

Jednota

THE UNION

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

Volume 116

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2007

Number 5764



L-R National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr., Idka Rajec, Silvia Gasparovic, President Ivan Gasparovic, and National President Andrew Rajec.

Slovak Republic President Ivan Gasparovic Participates at New Jersey Festival

On Sunday, September 23, 2007, the New Jersey Slovak Festival was held at the New Jersey Arts Center in Holmdel, New Jersey. This was the 30th time that this festival has been held. An estimated crowd of 10,000 people attended this year's event.

People began arriving at 9:00 a.m., some from great distances, and all to be part of this extraordinary festival that highlights Slovak culture in the United States.

Festivities got underway at 11:00 a.m. with a Mass celebrated by the Rev. Jan Sokol, Metropolitan and Archbishop of the Bratislava-Trnava Archdiocese and assisted by six Slovak priests. During the Mass the popular singer Jozef Ivaska and his son Jozef Ivaska Jr. sang Ave Maria. Archbishop Sokol was also the homilist.

After the liturgy, people had the opportunity to order food from the many food vendors at the festival. There were also a variety of products from Slovakia for sale, including ceramics, paintings, dolls, books costumes, music tapes and CDs.

The cultural program began at 2:00 p.m. The program was opened by John Duch and Nina Holy. Both welcomed Archbishop Sokol, Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic and his wife Silvia, Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer, Slovak U.N. Representative Peter Burian, and Daniel Tanzone, President of the Slovak League of America. Other dignitaries present included FCSU National President Andrew Rajec and his wife Idka, and FCSU National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr. President Rajec and Vice President Harcar were available at a booth at the festival to answer inquiries and distribute informational material on the FCSU.

Renata Jurasi led in the singing of the

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FCSU Reintroduces Senior Promotion Program

The Officers and Board of Directors of the First Catholic Slovak Union will introduce a number of programs in the coming months for the benefit of our membership. Back by popular demand is our Senior Promotion Program. This program will be available from October 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Initial Program (Current Members)

The Senior Promotion Program is directed to all current members between the ages of 55 and 80. Each member in this age group, subject to current reasonably good health, may purchase the amount of Whole Life insurance that a \$200.00 annual premium will purchase, based on their current age. See the attached Life Insurance Chart. To help offset the cost for the first year, a special fraternal dividend equal to 50% of the first year premium, amounting to \$100, will be provided to each participating member. This means that if each member takes advantage of the Society's offer, they will not only increase their family's life insurance protection, but will receive a generous fraternal dividend.

Application

As part of the effort to encourage as many members as possible to take advantage of this offer, the normal full length application (AJ-2) will not be required for the members participating in this program. Applicants will be required to complete the much shorter (SF-1) Application. Normal underwriting will be waived except for serious illnesses, injury, or medical conditions, which required medical treatment or hospitalization in the last five years. This is not a guaranteed issue program. The FCSU may require the applicant to take

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Former National Vice President Joseph Rimarcik Sr. Celebrates 96th Birthday



Joseph Rimarcik Sr.

Long time Jednota member Joseph Rimarcik Sr. of Sterling Heights, Michigan, celebrated his 96th birthday on August 28, 2007. Brother Rimarcik has served as National Vice President for Michigan and as an officer and president of Branch 743 in Detroit. Attending his birthday celebration were his wife Susan Rimarcik and their children, Joseph C. (Dianna) Rimarcik Jr., Arlene (Jim) Austin, Eleanor (Milan) Straka, and Susan (Mark) Wietchy. Joseph and Susan have 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Brother Rimarcik would be pleased to hear from his friends. Greetings may be sent to: 37157 Tericrest, Sterling Heights, MI 48310.

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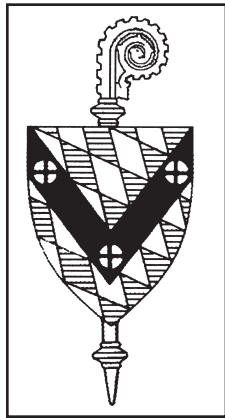
From the desk of the ...

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Exciting news!!

Now you are able to receive life insurance quotes on all our products from our website!! Our website address is www.fcsu.com. To assist you with quotes, click on quotes and then follow the directions, fill in the blanks and you will immediately know the information you are seeking. All Branch Officers, Recommenders and Proposers should take advantage of this useful tool available to everyone now.

If you have any questions, please contact our Home Office at 800-533-6682.

Insights and Viewpoints



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

October 28, 2007

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Summary

Luke introduces the parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector with the statement that it is addressed "to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else." Two men go up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee, standing in a prominent place, thanks God that he is not like the rest of humanity—or even like the tax collector he

had noticed. He also reminds God that he fasts twice a week, and pays tithes on his whole income. The tax collector, standing at a distance, beats his breast and prays, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus then remarks that the tax collector who humbled himself before God went home justified, not the Pharisee who had exalted himself.

Life Implications

Jesus chose to make the Pharisee a principal character of his parable because Pharisees were the most highly respected religious group in the community. Pharisees were intensely committed to the religious traditions of the people. They refused any collaboration with the occupying Roman military power. They kept the commandments, voluntarily fasted beyond the obligatory annual day of fasting, and even cut down on their standard of living to support the needs of the temple.

Jesus chose a tax collector as the opposite principal character because tax collectors were generally held in contempt by the people. They were not only collaborators with the hated Roman oppressors, but by collecting funds to support a corrupt imperial system, made it impossible for many people to fulfill their financial obligations to the temple. These petty government officials were adept at defrauding people by various strong-arm methods, and were regarded as no better than robbers.

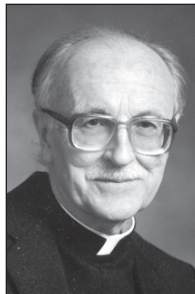
The Pharisee of the parable had every good reason to thank God for the worthiness of his own life, and to despise the tax collector as one who was a threat not only to the temple, but to everything that was worthwhile and holy. When Jesus at the conclusion of his parable remarked that the tax collector went home justified, not the Pharisee, it must have seemed like a shockingly unfair conclusion. He had taken the risk of pressing the parable to the edge of unfairness in order to teach something essential about the way we stand with God.

Jesus in his parable obviously is not advocating collaboration with an oppressive military power, cheating people, moral relativism, or much less, forbidding evaluation of evil behavior or false teaching. The Pharisee is condemned because he assumed God's role in judging the spiritual worth of a fellow human being. He exalted himself above the rest of humanity, and despised another through the comparisons he fashioned in his prayer.

It is incidental whether the Pharisee or the tax collector is the one who exalts himself to in the sight of God. In today's culture, Jesus would probably have someone like the tax collector exalt himself and despise others in his prayer: "God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—do-gooders and church-going Pharisees. I may be greedy, dishonest, and adulterous, but I am grateful not to be a hypocrite like them." The desire to exalt oneself can always find a reason—even one's humility.

Today at our Eucharist we ask to be freed from illusions that we have fashioned about ourselves, and pray for the grace of sharing in Christ's humility. Through his authentic humility, we will be able to stand before God in our own unique truth, and thus make it possible to receive divine mercy and go home justified.

Luke 18:9-14



*Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.*

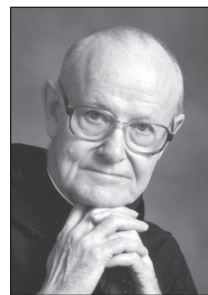
November 4, 2007

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Summary

Jesus has now arrived at Jericho and so his long journey to Jerusalem, as described in Luke's gospel, is almost over. He has been modeling for us our own journey of faith and when he meets Zachaeus he reminds us that it will not be possible to go with him all the way to cross and resurrection without total generosity.

In the previous chapter, the rich ruler cannot abandon his wealth in order to follow Jesus (18:18). By contrast, Zachaeus is happy to share half of his possessions with the poor. The wealthy ruler appears to be pious and observant, whereas Zachaeus has been collecting taxes for the hated Roman occupiers of his country. Nonetheless, he is the one who is looking for Jesus and he is the one with whom Jesus wishes to be associated.



*Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.*

Much has been made of the fact that Zachaeus was "short of stature," so that he had to climb a sycamore tree in order to see, and be seen by, Jesus. Today we would say that he was a little man with a big heart!

Life Implications

The gospel tells us that Zachaeus was a rich man. We may assume, therefore, that he was not like most of us, who would no doubt be surprised if someone should call us rich. Nonetheless, we are indeed wealthy in many significant ways--in talent, in opportunities, in friendships. And so we need to ask ourselves whether we are as generous as was Zachaeus in using our own gifts. Do we think that much about the poor? Do we realize that the "poor" are often those who need a kind word or a friendly smile?

This gospel story reminds us also that we must be very careful not to judge others because of their appearance. We are told that those who accompanied Jesus began to grumble when he chose to be a guest of this marginal Jew, who seemed to be collaborating with the Romans. As a matter of fact, however, this was one of those jobs that someone had to do. The real world is not as neat as we might like it to be. The point is that Zachaeus "redeemed" his unsavory work by the generosity that he brought to it.

It should also be noted that Zachaeus did not live in the illusion of self-sufficiency. He knew that somehow his life was incomplete without Jesus. And he did not allow his short stature to become an excuse for not seeking Jesus. Nor did Jesus consider his "inadequacy" to be an obstacle. Jesus wants to be a guest in all our houses. Our desire to welcome him will easily cancel any feelings of unworthiness that may hold us back.

Zachaeus had to make a conscious effort to climb that sycamore tree and he may even have exposed himself to ridicule. We too must actually seek out Jesus and not be afraid to be laughed at by those who do not think that seeking God is important. Our faith tells us that this is the way of wisdom and therefore the proverbial "last laugh" will be ours in the happiness of final union with our loving God.

JEDNOTA

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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, OCTOBER 31

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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:

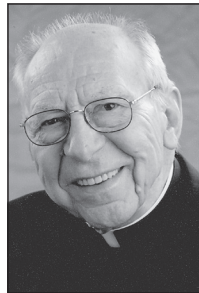
Anthony Sutherland, Editor

"JEDNOTA"

1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057-4835

FAX: (717) 944-3107

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Sophronius, Part II

(Continued from the October 3, 2007 issue)

The rule of law in Islam is theocratic. Separation of religion and state does not exist because there is no religion other than Islam and Islam is both religion and state.

Sharia is the name given to Islamic law. This is a system of devising laws based on the Qur'an (the religious text of Islam), "hadith," sayings of Muhammad and centuries of debate, interpretation and precedent. This law is divided into two parts: acts of worship (al-ibadat) and human interaction (al-mu'amalat). Muslim scholars believe that Sharia should be legally binding on all people of the Muslim faith and also upon those under Muslim control. Islam has no clergy (See Imam below). It divides people into Muslims and People of the Book (ahl-al-kitab): Christians, Jews, Sabians, Zoroastrians and Mandeans, and, the pagans (kafirun). Specific customs in the daily lives of the Muslims can be traced back to Abrahamic traditions in Pre-Islamic Arabian society.

These people of the Book are referred to as dhimmis. Dhimmis can live in Muslim society with more privileges than the pagans. However, they are to convert to Islam or face the death penalty by way of jihad. Sufficient time is given to the dhimmis to convert before the Muslim army attacks. Osama bin Laden in his appearance on television, September 9, 2007, said to us in the United States regarding the present war in Iraq: "There are two solutions to stopping it. One is from our side, and it is to escalate the fighting and killing against you. This is our duty, and our brothers are carrying it out. The second is from your side. I invite you to embrace Islam." We and the Muslims are engaged now in a war not for territory, not for oil, not for democracy but for the triumph of Islam over all dhimmis and pagans. This is the Islamic view regardless of whatever other reasons we may have had in first attacking Iraq. Jihad has been awakened with ferocity and no one knows how to put it back to sleep.

Imam (Leader) is a word used primarily in a religious text. The Shiites and the Sunni, the two sects in Islam, however, differ in their understanding of the term.

The Shiites believe that Muhammad, the last prophet, decreed that the number of Imams (leaders) after him would be twelve and he chose the first one, Ali ibn Abu Talib, his cousin and son-in-law. Ali was the first Imam (leader as opposed to prophet) and his successors would be his direct descendants. An Imam has direct contact with God. He is infallible, can interpret the Qur'an, make new laws and has the right to be a Caliph. Only these Imams can become Caliphs. These twelve imams are known as the Twelvers (Ithna'ashariyya). The twelfth one, Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi, is in secrecy and will appear at the direction of God when the world is in peril and all the combined leaders of the nations fail in securing peace.

The Sunni, on the other hand, do not believe in the institution of Imams as described above. For the Sunni, the primary sources of Islam are Muhammad and the Qur'an. For the Shiites, differing with an Imam in any way is differing with Muhammad himself. And this is considered a grave sin.

In times past, these differences were a matter of intellectual debate and there was no violence against one another. Today, these differences have become emotional and the killing of each other is the norm. For the Sunni, the Imam is merely the leader of prayers.

The First Crusade was launched by Pope Urban II in 1095 at the appeal of the Byzantine Christian Emperor Alexius Comnenus to prevent the death of the empire at the hands of the Muslims. This was 458 years after the Caliph Umar captured Jerusalem. In the interim, Christians were persecuted through crucifixion, through having to pay money to the Muslims, to being denied the display of crosses, through seeing the destruction of their churches, etc. This crusade was to seek the return of Christian land and to reestablish the Christian way of life. The First Crusade was a defensive act.

FROM THE DESK OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARY:

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION ANNUITY INTEREST RATE INCREASES THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2007

Effective April 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 DECEMBER 31, 2007.

**Kenneth A. Arendt
National Secretary**

As I See It Rudolph L. Gregus

Our Responsibility for Others

The Second Vatican Council has called us to envision the Church as the people of God. As a community of believers we are responsible for our brothers and sisters, their salvation, their journey of faith, their physical well-being. Many of the documents of Vatican II and volumes of work since the mid 1960s give us advice, guidelines and encouragement to take care of one another: the poor, the elderly, the unborn, the broken, the infirm. Because Vatican II is part of our recent history—indeed many of us were already born—this may strike us as a new and revolutionary idea. But today it is to us the agelessness of the issue of social justice. Eight hundred years before Christ was born, Amos warned the wealthy not to cheat the poor. In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he encourages all prayers to be for all people; and finally, the Gospel urges the wise use of money.

Another Approach

Who had the bright idea of building a fence around the Mexican-United States border to keep out the immigrants? What a phenomenal waste of money! No matter how high or how low the fence, people who are desperate will find a way to enter our country.

How about taking all the money it would cost to build that fence and use it to build housing, schools and factories that produce jobs. No people want to leave their homeland. It is heartbreaking to leave family and friends. If living conditions were upgraded, if the unemployed had work to support their families, if farmers were encouraged to grow produce for their own kinsmen, do you think we would have this immigration problem? If the standard of living improved, the Mexican people would be only too happy to remain in their native land.

Let us send some of our so-called experts who are experienced in dealing with these situations to assess what is needed and spend the money on the people, not the fence.

There will always be people who desire to live in the United States, but they wouldn't be forced to come because their families are starving, desperate and hopeless. Instead of drawing hostility by building wire fences, we would have their eternal thanks. If this plan works, they may even decide to repay us one day.

"Good fences make good neighbors." I do not think so, not in this volatile situation.

**[Mary Moussot, Bronx, Catholic New York]
Old Age**

The other day a young person asked me how I felt about being old. I was surprised, for I do not think of myself as old. Upon seeing my reaction, she was immediately embarrassed, but I explained that it was an interesting question and I would ponder it and answer that question.

I am now the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometimes despair over my body, the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror (who looks like my grandmother!), but I do not agonize over these things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I have become more kind to myself and less critical of myself.

I do not chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed. I am entitled to a treat. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to sleep until noon?

I like to listen to those wonderful tunes of the 60s and 70s. I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. So, to answer the question, I am well satisfied being old. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day, if I feel like it.

[Reflections of a Man in the Independent Senior Citizen Home]



Help Needed to Locate Artesian Wells on the Jednota Estates

The officers of the First Catholic Slovak Union are asking for assistance in locating the three artesian wells on the Jednota Estates in Middletown, Pennsylvania. It is hoped that perhaps one of the senior members might have knowledge about these artesian wells. Any help will be appreciated. If you have any information on the artesian wells you are asked to contact National President Andrew Rajec at FCSU Corporate Center, 6611 Rockside Road, Independence, OH 44131-2398 or phone 1/800-JEDNOTA.



Rudolph L. Gregus

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2007

HOME OFFICE • INDEPENDENCE, OHIO

OPEN

President Andrew M. Rajec called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. and led the 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 JULY MEETING MINUTES

The Executive Secretary presented the minutes of the July 2007 Executive Committee Meeting. A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George F. Matta to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S STOCK AND BOND REPORT

Treasurer George Matta passed out a written report summarizing the investments for the month of July 2007 and answered the questions of the Executive Committee. (The report is attached to the minutes).

