



Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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All is in readiness for this year's competition

67th International Bowling Tournament set for Weekend of May 17-19 in Buffalo, N.Y.

by Edward D. Moeller

Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics

It is once again that time of year for our Sokol bowlers to begin preparations for their teams to compete in the Slovak Catholic Sokol International Bowling Tournament. This year will mark the 67th annual competition and will be staged in Buffalo, N.Y. at Airport Lanes.



Last year, our bowling tournament was held in conjunction with some of our fellow Slovak fraternal organizations. Because of unforeseen circumstances, it was decided that in the best interests of our own members that this year we once again host our own bowling tournament. Because of this decision, this year's competition will be held at the Airport Lanes in Buffalo, N.Y. The tournament

begins on Friday, May 17th and concludes on Sunday, May 19th. The bowling lanes are located near the Holiday Inn Airport, which will be our main headquarters for this year's bowling weekend. This will be a spectacular event that our bowlers will not want to miss. Because of its central location, we hope that our tournament site will entice many "alumni" bowlers from previous years' tournaments to join us at this special fraternal event. In addition, we also hope to attract many new bowlers looking to combine a great family vacation as part of a special fraternal event.

All of the preparations are complete and those planning to attend may now reserve their rooms. We are able to enjoy a low price of \$104.00/night, plus tax. A total of 85 rooms have been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at this special rate for our members. As well, if any members wish to arrive before the tournament or remain a few days later, they will also receive the reduced rate.

The hotel reservation number is (716)634-6969. The final deadline to reserve and book rooms is April 24th. After the deadline date, there is no guarantee that a room will be available at the hotel. Our rooms are registered under the Slovak Catholic Sokol. When making reservations, remember to mention that you are with our organization.

The hotel address is 4600 Genesee Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14225. The bowling lanes are located at 3754 Genesee Street in Cheektowaga, N.Y. The telephone at the lanes is (716)632-0655. There are 40 newly renovated lanes with automatic scoring which we hope will generate some high scores for our members. The bowling center is fully equipped with restaurants, a proshop as well as other facilities required to effectively support our tournament.

Entry forms along with information packages with further details about the hotel will be sent out. This will be a great fraternal event and now is the time to make your travel and hotel reservations. The deadline to submit entry forms is postmarked April 8th.

Team competition for both men and women will take place on Friday, May 17th beginning at 7:30 p.m. Since the facility is large enough to accommodate us, there will be only one starting time for team events. The doubles and singles events will begin on Saturday morning, May 18th at 8:30 a.m. with the second group scheduled for 12:30 p.m. We ask our bowlers to try and arrive at the lanes at least 30 minutes before their scheduled time. The cost of bowling per person will be as follows: The rate is \$17.00 for 3 games or \$51.00 for all 9 games. (team/doubles/singles). The all events cost is an additional \$3.00, therefore the total cost is \$54.00 per bowler.

This year our Saturday evening banquet will be held at the Airport Holiday Inn. We hope everyone will attend this special event, complete with an awards ceremony, great food and drinks. The cost for this event is \$25.00 per person. This price includes all taxes, gratuities, a wonderful meal along with a few drinks to complete the evening. An enjoyable time is assured.

All is in readiness for this year's event. If there are any further questions or concerns in the short term, please feel free to contact me at my home telephone number (412)881-3506 or email me at moellerref@aol.com. We look forward to seeing a great turnout in Buffalo. Zdar Boh!



Double Blessing--Double Responsibilities

by Sister M. John Vianney Vranak, S.S.C.M.

The Year of Faith, recently introduced by Pope Benedict XVI, coincides with the 1150th anniversary of the arrival of SS. Cyril and Methodius in present-day Nitra, Slovakia. It is an opportunity, a privilege, and a blessing to renew our commitment to our faith in Christ and His Church. It is also a time for renewing our devotion to the brothers of Thessalonica, Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius, who brought the faith to the Slavic nations.



Most of our readers claim Saints Cyril and Methodius as the patrons of their faith, the missionaries from Greece, who brought the faith to our ancestors in what was then known as Great Moravia. Historians tell us that they arrived in Nitra, Slovakia in 863. At the time, Methodius was close to fifty years of age and Cyril (Constantine) was in his late thirties. What would have happened if they had said: "We're too old for such a venture!" or: "We don't know the language of those people!" "How will we be able to communicate with them?"

So often when we are invited or inspired to share our faith, we are pelted with such arguments against responding to the invitation to evangelize. Actually, evangelization is not something NEW. In fact, it is as old as the hill of the Ascension when Jesus said to His disciples: "GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Note: This is a MANDATE, not a suggestion or a simple request.) Jesus did not preface His parting legacy with the words: "If you have the time...If you feel so inclined...When you have nothing better to do..."

Jesus gave them an order and it has been passed on to us at the time of our Baptism. Most baptized Christians are not aware of the responsibility that is theirs simply because they have been baptized. Unfortunately, those who have been baptized may not be aware of the fact that the GOOD NEWS—the Gospel has been entrusted to them.

When anyone sees or hears of something exciting, that individual is so eager to share the good news nothing can contain the joy he or she has experienced. Our families and neighborhoods, indeed, the whole world would be different if we, who are blessed with the gift of faith, were as enthusiastic about it as the Apostles or other zealous missionaries were. In addition to the responsibility for sharing and spreading the Good News, the gift of Baptism endowed us not only with the gifts of faith, hope, and love; it included the promise of eternal life... Let us pray for each other and all the baptized. Let us pray that our faith might be strengthened by being shared with joy and conviction. The blessing of our own faith should prompt us to pray for all the unbaptized, for those "inactive" baptized who don't know what they are missing.

Faith is transmitted one-to-one. Every believer has the faith because some other believer had the courage and the zeal to introduce him or her to the person of Jesus. We can only introduce someone to another friend if we know him or her well enough.



- Mikulas Klimcak

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Introducing our newest members



Anna Bella Marie Snitzer, born May 19, 2012 is the daughter of Alyssa Rose Snitzer of Boardman, Ohio. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 107 in Youngstown, Ohio.



Ryan Anthony Opett, born October 8, 2009, is the son of Richard and Lauren Opett of Leesburg, Virginia. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 82 in Dunlo, Pennsylvania.



Kelly May Waite, born May 8, 2008, is the daughter of Richard and Amy Salamon Waite of Albany, N.Y. She was enrolled as a member of Assembly 9 in Bridgeport, Conn.



Charlie James Savage, born October 3, 2010, is the son of Jason Savage of Akron, Ohio. He was enrolled as a member of Wreath 43 in Akron, Ohio.



Harrison Andrew Opett, born September 10, 2012 is the son of Richard and Lauren Opett of Leesburg, Virginia. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 82 in Dunlo, Pennsylvania.



Cassandra Grace Milius, born November 18, 2012, is the daughter of Christopher and Judith Kuehn Milius of Pittsburgh, Pa. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 22 in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Aiden Michael Braatz, born May 9, 2010, is the son of Travis Richard and Angela Marie Zumer Braatz of Cresson, Pa. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 79 in Lilly, Pa.

Great News – Sokol Heritage Campaign Extension

Slovak Catholic Sokol - "Sokol Heritage Campaign" Extended. Due to the popular demand, the terrific success and the value that we are extending to our member and friends our society is extending the "Sokol Heritage Campaign" guaranteed issue program to March 15th of 2013. The deadline for accepting the "Sokol Heritage Campaign" guaranteed issue applications will now be March 15, 2013. This guaranteed issue of Permanent Life Insurance protection is for MEMBERS ONLY and their IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS. We will not guarantee issue any application that is post-marked beyond the March 15, 2013 date.

Five good reasons to take advantage of this opportunity:

1. Sufficient Coverage
2. 100% Sokol Family
3. Uninsurable
4. Cost of Insurance & the Ease of Issue
5. Show a loved-one that you care

Do not hesitate and lose out on this wonderful opportunity that benefits you and the ones you care about most. Contact our Home Office 800-886-7656 or our Sales Office 888-381-5431 for assistance and direction. If you truly love your family, take the time, they are worth it.

Wealth Transfer Idea

Wealth transfer and asset protection are important topics for many people today. We all want to learn

efficient ways to maximize the distribution of assets to spouses, younger generations and favorite charities. A will and/or a trust can assign assets to beneficiaries, however these estate-planning tools are not designed to create wealth so much as they are to preserve it. In contrast, life insurance products instantly create wealth and can increase the amount passed on to a recipient.

Single premium life insurance is a valuable tool when it comes to wealth creation and transfer. With this type of life insurance, a single premium is deposited, creating an immediate death benefit that is guaranteed until the owner passes away. The death benefit will depend on the amount deposited, gender, age and health of the insured. Typically the younger the insured, the higher the benefit received. For instance, a 65-year-old healthy, non-smoking woman who deposits \$100,000 into a single premium life policy could pass more than \$200,000 in death benefit to her beneficiaries. Moreover, the benefit is income tax free to her recipients!

Single premium life insurance can also benefit the insured or the purchaser during his or her lifetime. The cash value in a fully funded policy will grow quickly and can provide income to the purchaser if needed. In turn, the purchaser can also surrender the policy for its cash value at any

time. This way, if the insured needs to surrender the policy due to unforeseen circumstances, he or she is guaranteed to get their premium back. The insured also has the option of taking a loan against the policy instead of surrendering the contract if desired. This is just one of many situations where the Single Premium Life plan can benefit an individual. Everyone wants the best value for their money and sometimes people need to accomplish multiple goals, but have a limited amount of dollars to use. In this case, your dollars purchase an increased death benefit, yet the cash value is available for the future all while increasing the value of that money.

If the Single Premium Life plan can work this well in this scenario, imagine what buying it at younger ages could do over the lifetime of the contract. Imagine how you could maximize a charitable gift. You create a larger gift to your charity by using your cash to purchase a life insurance contract. Your charity can be the beneficiary and if need for the cash comes up, you still have access to it.

If you would like additional information on this or any of our life insurance plans, please call our Home Office at 800-886-7656/1890 or our Sales Office 888-381-5431.

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Sokol Calendar

FRI.JAN.25

■ 40th Annual March for Life commemorating the infamous legalization of abortion in our country. Washington, D.C. Slovak Catholic fraternalists meet at 11 a.m. at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 7th Street.

SUN.JAN.27

■ Assembly 219 annual meeting in Most Holy Trinity Rectory, 18 Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, N.Y. following the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

SAT.FEB.2

■ Pre-Lenten Dinner-Dance hosted by the Veselica Slovak Folk Ensemble of Chicago at the Paradise Elegant Banquets, 9220 South Harlem Ave., Bridgeview, Ill beginning at 5:30 p.m., \$52.00 per person, for reservations call (773)780-8599.

MON.FEB.4

■ Wreath 22 meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

■ Assembly 16 meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. board of directors meet beginning at 6 p.m., membership meeting follows at 7:30 p.m.

FRI.FEB.8

■ Assembly 11 annual meeting at the home of Therese M. Buc, 9024 Del

(Continued on page 3)



The former Nancy Lynn Maskara and Douglas Philip Horsting were united in marriage on June 22, 2012 at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Yonkers, N.Y. The lovely couple is shown above with the Rev. George Oonnoony, pastor of the parish who witnessed their marriage vows and celebrated the Nuptial liturgy. Nancy is our long-time member of Assembly 219 in Yonkers. The couple resides in Yonkers. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Nancy and Doug. May their love for each other continue to grow as the years go by. Happy future!

From the Desk of the Supreme President**Thoughts on Fraternalism**

by Larry M. Glugosh

To all of the members and officers of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I would like to offer you a very happy new year and wish you all the very best in 2013!

Over the past several years, I have started my January article and discussed the many challenges facing our society. Historically the biggest issue has been our declining membership and need to increase the sale of life and annuity insurance, which in turn will increase our premium income. However 2012 membership was a reasonably good year and we also saw our asset base increase as well.

The 2012 financial results are still unofficial however it would appear we generated positive year over year growth in our premium income. This is a good improvement for our society and I would like to congratulate our sales organization led by Albert J. Suess and his sales agents for their results. I would also like to recognize our Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec and his entire office staff for their commitment and focus on our membership growth. It is certainly paying dividends to our society and our future.

Keep in mind, we are still fine tuning this new business model and we have a lot of operational work to complete in terms of our computer software, the number of states we are licensed and number of agents selling our products. However this year over year successful growth is a tangible example of our efforts and specifically the performance of our sales and marketing team.

We believe our membership campaigns, new product introductions and competitive rates are all impacting our growth. Therefore we plan to launch similar programs in 2013 to hopefully continue the positive momentum. In addition, we continue to see an improvement in the overall membership decline from a year over year standpoint. This has been generated by our dedicated members (recommenders) who continue to sign up new life insurance and annuities along with the focused efforts of our home office staff who are educating our members on their life and annuity policies, which are translating into a reduction in cancellations.

As we look back on 2012, I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of our dedicated members and local officers that have worked diligently to improve our society and I look forward to your continual leadership and support in 2013. I would especially like to thank our Supreme Officers who are very dedicated individuals and have endured some personal sacrifice for our society. We all appreciate your contribution to our organization and hope you will continue to work on behalf of our entire membership.

Finally, I want to thank those individuals who created and distributed our annual review last month. It was a good piece of work and showcased all the best qualities of our society. From my heart, I want to thank my friend and colleague, Brother Steve for his kind and heartfelt comments about my late wife, Krista. For many years, I watched her produce the annual review with the support and collaboration of our editor Dan Tanzzone, the Supreme Physical Fitness board and Dan's hard working staff. Many times she would work until the early hours of the morning to meet deadlines and ensure the highest quality of product. This was not just because it reflected on her personally but more because it represented our society and reflected on the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

She was not Slovak by heritage but she had a fraternal spirit and deeply believed in the good of our organization and always tried to live up to the ideals and principles by which it is represented in our homes, our community and our church. I know she is proud of the latest edition and will continue to watch over our society from her heavenly home.

May God grant her eternal peace! Zdar Boh!

**Sokol Calendar**

(Continued from page 2)

Prado Dr., Palos Hills, Ill. beginning at 1 p.m., refreshments will be served.

SAT.FEB.9

■ Annual Pre-Lenten celebration in the Slovak tradition of "Fasiangy" hosted by Assembly 20 of the Slovak League of America at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 South 103rd St., Greenfield, Wis. beginning at 6 p.m., Slovak culinary specialties, entertainment by the Tatra Slovak Dancers along with music for dancing and listening pleasure, admission \$5.00; for additional information call Betty Valent at tel. (414)425-6137 or Ellen Tavel.

■ Night at the Races benefit of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Seton Auditorium, Church St., Pittston, Pa. doors open at 6 p.m., post time is 7 p.m.; \$10 admission. Call(570)654-0053.

■ 32nd Annual Czech and Slovak Ball at The Astorian Manor, 25-22 Astoria Boulevard, Astoria, Queens, N.Y. beginning at 8 p.m. with reception followed by dinner; \$100.00 per person, music by ABBA; for reservations call (646)641-6079, or e-mail info@zlatapraha.cc.

SUN.FEB.10

■ Assembly 162 patronal feast day observance beginning with 10:30 a.m. Mass in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. luncheon and fraternal program to follow in the church hall.

■ Annual meeting of Assembly 9 under the fostering care of SS. Peter and Paul in the meeting room of Holy Name of Jesus School, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. beginning at 1 p.m.

SUN.FEB.17

■ Assembly 167 annual meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Center, 888 West Hopocan Ave., Barberton, Oh. beginning at 2 p.m.

■ Assembly 59 meeting at the North End Slovak Citizens Club, 661 North Main St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning at 12 noon.

MON.MARCH 11

■ Wreath 111 meeting with the theme "May the Luck of the Irish be with us" at the American Slovak Home, 2915 Broadway, Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

MARCH 12-14

■ Annual audit by the Supreme Board of Auditors at the Home Office in Passaic, N.J.

MARCH 15-16

■ Annual meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors of the Slovak Catholic Sokol at the Home Office in Passaic, N.J.

SUN.MARCH 17

■ Annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Assembly 59 of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.



**40th March for Life
Washington, D.C.
Friday, January 25
Plan to participate!**

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain**The Right to be Human**

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdvic

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." Many are familiar with the beginning of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's famous poem, however there is a lesser known line which relates perfectly to the current crisis of the recent HHS mandate: "I love thee freely, as men strive for Right." In this line, Browning recognized the inseparable relationship between love and authentic freedom. For all the discussions today about freedom, do we really understand its foundation? We need to, because the right of individuals and institutions to act according to their religious beliefs and moral convictions is in danger, and the threat strikes at the heart of what it means to be human.



Every human heart aches for love that will penetrate every corner of our existence and give meaning to our lives. We search for fulfillment, yet whatever we turn to often falls short. This infinite desire reveals that only infinite love can satisfy our longing. As C.S. Lewis said, "If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world." We can then conclude that we were created by someone who could fulfill these desires, who loves us infinitely and who is constantly inviting us to respond to his love. When we respond to this love with our "yes," we respond freely because without freedom, there can be no love. This freedom, however, is far more rich and vibrant than the mere ability to choose between good and evil, as Msgr. Luigi Giussani noted in his book, "The Religious Sense," "Freedom, for the human being, is the possibility to be fulfilled... (it) is the experience of the truth of ourselves."

Because we are made in the image and likeness of God, decisions we make that bring us closer to him, enable us to become more fully ourselves and more fully human. It is only in our relationship with love himself, one which permeates our lives and transforms us and our daily actions, that we find fulfillment and satisfaction. Thus, as Abraham Lincoln allegedly stated, "freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought." Yet even this basic principle is now being ignored by the federal government.

God gives man freedom. The Declaration of Independence recognized this fundamental truth: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men.... are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." The government does not bestow these rights, but has the obligation to protect them. The Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment acknowledges this same right: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof"(emphasis added). In the 1963 case of School District of Abington Township v. Schempp, the Supreme Court stated that "The Free Exercise Clause.... withdraws from legislative power, state and federal, the exertion of any restraint on the free exercise of religion. Its purpose is to secure religious liberty in the individual by prohibiting any invasions thereof by civil authority"(emphasis added). This free exercise of religion acknowledges the freedom to respond to God's love with our "yes," thereby acting in accord with our human nature.

Yet, despite the fact that "the right of man to religious freedom has its foundation in the dignity of the person," as identified in Dignitatis Humanae (the Declaration on Religious Freedom), the very government that is charged with protecting this right is now claiming the illegitimate authority to force people to act in violation of their consciences. In failing to acknowledge the right to choose good, the government fails to acknowledge the right to love. In failing to acknowledge the right to love, it fails to acknowledge what it means to be human.

