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Jednota

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Fr. Stephen Furdak
Our Founder

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

Volume 116

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007

Number 5749

REMINDER

**2006 IRA DEPOSIT
DEADLINE
APRIL 15**

From the Office of the Vice President



What the Membership and Marketing Committee is doing for all their 2007 Seminars!
For every three (3) new JEP Contracts... Or... one (1) new Ten Year Term Policy... or... any new Whole Life Policy with a face value of at least \$10,000 you bring to the seminar in your area, you will receive a Modra Dish made in Slovakia. There is no limit on the number of dishes you can receive. The following seminars are being finalized.

- April 22, 2007 Sterling Heights, Michigan**
- April 28, 2007 Allentown, Pennsylvania**
- April 29, 2007 Scranton, Pennsylvania**
- May 5, 2007 Uniontown, Pennsylvania**
- May 13, 2007 Westfield, Massachusetts**

Additional information will be forthcoming and more seminars are being scheduled.

As I've said repeatedly... the Committee would like to see a larger turnout from members interested in learning more about our insurance and annuity products. In order to actively promote our portfolio, we must educate ourselves by attending seminars. The more we know about our products, the more confident and the more effective we'll become as proposers.

Please form a car pool and attend the seminars that will be scheduled in your area.

Until next time...

Good luck and God bless!

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.
National Vice President
Membership & Marketing Chairman

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~NEWS FLASH~

Special 2% Annuity Bonus
Limited Time Only
You Must Act Before 06/30/07

FCSU's flexible premium annuities are among the safest and most secure ways to provide funds for the future. The current interest rate of 5% (*) on the 6 year flexible premium annuity remains among the most competitive rates available.

*Current interest rate is reviewed quarterly by Executive Committee and subject to change.

Now we offer the opportunity for a 2% bonus on New funds deposited before 06/30/07

How do you earn this 2% Bonus?

- Applicable to both new and current annuity members.
- Applies only to new annuity deposits made to a new Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity policy.
- Deposits made between receipt of this notice and June 30, 2007. Minimum new deposit \$4,000.
- Bonus of 2% will be added to your annuity on June 30, 2011.

* Bonus Rules *

1. Bonus of 2% applies only to net deposits received by FCSU between receipt of this offer and June 30, 2007, excluding interest earned and less any withdrawal made between 01/01/07 and 06/30/07. Bonus payable only on the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity.

2. Bonus of 2% will be credited on 06/30/2011. The bonus will be based on the net funds deposited between 01/01/07 and 06/30/07, which must be maintained with FCSU until 06/30/2011. (Interest earned on the bonus funds will not be included in the bonus calculations.) Example: \$100,000 @ 5.0%* (4 years) + 2% of \$100,000 = \$123,551.

3. If member with funds eligible for the bonus dies prior to 06/30/2007, no bonus is payable. If a member with funds eligible for the bonus dies between July 1, 2007 and July 1, 2011, the bonus will be prorated to the date of death.

4. To be eligible for the 2% bonus, new deposits must be received by June 30, 2007. Any FCSU annuity withdrawals after January 1, 2007 and redeposit with FCSU (except Park Money Annuity and Park 2 Annuity) prior to 06/30/07 will not be eligible for the 2% bonus.

Features of the Six-Year Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

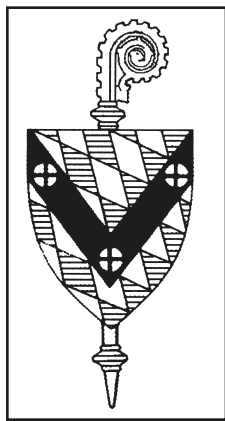
- Your annuity continues to accumulate interest after you have stopped contributing and have begun to receive retirement income. The interest rate you receive on your annuity after settlement will never be less than 3.0%.
- Death Benefit-If you die prior to settlement, your beneficiary receives the full cash value of the annuity. If you die while receiving retirement benefits, the value of your remaining guaranteed benefits will be paid to your beneficiary.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Since annuities are meant to be long-term investments for providing retirement funds, funds withdrawn during the first six years of your contract are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. You may withdraw 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Your interest will be added to your account. You may, however, elect to have your interest paid directly to you on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually basis. This is called an Interest Option and the interest rate is slightly lower than if you left your interest to accumulate.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- Also available in a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA (subject to IRA Guidelines)

DON'T DELAY, ACT NOW!

For information, contact:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
P. O. Box 318013
Independence, OH 44131-8013
Call 1-800 JEDNOTA or 1-216-642-9406

Insights and Viewpoints



St. Vincent Archabbey — Homilies Fr. Campion P. Gavaler, O.S.B. and Father Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

March 18, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Gospel Summary

When we read the parables of Jesus, we need to remind ourselves that they are not accounts of historical events. Rather, they are stories with a spiritual lesson for all times and places. In most cases, these stories are not new to the audience. They are really old, familiar stories, which are much appreciated when they are told well. Jesus tells the stories

very well indeed but he also adds a "twist" to the narrative. By telling the story so well he captivates his audience and then, once they are involved in the story, he surprises them with a spiritual application.

The story in today's gospel about a father and his two sons is an old story, going back at least as far as Esau and Jacob. In this story, the elder son is very dutiful but also rather dull. The younger son, by contrast, is wild and unpredictable but also interesting and attractive. In the classic story, the younger son sows his wild oats but then repents and is welcomed home with joy. The older son resents his father's celebration of his brother's salvation and is rejected. The audience is convinced that justice has been done.

In Luke's parable, however, the new "twist" is seen when we notice that the focus of attention is on the father and especially on his reaction to the elder son's anger. In this version, the father does not reject his elder son who in fact is treated by his father with surprising gentleness. When the audience asked why the story had been changed, as we can assume they did, the reply would be that the father is in reality God, who loves his dull and dutiful children just as much as those who are wild and perhaps a bit more interesting.

Life Implications

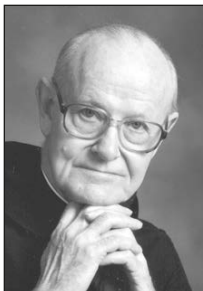
The wisdom expressed in this parable teaches us that human sin can take the form of wild and rebellious behavior or, perhaps more commonly, of sullen, angry and judgmental attitudes. The civil law is concerned almost exclusively with rebellious behavior but, in the parable, it is clear that the sinfulness of the elder son is much more dangerous.

Those of us who lead quiet and "responsible" lives may very well fall into the trap of sullen, resentful and angry attitudes toward others who seem to be "getting away with murder." What we need to ask ourselves is whether we have the kind of love that can understand why others, often less privileged than ourselves, may need both correction and forgiveness.

When the elder son in the parable says to his father, "your son," (and by implication no brother of mine) has done wrong and should be punished, the father gently corrects him with the words, "Your brother" (and not just my son) "was dead and has come to life again." This wayward son has indeed sinned but he has also repented and has paid a price for his sin. Now it is time to rejoice.

The clear point is that we dare not ever disown our brothers and sisters, who are all children of God. On the contrary, we must love them and rejoice to see them have a chance to repent and to be brought back to life again. And this is true of all sorts of people, including both the village prankster and the person on death row. We may feel that some people do not deserve a second chance but the danger of such a judgment is underscored in the challenging words of Jesus in the Sermon on that Mount that "the measure you give is the measure you will get" (Matt 7:2). Surely we all want to receive at the end a very generous measure of god's mercy.

Luke 15: 1-3; 11-32



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

March 25, 2007

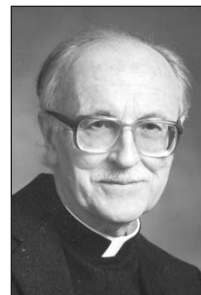
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gospel Summary

This is the gospel about the woman who had been caught in adultery. Enemies of Jesus bring her to him at daybreak while he is teaching people in the temple area. They make her stand there humiliated in public. In an attempt to trap him into opposing either Mosaic Law or Roman Law, they ask Jesus whether he judges that she should be stoned. After Jesus exposes their malice, the woman's accusers are afraid to condemn her. Beginning with the elders, they all go away. Then Jesus says to the woman: "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

Life Implications

The story about Jesus and the woman caught in adultery happily became part of Holy Scripture, inserted as it was in the fourth gospel. Some early manuscripts have the story placed after Luke 21:38 where it says that people came at daybreak to listen to Jesus as he taught in the temple area. The story fits very well in the fourth gospel because it illustrates some of its most basic themes--truth, judgment, blindness, sight, darkness, light, death, life, sin, creation.



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

In Jesus' time it was important to determine the arrival of daybreak when the first offerings were to be made in the temple. A rabbi asked his students what criterion might be used to determine that the night had ended. One student said the night had ended when there was

enough light to tell a goat from a sheep. Another said when you could distinguish an apple tree from a fig tree. The rabbi gave this answer: "A new day has arrived when you can look at a human face, and see a brother or a sister. If you are unable to see a brother or a sister in every human face, you are still in the darkness of night."

Though morning had come, for the woman's accusers it is still night. They cannot see that it is their brother and their sister who have committed the sin. They have humiliated the more vulnerable partner of the adultery by making her stand alone in the public temple area. This echoes the malice of the elders who ordered the veil to be removed from the woman Susanna after accusing her of adultery (Dan 13:32).

Moreover, in their darkness, the woman's accusers are unable to see that Jesus is also their brother, sent by God to bring them into the light. They have violated the God-given dignity of the woman by reducing her to the status of an object. They attempt to use her as a means to advance their own interests by laying a trap for Jesus in order to have a charge to bring against him. The malice of their action is compounded by the fact that they are seeking to destroy Jesus under the guise of honoring the divine law given to Moses. This surely is taking the name of God in vain (Ex 20:7).

We can identify with any of the actors of the drama. Regrettably we can easily identify with the woman's accusers. We too take the name of God in vain when, under the guise of defending some orthodox doctrine or practice, we engage in destructive, personal attacks upon those who differ with us. The woman caught in adultery? We can all identify with her, in need of forgiveness--often fallen from the pure joy of living in harmony with God's truth and love. "What is our innocence, what is our guilt? All are naked, none is safe" (Marianne Moore).

Most important of all, because we share the gift of his Spirit, we can be like Jesus in his act of true judgment and creative love. Forgiveness is true judgment and creative love. We say, for example, that a friendship has ended because some infidelity has destroyed it. The friendship can come into being again through forgiveness, creative love given and received. Jesus re-creates the woman into her beauty as divine image through his forgiveness. He tells her the good news that she is free to walk away from the mess she is in and begin a new life: "Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

All copy is due by 4:30 P.M., THE MONDAY 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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, MARCH 12
MONDAY, MARCH 26
MONDAY, APRIL 9

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

Send all copy (English AND Slovak) to:

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Insights and Viewpoints

Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for March 2007

GENERAL INTENTIONS

Hearing God's Word. That the Word of God may be ever more listened to, contemplated, loved, and lived.

What forms the values of a Christian? In one evening the average U.S. Christian spends more time watching television than he or she spends reading the Bible the entire rest of the week.

Jesus said, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Mat. 4:4). The Catechism of the Catholic Church declares that, "the Church... never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God's Word and Christ's Body" (103).

But many of us fear the Bible, we tune it out, and we allow others to experience it for us. We don't feed on it as Jesus did. Reading the Bible strengthens faith. Jesus himself quoted Scripture to defeat the devil's temptations. But the greatest value of Bible reading is that it brings us close to Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Recently the Vatican announced that Pope Benedict XVI had chosen "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church" as the theme for the 2008 Synod. Italian Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini commented that the Scriptures have always been close to the heart of the Holy Father because "the church is born of the Word of God" and "renews itself, regenerates itself every time it returns to the Word."

The Word of God also renews us in our personal journeys. When we open the Scriptures, we open ourselves to God's regenerating power. The Catechism puts it simply: "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them" (104).

We pray that the Word of God may be ever more listened to, contemplated, loved, and lived—starting with ourselves.

For Reflection

What did Saint Jerome mean when he said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ"?

MISSION INTENTION

Lay Formation. That the training of catechists and lay people may be the constant concern of those responsible for the young Churches.

In October 2006, Pope Benedict XVI urged the bishops of Ireland to "emphasize the Good News, the life-giving and life-enhancing message of the Gospel. Even though it is necessary to speak out strongly against the evils that threaten us, we must correct the idea that Catholicism is merely 'a collection of prohibitions.'"

What's needed, said the Pope, is "careful formation of the heart."

The Holy Father spoke of the importance of basing formation on the Catechism. He asked educators, lay and religious, to exercise "vigilance over the quality of the syllabuses and the course books used" and to proclaim "the Church's doctrine in its entirety." He exhorted catechists to avoid "superficial presentations of Catholic teaching... because only the fullness of the faith can communicate the liberating power of the Gospel." Well-trained catechists are essential both inside and outside of Catholic schools, for adults as well as children, and for established as well as new churches.

In a recent African address, the Pontiff asked bishops to "Continue to guide [people] with true fatherly care towards a deeper knowledge of their Crucified and Risen Lord, always providing them with sound catechesis in the faith. To this end, it is important that teachers and catechists receive good preparation for their noble task since, as you know, they play a vital part in helping the bishop to carry out his responsibility as the one who teaches with Christ's authority. Hence they should be well formed in the faith and able to communicate both the joy and the challenge of following Christ."

We join together in asking God to fill all catechists with knowledge, skill, and joy worthy of telling the great Good News of Christ.

For Reflection

When have you experienced catechesis that changed your life?

Coming Events

MARCH

11 – The Frank T. Holly Jr. District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Melanie's Restaurant, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

11 – The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Country Club, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania.

25 – A Meeting of the Prince Pribina District at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel followed by the meeting in the cafeteria.

APRIL

29 – The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.

Young Lady Reaching Out to the Needy

Birthdays are always days when most young people look for gifts to make the day special. Alexa Coughenour knew exactly what she wanted and it wasn't for herself. Planning for her "Sweet 16 Party" she decided to choose to give gifts to a local charity. Having the experience of volunteering time at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen in Pittsburgh's Uptown neighborhood, she asked her parents to put on the invitations, instead of gifts for her, she requested donations of money and non-perishable items to be brought to the party. Working at the Soup Kitchen "left an impression" on her.

Alexa is a young parishioner at St. Thomas A' Becket Church in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania, where she attends Religious Education Classes and is engaged as an Altar Server and works in the Religious Education Office two Sundays a month. She also volunteers her services in other Church and Community activities. During the Lenten Season she will be working at the St. Thomas A' Becket Fish Fry on Fridays. She is a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School and is the daughter of Cindy and Art Coughenour of Jefferson Hills.

Alexa wanted to do something special for Sister Ligouri Rossner and for the people at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen. The donations were brought to the Kitchen on Martin Luther King Day since they were free from school. She and her friends delivered a check of \$300.00 along with food items. According to Sister Ligouri, Director of the Soup Kitchen, "The best way to honor Dr. King is to have young people become conscious of the needs of the poor and Alexa certainly did this."



Young Alexa Coughenour of St. Thomas A' Becket Church, Jefferson Hills, PA, impressed with volunteering at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen.

Allentown Branch to Sponsor Spaghetti Dinner

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 31, 2007, at St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Dinner will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. Homemade baked goods will also be available. For information call Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614 or Bernice Gerhard at 610/262-6772.

"PARK 2 ANNUITY" – NOW PAYING 4.75%

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

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

- The FCSU guarantees your initial interest rate for two years. After two years, your funds will continue to accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" can be converted to any of the FCSU Annuity Plans at any time.
- The "Park 2 Annuity" is not applicable to any settlement option or interest option.
- Withdrawal Privileges-Funds withdrawn during the first two years are subject to an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge. The charge is 6% the first year and 5% the second year. You may, however, withdraw up to 10% of your 'beginning of the year balance' with no FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge.
- Even though you may not incur an FCSU Early Withdrawal Charge, withdrawals before age 59 ½ may be subject to a federal tax penalty.
- Tax on the interest earned is deferred until the annuity funds are drawn.
- The minimum deposit is \$1,000.00.

Please contact your Branch Officer or the Home Office for applications.

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 1— LAKEWOOD, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 1, will hold the first meeting of the year on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius School Hall, 12608 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio. Important issues for 2007 concerning Branch 1 members will be discussed.

In the year 2007, meetings will be held on March 13, June 12, September 11 and December 11. Please mark your calendars. The officers for 2007 are: John Golias, President; Vincent V. Jacko, Vice President; Sophie R. Jacko, Recording Secretary; John S. Golias, Treasurer/Elder; and Mary Dubber and Andrew Hudak, Auditors.

Looking forward to seeing our members this new year. See you in March.

Sophie R. Jacko, Recording Secretary

Branch 3 and 226— MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, and the St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 226, will celebrate Palm Sunday with a Mass and breakfast on Sunday, April 1, 2007, at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 1315 Second Street N.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. for the living and deceased members. A breakfast and fellowship will be held in Father Dargay Hall following the liturgy.

**Joseph Matlon,
Publicity Chairman**

Branch 19— BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will celebrate the feast day of its patron, St. Joseph, on Sunday, March 11, 2007, at the 8:30 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 78 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The Mass will be offered for the living and deceased members by Msgr. Joseph Pekar, Pastor. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall following the liturgy.

Members of Branch 19 who have reached their 16th birthday in 2006 and have either a term policy of \$5,000 minimum held for at least four years or a reserve policy of \$1,000 minimum held at least for four years will receive the annual Margaret Evancho Award of a \$50 Savings Bond. During the business meeting the following members will receive this award: Christopher Danielczuk, Stephen Dolan, Alia Elnahaf, Jessica Johnson, Matthew Minese, Thomas Murach, Amanda Nelson, and Jonathan Solek. This award was established in 1986 in recognition of Margaret Evancho's 40 years of dedication and her concern for the junior members of Branch 19.

Members are reminded that the next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 15, 2007. We hope many members will be able to attend the March 11 meeting.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

Branch 45— NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 15, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Joseph Jurasi, President

Branch 162— UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. at the third floor meeting room of the Meridan Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

The following officers will serve in 2007: James Marmol, President; Dolores Marmol, Secretary; Patricia Marmol, Treasurer; and Frank Marmol, Auditor.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

Branch 260— CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church Monsignor Adamko Hall. The main topic will be the agenda for the year. All members are urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

Branch 276— MCKEESPORT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 276, will hold its first meeting of the year on Sunday, April 1, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity School Hall, Seventh Street, McKeesport, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting: Margaret Nasta, President; George Gerdich, Vice President; Joan Goodall, Treasurer; David Matta, Financial Secretary; Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary; and James Bertoty and Norene Morrissey, Auditors.

Nancy Gerdich, Recording Secretary

Branch 278— MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Peter Society, Branch 278, will hold a meeting on Monday, March 19, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Middletown, Pennsylvania. All members and officers are asked to attend.

Andrew Trojczak, President

Branch 362— BARTON, OHIO

The Our Lady of Angels Society, Branch 362, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2007, at 12:00 noon at 70870 Crescent Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio. All members are urged to attend.

John J. Wodarczyk, President

Branch 380— CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold a meeting on Sunday, April 22, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. at 236 West Pike Street, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

Margaret Graytok

Branch 580— WEST MIFFLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 580, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. after the Mass at the home of Financial Secretary, Mary G. Perun, Outlook Drive, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the election of officers and a discussion of ways to increase our membership.

Mary G. Perun, Financial Secretary

Branch 682— YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. George Society, Branch 682,

will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the Materials Research Center, Struthers, Ohio. On the agenda will be a branch audit and a discussion of activities for 2007. All members are invited to attend.

Joseph Scavina, Financial Secretary

Branch 716— NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church Hall, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial report and a discussion of plans for activities. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

Branch 731— YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will celebrate its patron feast day with a Mass on Sunday, March 18, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. in Saint Matthias Church, Cornell Street, Youngstown, Ohio. A brunch will be served following the liturgy. All members are invited to attend. Reservations should be made by March 11, 2007 by calling 330/782-3219 or 330/629-2505.

Branch 731 held its annual meeting and election of officers on December 17, 2006. The following officers will serve in 2007: Millie Leskovyansky, President; Msgr. Peter M. Polando, Vice President; James Bobby, Recording Secretary; Jacquelyn Bobby, Financial Secretary; and John Kavulic and Edward Walko, Auditors.

James Bobby, Recording Secretary

Branch 743— DETROIT AND STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, will celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph on Sunday, March 18, 2007, with a Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan. Refreshments including coffee and Slovak baked goods will be served in the Social Hall following the liturgy. All members and their families are invited to attend this annual celebration of St. Joseph Day and to enjoy fellowship with other members.

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

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

Branch 743— DETROIT AND STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

The Financial Secretary of the St. Joseph Society, Branch 743, is searching for the addresses and phone numbers of several members. Some of these people may be deceased and beneficiaries are entitled to life insurance proceeds.

Help is needed to locate the following members born between 1910 and 1929: Frances Atkinson, Angelo Bertoloni, Josephine Gordon, George J. Gronsky, John Korpak, Pauline E. Maas, and Frank Kacir. Help is also needed to locate the following born between 1930 and 1945: Donald Churchan, Dorothy Comito, Rebecca Dinardo, Maryann Karafa, Joseph Lesky, Christina Madar, Judith Madar, and Marvin Rimay.

Anyone who can provide a current address or telephone number for any of the above named individuals is asked to contact: Joseph C. Rimarcik, President/Financial Secretary, 42909 Sussex Park Dr., Sterling Heights, MI 48314. Phone: 586/254-0225. Email: j1d21344@wowway.com.