The Treasurer led a discussion concerning the Mortgage Loan Industry and how it is effecting our economy.

A motion was made Kenneth Arendt and seconded by Andrew Harcar to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

July 2007 Treasurer's Report

Aa3/A	BANK OF N.Y./MELLON	6.15	07-15-22	100.00	6.15	300K
	CALLABLE 07-15-10					
MERRILL LYNCH						
A1/A	MERRILL LYNCH	6.22	09-15-26	97.00	6.495	400K
	NONCALL					
AA2/AA	PROTECTIVE LIFE	6.35	07-15-27	100.00	6.35	300K
	CALLABLE 07-15-10					
A1/A	HARTFORD LIFE	6.15	08-15-22	100.00	6.15	300K
	CALLABLE 08-15-10					
SMITH BARNEY UNC						
Aaa/AAA	FED HOME LOAN	6.12	07-25-17	100.00	6.12	500K
	CALLABLE 07-25-08					
FERRIS BAKER WATTS INC						
A/A	SOUTH WEST BELL TELE	7.00	11-15-27	102.58	6.86	300K
	CALLABLE 11-15-07			at 102.58	YTC 6.794	
BPU INVESTMENT MGT						
AA3/A+	HOME DEPOT	5.40	03-01-16	94.115	6.294	500K
	NONCALL					
A1/A+	GOLDMAN SACHS	5.625	01-15-17	95.437	6.27	300K
	NONCALL					
AA3/AJP	MORGAN CAPITAL	6.875	PREFERRED	25.00	6.875	300K
	CALLABLE 08-01-12					

MORTGAGES AND OVERDUE MORTGAGES

The Executive Secretary presented the report for the month of July 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 July:

DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2007

Death Benefits & Accumulations	\$177,166.38
Cash Withdrawals & Accumulations	\$ 31,474.92
Matured Endowments & Accumulations	-0-
Trust Fund	-0-

The Executive Secretary presented the Membership and Annuity Report.

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

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by George Matta to accept the Secretary's Reports as presented. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORTEmployees Pension Fund – Vesting – Investments

The President read a letter from David Chan of Bruce & Bruce, with the information regarding the Pension Plan and the change in the vesting provision. Due to the provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 a new vesting provision must be adopted, but the new vesting schedule cannot be less favorable than the existing pension vesting schedule. The new vesting schedule must be in effect as of January 2007.

A motion was made by Kenneth Arendt and seconded by George Matta to initiate a new 4 year rated investing schedule as presented by Ed DePersis' office.

Motion carried.

The Executive Secretary stated that this will be implemented into the Employee Handbook.

Asset Management – Update

The President led a discussion concerning our monthly report we received from Merrill Lynch concerning our Stock Portfolio. This is constantly reviewed by our Executive Committee.

Update on the Slovak Catholic Sokol Convention

The President and the Executive Secretary led a discussion concerning the Slovak Catholic Sokol Convention where they represented our Society.

NEW ANNUITY REPORT

There was a lengthy discussion regarding a new Annuity Program. It was decided to put this on hold until the Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting which will take place on September 14 and 15, 2007.

FOLLOW UPS ON JULY 20, 2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The President led a discussion on follow-ups from the July 2007 meeting and the following agenda was reviewed:

a) In House Agent – The hiring of an In House Agent was put on hold.

b) Newspaper – It was decided that we will cut 1 (one) issue of the Jednota this year and next year there will be 21 issues instead of 26.

SALES

The Vice President updated the Executive Committee on the report on the renewal of JEP policies.

The Vice President led a discussion concerning the monthly sales report and the new Senior Promotion Program that will run from October 1, 2007 thru March 31, 2008. This will be the same program we very successfully introduced in 1999 for members and non-members between ages 55-80. Details of this program will be mailed to the Recommenders and Branch Officers.

SEMINARS

The Vice President stated that he is planning to have three seminar presentations this fall: Milwaukee, Wisconsin on October 7, 2007; Linden, New Jersey on October 14, 2007; and Youngstown, Ohio on October 28, 2007.

The invitations for the seminars will be mailed out by the Home Office.

MEMBERSHIP MEET AND GOLFING TOURNAMENT

a) Membership Meet

The Vice President led a discussion regarding our most recent Membership Meet and said that everything went well, everybody present had an enjoyable time and that he is in process of planning another Membership Meet after the 1st of January, 2008. The date and place of this will be discussed at a later date.

b) Golfing Tournament

The President and the Executive Secretary represented the Home Office at the Golfing Tournament, held on July 21 & 22, 2007 in Huron, Ohio.

The President led a discussion regarding the possibility of revising the format of our Golfing and Bowling Tournaments. He suggested that a "Family Fun Day" be included in both tournaments. This will be discussed at a later date with the Director of Fraternal Activities.

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

MIDDLETOWN

a) Printery - Update – The President updated the Executive Committee on leasing of our Printery Building. He informed the Executive Committee about his meeting with Mark Coakley, of NAI CIR, Commercial-Industrial Realty Company, who updated the President with present listing conditions in the area.

b) Development Plan - Update – The President led a discussion concerning the Development Plan and updated the Executive Committee about the most current developments presented by Kevin Fry from C.B. Richard Ellis Real Estate Company.

RECESS OF SESSION

At this time the Executive Committee broke for lunch.

SECOND SESSION

Friday Afternoon, August 17, 2007 – Meeting back to order.

BRANCH MERGERS & INDIVIDUAL TRANSFERS

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive Committee that he completed two Branch mergers and that he is looking into possibly three more. There will be a study to review inactive Branches and eventually merge them with active Branches.

The Executive Secretary further informed the Executive Committee that all the individual transfers have been reviewed and completed.

CANADA BUSINESS

The President asked the General Counsel to present his report at the Board of Directors Meeting on September 14 & 15, 2007.

THE SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL IN HOLMDEL, NJ

The President stated that we will have a booth at the 30th Annual Slovak Heritage Festival in Holmdel, NJ on September 23, 2007. He said that we will be passing out the Jednota newspaper and information about the products our Society offers.

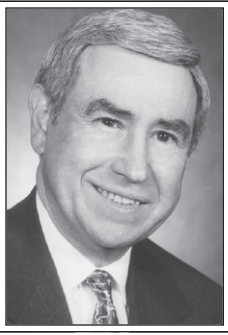
STATE LICENSES

The President asked Ed DePersis to look into possibility of being licensed in states we are not licensed in. He will give more information regarding this matter as it becomes available.

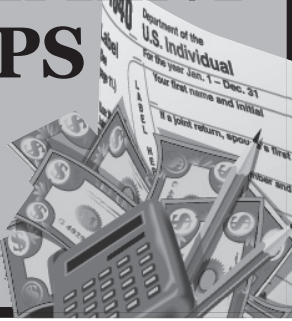
SEMIANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The President went over the upcoming Semi-Annual Board of Directors Meeting, held

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By Joseph T. Senko
 Certified Public Accountant
 Certified Financial Planner
 Personal Financial Specialist
 (AICPA)



How to Stay Out of Debt This Holiday Season

For many, overspending has become an unwelcome holiday tradition. Holiday debt lasts long after gifts have been unwrapped and the toys have been tossed aside. You can avoid holiday overspending. Here are some strategies you should consider.

Set a Budget

Take a hard look at your income and expenses, then decide how much you can afford to spend without going into debt. Make a list of everyone for whom you plan to buy gifts, and estimate how much you want to spend on each person. Be sure to include small gifts to teachers, babysitters, and newspaper carriers, as well as the cost of nongift, holiday-related spending, such as food, decorations, clothing, and mailing and shipping packages.

Add up the figures on your gift list, compare the total to your budgeted amount, and make the necessary adjustments. As you shop, keep track of your purchases so you don't exceed the limit for each person on your list.

Be Creative

Are there people on your list who would like a homemade gift? Use your talent to bake cakes or cookies, knit a scarf, or frame a favorite family photograph.

Space It Out

You're more likely to overspend when you're in a panic to find a suitable gift at the last minute. Rather than doing your shopping at the last minute, seek out sales and bargains as far in advance as possible.

Increase Your Holiday Income

During the holiday season, there are many opportunities to make extra money. Many retailers hire part-time workers for the holiday season, and offer generous discounts to employees.

Paying With Cash or Credit

As a general rule, you should avoid using credit cards for holiday purchases. Unless you pay off all your credit card bills at the end of the month, those purchases can end up costing you more due to interest.

If-and only if- you are sure you can pay the balance off when the bill arrives, consider using a credit card that provides discounts, airline miles, or extended warranties. For example, many retailers who have their own credit cards offer discounts of 20 percent or more when you use the store's card to make purchases. You might also consider using a credit card when buying big-ticket items because, in some cases, if you are dissatisfied with a credit card purchase, you have the right to file a dispute.

Avoid Delayed Payment Deals

"No payments due until 2008" deals tend to come with very high interest rates and penalties if you don't pay by the designated date. Be sure to read the fine print before agreeing to one of these deals.

If you find yourself overspending, commit to setting up a holiday savings account for next year. Determine how much you can afford to spend and divide the total by 12. That's how much you need to save each month. To make it foolproof, arrange for automatic transfers from your checking account or your paycheck into your holiday savings account. When you get your check in the fall and start shopping, you can use cash instead of credit.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

continued from page 4

on September 14 & 15, 2007 at the Home Office.

REQUEST FOR ADS AND DONATIONS

Requests were reviewed and acted upon.

ADJOURN

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

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
 President

Kenneth A. Arendt
 Executive Secretary

"Meat Bingo" at Allentown Parish

A "Meat Bingo" will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2007, at St. John the Baptist Slovak Catholic Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Doors open at 12:00 noon. Bingo begins at 1:00 p.m. Donations are \$5.00 plus specials. Refreshments will be available. For information call Bill Drost at 610/432-3505 or Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614.

Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity – Currently Earning 5.00% (4.879 APR)

Under the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity, you may make periodic payments into an annuity fund that accumulates interest at, or greater than, the guaranteed rate. You can open the account with as little as \$500.00 and make additional deposits (\$25.00 minimum) as your financial situation allows. Additional deposits are not mandatory.

At the retirement age you choose, the funds accumulated in the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity may be withdrawn using any of the FCSU's lump sum or periodic income settlement options.

Features of the Flexible Premium Deferred Annuity include:

- The FCSU guarantees your deposits will accumulate interest at no less than 3.0%.
- 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)

Slovak Tri-Concert and Dinner on November 10

The 10th Annual Slovak Tri-Concert and Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007, at Pokrova Hall, 6812 Broadview Road, Parma, Ohio. The Tri-Concert is sponsored by the Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland, Ohio. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Slovak folklore concert at 7:30 p.m..

Joining the host Lucina Slovak Folk Ensemble will be the folk ensembles Lucinka Children's Ensemble, Sarisan of Detroit, and Domovina of Windsor, Ontario. Music for dancing will be provided by Dolina.

Tickets are \$25.00 and that includes a full course dinner and the concert. A cash bar is available. For tickets call 440/543-5197 in Chagrin, 216/524-7679 in Seven Hills, and 440/263-1573 in North Royalton.

FCSU Life Single Premium Insurance Fall Special

Purchase Single Premium Whole Life Insurance coverage for your children or grandchildren now through December 31, 2007 and receive a *FREE GIFT to present with the certificate.

Pay one premium and have fully paid-up insurance. Issued in any amount (\$5,000 or more) subject to current FCSU Life non-medical limits. Excellent gift for children or grandchildren.



Example – Newborn Male		Example – Newborn Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$290	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$250
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$580	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$500
Example – Age 5 Male		Example – Age 5 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$290
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$680	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$580
Example – Age 10 Male		Example – Age 10 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$400	\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$340
\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$800	\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$680
Example – Age 15 Male		Example – Age 15 Female	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance	\$480	\$5,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$405
\$10,000 paid-up insurance.....	\$960	\$10,000 paid-up insurance	\$810

Contact your branch office or to learn more call the FCSU today at 1-800-533-6682

*Children 8 and under receive a stuffed Jednota Bear. Children 9-18 receive a gift card!

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 5P — EXETER, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Evangelist Society, Branch 5P, will hold its Quarterly Meeting on Monday, November 5, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of President Leonard J. Zavada, 141 Second Street, Wyoming, Pennsylvania. On the agenda will be the nomination and election of officers for 2008 and a discussion on ways we can improve our sales techniques and our image in the community. All members are invited to attend.

Leonard J. Zavada, President

Branch 6P — PORT GRIFFITH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Valentine Society, Branch 6P, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 21, 2007, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the home of Edmund W. Zigmund, 1371 Main Street, Port Griffith, Pennsylvania. Members interested in becoming officers are needed.

Edmund W. Zigmund, President

Branch 19 — BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 19, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007. All members are cordially invited to attend. A Mass will be offered at 8:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 79 Church Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. Following the Mass, members are asked to return to the lower level of the church where our regular meeting will be held. Refreshments will be served in the church hall following the liturgy.

At the meeting, the John A. Zahor Scholarships will be awarded to the following: Alexander Ciejka, Nicole Copertino, Victoria Danielczuk, Gregory Kodz, Justine Linahan, Katherine Mineese, Kira Novak, Paul Quaglioroli, and James Wanta. The Andrew J. Imbro Grants will also be given at this time to the following: Timothy Fico, Tracy Hackett, Robert Lumas and Susan Misur. These funds are given to members for their college expenses in memory of John A. Zahor and Andrew J. Imbro in recognition of the many years they served Branch 19 and their deep interest in the young members.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, now named the Rev. Matthew Jankola Hall. The election of officers will also take place at this meeting.

We hope our members will take advantage of these meetings and join us.

Henry Zack, Recording Secretary

Branch 40 — STREATOR, ILLINOIS

The St. Clement Society, Branch 40, will hold a special meeting on Saturday, October 20, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in St. Stephen's Cafeteria, Streator, Illinois. The main purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the criteria for the two scholarships given each year by Branch 40. Be sure to attend. Your input is needed.

Maria Harcar, Financial Secretary

Branch 45 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Matthew the Evangelist Society, Branch 45, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. after the Slovak Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church, 66th Street and First Avenue, New York City. On the agenda will be a financial

report, officers' reports, a report on last year's activities, and a discussion of events for the coming year. The election of officers will also take place. We urge all members to attend this meeting.

Joseph Jurasi, President

Branch 55 — PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 55, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Church Hall of St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The election of officers and other business relating to the lodge will be conducted. Refreshments will be served. Call 610/356-7956 or 215/637-6530 for directions.

Josephine E. Gerba, Secretary

Branch 112 — MAHANOEY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 112, will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Refreshments will be served.

The Annual Meeting and Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at 86 Spring Street, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will take place. Light refreshments will be served. Please call Karen Sterling at 570/544-6694 for directions.

Karen Sterling

Branch 162 — UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wendelin Society, Branch 162, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor meeting room of the Meridian Point Apartments, Confer Vista Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Branch activities will be discussed and the election of officers will take place. All members are invited to attend.

Dolores Marmol, Secretary

Branch 254 — PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Wenceslaus Society, Branch 254, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 28, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the Eat' N Park, Chartier Avenue, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. The primary purpose of the meeting is to welcome the members of the former Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 95, which recently merged with Branch 254.

Albina Senko, Secretary/Treasurer

Branch 320 — Stockdale, Pennsylvania

The officers of the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the residence of Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will be held and other pertinent business will be discussed. Since a Christmas Lunch will be served, please call Fran at 724/929-9788 and let her know if you will be attending.

Mary Anne Higginbotham, President

Branch 380 — CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Ignatius Society, Branch 380, will hold its Semiannual Meeting and Lunch on Sunday, October 28, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at 236 West Pike Street, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

On the agenda will be the election officers.

Margaret Graytok, Financial Secretary

Branch 393 — HANNASTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 393, will hold a meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the home of John and Mary Ann Nalevanko, 459 Front Street, Hannastown Road. All members are invited to attend.

Mary Ann Nalevanko, Secretary

Branch 401 — VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 401, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 25, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at the King's Family Restaurant. On the agenda will be the election officers. Annual activities and insurance topics will also be discussed. All members are invited to attend and especially those interested in becoming officers. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Any members celebrating wedding anniversaries of fifty years or more are requested to send names and information to Rose Froncek, 143 Iron Bridge Rd., Ford City, PA 16226. Any items of family interest that you would like to share with other members can also be sent to Rose Froncek for publication in the Jednota newspaper.

Rose Froncek, Secretary

Branch 430 — SIMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 430, held a meeting on September 16, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the home of President Elizabeth M. Pisarcik.

