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Fr. Stephen Furdek
Our Founder

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Number 5763



Photo Courtesy: Michael Kopanic

Holding the Pittsburgh Pact are L-R: Stephen Matula, President of Branch 856 in Washington, D.C.; Dr. Edward Tuleya, retired Professor of History at Millersville University and Curator of the Slovak Museum and Archives; Joseph Hornack, Assistant Director of the Slovak Institute and Library in Cleveland, Ohio; FCSU National President Andrew Rajec; and FCSU National President Emeritus Thomas Hricik.

The Pittsburgh Agreement Returns to Pittsburgh

By Dr. Edward A. Tuleya

The formal presentation of the original Pittsburgh Agreement to the Senator John Heinz History Center took place before a large audience on Sunday, September 9, 2007. The Pittsburgh pact will be on permanent display in the museum. At the presentation ceremony, Slovak and Czech speakers extolled the virtues of the Agreement and showed how it contributed to strengthening relations between Czechs and Slovaks. The Pittsburgh Agreement remained a bone of contention between the two nations throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

Unlike those who preceded him, speaker Daniel F. Tanzone, President of the Slovak League of America, addressed the failure of the Czech leadership to live up to the promises Masaryk made in Pittsburgh. Henri Pozzi in his book, BLACK HAND OVER EUROPE wrote: "In reply to the Slovaks, revolted by his betrayal, President Masaryk responded by a subterfuge, declaring that the Pittsburgh Agreement had been concluded on a holiday, in violation of the American law and was those null and void." Continuing, he said, "All the conventions, verbal or written passed by Mr. Masaryk during and after the war, have been respected by

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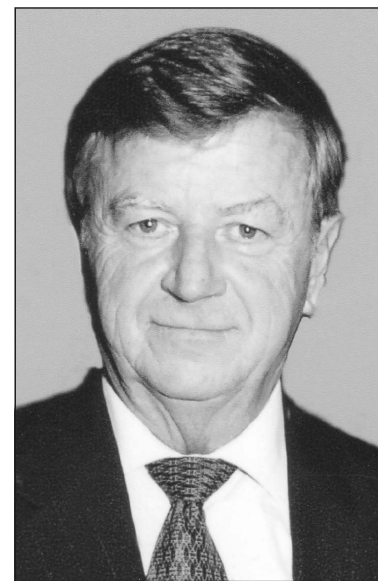
From the Office of the Vice President The Necessity of Life Insurance

One of the major selling points for life insurance is that people have a need to provide for their dependents. The first organization to offer life insurance in North America issued policies for the relief of widows and children of Presbyterian ministers. The situation is similar today. The principal need for life insurance is to provide financial support for dependents when a breadwinner dies. Depending on individual circumstances, this financial support may be needed for a short or long period of time.

Short-Term Income Needs: If the man or woman who died supported or helped to support a family, the family may face serious problems in the months immediately following the person's death. Besides the cash outlay for final expenses, household expenses go on. Rent or mortgage payments must still be made, utility bills paid, food and clothing purchased while family members try to cope with the emotional effect of the death of their loved one. Very few persons have ample funds to pay their usual expenses for several months if the family income ceases or is substantially reduced. Even if another member of the family is able to go to work, it may take time for that person to find suitable employment or to get the training needed to begin a career. Insurance can provide funds to support the family until new methods of household support are obtained or until the family members adjust to a lower standard of living.

Long Term Income Needs: Dependents of the deceased will require a continuing source of income. In some cases, a spouse or another dependent may be able to assume the role of "Sole Bread Winner" and provide adequate support for the family. In most households today, however, both spouses are already employed and both incomes are needed to pay the usual family bills. The loss of either income often results in a substantial reduction in the family's standard of living. The proceeds of a life insurance policy may be used to

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Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

Seminars

For every three (3) new JEP contracts...or... one (1) new Term Year Policy...or...any new Whole Life Policy with a face value of at least \$10,000 you bring to the seminar in your area, you will receive a Modra dish made in Slovakia. There is no limit on the number of dishes you can receive.

The following seminars have been finalized:

- **Sunday, October 7, 2007- Rev. John J. Spitkovsky District**
Mass at 8:00 a.m. in Blessed Savior Church, 8607 West Villard Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. at the Grecian Inn, 14375 West Capital Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin.
Seminar to follow at 10:15 a.m.
- **Sunday, October 14, 2007-Rev. Matthew Jankola District, Msgr. John E. Rura District and Msgr Stephen Krasula District**
Seminar at 2:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Hall, 67 Fitch Street, Carteret, New Jersey. Refreshments will be served.

If you plan on attending a seminar, please contact the Home Office at least 3 days prior to your scheduled seminar so we can get an attendance count.

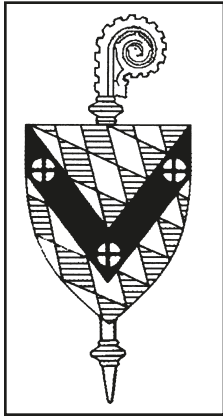
Any First Catholic Slovak Union member interested in learning about and selling our insurance and annuity products is also urged to attend the seminars in your area. Form a car pool and get involved with sales.

Until next time...
Good Luck and God Bless!
Andrew R. Harcar Sr.
National Vice President
Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee

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Insights and Viewpoints



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

October 14, 2007

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 17:1-19

Gospel Summary

Jesus, continuing his journey to Jerusalem, comes upon ten lepers, and from a distance hears their plea for help, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" He instructs these outcasts from society to go and show themselves to the priests. On the way, they are cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, a Samaritan, returns glorifying God, and falls at the feet of Jesus in gratitude. Jesus

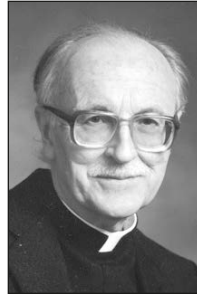
remarks, "Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then to the Samaritan, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

Life Implications

As always in the teaching of Jesus, it is faith that will determine whether we identify with the nine who are cured but not saved, or with the Samaritan who is both cured and saved. All ten lepers are healed. They all experience their return to health and to membership in the community as a good thing. However, only the Samaritan, with the intuition of faith, recognizes the good thing to be a gift of God, and acts upon that intuition. He glorifies God, and returns to thank Jesus whom he recognizes as an agent of God's presence and compassion.

In the language of later theology, the Samaritan's faith enabled him to see with sacramental vision. Without the vision of faith, one can experience countless good things—the wonders of the universe through the eyes of science; the ability to hear, to see, to speak, to feel; a return to health from an illness. But it is only with the intuition of faith that one can experience these good things as gifts of God. Through faith they become symbols or sacraments of the personal exchange of love—God's self-giving to us, and our grateful response in word and deed. Because the Samaritan entered into that personal exchange of divine love and human gratitude, Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you." To possess health, or for that matter any other good thing of this earth, in the judgment of Jesus is not to be saved.

Faith of course must not be restricted to recognizing a good thing as God's gift only in the miracle moments of life. Rather, as Saint Paul tells us, faith means to live in the aware-



Campion P. Gavaler,
O.S.B.

ness of the divine presence as a way of life, "giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father" (Eph 5:20). My favorite part of the Talmud ("Berakhot") illustrates this essential aspect of the biblical tradition by giving examples when a faithful person will bless God in gratitude: "on seeing the ocean, on seeing the first tree blossom in the spring, on seeing a friend after six months, on hearing a sage, on receiving good news, on receiving bad news."

Each Sunday, like the Samaritan, we return to celebrate the Eucharist in gratitude for all the gifts that God has showered upon us as individuals and as a community. With a sacramental vision of faith, we hear the words of the bible as the gift of God's Word to us; we believe that the people around us are the church, the Body of Christ; we affirm the bread and wine truly to be the Risen Lord, the Father's ultimate gift to us. And with hearts lifted up in faith we can pray, "Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord."



October 21, 2007 (Year C)

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

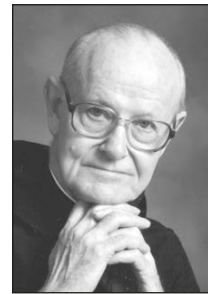
Luke 18:1-8

Gospel Summary

The classic way to stay in touch with God is through prayer. Small wonder then that Luke, when he shows us how to accompany him on the journey to Jerusalem, writes so insistently about prayer. Although the ideal prayer for Christians is praise and thanksgiving, there is also a place for prayers of petition, as today's gospel parable makes quite evident.

The story-line of the parable is clear and compelling. In ancient Israel, widows were often listed among the more vulnerable members of society. And it is clear that the widow of the parable has in fact been defrauded of her property by unscrupulous persons. Her only recourse is to the local judge. But he has long since abandoned his covenant morality and is swayed only by bribes--something that the destitute widow cannot provide.

This unprincipled judge is proud of his freedom from the strictures of religion and is happy to proclaim this on all occasions. (He may remind us of the agnostic physician in Bernanos' *Diary of a Country Priest*). However, the persistence of the widow gradually wears him down and finally causes him to grant her justice. The lesson drawn by Jesus is crystal clear: How much more likely is God, the most just of all judges, ready to grant our requests for justice when we are treated unfairly!



Demetrius R. Dumm,
O.S.B.

Life Implications

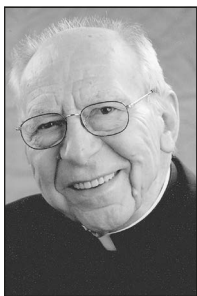
The point of this parable is probably more subtle than we may at first surmise. Jesus is not just telling us that we must doggedly persevere in prayer even when no answer seems to be provided. That is true, no doubt, but the real point here concerns our attitude toward God. For many of us, God seems so remote and so insensitive to our pleas that we may feel that he is not that different from the judge in the parable. As a matter of experience, our God does not always seem ready to

give us the justice that we seek.

The deeper lesson of the parable is concerned, therefore, with our experience of the reality and presence of God in our lives. It is faith alone that enables us to experience God as One who is exceedingly good and who loves us very much. We will want to persist in our prayers to him, not just because we need his help, but primarily because we want simply to stay in touch with this wonderful Person, who loves us unconditionally. In the long run, this loving God will give us all that we need...and much more.

Our relationship with God is not unlike that of children who expect their parents to respond positively to every request they have. But good and loving parents know that these requests are not always in the best interest of their children. I suspect that many children would quit school or eat only junk food if their parents would allow it. The important thing for all concerned is to maintain a loving and trusting contact, in spite of occasional bumps in the road. Today's parable reminds us that this is even more true of our relationship with God.

Reflections on Our Christianity Msgr. Edward V. Rosack



Msgr. Edward V. Rosack

Sophronius (Part I)

Yasser Arafat, a Muslim, had as his hero Umar ibn al-Khattab (584-644), a companion of Muhammad and second Caliph. The Caliph was the head of state, the leader of all Muslims, the successor to Muhammad's political authority. After the first four caliphs, the Caliphate, the Islamic form of government, was claimed not by individuals but by dynasties. Gazi Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, first president of the Turkish Republic, abolished the Caliphate on March 3, 1924.

Arafat's hero, also known as Umar (c. 584-November 7, 644), brought almost the entire Middle East under the control of Islam. Islam is a monotheistic religion originating with the teachings of Muhammad, God's final prophet and the restorer of the original monotheistic faith of Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ and other prophets. (Muslim is one who submits to God in accordance with the teaching of Muhammad, God's last Prophet.)

Umar was the caliph when Sophronius (b. 560) was the Christian Patriarch of Jerusalem from 634 to his death on March 11, 638. It was Umar who brought almost the entire Middle East, including Jerusalem, under the control of Islam.

In his Christmas sermon on 634, Sophronius warned of the approaching Muslims who had already controlled Bethlehem. He stated that their approach and control was as "unwitting representatives of God's inevitable chastisement of weak and wavering Christians." Sophronius added that he was detained from making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem because Christians were forcibly kept in Jerusalem "not detained by tangible bonds, but chained and nailed by fear of the Saracens whose savage and barbarous and bloody sword" kept them locked up in the town. Bethlehem was first placed under siege and in 637 the Muslims invaded the city. Sophronius is said to have given Umar the keys to the city. Umar is said to have had respect for the other faiths in Jerusalem, especially Jews, and it is also said that Umar and the Christians agreed to the Umariyya Covenant, which set the rights and obligations of each party.

On May 14, 1994, after signing the Gaza-Jericho First agreement in Cairo, Arafat told Muslims in Johannesburg that he signed only after receiving a letter from Israel promising future PLO control over Christian and Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. He said, "And I insisted to mention the Christian holy sacred places before the Islamic holy sacred places, because I have to be faithful to the agreement between the Caliph Omar al-Khattab and the Patriarch Sophronius."

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Insights and Viewpoints

Apostleship of Prayer Intentions for October 2007

General Intention

Minority Christians. That Christians who are in minority situations may have strength and courage to live their faith and persevere in bearing witness to it.

It's hard not to notice the waning of majority Christian culture in the United States. We are still predominantly a Christian nation, but non-Christian voices are also among us. Sometimes these voices are polite and reasonable, sometimes harsh and unfair. As Christians, we are understandably saddened when the larger culture rejects our ways. Yet we are thankful to live in a land where people are free to worship (or not to worship) as they please.

Our own experience, perhaps makes it easier for us to imagine what it must be like to be a Christian in a culture that is not Christian. Some minority Christians are free to practice their religion, thank God, even in cultures dominated by other religions.

Other minority Christians are persecuted. They cannot always speak up in political debates. They may not be permitted to vote their consciences. The U.S. State Department has reported that little religious freedom currently exists in Burma, China, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, and Viet Nam. Yet we know that many Christians live in each.

In some places, like the Holy Land and Iraq, the situation is becoming so violent and hopeless that many Christians are leaving. The birthplace of Christianity may become a place without Christians.

So we pray with all our hearts for minority Christians. May they be strong and joyful in the Lord. May they be allowed to live their faith and persevere in bearing witness to it.

Reflection. Can you remember a situation in which you were a minority Christian? How might others have treated you more charitably in that situation.

Mission Intention

World Missionary Day. That World Missionary Day may kindle a greater missionary awareness in every baptized person.

Sunday, October 21, is World Missionary Day. In a special message on the occasion, Pope Benedict calls continuing evangelization the universal mission of the Church, something we "cannot escape."

The Holy Father says that every faithful person must respond to the mission's appeal and not see it just as a task for specialists. "All Christian communities are born missionary." We are each "collaborator" and "protagonist" in the new evangelization of the world.

Being baptized, we become disciples of Jesus Christ, adopted children of God, dead to our former lives of sin, alive in the power of the Holy Spirit. We have become Christ's witness to the world, charged to speak of the things that God has done for us.

The Pope ends his message praying to the Blessed Virgin Mary to "make us aware that we are all missionaries, called by the Lord to be his witness in every moment of our lives."

The Holy Father's call to each of us to be a missionary may inspire us or burden us. Let's take this opportunity to look within ourselves to connect strongly with Jesus there. By seeking Jesus within, we will find the love and the power to speak of him to others. By uniting with Jesus, we become aware of the desire of his heart to draw all people into the Love which is God. We are not called to empty words and cold actions. We are called to speak and act out of our close friendship with Jesus, our Savior and Master.

Reflection. As a Christian, how is your own faith indebted to missionary activity past and present?



Reflections on Our Christianity

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PLO Authority Radio broadcast, "According to the Umariyya Agreement, there was one stipulation made by all the Christians to the Muslims: absolutely no Jews in Jerusalem. This agreement was in effect from the time of Omar under the British Mandate in 1917. Britain then allowed the Jews not only to enter the city, but even brought them in and planted them throughout Palestine and gave them a state. And this is the truth of the problem."

End of Part I



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

The Pittsburgh Agreement

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Czechoslovakia with a single exception- the convention concluded in Pittsburgh, May 30, 1918, with the Slovaks."

