



Jednota

THE UNION

USPA#273500 ISSN1087-3392



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

Volume 125

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016

NUMBER 5935

President's Easter Message 2016

Easter is early this year according to the calendar. Winter weather with cold and snow arrived in early February in the East and Mid-West after a very mild December and January.

The only thing that is hot are the election campaigns leading up to the Republican and Democrat Conventions.

Whatever your choices, we urge you to exercise your right and duty to vote.

As we get to adulthood most people become more aware of events that surround them, not only on a personal level but also on a much wider scope.

The Apostle Paul said in the thirteenth chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians "When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things."

It is inevitable that as we grow into adulthood things change and also take on a new perspective. We, as individuals, change.

So also, our Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union, must adapt to a changing environment to survive and prosper.

However, at the same time, we are committed to practice our Catholic faith and to preserve our Slovak culture.

On behalf of my wife, Idka, and all at the Home Office I want to wish you and your family a blessed and Happy Easter.

I urge you to attend Holy Week services and Mass on Easter Sunday with your family.

Happy Easter, Christ is Risen, Let Us Rejoice and be Glad!

Pán Ježiš Kristus vstal z mŕtvych, Radujme sa!



Andrew M. Rajec

Alleluja! Happy Easter!



Andrea Mantegna, La Réssurrection, 1457 - 1459

He is not here for He is risen."

- Matthew 28:6



FCSU College-bound Members:

Time is Running Out!

The deadline for the First Catholic Slovak Union's 2016 Scholarship Program is March 31st.

See page 6 for details.



See page 18 of this issue for Easter Recipes

Inside

- Editorial/Commentary 2
- Branch Announcements .. 14 & 17
- District Announcements 15
- Slovak 21-24

Our Rates Will Make You EGG-STATIC And That's NO YOLK!



8 Year Flex Annuity or IRA

3.60%

6 Year Flex Annuity or IRA

3.20%

6 Year Fixed Annuity or IRA

3.10%

OPEN OR ADD TO YOUR IRA ACCOUNT BY 4/15/2016

Also available:

Park 2

2.15%

Park Free Plus

1.90%



FCSU Financial - First Catholic Slovak Union

Contact your branch officer or the Home Office

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

www.fcsu.com, annuity@fcsu.com



National Coloring Contest Winners, Part I, pp 12 - 13



Insights and Viewpoints



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

**March 20, 2016 – Palm Sunday of
the Lord's Passion
Luke 22: 14 – 23:56**

At each celebration of the Mass we proclaim the mystery of faith, the various options all point to the central mystery of the death, resurrection, and second coming of Christ. On Palm Sunday we focus our attention on the first part of the mystery, the death of Jesus. It is certainly fitting to be attentive and reflect



Fr. Killian Loch,
O.S.B.

on what was done to Jesus, it is just as important, if not more important, to reflect on what Jesus did for us. This shows the selfless love that God pours out upon us, and it is on this that I reflect on today.

This Passion account begins with a Passover Meal, which the apostles soon discovered was much more than that. It is the Last Supper of Jesus in which he institutes the Holy Eucharist. Jesus takes the bread and wine and makes them himself, and then gives this real presence of himself to us. This is a total giving of Jesus, described as His body, blood, soul and divinity. Jesus does not hold back, he gives his entire self to us.

He no sooner does this than the apostles get into a discussion of who will betray him that quickly evolves into them arguing over who is the greatest among them. How quickly does humanity enter into even the most sacred moments of our lives! We can be at Mass and in the midst of singing hymns of praise find ourselves judging the people around us, or recalling arguments we thought we left behind. We are no different than the apostles, and the response of Jesus to them, is a response that is just as fitting for us.

Jesus interrupts their argument and tells them that if they want to be the greatest, to be leaders, they must do so by following his example and serve. Jesus leads by serving, and instructs the apostles that they must do the same, and so must we.

Jesus is always aware of the needs of those around us, and it seems not too concerned about his own. On the Mount of Olives we do get a glimpse of the anxiety that he sometime faced, when he asks his Father if the cup might pass, and ends with the beautiful act of Faith, "not my will, but your will be done." Whether it was this obedience to His Father, or the healing of the soldier whose ear was severed, the words to the Women of Jerusalem not to weep for him, but for their children, the promise to the good thief that he would be with him in paradise, Jesus gives himself to others.

His final words on the Cross are the words of faith and submission in the will of his father, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"

This is what Jesus has done for us, and continues to do for us; love us, forgive us, heal us and redeem us. How can we repay the Lord for all he has done for us? We can begin by surrendering our lives anew to Him on Palm Sunday, and walking with him through this holiest week of the year. This final week of Lent and the Triduum are an opportunity for us to enter more fully into the great Paschal Mystery, and to allow the great and mysterious love of Christ to enter more deeply into our lives. May we be led to experience this love in more personal ways, and to live and share this love more effectively as we move through this celebration of our redemption.

**March 27, 2016 – Easter Sunday
Gospel John 20: 1-9**

On this glorious Easter Sunday we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead as we hear John the evangelist's account of the discovery of the empty tomb. Mary Magdalen is the first one there, and she brings back the stunning and as yet not understood news of the vacant tomb to the disciples. Peter and John then swing into action and run to the tomb to see for themselves, and John is said to have "believed" as the result of witnessing the burial cloths lying where the body of Jesus had been placed.

The gospel reading for today's mass ends at that point, however we know that the story of the resurrection continues. In fact, although Peter and John immediately "return home" after seeing the empty tomb, Mary remains and mourns the death of Jesus, whom she does not yet realize has been raised from the dead—she thinks his body has been taken away. The risen Lord himself then appears to Mary and while at first glance she does not recognize him, she quickly comes to realize that Jesus has indeed risen from the dead and she runs to the rest of the disciples to proclaim the good news.

Mary's movement from confusion to peace and joy in the risen Lord is one that hopefully has taken place in our lives, perhaps in a very powerful and defining way. We are wise then to continue following Mary Magdalene as she goes forth from her encounter with the risen Jesus and enters fully into the life of the nascent Christian community. As noted already her first step after seeing the empty tomb was to share the news of her discovery with her fellow believers. She now shares her joy once more by returning to Jerusalem and announcing that she had seen and spoken with Jesus.

The gospel merges with the message of the earlier readings to remind us that this connection between believing and sharing the joy and hope that come from our belief should be a natural part of our lives. In other words the mission is a fundamental and essential element of Christian belief! In his letters to the Colossians and the Corinthians (both are optional readings at mass today) St. Paul writes of how the event of the resurrection should do two things. First, it should transform us at the most basic level, rendering our lives meaningful by inviting us out of our old ways: "Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough" (1 Cor 5:6-7). Secondly, our faith in the resurrection should encourage us to strive for ever greater life together with God in Christ: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth" (Col 3:1-2). That striving for union with God through Christ naturally leads, as in Mary Magdalene's life, to our spreading the good news to all who will hear us.

This sort of progression from newly-appropriated belief in Christ to rejoicing in the Lord to sharing that joy through the mission is exactly what we hear of in this Easter Sunday's first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles. There Peter is seen some years after his trip to the empty tomb, proclaiming the resurrection to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. Peter tells Cornelius: "We are witnesses of all that [Jesus] did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day..." (Acts 10:39-41). This Easter season let us put on the fidelity of Mary Magdalene and the humble conversion of Peter and resolve to believe anew in the risen Lord, to shape our lives around his message, and to share that good news with all whom we encounter—Alleluia!



Fr. Edward Mazich,
O.S.B.

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date	Copy Date
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 30	MONDAY, MAR. 21
WEDNESDAY, APR. 20	MONDAY, APR. 11
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11	MONDAY, MAY 2

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

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

JEDNOTA

(ISSN 1087-3392)

Catholic Bi-Weekly Issued 19 Times Annually

Publisher and Proprietor

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

FCSU Corporate Center

6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300

Independence OH 44131-2398

TERESA IVANEC, Editor; fcsulifeeditor@gmail.com

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

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

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

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:
Jednota, First Catholic Slovak Union, 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131-2398

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

Easter Greetings from the National Vice President



Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Spring is the beginning of new life. As Easter approaches, families throughout our Society get ready for the celebration. Dad is helping the children color eggs while Mom is baking hot cross buns – and we all are preparing for the Resurrection of our Lord. We will get our Sunday's best ready to attend Mass the next day.

During Mass, we will reflect on our Lord Jesus who died so we could live. He rose again so we would believe. His Resurrection is the renewal of life; what more beautiful time to remember our Lord Jesus, as the beauty and newness of nature is springing up around us?

On behalf of my wife, Maria, and our family, may the blessings of Jesus guide you, protect you and be with you on Easter and always.

**Andrew R. Harcar, Sr,
National Vice-President**

Easter Greetings from the Executive Secretary



Kenneth Arendt

Let us keep the joy of Easter morning in our spirits as we start to leave winter behind. Throughout this holy season, Jesus calls every one of us to his Resurrection where suffering does not have the last word. May our hearts be glad as we embrace His Easter message of hope and renewal.

On behalf of myself, my wife Theresa, our family, and the Home Office Staff, I wish all of our members and their families the blessings of Easter.

**Kenneth Arendt
Executive Secretary**

Easter Greetings from the National Treasurer



George F. Matta II

Easter is a time of thanksgiving and rejoicing. It is a time to remind us of the many blessings that we have: our families, our friends and our lives. We should all remember the true meaning of Easter and the sacrifice that has been made for us by Christ out of his love and devotion to us. It is a time of great anticipation as we expectantly wait for the Resurrection of our Savior. It is this anticipation that leads us to realize all the blessings that have been showered on us.

On behalf of my wife Cathy and our family, we extend to you and your families a joyous and blessed Easter season.

**George F. Matta II
National Treasurer**

Easter Message from the National Chaplain

Dear Friends,

Scripture tells us that those close to Jesus during his public ministry did not immediately recognize Him when they first saw Him after He rose from the dead. Mary Magdalene thought He was a gardener. Two disciples on their way to Emmaus believed Him to be an uninformed resident of Jerusalem. For seven disciples, including Peter, who went fishing, He was just a bystander at the shoreline.

It was not until being called by name (Mary Magdalene), witnessing the Breaking of Bread (two disciples), or hauling 153 large fish (Peter and the others) did they come to really see and believe that the Crucified One is Risen! That recognition brought about a conversion experience within them that prompted them to go and share their elation with others.

The Second Vatican Council teaches that Jesus is present at each Mass in the Eucharistic species, the proclaimed Scriptures and homily, the priest celebrant, and the assembly. We see Jesus at every Mass, but do we recognize Him? An experience of God's mercy can make it happen.

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is Pope Francis' initiative for all people throughout the world to know and experience the Risen Christ as did the first witnesses to the Resurrection. Whenever we are touched by God's mercy, especially in and through the Sacrament of Penance, our eyes are opened to the vision of Jesus, risen from the dead. Filled with wonder and awe at such a glorious sight, we are changed and become emboldened to never cease spreading this joy.

Have a Blessed Easter.

Fraternally,



Rev. Thomas Nasta

**Fr. Thomas A. Nasta
National Chaplain**

FOR SALE

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



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

Each cover is approximately 27" x 17"

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

Order by phone at 724-562-0783 or 724-277-4236
Or use order form below

ORDER FORM

_____ Total Number of Covers ordered

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

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Kindly make checks payable to: Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
Send this order form and check for \$35 to:

Fr. Micah E. Kozoil
St. Aloysius Church
459 Ranch Road, Dunbar, PA 15431

Back by popular demand!
Extended to December 31, 2016

1st Year Premium Waived on Juvenile Enrichment Plan (JEP)



- 1st year premium waived on \$10,000 Term Insurance *
- \$14 annual premium
- Premium never increases
- Guaranteed convertibility at any time up to age 25 (no medical examination required)
- College scholarships available
- Free newspaper subscription
- Youth activities



FCSU FINANCIAL®
6611 Rockside Rd, Suite 300
Independence, OH 44131
800-533-6682
fcsu@fcsu.com
www.fcsu.com

All applications must be received in the Home Office **postmarked by December 31, 2016.**

*Higher amounts available - please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office Standard underwriting applies.



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.

LIFE IS PRECIOUS

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

Features:

- Pay one premium and have paid-up insurance
- Issued in any amount of \$5,000 or more, subject to current FCSU Financial non-medical limits

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

A Newly Updated Resource for Slovak-related Topics



Interested in reading more about Slovakia? Now, thanks to Fr. Gerald J. Sabo, S.J., of John Carroll University, a central list of publications with Slovak-related topics has been newly updated for 2016.

This handy list includes ISBN numbers for those books published in Slovakia – which makes for easier identification when searching for them at the library or online. Websites for locating remaindered and used books, and where to purchase them, are included at the end of the file, as well.

Go to www.fcsu.com and click on Slovakia & The World tab to access this list.

Or, for more information, please contact Fr. Gerald Sabo at gsabo@jcu.edu.

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



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.

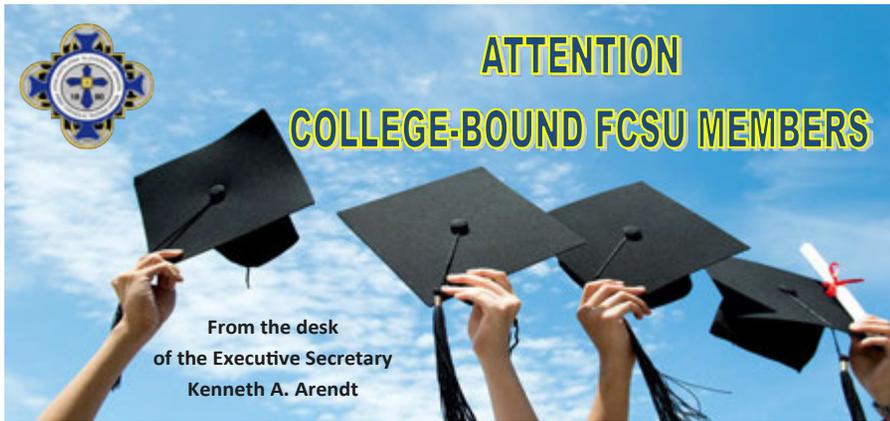
PRIZES: MEN and WOMEN - One prize will be paid for every five (5) entries in each event, with the exception of All Events, which will pay one prize for every fifteen (15) entries. No duplicate prizes will be awarded and prize fees will be returned 100 percent.

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.



**THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
HAS EXTENDED THE DEADLINE FOR 2016
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS TO MARCH 31**

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

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

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

**For rules, requirements and applications go to
www.fcsu.com/scholarships
or call the Home Office at 800.533.6682**

**Applications must be postmarked by midnight,
March 31, 2016**

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

Tony Rossi, Director of Communications, The Christophers

Thrive in Joy This Easter

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection, the event that makes it possible for us to rejoice in the fact that we will be able to see our family and friends again some day in heaven. That's a powerful and comforting thought for anyone who's lost a loved one—and who among us doesn't fit into that category.

Jay Fagnano and his wife Mary sure do. And they've experienced the most devastating loss possible: the death of a child, their son Nick. At the same time, I can't help but think of their story this Easter because it's also a story of hope due to an essay they found on Nick's computer after his death.

As reported by Brian K. Kravec on the website CatholicMom.com, it was the summer of 2014, and Nick was looking forward to attending the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy, whose mission is "to improve the quality of life for people and their communities, here and abroad."

Nick attended Mass at St. Brendan Church in Hancock Park, Los Angeles, with Jay and Mary, then joined some friends on Venice Beach to enjoy the sunny California day. Kravec writes, "Nick was in the ocean at approximately 2:20 p.m. when several rogue clouds drifted over the beach amid the clear, blue skies. And at least four direct lightning strikes touched the sand and water. There were thirteen lightning strike victims. Nick was the only fatality."

Jay and Mary, of course, were shattered at losing their son, who was known for his winning smile, friendly personality, and deep faith that caused him to radiate God's love. The deepness of that faith became even more evident when the Fagnanos discovered an essay on Nick's computer that he had written in 2013 as a freshman in college. It was called "The Reality of Heaven," and this is the passage that stood out:

"Regardless of heaven being beyond my comprehension, the afterlife that I want to be a part of involves joy, excitement, and gratitude, as we will finally be reunited with the loved ones that we have lost on earth. Perhaps 'rest in peace' is actually not the best term in relation to death; rather, a phrase such as 'thrive in joy' best represents how I will want to spend eternity."

Jay and Mary saw that essay as a charge to keep their son's name and legacy alive. They created the Thrive in Joy Nick Fagnano Foundation, which encourages and rewards character through education and recreation. One of their initiatives is a scholarship for "an incoming transfer student (just as Nick would have been) entering USC's Sol Price School." Another supports poor urban communities in the Dominican Republic because Nick, when he was a 13-year-old Little League player, organized a fundraiser after hearing that many young people there couldn't play baseball due to a lack of equipment.

Despite lighting a candle in the darkness of his grief, Jay still struggled with his faith until he heard a recent homily in which the priest said, "No matter what you have to face, whether it be adversity, sadness, or tragedy, if you utter these words, it will be ok...I believe."

Jay concluded, "That's been the biggest challenge in my life since Nick's loss. I'm not sure I really did believe. But I do. I believe that Nick is 'thriving in joy' and someday we'll be with him and we will thrive in joy together."

