Scenes of the 69th International Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament held in conjunction with the Greek Catholic Union’s 79th Bowling Tournament

Freeway Bowling Lanes + Radisson Hotel + Wickliffe, Ohio + May 15-17

Members of the 3rd place women’s team included, l-r, Barbara Rusch - 1st place in singles; Linda Bartek, Maria Marks and Michelle Davis.

Lovely Sokolky are shown above and include, l-r, Allison Macko, Carol Macko and Karen Bakita who were 1st place doubles, and Rose Bakita.

3rd place men’s team winners are shown above and include, l-r, Steven Romanchak, George Romanchak, Wayne Newmyer and Ian Paul.

Frank S. Petruff Memorial Sports Award
Recipients to date in bowling competition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male Winner</th>
<th>Female Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Nancy Ann Ramirez</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Robert Kunrod</td>
<td>Lilly, PA</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Michael J. Dilany</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Veronica E. Papcun</td>
<td>Sterling Hts, MI</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Joseph Pavlik</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Victor Sivartla</td>
<td>Reading, PA</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Gerry Carpen</td>
<td>Whiting, IN</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Bernard J. Monchak</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Steve A. Pavleje</td>
<td>Milwaukee, WI</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Mary T. Anthony</td>
<td>Bethlehem, PA</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Rudy Krnek</td>
<td>Clifton, NJ</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Thomas J. Matty</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Joseph V. Gebura</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Helen M. Klimchak</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Helen Glogos</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Richard Underation</td>
<td>Barberton, OH</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Andrew Hvozdovic</td>
<td>Wilkes-Barre, PA</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Sophie Macurak</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Anthony J. Gledava</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Walt Kazmierczak</td>
<td>Reading, PA</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>John S. Pupik, Sr.</td>
<td>Rossford, OH</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Mary Ann Naple</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Margaret Kunrod</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Michael Romanchik</td>
<td>Detroit, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Joanne Spisak</td>
<td>Johnstown, PA</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Paul Avranoko</td>
<td>Clifton, NJ</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Paul E. Sweeney</td>
<td>Lilly, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Albert J. Pogorelec</td>
<td>Clifton, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Michael T. Matras</td>
<td>Perryopolis, PA</td>
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*Deceased
At Slovakia’s oldest marien shrine

600,000 participate in traditional pilgrimage in Levoca, July 4-5

Nearly 600,000 pilgrims from across Slovakia gathered at Marian-ska hora (Marian Hill) in Levoca for the traditional pilgrimage honoring Our Lady, under her title of her Visitation to her cousin Elizabeth. Pilgrims gathered for the various Masses and other devotions associated with the pilgrimage over the weekend of July 3-5. Thousands of pilgrims converged on the historical hill-top shrine, many walking in groups from villages and towns in eastern Slovakia. The concluding pilgrimage Mass, celebrated outdoors on Sunday, July 5, attracted a crowd estimated at 600,000. Principal celebrant and homilist at the liturgy was His Eminence, Stanislav Cardinal Dziwiz, Archbishop of Krakow in Poland. Cardinal Dziwiz is the former long-time secretary of Pope Saint John Paul II. Bishops from across Slovakia, including Archbishop Stanislav Zvolensky of Bratislava, Archbishop Bernard Boher of Kosice as well as the local Bishop of Spis Stefan Scekka join the Cardinal at the liturgy.

The pilgrimage commemorated the 200th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s visit to Slovakia as well as promoting the institution of the family in anticipation of the upcoming World Meeting of Families scheduled for September in Philadelphia and the Synod on the Family scheduled for October in Rome. According to the moderator of the pilgrimage Jozef Lapsansky, preaching in Slovak, Cardinal Dziwiz spoke about his relationship with Pope John Paul II, noting the former pope’s belief as early as in 1984 during the communist-era Czechoslovakia that he would visit Levoca one day. When Pope John Paul II visited Levoca in 1995,

he celebrated Mass in Slovak on July 3 before a record audience of more than 650,000 pilgrims, the largest gathering in Slovakia’s history. Cardinal Dziwiz extended an invitation to Slovakia’s youth to journey to Krakow to participate in the World Youth Festival scheduled for August 2016. It was Pope John Paul II who inaugurated these gatherings of young people.