Elizabeth M. Pisarcik, President

Branch 450 — CLEVELAND, OHIO

The St. Joseph the Guardian Society, Branch 450, will hold a meeting on Friday, October 26, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Jozef Valencik, 13501 Park Drive, Brook Park, Ohio. The main topic of discussion will be the Senior Promotion Life Insurance program for ages 55 to 80. All members are urged to attend.

Margaret Valencik, Financial Secretary

Branch 567 — ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 567, will hold a meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in St. John the Baptist Church Social Hall, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Members are urged to attend and to take an interest in their branch.

We are planning a Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on November 17. We will make final plans soon. May God Bless and watch over you.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

Branch 587 — ALIQUIPPA, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 587, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at Alexander's Restaurant, 720 Merchant Street, Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The election of officers will be held. All members are welcome to attend. For reservations call 724/375-2282 by November 8.

Edith L. Valo, Financial Secretary

Branch 600 — Leechburg, Pennsylvania

The St. Mary Society, Branch 600, will hold a meeting and election of officers on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 P.M. at John's Tours Office, Route 66 in the Village of River-view. All members are invited to attend.

John Mago, President

Branch 670 — DONORA, PENNSYLVANIA

The officers of the St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 670, invite their members to attend the next meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 12:00 noon at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend.

Dorothy Petrus, President

Branch 706 — SOUTH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 706, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 3, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at the home Treasurer Art Fayta, 1544 Rokosz Lane, Dyer, Indiana. The Election of Officers for the coming year, the annual audit, and a discussion of new products are some of the items on the agenda. If you plan to attend, please call Art at 219/864-8251 so arrangements can be made.

The Slovak Christmas Tree will be decorated at the Museum of Science & Industry in Chicago on November 10, 2007, by the Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District Christmas Tree Committee. This will be the twelfth year the District has undertaken this project.

Art Fayta, Treasurer

Branch 716 — NEW YORK CITY

The St. Stephen the Martyr Society, Branch 716, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 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 financial and officers' reports, the election of officers, and a discussion of plans for the coming year. All members are urged to attend this meeting.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary

Branch 731 — YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 731, will have its annual Mass for the deceased members of the Branch on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. at Saint Matthias Church. We encourage everyone to participate at this Mass.

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will take place on Sunday, December 16, 2007, at 12:30 p.m. in Saint Matthias Church Rectory.

We look forward to seeing you.

James Bobby, Secretary

Branch 746— LINDEN, NEW JERSEY

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, October 21, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room of the Msgr. Komar Hall of Holy Family Church, Linden, New Jersey. On the agenda will be a discussion and planning for a Christmas get-together, as well as finalizing plans for the Dinner Dance on November 17, 2007. Please bring your suggestions. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District will hold its Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on Sunday, October 21, 2007, at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. A short period of fraternal fellowship will commence at 1:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Please note section 4.05 (g) of the current FCSU Bylaws (page 14) stipulates that branches which wish to receive the \$4.00 per member payment from the Home Office must send "a branch representative to at least one (1) district meeting per calendar year. Those in attendance at the district meeting may vote to provide a branch with an excused absence."

Attendees will enjoy a catered dinner. If you plan to attend, please notify district president John Jurcenko at 773/763-0810.

Robert Tapak Magruder, Recording Secretary

MSGR. STEPHEN KRASULA DISTRICT — New York

The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Yonkers, New York. On the agenda will be a financial report, a discussion of next year's program, and the election of officers for 2008. Other business will also be discussed.

We urge all District branches to send representatives to this meeting. All other members of the FCSU are also welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served by host Branch 41.

Henrieta H. Daitova, Secretary-Treasurer

MSGR. ANDREW HLINKA DISTRICT — Monongahela Valley, Pennsylvania

The Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon in Donora, Pennsylvania. Members of the various District branches are urged to attend.

Frances Tarquinio, Secretary

GEORGE ONDA DISTRICT— Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

The George Onda District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 21, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Florian Church School Hall, United, Pennsylvania. The election of officers for 2008 will be held and the annual "Stedry Vecer" dinner will be discussed.

Linda L. Gonta, Secretary

REV. JOHN MARTVON DISTRICT — Blair, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset and Bedford Counties, Pennsylvania

The Rev. John Martvon District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 28, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Windber, Pennsylvania. The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 292, will be the host. On the agenda will be the election of officers. New candidates for office are always welcome. Member branches are reminded of the requirements to receive the yearly compensation for each member. They must attend one District meeting each year and have their dues current.

Come and enjoy the fall weather and attend the meeting.

Joseph E. Rura, Recording Secretary

FRANK T. HOLLY JR. DISTRICT — Uniontown, Pennsylvania

The Frank T. Holly Jr. District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall. Preparations will be made for the annual meeting. There will also be a discussion regarding insurance sales.

Barbara A. Holly, Secretary

MICHIGAN DISTRICT — Michigan

The Michigan District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 28, 2007 at St. Patrick's Church Hall (Ryan), 4708 South Meridian Road, Merrill, Michigan. A Thanksgiving Dinner will be served beginning at 12:00 noon. The business meeting will follow at 1:00 p.m. Please call Irene Pacholka by October 21 at 989/687-5419 with the number of delegates who will be attending from your branch. Since this is the annual meeting, the election of officers will be on the agenda along with a discussion of new events for the coming year.

Our District President Victor Jiompkowski encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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We are sponsoring a bus trip to see "In the Beginning" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Join us for the show and dinner on Saturday, October 6. Please call Mary Karch at 732/572-2331 for information and reservations.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

Branch 855 — PARMA, OHIO

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch

855, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Carrie Cerino's, 8922 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio.

The election of officers will take place. Plans for the New Year will also be discussed. Please plan on attending this meeting. If you plan, to attend please call Linda at 440/886-0206 by October 31, 2007.

Linda L. Kolesar, Secretary/Treasurer

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT — Youngstown, Ohio

Reservations are now being accepted for an overnight bus trip on Thursday and Friday, November 8-9, 2007, to Windsor Hotel & Casino, Ontario, Canada, and the MGM Grand Casino in Detroit. The cost is \$90.00 (double occupancy) per person. Both casinos will give \$25.00 in coins. For reservations and more information call Carlie Peshek at 330/779-3927, Nancy Scavina at 330/758-4536, or Paul Ritz at 330/744-2377.

Carlie Peshek, President

Msgr. Joseph Tiso District-Allegheny — Kiski Valley, Pennsylvania

The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 21, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania. A light luncheon will be furnished. Delegates from all branches should call Grace Charney at 724/763-1104 to confirm their attendance.

Grace M. Charney, Secretary

REV. STEPHEN FURDEK DISTRICT — Eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, D.C.

The Rev. Stephen Furdek District held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 9, 2007, in Washington, D.C. Mass was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in the Crypt Church in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Rev. Joseph Komonchak was the celebrant. After the liturgy, delegates and guests proceeded to the Executive Conference Room and were served a meal enjoyed by all.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by the Rev. Joseph Komonchak. President Greg Harakal opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with 9 officers and 10 delegates present. On a motion by Katherine Nowatkoski and Gerry Fabian the count was accepted and approved. The secretary read the minutes with one correction and were accepted by motions by Andrew Herman and Bernard Madeja. The financial secretary and treasurer gave their reports. The chairman of auditors and auditors audited the books and found everything in good and proper order. On a motion by Bernard Nowatkoski and Louis Payne, they were accepted and approved. Everyone agreed. Fraternal Director Don Nasta gave his report on the lottery we have.

The agenda for the meetings will be sent with the minutes and credentials. Financial reports will be given out at the meeting.

There was a big discussion on having a District picnic. Locations were discussed. Fraternal Director Don Nasta will get the information from "Knobles Park." There is no admission to this park.

Regional Director Damian Nasta spoke on the \$4.00 stipend per member. To qualify for the money, the branch must have 150 members and acquire one (1) new policy each year. Branches with 250 members or more must get two (2) new members.

Andrew Herman served as chairman of elections and officiated at the swearing in of the new officers. Elected to serve in 2008 are: Greg Harakal, President; Helena Gaydos, Vice President; Damian Nasta, Financial Secretary; Ed Nasta, Treasurer; Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary; Don Nasta, Fraternal Director; Bernadine Gerhard, Chairman of Auditors; Loretta Dashner and Gerald Fabian, Auditors; and Rev. Thomas Derzack, Chaplain.

The next semiannual meeting will be held on April 6, 2008. The meeting place has not been finalized.

On a motion by Loretta Dashner and Victor Sebo, the meeting was adjourned.

Helen Fiala, Recording Secretary

PITTSBURGH DISTRICT — Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Pittsburgh District will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania. All branches are expected to send representatives. The election of District officers will be held at the meeting. The meeting agenda includes officers' reports, a discussion of the District program for 2008, and a discussion of other FCSU business. A light luncheon will follow the meeting.

The officers of the Pittsburgh District wish all the members a happy and blessed holidays season.

Margaret Nasta, Recording Secretary

Rev. Stephen Furdek District — Cleveland, Ohio

The Reverend Stephen Furdek District will hold a meeting on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Charles Parish Activity Center, Ridge Road at Charles Avenue in Parma, Ohio. A light luncheon will be served. For any questions on the meeting location call Vice President Linda Kolesar at 440/886-0206.

Linda M. Hanko, Secretary

◆◆◆ St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church Plans Centennial Celebration

St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Slovak Catholic Church invites all to participate in the celebration of its centennial on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at the church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. by His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali. A reception will follow at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall on Columbus Boulevard. For further information and to inquire regarding tickets, please call the Rectory at 215/627-0340.

Slovak Republic President

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Slovak anthem and Anna Maria Kulhan sang the American anthem. President Ivan Gasparovic spoke to the crowd congratulating the festival organizers for keeping up the tradition for 30 years. He then spoke on the 15th anniversary of the Slovak Republic and its successes. His speech was enthusiastically received. President Gasparovic was followed by performances by the Limbora ensemble of New York, Vychodna ensemble from Toronto, the Pajtasi orchestra, and soloist Jozef Ivaska. Jan Trnavsky, an amateur fujarist and professor at Boston College, took to the stage and played a number on the fujara. President Gasparovic surprised everyone



Archbishop Jan Sokol being welcomed with the traditional bread and salt.



The procession for the Mass.

when he played on the fujara.

Greetings were read from President George Bush, and many other local dignitaries. New Jersey Governor J. Corzine proclaimed September 23, 2007 as Slovak Day in New Jersey.

FCSU Reintroduces Senior Promotion

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a physical exam and /or provide additional medical information.

New Members

The FCSU has adopted the theme of full family participation. As part of this promotion, persons aged 55 to 80 who are not currently a member of the First Catholic Slovak Union may elect to participate in this program and will receive a special first year allowance of \$50.00. New members will be enrolled using the normal (AJ-2) application and be subject to normal underwriting rules. This is each member's opportunity to encourage enrollment of brothers, sisters, relatives, children, friends and others who should be part of our Jednota family. Make certain to contact these individuals who should share in the benefits of fraternal membership and protection.

Please allow sufficient time for your branch proposer or secretary to contact you (up to thirty (30) days.) If contact is not made by November 2007, please contact your branch proposer, branch secretary or the Home Office at 1-800-533-6682.

In the coming months, additional programs directed to various groups of members will be introduced. Watch for announcements in future issues of our JEDNOTA.



Pictured with the Pittsburgh Agreement are L-R Rastislav Kacer, Slovak Ambassador to the United States; Cecilia Sarocky, WPSCA Board member and past president of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union; Andrew Rajec, president of the First Catholic Slovak Union; and Joe Bielecki, president of the WPSCA..

Pittsburgh Agreement Returns to Pittsburgh

On Sunday, September 9, 2007, at a special ceremony, the Slovak League of America returned the original Pittsburgh Agreement to Pittsburgh for permanent display. The event took place at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. Twenty-one Slovak and Czech organizations were present when Daniel Tanzone, president of the Slovak League, formally presented the official document to Andrew Masich, president of the Heinz History Center. Greetings were extended by Slovak Ambassador Rastislav Kacer and Czech Deputy Ambassador Jaroslav Kurfurst as well as City of Pittsburgh Council President Doug Shields and State Representative Don Walko. Over 200 people attended the ceremony. Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) sponsored the event.

The signing of the Pittsburgh Agreement on May 31, 1918 was an important occurrence in the course of events leading to the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state after the First World War. The Pittsburgh area at that time included one of the largest concentrations of Slovaks outside of Slovakia. Many American Slovak newspapers and fraternal organizations traced their origins to the Pittsburgh area. It was during Masaryk's visit to Pittsburgh that the famous document known as the Pittsburgh Agreement was drafted and signed in the Loyal Order of Moose Building on May 31, 1918 by representatives of American based Slovak and Czech fraternal organizations. The agreement proclaimed for the first time in a public written paper the intention of the Slovaks and Czechs to establish one common state.

Joseph T. Senko

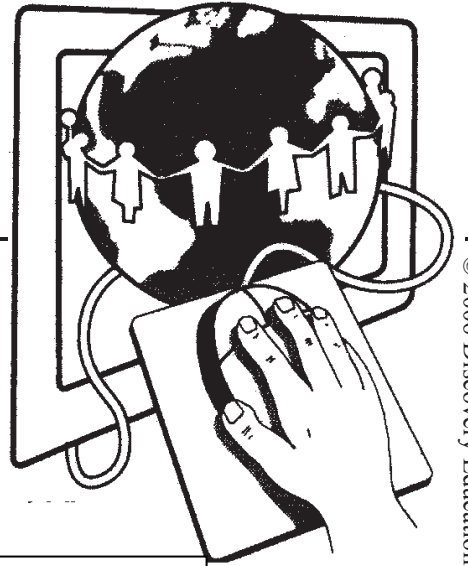
FCSU SENIOR PROMOTION AMOUNT INSURANCE - PER \$200 ANNUAL PREMIUM WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE 2007

SCHEDULE 1			SCHEDULE 2		
AGE	MALE NON SMOKING	FEMALE NON SMOKING	AGE	MALE SMOKER	FEMALE SMOKER
55	6,498	7,927	55	4,988	6,928
56	6,175	7,413	56	4,760	6,605
57	5,922	7,145	57	4,598	6,359
58	5,677	6,885	58	4,439	6,122
59	5,438	6,627	59	4,282	5,893
60	5,204	6,380	60	4,129	5,671
61	4,979	6,135	61	3,981	5,456
62	4,762	5,898	62	3,839	5,247
63	4,554	5,666	63	3,702	5,043
64	4,353	5,438	64	3,571	4,845
65	4,157	5,216	65	3,444	4,652
66	3,958	4,999	66	3,317	4,465
67	3,784	4,788	67	3,193	4,283
68	3,604	4,581	68	3,069	4,105
69	3,428	4,379	69	2,946	3,932
70	3,257	4,182	70	2,824	3,766
71	3,091	3,990	71	2,704	3,606
72	2,933	3,804	72	2,588	3,451
73	2,780	3,622	73	2,474	3,301
74	2,632	3,445	74	2,365	3,158
75	2,490	3,275	75	2,253	3,018
76	2,352	3,109	76	2,146	2,883
77	2,221	2,948	77	2,043	2,751
78	2,095	2,791	78	1,943	2,623
79	1,975	2,638	79	1,848	2,497
80	1,866	2,577	80	1,758	2,378



UR_space.jrs

Friends Events Sports Culture Trivia Activities



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October 2007

Culture Space



Rising high above the town in Slovakia, Bojnice (BOY-nee-tse) castle was originally built in the 12th century. Several films have been shot at the castle, and some even claim that the replica castle at California's Disneyland was modeled after it.

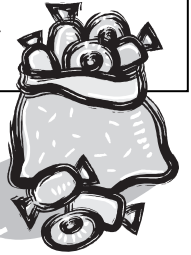
The International Festival of Ghosts and Spirits is held at Bojnice in early May each year, but locals will tell you eerie tales year round. Many stories center around Count Palffy's coffin in the crypt, which allegedly used to leak a mysterious liquid, called the

tears of Jan Palffy. Jan Palffy died in 1908 and was buried in a big marble sarcophagus. In his last will, he wrote that all his possessions in the castle must stay there. However, his descendants sold everything, including the castle itself, to foreign countries. Then, Jan Palffy's tears started to flow. The mysterious liquid stopped flowing out of the sarcophagus when the Bojnice altar was returned to the castle.



Trivia Space

The custom of trick-or-treating is thought to have originated with a ninth-century European custom called souling. On November 2, All Souls Day, early Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes" made out of square pieces of bread with currants. The more soul cakes the beggars would receive, the more prayers they would promise to say on behalf of the dead relatives of the donors.



Challenge Space



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

234 Ilion St.
Pgh., PA 15207
sueo99@yahoo.com



See how many words you can make out of the letters in...

HALLOWEEN FUN

Large ghost-shaped frame containing two columns of horizontal lines for writing words.