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

Branch 780— SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 780, will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 19, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of the president, 2090 Bock Road, Saginaw, Michigan. All members are welcome to attend. For more information call Ben at 989/791-1775, Mary at 989/791-3505, or Cathy at 989/792-0186.

The officers of Branch 780 for the year 2007 are: Benjamin Gombar Jr., President and Treasurer; Mary Albers, Vice President and Financial Secretary; and Catherine Karlsen, Recording Secretary.

Catherine Karlsen, Recording Secretary

Branch 844— LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 844, will hold its annual Easter Mass and Meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2007, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. A delicious Slovak lunch will be served after the liturgy along with an Easter egg hunt for the children. Please come and join us in celebrating the Slovak spirit of Easter.

A meeting will be held after the festivities to review officers' reports and to discuss branch activities.

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

Milan Konkol, Secretary

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT — Uniontown, Pennsylvania

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2007, at Melonie's Restaurant, 105 West Main Street, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. A luncheon will be served at 1:00 p.m. Each member attending is asked to contribute \$5.00 towards their meal. Reservations should be made by Wednesday, March 7, 2007, by contacting President James Marmol at 724/437-0892 or Secretary Barbara Holly at 724/438-0697. On the agenda will be the election of officers and the updating of accounts.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

Slovak Opera-Set Designer Boris Kudlicka Captivates Washington, D.C.

By Jan Simko, Ph. D.

On Saturday, November 4, 2006, Washington experienced what might prove to become one of the most memorable events of the 2006-07 opera season. It came about thanks to an unusually exciting, captivating, and moving rendering of Giacomo Puccini's (1859-1926) unmatched masterpiece, *Madama Butterfly* of 1924. Great commendation for the overwhelming success of this production, a spruced-up revival of the opera's first Washington presentation in 2001 (see my article, *Slovak v Amerike*, January 2002, pp.1-2) is due to the repeat participation of the internationally acclaimed Slovak opera-set designer Boris Kudlicka. I also reported about his effective set design for the 2004 Washington production of Umberto Giordano's (1867-1948) beautiful verismo opera *Andrea Chenier* of 1896 (*Slovak v Am.*, Nov. 2004, p.6).

It is for several years now that Boris Kudlicka has been cooperating with the principal director of the Polish National Opera Company in Warsaw, Tadeusz Trelinski. His innovative ideas for set designs have been put into ingenious modernistic shape by Boris Kudlicka. Neither in the arrangement of the sets, nor in the manner of acting or of the stylized movements by the lead or even secondary singers on stage is there anything traditional to be found at all.

The previous, traditional mis-en-scene characteristic of earlier productions of the

Butterfly used to open around a typical Japanese family house built of light materials. This recent Trelinski--Kudlicka production contains, however, none of that, apart from the involved acting characters. The front of the scene is flanked by a square-shaped wooden sidewalk enclosing a shimmering imitation of a pond strewn with flowers. The imitation water surface is effective in so far as the shapes of the persons strolling along the sidewalk are reflected in the shimmering surface of that imaginary water surface. To be seen in the background, again, is the shimmering sea surface.

The respective set designs by Trelinski and Kudlicka for both *Madama Butterfly* and *Andrea Chenier* contain a common characteristic trademark, namely, groups of identical colorful figurines representing people making simultaneous movements as a unit, as if in a puppet show. In each of these operas' act II, again, rows of identical figurines are placed one above the other.

The scenery of act II is divided into three parts individually covered and uncovered by a screen. The center is dark. In one version, the left side shows rows of figurines placed one above the other, while the right side is bright. In the other version, the left side displays an ornamented screen, while the right side shows several rows of figurines one placed above the other. In the background, seen gliding on the imaginary sea surface are small boats, in act III meant to represent

the boat bringing to port the American naval lieutenant Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton.

What is significant for the current trends taking root in contemporary opera making great strides so as not to become outdated is that, for instance, the simultaneous production of *Madama Butterfly* at New York's

Metropolitan Opera has introduced an equally, but somewhat differently, innovative stage presentation. This is highly significant, for, at the same time, several Met productions, especially of Italian operas, still

continued on page 8

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT TWO FOR ILLINOIS, INDIANA, AND WISCONSIN FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & CANADA February 16, 2007

HEY KIDS.....

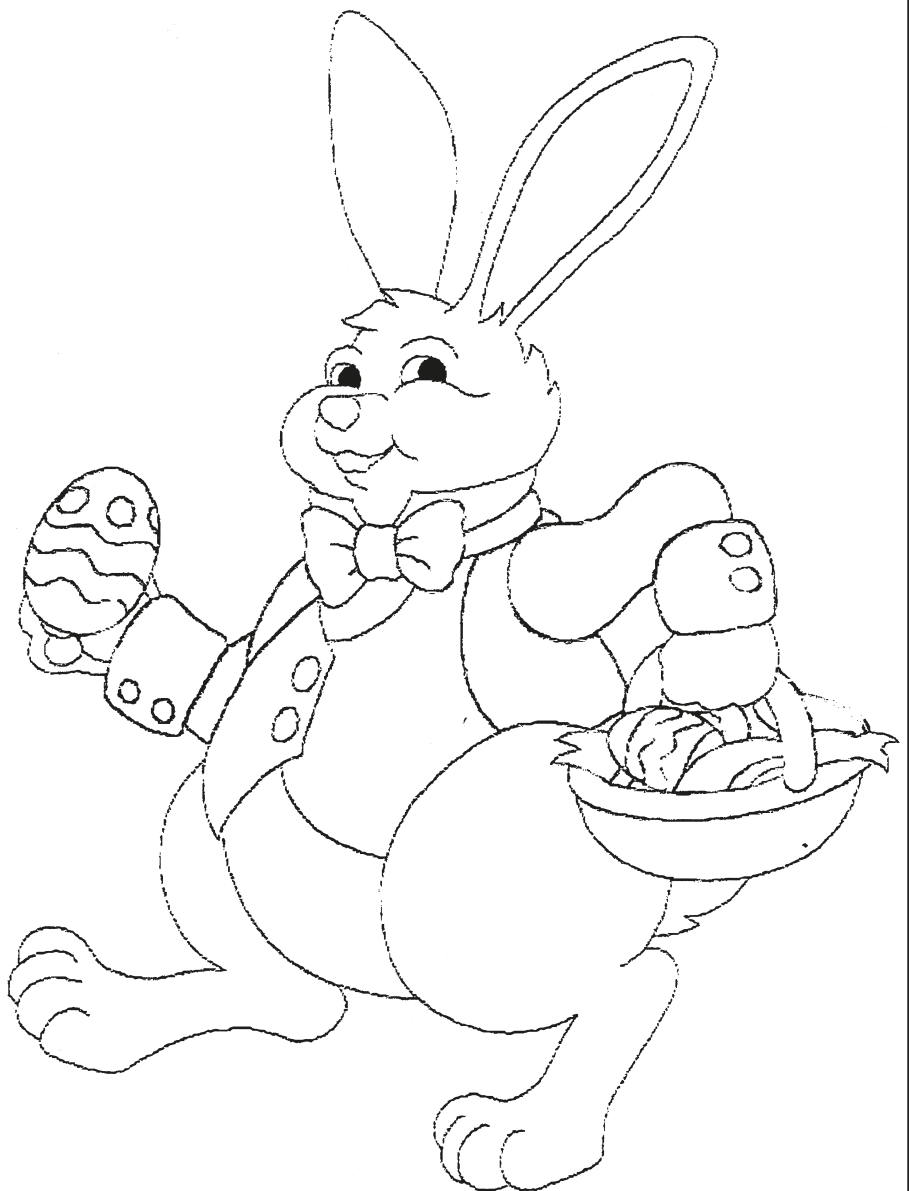
The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District II of the First Catholic Slovak Union is sponsoring an "EASTER COLORING CONTEST" for all boys and girls that are members of the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Two, from ages 4 thru 12. Color the picture and you could win. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and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

Send in your coloring page and on the back side of the picture please print your name, age, address, and Branch Number and return by April 5, 2007. Mail your entry to District Two Vice President: Mrs. Barbara Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, IN 46311.

The JEDNOTA Newspaper will publish the winning entries after Easter.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL

Fraternally yours,
Barbara Fayta
Easter Coloring Contest Chairman



DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 4

JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT— Houtzdale, Pennsylvania

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, March 11, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Country Club, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. All branches are urged to send delegates to this meeting. If you plan to attend, call Rosemary Deliman at 342-5592.

Marcella Kopchik, Secretary

REV. JOHN J. SPITKOVSKY DISTRICT— Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 29, 2007, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. There will be a short period of fraternal fellowship with refreshments at 1:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 2:00 p.m. All branches are encouraged to send delegates to the meeting. Delegates will be treated to dinner. If you plan to attend, please call District II President John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

PRINCE PRIBINA DISTRICT— Los Angeles, California

The Prince Pribina District will hold a meeting on Sunday, March 25, 2007, at St. John Bosco High School, 13640 South Bellflower Boulevard, Bellflower, California. A Slovak Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in St. John Bosco Chapel. The meeting will follow in the cafeteria. On the agenda will be a discussion of fraternal activities and the FCSU insurance products. After the meeting there will be a period of fraternal fellowship and a gourmet lunch with dessert and refreshments. Children will enjoy a traditional Easter egg hunt. All Branches are encouraged to send delegates. All FCSU members are also invited to attend.

Paul Skuben, President

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT— Youngstown, Ohio

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory. On the agenda will be a discussion of a possible casino trip, a night at the races, and the upcoming Slovak Fest. All District members are urged to attend.

Carlie Peshek, President

2006 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 1

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9

Age Group 10-12



Kayla Mercure
First Place
Seymour, CT



Christopher Figura
Second Place
Carmel, NY



Becky Pechmann
Third Place
Cullowhee, NC



Matthew Eastman
First Place
Linden, NJ



Katie Figura
Second Place
Warren, NJ



Stephanie Eastman
Second Place
Linden, NJ



Michael Eastman
First Place
Linden, NJ

REGION 1

..... Age Group 10-12

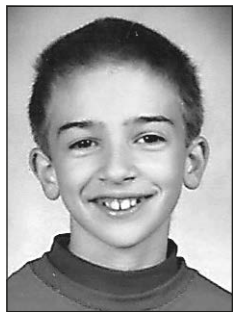
REGION 2

..... Age Group 4-6

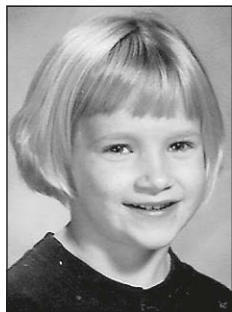
..... Age Group 7-9



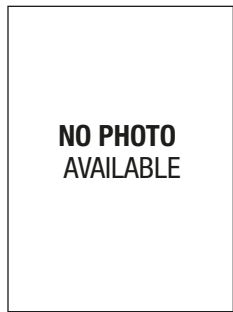
Julie Figura
Second Place
Warren, NJ



Andrew Studna
Third Place
Raritan, NJ



Laura Payne
First Place
Philadelphia, PA



Megan Francowic
Second Place
Monessen, PA



Kaitlyn Estright
Third Place
Norristown, PA



Carissa Rohrbach
First Place
Whitehall, PA



Justin Hess
Second Place
Alexandria, VA

REGION 2

Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12

REGION 3

Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9

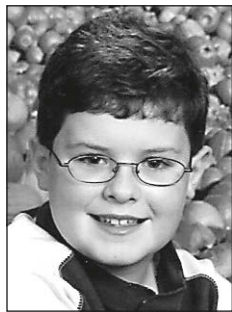
Age Group 10-12



Audrey Kester
Third Place
Bethlehem, PA



Kristen Barczynski
First Place
Wexford, PA



John Barczynski
Second Place
Wexford, PA



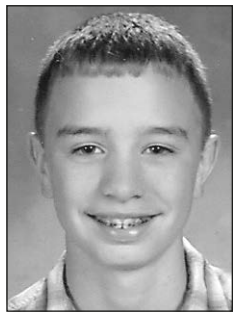
Amy Kester
Third Place
Bethlehem, PA



Lauren Ungvarsky
First Place
Shavertown, PA



Sarah Grega
First Place
Hazelton, PA



John Beierle
First Place
Hanover Twp. PA

REGION 3

..... Age Group 10-12

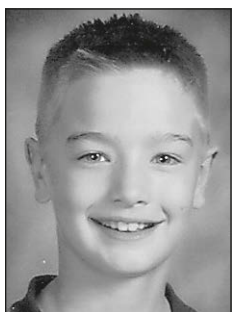
REGION 4

..... Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9



Mary Grega
Second Place
Hazelton, PA



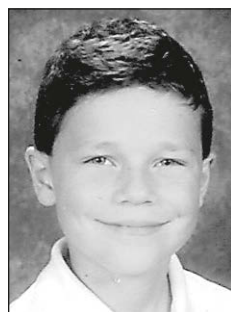
Michael Beierle
Third Place
Hanover Twp. PA



Abby Scekeres
First Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA



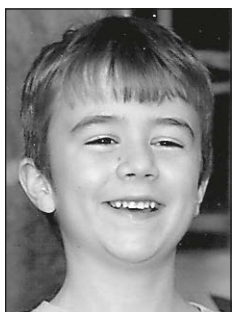
George Sprock
Second Place
Latrobe, PA



Noah Allen
First Place
Mt. Nebo, WV



Joel Scekeres
Second Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA



Charles Boone
Third Place
Pgh PA

2006 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 4

..... Age Group 10-12



Brittany Neff
First Place
Philipsburg, PA



Emily Uhrin
Second Place
Mt. Pleasant, PA



Stephanie Smith
Third Place
Latrobe, PA



Jenna Meinert
First Place
Aliquippa, PA



Caitlyn Urban
Second Place
Somerset, PA



Andrew Windsheimer
Third Place
Pgh PA



Eliza Dichiera
First Place
Pgh PA

REGION 5

..... Age Group 4-6

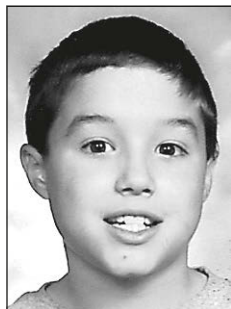
Age Group 7-9

REGION 5

..... Age Group 7-9



Nicole Hyatt
Second Place
Freedom, PA



Justin Meinert
Third Place
Aliquippa, PA



Joshua Huseman
First Place
Amarillo, TX



Samantha Brekosky
Second Place
New Market, MD



Catherine Bender
Third Place
Carrolltown, PA

REGION 6

Age Group 4-6

Age Group 7-9

REGION 6

..... Age Group 7-9



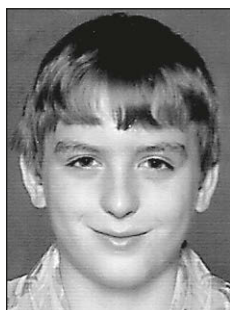
Paul Spencer
Second Place
Brunswick, OH



Alexis Gordulic
Third Place
Youngstown, OH



Rachel Zbiegien
First Place
Mayfield Village, OH



Mark Sedlacko
Second Place
Struthers, OH



Melinda Toth
Third Place
Poland, OH



Ian Glogovsky
First Place
Longmont, CO



Sarah Peters
Second Place
Highland, IN

REGION 7

..... Age Group 4-6

REGION 7

Age Group 4-6

..... Age Group 7-9

..... Age Group 10-12



Paige Remenar
Third Place
Bannister, MI



Logan Chismar
First Place
Streator, IL



Chris Peters
Second Place
Highland, IN



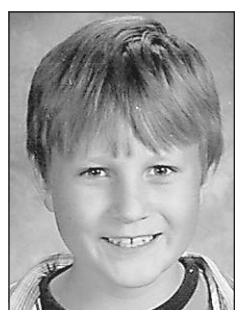
Daniel Remenar
Third Place
Bannister, MI



Miranda Dordan
First Place
Anchorage, AK



Frances Kudia
Second Place
Orland Park, IL



Todd Peters
Third Place
Highland, IN

2006 JEDNOTA CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST

REGION 8

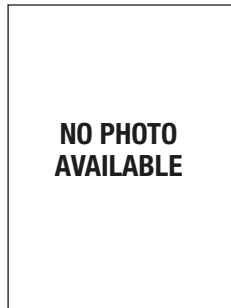
Age Group 7-9



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Sidney Gadosy
First Place
Dorval, QC

Age Group 10-12



NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Meighan Gadosy
First Place
Dorval, QC

Age Group 4-6



Jason Chadwick
First Place
Mississauga, ON

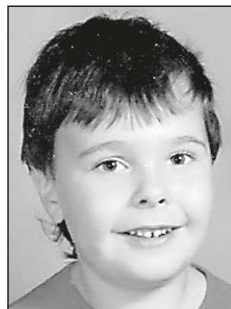
REGION 9

Age Group 4-6



Ethan Joiner
Second Place
Aurora, ON

••••• Age Group 7-9 •••••



Tyler Worfette
First Place
Mississauga, ON



Ryan Cartwright
Second Place
Mississauga, ON

REGION 9

Age Group 7-9



Liam Joiner
Third Place
Aurora, ON

••••• Age Group 10-12 •••••



Kristopher Helmkey
First Place
Mississauga, ON



Graham Joiner
Second Place
Aurora, ON

Slovak Opera-Set Designer

continued from page 5

display a stage design by the well-known Franco Zeffirelli striking with their literal stage naturalism.

I cannot avoid touching here upon a surprising but puzzling occurrence of some significance. While the Butterfly review in The Washington Post (Nov. 6, 2006, pp. 1-2) was disturbingly negative, the review in The Washington Times of the same date was, on the contrary, very positive. This is not the first case of such glaring disagreement between the opera reviewers of these leading local dailies. Whom is, however, an average reader—opera goer to believe? While disagreements between these dailies as to matters of politics are not uncommon at all, their mutual disagreements as to the respective evaluations of the Butterfly production in question are not at all the result of any political disagreements but of such nature as pertains to the respective divergent evaluation in the perception of one and the same art phenomenon. It is not uncommon for me, either, to disagree with the evaluation of an opera, of a concert etc., by the official reviewer of a newspaper, so much as for me to ask whether the two of us have indeed seen or heard the same concert or opera. It is not uncommon to disagree even with our own friends in the evaluation of one and the same painting or a work of art. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that, even though artistic, aesthetic evaluation is a matter of individual taste, there may yet be some objective criteria of an unbiased evaluation of art that might lead us to arrive at similar conclusions.

This puzzling controversy leads me to believe, however, that the Post reviewer's negative evaluation was directed against the libretto's critical representation of American attitudes displayed in the light-hearted approach by Pinkerton towards his casual love affair with Cio-Cio-San. For this the set designers cannot, of course, be held responsible at all, nor have they in any way sharpened or softened the libretto's own inherent critique. Their main intention seems to have been to display the rich visual potential offered in the colorful Japanese landscape in contrast to the dark human tragedy. Nevertheless, one striking change in the director's approach bears pointing out as having sharpened the tragic edge. While, traditionally, Cio-Cio-San's hara-kiri takes place out of the sight of the audience, in this production it takes place on the stage, in full view of all, which, obviously, cannot but have a shattering concluding effect. It is equally surprising that this highly disturbing scene was not left out of the considerably reduced one-hour version played for parents and children

A critique of a general nature can point out the fact that, while too many striking visual effects can be interesting of themselves, they nevertheless to some extent divert attention from "the real thing," that is, from what should form the center of attention, namely, the inexpressibly beautiful, irresistibly moving music and the quality of singing. The singers themselves consider the quality of their singing to be in the center of their attention during their performance on stage.

In a recent article published in the JEDNOTA (October 18, 2006, pp. 11-12):

"Decline of the Culture of Classical Music," I voiced notes of alarm over this disturbing, unwelcome trend. As if having been only too well aware of this threatening decline, New York's Metropolitan Opera and Washington's National Opera Company have mounted effective counteroffensives.

(1) The Washington Opera deserves high commendation for its tireless and ingenious efforts to popularize opera and make it more widely accessible and attractive. On Sunday afternoon, November 12, 2006, it organized a free simulcast of Madama Butterfly on the National Mall. While it was being presented on the stage inside the Kennedy Center, a video transmission was sent live to a large screen located under the majestic Capitol. To a great disappointment, a constant, chilly rain was braved only by a handful of hardy enthusiasts. The previous year's similar outdoor presentation of Gershwin's opera Porgy and Bess had a much better luck.

On the other hand, another daring experiment proved exceedingly effective and highly successful. It was a one-hour reduced version prepared specifically for parents and children, who occupied the Opera House's 2400 seats to the last. The music was explained by opera director Domingo himself, while the plot was narrated by a popular TV personality and the modernistic scenery explained by the chief stage designer. This is strong evidence that well-prepared opera presentations can turn out to be most attractive to concerned parents and their children.

(2) More elaborate strides have been mounted by New York's Met. After the end of its main season in spring, it has offered for many years free opera performances in Central Park. With reference to my above-mentioned article where, at the time of its writing, the fate and further continuation of the popular Saturday afternoon radio transmissions of live opera from the Met were uncertain, it gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to be able to report that these precious opera broadcasts have not only been saved but, since December 6, 2006, have been in full swing with further 21 opera transmissions including Madama Butterfly on January 27.