Tanzone's fine and much needed presentation helped to illuminate passages in Slovak history, unfortunately not that well known but delivered to his attentive audience. Earlier, in March when members of the Slovak League of America met in Scranton, a vote came up on whether to give the Agreement to Slovakia or to keep it in the United States. It was voted that the Agreement remain in the United States. After that decision, a prominent proponent for the Agreement going to Slovakia surprised me with his retort, "Who wants it?" My reply, "Pittsburgh" where we will find a museum or institution that will display it with honor and elegance. Joseph T. Senko, Slovak Honorary Consul and Executive Director of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association was contacted to find such a museum or institution in Pittsburgh willing to display the Pittsburgh Agreement. Joseph Senko went to work and succeeded in getting a commitment from the Senator John Heinz History Center. A reception and formal presentation ceremony for the Pittsburgh Agreement was arranged with the help of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association. It was a job well done.

In 1915, leaders of the Slovak League of America and the Czech National Society met in Cleveland and drew up the so-called Cleveland Agreement, the precursor of the Pittsburgh Agreement. The document called for a federated state guaranteeing the Slovak population absolute autonomy, a parliament, their own state administration and individual freedom in their cultural life. It seemed that the American Czechs were more willing to defend Slovak national rights than their Czech compatriots in the Old Country. The American Czechs were perhaps influenced by freedom and a sense of fair play they found in democratic America in contrast to Europe where larger nations tended to treat smaller nations as subject nations. When Masaryk learned of the Cleveland Agreement, he came to United States to water down the promises the American Czech leaders had made in good faith to Slovak leaders.

Milan Fryscak, professor at New York University, validated grievances of the Slovaks: "Despite the official recognition of the Slovaks as a separate nation, the system of government in post-war Czechoslovakia has remained highly centralized. In certain respects, the Slovaks found themselves as badly off as before the war. When objections were voiced, accusations of 'bourgeois nationalism' were leveled, and soon persecution, imprisonment, or worse followed." Throughout the First Czechoslovak Republic, Father Andrew Hlinka, champion of the Slovak nation, kept hammering at Masaryk and Benes to live up to the Pittsburgh Agreement, but to no avail. Finally, during the first and second Slovak Republics the Slovaks realized their national aspirations. During the years of the second Slovak Republic, a positive relationship developed between the Czechs and Slovaks with the Czechs understanding that good relations benefit both nations.



The Necessity of Life Insurance

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supplement the family's income. In a family in which surviving dependents are not able to work outside the home, it may be necessary to provide a continuing income from sources other than employment. The proceeds of a life insurance policy may be needed to provide such an income.

There are many personal and business needs for life insurance and the need for insurance products is not limited to any single age group or sex. When a person buys a life insurance policy, he or she is essentially buying a source of funds to meet future financial needs. Most people recognize that these needs are important, but they are reluctant to seek life insurance products to meet these needs. They don't realize that the financial consequences of premature death are faced by all individuals. The bottom line is: We are all going to die. When? The chances of dying increases with age at an accelerating rate, rising ultimately to a certainty. No one but God knows for sure if we will die prematurely or live to a "ripe old age." One thing we can be certain of, however, is that life insurance can create an instant estate to take care of our loved ones.

The First Catholic Slovak Union has many quality, competitive, and affordable insurance products. Talk over your insurance needs with your family, then contact your local branch officer and have them explain our various plans or call the Home Office at 1/800-533-6682.

Until next time...

Good Luck and God Bless!

Andrew R. Harcar Sr.

National Vice President

Chairman, Membership and Marketing Committee



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

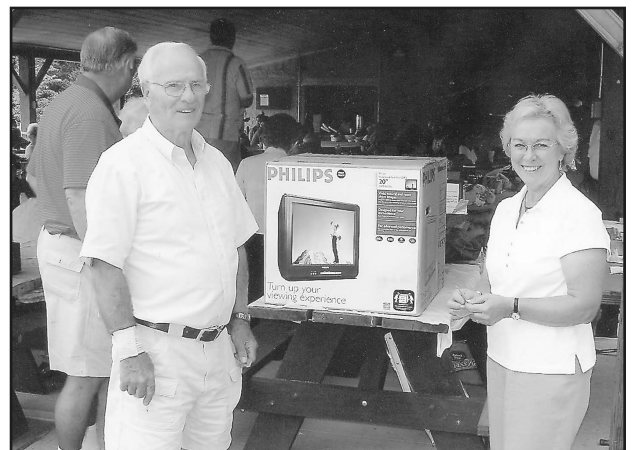
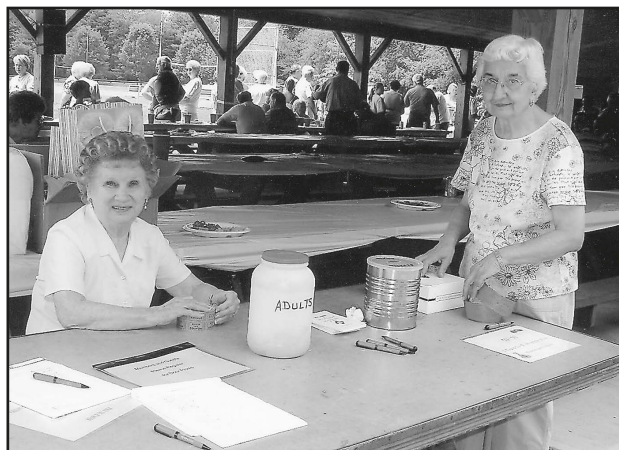
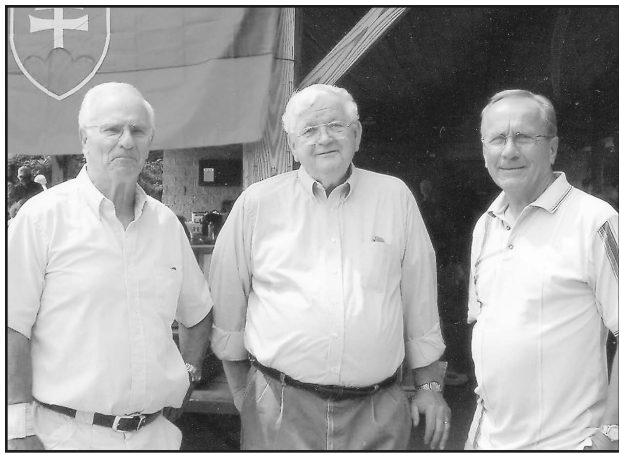
St. Agnes-St. John Nepomucene Slovak Catholic Church invites all to participate in the celebration of its centennial on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at the church, 319 Brown Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. by His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali. A reception will 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.

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

United Branch 181 Hosts Annual Picnic

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 181, held its annual Picnic on Saturday, June 30, 2007, at Mammoth Park in Mammoth, Pennsylvania. This popular annual event featured excellent food, activities for children, door prizes, cultural performances, and plenty of socializing. Each member was asked to bring a covered dish to share with others at the picnic. Branch 181 supplied the halusky, klobasy, halupky, chicken, rigatoni, sauerkraut, wieners and beverages.

Branch 181 is one of the largest branches in the First Catholic Slovak Union as well as one of the most active. The annual picnic is just one of several events sponsored by Branch 181 each year.



BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Branch 3 — MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The SS. Cyril and Methodius Society, Branch 3, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Joseph Matlon, 4016 Washington Street N.E., Columbia Heights, Minnesota. The election officers and a discussion of plans for the coming year will be on the agenda.

Joseph Matlon, Recording Secretary

Branch 3P — HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Joseph Society, Branch 3P, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 7, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are urged to attend and become active in branch activities. Please spread the word to fellow members.

Mike Koval, Financial Secretary

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 7 — HOUTZDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society, Branch 7, will hold its next meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. at Christ the King Parish Center, 100 Brisbin Street, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. All members are invited to attend.

Marie Sedlak, Recording Secretary

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 89 — MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

The Knights of St. Mary Society, Branch 89, will have its Fall Communion Breakfast on Sunday, October 7, 2007. Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. at Blessed Savior Church, 8607 West Villard Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Breakfast will held immediately after the liturgy at The Grecian Inn, 14375 West Capital Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin. Members are free. Guests are welcome but will pay for their own break-

fast. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please make reservations by calling Mike Novak at 414/445-5382. A short presentation will be made on Jednota products by our regional officers. For more information call one of the Jednota officers or the Home Office at 1/800-JEDNOTA.

Mike Novak, President

Branch 153 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. Stephen Society, Branch 153, will hold its Annual Meeting earlier than usual this year. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of President John Jurcenko, 7113 West Talcott Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The election of officers and charitable donations will be on the agenda. All members are cordially invited to attend. There will be a fraternal luncheon after the meeting.

Please remember in your prayers the following members who have passed on to their eternal rest: Alex Zemancik, Igor Dubravec, Andrew Koril, Anthony Zibrida, Mary Zibrida, Stephen Zahora, Lucille Taylor, and Walter Varek.

Dorohty Jurcenko, Financial Secretary

Branch 228 — LORAIN, OHIO

The St. John the Baptist Society/Holy Trinity Society, Branch 228, has returned from the summer vacation with our September meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Slovak Club, 30th and Broadway, Lorain, Ohio.

Our meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month except for the months of January, February, July and August when no meetings are held. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held at the American Slovak Club. The branch will hold its annual election of officers and bylaw review at the December meeting as is done each December. At that time, we will elect three (3) representatives to serve on the American Slovak Club Board of Directors. There is a lot of activity going on in both the FCSU and the Slovak Club so come and join in the fun. Visit the websites for the FCSU at fcsu.com and the Slovak Club at americanslovakclub.com for an update. See you at the Club!

Thomas B. Zuffa, Recording 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 260 — CAMPBELL, OHIO

The St. Matthew Society, Branch 260, held its Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, September 30, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Msgr. Cyril Adamko Hall. Important issues regarding the society were on the agenda. All members were urged to attend.

Charles M. Terek, President

Branch 266 — HAZLETON, PENNSYLVANIA

The SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 266, will hold its Semiannual Meeting on

Sunday, October 7, 2007, at 10:15 a.m. in St. Joseph Church Cafeteria, 604 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania. All members are welcome.

Richard Lazar, Financial Secretary

Branch 311 — MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA

The Holy Name of Jesus Society, Branch 311, Monessen, Pennsylvania, has merged with the SS. Peter and Paul Society, Branch 320 in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. This merger took place on July 13, 2007. Members of Branch 311 will now hold membership in Branch 320. If you should need any service on your policy, or new or additional insurance, please contact Mrs. Frances Tarquinio, 209 Sylvan Drive, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 or phone 724/929-9788.

We wish to thank all the past officers for their dedication and efforts through the years performed in the spirit of fraternalism.

Kenneth A. Arendt, National Secretary

Branch 313 — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The St. John the Baptist Society, Branch 313, will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 13, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at the Mother of Sorrows Benedictine Convent, 5900 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois. On the agenda will be a discussion on ways to attract new membership.

We are trying to locate the following members. They are: Vincent Cerniak, Teresa Hatfield, Amy Horwath, Stephen Izacovics, Eugene Korienc, Marguerit Korienc, Stephen Kosteb, Chalres Kozak, Kenneth W. Michalik, Charles Morince, Phyllis H. Morince, and Barbara E. Perkins. If you have a correct address for any of these members, please contact Joseph M. Bugel at 708/349-7873.

**Joseph M. Bugel,
President/Financial Secretary**

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 401 — VANDERGRIFT, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Anthony of Padua Society, Branch 401, will hold its next scheduled meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at King's Family Restaurant, 315 Hyde Park Road, Leechburg, Pennsylvania. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held 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 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 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

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

MSGR. JOHN E. RURA DISTRICT — New Jersey

The Msgr. John E. Rura District will hold its next Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Carteret, New Jersey. Branch 324 will be the host. Branch secretaries are asked to call Joe Poll at 732/541-4701 by October 3 with the number of members who will be attending. Refreshments will be served.

Mary J. Kapitan, Secretary

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 Jiomkowski encourages all branches to send delegates to represent their branch.

Anna Magusin, Secretary

THE JOZEF CARDINAL TOMKO DISTRICT — Houtzdale, Pennsylvania

The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District will hold its Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. at the Country Club, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. All branches are urged to send delegates to this meeting. Please notify Rosemary Deliman at 342-5592 if you plan to attend.

Marcella Kopchik, Secretary

REV. JOSEPH L. KOSTIK DISTRICT — Youngstown, Ohio

The Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District will hold a meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory. On the agenda will be a discussion of the Insurance Seminar to be held Saturday, October 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at "Rusty's" Restaurant South Avenue and Western Reserve Road. All District branches are urged to send representatives to the seminar.

Carlie Peshek, President

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

BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

continued from page 5

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.

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 823 — YOUNGWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA

The St. Michael the Archangel Society, Branch 823, will hold its Annual (semi-annual) Meeting on Sunday, October 14, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Margaret Yakubisin, 399 South 7th Street, Youngwood, Pennsylvania. If you plan to attend please call 724/925-9565 by October 12.

**Margaret Yakubisin,
Secretary- Treasurer**

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.

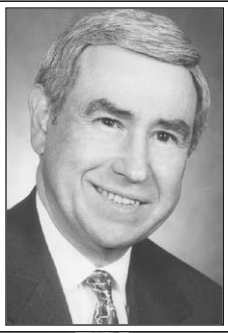


Example – Newborn Male	Example – Newborn Female
\$5,000 paid-up insurance..... \$290	\$5,000 paid-up insurance..... \$250
\$10,000 paid-up insurance..... \$580	\$10,000 paid-up insurance \$500
Example – Age 5 Male	
\$5,000 paid-up insurance \$340	\$5,000 paid-up insurance \$290
\$10,000 paid-up insurance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

**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!

MONEY MANAGEMENT & TAX TIPS



By **Joseph T. Senko**

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



Start the Year Right: Review Your Asset Allocation

One of the best ways to maximize the long-term performance of your investment portfolio is through proper asset allocation. The term asset allocation refers to how your investments are divided among the three key asset classes- stocks, bonds, and cash equivalents.

Research has shown that 90 percent portfolio performance is determined by asset allocation- and not by the actual investments you select or your ability to time the market. Asset allocation is essential to building your financial future.

Why Asset Allocation is Important

Asset allocation works because the three key assets tend to react differently to economic events and market conditions. In some years, stocks fare better than bonds. In other years, bonds outperform stocks. Determining which asset class will do best in a given year is difficult- even for professional investors. Dividing assets among the three classes, however, spreads out both opportunities and investment risk.

Let Your Needs Drive the Process

The proper asset allocation for you depends on a number of factors, including age, financial goals, risk tolerance, time frame, and overall financial situation. These considerations help ensure that your asset allocation strategy is appropriate for you- neither too aggressive, nor too conservative.

Generally, younger investors can allocate more of their investments to stocks because they have more time to weather short-term drops in market. Investors with a longer time horizon should consider investing 80 percent of assets, and 10 percent each in bonds and cash.

On the other hand, if you plan to retire in a few years, you are likely to need money in the short-term, or have a very low risk tolerance. Therefore, you might take a more conservative approach. For example, you could invest 40 percent in stocks, 40 percent in bonds, and 20 percent in cash. Since some growth is important in all portfolios, CPAs generally advise that even conservative investors and those in retirement keep some percentage of their assets in stocks.

Diversify Within Asset Categories

After you allocate your investments over the three broad asset classes, you need to go a step further and diversify the investments within each asset class. For example, a stock portfolio should include investments in several different industries and sectors, such as technology, health care, financial services, and consumer products. It's also a good idea to include both domestic and international investments, since different economies may experience ups and downs at different times.

Rebalance Regularly

The New Year is an opportune time to review your asset allocation. Revisit your investments and goals and determine whether your asset allocation still makes sense. For example, as you move closer to retirement, you may want to begin to move some- but not all- of your assets out of stocks and stock funds.

Over time, the value of the various assets within your portfolio will change. For example, if your stocks do particularly well one year, your portfolio may turn out to be more heavily weighed toward equities than you originally intended. To rebalance, you may want to sell some stock and reinvest the money in bonds or cash. Of, if you have additional money to invest, you can invest those dollars in bond or cash funds.

When considering a tax-efficient fund, keep in mind that if you pay taxes in Pennsylvania, interest on bonds issued by the state, or any city, town, school district, or municipal authority in Pennsylvania are not included in your taxable income. This is true of interest earned on Pennsylvania bonds in municipal bond funds. Many other states have similar provisions for taxpayers.