SAT.MARCH 23

■ Easter Bunny Breakfast hosted by Assembly 16 and Wreath 22 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 9 a.m., \$5.00 per person, advance reservations only; call Kathy (412)225-8233.

■ Semi-Annual meeting of Group 14, "St. Francis of Assisi" at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 11 a.m.

THURS.MARCH 28

■ Slovak Alliance of Greater Bridgeport meeting at Holy Name of Jesus School, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. beginning at 7 p.m., for information call Marta Suychak (203)377-1874.

SAT.APRIL 13

■ Most Holy Trinity School reunion

beginning with 5 p.m. Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Plaza, Yonkers, N.Y. followed by dinner in the parish hall; for information call (914)963-0720.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 6TH

In keeping with our biweekly publishing schedule, the next issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon* will be that of Wednesday, February 6th. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Thursday, January 31st. View e-Falcon on our website: www.slovakcatholiccsokol.org. Thanking you for your continued cooperation in this matter, I remain Zdar Boh! - **Daniel F. Tanzzone, Editor**

NEW BUSINESS SUBMITTED IN DECEMBER 2012

RECOMMENDERS	CITY/STATE	CERTIFICATES	VOLUME	POINTS
Edith M. Babik	Youngstown, OH	1	\$ 5,000	54
Mary A. Barnes	Canton, OH	1	10,000	82
Mary Falatok	Akron, OH	2	20,000	
James T. Genosky	Minneapolis, MN	2	20,000	
Home Office	Passaic, NJ	8	68,000	
Philip James Homacek	Barberton, OH	1	10,000	77
Charlotte Hvozdvic	Wilkes-Barre, PA	1	20,000	204
James C. Matlon	Boonton, NJ	2	10,000	98
Michael T. Matras	Perryopolis, PA	2	20,000	166
Christopher M. Millius	Pittsburgh, PA	1	10,000	
Edward D. Moeller	Pittsburgh, PA	3	35,000	192
Susan G. Moynihan	Parma, OH	1	10,000	
Stephen T. Phillips	Lilly, PA	1	5,000	55
Tony L. Scuglik	Kenosha, WI	3	30,000	
Albert J. Suess Jr.	Pittsburgh, PA	4	33,000	
Traci Walkowiak	Pittsburgh, PA	40	200,000	1,989
Eileen S. Wilson	Bridgeport, CT	2	10,000	55
Dolores Yonkoski	Dunlop, PA	4	30,000	
Totals		79	\$546,000	2,972
ANNUITIES				
RECOMMENDERS	CITY/STATE	CERTIFICATES	VOLUME	POINTS
Dolores Matonak Lutz	Pittsburgh, PA	1	\$219,904	1,100
Albert J. Suess Jr.	Pittsburgh, PA	1	1,000	5
Totals		2	\$220,904	1,105



REFLECTOR ...

Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities to host 2013 tour

If you have always wanted to take a tour of Slovakia and never got around to it, NOW IS THE TIME! Slovakia celebrates its 20th anniversary of independence and 10 years in the European Union in 2013 and is busily refurbishing many of its buildings, churches, castles etc. You'll see Slovakia at its finest!

Get started early, find out the names of the villages from your oldest living relatives and once your deposit is made we will help you in trying to locate family. Get out your walking shoes, practice your Slovak and get ready for the time of your life. We stay in the best hotels and you get a flavor of many different hotels. The food is great and our air-conditioned bus is large and roomy with a bathroom. We have the finest English speaking guide in all of Slovakia and have access to translators for a fee if you want to visit your relatives. You pay these people directly; there is no middle man fee. We do a bus/walking tour of Vienna, Bratislava, Trnava (known as the Rome of Slovakia) the Church of St. James in Levoca, Piestany (the spa town) attend a folk performance in Trenčin, travel to the majestic High Tatras and take a ride on the cog railway or gondola ride depending on the weather. We have several dinners in a koliba (a shepherd's cottage with Slovak cooking and music) and everyone lets their hair down and enjoys the evening.

Once again, our Sokol couple, John and Kay Bench have agreed to host the tour, which should be scheduled after the first week in July - If you have any questions about the 2013 trip, contact Jim or Kay at tel. (724)684-5101 (home), Jim's cell 724-858-5843, Kay's cell 724-771-7900 or email them at jmbench@yahoo.com or call Paul Hudak at Adventure International Travel at tel. 216228-7171 - 800-542-2487, fax 216-228-7174 or www.adventure-intl.travel.com or email Paul@aits.webmail.com.

What are you waiting for? Sign up for the trip of a lifetime. Additional details of this trip sponsored by the Youngstown, Oh. - Spisska Nova Ves Sisters Cities Association will be forthcoming.

Kent-Dudince Sister City Association has active program

One of the most active of our American Sister City associations is that of the Kent, Ohio - Dudince, Slovakia Sister City Association. This group promotes active educational, historical and cultural interaction between the Ohio community and its counterpart located in southwestern Slovakia. Under the dynamic leadership of our well-known Sokol activist, Rudy Bachna, the group hosts numerous activities to those of Slovak ancestry in northeastern Ohio. In addition to its monthly meetings, the group hosts cultural evenings, dinners and summer picnics. The highlight of the 2013 program will be the 11th annual banquet which is scheduled for Sunday, May 19. The annual event which includes a wonderful meal along with a cultural program will be held at the Kent Elks Club Lodge located at Elks Lane - State Road 59 (behind the Twin Star Bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59). The program begins with a social hour at 1 p.m. Dinner, catered by Tom's Country Place, will be served at 2 p.m. The traditional cultural program begins at 3 p.m. The afternoon includes the artistry of the Johnny Pastirik Band. The featured entertainers will be the popular Pittsburgh Slovaks under the direction of well-known Slovak fraternalists, Sue and Rudy Ondrejco. Also featured during the cultural program will be the Slovenske Mamicky vocal ensemble along with the Lucinka Children's Slovak Folk Ensemble of Greater Cleveland. Tickets for this year's banquet are \$20.00 per person. Make checks payable to: Kent-Dudince Sister City Assn. and send same to W. Roak Zeller, 725 Fairchild Ave., Kent, OH 44240. Coordinator of this year's 11th annual banquet is W. Roak Zeller. George Wargo will serve as editor of the souvenir book. As has been its long-standing tradition, a souvenir book will be published. Area Sokol members are reminded to mark their calendars and plan to participate in this year's 11th annual banquet.

Kent-Dudince enjoyed an active program in 2012. A special event enjoyed by all was the 84th birthday of Presi-

dent Rudy Bachna which was enjoyed at the home of his brother Joe in Independence, Oh. Rudy is professor emeritus at Kent State University and was former men's and women's gymnastic coach and men's soccer coach. Rudy started the gymnastics program 53 years ago and continues to be a regular at Kent State sporting events.

The group featured a colorful photo display of Slovak crystal, dolls, scenes of historic sites in Slovakia as well as traditional Kroj (dress) which was exhibited at many Ohio Slovak gatherings during the summer and fall of 2012. This display is very popular and is still available for future use.

The Kent-Dudince Sister City Association was founded to promote cultural and educational exchange between the Kent, Ohio area and the city of Dudince located in southwestern Slovakia. The group meets regularly at the Kent City Fire Station. This year, the group hopes to host a tour to Slovakia. Annual dues are \$15.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for a family. Write: W. Roak Zeller, treasurer at the address listed above. For additional information call the president, Rudy Bachna at (330)763-3255. We congratulate all those associated with the Kent-Dudince Sister Association for their wonderful efforts in building cultural bridges between the USA and Slovakia.

New Slovak diplomats to be honored at New York ball

The Slovak American Cultural Center of New York (S-ACC) will host its 21st Slovak Ball on Saturday, February 9 at the New York Athletic Club in New York City. At this year's black-tie gala, Slovakia's new representatives in the United States will be the guests of honor. To be feted at this year's ball will be His Excellency, Peter Kmec, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, His Excellency, Frantisek Ruzicka, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations and Jana Trnavcova, the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York.

Festivities begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by the Express ensemble. A cultural program will be featured and an array of attractive raffle items will be offered. Tickets are \$320.00 per couple, \$160.00 for an individual and \$120.00 for students and youth. The New York Athletic Club is located at 180 Central Park South in Manhattan. Reduced rate parking and overnight accommodations are available at the New York Athletic Club. For reservations and additional information call Zuzana Krcmar at tel. (973)357-1209 email: zuzana11@optonline.net. Or write: Slovak American Cultural Center, P.O. Box 5395, New York, NY 10185. Ms. Krcmar, our Sokolka of Assembly 282, is the new president of the Slovak American Cultural Center, a cultural association founded in 1967 to promote Slovak culture and heritage in the New York metropolitan area. In addition, S-ACC offers the annual Joseph Stasko Scholarship Awards. Since its founding, many area Sokol members have been active in the work of S-ACC.

Slovak Dinner-Dance in Chicago

The popular Veselica Slovak Folk Ensemble of Chicago will host a special pre-lenten dinner and dance on Saturday, February 2 at Paradise Elegant Banquets located at 9220 South Harlem Avenue in Bridgeview, Ill. Music for dancing and listening pleasure will be provided by the musicians of Veselica as well as DJ Michal. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and open bar. A family-style three-course dinner, including appetizer, entre and dessert will be served. The open bar will be featured throughout the evening. Tickets are \$52.00 per person. An enjoyable evening celebrating Slovak music and dance is assured.

For reservations for this benefit dinner which promotes the work of the Veselica Slovak Folk Ensemble call (773)780-8599 or (630)544-0162 or make check payable to Veselica and send same to 8500 South 77th Court, Bridgeview, IL 60455 or on-line at www.veselicaples2013.eventbrite.com. Deadline for reservations is January 28. Chicagoland Sokol members are cordially invited to turn out for this benefit dinner-dance.



The Word of God ...

Gospel for the Third Sunday of the Year - January 27th

Luke 1: 1-4,11 14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received. Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. "Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of the Year - February 3th

Luke 4:2 1-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue saying: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing. " And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself' and say, 'Do here in your native place

(Continued on page 16)

Life Insurance - The Key to Sound Financial Planning

(Continued from page 2)

SOKOL HERITAGE

"Sokol Heritage", this campaign is established to provide to our current members and their immediate family members an opportunity to purchase affordable, quality and relatively easy to obtain life insurance.

This outstanding offering is now available to March 15, 2013. This is a benefit offered exclusively for our existing members and families of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, who currently have a life insurance policy or annuity certificate in force. The Slovak Catholic Sokol is making this commitment to extend to our member's immediate family an opportunity to not only gain membership in the Society, but also to recognize the need to provide your family the important financial benefit of permanent life insurance coverage.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol is extremely proud of both, our Sokol Heritage and outstanding fraternal programs. We are also aware that our current members and their families desire to have sound financial protection throughout their lives. That is why we have developed this exceptional membership benefit that will focus on providing To accomplish these goals, the society will not only provide a GUARANTEED ISSUE permanent life insurance certificate to your loved ones, but also will provide a "Fraternal Benefit" that provides a partial payment that reduces first year premium*. We have structured our "Sokol Heritage" program to be as flexible as possible for our existing membership. As a valued member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, you can take advantage of this "limited time offer" to either increase your current permanent insurance coverage, or extend the same opportunity to an immediate family member.

SOKOL HERITAGE - GUIDELINES:

Qualifications to participate in the "Sokol Heritage" Fraternal Benefit -

An existing member in good standing of the Slovak Catholic Sokol with a current Permanent Life Insurance, Term Life Insurance or an Annuity Certificate, and their Immediate Family Members.

The Definition of Immediate Family -

The definition of the Immediate Family: your spouse, son, daughter, grandchildren, brother, sister, parents or grandparents.

Qualifying Permanent Life Insurance Plans by Age Groups - For Guarantee Issue

Ages	MaxFace Amount	LegacySingle Premium	Legacy3	Legacy10	Legacy20	LegacyLife
0 - 80	\$10,000	X	X	X	X	X

Fraternal Benefit Reduced Premiums -

Legacy 10, Legacy 20 and Legacy Life

When purchased and qualified as a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the society will issue a 50% Fraternal Benefit, that will be applied to reduce the first year premium, all succeeding premium payments will be at the regular premium rates.

Legacy Single Premium and Legacy 3

When a new certificate is purchased and qualified as a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the society will issue, a "10% fraternal benefit" that will be applied to reduce the total premium amount.

Taking Advantage of "Sokol Heritage" -

Contact the Home Office (800) 886-7656, the Sales & Marketing Office (888) 381-5431 or contact your local Group or Assembly Officer and request a Life Insurance Application. You can find information and premium rates regarding the Sokol Heritage Campaign on our web site www.slovakcatholicsokol.org.

Due to the large reduction to the premium rates this campaign will not include a recommender's fee.

SOKOL HERITAGE - Application Instructions:

1. Complete the "SOKOL HERITAGE" Application Form (SHAPP-12).
2. Complete the Application for Life Insurance (LA-10).
3. Mail the "SOKOL HERITAGE" Application Form (SHAPP-12), Application for Life Insurance (LA-10) and your initial premium to:

Slovak Catholic Sokol
PO Box 899
Passaic, NJ 07055



SOKOL HERITAGE - Application Slovak Catholic Sokol Fraternal Benefit Offer

Purchase one of our Permanent Life Insurance Products and receive the following as a Fraternal Benefit

1. The right to obtain a Guaranteed Issue Permanent Life Insurance Certificate for yourself or an Immediate Family member; and
2. A 50% reduction for the 1st year premium if the certificate chosen is a Legacy 10, Legacy 20 or Legacy Life plan. A 10% Reduction on a Legacy Single Premium or a Legacy 3 Life plan.

Existing Member Name: _____ Certificate #: _____

Applicant Name Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Current Age: _____ (Applicant Qualifying ages are 0 - 80)

Date: _____ Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____ Existing Member's Signature: _____

SOKOL HERITAGE CAMPAIGN EXTENSION

Sokol Heritage - Legacy Single Premium

Rates as of January 1, 2013

Premium Rates Per \$1,000

Issue Age	Male				Female			
	Non-Tobacco				Tobacco			
	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000
0	75.60	70.20	65.70	60.30	-	-	-	-
1	78.30	72.90	67.50	62.10	-	-	-	-
2	80.10	74.70	69.30	63.90	-	-	-	-
3	82.80	77.40	72.00	66.60	-	-	-	-
4	85.50	80.10	73.80	68.40	-	-	-	-
5	88.20	82.80	76.50	71.10	-	-	-	-
6	91.80	86.40	79.20	73.80	-	-	-	-
7	94.50	89.10	81.90	76.50	-	-	-	-
8	98.10	92.70	84.60	79.20	-	-	-	-
9	100.80	95.40	87.30	81.90	-	-	-	-
10	104.40	99.00	90.00	84.60	-	-	-	-
11	108.00	102.60	92.70	87.30	-	-	-	-
12	111.60	106.20	96.30	90.90	-	-	-	-
13	115.20	109.80	99.00	93.60	-	-	-	-
14	118.80	113.40	102.60	97.20	-	-	-	-
15	120.60	115.20	104.40	99.00	-	-	-	-
16	122.40	117.00	107.10	101.70	149.40	144.00	131.40	126.00
17	126.90	121.50	110.70	105.30	153.90	148.50	135.90	130.50
18	130.50	125.10	114.30	108.90	158.40	153.00	140.40	135.00
19	134.10	128.70	117.90	112.50	162.90	157.50	144.90	139.50
20	138.60	133.20	121.50	116.10	168.30	162.90	149.40	144.00
21	143.10	137.70	125.10	119.70	173.70	168.30	153.90	148.50
22	146.70	141.30	129.60	124.20	178.20	172.80	159.30	153.90
23	151.20	145.80	134.10	128.70	183.60	178.20	164.70	159.30
24	156.60	151.20	138.60	133.20	189.00	183.60	170.10	164.70
25	161.10	155.70	143.10	137.70	195.30	189.90	175.50	170.10
26	166.50	161.10	147.60	142.20	200.70	195.30	180.90	175.50
27	171.00	165.60	153.00	147.60	207.00	201.60	187.20	181.80
28	176.40	171.00	157.50	152.10	212.40	207.00	193.50	188.10
29	182.70	177.30	162.90	157.50	218.70	213.30	198.90	193.50
30	188.10	182.70	168.30	162.90	225.90	220.50	206.10	200.70
31	194.40	189.00	173.70	168.30	232.20	226.80	212.40	207.00
32	199.80	194.40	179.10	173.70	239.40	234.00	218.70	213.30
33	207.00	201.60	185.40	180.00	246.60	241.20	225.90	220.50
34	213.30	207.90	191.70	186.30	253.80	248.40	233.10	227.70
35	220.50	215.10	198.00	192.60	261.90	256.50	240.30	234.90
36	226.80	221.40	204.30	198.90	270.00	264.60	247.50	242.10
37	234.90	229.50	210.60	205.20	278.10	272.70	255.60	250.20
38	242.10	236.70	216.90	211.50	286.20	280.80	263.70	258.30
39	249.30	243.90	224.10	218.70	295.20	289.80	271.80	266.40
40	257.40	252.00	231.30	225.90	304.20	298.80	279.90	274.50
41	265.50	260.10	238.50	233.10	313.20	307.80	288.90	283.50
42	274.50	269.10	246.60	241.20	322.20	316.80	297.00	291.60
43	282.60	277.20	254.70	249.30	331.20	325.80	306.00	300.60
44	291.60	286.20	262.90	256.50	341.10	335.70	315.00	309.60
45	300.60	295.20	270.90	265.50	351.00	345.60	324.90	319.50
46	309.60	304.20	279.00	273.60	360.00	354.60	334.80	329.40
47	319.50	314.10	288.00	282.60	369.90	364.50	343.80	338.40
48	328.50	323.10	297.00	291.60	380.70	375.30	353.70	348.30
49	338.40	333.00	306.00	300.60	390.60	385.20	364.50	359.10
50	349.20	343.80	315.00	309.60	401.40	396.00	374.40	369.00
51	359.10	353.70	324.00	318.60	412.20	406.80	384.30	378.90
52	369.90	364.50	333.90	328.50	423.00	417.60	395.10	389.70
53	380.70	375.30	343.80	338.40	434.70	429.30	405.00	399.60
54	391.50	386.10	353.70	348.30	445.50	440.10	415.80	410.40
55	403.20	397.80	363.60	358.20	456.30	450.90	425.70	420.30
56	414.00	408.60	373.50	368.10	468.00	462.60	436.50	431.10
57	425.70	420.30	384.30	378.90	478.80	473.40	447.30	441.90
58	437.40	432.00	394.20	388.80	490.50	485.10	458.10	452.70
59	449.10	443.70	405.00	399.60	501.30	495.90	468.00	462.60
60	461.70	456.30	415.80	410.40	513.00	507.60	478.80	473.40
61	473.40	468.00	426.60	421.20	524.70	519.30	489.60	484.20
62	486.00	480.60	438.30	432.90	535.50	530.10	500.40	495.00
63	497.70	492.30	449.10	443.70	547.20	541.80	511.20	505.80
64	510.30	504.90	460.80	455.40	558.00	552.60	522.00	516.60
65	522.00	516.60	472.50	467.10	568.80	563.40	533.70	528.30
66	534.60	529.20	484.20	478.80	579.60	574.20	544.50	539.10
67	547.20	541.80	495.90	490.50	590.40	585.00	555.30	549.90
68	559.80	554.40	507.60	502.20	601.20	595.80	567.00	561.60
69	571.50	566.10	520.20	514.80	612.90	607.50	577.80	572.40
70	584.10	578.70	531.90	526.50	623.70	618.30	588.60	583.20
71	596.70	591.30	544.50	539.10	634.50	629.10	599.40	594.00
72	609.30	603.90	556.20	550.80	645.30	639.90	611.10	605.70
73	621.90	616.50	568.80	563.40	656.10	650.70	621.90	616.50
74	634.50	629.10	581.40	576.00	666.90	661.50	631.80	626.40
75	646.20	640.80	594.00	588.60	677.70	672.30	642.60	637.20
76	658.80	653.40	605.70	600.30	688.50	683.10	653.40	648.00
77	670.50	665.10	618.30	612.90	698.40	693.00	663.30	657.90
78	682.20	676.80	630.90	625.50	708.30	702.90	674.10	667.80
79	693.90	688.50	642.60	637.20	718.20	712.80	684.00	678.60
80	704.70	699.30	655.20	649.80	728.10	722.70	693.90	688.50