Moreover, the Met selected Mozart's fairy-tale opera, The Magic Flute, to be presented in an English children's version shortened from c.3 hours to c.100 minutes and broadcast on Saturday afternoon, December 30, 2006. What is especially emphatically to be pointed out here is that this version was simulcast in high definition to about 100 movie theatres around the world! Five more operas will follow. A live radio transmission of a telephone call to a cinema in the northernmost tip of Norway where this Mozart opera was shown in a simulcast has informed us about the tremendous impact which this utilization of the new technology may have on the world-wide spread of operas.

Conclusion

The tireless efforts of people responsible for the future fates of opera and their evident successes cannot but prompt us to exclaim the memorable words ascribed by Shakespeare to beautiful Miranda:

O brave new world/That has such people in it! (The Tempest, V.1. 183-84). We can be proud that a Slovak, Boris Kudlicka, is one of them!

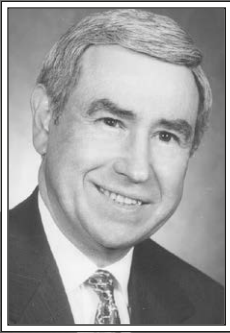
Allentown Parish to Hold a "Meat Bingo"



The St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church is sponsoring a "Meat Bingo" on Sunday, March 18, 2007, in the church social hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Doors open at 12:00 noon, bingo begins at

1:00 p.m. Donation is \$5.00 plus specials. Refreshments will be available. For more information call Bill Drost at 610/432-3505 or Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614.

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko

*Certified Public Accountant
Certified Financial Planner
Personal Financial Specialist
(AICPA)*



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT U.S. SAVINGS BONDS?

For some people, U.S. savings bonds are what you give a newborn grandchild or a niece who just graduated from high school. Savings bonds could have a place in your own investment portfolio, particularly if you're looking for low-risk investments. Answers to some frequently asked questions concerning savings bonds are listed below, which might help you decide if they are right for you.

What Types of U.S. Savings Bonds are Available?

There are two types currently available – Series EE and Series I. Series EE bonds purchased May 1997 through April 30, 2005, pay interest based on current market rates. As of May 1, 2005, newly issued Series EE bonds have a fixed interest rate, based on 10-year Treasury note yields. The fixed rate and adjustment on new bonds are announced every May 1 and November 1.

Series I savings bonds differ in that they pay an interest rate that is indexed for inflation, based on the Consumer Price Index. The inflation adjustment ensures that your savings earn money over and above inflation.

In What Form are U.S. Savings Bonds Sold?

Savings bonds are available in paper or electronic form. Paper Series EE and Series I bonds come in eight denominations: \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000. Paper EE bonds are issued at 50 percent discount from face value. Electronic Series EE and Series I bonds are sold at face value in any amount from \$25 to \$30,000.

There is an annual purchase limit of \$30,000 per owner for Series EE Bonds and \$30,000 for Series I Bonds. A husband and wife who purchase bonds as co-owners may purchase up to \$60,000 in Series EE bonds and \$60,000 in Series I bonds in a single year. Purchases of one series do not count against your limit for the other series.

How Long Do Savings Bonds Earn Interest?

Savings bonds earn interest on a tax-deferred basis for 30 years from the issue date.

Where Do I Buy Savings Bonds?

You may buy paper savings bonds at financial institutions authorized by the Treasury Department or through employer payroll deduction plans. You may also buy and hold savings bonds in an electronic account at www.TreasuryDirect.gov.

Can I Find Out How Much My Bonds are Worth?

To calculate the value of your savings bonds, go to <http://www.publicdebt.treas.gov/sav/savcalc.htm>.

How Do I Redeem my Savings Bonds?

To cash in your Series EE or Series I bonds, take them, along with proper identification, to your financial institution. Keep in mind that savings bonds issued after February 2003 must be held for a minimum of one year before they can be redeemed, and if you redeem them in less than five years after purchase, you forfeit the three most recent months of interest.

Do Savings Bonds Offer Tax Advantages?

The interest earned on savings bonds is always exempt from state and local income taxes. You can defer federal income taxes on the interest your bonds earn until the savings bonds reach final maturity or you redeem them. However, you may elect to treat the annual increase in value of these bonds as income in each year.

Earnings from Series EE and Series I savings bonds may be excluded from federal income tax if you pay qualified higher education expenses in the same year you redeem the savings bonds. Your household income must meet certain guidelines to qualify for this exclusion.

If you have additional questions on this subject, contact Joe Senko at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220 or 412/531-2990 or fax 412/531-4793 or jsenko@mvs-cpa.com



Youngstown Sister Cities Sets Slovak Tour

Youngstown Sister Cities has scheduled its 13th annual tour of Slovakia, July 3-17, 2007. In addition to the standard sites of castles, rafting on the Dunajec River, and a cable car ride in the Tatra Mountains, the tour will include wine tasting in the Tokaj vineyard and a day at the Kezmarok street fair. The annual champagne breakfast with Sister City Mayor at the Radnica, will be followed by a visit to the Dana Crystal Factory and shopping in our sister city, Nova Ves. The Spis Party, where tourists can bring their relatives as guests, will include a dinner and performances by local folk artists. A full day to relax and receive a spa treatment awaits the tourists at Bojnice. The group will be accommodated in the restored Chateau Salgovce built in 1767. A special feature will include a performance by Duraci School of Dance (100 youngsters). The final days will be spent in the Bratislava area.

Cost of the tour is \$2899 (and tax) from Pittsburgh. For brochures and information, contact tour hosts Kay and Jim Bench, 724/694-5101; Bernie Demechko 330/782-8638, or Adventure International Travel (800) 542-2487.



L-R: Branch 10 officers Secretary-Treasurer William Spegar, Recording Secretary William A. Nalevanko, and President Daniel Spegar with Mary Barna, Executive Director of the Valley Community Library.

Olyphant Branch 10 Continues Its Benevolent Mission

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 10, in Olyphant, Pennsylvania, recently made a generous donation of \$1,000 to the Board of Trustees of the Valley Community Library Building Fund in Peckville, Pennsylvania.

The St. John the Baptist Society was founded in 1889 and is one of the oldest Slovak societies in the United States. Its social, fraternal and benevolent mission continues 118 years after it's founding.

William A. Nalevanko, Recording Secretary



Lauri Kavulich Chairs Powerful Pennsylvania Agency

Lauri A. Kavulich, a native of Green Ridge, Pennsylvania, has been described as "one of the most powerful women in Philadelphia whose name you never heard." Lauri acquired this reputation while serving as Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority (PICA), an agency established in 1991 to review Philadelphia's finances. The PICA studies Philadelphia's finances and approves its budget. In this capacity, Lauri and the PICA keep a close eye on how money is spent in Philadelphia.

Lauri is the daughter of Donald and Fran Kavulich of Dalton, Pennsylvania. She attended Scranton Preparatory School, the University of Scranton, and Villanova University School of Law. She is married to Edward Reitmeyer and resides in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia. The couple has two children, Francesca, 8, and Caroline, 3. Lauri is a member of Branch 240P in Taylor, Pennsylvania.

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

HOME OFFICE

6611 ROCKSIDE ROAD, SUITE 300

INDEPENDENCE, OHIO 44131

PHONE: 216-642-9406 * FAX: 216-642-3107

MARCH 16 AND 17, 2007

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 and Saturday, March 16 and 17, 2007.

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.

The monthly Executive Committee Meeting will be held at the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Officers who are required to give reports at the Annual Meeting should send them to the attention of the Executive Secretary at the Home Office located at 6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Independence, OH 44131, on or before March 9, 2007.

All correspondence relative to the Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors should be directed to the attention of the Executive Secretary, Kenneth A. Arendt, and should be sent for receipt at the Home Office prior to March 9, 2007. 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**



JEDNOTA BOWLING RESULTS

MONTREAL JEDNOTA MIXED January 30, 2007

Team	Points
James Verrillo	86
John Gaydos	82
Gerry Madejchuk	73
Steve Szubiak	71
John Jasko	70
Paul Dvorsky	69
Emil Ondrechak	68
Mary Makovsky	63
Tony Makovsky	63
Domenic Pugliese	55

High single game team: Gerry Madejchuk-624. High three games team: Paul Dvorsky-1782. High single game individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-196; (man) James Verrillo-235. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-509; (man) James Verrillo-616.

Next four high single games: (women) Mary Makovsky-170, Ann Ondrechak-166, Anne Szubiak-156, Marta Fuska-149; (men) John Chandik-230, Greg White-200, Domenic Pugliese-198, Gerry Madejchuk-192.

Next four high three games: (women) Mary Makovsky-503, Anne Szubiak-421, Olga Slodichak-410, Marta Fuska-387, Helen Corej-387; (men) Domenic Pugliese-559, John Chandik-555, Greg White-544, Paul Dvorsky-512.

February 6, 2007

Team	Points
James Verrillo	89
John Gaydos	86
Steve Szubiak	76
Emil Ondrechak	75
John Jasko	74
Gerry Madejchuk	73
Paul Dvorsky	69
Mary Makovsky	66
Tony Makovsky	63
Domenic Pugliese	62

High single game team: Emil Ondrechak-607. High three games team: Emil Ondrechak-1748. High single game individual: (woman) Pauline Dvorsky-169; (man) Tony Makovsky-221. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Makovsky-429; (man) James Verrillo-569.

Next four high single games: (women) Olga Slodichak-162, Mary Makovsky-155, Ann Ondrechak-151, Mary Jurkanin-146; (men) Domenic Pugliese-212, Paul Dvorsky-204, James Verrillo-199, Emil Ondrechak-195.

Next four high three games: (women) Pauline Dvorsky-427, Olga Slodichak-420, Mary Jurkanin-414, Rosa Pugliese-398; (men) Paul Dvorsky-565, Tony Makovsky-546, Domenic Pugliese-526, Emil Ondrechak-523.

February 13, 2007

Team	Points
James Verrillo	94
John Gaydos	91
Steve Szubiak	81
Emil Ondrechak	77
John Jasko	76
Gerry Madejchuk	73
Tony Makovsky	72
Paul Dvorsky	71
Mary Makovsky	68
Domenic Pugliese	61

High single game team: Paul Dvorsky-620. High three games team: John Gaydos-1760. High single game individual: (woman) Mary

Jurkanin-182; (man) James Verrillo-215. High three games individual: (woman) Mary Jurkanin-472; (man) James Verrillo-557.

Next four high single games: (women) Mary Makovsky-171, Anne Szubiak-161, Pauline Dvorsky-157, Suzanne Hurtuk-152; (men) Emil Ondrechak-211, Domenic Pugliese-207, John Chandik-195, Joe Sekeres-189.

Next four high three games: (women) Mary Makovsky-469, Pauline Dvorsky-431, Anne Szubiak-421, Suzanne Hurtuk-414; (men) Emil Ondrechak-540, Domenic Pugliese-536, John Chandik-530, John Jasko-516.

Mary Makovsky, Secretary

TORONTO SLOVAK MIXED (BRANCH #785) January 3, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	80.0	39.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	72.0	40.0
3	2	Stan Pella	69.0	50.0
4	13	Anne Mitro	68.0	51.0
5	5	Joe Jursa	68.0	51.0
6	8	Jim Szabo	64.0	55.0
7	4	Emil Jursa	63.0	56.0
8	3	Rose Pikul	62.0	57.0
9	11	Jason Ubeika	61.0	58.0
10	7	Hank Gryns	59.0	60.0
11	14	John Jursa	58.0	61.0
12	1	Sharon Tomas	57.0	62.0
13	12	Ed Jursa	57.0	62.0
14	9	Greg Gryns	53.0	66.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	51.0	68.0

This Week's Individual High Scores

HI-SERIES-FLAT: Greg Gryns-649; Cathy Szabo-500.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Slavo Kovac-717; Melissa Rak-698.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Greg Gryns-259; Chris Tokarsky-194.

HI-GAME-HCP: Greg Gryns-263; Chris Tokarsky-267.

January 10, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	85.0	41.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	77.0	42.0
3	2	Stan Pella	76.0	50.0
4	13	Anne Mitro	73.0	53.0
5	4	Emil Jursa	70.0	56.0
6	5	Joe Jursa	68.0	58.0
7	3	Rose Pikul	67.0	59.0
8	8	Jim Szabo	66.0	60.0
9	11	Jason Ubeika	63.0	63.0
10	14	John Jursa	63.0	63.0
11	7	Hank Gryns	61.0	65.0
12	1	Sharon Tomas	59.0	67.0
13	9	Greg Gryns	58.0	68.0
14	12	Ed Jursa	57.0	69.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	53.0	73.0

This Week's Individual High Scores

HI-SERIES-FLAT: Greg Gryns-592; Cathy Szabo-484.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Hank Gryns-677, Ed Forman-677; Mary McKenna-672.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Greg Gryns-224; Irene Breen-180.

HI-GAME-HCP: John Tokarsky-255; Irene Breen-245.

January 17, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	87.0	46.0
2	15	Michael Kapitan	81.0	45.0
3	2	Stan Pella	79.0	54.0
4	13	Anne Mitro	75.0	58.0
5	4	Emil Jursa	75.0	58.0

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
6	5	Joe Jursa	73.0	60.0
7	3	Rose Pikul	72.0	61.0
8	8	Jim Szabo	71.0	62.0
9	11	Jason Ubeika	68.0	65.0
10	1	Sharon Tomas	65.0	68.0
11	14	John Jursa	65.0	68.0
12	7	Hank Gryns	63.0	70.0
13	9	Greg Gryns	63.0	70.0
14	12	Ed Jursa	59.0	74.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	54.0	79.0

This Week's Individual High Scores

HI-SERIES-FLAT: Jim Szabo-636; Anne Mitro-473.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Jim Szabo-702; Adele Reusch-662.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Jason Ubeika-226; Mary Bis-193.

HI-GAME-HCP: Ron Pines-262; Adele Reusch-271.

January 24, 2007

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
1	6	Jerry Siman	92.0	48.0
2	2	Stan Pella	86.0	54.0
3	15	Michael Kapitan	86.0	47.0

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost
4	5	Joe Jursa	78.0	62.0
5	13	Anne Mitro	77.0	63.0
6	4	Emil Jursa	77.0	63.0
7	3	Rose Pikul	74.0	66.0
8	8	Jim Szabo	73.0	67.0
9	11	Jason Ubeika	73.0	67.0
10	14	John Jursa	72.0	68.0
11	1	Sharon Tomas	70.0	70.0
12	7	Hank Gryns	68.0	72.0
13	9	Greg Gryns	65.0	75.0
14	12	Ed Jursa	59.0	81.0
15	10	Denise Ricciuti	56.0	84.0

This Week's Individual High Scores

HI-SERIES-FLAT: Greg Gryns-650; Helen Gryns-511.

HI-SERIES-HCP: Jason Ubeika-685; Helen Kochuta-665.

HI-GAME-FLAT: Jason Ubeika-255; Marge Kapsa-197.

HI-GAME-HCP: Jason Ubeika-273; Marge Kapsa-276.

Sharon Tomas, Secretary

2008 JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT OFFERS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Any District or branch interested in sponsoring the 2008 Bowling Tournament may submit their offers. The customary dates for the Tournament are April 11-13, or April 18-20, 2008. If circumstances would warrant, we would use both weekends. We prefer using only one weekend. Please furnish the following information in your written offer.

Branch or District hosting the Tournament:

Local Contact Person:

Name
Address
Phone Number

Bowling Lanes:

Name
Contact Person at Lanes
Address
Phone Number
Number of lanes available

**Please note: A minimum of 40 lanes will be needed for one weekend, preferably more. If two establishments are to be used, we will need at least 40 lanes in one house and at least 30 lanes in the other house.

Approximate cost per game
Scoring Equipment Available

Housing:

Please enclose a list of nearby hotels/motels, including addresses and phone numbers.

Deadline for all offers is July 1, 2007.

Please send offers to the FCSU Fraternal Activities Director:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
sueo99@yahoo.com

2008 JEDNOTA INTERNATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Anyone interested in suggesting a course for the 2008 Golf Tournament may submit their proposal. The customary dates for the Tournament are July 12-13 or July 19-20, 2008. Please furnish the following information in your written proposal.

Local Contact Person:

Name
Address
Phone Number

Golf Course/Resort:

Name
Contact Person at Course
Address
Phone Number

Number of holes **Please note: A 36-hole course is preferred. Two nearby 18-hole courses would also be acceptable.

Approximate cost per round of golf

Housing:

Please enclose a list of nearby hotels/motels, including addresses and phone numbers.

Deadline for proposals is July 1, 2008.

Please send proposals to FCSU Fraternal Activities Director:

Susan Ondrejco
234 Ilion St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
sueo99@yahoo.com

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007 ~ INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opened it with prayer.

ROLL CALL

Members Attending: Andrew M. Rajec, President
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., Vice President
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary
George F. Matta, Treasurer

ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt presented the Minutes of the December 2006 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew R. Harcar and seconded by George F. Matta to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer George Matta passed out a report summarizing the investments for the month of December 2006 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee. (The report is attached to the Minutes).

Treasurer George Matta led a discussion regarding tender offer he received concerning the Bank of New England bonds. He stated that after further investigation into this matter we received a higher offer, which the Executive Committee accepted.

Treasurer George Matta also gave a summary of the offers he has received from the brokers and answered the questions of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer George Matta also said that since we have funds to invest, we are going to analyze every offer that comes.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew R. Harcar to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

DECEMBER 2006 TREASURERS' REPORT PREPARED BY: GEORGE F. MATTA – NATIONAL TREASURER

UBS

AAA/AAA	FED NATL. MTG	6.10	12-15-21	100.00	6.10	200K
			CALLABLE 3-15-07			
A3/A-	WALT DISNEY	6.3	01-25-22	199.125	6.287	100K
			CALL WHEN MAKE WHOLE			

WACHOVIA SECURITIES

A2/A	CIT GROUP	5.70	12-15-15	100.00	5.70	200K
			CALLABLE 12-15-08			

SMITH BARNEY

Aaa/AAA	FED NATL.MTG	6.00	12-27-21	100.00	6.00	300K
			CALLABLE 07-27-07			
A2/A	CIT GROUP	5.875	12-15-27	100.00	5.875	300K

MERRILL LYNCH

AAA/AAA	FED HOME LOAN	5.550	9-21-20	99.12	5.62	200K
	CALLABLE 09-20-08					
AA/AA2	PRINCIPAL LIFE	5.50	12-15-16	100.00	5.50	200K

SOLD

TENDER OFFER 300 SHARES OF TRANS AMERICA	
MATURING 1202126 ORIGINAL PURCH PRICE	\$307,500.00
TENDER OFFER PRICE	\$363,291.00
NET PROFIT	\$ 55,791.00

RECOVERY ON CHARGES OFF BOND

\$100,000.00 BANK OF NEW ENGLAND
BOND CHARGED OFF IN 1996 – RECOVERY \$70,000

VICE PRESIDENT'S MARKETING REPORT

Sales

Vice President Andrew Harcar led a lengthy discussion regarding Life Insurance sales especially for the last year.

Vice President Andrew Harcar stated that the sales were down and that we need to explore better ways to increase our sales.

Vice President Andrew Harcar led a discussion regarding the reconstruction of commission schedule paid to recommenders and agents.

Vice President Andrew Harcar said that we are in process of working on a newspaper insert which will include the explanation of the Annuity Bonus Program which is now in progress and one issue per household will be sent. The insert will be designed to highlight our best selling products and a brief description of our insurance and annuity products.

Vice President Andrew Harcar will also start contacting some of our previous agents and recommenders and try to get them more involved with our Society again. He also will contact our Regional Directors to get them involved with sales in their Regions.

Vice President Harcar said that we also would be putting at least two ads per issue in our Jednota newspaper highlighting our insurance and annuity products. It was also discussed to have these ads on the front page or the 3rd page of our newspaper. We are also in the process of reviewing all our ads in the newspaper and radio stations. A letter will be sent to our ROTH and IRA policyholders encouraging them to make their yearly deposits.

Vice President Andrew Harcar led a discussion about the JEP policy to newborns.

Vice President Andrew Harcar also passed out a postcard he received in mail regarding insurance sales. He said this project could be developed at the Home Office for spring

mailing. The Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt will do a study on the newspaper cost and the cost on special mailing and will report back to the Executive Committee.

Vice President Andrew Harcar led a discussion concerning the recognition of our top independent sales agents.

Vice President Andrew Harcar updated the Executive Committee on the search for a Marketing Director.

Membership Meet

Vice President Andrew Harcar also led a discussion about 2007 Membership Meet. A notice will be published in the newspaper and will be mailed to our branches. A special letter will be mailed to all recommenders informing them about points they have available thru December 2006 and the possibility to earn double points for their sales between January 2007 and June 30, 2007. (These points will be paid to recommenders after the cruise). It was suggested that we request a letter from the travel agent outlining the terms and conditions of the Membership Meet. The travel agent is looking into the passport requirement and she will send us the information.

Vice President Andrew Harcar said that we will have a reception recognizing our top recommenders who will be on board with us.

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt stated that he sent a deposit to the cruise lines to secure the requested cabins for the Membership Meet. Kenneth Arendt also explained that we would receive a refund for cabins that are not used.

Other Marketing Business

Vice President Andrew Harcar updated us on upcoming seminars.