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

Peter Bondra Enters IIHF Hall of Fame

Tichomir Miko



What Paul Henderson is to Canadian Hockey, Peter Bondra is to Slovak Hockey. Henderson scored the winning goal with seconds left on the clock to defeat the Russians in the last game of the 1972 Canada-Russia series. Peter Bondra scored with exactly 100 seconds left in the third period of the Slovakia-Russia gold-medal game at the 2002 IIHF World Championships; the left-shooting right-winger rifled a shot under the blocking arm of Maxim Sokolov, his second goal of the game, to give Slovakia a 4-3 win over Russia and its first ever gold medal. He was unbelievable at

the 2002 World Championship, leading the tournament in goals with seven and earning a spot on the tournament's all-star team. The next season, Bondra helped Slovakia capture a bronze medal at the Worlds. In addition to his achievements as a member of Slovakia's national team, Bondra has a most impressive NHL record. Over his 16-year NHL career, he scored 503 goals and added 389 assists for 892 points. From 1994 to 2005 Peter Bondra was the second best goal scorer in the NHL. The only person to score more goals during that span? Future Hall of Famer and former teammate Jaromir Jagr. The quiet unassuming Slovak athlete spent 14 seasons with the Washington Capitals where he had two 52-goal seasons for the Capitals and scored at least 30 goals in a season nine times. Bondra also played for the Ottawa Senators, Atlanta Thrashers, and Chicago Blackhawks. Joining Bondra as inductees will be players Sergei Fedorov, Valeri Kamensky, Ville Peltonen; and builders Canadian Pat Quinn and Ben Smith, coach of the Womens USA Olympic Team. Slovaks already in the International Ice Hockey Hall of Fame are Stan Mikita, Vladimir Dzurilla, Jozef Golonka, Jan Starsi, Peter Stastny, Ladislav Horský, and Juraj Okolicany. The induction ceremony will take place in Moscow on May 22, the final day of the 2016 World Championship. The website starsandsticks.com describes Bondra and Fedorov as "the finest gentlemen to ever play for the Washington Capitals."

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 Sliač 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@advintravel.com

Holy Week and Easter Traditions in Slovakia

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

Slovaks have traditionally observed Holy Week (Pašiové týždeň) as a time of fasting and intense prayer. Their folk customs followed a detailed set of rules and rituals that assisted in making the commemoration of Christ's passion, death and resurrection a real part of their lives. Slovaks prepared for the holy days by cleansing both their homes and their souls in preparation for Veľká Noc, the Great Night, or Easter Sunday.

With their turbulent history of occupation and oppression by foreign lords and other states, Slovaks could identify with the passion of Christ. His rising from the dead offered something the Slovak people could hope for – eternal life when they leave a world full of uncertainty and hardships. Similar to the Polish people, Slovaks identified their lives and their nation's experiences with the sufferings of Christ and his ultimate victory over sin and death.

During Holy Week, Slovaks fasted and cleaned as they made ready for the Easter feast. Fasting was a way of purifying themselves and trying to get ready for the Holy Day with a freshly cleansed soul. They prepared themselves both physically and spiritually, and observed the obligation to go to Confession so that their souls would be spotless during this holy season. To this day, Catholics must receive the sacrament of Penance at least once a year, and often that occurs during Lent (pôst) to prepare for Easter.

The three days before Easter (the Tridium), Easter itself, and Easter Monday, were all special days in Slovak culture. Unlike here in America, all these days remain a public holiday. Slovak businesses and even all offices close on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Monday. But before the joy of Easter, one had to experience the sadness of Christ's passion.

Zelený Stvrtok -- Green Thursday (Maundy Thursday)

In Slovakia, Holy Thursday is called Green Thursday because of the tradition of eating lots of foods made from green vegetables on that day. Greens would keep a person strong and healthy, and as we know from more scientific studies today, the old folk wisdom was far ahead of its time.

Green Thursday was also associated with tradition of cleansing of oneself. People in some villages would clean themselves thoroughly that day and preferred to use running water from a spring, stream or river, since that represented living water. This usually occurred after the church bells rang for the last time. Just as holy water would cleanse their souls when they attended church services, moving water would purify their bodies.

Young girls, who desired a beautiful complexion without blemishes, took special care to cleanse themselves very carefully early in the morning, usually before the sun rose. They typically bathed in a nearby spring to perfect their skin and ensure that they would have long and flowing hair that would grow quickly throughout the year.

Drinking spring water on Holy Thursday was believed to help make one healthier throughout the year. In times before fluoride toothpaste was available, Slovaks thought that they could head off toothaches and have a sparkling smile if they rinsed their mouths with holy water, especially from the water blessed at Easter.

Everything that could be cleaned with this pure running water would benefit from its cleansing power. The housewife (gazdina) in some villages washed all the dishes before sunrise and swept the house. But washing of linens was forbidden on Holy Thursday, perhaps due to an association with the linens of Christ. Since most Slovaks owned one or more cows, they made sure they cleaned their milk jugs so that the cows would produce more milk. Some even washed their horses to ensure cleanliness and strength in the future. In other places, people smeared axle grease on their barns and practiced various rituals with water to ward off evil.

In the upper Hron district, some farmers even took their cattle outside the church during Holy Mass! Holy Thursday was typically the day that peasants first took their animals to pasture, so people sought blessings for the animals that contributed to their livelihood. Grazing on this day, they thought, would protect their livestock (Bosák, p. 133-134).

One of the stranger Slovak customs concerned anthills. A superstition had it that a household could have a happy year if they would bring an anthill, complete with ants, into its house! Those carrying the anthill only had to be careful to avoid carrying this prize over any water, for that would nullify the magic. How odd to be hauling ants into the house when the women were already so busy cleaning on this day!

Of course, the most important custom for Catholics on Holy Thursday was attending Holy Mass. In Catholic traditions, the feast commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the beginning of the priesthood. Entire villages would empty into the church and commemorate the Last Supper of Christ with his apostles. A cleansing of feet with water took place after the sermon. Following Mass, the faithful would begin a fast as they mourned Christ's sufferings for their sins.

Another noteworthy custom was the tying of church bells, a tradition which many of us are familiar with in our own churches. No church bells sounded after 10 a.m. in order to remember the tying down of Christ. The silence of the bells symbolized grief. Only a rattling of a wooden stick or rattler (klopačka or rapkáč) would sound from the church tower and at Mass. The bells remained silent until Holy Saturday evening at the Easter Vigil.

The book *Slovak Folk Customs and Traditions* notes some special local customs associated with the last ringing of bells. In the Nitra region, a woman would jingle keys loudly around the house to drive away rodents and insects. To drive away pests, people near Bratislava would beat the ground with a flail (cep), a wooden farmer's tool which threshed grains to knock them off their husks. Villagers around Kysuce shook trees when the last bells rang so they would ensure a fruitful harvest. Likewise, people around Hlohovec sprinkled earth from crossroads around trees to aid fertility.

Once the bells fell silent, some villagers rattled their klopačky to drive away any evil spir-



The author's daughter, Milenka Feighner, places an Easter paska she baked on the table.



The Easter basket blessing was at St. Charles RC Church in Boardman, Ohio.

its. Around Košice, shepherds used trumpets to fend off evil on the night of Holy Thursday (Bosák, p. 133-134). Each locality practiced its own variation of cleansing, but they all used the holy day as an opportunity to fight evil and enhance fertility as spring was coming.

Veľký Piatok -- Great Friday (Good Friday)

Good Friday was a day of strict fasting in Slovak Lenten traditions, and people spoke little, performed no menial labor, and concentrated their thoughts on Christ and his passion and death. Most dressed in black and the feeling was that of a funeral. But there was no Holy Mass; only a prayer service with Holy Communion. Church attendance occurred both in the afternoon, and most people attended Stations of the Cross (križová cesta) in the evening as well. The altar and all statues were draped in black. As a sign of devotion, believers would literally crawl on their knees to make their way toward the altar to kiss the Holy Cross.

Hymns were very moving and solemn, such as Dokonané je, meaning, "It is done." Here are the first two stanzas from the hymn 187 from the Jednotný katolícky spevník (The Single Catholic Songbook), the most common prayer book and hymnal used in Slovakia. You may hear the hymn at this website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jZvtasvutk>

1. Dokonané je! Smrť plesá, — Kristu svätá hlava klesá, — v mdlobách ducha vypúšťa — Skončená je križá cesta, — duch sa nesie v nebies miesta — a svet tento opúšťa.

1. It is done! Death triumphs, - Christ bows his holy head - in a swoon he gives up his spirit - the Way of the Cross has ended - His spirit is carried to a place in the heavens - and leaves this world.

2. Kalvárie zem stenala, — znak zármutku svojho dala, — triasla sa v tej hodine — Krása, sláva ľudstva zhasla, — pred ktorou sa moc zla triasla, — v skalnom hrobe spočinie

2. The earth is groaning over Calvary, - it gave a sign of its grief - trembling in this Hour - the Beauty and glory of mankind was extinguished - which causes the power of evil to tremble - resting in a stone tomb.

The highlight of the Good Friday prayer service occurred when the men would carry the body of Christ around the church and the Slovak assembly would sing their traditional hymn of sorrow as they laid a statue of Christ in the tomb. All would leave the church in a very solemn and quiet manner as they pondered the passion of our Lord.

Many superstitions also surrounded the folklore customs of Good Friday, for it was a sad and solemn day. Many peasants believed that witches (strygy) and warlocks (čarodejníci) gathered in the hills for meetings and dancing on Holy Thursday night into Good Friday day, and everyone was advised to avoid contact with such creatures of darkness. In addition to causing physical harm to persons, they could wreak havoc on the family garden, attack

continued on page 17



Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II

For Illinois, Indiana & Wisconsin



Hey Kids.....

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

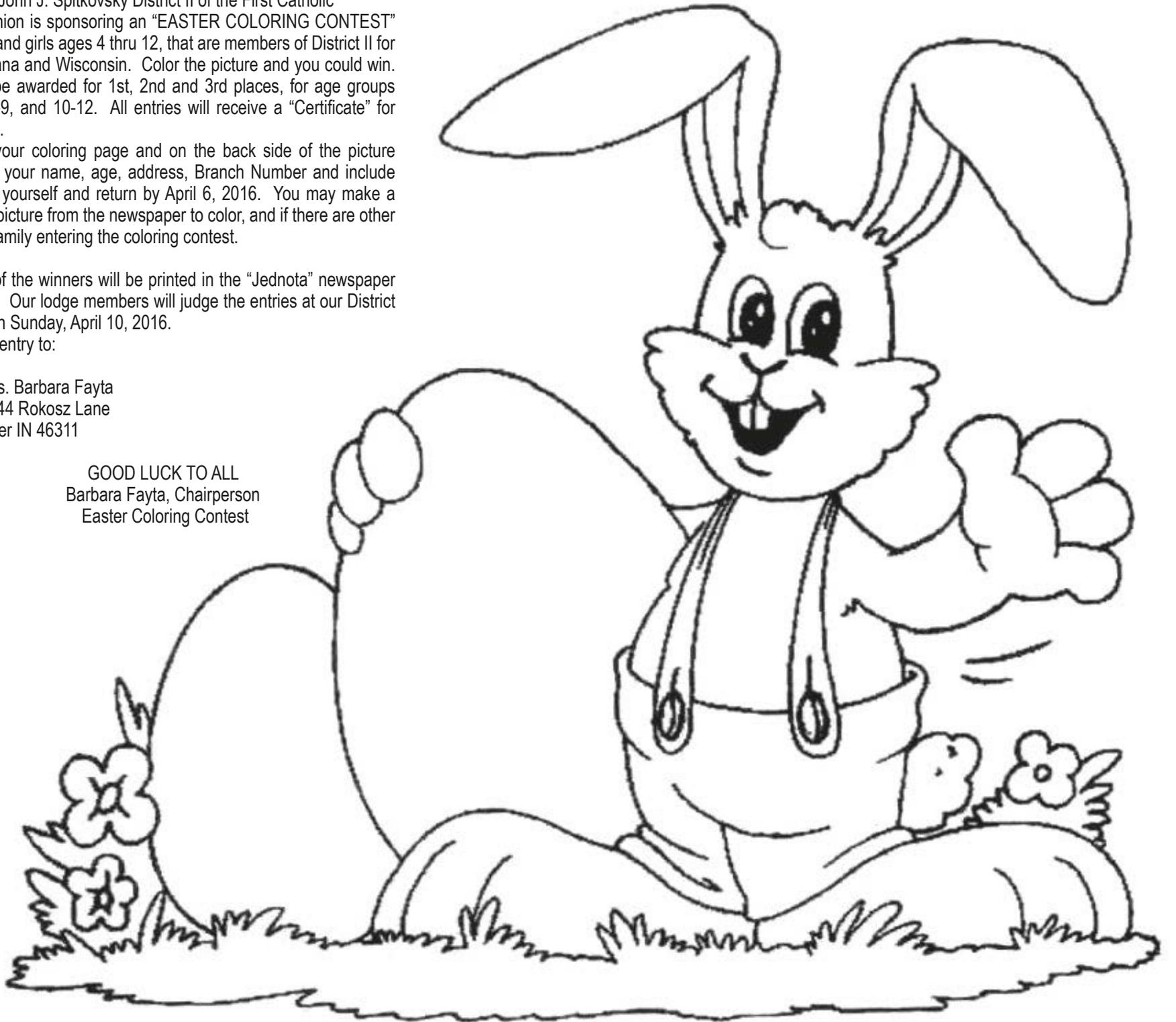
Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, Branch Number and include a picture of yourself and return by April 6, 2016. You may make a copy of the picture from the newspaper to color, and if there are other children in family entering the coloring contest.

Pictures of the winners will be printed in the "Jednota" newspaper after Easter. Our lodge members will judge the entries at our District II Meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2016.

Mail your entry to:

Mrs. Barbara Fayta
1544 Rokosz Lane
Dyer IN 46311

GOOD LUCK TO ALL
Barbara Fayta, Chairperson
Easter Coloring Contest



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



The Home Office and Jednota Estates Office will be closed on

Friday, March 25, 2016, in observance of Good Friday.

From the Desk of
the Executive
Secretary
– Holiday
Hours

A Night to Remember:

The 23rd Annual Slovak Ball Featured Slovak Jazz Legend Peter Lipa

The Slovak-American Cultural Center (S-ACC), or as it is known in Slovak, Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko (S-AKS), organized its successful 23rd Slovak Ball, a black tie event, once again at the Royal Manor in Garfield, NJ. The NYC based non-profit organization which was founded in 1967, has been active in organizing a variety of cultural, artistic, sports, and scientific oriented events in the tristate area.

This year's gathering of Slovaks from all over the United States and Canada brought together almost 300 guests. It was the largest Slovak Ball organized since its inception in 1993 with the first Slovak Ball entitled "Slovak Independence Ball" which celebrated Slovakia's self-determined split from Czechoslovakia. Among the many attendees at this year's Slovak Ball were distinguished guests from the diplomatic community including H.E. Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, Peter Kmec and his beautiful wife Monika; H.E. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Frantisek Ruzicka and his lovely wife Ingrid; Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Jana Trnovcova; Consul General of the Czech Republic in New York Martin Dvořák and his wife Zuzana; Assistant Secretary General for the Department of Political Affairs at the United Nations, Miroslav Jenca and his wife Helena; and representatives from both the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC and the Slovak Consulate in New York.

First Catholic Slovak Union (FCSU) was represented by Honorary Consul Joseph Senko and Chairman of Friends of Slovakia and his wife Albina; Director of Independent Agents Andrew P. Rajec; and members of Branch 45 and Branch 746. Representatives of various other Slovak organizations also came to support the efforts of S-ACC, including Mr. and Mrs. John Duch, Chair of the Slovak Heritage Festival; Estera Mlch, the founder of Czech and Slovak Association, Inc. in Boston, MA; and acclaimed Broadway star and recording artist Luba Mason.

Sabina Sabados, President of the Slovak-American Cultural Center and Chair of the Ball Committee, welcomed all those present at the Ball. Father Francis Conka, a Slovak priest and member of the New York Oratory



Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York Jana Trnovcova and Andrew P. Rajec, Director of Independent Agents, First Catholic Slovak Union.



Guest of honor Peter Lipa



Mr. and Mrs. Matus Culen

of St. Philip Neri, pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Tappan, NY, gave the invocation. In attendance were also Fr. Martin Kertys, also an oratorian, who serves the Slovak community at the parish of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in Clifton, NJ, as well as Fr. Stefan Chanas of St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City.

The evening began with a riveting performance by two professional dancers, Anna Prokopovicova, a native of Bratislava, and her American partner Vlad Kvartin. They are currently ranked as the top 10 in the world in the "under 21 years of age" division and top 15 in the world in the adult division.

Special guest performer, violinist Filip Pogady – one of the most promising violinists of his generation and praised by the press for the beauty of his tone and his "lightning-like virtuosity" – captivated the audience with his performance of two classical pieces.

The evening would not be complete without a special performance by the guest of honor, Slovak jazz legend Peter Lipa, who is often referred to as the "father of Slovak Jazz." Born in Prešov, Slovakia, Peter tended toward music from an early age and learned to play the violin, trumpet, trombone, and guitar. After graduating from the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, he worked as an editor of the Czechoslovak Radio and later studied journalism at Comenius University in Bratislava. He did not start his musical career until the early 1960s. In 1968, the Blues Five, for which he was lead singer, were honored at the 2nd Beat Festival in Prague. In 1978 Peter Lipa started his own band Combo which is still in existence today under the name "Peter Lipa Band". In parallel, Peter works and sings with the Visegrad Blues Band, EU4 and Traditional Club.