Sokol Heritage - Legacy 3

Rates as of January 1, 2013

Premium Rates Per \$1,000

Issue Age	Male				Female				Male				Female			
	Non-Tobacco				Tobacco				Non-Tobacco				Tobacco			
	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000	< \$10,000	\$10,000
0	27.90	26.10	24.30	22.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	28.80	27.00	25.20	23.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	29.70	27.90	26.10	24.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	30.60	28.80	26.10	24.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	31.50	29.70	27.90	26.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	32.40	30.60	27.90	26.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	34.20	32.40	29.70	27.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	35.10	33.30	30.60	28.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	36.00	34.20	31.50	29.70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	37.80	36.00	32.40	30.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	39.60	37.80	32.40	30.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	40.50	38.70	34.20	32.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	42.30	40.50	36.00	34.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	43.20	41.40	36.90	35.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	44.10	42.30	38.70	36.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	44.10	42.30	38.70	36.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	45.00	43.20	38.70	36.90	55.80	54.00	48.60	46.80								
17	45.90	44.10	39.60	37.80	56.70	54.90	50.40	48.60								
18	47.70	45.90	41.40	39.60	58.50	56.70	51.30	49.50								
19	48.60	46.80	43.20	41.40	59.40	57.60	53.10	51.30								
20	50.40	48.60	44.10	42.30	62.10	60.30	54.00	52.20								
21	51.30	49.50	45.00	43.20	63.90	62.10	56.70	54.90								
22	52.20	50.40	47.70	45.90	64.80	63.00	58.50	56.70								
23	54.90	53.10	49.50	47.70	67.50	65.70	61.20	59.40								
24	56.70	54.90	50.40	48.60	70.20	68.40	62.10	60.30								
25	57.60	55.80	51.30	49.50	72.00	70.20	63.90	62.10								
26	59.40	57.60	54.00	52.20	73.80	72.00	65.70	63.90								
27	62.10	60.30	55.80	54.00	76.50	74.70	68.40	66.60								
28	63.00	61.20	57.60	55.80	78.30	76.50	70.20	68.40								
29	65.70	63.90	60.30	58.50	80.10	78.30	72.90	71.10								
30	68.40	66.60	61.20	59.40	83.70	81.90	75.60	73.80								
31	70.20	68.40	63.90	62.10	84.60	82.80	78.30	76.50								
32	72.00	70.20	64.80	63.00	88.20	86.40	80.10	78.30								
33	75.60	73.80	67.50	65.70	90.90	89.10	82.80	81.00								
34	77.40	75.60	70.20	68.40	92.70	90.90	85.50	83.70								
35	80.10	78.30	72.00	70.20	95.40	93.60	89.10	87.30								

SOKOL HERITAGE CAMPAIGN EXTENSION

Sokol Heritage - Legacy 10

1st Year Premium Rates Per \$1,000

Issue Age	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	Non-Tobacco		Non-Tobacco		Tobacco		Tobacco	
	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000
0	7.75	5.75	6.87	4.87	-	-	-	-
1	7.89	5.89	6.99	4.99	-	-	-	-
2	8.04	6.04	7.12	5.12	-	-	-	-
3	8.20	6.20	7.24	5.24	-	-	-	-
4	8.36	6.36	7.37	5.37	-	-	-	-
5	8.52	6.52	7.51	5.51	-	-	-	-
6	8.70	6.70	7.65	5.65	-	-	-	-
7	8.90	6.90	7.80	5.80	-	-	-	-
8	9.12	7.12	7.97	5.97	-	-	-	-
9	9.35	7.35	8.15	6.15	-	-	-	-
10	9.61	7.61	8.35	6.35	-	-	-	-
11	9.87	7.87	8.56	6.56	-	-	-	-
12	10.14	8.14	8.77	6.77	-	-	-	-
13	10.40	8.40	8.98	6.98	-	-	-	-
14	10.65	8.65	9.18	7.18	-	-	-	-
15	11.01	9.01	9.40	7.40	-	-	-	-
16	11.16	9.16	9.63	7.63	13.31	11.31	11.49	9.49
17	11.41	9.41	9.86	7.86	13.50	11.50	11.70	9.70
18	11.69	9.69	10.10	8.10	13.69	11.69	11.93	9.93
19	11.97	9.97	10.36	8.36	13.90	11.90	12.16	10.16
20	12.26	10.26	10.63	8.63	14.10	12.10	12.40	10.40
21	12.51	10.51	10.90	8.90	14.33	12.33	12.64	10.64
22	12.77	10.77	11.19	9.19	14.58	12.58	12.90	10.90
23	13.03	11.03	11.49	9.49	14.88	12.88	13.16	11.16
24	13.29	11.29	11.80	9.80	15.20	13.20	13.42	11.42
25	13.57	11.57	12.13	10.13	15.57	13.57	13.68	11.68
26	13.85	11.85	12.47	10.47	15.93	13.93	13.95	11.95
27	14.15	12.15	12.82	10.82	16.31	14.31	14.24	12.24
28	14.45	12.45	13.19	11.19	16.69	14.69	14.55	12.55
29	14.77	12.77	13.57	11.57	17.08	15.08	14.90	12.90
30	15.11	13.11	13.96	11.96	17.48	15.48	15.28	13.28
31	15.46	13.46	14.34	12.34	17.90	15.90	15.69	13.69
32	15.82	13.82	14.70	12.70	18.33	16.33	16.10	14.10
33	16.21	14.21	15.06	13.06	18.78	16.78	16.49	14.49
34	16.61	14.61	15.39	13.39	19.24	17.24	16.86	14.86
35	17.03	15.03	15.71	13.71	19.73	17.73	17.21	15.21
36	17.46	15.46	16.05	14.05	20.22	18.22	17.55	15.55
37	17.91	15.91	16.45	14.45	20.73	18.73	17.93	15.93
38	18.38	16.38	16.85	14.85	21.25	19.25	18.37	16.37
39	18.87	16.87	17.27	15.27	21.79	19.79	18.88	16.88
40	19.38	17.38	17.73	15.73	22.34	20.34	19.48	17.48
41	19.90	17.90	18.18	16.18	22.90	20.90	19.96	17.96
42	20.42	18.42	18.65	16.65	23.48	21.48	20.45	18.45
43	20.95	18.95	19.12	17.12	24.08	22.08	20.95	18.95
44	21.49	19.49	19.60	17.60	24.71	22.71	21.47	19.47
45	22.03	20.03	20.10	18.10	25.36	23.36	21.99	19.99
46	22.58	20.58	20.63	18.63	26.03	24.03	22.52	20.52
47	23.15	21.15	21.18	19.18	26.70	24.70	23.07	21.07
48	23.76	21.76	21.74	19.74	27.39	25.39	23.64	21.64
49	24.40	22.40	22.31	20.31	28.10	26.10	24.23	22.23
50	25.08	23.08	22.92	20.92	28.81	26.81	24.85	22.85
51	25.78	23.78	23.54	21.54	29.52	27.52	25.48	23.48
52	26.50	24.50	24.18	22.18	30.27	28.27	26.13	24.13
53	27.23	25.23	24.83	22.83	31.07	29.07	26.79	24.79
54	27.98	25.98	25.49	23.49	31.97	29.97	27.47	25.47
55	28.75	26.75	26.16	24.16	32.99	30.99	28.17	26.17
56	29.55	27.55	26.85	24.85	33.91	31.91	28.90	26.90
57	30.38	28.38	27.57	25.57	34.86	32.86	29.66	27.66
58	31.23	29.23	28.30	26.30	35.84	33.84	30.47	28.47
59	32.12	30.12	29.04	27.04	36.83	34.83	31.33	29.33
60	33.04	31.04	29.78	27.78	37.85	35.85	32.22	30.22
61	33.98	31.98	30.55	28.55	38.88	36.88	33.15	31.15
62	34.95	32.95	31.34	29.34	39.97	37.97	34.15	32.15
63	35.97	33.97	32.16	30.16	41.11	39.11	35.21	33.21
64	37.04	35.04	33.04	31.04	42.32	40.32	36.33	34.33
65	38.15	36.15	33.96	31.96	43.57	41.57	37.50	35.50
66	39.30	37.30	34.92	32.92	44.86	42.86	38.68	36.68
67	40.50	38.50	35.93	33.93	46.19	44.19	39.94	37.94
68	41.75	39.75	36.96	34.96	47.56	45.56	41.31	39.31
69	43.06	41.06	37.99	35.99	48.98	46.98	42.85	40.85
70	44.43	42.43	39.03	37.03	50.47	48.47	44.65	42.65
71	45.91	43.91	40.11	38.11	52.06	50.06	46.45	44.45
72	47.50	45.50	41.27	39.27	53.79	51.79	48.29	46.29
73	49.27	47.27	42.57	40.57	55.75	53.75	50.14	48.14
74	51.26	49.26	44.00	42.00	58.02	56.02	51.99	49.99
75	53.44	51.44	45.53	43.53	60.71	58.71	53.90	51.90
76	55.89	53.89	47.19	45.19	63.79	61.79	55.89	53.89
77	58.67	56.67	49.03	47.03	67.13	65.13	58.08	56.08
78	61.99	59.99	51.17	49.17	70.68	68.68	60.66	58.66
79	66.02	64.02	53.71	51.71	74.53	72.53	63.76	61.76
80	71.00	69.00	56.67	54.67	78.64	76.64	67.54	65.54

Sokol Heritage - Legacy 20

1st Year Premium Rates Per \$1,000

Issue Age	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	Non-Tobacco		Non-Tobacco		Tobacco		Tobacco	
	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000
0	5.44	3.44	4.41	2.91	-	-	-	-
1	5.52	3.52	4.51	2.98	-	-	-	-
2	5.61	3.61	4.61	3.06	-	-	-	-
3	5.71	3.71	4.71	3.13	-	-	-	-
4	5.80	3.80	4.81	3.21	-	-	-	-
5	5.90	3.90	4.92	3.29	-	-	-	-
6	6.01	4.01	5.03	3.38	-	-	-	-
7	6.13	4.13	5.14	3.47	-	-	-	-
8	6.26	4.26	5.27	3.57	-	-	-	-
9	6.40	4.40	5.40	3.68	-	-	-	-
10	6.56	4.56	5.55	3.80	-	-	-	-
11	6.72	4.72	5.70	3.92	-	-	-	-
12	6.88	4.88	5.85	4.05	-	-	-	-
13	7.03	5.03	6.00	4.17	-	-	-	-
14	7.18	5.18	6.15	4.30	-	-	-	-
15	7.34	5.34	6.30	4.43	-	-	-	-
16	7.49	5.49	6.46	4.56	8.80	6.80	7.68	5.68
17	7.64	5.64	6.63	4.70	8.91	6.91	7.81	5.81
18	7.81	5.81	6.80	4.85	9.03	7.03	7.95	5.95
19	7.98	5.98	6.98	5.00	9.15	7.15	8.09	6.09
20	8.15	6.15	7.16	5.16	9.28	7.28	8.23	6.23
21	8.30	6.30	7.33	5.33	9.41	7.41	8.38	6.38
22	8.46	6.46	7.50	5.50	9.57	7.57	8.54	6.54
23	8.61	6.61	7.68	5.68	9.75	7.75	8.70	6.70
24	8.77	6.77	7.87	5.87	9.95	7.95	8.86	6.86
25	8.94	6.94	8.07	6.07	10.17	8.17	9.02	7.02
26	9.11	7.11	8.27	6.27	10.39	8.39	9.18	7.18
27	9.29	7.29	8.49	6.49	10.62	8.62	9.36	7.36
28	9.47	7.47	8.71	6.71	10.86	8.86	9.55	7.55
29	9.67	7.67	8.94	6.94	11.10	9.10	9.76	7.76
30	9.87	7.87	9.17	7.17	11.35	9.35	10.00	8.00
31	10.09	8.09	9.40	7.40	11.61	9.61	10.25	8.25
32	10.31	8.31	9.63	7.63	11.88	9.88	10.50	8.50
33	10.55	8.55	9.84	7.84	12.17	10.17	10.75	8.75
34	10.80	8.80	10.05	8.05	12.46	10.46	10.98	8.98
35	11.06	9.06	10.24	8.24	12.77	10.77	11.20	9.20
36	11.32	9.32	10.46	8.46	13.09	11.09	11.42	9.42
37	11.60	9.60	10.70	8.70	13.42	11.42	11.67	9.67
38	11.90	9.90	10.95	8.95	13.76	11.76	11.95	9.95
39	12.20	10.20	11.21	9.21	14.11	12.11	12.28	10.28
40	12.52	10.52	11.50	9.50	14.48	12.48	12.67	10.67
41	12.85	10.85	11.79	9.79	14.85	12.85	12.99	10.99
42	13.19	11.19	12.08	10.08	15.24	13.24	13.32	11.32
43	13.53	11.53	12.38	10.38	15.65	13.65	13.66	11.66
44	13.88	11.88	12.69	10.69	16.09	14.09	14.01	12.01
45	14.23	12.23	13.01	11.01	16.55	14.55	14.37	12.37
46	14.60	12.60	13.35	11.35	17.02	15.02	14.74	12.74
47	14.98	12.98	13.71	11.71	17.51	15.51	15.13	13.13
48	15.39	13.39	14.08	12.08	18.02	16.02	15.53	13.53
49	15.83	13.83	14.46	12.46	18.55	16.55	15.95	13.95
50	16.30	14.30	14.86	12.86	19.09	17.09	16.40	14.40
51	16.79	14.79	15.28	13.28	19.64	17.64	16.86	14.86
52	17.30	15.30	15.71	13.71	20.23	18.23	17.34	15.34
53	17.83	15.83	16.15	14				

SOKOL HERITAGE CAMPAIGN EXTENSION

Sokol Heritage - Legacy Life

1st Year Premium Rates Per \$1,000

Issue Age	Male				Female			
	Non-Tobacco		Tobacco		Non-Tobacco		Tobacco	
	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000
0	3.16	2.41	3.03	1.78	-	-	-	-
1	3.21	2.46	3.06	1.81	-	-	-	-
2	3.25	2.50	3.10	1.85	-	-	-	-
3	3.31	2.56	3.15	1.90	-	-	-	-
4	3.38	2.63	3.20	1.95	-	-	-	-
5	3.45	2.70	3.25	2.00	-	-	-	-
6	3.52	2.77	3.31	2.06	-	-	-	-
7	3.62	2.87	3.37	2.12	-	-	-	-
8	3.69	2.94	3.44	2.19	-	-	-	-
9	3.74	2.99	3.51	2.26	-	-	-	-
10	3.82	3.07	3.58	2.33	-	-	-	-
11	3.87	3.17	3.66	2.41	-	-	-	-
12	3.95	3.25	3.73	2.48	-	-	-	-
13	4.03	3.33	3.81	2.56	-	-	-	-
14	4.11	3.41	3.90	2.65	-	-	-	-
15	4.15	3.60	4.01	2.76	-	-	-	-
16	4.19	3.64	4.05	2.80	6.16	5.41	5.64	4.89
17	4.29	3.74	4.16	2.91	6.32	5.57	5.82	5.07
18	4.43	3.88	4.28	3.03	6.51	5.76	6.01	5.26
19	4.55	4.00	4.38	3.13	6.71	5.96	6.20	5.45
20	4.69	4.14	4.50	3.25	6.92	6.17	6.41	5.66
21	4.82	4.27	4.61	3.36	7.15	6.40	6.62	5.87
22	4.97	4.42	4.72	3.47	7.40	6.65	6.87	6.12
23	5.11	4.56	4.87	3.62	7.59	6.84	7.04	6.29
24	5.27	4.72	5.00	3.75	7.79	7.04	7.23	6.48
25	5.44	4.89	5.14	3.89	7.97	7.22	7.36	6.61
26	5.62	5.07	5.26	4.01	8.17	7.42	7.51	6.76
27	5.79	5.24	5.44	4.19	8.37	7.62	7.67	6.92
28	5.99	5.44	5.58	4.33	8.53	7.78	7.87	7.12
29	6.20	5.65	5.79	4.54	8.70	7.95	8.02	7.27
30	6.42	5.87	5.97	4.72	8.87	8.12	8.20	7.45
31	6.66	6.11	6.18	4.93	9.06	8.31	8.32	7.57
32	6.91	6.36	6.37	5.12	9.17	8.42	8.48	7.73
33	7.20	6.65	6.56	5.31	9.36	8.61	8.68	7.93
34	7.47	6.92	6.76	5.51	9.58	8.83	8.84	8.09
35	7.75	7.20	6.97	5.87	9.86	9.11	9.03	8.28
36	8.09	7.54	7.19	6.09	10.15	9.40	9.31	8.56
37	8.43	7.88	7.43	6.33	10.45	9.70	9.49	8.74
38	8.73	8.18	7.67	6.57	10.77	10.02	9.74	8.99
39	9.04	8.49	7.93	6.83	11.11	10.36	10.03	9.28
40	9.38	8.83	8.28	7.18	11.45	10.70	10.34	9.59