Here are some of the answers. Can you find more?
Hello, When, Lean, Halo, Follow, Leaf, Allow, Fellow,
Follow, Wall, All, Fell, Lone, Fall, Well, Own, On, We,
One, Low, Hall.

Activity Space



Finish the pumpkin, draw a face.

John and Mary Petyo Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

John and Mary Petyo of Fort Myers, Florida, formerly of Linden, New Jersey, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. The couple received a Papal Blessing from His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI from Rome. They renewed their marriage vows in the Wedding Sanctuary in Cana Galilee in the Holy Land while on a pilgrimage to Israel. A Divine Liturgy and Blessing took place at All Saints Byzantine Catholic Church in North Fort Myers, Florida on September 16, 2007. The celebrant was Rev. Mitral Archpriest Wolodymyr Woloszczuk assisted by Deacon Verlan Kolesar. Following the liturgy a reception was held at the Hilton Gardens in Fort Myers given by their children. The anniversary couple also received a Caribbean cruise from the their children.



John and Mary Petyo

John Petyo and the former Mary Orak were married on September 16, 1957 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Perth Amboy, New Jersey by the late Rev. Julius J. Grigassy. The couple resided in Germany where John was serving with the United States Army. In Germany they were blessed with two sons, John and Michael. Michael fell asleep in the Lord on October 10, 1958.

After returning the United States, they were blessed with two daughters, Mary Ann and RoseMarie. They now have six grandchildren, Walter John, Jennifer, Patrick, Nicholas, Sergio and Gregory.

John and Mary Petyo were longtime members of St. George Byzantine Catholic Church in Linden where the late Msgr. George Billy was pastor. After retiring from the Linden Fire Department John and Mary moved to Florida. They are now members of All Saints Byzantine Catholic Church and St. Raphael Catholic Church in Florida. Both John and Mary are members of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

May God grant them many more happy and blessed years.

Jacki Becker and Rick Lazzara Exchange Vows in Mexico



Jacki and Rick Lazzara

Jacki Becker and Rick Lazzara were married on May 11, 2007, at the Moon Palace Resort in Cancun, Mexico. The couple now resides in Tinley Park, Illinois.

Jacki is a member of the Assumption of the B.V.M. Society, Branch 493 in Chicago, Illinois. Her grandfather, Emil Rusinak, serves as vice president of Branch 493.

St. Andrew Abbey to Hold Vilija on December 2

The Monks of St. Andrew Abbey and the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club cordially invite you to their annual Vilija or Christmas Eve Supper on Sunday, December 2, 2007. Mass will be celebrated in the Abbey Church at 12:00 noon. The dinner will follow in Benedictine High School Dining Hall. Entertainment will be provided by the Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble Dancers and the Slovenske Mamichky Singers. There will also be a Christmas bakery, religious article for sale and exhibitions.

Tickets are \$20.00 per person and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will not be available at the door. Send your check or money order to: Saint Andrew Abbey-Vilija, 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cleveland, OH 44104. Ticket orders must be received by Friday, November 24, 2007. For more information call 216/721-5300 ext.0.

**SIGN UP A NEW
MEMBER TODAY!**

the Book Corner

Slovak-English Law Dictionary Now Available

Norbert Mazik, *CONCISE SLOVAK-ENGLISH LAW DICTIONARY* (Bratislava, Slovakia, 2007), 238 pages.

The *CONCISE SLOVAK-ENGLISH LAW DICTIONARY* is intended for translators and all those with a good command of English involved in the translation of common legal documents in the branches of civil, criminal and commercial law. Terms used within European Community law as well as other branches of law are represented to a lesser extent.

The dictionary is based on excerpts from a legal handbook in Slovak in conjunction with original British and American law dictionaries, along with the contribution of active translators. It contains more than 5,600 Slovak headwords (terms and phrases). The collocations separated by a semicolon are intended as a guide to select the proper English equivalent. More frequent collocations are often cited as separate headwords for practical reasons.

It is hoped that this dictionary will become a loyal and reliable companion for everyone involved in the process of translating Slovak legal texts.

To order a copy send \$20.00 plus \$10.00 for postage to: Norbert Mazik, Vajnorska 83, 83103 Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

John's 2007 Tour to Slovakia a Huge Success

John's 2007 Tour to Slovakia was a huge success with 28 participants from eight states and some as far away as Texas and Washington State. The 17 day tour, September 7-23, covered Bratislava, Piešťany, Nitra, Trnava, Banská Bystrica, Banská Štiavnica, Cicmany, Martin, Rajecká Lesná, Brezno, Starý Smokovec, Košice, Levoca, Bardejov, Prešov, and Kežmarok. There were also visits to Vienna, Austria, Prague and Krakow, Poland. The group visited a number of castles in Slovakia and churches in Bratislava, Levoca, Prague, Vienna and Košice.

The 28 tourists enjoyed two meals a day, breakfast and dinner at hotels, Kolibas, and famous restaurants. They participated in a folklore wedding in Krakovany, saw pottery making in Modra, and tasted wine in the heart of the wine making region in Svätý Jur.

Some participants visited relatives and brought them to our dinners.

The 28 participants will have memories that they will never forget. They all enjoyed Krakow, Poland, the Polish dinners and the Polish folklore group. The group visited the home of Pope John Paul II, the Wieliczka Salt Mine, Auschwitz, and Divine Mercy Shrine.

A highlight of the trip was the visit to Tichý Potok, a Carpatho-Rusyn village in northeast Slovakia adjacent to the Army Forests, 50 kilometers northwest of Prešov. The mayor of Tichý Potok, Lubica Dziganova, met our group bus at the village center. He welcomed us with a spread of food that was out of this world. It was all the food that is eaten at Easter time in this village. This is the 13th year the mayor has welcomed our tour groups. After the feast, the mayor took us on a tour of the village where we saw a man making roof shingles. Some of these handcrafted roof shingles are on a church in Mercer, Pennsylvania. Following the tour, we all enjoyed a dinner of cabbage rolls and of course slivovica and a folklore performance.

John Mago is now planning tours of Slovakia with stops in Vienna, Prague, Budapest and Krakow for 2008. The 2008 tours are planned for June 15-July 1, and September 6-22. For details on the above tours write: John's Tours, P.O. Box 154, Vandergrift, PA 15690 or call 724/567-7341 or 1-800-260-8687.

John Mago

"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.

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- 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.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Agnes Jasek Branch 580 West Mifflin, Pennsylvania

Agnes Jasek, 98, of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, died Sunday, September 2, 2007, at home. She was the wife of the late Matthew Jasek.

She was born January 21, 1909, in Radola, Kysucke Nove Mesto, Slovakia, the daughter of the late Joseph and Justina Papan. She was a member of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, West Mifflin, its Osadny Lodge, Rosary Society, and Jednota Branch 580.

She is survived by two daughters, Justina Kopay of Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania, and Virginia Jasek of West Mifflin; three sisters, Justina Janik, Margita Juricek and Anna Kucova, all of Slovakia; three grandchildren, Edward (Patty) Kopay of Erie, Pennsylvania, Kathleen (Reggie) Guevara of Melbourne, Florida, and Kristine Kopay of Upper St. Clair; and three great-grandchildren, Beth Ann, Arron and Caryn, all of Erie. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by a son, Allen Jasek.

Friends were received at the William Skovranko Memorial Home, Duquesne. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in Holy Trinity Church by the Rev. Joseph Grosko. Burial was in Holy Trinity Cemetery, West Mifflin.

The officers of Branch 580 wish to express their deepest sympathy to her daughters, Virginia Jasek and Justina Kopay and her family. A Mass will be offered for Agnes in Holy Trinity Church at the request of the officers of Branch 580.

Mary G. Perun

Sister M. Romana Maylath, SS.C.M.

Sister M. Romana (Helen Maylath), 89, died October 4, 2007, at Maria Hall, Danville, Pennsylvania. One of thirteen children, she was born to Gregory and Barbara (Marcinko) Maylath in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, on June 29, 1918. She attended West Hazleton public schools.

Sister Romana entered the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius on October 6, 1938, and was received as a novice on October 17, 1939. She professed her vows on August 18, 1941.

Sister was assigned to culinary duties in convents in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New York. She served for many years in large institutions, Immaculate Conception Orphanage, Middletown, St. Methodius Convent, Maria Joseph Manor, and Maria Hall in Danville. Sister Romana spent her retirement years at Maria Hall.

Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Sophie Koskulitz, West Hazleton, and Mrs. Elenore Paytas, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and many nieces and nephews.

Transferral and recitation of the Rosary took place at 8:30 a.m., Monday, October 8, 2007, at Maria Hall followed immediately by a Wake Service. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. The Reverend Cyril J. Rable, Maria Hall chaplain, was celebrant and homilist. Deacon Adrien Picard assisted at the altar.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Villa Sacred Heart, Danville, Pennsylvania 17821-1698.

Betty Fricovsky Branch 240P Taylor, Pennsylvania

Betty Fricovsky of Taylor, Pennsylvania, died Friday, September 21, 2007 in the VNA Hospice Inpatient Unit at Community Medical Center.

Born in Taylor, daughter of the late John J. and Barbara Kipikas Fricovsky, she was a graduate of Taylor High School, class of 1942. At an early age, her mother died and Betty dedicated her life to taking care of her father and her brothers. For many years, she worked at Good Manor Dress Factory. She was a member of St. John the Baptist Church, Taylor, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and Branch 240P of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

Betty loved to watch NASCAR racing and was an avid New York Yankees fan. Her beagles, Jordan and Tattoo, brought her much comfort. She was a loving sister and aunt, but most of all she was a mother at heart to her family.

Surviving are four brothers, Cyril of Edison, New Jersey, John of North Tonawanda, New York, Thomas of Taylor, and George, with whom she resided; a niece, Karen Walsh, who was her caregiver; and many other nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Paul and Joseph.

Friends were received at the Semian Funeral Home, Taylor. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. John the Baptist Church by Rev. Francis Pauselli, pastor. Interment was in the parish cemetery.

Stephen J. Kavulich



Left to right – Jozef Zabka; Dagmar, our tour guide; Jozef's wife Anna Zabka; Lori (Neslusan) Nugent; Jozef's daughter Janka Zabka; Carol Neslusan and Lisa Neslusan.

Neslusan/Micica/Zabka Family Reunion in Slovakia on 7/7/07

Joseph A. Neslusan

On 5 July 2007, as we were entering Slovakia via Austria, we had to first pass through Slovak customs. Dagmar, our Slovak tour guide, indicated that at the end of this year the border guards would be losing their jobs because Slovakia would have an open border with Austria. There were seven of us: Susan (Neslusan) Remillard and her husband Roger Remillard and their daughter Rachel; Carol Neslusan and I (Joseph) and our two daughters Lori and Lisa. Upon arriving in Bratislava Square, the usual city crowd was absent. Dagmar told us that today being July 5, SS. Cyril and Methodius Feast Day, was also a Slovak national holiday; therefore, many of the people took a day off from working in the city. After a lunch in the square we toured the historical sites in the heart of Bratislava.

The next morning, Lori surprised us by telling us that, for her daily run, she jogged across two of the bridges that spanned the Danube. After breakfast we headed north

to Trencin and our first stop was to view the inscription carved into the rock ledge by Roman soldiers; and then to Trencin Castle, a place that Carol and I had memories of our last trip when just 4 or 5, from a group of about 35, dared to climb up to the castle grounds because it was an extremely hot day. Today the weather was very comfortable, and Dagmar was able to actually take us into the castle interior.

We continued our travels by visiting Bojnice Castle, Slovensky Betlehem in Rajecka Lesna, and finally taking a family photo underneath the village sign of Neslusa before arriving at our hotel in Zilina. It was Friday night. Tomorrow would be the long awaited family reunion. At Carol's suggestion, I planned the family reunion for the weekend so as not to impact the relatives that had to work.

The day finally arrived. It was a sunny warm Saturday morning as we awaited Juraj (Juro) Skorvanek's arrival at the hotel to take us to our families' village of Zastranie. The big moment was soon to happen. After over two and a half years of e-mails with Juro plus a few letters to my first cousins, we were finally going to meet our families face to face. It just did not seem possible because my father Martin Neslusan had left Slovakia in 1923 and my mother Zofia (Micica) Neslusan with my oldest brother Paul left in 1930; and that was almost a century ago.

Upon arriving in the lobby, we were greeted by Juro, grandson of my paternal first cousin Anton Neslusan and by Anton Micica and his brother Leopold, both maternal first cousins. With the help of Juro and Dagmar, we exchanged greetings, hugs, and posed for pictures.

After getting into our touring van, Roman, our driver who liked to be called a "chauffer", followed Juro's vehicle and in just a few minutes we saw the village marker indicating Zastranie and very soon we arrived at the home of Anton Micica. You could feel the excitement in the air as the gate in the fence opened to many smiling faces awaiting our arrival. I instantly knew that this long forgotten Slovak family, with whom we started having mail contact just 2 years ago after an absence of about 30 years since our father died in 1979, was very happy and excited to see us.

We were immediately invited inside their very neat and cozy house. Their warm hospitality beamed throughout the living room as we talked, drank and ate. Anton and his wife, Julia, and children were very generous

Coming Events

OCTOBER

- 21 – The Msgr. Joseph Tiso District's Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the C.U. Club, 912 Sixth Avenue, Ford City, Pennsylvania.
- 21 – The Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Benedictine Priory, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois.
- 21 – The George Onda District's Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at St. Florian Church School Hall, United Pennsylvania.
- 28 – The Rev. John Martvon District's Annual Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, Windber, Pennsylvania.
- 28 – The Michigan District's Annual Meeting at 12:00 noon at St. Patrick's Church Hall, 4708 South Meridian Road, Merrill, Michigan.

NOVEMBER

- 4 – The Msgr. Stephen Krasula District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Yonkers, New York.
- 4 – A meeting of the Frank T. Holly Jr. District at 1:00 p.m. at St. Mary's Church Hall, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.
- 4 – A Meeting of the Rev. Stephen Furdek District at 2:00 p.m. at St. Charles Parish Activity Center, Ridge Road at Charles Avenue, Parma, Ohio.
- 18 – A meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania.

DECEMBER

- 2 – The Pittsburgh District's Annual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 529 Grant Avenue Extension, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

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

Neslusan/Micica/Zabka Family Reunion in Slovakia on 7/7/07

continued from page 11

with their slivovica (plum brandy), wine, a variety of tasty fancy sandwiches, sheep cheese, and pastries. With the aid of Juro and Dagmar we all shared stories and had plenty of laughs. Both Slovak and English filled the room for several hours. Anton later showed us his zahrada (garden) and a little hothouse he constructed from empty gallon size bottles. After several exciting hours of conversation and exchanging of gifts, and I being a little emotionally dazzled that we were actually talking to our maternal relatives in Slovakia, we departed the Micica's residence and traveled by van to the village cemetery.

On the road at the entrance to the cemetery we met Leopold again, since his home was in the vicinity. He pulled out of his pocket my high school picture that my parents had sent him some 50 years ago. Carol matched Leopold by pulling out of her wallet the same 50 year old picture. Leopold told the story that he had the picture on his possession when he was a very young man in the military near the border, i.e., at that time the infamous Iron Curtain. When the officers realized that Leopold had a picture of a relative from the West, he was immediately sent deep into the country, away from the border, to finish his military duty. The officers feared that Leopold would attempt an escape over the border to the West.

Upon visiting the cemetery we were shown where our Neslusan and Micica grandparents were buried. Gosh, my mother, father and brother Paul stood and prayed on this very sacred ground some 75 plus years ago. It was an emotional but beautiful feeling. We continued visiting and praying at all our relative's graves.

From the cemetery, we walked to my first cousin Anton Neslusan's work cottage midst the gentle sloping fields. As I walked, I again felt that my parents and my brother Paul had similarly run and played in the same footsteps that our girls, Lisa, Lori and Rachel were now taking.

At the cottage, a retreat place after working long hours in the fields, we saw numerous smiling people lined up ready to greet us. It was similar to a receiving line at a wedding. All these people just for us! I felt honored! There were too many people to remember. Besides Anton Neslusan and his children and grandchildren, there was also Anton and Leopold Micica with their spouses and some of their grandchildren. What a heart warming greeting for our small group of American travelers! I could not believe what was happening!