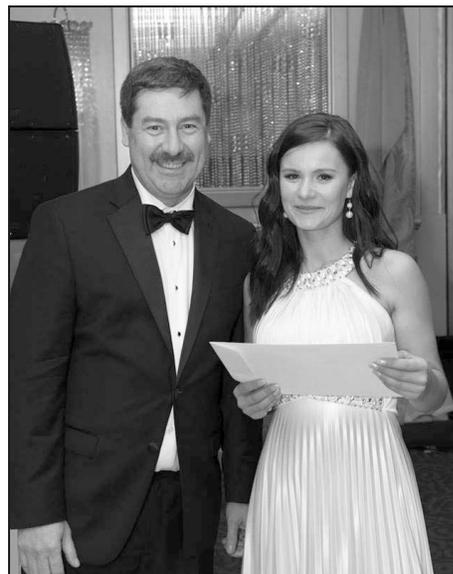
Peter Lipa has created a distinctive vocal performance with an emphasis on lyrics. His music comes from a combination of jazz and blues influenced by singers like Jimmy Rushing, Ray Charles, Al Jarreau, Joe Cocker and Bobby McFerrin. He is the first singer who applied the Slovak language in jazz. His repertoire features blues, swing and jazz standards as well as his own original compositions. Already in the 1980s he ranked among the first five male European jazz singers according to Jazz Forum. In



Peter Lipa, Guest of Honor, and Sabina Sabados, President of Slovak American Cultural Center



Judith Lepko and Fr. Martin Kertys



H.E. Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the UN Frantisek Ruzicka presenting the lucky winner with a prize for dinner for two at his residence.



(L - R) Sabina Sabados and Luba Mason



H.E. Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, Peter Kmec greeting the attendees.

A Night to Remember: *The 23rd Annual Slovak Ball Featured Slovak Jazz Legend Peter Lipa*



FCSU members in attendance at the 2016 Slovak Ball.



Honorary Consul Joseph Senko, Chairman of Friends of Slovakia, and his wife Albina, both longtime members of the FCSU



(L – R) Andrew P. Rajec, Sabina Sabados, President of Slovak-American Cultural Center, Ingrid Ružička, H.E. František Ružička Permanent Representative to the United Nations; Zuzana Pavlikova; Peter Lipa, Guest of Honor; H.E. Peter Kmec Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the US; Monika Kmec; Helena Jenča, Assistant Secretary General for the Department of Political Affairs at the United Nations; Miroslav Jenča, Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York; Jana Trnovcova; and Mr. Peter Krajnak.



Julie Ann Gurega and grandfather Jozef Korcak enjoying a dance together.



Consul General Jana Trnovcova presenting a Traditional Slovak "Majolika" vase to the winner, Lianna Clark



Violinist Filip Podagy

Professional dancers Vlad Kvaritin and Anna Prokopovičová



continued from page 9

1976, along with Miloš Paška, he started an annual jazz festival - Bratislava Jazz Days. Since then, he also started hosting his own regular radio jazz program. After the Velvet Revolution in 1989, the Slovak Jazz Society was established with Peter Lipa becoming its first and so far the only President.

Unfortunately, due to communist censorship, he was not allowed to record an album until he was 40 years old. His most powerful experience in music was a duet with American vocalist and conductor Bobby McFerrin. The maestro invited him on stage at the end of his concert in Bratislava in 1986.

As a singer, Peter Lipa has performed all over the world and recorded 25 albums in Slovak and English. Three of his studio albums have been listed among The 100

Greatest Slovak Albums of All Time, such as *Naspät' na stromy* (1995), *V najlepších rokoch* (2001), and *Lipa spieva Lasicu* (2005). Most recently, his latest studio output entitled *68* (2012) peaked at number forty-eight on the Czech Albums Chart. Attendees of this year's Slovak Ball had the opportunity to meet Peter Lipa in person and listen to him perform some of his most memorable songs live including "Balada o styroch konoch." It was truly an unforgettable experience for all those present! After the riveting performance by Peter Lipa, the President of the Slovak-American Cultural Center thanked him for being the guest of honor and for his work in spreading the good name of Slovakia all over the world. She presented with an award on behalf of the organization.

In addition to the program, guests danced all night long to the brilliant live music of the

talented band Express led by Marek Soltis. Many genres of music were covered from Slovak folk to modern pop.

The evening concluded with a rich raffle featuring prizes such as a roundtrip airplane ticket to Vienna; a weekend getaway at the Hamptons; a weekend stay at the luxurious Hotel Elysee in New York City; choice of dinner at the residence of H.E. Peter Kmec, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, or dinner at the residence of H.E. Frantisek Ruzicka, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations; New York Rangers hockey stick autographed by forward Rick Nash #61; basket of cheer from Slovak Goral Vodka Master, produced in Stara Lubovna and winner of many international awards, and much more.

The Ball's success was attributed to many devoted members and long-time volunteers of the Slovak-American Cultural Center as well as the tireless efforts of the Ball Committee comprised of Miss Sabina Sabados, Mrs. Zuzana Krcmar, Mrs. Zuzana Maziarz, and Mr. Peter Krajnak. The most important note of gratitude goes to each and every person who supported the organization through their attendance at the event.

S-ACC hopes to continue the wonderful tradition of hosting the Slovak Ball. Save the date - the 24th Slovak Ball will be held on Saturday, February 25th, 2017!

For the full list of sponsors and information on the activities of S-ACC please visit: www.slovakamericanc.org.

Submitted by FCSU's Region 1 Director, Sabina Sabados



Branch 89 newly elected officers take the oath of office (L – R): Financial Secretary Lou Dodulik: administering the oath of office, Treasurer & Recording Secretary Paul Novak; Vice President Joseph Hlavac; President Michael Novak; and Auditor Daniel Loduha.

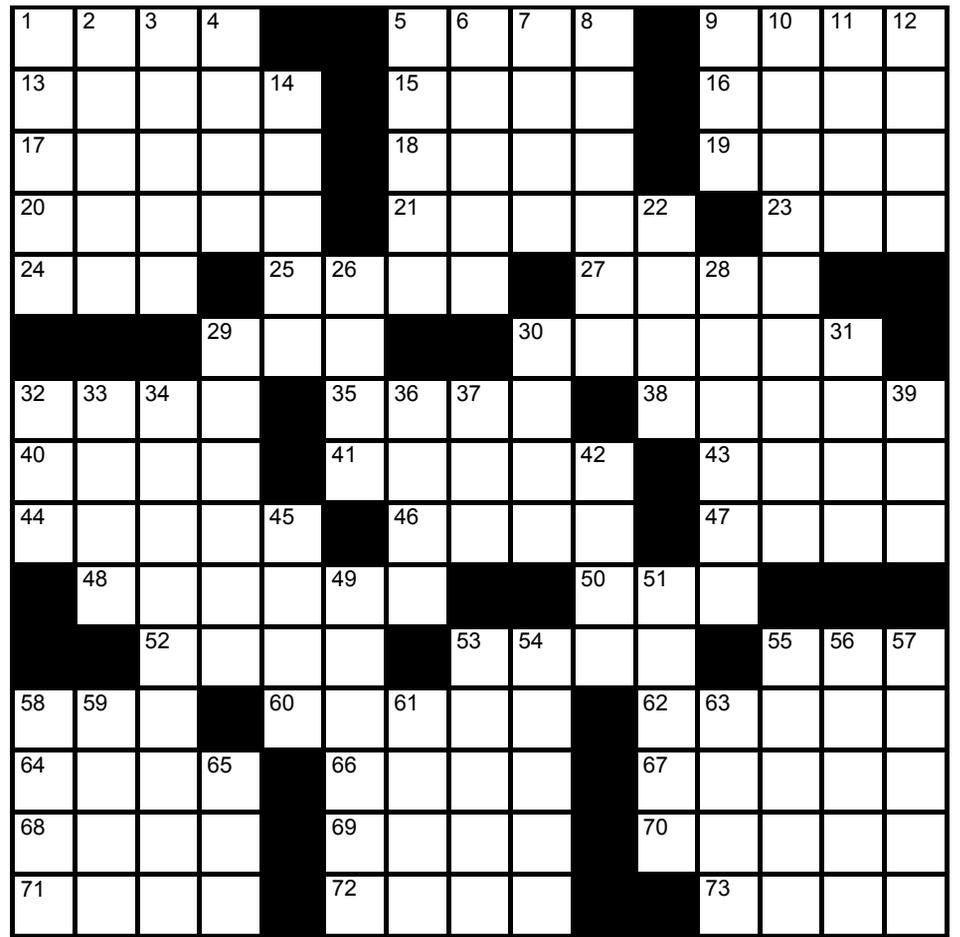
Branch 89's February Meeting

Branch 89 of Milwaukee, WI, held a meeting at Alioto's Restaurant in Wauwatosa, WI on February 13, 2016. After their business meeting and the election of new officers, the members enjoyed a delicious luncheon and an afternoon of fraternalism.

- Submitted by Rudy Bernath, Region 7 Director



Jednota Crossword Puzzle



Slovakia Heritage Tour Takes Off September 9-18, 2016



Experience Slovak culture, history, and life in Slovakia today, up close and personal on the 2016 Slovakia Heritage small group tour. From September 9 - 18, we'll explore important cities and historic sites as well as folk-life museums, mountain resort towns, beautiful countryside, and the mix of medieval towns to Soviet-era remnants that make Slovakia such an interesting small country to visit today. Optional genealogical re-

search and ancestral village visits available.

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

JEDNOTA

Publication Schedule for 2016

Issue Date

- March 30
- April 20
- May 11
- June 15
- July 20
- August 17
- Sept 7
- Sept 21
- October 5
- October 19
- November 2
- November 16
- December 7

Deadline to Receive Information

- March 21
- April 11
- May 2
- June 6
- July 11
- August 8
- August 29
- Sept 12
- Sept 26
- October 10
- October 24
- November 7
- November 28

Across

- 1 Potato
- 5 Ad headline
- 9 Golf hazard
- 13 Shut up's alternative
- 15 Hipbones
- 16 Bingo relative
- 17 Novelist Jong
- 18 Containers
- 19 Dentist's order
- 20 Britons
- 21 Auspices
- 23 Be in arrears
- 24 Glimpse
- 25 Shredded
- 27 Water holder
- 29 Pocketbook
- 30 Government hand-outs
- 32 Baby's word
- 35 Country dance
- 38 One in the family
- 40 Hibernia
- 41 Goofed
- 43 Student no longer
- 44 Eclipse type
- 46 Curved molding
- 47 Time zones
- 48 Some atoms
- 50 Attorneys' org.
- 52 Rational
- 53 Sandwich fish
- 55 Unagi, at a sushi bar
- 58 Gazelle
- 60 Fiend
- 62 Like Odin
- 64 Clod
- 66 Pay attention
- 67 Military rulers
- 68 Poet Pound
- 69 Fem. suffix

- 70 Willow twig
- 71 Cozy retreat
- 72 Caribou
- 73 Sea swallow

Down

- 1 Glasses, briefly
- 2 Thick soup
- 3 Serviceable
- 4 Heating vent
- 5 Fretted instrument
- 6 Extraterrestrial
- 7 Burbot
- 8 Less taxing
- 9 Bout stopper, for
- 10 Newspaper employees
- 11 All over again
- 12 Corn cake
- 14 Ziti, e.g.
- 22 Trumpeter
- 26 See 60 Across
- 28 Mystery
- 29 Ape treat
- 30 High spirits
- 31 Cat command
- 32 Eastern state (Abbr.)
- 33 Starch
- 34 Mesozoic era denizens
- 36 God of love
- 37 Physics unit
- 39 Asner and Begley
- 42 Campus VIP
- 45 Author Ayn
- 49 Viewed as
- 51 Guitar relative
- 53 Metric weight uni
- 54 Below
- 55 Sgt. Bilko
- 56 Aromatic compound
- 57 Absorb knowledge
- 58 Secluded valley
- 59 Seep
- 61 Gold colliery
- 63 Dethrone
- 65 Make lace

See Solution on Page 19

2015 JEDNOTA COLORING

REGION 1

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Maxton Nichols
Woodbury, CT



Second Place
Ashton Lewis
Perth Amboy, NJ

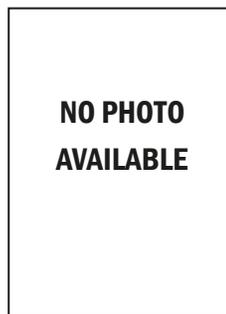


Third Place
Sadie Nichols
Woodbury, CT

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Violet McNamara
Point Pleasant, NJ



Second Place
Peter Monks
Trumbell, CT



Third Place
Luke Griffis
Land O Lakes, FL

REGION 2

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Owen White
Perth Amboy, NJ



Second Place
Ethan White
Perth Amboy, NJ



Third Place
Hunter Lewis
Perth Amboy, NJ

Age Group 7-9



First Place
Parker Krajsa
Wyomissing, PA



REGION 3

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Sebastian P. Pluto
Elgin, IL



Second Place
Caden A. Jacobson
White Plains, MD



Third Place
Gavin Carone
Norfolk, MA

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Maya Pluto
Elgin, IL



Second Place
Jaycob Kucko
Endwell, NY



Third Place
Lily Jones
Norfolk, VA

REGION 4

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Julia Rudat
Moscow, PA



Second Place
John J Slovenkai
Scranton, PA



Third Place
Briana Slovenkai
Scranton, PA

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Sam Dlugos
Greensburg, PA



Second Place
Max Dlugos
Latrobe, PA



Third Place
Hunter Mohan
Greensburg, PA



Congratulate all our Coloring test Winners, those to be placed in Part II in the March 30th

CONTEST RESULTS, PART I

REGION 4

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Danica Nypaver
Chambersburg, PA



Second Place
Abby Dlugos
Greensburg, PA



Third Place
Chiara Mongelluzzo
Greensburg, PA



First Place
Danny Dlugos
Greensburg, PA



Second Place
Lizzie Dlugos
Greensburg, PA



Third Place
Emily Davis
Ramey, PA

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6



First Place
Paige Giglione
Pittsburgh, PA



Second Place
Jeffrey Tisak
Ambridge, PA



Third Place
Lauralei Kroniser
Corapolis, PA



First Place
Josiah Meinert
Buford, GA



Second Place
Mary Hlozek
Oxford, GA



Third Place
Addison Giglione
Pittsburgh, PA

..... Age Group 7-9

REGION 6

..... Age Group 10-12



First Place
Jamie Meinert
Buford, GA



Second Place
Janelle Meinert
Buford, GA



Third Place
Timothy Costel
Butler, PA



First Place
Jocelyn Misanko
Akron, OH



Second Place
John Valencik
Brooklyn, OH



Third Place
Ayden Hunsicker
Gurley, AL

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9



First Place
Andrew Boyce
Montreal, Quebec,
Canada



Second Place
Kamden Dubber
Lakewood, OH



Third Place
Ava Lorene Hilliard
Alexandria, VA



First Place
Kaylin Tassinari
East Stroudsburg, PA



Second Place
Marianne Tassinari
East Stroudsburg, PA



Third Place
Grace Kolesar
Olmsted Twp, OH

..... Age Group 10-12

itions to
ng Con-
including
published
he next
issue.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRANCH 1 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The Saint Joseph Society-Branch 1 will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:00PM in the Sts. Cyril & Methodius School Hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood,

Ohio 44107. All members are encouraged to attend.

Marie A. Golias, Secretary

BRANCH 5P – EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saint John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 1:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the home of Marion Rubino, President. On the agenda will be a discussion of branch business and activities.

Please call Marion Rubino if you plan to attend 570-693-0399.

Mary Jo Rubino, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 19 – BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, cordially invites its members to attend our annual Mass in honor of our patron saint, St. Joseph, and offered for our living members on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 8:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church St., Bridgeport, CT. The Mass will be offered by Msgr. Joseph Pekar. We will not have a meeting at this time.

Our branch will hold its next meeting on April 24, 2016, at 9:30AM in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall. We will discuss plans to schedule the Margaret Evancho Award Ceremony and Breakfast in June, which was her birthday month. This award is given to our members who have reached their 16th birthday. This June meeting will be our semi-annual breakfast meeting. We hope our members will attend this important meeting.

Henry Zack, Secretary

BRANCH 41 – YONKERS, NEW YORK

The Holy Trinity Society Branch 41 will hold a meeting on Saturday April 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm, at 40 Dalton Road Yonkers, NY. All Members are encouraged to attend.

Joanne Fialkovic, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 45 – NEW YORK, NEW YORK

The St. Matthew's the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 12:00 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 60 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 60 will hold its semi-annual meeting Sunday, April 17, 2016 at the home of President Ann Wargovich (58 Lilmont Drive, Swissvale) at 1:00 p.m.

On the agenda will be Officers' reports, and discussion of events for the upcoming year. All members are urged to attend.

Julie Perla, Secretary

BRANCH 162 – UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its quarterly meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 9:00AM at the Golden Corral's Restaurant Conference Room, 129 Matthew Drive, Uniontown, PA.

Branch activities will be discussed and officers' reports will be given as well as upcoming events for the current year. All members and guests of Branch 162 are cordially invited to attend the meeting and breakfast buffet. Call for reservations by March 1, 2016, and advise of any address changes, etc., or questions to Dolores Marmol at 724-437-4983.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

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

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 166, will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday, May 1, 2016, at 1:15 P.M., at Buffet Star, 4089 Old Vestal Road, Vestal, New York. On the agenda will be a discussion of the District Meeting and Branch business. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call Arlo Meeker at 607-775-4896 by April 29, 2016, to make a reservation if you plan to attend. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Arlo Meeker, President

BRANCH 200 – FORD CITY, MICHIGAN

The 1st Thursday of each month except June and July @ 7:00PM are our meetings upstairs in the banquet hall. We have openings for Board Members. Please submit your letter of interest. Whether or not you want to be a board member, please join us @ the meetings. We are looking forward to seeing you in the near future.