Some municipal bond funds invest in all the states, others in just one state. There are a number of funds that only invest in Pennsylvania bonds, and the interest on these funds is completely nontaxable in Pennsylvania. If a bond fund invests in a number of states, then only a portion of the interest is nontaxable in Pennsylvania. Before an investor buys shares of a bond fund, the fund will tell an investor what states the fund includes in its portfolio.

Buffet Breakfast at Allentown Parish

A "Buffet Breakfast" will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2007, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Slovak Roman Catholic Church, 924 North Front Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Donation is \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children.

For information call Bill Drost at 610/432-3505 or Helen Fiala at 610/434-8614.

Susan Misur Awarded Slovak Alliance Scholarship



Susan Misur, a member of Branch 19 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was awarded the 2007 Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport Scholarship. The scholarship is for \$1,000.00. Susan is a Sophomore at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Her major is Business Management and her minor Creative Writing. In the photo Eileen S. Wilson (left), also a member of Branch 19 and chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, presents Susan Masur with the scholarship check while Mary Stifil, Cele Martinedes and Michael Stifil look on.

REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Frank S. Krafick Branch 600 Leechburg, Pennsylvania

Frank S. Krafick, 74, of Parks, Pennsylvania, died Saturday, September 22, 2007, at his residence.

He was born February 2, 1933, in Gilpin, Pennsylvania, the son of the late Frank W. and Margaret E. (Huska) Krafick, who both passed away in 1995.

He had owned and operated the Parks Township Auto Wreckers for 54 years and also worked at the Wean United Plant in Vandergrift for 37 years until its closing in 1987.

Mr. Krafick was a member of the former St. Martha Roman Catholic Church in Leechburg. He was past president and current vice president of Branch 600 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

He also was a member of the Armstrong County League of Arts and the Parks Township Sportsmen's Association where he spent Wednesday and Sunday evenings with his friends playing guitar and singing.

He also was a pilot, former volunteer fireman in Parks, animal lover, and race car driver, having owned and drove race cars Nos. 28 and 69.

Mr. Krafick enjoyed being with his family, playing guitar, boating, motorcycle riding, listening to bluegrass music and white house ice cream.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Frances Clark in 2002.

He is survived by a son, Frank T. Krafick, of Calipatria, California; seven daughters, Cathy Davis of Washington Township, Karen (Ed) Zemba of Anchorage, Alaska, Joanne (Jim) Domire of Hawthorn, Pennsylvania, Chris (Tim) Coover of Clayton, Delaware,

Beth (Tom) Griffith of Washington Township, Michelle (John) Hibell of New Bethlehem, and Marian (Tim) Hogan of Felton, Delaware; 27 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren; his fiancée, Dolly H. (Suhan) Bottles of Parks; her son, Ernie Bottles (Lori) of Apollo, her daughter, Lizzy Bottles of Parks, and her five grandchildren; two sisters, Elizabeth (James) Kupas of Riverview, Parks, and Mildred J. Mechling Kaminski of Lower Burrell; and his former wife, Patricia Ann Krafick of Vandergrift.

Friends were received at the Clawson Funeral Home, Leechburg. A Christian Funeral Mass was celebrated in Christ the King Parish by the Rev. Joseph V. Trupkovich. Interment was in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cemetery, Parks.

John Mago



October Orange

October Orange...

autumn colors awakening to a new season of change-precious leaves of orange, brown, red, green fall majestically from oak, maple, cedar, ash, spruce kissing earth's floor... while others hold splashes of red, green beige and orange upon themselves. Alas, orange pumpkins soon are carved for candle light, jack-o-lanterns and smiling faces- placed at doorways and upon window sills for all to admire, enjoy. Again the season's beauty gives a blessing for people to pause a moment, rest, give thanks, finding a lasting peace which makes 'life worth living' daily- and from this comes the beauty and magic we call:

October Orange!
Francis X. Markley



the *Book Corner*

Review of Konstantín Culen's The History of Slovaks in America Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.

Konstantín Culen. The History of Slovaks in America, translated by Daniel Necas, English edition editors Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., and Steven G. Potach, Introduction to the English Edition by Gregory C. Ference (St. Paul, Minnesota: Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, 2007). Originally published as Dejiny Slovákov v Amerike 2 vols. (Bratislava: Slovak League Publishing House, 1942), 440 pages, hardbound. ISBN 0-9651932-2-5

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) has just published a translation of Konstantín Culen's classic work. The History of Slovaks in America. Originally published in two volumes in 1942 in the Slovak language, the study represents the early career work of a distinguished historian who selflessly devoted himself to documenting the experience of the early Slovak immigrants in the United States. This was the first attempt to document the rich history of Slovaks in America and still remains one of the most comprehensive studies published to date.

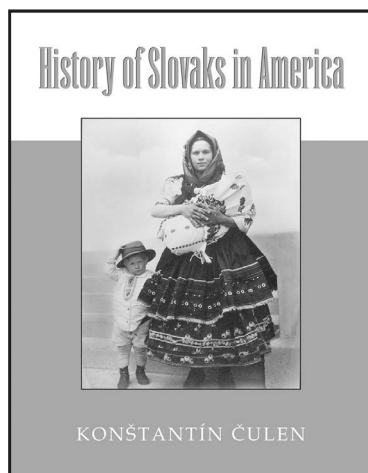
Culen spent several years in the United States researching his book and consulted with many early pioneers of Slovak history, including the Rev. Louis Baska. Baska traveled around the country, visiting virtually every Slovak parish in the USA and documenting their early history. To this day, the Culen book remains a classic study of immigration history, which all serious scholars of Slovak immigration use to draw on its rich compendium of information.

The dean of Slovak historians in North America, M. Mark Stolarik, who occupies the Chair of Slovak history at the University of Ottawa, referred to Culen as "[t]he principle early historian of American Slovaks," and has acknowledged his study as "very impressive." Historian, Michael Kopanic has added: "It provides the best history of Slovak-Americans that was done at that time. In fact, it is still one of the most comprehensive surveys of [early] Slovak-American history available."

Despite the importance of Culen's book, just a few copies were available, and these were of course written in Slovak and incomprehensible to the American reading public. Realizing the significance of this study, the CGSI took on the formidable task of having the book translated, with the assistance of Daniel Necas. The translator labored to produce "a careful and meticulous English rendition of Culen's often challenging Slovak text." In order to make the book more readable in English, Michael Kopanic and Steve Potach combined efforts to perfect the English translation and added numerous explanatory footnotes. Gregory C. Ference also provided invaluable services in correcting inaccuracies and providing a fine historical essay.

The study begins with the early migration of Slovaks from their homeland in Hungary, and ends in 1914 with the start of World War I, when immigration ground to a halt. Yet between the 1870s and the start of the Great War, about one fifth of the Slovak nation immigrated to the United States. To this day, the USA is home to more people of Slovak origin than any

continued on page 9



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.

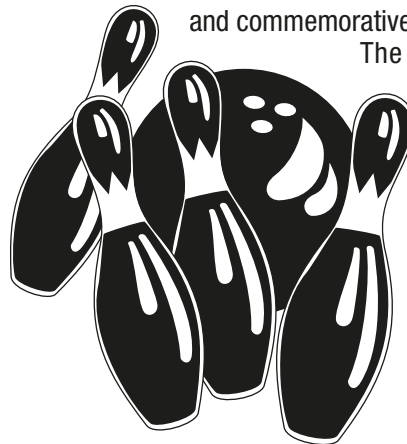
The event is open to all fraternal society youth members and their non-members friends. All participants must have at least \$25 in sponsorship monies promised in order to enter.

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



ATTENTION

THE JEDNOTA BENEVOLENT FOUNDATION, INC 2007 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Jednota Benevolent Foundation, Inc is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for its 2007 Scholarship Program.

THE COMMITTEE SHALL AWARD UP TO TEN ONE-TIME \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE CANDIDATES WHO BEST SATISFY THE AWARD CRITERIA.

- Any individual of Slovak descent and Catholic faith who will attend an Approved Post Secondary Educational Institution is eligible for a Scholarship
- Applicants will be required to describe accomplishments they believe would qualify them for recognition in general, and specifically, accomplishments in the areas of:

- § Scholarship
- § Leadership
- § Service to school, church and community
- Applicants will also be required to provide:
 - § An official copy of applicant's college transcript, which indicates applicant's grades and all standardized, test scores achieved, including all ACT and SAT scores.
 - § One (1) letter of recommendation authored by a teacher, counselor, administrator or an employment supervisor familiar with the applicant
 - § Examples of applicant's community involvement
 - § A list of awards received by applicant for scholastic excellence, community involvement, or leadership ability
 - § A description of the applicant's academic or career objectives
 - § A statement demonstrating an applicant's need for education financing

For application, please contact:

First Catholic Slovak Union
6611 Rockside Road, Suite 300
Independence, Ohio 44131
Phone 1-800-533-6682
Fax 216-642-4310
E-mail: fcsu@aol.com

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
MIDNIGHT OCTOBER 12, 2007**

*Family members of members of the Scholarship Committee are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.



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

My 65-Year Association with Cleveland's Benedictine Monks

By Frank M. Stipkala

It was Spring 1944. Father Armand Gress, O.S.B. was officiating at the 6:00 a.m. Mass at St. Benedict Church in Cleveland, Ohio. It was my privilege to be the altar boy for his Mass.

As Father Armand was praying over the Host just prior to the Consecration, loud noises began emanating from the sacristy where four servers were getting ready for the 7:00 a.m. Mass. It sounded like horseplay to me. After all, boys will be boys! I could still see the back of Father Armand's neck was getting beet-red.

Instead of elevating the Host skyward, he turned toward the sacristy and hollered for all the congregation to hear. "Hey you guys, cut out the horseplay. I'm trying to say Mass. Come on out here and kneel down."

The four altar boys proceeded to kneel at the side of the altar till the Mass ended. Needles to say, Father Armand never had trouble with boisterous altar boys thereafter. He was a no-nonsense kind of guy whose penchant for discipline was exceeded only by his oratorical skills. Next to Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Father Armand gave the most stirring sermons I had ever heard. When he spoke to our Slovak congregation, there was total silence- no coughing, no yawning, no shuffling of feet. And when Father Armand raised his voice and pounded the pulpit while describing the horrors of a life-time in hell, for those who die with sin on their souls, we all decided on the spot that we were never going to sin again. No way were we going to spend a lifetime in hell. Thank you, Father Armand, for your fire-and-brimstone sermons.

Because the earliest Masses at St. Benedict's were offered by the monks from St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, they expected the key to the tabernacle, which housed several chalices, ciboria and Hosts, to be in place when they started the Mass. About twice a month, the frustrated monk would discover that there was no key in the tabernacle lock, so he'd motion to one of us altar boys to run the 200 yards to the priests house and awaken the good fathers for a spare key. This ritual usually took about 10 minutes, so the normal half-hour Mass now took 40 minutes to celebrate.

Unlike today's churches, which are devoid of statues and Communion rails, at St. Benedict Church we had an elevated 80-foot

long Communion rail built in two sections. Everyone receiving the Sacrament had to step up to the Communion rail.

As altar boys, two of us had to grasp the 40 foot-long Communion cloth and flip it upward and over the Communion rail, under which communicants would place their folded hands. It took great skill for each server to be in synch with his partner so as to flip the cloth over the railing in "one piece." For some of the less coordinated chaps, it took several attempts before the Communion cloth was positively properly, on top of the railing.

Then, when the priest began distributing Holy Communion, an altar boy would be at his side holding a golden paten below the chin of each recipient, to make sure that if the Host (or any particle) fell down, hopefully, the server would catch it on his paten before it reached the floor. Unlike in today's Masses, the Host was only touched by the hands of an ordained priest.

If ever a Host fell to the floor, the priest was expected to mark the spot and, after Mass ended, he would return with scrub brush and water and purify the area. Yes, the Host was a sacred object, indeed, and was treated as such!

Because my long tenure as an altar boy started before World War II and ended with my joining the U.S. Army in 1953, I had the good fortune to serve Masses for every monk at St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, because St. Benedict Church was their home away from home. One monk, in particular, stands out in my mind, Father Bernard Slimak, O.S.B. Following his ordination, Father Bernard developed the reputation of saying weekday low Mass in 12 minutes! It was fast and I was an altar boy at many of his 6:00 a.m. to 6:12 a.m. Masses. However, when World War II started, Father Bernard volunteered to be a chaplain in the U.S. Army and ultimately ended up in the South Pacific in some of the most dangerous battle areas, such as Iwo Jima. After the war ended in 1945, Father Bernard returned to the Abbey, but was a markedly changed man. That's what war can do to person's psyche. He became very solemn. No more 12-minute Masses. He took the full 30 minutes and more. When you see death every day like he did, you have to be a more God-like person.

The monk who started me on my career path- Journalism- was my English teacher at

Benedictine High School, Father Andrew Pier, O.S.B. My English class took place during the first lunch hour, so students came to class carrying their books and their brown bags. Following the opening prayer, Father Andrew would proclaim: "O.K. All you guys who plan to go to college, and want to improve your English, come up to the front of the class. The rest of you can sit in the back, read your Plain Dealer or eat your lunch. Just keep quiet."

I was one of the five who sat in the front row. Obviously, Father Andrew's strategy worked, because all five of us graduated from colleges, some with Ph.D's. Thank you, Father Andrew, for motivating us to pursue higher education!!

Our assistant pastor at St. Benedict's, Father Matthew Bonk, O.S.B, was an accomplished violin player. Early in his priesthood, he was reluctant to pull out the violin, but eventually he listened to the parishioners' pleas that he play some good Slovak tunes. On several occasions, Father Matthew brought his violin to the wake of a good friend and played a somber tune. At least twice that I know of, Father Matthew played some Christmas songs from Slovakia at the Sunday Mass instead of giving a sermon.

A sad moment for me took place during on February 9, 1964. One that day, while standing outside, I heard a loud crash up the street and ran to see what had happened. There I saw a car that had crashed into a utility pole. The occupant was Father Aloysius Jenco, O.S.B, who was being driven back to the abbey after completing his priestly duties. Since Father Al had been the celebrant at many of

the 6:15 a.m. Masses for the Sisters of Notre Dame, at which I was the altar boy, I felt very saddened at the unfortunate loss of a dedicated Benedictine monk. Father Aloysius was an English and religion teacher at Benedictine High School.

As a student at Benedictine High School, I often marveled that our faculty members kept their cool while some students acted like hooligans in class. One day, while attending my science class, a student named Steve began popping off to the teacher. Their conversation became very heated, so much that the teacher finally tore off his priestly collar and shouted: "O.K., Steve, let's go at it man to man." Only a few blows were landed, mostly by the priest, as the bigger kids in class separated the combatants. That's how discipline was handed out in my days. Today, if a teacher lays even one pinky on a student, the teacher would be hauled off in front of the school board and would be suspended-without pay. Needles to say, we had the best-behaved science class the rest of the school year. No student ever dared to raise his voice to our science teacher-priest again. Better yet, Steve dropped out of Benedictine at the end of the semester. Now he could carry on his tantrums in a public school.

Even though Benedictine High had predominantly Catholic student population, a minor problem occurred in the school's library, when books began disappearing off the shelves. The school librarian was frustrated, because he never saw a student helping

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The Book Corner

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country in the world outside of Slovakia itself.

Despite writing this during the turbulent and unsettled period of the Second World War, Culen proved to be ahead of his time in paying attention not just to Slovak churches, institutions, and organizations, but also to the ordinary working men and women of the day. The author detailed some of the strikes of miners and factory workers, the controversies with the Magyars (Hungarians) in the New World, and the building of Slovak community life in America.

The publisher has reproduced most of the photos from the original two volume study, and added a photo of its author Konštantín Culen, as well as seven photos of a delegation from the Matica Slovenska in Martin. The many photos and pictures themselves are a true treasure and paint a vivid picture of Slovak life and work in the New World. They illustrate the early experience of Slovaks in America, not only with photos and portraits of leading Slovak figures, but also with snapshots of ordinary Slovak workers and their families, their humble dwellings, fraternal organizations, and the factories, coal mines, and towns where they lived and labored. Many of these illustrations are unique and unavailable in any other source.

This is a 440 page hardbound book that will endure for years so that future generations might also read it. The book is reasonably priced at only \$49.50 in its first edition, which is quite a bargain for a hardbound book of this quality. It would be a wonderful Christmas gift for someone who has an interest in the experience of Slovaks in America.