Then to Carol's surprise, her mother France's first cousin, Jozef Zabka and his wife, Anna, from the neighboring village of Kotrcina Lucka were also in the line of smiling people greeting us. This was a very emotional moment for Carol because she only found out about her relatives by a very strange set of circumstances just two years ago. It all began with our 2004 trip to Slovakia and a mock wedding we attended in Krakovany village. Upon returning back to the US, I wrote an article about our trip to Slovakia. In the article that appeared in the Jednota, I mentioned that Carol visualized her grandfather Adam, on the stage playing the drums in the band for the

mock wedding. Adam had passed away in 1933 in Webster, Massachusetts. Our Jednota Editor, Mr. Anthony X. Sutherland, after reading the article researched the Jednota archives and found Adam Zabka's obituary. The obituary listed a village in Slovakia from which Adam departed. Low and behold, the village, Kotrcina Lucka, is the neighboring village to Zastranie. When I sent the obituary to my relatives in Zastranie, Anton Micica was able to locate a Jozef Zabka in Kotrcina Lucka. All Jozef Zabka knew about his uncle in America was that he married a Polish lady and that he died very young of inflammation of the lungs. These facts matched Carol's knowledge of her grandfather.

The party at the cottage was very exciting. We were again treated to an endless flow of slivovica, wine, and a variety of tasty fancy sandwiches, goulash and a very scrumptious baked whole fish. Juro's father, Frantisek Skorvanek, was the chef that prepared the goulash and baked fish. We again exchanged gifts. Then our relatives started to sing folk songs. I was told that when people start to sing that it is the signal for the musicians to start; therefore, Juro and three other members of his semiprofessional group of musicians called Zastranska Muzika, started to play. All the people started to sing and dance. The musicians, who also sang folk songs as they played their instruments, added a very special joviality to our family reunion. No matter what the age, everyone at one time or other danced and sang. It was after 9 PM, the sun had just set, but our relatives were in no hurry to leave. They all wanted to have just a few more words with us. Eventually, rather reluctantly, everyone had to leave the field cottage, so we made our way back to our van.

The entire day, 7/7/07, was very emotional and a phenomenal day for all the American travelers! I'm sure that my parents, Martin and Zofia nor Carol's grandfather Adam could ever have envisioned such a fantastic reunion for their American offspring and their Slovak relatives.

The next day being Sunday we attended Mass in Zastranie. The Mass, at Anton Micica's request, was offered for our American family. We felt greatly honored by that gesture. We arrived early for Mass and I was immediately reminded of my childhood days when the faithful of all ages recited the Holy Rosary before Mass. When Mass started, we were individually acknowledged by the Pan Farar (pastor) at the Opening Prayer. Immediately after Communion, for the Song of Praise, Juro, who is also the church organist, played and sang the song "Laska Je Trpezliva" (Love is Patient). Immediately I turned to Carol and Lisa and saw they both had tears in their eyes for we all knew that Juro was singing that song especially for us. The reason being that in the early part of 2006, Juro had sent us the sheet music for that song for Lisa's August 2006 wedding. The song is based on Corinthians 13.4.; Juro had indicated that he frequently played and sang the song at church weddings.

After the Final Blessing, Pan Farar came over to us and personally shook each of our hands. I felt my parents were looking

down on us because they never had the opportunity to attend church services in a Zastranie church. The church, Sedembolestnej Panny Marie, was dedicated on 16 September 2000. After Mass, we received a tour of the new church and its surrounding grounds. Since the original dedication, they have added a fara (parsonage). My cousin Anton Micica indicated that he, being a murar (mason), helped in the construction including the steeple. All the construction was performed by the parishioners. The people of Zastranie were very proud of their new church.

Although we were scheduled to go directly to Teplicka nad Vahom for lunch, Anton Micica suggested that we first go up to Stranik Hill because of the beautiful view. By car we were whisked up a very winding narrow road. When the car stopped, we saw remnants of an old sign advertising a gliding club. Looking down from the hill at the Zastranie village, and further at the gentle and peaceful rolling Tatras, I could see why my parent's heart, besides leaving family and friends, remained in the beautiful countryside of Zastranie even though they were many thousands of miles away in America. That was a very impressive site! However, it was pointed out to me that the top of the hill was actually behind me, up another 100 feet.

Making my way up towards the top, I saw all sorts of antennas at the very peak and off to my right I saw a dozen or so paragliders. When I arrived to the area where the paragliders were located I saw another awesome sight because on this side of the hill was a very sharp drop off. Below me was a very deep valley. The valley was relatively flat and there in the middle of it was the new KIA factory complex. The village was Teplicka nad Vahom and there off in the distance was the Vah River and more gentle sloping hills. What a view! Everyone was very impressed! I never expected to see the new KIA factory. I did not realize that it was in the same village which was to be our next stop.

From this point on Stranik Hill, when the wind is favorable, paragliders can leap off the cliff and stay airborne for several hours.

Juro, wanting to treat us to lunch, had made reservations at a restaurant in Teplicka nad Vahom. About 30 Neslusan and Micica family members attended the lunch. Immediately after lunch we all walked to St. Martin's Church because it was just a short distance away. That was a pleasant sight; a sunny Sunday afternoon and about 30 people strolling down the street to visit a church. At the church the sexton explained how the church had gone through numerous changes. He pointed out which altar had been used at the turn of the century; therefore, that would have been the altar at which our parents were married. We were also shown the old baptismal font where my brother Paul would



Left to right – Rachel Remillard, Lori (Neslusan) Nugent, Juro Skorvanek, and Lisa Neslusan. Kia factory and Vah River can be seen in the valley.

have been baptized. We also got to see the remains of Zofia Bosnakova of whom my mother had spoken of many times.

As we were finishing taking our last family group photographs, an elderly lady walking with a cane carrying a shopping bag, came up to us and asked if we were from America. When we responded yes, she immediately pulled from her purse more than a half dozen old photographs and asked if we knew any of the people. Much to my surprise, I saw pictures of my parents, brothers Paul and Martin, sister Susan and myself plus numerous pictures of my mother's uncle Steven Buljick and some members of his family. The pictures were taken in the 1940's and 1950's. I just couldn't believe my eyes. I quickly pointed my camcorder on all the pictures she had in her possession. As we were leaving, she pulled out of her shopping bag two very large boxes of chocolate candies; one for Susan's family and one for my family. She said the candy was to sweeten the rest of our trip in Slovakia. *continued in next issue*

**From the desk of the
Executive Secretary –
Visit our web site!
www.fcsu.com**

Exciting News – The Jednota Newspaper (English and Slovak sections) is now on our web page and for your convenience 4 back issues and the current issue are maintained on the web page at all times. If you missed an article or looking for a recipe you need only to go to the web site

Branch and District Officers announcements are now on the web page and listings of all activities for the various regions.

If you are looking for forms or applications you may find those also on the web site.

We encourage our branch and district officers to use this means of keeping in touch with their branch members and announcing events. The email address is fcsu@aol.com if you wish to send your information to the home office.

We will continue to update the web page, please check for announcements such as our special 2% bonus now being offered through our annuity program, special offers on our insurance products, trips to Slovakia, and our Alaskan Cruise Membership Meet.

WEB SITE – www.fcsu.com

From the Office of the Vice President

The Membership and Marketing Committee of "FCSU Life" is offering agent contracts to anyone in the following states who has a "state department of insurance producer's license" (state license) and wishes to sell our insurance and annuity products.

Colorado	Massachusetts	New York
Connecticut	Michigan	Ohio
Florida	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Illinois	Missouri	West Virginia
Indiana	New Jersey	Wisconsin

Please send your resume and copy of your state license to:

Andrew R. Harcar Sr
National Vice President
First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road
Independence, OH 44131

Pittsburgh Fraternal Societies Sponsor "Kidz Bowling for Kidz"

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) is proud to announce that they are sponsoring a bowling tournament for youth members ages 6 to 18 called "Kidz Bowling For Kidz," the proceeds from which will benefit the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The concept was developed to bring youth members from all the fraternal organizations together for an event to raise money for other children.

The event is open to all fraternal society youth members and their non-members friends. All participants must have at least \$25 in sponsorship monies promised in order to enter.

There will be no cost to them to bowl, and the FSGP will provide food, prizes and commemorative T-shirts.

The event will take place on Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at Princess Lanes, located at The Shoppes at Caste Village in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. All participants must be registered in order to bowl.

Monetary donations can be made payable to "FSGP" and mailed to Karen Pintar, SNPJ, 247 West Allegheny Road, Imperial, PA 15126. If you have any questions, need additional information or would like to help on the day of the event, please contact George E. Lopata at 1/800-722-4428.

George E. Lopata, President, Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh



St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Church Plans Centennial Celebration

St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Slovak Catholic Church invites all to participate in the celebration of its centennial on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at the church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. by His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali. A reception will follow at the Sheet Metal Workers Hall on Columbus Boulevard. For further information and to inquire regarding tickets, please call the Rectory at 215/627-0340.

YOUTH ROUND-UP

If you know of a young Jednota member who has recently graduated, received a special award, been confirmed or made a First Holy Communion, achieved a sports or scholastic "first" or in some other way has something to be proud of, send in the

details and a photo, if available, to our "Youth Round-Up" column. Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors are all eligible to "brag" about those special youngsters in their lives. The only stipulation is that the young person must be a member of the FCSU. Be sure to include the Branch to which he or she belongs when you send in your write-up to 1011 Rosedale Avenue, Middletown, PA 17057. We look forward to hearing from you!



Working the FCSU booth are L-R Home Office employee Adriana Anderko, National Secretary Kenneth Arendt, National President Andrew Rajec, and National Vice President Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

FCSU Officers Attend Cleveland Slovak Radio Festival

In an effort to increase the visibility of the First Catholic Slovak Union, officers have begun attending many of the Slovak festivals and events around the country. On Sunday, September 2, 2007, the FCSU had a booth at the annual Cleveland Slovak Radio Club Festival held at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Parma, Ohio. Copies of the JEDNOTA newspaper and information on FCSU products were distributed to the attendees.

This annual festival attracts a large crowd from the Cleveland area. In addition to home-made Slovak food and pastries, there was music provided by the Frank Moravcik and John Pastirik Band and a cultural program featuring performances by Lucina and the Lucinka Slovak Folk Ensembles.

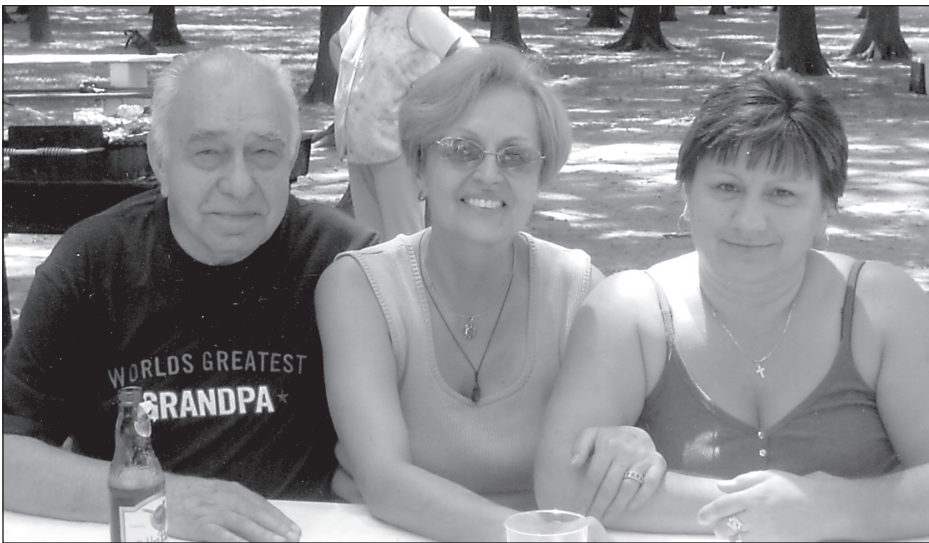
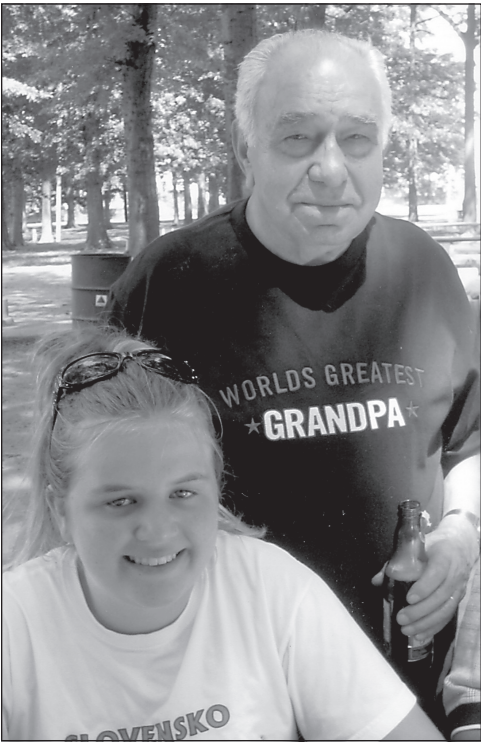
Scenes From the Annual Picnic of St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746 Held Sunday, August 5, 2007, at Linden Memorial Park, Linden, New Jersey



MORE PICNIC PHOTOS ON PAGE 14

More Scenes From the Annual Picnic of St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 746

continued from page 13





Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



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

Volume 116

STREDA, 17. OKTÓBER 2007

Číslo 5764

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič na festivale slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey

Zahral si aj na fujare – Arcibiskup Ján Sokol celebroid sv. omšu – Prítomných bolo vyše 10 tisíc ľudí – Slovenský festival pozdravil aj prezident George W. Bush



Zľava sediaci: Silvia Gašparovičová a prezident Ivan Gašparovič a veľvyslanec SR Rastislav Káčer s manželkou. Stojaci zľava: Ján a Nina Holý a Daniel Tanzone.

V nedeľu 23. septembra sa konal v areáli New Jersey Art Center už po 30. raz festival slovenského dedičstva. Vopred oznámená účasť prezidenta Ivana Gašparoviča a slnečné počasie prilákali do centra umenia medzi 10 - 12 tisíc ľudí, najväčší počet v histórii týchto festivalov.

Hoci NJ Arts Center je vzdialený desiatky míľ od hlavných centier slovenského života, ľudia sa začali schádzať už po 9. hodine ráno. Mnohé potravinové, výstavné a predajné stánky boli otvorené už od 9. hodiny, kedy sa začal futbalový turnaj, v ktorom štyri slovenské kluby zápasili o Pohár festivalu.

O 11. hodine sa začala pod veľkým stanom sv. omša. Koncelebroval ju metropolita a arcibiskup Bratislavsko-trnavskej arcidiecézy Ján Sokol spolu so šiestimi slovenskými kňazmi. Arcibiskup mal aj slovenskú homíliu. Počas omše populárni speváci zo Slovenska Jozef Ivaška st. a jeho syn Jozef ml. spievali Ave Máriu.

Pokračovanie na str. 18



Renáta Jurášiová moderovala tradičnú prehliadku krojov.

Slovensko bude prvýkrát predsedať Rade Európy

Bratislava (TASR) – Slovenská republika bude od 12. novembra do polovice mája 2008 po prvý raz predsedníčkou krajinou Rady Európy (RE). Na tlačovej konferencii 9. októbra o tom informoval mimoriadny a splnomocnený veľvyslanec a vedúci Stálej misie SR pri Rade Európy Emil Kuchár. Podľa jeho slov medzi hlavné iniciatívy slovenského predsedníctva bude patriť organizovanie konferencií o problematike Rómov a snaha o zvýšenie informovanosti občanov Bieloruska o RE.

Minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš bude predsedať rozhodovaciemu orgánu Rady Európy - Výboru ministrov. V tomto období bude Emil Kuchár viesť zasadnutia Výboru zástupcov ministrov. V rámci predsedníctva SR vo Výbore ministrov RE sa uskutočnia viaceré podujatia, medzi nimi Ôsma konferencia európskych ministrov zdravotníctva, ktorá sa uskutoční 22. až 23. novembra v Bratislave. Jedným z podujatí bude aj zasadnutie Stáleho výboru Parlamentného zhromaždenia RE v Bratislave 23. novembra. Priority predsedníctva Slovenskej republiky vo Výbore ministrov RE boli schválené uznesením vlády. Oficiálne ich bude prezentovať šéf slovenskej diplomacie Ján Kubiš pri preberaní predsedníctva Slovenska v Štrasburgu.

Zahraniční Slováci dostanú od vlády 18 a pol milióna Sk

Zasadala Komisia pre schvaľovanie projektov

Dňa 3. októbra 2007 zasadala už po druhýkrát v tomto roku medzirezortná Komisia pre schvaľovanie projektov na pomoc krajským spolkom a organizáciám v zahraničí pri Úrade pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí. Posúdila 306 žiadostí v celkovej požadovanej výške 112,177,839 Sk od 136 žiadateľov.