Bingo is every Tuesday evening @ 7:00pm. Come out to support your club's auxiliary. We'd love to see you! They cook some pretty good food that evening and most Friday evenings.

Fraternally,
Vicki L. Schaub, Financial Secretary

BRANCH 228 – LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist/Holy Trinity Lodge, Branch 228 of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7 P.M. at the American Slovak Club on 30th and Broadway in Lorain, Ohio. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. and are held at the American Slovak Club. Delicious food is served by Theresa Arendt at the last meeting of each calendar quarter. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review during each December meeting. The exact date for this year's election meeting is December 19, 2016. At that time, we will also elect two (2) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. Incumbent officers President Len Zilko, Vice-President Luis Palos, Financial Secretary Lisa Trifiletti-Palos, Activities Director/Auditor Theresa Arendt and Recording Secretary Thomas Zuffa were re-elected to their respective offices this past December. Ken Arendt and Theresa Arendt were re-elected to a three-year term on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors representing our local Branch 228.

I am very happy to see an increased participation from our younger members in 2015 and hope this participation will continue to increase. It is really a lot of fun to have more members speaking up and giving their viewpoint of the various subjects that are discussed at our meetings. These members represent the future of the FCSU and it is great to see their interest grow. Input from any and all members is appreciated. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update on current activities. Please come to our meetings. You won't be disappointed.

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 276 – MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Branch 276 will hold its regular meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. in the St. Patrick church hall on 32nd Street in McKeesport, PA. On the agenda will be discussion for events of the new year. We cordially invite our members to attend our meetings. It would be greatly appreciated to see our members to attend our meetings. We wish you all a Happy New Year.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Branch 380KJ will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2016. The location is Kings Restaurant, Rte 19, Canonsburg, PA. The time

is 2:00PM.

Fraternally,

Margaret Graytok

BRANCH 382 – SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 382K, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, will hold its Annual March Meeting on Sunday, March 6, 2016. The meeting will begin at 12:30 P.M. in the VFW, 110 Chestnut Street, Dunmore, PA.

Branch Auditors will meet at noon to conduct the yearly audit of books. The meeting agenda will include future branch activities and donations, District 17 information, and FCSU program updates. Copies of the Annual Report submitted to the Home Office will be available for members to examine.

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

Frank M. Slovenkai, Jr. serves as Branch President. Other officers include Vice President Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Secretary Michael J. Czankner, Financial Secretary John J. Slovenkai, Sr., and Treasurer Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr.

Elizabeth M. Slovenkai, Vice President

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 1:30pm on March 17, 2016.

Members are encouraged to attend.

Geraldine Buchheit, Secretary

BRANCH 450 – CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 450 will hold its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, April, 16,

2016.

The meeting will be held at 1:00 pm at Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 5500 West 54th Street, Parma Ohio 44129 (between Brookpark and Snow Road).

On the agenda will be a discussion of branch summer activities and other business pertaining to the branch.

All members are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served after meeting.

Fraternally,

George P. Carny, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

Thursday, March 17 St. Patrick's Day Dinner Meeting Sunday, Mar 20 2pm.

No Breakfast on March 29 due to Easter.

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

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

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 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

On March 19, 2016 we will celebrate Mass

continued on page 17

28th Treasures of Slovakia Tour in July 2016



Treasurer Tour goes love trying the village dances.

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; the medieval Banka Bystrica; the folklore festival at Detva; Kezmarok's International Crafts Festival; the high Tatras; the walled town of Levoča; the glorious Spiš Castle; Stara Lubovna's museum of village homes; a raft ride on the Dunajec River in Pieniny National Park; a tour of Presov and Kosice to marvel at St. Elizabeth's Cathedral and the spectacular Singing Fountain; Bardejov, the Pearl of Sarris, a UNESCO treasure and Slovakia's other walled town with St Egidius Church; charming Cicmany with home; a village wedding in Krakovany; a tour of medieval Cerveny Kamen Castle; traveling the Royal Carpathian Wine Road and visiting a wine museum; and back to Bratislava for a festive farewell dinner.

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 Belianske Tatry. The 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 - helene-zx@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, and a member of Branch 278 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. She has authored 4 books on Slovakia and numerous articles and maintains Slovak Pride, a 33,000 surname and village data base.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 – THE REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District 2 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2016. The meeting will take place at the Missionary Benedictine Convent, 5900 W. 147th Street, in Oak Forest, IL. Attendees will gather at 1:30 pm for a period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments. We will vote on the entries for the District Easter Coloring Contest. The meeting will start promptly at 2:00 pm. After the meeting, attendees will enjoy a delicious dinner. All branches are encouraged to send delegates. Individual Jednota members who wish to become more active in District 2 activities are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, call District 2 President John Jurcenko at (773) 763-0810.

Sincerely,

Robert Ľapák Magruder, Recording Secretary

DISTRICT 3 - GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT - WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The George Onda District of the First Catholic Slovak Union will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2016 following the 5:00P.M. Mass at St. Florian Roman Catholic Church, United, Pa. The meeting will take place in the Formation Room of the former Convent. On the agenda will be results of our Stedry Vecer, news and plans of our branches in the new year. All branches are encouraged to attend to secure your stipends. Refreshments will be served.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

DISTRICT 4 – THE MSGR. RURA DISTRICT

The next semi-annual meeting of the Msgr. Rura District of New Jersey will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 12:30 PM. Branch 746 will host the meeting at Amici Ristorante, 1700 W. Elizabeth Avenue in Linden. A luncheon will be served after the meeting. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

DISTRICT 5 – THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT

The Michigan District will hold its semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2016, at Riverside Family Restaurant, 8295 Midland Road, Freeland, MI 48623.

Our meeting will begin at 12:45 pm. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm. The business meeting will follow the lunch. On the Agenda will be Officer Reports. Also on the Agenda will be information regarding the status of designated "Home Office Branches" in our District.

Branch 774 is hosting this meeting. Please notify Dianna Rimarcik at 586-254-0225 with the number of delegates attending from your branch no later than April 18th so the restaurant can be notified of the number of attendees expected. If you are unable to confirm prior to the event but wish to attend, a \$15.00 fee will be collected at the restaurant. Those making advance reservations will not be charged.

****Please remember, a branch delegate must attend at least one District meeting in order to be eligible for compensation from the Home Office.

Dianna Rimarcik, District Secretary

DISTRICT 6 – THE PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Branch 213 will host the spring business meeting, planned for Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 1PM at Holy Trinity Church in West Mifflin. The meeting will include officers' reports and a discussion of the requirements for becoming a licensed fraternal insurance agent.

Branch 60 will host the Fathers' Day brunch on Sunday, June 19. Annie Ondrejco is coordinating a summer picnic. More details will be provided at the spring meeting. Branch 276 will host the annual winter business meeting at a date in November to be determined later.

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

** WPCSA monthly meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Mt Lebanon Public Library: March 7 – Egg Decorating. Become a member of the WPCSA to get the newsletter listing all of their events.

** The 12th Consular Tour of Slovakia is planned for August 28 to September 10, 2016. This tour will include Vienna and Poland. Contact Joe Senko for details.

** Slovak Language Classes are held Tuesdays in spring and fall. Contact Joe Senko for information about reservations and fees (412-956-6000). The Fall classes are directed toward intermediate and advanced students. The Spring classes are for beginners. Saturday summer classes for children are being planned.

** Don't forget the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour – 3-4 PM, Sunday's – WPIT-AM 730. The program is also streamed live at www.wpitam.com.

** You can follow the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the Western PA Slovak Cultural Association on Facebook.

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

** If you're interested in study abroad, Slovakia has a number of major universities; some have programs taught in English. Check out www.slovakia.com/study-in-slovakia/

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

** The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International is holding its next meeting in October 2017 in Pittsburgh. Further information can be found at www.cgsi.org.

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

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

Fraternally,

Margaret A. Nasta, District Secretary

DISTRICT 9 - THE FRANK T. HOLLY JR DISTRICT

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District of Uniontown, PA, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 1PM at Bogey's Restaurant at Duck Hollow Golf Club, 374 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, PA, 15901. All district members are welcome. Election of officers for the new year will be held.

Dinner will be served. If planning on attending, please call James Marmol by Wednesday, March 9, 2016, at 724-437-0892. Those attending are asked to contribute \$5.00 toward their meal.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

DISTRICT 13 – JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT

District 13, the Jozef Cardinal Tomko District, will hold a semi-annual meeting on March 13, 2016, following a complimentary meal. The time is 2:00PM at Cozy Corners in Oscepla Mills, PA, 16666; Route 53 South of Philipsburg, PA, 16866.

Members from District 13 branches are requested to attend. Please call Rosemary Deliman 814-342-5592 if you are able to be present.

Rosemary Deliman, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 14 – REV JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT

Rev. Kostik District will hold its next meeting will on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 6:00PM at St Matthias Church, located on Shady Run Road Youngstown OH. The agenda will be the election of officers. This is a makeup meeting for the February 16th meeting which was cancelled due to inclement weather. All member branches are urged to attend.

Carla Peshek, President

DISTRICT 17 – SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS DISTRICT

Saints Cyril and Methodius District 17 will hold its Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2016. Members will meet at 1:30 P.M. in the Shrine Dining Room of St. Ann's Basilica, 1233 St. Ann Street, Scranton, PA.

All branches are encouraged to send representatives to the meeting. District 17 encompasses Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in Pennsylvania and Broome County in New York.

Prior to the meeting, district auditors will audit the books at 1:00 P.M.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please contact District President Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr. at 570.342.7562 to confirm your branch's attendance.

Fraternally,

Michael J. Slovenkai, Sr., President

DISTRICT 20 - PRICE PRIBINA DISTRICT - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

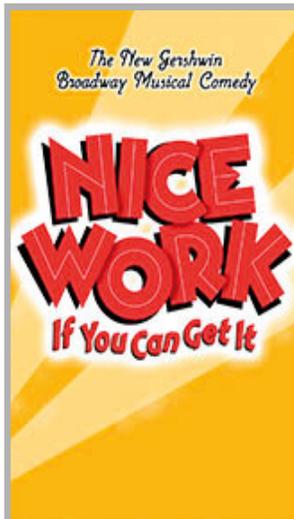
On March 13, 2016, we cordially invite all Slovaks and friends of Slovakia to attend Slovak Holy Mass at St. John Paul II Church, Polish Center, 16672 Golden Ave, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. The celebration begins at 1:30 PM. After Mass, there will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a light dinner will be served, including dessert and refreshments. Children will enjoy traditional Easter Egg hunt.

One friendly reminder: On this same day, March 13, 2016, Daylight Saving Time begins. People across the U.S., Canada, and some regions of Mexico will have to set their clocks forward one hour. It is advised that before going to bed on Saturday, March 12, it is best to set the clocks forward so that, for example, 9 p.m. becomes 10 p.m.

Sincerely,

Paul Skuben, President

District II Annual 2016 BRUNCH AND PLAY



On **Sunday, May 15th, 2016**, a Brunch and Play are scheduled at the **Center for Performing and Arts, Theatre at the Center**, located at 1040 Ridge Road in Munster, Indiana. Brunch starts at 12:45 pm, the play follows brunch at 2:30 pm. The play this year is a musical called **"Nice Work If You Can Get It"**. It is a lively musical filled with exciting dance numbers, glittering costumes and a wonderful love story with well-known songs by Gershwin.

If you have been to the brunch/play before, the price is \$31.50 per person. If you have never attended the brunch/play, District II Members pay \$36.50. Non-members pay full price (\$56.50, not including tax or gratuity).

For more information, call Lynda Tanis at: 1-630-247-7521. Make checks payable to: Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II and mail to Lynda Tanis at 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618. The deadline is March 15, 2016. Checks will not be honored after this date.



PLEASE MAIL THE BELOW PORTION ONLY



Members attended last year	\$31.50 x _____	= \$ _____	total
Members not attended last year	\$36.50 x _____	= \$ _____	total
Non-members	\$56.50 x _____	= \$ _____	total

Member's Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

List all names of those attending the back of this sheet and mail together with check to:
Lynda Tanis at: 3141 N. Campbell, Chicago, IL 60618.

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
001K	Margaret A Novotny	152K	Bernard J Fedorchak	324K	Beverly M Kovacs	581K	Lawrence V Kaminsky
003K	Frances Louise Fignar	162K	Paul R Meosky	326K	Stephen P Welkie	584K	John Joseph Karpach
019K	Lawrence E Nemchek	173K	John Michael Clarke	327K	Daniel D Yuros	635K	John Terlesky
024K	Cynthia Anne Golias	200K	Louis A Michaux	367K	Elizabeth A Krazel	731K	Lisa Currao
024K	Catherine Rita Nelson	200K	Mary Panchik	380K	Robert T Martin	731K	Joseph T Gbur
024K	Joseph C Vavrus	200K	Nancy J Vulgan	380K	Nancy M Minton	743K	Sr Mary Barbara Brys
040K	Martin J Matsko	228K	Thomas Stitak Jr	382K	Andrew B Czankner Jr	743K	Victor J Veschak
045K	Edward W Bartkovsky	240P	Marie B Muchler	382K	Stephen E Kasarda	746K	Gerald M Celecki
060K	Catherine A Shinavski	260K	Rose Matzye	419K	Elizabeth Gvozdas	754K	Mary A Daymut
085K	Marcella Hetro	260K	Emily Marie Terek	512K	Mary Ellen Stilwell	764K	Joseph E Dvorchak
090K	Michael S Peranich Sr	290K	Francis L Sipski	514K	Mary N Adamecs	796K	Eleanor E Berner
102K	Julia Burick	294K	Vincent M Kasarda	543K	John P Durnik	831K	Mary A Karney
108K	Thomas A Vinoski	308K	Rudolph J Hamborsky Sr	543K	John M Minor	857K	Albert R Bonczyk
112K	Jean Louise Aschman	308K	Andrew M Janoso	553K	Penny N Davis		
112K	Rev Charles Sperlak	320K	Margaret M Kieta	553K	Richard F Gifford		
136K	Edward A Frenock	324K	John Kalina	567K	Dolores A Kinek		

*Processed through the month of February

OBITUARIES

FRANCES LOUIS FIGNAR

BRANCH 3 – MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Fran L. Fignar of Fortitude Farm, MN, passed away unexpectedly on December 8, 2015. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph John (Sr) and Lucille Fignar, infant brother David Paul Fignar and her "fur-ever" friends Early Rise, Flame, Bomb, Jack, Colt, Rebel, Trendar, Moose, Free, Jedi, Tinian, Laddy and Sandy. Survived by brothers Joseph John (Jr) (Harriet) Fignar, James (Mary) Fignar; nieces Michelle Kappes, Bernard Fignar, Lisa Cervantez, Mary Sethe, Aimee Falvo, Daniel Fignar and Rodger Fignar and their spouses and children, and very special "fur-ever" friends Ember, Deuce and Wendell. Fran developed a love at an early age for horses. She established Fortitude Farm in the late 60's where she taught riding lessons for many years. During the 80's and into the 90's she was the Black Knight at the Renaissance Fair in Shakopee, MN. In 1993 she retired as an engineer from Northwestern Bell where she had worked since high school. In retirement she was active in her church community of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. There she taught CCD, worked in the pre-school, and was a lector at Mass. Her faith in God was unwavering. In the local community she was known as the "crazy horse lady". A Mass of Christian burial was held on Saturday, December 12, 2015, at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, Mound, MN, with interment at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Cemetery.

PAUL M HRYCKO

BRANCH 380 – CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Paul M. Hrycko, 51, of McMurray, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, January 27, 2016, in his home.

He was born December 6, 1964, in Mt. Lebanon, a son of the late Andrew J. and Doris E. Jackovic Hrycko.

Mr. Hrycko was a member of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church in Canonsburg.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman.

Surviving are a loving daughter, Rebecca (Christopher Lint) Hrycko of Pittsburgh; two precious grandchildren, Christopher and



Landon; six beloved siblings, Andrew F. (Joanne) Hrycko of McMurray, Barbara A. (Jim) Guest of McMurray, David J. Hrycko of Walnut Port, Diane C. (Duncan) Taylor of McMurray, Thomas J. (Pam) Hrycko of Zelenople and Marian T. (Mark) Kriston of McMurray; and many nieces and nephews.

Also surviving is his longtime friend, Elizabeth Rugh of McMurray.

Friends were welcomed with a Panachida service on Sunday, January 31, 2016 at the Salandra Funeral and Cremation Services in Canonsburg. Divine Liturgy was held on Monday, February 1, 2016, in St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church, Canonsburg, with the Rev. Joseph Jugan as celebrant.