Those interested in purchasing a copy of this monumental book should send a check using the order form below.

ORDER FORM

To obtain your copy, fill out this form and enclose a check or money order (US Funds Only) to:

CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International
PO Box 16225, St. Paul, MN 55116-0225

_____ Copies @ \$49.50 (postpaid)

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NEWSPAPER DEADLINES

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

Issue Date

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Copy Deadline

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

Statement as of June 30, 2007 of the

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA

ASSETS

	Current Statement Date			4 December 31 Prior Year Net Admitted Assets
	1 Assets	2 Nonadmitted Assets	3 Net Admitted Assets (Cols. 1 - 2)	
1. Bonds.....	171,319,261		171,319,261	162,016,069
2. Stocks:				
2.1 Preferred stocks.....	12,601,634		12,601,634	17,935,108
2.2 Common stocks.....	1,559,633		1,559,633	1,532,745
3. Mortgage loans on real estate:				
3.1 First liens.....	2,317,447		2,317,447	2,370,622
3.2 Other than first liens.....			0	
4. Real estate:				
4.1 Properties occupied by the company (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	1,315,183		1,315,183	1,341,948
4.2 Properties held for the production of income (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	993,031		993,031	1,012,278
4.3 Properties held for sale (less \$.....0 encumbrances).....	562,675		562,675	562,675
5. Cash (\$.....5,626,348), cash equivalents (\$.....0) and short-term investments (\$.....0).....	5,626,348		5,626,348	4,844,625
6. Contract loans (including \$.....0 premium notes).....	719,240		719,240	703,594
7. Other invested assets.....	2,335,354	(36,596)	2,371,950	2,441,458
8. Receivables for securities.....			0	
9. Aggregate write-ins for invested assets.....	0	0	0	0
10. Subtotals, cash and invested assets (Lines 1 to 9).....	199,349,806	(36,596)	199,386,402	194,761,122
11. Title Plants less \$.....0 charged off (for Title insurers only).....			0	
12. Investment income due and accrued.....	2,444,264		2,444,264	2,533,487
13. Premiums and considerations:				
13.1 Uncollected premiums and agents' balances in the course of collection.....	20,274		20,274	16,215
13.2 Deferred premiums, agents' balances and installments booked but deferred and not yet due (including \$.....0 earned but unbilled premiums).....			0	
13.3 Accrued retrospective premiums.....			0	
14. Reinsurance:				
14.1 Amounts recoverable from reinsurers.....			0	
14.2 Funds held by or deposited with reinsured companies.....			0	
14.3 Other amounts receivable under reinsurance contracts.....			0	
15. Amounts receivable relating to uninsured plans.....			0	
16.1 Current federal and foreign income tax recoverable and interest thereon.....			0	
16.2 Net deferred tax asset.....			0	
17. Guaranty funds receivable or on deposit.....			0	
18. Electronic data processing equipment and software.....			0	
19. Furniture and equipment, including health care delivery assets (\$.....0).....	14,984	14,984	0	
20. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....			0	
21. Receivables from parent, subsidiaries and affiliates.....			0	
22. Health care (\$.....0) and other amounts receivable.....			0	
23. Aggregate write-ins for other than invested assets.....	29,740	29,740	0	0
24. Total assets excluding Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts (Lines 10 through 23).....	201,859,068	8,128	201,850,940	197,310,824
25. From Separate Accounts, Segregated Accounts and Protected Cell Accounts.....			0	
26. TOTALS (Lines 24 and 25).....	201,859,068	8,128	201,850,940	197,310,824

Statement as of June 30, 2007 of the

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA

LIABILITIES, SURPLUS AND OTHER FUNDS

	1 Current Statement Date	2 December 31 Prior Year
1. Aggregate reserve for life contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	175,735,000	172,460,000
2. Aggregate reserve for accident and health contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....		
3. Liability for deposit-type contracts (including \$.....0 Modco Reserve).....	917,665	1,019,847
4. Contract claims:		
4.1 Life.....	300,000	300,000
4.2 Accident and health.....		
5. Refunds due and unpaid.....		
6. Provisions for refunds payable in following calendar year - estimated amounts:		
6.1 Apportioned for payment.....	360,000	320,000
6.2 Not yet apportioned.....		
7. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts received in advance less \$.....0 discount; including \$.....0 accident and health premiums.....	320,156	265,626
8. Certificate and contract liabilities not included elsewhere:		
8.1 Surrender values on canceled contracts.....		
8.2 Other amounts payable on reinsurance including \$.....0 assumed and \$.....0 ceded.....		
8.3 Interest maintenance reserve (IMR).....	3,797,411	3,540,809
9. Commissions to fieldworkers due or accrued - life and annuity contracts \$.....0, accident and health \$.....0 and deposit-type contract funds \$.....0.....	9,625	2,532
10. Commissions and expense allowances payable on reinsurance assumed.....		
11. General expenses due or accrued.....	501,550	432,102
12. Transfers to Separate Accounts due or accrued (net) (including \$.....0 accrued for expense allowances recognized in reserves).....		
13. Taxes, licenses and fees due or accrued.....	23,205	23,205
14. Unearned investment income.....		
15. Amounts withheld or retained by Society as agent or trustee.....	4,688,752	4,381,480
16. Amounts held for fieldworkers' account, including \$.....0 fieldworkers' credit balances.....		
17. Remittances and items not allocated.....		
18. Net adjustment in assets and liabilities due to foreign exchange rates.....	5,000	5,000
19. Liability for benefits for employees and fieldworkers if not included above.....		
20. Borrowed money \$.....0 and interest thereon \$.....0.....		
21. Miscellaneous liabilities:		
21.1 Asset valuation reserve.....	2,580,305	2,590,136
21.2 Reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....		
21.3 Funds held under reinsurance treaties with unauthorized reinsurers.....		
21.4 Payable to subsidiaries and affiliates.....		
21.5 Drafts outstanding.....		
21.6 Funds held under coinsurance.....		
21.7 Payable for securities.....	99,501	99,501
22. Aggregate write-ins for liabilities.....	314,992	314,992
23. Total liabilities excluding Separate Accounts business (Lines 1 to 22).....	189,653,162	185,755,230
24. From Separate Accounts Statement.....		
25. Total liabilities (Lines 23 to 24).....	189,653,162	185,755,230
26. Aggregate write-ins for other than liabilities and surplus funds.....	0	0
27. Surplus notes.....		
28. Aggregate write-ins for surplus funds.....	0	0
29. Unassigned funds.....	12,197,778	11,555,594
30. Total (Lines 26 through 29) (including \$.....0 in Separate Accounts Statement).....	12,197,778	11,555,594
31. Totals (Lines 25 + 30).....	201,850,940	197,310,824

Statement as of June 30, 2007 of the

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

	1 Current Year To Date	2 Prior Year To Date	3 Prior Year Ended December 31
1. Premiums and annuity considerations for life and accident and health contracts.....	4,164,212	3,115,809	4,725,387
2. Considerations for supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
3. Net investment income.....	6,039,309	6,174,754	11,746,690
4. Amortization of Interest Maintenance Reserve (IMR).....	150,000	140,000	288,040
5. Separate Accounts net gain from operations excluding unrealized gains and losses.....			
6. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance ceded.....			
7. Reserve adjustments on reinsurance ceded.....			
8. Miscellaneous income:			
8.1 Income from fees associated with investment management, administration and contract guarantees from Separate Accounts.....			
8.2 Charges and fees for deposit-type contracts.....			
8.3 Aggregate write-ins for miscellaneous income.....	14,701	19,507	33,803
9. Totals (Lines 1 to 8.3).....	10,368,222	9,450,070	16,793,920
10. Death benefits.....	1,343,413	1,368,865	2,502,460
11. Matured endowments.....	2,208	9,092	9,092
12. Annuity and old age benefits.....	3,097,532	3,621,720	7,776,463
13. Disability, accident and health benefits, including premiums waived \$.....0.....			
14. Surrender benefits and withdrawals for life contracts.....	239,314	222,812	470,016
15. Interest and adjustments on contract or deposit-type contract funds.....	107,936	89,128	335,244
16. Payments on supplementary contracts with life contingencies.....			
17. Increase in aggregate reserve for life and accident and health contracts.....	3,275,000	1,373,000	1,531,000
18. Totals (Lines 10 to 17).....	8,065,403	6,684,617	12,624,275
19. Commissions on premiums, annuity considerations and deposit-type contract funds (direct business only).....	58,314	36,441	54,789
20. Commissions and expense allowances on reinsurance assumed.....			
21. General insurance expenses and fraternal expenses.....	1,449,948	1,676,134	2,588,945
22. Insurance taxes, licenses and fees.....	82,938	76,353	73,424
23. Increase in loading on deferred and uncollected premiums.....			
24. Net transfers to or (from) Separate Accounts net of reinsurance.....			
25. Aggregate write-ins for deductions.....	(11,357)	(8,611)	(346,290)
26. Totals (Lines 18 to 25).....	9,645,246	8,464,934	14,995,143
27. Net gain from operations before refunds to members (Line 9 minus Line 26).....	722,976	985,136	1,798,777
28. Refunds to members.....	139,512	82,166	309,671
29. Net gain from operations after refunds to members and before realized capital gains (losses) (Line 27 minus Line 28).....	583,464	902,970	1,489,106
30. Net realized capital gains (losses) (excluding \$.....0 transferred to the IMR).....	(7,914)	(216,195)	49,903
31. Net income (Lines 29 + 30).....	575,550	686,775	1,539,009
SURPLUS ACCOUNT			
32. Surplus, December 31, prior year.....	11,555,594	9,866,552	9,866,552
33. Net income from operations (Line 31).....	575,550	686,775	1,539,009
34. Change in net unrealized capital gains (losses) less capital gains tax of \$.....0.....	(69,957)	255,834	551,836
35. Change in net unrealized foreign exchange capital gain (loss).....			15,000
36. Change in nonadmitted assets and related items.....	(14,984)	74	84
37. Change in liability for reinsurance in unauthorized companies.....			
38. Change in reserve on account of change in valuation basis (increase) or decrease.....			
39. Change in asset valuation reserve.....	9,831		(431,991)
40. Surplus (contributed to) withdrawn from Separate Accounts during period.....			
41. Other changes in surplus in Separate Accounts Statement.....			
42. Change in surplus notes.....			
43. Cumulative effect of changes in accounting principles.....			
44. Change in surplus as a result of reinsurance.....			
45. Aggregate write-ins for gains and losses in surplus.....	141,744	4,520	15,104
46. Net change in surplus for the year (Lines 33 through 45).....	642,184	947,203	1,689,042
47. Surplus as of statement date (Lines 32 + 46).....	12,197,778	10,813,755	11,555,594

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION OF THE USA AND CANADA SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2007 ~ (TELECONFERENCE)

ROLL CALL

The telephone operator took a roll of who was present and the Executive Secretary recorded the number of present members. Members present at the Home Office:

Andrew M. Rajec, National President;
Andrew R. Harcar, Sr., National Vice President;
Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary;
George F. Matta, National Treasurer;
Gary J. Matta, General Counsel;

Members attending over the phone:

Rev. Thomas Nasta, National Chaplain;
Karen M. Hunka, Chairman of Auditors;
Susan M. Ondrejco, Fraternal Activities Director;
Joseph F. Minarovich, Regional Director, Region 1;
Damian Nasta, Regional Director, Region 2;
Carl Ungvarsky, Regional Director, Region 3;
George Sprock, Regional Director, Region 4;
Regis P. Brekosky, Regional Director, Region 5;
Henry Hassay, Regional Director, Region 6;
Rudolph Glogovsky, Regional Director, Region 7;
Milos Mitro, Regional Director, Regions 8 and 9

Regional Director Henry Hassay had been disconnected and the phone operator was trying to reconnect him.

OPEN MEETING

President Andrew Rajec called the meeting to order and asked Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, Chaplain, to offer the opening prayer. The President dispensed from the singing the National Anthems of the United States, Canada, the Slovak Republic and the Pledge of the Allegiance.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President extended his welcome to the Board of Directors.

READING OF THE CALL

The Executive Secretary then read the Call to the Quarterly Meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 16 AND 17, 2007

A motion was made by Damian Nasta and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The President and the Executive Secretary answered the question from Regional Director Rudolf Glogovsky about the Building Manager's duties.

PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

President Rajec presented the agenda for the Quarterly Annual Meeting and asked for its acceptance. A motion was made by George Matta and seconded by Carl Ungvarsky to accept the agenda and allow the President to change the order of the agenda if necessary. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S QUARTERLY REPORT

President Rajec began his quarterly report by congratulating Father Nasta on his Jubilee Anniversary. The President highlighted the first Quarter Financial Statement.

1. Maintenance

- President Rajec further updated the Board of Directors about the maintenance and landscaping of the Home Office.
- He informed the Board there is one vacant suite in the Home Office building.

2. Personnel

- He also updated the Board about hiring an In-House Agent. The President also informed the Board the In-House Agent would be an employee of the Home Office and not an independent agent. The President further stated that the Vice President, the Executive Secretary and he are in the process of reviewing the applications received by the Home Office.
- The President stated we hired a summer intern. The intern is a senior at the University of Toledo and will be assigned some special projects by the Executive Secretary.

3. Jednota Newspaper

The President updated the Board of Directors on his goal of having every member's household receive a copy of the Jednota newspaper with the anticipation of establishing a better communication system between the Home Office and our members. The Executive Secretary is working on this project and it will be completed by the end of this year. A suggestion was made by General Counsel that we offer our newspaper via e-mail in order to cut the cost of printing and mailing. The Executive Secretary stated that we already have this capability. He further stated a notice would be sent to the newspaper and to the branches offering our members this service.

Regional Director Henry Hassay was re-connected with the Board of Directors Meeting.

Regional Director Joseph Minarovich asked if we could look into the reasons why some of our members have such long delays in receiving the newspaper issues. The Executive Secretary stated that he would look into this problem.

4. Branch Mergers

The President updated the Board of Directors about branch mergers and individual transfers. He indicated to the Board that we have located all our branches on wall size maps to get a better idea where our branches are located.

The Executive Secretary and he are in the process of merging non-active with active Branches and hope to have this project completed by the end of this year. George Matta led a discussion to have the Regional Directors involved in this project. Henry Hassay asked for a listing to be given to the Regional Directors about active and non-active Branches in their respective Regions and asked the Home Office for directions as to which branches he should visit. Gary Matta made a suggestion that when the Districts send their report to the Home Office for reimbursement that a copy also be sent to the Regional Directors.

5. Seminars

The President made a report on seminars and how we changed the seminar procedure to make them more effective.

6. Estates

The President reported on his trip to Middletown and his meeting with Kevin Fry, Assistant Vice President of CB Richard Ellis, concerning the development plan of our property in Middletown.

He stated that he also met with Anthony Sutherland to outline his duties as the Estate Manager.

The President made a report on maintenance and landscaping on Building #2. Regional Director Regis Brekosky, President of Jednota, Inc., will report on this issue.

The President also met with US Airways, lessee for part of Building#2, concerning of renewal of their lease.

The President also met with Ronald Nardo (who bought the shopping center near our property) to discuss some of the current county projects he might be involved in. The President also introduced himself to the President of the Township Board of Trustees with the intention of establishing better communication between the FCSU and the county.

The President read a letter from the Soccer Association in which the Association is asking for permission to use our property thru 2009. The President stated that the Soccer Association has been using our property for the last 29 years. This will be discussed further at a later date.

The President also informed the Board of Directors that we did not renew the lease with the farmer who was using our property for farming. The President asked the General Counsel to look into rules and regulations about posting a "No hunting" sign on our property in Middletown.

The President also reported on his recent trip to Slovakia he attended with the members of the Slovak League of America. He attended the dedication ceremony of the bust of Father Furdek.

The President stated that we plan to have a booth at the Slovak Festival in Kennywood, PA, on July 19, 2007; at the Slovak Festival sponsored by the Slovak Radio Club in Parma, OH on September 2 and at the Slovak Heritage Festival in Linden, NJ on September 23. He stated that we hope to become more visible to the Slovaks and general public.

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 1ST QUARTER 2007

Executive Secretary's Report

Kenneth A. Arendt, Executive Secretary, presented the first Quarter Financial Report and answered the Board Members' questions. He stated that the Financial Report will be published in the newspaper.

A motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by George Sprock to accept the Executive Secretary's Report as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer George F. Matta presented his review of the monthly reports presented to the Executive Committee Meeting and answered the Board of Directors' questions.

A motion was made by Andrew Harcar and seconded by Joseph Minarovich to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP AND MARKETING

The Vice President updated the Board of Directors on retention of JEP policies. These were the policies where the first year's premium was waived as a fraternal benefit and stated that the renewal rate was about 70%.

The Vice President also updated the Board of Directors about seminars held so far and he felt that these seminars were very successful.

At this time the President asked the General Counsel to look into the possibility of our Canadian Members to be able to purchase our products.

The Vice President further led a discussion about the production of independent agents. He further discussed the current process of hiring an In-House Agent and that we are in process of revising the job description. He also stated about reviewing the current commission rate for our independent agents.

The Vice President led a discussion about bringing back the Senior Promotion Program which was very successful in 1999.

A motion was made by George Sprock and seconded by Regis Brekosky to accept the Vice President's report as presented. Motion carried.

FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT

The Fraternal Director read a report and answered the Board's questions. She updated the Board on the Bowling and Golfing Tournaments and the process of reimbursing the Districts for their Picnics.

The President led a discussion of the possibility of having a one-day Bowling and one-day Golfing tournament and have the second day open to families to participate in a Family Fun Day which will be dedicated to members and their families who do not want to participate in the Bowling or Golfing Tournaments. This will be discussed at a later date.

MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY MEETING

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Regional Director Joseph Minarovich asked Susan Ondrejco to send an outline on reimbursement procedures to Regional Directors. She said she would send it.

CHAIRMAN OF AUDITORS REPORT

Karen Hunka presented her report to the National Officers and answered their questions. She stated that they are in the process of establishing new auditing procedures that will be used throughout the year.

The Chairman of Auditors thanked the Executive Secretary for the use of the office space, computer and safe storage for auditors' reports.

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

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

Investments were made in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and with the regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. All investments were approved by a vote of at least three members of the Executive Committee.

Scholarship Committee

The Executive Secretary gave a report on the 2007 FCSU Scholarship winners. He stated that all winners were been informed, the schools have been notified, and the checks have been sent. He thanked the Scholarship Committee for doing an outstanding job.

SUBSIDIARIES REPORT

Jednota, Inc.

President George Matta gave a report and answered the Board's questions. He gave the names of the Jednota, Inc. members (Andrew M. Rajec, James B. Bacon, Rudolf D. Glogovsky, James R. Marmol and Edward DePersis) and stated that there will be a meeting in the near future in Middletown.

Jednota Properties, Inc.

Regis P. Brekosky, President, gave his report and read the list of current members: Joseph F. Minarovich, Joseph Bielecki, Joseph T. Senko and Carl Ungvarsky.

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

A motion was made by Carl Ungvarsky and seconded by Damian Nasta to accept all the reports as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Henry Hassay and seconded by Damian Nasta to adjourn.

Reverend Thomas Nasta closed the meeting with prayer.

Andrew M. Rajec
President

Kenneth A. Arendt
Executive Secretary

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)

Coming Events

OCTOBER

- 14 – The Rev. John E. Rura District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church Hall, Carteret, New Jersey.
- 14 – The Jozef Cardinal Tomko District's Semiannual Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Country Club, Philipsburg, Pennsylvania.
- 16 – A Meeting of the Rev. Joseph L. Kostik District at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church Rectory, Youngstown, Ohio.
- 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. Spitzkovsky 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.
- 18 – A meeting of the Msgr. Andrew Hlinka District at 1:00 p.m. at the Donora Donut Station, Eighth and Meldon, Donora, Pennsylvania.

My 65-Year Association

continued from page 9

himself to any books or failing to check them out. Since no culprit could be found, it was decided to install an alarm system, which would be tripped when a book was not checked out with the librarian, or a student attempted to walk one or more books through the revolving gate.

The alarm system was installed, but still it failed to go off during school hours. Then one day, the alarm went off, which brought the school librarian running from behind some bookshelves to "apprehend" the culprit. There, standing with a stack of books, was a Benedictine monk- the former school librarian. His explanation was that being the former librarian, he didn't think it was necessary for him to check out library books. That rule applied to students only, he surmised. When someone decided to check out his room at the abbey, lo and behold, all the "missing" books were there. Mystery solved. Case dismissed!

In closing, I'd like to credit my English teacher, Father Gregory Oravec, O.S.B. for

making us memorize numerous poems each week but, better yet, make us recite our poems in front of all our classmates. So, not only were we developing an appreciation of, say Walt Whitman, but we were beginning to learn the art of public speaking. "I hear American singing, the varied carols I hear..." Walt Whitman.

It was a great journey! I wouldn't mind an encore. Who knows... Now that the Latin Mass is being revived, I might want to become an altar boy again. Let's see, how do those prayers go again?

Ad Deum Qui Laetificat Juventum Meum.
Confiteor Deo Omnipotenti, Beatae Mariae Semper Virgini, Beato Michaeli Archangelo.

Suscipiat Dominus sacrificium de Manibus meis ad laudem et gloriam nominis sui, ad utilitatem quoque nostrum, totiusque ecclesiae suae sanctae.

Gee, I can't believe that after 55 years, I still know my Latin Mass prayers. Guess I'll become an altar boy again when the Latin Mass is revived. Amen!

"PARK 2 ANNUITY" – NOW PAYING 4.75%

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

Features of the "Park 2 Annuity" include:

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

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

Paradox našich čias

Dnes máme väčšie domy a menšie rodiny
 Viac vymožeností, ale menej času
 Máme viac titulov, ale menej zdravého rozumu
 Viac vedomostí, ale menej súdnosti
 Máme viac odborníkov, ale aj viac problémov
 Viac zdravotníctva, ale menej starostlivosti

Utrácame príliš bezstarostne
 Smejeme sa primálo
 Jazdíme prirýchlo
 Pohneváme sa priskoro
 Udobrujeme prineskoro
 Čítame príliš málo
 Televíziu sledujeme priveľa
 A modlíme sa priveľmi zriedka

Znásobili sme naše majetky
 ale zredukovali naše hodnoty
 Rozprávame priveľa, milujeme primálo
 a klameme príliš často
 Učíme sa ako zarábať na živobytie ale nie ako žiť
 Pridali sme roky životu, ale nie život rokom
 Máme vyššie budovy, ale nižšie charaktery
 Širšie diaľnice, ale užšie obzory
 Míňame viac, ale máme menej
 Kupujeme viac, tešíme sa z toho menej

Cestujeme na Mesiac a späť,
 ale máme problém prejsť cez ulicu navštíviť susedov
 Dobývame vonkajší vesmír
 ale nie vnútorný
 Rozbili sme atóm
 ale nie naše predsudky

Píšeme viac, učíme sa menej,
 plánujeme viac, dokončujeme menej
 Naučili sme sa ponáhľať sa, ale nie čakať,
 máme vyššie platy, ale nižšiu morálku
 Vytvorili sme viac počítačov pre viac informácií
 a aby sme vytvorili viac kópií
 ale máme menej komunikácie

Máme vyššiu kvantitu
 ale nižšiu kvalitu
 Toto je čas rýchleho stravovania a pomalého trávenia
 vysokých mužov a nízkych charakterov
 Viac voľného času a menej zábavy...
 viac druhov jedla... ale menej výživy
 Dva platy...ale viac rozvodov
 Krajšie domy... ale neúplné rodiny

Preto navrhujem, že tak ako dnes, nenechávaj nič na zvláštnu príležitosť,
 pretože každý deň, ktorý žiješ, je zvláštna príležitosť
 Vyhľadávaj vedomosti, čítaj viac, sed' na verande
 a obdivuj výhľad bez toho, aby si venoval pozornosť svojim potrebám
 Tráv viac času s rodinou a priateľmi, jedz obľúbené jedlá
 a navštevuj miesta, ktoré máš rád
 Život je reťaz radostných momentov,
 nie je len o prežití
 Používaj svoje krištáľové poháre,
 nešetri najlepším parfémom
 a použi ho zakaždým kedy cítiš, že chceš
 Odstráň zo svojho slovníka frázy ako
 "niekedy inokedy" a "nabudúce"
 Napíš ten list, ktorý si chcel napísať
 "niekedy inokedy"
 Povedz svojej rodine a priateľom
 ako veľmi ich ľúbiš
 Neodkladaj nič, čo vnáša smiech
 a radosť do tvojho života
 Každý deň, každá hodina, každá minúta je výnimočná
 a ty nevieš, či nebude tvoja posledná.

**Získajte ešte dnes nového člena
 do Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej
 Jednoty**

UNESCO: Slovensko sa uchádza o zápis ôsmich sakrálnych pamiatok

Slovensko sa uchádza o ďalší zápis do Svetového kultúrneho dedičstva UNESCO súborom ôsmich sakrálnych objektov. Rozhodnutie by mohlo prísť do jedného roka. Do nomináčného súboru sú zahrnuté rímskokatolícke kostoly v Hervartove pri Bardejove a v Tvrdošine na Orave, tri evanjelické artikularne kostoly v Leštínach, Hronseku a Kežmarku a tri gréckokatolícke drevené cerkvi v Lodomírovej, Bodružali a v Ruskej Bystrej. "Ak sa to podarí zapísať, okrem toho, že získajú popularitu a reklamu, môže sa zvýšiť aj cestovný ruch a záujem domácich i zahraničných turistov o tieto objekty. Každá krajina je povinná sa o tieto svoje zapísané pamiatky starať s väčším rešpektom. Tie, ktoré sú zapísané v UNESCO, môžeme považovať za vrcholné pamiatky v rámci celého sveta, povedal Miloš Dudáš, riaditeľ Krajského pamiatkového úradu v Žiline,

zodpovedný za nomináčny projekt drevených kostolíkov slovenskej časti Karpatiského horského pásma.

V súčasnosti sú v zozname svetových pamiatok zapísané štyri slovenské lokality, dve prírodné pamiatky a jeden hudobný nástroj. Titulom svetového kultúrneho dedičstva sa hrdí Spišský hrad s okolím, Banská Štiavnica s technickými pamiatkami, drevená architektúra osady Vlkolíne a naposledy bol v roku 2002 zapísaný Bardejov s historickým jadrom a židovskými pamiatkami. Z prírodných pamiatok sú zapísané Bukové pralesy a jaskyne Slovenského krasu, z osobitných kultúrnych pamiatok sa v zozname UNESCO nachádza aj fujara, ako jedinečný hudobný nástroj. Rozhodnutie 21-člennej komisie UNESCO pozostávajúcej z odborníkov z rôznych krajín by malo byť známe do jedného roka.

Pozemnú lanovku na Hrebienok nahradí modernejšia

Hrebienok (TASR) – Pozemná lanovka zo Starého Smokovca na Hrebienok, ktorá slúžila cestujúcim v súčasnej podobe od roku 1970, absolvovala 16. septembra poslednú jazdu. Dôvodom je výmena vozňov a technológie lanovky a tiež rekonštrukcia časti budovy údolnej stanice v Starom Smokovci. Nové vozne prinesú vyšší komfort pre cestujúcich. Doterajšie zošrotujú. Rekonštrukciou sa zvýši kapacita pozemnej lanovky a z vozňov bude lepší výhľad na tatranskú prírodu, keďže bočné steny budú presklené. Celkové náklady na rekonštrukciu dosiahnú zhruba 220 miliónov Sk. Dodávateľom vozňov a technológie bude rakúsko-švajčiarsky koncern Doppelmayr/Garaventa, ktorý patrí k svetovej špičke. Do krajín piatich kontinentov sveta dodal vyše 13-tisíc lanových dráh. Nový dizajn dostane aj budova údolnej stanice lanovky v Starom Smokovci. V súlade s požiadavkami horskej architektúry budú určujúcimi stavebnými prvkami kameň, drevo a sklo. Projekt spracoval prešovský architekt Peter Marcinko. Rekonštrukcia vstupnej časti budovy, nástupišta pokladníc a toaliet sa uskutoční do decembra 2007.

Matica chce, aby STV vysielala večer len v slovenčine

Bratislava (TASR) – Verejnoprávna televízia by mala v čase od 20.00 do 22.00 h vysielat' relácie zásadne v slovenskom jazyku a mal by sa založiť a sprístupniť všetkým školám vedecko-populárny časopis, akým bola Slovenská reč. Myslia si to kultúrni pracovníci a členovia občianskych združení Matice slovenskej, Spoločenstva kresťanské Slovensko, Bernolákovej spoločnosti, Spoločnosti Andreja Hlinku a Združenia slovenskej inteligencie Korene Slovakia plus.

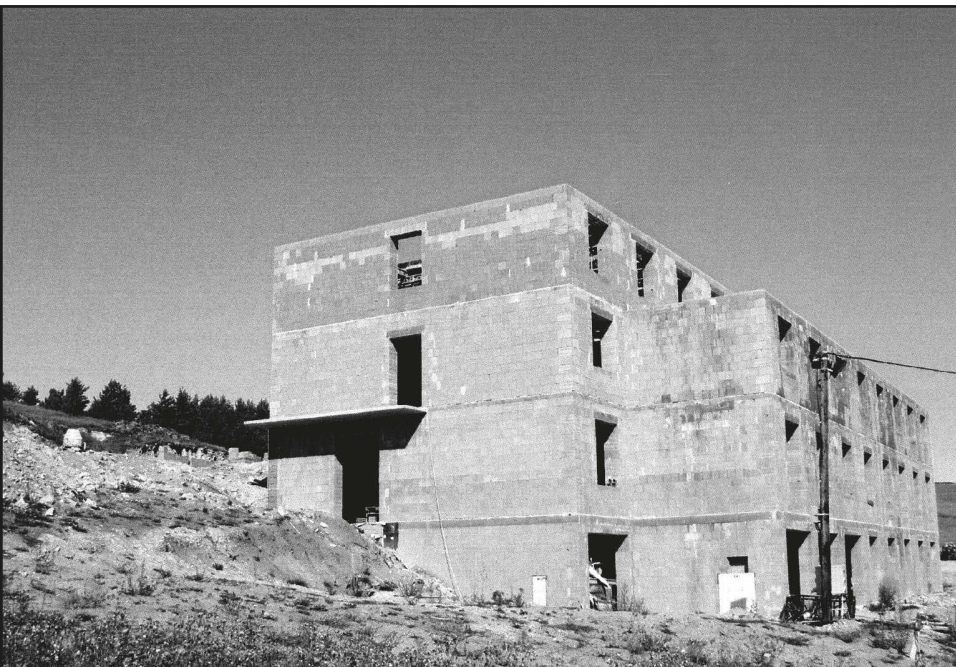
Svoju nespokojnosť s úrovňou ovládania slovenčiny ako štátneho jazyka pracovníkov najvyšších kultúrnych, vedeckých inštitúcií a štátnych úradov deklarujú signatári vo výzve adresovanej zodpovedným štátnym orgánom, ustanovizniám, politikom a verejnosti.

Text požaduje dôsledné trestanie porušovania zákona o štátnom jazyku. Podpísaní spisovatelia, medzi ktorými je Milan Rúfus, Ladislav Ťažký, či Milan S. Ďurica oceňujú stanovisko ministra kultúry Mareka Maďariča, ktorý poukázal na zmienený stav.

"Po druhej svetovej vojne celých štyridsať rokov sa pokračovalo v politike čechizovania slovenského jazyka, ktoré sa konalo najmä "nežnými" prostriedkami masovokomunikačných prostriedkov. Žiaden jazykovedec sa nemohol odvážiť brániť čistotu slovenského jazyka proti držiteľom totalitnej moci," objasňuje výzva spôsob, akým sa slovenčina zanesla nepotrebnými cudzími výrazmi, gramatickými a syntaktickými formami.

PRAKTIZUJTE FRATERNALIZMUS

“Laboratórium” sv. Benedikta



Pohľad na dokončenú hrubú stavbu dolnej časti kláštora - bez strechy.

Možno ste si už aj vy všimli, že mnoho ľudí dnes prepadáva strachu až panike z budúcnosti. Stáva sa to aj preto, že im chýba opora v múdrom vnímaní dvoch časov - minulosti a tiež prítomnosti.