Levoca is Slovakia’s oldest marien shrine attracting pilgrims for nearly 500 years. The statue of Our Lady, carved from pear wood was placed before the outdoor altar. Throughout the year, it is housed in the neo-gothic Basilica of Our Lady of Levoca which dates from the mid-nineteenth century. The traditional pilgrimage taking place on Marianiska hora since the Mongol invasion of the 13th century. Pilgrims have gathered to thank Almighty God through the intercession of His Mother for sparing the country from conquest from the Mongols. The first chapel was built on the site in 1247. The present shrine was solemnly blessed during the July 1922 pilgrimage by Bishop Jozef Vojtasik, the ordinary of the Spis Diocese. Pope John Paul II elevated the shrine church to the status of a minor basilica in 1984. In 1930, an American shrine honoring Our Lady of Levoca was established at the former Motherhouse of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity in Bedford, Pa. An exact replica of the statue of Our Lady was carved in Slovakia of pearwood and placed in the Bedford chapel. According to local tradition, this statue is now found in the Parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Bedford Heights, Oh. which is staffed by the Slovak Benedictines of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland.

Monsignor Michael J. Chaback, S.T.D., Group 10 chaplain, set to retire

After serving 45 active years of priestly ministry in the Diocese of Allentown, Monsignor Michael J. Chaback, S.T.D. will retire this summer. He currently serves as director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate. He will reside at Queen of Mary Rectory in Northampton, Pa.

Monsignor Chaback, who is 71, grew up in SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish on Bethlehem’s South Side. He would later serve for 16 years as its beloved pastor. Serving as pastor of one’s home parish is truly a unique experience. Not only did he know most of the people, he often joked that he was related to half the parish.

After graduating from the former SS. Cyril and Methodius School and Bethlehem Catholic High School, young Michael chose to answer the call of the Lord to serve in priestly ministry. He entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook, outside Philadelphia. He was an excellent student, absorbing all the new thought following the Second Vatican Council. He was sent to Rome to complete his theological studies where he studied at the Pontifical Roman Seminary at the Pontifical Lateran University where he received a doctorate in Sacred Theology. These were exciting years to be in the Eternal City. On May 17, 1970, he was ordained to the priesthood by Pope Paul VI in St. Peter’s Square, a great privilege and a tradition inaugurated in the post Vatican II Church. Upon his return to the United States, Father Michael celebrated his first solemn liturgy in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Bethlehem, where he was baptized and served as an altar boy, to the great delight of the pastor at the time, Monsignor Felix J. Labuda.

Father Chaback’s first assignment was as an assistant at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Allentown. A popular and admired teacher, he then became an associate professor at Allentown Central Catholic High School and secretary of the Diocesan Tribunal in residence at Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, Pa. In 1973, he was appointed to the faculty of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. He remained on the faculty as professor of theology until 1992. In recognition of his outstanding efforts on behalf of the Church, Father Chaback received papal honors in 1991 when St. John Paul II named him a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor. As a scholar, he has also served as a member of the Diocesan textbook Review Committee, the Bethlehem Catholic High School Advisory Board and the Diocesan Board of Education.

In 1992, to the delight of the Bethlehem Slovak community, Monsignor Chaback returned as pastor of his home parish, where he would serve for 16 years. He served as the Vicar Forane of the Northampton Deanery from 2000 to 2006. Monsignor Chaback left SS. Cyril and Methodius in 2008, at the time five Bethlehem parishes were merged into one, Incarnation of Our Lord. The new parish used the facilities of SS. Cyril and Methodius which was founded in 1891 to serve the Slovak community. This was one of the two oldest Slovak parishes in the United States dedicated to the Apostles of the Slavs. The other parish is located in Minneapolis, Minn. Since 2008, Monsignor Chaback has served as Director of the Office of the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Allentown.

Monsignor Chaback has always appreciated his Slovak heritage. He has been our Sokol of Assembly 78 since his boyhood days. He continues to serve as chaplain of Group 10, “Rev. Francis Satinek” and has rep...
Thoughts on Fraternalism

by Larry M. Glugosh

It is hard to believe that August is almost here. I hope that many of our Slovak Catholic Sokol members and officers are enjoying their local summer fraternal activities including Group and church picnics, golf outings, community trips and family events.