Na základe schváleného materiálu Závery zo Stálej konferencie Slovenská republika a Slováci žijúci v zahraničí 2007, ktorý predkladal na rokovanie vlády Slovenskej republiky dňa 15. augusta 2007 podpredseda vlády pre vedomostnú spoločnosť, európske záležitosti, ľudské práva a menšiny Dušan

Čaplovič a predsedníčka Úradu pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí Vilma Prívarová, mohla komisia v 2. grantovom kole rozdeliť na aktivity Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí čiastku 18, 503, 000 Sk (zostávajúcu čiastku z 1. grantového kola vo výške 3,253,000 Sk plus 15,250,000 Sk finančné prostriedky schválené vládou SR v zmysle spomínaného materiálu).

V rámci rozpočtu úradu na rok 2007 sa na aktivity Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí rozdelilo celkovo 36 miliónov Sk.

Úrad pre Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí

Príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča

Milí krajanovia,
vážení účastníci festivalu,
dovoľte mi pozdraviť Vás pri príležitosti usporiadania 30. festivalu slovenského dedičstva v Holmdeli, N.J. Veľmi ma teší, že sa Vám darí udržiavať tradíciu stretávania sa slovenskej komunity žijúcej na americkej pôde. V čase značnej generáčnej výmeny Slovákov žijúcich v zahraničí, považujem za dôležité udržiavať povedomie o pôvode amerických Slovákov a taktiež nestratiť kontakt so Slovenskom dnešných dní. Pred 100 rokmi odchádzali Slováci do Ameriky v masových emigračných vlnách kvôli hladu, chudobe a útlaku a po roku 1968 bol dôvodom emigrácie únik z dusivého zovretia následkom vstupu intervenčných vojsk. Mnoho schopných a vzdelaných ľudí odišlo a svoj um a úsilie venovali novej krajine. V súčasnosti mnohí Slováci taktiež smerujú svoje kroky do Spojených štátov amerických. Našťastie dôvody, okolnosti a aj počty sú diametrálne odlišné. Nová mladá generácia Slovákov využíva slobodu voľby žiť, vzdelávať sa a pracovať v krajine podľa vlastného rozhodnutia. Veríme, že rozhlad, skúsenosti a vedomosti takto získané prinesú nakoniec benefit aj pre Slovensko a jeho budúce generácie.



Prezident Ivan Gašparovič

Pokračovanie na str. 18

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Novú panoramatickú tabuľu odhalili koncom septembra na Lomnickom štíte. Tatranské vrcholy s výškopisom sú na nej vygravírované do kovu. Vybudovanie informačného panelu na Lomnickom štíte financovali Tatranské lanové dráhy (TLD), mestá Vysoké Tatry a Košice. Do konca októbra pribudne na Lomnickom štíte ešte jeden podobný informačný panel. Na budúci rok chcú takéto tabule umiestniť aj na iných miestach Tatier a tým zlepšiť informovanosť turistov.

Novým predsedom Rady vlády pre národnostné menšiny a etnické skupiny sa stal podpredseda vlády pre vedomostnú spoločnosť, európske záležitosti, ľudské práva a menšiny Dušan Čaplovič. Vo funkcii tak nahradí terajšieho šéfa Strany maďarskej koalície Pála Csákyho. Vyplýva to z návrhu štatútu a návrhu na personálne obsadenie tohto orgánu, ktorý 3. októbra schválila vláda. Rovnako tak došlo k zmene na podpredsedníckom poste, keď exministra kultúry Rudolfa Chmela nahradil terajší šéf rezortu kultúry Marek Maďarič.

Minister zahraničných vecí SR Ján Kubiš počas svojej návštevy na Valnom zhromaždení OSN absolvoval viac ako 30 bilaterálnych stretnutí s politickými predstaviteľmi z celého sveta. Kubiš na tlačovej besede zdôraznil prácu Organizácie pre bezpečnosť a spoluprácu v Európe v oblasti Kosova či ochrane ľudských práv. "Hovorili sme o reforme OSN a jej generálny tajomník potvrdil, že v nej chce pokračovať," podotkol s tým, že SR má pripravených diplomatov, ktorí by v prípade záujmu OSN mohli pracovať v rôznych štruktúrach. Rovnako konzultoval aj prípravu SR na predsedníctvo v Rade Európy od novembra 2007 a informoval sa o aktuálnej situácii ohľadom bezvízového styku Slovenska s USA.

Príprava a realizácia najbližšieho sčítania obyvateľov, domov a bytov v roku 2011, ako aj spracovanie a publikovanie výsledkov s tým súvisiacich by malo stáť viac ako 922 miliónov korún. Tieto výdavky budú rozložené na obdobie 2008 až 2014 a sú určené predovšetkým na zabezpečenie sčítania na Štatistickom úrade SR (ŠÚ SR). Vyplýva to z návrhu legislatívneho zámeru zákona o sčítaní, o ktorom 3. októbra rokovala vláda. Ten okrem iného predpokladá dočasné vytvorenie ďalších pracovných miest na jednotlivých odborných útvaroch a ôsmich stálych pracoviskách ŠÚ SR. Tie budú po ukončení sčítania opäť zrušené. Najviac by ich malo byť v roku 2011, a to konkrétne sto. K dispozícii bude tiež asi 20 tisíc sčítacích komisárov.

Obidve ľadové jaskyne - Dobšinská v Slovenskom raji a Demänovská v Nízkych Tatrách sú od 1. októbra pre verejnosť uzatvorené. Skončila sa v nich návštevná sezóna a nová sa začne od budúcoročného 15. mája. Pre milovníkov podzemných krás zostalo otvorených zvyšných desať jaskýň, k o ktoré sa stará SSJ. Do demänovskej ľadovej jaskyne zavítalo tohto roku vyše 103-tisíc turistov, zhruba o tritisíc menej ako vlani. Do Dobšinskej ľadovej jaskyne prišlo okolo 88-tisíc ľudí, o desaťtisíc menej ako v minuloročnej sezóne. Dobšinská ľadová jaskyňa patrí medzi najvýznamnejšie ľadové jaskyne na svete, čo zvyrazňuje jej poloha mimo alpskej oblasti. Objem ľadu tvorí vyše 110,000 metrov kubických. Sprístupnená je od roku 1871. Patrí medzi prvé elektricky osvetlené jaskyne nielen v Európe, ale aj vo svete. Prvé pokusy s elektrickým osvetlením sa datujú do roku 1881, riadne elektrické osvetlenie inštalovali v roku 1887. Demänovská ľadová jaskyňa sa vyznačuje bohatou históriou. Sprístupnená je od 80. rokov 19. storočia. Jaskyňu nanovo sprístupnili v rokoch 1950 - 1952, vrátane zavedenia elektrického osvetlenia.

Slovenské podniky, ktoré trpia nedostatkom pracovnej sily, môžu už v roku 2008 očakávať väčšiu možnosť zamestnávať Ukrajincov. Kvóta, podľa ktorej môže robiť na Slovensku so zmluvou na dlhšie ako jeden rok len dvesto Ukrajincov, sa vyčerpala už vo februári. Prezident združenia podnikateľov Slovenska Ján Oravec by kvóty pre zamestnancov úplne zrušil. S tým súhlasia aj Ukrajinci.

Milióny na pomoc po povodni pred šiestich rokov smerujú do žilinských obcí, ktoré vtedy živelná pohroma vôbec nezastihla. Z balíka 34 miliónov tak dostane vyše 23 miliónov korún kraj, z ktorého pochádzajú viacerí ministri a šéf vládnej SNS Ján Slot. Ostatné milióny vláda rozdelí do Košického a Prešovského kraja. Zo šiestich žilinských obcí, ktoré majú pomoc dostať, však bola v tom čase postihnutá len jedna - mestská časť Bukov v Čadci.

Súťaž Dedina roka 2007 vyhrala obec Liptovská Teplička. Druhou je Očová a na treťom mieste je obec Pruské. Štvrtý ročník súťaže vyhlásila Slovenská agentúra životného prostredia (SAŽP) v spolupráci so Združením miest a obcí Slovenska a Spolkom pre obnovu dediny. Najlepšie obce sa rozvíjajú po ekonomickej stránke, snažia sa efektívne hospodáriť a spolupracovať s miestnymi podnikateľmi. Venujú sa sociálnej oblasti, a to nielen starostlivosti o marginalizované a neprispôsobivé skupiny obyvateľstva, ale aj o dôchodcov realizáciou komplexných systémov sociálnej a zdravotnej starostlivosti. Všetky obce vynikajú v oblasti udržiavania ľudových tradícií, folklóru a výrazná je aj podpora školstva.

Slovenské zdravotníctvo v rámci Európskej únie značne zaostáva v úrovni prístupu k pacientom. Vyplýva to z porovnania, ktoré začiatkom októbra v Bruseli zverejnil Úrad pre ochranu pacientov Health Consumer Powerhouse. V tzv. indexe európskych pacientov, ktorý každoročne úrad zostavuje na základe kvality služieb v národných zdravotníckych systémoch, Slovensko obsadilo 23. miesto z celkového počtu 29 krajín (EÚ plus Švajčiarsko a Nórsko). Najlepší systém zdravotníckej starostlivosti má Rakúsko. Za ním nasleduje Holandsko, ktoré bolo na prvom mieste v roku 2005 a prvú trojicu dopĺňa Francúzsko, ktorého zdravotníctvo dostalo najlepšie ohodnotenie v minulom roku. Spomedzi nových členských krajín je najlepšie hodnotený prístup k pacientovi v Estónsku, ktoré obsadilo 12. miesto. Česká republika je na 15. mieste. Tabuľku uzatvára Lotyšsko. Rebríček sa zostavuje na základe výsledkov v piatich kategóriách, ktoré obsahujú celkovo 27 indikátorov o kvalite služieb.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Z osláv 725. výročia prvej písomnej zmienky obce Čemerné



Usporiadatelia osláv 725. výročia narodenín východoslovenskej obce Čemerné s predstaviteľmi mestského zastupiteľstva Vranov nad Topľou po výsviacke obecných heraldických symbolov.



Oslavný sprievod krojovanej mládeže obcou Čemerné dnes mestská súčasť Vranov nad Topľou. (Viď JEDNOTA, 8. 8. 07, Čemerné oslavovalo.)

Pietna spomienka na 100. výročie tragédie v Černovej

27. októbra 1907

Bratislava (TASR) – Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič prevzal záštitu nad pietnou spomienkou na 100. výročie tragédie v Černovej, ku ktorej došlo 27. októbra 1907. Zastrelenie 15 obyvateľov obce sa pokladá za vyvrcholenie národnostného útlaku Slovákov v Uhorsku začiatkom 20. storočia. Tragédia, pri ktorej popri 15 mŕtvych bolo aj 12 ťažšie a 40 ľahšie zranených osôb, súvisela s vysviackou černovského kostola. Obyvatelia obce nesúhlasili, aby ich novopostavený chrám posvätili bez prítomnosti ich rodáka, kňaza Andreja Hlinku, ktorý bol v nemilosti vtedajších cirkevných a štátnych uhorských úradov. Veriaci sa rozhodli nepustiť procesiu do dediny, a tak veliteľ žandárov dal strieľať do protestujúceho davu, ktorý zahatal cestu maďarským

cirkevným hodnostárom. Za účasti na vzbure bolo v marcovom procese v roku 1908 odsúdených 38 ľudí dovedna na 36.5 roka väzenia. Podľa historikov černovské udalosti upozornili vtedajšiu európsku a americkú verejnosť na národnostný útlak v Uhorsku.

Tragédiu si pripomenula aj Národná rada SR svojím vyhlásením, ktorého samotný text je takmer totožný s prejavom, ktorý napísal a predniesol totalitným režimom umlčovaný historik Jozef Jablonický na pietnej spomienke v Černovej 27. októbra 1987 pri príležitosti 80. výročia tragédie. Jozef Jablonický bol takmer 20 rokov prenasledovaný orgánmi štátnej bezpečnosti a vypočúvali ho aj pre účasť a prejav na tejto pietnej spomienke.

**PRAKTIZUJTE
FRATERNALIZMUS**

Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič na festivale slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

V popoludňajších hodinách boli v areáli už tisíce Slovákov. Potravinové stánky s rôznymi slovenskými jedlami a pochúťkami boli preplnené. Takisto dva obrovské šiatre na druhej strane areálu s vyše 40 výstavkami a predajnými stánkami, v ktorých boli na predaj najrôznejšie výrobky slovenského keramického a sklárskeho priemyslu, rôzne bábiky, obrazy, knihy, cedečka, kazety, kroje a pod.

Kultúrno-zábavný program

O 2. hodine popoludní sa začal na javisku v prírode kultúrny a zábavný program, ktorý sledovali tisíce účastníkov. Program otvorili spolupredsedovia Ján Duch v anglickej reči a Nina Holá v slovenčine. Obaja privítali predovšetkým prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča, arcibiskupa Jána Sokola, veľvyslanca SR pri OSN Petra Buriana, veľvyslanca SR vo Washingtone Rastislava Káčera s manželkami, predsedu Slovenskej ligy Daniela Tanzoneho, predsedu IKSJ Andreja Rajeca a ďalších činiteľov.

Americkú hymnu zaspievala Anna Mária Kulhanová a slovenskú Renáta Jurášiová. Profesionálni speváci Ivaškovci z Bratislavy a Viedne začali potom program krásnou piesňou Najkrajší kút v širom svete je moja rodná zem.

Spolupredsedovia potom vyzvali na príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča a eskortovali ho k mikrofónu. Obecenstvo ho privítalo búrlivým potleskom. Vo svojom prejave prezident SR ďakoval usporiadateľom festivalu, že už 30 rokov udržiavajú tradíciu stretávania Slovákov na tomto veľkom festivale, pričom prezentujú slovenskú kultúru a sprístupňujú národné tradície aj mladším generáciám.

Prezident ďalej pripomenul 15. výročie prijatia Ústavy SR, vznik samostatného štátu a jeho úspechy na medzinárodnom poli. Svoj prejav skončil poďakovaním Slovákom v Amerike za ich prácu v prospech Slovenska a jeho boja za samostatnosť.

Po prezidentovom príhovore prišiel k mikrofónu Jozef Ivaška st. a povedal, že prezident Gašparovič dobre hraje na fujare a prekvapenému prezidentovi dal do rúk fujaru s prosbou, aby na nej zahral americkoslovenskému publiku. Po krátkom váhaní vzal do rúk fujaru a zanôtil na nej typickú zbojnícku melódiu, čo prítomní odmenili búrlivým potleskom.

Na javisku potom vystúpil newyorský súbor Limbora pekným tancom, sprevádzaný vlastnou ľudovou kapelou Pajtáši. Nasledovalo 20-minútové vystúpenie Ivaškovcov. Rýchlo si získali obecenstvo, ktoré sa k nim pri viacerých piesňach pripojilo.



Prezident Gašparovič si prezrel aj mnohé výstavné a predajné stánky.

V ďalšom programe vystúpil amatérsky fujarista, profesor na Boston College Ján Trnavský, ktorý si obľúbil fujaru a slovenskú ľudovú hudbu a s fujarou vystupuje na kultúrnych programoch na univerzitách na východe USA.

Festival pozdravil aj člen legislatívy štátu New Jersey R. Walko. Po svojom príhovore odovzdal Deklaráciu guvernéra štátu J. Corzina, ktorý vyhlásil 23. septembra za Deň Slovákov v celom štáte New Jersey.

Nasledovalo vystúpenie súboru Východná z Toronta, Kanada. Spolu s Limborou tento súbor patrí medzi najlepšie slovenské súbory na americkom kontinente. Na javisku sa potom striedali oba súbory s ďalšími tancami a obaja Ivaškovci. Milé vystúpenie mali aj deti zo slovenskej škôlky z Linden, N.J.

Okrem vyššie spomenutých boli predstavení ešte ďalší činitelia: generálny konzul SR Ivan Surkoš, z predsedníctva Slovenskej ligy čestný predseda Ľudovít Pavlo, Ján Holý, Milan Čuba, Štefánia Siegelová, Eileen Wilson a Martha Catalano a tiež predseda Slovensko-amerického kultúrneho strediska Matúš Čulen.

Medzi mnohými pozdravmi festivalu bol aj pozdrav od prezidenta Busha, z ktorého vyberáme: "Slováci v Amerike pomáhali stvárnovať národný charakter a silu Spojených štátov. Vážim si Slovákov v Amerike za ich významný príspevok v snahe urobiť z Ameriky prosperujúcu a slobodnú krajinu. Tiež si vážim všetkých medzi Vami, ktorí pomáhajú udržiavať národné dedičstvo Slovákov a Amerike.

Pekný pozdrav poslal aj kongresman Bill Pascrell.

Dokedy budeme bojovať "Za slobodné Slovensko"?

Kanadský Slovák na titulnej strane má dve heslá. Prvé: "Za Boha a národ". Druhé: "Za slobodné Slovensko". To druhé mi kole oči, odkedy som ukázal známemu, ktorési sviatočné číslo Kanadského Slováka. Prv než noviny prezrel chcel vedieť, čo znamenajú tie heslá na prvej strane novín. To prvé rozumel bez vysvetlenia. To druhé nechápal. "Is Slovakia still occupied by the communists?" vyzvedal sa. "Thank God, no longer" znela odpoveď.