We will have a seminar: April 22, 2007 in Michigan region;
April 28, 2007 in Regional Director Damian Nasta region;
April 29, 2007 in Regional Director Carl Ungvarsky region;
May 13, 2007 in Westfield, Massachusetts.

The place and time for these seminars will be advertised at a later date.

Vice President Andrew Harcar led a discussion in regards to hiring a professional Life Insurance Agent to work in our Home Office. Their responsibility will be contacting our existing members, servicing them and also updating them on our new products.

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion regarding the development of a better format on presentation of our seminars.

Vice President Andrew Harcar will be in contact with Ed DePersis from the Consulting firm of Bruce and DePersis to help develop a better approach in conducting seminars.

A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Kenneth Arendt to accept the report as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the monthly membership report for the month of December and the Executive Secretary answered their 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

Executive Secretary Arendt reported that the following disbursements were incurred and paid during the month of December:

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2006

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$ 180,669.54
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 31,763.61
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	-0-

The Executive Committee reviewed the rest of the disbursements report and the Executive Secretary answered their questions.

ADJOURN

Adjourn for lunch.

President Andrew Rajec opened the afternoon session.

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt continued with his report.

Home Office Sign

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt reported the new sign at the front of our Home Office is complete and the landscaping will be finished as soon as weather permits.

Insurance Coverage

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt updated the Executive Committee with the information on health insurance coverage for Home Office employees and the Jednota Printery employees. We are in the process of receiving bids for employees health insurance. Once received, the President and the Executive Secretary will review all offers and present to the Executive Committee. He also stated that the applications for the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance were sent to our agents to secure competitive bids. Once these bids are received, they will be reviewed by the President and the Executive Secretary and presented to the Executive Committee.

Miscellaneous

President Andrew Rajec and Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt have been reviewing the schedule of our cleaning and maintenance service. Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt updated the Executive Committee on general maintenance in our common areas (maintaining front door, elevator, hallways, properly salting parking areas, sidewalks etc.).

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt stated that our building manager is in the process

Lenten Fasting Traditions in Slovakia

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

In the traditions of Slovakia, the holy season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, known as Popolcova streda in Slovak. This marked the solemn beginning of an extended period of fasting, prayer, and abstinence. The lively celebrations of fasiangy had ended on the Tuesday night. Ash Wednesday began an extended period of spiritual reflection.

Ash Wednesday, known in Latin as Dies Cinerum (Day of Ashes), became a regular custom in Christian Europe as early as the

8th century. Even though church attendance was technically not required, it was indeed one of the holiest days on the Christian calendar. After the Gospel and homily, the priest distributed ashes to the congregation after sprinkling the faithful with holy water that was purified with incense. The receiving of ashes recognized that one is a sinner in dire need of Christ's redemptive powers.

Like other Christians, people in Slovakia flocked to the churches to receive blessed ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday

(Kvetna Nedel'a). A priest would recite the well-known words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" ("Prach si a na prach sa obratis").

Lent was a very sacred and holy time in Slovakia. In Slovak and Christian culture, Lent (post – pronounced "pwest") represented a time which commemorated Christ's 40 days of fasting and contemplation in the desert. In imitation of Christ's example, Slovaks denied themselves all animal products during this holy season, including all meats and any dairy products such as milk, cheese, eggs, etc. Slovaks also abstained from eating any very large meals for the entire period of Lent. Parties, weddings, and loud music were forbidden. Any music played had to be sacred and somber, stressing one's sinfulness.

In previous centuries, after attending Holy Mass, the people marched in a procession of penance. But that custom has since disappeared. Lent was a time of prayer and self-examination. Denying the body physical pleasures was supposed to liberate the flesh so that people could contemplate the real

meaning of life and their relationship with God. Slovak devotions became far more zealous than that of most European peoples, and some historians cite the Counter-Reformation spirit as embedding this religious temperament among the Slovaks.

The Slovak interpretation of Lent was most solemn, somber, and even gloomy. Until Easter arrived, a household remained in virtually a continual state of mourning for their own sins, and for the terrible price Jesus Christ had to pay for redeeming man's sins. As a sign of this grieving, women dressed in black for the entire Lenten season. Ash Wednesday marked a prolonged period of mourning for Christ.

Although some of these customs have modified over the years, Lent remains an intensely spiritual time for practicing Catholics throughout Slovakia. When one visits, one has a sense of the sacredness that is missing in many American churches since Vatican II.

But there is one very real result of the intense Lenten period sacrifice – the joy of Easter is that much greater.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

continued from page 12

of getting quotes for painting, repair and maintenance of the outside of our building. Once quotes are received we will present them at our March Board of Directors Meeting.

The Building Manager will be available for the March meeting to answer questions.

Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt stated that in the past 12 years we did not have any vacancy in our Home Office building. Since December 2006 however we have approximately 4,400 square feet of vacancy in our building. He also stated that our existing tenants from the second floor will take the additional 1,500 square feet and that another tenant from the first floor will possibly take the remaining square footage on the first floor. Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt will update when more information available.

A motion was made by Vice President Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the Mortgage, Disbursements and the Membership Report as presented.

Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report on Printery Building

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion concerning the leasing of the building at 1011 Rosedale Avenue in Middletown. A motion was made by Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Treasurer George Matta to authorize President Andrew Rajec to enter into a contract with a local real estate agent and lease the building. Motion carried.

President Andrew Rajec will send the contract to our General Counsel Garry Matta for review.

President Andrew Rajec stated that there is a Church in the Harrisburg area that is showing an interest in leasing our building. He will update the Executive Committee as more information will be available.

President Andrew Rajec will also suggest to the local real estate agent to contact other printeries to see if any would be interested in leasing our building.

President Andrew Rajec gave a summarized report about our visit with the Greek Catholic Union. The Executive Committee felt that the meeting was very valuable and we appreciated their invitation and hospitality.

2007 Meeting dates

President Andrew Rajec discussed our schedule of Board of Directors meetings for 2007. The Board of Directors meetings will be held as follows:

March 16 - 17, 2007 - Home Office in Independence, OH

June 16, 2007 – Teleconference meeting

September 14 - 15, 2007 (Friday & Saturday) - Home Office, Independence, OH

December 15, 2007 – Teleconference.

The Executive Committee Meetings will be held every second Friday of the month. He also stated that these dates are subject to change.

Agenda will be sent by Executive Secretary as dates approach.

Miscellaneous

President Andrew Rajec stated he is planning an open house at the Home Office to introduce ourselves in the area. Prominent leaders of the Slovak community will be invited along with local politicians.

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion regarding Coloring Contest. He stated that he is in contact with our Director of Fraternal Activities, Susan Ondrejco, concerning this matter. President Andrew Rajec suggested that every member who participated in this coloring contest will be given a small gift.

President Andrew Rajec also suggested that maybe we should have an Easter Coloring Contest and advertise this contest in timely manner.

President Andrew Rajec gave a report on March for Life. The Executive Secretary Kenneth Arendt and his wife Theresa will represent the Society.

President Andrew Rajec led a discussion concerning the publication of the financial report of the Holding Companies in our newspaper. This will be done after March meeting.

REQUEST FOR ADS & DONATIONS

Requests were viewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

President Andrew Rajec closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

New War Memorial Completed in Uniontown

Several years ago a group of concerned citizens in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, decided to honor their local World War II veterans with a new monument to replace the existing one at the Fayette County Courthouse. The monument was designed by James Marmol, president of Branch 162, in Uniontown, and project manager of K2 Engineering. On Friday, December 8, 2006, the monument was formally dedicated with impressive ceremonies. James Marmol



served as toastmaster for the day's events, which included remarks by several prominent local and state individuals. The main address was given by General Harry J. Mier.

The monument consists of three 6-foot walls with names, granite benches, 13 flagpoles, and a walkway. In addition, the monument has 1,400 memorial bricks for veterans of other wars. Each brick has the name, rank, military branch, years of service, and hometown. The cost of each brick is \$200.

James Marmol has worked very hard to see this project to its completion. He would like to thank everyone involved in the project and everyone who purchased a brick. Presently, there are only 200 of the original 1,400 bricks still available. Anyone interested in purchasing a brick should call Joe T. Joseph at 724/438-8688.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY: FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH MARCH 31, 2007

Effective January 1, 2007, the annual yield on existing First Catholic Slovak Union Flexible Premium Deferred Retirement Annuity and Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is 5.00% (4.879% APR).

The annual yield on the Park 2 Annuity 4.75% (4.641% APR).

The annual yield on accounts with the "Cash Interest" Option will be 4.75% (4.641% APR).

Settlement Options will be based on an annual yield of 4.50% (4.402% APR).

If you have any questions about our annuities or IRAs, please contact the Home Office at 1-800-JEDNOTA.

THESE RATES WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE THROUGH MARCH 31, 2007

Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

EDWARD W. PASTIRIK Branch 60 McKeesport, Pennsylvania



Edward W. "Whitey" Pastirik, 74, of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, died Tuesday, February 20, 2007, in McKeesport. Born in McKeesport, August 6, 1932, he was the son of the late Michael and Mary Pastirik Kormas.

He was the owner of Pastirik's Bar and after his retirement worked as a bartender for the 11th Ward Club. A U.S. Navy veteran, he was a member of St. Martin de Porres Parish in McKeesport, and Branch 60 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He loved his dogs dearly, and was a kind man, loved by all.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 49 years, Patricia Matta Pastirik; a sister Agnes Roberts of Little Washington, Pennsylvania; and nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Jaycox-Jaworski Funeral Home, McKeesport. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Holy Trinity Church, McKeesport. Interment followed in St. Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles. The family strongly requests that memorial donations be made to the White Oak Animal Safe Haven.

The officers and members of Branch 60 express their deepest sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Margaret M. Perla, Secretary

JOHANNA K. HERR Former Jednota Orphan

Johanna K. Herr, 88, of 192 Buch Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, died Wednesday, February 21, 2007, surrounded by family and friends.

Born in Ford City, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Frank Kubovich and Johanna Mikulasek Kubovich. Along with her sister and two brothers, she was raised as an orphan at the Jednota Home in Middletown, Pennsylvania.

Johanna was the wife of the late T.N. "Woody" Herr; they were married for 59 years.

Johanna is survived by two daughters, Johanna, wife of Ron Green, Reading, Pennsylvania, and Cecilia of Lancaster; and four sons, Dennis, husband of Sandy of Lancaster, Timothy of Lancaster, Christopher, husband of Deborah of Lancaster, and Thomas, husband of Mary Ann of Lancaster; 11 grandchildren, Duane, Daryl, Troi, Ann, Gregory, Andrew, Rebecca, John, Johanna, Rachel, and Jillian; 13 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Leopoldina Silverthorn of Wilmington, Delaware. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Frank Kubovich and Paul Kubovich.

Mrs. Herr was a devout member of St. John Neumann Parish, and before that St. Anne's Catholic Church, in Lancaster. After she was no longer able to attend Mass regularly, she enjoyed watching services on TV and looked forward to receiving communion each Sunday in her home.

Johanna's hobbies included traveling, baking, sewing, knitting, and crocheting. She traveled to Israel, Ireland, Spain, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

She was busy year-round sewing handmade Christmas and birthday presents for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom were the proud owners of at least one warm stocking hat. Regardless of her health, Johanna was never

content to sit idly, and enjoyed planning her next project.

Johanna took pride in the fact that her creative talents were inherited by her children and grandchildren. She taught them to appreciate art and color, and instilled in each family member the ability to create with their hands, whether it was by building a home, designing a kitchen, sewing a dress, cooking, or drawing a blueprint.

She was a 15-year cancer survivor who inspired her family and friends with her resiliency and good humor. Raised as an orphan during the Depression, Johanna inherited (and passed on) a stubborn streak typical of Slovaks. However, as a result of her upbringing she believed strongly that we should not waste resources, and should be thankful for all the blessings that we have. In this way and many others she was and will always be an inspiration to her loving family.

Friends were received at St. Anne's Church on Saturday, February 24 at 10:30 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m. Interment was in the Neffsville Brethren Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Dominican Sisters of The Perpetual Rosary, 1834 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601. Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Charles F. Snyder Jr. Funeral Home and Chapel, Lititz, PA.

Edward A. Tuleya

EMIL M. MAGDIK Branch 600 Leechburg, Pennsylvania

Emil Michael Magdik, 68, of Edinboro, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, February 11, 2007, at his residence.

He was born in Leechburg on February 20, 1938, a son of the late Charles and Cecelia Stano Magdik.

Emil was professor emeritus from Edinboro University. Over a period of 30 years, he served as the college union director, alumni director, and director of conferences and conventions. Emil was an active member of the A-H Club of Edinboro.

He was awarded the Sox Harrison Award for Outstanding Male Athlete at Edinboro, and was a charter member of the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame and the Armstrong County Sports Hall of Fame.

Emil was a member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church of Edinboro. He was also a member of Jednota Branch 600, in Leechburg.

He enjoyed gardening, sports and traveling.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Milan Magdik.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Pattie Eckard; three sisters, Marjorie Andreo and her husband, Ron, of Texas, Carole Defilippi and her husband, Thomas, of Leechburg, and Annie Gasowski and her husband, Paul, of New Hampshire; a sister-in-law, Alicia Churik of Minnesota; a brother-in-law, Richard Eckard and his wife, Linda, of Massachusetts; and 13 nieces and nephews.

Friends were received at the Glunt Funeral Home, Edinboro. A Funeral Mass was celebrated in Our Lady of the Lake Church by the Rev. John B. Jacquel.

Memorial donations may be made to Magdik Family Scholarships, Edinboro University Development Office, 210 Meadville St., Edinboro, PA 16444; or Great Lakes Hospice, 1700 Peach St., Suite 244, Erie, PA

16501; or Regional Cancer Center, 2500 W. 12th St., Erie, PA 16505.

John Mago

MICHAEL J. SCAVINA Branch 682 Youngstown, Ohio



Michael J. Scavina, 85, formerly of Boardman, Ohio, died Sunday, February 4, 2007, at the residence of his son and daughter-in-law, with whom he made his home.

He was born November 1, 1921, in Youngstown, Ohio, a son of Matthew and Mary Dovica Scavina.

A graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, Mr. Scavina graduated from Youngstown College with a Bachelor of Arts degree after serving in the Army in World War II in the South Pacific as part of the invading force at Guadalcanal.

He worked at the Republic Steel Corp. for more than 40 years, retiring as a foreman of the General Labor Division in 1981. He was a very active member of Saint Matthias Church, Youngstown, and served as a Councilman while enjoying membership in the Infant Jesus of Prague Guild as well as the Holy Name and Sacred Heart Societies. He was also a member of Jednota Branch 682 and enjoyed bowling and golfing in the Jednota leagues.

He was preceded in death by his wife, the former Janice Liguore, whom he married August 20, 1960, and died April 30, 2003.

Mr. Scavina is survived by a son, Dr. Michael (Leona) Scavina, and a daughter, Victoria L. (Ernest) Formichelli, both of Poland Ohio; four grandchildren, Michael and Alaina Scavina and Angela and Anthony Formichelli; a brother, Joseph (Nancy) Scavina of Boardman; two sisters, Mary Jacobs of Youngstown and Helen (Frank) Mazzarino of Struthers, Ohio; a sister-in-law, Audrey Scavina of Canfield, Ohio; a brother-in-law, Nick Cooper of Youngstown; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by two brothers John and Charles Scavina, and a sister, Anne Cooper.

Friends were received at the Kubina Yuhasz Funeral Home, Boardman, where the Infant Jesus of Prague Guild and the Holy Name Society held a prayer service. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Saint Matthias Church.

The officers of Branch 682 offer their deepest sympathy to the family. May he rest in peace.

Joseph T. Scavina

JOSEPH T. TUCH Branch 7 Houtzdale, Pennsylvania



Joseph T. Tuch, 85, of Houtzdale, Pennsylvania, died Monday, January 29, 2007, at the Colonial Courtyard of Clearfield.

Born August 28, 1921, in Ramey, Pennsylvania, he was a son of the late Joseph and Julia (Zelinsky) Tuch.

He was a 1939 graduate of the former Houtzdale High School and was a graduate of Duquesne University with a degree in journalism.

Joseph Tuch was an avid golfer and was a former member of the Philipsburg Country Club. He was also an avid Penn State football fan and was active in local sports.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. He was a gunner and flew 35

missions over Germany and France.

He managed the former W.D. Gulbranson Store in Houtzdale and worked construction for the former Putman and Greene of Chester Hill.

He was a devoted member of Christ the King Church, Houtzdale. He was also a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Joseph Tuch is survived by three nieces and a nephew, Joanne Fontanella and her husband, Tom, of Niagara Falls, New York, Julia McHenry of Clearfield, and Mary Wilshire and her husband, Bill, of Pittsburgh, and William Joos and his wife, Kathleen, of Baldwin; and several cousins.

He was the last of his generation and was preceded in death by a brother, John T. Tuch on February 7, 2003, and two sisters, Emma McHenry and Magdalene Joos.

A Christian Wake Service was held on February 1, 2007, at the Kruse Funeral Home, Ramey, by Father Zab Amar. The recitation of the rosary followed the service. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on February 2, 2007, at Christ the King by Father Amar. Interment was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Brisbin.

The officers and members of Branch 7 extend to the family of our deceased member Joseph our deepest sympathy. May he rest in peace.

Marie Sedlak

EDWARD GUIDOS Branch 260 Campbell, Ohio



Edward Guidos, 81, a lifelong resident of Campbell, Ohio, died January 20, 2007, at the Hospice House of the Valley.

Mr. Guidos was born June 30, 1925, in Campbell, a son of John and Anna Jaros Guidos. He was a 1944 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School and attended Wayne College in Michigan for three years. He was a barber and operated Guidos Barber Shop on Robinson Road for 55 years. He also worked at the Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Corp., retiring as head Supervisor in 1993. Throughout his career he had a business of Wall Washing and Wall Papering.

He was a member of Faith Fellowship Church of God in Struthers, where he served as head usher. He was a former member of Victory Assembly of God and St. John's Catholic Church. At St. John's he was an active member serving as an usher and on the School Council. Mr. Guidos was a veteran of World War II, serving as Petty Officer with the U.S. Coast Guard.

In 1963, he was elected a Member of Council, 2nd Ward of the City of Campbell and served two years. He was President of the Jednota Lodge, where he had to speak Slovak to the members.

He was an avid fisherman. He was a bowler and golfer, and achieved a Hole in One at the Countryside Golf Course.

Survivors include his wife, the former Anna Marie Commaci, whom he married August 4, 1951; two daughters, Pamela (John) Guidos Melnick of Sugarland, Texas, and Therese (Daryl) Betros of Girard, Ohio; two sons, Ronald (Lorraine) Guidos of Campbell, and Pastor Edward (Jamie) Guidos of Brownlee Woods, Ohio; two sisters, Margaret Guidos of Parma, Ohio, and Rose Flowers of Birmingham, Michigan; a brother, Jim Guidos

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Joseph Senko Honored as Distinguished Accounting Alumnus of Duquesne University

Joseph Senko, a member of FCSU Branch 254, in Pittsburgh, and former Chairman of Auditors, was recently honored at a reception at the Duquesne Club, where he was recognized as the "2006 Distinguished Accounting Alumnus" by the Duquesne University accounting faculty.

Upon acceptance of the award, Mr. Senko addressed the current junior and senior accounting students of Duquesne.

Joe graduated from Duquesne University in 1957 with a major in accounting. He received his masters degree in taxation from Robert Morris University, in 1984. After graduating from Duquesne, he worked in the Pittsburgh office of the Internal Revenue Service as a revenue agent and later worked in the National office as a Tax Law Specialist. He received his initial audit experience at KPMG's Pittsburgh office. He was also a partner in a local public accounting firm before starting his own practice in 1970. In 1997 he merged his firm with McKeever Varga & Senko where he serves as a director.

He is licensed as a CPA in Pennsylvania, Ohio and the District of Columbia. He was accredited as a Certified Financial Planner in 1990 and as a Personal Financial Specialist in 1995. He was selected as the "Pennsylvania Accounting Advocate of the Year" in 1984 and as the "Western Pennsylvania Accounting Advocate of the Year" in 1990 by the U.S. Small Business Administration. In 1988, he received the Distinguished Service award from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the PICPA.

He served as president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the PICPA in 1984-85, as well as a charter member and president of the Western Pennsylvania Community Accountants from 1985 to 1988. In 1985, he was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma (National Business Honor Society). He was appointed to the State Board of Accountancy from 1985 through 1997, serving as chairman in 1992. He has also been on the Duquesne University Accounting Advisory Board since its inception in 1988.



Joseph Senko displays the plaque he received from Professor Priscilla Austin of the Duquesne University Accounting Department.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

continued from page 14

of Campbell; and three grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Guidos was preceded in death by three brothers, Michael, John, and George Guidos, and five sisters, Mary Schuler, Betty Smith, Pauline Kane, Frances Fabian, and Ann Guidos-Greene.

Friends were received at the Cunningham-Becker Funeral Home, Poland, Ohio. Funeral services were held at the funeral home.

Charles M. Terek

ANDREW ANTHONY LABANCE Branch 322 Sykesville, Pennsylvania



Andrew Anthony Labance, 85, of Sykesville, Pennsylvania, died recently at the DuBois Regional Medical Center. Born February 7, 1921, in Anita, Pennsylvania, he was a son of the late Andrew and Mary Hovance Labance. He was married to Shirley Brendle Labance June 10, 1950. She survives.