Prijmite prosím od Slovenských benediktínov pár slov o tom ako je možné s povzbudením sv. Benedikta odpovedať na dnešné ľudské obavy z budúcnosti. Sv. Benedikt nám dvoma slovami ora et labora - modli sa a pracuj, ukazuje cestu, ktorou naši predkovia už v šiestom storočí dokázali to isté čo dnes potrebujeme aj my. Hlboko veríme, že je možné oživiť život v Cirkvi, Európy, aj každučkú rodinu, budovaním kresťanského “laboratória”. Ide vlastne o spojenie dvoch známych latinských slov “ora” a “labora” v opačnom poradí tak aby nám vznikla slovná hra v podobe laboratórium.

Našou odpoveďou voči budúcnosti je teda vytrvalé a trpezlivé budovanie prvého benediktínskeho kláštora na Slovensku po páde komunistického režimu. Stavíme ho uprostred Slovenska, neďaleko Banskej Bystrice v dedinke Sampor od septembra roku 2006. Dovoľte, aby sme vás poinformovali o doterajších výsledkoch našich spoločných modlitieb aj prác.

Dnes už stojí posledné teda štvrté poschodie Domu hostí, ktoré vidieť aj na priloženej fotografii. V septembri plánujeme prikryť celú spodnú časť kláštora strechou. Začínáme aj paralelne budovať obvodové múry kostola. V závere roka 2007 chceme ešte stihnúť dobudovanie kostolnej veže čo vo veľkej miere závisí od toho či získame potrebnú finančnú sumu.

Život sv. Benedikta nás učí aj v dnešných časoch pozerat' s nádejou na

každého človeka, ktorý sa snaží spájať labor s ora. Tvorí tak vlastne skutočné laboratórium, kde sa práve z modlitby a práce získava veľký poklad. Koľko sa nám vlastne treba konkrétne modliť a koľko pracovať nám našepká hlavné heslo sv. Benedikta: “Aby bol vo všetkom oslávený Boh.” (1Pt 4,11). Každý človek, ktorý sa snaží hľadať rovnováhu medzi modlitbou a prácou tak, aby jedno aj druhé oslavovalo Boha je vynikajúcim laboratóriom, ktoré tento svet potrebuje ako soľ. Ovocím tohto laboratória je jednoduchosť ale zároveň aj sila viery, nádeje a lásky. Všetko toto tvorí v nás pokoj, ktorý svet nemôže dať ani vziať.

Slovenskí benediktíni vám svoju modlitbou a prácou vyprosujú životnú múdrosť, aby ste spomínané laboratória budovali s nádejou, že práve takto sa dá vyriešiť obava z budúcnosti.

Chceme Vám vysloviť “Pán Boh zaplať” za vaše štedré dary a opäť vás aj prosíť, aby ste nás finančne podporovali. Veríme, že spojením našej usilovnosti a vašej štedrosti budeme môcť dielo sv. Benedikta na Slovensku čím skôr odovzdať k úžitku všetkým ľuďom ktorým je budúcnosť Slovenska drahá.

Svoje dary na projekt: “Návratu benediktínov na Slovensko”, môžete aj naďalej posielat' na známu adresu: Saint Andrew Abbey, 10510 Buckeye Road, Cleveland, OH 44104-3725. Úprimné Pán Boh zaplať všetkým štedrým darcom.

o. Jozef Brodňanský OSB
koordinátor projektu “Návrat benediktínov na Slovensko”
pre USA

SR zaznamenala najvyšší medziročný rast

Brusel (TASR) – Slovensko dosiahlo v júli najvyšší medziročný nárast priemyselnej produkcie v rámci celej Európskej únie (EÚ). Medzimesačný rast bol druhým najvyšším v únii. Vyplýva to zo zverejnenej správy 12. septembra štatistického úradu EÚ Eurostat. Priemerná produkcia na Slovensku sa v júli medziročne zvýšila o 18.9% a medzimesačne o 4.6%. Rýchlejší medzimesačný rast zaznamenalo iba Írsko so 14.4%. Na 3. mieste sa umiestnilo Dánsko s 2.9%. Najviac sa v porovnaní s júnom 2007 priemyselná produkcia znížila v Portugalsku (-2.7%), nasledovanému Slovinskom (-0.7%) a Estónskom (-0.5%). Druhý najvyšší medziročný rast zaznamenalo Írsko (13.9%), nasledované Litvou (12.2%) a Bulharskom (11.6%). V celej EÚ sezónne upravená priemyselná produkcia medzimesačne vzrástla o 0.4% a v eurozóne o 0.6%. Medziročne sa v EÚ zvýšila o 3.5% a v eurozóne o 3.7%. Informoval o tom štatistický úrad EÚ Eurostat.

Majcichov, moja rodná dedinka

Jozef SMÁK, USA

(Cena starostu obce Majcichov, v poézii Prvého ročníka súťaže Palárikovi nasledovníci)

Majcichov, Majcichov, moja rodná dedinka
po tebe mi v cudzine, ostala najkrajšia spomienka.
Najkrajšia spomienka, na mladosť prežitú.
Ktože mi nahradí, moju rodnú dedinku milenu.
Tu moja mať, kojila ma svojim mliekom,
najdrahším to ľudským, Božím, liekom.
Tam v malej chalúpke, učila ma chodiť prvé kroky,
prosila Pána, za moje zdravie, šťastné roky.
Pobozkala, prežehkala znakom svätého kríža,
by žil som na svete, ako knieža.
Na dobrú noc, zaspievala uspávanú, uložila do kolísky,
dala do Božej vôle, do opatery anjelovi strážcovi.
A čas utekal, jak v žblnkotajúcej Trnavke voda,
rôčik za rôčikom, pribúdali jak šťastné roky.
Šlabikár a perečník ma sprevádzali do ľudovej školy,
že sme boli všetci bosí, nikomu nevedilo.
Veď taký bol na dedine život, o lepšom sa nám, iba snilo.
Cez leto sme sa iba hrali, najviac, že sme pásli husi,
čo je radosť na dedine, na strnisku, sa iba, skúsiť musí.
Gunár, ten bol väčší pán, ako my všetci, a zobák mal ostrý,
ako nôž a krídla veľké, volali sme ho, že je sprostý.
Keď poštipal ma na zadku, videl som všetky hviezdy,
vtedy som si povedal “Počkaj”, keď dorastiem...
Celá dedina, hrisko, stromy, jarok, patrila nám,
džavotu a smiechu, radosti, bolo až priveľa.
Nikto nám zaň neďakoval, patrila k našim radovánkam.
Prestali sme sa hrať, až keď z veže sa ozval “Anjel Pána”.
Vtedy sme vedeli, že do hrana, musíme čakať, do rána.
Nie, nezamenil by som moju mladosť,
za tú dnešnú, tá nedáva opravdivú, detskú radosť.
Majcichov, Majcichov, moja rodná dedinka,
po tebe mi v cudzine, ostala najkrajšia spomienka.

Objavená hrobka v Matejovciach je európskym unikátom

Poprad (TASR) – Podtatranské múzeum v Poprade získalo za objav drevenej kniežacej hrobky v areáli priemyselného parku v Poprade - Matejovciach výročnú cenu časopisu Pamiatky a múzea za rok 2006.

Archeologický výskum hrobky robili pracovníci múzea v spolupráci s Archeologickým ústavom SAV v Nitre v júli až novembri 2006, pričom nadviazali na úvodný prieskum z jesene 2005. Archeologické nálezy i rádiouhlíkové datovanie určili vek objavenej hrobky na koniec 4. alebo začiatok 5. storočia, teda do doby sťahovania národov. Objav priniesol nové poznatky vo viacerých smeroch. Hrobka je európskym unikátom vzhľadom na zachovanú drevenú architektúru starú 1600 rokov. Prítomnosť a technická dokonalosť nájdeného mobiliára a ďalšieho nábytku zapíše kniežaci hrobku spod Tatier do dejín archeológie a kultúrnej histórie. Podľa pracovníkov múzea výsledky ďalšieho bádania by mali pomôcť komplexnejšie poznať nielen osobu pochovaného, ale aj historické a kultúrne obdobie prelomu 4. a 5. storočia, prírodné prostredie a klímu v regióne severovýchodného Slovenska v európskom kontexte.

Slovensko podľa nich získalo objav európskeho významu, ale stojí pred naliehavým problémom finančného zabezpečenia náročnej konzervácie, vedeckého spracovania a trvalej muzeálnej prezentácie hrobky. Vyžaduje koordinovanú podporu zo strany vlády, samosprávy, domácich aj zahraničných inštitúcií a sponzorov.

Sestry baziliánky prišli do Prešova pred 85 rokmi

Prešov (TASR) – V pozdravnom liste poďakoval prešovský eparcha Ján Babjak za činnosť rehoľným sestrám baziliánkam, ktoré prišli do Prešovskej eparchie pred 85 rokmi.

“V homílii sv. liturgie vyjadril synkel Prešovskej eparchie pre Rusínov Peter Pavol Haľko radosť z toho, že sestry prejavujú vďačnosť Bohu za dlhé roky pôsobenia,” uviedol hovorca gréckokatolíckeho prešovského biskupstva, Ľubomír Petrik.

Na územie terajšieho Slovenska - do Prešovskej eparchie prišli sestry baziliánky 25. augusta 1922 z Ivano-Frankivska na Ukrajine. Po vojne u nich nachádzali pomoc a oporu osirotené deti. Vo februári 1949 začala tajná polícia prenasledovanie a o rok v marci museli sestry z Prešova definitívne odísť. Ich odchod sprevádzalo utrpenie, násilné odlúčenie od veriacich a obradu. Sestry pracovali zväčša v ústavoch pre mentálne postihnutých v Bardejove a v Čechách. Do Prešova sa opäť mohli vrátiť až v roku 1991.

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. Ludovít Pavlo, MD
 President Emeritus
 Slovak League of America

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

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

90. výročie I. Zboru Slovenskej ligy v N.Y.C

I. Zbor Slovenskej ligy v New Yorku srdečne pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na slávnostný banket pri príležitosti 90. výročia jeho založenia, ktorý sa bude konať v sobotu 10. novembra 2007 o 6:00 hodine večer vo veľkej hale Slovenského kostola sv. Jána Nepomuckého v N.Y.C., 411 East, 66th Street. Po bankete bude tradičná KATARÍNSKA ZÁBAVA. Do tanca vám bude hrať populárna hudobno-spevácka skupina Kontakty. Vstupné aj so slovenskou večerou je \$25.00. Vstupenky si môžete kúpiť, alebo objednať: Milan a Henrieta Dait tel. (201) 641-8922; Jozef a Anna Bilik (718) 463-2084.

Ordinariát OS a OZ SR poputoval do Ríma a Vatikánu

V dňoch od 22. do 28. septembra sa uskutočnil 2. ročník púte Ordinariátu OS a OS SR do Ríma a Vatikánu. Púte pod vedením ordinára OS a OZ SR Mons. Františka Rábeka spolu s vojenskými a policajnými kaplánmi sa zúčastnilo deväťdesiat profesionálnych vojakov Ozbrojených síl SR, príslušníkov Policajného zboru, Hasičského a záchranného zboru a ich rodinných príslušníkov.

V rámci oficiálneho programu sa pútnici zúčastnili na generálnej audiencii pápeža Benedikta XVI. a oficiálne navštívili aj Žandársky zbor mestského štátu Vatikán, Pápežskú švajčiarsku gardu, Slovenské pápežské kolégium sv. Cyrila a Metoda, hlavné patriarchálne baziliky v Ríme, hrob pápeža Jána Pavla II., Baziliku sv. Šebastiána - patróna vojakov a patróna Ordinariátu

OS a OZ SR a Baziliku sv. Klementa. V čase púti si Ordinariát OS OZ SR pripomenie aj 5. výročie ratifikácie Zmluvy medzi Slovenskou republikou a Svätou stolicou o duchovnej službe katolíckym veriacim v Ozbrojených silách a Ozbrojených zboroch SR (august - október 2002). Z tohto dôvodu sa k pútnikom v dňoch 25. - 26. septembra pripojila aj oficiálna delegácia vedená ministrom obrany SR Františkom Kašickým a viceprezidentom Policajného zboru pplk. Michalom Kopčíkom, ktorí okrem osobnej účasti na programových aktivitách púte boli osobne prijatí pápežom Benediktom XVI. a sekretárom Svätej stolice pre vzťahy so štátmi arcibiskupom Mons. Dominikom Mambertim a ministrom obrany Talianskej republiky Arturom Parisim.

TK KBS

Jankovi Belianskemu k 85. narodeninám

Veľaváženému jubilatovi, Jankovi Belianskemu
 k jeho 85-tim narodeninám viňšujú:

Nepozeraj Janko spiatky,
 Teš sa z krásnej 85-ky.
 Veď život rýchlo letí ako šíp,
 ako ho najlepšie prežiť nevie nik.

Nech krásne spomienky z mladosti sa k Tebe vrátia
 a všetky zlé sa navždy stratia.

Nech tento krásny deň,
 dá Ti úsmev a radosť len.
 Nech každý ďalší rok,
 dá Ti len šťastný krok.

Nech navždy Tvoja dobrá duša rastie,
 nech Ti dá Pán Boh zdravie, lásku a šťastie.

S láskou od srdca želajú rodiny:

Karolína, Marián a Emily Altmann.
 Prof. Pavel a Karolína Galajdovi.
 Doc. Pavol, Alena, Janka a Martin Galajdovi.



Ján Beliansky

Lúčnica na turné do Austrálie a Ázie

Bratislava (TASR)–Umelecký súbor Lúčnica mieri na turné do Ázie a Austrálie. V druhej polovici septembra odcestuje 45 tanečníkov a hudobníkov na jeden z najväčších a najnáročnejších umeleckých zájazdov v 60-ročnej histórii Lúčnice. Počas viac ako štyroch týždňov vystúpia lúčničiarci 16-krát v štyroch krajinách, spolu prekonajú okolo 50 000 kilometrov pri 12 preletoch a počas ďalších hodín v autobusoch a vlakoch.

Vlaňajší úspech vo vypredanom Macao Arts Center, kde Lúčnica vystúpila ako zlatý klínek jedného z najrenomovanejších festivalov v Ázii, vyvolal záujem aj v neďalekom Hong Kongu, kde sa turné začína. Nasledujúca séria predstavení na Taiwane bude náročná najmä na každodenné presuny a inscenovanie predstavení vždy v inom divadle. Do jedného z najvýstavných, najmodernejších a najväčších miest sveta - Šanghaja zavítajú "veľvyslanci" slovenskej kultúry vôbec po prvý raz. Niekoľko Slovákov, ktorí tu pracujú, môže už reklamu na Lúčnicu vidieť v uliciach mesta. Do Austrálie zavíta Lúčnica druhýkrát. Po legendárnom turné v roku 1999 sa súbor tento raz dostane na najdôležitejšie scény krajiny s viac ako 150 národnosťami. V Melbourne uvidia Austráľčania i početná slovenská komunita predstavenie v Her Majesty Theater - Hammer Hall, asi najväčšej divadelnej sále v celej krajine. V Sydney časť súboru pozvali do živého vysielania show Ráno s Karie Ann. Táto charizmatička moderátorka spoznala Lúčnicu pri svojej reportážnej ceste po strednej Európe vlni a už vtedy sa zábery tancov a hudby objavili vo vysielaní najsledovanejšieho austrálskeho kanála Channel 9. Turné uzavrie koncert na prestížnom javisku v Sydney State Theatre. Lúčnica sa vráti späť domov 15. októbra.

FRATERNALIZMUS POSILŇUJE
 RODINU

Slávnostné odovzdanie Pittsburskej dohody do Heinzovho centra

Slovenská liga v Amerike slávnostne odovzdala originál Pittsburskej dohody do Heinzovho historického centra v Pittsburghu v nedeľu 9. septembra 2007.