Sokol Heritage - Legacy Life

1st Year Premium Rates Per \$1,000

Issue Age	Male				Female			
	Non-Tobacco		Tobacco		Non-Tobacco		Tobacco	
	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000	< \$10,000	> \$10,000
41	9.72	9.17	8.57	7.47	11.82	11.07	10.63	9.88
42	10.04	9.49	8.85	7.85	12.17	11.42	10.97	10.22
43	10.38	9.83	9.19	8.19	12.62	11.87	11.32	10.57
44	10.76	10.21	9.52	8.52	13.10	12.35	11.77	11.02
45	11.15	10.60	9.81	8.81	13.61	12.86	12.16	11.41
46	11.63	11.08	10.19	9.19	14.15	13.40	12.66	11.91
47	12.02	11.47	10.58	9.58	14.81	14.06	13.09	12.34
48	12.49	11.94	11.00	10.00	15.32	14.57	13.53	12.78
49	13.06	12.51	11.44	10.44	15.95	15.20	13.86	13.11
50	13.50	12.95	11.86	10.86	16.73	15.98	14.33	13.58
51	14.14	13.59	12.28	11.28	17.32	16.57	14.81	14.06
52	14.66	14.11	12.80	11.80	18.04	17.29	15.31	14.56
53	15.16	14.61	13.23	12.23	18.79	18.04	15.83	15.08
54	15.75	15.20	13.68	12.68	19.56	18.81	16.36	15.61
55	16.36	15.81	14.15	13.15	20.35	19.60	16.92	16.17
56	16.98	16.43	14.63	13.63	21.08	20.33	17.49	16.74
57	17.71	17.16	15.14	14.14	21.90	21.15	18.09	17.34
58	18.43	17.88	15.68	14.68	22.76	22.01	18.71	17.96
59	19.19	18.44	16.09	15.09	23.45	22.70	19.36	18.61
60	19.80	19.05	16.37	15.37	24.39	23.64	20.05	19.30
61	20.44	19.69	16.81	15.81	25.38	24.63	20.97	20.22
62	21.01	20.46	17.09	16.09	26.49	25.74	21.73	20.98
63	21.75	21.20	17.55	16.55	27.46	26.71	22.76	22.01
64	22.51	21.96	18.03	17.03	28.44	27.69	23.62	22.87
65	23.30	22.75	18.53	17.53	29.69	28.94	24.78	24.03
66	24.13	23.58	19.04	18.04	30.91	30.16	25.75	25.00
67	25.31	24.56	19.58	18.58	32.21	31.46	26.78	26.03
68	26.48	25.73	20.60	19.60	33.61	32.86	28.17	27.42
69	27.75	27.00	21.70	20.70	35.12	34.37	29.67	28.92
70	29.11	28.36	22.89	21.89	37.16	36.41	31.26	30.51
71	30.93	30.18	24.17	23.17	39.36	38.61	32.96	32.21
72	32.89	32.14	25.54	24.54	41.73	40.98	34.78	34.03
73	35.02	34.27	27.03	26.03	44.30	43.55	36.71	35.96
74	37.34	36.59	28.64	27.64	47.09	46.34	38.79	38.04
75	39.87	39.12	30.38	29.38	50.13	49.38	41.02	40.27
76	42.64	41.89	32.28	31.28	53.44	52.69	43.43	42.68
77	45.67	44.92	34.35	33.35	57.03	56.28	46.04	45.29
78	48.96	48.21	36.61	35.61	60.90	60.15	48.86	48.11
79	52.52	51.77	39.09	38.09	65.06	64.31	51.93	51.18
80	56.37	55.62	41.78	40.78	69.52	68.77	55.22	54.47

Plan to participate in the new year

Looking back on a successful sporting year and anticipating great sporting events in 2013

By James C. Matton

Supreme Assistant Director of Sports & Athletics

The month of January affords us the opportunity to offer a recap and review of our Slovak Catholic Sokol International Sporting Events held in 2012 and to plan our activities for the new year of 2013. Basically, in 2012, our organization hosted four principal International Sporting Events. In 2013, we will again host these events along with our 46th International Slet. Our Slet tradition is the oldest sports-related activity in our organization. It began on the national level in 1912 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Held biennially, our Slet will actually celebrate its centennial with this year's competition. Let us therefore take a glance back at our 2012 sporting activities.

On April 14th, the first event of the year, the 22nd International Bas-

ketball Tournament was held in Pittsburgh, Pa. at Baldwin High School. In the Championship Game, which was the closest game of the day, Group 14A, Pittsburgh, Pa., held on for a narrow 38-37 victory over Group 6, Perryopolis, Pa.. Perryopolis had the last shot but the basketball slipped away from the point guard going out of bounds with just two seconds left on the clock. Key players for the championship Pittsburgh team included, Joseph Tofil, Brian Suchy, Mario DeGreorio, Roger Jennings, Jordan Jennings and Shawn Schreckengost. Perryopolis was led by Tournament MVP Mark Matras, Ryan Pato, Andy Johnson and Riley Tidholm.


On Saturday morning at 9:30 am, the basketball tournament began and Group 5, Cleveland, Ohio defeated Group 14B, Pittsburgh, Pa., by a final score 67-52, which ended up being the highest scoring game of the day. Frank Laury led Group 5 with 19 points and Alex Underation scored 15 points for the victorious


team. TJ Martinak had 22 points and Jim Trainor chipped in 12 points for Group 14B. In the second game of the morning, Group 6 Perryopolis, Pa. defeated Group 1 Passaic, NJ by a 44-32 score. Riley Tidholm had 21 points and Mark Matras added 10 points for the winning team. Brad Forestieri and Pat Elliott both scored 9 points for Group 1 in a losing effort.

In the third game, Group 14A, Pittsburgh, Pa. defeated Group 5, Cleveland, Ohio by a final score of 43-39. Joe Suchy had 13 points and Josh Tofil chipped in 9 points for the winning team. Group 5 was led with 12 points from Paul Hershberger. In the fourth game of the day, Group 1 defeated Group 14B, by a final score of 67-44. Group 1 was led by Pat Elliott's 23 points including 4 three point field goals and Lorenzo Castaldo added 13 points. Pittsburgh's B Team was led by TJ Martinak's 14 points, Jim Trainor tallied 12 points, Rick Walker had 10 and Ben Moeller added 8 points.

In the fifth game of the day, the two undefeated teams squared off and Group 14A, Pittsburgh, Pa., defeated Group 6, Perryopolis, Pa by a final score of 47-41. Joe Suchy scored 10 points and Ray Iwanonkiw hit three long range field goals scoring 9 points. Riley Tidholm and Mark Matras both

(Continued on page 14)



Za Boha a Narod  **For God and Nation**

Slovak Catholic Falcon

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More than 200 guests enjoy traditional Vilija Dinner hosted by the United Slovak Societies in Lorain, Ohio

by Michele S. Mager

A memorable evening was shared on Sunday, December 9 by more than 200 guests at the splendid Vilija or Stedry Vecer celebrating the rich traditions of the Christmas Eve supper among Slovaks. The "bountiful evening" was hosted by the United Slovak Societies of Lorain at the American Slovak Club in Lorain, Ohio. The guests included members of our Slovak Catholic Sokol, Wreath 111 as well as the local lodges of the First Catholic Slovak Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association and the National Slovak Society.

The hall was lavishly decorated in an Advent theme with two Victorian Christmas trees. Fresh pines, wreaths and centerpiece of fruits and nuts garnished all tables. The American Slovak Club's president Mrs. Margaret Ann Thomas provided her family's heirloom nativity scene which was appropriately placed at the table which held a reserved place setting for our Slovak

ancestors.

The evening progressed with opening remarks given by United Slovak Societies President, Leonard Zilko who offered a warm welcome to all. He recognized a special guest, Marcella Slanina Walder, the daughter of the founder of the American Slovak Club, the late Paul Slanina. Mrs. Walder recently celebrated her 93rd birthday. Also acknowledged were Joseph Sloboda and Scott Sloboda, the grandson and great-grandson, respectively, of the club's past president, Dominik Sloboda. Brother Dominic Sloboda served as the Supreme President of the Slovak Catholic Sokol from 1933 to 1946.

Prior to the wine toast, a moment of silence was observed as the last candle of the evening was ceremonially lit at the table reserved place setting to pay homage to our Slovak ancestors and as a remembrance of the recently departed board members of the American Slovak Club,

Donald Firca, a former officer of our Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 177; and Bernadette Robertson, president of Branch 114 of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association.

A lovely dinner prayer followed by the breaking and sharing of the traditional Oplatky and honey was presented by United Slovak Societies Vice President Kenneth Arendt. Brother Arendt also serves as the Executive Secretary of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The generous table of assorted foods prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Slovak Club included their award-winning perch, sauerkraut soup, peas, homemade pirohy and bobalky. Nut and poppyseed kolac with coffee were enjoyed for dessert. Each of the foods enjoyed represent what is enjoyed at the Christmas Eve supper in a Slovak home.

Guests were enchanted throughout the festive evening with the musical delights of the Eastern European folk musicians, "Harmonia." The Slovak cultural program included the spirited and colorful presentation of the charming, Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble of Cleveland. The children's colorful finale was the effervescent "Cigany Tanec," (the gypsy dance). The evening's very talented mistress of ceremonies was well-known Lorain Slovak fraternal and cultural activist, Michele Mager. Michele, who is our Sokolka of Wreath 111, serves as the director of the Lucina Ensemble, then recited the very appropriate "Night Before Vianoce" to the delight of the audience. The Slovak program was topped off with a performance of beloved Slovak Christmas carols by singer-songwriter, George Findish. Dancing, singing along with special eggnog drinks concluded the enjoyable evening.

The event was a wonderful display of Slovak tradition that is surely to be passed on to the younger generations of those of Slovak ancestry in the Lorain area. Love for our heritage along with a commitment to the important work of our Slovak fraternal benefit societies is the goal of the United Slovak Societies. This group was founded during World War II in support of the country's war bond effort. It continues its mission of supporting civic and cultural activities. The American Slovak Club of Lorain remains the anchor and foundation for all our local Slovak fraternal organizations to work in concert for the promotion and preservation of Slovak culture and has just marked its semi-sesquicentennial anniversary. With the recent closing of our beloved Holy Trinity Slovak Parish, the work of the American Slovak Club and our local Slovak fraternal lodges is that much more important. Needless to say, the Vilija or Stedry Vecer was a resounding success due in no small part as the result of the hard work of the committee. Zdar Boh!



Easter Bunny Breakfast



Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall
2912 East Carson Street
Saturday, March 23rd
9:00- 11:00AM



Starting March 6th, tickets will be on sale on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00PM at the Sokol Hall in South Side.

Tickets: \$5.00 per person
Children 2 and under are free
Tickets must be purchased in advance.
Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Bring your camera because the Easter Bunny will be available for pictures.

There will be tables set up with crafts for the kids.

Contact Kathy at 412-225-8233 or kathyw626@yahoo.com with questions.



Highlights of the Annual Children's Christmas Party Hosted by Group 17, "Rev. Francis Skutil" Camelot Bowling Lanes + Boardman, Ohio + Sunday, December 2

Continuing in a long-standing Christmas tradition, the Group 17 Children's Party, hosted by Wreath 54, Assembly 108 and Assembly 107 was held on Sunday, December 2, 2012 at the Camelot Bowling Lanes in Boardman, Oh. Children and adults of Group 17 enjoyed the afternoon bowling with friends and family. Members of all ages participated in the festivities and celebrated the Christmas season. All were treated to bowling, pizza, chips and soda pop and were greeted with a surprise visit from Santa. Children received stockings from Santa filled with treats and prizes. Raffle winners included: Group 17 Sports Director Ronnie Trimble, winning the 2nd and 3rd prizes, with the first place prize going to Candice

Kraykovich.
A special thank you to all who helped make the event a huge success, including the set up committee which included the following: Edith Babik, Susan Babik, Steven Bartos, Virginia Bartos, Nancy Kropolinsky, Lindsey Smith and Ronnie Trimble. We also thank our photographer, Tim Shirilla and Santa's helper, Kayal Troxil. Watch the Falcon for news on the upcoming Group 17 informational meeting pertaining to the 46th International Slet. Wishing all a safe and healthy New Year, may I remain
Zdar Boh!
Susan Babik
Member of the Group 17 Physical Fitness Board



Group 17 youngsters who enjoyed the annual event are shown above.



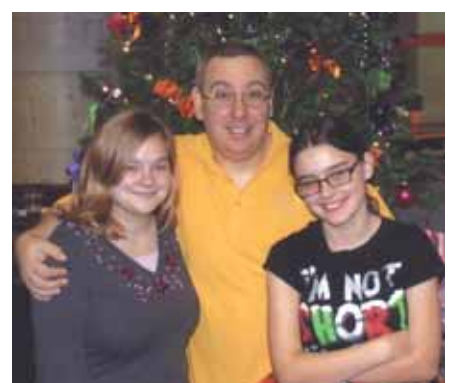
Natalie Blasko presents her wish list to Santa.



A.J. Havilla is shown with Santa.



Jenna, Emily and Nick Olexa are all smiles.



Jim Shirilla is shown with his daughters.



Behind the shades is Susan Babik.



Stephen Franke presents his wish list to Santa.



Scott and Jennifer Banfield are shown with their son, Jason.



Carol Gonda is shown with her son, Joe and his family.



Brian Blasko is shown with his children, l-r, Ben, Natalie and Angelee.



Denise Babik presents her wish list to Santa.



Edith Babik is shown with her great-grandson, R.J. Trimble.



Susan Babik is all smiles with niece, Lindsey Smith and great-nephew, R.J. Trimble.



Glen Kramer is shown working the raffle.



Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Nancy Kropolinsky is shown with her niece, Lindsey Smith.



All smiles from Group 17 Secretary Carol Gonda and her daughter, Mary Liversage.



Ruth Troxil is shown with her sister, Loretta Smith.



Group 17 president, Jim Jerek is shown with Edith Babik.



Larry Bibbee is shown with his great-grandson, Dean Banfield.



Jenna Olexa is shown with Santa.



Emily Rose Snitzer is shown with her grandma, Patty Snitzer.

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

Completion of Bratislava-Kosice highway set for 2018 says Pociatek

The major highway link connecting Bratislava and Kosice should be ready in 2018, Transport Minister Jan Pociatek has said in an interview for TASR in late December.

Notwithstanding the fact that a ministry document that's been submitted for inter-ministerial comments indicates 2019 as the date of completing the highway, Pociatek is shooting for an earlier date. "I'm aiming to advance the date to 2018," he said.

According to Pociatek, the path to making good on the objective will involve sound preparation of all projects and ensuring sound conditions vis-a-vis public procurement processes. "All prep work needs to be speeded up," he envisaged.

The minister went on to pinpoint highway construction as such as his primary challenge in 2013. "We want to launch the construction of 50 miles of highways and expressways next year," he noted. This is envisaged to include sections of the projected DI highway from Bratislava to Kosice - a 10-mile-long stretch from Hubova to Ivachnova and a 9-mile stretch linking Lietavska Lucka with Dubna Skala (all in the western Zilina region).

Deloitte: Slovak banks performing better than others in Central Europe

Slovak banks along with Czech and Polish financial houses have coped with the crisis better than companies in the south of Central Europe, Martin Vaross of Deloitte said in a study called Outlook for the Banking Market in Central Europe in 2012.

"Operational efficacy of banks in Slovakia remains the strongest point compared with other countries," said Vaross. He added that the cost-revenue ratio of banks in Slovakia represented 48.8 percent in 2011.

A high concentration of the banking sector, with ten largest banks owning 70 percent of assets in the sector, facilitates cost efficacy in Croatia in a similar way as in Slovakia, noted Vaross.

STU plans to build research parks in Bratislava and Trnava

The Slovak University of Technology (STU) in Bratislava has presented to the Education Ministry draft projects aimed at setting up university science parks in Bratislava and Trnava, TASR learned from STU PR manager Andrea Hajduchova on January 3.

The call for projects came from the Education Ministry within the Operational Program Research and Development. The parks are expected to become "Slovak Silicon Valleys," in other words, hubs of technological innovation and first-class research that will bring together new innovative companies. The projects could be launched this year, and the ministry has set the deadline for their completion at 2015.

"The creation of a university science park will pave the way for better conditions for first-rate research, university education and effective cooperation with enterprises. STU already has excellent results and experience, even with establishing start-up and spin-off companies, but what's been lacking are finances," said STU head Robert Redhammer.

The draft project involves two regional centers. The first one in Bratislava's Mlynska Dolina should focus on information and communication technologies, electrical engineering, automatization, control systems, nanoelectronics and photonics. Another site on Radlinského Street in Bratislava should serve as a branch for chemistry, industrial biotechnologies, environment and construction safety and reliability.

Meanwhile, the second regional center in Trnava should be aimed at research in the spheres of material engineering, iron and plasma technologies, automatization and the informatization of industrial processes.

The project is also expected to come-up with a business incubator to search for innovative ideas for the creation of start-up

and spin-off firms in the university environment. "It's important for Slovakia for young engineers to begin engaging in business activities by themselves. Otherwise, we'll remain a country with only subsidiary companies," said Redhammer.

Gasparovic: separation from Czecho-Slovakia was good

Although many had doubts about the success of the nascent Slovakia 20 years ago, time has shown that the separation of Czecho-Slovakia was a good step, Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic has told TASR.

"(the separation) has strengthened both states, mainly Slovakia, which hadn't been so well-known in Europe and the world," said Gasparovic.