Mr. Labance was a graduate of Adrian Catholic School. He retired from L.B. Smith after 30 years of service. He was a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Sykesville, and also a 50-year member of Branch 322 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. He enjoyed gardening, bowling, mechanics and woodworking.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and served as a staff sergeant with Company 1, 126th Infantry 32nd Division. He was also the NCO in charge of two light machine gun units. He served in New Guinea, southern Philippines and Luzon. He was wounded in Luzon and received the Purple Heart. Other ribbons included the Philippines Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by

a daughter, Pamela Labance of New York City and a sister, Elizabeth of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Barbara Ann; three sisters, Marcella Smouse, Mary Smelko, and Margaret Garzoni; and seven brothers, Andrew, John, Joseph, Nicholas, George, Michael and Steve.

Friends were received at the Leo Nedza Funeral Home in Sykesville, where the Rosary and Vigil prayers were recited. A Funeral Mass was celebrated by Rev. Mark Mastrian at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Burial was in Anita Catholic Cemetery. The Jefferson County Honor Guard accorded military honors. Memorial donations may be made to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, 20 Shaffer St., Sykesville, PA 15865, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Dorothy A. Torretti

JOHN S. STEFFEK Branch 493 Chicago, Illinois

John S. Steffek, of Mt. Prospect, Illinois, died Wednesday, October 11, 2006. He was a longtime member of Jednota Branch 493.

Mr. Steffek was raised in the area around Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Chicago's West Town neighborhood. He was married to the former Helen Bilka in the now closed SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in Chicago's West Humboldt Park neighborhood. John and Helen were active parishioners at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish for many years.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Steffek was survived by two sons, Jack (Joan) Steffek and Tom (Joann) Steffek; a daughter, Mary Ellen (Pat) Woodward; three grandchildren, Kristin Woodward, Tom Steffek and Patrick

Woodward; a sister, Martha Ondrey; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Mary Grivalski Steffek; a sister, Mary (the late Andrew) Majewski; father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Mary Bilka; and two brothers-in-law, Albert (Bernice) Bilka and Raymond "Pete" (Sis) Bilka.

Friends were received at Friedrichs Funeral Home, Mt. Prospect. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Cecilia Church, Mt. Prospect. Interment was in Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery.

Robert Tapak Magruder

JOHN P. KLEIS Branch 890 Westfield, Massachusetts



John P. Kleis, 80, of Westfield, Massachusetts, died recently.

He was born in Torrington, Connecticut, and was a resident of Westfield for 60 years. He graduated from Torrington High School, in 1944, served during World War II in the Army Air Corp. as a tail gunner in a B-29, then continued his education and graduated from CT State Technical Institute in 1948. He received his Bachelors Degree in engineering and education from Western New England College in 1958 and received his Masters Degree in education from Westfield State College in 1963.

He was employed as a draftsman for Foster Machine Co., Brown Equipment, Robert Hall Engineering Company and Bigelow-Stanford Carpet Co. For 30 years, he was a drafting instructor and department head at the Howell Cheney Regional Vocational Technical School, Manchester, Connecticut, retiring in 1989. Besides teaching, he was a basketball coach for 14 years, golf coach

and directed the fishing club at the school. He was a member of St. Peter/St. Casmir Parish where he was a lector and usher for 25 years. He was a member of the Slovak Heritage Group, the Slovak Citizens Club, St. Stephen's Society where he served as treasurer for 25 years, Lake George Sportsman's Club, Slovak Garden in Winter Park, Florida, Greater Springfield Computer Club, Chapter 3 Holiday Ramblers and the Good Sam Pioneer's, American Legion Post 124, Torrington Eagles and the Engineering Society of Western MA. He was also a member of Jednota Branch 890.

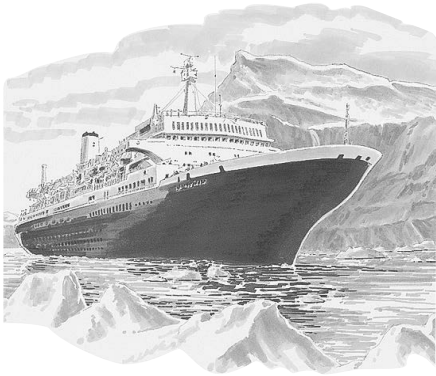
He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy A. Liptak Kleis of Westfield; his children, Pamela Shults of Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, Cynthia Davis of Eagle River, Arkansas, Janet Bein of Westborough, Massachusetts, and John "Jack" Kleis of Melrose, Massachusetts; a brother, Emil Kleis of Lubec, Maine; two sisters, Ethel Matthews of Old Saybrook, Connecticut and Ellen Turley of Noank, Connecticut; a brother-in-law, Robert Krepcio of Stonington, Connecticut; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister, Mary Ann Krepcio.

Funeral services were held from the Firtion-Adams Funeral Service, Westfield. A Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Peter's Church. Burial followed in St. Mary's Cemetery, Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson Foundation Inc., 1501 N.W. 9th Ave., Bob Hope Road, Miami, FL 33136-1494 or on-line at www.parkinson.org, Alzheimer Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601-7633 or on-line at Alz.org, or St. Peter's/St. Casmir's Parish, 22 State St., Westfield, MA 01085.

Dorothy Kleis

A SAILING WE WILL GO!



Come on board with the First Catholic Slovak Union for a seven (7) night Alaskan Cruise.

The Membership and Marketing committee is sponsoring their 2007 membership meet from July 27 – August 3 aboard the Vision of the Seas. Your accumulated points up to December 31, 2006 will be used towards the cost of the cruise.

Royal Caribbean's Vision of the Seas is one of the most popular cruise ships in the world. On the ship you will be staying in an ocean view stateroom. Our itinerary from Seattle, Washington includes stops in Juneau, Skagway, Tracy

Arm Fjord, Alaska and Prince Rupert, B.C.

The cost for a large ocean view stateroom which includes the cruise, port and government taxes, the new \$50.00 Alaska state tax, all pre-paid gratuities and transfer from the airport to the cruise ship and back is \$1,523.00. (Optional insurance and airfare package is available through Carolyn Pollack of Ambassatour Travel at 724-375-8687).

The First Catholic Slovak Union will provide your on board stateroom (double occupancy) plus meals and entertainment as provided by the cruise line. You must settle any additional expenses incurred prior to departure.

The First Catholic Slovak Union is not responsible for your travel arrangements to and from Seattle, Washington. Please contact Ambassatour Travel or your own travel agency.

The cut off date for reservations is May 4, 2007. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit is required when you make your reservations. Final payment is due May 18, 2007. The trip is open to all members of the First Catholic Slovak Union and their guests.

To all recommenders – here is your chance to enjoy your vacation unlike any other. This will be an experience of a lifetime. From January 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007, the First Catholic Slovak Union is offering all cruise participants an opportunity to earn double points for insurance and annuity sales – that's right – DOUBLE POINTS! These double points will only count toward the Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet and payment will be made upon your return. If you have any further questions - please contact the home office and ask for Karen at 1-800-533-6682.

HURRY – ROOMS ARE LIMITED!

We only have 45 staterooms at that price (90 people). These rooms will be given out on a first come – first serve basis.

Until we meet at the meet!

Good luck and God bless,

Andrew R. Harcar, Sr.

Membership and Marketing Chairman

WPSCA Announces Slovak Language and Cultural Program

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association announces the second year of its SUMMER SLOVAK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE PROGRAM. Awards will be made to eligible students based on academics, major course of study, interest in Slovakia, letter of recommendations and acceptance into the Summer Slovak Language and Culture Scholarship Program under the auspices of Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Requirements are:

- Full Time Student in the U.S.;
- Must apply to Comenius University for acceptance;
- Must be of Slovak heritage;
- Must not have previously attended the Program;
- Must be willing to attend WPSCA events when request to discuss the Program.

The SAS Summer School is the oldest summer language school in Slovakia (since 1965) and is designed to enable students to improve and extend their Slovak language competency as well as increasing their level of expertise in Slovak literature and culture.

Funding for this program has been made possible through a grant from the FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES' ASSOCIATION. It is one of several founding sponsors of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association. WPSCA, founded in 1997, is dedicated to promoting Slovak culture through programs such as language and cooking classes, film festivals and musical programs.

For further information or for application materials, contact Cynthia Maleski or Joseph Senko at 412/531-2990. All application materials must be received at Manor Oak Two, Suite 500, 1910 Cochran Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220 on or before April 15, 2007.

Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast in Pittsburgh

Prince of Peace Parish, in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, will host its 17th Annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast on Saturday, March 31, 2007, at St. Adalbert Church, 160 South 15th Street, on Pittsburgh's South Side. Come share in the celebration of the rich Slovak religious culture and traditional Easter customs. The day will begin at 10:45 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary followed by Mass at 11:00 a.m. with prayers and hymns sung in Slovak. After the liturgy, everyone is invited to the Prince of Peach Parish Center (81 South 13th Street) for a complimentary Slovak Easter breakfast and the opportunity to experience some of the A B C's of beautiful Slovak Easter traditions:

Authentic Slovak treasures such as books, crystal, dolls, pottery, and embroideries.

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

Craft demonstrations, including dying colorful Easter eggs (pysanky), stuffing kolbasy, and weaving palms.

Delicious traditional foods that you might enjoy on Easter morning in a typical Slovak village: paska (sweet bread), sunka (ham), sirek (cheese), and chren (horseradish).

Everyone is always welcome at the Prince of Peace Slovak Easter Program. Admission is free but in order to be adequately prepared, reservations are requested. For reservations call Prince of Peace Parish Center at 412/481-8380. For additional information call Paul J. Zatek at 412/488-8238.



From the Desk of the Executive Secretary



ATTENTION

All Jednota Michigan Members Residing in Michigan

The Michigan Fraternal Congress is accepting applications for its scholarship program.

If you meet the requirements listed below and wish to apply for a scholarship, please call the Home Office for an application. Our toll-free number is 1/800-533-6682 (1-800-JEDNOTA).

Michigan Fraternal Congress College Scholarship Program

Three (3) \$500.00 non-renewable College Scholarships shall be awarded each year. The Michigan Fraternal Congress Scholarship Committee will use their discretion in selecting the honorees that are chosen. The Scholarship recipients are subject to approval of the Executive Board.

Rules and Regulations

1. Applications are open to young men and women who are residents of Michigan, insured members and active participants of a Fraternal Benefit Society that is a current paid member of the Michigan Fraternal Congress.
2. Candidates shall be graduating high school seniors who are planning to enroll in the fall as a full time student (minimum 12 credits hours) in an accredited two or four-year college, university or trade school.
3. A check in the amount of \$500.00 shall be issued in the name of the recipient following the receipt of the proof of enrollment. The money is to be used for tuition and books only.
4. There is no limit to the number of applicants from any one fraternal group or society.
5. A certificate, provided by the Michigan Fraternal Congress, is to be presented at the High School Awards or commencement exercises, if possible.

Selection Criteria

1. Applicants must have a minimum grade point Average (G.P.A.) of 2.5 out of a 4.0. A transcript request form must be filled out and sent along with an official high school transcript (with affixed seal by the deadline).
2. An essay (maximum 100 words) will be submitted detailing volunteer activities that the individual has participated in, including dates, with their Fraternal Benefit Society and/or the Michigan Fraternal Congress.

Enclosed forms are to be sent to Brian Medved, Scholarship Chairperson, Michigan Fraternal Congress, 27620 Elba Drive, Grosse Ile, MI 48128 and postmarked by April 1. The winner will be notified by May 1.



REMINDER

2006 IRA DEPOSIT DEADLINE APRIL 15

A Slovak Boy Shares His Growing-Up Experiences in Cleveland

By Frank M. Stipkala

My world as a young boy comprised a one-square-mile Slovak enclave in Cleveland, Ohio, bordered on the east and west by Hungarians, on the north by Italians and on the south by Poles, Czech, Slovenes and Jews. Unless accompanied by my parents, I never ventured into "foreign" territory until I was 11 years old.

Living across the street from St. Benedict Church and School had two advantages. One was that it took only 20 seconds for me to get to class. The other was that my faith was strengthened by living in an environment where church bells rang at noon and six o'clock daily, and three o'clock when a parishioner died, which provided a reminder of God's presence.

My faith got a daily boost watching the Sisters of Notre Dame saying their daily prayers on the long driveway directly opposite ours. Weather permitting they were out there at noon and six o'clock praying their rosary beads. The good sisters became my role models. Although I didn't walk up and down my driveway, beads in hand, I found time before bedtime each evening to say the rosary.

Because of our close proximity to the convent, when an altar boy failed to show up for the 5:15 AM Mass, the doorbell rang and a nun asked my parents to "Wake up (brother) Joe or Frank. We need a server." I loved serving the Latin Mass and estimate that I put on my cassock and surplice at least 1,500 times for Masses, Novenas, and Benedictions. Because I was the tallest boy in my class, the nuns singled me out to be the cross bearer at the many ceremonies in our Slovak church. It made me proud to think that everyone was relying on me to make the proper turn up and down the aisles.

I especially liked to serve at weddings, because at the end of Mass two altar boys with wicker baskets waited at the exits for the Mass participants. If they were wealthy folks, they dropped dollar bills in our baskets, but more often we got change. When we brought our baskets to the sacristy, Pastor Fr. Leo Rehak, O.S.B., would empty the satchel and then "reward" us with a dime. Back then a dime would buy a loaf of bread or a quart of milk, so I was ecstatic!

Earlier I mentioned church bells. The older boys on our Lamontier Avenue were mischievous fellows and every so often they found their way to the school's second floor where the bells were located. To ring them, one had to pull on long ropes. The taller boys yanked them about 20 times, then hightailed down the steps exiting the building. Janitor John Telepak scurried from his basement office, but he was not as fleet of foot as the youthful bell ringers. Even if I were taller I would never have rung the church bells, because their pealing tones had a purpose and meaning, and ringing them otherwise would have puzzled parishioners.

For entertainment, I listened to the daily broadcasts of the Cleveland Indians' games. We didn't own a radio, but the next-door neighbor had one. It was my good fortune that he was a Cleveland Indians' fan. So every afternoon I'd creep into the hedge fronting his house to listen to Jack Graney

and Pinky Hunter broadcast the game. After an hour or so I often heard my mother calling: "Frankie, where are you? I need something from the store." So much for my ballgame listening!

Every street had its own baseball team, but there were no organized leagues – no Little League. We were self-taught athletes. About 10 street teams participated in our "league." There was no trophy at season's end. We played for the honor of being the best team in the neighborhood. Several of our players became star performers in high school. After a ballgame, we would wait for the ice truck. We climbed up the back to retrieve chips of ice to quench our thirst on the 90-degree days. Everyone had an icebox and the iceman stopped twice a week to deliver his 25-pound blocks.

Many itinerant trades people made their rounds in our area. When the elderly painter visited our neighborhood, pushing a cart, which held several heavy 30-foot ladders, we helped him get to the top of our steep street. The kind man always rewarded us with a penny. An organ grinder came to entertain us with his music, trained monkey, and "Polly Wants a Cracker" parrot. The penny we had received from the painter usually ended up in the organ grinder's tin cup. And if your umbrella blew inside out, or needed other repairs, you could count on the umbrella repairman to make it like new, all for a quarter. Back in the 1930's and 40's, you could set your clock by the punctual arrival of the milkman who left a bottle of milk on your back porch. Come winter, you had to bring the bottle inside quickly, or else the cream froze and pushed up the cardboard top. When this happened, we had our own version of "ice cream" to sample.

An easy way to tell time was by watching for the many blue-collar laborers as they marched by our home, mornings and evenings. My Dad left the house at 6:05 AM. My two neighbors, Mr. Madeja and Mr. Plucinsky, got a ride to work and their driver always pulled up at 6:13 AM. Mr. Micuch always passed our home at 7:00 AM. In reverse, we saw them arriving home at the same time, except for one unnamed neighbor who stopped by the local beer joint. He could be seen staggering up Lamontier Avenue, holding on to every sycamore tree for support. In those days no one used the word "alcoholic." They were categorized as "drunks" or "pijaks."

Crimes were unheard of in our tightly knit Slovak neighborhood, so whenever a beggar knocked on our back door, my parents always invited him in for coffee and Mom's home-baked kolacky.

Most kids were sports fanatics. When playing baseball, we used "nickel mashers" for baseballs, or tennis balls. Our team played all year with a single bat. As for gloves, only the first basemen had one. In football, we couldn't afford a pigskin, but one of our guys delivered "The Shopping News" and always had leftover copies. By rolling up a couple papers tightly and putting rubber bands around them, we had a useable "football." A good quarterback could even throw a spiral with the souped-up "Shopping News."

I was fortunate to live 150 yards away

from the grounds of St. Andrew Abbey. When we weren't playing baseball, my friends and I would explore the dense woods, looking for new trails. We made a hut out of dead trees and had our secret meetings there. All went well until an elderly Benedictine brother, making his rounds, chased us out of our sanctuary. But we were able to outrun him easily.

One of my friends received a crystal set for Christmas, and we were enthralled going into his garage and watching him move the needle across the crystal. He was able to pick up radio programs such as Jack Armstrong, Toby Tyler, Little Orphan Annie and Captain Midnight. How could that little gadget pick up those radio programs, we all puzzled.

One day while walking along E. 116th Street near Buckeye Road, I saw about 20 people crowded around the window of an appliance store. Curious as to what they were doing, I crossed the street and saw that they were watching a wrestling match on this new-fangled device called a TV. If the crystal set had wowed me, the television set gave me an even greater thrill, and I became a regular through-the-window viewer of televised wrestling matches.

My closest near-death experience happened one winter day when I was 11 years old. The Benedictine monks, in excavating their spacious grounds, had dug two 3'X4' holes adjacent to the baseball field. After several weeks, they were covered with snow. So when I took a walk one day, I failed to recognize the dangerous snow-covered pits. I found myself in frigid water up to my chin.

I was frantic, thinking I was a goner. Fortunately, I was able to boost myself up before hypothermia set in. My clothes were soaked. I ran home to change them and drink some hot cocoa. Soon after, when word of my mishap reached the monks, a bulldozer arrived to cover up the pits. Problem solved!

I was an eyewitness to two major disasters at Benedictine High School. The first was in 1940. At about 12:30 p.m. I heard a terrific explosion. People began running toward the school. Because it was All Saints' Day, November 1, students had a day off. When we arrived at the scene, we saw a jagged hole that went from the basement to the third floor ceiling. The cause: the boiler had exploded and all the bricks and beams from the upper floors were now in the basement. The monks called it a miracle, because had it not been a holy day, about 125 students eating lunch would have been killed.

The other disaster took place the following year. The monks were going to build a football stadium on their grounds. It was a do-it-yourself construction effort. I vividly remember the shirtless men toiling under a hot sun, digging, pouring concrete, and chopping down the trees in our former playground-forest. One day it rained heavily and the 125-yard-long concrete wall that had just been poured came crashing down on about 20 garages, and cars therein, on E. 104th St. Miraculously no one was killed or injured. Two major disasters, and not one fatality! The good Lord was watching over our Benedictine monks.

(to be continued)

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO OWN THIS BEAUTIFUL "OUR LADY OF SORROWS" STATUE. IT CAN BE YOURS IF YOU...



Sign up new members for insurance during the months of January, February and March!

The Membership and Marketing Committee want to give its proposers something special to start the New Year.

You will receive one beautiful Pietà – for every two (2) new members you sign up for Whole Life Insurance or four (4) new members for JEP Insurance or sign up two (2) new members for Term Insurance.

There is no limit!

Remember...this special campaign is only good for new members signed up between January 1 and March 31, 2007.

Let us all get involved with membership.

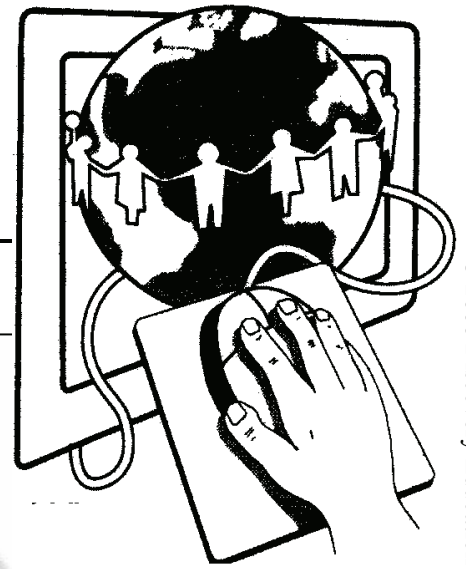
Good luck and God bless!

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.
National Vice President
Membership & Marketing Chairman

IT'S TIME YOU GET INVOLVED — ATTEND LODGE MEETINGS!

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Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



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Culture Space

Jánošík and the Valaška

Did you know there was a Slovak Robin Hood? Jánošík (Yan-o-shik) was his name. Jánošík and his band of followers roamed the Tatra Mountains and the Slovak countryside.

As a young man, Jánošík was the victim of unfair and cruel treatment. He felt a need for justice and better treatment, not only for himself, but for all the poor and needy that were mistreated. He took from the rich and gave to the poor.

As Jánošík and his troops hid in the shelters of the Tatra Mountains, especially from their hideout on King's Mountain Glade, they would quickly surprise and overtake the caravans of the nobles and kings as they passed by. They would rob them and make off with all the money, supplies, and valuables they could handle and then distribute these goods to those in need. They would keep any leftovers in safe hiding places for future use.