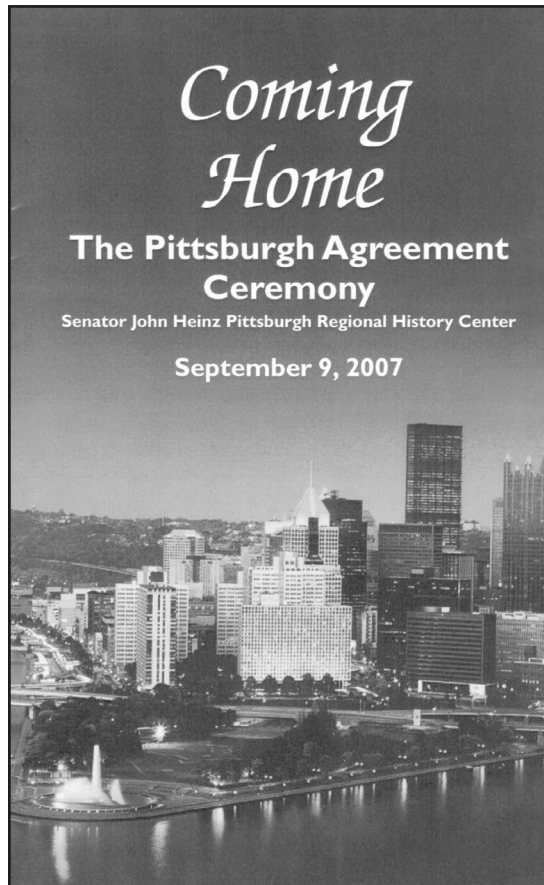
Program sa začal o 12. hodine na poludnie príhovorom predsedu Slovenského kultúrneho združenia v západnej Pensylvánii Jozefa Bieleckého. Toto združenie (Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association) bolo so Slovenskou ligou spoluorganizátorom podujatia.

Veľvyslanci Slovenskej republiky Rastislav Káčer a Českej republiky Petr Kolar mali príhovory, ako aj primátor Pittsburghu Luke Ravenstahl, vedúci krajskej administratívy Dan Onorato a za pennsylvánsku legislatívu štátny poslanec Donald Walko.

Za Slovenskú ligu predniesli pozdravy tajomníčka Nina Holá a podpredsnička SLvA pre Pensylvániu Cynthia Maleski Groch.

Hlavný prejav predniesol predseda SLvA Daniel F. Tanzone, počas ktorého slávnostne odovzdal originál Pittsburskej dohody prezidentovi Heinzovho historického centra Andrejovi Masichovi, ktorý svojím príhovorom uzavrel program ceremónií.

Slávnostné odovzdávanie sa konalo v priestoroch Heinzovho historického centra na 1212 Smallman St. v Pittsburghu. Na slávnosti sa zúčastnili okrem pozvaných hostí i verejnosť, ktorá mala možnosť po programe si prehliadnúť priestory Heinzovho historického centra.



Veľký pohreb skromného kňaza

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

Canadian Slovak Professional & Business Association, ktorý v ten deň slávil židovský Nový rok (5768) a manželia John a Mary Polák z Toronta. Rodičia manželky, Chlopaškovci, boli prvými farníkmi novozaloženej parafie v roku 1930.

Pri odchode každá žena dostala červenú ružu na znak vďaka Pannej Márii, ktorej Msgr. Šinal bol veľkým ctiteľom.

Životná štatistika monsiñora naznačuje dlhú cestu z Osikova do Montrealu. Narodil sa 15. mája 1927 rodičom Štefanovi a Zuzane rod. Ošavskej. Po skončení stredoškolských štúdií v Prešove, vstúpil do bohosloveckého rim. kat. seminára v Košiciach, odkiaľ vtedajší biskup Jozef Čarský ho poslal na ďalšie štúdiá do Ríma. V roku 1946 začal študovať filozofiu a teológiu na Lateranskej univerzite. Za kňaza bol vysvätený v Ríme 22. decembra 1951. Následkom vtedajších politických udalostí v bývalom Československu domov sa nevrátil. Stal sa exulantom.

V rokoch 1952-56 pôsobil ako kaplán v severnom Taliansku. V rokoch 1956-65 profesoroval na regionálnom seminári SIENNA, stredné Taliansko. V roku 1965 s povolením Cirkevnej Stolice prišiel pastoračne pracovať medzi slovenských gr. kat. v Kanade. Zo začiatku kaplanoval vo farnosti vo Wellande, (Ontario) 1965-66. Od októbra 1966 takmer do konca svojho života bol parochom slovenskej gr. kat. parafie Nanebestúpenia Pána v Montreale. Ako člen slovenskej komunity patril do slovenských spolkov včítane Jednota Bowling Club. Jeden čas bol duchovným Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty pre Kanadu.

V roku 1968 bol menovaný za generálneho vikára slovenského gr. kat. biskupstva v Kanade. Dovtedy zastával funkciu kancelára, archivára a ekonóma eparchie, ako aj predsedu teologicko-pastoračného komitétu. V roku 1973 pápež Pavol VI. ho vymenoval za poradcu pápežskej komisie pre revíziu východného cirkevného práva a v roku 1978 za monsiñora. Pokladal si za mimoriadny honor, že mal privilegium koncelebrovať sv. omšu v Sixtinskej kaplnke so sv. Otcom Jánom Pavlom II. počas biskupskej vysviacky kardinála Jozefa Tomku.

Msgr. Šinal vyšiel z jednoduchého ľudu, z chudobných pomerov a hoc aj dostal vysoké posty vo verejnej duchovnej správe, ostal verný svojmu ľudu a národu, z ktorého vyšiel.

Keď ho odprevádzam do nenávratna dávam mu moje posledné zbohom a sa s ním ľúčim slovami básnika: *Pomiluj, Bože, pomiluj, keď ostanem sám s Tebou!*

Vičnaja pamjať, drahý náš Msgr. Šinal.

Štefan Hreha, Montréal, QC

Architekt William Babjak 85-ročný

Vilo Babjak, tak ho všeobecne voláme, sa dňa 22. septembra 2007, zaradil do skupiny 85 ročných seniorov. Na opísanie, jeho životnej dráhy, by sme potrebovali snáď celú knihu. Narodil sa v najkrajšom kúte Slovenska, neďaleko Banskej Bystrice. Jeho rodná malá dedinka, "Dolný Jelenec", počítala iba niekoľko malých, storočných chalúp. Po troch rokoch sa presťahoval do susedného Horného Jelenca. Po jeho rodnom domku, kde strávil svoje detstvo, zostalo iba prázdne miesto. Zostal tam však žblnkotajúci, malý potôčik a cementové schodky, kde jeho mama právala bielizeň. Tam vychodil aj ľudovú školu. Meštianku však absolvoval v Banskej Bystrici, kde aj v roku 1942 zmaturoval na Vyššej škole strojníckej. Ako čerstvého maturanta, si ho Slovenský štát povolal do vojenskej služby, kde v hodnosti porúčika letectva, skončil svoju vojenskú kariéru. Odvtedy potôčkom pretieklo veľa vody, čo sa s ním Vilo v roku 1944 posledný raz rozlúčil. Od tohoto dátumu, sa vlastne začína jeho emigrantský život. V roku 1950 odchádza z Nemecka do Spojených štátov amerických. Je len samozrejme, že jeho slovenské srdce ho viedlo tam, kde žijú Slováci, do New York City, kde sa aj natrvalo usadil. Farnosť sv. Jána Nepomuckého, sa mu stala, akoby druhým domovom. Tu stretol aj svoju celoživotnú manželku Otheliu, ktorú si jej Stvoriteľ pred siedmymi rokmi povolal tam, odkiaľ už nie je návratu.

Vilo ako veľmi hudobne a kultúrne nadaný, rozhodnul sa pre nečinnú slovenskú mládež niečo urobiť. A tak sa stal spoluzakladateľom Slovensko-amerického klubu, ktorý si slovenskou piesňou, divadlami a 32-členným spevokolom získal aj srdcia v susedných slovenských farnostiach. Vynikol tu zvlášť Debutansky bál, kde kadeti zo slávneho West Point Academy, boli eskortom slovenských študentiek. Svoj voľný čas Vilo využíval lyžovaním, ktoré bolo jeho záľubou už od detstva. Neskoršie sa aj s rodinou presťahoval do Suffern, N.Y., odkiaľ pravidelne dochádza do New York City a zúčastňuje sa slovenských programov. Pritom všetkom nezabúda na potrebné vzdelanie. Ako architekt sa vypracoval na náročné miesta u veľkých amerických firiem. Ako taký, precestoval celú Ameriku. Je samozrejmosťou, že je členom Prvej Katolíckej Slovenskej Jednoty, Slovenského Katolíckeho Sokola, Slovenskej ligy a bývalého Svetového kongresu Slovákov. Svoju jeseň života prežíva so synom Danielom a neďaleko bývajúcou dcérou Lindou a jej synmi.

K tomuto tak dôležitému životnému medzníku, jeho 85. narodenín, rodina, priatelia a známi mu prajú veľa dobrého zdravia, božieho požehnania, pokoja, aby jeho obľúbená harmonika, piano a organ, nikdy nezhrdzaveli. Nech ho Pán odmení tými darmi, ktoré najviac potrebuje. Ešte mnoho pekne strávených rokov mu prajú,

Kmotrovia, Judita a Jozef Smák

Oslava založenia prvej Kongregácie Oratorov v N.Y.

Pokračovanie zo str. 20

nasledovať jeho príklad.

Potom J.E. arcibiskup Alojz Tkáč mal príhovor v slovenčine.

Jeho vhodné a milé slová prekladal o. Torok do angličtiny: "Potrebujem tiež kňazov v mojej diecéze. Ale uvoľňujem trochu, aby som Vám pomohol vo vašich duchovných potrebách. Prijmite ich s láskou", a predstavil každého. Sú to: Rev. F. Čonka, Rev. V. Chripko a rev. M. Kertys. Kostol burácal dlhotrvajúcim potleskom. Noví oratori sú vo veku 30 - 38 rokov mimo otca Toroka. To znamená, že farnosť O.L.S.H. má istotu, že bude rásť a prekvitať aspoň 40 rokov.

V dnešnej dobe sa Katolícka cirkev obracia na oratorov, aby oni prevzali zodpovednosť za farnosť, pretože je nedostatok kňazov. Kňazi majú ťažkosti žiť a pracovať v samote. Oratory, to je spoločenstvo kde kňazi podporujú jeden druhého a žijú ako rodina. Je to čo otec Torok volá "nový model kňazskej existencie".

Otec G. Torok ako správca osady sa na konci omše podakoval hlavne kardinálovi Eganovi, arcibiskupovi Tkáčovi, gen. prokurátorovi E. Cerratovi ako i ostatným kňazom, farníkom a každému, kto sa tejto krásnej slávnosti zúčastnil. Slávnosť skončila zaspievaním pápežskej hymny: Bože čos ráčil slovenskému ľudu ... v slovenčine.

Nasledovala bohatá recepcia v školskej farskej miestnosti. I tu sa ukázala

vdácnosť a radosť farníkov keď vrelo pozdravovali nových oratorov. I bývalému správcovi osady rev. J. Dwyerovi sa uľavilo keď povedal: "Každý správca osady sa stará kto nastúpi po ňom, ak vôbec niekto. My máme veľkú radosť, keď vidíme, že farnosť O.L.S.H. bude mať mladých kňazov na dlhé roky."

Túto historickú udalosť zaznamenala tiež miestna tlač. The Journal News 12. augusta 2007 z pera Hannan Adely na prvej strane s veľkou fotografiou otca G. Toroka. Catholic New York na dvoch stranách s fotografiami referoval o ustanovení Kongregácie Oratorov. Článok napísal Juliann Dos Santos a bol uverejnený 30. augusta 2007.

Počas sv. omše sedeli sme v laviciach hrdo vypínajúc naše prsia a tešili sme sa ako výrazne vynikol podiel slovenských kňazov, teraz už oratorov nielen na tejto slávnosti, ale aj vôbec v kresťanských snaženiach celosvetového diania národov sveta.

Z príležitosti založenia Kongregácie Oratorov zvolávam k tomuto vznešenému poslaniu hojné Božie požehnanie na duchovných osady i na farníkov. Nech Všemohúci žehná všetky šľachetné podujatia a ochraňuje túto krásnu osadu v jej všestrannej činnosti na slávu Božiu i na česť slovenského mena.

Rudo L. Greguš

Krátke správy zo Slovenska

Prvá a jediná kancelária predsedu Národnej rady (NR) SR Pavla Pašku so sídlom v Košiciach začala fungovať od 10. septembra. Otvorili ju rok po tom, ako sa Paška stal predsedom NR SR. "Rok ukázal, že tá korešpondencia a snaha ľudí skontaktovať sa so mnou je pomerne bohatá. Veľa listov a mailov prichádza aj z východného Slovenska, aj preto táto kancelária bude dostupná každý deň," povedal Paška. O otvorení ďalších kancelárií na Slovensku predseda NR SR neuvažuje pre pracovnú vyťaženosť v parlamente.

Náčelník Koordinačného centra síl pre špeciálne operácie NATO, rear admiral William H. McRaven navštívil v dňoch 10.-11. septembra Ozbromené sily (OS) SR. V pondelok v popoludňajších hodinách sa konal brífing McRavena so zástupcom náčelníka Generálneho štábu (GS) Ozbromených síl SR a náčelníkmi jednotlivých štábov a odborov GS OS SR. Jeho cieľom bolo poskytnúť komplexnú informáciu o súčasnej situácii v oblasti síl pre špeciálne operácie NATO. McRaven sa zaujímal o možnosti spolupráce medzi Slovenskou republikou (SR) a NATO v oblasti špeciálnych operácií.

Najneskôr do troch rokov bude výučba cudzieho jazyka povinná už od tretieho ročníka základných škôl. Dohodli sa na tom členovia vlády, ktorí schválili etapovité zavádzanie koncepcie výchovy a vzdelávania v cudzích jazykoch. V druhej etape, do roku 2013, budú musieť školy zabezpečiť dobrovoľnú výučbu druhého cudzieho jazyka od šiesteho ročníka. Vládny zámer by sa mal v plnom rozsahu zrealizovať najneskôr do roku 2016.

Získať informácie o obchodnej a ekonomickej situácii v Prešovskom kraji a oboznámiť sa s jeho investičným prostredím bolo cieľom pracovnej návštevy zástupcov Obchodnej a priemyselnej komory a Generálnej rady departmentu Horné Pyreneje. Prvýkrát v päťročnej histórii medziregionálnej spolupráce medzi Prešovským samosprávnym krajom a Hornými Pyrenejami sa spolupráca začala rozširovať aj na ekonomickú oblasť. Doposiaľ sa orientovala prevažne na oblasť zimnej a letnej turistiky a sociálnych služieb.

Od decembra by sa mali vydávať pasy s biometrickými údajmi. Vyplýva to z návrhu zákona o cestovných dokladoch, ktorý by mala schváliť vláda. Digitálnu mapu tváre ako biometrický údaj budú nové pasy obsahovať do konca roka. Z návrhu zákona vyplýva, že odtlačky prstov Slovenská republika navrhuje zaviesť do roku 2009. Ministerstvo vnútra (MV) SR momentálne čaká na presnú špecifikáciu tohto znaku z Európskej únie, a preto nemožno odhadnúť, či sa odtlačky prstov objavia v pasoch skôr ako o dva roky. Biometrické údaje sú pritom hlavnou požiadavkou USA pre zavedenie bezvízového styku so Slovenskom. Do nových pasov už nebude možné zapisovať svoje deti. Poplatok za vydanie cestovného pasu osobe od päť do 13 rokov sa zvýši zo súčasných 400 na 500 korún.

Minimálna mzda na Slovensku sa od začiatku októbra zvýši zo súčasných 7 600 Sk na 8 100 Sk. Najnižšia hodinová mzda tak bude od budúceho mesiaca predstavovať 46,60 Sk. Rozhodla o tom vláda 19. septembra. Na novej sume najnižších miezd sa vláda dohodla s odborármi a zamestnávateľmi ešte koncom júla tohto roka. Minimálna mzda vo výške 8 100 by mala na Slovensku platiť až do konca budúceho roka. Podľa návrhu nového zákona o minimálnej mzde by sa totiž mala suma minimálnej mzdy zmeniť najbližšie až od 1. januára 2009.