ROSE A. PAPARELLA

BRANCH 595 – MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MI

Rose A. Paparella, age 81, passed away Saturday, August 29, 2015 at her home. Born April 29, 1934 to Joseph and Agnes (Minarovic) Matovic, she was a graduate of St. Mary's High School. She married Louis J. "Louie" Paparella September 8, 1956 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Muskegon Heights, MI, where she was a faithful lifelong member. Throughout the years Rose served to support several church activities and functions, and was a proud member of the church choir for many years. She also was a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union and served on many committees for that organization as well. Rose loved her garden, loved her friends, and all the activities they shared together, and most of all loved her extensive family. Her survivors include her sons: John and Kathy of Mt. Pleasant, MI; Joseph and Marlys, and David both of Roosevelt Park, MI; and Richard and Sheryl of Chandler, AZ; 16 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was exceptionally close to her sisters-in-law, Angie (Blaine) Douglas and Marta Langlois, and brothers-in-law, Vincent Paparella and Michael (Beverly) Paparella, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband in 2008; her daughter, Susan Mangiapane and Sue's husband Dennis Holden; and her sisters, Mary Korson and Pauline Matovic. A Mass of Christian Burial was held September 3, 2015, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with Rev. Fr. Antony

Britto, SAC, officiating, and interment took place at St. Mary's Cemetery, Muskegon, MI. Visitation was September 2, 2015, at The Lee Chapel, Norton Shores, MI, where the Rosary was prayed as well.

- Submitted by Susan Hornik,
Branch 595 Secretary

LISA FERENCHAK

CURRAO

BRANCH 731 – YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Lisa Ferenchak Currao of Glendale, Ariz., 47, formerly of Boardman, OH, died Dec. 23, 2015, in the Hospice of the Valley Hospice House.

She was born June 10, 1968, in Youngstown, OH, and was a 1986 graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School. Lisa went on to earn her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Development from Youngstown State University.

She was employed in Special Education with Hilltop Elementary School in the Canfield School District, but had been working at Boulder Creek Elementary since moving to Arizona.

She grew up in St. Matthias Church, Youngstown, but more recently was a member of St. Thomas Moore in Glendale, AZ. She enjoyed hiking and hiked two mountains in Arizona, Pinnacle Peak and Camel Back Mountain. She loved spending time with an enormous group of family and friends in both Ohio and Arizona. She was very devoted to her faith and religion and her dogs, Mason and Riggins, who both recently passed.

Lisa leaves her husband, Joseph Currao, whom she married on June 17, 2006; her father, John E. (Ann) Ferenchak; two sisters, Arlene (Brian) Lowry of White Marsh, Md. and Karen (Kevin) Vrabel of Canfield; her mother-in-law, Mary Currao of Struthers, whom she resided with the final weeks of her illness; brother-in-law, Domenic (Diana) Currao of Austintown; sister-in-law, Rose Ann (Robert) Titi of Canfield; nieces, Shannon Lowry, Briana Lowry, Sarah Vrabel, Lisa Currao, Alyssa Titi and Julianna Titi; nephews, Justen Vrabel, Jarret Vrabel and Michael Currao; and stepsisters, Laura (Dave) Randall and Jill Reitenbach.

Lisa was preceded in death by her moth-

er, Michaelena Ferenchak; grandparents, Edward and Bertha Gridale and John and Dorothy Ferenchak; and her father-in-law, Tony Currao.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, December 28, 2015, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, with the Rev. Bernard Bonnot as celebrant. Entombment followed at Lake Park Cemetery. Family and friends were received prior to Mass earlier that Monday at the church. The Davidson-Becker Funeral Home handled arrangements.

ALBERT R. BONCZYK

BRANCH 857 – LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

Albert R. Bonczyk passed away Saturday, December 19, 2015, surrounded by his loving family, at home.

He was 90. Born in New York, NY, Mr. Bonczyk had been a resident of Levittown, PA, since 1952. He worked in construction and helped build Levittown. He then went on to start his own construction company, Albert R. Bonczyk Contractors.

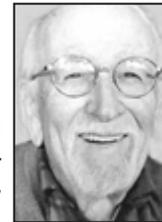
He was a founding parishioner of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish where he served as an usher for many years. He also donated to many causes that were important to him, most notably to those who were less fortunate.

Mr. Bonczyk loved his garden, especially his roses. He enjoyed caring for them and taking in their beauty.

The most important thing to him was his family. He loved them more than anything and there was no limit as to what he would do for them.

Mr. Bonczyk served proudly in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a member of the American Legion Post 960, and Saint Joseph the Worker Knights of Columbus, Saint John Neumann Assembly. He was the loving father of the late Stephen A. 'Beaver'; grandfather of the late Richard; and brother of the late Joseph.

Mr. Bonczyk was the beloved husband of Regina (Paliwoda) for 64 years; and the devoted father of Richard (Debbie), Barbara, Janice Kopenits (Luke), Robert (Maryann), Dorothy, Maryanne McKiney (Michael), and Catherine Crisfulla (Mario).



Holy Week and Easter Traditions in Slovakia

continued from page 7

trees, and even take milk from their cows.

Shepherds took their sheep to pasture on Good Friday and marked their flock, for it was believed they felt less pain on this day and wounds would heal more quickly. So they often notched their ears or branded them with unique geometrical shapes to distinguish their flock from others.

In order to guard against evil spirits, peasants wore crosses and displayed them prominently. They also used abundant garlic to counter evil spirits. Any food eaten contained heavy doses of garlic (cesnak), and it was even added to the feed given to animals. Bunches of garlic were hung at the entrances of houses and barns to guard against evil spirits.

Some peasants would also run around their fields and loudly ring bells. This was not aimed at evil spirits, but at moles (krčka), who would threaten the productivity of the soil. By scaring them off, the farmers believed they would have a better crop that year.

Biela Sobota -- White Saturday (Holy Saturday)

Holy Saturday marked the final day of cleaning and preparation before the Easter holiday. Typically the day involved preparing special foods for the Easter meal – klobasa (kielbasy in Polish), ham šunka (ham) or roasted lamb (pečené jahňacie), syrek (a special cheese), paska (sweet Easter bread), koláče (nut rolls), kraslice or pysanky (painted eggs that symbolized new life in Christ), chren, (horseradish), etc. Aromas of cooking and baking swarmed the home, portending the special holiday.

The women of the household would carry baskets of foodstuffs to church, where the priest would offer special prayers and bless their baskets. That tradition continues among many Slovak and Polish churches in the United States today, as at the Holy Name of Jesus Church in Youngstown, Ohio, or at St. Charles in Boardman, Ohio.

Commonly on Holy Saturday, Slovaks would use the power of fire to burn all that was considered old, evil, and potentially dangerous. The custom was called the "burning of Judas," in reference to the traitorous apostle who betrayed Jesus. There was a need to discard all that is sinful, and begin life anew. Some folks believed that they could harness the protecting power of goodness by gazing into the embers of the fire that burned the old useless materials.

In the evening, the Easter Vigil took place and Slovaks took care to light all candles with

new fire struck from flint. At the church service, lamps were filled with fresh oil, the faithful held candles in the dark church, and the Paschal Candle would be lit, preparing the way for the resurrected Christ.

Veľká Noc – Great Night (Easter Sunday)

Great joy embraced the household on Easter morn as all celebrated the glorious resurrection of Christ. The entire family attended Holy Mass in their best Sunday clothing and many women wore traditional folk costume. The solemnity of the passion gave way to new hope. Easter was a time to show off one's good fortunes as well as celebrating Christ's victory over death.

Easter Sunday was always a day for family togetherness. The family feasted on the foods blessed the day before, and the mother saved a little ham to be used to heal any injuries throughout the year. Each family member ate heartily and each has his or her special egg to enjoy as a symbolic new beginning. As the Church taught, "all life sprang from the egg." The gazdina (lady of the household) carefully gathered any crumbs (omrvnky) from the meal and saved them. They would be mixed with seeds in the hope of helping produce a bountiful crop that year. Some crumbs also went to the chickens in the belief that this would enable them to lay more eggs.

After the meal, much like Christmas time, extended families would gather and socialize, sharing some good alcoholic beverages and sweet treats for the children. There was new hope, for Easter had dawned and life had renewed itself.

Easter Monday

The celebration of Easter continued on Monday, and the most memorable custom surrounded the young men's whipping and sprinkling of girls with water.

This was not something the girls wished to avoid, but was welcomed. People believed thought the custom would keep young ladies fertile and healthy throughout the year.

The girls would rise very early on Monday in preparation for the kúpaci (the drenching) or polievačky (a watering), when boys and single young men would search out the girls they liked. Oftentimes it turned into a fun game of hide-and-seek, with the girls challenging the guys to find them. The girls might hide in the barn, shed, pantry, or elsewhere in order to avoid a soaking. Then when found, they often would perform a ritual whipping with a korbáč (a stick made from branches (usually from bahniatky - catkins). The chlapci (boys) then sprinkled the girls or even got a bucket of cold water to pour over a favorite. It was all done in good fun, and the boys would receive treats such as eggs or koláče as a reward for their capture.

Tradition had it that a good soaking would keep the girls beautiful and spring-like (like the twigs in the whip) throughout the year. Good clean water would wash away any evil and dangerous diseases from the body. In a few villages, rather than using buckets, the young men would toss girls into a creek. But usually the cold water came from a well and the guys drenched the girls with buckets of water. Sometimes a light splash of perfume would follow to sweeten the girls up.

When I was in Bratislava in the early 1980s, I used to hear of guys dumping a bucket of water on girls, and many of them did not appreciate that, especially if it fell down five floors from a window in the Družba dormitory in Bratislava. The bucket drenching does continue as can be seen in this video online. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ey-IAhdMi5I>

In more recent times, the whipping and soaking custom has moderated in some places. Some boys ask a girl for a cup, which they then fill with water and splash the girl in her face. Whipping has also moderated, and often young men come instead with a small bottle of perfume. They might spray several drops of perfume on a girl's hair instead of a bucket of water!

In many places, the girls sought their guys on Tuesday morning and did their own share of watering and whipping. Again it was all intended to be carried out in a good spirit, and served as a mating ritual in the peasant villages. In an age before television and served-up entertainment, these customs made for interesting times.

Through their cherished customs during Holy Week and the Easter holidays, Slovaks strove to maintain the true meaning of the season in their hearts – the painful torture and death of Jesus as the price for human sin, the joyful resurrection of Christ and the final fulfillment of the promise of eternal redemption.

Select Sources

- Bosak, Martin and Bosak, Rudolf. Slovak Folk Customs and Traditions, eds. Helen Savinski and Darina Tuhy (Prešov: Slovak Heritage Society of N.E. Pa., U.S.A. and Michael Bosak Society, Slovak Republic, 2005): pp. 132-140.
- Easter in Slovakia. www.sostv.sk/dokumenty/.../Easter%20in%20Slovakia%20janka.doc (accessed March 4, 2013).
- "Easter in Slovakia: Easter eggs and buckets of cold water," [Slovakcooking.com](http://www.slovakcooking.com/2011/blog/easter-in-slovakia/), April 24, 2011. <http://www.slovakcooking.com/2011/blog/easter-in-slovakia/> (Accessed Feb. 15, 2016).
- Filek, Pavol, "JKS 187 Dokonané je." YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jZvtasvutk> (accessed March 4, 2013).
- Jednotný katolícky spevník. <http://www.spevník.szm.com/#187> (accessed March 4, 2013).
- Kopanic, Michael. "Holy Thursday Slovak Traditions." Suite101.com. April 6, 2007. <http://suite101.com/article/holy-thursday-slovak-traditions-a18181> (accessed March 4, 2013).
- Kopanic, Michael. "Holy Week Traditions in Slovakia -- Pašiové týždeň," Jednota (March 30, 2011).
- Kopanic, Michael. "Palm Sunday Traditions in Slovakia: Kvetná nedeľa," Jednota (March 14, 2012).
- Kopanic, Michael. "Palm Sunday Traditions in Slovakia." Suite101.com. March 28, 2007. <http://www.suite101.com/content/palm-sunday-traditions-in-slovakia-a17511> (accessed March 4, 2013).
- Kopanic, Michael. "Slovak Customs during Holy Week: Morena, Pagan Goddess of Winter, is Set Aflame and Cast into Water." April 4, 2007. <http://suite101.com/article/the-coming-of-spring-a18059> (accessed March 4, 2013).
- Kováč, Edward. Slovenské zvyky. (Scranton, Pa.: Obrana Press, 1953): 14-30.
- Pisárová, Martina. "Culture Shock: Slovak Easter traditions can bother unwilling women," Slovak Spectator. April 12, 1999. <http://spectator.sme.sk/c/20011865/culture-shock-slovak-easter-traditions-can-bother-unwilling-women.html> (Accessed Feb. 15, 2016).
- "Slovak Easter Traditions," YouTube, posted by Katarina Bobalova, April 22, 2014. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ey-IAhdMi5I> (Accessed Feb. 15, 2016).
- "Veľká noc má svoju moc" (Easter is powerful). Pluska.sk. (accessed March 3, 2013) <http://mamina.pluska.sk/mamina/relax/velka-noc-ma-svoju-moc.html> (accessed March 3, 2013).
- "Veľkonočné tradície a zvyky," JankoHrasko.sk, from TASR, March 20, 2008. <http://www.jankohrasko.sk/clanok/15637/velkonocne-tradicie-a-zvyky/> (Accessed Feb. 15, 2016).

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 14

to honor our Saint Joseph Branch Patron Saint. The liturgy will be at 4:00 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Saint Matthias Church, and 915 Cornell Street, Youngstown, OH.

Jim Bobby, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 743 – STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743 will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 20, 2016 with a Slovak mass for all living and deceased members at 11:30AM at St. Cyril & Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Rd., Sterling Heights, MI.

Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social hall following the Mass.

A brief business meeting will be held in the Heritage room at 1PM.

Members who need assistance with their policy or need to change their address or beneficiary should contact the Financial Secretary of Branch 743, Joseph C. Rimarcik, 42909 Sussex Park Dr. Sterling Heights, MI 48314-3087 or phone @586-254-0225.

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

BRANCH 746 – LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746 will hold its next meeting on Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 11:30 AM at Amici Ristorante, 1700 W.

Elizabeth Avenue in Linden. Agenda will include discussion of plans for a summer picnic and bus trip to Washington, DC in September. Okres meeting will follow at 12:30. There will be a luncheon following both meetings. Please RSVP to Joanne Tkach Polt @732-762-3148 by April 1st if you plan on attending.

Mary Kapitan, Secretary

BRANCH 764 – WARREN, OHIO

Branch 764's next meeting will be held on March 15 2016, at 12:30 at the Covered Bridge Restaurant. The address is: 22 W Broad St, Newton Falls, OH 44444.

All members are urged to attend.

Joy Brunetti, Recording Secretary

BRANCH 844 – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Branch 844 will hold their Annual Slovak Easter Mass on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at Pope John Paul II Polish Center located on 3999 Rose Drive, Yorba Linda, CA, 92886. Mass begins at 1:00PM. A Slovak lunch will be served after Mass, with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Come and join us in celebrating the Slovak Spirit of Easter. Also following the festivities, Branch 844 members will hold a meeting to review officers and discuss branch activities.

We hope to see you there, and we wish everyone a very special and safe Easter holiday.

Fraternally yours,

**Milan Konkol, Financial
Secretary/Treasurer**

Reminder For All Branches

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

14.01 General Rules

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

Easter Traditions From Slovakia

Lubos Brieda, slovakcooking.com

Bear Paws (Medvedie Labky)



1 yolk, 2 cups flour, 2 sticks margarine, 100g ground walnuts, 100g powdered sugar, 1 packet of vanilla sugar
Mix all ingredients until you get a sticky dough with the consistency of play-dough. Grease and dust with flour crescent-shaped metal baking forms. Press the dough into the forms and bake for 8 minutes at 375F. Coat with powdered sugar or dip ends in chocolate.

Hearts (Srdiečka)



4 cups flour, 2 cups powdered sugar, 1.5tsp baking powder, 200g margarine, 2 eggs
Knead the dough until you get a smooth texture. Then roll out and cut out various shapes. Bake for for 12 minutes at 350F. Join two matching halves with jam (raspberry and red currant work great) and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Rings (Venčeky)



250g flour, 250g margarine, 100g ground hazelnuts or almonds, bit of salt, half a spoon of cinnamon, 1 teaspoon of orange zest and juice, 1 egg, 5 spoons of white wine
Combine the ingredients to make the dough. Roll out and use dough circle cutters of two different sizes to cut out the ring. Bake for 15 minutes at 350F. Coat in powdered sugar combined with vanilla and cinnamon. Combine the cut out dough and repeat.

Rum Balls (Rumové Guľky)



2 cups powdered sugar, 2 cups ground walnuts, 1 yolk, shot of rum
Mix all ingredients together and roll into a ball. Coat in powdered sugar, chocolate, or coconut shavings. That's it, no baking required!

Walnuts (Oriešky)



Dough: 150g ground walnuts, 5 cups flour, 1.5 sticks butter, 1-2 eggs, 0.8 cups sugar, 2 tbsp cocoa
Cream 1: 4 eggs, 0.5 cups powdered sugar, 1 packet vanilla sugar. Cream 2: 1.5 sticks butter, 0.5 cups powdered sugar
Mix the dough ingredients together and bake in a greased and floured metal form for 8 minutes at 375F. Whisk ingredients for Cream 1 in a double boiler until it becomes like honey. Let cool down. Whip Cream 2 ingredients together and add to Cream 1. Use the cream to join two halves to make a delicious walnut.

Chocolate Truffles (Šuhajdy)



Chocolate: 150g chocolate, 3/4 stick of Crisco, 3 tsp cocoa
Filling: 100g of ground nuts, 150g powdered sugar, 1/2 stick of Crisco, 2 teaspoons of cocoa, 0.4 cups milk
Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or on low heat. Stack paper cups on a tray and pour quarter inch of chocolate into each. Save half the chocolate for later. Let cool. Cook the ingredients for the filling on low heat. Spoon onto the chocolate. Top off with the remaining chocolate and a walnut for decoration.