After two years of Jánošík's adventures, he was tricked into being captured and sentenced to be hanged. The king's messenger galloped quickly to the side of Jánošík with a pardon, but it was too late.

Jánošík was a real person, born in 1688. He died on March 13, 1713. To many Slovaks, he was a hero because he fought for justice. The valaška (va-lash-ka) is like a mountaineer's axe and it played a big part in Jánošík's escapades. He used it as a weapon in self defense and was very skilled at it. Jánošík and the valaška go together. Over the years, the valaška has changed some in size and shape in order to improve it, but it basically has the same outline as it did when Jánošík used it. Today the valaška is used as a walking stick. It is probably the biggest souvenir purchased by tourists visiting Slovakia.



Activity Space

D	J	U	R	O	W	H	N	B	S
O	O	O	D	A	E	E	K	P	A
T	N	O	L	B	X	R	Z	X	A
L	X	T	H	V	B	O	E	W	V
S	U	K	X	N	Z	N	P	P	O
O	L	B	T	B	I	V	Y	F	H
T	O	O	C	X	E	B	U	Z	C
Q	D	T	D	J	W	L	O	G	R
F	X	G	I	M	U	T	T	R	E
L	E	P	R	R	S	L	X	E	T
AXE	BELT	HERO							
JURO	OUTLAW	ROBINHOOD							
	TERCHOVA								

Challenge Space

How many times can you say these tongue twisters in 10 seconds? Remember you must say them fast!

Rich, ripe, red, raw, raisins.

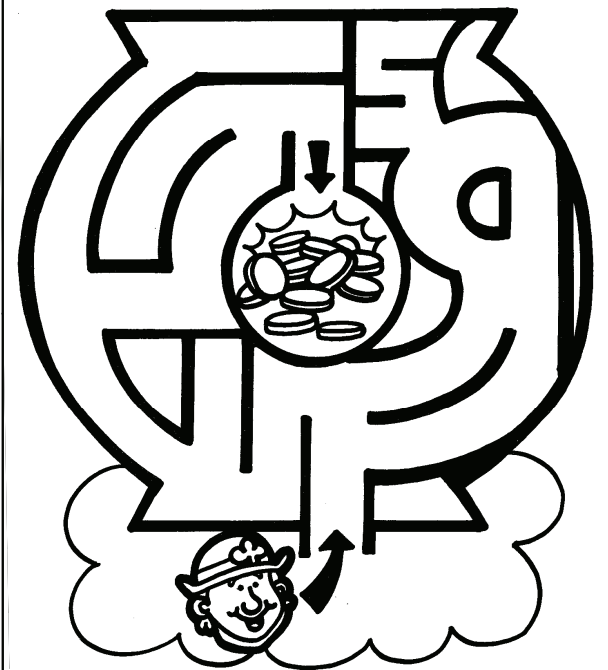
Six small slick seals.

Four fat, flat-footed frogs flapped their floppy flippers.

Try them out and then ask your friends and parents to try them.

Lucky Leprechaun

Can you get this leprechaun to the gold in the pot?



Science Space

Spring begins March 20! It will take a while until all the flowers start to pop up. Here's how you can make your own colorful blooms. Pick up some white carnations or daisies at your grocery store or florist. Prepare a colored solution using 20 drops of food coloring for each ½ cup of warm water. Cut the stems to fit your vase, removing at least 2 inches, then set them in the tinted water. You'll start to see results in less than 24 hours.



HOW IT WORKS:

Fresh cut flowers continuously draw water up through their stems, like drinking from a straw. When the water reaches the petals, it evaporates through the tiny pores, leaving the dye behind (dye cannot evaporate). Over time, the dye builds up, coloring the tips of the petals.

Answers to February Fun

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Across: | Down: |
| 2. Cupid | 1. First |
| 4. Heart | 3. Cherry |
| 8. Red | 5. Arrow |
| 10. February | 6. Lace |
| 12. Valentine | 7. Year |
| 14. Groundhog | 9. Washington |
| 15. Log | 11. Leap |
| 16. Winter | 13. Lincoln |



Send your ideas, letters etc. to: UR_Space.jrs

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Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



ÚRADNÝ ORGÁN PRVEJ KATOLÍCKEJ SLOVENSKEJ JEDNOTY V SPOJENÝCH ŠTÁTOCH A V KANADE

Volume 116

STREDA, 7. MAREC 2007

Číslo 5749

Z iniciatívy slovenského predsedníctva v BR OSN diskusia v New Yorku

New York, (TASR) – Otvorená diskusia Bezpečnostnej rady OSN o spolupráci s medzinárodnými organizáciami pri implementácii č. 1540 (2004) a 1673 (2006) sa z iniciatívy slovenského predsedníctva v BR OSN uskutočnila v piatok 23. februára v New Yorku. Rokovaniu predsedal minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš. V úvodnom vystúpení zdôraznil, že hlavným cieľom bolo poskytnúť priestor členským krajinám OSN a medzinárodným organizáciám na výmenu skúseností a získaných poznatkov v oblastiach týkajúcich sa obsahu spomínaných. Na stretnutí vystúpili generálny riaditeľ Organizácie pre zákaz chemických zbraní Rogelio Pfirter, predstaviteľ generálneho riaditeľa Medzinárodnej agentúry pre atómovú energiu (MAAE) pri OSN Gustavo Zlauvinen a Michael Schmitz zo Svetovej colnej organizácie. Vo svojich prejavoch sa zamerali na spoluprácu s výborom BR OSN, ktorý bol zriadený na základe rezolúcie 1540 pre oblasť nešírenia zbraní hromadného ničenia "neštátnymi aktérmi", akými sú napríklad aj teroristické skupiny. Výboru v súčasnosti predsedá veľvyslanec a stály predstaviteľ SR pri OSN Peter Burian. Námestník generálneho tajomníka OSN pre odzbrojenie Nobuaki Tanaka v BR

OSN povedal, že medzinárodné spoločenstvo síce rozpoznalo hrozbu globálneho šírenia alebo získavanie zbraní hromadného ničenia teroristami, zostáva však veľa urobiť, aby túto hrozbu znížilo. Okrem členov BR OSN v rozprave vystúpili predstavitelia ďalších 17 členských krajín OSN. Vyjadrili v nej názor na uplatňovanie rezolúcie BR OSN 1540, nevyhnutnosť technickej pomoci pri plnení rezolúcie a posilnenia spolupráce BR OSN s medzinárodnými, regionálnymi a sub-regionálnymi organizáciami. Niektoré krajiny vo svojom vystúpení hovorili aj o otázkach globálneho nešírenia zbraní a odzbrojenia. Veľvyslanec Burian zdôraznil v mene SR význam, ktorý Slovensko pripisuje všeobecnému a systematickému prístupu k implementácii všetkých požiadaviek rezolúcie 1540. Pripomenul tiež, že takýto prístup môže poskytnúť primeraný systém ochrany a prevencie šírenia zbraní hromadného ničenia na národnej aj globálnej úrovni.

Na záver zasadnutia BR OSN prijala predsednícke vyhlásenie, ktorým potvrdila odhodlanie podporovať rast multilaterálnej spolupráce ako dôležitého prostriedku pre zlepšenie stavu implementácie rezolúcie 1540 členskými štátmi OSN.



FOTO TASR/AP

Taliansky prezident Giorgio Napolitano (vľavo v popredí) a slovenský prezident Ivan Gašparovič (vpravo), počas prehliadky čestnej stráže 27. februára 2007 v Ríme.

Prezident Gašparovič na oficiálnej návšteve Talianska

Rím (TASR) – Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič 27. februára začal v Ríme trojdňovú oficiálnu návštevu Talianska, ktorá by mala prehĺbiť dvojstranné vzťahy v oblasti politiky a hospodárstva, ale aj v kultúre a školstve. Rokoval s hlavou štátu Giorgiom Napolitanom, stretol sa aj s predsedami talianskeho senátu a poslaneckej snemovne Francom Marinim a Faustom Bertinottim. Ivan Gašparovič okrem bilaterálnej spolupráce hovoril aj o reforme Bezpečnostnej rady OSN, európskej ústavnej zmluve či kosovskej otázke.

Prezidenta na návšteve sprevádzali ministri zahraničných vecí a hospodárstva Ján Kubiš a Ľubomír Jahnátek a početná skupina podnikateľov. Súčasťou programu boli aj slovensko-talianske ekonomické fóra v Ríme a Bologni. I. Gašparovič navštívil aj Bolonskú univerzitu, kde vystúpil pred akademickou obcou a prevzal ocenenie Sigillum Magnum (Veľkú zlatú pečať). Išlo vôbec o prvú štátnu návštevu slovenského prezidenta v Talianskej republike.

Predbežný plán osláv stého výročia založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike

Hlavné oslavy v Amerike budú 9. a 10. júna a na Slovensku 14. a 15. mája t.r. Účasť na oslavách prisľúbil aj prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič a viacerí vládni činitelia

Slovenská liga v Amerike bola založená dňa 30. mája 1907 na veľkom národnom zhromaždení v Clevelande, Ohio za účasti približne 10 tisíc slovenských prisťahovalcov, ktorí prišli do Clevelandu zo všetkých vtedajších centier slovenského života v Amerike. Zastúpené boli takmer všetky slovenské organizácie, spolky a slovenské farnosti.

Toto významné výročie si Slovenská liga v Amerike a slovenské organizácie pripomenú dôstojným spôsobom na viacerých podujatiach. Spomienkové oslavy budú aj na Slovensku, kde sa do nich zapoja inštitúcie Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a Matica slovenská. Okrem toho slovenské Ministerstvo dopravy, pôšt a telekomunikácií vydá pri tejto príležitosti pamätnú poštovú známku v denominácii, ktorá predstavuje poštovné 1. triedy (letecky) zo Slovenska do USA.

Prezident SR prisľúbil spoluprácu

Čestný tajomník SLvA Ján Holý, ktorého Výkonný výbor Slovenskej ligy menoval za predsedu Prípravného výboru, mal koncom januára v Bratislave stretnutie so zainteresovanými inštitúciami a osobnosťami, na ktorých bola upresnená agenda osláv na Slovensku. Z poverenia Výkonného výboru pozval na oslavy aj prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča, ktorý prisľúbil, že na niektorých podujatiach v rámci osláv sa osobne zúčastní. Prezident Ivan Gašparovič súčasne prijal záštitu nad slávnostnými podujatiami na Slovensku.

Pokračovanie na str. 22

Pittsburskú dohodu darujú do Heinzovho historického centra v Pittsburghu

Pittsburgh (TASR) – Ako informovala agentúra Associated Press, Slovenská liga v Amerike plánuje darovať originál Pittsburskej dohody Pittsburskému regionálnemu historickému centru senátora Johna Heinza, kde bude v septembri vystavený. Dohoda, podpísaná 31. mája 1918 v bývalej budove Loyal Order of Moose, schvaľovala vytvorenie samostatného štátu Čechov a Slovákov, tvoriacich predtým súčasť Rakúsko-uhorskej monarchie. "Bola to pre oba národy veľká udalosť. Prirovnal by som to k Deklarácii nezávislosti (Spojených štátov), pretože tam bola oficiálne vyhlásená nezávislosť," povedal Ján Holý zo Slovenskej ligy v Amerike pre sobotňajšie vydanie novín Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Dohoda "bola vypracovaná prostredníctvom siete Čechov a Slovákov," povedala Carol Hochmanová, honorárna konzulka Českej republiky pre západnú Pennsylvániu a východné Ohio. Podpísali ju v Pittsburghu, pretože - ako uviedol Joe Bielecki z pittsburskej univerzity - signatárov by v ich vlasti vyhlásili za zradcov a zastreli. Hoci spoločný štát už neexistuje, dokument má pre Čechov a Slovákov stále svoj význam, konštatuje Dave Muhlena, riaditeľ National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library v Cedar Rapids v štáte Iowa. "Je v ňom určitá miera politiky, náboženstva a vlastenectva. Nesie v sebe americké demokratické ideály," povedal Muhlena. Ako uviedol hlavný výkonný predstaviteľ Heinzovho historického centra Andy Masich, ktorého otec s rodinou emigroval zo Slovenska, múzeum plánuje odovzdanie dokumentu jeho inštitúcii veľkolepo privítať. Slovenská liga v Amerike, ktorá v tomto roku oslavuje 100. výročie svojho vzniku, zvažovala, že nastalo odovzdať dokument Slovensku. Jej členovia však tesnou väčšinou hlasovali za jeho uchovanie v Pittsburghu. "Po prvé, tu bol podpísaný. A po druhé, máme pocit, že by mal byť uchovaný profesionálne. Teraz patrí múzeu," citovala Holého agentúra AP.

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Exprezident Rudolf Schuster stiahol žalobu na dve nemocnice, v ktorých ho hospitalizovali v roku 2000. Od nemocnice žiadal 450 tisíc korún ako náhradu ujmy. Schustera liečili v Nemocnici s poliklinikou Ministerstva vnútra (MV) v Bratislave a vo Fakultnej nemocnici s poliklinikou akademika Déryera v Bratislave. Exprezident Schuster podal žalobu na Okresnom súde Bratislava 1 v roku 2002 a stiahol ju v piatok 16. februára tohto roku na základe mimosúdnej dohody s Ministerstvom zdravotníctva (MZ) SR a MV SR, ktoré sú nadriadenými orgánmi uvedených nemocníc. MV SR a MZ SR vyjadrili hlboké poľutovanie nad ťažkou osobnou zdravotnou traumou bývalého pacienta, jeho rodiny, ako aj spoločnosti počas jeho hospitalizovania v zdravotníckych zariadeniach v roku 2000. Exprezident zdôraznil, že vždy mu išlo o mimosúdnú dohodu, ale v predchádzajúcom období akosi nenašli spoločnú reč z ministrami rezortov. "Nikdy mi nešlo o peniaze, ale o ospravedlnenie za chyby pri liečení. Ak by som nejaké peniaze vysúdil dostala by ich iná nemocnica," konštatoval Schuster.

Modrý dvojpodlažný londýnsky Doubledecker bus pútal nedávno pozornosť na pešej zóne na Hviezdoslavovom námestí v centre hlavného mesta. Doubledecker sa tešil veľkému záujmu najmä študentov, ktorí sa tu boli pozrieť v rámci vyučovania. Hlavným cieľom bolo zaujať a ukázať mladým výučbu jazykov. Takýto autobus zvolili preto, lebo symbolizuje Londýn a angličtinu. Autobus vybavený modernou jazykovou učebňou sa tento rok zastavil prvýkrát v Bratislave na ceste z Prahy do Viedne.

Región Bratislavský kraj sa dostal medzi 46 regiónov Európskej únie, ktorých HDP na obyvateľa vyjadrený v parite kúpnej sily (PPS) preyšuje 125% celoeurópskeho priemeru. Vyplýva to zo zverejneného porovnania Európskeho štatistického úradu Eurostat hodnotiaceho údaje z roku 2004. Najvyšší HDP na obyvateľa vyjadrený v PPS mali vnútorný Londýn (303%), Luxembursko ako celok (251%) Brusel hlavné mesto (248%), Hamburg (195%) a Viedeň (180%). Na 12. mieste je so 157% Praha, Bratislavský kraj dosahuje 129.3%, čím sa nachádza na 37. mieste. Na opačnom konci rebríčka sa nachádza rumunský región Severovýchod (24%) nasledovaný 3 bulharskými regiónmi (26%). Medzi 15 najchudobnejšími regiónmi je 7 rumunských, 5 bulharských a 3 poľské.

Slovákom sa od marca otvorí pracovný trh aj v Holandsku. Krajina tulipánov, ktorá potrebuje pracovné sily napríklad v poľnohospodárstve, sa stane deviatym štátom pôvodnej európskej pätnástky, kde od nových členov EÚ nebudú žiadať pracovné povolenia. O zrušení obmedzení v prístupe na pracovný trh rozhodla nová vláda, ktorú znova vedie Ján Peter Balkenende.

Ženy staršie ako 40 rokov majú na slovenskom pracovnom trhu stále viac problémov s hľadaním vhodného zamestnania, v súčasnosti totiž zamestnávateľa výrazne preferujú mladšie vekové kategórie. Vyplýva to z výskumu uskutočneného v rámci projektu IS EQUAL Slovensko na ceste k rodovej rovnosti, ktorý uskutočnila Európska rómska pracovná agentúra v spolupráci so Sociologickým ústavom Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV). Ženy sú podľa výsledkov prieskumu na trhu práce v horšej pozícii ako muži aj pokiaľ ide o dlhodobú nezamestnanosť a ich uplatnenie po návrate na pracovný trh. Ženy z pracovného trhu vytláča hlavne stereotypné vnímanie rodovej problematiky, čo znamená, že ženám je pripisovaná najmä starostlivosť o deti.

Pozíciu najčítanejšieho celoštátneho denníka si naďalej drží Nový Čas, ktorý číta 25 percent ľudí, teda asi 1.1 milióna čitateľov. Vyplýva to z reprezentatívneho prieskumu Market & Media & Lifestyle - TGI. Na vzorke 2,059 respondentov od 14 do 79 rokov ho realizovala agentúra Median SK od 14. augusta do 3. decembra 2006. Na druhom mieste skončila Pravda s desiatimi percentami, za ňou Sme s deviatimi percentami, nasleduje denník Korzár s piatimi percentami a Šport s čítanosťou štyri percentá populácie.

Plus 7 dní si svoju pozíciu najčítanejšieho týždenníka vylepšil a dosiahol 16 percent populácie. Na druhú pozíciu sa dostal Nový čas pre ženy s desiatimi percentami a prvú trojicu uzatvára Markíza s deviatimi percentami. Týždenník Život posilnil svoju pozíciu a umiestnil sa na 4. mieste s ôsmimi percentami a prehľad uzatvára Bájecná žena taktiež s ôsmimi percentami. Vyplýva to z reprezentatívneho prieskumu Market & Media & Lifestyle - TGI. Na vzorke 2,059 respondentov od 14 do 79 rokov ho realizovala agentúra Median SK od 14. augusta do 3. decembra 2006. Celkove čítanosť týždenníkov oproti poslednému prieskumu všeobecne klesla o štyri percentá.

Zaujímavé poznatky o vesmíre a kozmickom priestore ponúka nová kniha Filozofický a fyzikálny pohľad na vesmír, ktorej autormi sú Mikuláš Blažek, Karol Ďurček a Ľuboš Rojka zo Spoločnosti Ježišovej. V týchto dňoch ju uviedli do života v priestoroch kníkupectva VEDA - Vydavateľstva Slovenskej akadémie vied (SAV) v Bratislave. Cieľom filozofických a teologických úvah je podľa autorov hľadanie čo najpravdivějších odpovedí na otázky o zmysle vesmíru a človeka. Fyzikálny prístup je zameraný na hľadanie pravidelnosti vo vesmíre a vytváranie teórií, pričom sa používajú moderné matematické metódy. Publikáciu vydalo Vydavateľstvo Trnavskej univerzity (TU) a VEDY - vydavateľstva SAV. Jej vydanie finančne podporila nemecká provincia Jezuitov.

Aktuálne ponuky z oblasti módy, kožených výrobkov, obuvi, ale aj svadobného servisu ponúkli medzinárodné veľtrhy výstav Ledermode, Intermoda a Wedding 2007, ktoré koncom februára otvorili v bratislavskej Inchebe. Okrem domácich výrobcov a obchodníkov sa tu návštevníci mohli stretnúť s produkciou z Českej republiky, Francúzska, Grécka, Talianska a Maďarska. Na veľtrhu sa prezentovali výrobcovia svadobných šiat, ale aj zlatníci, cukrári a spoločnosti, ktoré ponúkajú kompletný svadobný servis.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Vo Washingtone americko-slovenské konzultácie o vízovom režime

Washington (TASR) – Delegácia slovenského ministerstva zahraničných vecí a ministerstva vnútra vedená štátnou tajomníčkou MZV SR Dianou Štrofovou absolvovala v utorok 27. februára v rámci pracovnej cesty do Washingtonu ďalšie stretnutia a brífingy s predstaviteľmi americkej administratívy o otázkach vízového režimu. Séria rokovaní na americkom ministerstve pre vnútornú bezpečnosť sa zamerala na pripravované zmeny v bezvízovom programe a navrhované bezpečnostné kritériá, ktorých splnenie by mohlo umožniť novým krajinám, vrátane Slovenska, vstúpiť do tohto programu. Osobitná pozornosť sa venovala biometrickým pasom, výmene informácií o stratených a odcudzených cestovných dokladoch a kontrole hraníc. Štátna tajomníčka Štrofová sa na pracovnom obede stretla so zástupcom štátneho podtajomníka amerického ministerstva zahraničných vecí Kurtom Volkerom.

Vynikajúci historik Viktor S. Mamatey usnul v Pánu

V utorok 16. januára 2007 v Tampa, Florida odobral sa na večnosť "Dean americko-slovenských historikov" prof. Viktor S. Mamatey.

Narodil sa 19. februára 1917 v Braddock, Pa. Jeho rodičia boli slovenskí prisťahovalci. Otec Albert Mamatey patril medzi významných fraternalistických činiteľov, bol podpísateľom Pittsburskej dohody a predsedom Slovenskej ligy v Amerike počas utvorenia Česko-Slovenskej republiky.