Along with the many local event that our society continues to support, we are also getting ready to host our 32nd Annual and Quadrennial Convention to be held in Pittsburgh, Pa. from August 1st - 5th. As of today, we have over 200 delegates registered to attend our convention at the Hilton by Doubletree Hotel in the Greentree area of Pittsburgh.

The delegates for this year’s Convention include our Supreme Officers, Honorary Supreme Officers, local officers and society members. During the four (4) working days of the Convention, the delegates will review full file and make decisions for the betterment of our future. As indicated in my previous article last month, all committees have been established for the Convention. We would like to thank the delegates who will serve on the various committees and ask all delegates to provide them your support and understanding.

In addition to our Convention delegates, we have also invited members of the clergy, government dignitaries and leaders from other Fraternal Benefit Societies to represent their membership at our Convention. We welcome all of our guests and hope they will have an enjoyable experience at our Convention.

Since many of our delegates are “first timers,” I thought it might be worthwhile to provide you some pre-Convention insights. First of all, we have a full agenda and will ask you to arrive at all meetings on time in appropriate business casual attire. We do not accept shorts, flip flop shoes or tank top shirts at convention sessions.

In terms of the Convention governance, the official rules and regulations will be announced at the opening session. However, it is important to highlight a few key items. To begin with, kindly wait for your opportunity to speak and be respectful and polite to your fellow delegates. We do not applaud or disrupt speakers who wish to share their views and opinions but rather encourage debate on matters that affect the future and betterment of our society. It is also important to keep in mind that you are representing not only yourself but your Groups, Assemblies and Wreaths that elected you to represent them at the Convention. Therefore, we know you will conduct yourselves professionally and contribute to the future growth of our society.

Lastly, we want this to be a pleasurable experience and hope all of our delegates enjoy their time at the Convention and take part in some of the social aspects provided by our organization and supported by the local sponsors and members in the host city of Pittsburgh. It is a beautiful city and we hope you will return to your families and friends with some great memories to share.

To conclude, I wish all of you the very best for the remainder of the summer and I look forward to seeing you soon. May God bless all of you!

Slovak Calendar

SUN.JULY 19

- 42nd annual Slovak Day celebration of the Diocese of Gary at the Salvatorian Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville, Ind. beginning with Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by luncheon and cultural program, for information call Betty Yurechko (219)793-1518.
- Slovak Family Day observance hosted by the American Slovak Zemplin Social Club, at the Slovak Sokol Camp, 2069 Royalwood Rd., between State and Broadway Rd., Broadview Heights, Oh. beginning at 12 noon, Slovak culinary specialties, games for children, music by the Johnny Pastrik Band, for information call (440)885-5702.

SUN.JULY 26

- 85th annual Slovak American Day hosted by the Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee, at Croatian Park, 9140 South 76th St., Franklin, Wis. beginning with Mass celebrated at 12 noon, cultural program featuring Group 4 Sokol drillers beginning at 2:30 p.m., Slovak culinary specialties, games for children, free admission, for information call Betty Yurechko (414)4251-6137.
- 32nd national quadrennial convention at The Double Tree by Hilton Pittsburgh Green Tree Hotel, 500 Mansfield Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. (412)922-8400.

SUN.AUG.9

- Annual Sokol Picnic celebration hosted by Wreath 81 at the Sacred Heart Rose Room, 1731 LaPorte Ave., Whiting, Ind. beginning at 12 noon, free for members guests $5.00, for reservations call Judy Strisko at (219)659-6743.
- New York - New Jersey area Slovak Day pilgrimage to the Solitary Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians, Filors Lane, West Haverstraw, N.Y.; confessions at 10 a.m., outdoor Mass at 11 a.m., followed by luncheon and Mass devotions beginning at 2:30 p.m.
- 10th annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Sokol Fest on the grounds of our Lady of Sorrows Parish/St. Michael Church, 915 Cornell St., Youngstown, Oh. noon to 8 p.m., for information call Loretta Ekonis, (330)549-3760, loretha.ekonis@gmail.com.