Slovakia is now widely viewed as a responsible country - both in domestic and foreign-political terms, with many Slovaks holding significant international posts, such as chairman of the International Court of Justice in The Hague Peter Tomko, EU Commission Vice President Maros Sefcovic, special representative of UN Secretary General for Afghanistan Jan Kubis and special representative of the UN Secretary General for Central Asia Miroslav Jenca, said Gasparovic.

At the same time, the separation has also had a positive influence on relations between Slovaks and Czechs. "I'm pleased to hear this from politicians, but even more from the general public," said Gasparovic, noting that Czecho-Slovakia may have separated 20 years ago, but Slovaks and Czechs are together again - in the EU, NATO and the Visegrad Four grouping.

Lajcak praises U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton's professionalism

Outgoing U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has in the four years of her tenure demonstrated great professionalism aided by a "human, very informal and friendly approach," said Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak on January 4.

Clinton, 65, announced a while ago that she would serve for only one term in office as secretary of state. Lajcak said that her decision must be respected. "It's a rule that U.S. foreign ministers serve only one term, as the strain of the job is so great that it may be physically unsustainable."

Clinton, who is by many considered to be one of the best ever U.S. secretaries of state, is expected to step down in the next few weeks. U.S. President Barack Obama has already announced the name of her successor in office - Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, 69, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Lajcak said that there is no need to worry that the change will have any negative influence on U.S.- Slovak relations. Although Lajcak hasn't held any direct negotiations with Senator Kerry, he's familiar with his political opinions and activities.

Kerry has been representing the state of Massachusetts in the U.S. Senate since 1985. He ran for the office of U.S. president in 2004 and supported both of Obama's presidential campaigns.

Bethlehem Nativity scene made of ice and snow unveiled in High Tatras

A Bethlehem nativity scene made of snow and ice was unveiled to visitors in the High Tatras to mark the feast of the Epiphany - Three Kings on January 6.

The nativity scene at Rainer Cottage was constructed by local cottager Peter Petras, who was assisted by his son and a friend. The structure measured five metres wide and more than 3 metres tall. Its sculptor jokingly told TASR that he uses a total of more than 27 thousand shovelfulls of snow for the construction.

"The snow was too dry at first, so it was difficult to tamp it

Fortunately, the frost somehow eased later, which made our work easier. More snow fell on January 5, which also made us happy," said Petras.

The sculptor was less pleased with tourists who didn't follow the instructions - they jabbed their ski poles at the structure, entered it and took photos inside - which damaged the structure.

"We've placed there a shield calling on people not to enter the nativity scene, but it's obvious to no avail for about 10 percent of the people who did in fact enter the nativity structure," lamented Petras.



One of Slovakia's most picturesque villages, that of Pencov is located along the river Stiavnica in central Slovakia not far from the city of Banska Stiavnica. First written record of the village dates from 1266 under the name Princh. Much of the village has been restored and remains a popular tourist attraction. The area is part of the world cultural designation of UNESCO.

Selected stories are provided by TASR-Slovakia, the Slovak Republic's official News Agency.

During the Cyrilo-Methodian jubilee year
Slovak Catholic Federation to host
35th SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozovic
Appeal Coordinator



When our ancestors came to these shores more than a century ago, they brought with them few monetary assets. However, their most precious possession was their faith. The seeds of faith were nurtured by the Slovak priests who came to our shores with the immigrant people and helped build our Slovak Catholic fraternals, religious communities of men and women and nearly 300 Slovak parishes. Today in response to this legacy, the Slovak Catholic Federation, the representative body of American Catholics of Slovak ancestry, will sponsor its 35th annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The Church in Slovakia has enjoyed a great renaissance since the fall of Communism in 1989. We in the United States and Canada take pride in the fact that our Slovak Catholic fraternals, our parishes as well as individuals of Slovak ancestry have responded generously to assist the Church in our ancestral homeland. The 2013 annual SS. Cyril and Methodius begins during the month of February when we celebrate the feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius on February 14th. This appeal is taken up in churches of Slovak heritage across the United States and Canada and will continue until the end of the year. This year's appeal is significant in that we are observing the 1,150th anniversary of the beginning of the evangelization mission of the brother Saints who are considered as the Apostles of the Slavs. It was in 863 A.D. that the brothers arrived in Great Moravia, which includes present day Slovakia and the Czech Republic. This special Cyrilo-Methodian jubilee coincides with the observance of the Year of Faith proclaimed by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI.

The 2012 Appeal collected \$36,528.51

Since its inception, the Appeal has raised \$2,309,266.15

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome, Italy. Due to the vision and efforts of Cardinal Jozef Tomko, assisted by the late Bishop Andrew G. Grutka of Gary, Indiana along with the efforts of many other Slovak Catholics from the United States and Canada this seminary became a reality. It was a half century ago, that on September 15, 1963 this seminary, then known as the Slovak Institute(Ustav), was solemnly blessed and dedicated. On that occasion the Slovak Catholic Federation organized a tour to the Eternal City to participate in the dedication. For the first time in history, the Slovaks had a spiritual center in Rome. Over the past half century, especially during the dark days of Communist oppression in Slovakia, this institution served an important role disseminating tens of thousand of copies of religious works as well as the liturgical books needed from the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

Since the inception of our SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal, funds collected have been earmarked for the financial support of the Pontifical Slovak College in Rome. Funds raised from the appeal aid the priest-graduate students at the college who are pursuing graduate degrees at the various Pontifical Universities in the eternal city. These fine priests are being called upon to be the future diocesan leaders of the Diocesan Churches in Slovakia both as Vicars and Bishops, in addition to providing qualified instructors/professors at the Slovak seminaries that educate future priests.



In addition, funds raised in the appeal benefit those religious communities of both men and women in Slovakia which have a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Conference of Slovak Religious in the United States. Religious communities which receive an annual grant from the appeal include: the Vincentian Sisters(Ruzomberok); the Dominican Sisters(Dunajska Luzna); the School Sisters of St. Francis(Zilina); the Daughters of St. Francis(Bratislava-Prievoz); the Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great(Secovce, Presov); the Franciscans Friars Minor(Bratislava) and the new Benedictine monastery, the House of Benedict(Bacurov).

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911, under the spiritual leadership of the Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The purpose of the Slovak Catholic Federation is to federate individuals of Slovak origin under one banner; for cultural, religious and educational needs. Currently serving as national president is the Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, pastor of St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton, Pa. The Episcopal Moderator is the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, D.D., retired Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, Pa. The National First Vice President is the Rev. Andrew S. Hvozovic, pas-

(Continued on page 18)

For students currently attending a Catholic High School

Slovak Catholic Sokol
Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial
High School Grant

As per the decision of the delegates at the 26th National Convention held in New Haven, CT in August, 1991, and amended at the 28th National Convention held in Buffalo, NY in 1999, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. These 19 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

Eligibility

- A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five year. Application is also available on the Internet @ www.slovakcatholicssokol.org
- B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.
- C. The principal of the Catholic High School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

Application

ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION you must submit a typed or written essay DOUBLE SPACED in 100 to 200 words on the following topic:

"WHAT DOES THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEAN TO ME?" This essay must be submitted along with the application.

This application must be received on or before, March 31, 2013 with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Disqualification

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

Acknowledgment

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

Return of Grant

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.

(Detach here)

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ABBOT JEROME M. KOVAL, O.S.B. MEMORIAL
 HIGH SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ High School Phone (_____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____ If yes, please
(yes/no)
 indicate Grade School or High School. What year? _____

High School verification (to be completed by High School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic High School, verify that _____ is a student at
(Name of student)
 the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2013-2014 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

Deadline for receipt of this application is March 31, 2013.
 Return completed application to:
 Slovak Catholic Sokol High School Grant
 205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899, Passaic, NJ 07055

Looking back on a successful sporting year and anticipating great sporting events in 2013

(Continued from page 8)

scored 11 points for Perryopolis. In the sixth game Group 1, Passaic, NJ defeated Group 5, Cleveland, Oh., 46-37. The leading scorers for Group 1 included Brad Forestieri with 12 points and Chris Banquacer added 11 points. Andy Underation led Cleveland with 9 points and Bran Knis and Paul Hershberger both chipped in 8 points for Group 5.

In the sixth game of the day Group 6, Perryopolis, Pa defeated Group 1, by a final score of 52-43. Perryopolis advanced to the championship game to play, the undefeated Group 14A, team from Pittsburgh, Pa. In the afternoon a delicious hot buffet dinner was served in the school cafeteria and was available for all of the players to enjoy between the games. The fraternalism and sportsmanship was evident during the entire tournament and all of the players are looking forward to the 23rd International Tournament scheduled for the spring of 2014.

The next sporting event was our 66th International Bowling Tournament that was part of the 1st Annual United Slovak Fraternal Bowling Tournament held in Willoughby, Ohio from May 11th through the 13th at the Freeway Lanes. The Embassy Suites Hotel in nearby Beachwood, Ohio was the host hotel. This annual event was a milestone this year since our bowlers joined bowlers from fellow Slovak fraternal, namely the First Catholic Slovak Union, the National Slovak Society and the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union in what was billed as the First United Slovak Fraternal International Bowling Tournament. More than 280 fraternal keglers filled the spacious Freeway Lanes for the friendly competition.

On Friday evening at 6:00 the Team Competition began and the concluded after the 9:00 Squads finished up later that evening. Also available for the bowlers on Friday evening was the hospitality dinner that was held at the banquet room at Freeway Lanes featuring prime rib, seasoned chicken, potatoes and other side dishes. This allowed the bowlers to enjoy fantastic food after the first squad finished and the second squad before they had to bowl. On Saturday morning and early afternoon the bowlers finished up with Doubles and Singles competition.

Prior to the Saturday evening banquet, a Mass was celebrated in the Embassy Suites Grand Ballroom to satisfy the Sunday obligation. Celebrant of the liturgy was the Rev. Thomas J. Nasta of Stowe, Pa who serves as the National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union. The banquet was enjoyed by the more than 300 bowlers and guests that included fresh garden salad, broiled salmon, sautéed chicken breast, roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables, cheesecake and a variety of pies for desert served with coffee and tea.

Greetings were extended by the President of the First Catholic Slovak Union, Andrew Rajec and the Fraternal Director of the National Slovak Society, Susan Ondrejko. The keynote speaker at the dinner was Steven

M Pogorelec, F.I.C. who greeted the assembled bowlers and thanked them for their interest and participation. Brother Steve also stressed the need to continue to enroll new members and promote the various activities sponsored by our Slovak fraternal societies. Following his address Brother Steve then had the pleasure of introducing our 2012 Frank S. Petruff Sports Award recipient, to Brother Paul Awramko, a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, NJ and nephew of Frank S. Petruff. Paul Awramko has participated in every International Bowling Tournament since 1977.

In Team Competition in the Men's Division, RJ Gallagher, Brian Warnick, Dave Matty and Bernard Seruga from Perryopolis, Pa. finished in first place with a 2,682 including handicap. In second place the team from Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Tom Shirilla, Joe Genet, Marty Degnan and David Check, rolled a 2,659 including handicap. The third place team from Assembly 79, Lilly, Pa., James Bart, John Smith, Jerry Bender Sr., and Tom Muldoon, Jr., rolled a 2,647 including handicap.

In the Women's Division, Georgann Stesky, Jennifer Ramsey, Kay Fisher and Shannon Sadler from the First Slovak Catholic Union rolled a 2,188, capturing first place. In second place members from Assembly 206 Ambridge, Pa, Eve Catanzarite, Gerri Pollock, Kami Simon and Karen Bakita, finished with a 2,148 including handicap and in third place from the First Slovak Catholic Union, Denise Ricciutti, Darlene White, Mary Bis and Sharon Tomas rolled a 2,145.

In the Men's Doubles and Singles the top three winners were all members of the First Slovak Catholic Union. In Doubles, Dave Sinagara and Alex Dunn finished in first place with a 1,437. In second place Lynn Johnson and Derek Johnston rolled a 1,407 and in third place, Pat Collins, and Joe Barron rolled a 1,372. In Singles Competition, Jake Tokich rolled an 808, John Krasonic, Jr., rolled a 774 and George Hickler rolled a 740.

In the Women's Doubles, Karen Bakita and Carol Macko, placed first with a 1,216, and Trish Gill and Marianne Mangiafico rolled a 1,176, that was good enough for second place. Bridget Oswald and Casey Ciani members of the First Catholic Slovak Union rolled a 1,158 to finish in third place. In Singles, Teresa Meier, rolled a 657 to finish in first place and Ceil Kruly, placed second with a 580, followed closely by third place finisher, Shiela Soose who rolled a 578.

In the Men's All-Events, John Krasonic, Jr. placed first with a 2,067, Jake Tokich rolled a 2,065 good for second place and Dave Sinagra placed third with a 2,030. In the Women's All-Events, Theresa Meier won with a 1,692, Ceil Kruly rolled a 1,679 and Marianne Mangiafico finished in third with a 1,671.

In the Men's Senior Division George Kacsanek rolled a 664 to finish in first place. John Good placed second with a 658 and Al Stavarez rolled a 657, good enough for third place. In the Women's Division Teresa Meier rolled a 657 and Anne

Forma finished in second with a 554.

Individual accomplishments scratch scores: High Game Randy Spitzer rolled a 279 in Team and Teresa Meier rolled a 248 in Singles. High Series, John Krasonic, Jr. rolled a 747 in Singles and Teresa Meier rolled a 618 in Singles. High All-Events, John Krasonic, Jr. rolled a 2,013 and Teresa Meier had a 1,601.

The third sporting event in 2012 was the historic 25th International Softball Tournament hosted again by Group 7 "Rev. Joseph Murgas of Wilkes-Barre, Pa at Kirby Park Fields on Saturday July 14th. A total of 14 teams participated in the annual event and Group 6 Perryopolis, Pa captured their fourth consecutive Men's Title and the Women's Team from Group 14, Pittsburgh, Pa captured another team title.

The winning Men's Team from Group 6A, Perryopolis, Pa finished the tournament with a record of 5-1, including a decisive victory 14-3 in the championship game against Group 5, Cleveland, Oh. The defending champions started strong with a 21-3 initial win against Group 14, Pittsburgh, Pa. In the second game Perryopolis gave up 3 first inning runs but they kept scoring to come out on top with a 9-3 win over Group 1B, Passaic, NJ. The third game was against the team they would play again in the championship game, Group 5 Cleveland, Oh, who defeated Group 6 by a final score 10-8. In the fourth game Perryopolis shutout Group 1A, Passaic, NJ by a final score 10-0 and repeated that feat with a second consecutive 10-0 shutout over Group 5 Cleveland, Oh. This moved Group 6A, back to the championship game that concluded with a victory over a very tough Group 5 Team. AJ Novotny was one of the key players for Perryopolis both on defense and at the plate and was named as the tournament MVP. Other top players included Scott Usher, Greg Rabatin, Michael Todd, Ryan Guthrie, Kenny Ozanick, Matthew Lachman, Jonathan Ross, Chris McManus, Brian Chalfont, Matthew Chalfont and Adam Shimko.

The second place team, Group 5 Cleveland, Oh played five games on Saturday with three wins in addition to the two losses to the championship team. The three wins included an epic 26-23 victory over Group 3, East Douglas, Ma., that was one of the most exciting and highest scoring games in our 25 year tournament history. The second game against Group 1A, Passaic, NJ, resulted in an 8-5 victory. The next three games were against the championship team Group 6 Perryopolis, Pa. Top players for the Ohio based team included, Bob Macko, Andy Lipovsky, Jay Macko, Steve Macko, Chris Macko, Ryan Blizzard, Strawberry Macko, Paul Macko, Donnie Macko, Jr., Donald Macko, Dan Dawson, and Paul Macko, Sr.

The third place team, Group 1A Passaic, NJ also finished with three wins, including an 8-4 victory over Group 6B Perryopolis, Pa and an extra inning 13-12 victory against a young and valiant Group 14 team from Pittsburgh. Things got straightened out quickly for Group 1A as they defeated a tired Group 3, East Douglas team 16-9. The losing team from East Douglas, was playing their fifth

game of the day in the first six hours of the tournament. Top players for Group 1 included, Scott Pogorelec, Steve Pogorelec, Jr., Pat Elliott, Chris Rold, Lorenzo Castaldo, Ramon Cornier, Jr., Kevin LaMonico, Brad Forestieri, Chuck Marakovitz, Rob Eickenberg and Larry Galanti.

The fourth place team, Group 3, East Douglas, Ma., began the day with a close 13-8 win over Group 7B, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. The second game was the high scoring 26-23 loss to Group 5 Cleveland, Ohio. In their third game of the day Group 3 defeated Group 6B, by a final score 9-7, and also defeated Group 1B, Passaic, NJ by a final score of 16-9. Top players included: Joe Randor, John Manyak, Ken Loncz, Erik Quinn, Kevin Scott, Scott Wallen, Scottie Thomas, Gary Manyak, John McGrath, Peter Hickey, Casey Hippert and Ray Johnson.

In the Women's Division Group 14, Pittsburgh, Pa won another championship finishing the day with 4 wins and 1 loss. In their first game Group 14 was defeated by Group 3, East Douglas, Ma., by a final 12-2 score. In the second game Group 14 defeated Group 5 9-5, and the third game of the day, Group 14 defeated Group 3 again by a final score of 15-12. Group 14 defeated the previously undefeated team, Group 1, Passaic, NJ in two consecutive games 8-6 in the first game and 5-3 in the championship game. Pittsburgh was led by Tournament MVP Brandi Hudson, Jamie Twigg, Cindy Walkowiak, Desirae Hudson, Kathy Watkins, Janice Moeller, Kerri Malanowski, Becky DiRenna, Briean Hall, Maurya Hvozdovic and Kelly Palchanis.

The second place team, Group 1, Passaic, NJ won both of their games by one run. In the first game they defeating Group 5, Cleveland, Oh, hanging on for 7-6 victory.

In the second Group 1, defeated Group 3, East Douglas, Ma 10-9, before losing two consecutive games to the championship team from Pittsburgh, Pa. Top players for Group 1 included: Sam Wach, Keri Fossom, Pamela Good, Stacey Kromka, Colleen Smith, Jennifer O'Sullivan, Claire Matlon, Jackie Smith, Kristin D'Arienzo, Kelly Norvis and Annie Wach.

Group 3, East Douglas, Ma finished in third place with a 2-2 record defeating Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, Pa 13-1, and in the second game they defeated the eventual championship team, Group 14, Pittsburgh, Pa. The hitting stars for Group 3 included: Jen Nedoroscik, Ashley Kresian, Mackenzie Cyr, Jacque Manyak, Christine Manyak, Erica Manyak, Lauren Macuga, Amanda Gresian, Marybeth Baril, Bonnie Rossi, Cindy McConville, and Debbie Johnson.