Prof. Viktor Mamatey strávil svoju mladosť v Bratislave, na Slovensku. Študoval na Komenského univerzite v Prahe a ukončil si vysokoškolské štúdiá na univerzite v Chicago, Illinois predtým ako dosiahol hodnosť Master of Arts z Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Doktorát z filozofie obdržal na univerzite Sorbonne vo Francúzsku. Slúžil v americkej armáde počas druhej svetovej vojny, vyučoval a prednášal na viacerých amerických univerzitách a viedol department histórie na Florida State University.

Bol uznávanou autoritou v odbore moderných dejín strednej a východnej Európy. Na túto tému napísal viacej článkov, kritických rozborov a recenzií do amerických časopisov a publikácií ako aj do niektorých slovenských periodík a ročníkov (kalendár NSS). Je autorom početných historických prác, hlavne tých, ktoré sa týkali Slovákov a Východnej Európy. Tu treba spomenúť: The World in the 20th Century, The United States and East Central Europe 1914 - 1919 a History of the Czechoslovak Republic 1918 -1948. V roku 1950 obdržal George Louis Beer Prize od Americkej Historickej Spoločnosti a Guggenheimovo štipendium. Cestoval a prednášal na konferenciách v Amerike a Európe aj počas jeho penzie. Formálne sa mu dostalo uznania v roku 1990 od Univerzitnej knižnice v Bratislave, do ktorej pravidelne posielal zväzky kníh a štúdie týkajúce sa Slovanov. Mal vzácne porozumenie pre slovenské tlačene slovo a jeho vydavateľská činnosť značne prispela na obohatenie slovenskej kultúry.

Zanecháva 61-ročnú manželku Denise, dvoch synov Peter a Albert a štyri vnúčatá. Pohreb sa konal v sobotu 20. januára 2007. Pochovaný bol na Oakland cintoríne, Tallahassee, Florida.

Nech mu je večná pamäť v národe!

Rudo L. Greguš



Na snímke Robert Fico (vpravo) a František Kašícký (vľavo).

FOTO TASR - Štefan Puškáš

Vláda SR dnes splnila sľub voľičom stiahnuť slovenských vojakov z operácie Iracká sloboda. Vyhlásil to premiér Robert Fico po privítaní poslednej siedmej rotácie slovenského kontingentu na letisku M.R.Štefánika v Bratislave 25. februára 2007. Fico poďakoval všetkým vyše 700 vojakom, ktorí sa vystriedali počas siedmich rotácií v rámci slovenskej jednotky. Minister obrany František Kašícký odovzdal premiérovi štátnu vlajku SR, ktorú dnes počas rozlúčky v Kuvajte sňali vojaci.

REKVIEM ZA ORGANISTOM

Michal Sinčák - 5.10.1919 - 15.2.2007



Michal Sinčák

*Už naveky utíchnul jeho zvonivý hlas
i zbožnej piesne jeho melancholické sólo.*

*Čas zaspomínať na to, čo bolo,
keď z tvrdých dlani pionierskych rúk,
začal klíčiť raný život - nie bez múk,
v otvorenom objatí novej domoviny,
v teplom krbe slovenskej rodiny.*

*Sadnul za organ v bujnej mladosti,
ospevovať Boha i jeho Syna na výsosti
i tú svoju rodnú hruď z útlej mladosti.
Opustil ho v úzkosti neodvratnej starosti,
strieť na usmiatej tvári slzy vďačnosti.*

*Už to inak nebude, ako bolo tak bude,
metaforicky rečeno, bo Pán svetovládny
v svojej nevyspytateľnej múdrosti,
dal konečné amen ľudskej pôsobnosti
a dokorán otvoril bránu nebeskej večnosti
tomu, čo roky dával zbohom prechodným pútnikom
a teraz my jemu na jeho záverečné rekviem.*

*Už odznali symfonické tóny Aleluja,
už umlknul i hlas tvorivého génija,
odznali i tie ladné melodické trávnice
i povznášajúce akordy chrámového organu,
čo za roky volali rodnú svojeť k oltáru,
bo čas dať adie u starej klaviatúre
a začať nové, osviežené obdobie
tak, ako ho začínal on - Maestro muzikálie.*

*A my ideme... ideme na jeho posledné defilé,
omladniť tie dávno prežitú tvorivé chvíle
a pokorne pokloniť sa neznámej tajnej sile
bo tá v šere temnej mlkivosti na človeka
neúprosne, ukradomky čaká, čaká a len čaká...*

Štefan Hreha

P.S. Tento skromný tribút venujem mojemu celoživotnému priateľovi, harmonizátorovi mojich textov, muzikológovi prof. Michalovi Sinčákovi nad jeho odchodom do sveta večnosti. Zomrel 15. februára 2007 vo veku 87 rokov po ťažkej a úmornej nemoci. Skoro 75 rokov, od 13. roku svojej mladosti takmer do konca svojho života, bol organizátorom a dirigentom spevokolu osady sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Montreale. Možno o ňom povedať, že bol ozajstným propagátorom slovenského spevu a hudby. Ako taký, zaslúžil sa o folklórnu estrádu Včera, dnes a zajtra, prezentovanú na Slovenskom národnom dni na Expo 67 pred 40. rokmi. Nech jeho meno utkvie v pamäti svojeti za dobre vykonanú prácu na tej našej príslovečnej roli dedičnej. Au revoir, vzácný priateľu. - **Š. Hreha.**

Predbežný plán osláv stého výročia založenia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike

Pokračovanie zo str. 24

Predbežný program na Slovensku

1. Historický ústav Matice slovenskej zorganizuje vedecký seminár o Slovenskej lige v Amerike v dňoch 14. a 15. mája. Skončí sa druhý deň napoludnie.

2. 15. mája v popoludňajších hodinách bude slávnostné odhalenie busty zakladateľa SLvA Rev. Štefana Furdeka na budove, v ktorej sídli Matica slovenská (Grösslingova ul. 23 v Bratislave). Toto je spoločný projekt SLvA a Matice slovenskej.

3. Kultúrno-spoločenský program 15. mája v hoteli Bôrik, ktorý usporiadajú spoločne Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí a Slovenská liga v Amerike. Približná účasť 150 hostí, vrátane prezidenta SR, vládných činiteľov, zástupcov parlamentu a významných kultúrnych činiteľov. Po oficiálnych príhovoroch vystúpia v kvalitnom kultúrnom programe poprední slovenskí umelci.

4. Druhá časť programu bude venovaná slávnostnej inaugurácii poštovej známky, vydané k počte 100. výročia SLvA, ktorú uvedie riaditeľka Odboru pošty Ing. Jarmila Brichtová. V priľahlých priestoroch Slovenská pošta bude mať výstavu kresieb slovenských známok, vydaných na počesť americkoslovenských dejateľov (Rev. Murgaš, Jozef Cincík a i.)

5. Po formálnom programe bude nasledovať spoločenské stretnutie spojené s recepciou.

Program osláv v USA

Hlavné oslavy stého výročia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike budú v nedeľu 10. júna v hoteli Crown Plaza v Secaucus, N.J., vzdialenom niekoľko míľ od Lincoln tunela. Recepčia bude o 1. hodine popoludní a slávnostný banket o 2. hodine. Na bankete sa zúčastnia aj prominentní politickí predstavitelia a prominentní umelci.

V predvečer osláv, v sobotu 9. júna bude spoločenské stretnutie s kultúrnym programom v New Yorku, na ktorom sa zúčastnia aj hostia zo Slovenska.

Výprava SLvA na Slovensko

Slovenská liga sponzoruje výpravu na Slovensko v dňoch od 5. do 16. mája načasovanú tak, aby sa jej účastníci mohli zúčastniť na uvedených programoch. Okrem oficiálneho programu v Bratislave pripravuje sa aj krátky oficiálny program v Košiciach a kultúrny program s recepciou v Michalovciach.

Bližšie informácie o výprave možno dostať z kancelárie SLvA: Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055. Tel.: 973-472-8993 alebo 973-669-8483.

Rezervácie si môžete urobiť v cestovnej kancelárii DANUBE Travel, tel. č. 845-353-7792 alebo 866-232-7792 (bezplatne); e-mail: Danube@eastern-european-travel.com

Ďalšie podrobnosti budú priebežne poskytované v slovenskej tlači.

Tlačová správa Slovenskej ligy

Rezervácia na výpravu SLvA na Slovensko

Od 5. do 16. mája

Výprava je naplánovaná tak, aby sa jej účastníci mohli zúčastniť na rôznych oslavných podujatiach a recepciách pri príležitosti 100. výročia Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Účastníci strávia tri dni v Košiciach, tri dni v Tatrách a štyri dni v Bratislave. Z týchto miest sa budú konať zájazdy do zaujímavých turistických a historických miest. Detailný program bude k dispozícii koncom januára 2007.

Cena za osobu je \$2,450, v čom sú zahrnuté ceny leteniek, dve jedlá denne, ubytovanie v prvotriednych hoteloch a vstupenky na rôzne podujatia ako i pamiatkový darček.

Keďže počet účastníkov bude limitovaný, záujemcovia si môžu už teraz zaistiť miesto poslaním návratky a zálohu \$ 250.00. Šek má byť vystavený na Danube International Travel, Inc. a poslaný na adresu:

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.....

Meno, adresa

Dátum Telefónne číslo

Rakúsko otvorí diaľnicu medzi Viedňou a SR

Bratislava (TASR) – Rakúsko otvorí diaľnicu spájajúcu Viedeň so Slovenskom 15. novembra tohto roku. V Bratislave to dňa 18. februára po stretnutí s premiérom Robertom Ficom vyhlásil rakúsky kancelár Alfred Gusenbauer. Svojho partnera pritom informoval o urýchlení prác na výstavbe tejto komunikácie. Kancelár konštatoval, že v zásadných infraštruktúrnych otázkach Slovensko a Rakúsko posilnia spoluprácu. Kooperácia sa má týkať bratislavského a viedenského letiska, ako aj nákladnej železničnej dopravy. Premiér Fico pritom potvrdil, že slovenská vláda nebude bratislavské letisko ani spoločnosť Cargo privatizovať.

Poslanec Rydlo: Tiso je najväčší Slovák 20. storočia

Rozhovor, ktorý Jozef M. Rydlo poskytol redaktorovi Markovi Vagovičovi pre denník SME, 6. februára 2007

Prečo verejne obhajujete arcibiskupa Sokola, ktorý je v zväzkoch ŠtB vedený ako agent?

“Kampaň voči jeho osobe je účelová. Sokol si to nezaslúži. Vnímam to ako cielený útok voči celej Katolíckej cirkvi.”

Nikto nehovorí o celej cirkvi, ale o minulosti jej vysokého hodnostára. Sokolov záznam je podľa vás v poriadku?

“Nie, nie je v poriadku. Pozrite sa však, arcibiskup Sokol má 72 rokov. Keď budete mať toľko rokov vy alebo ja, neviem, či budeme môcť povedať, že naša minulosť bola bezproblémová. To, či spolupracoval s ŠtB, je otázka jeho svedomia. Vžité sa však do roly obyčajného dedinského farára, ktorým bol na začiatku kariéry aj Sokol. Keď viacerí videli, ako oficiálna cirkev vo Vatikáne kooperuje s vtedajším režimom, mám na mysli tzv. Ostpolitik, ktorej stelesnením bol arcibiskup Casaroli, nuž sa čudujete, že aj oni sa mohli dostať do situácie, že spolupracovali? Navyše, na základe známych faktov vylučujem dobrovoľnú spoluprácu arcibiskupa Sokola s ŠtB. Za agentov boli registrovaní aj ľudia, ktorí o tom nevedeli. Ak by Sokol spolupracoval s ŠtB, tak by nepomáhal tajne vysvätenému biskupovi Korcovi a vo svojej fare nestrpel skladisko zo zahraničia tajne pašovanej prohibítnej náboženskej literatúry.”



Jozef M. Rydlo

Boli však aj kňazi, ktorí to odmietali, napríklad kardinál Korec.

“Ja nehovorím, že s tým súhlasím, ani to, že je to dobré. Len chcem, aby ste sa vzžili do situácie jednoduchého človeka, ktorému zhora hovorili, aby držal líniu viery a zároveň dochádzalo k určitej symbióze s vtedajšou mocou: aj Vatikánu, aj Prahe šlo o kontrolu nad tzv. tajnou cirkvou a to ŠtB veľmi dobre vedela. Keď Ústav pamäti národa povie, že agenti boli vedomí spolupracovníci ŠtB, je to jeho názor. Nevidím do svedomia pána arcibiskupa, ale rešpektujem ho ako jedného z najvyšších predstaviteľov Katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku.”

Autorita cirkvi ako inštitúcie stojí aj nad minulosťou jej čelného predstaviteľa?

“Áno, autorita cirkvi aj nad minulosťou jej špičkového hodnostára. O koľkých kňazoch, ktorí sú evidovaní ako spolupracovníci ŠtB, písali médiá?”

Minimálne o tých z východného Slovenska sa písalo dosť.

“Neviem, či dosť, opakujem však: Keby nebol Ján Sokol arcibiskupom, nič sa nedeje.”

Paradoxné je, že ho obhajujete napriek tomu, že vy sám ste emigrovali. Prečo ste vlastne odišli?

“Bolo to 27. septembra 1968, ako bezprostredná reakcia na okupáciu, bola to emigrácia z ideologického protestu. Zo Slováka v zahraničí som sa napokon stal zahraničným Slovákom. Pred rokom 1989 som žil v Taliansku, Švajčiarsku a vo Francúzsku, bol som na študijných pobytoch aj v USA i Kanade, v Nemecku, v Holandsku, vo Švédsku i v bývalej Juhoslávii. Vyštudoval som najprv literárnu kritiku a filozofiu, potom archívniectvo a knihovníctvo a napokon históriu a pedagogiku.”

Ako ste sa dostali k SNS?

“Tí, čo neemigrovali len preto, aby si zarobili na cestu okolo sveta či safari v Afrike, sa snažili aj o to, aby bola stále živá myšlienka politickej slobody, štátnej samostatnosti a náboženskej slobody. Nebolo nás veľa, no napriek tomu sme sa angažovali a zakladali kluby kresťanskej demokracie v zahraničí.”

Kresťanskej demokracie? Prečo potom nie ste v KDH?

“Pretože kresťansko-demokratické myšlienkové prúdy v zahraničí nemali dostatočný ohlas v KDH, ktoré vzniklo bezprostredne po revolúcii.”

Čím si to vysvetľujete?

“Zahranční Slováci vždy uvažovali v intenciách demokratickej štátnosti. To, že KDH sa s tým po roku 1989 jednoznačne nestotožnilo, bolo pre nás veľkým prekvapením, ba obrovským rozčarováním.”

Ján Čarnogurský hovoril o hviezdíčke aj stoličke.

“No dobre, ale to je, ako keby ste povedali, že si otvoríte skleník na Marse. Skrátka, idea tu bola, chýbala však koncovka.”

KDH sa vtedy bránilo, že nechce, aby viedli samostatný štát nehodní ľudia. A čas mu dal za pravdu - stačí si spomenúť na divokú privatizáciu z obdobia Mečiarovej vlády.

“Skôr nevhodní ako nehodní. To, že KDH nehlasovalo za zvrchovanosť ani slovenskú ústavu, sa ma však hlboko dotklo. Racionálne aj citovo. Ako historik veľmi dobre viem, že existujú momenty v dejinách národov, ktoré sa neopakujú. Na pôde Svetového kongresu Slovákov sme boli vždy za politickú individualitu Slovenska,

vyjadrenú plnou štátnosťou a demokratickým politickým systémom, nechýbali však ani hlasy, že pre Slovensko bolo v tzv. socialistickom spoločenstve lepšie mať vlastný samostatný komunistický štát ako byť súčasťou socialistického Česko-Slovenska.”

Je možné, že keby sa vtedy KDH správalo inak, dnes ste jeho členom?

“Určite áno. Pozrite sa, ja som veriaci človek, vyrástol som v kresťanskom prostredí a som demokrat. Okrem toho, vždy som mal dobré kontakty s kresťanskými demokratmi v Taliansku aj inde. Začiatkom 90. rokov tu však bola s programom štátnej samostatnosti, len jedna politická strana, SNS, ktorá je v slovenskom politickom spektre dodnes jedinou národne, kresťansky a sociálne orientovanou politickou stranou.”

Časom sa však situácia zmenila. KDH profiluje ako strana vlastencov, ktorá je za suverénnejší postoj Slovenska voči EÚ. Je pravda, že uvažujete o prestupe do klubu KDH?

“Tak toto počujem prvýkrát.”

Viete vylúčiť, že v tomto volebnom období k tomu nedôjde?

“Do parlamentu som bol zvolený na kandidátke SNS. Nevidím dôvod, prečo by som to robil. Mój mandát nie je ani na predaj a nemožno ho ani kúpiť!”

S kým v KDH si najlepšie rozumiete?

“Asi s Pavlom Hrušovským. S tým si aj tykám.”

Začiatkom týždňa ste poslali do redakcií mail, v ktorom sa jedenásť slovenských historikov ohradilo voči spôsobu informovania o novom šéfovi ÚPN Ivanovi Petraskom. V čom je problém?

Nepáčia sa mi útoky na nového predsedu UPN a čierno-biele videnie dejín. Stačí, že spomeniete Tisu a už je zle. Ak nevyhlásite, že Tiso bol zločinec, ste médiami automaticky vnímaný ako sympatizant fašizmu. Kde je tu historická objektivita? Voči tomu sa mladí historici ohradili predovšetkým! Je to ako červené súkno pre býka. Slováci nepoznajú vlastné dejiny. Raz im ich vykladali z Budapešti, inokedy z Prahy, potom z Berlína, neskôr z Moskvy. Teraz, keď sme na spoločnom európskom piesečku, by sme sa konečne mali pozeráť na dejiny s otvorenými očami.”

Je dôležitým momentom v histórii Slovenska aj vznik samostatného štátu v marci 1939?

“Určite áno. Myslím, že Jozef Tiso je najväčšia osobnosť slovenských dejín v 20. storočí.”

Prečo?

“Keby v tých pohnutých rokoch nezobral na seba politickú zodpovednosť, čo by zostalo zo Slovenska? Zrejme by nás Hitler rozdelil medzi Maďarsko, respektíve Poľsko a Tretiu ríšu. Nebyť Tisu, slovenský národ dnes neexistuje.”

To je len hypotéza, ku ktorej sa seriózní historici stavajú rezervovane. Je ale evidentné, že slovenský štát nevznikol z vôle národa. Nie je to problém?

“V pluralitnej spoločnosti sú len historici, nemôžete ich vydeľovať na “serióznych” a “neseriózných”. Ani Česko-Slovensko nevzniklo z vôle národa, lež z vôle určujúcich mocností, ktoré chceli rozbiť katolícke Rakúsko-Uhorsko. Je pravda, že Tiso nikdy neuvažoval v intenciách štátnej samostatnosti. Ako väčšina ľudáckych politikov, aj on za prvej republiky presadzoval len autonómiu v rámci Česko-Slovenska. Tiso bol katolícky kňaz a ako taký jednoducho lojálny politik.”

Napriek tomu mu pripisujete úlohu zakladateľa samostatného štátu.

Pochopiteľne. Súhlasím, že keby to záviselo len od Tisu, slovenský štát by asi nikdy nevznikol. Dôležité však je, že nikto v Slovenskom sneme nehlasoval 14. marca 1939 proti. Je to taká klasická grécka tragédia, kde sa musíte rozhodnúť: buď - alebo. Situácia je tým komplikovanejšia, že sa takto musel rozhodovať aj Tiso, katolícky kňaz.”

Veď práve.

“No dobre, ale koľko vzdelancov malo Slovensko na konci Rakúsko-Uhorska alebo v spoločnom štáte s Čechmi? Keď sa v roku 1939 uvažovalo, kto by mohol byť prezidentom, jednoznačne z toho vyšiel kňaz Tiso. Jednoducho nemal konkurenta, ktorý by tú funkciu primerane zastával. V osobe katolíckeho duchovného bola navyše záruka, že sa to v črtajúcej mocenskej konštelácii nezopsuje.”

Ako vnímate Tisovu úlohu v období slovenského štátu?

“Pozitívne. Ako by to na Slovensku vyzeralo, keby sa stal prezidentom Tuka? Celá spoločnosť vedela, že keby sa vzdal Tiso úradu, bolo by to nepomerne horšie.”

Čo môže byť horšie ako prijatie židovského kódexu a následné deportácie Židov?

“Samozrejme, že keby sa čo len jednému Židovi stala krivda, je to v rozpore s prirodzeným zákonom a ľudskou dôstojnosťou. Iste, aj Tiso mohol nosiť na protest žltú hviezdu, ako to urobil dánsky kráľ. Zužovať však prvú Slovenskú republiku a jej prezidenta Tisu len na zlé veci, ktoré sa tu stali, nie je fér. Slovenský štát nerovná sa krematórium! Nedávno som si opäť so záujmom pozrel hru o prezidentovi Tisovi v divadle Aréna. Herecký výkon Mariána Labudu je naozaj obdivuhodný. Z predstavenia som však nadobudol dojem, že Slovenský štát bol len inštitúciou na likvidáciu Židov. Deportácie Židov sú Kainovým znamením v dejinách ľudstva, ktorým sú bohužiaľ poznačení aj Slováci.”

Čo bolo na slovenskom štáte pozitívne?