You will find all these recipes along with step-by-step photo instructions at SlovakCooking.com

Fánky



2 cups flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder, 1/2 tsp salt, 2 yolks, 2 tbsp powdered sugar, half a stick unsalted butter, 4 tbsp cream, 2 tbsp white wine (or rum), 1/2 cup of milk

Mix the ingredients and place the dough in a fridge to cool. Then roll out to 1/6th inch. Cut into rectangles the size of your palm. Cut two slits near the short edges. Tread the ends through the slits to make bow ties. Fry in hot oil until golden brown. Top with powdered sugar.

Šišky (Donuts)

2 cups flour, one yolk, 3/4 cups milk, one packet yeast, 2 tablespoons powdered sugar, 1/5 stick unsalted butter, dash of salt. Topping: jam filling and powdered sugar



Mix all ingredients to get a smooth dough. Let rise. Then roll out on a dusted board to one inch thick. Dust the rim of a drinking glass with flour and use it to cut out circles. Fry in oil. Top with jam and sugar.

Easter Treats!



Hi, Kids (& all those Young at Heart).

A big shout out to all my besties as we once again roll toward this blessed holiday season. In the past, I've regaled you with stories about Easter in my homeland of Slovakia. So this year, I thought I'd mix it up with a few Easter factoids, emphasizing how it's done right here in the good ol' U.S.A. Plus a couple of yuks thrown in for good measure.

Happiest of Easters to all of you, and – as always –
Keep Your Ears Up and Your Tails Waggin'!

Your friend (Tvoj priateľ),
Chewy



Top 10 Facts About Easter

1. Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. Easter takes place on a Sunday, after the 40-day period called Lent. Lent is referred to as a time of fasting, but participants generally focus more on giving up one significant indulgence.
3. Holy Week is celebrated during the week leading up to Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday, continues on to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then finally, Easter Sunday.
4. Americans spend \$1.9 billion on Easter candy. That's the second biggest candy holiday after Halloween.
5. 70% of Easter candy purchased is chocolate.
6. 76% of Americans think the ears of a chocolate bunny should be the first to be eaten.
7. Egg dyes were once made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices.
8. There's much debate about the practice of dyeing chicks. Many hatcheries no longer participate, but others say that it isn't dangerous to the chick's health because the dye only lasts until the chicks shed their fluff and grow their feathers.
9. The first story of a rabbit (later named the "Easter Bunny") hiding eggs in a garden was published in 1680.
10. "The White House Easter Egg Roll" event has been celebrated by the President of the United States and their families since 1878.



SLOVAK MASS & EASTER CUSTOMS BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 19, 2016



St. Adalbert Church

160 So.15th Street, South Side
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

10:45 a.m. -- Recitation of Rosary (in Slovak)

11:00 a.m. -- Slovak Mass

Prince of Peace Parish Center

81 South 13th Street, South Side



** SAMPLE SLOVAK EASTER FOODS **

paska (sweet bread) sunka (ham) sirek (egg cheese) hrin (beets & horseradish)

- 12 Noon --
- * Homemade Baked Goods
 - * Craft Demonstrations
 - * Cultural Displays
 - * Imported Slovak gifts
 - * Slovak "Auction" /Raffle



ADMISSION FREE

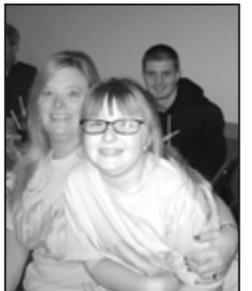
Donations Gratefully Accepted

For more information, call (412) 481-8380

Annual Meeting of Branch 40

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, Streator, IL, held its annual meeting on Sunday January 31 at 1:00 P.M. at Chipper's Grill in Streator, IL. Election of officers took place at the meeting, and a buffet luncheon followed.

- Submitted by
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.,
FCSU National Vice President
and Branch 40 Member



11th Annual EGGSTRAVAGANZA at St. John's in Uniontown, PA

The 11th EGG EGGSTRAVAGANZA will be held at the St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall 201 E. Main Street Uniontown, PA on Sunday, March 13, 2016 from Noon – 5PM.

About twenty-five or more egg artists will be demonstrating, displaying, and selling their particular art which will include Eastern European pysanky, Polish drop-and-pull wax relief eggs, Hungarian-style eggs, onion-skin-dyed etched or scratch type goose eggs, vinegar-etched emu eggs, tie dyed eggs, wood burned eggs, and other collectable Tiffany-style eggs.



Ms. Luschas is one of the many egg artists who will be at the upcoming 11th EGG EGGSTRAVAGANZA in Uniontown, PA.

In addition to the egg artists, there will be an Egg Bazaar featuring egg dyes, beeswax, tools, books, videos, and pysanky kits for sale. Traditional items used in ethnic Easter baskets will also be available, such as embroidered covers, candles, lamb butter molds, egg wraps, parish cookbooks, and much more. There will also be Easter crafts for sale made by the St. John's Ethnic Craft Club. Traditional Easter basket covers will also be on display. There will also be information for Easter basket blessing foods such as hrutka/sirets (Easter Cheese), horseradish/beets, braided long rolls, and Paska Bread design making.

A parish bake sale will include long rolls (nut, apricot, poppyseed, cottage cheese), paska bread, decorated medovniki, small nut rolls, cookies, homemade candy, and many more delicious goodies.

Visitors can try a hands-on workshop to learn how to decorate eggs. There will be a Children's Corner featuring egg-related crafts, storytelling, cookie decorating, and a jigsaw puzzle area. A Raffle and Basket Raffle will also take place.

A Lenten Luncheon Menu, including St. John's "famous" pirohi, halushki, pagach, pirohi pizza, and soups and more will be available for purchase. There is no admission fee. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day. Handicapped accessible.

For further information, please contact the church office 724-208-6771(M-F 6-8PM).

Answer to Puzzle

Solution to Puzzle from page 11

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

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO HOME OFFICE

OPEN:

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

ROLL CALL:

Members attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
 Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
 Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
 George F. Matta II, Treasurer
 Damian Nasta, Regional Director (by invitation of the President)

ACCEPTANCE OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES:

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the December 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar, Sr. to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:**AQS Management, Inc.**

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

Mr. White led a discussion on his recommendations on building the FCSU's IMR (Interest Maintenance Reserve). He further stated he will make an extensive study on options available to our society and present the options to the Executive Committee.

UBS Investment Report:

Michael Vary, representing UBS Financial Services, Inc., gave a lengthy report and discussion on our investments. Mr. Vary gave his recommendations on possible new investments. Following the report, Michael Vary answered the Executive Committee's questions.

Following the presentations by Mr. White and Mr. Vary, the President led a review of the reports and offered his thoughts and recommendations.

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 February meeting.

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 read a letter he had received from FHLB concerning the possible changes in FHFA (Federal Home Finance Agency) regulations that may have an impact on our society. The President proceeded to update the Executive Committee on MPAM's fund closure and stated he will inform the Committee when our full investment has been returned.

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 December 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 December:

Disbursements for the month of December 2015:

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 303,267.96
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 49,846.01
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.

TREASURER REPORT:

The Treasurer gave a written report on the investment update.

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 210 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 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.

The Executive Secretary stated we have received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance stating all recommenders must hold at least a fraternal license in order to receive any compensation for any insurance or annuity. The Pennsylvania law reads as follows: "Limitation—No society doing business in this Commonwealth shall pay any commission or other compensation to any person for any services in obtaining in this Commonwealth any new contract of life, accident or health insurance or any new annuity contract, except to a licensed fraternal insurance agent of that society".

The Executive Secretary stated a letter has been sent to all recommenders and branch officers residing in the State of Pennsylvania that they must apply for at least a fraternal license before they will be eligible to receive any compensation. Once the fraternal license has been obtained a copy must be sent to the home office for our records and then at that time we will begin to issue compensation.

The Executive Secretary will begin to review licensing requirements in all the other states we are licensed in and take appropriate action.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The President stated we have contracted with Visia Marketing, a local advertising agency, to improve the FCSU website and develop new marketing and sales initiatives.

REQUESTS FOR ADS AND DONATIONS:

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

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta II 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

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
 FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
 OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

**HOME OFFICE
 INDEPENDENCE, OHIO
 FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2016 - SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016**

The ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the United States and Canada will be held on *Friday, March 18, 2016 - Saturday, March 19, 2016.*

All Officers are requested to consult Section 6.03(b) and Section 6.03(c) of our Bylaws for further information concerning officer participation and the conduct of this meeting.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office on or before Friday, March 11, 2016.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth Arendt, and should be mailed for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 11, 2016.

For any additional information contact the Home Office at (216) 642-9406 or (800) JEDNOTA.

Andrew M. Rajec
 National President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

Správy zo Slovenska

„Vrážd je menej ako za totality“

Štatistiky kriminality, ktoré vo februári zverejnila polícia ukazujú, že počet trestných činov klesá a objasnenosť prípadov rastie. V prepočte na stotisíc obyvateľov je slovenský priemer 1,4 vraždy ročne, čo je jedno z najlepších čísel medzi európskymi krajinami. „Najlepšie krajiny majú priemer 0,9 či 0,8 vraždy“, povedal minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák. „Je to výsledok toho, že sa podarilo dostať pod kontrolu organizovaný zločin“, vysvetlil Jaroslav Ivor, bývalý šéf policajných vyšetrovateľov a dekan fakulty práva Paneurópskej vysokej školy.

Sedem rokov po kríze

Sedem rokov trvalo Slovensku, kým sa definitívne dostalo z krízy, ktorá v roku 2008 zasiahla celý svet. Zamestnanosť dosiahla predkrízovú úroveň 2,4 milióna pracovníkov v minulom roku. Pôvodne sa hovorilo, že úspešné predkrízové časy roka 2008 sa vrátia až v roku 2020. Slovensku sa však podarilo rýchlejšie prilákať investície, najmä v automobilovom priemysle. Počet zamestnancov spolu so živnostníkmi za rok poskočil až o 100-tisíc a je ich tak spolu už vyše 2,7 milióna, čo predstavuje polovicu z celkového 5,4 milióna Slovákov.

Hokejový Slovan ‚na predaj‘, meno štadióna je za pol milióna

Vlani boli hokejisti Slovana Bratislava len krok od skončenia v KHL. Pre ekonomické problémy, dlhy voči hráčom či za prenájom štadióna bol náš zrejme najslávnejší klub skôr hanbou ako pýchou slovenského hokeja. Po roku je všetko inak. Nielenže sa Slovanu darí v športových výsledkoch, najnovšie môže dokonca získať pol milióna eur. Predaním názvu svojho štadióna. Ten sa ešte do leta minulého roka volal Slovnaft aréna. Naša rafinérka však s klubom po štyroch rokoch ukončila spoluprácu, dôvodom mala byť zmena jej marketingovej stratégie. Z výročnej správy Slovana však vyplýva, že klub sa snaží predajť meno štadióna nezdal. Naopak, hľadá potenciálneho kupcu. Cena? Slovan za to pýta 500.000 eur ročne. Podľa informácií sú v súčasnosti v hre minimálne štyria záujemcovia z oblasti dopravy, energetiky, osobnej hygieny a elektrotechniky. Dokonca sú medzi nimi aj firmy z najľudnatejšej krajiny sveta Číny - konkrétne technologický gigant Huawei a čínske aerolínie Hainan Airlines.

Poisťovacie podvody odhalí aj nový register klientov

Poisťovne už o pár mesiacov dostanú nový významný nástroj, ako odhaliť poisťovné podvody. Doteraz si totiž vymieňali informácie o klientoch vzájomne medzi sebou. Po novom však budú môcť nahliadnuť do nového registra poisťovních udalostí. Ten bude vytvárať Slovenská asociácia poisťovní. Register vznikne na základe zákona o poisťovníctve, ktorý platí od začiatku januára. „Mal by začať fungovať asi v polovici tohto roka, potvrdil pre denník Milan Danáš, odborník na boj s poisťovacími podvodmi zo Slovenskej asociácie poisťovní. Do registra sa budú ukladať údaje o klientoch i všetky poisťovné udalosti, nielen tie problémové. Aj bežný poisťenec bude môcť nahliadnuť do registra, ak o to požiada svojho poisťovateľa. Ak by ste boli nespokojný s údajmi, ktoré tam sú, môžete požiadať o výmaz. Údaje sa majú v registri skladovať päť rokov. Poisťovne zhodne tvrdia, že register poisťovních udalostí bude dôležitým nástrojom na vyšetrovanie poisťovních podvodov.“

Novšie autá na cestách sú daňovo zvýhodnené

Daňami štát začína ľudí motivovať k tomu, aby vymieňali staršie autá za nové a zároveň menšie. V roku 2012 bol zavedený registračný poplatok len na kúpu výkonnejších nových vozidiel, ktoré majú spravidla aj vyššie emisie a trend v podpore ekológie. Najnovšie to pocítili ku koncu januára státisíce živnostníkov a firiem pri platení cestnej dane. Kto má auto novšie ako tri roky, zaplatil len polovičnú daň. Naopak, desaťročné autá už boli bez zľavy a trinásťročné si museli priplatiť desať percent. Celkovo takto štát

podnikateľom na spomínanej dani odpustil 14 miliónov eur. Vlani si Slováci kúpili takmer 78.000 nových áut. Najväčší nárast záujmu pritom nastal v kategórii SUV (športovo-užitkové), kde predaj stúpol medziročne až o 28 percent na 18.203. Trend presadzovania sa SUV vozidlami vzbudzuje obavy zo zvýšenej nehodovosti, keďže niektorí vodiči veľkých áut si na cestách doslova vynucujú rešpekt. Výška daní je z pohľadu štátu jedna z pák, ako negatívne trendy zmeniť.

„Kiskov syn: Rád by som investoval na Slovensku“

Prezidentov syn Andrej Kiska ml. (1986) vyštudoval manažment na University of Virginia. Pracoval vo finančnej skupine Benson Oak, od roku 2011 je jedným zo štyroch spoločníkov Credo Ventures so sídlom v Prahe, ktorá sa venuje investíciám do takzvaných start-upov. Mladý investor práve dokončil jeden zo svojich najlepších obchodov. So spoločníkmi vložil peniaze do projektu, ktorý kúpili Američania za sto miliónov dolárov.

Ošial' okolo Jaguára

Paradox. O tritisíc pracovných miest sa chce pobiť až 28-tisíc ľudí. S príchodom štvrtej automobilky Jaguar Land Rover vypukol na Slovensku ošial'. O prácu sa hlási čoraz viac ľudí. Záujemcovia o prácu by obsadili i Ružomberok. Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny vytvorilo hneď po podpise zmluvy s automobilkou špeciálny portál pre záujemcov o zamestnanie v automobilke. Všetky údaje z Ústredia práce má už teraz k dispozícii automobilka z Británie, ktorá si na základe skúsenosti jednotlivých uchádzačov vyberie.

Technológie zlacneli, autá sú plné všelijakých noviniek

Lacné technológie sa stále viac dostávajú aj do áut nižšej triedy. Technológie za roky zlacneli a automobilky nimi doslova prešpikujú auto v snahe ponúknuť zákazníkovi čo najviac. „Jeden z dôvodov tohto javu je, že s čoraz masovejšou výrobou sa aj moderné technológie vo výbave áut dostávajú z prémiových áut aj do masovejších modelov,“ povedal Martin Jesný, analytik Slovenského automobilového inštitútu.

Slovensko sa ocitlo v prvej dvadsiatke najmizernejších ekonomík sveta

Slovensko sa ocitlo v prvej dvadsiatke najmizernejších ekonomík sveta. Rebríček zostavuje agentúra Bloomberg, pričom berie do úvahy, ako sa v krajine vyvíja inflácia a nezamestnanosť. Práve vysoké percento ľudí bez práce Slovákov v rebríčku vystrelilo medzi najhorších. Kvôli tomu v rebríčku zaostali pred všetkými so susedmi. Vysoký je počet ľudí, ktorí sú doma viac ako jeden rok. Kým v roku 2010 sa nezamestnanosť pohybovala na štrnástich percentách odvtedy sa ju na Slovensku podarilo podstatne znížiť. „V historickom kontexte je u nás nezamestnanosť momentálne určite na klesajúcej trajektórii a na jednej z najnižších úrovní. Ale možno je to pomalšie ako by sme chceli,“ tvrdí Marek Gábriš analytik ČSOB.

O kom vedia vo svete viac?

Je hlavné mesto Bratislava lenivejšie ako Košice? Porovnávalo sa do kolkých projektov sa zapojili najväčšie metropoly Slovenska, aby sa zviditeľnili vo svete. Podľa informácií má Bratislava čo doháňať. Do povedomia celého sveta sa za posledných päť rokov dostala v menšej miere. Naopak Košice sa ukázkovo prezentovali titulmi Európske hlavné mesto kultúry a Európske hlavné mesto športu, ktorého sú držiteľom v tomto roku. Nepochybné, aj v Bratislave sa dejú akcie medzinárodného formátu, väčšinu z nich však organizujú ministerstvá alebo rôzne športové zväzy.

