande bolo interview Jána Varša pre Slovenské rádio v Clevelande, ktorého vysielanie pre našich krajanov sa roky s pozitívnym ohlasom šíri aj vďaka pánovi Milanovi Kobulskému. Ján Varšo zavítal ďalší deň do Pittsburghu, jedného z tých kľúčových miest Slovákov v USA, pre ktoré bola príznačnou početná a významom národného ctenia a slovenského povedomia aj ďalších našich krajanov pozitívne ovplyvňujúca komunita ešte z čias vysťahovalectva zo začiatku 20. storočia. V Pittsburghu privítal predsedu ÚSZZ pán Joe Senko, honorárny konzul SR, následne sa v jeho prítomnosti stretol s predstaviteľmi krajských organizácií a spolkov v tamojšej slovenskej komunite. J. Varšo v ďalšej časti programu zavítal aj na akademickú pôdu University of Pittsburgh. V piatok 4. decembra návštevou slovenskej školy a kostola na Manhatane v New Yorku, ako aj následným rozsvietením vianočného stromčeka medzi krajanmi v Astórii ukončil Ján Varšo, predseda Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, prvú časť svojej pracovnej návštevy Spojených štátov a Kanady.

Pracovná návšteva J. Varša v zámeri mala za cieľ podnietiť a motivovať slovenské komunity k vytváraniu kreatívnejších, užších a kvalitatívne lepších vzťahov nielen vo vzájomnej komunikácii našich krajanov v USA a Kanade, ale aj v rámci slovensko-slovenského dialógu s domovinou svojich predkov a ich niekdajšou vlasťou – Slovenskom. (Skrátené)

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí



Nový predseda Úradu pre Slovákov v zahraničí, Ján Varšo (v prostriedku sediaci) spolu s generálnou konzulkou SR v New Yorku, Janou Trnovcovou (sprava) sa stretli v Hlavnom úrade IKSJ v Clevelande s jej hlavným predsedom, Andrejom M. Rajecom (zľava) a predstaviteľmi krajského života v Clevelande.

Všetkým našim členom
Šťastný a úspešný
Nový rok 2016 želajú

Zbor riaditeľov a Hlavný úrad IKSJ