Boli časy kedy toto heslo malo svoj naplňujúci význam. Bolo prejavom našej solidarity s národom doma trpiacim pod diabolským komunistickým režimom. Povedal by som, že prešlo zo starej do novej éry bez konfliktu, ktoré - podľa mienky niektorých - historicky tam patrí, ako pripomienka na tie bojovné časy za suverenitu a slobodu slovenského národa.

Časy a história sa menia. Idú svojím nezastaviteľným tempom. Slovensko už vyše desať rokov je slobodným, demo-

kratickým štátom v Únii európskych národov. Z listov z domu, čo čítam a počúvam od ľudí na slovo vzatých, trúfam si povedať, že doma majú, keď nie viac, aspoň toľko slobody ako my tu v Kanade. Otvorene píšú, hovoria a komentujú o veciach a udalostiach tónom, aký my tu by sme považovali za "politicky nekorektný".

Podľa mojej skromnej mienky heslo "Za slobodné Slovensko" prežilo svoj pôvodný význam tak pre nás tu, ako aj pre národ doma. V mojich očiach je hrubou urážkou slobodnej, samostatnej Slovenskej republiky.

Kanadský Slovák je dvojjazyčný týždenník. Už aj preto i pre príčiny hore spomenuté to druhé heslo malo by byť nahradené prekladom prvého hesla "For God and nation". Keď je potrebné mať dve heslá, dovoľm si odporúčať heslo "Buďme jednotní!" pre seba a pre národ doma.

Štefan Hreha
Montréal, QC



Prezident Gašparovič pri prejave. V pozadí spolupredsedovia festivalu zľava Nina Holá a Ján Duch; manželka prezidenta SR Silvia Gašparovičová.

Príhovor prezidenta SR Ivana Gašparoviča

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Vážení krajanovia, 1. septembra sme si pripomenuli 15. výročie prijatia slovenskej ústavy a 1. januára 2008 uplynie 15 rokov od vzniku suverénnej Slovenskej republiky. V kontexte "seniority" štátov sveta toto obdobie nie je dlhé, avšak v kontexte histórie slovenského národa je vznik samostatného štátu Slovákov obrovským úspechom. Musíme si však uvedomiť, že sa oň zaslúžili veľkým dielom aj naši predkovia, ktorí si počas dlhých storočí s úctou a láskou chránili svoj jazyk a kultúru, a napriek absencii štátoprávneho usporiadania dokázali prezentovať krajinu medzi Dunajom a Tatrami ako svoju domovinu.

Slovenské príslovie hovorí "Po akej ceste ideš, ta prídeš". Slovensko sa na križovatke svojich novodobých dejín rozhodlo pre tú správnu cestu, a dnes kráča po boku tých najvyšších krajín sveta v rámci najvýznamnejších svetových zoskupení a organizácií. Môžem Vás ubezpečiť, moji drahí krajanovia, že sme si vedomí Vášho príspevku k tomuto nášmu úspechu. Nech je pre Vás i pre nás Slovensko krajinou do ktorej sa budeme radi vracaať a nachádzať v nej pokoj, radosť a bezpečie.

So srdečným pozdravom

Ivan Gašparovič
Prezident Slovenskej republiky

NECHAJTE INÝCH VEDIEŤ O JEDNOTE

Oznámenia spolkov a okresov

Výročná schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu, spolok č. 16 IKSJ

Oznamujeme všetkým členom, že výročná členská schôdza Okresu Msgr. Štefana Krasuľu, spolok č. 16 Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty sa bude konať v nedeľu 4. novembra 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola Najsvätejšej Trojice v Yonkers, N.Y.

Prosíme všetkých predsedov spolkov, aby poslali čo najviac delegátov a privítame medzi sebou aj nedelegátov. Program schôdze bude zameraný na prípravu činnosti na budúce obdobie, na voľbu nových úradníkov a taktiež oboznámenie prítomných s finančnou správou. Po schôdzi sa bude podávať občerstvenie, ktoré pripravia členovia Spolku č. 41 Yonkers, N.Y.

Ostávam s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta H. Daitová, tajomníčka/ pokladníčka

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. novembra 2007 o 1:00 hodine odpoľudnia sa uskutoční výročná členská schôdza v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C.

Na programe je finančná správa, príprava programu a voľba nových úradníkov na budúce obdobie. Vyzývame všetkých členov aby sa tejto výročnej schôdze zúčastnili.

Ostávame s kresťanským pozdravom

Henrieta Daitová, tajomníčka

Výročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ

Oznamujeme našim členom, že výročná schôdza Spolku sv. Matúša číslo 45 IKSJ v New Yorku bude v nedeľu 9. decembra 2007 o 12:30 hodine (po slovenskej svätej omši) v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého na 1st Avenue a 66th Street. Na programe sú správy úradníkov, finančné správy, zhodnotenie činnosti za uplynulé obdobie. Za tým budú nasledovať voľby do nového výboru, ktorý zároveň vypracuje program činnosti na ďalšie obdobie. Úctive vás žiadame o účasť na tejto výročnej členskej schôdzi.

Ďakujem a s pozdravom, brat

Jozef Juráši, predseda

Jesenná tanečná zábava v New York City

Spolok sv. Matúša č. 45 IKSJ v New York City vás pozýva na Jesennú tanečnú zábavu, ktorá sa uskutoční v sobotu dňa 20. októbra 2007 o 7:00 hod. večer v osadnej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého 411 East 66th Street, New York City. Vstupné je \$25.00. V cene vstupenky je započítaná večera, káva a koláč. V priebehu podujatia bude losovaná tombola. Zabávať vás bude skupina Jozefa Jurášiho - Kontakty. Parkovanie v NYC je po 7:00 hod. večer bezplatné. Tešíme sa na vašu účasť.

Jozef Juráši, predseda

1. zbor Slovenskej ligy oslávi 90. výročie

Prvý zbor Slovenskej ligy v Amerike bol založený v New Yorku pred 90. rokmi. Výbor zboru sa rozhodol osláviť toto výročie v sobotu 10. novembra slávnostným banketom, ktorý sa začne o 6. hodine večer. Po bankete bude nasledovať tradičná Katarínska zábava, pri ktorej bude hrať hudobno-spevácka skupina Kontakty.

Vstupné na banket s tradičnou slovenskou večerou a na zábavu je \$25.00. Vstupenky si možno zaistiť v predpredaji u nasledujúcich: Jozef Bilik, tel. 718 463-2084, alebo Henrieta Daitová, tel. 201 641-8922.

Prvý zbor Slovenskej ligy bol od svojho založenia jedným z najaktívnejších slovenských spolkov v New Yorku. Zapájal sa do národnej práce nielen v New Yorku, ale aj na širšej americko-slovenskej scéne.

Výbor zboru pozýva na jubilejnú oslavu slovenské národné spolky a slovenskú verejnosť z New Yorku a okolia.

Predsedníctvo 1. zboru.

Vláda SR uznala úlohu katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku

Vatikán (TASR) – Vláda Slovenskej republiky uznala úlohu katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku. Pápežovi Benediktovi XVI. to 26. septembra povedal minister obrany František Kašický. Pápež ho aj s manželkou Alenou prijal po generálnej audiencii na Námestí sv. Petra vo Vatikáne. "Povedal som Svätému Otcovi, že prebieha intenzívny dialóg medzi vládou SR a predstaviteľmi katolíckej cirkvi na Slovensku a že tento dialóg je veľmi otvorený. Hovorili sme aj o úzkej spolupráci medzi rezortom obrany SR a ordinariátom Ozbrojených síl a ozbrojených zložiek SR," uviedol Kašický po prijatí u pápeža, s ktorým hovoril bez tlmočníka po anglicky.

Kašický je prvým členom súčasnej slovenskej vlády, ktorého pápež prijal osobne. Hlave katolíckej cirkvi odovzdal dar drevorezbu slovenskej krajiny od oravského autora Roberta Veselého. Minister obrany bol na dvojdnovej oficiálnej návšteve Svätej stolice a pracovnej návšteve Talianskej republiky.

NOVÁ PUBLIKÁCIA

"Dokumenty k procesu s katolíckymi kňazmi Jánom Vojtaššákom, Michalom Buzalkom a Pavlom Gojdičom"

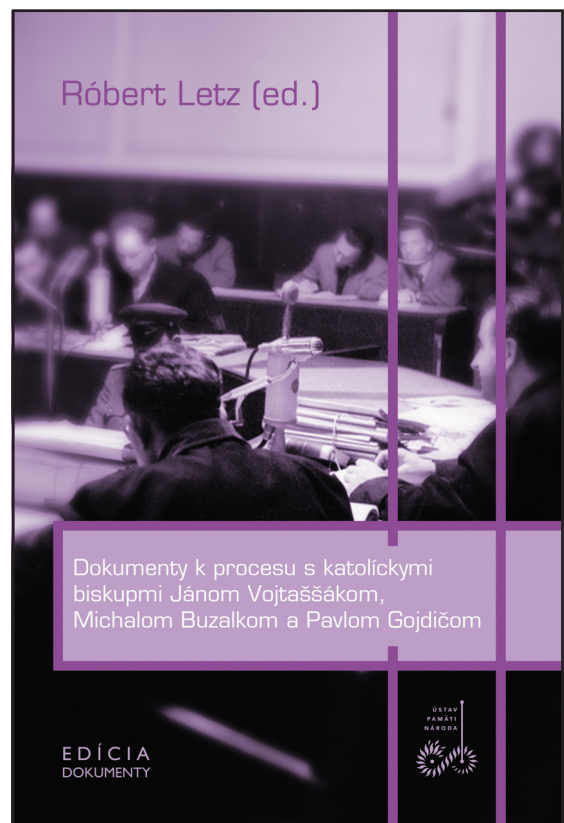
Tak znie nová publikácia z dielne historika a vedúceho Katedry histórie Pedagogickej fakulty UK v Bratislave Róberta Letza, ktorú autor za prítomnosti významných slovenských cirkevných predstaviteľov a mnohých pamätníkov dobových udalostí dňa 27. septembra prezentoval na Teologickej fakulte TU v Bratislave. "Prvýkrát po roku 1990 vychádza súbor dokumentov v takejto forme o vykonštruovanom procese proti trom slovenským katolíckym biskupom Vojtaššákovi, Buzalkovi a Gojdičovi, ktorí sa stali obeťami komunistického režimu," prezradil autor o knihe a dokumentoch, z ktorých mnohé dodnes neboli publikované.

"Rozhodli sme sa pre výber 86 najdôležitejších dokumentov, ktoré verne zachytávajú túto historickú udalosť," pokračuje Letz. Edícia prameňov má za úlohu priblížiť proces, jeho mechanizmus a osobnosti prostredníctvom dokumentov, ktoré sú produktom činnosti špeciálnych orgánov, najvyšších straníckych orgánov, straníckych orgánov zameraných na cirkevnú politiku a iných. "Nesmieme zabúdať, že ich tvorcami sú inštitúcie, ktoré tvorili totalitný komunistický režim. Musíme k nim pristupovať kriticky, pretože sa vyznačujú vysokou mierou indoktrinácie a tendenčnosti," objasňuje autor knihy vzhľadom na to, že do súboru dokumentov je zaradená aj obžaloba, rozsudok a zápisnica z hlavného pojednávania. České a slovenské dokumenty sú usporiadané chronologicky za sebou a tvoria uzavretý a vzájomne prepojený celok. Uverejnené sú v plnom a v neskrátenom znení, pričom sa zachováva pôvodný jazyk a pravopis.

"Kniha prináša najrelevantnejšie dokumenty o procese biskupov, čo znamená, že sa čitateľom predstiera priamy prepis dokumentových materiálov. V tom je toto dielo jedinečné," uviedol cirkevný historik a recenzent knihy Jozef Hal'ko. Publikácia, ktorú vydal Ústav pamäti národa, je podľa jeho slov výnimočná poznámkami pod čiarou, ktoré plnia vysvetľujúcu a niekedy aj komparatívnu funkciu.

Záštitu nad podujatím prevzal kardinál Ján Chryzostom Korec, ktorý sa prezentácie zúčastnil a vyjadril sa k typickým udalostiam v rokoch 1950-1952, akými boli likvidácia Gréckokatolíckej cirkvi, uväznenie biskupov, likvidácia diecéznych seminárov, súd s biskupmi a iné. Medzi prítomnými nechýval ani spišský diecézny biskup Mons. František Tondra a nitriansky diecézny biskup Mons. Viliam Judák, ktorý predsedal svätej omši vo františkánskom kostole pred začiatkom prezentácie. "Kniha nám pripomína prenasledovanie Cirkvi po 2. svetovej vojne, tlak a snahy dobovej vlády zdiskreditovať a rozdeliť vtedajšiu cirkevnú hierarchiu," odznelo v homílii Mons. Judáka, podľa ktorého traja slovenskí biskupi, každý inej povahy, vlastností a talentov, "odmietli koketovanie s vládou a prijali kríž až do konca".

TK KBS



POZVÁNKA

na zádušnú svätú omšu za prvého prezidenta Slovenskej republiky
Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu,
ktorá bude 1. decembra o 10.00 hodine v kostole sv. Andreja Svorada.
Svätú omšu bude slúžiť opát Clement Železník, OSB.
Pri tejto príležitosti tam budú uložené relikvie
Msgr. Dr. Jozefa Tisu,
z hrobu na Martinskom cintoríne v Bratislave,
ktoré priniesol Dr. Ľudovít Pavlo.
Po svätej omši bude premietnutý videozáznam o exhumácii spolu s
výpoveďami pamätníkov na prezidenta Tisu.

Andrew F. Hudak, Jr.
Director Slovak Institute
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Ľudovít Pavlo, MD
President Emeritus
Slovak League of America

Dobří ľudia ešte žijú

Počas našej návštevy na Slovensku bolo nám čou nedávno zúčastniť sa nádhernej udalosti s ktorou by sme sa chceli podeliť aj s vami milí čitatelia Jednoty.

Začalo sa to návštevou u našich priateľov Judity a Jozefa Smáka, ktorí sa odsťahovali z Pennsylvánie za dcérou do North Carolina. Tam sme sa dozvedeli, že rodina Smáková urobila medzi svojimi v rodine a medzi priateľmi zbierku na stavbu kostola na Slovensku v malej dedinke Streženice, pri Púchove.

Juditka pochádza z Púchova a zo Streženíc mala spolužiačku, s ktorou si vytvorila priateľstvo, ktoré dodnes trvá. A tak sa rodina Smáková z vďačnosti zapojila s pomocou Božou do zbierky na diaľku, aby Streženičania mali vlastný kostol a nemuseli cestovať do Púchova.

No a pri našej návšteve na Slovensku sme boli tí, čo sme zbierku odovzdali kňazovi, Msgr. Michalovi Keblúškovi, správcom farnosti v Púchove. Pri tejto príležitosti boli prítomní aj starosta obce Streženice, Ing. Jozef Kováčik a jeho manželka, dcéra priateľky Judity Smákovovej. Na moje veľké prekvapenie správcom farnosti je kňaz, rodák z Bytče, kde som aj ja vyrastala a ukončila svoje stredoškolské vzdelanie. Napriek tomu, že je medzi nami 20-ročný rozdiel bolo veru s otcom Keblúškom o čom rozprávať. Ved' aj naša návšteva Slovenska bola spojená práve s 50-ročným pomaturitným stretnutím.

Otec Keblúšek vyrastal v skromných podmienkach a od útleho detstva sa chcel stať kňazom. Už ako dieťa si staval oltár a hral sa na kňaza. Spomínam si na neho ešte ako na miništranta, keď so zopätými rúčkami stál vedľa kňaza pri oltári v Bytči. Iste sa vrúcne modlil, aby raz aj on mohol slúžiť Bohu a veriacim. Mal zbožných rodičov a práve toto rodinné prostredie vytvorilo podmienky, aby sa jeho sen naplnil.



Mons. Michal Keblúšek, správca farnosti.



Pamiatka na posviacku kostola Sedembolestnej Panny Márie v Streženiciach, ktorý požehnal dňa 16. 9. 2007 otec biskup Mons. Viliam Judák.

Jeho obetavosť nemá hraníc. Dnes je kňaz, ktorý vo svojich 47. rokoch postavil už tretí kostol. Veru to si môže povedať málokto kňaz na Slovensku. A z rozprávania veriacich v Púchove, ale hlavne z Rajca kde pôsobil najdlhšie, sme sa dozvedeli len ten najlepší chýr. A to pri takom útoku na cirkev, aký sa deje na Slovensku, je čo povedať. Je to kňaz hodný svojho povolania.