TASR a výber zo slovenskej tlače

Šibačka a oblievačka v minulosti

Tradiciu veľkonočného šibania a polievania poznáme vo všetkých slovanských krajinách. Pochádza ešte z predkresťanského obdobia. Na jar, keď všetko pučí novým životom a práve aktom šibania chlapi a muži podčiarkovali mágiu plodnosti dievčat a žien. V minulosti bola šibačka vecou spoločenskej prestíže a statusu. Bola by veľká hanba, keby niektorá dievčina nebola vyšibaná. Aj preto dokázali dievky dávať mládencom za šibačku krásne vlastnoručne zdobené kraslice, v ktorých ornamentoch bolo neraz zašifrované vyznanie lásky. Aj takto sa mohol mládenec dozvedieť, že dievčina ho nosí v srdci.

Za šibačku dostal mládenec od každej dievčiny na korbáč stužku a podľa ich počtu sa večer na tanečnej veselici určoval „kráľ mládenecov“.

V minulosti mala šibačka spontánny charakter a šibať sa chodievalo od domu k domu všetky dievčatá a vydaté ženy. Dnes sa zredukovala len na návštevu blízkeho príbuzenstva a spriatelnených rodín.

K šibaníu patrilo aj polievanie. Voda má podľa tradície očistný charakter a dotyk s čerstvou tečúcou vodou zaručoval omladnutie dievčat. Dievčatá sa polievali vodou zo studne alebo sa hádzali rovno do potoka. Nie preto, aby sa im urobilo zle, ale práve preto, aby si udržali zdravie, krásu a mladosť po celý rok.

TASR/Teraz.sk



FOTO TASR - Andrej Galica

Na snímke členovia Folklorneho súboru Váh oblievajú svoje kolegyně na Veľkonočný pondelok v Liptovskom Mikuláši.

Members of the folklore group Vah practice the ancient custom of splashing water on girls on Easter Monday in Liptovsky Mikulas.

Krížová cesta na Peknú vyhlíadku v Starom Smokovci

Na snímke sochu zobrazujúca 2. zastavenie na najvyššie položenú Krížovú cestu v strednej Európe na Peknú vyhlíadku v Starom Smokovci vo Vysokých Tatrách.

In the photo is the Second Station in the highest Stations of the Cross in Central Europe located near Starý Smokovec in the High Tatras

FOTO TASR - Oliver Ondráš



Vyhlásenie MZVaEZ SR pri príležitosti 25. výročia vyšehradskej spolupráce

V pondelok 15. februára si pripomenuli na Slovensku 25. výročie založenia formátu V4. Základný kameň spolupráce stredoeurópskych krajín bol položený prijatím spoločnej deklarácie na stretnutí najvyšších predstaviteľov Českej a Slovenskej Federatívnej republiky, Maďarska a Poľska vo februári 1991 v maďarskom Vyšehrade.

V počiatočnom období sa spolupráca koncentrovala na vzájomnú podporu pri spoločnom „návrate do Európy“. Po vzniku samostatnej Slovenskej republiky v roku 1993 sa formát transformoval do podoby, ktorú poznáme v súčasnosti (V4.) K ďalšej revitalizácii pôsobenia skupiny došlo po roku 1998.

„V4 pôsobí ako dynamické regionálne zoskupenie vytvárajúce priestor pre medzivládnu spoluprácu a koordináciu spoločných pozícií k aktuálnym otázkam zahraničnej a európskej politiky. V4 je dnes medzinárodne uznávanou značkou a zároveň garantom stability a dobrých susedských vzťahov v stredoeurópskom priestore. Krajiny V4 sú všeobecne vnímané ako symbol úspešnej politickej a ekonomickej transformácie,“ konštatoval pri príležitosti okrúhleho výročia podpredseda vlády a minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR Miroslav Lajčák.

Po vstupe do EÚ v roku 2004 sa V4 snažila profilovať ako konštruktívne zoskupenie, ktoré pôsobí zodpovedne a vnáša pridanú hodnotu do rozhodovacích procesov Únie. Aj v najbližšej budúcnosti zostane V4 zoskupením rovnocenných a suverénnych štátov. Výhodou spolupráce sú neformálne štruktúry a absencia byrokratických mechanizmov. Jedinou stálou inštitúciou je Medzinárodný vyšehradský fond.

TASR

Oznámenia spolkov a spoločenské podujatia

Členská schôdza spolku sv.

Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New York City

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že sa uskutoční schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 1KSJ v New Yorku po slovenskej svätej omši v **nedeľu 6. marca 2016** o 12:00 hodine v osadnej hale slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66-tej ulici. Láskavo žiadame našich členov o aktívnu účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Mária Juráši - pokladníčka

Spomienkova oslava Slovenskej štátnosti v NYC

1. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Spolku sv. Štefana, Spolku sv. Matúša Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických spolkov si Vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v **nedeľu dňa 13. marca 2016 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia** v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East, 66th Street v New York City. Spomienkova oslava bude zahájená svätou omšou obetovanou za Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu a obeť slovenského národa. O 1:00 hodine začne samotný program oslavy Slovenskej štátnosti. Nakoľko v minulosti dosiahlo Slovensko samostatnosť dvakrát a to 14. marca 1939 a opäť po dlhom čase boja za slobodu slovenského národa dňa 1. januára 1993. Bolo to historické dianie poznamenané v rokoch päťdesiatych rozsudkami smrti pre tých, ktorí nenásilnou cestou chceli dosiahnuť sebaurčenie a štátnu samostatnosť slovenského národa. Na záver bude podané občerstvenie a možnosť zakúpenia rôznych nápojov v bare. Bližšie informácie môžu podať Henrieta Daitová: (201) 641-8922; Jozef a Anna Korčák (201) 670-8162. Vtup na oslavu je voľný.

34. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Detroiti oslavuje

Predseda 34. zboru Slovenskej ligy v Detroiti Jozef Krajčovič oznámil, že oslava stého výročia 34. zboru Slovenskej ligy je naplánovaná na **nedeľu, 13. marca 2016** a bude spojená s tradičnou oslavou slovenskej štátnosti. Miestom oslavy bude spoločenská hala pri slovenskom kostole sv. Cyrila a Metoda v detroitiskom predmestí Sterling Heights. Začne sa krátko po slovenskej sv. omši. 34. zbor pozýva na oslavu slovenskú verejnosť z Detroitu a okolia.

Pingpongový turnaj v Cliftone, NJ

V **nedeľu 13. marca 2016** bude v hale Kostola sv. Cyrila a Metoda, 235 Ackerman Avenue v Cliftone, NJ pingpongový turnaj. Začiatok bude o 2.00 hodine. Bližšie informácie záujemcom podá Marek Homola, telefónne číslo: 862-703-6220.

Volit' by mohlo viac ako 50.000 Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Zo zahraničia by malo v parlamentných voľbách, ktoré budú 5. marca, hlasovať viac ako 20.000 Slovákov žijúcich v cudzine. Toľko podľa predsedu Svetového združenia Slovákov v zahraničí (SZSZ) Vladimíra Skalského bude voliť poštou. Ďalších najmenej 30.000 Slovákov pricestuje podľa neho zo zahraničia voliť priamo na Slovensko.

Skalský sa nazdáva, že títo Slováci môžu vo výsledku predstavovať 2,5 až 3 percentá hlasov. „Slováci v zahraničí sa tak definitívne stávajú politickou silou,“ povedal Skalský.

Osobne voliť na Slovensko pricestujú podľa neho najmä voliči napríklad z Českej republiky (ČR), Rakúska, Nemecka. Tam ich je podľa Skalského zároveň najviac. Poukázal, že napríklad len v ČR študuje 26.000 Slovákov a ďalšie desaťtisíce tam pracujú.

Skalský zdôrazňuje, že vo voľbách treba počítať aj so silou hlasov Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Odhaduje, že za hranicami Slovenska môže žiť od 200.000 až do 300.000 slovenských štátnych príslušníkov.

Svetové združenie Slovákov v zahraničí podľa svojho šéfa nevyzýva k voľbe žiadnej konkrétnej strany či prúdu, keďže je apolitické. Žiada však komfortnejšie voľby zo zahraničia. Hlasovanie poštou je totiž pomerne komplikované. Združenie by prijalo voľby cez internet alebo aspoň otvorenie volebných miestností na zastupiteľských úradoch.

TASR

V KOCÚRKOVE

Komunisti, obvinili ma,
Obvinili ma, že vlatním život,
Obvinili ma, že mám v hrudi srdce,
Obvinili ma, že chcem byť slobodný,
Obvinili ma, že myslím.

Obvinili slnko, že svieti,
Obvinili vzduch, že je dýchateľný,
Obvinili kvety, že voňajú,
Obvinili ryby, že plávajú vo vode,
Obvinili stromy, že rastú zo zeme.

Vraj zradil som vlast' .
Aká vlast', keď v dome vlastnom cudzincom som?!

Odsúdili ma, že som sa narodil,
Odsúdili ma, že Tatry sa mi dávali do kolísky,
Odsúdili ma, že som sa hrával na Jánošíka,
Odsúdili ma, že otec a matka mali na rukách mozole,
Odsúdili ma, že Hoja Ďundľa hoja má tisíc rokov.

Odsúdili orla, že nechce sedieť v kletke,
Odsúdili diamant, že nechce v zemi zhníť,
Odsúdili Zem, že sa nechce prestať otáčať,
Odsúdili Mesiac, že odráža slnečné svetlo,
Odsúdili vesmír, že je nekonečný.

Jaroslav Krúpa, (New York, 1967).

Slovenská džezová legenda Peter Lipa hostom Slovenského plesu v New Jersey

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Nezisková organizácia Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko (S-AKS), pôsobiaca od roku 1967 so sídlom v New Yorku, usporiadala v poradí už dvadsiaty tretí Slovenský ples. S organizovaním plesov začala v roku 1993, keď po prvýkrát touto akciou oslávili jej členovia samostatnosť Slovenska. Organizácia sa zameriava na podporu a rozvoj slovenskej kultúry, umenia, vedy a športu na americkom kontinente.

V poslednú januárovú sobotu sa zišlo v priestoroch elegantného podniku The Royal Manor v meste Garfield, New Jersey takmer tristo hostí z mnohých štátov USA, Kanady i zo Slovenska. Táto spoločenská udalosť sa niesla v slávnostnom plesovom duchu. Ples svojou účasťou poctilo mnoho významných hostí a diplomatov. Nechýbali Jeho Excelencia slovenský veľvyslanec Peter Kmec s manželkou Monikou, Jeho Excelencia stály predstaviteľ SR pri OSN František Ružička s manželkou Ingrid. Kruh diplomatov zastupovala aj generálna konzulka SR v New Yorku Jana Trnovcová, generálny konzul ČR v New Yorku Martin Dvořák s manželkou Zuzanou, Jeho Excelencia Miroslav Jenča, zástupca generálneho tajomníka OSN pre politické záležitosti s manželkou Helenou, a ďalší zástupcovia Veľvyslanectva SR vo Washingtone a Generálneho konzulátu SR v New Yorku.

Okrem diplomatov sa plesu zúčastnili aj členovia rôznych slovenských organizácií pôsobiacich v USA. Prvá Slovenská Katolícka Jednota mala svoje zastúpenie na čele s jej honorárnym konzulom Josephom Senkom a jeho manželkou Albinou, a riaditeľom vonkajších vzťahov Andrew P. Rajecom. Podporiť S-AKS v jeho úsilí prišiel aj pán John Duch, predseda Festivalu slovenského dedičstva a pani Estera Mlch, zakladateľka Czech and Slovak Association, Inc. v Bostone, Massachusetts. V zastúpení umelcov bola Luba Mason, speváčka a uznávaná hviezda z Broadway.

Slečna Sabina Sabados, predsedníčka Slovensko-Amerického Kultúrneho Strediska a zároveň predsedníčka plesového výboru, slávnostne privítala prítomných hostí. Potom sa im prihovril aj duchovný otec František Čonka pôsobiaci v Kostole Panny Márie Najsvätejšieho Srdca v Tappan, New York.

Veľkolepý program starostlivo zostavený plesovým výborom otvoril tanečný pár Anna Prokopovičová, pochádzajúca z Bratislavy, a jej americký partner Vlad Kvartin. Dvojica momentálne patrí medzi desať najlepších svetových párov vo vekovej kategórii do 21 rokov. Vo svojom vystúpení predviedli dokonalosť pohybov a vášeň pre tanec. V rámci programu odzneli aj tóny klasickej hudby zo sláčika Filipa Pogádyho, mladého talentovaného huslistu slovenského pôvodu žijúceho v New Yorku.

Čestným hosťom večera počas tohtoročného plesu bol Peter Lipa, predseda Slovenskej jazzovej spoločnosti. Peter Lipa patrí medzi významné osobnosti slovenského džezu a dlhé roky bol jediným známym interpretom tohto žánru na Slovensku. Džezová legenda poctila hostí nielen svojou prítomnosťou, ale najmä hudbou a spevom. Zo svojho repertoára zaspieval tie najznámejšie skladby ako napríklad *Balada o štyroch koňoch*, *Prosperita*, *Maturantky* a ďalšie. Navyše sa hostia mali možnosť s ním stretnúť a osobne porozprávať. Počas svojej umeleckej tvorby nahral doposiaľ 25 albumov v slovenčine a angličtine. Tri z nich patria medzi *Sto najlepších slovenských albumov všetkých čias*. V roku 1993 bol ocenený *Cenou Ladislava Martonika* za interpretačný výkon v oblasti jazzu. V roku 1998 sa stal laureátom *Krištáľového krídla* za hudbu. O päť rokov neskôr si z rúk vtedajšieho slovenského prezidenta Rudolfa Schustera prevzal štátne vyznamenanie Rad Ľudovíta Štúra. V roku 2005 zasa získal ocenenie *Aurel* za album *Lipa spieva Lasicu* vo viacerých kategóriách, vrátane ocenenia spevák roka. Ako prejav vďaky za prijatie pozvania na Slovenský ples v New Jersey, predsedníčka S-AKS odovzdala Petrovi Lipovi pamätnú cenu za jeho tvorbu a reprezentovanie Slovenska vo svete prostredníctvom univerzálneho jazyka akým hudba nesporne je.

S-AKS má pre svojich hostí každoročne pripravenú bohatú tombolu. Na tohtoročný ples budú dlho spomínať jej výhercovia, pretože si odniesli nielen pekné spomienky, ale aj atraktívne a hodnotné ceny. Medzi inými spiatočnú letenku do Viedne, víkendový pobyt s rybačkou v Hamptons, víkend strávený v luxusnom hoteli Elysse v New Yorku, a tiež večeru so slovenskými diplomatmi v USA. Športoví nadšenci z radov plesajúcich mali možnosť získať hokejku podpísanú útočníkom New York Rangers Rickom Nashom.

Na záver zaspieval známe slovenské evergriny Radoslav Lesay, spevák a skladateľ žijúci v New Yorku. Počas celého večera hosti zabávala už stálica Slovenského plesu, hudobná skupina Express. Pod taktovkou Mareka Šoltisa odzneli rôzne hudobné žánre, nechýbala ľudová hudba, pri ktorej tónoch sa vyprázdnila stoličky a zaplnil tanečný parket. Kamkoľvek človek pozrel, všade sa šírila slovenčina a dobrá nálada.

Na plesu sa stretli diplomati, talentovaní umelci i hostia z rôznych miest Spojených štátov za jedným účelom, a to spoločne osláviť slovenský pôvod. Týmto si organizácia splňa svoje poslanie a úspešne začína nový rok jedným z najväčších podujatí. Za úspechom dvadsiateho tretieho plesového ročníka stojí mnoho hodín dobrovoľnej práce členov organizácie, vrátane členov plesového výboru: slečna Sabina Sabados, pani Zuzany Krcmar, pani Zuzany Maziarz a pána Petra Krajňáka. Najväčšia vďaka však patrí tým, ktorí podporili organizáciu svojou prítomnosťou na plesu a vytvorili pravú slovenskú atmosféru.

Slovensko-Americké Kultúrne Stredisko vás už teraz srdečne pozýva na ďalší ročník Slovenského plesu, ktorý sa uskutoční v sobotu 25. februára 2017!

Úplný zoznam sponzorov plesu a ďalších akcií organizovaných S-AKS nájdete na webovej stránke: www.slovakamericanc.org.

Sabina Sabados,
predsedníčka S-AKS
Preklad z angličtiny Zuzana Maziarz



Zľava: Mrs. Turancik, Mrs. Duch a Mrs. Korcak.



Predsedička S-AKS, Sabina Sabados a tajomník S-AKS, Peter Krajňák ocenili čestného hosťa Slovenského plesu Petra Lipu.



Zľava známa speváčka na Broadway, Luba Mason s Generálnou konzulkou SR., Janou Trnovcovou.



Na snímke dlhoročný podporovateľ Slovenského plesu Dr. Lorinc s manželkou.

Vznik prvej Slovenskej republiky podmienil kontext vojnovnej doby

Dlhodobá slovenská marcová dilema

Štrnásty marec 1939 je dátum, ktorý v moderných dejinách Slovenska a Slovákov značí vznik Slovenského štátu. Prijatím slovenskej ústavy 21. júla 1939 získal názov Slovenská republika (SR). Táto etapa našich dejín stále podlieha deformáciám, ale málo sa poukazuje na kontext doby, v ktorej sa začal formovať moderný slovenský národ. A práve geopolitické postavenie a európske politikum boli silným faktorom podmieňujúcim vznik štátu.

Ide najmä o fakt, že formovanie Slovenskej republiky v prvej polovici 20. storočia vzhľadom na politickú klímu v Európe, v ktorej boli totalitné režimy na vzostupe, nebolo ľahké. Samotný vznik prvej SR bol jediným prijateľným riešením. To, za akých podmienok sa budoval, nebolo možné ovplyvniť.