Before the Championship Games, the Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic, back in his home town of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. celebrated Mass for all of the participants and family members at Kirby Park. After Mass all of the players enjoyed a delicious BBQ picnic before the championship games were played. On Saturday at Kirby Park in less than 12 hours, 26 softball games were played by the 14 teams scoring a total of 454 runs! After the conclusion of the games and the trophy presentations, the participants headed back to the Best

Western Hotel to relax and get some well-earned rest before heading home on Sunday morning.

The final event for 2012 was the 57th International Golf Tournament held at Treasure Lake Golf Course in DuBois, Pa the weekend of August 10-12th. The highly rated Gold Course was used for the opening round on Saturday and the very challenging Silver Course hosted Sunday's action.

After the golfers finished the first round of golf on Saturday, the evening activities started with the Holy Mass of Obligation celebrated by Bishop Roger W. Gries, O.S.B. at the Lakeview Lodge. Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh welcomed all of the golfers and family members at the banquet and thanked them for participating in the annual event. The golfers and guests enjoyed salad, steak, shrimp, baked potato, vegetables and desert. Keynote Speaker, Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, thanked everyone for coming and recognized all of the parents in the audience who golfed with their children and a special recognition for all of the first time golfers. Steven Pogorelec also presented the Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award to Karol M. Talafofus, from Assembly 224, Jersey City, New Jersey.

In the Women's Division, Chris Chervenak, finished in first place with a net score of 152, one stroke better than Mary Ruth Savikas. Loretta Smith finished in a third place with a 154 and Barb Aldrich, Carol Macko and Susan Grega all finished in a fourth place tie with a 155 net score.

Gary Watkins finished in first place in the "A" Flight with a net score of 145 and Adam Macurak placed second with a net score of 147. Paul Corcoran finished in third place with a 149 net score.

Brian Suchy had two great rounds of golf and easily won the "B" Flight with a net score of 139. Stephen Glugosh also had two solid rounds and finished with a net score of 145 and Ed Bajus finished in 3rd place with a net score of 151.

Derek Loehle placed first in the "C" Flight with a net score of 141, which was eight strokes better than the second place finisher, Jay Macko. Donald Macurak finished in third place with a 158 net score.

In the Senior Flight, Ed Baker finished in first place with a net score of 153. Jim Hudzik placed second with a net score of 157 and Peter S. Underation finished in third place with a net score of 160.

Jeremy Moeller was the winner of the "Callaway" Flight with a net score of 143. Ken Lijewski, Zach Oravetz and James Bart finished in a second place tie with a net score of 148.

I would like to recognize all of the hard work that the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics Edward D. Moeller put in last year to make all of the tournaments a great success. I would also like to thank all of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board members who worked with us at the 2012 International Tournaments. Finally, a special thanks to all of the members of our organization including all of the Supreme and Group Officers who participated in one or more of the sporting events last year and we are looking forward to increasing the participation in 2013.

Saluting our 2012 Recommenders
Covers all business submitted
January 1 - December 31, 2012

RECOMMENDERS	CITY/STATE	CERTIFICATES	VOLUME	POINTS
Leo Bryan Aller	Kenosha, WI	1	\$10,000	80
Edith M. Babik	Youngstown, OH	2	15,000	136
Joseph S. Barlak	Boonton, NJ	1	20,000	135
Mary A. Barnes	Canton, OH	1	10,000	82
Francis S. Blonar	Bethlehem, PA	1	10,000	96
Margaret Bryan	Youngstown, OH	1	10,000	
Denise Di Martino	Wilkes-Barre, PA	1	5,000	54
Dusan Dorich	Toronto, CN	11	102,000	715
Edward Drazek	Boonton, NJ	1	10,000	
Joseph M. Dulla	Ansonia, CT	1	9,370	106
Chet Dziuba	Toronto, CN	1	5,000	69
Justine P. Edelman	Bethlehem, PA	1	5,000	54
Mary Falatok	Akron, OH	3	30,000	82
Mary Lou Talafous Favetta	Jersey City, NJ	1	50,000	290
Edward Garasic	Youngstown, OH	1	5,000	
Anna Mae Gaydosh	Lorain, OH	1	5,000	62
Joseph V. Gebura	Parma, OH	1	5,000	54
James T. Genosky	Minneapolis, MN	2	20,000	
Mary Jo Ann Goss	Barberton, OH	1	5,000	54
Bradley Hoeck	Milwaukee, WI	1	5,000	54
Home Office	Passaic, NJ	35	540,100	130
Philip James Homacek	Barberton, OH	1	10,000	77
Michael Horvath	Wilkes-Barre, PA	2	10,000	101
Mary Ann Hrudowsky	Passaic, NJ	1	10,000	
Charlotte Hvozdic	Wilkes-Barre, PA	1	20,000	204
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic	Wilkes-Barre, PA	2	20,000	80
John E. Jasenec	Toronto, CN	1	5,230	79
Carol L. Johnson	Whiting, IN	1	25,960	186
Rose Kendralla	Greensboro, PA	1	5,000	54
James F. Knis	Canton, OH	1	10,000	
George J. Kostelnik	Bethlehem, PA	5	25,000	474
John P. Kovalovsky	Passaic, NJ	1	50,000	86
Nancy L. Kropolinsky	Youngstown, OH	2	10,000	141
Irene Krumenaker	Lilly, PA	1	10,000	82
Anthony G. Kubasek	Nanticoke, PA	1	2,520	82
Linda Kuebler	Youngstown, OH	1	5,000	54
Robert P. Kunrod	Lilly, PA	2	15,000	54
Robert E. Leso	Philadelphia, PA	4	20,000	260
Mary Jane Ludwig	Lansford, PA	1	10,000	114
Roger J. Manyak	East Douglas, MA	10	85,000	626
Thomas J. Marticek	Bridgeport, CT	2	15,000	31
James C. Matlon	Boonton, NJ	4	30,000	258
Michael T. Matras	Perryopolis, PA	18	239,000	1,859
Christopher M. Millius	Pittsburgh, PA	1	10,000	
Edward D. Moeller	Pittsburgh, PA	8	56,000	419
John H. Molchany	Egypt, PA	1	5,000	55
Susan G. Moynihan	Parma, OH	1	10,000	
Mary Ann Naple	Pittsburgh, PA	2	10,000	120
John C. Orsulak	Lansford, PA	1	7,000	161
Maryanne Palkovic	Erie, PA	3	25,000	337
John M. Papcun	Detroit, MI	2	10,000	
Janice Patterson	Erie, PA	1	5,000	55
Kristy Peterson	Milwaukee, WI	1	5,000	54
Stephen T. Phillips	Lilly, PA	2	10,000	110
Robin Piotrowski	Pittsburgh, PA	2	10,000	98
Michael J. Pjontek Jr.	Pittsburgh, PA	1	5,000	63
Steven M. Pogorelec	Clifton, NJ	3	15,000	186
Frank Polchak Jr.	Youngstown, OH	1	10,000	87
Ronald L. Porubsky	Milwaukee, WI	1	\$ 15,000	105
Tricia Radtke	Milwaukee, WI	1	10,000	82
Stephen A. Roman	Catasauqua, PA	2	20,000	162
Dorothy Rudinec	Donora, PA	2	10,000	110
Dorothy Samsel	Bridgeport, CT	3	30,000	269
Tony L. Scuglik	Kenosha, WI	7	55,000	217
Robert J. Shedlock	Lilly, PA	1	10,000	
Ann Marie Sliinskie	Port Griffith, PA	1	5,000	55
John E. Stanko Jr.	Lansford, PA	1	15,000	319
Virginia Stianchie	Nesquehoning, PA	2	50,000	76
James T. Stupak	Pittsburgh, PA	1	20,000	140
Albert J. Suess Jr.	Pittsburgh, PA	13	83,000	301
Katie Jozwiak Swift	Pittsburgh, PA	1	5,000	
Daniel F. Tanzone	Yonkers, NY	1	5,000	55
Eric C. Topczij	Clifton, NJ	19	95,000	1,078
Traci Walkowiak	Pittsburgh, PA	51	255,000	2,527
Kathleen S. Walkins	Pittsburgh, PA	2	10,000	109
Eileen S. Wilson	Bridgeport, CT	2	10,000	55
Joan J. Yanosick	Pittsburgh, PA	1	3,000	19
Dolores Yonkoski	Dunlo, PA	9	60,000	220
Totals		283	\$2,468,180	14,7999

(Continued on page 18)

For students entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2-8)

Slovak Catholic Sokol Catholic Grade School Grants

As per the decision of the delegates at the 28th National Convention held in Buffalo, NY in August, 1999, a fraternal benefit is being offered to our young members attending a Catholic Grade School. The Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$250.00 Grants to our young Sokols and Sokolky in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. Two grants per each Group are available to any qualified Sokol member entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2 through 8).



Eligibility

A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.

B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.

C. The principal of the Catholic Grade School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

Application

This application must be received on or before, March 31, 2013 with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph. Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

Disqualification

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

Acknowledgment

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

Return of Grant

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.

(Detach here)

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (____) _____ School Phone (____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

If yes, what Year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic Grade School, verify that _____ is a student at
(Name of student)

the above school and will be entering _____ Grade in the 2013-2014 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

Deadline for receipt of this application is March 31, 2013.
 Return completed application to:

Slovak Catholic Sokol
 Grade School Grant
 205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899
 Passaic, NJ 07055

At St. Simon the Apostle Parish

Stedry Vecer supper enjoyed in Chicago

A record turnout of 320 guests turned out for the annual Stedry Vecer or Vilija dinner at St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Chicago on Sunday, December 16. This annual event is hosted by the Slovak members of the this well-known South Side parish which celebrates a "bountiful evening" enjoying the traditional foods enjoyed at Christmas Eve among Slovaks.

The majority of this year's participants included Slovak immigrants and their American born children. A number of Chicagoland Sokol members were also in attendance. The program opened with a prayer offered by the Rev. Kristian Libant, C.M., a Vincentian priest from Slo-

vakia who is currently pursuing graduate studies in Chicago. Father Kristian celebrates the weekly Sunday Slovak Mass at St. Simon's. Following the blessing, Father Kristian led the audience in sharing the Oplatky and honey followed by the many traditional foods enjoyed at the Christmas Eve dinner. Following the delicious meal, a wonderful cultural program was then enjoyed. The program opened with a performance by the Veselicka Slovak Folk Ensemble. This children's dance troupe performed a beautiful Christmas skit in Slovak. Adult musicians then played traditional instruments while a choir sang our favorite Slovak Christmas carols. An enjoyable afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Founded in 1928, St. Simon the Apostle was the last Slovak parish to be established in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Today, it is the only parish in Chicago where Mass is celebrated in Slovak. The local lodges of our Slovak fraternal continue their activity in the parish, including our Sokol, Assembly 11. The pastor of St. Simon's, the Rev. Alfredo Gundrum, O.F.M., Cap. expressed thanks and gratitude to all who had a hand in the success of this year's Stedry Vecer dinner.

Zdar Boh!

Robert Tapak Magruder



Sokol members, Valerie Vesely of Wreath 81 and Robert Tapak Magruder enjoyed the annual event.



Vilija organizer, Steve Hajek with St. Simon's pastor, the Rev. Alfredo Gundrum, O.F.M., Cap.



Assembly 11 Sokol activists, l-r, Joseph Buc, auditor Fred Olszowka and vice president Therese M. Buc are shown above.

Lodge Jottings

BARBERTON, OH. Assembly 167

The annual meeting of our Assembly under the fostering care of St. Michael the Archangel is scheduled for Sunday, February 17 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Center beginning at 2 p.m. All members are invited to attend this important meeting.

Reports of the officers will be presented and plans for our various sporting and fraternal activities in 2013 will be finalized. The 46th International Slet is scheduled for Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa. in July. We anticipate having a good number of our Barberton Sokols compete at the Slet. In addition to the normal business of our lodge, we will elect officers to serve us in 2013. Food and refreshments will be served following the business meeting. An enjoyable fraternal afternoon is assured.

Founded in 1917, our lodge celebrates its 96th anniversary in 2013. We have enjoyed a proud past, may we continue to enjoy success in the future on the road to our centennial. Looking forward to seeing a good turnout at our annual meeting together with best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, may I remain

Zdar Boh!

Chris Macko

Recording Secretary

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. Assembly 9

The annual meeting of our lodge under the fostering care of SS. Peter and Paul will take place on Sunday, February 10 in the meeting room of Holy Name of Jesus School located at 1950 Barnum Avenue in Stratford, Conn. beginning at 1 p.m. All members are urged to attend this important meeting.

Reports of the officers will be presented and plans for our various fraternal activities in 2013 will be finalized. Election of officers will take place.

The beginnings of our lodge date back to 1904 when a group of young Slovak Catholic immigrants wanted to establish a society promoting the Sokol ideals and traditions. On September 4, 1906, this group chose SS. Peter and Paul as patrons of the new lodge and applied for membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol which had recently been established in 1905 in Passaic, N.J. Our Bridgeport lodge was accepted at the ninth lodge of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. And the rest is history.

We have much to be proud of and we look forward to continued fraternal success in the years ahead. Looking forward to seeing a good turnout at our annual meeting and wishing all our members a very happy and healthy new year 2013, may I remain

Zdar Boh!

Henry J. Zack

Financial Secretary

CHICAGO, ILL. Assembly 11

As we begin another new year(the

Group 14 Semi-Annual Meeting

Officers and members of Group 14, "St. Francis of Assisi" are invited to attend its semi-annual meeting on Saturday, March 23 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. following the Easter Bunny Breakfast for children. We will be discussing an array of activities in which our Group will participate. These include various fundraisers and sporting events. This July, the 46th International Slet will be held at Slippery Rock University and our Group will serve as host. In order to make the necessary arrangements, those planning to attend our meeting are asked to call (412)225-8233 or e-mail Kathyw626@yahoo.com. Even if you haven't been to a Group meeting lately, we ask that you consider attending. Your thoughts and input are always very valuable to the future of our organization. An enjoyable afternoon is assured. We hope to see every lodge belonging to Group 14 represented at this important meeting.

Zdar Boh!

Kathleen S. Watkins
President

Claudia Borecki
Secretary

Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of the Year

(Continued from page 4)

*the things that we heard
were done in Capernaum."
And he said, "Amen, I say to you,
no prophet is accepted
in his own native place.
Indeed, I tell you,
there were many widows in Israel
in the days of Elyah
when the sky was closed for
three and a half years
and a severe famine spread
over the entire land.
It was to none of these that Elyah was sent,
but only to a widow
in Zarephath in the land of Sidon.
Again, there were many lepers in Israel
during the time of Elisha the prophet;
yet not one of them was cleansed,
but only Naaman the Syrian."
When the people in the synagogue
heard this,
they were all filled with fury.
They rose up, drove him out of the town,
and led him to the brow of the hill
on which their town had been built,
to hurl him down headlong.
But Jesus passed through the midst of them
and went away.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

106th for Assembly 11), we send Happy New Year greetings to our members and remind them that Assembly 11, under the patronage of SS. Cyril and Methodius, will host its annual meeting on Friday, February 8, 2013 at the home of our Vice President, Therese M. Buc, 9024 Del Prado Drive, Palos Hills, Illinois beginning at 1 p.m. Reports of the officers for the past year will be presented and plans for the future will be discussed. Especially important will be the election of officers to serve for 2013.

All our members are urged to join us at this critical time in the life of our Assembly. Although we have 945 members, except for the four present officers, no one has shown any interest in the future of our assembly, nor taking over any of the officer positions. Our two leading officers are 89 and 92 years of age, and would like to turn over their responsibilities to some younger members who will be able to lead our assembly for many more years. As the last existing assembly in Chicago, we face the possibility of losing our valuable assets (two large annuities and a checking account) and having our membership transferred to the home office. Ironically, all of the Sokol Assemblies and Wreaths in Chicago

have been merged into Assembly 11 during the past eight years because of lack of interest.

During the past eight years, Assembly 11 has been host to the 100th anniversary celebrations of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Assembly 11, Wreath 9 and Group 4 as well. At each of these celebrations, we were pleased to greet anywhere from 60 to 120 Assembly 11 members. We urgently invite the members who showed an interest in these celebrations to join us at this year's annual meeting. Remember the date is Friday, February 8, 2013 at my home in Palos Hills. We will be serving refreshments following our business meeting. In order to make the necessary arrangements, those planning to attend are asked to call me at 708-598-1468 before February 6. An enjoyable fraternal afternoon is assured.

Looking to see a good turnout at our annual meeting and extending warm fraternal wishes to our members for a Happy New Year filled with God's blessings, good health and cheer.

Zdar Boh!

Therese M. Buc
Vice President and
Recording Secretary

(Continued on page 18)

Double Blessing--Double Responsibilities

(Continued from page 1)

Saints Cyril and Methodius, like other apostles and evangelizers before them, were able to evangelize our ancestors because they knew Jesus and had the courage and the zeal to introduce them to Him. Through their tireless efforts, many nations were brought to Christ and those nations, in time, had missionaries who were enthusiastic about sharing the Good News, that is, their relationship with Jesus, with countless others.

In this Year of Faith, let us become more knowledgeable and enthusiastic about our faith. Let us commit to daily prayer and Scripture reading. Let us also commit ourselves to sharing our faith. Let us also remember that "Fear is not of God" as St. John tells us in his first letter.

It becomes very simple if we try to live by the "Each One Reach One" slogan which has become very common among modern day evangelizers. We may be surprised to find out that there is someone in our family, neighborhood, or workplace who is just waiting to be invited to know more about Jesus and our faith. If we pray to have the courage and enthusiasm we need to share our faith, God will surely provide us with enough opportunities.

Faith shared is faith strengthened. The more we give, the more we will receive. That has been the case with the first twelve Apostles and it was so with Saints Cyril and Methodius. St. Paul tells us that "Their message endures..." If we step out in faith, the message we share will also endure into future generations.

It is very interesting to note that the above quote is from St. Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. Thessalonica is the birthplace of Saints Cyril and Methodius, who began their missionary journeys in the ninth century. It may be helpful to reflect on his words to the first century residents of Thessalonica and note how prophetic they were. His message to them DID endure...and we are very grateful.