Začiatok stavby kostola sa začal v máji 2006 Pozemnými stavbami v Púchove pod vedením Ing. Vlastimila Šamánka a Ing. Svatoňa ale aj Viliama Gerbeľa ako stavebného dozorca. Vďaka vzájomnej spolupráci starostu obce Ing. Jozefa Kováčika so správcom farnosti a za veľkej obetavosti samotných občanov obce bol kostol postavený za rekordný čas. Stavbu sme navštívili dvakrát a bolo to ako na mravenisku, aj kňaza sme našli nie na fare, ale na stavbe. Starosta obce je tiež výborným organizátorom a veru po

skončení svojej práce bol aj dobrým robotníkom na stavbe. Nedali sa zahanbiť ani ženy zo Streženice, ktoré robili prácu ako muži. Som presvedčená, že týmto sa len utužili vzťahy medzi občanmi a na vystavený kostol musí byť každý hrdý.

Kostol, ktorý je zasvätený Matke Sedembolestnej Panne Márii, stojí na krásnom mieste pod horou, vedľa úradu starostu a zároveň kultúrneho domu. Len pred dvoma

rokmi to bola lúka so včelínom a 16. septembra 2007 sa stala pamätným dňom pre celú obec. Za nádherného počasia o 15.00 hodine hudbou a spevom sprevádzaný sprievod všetkých veriacich a kňazov na čele s biskupom Msgr. Viliamom Judákom sa vybral ku kostolu na jeho posviacku. Krásnou homíliou sa prihovril veriacim pán biskup, počas ktorej vyzdvihol úžasnú snahu občanov, ktorá bola korunovaná výsledkom dosiahnutia vlastného chrámu. Sám navštívil obec trikrát a nechcel veriť vlastným očiam, ako stavba napreduje. Msgr. Keblúšek vo svojom príhovore spomenul aj zásluhu Američanov, ktorí zbierkou rodiny Smákových tiež prispeli k dielu a poďakoval sa všetkým ostatným, čo akýmkoľvek spôsobom sa pričínili o to, že dnes v Streženiciach pri Púchove stojí nádherný kostol. Nezabudol ani na dobrého človeka, priateľa kňaza, hoci neveriaceho, ktorý urobil kríž na veži kostola a už sa nedožil jeho posviacky. Zomrel v mladom



Drevorezba Sedembolestnej Matky na bočnom oltári, ktorú darovala Anna Bírošová na pamiatku záchranu jej života pri autohavárii v roku 1974.



Pohľad na vnútrajšok z posviacky kostola.



Pohľad na množstvo ľudí a sprievod do kostola.



Sprava Ing. Jozef Kováčik s manželkou v spoločnosti duchovenstva.

vysviacky do kostola, ktorá bola určená hlavne pre pozvaných hostí. Vo svojej homílii Msgr. Michal Keblúšek spomenul príbeh z jedného ruského filmu, ktorý sa mohol premietat až po nežnej revolúcii, pretože ukázal, ako komunisti chceli zničiť vieru v Boha ako aj tým zrúcali kostoly. V príbehu babka, ktorá sa vracia zo žalára do rodnej dediny, hľadá cestu, ktorá v jej pamäti vedie ku kostolu. Pýtajúc sa okoloidúceho, ktorá je to cesta, dostáva odpoveď, že kostola už nieto. A záverečná veta babky vo filme znela "načo taká cesta, ktorá nikam nevedie?"

V obci Streženice obrazne povedané tiež bola taká cesta do 16. septembra, ale od tohto dátumu je už cesta, ktorá má zmysel, lebo vedie do Božieho chrámu. A tak v závere sv. omše zaznela výzva pre veriacich, aby chrám vždy zaplňali a odnášali si z neho živú vieru, po stáročia chránenu Matkou Sedembolestnou, patrónkou nielen kostola v Streženiciach, ale aj patrónkou celého Slovenska.

Anna a Jozef Bíroš

Minister obrany udelil vojenskému biskupovi medailu

Minister obrany Slovenskej republiky František Kašický v utorok 3. októbra 2007 prijal spišského diecézneho biskupa Mons. Františka Tondru, predsedu Konferencie biskupov Slovenska, a ordinára ozbrojených síl a ozbrojených zborov Slovenskej republiky Mons. Františka Rábeka. Cieľom stretnutia bolo informovanie o prijatí ministra obrany u pápeža Benedikta XVI. počas jeho nedávnej oficiálnej návštevy vo Vatikáne. Kašický vyjadril veľké potešenie z návštevy a zo stretnutia so Svätým Otcem vo Vatikáne priblížil, ako v spoločnom rozhovore ubezpečil Svätého Otca, že otázkam duchovnej služby a spolupráce s ňou sa venuje v Ozbrojených silách SR veľká pozornosť. Kašický taktiež informoval

Mons. Tondru o priebehu návštevy u sekretára Svätej stolice pre vzťahy so štátmi arcibiskupa Mons. Dominiqua Mambertiho. Vysoko ocenil vojenského ordinára Mons. Rábeka, ktorý sa významnou mierou podieľa na spolupráci a zároveň vyzdvihol aj prácu celého Ordinariátu OS a OZ SR. Počas stretnutia minister obrany využil možnosť a ocenil Mons. Františka Rábeka pamätnou medailou ministra obrany Slovenskej republiky III. stupňa za spoluprácu medzi Ordinariátom ozbrojených síl a ozbrojených zborov SR a Ministerstvom obrany SR a za prípravu prijatia ministra obrany SR u pápeža Benedikta XVI.

TK KBS, Tibor Uljacký

Slovensko musí viac investovať do vzdelávania

Brusel (TASR) – Slovensko by malo viac investovať do vzdelávania, pretože pre jeho sociálny a ekonomický rozvoj sú práve tieto investície z dlhodobého hľadiska rozhodujúce a najvýhodnejšie. V opačnom prípade dôjde v systéme k škodám, ktoré budú oveľa vyššie než včasné a rozumné investície do vzdelania. Tvrdí to slovenský komisár Ján Figel' zodpovedný za školstvo, kultúru a odbornú prípravu v súvislosti s najnovšou správou Európskej komisie porovnávajúcou úspechy a nedostatky jednotlivých členských krajín v oblasti školstva.

Správa, ktorú EK nedávno zverejnila, okrem iného kritizuje Slovensko práve za veľmi nízke investície do vzdelávania. Tento nedostatok podľa komisára nemožno ospravedlňovať tým, že SR sa snaží splniť kritériá na vstup do eurozóny a teda treba brať ohľad na štátny deficit. Komisár pripomenul, že v súčasnosti prichádzajú investori na Slovensko z dôvodu jeho celkovej atraktívnosti, aj tu sa už však začína ukazovať nedostatok pracovnej sily. Vysoký hospodársky rast bude preto možné udržať len na základe investícií do inovácií. "A pre inovácie je potrebné rozvinúť vedomosti, poznanie, zručnosti, kompetencie, kreativitu. Tu sa nedá odkladať investovanie, lebo čo je schopnejšie, to odíde, a deficity, ktoré v systéme nastanú, sa potom ťažko eliminujú," myslí si Figel'. Doterajšie výsledky podľa neho ukazujú, že treba klásť väčší dôraz aj na efektivitu financií použitých pre školstvo a na jeho skvalitnenie. Skutočnosť, že Slovensko má v rámci EÚ jeden z najvyšších podielov študentov s minimálne maturitou a jeden z najnižších podielov študentov predčasne opúšťajúcich vzdelávací proces, je podľa komisára dôkazom toho, že na Slovensku záujem o štúdium je. "To sú

veľmi dobré predpoklady, ktoré hovoria o tom, že sa u nás študuje a chce študovať a treba na tom stavať. Môj osobný pohľad je, že na jednej strane je záujem o vzdelávanie, na druhej strane je treba viac a sústredenejšie stimulovať kvalitu, aby to nebolo len o pasívnej účasti, ale o aktívnej, o kreativite a o rozvoji základných kompetencií, ktoré dnes každý potrebuje, ak sa chce celoživotne udržať na pracovnom trhu," konštatuje komisár.

V súvislosti so zapájaním sa občanov do celoživotného vzdelávania, kde Slovensko nedosahuje ani polovicu celoeurópskeho premiu, Figel' pripúšťa, že ide o nový jav v nových členských krajinách EÚ. Príkladom by mali byť škandinávské štáty, kde sa celoživotné vzdelávanie stalo pravidlom a je dôkazom schopnosti ľudí prispôbovať sa meniacim potrebám trhu. Túto formu vzdelávania tam pritom podporuje nielen vzdelávací systém, ale aj štát a podniky.

"Toto sú odkazy aj pre Slovensko, aby celoživotnosť nebola podceňovaná, ale čím skôr rozvinutá ako stratégia a pravidlo v správaní sa inštitúcií, ale aj obyvateľstva, aby sme nemali pocit, že skončiť školu znamená cítiť sa pripravený na celoživotnú kariéru," zdôraznil Figel'. Za jeden z najdôležitejších predpokladov preto, aby boli reformy a modernizácia slovenského školstva úspešné, považuje posilnenie postavenia učiteľov a zvýšenie kvality ich prípravy.

"Môžeme hovoriť o zmenšovaní počtu žiakov v triedach, o náraste učiva alebo o predlžovaní počtu hodín, ale z týchto a podobných kritérií najcitlivejším činiteľom je učiteľ samotný. Kvalita prípravy učiteľov by preto mala byť súčasťou reformného úsilia nielen na Slovensku, ale aj vo všetkých štátoch," dodal Figel'.

Dobré rady nielen pre starších

Odchod do dôchodku nemusí byť neprijemným zlom, ale začiatkom pestrého obdobia s možnosťou pestovať nové kontakty a záľuby ;

- stuhnuté kĺby, strata pružnosti svalstva a sviežej pokožky nemusí skosiť telo starých ľudí, ale podnietiť do fyzickej aktivity, práce v záhrade, turistiky, plávania i do použitia vhodnej kozmetiky;

- spomalený metabolizmus a nechutenstvo nemusí pretrvávajúť, naopak, umožňuje prechod na zdravšiu, racionálnu výživu;

- psychosociálne zmeny nemusia spôsobiť utápanie sa v skepse, ale treba obnoviť najmilšie spomienky na minulosť, vo vďačnosti Bohu za ne i za prítomné chvíle;

- vzťahy v rodine a vo farskom spoločenstve nemusia zovšednieť, ale byť príležitosťou na nové gestá lásky i na duchovnú pomoc;

- nadobudnuté celoživotné vedomosti netreba zahodiť do koša, ale dopĺňať si ich čítaním odborných kníh, ako aj vhodným výberom z náboženskej literatúry a tlače;

- dostatok voľného času nemusí byť dôvodom na utvrdzovanie sa v neužitočnosti a nepotrebnosti, ale na otváranie srdca a hľadanie odpovede pred tvárou Boha, v akej oblasti treba splniť svoje poslanie a urobiť život zmysluplným;

- vnútorná osamelosť a fyzické utrpenie starých nemusí prerásť do ustavičného stonania, ale môžu sa stať príležitosťou na obetovanie sa za iných, na modlitbu, návštevu kostola a vzácné rodinné stretnutia.

Katolícke noviny

Gašparovič sa vrátil z newyorského sídla Spojených

národov

Bratislava (TASR) – Prezident SR Ivan Gašparovič sa 28. septembra v skorých ranných hodinách vrátil z päťdňovej návštevy USA, kde sa okrem iného zúčastnil na 62. Valnom zhromaždení OSN. Prezidenta sprevádzal minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubiš. Gašparovič vystúpil na "Klimatickom summite" OSN, kde zdôraznil pripravenosť Slovenska sa zapojiť do boja proti globálnemu otepľovaniu v rámci OSN, ako aj akceptovanie záväzkov EÚ pri znižovaní emisií. Na zasadaní Bezpečnostnej rady (BR) OSN venovanom otázkam mieru a bezpečnosti v Afrike prezident zdôraznil najmä potrebu väčšej prevencie konfliktov. V rámci svojho vystúpenia vo všeobecnej rozprave VZ OSN vyzdvihol nevyhnutnosť zdynamizovania reformného procesu OSN a jej štruktúr. V New Yorku Gašparovič podpísal Dohovor OSN o právach osôb so zdravotným

postihnutím a Medzinárodný dohovor o ochrane všetkých osôb pred nedobrovoľným zmiznutím. Slovensko sa na Valnom zhromaždení uchádza o členstvo v novovytvorenej Rade pre ľudské práva OSN, ktorá nahradila Komisiu pre ľudské práva a prezident vyzval členské krajiny OSN, aby kandidatúru SR podporili. Slovenská diplomacia si v New Yorku získala dobré meno aj vďaka takmer dvojročnému pôsobeniu na poste nestáleho člena BR OSN. Kredit slovenských diplomatov a SR potvrdil v rozhovore s Gašparovičom i generálny tajomník OSN Pan Kimun. Prezidenta sprevádzala prvá dáma Silvia Gašparovičová a na ceste sa zúčastnila aj manželka ministra zahraničných vecí Jaroslava Kubišová, pre ktoré bol v sídle OSN pripravený osobitný "dámsky program".

Pri Lipanoch vystrykol gejzír

Lipany (TASR) - Konečne sa to podarilo! Pri Lipanoch (okres Sabinov) 5 rokov hľadali termálnu vodu. Našli ju až začiatkom októbra. Zo zeme vystrykol gejzír s vodou horúcou 90° C, ktorý sa môže stať nielen prílevom financií pre široké okolie, ale i množstvom nových pracovných príležitostí.

Voda prúdi zo zeme výdatnosťou až 35 litrov za sekundu. "Budeme robiť ďalšie rozborý, ale už teraz je jasné, že onedlho vypíšeme výberové konanie na investora. Jeho víťaz zabezpečí využitie zdroja. Teplá voda bude slúžiť najmä na vykurovanie a pri rozvoji poľnohospodárstva. Zároveň plánujeme postaviť akvapark," povedal primátor Lipian Eduard Vokál.

O zdrojoch geotermálnej vody neďaleko Lipian tušili predstavitelia mesta

už oveľa skôr. Naftári tu pred viac ako tridsiatimi rokmi hľadali ropu a plyn. Pri tom však natrafili na zdroje teplej vody. Mesto do obnovy vrtu investovalo 40 miliónov korún. Prieskumné práce realizovala firma Geothermex z Hodonína. "Dostali sme sa až do hĺbky 3,400 metrov," prezradil jej riaditeľ Miroslav Král. Podľa neho prvé analýzy ukazujú, že voda je slabo mineralizovaná, čo je veľká výhoda. Vďaka nej nebude zanášať potrubie, ktorým bude tiecť. Podľa Krála veľkú výdatnosť dokazuje fakt, že na konci potrubia vyvinie silu až 3,3 megapascalu, a ak by striekala kolmo hore, gejzír by dosiahol výšku 330 metrov.

Nie každý investor na Slovensku má cenu zlata

Viedeň (TASR) – Na Slovensku sú preč časy, keď sa krajina usilovala za každú cenu prilákať investora. Ako uvádza rakúsky denník Die Presse, nejde pritom o odmietnutie malých projektov, ale i tých v pravom slova zmysle vysokokarátových. Ide o záujem kanadskej firmy Tournigan znovu obnoviť modernými technickými metódami ťažbu zlata v Kremnici. Tamojšie obyvateľstvo je však rezolútne proti. Na podobný odpor narážajú investori i v prípade plánovanej ťažby uránu na Jahodnej pri Košiciach a výstavby tepelnej elektrárne, ktorú chce na okraji mesta Trebišov postaviť Československá energetická spoločnosť.

Proti všetkým trom projektom ostro vystupujú občianske i ekologické organizácie. Investori však naďalej trvajú na ekologickej nezávadnosti a vysokej ekonomickej výhodnosti svojich projektov.

V prípade povrchovej ťažby zlata v Kremnici by sa z 250-metrového krátra v priebehu nasledujúcich 10 rokov mohlo vyťažiť vyše 30 miliónov gramov zlata a sedemnásobok tohto objemu v prípade striebra. Ako však pripomína rakúsky denník, v Kremnici funguje mincovňa, ktorá napríklad razila mince pre Irak a bude raziť i euromince. Zdroj príjmov predstavuje i rozvoj cestovného ruchu v tomto malebnom historickom meste. Pri Košiciach sa nachádzajú podľa predstaviteľov Tourniganu najväčšie známe zásoby uránu v strednej Európe. Trebišovská elektrárňa má poskytnúť pracovné miesta pre približne 350 priamych zamestnancov a nepriamo zvýši zamestnanosť dodávateľských spoločností. V čase výstavby tu bude pracovať približne 1,500 ľudí. Informoval o tom denník Die Presse.