AUGUST 14-16

- Summer Festival hosted by SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, 1835 Second St., Meadowlands, Minn. on the parish grounds from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., games, Slovak and Spanish culinary specialties, activities for children, games of chance, for information call (612)379-9736.

AUGUST 23-28

- Annual Slovak Festival hosted by SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, 41233 Ryan Road (north of 18 Mile Road), Sterling Heights, Mich., daily entertainment, games, Slovak culinary specialties; Saturday vigil Mass at 4 p.m., Sunday Mass in Slovak at 11:30 a.m., for information call (586)726-6911.
- 81st annual pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, hosted by the Sisters of St. Basil the Great at Mount Macrina, Uniontown, Pa.
- 100th anniversary pilgrimage of the Milwaukee area Slovak community to the Basilica of the Holy Hill, 1525 Carmel Rd., Hubertus, Wis. beginning at 8:30 p.m.; for information call Betty Valenit (414)425-6137.
- 129th annual meeting of the American Fraternal Alliance, JW Marriott Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.
- Pilgrimage of the Slovak Catholic Federation commemorating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 4th St. & Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C., beginning with the arrival of pilgrims at 11:30 a.m. and religious program; Pontifical Mass at 3 p.m. followed by a cocktail reception at the Embassy of Slovakia beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- 30th annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar hosted by the Slovak Catholic Federation at Garden Chalet Banquets, 11000 South Ridge Lane Ave., Worth, Ill., beginning with registration at 11 a.m., lecture and discussion for $25.00 per person, for reservations call Geri Hlisko at (708)387-7812.

SUNSET 27

- 38th annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival at the PNC Bank Arts Center off Exit 116 of the Garden State Parkway in Holmdel, N.J., exhibits open at 10 a.m., cultural programs begins at 11 a.m., cultural program begins at 2 p.m., soccer match throughout the afternoon, Slovak culinary specialties and imported Slovak arts, crafts and crystal; free admission and free parking.

A Vacation Word...

In underdeveloped countries, beware of the water. Underdeveloped countries, beware of the air. In the U.S., beware of both air and water...plus traffic.

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON, JULY 15, 2015  PAGE 3
The testing and entertaining evening is assured enjoying the relations of many popular Slovak folk songs. An inter-popular Slovak musician who has completed the transcavanaugh Music and Songs will feature Jerry Jumba, the Monday, November 2nd program titled “Slovak Language Week” will be held at 7:30 p.m. The theme of the evening is “From the Velvet Revolution to European Union in Bratislava. Bethany is currently a student at the language and culture classes hosted by Comenius University.

The Monday, October 5th program “Summer of Our Lady Help of Christians located on Flors Lane in West Haverstraw, N.Y. The annual tribute to Our Lady recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also recalls the rich pilgrimage traditions in Slovakia. This year’s pilgrimage also.

Slovak Heritage Society hosts installation of new directors

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania has hosted its annual meeting and installation of officers recently at King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Officers and directors installed during the ceremonies and dinner included: Chairman of the Board of Directors, Professor Philip R. Tuhy, Wilkes-Barre; Corresponding Secretary, Bernadette Yencha, Wilkes-Barre; Recording Secretary, Anna Hudack, Wilkes-Barre; Financial Advisor, Magdalen M. Ber- nish, Plains; Treasurer, Jackson Hendershot, Wilkes-Barre; Public Relations Director, William A. Zdance- wicz, Edwardsville; Education Co-Chair, Andrew Sofrnik, Hanover Township; Education Co-Chair, Helen Savinski, Swansea; Membership Chair, Mary Migatulski, Wilkes-Barre; Dinner Chair, Elaine Palsichak, Plymouth; and directors: Dorothy Sullivan, Nanticoke; Joseph Kowatch, Kingston; Anthony Pal- ishak, Plymouth; and Connie Plewniak, Wilkes-Barre Township.

The Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania was founded by our Honorary Supreme Officer, Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, S.T.L. while he was pastor of the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. During the American Bicentennial celebration of 1976 to promote various Slovak cultural activities. Over the years, the society has promoted a host of important Slovak cultural projects celebrating our rich heritage and traditions. The society hosts seasonal Slovak cultural events. Its most recent cultural project was the dedication of the Father Joseph Mugas Room, a mini-museum at King’s College. The room honors the many accomplishments of the Rev. Joseph Mugas, a pioneer in wireless telegraphy, artist, botanist and spiritual and cultural leader of the American Slovak community in the early years of the 20th century. The mini-museum was dedicated on June 4 at King’s on the Square, a facility of King’s College in downtown Wilkes-Barre, Pa. For information on the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania and its programs, visit its website at - www. slovaknhsp.org.

We congratulate the newly elected officers and directors and commend them for their continued promotion of our rich Slovak culture and heritage which contributes so much to the fabric of American cultural life.

85th Annual Milwaukee American Slovak Day set for Sunday, July 26

Continuing a cultural span of 85 years, the Milwaukee area Slovak community gathers once again to celebrate its heritage and culture on Sunday, July 26. The Federated Slovak Societies of Milwaukee
Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain

Prayer for the United States of America

by Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdovic

Written by the first American Bishop, the Most Rev. John Car- roll, D.D., Bishop of Baltimore, which at the time was the first and only Roman Catholic Diocese in the United States, in August 1791.

Bishop Carroll was a cousin of the lone Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Of course I have taken the liberty to modify the prayer by adding prayer for the current Holy Father. Though the prayer was written over 200 years ago it’s intention applies today and may I add not only for the United States but also for our neighbors to our north in Canada.

Please join me in making this prayer a part of your daily prayer routine.

We pray Thee, O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope Francis, the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, N., all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people in the ways of salvation.

We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and forbearance the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our magistrates who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, the most pure and immaculate Spouse of Jesus Christ, art ever ready to hear the prayers of Thy children, grant, we beseech Thee, in the nameof faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may come to that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the Benediction of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, may rest in the peace of the new Jerusalem.

Rev. Dominik Kalata was born on August 17, 1940 in the village of Nova Bela in southern Poland. This was one of the Slovak speaking vil-

ages of Spis which were incorporated into Po-
land following the First World War. He attend-
ed the Slovak elementary school in Nova Bela and the Slovak high school in Jelenka, Slovakia. He began his public priesthood at St. John’s in Allentown for the past seven years.

Monsignor Thomas J. Orsulak was installed in Lansford, Pa. on March 6, 1962 and was raised in the former St. Michael the Archangel Slo-
vak Parish, now the Parish of St. Catherines. He was graduated from St. Michael’s School and Marian High School in Tamaqua, Pa. He studied at the University of Scranton while in formation at Pius X Seminary in Dalton, Pa. and continued his priestly studies at the former Immaculate Conception in Northampton, Pa. He completed his theological studies at the Pontifical Lateran University, while in formation at the Pius X Ro-
an Seminary in Rome. Monsignor Orsulak was ordained a priest on the feast of Our Mother of Sorrows, September 15, 1990 at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Sienna in Allentown, Pa. by Bishop Thomas Welsh and celebrated his first solemn Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Slovak Church in Lansford. His assignments have included serving at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Sienna in Allentown, director of spiritual activities at Holy Name High School in Reading and assistant, St. Theresa of the Sacred Heart;Pastoral assistant of Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Hellertown; Sacred Heart, West Reading; and St. Ann’s, Emmaus. His first pastorate was at Holy Ghost in Bethlehem. For the past five years, he has been Pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Slovak Parish in Northampton, Pa. Father Straka is active in the American Slovak priestly community. He is a member of our Sokol Assembly 261 and serves as chaplain of group 12, “Rev. Anton Bernelak. He is also a member of Branch 175 of the First Catholic Slovak Union and serves as an elected board member of the Slovak Catholic Federation.