“Predovšetkým vzdelanosť. Postavili sa nové školy, železnice, cesty, vybudovali sa určitý sociálny systém. Nezanedbateľná je aj hospodárska stabilita, pevná mena,

Poslanec Rydlo: Tiso je najväčší Slovák 20. storočia

Pokračovanie zo str. 21

medzinárodný obchod. Vychádzali zaujímavé knihy, posilnila sa Matica, cirkvi mali väčšiu slobodu. Prezident Tiso založil Slovenskú akadémiu vied a umení, dobudovalo sa vysoké školstvo. A Slováci nadobudli obrovskú dávku národného sebavedomia."

Myslíte, že tu bol blahobyť, ako tvrdí arcibiskup Sokol?

"Matka mi hovorievala, že sme sa mali dobre. Aj rodina pána Sokola sa zrejme mala dobre. Nedá sa to však paušalizovať, hoci v porovnaní s biedou, ktorá bola v tom čase v Poľsku alebo v Nemecku... Nemci sa dokonca hnevali, že keď prevážajú cez Slovensko politických väzňov alebo Židov, pracovníčky Slovenského Červeného kríža im rozdávali balíčky s čokoládou a tropickým ovocím. Na druhej strane, boli tu aj ľudia biedni, ktorí museli chodiť za prácou "do Raichu," ako aj tí ktorí chamtivo arizovali. Tí na slovenský štát určite nezanevreli. Ideálne štáty však existujú len v príručkách teoretikov vedy o štáte."

Tisov sa podieľal aj na potlačení SNP, dokonca vyznamenával nemeckých vojakov. Nie je to problém?

"Môj otec, ktorý robil celý život na správe dôchodkov, povedal, že vďaka povstaniu máme o toľko a toľko tisíc vojnových sirôt a vdov viac. Jednoducho išlo o politicky i vojensky nepremyslenú akciu, ktorá síce priniesla určitý výsledok. Ako však napísal doktor Husák: povstanie bolo slávne, ale povstalci boli prinajmenšom podozriví. Chápem, že niektorí slovenskí politici hľadali spôsob, ako sa dostať na druhú stranu barikády. Bolo to však šťastné?"

Slovensko sa vďaka povstaniu neocitlo na strane porazených.

"A čo sme tým víťazstvom dosiahli? Beneš i po vojne odmietal Slovensko aj ako politickú individualitu, tobôž slovenský štát, a Slovákov aj ako samobytný národ. Aj Maďarsko bolo porazené a po roku 1948 sa mu všetko zlé odpustilo. A kde je dnes porazené Nemecko?"

Tiso poslal v máji 1945, mesiac po Hitlerovej smrti, novému nemeckému kancelárovi Dönitzi list, v ktorom ho ubezpečil o "spojeneckej vernosti slovenského štátu". Prečo to robil?

"Prepáčte, ale až po bitku pri Stalingrade držali všetci hubu a krok. Myslím, že aj Tiso už v roku 1943 vedel, že Hitler prehrá. Jeho prínos však vidím práve v tom, že napriek tomu, že vedel, že Hitler je ateista a neznaboh, takže to môže so slovenským štátom skončiť fatálne, mal v sebe toľko sily, a išiel do jamy levovej. Tiso určite vedel, aj to, že víťazi sa s ním nebudú baviť v rukavičkách. Myslím, že jeho konanie predurčovala najmä obava z komunizmu. Pokiaľ ide o telegram Dönitzi, historik musí byť opatrný. Nevie, či existuje hodnoverný prameň, ktorý potvrdzuje jeho odoslanie. Ak ho však poslal, zrejme tým chcel povedať, že Slováci sa neviažu na Hitlerovu Tretiu ríšu, ale na nemecký národ, ktorý bude aj po Hitlerovi dôležitým faktorom v dejinách európskeho priestoru."

Nedávno ste boli na prezentácii knihy Milana S. Ďuricu o Jozefovi Tisovi. Jeho práce sú dosť kontroverzné, v jednej knižke dokonca zľahčoval pobyt židov v slovenských pracovných táboroch. Je to v poriadku?

"Nie. V čom je však kontroverzný? Že píše o tom, čo iní nevedia, nemôžu alebo nechcú napísať, pretože po roku 1989 zabudli na vlastné boľševické belmo na očiach? Keď som sa ho svojho času na to pýtal, odpovedal mi protiotázkou: To, čo sa udialo so Židmi na Slovensku je v rozpore so základnou kresťanskou morálkou i s právom - bolo však lepšie byť v nacistickom Osviečime alebo v Novákoch? Pred profesorom Ďuricom mám však veľký rešpekt, poznám ho už 40 rokov."

Marek Vagovič

Andrej Žarnov

BRATOM V AMERIKE

Je u nás ešte kliatba panovníkom,
hmly ťažké posiaľ krajom vývodía,
ľud ťaží ťarcha, neverí už v nikom,
bo, zdá sa, spásu už mu nezrodía.

Či môže zvať si kraj svoj svojim krajom?
Či skytne chlieb mu vlastná otčina?
Či sloboda mu skutočne je rajom,
keď krivdy panstvo hlúpe preklína?

Komu sa zvinil, že trest taký znaša?
On dobrý vždycky cudzím od vekov.
Darmo však tiekla i krv naša, vaša?
Taká mu pečať spásy bezpekou.

Je v svete zlo, čo večne srdce žerie,
hľa, rod môj jeho večnou obeťou.
Komu dá lásku, ten mu vždycky berie
a odpovie mu smrti závetou.

Bojím sa v duši, že si zúfa azda,
bo kliatba divo v hruď mu dolieha,
bojím sa, spustne v úhor rodná brázda,
priľietne žiar, čo vôkol oblieha.

Vy plňte, bratia, olejom mu dušu,
nádeje tresťou nech sa zobudí
a vílcov, čo mu hyenou v hruď kúšu,
sám mečom pravdy svätej rozsúdi.

Vy strážte, bdejte ostražitým okom,
poslednú hrádzu, kým kal nezhorí,
bo ináč v pospas vydaní sme sokom,
slovenskí bratia v diaľnom zámorí.

Vzbúdzajte národ, sťahajte hnutí voje,
nech borbou umy, srdcia zaplanú.
Žiadame iba svoje, a len svoje,
nech Tatry hrobom sa nám nestanú.

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Členská schôdza okresu Pribina IKSJ v Los Angeles, Kalifornia

Oznamujeme všetkým členom a priateľom okresu Pribina Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že členská schôdza sa bude konať v nedeľu 25. marca 2007. Spoločenské posedenie začneme slovenskou svätou omšou o 11:00 hodine dopoludnia v kaplnke sv. Jána Boscu pri St. John Bosco High School, 13640 S. Bellflower Bl. Bellflower, CA 90706. Po svätej omši sa bude podávať chutný obed so zákuskom a občerstvením. Deti sa už tradične budú zabávať hľadaním veľkonočných vajčiek.

Schôdza bude pokračovať v jedálni. Na programe je plán aktivít a informácie o poistení cestou Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty. Všetky spolky v okolí srdečne pozývame na toto spoločenské posedenie.

Pavol Skubeň, predseda

Členská schôdza Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom Spolku sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, že v nedeľu dňa 25. marca 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční riadna členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu plánu činnosti na budúce obdobie a zároveň sa podá finančná správa. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto schôdze zúčastnili! Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

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

Oznamujeme členom nášho spolku, že schôdza sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New Yorku sa uskutoční v nedeľu 15. apríla 2007 po slovenskej omši o 12:30 hodine v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na Prvej Avenue a 66. ulici. Láskaovo žiadame našich členov o hojnú účasť na tejto schôdzi.

Jozef Juráši, predseda

Oslava slovenskej štátnosti v New Yorku 11. marca 2007

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku za spolupráce Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Spolku sv. Štefana, Spolku sv. Matúša, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola a ostatných fraternalistických slovenských spolkov si vás dovoľuje pozvať na Spomienkovú oslavu slovenskej štátnosti, ktorá sa bude konať v nedeľu 11. marca 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v spoločenskej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 411 East, 66th Street v New York City.

Spomienková slávnosť začne modlitbou otca Martina Svitaňa, farára Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého. Americkú a slovenskú hymnu zahraje a zaspieva skupina Kontakty. Predseda I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Milan Dait predstaví hostí a slávnostného rečníka na tému - 14. marec a jeho význam pre Slovensko. Konferanciérkou počas slávnosti bude Henrieta Daitová. V hudobnom programe sa predstaví Stanislav Rosenberg v hre na husliach a básen prednesie Henrieta Daitová. Tak budú nasledovať pozdravy oficiálnych hostí. Na záver vystúpi tajomníčka Slovenskej ligy v Amerike, Nina Holá. Program ukončíme spevom God Bless America a Hej Slováci.

Po slávnostnom programe sa bude podávať občerstvenie ako aj bar bude k dispozícii. Vstup je voľný. Bližšie informácie: Milan Dait (201) 641-8922; Jozef Bilík (718) 463-2084.

Poznávací zájazd do Washingtonu, DC

Spolok sv. Štefana č. 716 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty usporiada poznávací zájazd do Washingtonu, DC v dňoch 19. - 20. mája 2007 (sobota a nedeľu) s návštevou historických miest (Biely dom, Kapitol, Arlington cintorín a ďalšie).

Odchod je v sobotu 19. mája v ranných hodinách od Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New York City, kam sa aj vrátíme. V nedeľu v dopoludňajších hodinách navštívime "Basilica of the National Shrine", kde sa bude slúžiť slovenská svätá omša.

Prosíme záujemcov, aby sa urýchlene prihlásili na telefónne čísla: Jozef Bilík (718) 463-2084; Henrieta Daitová (201) 641-8922. Presné informácie o zájazde podáme neskôr. Tešíme sa na vašu účasť.

Výbor Spolku sv. Štefana IKSJ v N.Y.C.

Štipendium na štúdium v USA

Slovenskí študenti sa môžu uchádzať o štipendium Milana Šimečku na prestížnej škole Bard Liberal Arts College v New Yorku v USA. Určené je pre študentov v odboroch histórie, dejín umenia, politických vied, angličtiny, ekonomiky, filozofie a iných humanitných vied. Štipendium sa začína v septembri 2007 a zahŕňa plné školné, cestovné náklady, ubytovanie, stravu, vreckové a peniaze na nákup kníh. Tento rok výber organizuje Bratislavská medzinárodná škola liberálnych štúdií (BISLA).

NECHAJTE INÝCH VEDIEŤ O JEDNOTE

Národná púť Slovákov vo Svätej zemi

V dňoch od 28. 12.- 4.1. 2007 sa konala národná púť Slovákov do Svätej zeme pod vedením slovenských biskupov a otcov františkánov pri príležitosti posviacky nového kostola pri jaskyni Mlieka v Betleheme. Na tejto púti sa zúčastnili aj piati pútnici z farnosti Víťaz. V histórii slovenského národa to bola najväčšia púť do Svätej zeme, na ktorej sa zúčastnilo asi 500 pútnikov. Môžem povedať, že v tomto období celá Svätá zem patrila len a len Slovákom.

Svätá zem je krajina evanjelia a v čase Vianoc má významné postavenie mestiečko Betlehem, kde sa začal pozemský život Ježiša Krista. Pri vstupe do Betlehema sa najprv stretávame s miestom oddychu Panny Márie. Je to miesto, kde Panna Mária oddychovala vyčerpaná z ďalej cesty a kde cítila príchod narodenia malého Ježiška.

Najvýznamnejším miestom Betlehema je jaskyňa a bazilika Narodenia. Pre nás bolo veľkým sklamaním, že v čase Vianoc bolo pri jasličkách tak málo ľudí; totiž v Betleheme a v blízkom Jeruzaleme žije málo kresťanov, väčšinou sú ortodoxného vyznania - Vianoce začínajú sláviť až od 6. januára. Takže Ježiško sa určite potešil nám Slovákom. V tesnej blízkosti jaskyne narodenia je Jozefova jaskyňa, v ktorej sa vo sne zjavil Jozefovi a vyzval ho, aby vstal a zobral dieťa a jeho matku a ušiel do Egypta, lebo Herodes dal hľadať dieťa, aby ho zmránil.

Asi 300 metrov od jaskyne Narodenia je jaskyňa Mlieka - to bol cieľ celej našej púte. V tejto jaskyni žila Svätá rodina asi dva roky, až kým neušla do Egypta. Do tejto jaskyne prichádzajú aj traja mudrci, aby sa Mu poklonili a obetovali Mu svoje dary - zlato, kadidlo a myrhu. Aj nám Slovákom Božia prozreteľnosť umožnila vzdať malému

Ježiškovi a celej Svätej rodine poklonu tým, že nám za spoluúčasti talianskych františkánov bolo umožnené nad touto jaskyňou postaviť kaplnku zasvätenú Matke Božej. Je to kus zeme, ktorú od tej chvíle vlastní Slováci vo Svätej zemi. Len málokto krajina na svete dostala takú milosť a možnosť postaviť svoj chrám.

Samotná kaplnka je na terajšie pomery vo Svätej zemi dosť veľká (asi ako kostol v Ovčí), je dvojpodlažná a je spojená chodbou s jaskyňou Mlieka. Jaskyňu Mlieka si betlehemi kresťania veľmi uctievali. Traduje sa, že kvapky mlieka, ktoré padli z lona Panny Márie, keď kojila dieťaťko Ježiška, spôsobili bielu farbu stien jaskyne, pričom všetky ostatné jaskyne v Betleheme sú sivé až sivočierne. V samotnom chráme má osobitné miesto Madona s dieťaťom, ktorú darovali veriaci z obce Lendak (bolo ich asi 30 pútnikov) a ktorí spolu so svojim duchovným otcom ju osobne doniesli do Svätej zeme. Môžem povedať, že je to nádherný poklad, ktorý darovali malému Ježiškovi a ktorý bude reprezentovať naše Slovensko. Nie menej hodnotný skvost, ktorý bude zdobiť túto kaplnku je aj dar gréckokatolíckych pútnikov, ktorí darovali výnimočne krásnu ikonu - dojdíacu Pannu Máriu.

Na všetkom, čo sa urobilo pre Slovensko vo Svätej zemi, má najväčší podiel slovenský rodák ThDr. Ján Majerník. On nielenže Slovákov po Svätej zemi sprevádza, ale najviac sa pričínal o to, aby Slováci mali vo Svätej zemi svoj chrám - svoj dom Boží.

Táto nová kaplnka bude slúžiť mnohým pútnikom, ktorí navštívia v Betleheme sväté miesta spojené s narodením Ježiša Krista. Nech je pre všetkých veriacich kostolom, kde môžu prežiť hlbokú mystickú skúsenosť.

Účastníci púte

Košice oslavujú 350. výročie vzniku Universitas Cassoviensis

Košice (TASR) – Spoločným zasadnutím vedeckých rád vysokých škôl a fakúlt si 26. februára v Košiciach pripomenuli 350. výročie založenia Košickej univerzity - Universitas Cassoviensis.

Akademické slávnosti na počesť 350. výročia Košickej univerzity sa začali ráno svätou omšou v bývalom univerzitnom kostole, ktorú celebrol košický arcibiskup Alojz Tkáč. Prítomný bol aj predseda Konferencie biskupov Slovenska František Tondra.

Košickú univerzitu založil vydaním zakladajúcej listiny 26. februára 1657 pápežský biskup Benedikt Kišdy a odovzdal ju jezuitom. Zlatou bulou zo 7. septembra 1660 ju potvrdil cisár Leopold I., vzal ju pod svoju ochranu a preniesol na ňu všetky práva a výsady, ktoré mali ostatné univerzity v monarchii. Univerzita patrila medzi najvýznamnejšie vysoké školy vtedajšej Európy. Jej hlavnou úlohou bola príprava kňazov. Mala byť aj protireformačnou univerzitou na záchranu katolicizmu v Uhorsku a nástrojom Habsburgovcov na upevnenie ich panstva.

Košická univerzita mala právo udeľovať doktoráty, licenciáty a bakalareáty. Ročne na nej študovalo 400 - 600 študentov. V zmysle ustanovenia Ratio educationis Košickú univerzitu v roku 1777 pretvorili na Košickú akadémiu.

Na oslavách sa popri cirkevných hodnostároch a zástupcoch samosprávy a štátnej správy zúčastnili rektori a dekáni UPJŠ, košickej Teologickej fakulty Katolíckej univerzity (TF KU) v Ružomberku, Technickej univerzity (TU), Univerzity veterinárskeho lekárstva, bratislavskej Ekonomickej univerzity a najmladšej, len vlni založenej Vysoké školy bezpečnostného manažérstva v Košiciach. Len na TU študuje dnes vyše 16,000 poslucháčov.

Na Právnickej fakulte UPJŠ otvorili tematickú výstavu k výročiu. Akademické oslavy pokračovali vedeckou konferenciou na košickej TF KU a koncertom košickej štátnej filharmónie. Pôsobenie Universitas Cassoviensis pripomína dnes v Košiciach pamätná reliéfná tabuľa na pôvodne kráľovskom, neskôr jezuitskom dome a premonštrátnom kláštore na Hlavnej ulici.

Z činnosti Slovenského ústavu v Clevelande, Ohio

Slovenský ústav v Clevelande je inštitúcia, ktorá udržiava a zveľaďuje slovenské kultúrne a národné dedičstvo medzi americkými Slovákami a Slovákami po svete. Slovenský ústav bol založený 15. septembra 1952 ako slovenská organizácia, ktorá má udržiavať slovenského ducha medzi prichádzajúcimi a už žijúcimi Slovákami v USA. Medzi zakladateľov Slovenského ústavu patria: opát Teodor Kojiš, O.S.B., prvý predseda; Dr. František Hrušovský, riaditeľ; Rev. Andrej Pír, O.S.B., tajomník; Karol Strmeň, Dr. Jozef Cincík a Mikuláš Šprinc. Súčasným riaditeľom je Andrej F. Hudák Jr., jeho asistentom je Jozef J. Hornack a prezidentom je opát Clement Zelezník, O.S.B.

Činnosť Slovenského ústavu v súčasnosti nadobudla veľký význam medzi Slovákami v Amerike a žijúcimi po svete. Snaží sa udržiavať kontakty so spisovateľmi, historikmi v Amerike, na Slovensku i vo svete a poskytovať im žiaduce informácie. Ďalej dopĺňa archívy a knižnice, ktoré potrebujú materiál o spisovateľoch, historikoch, básnikoch a umelcoch, ktorí žili a tvorili v Amerike a zahraničí za posledných 85 rokov.

Slovenský ústav v Clevelande má veľké množstvo rozličných viazaných slovenských novín, časopisov a kalendárov od roku

1890 vydávaných v USA a Kanade, ktoré mieni zachovať pre ďalšie pokolenia. Preto plánuje projekt zmikrofilmovania týchto materiálov. Okrem toho našou snahou je zmikrofilmovať všetky v Amerike vydávané slovenské noviny, časopisy a kalendáre. Podľa predbežného odhadu pôjde o odfotofovanie asi 300 rozličných ročníkov novín, asi 120,000 až 250,000 strán. Ide o najväčšiu tohto druhu potrebnú prácu na kultúrnom americko-slovenskom poli. Slovenský ústav chce urobiť štyri kópie z takto odfotofovaného materiálu. Jeden exemplár plánuje darovať US Library of Congress, druhý Slovenskej národnej knižnici na Slovensku a ďalšie rozmiestniť tak, aby boli k dispozícii v archívoch na Slovensku ako aj v USA. Celý projekt sa bude realizovať niekoľko rokov a suma na jeho uskutočnenie nie je ustálená. Jedná sa približne o 65,000 US dolárov. Zmikrofilmovanie slovenských novín, časopisov a kalendárov je mimoriadne dôležitým činom, a ak sa projekt ukončí budeme prvou národnostnou skupinou, ktorá bude zastúpená v Kongresovej knižnici.

S pozdravom Kristu a národu odaný

Andrej F. Hudák
Riaditeľ Slovenského ústavu
v Clevelande

Do Myjavy mieri americký investor

Myjava (TASR) – Americká spoločnosť Seisa Medical so sídlom v Texase plánuje investovať do výstavby závodu v Myjave. Pracovať by v ňom malo postupne 500 zamestnancov, predovšetkým žien. Hovorca mesta Marek Hrin informoval, že majiteľ spoločnosti Julio Chiu a primátor Myjavy Pavel Halabrin podpísali 9. februára 2007 zmluvu o vstupe dcérskej firmy Seisa Europe do priemyselného parku Javorinska. "Ide o mimoriadne atraktívneho investora podnikajúceho v oblasti výroby zdravotníckych subkomponentov, ktorý zásobuje predovšetkým americký trh. Prevádzka v Myjave bude jeho prvou európskou pobočkou vôbec," uviedol Hrin. Produkcia závodu, ktorý by mal začať vyrábať na jeseň 2007, bude smerovať na export do Dánska, Írska a Španielska. "Pôjde o výrobu v ochrannom atmosfére, s vysokou čistotou prostredia, ktorá si vyžaduje veľkú citlivosť, jemnosť a trpezlivosť," konštatoval hovorca mesta. V júni 2007 by sa malo začať v Myjave školenie prvých pracovníkov vo výrobe. Zamestnancom na vyšších postoch zabezpečí firma odborné školenie v Texase. Do konca tohto roka má v prevádzke pracovať približne 150 ľudí. Podľa primátora nový investor zvýši hospodársky i ekonomický kredit regiónu a pomôže znížiť nezamestnanosť.

Výroba piva na Slovensku

(odhad za rok 2006, v tis. hl)