Slovensko dáva do školstva tak málo peňazí, že sa ocitlo v poslednej tretine vyspelých krajín. Na jedného slovenského študenta nejde ani polovica z toho, čo je bežné v OECD. Kým priemerné výdavky na žiaka od základnej školy až po univerzitu sú v najbohatších štátoch ročne okolo 180-tisíc korún, na Slovensku je to iba 74-tisíc korún. Slovensko v tejto oblasti predbehlo aj Poľsko, Česko a Maďarsko. Tí naši susedia dávajú na jedného školáka vyše štyritisíc dolárov, čo je okolo 100-tisíc korún. Výrazné zlepšenie nemôžu slovenské školy očakávať ani v budúcom roku. Návrh štátneho rozpočtu totiž pre ne počíta s 53 miliardami korún, čo je len o dve miliardy viac ako v súčasnosti.

Zahraničný obchod SR vykazoval za prvých 7 mesiacov tohto roka deficit 15,9 miliardy Sk. Celkový vývoz tovaru v tomto období predstavoval 803,8 miliardy Sk a celkový dovoz 819,7 miliardy Sk. Schodok zahraničného obchodu za január až júl bol o 31,8 miliardy Sk nižší ako v rovnakom období minulého roka. Vývoz sa za prvých mesiacov tohto roka medziročne zvýšil o 19,9% a dovoz bol medziročne vyšší o 14,1%. Vyplýva to z nedávno zverejnených údajov Štatistického úradu (ŠÚ) SR.

Kanadská slovenská liga oslávi 75. výročie

Kanadská slovenská liga (KSL) bola založená v roku 1932 s pomocou Slovenskej ligy v Amerike. Vznikla v čase silného prisťahovalectva Slovákov do Kanady v čase svetovej hospodárskej krízy. Keď sa mnohí prisťahovalci prihlásili za členov Slovenskej ligy, národní činitelia v Kanade sa rozhodli s povzbudením a finančnou pomocou Slovenskej ligy v Amerike založiť vlastnú národnú reprezentáciu.

Od jej začiatku KSL spolupracovala so Slovenskou ligou v Amerike v boji za autonómiu a neskoršie za samostatnosť slovenského národa. Oslavy 75. výročia sa budú konať pri príležitosti konvencie KSL, ktorá sa začne v piatok 19. októbra. V sobotu 20. októbra večer bude slávnostný jubilejný banket.

Vzdušné sily USA ukončili 13. septembra druhú časť výcviku svojich príslušníkov z 31. bojového krídla. Počas desiatich dní piloti v priestoroch leteckej strelnice v Kuchyni nacvičovali ostrú strelbu z kanóna a bombardovanie cvičnou municiou. Spolu uskutočnili 64 letov z leteckej základne v talianskom Aviana, zhodili 263 cvičných bômb BDU-33 a vykonali strelby z leteckého kanóna Vulcan. Cvičenia Vzdušných síl USA na strelnici v Kuchyni sa konajú každoročne už od roku 1997. Ostré strelby sú vykonané na základe Memoranda o porozumení a využívaní strelníc a výcvikových priestorov ozbrojenými silami USA na území Slovenska medzi vládou SR zastúpenou Ministerstvom obrany SR a vládou USA zastúpenou vzdušnými silami USA v Európe.

Slovensko si pri internetizácii verejnej správy bude brať príklad zo skúseností Francúzska. Aj to je jeden zo záverov konferencie Informačná spoločnosť a e-government, ktorú zorganizovala vláda SR v spolupráci s francúzskym veľvyslanectvom. Francúzsko patrí medzi svetových lídrov v oblasti elektronizácie verejnej správy.

Tretí rok členstva Slovenskej republiky (SR) v Európskej únii (EÚ) sa niesol v znamení ekonomického rastu. Predovšetkým makroekonomické ukazovatele zaznamenali rast hrubého domáceho produktu. SR sa zaradila k najrýchlejšie rastúcim ekonomikám EÚ, pribudli zahraničné investície, vznikli nové podniky a nové pracovné miesta. Vyplýva to zo správy o treťom roku členstva SR v EÚ, ktorú 20. septembra schválil parlament. "V tomto čase sa SR taktiež pripravuje na vstup do eurozóny, pričom národný plán zavedenia eura je dokumentom, o ktorý sa môžu oprieť všetky subjekty slovenskej ekonomiky a spoločnosti," konštatuje sa v správe.

TASR a slovenské časopisy

Slováci sú čoraz bližšie k bezvízovému styku s USA

Bratislava (TASR) – Slováci sú čoraz bližšie k bezvízovému programu s USA. O aktuálnom priebehu rokovaní informovali 11. septembra na tlačovej konferencii štátna tajomníčka Ministerstva zahraničných vecí (MZV) SR Diana Štrofová a veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Rodolphe Vallee. Spoločné rokovania MZV SR s predstaviteľmi Ministerstva pre vnútornú bezpečnosť USA priamo nadväzovali na zákon prijatý Kongresom USA, ktorý vytvoril základné predpoklady pre zrušenie vízovej povinnosti pre viaceré európske krajiny. "V rámci prebiehajúcich rokovaní sa presúva pozornosť od nelegálnej migrácie za prácou k otázkam bezpečnosti osôb vstupujúcich na územie USA," povedal Vallee. Podľa jeho slov bolo zadefinovaných sedem základných opatrení, ktoré musí krajina splniť predtým, ako vstúpi do

programu bezvízového styku. Tieto opatrenia sa týkajú informácií o cestujúcich, dohôd o vyhostení, podmienok práce policajtov v lietadlách a vyhodnotenia kvality cestovných dokladov. "Boli sme príjemne prekvapení, ako v oblasti cestovných dokladov Slovensko pokročilo," pokračoval Vallee. Podmienka zabezpečenia letísk nateraz nie je prvoradá, keďže zo Slovenska sa zatiaľ priamo do USA nelietajú. Nové podmienky musia zároveň začať plniť aj krajiny, ktoré už sú v bezvízovom režime. Slovensko je na dobrej ceste do Schengenu, čo nám dáva dobrú východiskovú pozíciu pre rokovania o zrušení víz, myslí si Štrofová. Do programu bezvízového styku s USA má zatiaľ najbližšie Grécko, ktoré spĺňa podmienku pomeru zamietnutých víz. Z nových členských krajín EÚ víza nepotrebujú len obyvatelia Slovinska.



FOTO TASR/AFP Timothy A. Clary

Slovenský prezident Ivan Gašparovič počas svojho vystúpenia na 62. Valnom zhromaždení OSN v New Yorku 25. septembra 2007.

Účasť na VZ OSN bola ťažiskom päťdňovej návštevy hlavy štátu v sídle OSN. Na plenárnom zasadnutí OSN rezonovali problémy globálneho otepľovania a Ivan Gašparovič vystúpil v rozprave na tému Redukcia emisií a stabilizácia klímy - ochrana našej spoločnej budúcnosti.



Katolícky fraternalistický dvojtýždenník

Jednota



O. Štefan Furedek
Náš zakladateľ

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

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Veľký pohreb skromného kňaza

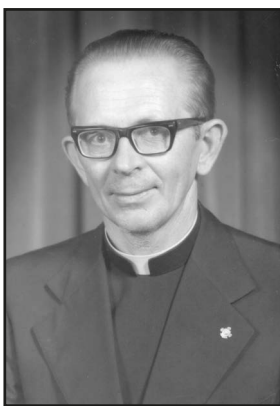
Slovenský Montréal ochudobnel. Vo štvrtok, 6. septembra 2007, poručil svoju ľudskú dušu Pánovi, ktorému zasvätil celý svoj život, Msgr. Andrej Šinal, S.Th.D.Ph.B., paroch, z ktorého menom sa spája azda najväčšia a najúspešnejšia etapa životnej histórie slovenskej gréckokatolíckej parafie Nanebestúpenia Pána v Montreale, ktorej blahodarne slúžil vyše 40 rokov.

Ako žil, tak aj zomrel. Ticho, skromne v domove pre kňazov na odpočinku Cénacle St.-Pierre v Trois Riviers, (Québec), ktorému sa dlho netešil.

Pohreb mal vo štvrtok, 13. septembra v zaplnenej cirkvi ľuďmi každej konfesie. Na čele pohrebného sprievodu kňazov, seminaristov, starých a nových krátorov, kráčal už starý, zhrbený monsiňorov konfident, John Ceruľa. Svätú liturgiu a panachydu odslúžil J.E. Ján Pažák, C.Ss.R., eparchie (biskup) slovenského gréckokatolíckeho biskupstva sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Kanade za asistencie 15 kňazov a seminaristov v slovenskom, staroslovenskom a anglickom jazyku. V homílii biskup Pažák a v svojich preslovoch Rev. František Krušínský, správca slovenskej rim. kat. osady sv. Cyrila a Metoda v Montreale a Rev. Ján Mucha, správca slovenskej gr. kat. parafie Usnutia Bohorodičky v Hamiltone, (Ontario), zobrazili kňazský, ľudský, spoločenský a organizačný profil svojho oltárneho brata. Rev. Krušínský na záver prečítal sústrastné listy Jozefa Markuša, predsedu Matice slovenskej, kardinála Jozefa Tomku z Ríma a rodiny z Osikova na Slovensku, kde Msgr. Šinal sa narodil pred vyše 80 rokmi a zanechal tam bratov Štefana, Vincenta, Filipa a ich manželky a sestru Máriu s manželom.

Po obradoch na cintoríne Côte des Neige v kostolnej hale bolo smútočné posedenie - kar s krátkym programom. Prehovorili Marta Fusková a Betty Valentová za rim.kat. osadu a Margita Dvorská z Toronta za Slovak Canadian National Council a Slovak Canadian Heritage Museum. Záverečné slovo mal biskup Pažák. Vyslovil poďakovanie kňazom, seminaristom, kantorovi a ľuďom, ktorí prišli odprevadiť monsiňora na jeho poslednej ceste, ako aj ženám, ktoré pripravili kar. Program s dávkou domáceho humoru obratne viedol Joe Čorej.

Patrí sa spomenúť, že pohrebu sa zúčastnili prof. Dr. Jozef Brody, predseda



Msgr. Andrej Šinal, S.Th.D.Ph.B.

Pokračovanie na str. 18

Oslava založenia prvej Kongregácie Oratorov v N.Y.

Kongregácia Oratorov St. Philip Neri pri farnosti Our Lady of the Sacred Heart (O.L.S.H.) v Tappan, N.Y.

V stredu 15. augusta t.r. na sviatok Nanebovzatia Panny Márie, osada O.L.S.H. sa zaskvela v tom najkrajšom svetle a sláve. Stovky osadníkov zaplnili kostol do posledného miesta aby boli prítomní pri tejto slávnostnej a pamätnej chvíli založenia Prvej Kongregácie Oratorov v newyorskej arcidiecéze. Videli sme aj radosťou žiariace tváre Slovákov a Sloveniek. Dozvedeli sme sa, že niektorí z nich si zobrali voľno z práce a obliekli sa do slovenských krojov.

Slávnostnej omši predsedal J.E. kardinál Egan. Koncelebrovali: J.E. arcibiskup Alojz Tkáč z Košíc, Rev. Edoardo Cerrato, generálny prokurátor oratorov na svete, bývalý správca osady O.S.L.H. Rev. John Dwyer, Rev. George Torok, terajší správca osady, Rev. Vladimír Chripko, Rev. Martin Kertys, Rev. František Čonka, Rev. Štefan

Chanas z osady sv. Jána Nepomuckého v New Yorku, Msgr. Edward Weber a viacerí kňazi z Rockland County.

Na začiatku omše Rev. Cerrato prečítal apoštolský dekrét ustanovenia Kongregácie Oratorov. Potom prečítal listinu od Svätého Otca Benedikta XVI., čo bolo mimoriadne požehnanie kňazom oratorom a všetkým prítomným, ktorí sa zúčastnili tejto slávnostnej udalosti. V kázni, kardinál Egan chválil otca Toroka za jeho šľachetné snahy pri zakladaní Kongregácie Oratorov ako i za organizačnú prípravu slávnosti. Dobré nám padlo, keď sa uznanlivo zmienil o Slovensku a kardinálovi Korcovi. Uviedol príkladný život sv. Filipa Neri, ktorý "svojím úsmevom pritiahol Rím opäť k viere". Kardinál Egan prejavil nádej, že aj oratóri budú

Pokračovanie na str. 18



FOTO TASER

Umelecký súbor Lúčnica má za sebou prvú časť svojho mesačného turné po Ázii a Austrálii. V Hongkongu sa predstavila na troch vystúpeniach. Na snímke spoločná fotografia Lúčnice 25. septembra 2007.

Nový slovenský veľvyslanec pri Svätej stolici

Castel Gandolfo (RV) – Pápež Benedikt XVI. vo štvrtok 13. septembra prijal na osobitnej audiencii nového veľvyslanca SR pri Svätej stolici Jozefa Draveckého, ktorý mu odovzdal svoje poverovacie listiny. Ako vo svojom prejave zdôraznil Svätý Otec, "puto, ktoré spája rímskeho biskupa s ľuďmi našej krajiny má pôvod ešte v časoch pôsobenia svätých Cyrila a Metoda". Prítomnosť nového veľvyslanca je podľa slov hlavy Katolíckej cirkvi ďalším príkladom vzájomného rešpektu a náklonnosti, ktoré voči sebe prechovávajú Slovensko a Svätá stolica. V budúcom roku si pripomenieme 15. výročie diplomatických vzťahov medzi oboma stranami štyroch zložiek Základnej zmluvy, podpísanej v roku 2000, duchovnej služby katolíkom v ozbrojených zložkách a katolíckej výchovy.

Nový veľvyslanec uistil Svätého Otca o tom, že Slovensko sa zaväzuje k naplneniu ďalších dvoch bodov, týkajúcich sa výhrady svedomia a financovania aktivít Cirkvi, ktoré si však bude vyžadovať viac času a dôkladnú a vážnu diskusiu v rámci spoločnosti. "Je totiž v záujme Slovenska a jeho národa," zdôraznil Jozef Dravecký, "aby dosiahnuté rozhodnutia boli v súlade s princípmi spravodlivosti a morálky, vždy podporovanými Svätou stolicou." Benedikt XVI. sa vo svojom prejave dotkol aj potreby spolupráce medzi Cirkvou a občianskou spoločnosťou pri správnom formovaní mladých ľudí, ktoré je zvlášť potrebné pri súčasnom ohrození hodnoty manželstva a rodiny. Poukázal na to, že práve rodina je jadrom, v ktorom sa človek učí ľudskej láske a zušľachtľuje cnosti zodpovednosti, štedrosti a bratského záujmu: "Pevné rodiny sú budované na základoch pevných manželstiev. Pevné spoločnosti sú budované na základe pevných rodín."

Svätý Otec vyzdvihol aj bohaté kultúrne a duchovné dedičstvo Slovenska a fakt, že má veľký potenciál prispieť k revitalizácii duše európskeho kontinentu. Vďaka dedičstvu Cyrila a Metoda dokáže inšpirovať ostatné členské štáty Európskej únie v snahe o jednotu s ohľadom na rôznorodosť, v rešpektovaní národnej suverenity pri podnikaní spoločných aktivít a v úsilí o ekonomický pokrok, nezabúdajúc na udržanie sociálnej spravodlivosti."

Prezident Slovenskej republiky Ivan Gašparovič v polovici júla 2007 odovzdal poverovacie listiny Jozefovi Draveckému, vedúcemu diplomatickej misie pri Svätej stolici. Jozef Dravecký sa narodil 25. júla 1947. Po ukončení prírodovedeckej fakulty Univerzity Komenského v Bratislave bol aspirantom na Katedru matematickej analýzy PF UK a od roku 1973 odborným asistentom. Docentúru v odbore matematická analýza prijal v roku 1990 a od októbra toho istého roku sa stal vedúcim Katedry matematickej analýzy. V roku 1991 bol vymenovaný za námestníka ministra medzinárodných vzťahov SR. Od roku 1992 bol vymenovaný za veľvyslanca a vedúceho Zastupiteľských úradov SR v Sofii. Od roku 2000 do roku 2005 bol poverený výkonom funkcie mimoriadneho a splnomocneného veľvyslanca SR v Lotyšskej republike, Estónskej republike a Litovskej republike.

TK KBS