Geopolitika doby

Samotné geopolitické postavenie Slovenska to potvrdzuje. Podobne aj nevyvrátiteľné fakty o mlynských kameňoch, medzi ktorými sa slovenský národ v roku 1939 nachádzal. Z juhu to bola maďarská revizionistická túžba a na severe územné nároky Poľska. Zo západu prichádzali imperialistické nároky nacistického Nemecka a jeho neľudská ideológia. Z východu zase bezbožná ideológia ZSSR, ktorá naopak zbožštila samu seba v podobe komunistickej strany. Dalším faktorom bola politika európskych veľmocí voči stále sa zväčšujúcej sile nacistického Nemecka. Politika ústupkov zo strany Francúzska a Veľkej Británie nechala Česko-Slovensko (Č-SR) napospas nacistickému Nemecku a jeho politickým cieľom. Podobne, ak nie väčšou mierou, k tomu za celých dvadsať rokov existencie Č-SR prispievala politika centralistickej Prahy a jej umelo vykonštruovaná idea čechoslovakizmu. Pražská politika a jej samotné neakceptovanie existencie slovenského národa v spoločnej Česko-Slovenskej republike, nedodržanie politických dohôd o postavení Čechov a Slovákov v štáte pred jeho vznikom, politické doktríny prezidentov T. G. Masaryka a jeho nasledovníka E. Beneša tiež podmienili samotný rozpad Č-SR.

Čierno-biely svet

O tom, že samostatnosť Slovenska ako politický program nie je len výmyslom A. Hitlera a ani náhodným javom, nás presvedčajú samotné dejiny Slovenska a Slovákov. Napriek tomu sa pohľady na 14. marec 1939 rôznia a aj napriek dvadsaťročnej existencii druhej Slovenskej republiky zostáva mnoho nezodpovedaného. Navzdory demokratickej spoločnosti, slobode slova a voľnosti vedeckého bádania, objektivizácii historických javov – stále stojíme voči-voči dvom pólom: ten prvý poznáme pod odmietaním samotnej existencie prvej Slovenskej republiky alebo pokrivenými reinterpretáciami dejinných faktov a druhým pólom je jej extrémna glorifikácia a neprijímanie ľudských pochybení.

Prvá Slovenská republika bola nepopierateľne vyústením emancipačného vrcholu nášho národa, preto je naozaj smutné, keď ju opomíname alebo zatracujeme. No nemôžeme ju ani glorifikovať. Počas tohto krátkého úseku dejín sa slovenský národ osvedčil a dokázal v ťažkých vojnových časoch budovať svoj štát. Je nepopierateľné, že počas existencie prvej SR sa vybudovala silná ekonomika, slovenská koruna, ale rozkvitla aj slovenská kultúra, národné povedomie, ako aj štátne povedomie, ktoré sa upevnilo tým, že sa počas jej existencie rozšírila sieť školských, kultúrnych a vedeckých ustanovizní, ako napríklad vznik Slovenskej národnej knižnice (SNK) pri Matici slovenskej v Martine alebo vznik Slovenskej akadémie vied a umení (dnešná SAV) či Slovenskej vysokej školy technickej. Ale treba vidieť aj to, čo je a bude čiernym miestom v našich dejinách. Treba vnímať aj krivdy, ktoré sa udiali, najmä voči občanom židovskej komunity na Slovensku. Deportácie židovských spoluobčanov zo Slovenska nemôžu byť zabudnuté.

Pravda o dejinách

Sme národom ako každý iný a všeobecné dejiny nám samé prezrádzajú, že ani iné národy nemajú dejiny bez chýb. Veď človek je tvor omylný a my si musíme brať príklad z toho dobrého a nie z toho, čo spelo k záhube. Nemožno si donekonečna sypať popol na hlavu a je našim prijímať slovenské dejiny také, aké sú, so všetkými kladmi aj záporami. Takto predsa robia aj Nemci. A teda majme na pamäti slová morálno-duchovnej osobnosti Slovenska, emeritného nitrianskeho biskupa a kardinála Jána Chryzostoma Korca: „Naozaj máme čo robiť, aby sa u nás hovorila pravda o dnešku i o našich dejinách.“

Peter Sliacky, (SNN.SK)



Marcové voľby 2016 do Národnej rady SR

V marcových voľbách do Národnej rady SR bude môcť hlasovať 4.428.000 voličov. Pre 68.000 ľudí to budú vôbec prvé voľby, v ktorých budú môcť odovzdať svoj hlas. Ďalší typ prvovoličov sú tí, ktorí už v iných voľbách hlasovali, ale v parlamentných budú môcť po prvýkrát až v marci. Tých bude 196.000. Uviedol to hovorca Štatistického úradu SR Marián Jánošík. Voliť môžu podľa zákona občania SR, ktorí majú najneskôr v deň hlasovania aspoň 18 rokov.

Parlamentné voľby sa na Slovensku uskutočnia v sobotu 5. marca. Kandiduje v nich 23 politických strán, hnutí a koalícií. V rámci nich sa o priazeň voličov uchádza viac ako 2900 kandidátov. Štát vyjdú voľby na 10,7 milióna eur. Ministerstvo vnútra má na ich prípravu a vykonanie vyhradených 9.133.870 eur. Štatistický úrad, ktorý má na starosti spracovanie ich výsledkov, počíta so sumou 1.574.750 eur.

Skôr ako sa otvorí volebné miestnosti, Štatistický úrad SR urobí tri skúšky spracovania volebných výsledkov. Na spracovanie výsledkov použije Integrovaný volebný informačný systém (IVIS). „Bol úspešne nasadený v štyroch typoch volieb (voľby do orgánov samosprávnych krajov, voľba prezidenta SR, voľby do Európskeho parlamentu, voľby do orgánov samosprávy obcí) aj na spracovanie výsledkov referenda,“ pripomenul Jánošík.

IVIS je podľa jeho slov univerzálny pre všetky typy volieb a referend. „Poskytuje komplexné elektronické služby na prípravu, zber a spracovanie, ako aj prezentáciu priebežných a definitívnych výsledkov,“ uzavrel.

TASR

IN MEMORIAM

Jozef R. Krištofik vo večnosti

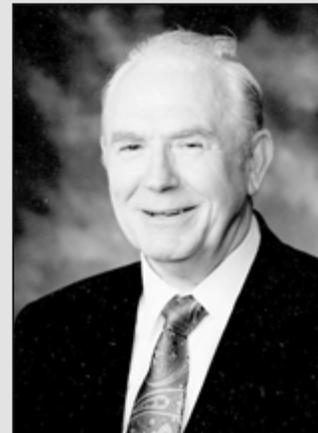
So zármutkom oznamujeme členom a čitateľom Jednoty, že dňa 16. januára 2016 sa bývalý hlavný predseda Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Jozef R. Krištofik vo veku 89 rokov, odobral na večný odpočinok.

Nebohý Jozef Krištofik sa narodil 28. novembra 1926 v Deaborn, Michigan. Jeho meno bolo veľmi známe v kruhu slovenskej katolíckej spoločnosti, pretože jeho otec Ján zastával 15 rokov funkciu prvého podpredsedu IKSJ. Po svojich základných štúdiách nebohý vychodil: Munhall High School, Munhall, PA., za tým U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, N.Y.; University of Pittsburgh; Detroit College of Law, Detroit, Michigan. Bol predsedom Spolku č. 615 sv. Michala Archanjela IKSJ v Detroit, Mich. Delegáti 40. Konvencie Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, ktorá sa konala v Bal Harbour v auguste 1979 na Floride si zvolili nebohého Jozefa za hlavného predsedu a v tejto funkcii zotrval do roku 1994.

Jozef vyrastal v rodine oboch rodičov Slovákov, nielen v duchu hlbokého katolíckeho ctenia, ale aj neobmedzenej lásky k slovenským kultúrnym tradíciám a slovenskej reči. V minulosti zastával vrcholné funkcie ako boli: predseda Slovenského svetového Kongresu; člen riaditeľov Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, člen poradného zboru riaditeľov Združenia slovenských katolíkov a ďalších nespočetných fraternalistických organizácií. Nebohí manželia Jozef a Júlia vychovali 6 detí: Joanne, Joseph P., Michael C., Robert J., Karen a Mary Lou.

S bývalým predsedom sa prišli do Domu smútku O'Brien/Sullivan v Michigan rozlúčiť bývalí spolupracovníci, priatelia a najbližšia rodina. Pohrebná svätá omša za nebohého sa konala 18. januára 2016 v kostole Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, Farmington, MI. Na pamiatku nebohému Jozefovi Krištofikovi sa môžu zasielať dary na adresu: The Alzheimer's Association – www.alz.org.

Nech odpočíva vo svätom pokoji. Česť jeho pamiatke!



Jozef R. Krištofik

Poslanie Slovenska v treťom tisícročí

Prorokom sa neverí. Veríme Ľudovítovi Štúrovi, ktorý vo svojej poslednej knihe Slovanstvo a svet budúcnosti, napísal: „Ak by Západ skutočne jedného dňa zašiel tak ďaleko a úplne sa vzdal kresťanstva, potom by bolo svätou povinnosťou Slovanstva znovu pripraviť svojim vplyvom česť večnému krížu a dopomôcť mu konečnému víťazstvu.“ A ďalej: „Všetci Slovania by sa celkom a bez výnimky pripojili k Rusku...“

Pápež Ján Pavol II. vyhlásil, že Slovensko má veľkú úlohu pri budovaní Európy tretieho tisícročia. A americký evanjelizátor David Wilkerson počas návštevy Bratislavy v roku 2003: „Táto krajina, a hovorím to prorocky, je kľúčovým národom. Je to malá krajina, v mojom meste New Yorku je viac ľudí ako v celej vašej krajine. Ale pri pohľade na to, čo Boh chce urobiť v Európe, tento slovanský národ je kľúčovým národom.“

Čo to pre Slovensko znamená v čase morálneho úpadku, keď v centre politiky nie je záujem o ľudí a národy? Keď Slovensko práve v takej situácii prevezme začiatkom júla 2016 rolu hostiteľa pri európskom stole. (Dodal Jerry Jaroslav Krúpa)

Marian Tkáč, MS
Slovenske slovo, 2/21/2016

Pracovné víza do USA platia pre Slovákov po novom na päť rokov

Pracovné víza do USA možno po novom získať na päť rokov. Zmenu dĺžky udelenia víz pre Slovákov zabezpečilo Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR (MZVaEZ) s konzulkou Spojených štátov amerických na Slovensku Selenou Nelson-Salcedo prostredníctvom verbálnych nôt. Tie sú účinné od januára 2016. TASR o tom informovali z tlačového odboru MZVaEZ.

Pracovné víza boli predtým Slovákom udeľované na dva roky. „Ide o iniciatívny krok Spojených štátov amerických, ktorým recipročne reagujú na legislatívnu zmenu Slovenskej republiky,“ vysvetlil Metod Špaček, riaditeľ odboru medzinárodného práva MZVaEZ.

Novela zákona o službách v zamestnanosti podľa neho zjednodušila prístup štátnych príslušníkov tretích krajín na slovenský trh práce, a to predĺžením obdobia, na ktoré sa udeľuje povolenie na zamestnanie, z doterajších dvoch na najviac päť rokov.



Slovenský minister zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí Miroslav Lajčák.

TASR



Velká noc 2016



*Nech nadšené Aleluja,
nájde ozvenu veľkonočnej radosti vo vašich rodinách
a spolkoch, nech naplní srdcia pokojom
a pravou kresťanskou láskou.
Želáme vám požehnané veľkonočné sviatky!*

Kresťania oslávia tajomstvá spásy, ktoré uskutočnil Kristus

Veľká noc je najstarším a najvýznamnejším sviatkom kresťanského cirkevného roka, počas ktorého si kresťania pripomínajú umučenie, smrť a vzkriesenie Ježiša Krista. Slávi sa v nedeľu po prvom jarnom splne mesiaca, ako o tom rozhodol Nicejský snem v roku 325. Veľkonočná nedeľa tak môže pripadnúť na niektorú z nedeľí v období od 22. marca do 25. apríla. Podľa týchto pravidiel sa určuje termín Veľkej noci dodnes. Je to teda pohyblivý sviatok a je závislý od lunárneho cyklu. Veľká noc nadväzuje na židovské sviatky Pesach, pripomínajúce oslobodenie izraelského národa z egyptského otroctva, ktoré sa podľa židovského kalendára slávil od 14. do 21. dňa v mesiaci nisan (naš marec až apríl). Udalosti spojené s ukrižovaním a vzkriesením Ježiša Krista sa odohrali práve počas Pesachu, preto sa kresťanská Veľká noc a židovské sviatky Pesach väčšinou kryjú aj časovo. Vysvetlenie pôvodu názvu "veľká" treba hľadať v časoch židovského otroctva v starovekom Egypte. Faraón nebol ochotný prepustiť svojich izraelských otrokov, a preto Boh trestal krajinu desiatimi ranami. Až po poslednej z nich, keď zomreli všetci prvorození egyptskí chlapi, faraón prepustil zotročený ľud. Židov, ktorí pomazali veraje svojich dverí krvou baránka, sa táto pohroma netýkala a anjel smrti ich obišiel. Baránok je preto symbolom Ježiša Krista, ktorého krv zachránila ľudí od večného zatratenia. Ako sa ďalej uvádza v Biblii, po vyslobodení z Egypta previedol Boh ľudí na čele s Mojžišom cez Červené more, ktoré rozdelil a vysušil. Tu niektorí hľadajú pôvod tradičného židovského názvu Pesach - prechod. Iné slovo "pesach" vysvetľujú ako obídanie, vyhnutie sa a vzťahujú ho na anjela smrti, ktorý obchádzal domy potreté krvou. Symbolika prechodu z otroctva do slobody sa preniesla aj do kresťanstva ako prechod z hriechu do života v Božej milosti, ktorý zabezpečil Ježiš Kristus svojou smrťou a zmŕtvychvstaním.

TASR

Medzinárodná odborná konferencia v Bratislave

"Miesto Katolíckej cirkvi v postmodernej spoločnosti"

"Miesto Katolíckej cirkvi v postmodernej spoločnosti" - je názov medzinárodnej odbornej konferencie, ktorá sa koná v stredu 24. februára 2016 v aule Benedikta XVI. Rímskokatolíckej cyrilometodskej bohosloveckej fakulty Univerzity Komenského (UK) v Bratislave. Hostí a účastníkov pozdravia predseda KBS Mons. Stanislav Zvolenský, apoštolský nuncijs na Slovensku Mons. Mario Giordana a rektor UK v Bratislave prof. Karol Mičieta. Potom vystúpia hostia z Talianska, Španielska, Nemecka, Švédska a Slovenska. Host'om bude emeritný arcibiskup z Bologne, kardinál Carlo Caffarra. Na sympóziu sa zúčastnia viacerí biskupi, ako aj osobnosti akademického, spoločenského, politického a náboženského života zo Slovenska i zahraničia. Konferencia, ktorá sa uskutoční na Kapitulskej ulici 24 v Bratislave, je otvorená pre všetkých, ktorí sa aktívne zaujímajú o otázky vzťahu cirkvi a štátu, moderného sveta a náboženstva.

Ide o tradičnú jarnú konferenciu biskupskej konferencie, ktoré už majú svoju niekoľkoročnú tradíciu. V roku 2013 zorganizovala KBS sympóziu o rodovej rovnosti. O rok neskôr to bola medzinárodná konferencia o pohľade cirkvi na ľudské práva a vlni o šírení kultúry života. "Cieľom najnovšieho podujatia je diskutovať o mieste Katolíckej cirkvi v súčasnom svete. Budeme uvažovať, ako má Cirkev ohlasovať evanjelium v dnešnom svete, ako má viesť dialóg so spoločnosťou a v čom môže byť v týchto podmienkach prínosom," hovorí o cieľoch konferencie výkonný sekretár KBS Anton Ziolkovský. "V posledných rokoch sa u nás vedie široká diskusia o rozličných témach, ktoré sa týkajú cirkvi. Debatuje sa o mieste cirkvi v spoločnosti, o jej financovaní. Myslím, že treba viac hovoriť o prínose Katolíckej cirkvi pre spoločnosť. Pozvali sme viacerých hostí, ktorí dobre rozumejú európskym a medzinárodným reáliám a predstavujú svoje skúsenosti. Spolu s nimi chceme konfrontovať náš pohľad na postavenie Cirkvi. Táto debata môže prispieť k porozumeniu miesta Cirkvi v spoločnosti a môže napomôcť ujasniť, prečo by aj sekulárna spoločnosť v nejakej miere mala podporovať Cirkev aj materiálne," dodáva Anton Ziolkovský.

TK KBS



Slovenská džezová legenda Peter Lipa hosťom Slovenského plesu v New Jersey

Slovensko-americké Kultúrne Stredisko v New Yorku usporiadalo v sobotu 30. januára 2016 23. Slovenský ples v priestoroch Royal Manor v Garfield, New Jersey. Ples svojou účasťou poctilo mnoho významných hostí a diplomatov.



Na snímke zľava: Veľvyslanec SR vo Washingtone, J.E. Peter Kmec; Helena Jenčová; Stály predstaviteľ SR pri OSN v NY, J.E. František Ružička; Monika Kmecová; predsedníčka S-AKS, Sabina Sabados; zástupca generálneho tajomníka OSN pre politické záležitosti, J.E. Miroslav Jenča.

Pokračovanie na str. 22