Since imitation is the highest form of praise, let us imitate the Apostles to the Slavs, and be willing to share our faith. We may begin with a portion of the prayer written by Blessed John Paul II:

"O Saints Cyril and Methodius, who with admirable dedication brought the faith to the Slavic peoples, thirsty for truth and light. Let the entire Church always proclaim the crucified and risen Christ, the Redeemer of (hu)mankind."

Pre-Lenten celebration set in Milwaukee, Wis.

Assembly 20 of the Slovak League of America will host its traditional Pre-Lenten celebration in the Slovak tradition of "Fasiangy" on Saturday, February 9. The festivities will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 3200 South 103rd Street (103rd and Oklahoma Avenue) beginning at 6 p.m. Traditional Slovak food and bakery will be available throughout the evening. A live band will provide music for dancing and listening pleasure. A special cultural program will feature the artistry of the Tatra Slovak Dancers who will perform beginning at 7:30 p.m. The dancers bring to life the music and dance traditions of the various regions of Slovakia. Tickets are just \$5.00. An enjoyable evening is assured.

A special invitation goes out to all Wreath 93 members to join us as we celebrate this carnival-like evening before the beginning of the Lenten season. For additional information of this year's event, call Betty Valent at (414)425-6137 or Ellen Tavela at (262)893-7483. Wishing all a very happy and healthy New Year, may I remain

Zdar Boh!
Betty Valent

Presidential Facts

There have been 44 U.S. presidential administrations, but only 43 presidents - Grover Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms from 1885 to 1889 and then 1893 to 1897.

William Henry Harrison held the office for the shortest period of time - he died of pneumonia about a month after taking office.

The longest-serving president was Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died shortly into his fourth term in office. (The 22nd Amendment, ratified in 1951, limited to two the number of presidential terms one person could serve).

Sokol Birthdays

FEBRUARY 2

Kathy Graham, Plains, Pa., member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.
Michael J. Knies, Jr., Lansford, Pa., a member of Assembly 188, Lansford, Pa.

David Mudrak, Woodbridge, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

FEBRUARY 3

Marianne R. Baloga, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Christine Maslar, Reading, Pa., a member of Wreath 155, Reading, Pa.
Boniface Mikulka, Parkville, Md., a member of Assembly 9, Bridgeport, Conn.

FEBRUARY 4

Mary Louise H. Buck, Canfield, Oh., a member of Wreath 54, Youngstown, Oh.

Margaret C. Brown, Knoxville, Tenn., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

David J. Kostolansky, Warren, Oh., a member of Assembly 25, Perryopolis, Pa.

Margaret Pavelek, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

FEBRUARY 5

Daniel Roger Benyak, Seattle, Wash., a member of Assembly 127, Monessen, Pa.

Jerry J. Krupa, Maitland, Fla., a member of Assembly 182, New York City.

John J. Termyna, Jr. Clifton, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

FEBRUARY 6

Michelle Benjamin, Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Damian John Suess, Pittsburgh, Pa., member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board and a member of Assembly 16, Pittsburgh, Pa.

FEBRUARY 7

Hon. George Hasay, Shicksinney, Pa., Representative of the 117 District of Pennsylvania and a member of Assembly 136, Nanticoke, Pa.

FEBRUARY 8

Michael T. Andriso, Vista, Ca., a member of Assembly 9, Bridgeport, Conn.

Suzanne M. Bilicska, Passaic, N.J., a member of Wreath 2, Passaic, N.J.

Megan Bruno, Sinking Springs, Pa., a member of Wreath 155, Reading, Pa.

John Matthew Grande, East Douglas, Mass., a member of Assembly 28, East Douglas, Mass.

John A. Holy, Pomton Plains, N.J., Financial Secretary of Assembly 282, Passaic, N.J.

Sherry L. Papcun, Clinton Twp., Mich., a member of Assembly 36, Detroit, Mich.

Carl D. Pollack, Peekskill, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

FEBRUARY 9

Stephanie C. Nist, Westerly, RI., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

Dawn M. Palchanis, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Elaine Parodi, Maywood, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Alice Potanovic, Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

FEBRUARY 11

Leonard Benek, Lansford, Pa., a member of Assembly 188, Lansford, Pa.

Georgine Moravek Cardamone, Harvest Ala., a member of Assembly 188, Lansford, Pa.

Marian M. Nanchy, Monroe, Conn., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

FEBRUARY 12

Irene Yaniglos Matlak, Avon Lake, Oh., a member of Wreath 107, Youngstown, Oh.

Patricia A. McClure, Ft. Myers, Fla., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

FEBRUARY 13

Melissa Golini, Avon, Oh., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

James Puskar, Tampa, Fla., a member of Assembly 127, Monessen, Pa.

Daniel O'Sullivan, Pelham Manor, N.Y., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

John G. Tkacik, Bridgeport, Conn., a member of Assembly 9, Bridgeport, Conn.

Slovak language classes begin in Pittsburgh

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will host Slovak language classes in Pittsburgh. Intermediate Slovak Language classes meet every Tuesday from 6:30 - 8 p.m. beginning on February 19 and continuing until April 9. These classes meet at the Brashear Association located at 2005 Sarah Street in Pittsburgh, Pa., tel. (412)431-2236. Tuition is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. The instructor is Bozena Hilko.

The Advanced Slovak Language classes meet every Tuesday evening from 7 to 8:45 p.m. beginning on April 16 and continuing until June 4. These classes meet at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard in Pittsburgh, tel. (412)531-1912. The instructor will also be Bozena Hilko. Tuition for this course is free. For additional information on these classes and to reserve a place, call Joseph Senko at (412)956-6000 or Albina Senko at (412)343-5031.



Pre-Lenten merriment will be much in order on Saturday, February 9, as St. John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston, Pa. hosts its traditional Night at the Races benefit in the Seton Catholic Auditorium located on Church Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. and Post Time is 7 p.m. The "adults only" evening looks to be enjoyable with complimentary food and beverages. Master of ceremonies for the evening will be Joseph Holden of WBRE Eyewitness News. Cost is \$10.00 for a horse, which includes admission. Winning horses receive \$50.00. An ad book will be published. For information on tickets or ads, call the parish office, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday at (570)654-0053 or call our Sokol, Stephen Vitek at (570)655-5307. In keeping with our outreach to the community, those planning to attend are asked to bring along non-perishable food items which will be given to the Pittston Food Pantry. Well-known Sokols, Monsignor John J. Bendik and Father Richard Cirba, serve as pastor and associate at the parish, are shown above with members of the committee.

YOUR BENEFICIARIES

When was the last time you looked at your designated beneficiaries on your valuable Sokol insurance policy? How important is it? Just think about how much your life has changed. Have you married, divorced, had children, maybe you lost a loved one? This is an item you should consider annually. If you do need to make changes to any of your policies, contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656.

Keep Your Slovak Catholic Sokol Home Office Numbers Handy

TOLL FREE NUMBER	- 1-800-886-7656
HOME OFFICE	- (973) 777-2605 or 777-2606
DIRECTOR OF SALES	- 1-888-381-5431 or (412) 381-5431
UNDERWRITING	- (973) 777-4704
EDITOR	- (973) 777-4010
FAX NUMBER	- (973) 779-8245
E-MAIL	- Sokol205@aol.com
WEB SITE	- www.slovakcatholicsokol.org

**Held in Sterling Heights, Mich.
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
Group 16, "Rev. Ferdis Juriga"**

The annual meeting of Group 16, Detroit, Mich. under the patronage of the Rev. Ferdis Juriga, was held on Saturday, September 29, 2012 in Sterling Heights, Mich.

The gathering began with the officers and delegates marching in a body to the 4 p.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church. The pastor and chaplain of Group 16, the Rev. Benjamin Kosnac celebrated the liturgy for the living and deceased members of Group 16. Especially recognized were the following deceased including: Joseph J. Panic, Joseph J. Sobek, a former officer, and Cecilia Rozanski, also a former officer. Following the liturgy, the delegates gathered in the Heritage Room of the parish, where Group 16 President, Andrea Papcun, called the meeting to order. She called on Mark Papcun to read a prayer for our deceased members. The Secretary, Madeline Stanek reported that eight members of Group 16 have passed away since our last annual meeting.

President Andrea Papcun then asked the Secretary, Madeline Stanek to read the roll call of officers and delegates. Officers present included: Andrea Papcun, president; John Papcun, vice president; LaVerne Eland, treasurer; Madeline Stanek, secretary; Stephen Papcun, sports director; Josephine Collieran, auditor, and Marcella Kovalcik, auditor and Michael Romanchik, Assembly 36 auditor. Absent was Joan Pupik, treasurer of Assembly 214 in Rossford, Oh. Other members present included Veronica Stanek and Chuck Celusnak. Hank Bardy, Assembly 36 auditor was absent due to hospitalization.

The current auditors of Group 16 were looking over the financial records while the meeting continued. Minutes of the October 15, 2011 annual meeting were submitted by Secretary, Madeline Stanek. On a motion by LaVerne Eland, seconded by Josephine Collieran, the minutes were accepted.

The reports of the officers were then presented. President Andrea Papcun read her report to the delegates. She thanked all for their cooperation in promoting the work of Group 16. The vice president, John Papcun did not provide a written report. The treasurer, LaVerne Eland read her report and shared copies with all present. The secretary, Madeline Stanek read her report.

The sports director, Stephen Papcun then presented his report and announced that Group 16 enjoyed active participation in the 66th international bowling tournament held in Wickliffe, Oh in May 2012. The following Group 16 bowlers participated: Donald Papcun, John Papcun, Michael Romanchik, Sr., Michael Romanchik, Jr., Daniel Romanchik, Joseph Witte, John Pupik, Sr., John Pupik, Jr., Jeff Szymanski, Joan Pupik, Lynn Pupik and Margaret Szymanski. In the men's All-Events competition, Daniel Romanchik from Detroit, Mich. had a three series total of 1,837 pins plus a 150-pin handicap to capture first place honors with a score of 1,987. Donald Papcun and John Papcun paired with

Rossford, Ohio Sokols, John Pupik and Jeff Szymanski. This year's bowling competition was a first-time combined effort with members of our organization along with those from the First Catholic Slovak Union and the National Slovak Society.

President Andrea Papcun then called on the auditors to present their report. Joan Collieran and Marcella Kovalcik indicated that they reviewed all books and records and determined that all bank statements, checking accounts and other financial records were found to be in order. They then moved for the acceptance of the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report was then accepted.

The financial report of Assembly 36 of Detroit, Mich. was then presented by Stephen Papcun, secretary-treasurer. There is no annual meeting of the assembly scheduled for 2012. However, the next meeting of the assembly is set for March 2013. Assembly 36 did participate in the mailing campaign of Group 16.

A complete written report of Assembly 214 of Rossford, Oh. was submitted to the Group 16 president by Joan Pupik, the secretary-treasurer who was unable to attend the annual meeting. All reports were accepted unanimously by the delegates.

A report on the campaign to solicit new membership using email addresses was presented. To date, there has been very small participation. The president indicated that she has established a SCS Group 16 Shutterfly website. John Papcun volunteered to head a committee in order to recruit new membership.

Salaries of Group officers are too high at present. Remuneration of the vice president and sports director will be "0" this year. Assembly 36 pays for golf participation and is capped at \$1,200. Group 16 pays for bowling participation with a limit of \$1,000 for total members. A proposal by Donald Papcun for an additional stipend for attendance at events was rejected due to the current budget constraints.

The president requested that donations be given. She recommended a donation of \$25.00 be given to St. Andrew Svorad Benedictine Abbey in Cleveland in memory of deceased monks and another donation be given to SS. Cyril and Methodius Church for the annual meeting Mass. She also suggested donating to the Rev. Benjamin Kosnac our Group 16 chaplain. Sister Papcun moved for the donations, seconded by Mark Papcun. Accepted.

President Papcun was pleased to announce that our Group 16 Sokolka, Jaclyn Merrick of Assembly 36 was among the recipients of a Slovak Catholic Sokol College Scholarship Grant in 2012.

With no further business, the annual meeting was adjourned on a motion by Veronica Stanek, seconded by Joan Collieran. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The date of the next Group 16 meeting will be announced in our official publication. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Madeline Stanek
Group 16 Secretary

Lodge Jottings

(Continued from page 16)
**PITTSBURGH, PA
Wreath 22**

The next meeting of our Wreath under the spiritual guidance of St. Cecelia is scheduled for Monday, February 4 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, South Side beginning at 7 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

This month we will host our lottery ticket as our fund-raiser. We have fund-raisers to the many local organizations in need. One of the fund-raisers suggested by Pat Pjontek will be for the Veterans Home on Pittsburgh's South Side. We want the veterans to know that we appreciate the many sacrifices they have made to keep our country safe. We look forward to the continued support of our members in their fraternal outreach project.

Following our business meeting, we will enjoy a small social and invite all our Wreath sisters to come and join us and enjoy the delicious baked goods prepared by our own wonderful baker, Dolly Lutz. An enjoyable evening is assured. Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

Zdar Boh!
Joan Yanosick
Recording Secretary

**YONKERS, N.Y.
Assembly 219**

The annual meeting of our lodge under the fostering care of St. Michael the Archangel is scheduled for Sunday, January 27 following the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church. Our meeting will be held in the rectory. All members are invited to attend.

Reports of the officers will be presented and plans for our various fraternal activities in the new year will be discussed. Input from our members will insure the success of our projects. We thank our many members who have been active in various outreach projects of our parish in the best traditions of the fraternal benefit system. We are pleased that two young members of our lodge were recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Grants. We encourage our young people to once apply for these grants in 2013. This year, our Assembly will host the annual meeting of Group 1 on Sunday, October 27.

Information on our organization's insurance and annuity products will be available at the meeting. Election of officers to serve our lodge in 2013 will take place. Founded in 1925, our Assembly celebrates its 88th anniversary of fraternal activity in our parish.

Looking forward to seeing a good turnout of members at our annual meeting and extending warmest fraternal wishes to all for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, may I remain

Zdar Boh!
Darlene Fata
Recording Secretary

In anticipation of our 46th Slet

National Center for Safety Initiatives

Many colleges, universities and organizations are now requiring their staff and students to obtain background checks. When we met with our contact at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa. this summer, she asked if our leaders have the necessary paperwork to work with young children. We had to honestly answer that some do but some do not. This prompted the Board of Directors to think hard about what we needed to do. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that we would start requiring all Supreme Officers, along with Group sports directors, physical directors, physical directors as well as their assistants to obtain background checks.



After contacting the National Center for Safety Initiatives and having all of the appropriate paperwork completed by our Sokol headquarters, we began the process. I e-mailed the officers and gave them instructions on completing the forms. Each officer filled out the paperwork online and submitted it.

At the Board of Directors meeting held in September of 2012, the board discussed the most recent background checks that were completed. It was decided that, in addition to the aforementioned people, any participant age 18 and over attending the 46th International Slet in July of 2013, will also be required to obtain a background check. This will help to ensure the safety and security of our children. Each Group will be responsible for covering the cost of the background check for their Slet participants.

The background checks are conducted through an organization known as the National Center for Safety Initiatives. Many colleges and universities, including Slippery Rock University, use this organization to screen their athletes and faculty. Thus far, our Supreme Officers and Group officers have responded very positively to this.

In the near future, each Group president will receive a letter giving specific information on accessing the site, having participants complete forms and making the payments.

The safety and security of our youth is our main concern.

Zdar Boh!
Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Directress

**Saluting our 2012 Recorders
Covers all business submitted
January 1 - December 31, 2012**

(Continued from page 15)

ANNUITIES

RECOMMENDERS	CITY/STATE	CERTIFICATES	VOLUME	POINTS
Leonard Benek	Lansford, PA	2	\$ 4,330	47
Robert J. Benek	Lansford, PA	1	5,000	25
Anna Mae Gaydosh	Lorain, OH	4	4,000	45
Home Office	Passaic, NJ	2	7,099	
John Kristofick	Clifton, NJ	4	4,000	120
Maryann La Penna	Palmerton, PA	1	20,000	100
Dolores Matonak Lutz	Pittsburgh, PA	1	219,904	1,100
Irene A. Lyttle	Palmerton, PA	1	10,000	50
Albert J. Matia	Parma, OH	3	60,000	300
Edward D. Moeller	Pittsburgh, PA	1	8,000	40
Ann Marie Silinskie	Port Griffith, PA	2	13,200	66
Albert J. Suess Jr.	Pittsburgh, PA	2	5,214	26
Carolyn Traglia	Port Griffith, PA	3	8,330	41
Dennis J. Zifcak	East Douglas, MA	1	1,000	5
Totals		28	\$370,077	1,965

**Slovak Catholic Federation to host
35th SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal**

(Continued from page 13)

tor of Epiphany Parish in Sayre, Pa. who is also coordinator of the annual appeal.

In our church today, we are finding more and more individuals of Slovak ancestry do not attend traditionally founded Slovak parishes, for a number of reasons. Because of this reality today, the monies raised for this appeal come both from the collections taken up in our Slovak parishes as well as from individual donors.

As Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, I am extremely

pleased that our organization also with a number of our Sokol Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths have contributed to this appeal in the past. I hope that they will continue their generosity.

Finally, kindly send your tax deductible donation made payable to Slovak Catholic Federation, noting that it is for the Annual Appeal to National Secretary-Treasurer of the Slovak Catholic Federation: Dolores M. Evanko, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201. Thank you and may God bless you for your generosity. Zdar Boh!

SPOLOČENSKÉ PODUJATIA

Ples v Bridgeview, IL

Slovenský folklórny súbor Veselica usporiada v sobotu 2. februára o 5.30 hodine večer ples. Bude sa konať v Paradise Elegant Banquets, 9220 South Harlem Avenue, Bridgeview, IL. Do tanca bude hrať DJ Michal a Folklórna hudba Veselica. Vstupné je \$52.00 za osobu. V cene je započítaná večera, dezert a káva, na každom stole bude fľaša vodky a bar bude otvorený celú noc.

Rezervácie a bližšie informácie na tel.č.: 773-780-8599 alebo 630-544-0162. Vstupenky sú v predpredaji do 28. januára.

Zábava Greenfield, WI

20. zobr Slovenskej ligy v Milwaukee, WI usporiada Fašiangovú zábavu v sobotu 9. februára v Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 S. 103rd Street v Greenfield, Wisconsin. Začiatok bude o 6.00 hodine a trvať bude do 11. hod. večer. V kultúrnom programe o 7.30 hod. sa predstaví slovenský folklórny súbor Tatra Slovak Dancers. Vstupné je \$5.00 za osobu. Na predaj budú slovenské jedlá, zákusky a koláče.

Bližšie informácie: Betty Valent, tel. č. 414-425-6137 alebo Ellen Tavela, tel.č.: 262-893-7483.

Slovenský ples NYC

Slovensko-americké kultúrne stredisko v New Yorku usporiada 21. Slovenský ples v sobotu 9. februára v New York Athletic Club, 180 Central Park South, NY. O 6.00 hodine bude recepcia a o 7.00 hod. bude podávaná večera.

Vstupné je \$160.00 za osobu. Vstupenky si možno objednať na internetovej adrese: <http://Ball2013.slovakamericanc.org>

Minister obrany SR navštívil vojakov v Afganistane

Minister obrany Slovenskej republiky Martin Givčák spolu s členmi brannobezpečnostného výboru Národnej rady SR navštívil v 15. januára slovenských vojakov pôsobiacich na základni v Kandaháre v rámci operácie ISAF. Po prvýkrát sprevádzal ministra obrany na jeho ceste aj veľvyslanec USA na Slovensku Theodore Sedgwick.

Na letisku v Kandaháre privítal ministra obrany a členov delegácie veliteľ slovenského kontingentu pplk. Zoltán Farkas. V operácii ISAF pôsobí v súčasnosti 253 príslušníkov OSSR, vrátane štyroch žien. Ich počet sa po Novom roku znížil odchodom multifunkčnej ženijnej roty a strážnej jednotky z provincie Uruzgan.

Najväčšou slovenskou jednotkou v Afganistane je jednotka

strážnej služby, ktorá zabezpečuje ochranu a obranu základne na letisku v Kandaháre (KAF). Okrem toho slovenskí vojaci pôsobia na veliteľstve kontingentu, v národnom podpornom prvku, v poradenských a výcvikových tímoch, a v ďalších štruktúrach tejto vojenskej operácie. V súvislosti s plánovaním novej operácie NATO v Afganistane bola nasadená nová jednotka – spojovacia jednotka – NATO DCM, do ktorej boli vyslaní prvýkrát v histórii OS SR traja slovenskí príslušníci z ružomberkej jednotky DCM-C 3.NSB.

Slovenská jednotka tvorí neoddeliteľnú súčasť skupiny NATO pre komunikačné a informačné systémy a plní úlohu v prospech veliteľských štruktúr Severoatlantickej aliance.

- TASR

Domáce produkty na vylepšenie imunity

Balíček sušených hrozienok vysype do misky a zalejte ich vriacou vodou. Po chvíli scedte. Na hrozienka vytlačte šťavu z dvoch citrónov a nechajte cez noc nasiaknuť. Vitamín C viazaný na hrozňový cukor potom v organizme rýchlejšie účinkuje a zabraňuje infekcii.

Hoci cesnak, cibula a chren fungujú ako prírodné „antibiotiká“, pre prenikavú arómu nie sú veľmi obľúbené, no aspoň cez víkend si ich pravidelne doprajte na zvýšenie obranyschopnosti.

Do skleneného pohára navrstvite plátky umytého citróna aj so šupkou a plátky očisteného zázvoru. Zalejte medom. Uskladnite v chladničke a na posilnenie odolnosti si denne lyžičku medu presiaknutého zázvorovou a citrónovou šťavou rozmiešajte v teplej vode a vypite.

Na posilnenie imunity je potrebné zvýšiť príjem omega-3 mastných kyselín. Preto rozmixujte 120 g tvarohu aspoň s 10-percentným obsahom tuku, 2 až 5 lyžíc lanového oleja, 1-3 lyžice lanových semienok, 2 lyžice jogurtu a trochu vody podľa potreby. Vzniknutý jemný krém ochutíte medom alebo cesnakom či pažitkou. Má ideálne nastavený pomer tukov a proteínov, preto je schopný prečistiť a tým aj liečiť celý organizmus. Pripravujte si ho denne počas dvoch týždňov.

Aj škorica pomáha posilňovať odolnosť organizmu a považuje sa za prírodné antivirotikum. Zmierňuje príznaky prechladnutia, zbavuje organizmus hlienov, povzbudzuje pri psychickej skleslosti. Užívajte štipku, maximálne štvrt kávovej lyžičky denne, v pohári vody alebo s lyžičkou medu.

Tri-štyri dni popíjajte nápoj z pohára teplej vody, dvoch lyžíc jablčného octu a dvoch kávových lyžičiek medu, posilní vás a zničí prípadné baktérie. Doprajte si ho trikrát denne.

Šípky sú cenné pre veľký obsah vitamínov vápnika a karoténu a sú výborné ako prevencia proti chrípke, pri prechladnutí, infekčných ochoreniach, rekonvalescencii aj únave.

Lipový čaj podávaný trikrát denne blahodarne a preventívne pôsobí na hrdlo aj nos.

Od bacilov vás bude držať ďaleko aj polievka z kyslej kapusty.

Prekúrený vzduch v spálni zbytočne vysušuje a oslabuje sliznicu dýchacích ciest a tá sa stáva vstupnou bránou pre vírusy či baktérie, preto vetrajte, stlňte kúrenie a zvlhčujte si vzduch.

Spomalte tempo, doprajte si viac oddychu a spánku, no aj športovanie a prechádzky na čerstvom vzduchu.

- Pluska.sk

O zotrvaní U.S. Steel na Slovensku budú rokovať aj v USA

(Pokračovanie zo str. 20)

na mieste, aby sa vláda zaoberala otázkou zachovania zamestnanosti, ktorá má v súčasnosti prioritu,“ zdôvodnil Kažimír. Jedným dychom však dodal, že U.S. Steel podľa neho zatiaľ o žiadnu pomoc nepožiadala. Fabrika dáva prácu zhruba 11-tisíc ľuďom.

Američanom sa pred časom na Slovensku skončili daňové prázdniny a aj pre krízu v sektore zvažujú predat svoju jedinú fabriku v Európe. Zvažujú z viacerých ponúk. Podľa informácií Pravdy sa o košickú oceliareň má zaujímať aj ruský oceliarsky líder spoločnosť Severstal. Ten na to reagoval, že „odpoveď na podobné otázky býva štandardná“. Prípadný záujem Severstal nevylúčil, ale ani nepotvrdil, ani po dodatočných otázkach.

Veľké firmy sa spravidla k prebiehajúcim rokovaniam nevyjadrujú. Podľa medializovaných informácií mal americký vlastník košických oceliarní rokovať o odpredaji košickej fabriky naisto s ukrajinskou firmou Metinvest, ktorá patrí do skupiny System Capital Management oceliarskeho magnáta Rinata Achmetovova. Predtým sa tiež spomínal ruský Evraz, ktorý

patrí podnikateľovi Romanovi Abramovičovi.

V košických železiarňach panuje podobná situácia ako v hlinikárni Slovalco v Žiari nad Hronom, ktorá priamo i nepriamo zamestnáva asi 3-tisíc pracovníkov. Vlastníci oboch výrobní totiž v dohľadnom čase budú musieť minúť na rekonštrukciu relatívne veľké sumy peňazí. Žiarskej hlinikárni sa však koncom roku 2013 skončí dvadsaťročný dlhodobý kontrakt na dodávku elektriny za podobné ceny, ako majú podobné fabriky napríklad v Nemecku. Manažment síce využil opciu dodávky počas nasledujúcich päť rokov. O bližších podmienkach sa však ešte stále rokuje. Náklady na elektrinu totiž vstupujú do výroby hliníka v ešte väčšej miere, ako do výroby ocele.

Americký U.S. Steel s centrárou v pennsylvánskom Pittsburghu spracúva väčšinu ocele v USA a Kanade. Podľa webových stránok majú jeho oceliarne možnosť produkcie 29,3 milióna ton ročne. Okrem produkcie ocele vyrába U.S. Steel napríklad aj hotové výrobky pre automobilový priemysel, stavebníctvo, olejársky alebo plynársky priemysel. - TASR

Posolstvo KBS Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí

(Pokračovanie zo str. 20)

Žíte podľa neho neprestajne, budte mu verní, ochraňujte ho v tej istote, že ono je základom duchovnej veľkosti a kultúrnej výšky vášho národa...“

Čo iné vám teda, drahí krajanovia, môžeme na konci nášho posolstva zaželať, ako v duchu citovaných slov blahoslaveného pápeža Jána Pavla II. skutočnú vytrvalosť v každodennom svedectve o

pravých hodnotách, stálu vernosť pri ich ochrane a pri zvyšovaní kultúrnej úrovne spočívajúcej na duchovných princípoch.

Všetkým vám, našim slovenským bratom a sestram v zahraničí, vyprosujeme na príhovor Sedembolestnej Panny Márie a svätých vierozvestov Cyrila a Metoda hojné Božie požehnanie.

-Biskupi Slovenska, TK KBS

Ach, tá naša slovenčina...

Chátrajúca stanica v Banskej Bystrici sa zmení na Terminal Shopping Center. - pluska.sk

Očekujú halu, ubytujú sa a zrejme absolvujú aj prehliadku mesta.“ - sme.sk



Dlhotrvajúce sneženie vytvorilo v slovenských horách rozprávkovú krajinu.

Za Boha a Národ For God and Nation
Slovenský Katolícky Sokol
Slovak Catholic Sokol

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VOLUME CII

PASSAIC, N.J., 23. JANUÁRA 2013

ČÍSLO 4982

Posolstvo KBS Slovákom žijúcim v zahraničí

Posolstvo Konferencie biskupov Slovenska krajanom žijúcim v zahraničí pri príležitosti Roku viery a Roku svätých Cyrila a Metoda

Drahí Slováci mimo hraníc Slovenska, milí krajanovia, bratia a sestry!

V tomto roku 1150-teho výročia príchodu svätých vierozvestov Cyrila a Metoda k našim predkom - a súčasne v tomto Roku viery - si zvlášť intenzívne uvedomujeme naše duchovné a národné korene. Nie sú to dva odlišné, akoby rozštípené korene, ale vlastne iba jeden jediný. Veď našu duchovnú - kresťanskú, a národnú - slovenskú identitu nemožno od seba odtrhnúť. Iba evanjeliové posolstvo Kristovej lásky totiž dáva všetkému pevnosť, stálosť a vnútornú silu. Bez Kristovho posolstva by sme sa neboli mohli naozaj rozvinúť a uvedomiť si, že iba zomknúť okolo Pána pánov a Kráľa kráľov môžeme vytvoriť skutočnú národnú rodinu, por-

korne hrdú na svoju minulosť, zodpovednú za svoju prítomnosť a dúfajúcu vo svoju budúcnosť. „Budete mojim ľudom a ja budem vašim Bohom“ - sľubuje Stvoriteľ u proroka Ezechiela.

Preto sa o radostnú vďačnosť za cyrilometodskú misiu chceme podeliť aj s vami, našimi krajanmi, ktorí sa k tejto spirituálnej a národnej identite, postavenej na duchovnom impulze svätých solúnskych bratov, aj dnes hlásite v rôznych krajinách sveta. Ba môžeme povedať, že ste v určitom zmysle pokračovateľmi ich misie: podobne ako oni ste aj vy, či vaši predkovia z rôznych príčin odišli z domova; podobne ako oni ste vo svojich nových domovoch vydali a vydávate svedectvo o viere postavenej na skutočných evanjeliových hodnotách. Preto pokladáme cyrilometodské jubileum a Rok viery vyhlásené Svätým Otcom Benediktom XVI. za vhodnú príležitosť vyjadriť vám podakovanie za to, že ste sa napriek

staženým podmienkam dokázali nielen stať užitočnými členmi vášho nového spoločenstva, ale v tomto novom prostredí ste si zachovali živú duchovnú tradíciu z pôvodnej slovenskej vlasti. Tou živou tradíciou je katolícka viera, postavená na osobnej viere v Božieho Syna Ježiša Krista, na eucharistickej a mariánskej úcte, na úcte k Svätému Otcovi, na zomknutej rodine otvorenej pre nový život, na zdravej národnej hrdosti láskyplne otvorenej aj pre inú národnosť i kultúru.

Ďakujeme vám, drahí krajanovia, za to, že slovenská rodina mariánskych a cyrilometodských čítateľov objíma aj vašou zásluhou mnohé krajiny a viaceré kontinenty. Ďakujeme vám za ochotu prekonávať aj väčšie vzdialenosti, aby ste stretli svoju slovenskú komunitu a v nej zdieľali duchovné spoločenstvo vyrastajúce z cyrilometodskej tradície. Vďaka patrí aj vám, veriacim študentom, stredoškôlkam a vysokoškôlkam, ktorí vo svojom školskom a akademickom prostredí svedčíte o svojej viere v Ježiša Krista. Aj vás, ktorí ste prišli za prácou, nech Pán požehnáva a dá vám silu ukázať cez jej zodpovedné vykonávanie pravú lásku, pochádzajúcu od Krista. Ak sa budeme aj my navzájom za seba modliť prosiac o príhovor našu Sedembolestnú matku aj svätých solúnskych misionárov, potom bude toto spoločné svedectvo pokračovať. Dôležité je stále obnovovať jednotu našich komunit, ktorých svedectvo by bez dobroprajnosti a odpúšťania sotva mohlo byť účinné.

Keď v roku 1981 blahoslavený Ján Pavol II. navštívil v Ríme Slovenský ústav sv. Cyrila a Metoda, tam prítomným Slovákom o cyrilometodskej tradícii povedal: „Zostávajúte verní tomuto dedičstvu. Poznávajte ho stále hlbšie, do hĺbok, vo všetkých životných smeroch, so všetkými dôsledkami pre osobný a spoločenský život.

„V hutníckom priemysle je (Pokračovanie na str. 19)

(Pokračovanie na str. 19)

Správy zo Slovenska Vybrané zo slovenskej tlače



▼ V poradí druhý Slovákom po Ivanovi Bellovi má šancu prejsť výcvikom kozmonauta a absolvovať vesmírny let plánovaný na budúci rok. Musí však splniť niekoľko podmienok, medzi ktoré patrí aj náročný výcvik na Floride. Do národného kola Central Europe Space Camp postúpi po registrácii záujemcov osem Slovákov a jeden z nich absolvuje v rámci finálového kola aj výcvik v Space Camp na Floride.

▼ Vietnamská komunita na Slovensku má záujem stať sa národnostnou menšinou. Na slovensku v súčasnosti žije asi päťtisíc Vietnamcov, hlavne v Bratislave a na Považí. O priznaní statusu rozhoduje vláda. Naposledy sa národnostnou menšinou v roku 2010 stali Srbi a pred nimi v roku 2003 Rusi.

▼ Slovensko si naďalej udržuje pozíciu medzi významnými svetovými producentmi automobilov. Tri slovenské automobilky - Volkswagen, PSA a Kia - vyprodukovali za minulý rok rekordný počet vyše 900.000 automobilov. Zvyšovanie výroby sa pozitívne odzrkadlilo aj na

raste zamestnanosti v automobilovom priemysle, kde pribudlo približne 3 000 pracovných miest. S počtom 166 vyrobených automobilov na 1 000 obyvateľov patrí Slovensko k európskej špičke.

▼ Prepušťanie, rušenie miest a nižšie odmeny - to všetko čaká štátnych úradníkov tento rok v rámci šetrenia. Týka sa to všetkých ministerstiev, nakoľko dostali na tento rok na platy o päť percent menej ako vlni.

▼ Počet dobrovoľných dražieb bytov a domov na Slovensku láme rekordy. Každý deň končí v dražbe takmer 11 bytov či domov. Problémom sú nezvládnuteľné dlhy a nezamestnanosť. V roku 2003 bolo vykonaných 217 dražieb nehnuteľností. V roku 2012 ich bolo 3 916.

▼ Podľa údajov Štatistického úradu Slovenskej republiky je najväčšia rozvodovosť v Rožňave. Zo 100 zosobašených párov sa rozvedie 68. Za rozpadom manželstiev je často ťažká finančná situácia rodín, nezamestnanosť, odchod partnerov za prácou a nadmerné požívanie alkoholu.

O zotrvaní U.S. Steel na Slovensku budú rokovať aj v USA

Rokovania o zotrvaní U.S. Steel v košických železiarňach sa v dohľadnej budúcnosti zrejme presunú zo Slovenska na americkú pôdu. Minister hospodárstva Tomáš Malatinský má totiž podľa informácií Pravdy vycestovať priamo na pôdu medzinárodného železiarskeho gigantu, aby s tamojšími manažérmi priamo v USA rokoval o ponechaní železiarní na Slovensku. Presný termín ešte nie je určený.

Po stredajšom rokovaní vlády minister oznámil, že bližšie informácie k rozhovoru poskytovať nebude. „Rokovania sú diskretné. Hľadajú sa nejaké riešenia, ale poprosil by som, aby sme nekonkretizovali žiadne riešenia a čísla, keďže sme v štádiu rokovaní,“ povedal šéf hospodárskeho rezortu.

Jednou z možností, ako by mohlo Slovensko Američanom motivovať k zotrvaní v krajine,

je poskytnutie úľav na platbách za elektrinu. Podľa Hospodárskych novín totiž štát chce ponúknuť americkej spoločnosti zníženie poplatkov za dodávku elektriny. Na základe rozhodnutia regulačného úradu spoločnosť U.S. Steel platí plnú výšku sumy za systémové služby, pričom pred dvoma rokmi platila zhruba tretinu z tejto sumy. Zníženie poplatkov za systémové služby by však okresalo zárobky štátnej Slovenskej elektrizačnej prenosovej sústavy, ktorá svoje dividendy posielala do štátnej kasy.

Podľa ministra financií Petra Kažimíra sa už na rezorte o tejto možnosti diskutovalo. Preberali sa možnosti, ako znížiť ceny energií napríklad pre OFZ Istebné, žiarsku hliníkárňu Svalco či košický U.S. Steel.

„V hutníckom priemysle je (Pokračovanie na str. 19)



Niekoľko dní intenzívne sneženie v polovici januára skomplikovalo život ľudí na Slovensku. V Bratislave museli 17. januára vyhlásiť kalamiťnú situáciu, kolabovala doprava a mesto vyzývalo ľudí, aby obmedzili jazdu autami, nakoľko mnohé časti mesta zostali pre dopravu úplne nezjazdne. V meste sa vykolajili tri električky, čo situáciu v doprave skomplikovalo ešte viac.