Our congratulations and fraternal greetings go out to Father Ka-
lata, Monsignor Orsulak and Father Straka as they celebrate milestones in their priestly ministry among us. They beautifully mirror our Cyrilical-Slovak heritage of faith and are a credit to the American Slovak community. May God continue to bless them with good health and hap-
piness in the years ahead. Ad multos, gloriouse annos and Zdrá Bôh!
On Saturday, September 12 the historic pilgrimage of the Slovak Catholic Federation is scheduled for Washington, D.C. The pilgrimage will take place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Catholic church in the United States. The shrine is located at 4th Street and Michigan Avenue, N.E. in our nation’s capital. The pilgrimage will be held in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of the founding of the First Slovak Catholic Union and the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia. It was on September 4, 1975 that the Slovak church was solemnly blessed and dedicated by the Apostolic Delegate in the United States and personal representative of Pope Paul VI, Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi. On that occasion a crowd of more than 10,000 from all parts of the United States and Canada participated.

The program for the pilgrimage begins with the arrival of pilgrims at 11:30 a.m. From 12 noon to 1:45 p.m. lunch will be available as well as tours of the basilica. The sacrament of reconciliation/confessions in English and Slovak will be available from 1 to 2 p.m. At 2 p.m. in the great Upper Church the official welcome will take place. Welcomes will be extended by the Rev. Msgr. J. Buonanno, director of pilgrimages at the shrine; the Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdyk, national president of the Slovak Catholic Federation and Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol; and Mr. Andrew M. Rajeck, president of the First Catholic Slovak Union. At 2:15 p.m., the opening prayer service of rosaries will take place. Recitation of the Rosary in English and Slovak will begin at 2:20 p.m. At 3 p.m. the principal pilgrimage liturgy will be celebrated in the great Upper Church. Principal celebrant and homilist of the liturgy will be His Eminence, Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington. From 4:15 to 4:30 p.m., the prayer of blessing will take place in the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows.

Following the liturgy at the Basilica of the National Shrine, a cocktail reception will be hosted at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in the United States, located at 3523 International Court, N.W. in Washington from 5 to 7 p.m. Pilgrims then depart at 7 p.m.

The Slovak Catholic Federation (SCF) is the representative body of American and Canadian Catholics of Slovak ancestry. It was founded on February 22, 1911 at the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. under the leadership of the Rev. Joseph Murgas. The SCF promotes the bonds of fraternal cooperation among Slovak Catholic fraternal and Catholic Sokols in the United States and Canada sponsoring various religious and social activities. It publishes an annual, Dox. Pastier - The Good Shepherd, which includes articles of interest to those of Slovak ancestry, both English and Slovak. Annual membership dues are $15.00 for individuals, $30.00 for a family, and Life Membership is available at $100.00 for those aged 60 and older and $150.00 for individually aged 59 and younger. Annual dues for local fraternal lodges and districts is $35.00. Membership includes a subscription to The Good Shepherd. For the past 37 years, the SCF has sponsored the SS. Cyril and Methodius Appre, which raises funds in support of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome as well as religious communities of men and women in Slovakia. For additional information on the SCF and this September’s pilgrimage, contact the national secretary-treasurer, Dolores M. Evanko at 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201. The current national president of the SCF is our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdyck of Sayre, Pa. Father Hvozdyck expresses thanks and gratitude to Sokol members and lodges for their continued support of the work of the SCF and hopes to see many of them in Washington, D.C. for the September 12th pilgrimage.

Minneapolis parish picnic on August 16

SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Minneapolis, Minn. will host its annual Summer Festival on Sunday, August 16 on the parish grounds located at 1315 Second Street, N.E. Mass will be celebrated by the Rev. Msgr. Michael O’Hara at 10:30 a.m. by the parish administrator, the Rev. Edison Galazar, O.C.S.S.S. Festivities will begin following Mass until 5 p.m. There will be plenty of homemade Slovak and Spanish culinary specialities along with traditional American picnic favorites. There will be games for children and adults alike, cake walk, pull-tabs, refreshments and door prizes available. The festival concludes at 5 p.m. with the traditional raffle drawing. An enjoyable summer afternoon is assured.

All Sokol members and their families are cordially invited to attend. In the best traditions of fraternal outreach and service, Sokols and Sokolky will be volunteering at the food and game booths. Members of either Assembly 34 and Wreath 47 are cordially invited to the Big Raffle booth for a free cash raffle entry and food/refreshment ticket. This activity replaces the annual Sokol family picnic.

SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, founded in 1891, is the only surviving Slovak parish in the United States to continue under the patronage of the Apostle of the Slavs. The Slovaks of Minneapolis are among the oldest colonies of Slovaks in America. Although geographically isolated from their Slovak communities, they continue to maintain their presence celebrating the culture and heritage of Slovakia. This year marks the 105th anniversary of the founding of our Sokol lodges, Assembly 34 and Wreath 47, which continue their activity in this historic Slovak parish.

Zdar Boh!
Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Director

Slovak Catholic Federation Pilgrimage schedule announced

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)
As part of our philanthropic endeavors, we have chosen the Wounded Warrior Project as our charity for the 32nd International Convention. The mission of this esteemed organization is to honor and empower wounded warriors. Their purpose is to raise awareness and enlist the public’s aid for the needs of injured service members, help injured service members and aid assist each other, and provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.

Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) serves veterans and service members who incurred a physical or mental injury, illness, or wound, co-incident to their military service on or after September 11, 2001 and their families. On that date, America watched in horror as approximately 3,000 people died including hundreds of firefighters and rescue workers. Many warriors note a sense of duty to volunteer for the military following these tragic events.

With advancements in battlefield medicine and body armor, an unprecedented percentage of service members are surviving severe wounds or injuries. For every US soldier killed in World Wars I and II, there were 1.7 soldiers wounded. In Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, for every US soldier killed, seven are wounded. Combined, over 48,000 servicemen and women have been physically injured in the recent military conflicts.

In addition to the physical wounds, it is estimated as many as 400,000 service members live with the invisible wounds of war including combat-related stress, major depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Another 520,000 are believed to have experienced a traumatic brain injury while on deployment.

If you, your Group, Assembly, or Wreath are interested in making a donation to this very worthy cause, please make checks payable to the Wounded Warrior Project and mail by July 20th to: Kathleen S. Watkins, 7019 Highland Creek Drive, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Zdar Boh!
Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Director

Slovak language classes set for Pittsburgh

There will be a change in the format for Slovak languages classes in Pittsburgh this fall. These classes will be directed toward intermediate and advanced students only. Looking ahead to the spring of 2016, Slovak language classes for beginners will return.

The fall Slovak classes are held every Tuesday, beginning on September 22nd. The classes will run until October 27th. The classes will be held at Mt. Lebanon Public Library located at 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard, in Mt. Lebanon section of Pittsburgh. Tuition is free and the instructor will be Bozena Hilk. These classes are sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association. To reserve a place in the fall classes, call Joe at (412)906-6000.

Zdar Boh!
Kathleen S. Watkins
Supreme Physical Director

Slovak Catholic Falcon, JULY 15, 2015

PAGE 6
ANNOUNCING THE KIDS’ CORNER SUMMER READING PROGRAM!!!!

If you love to read.....this is just the program for you. From June 15th-August 26th keep track of the name and author of each book that you read, and have your parents verify each with a signature. If you are not reading on your own yet, it is perfectly OK to have a parent, grandparent, babysitter.....etc. read to you. Try to read books that not only interest you, but challenge you as well. I will need the completed reading lists returned to me no later than September 15th. Include your name, address, Group number and age so that I can recognize you in the paper.

Notice that I have divided the groups based on reading ability....I did this as I anticipate the non-readers to achieve higher book totals as they may have books read to them on a more regular basis. The following is the breakdown of award levels.....keep in mind that those that reach higher levels will receive better prizes.

Non-Readers
- Level 1 16 books
- Level 2 24 books
- Level 3 32 or more books

Early Readers (sounding out most words)
- Level 1 8 books
- Level 2 16 books
- Level 3 24 or more books

Intermediate Readers (40+ pages each)
- Level 1 8 books
- Level 2 12 books
- Level 3 16 or more books

Advanced Readers (100+ pages each)
- Level 1 4 books
- Level 2 8 books
- Level 3 12 or more books

Do me a favor and highlight your favorite books on the list!!! I love to share the titles with other children....Good luck and have fun reading!!!!

Please send your completed reading lists to:
Julie Ann Dobbs-- 5314 Agatha Turn, Racine, WI 53402. If you prefer to do it on-line....you can e-mail it to me at vp@slovakcatholicsokol.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!!!

Jacob Wood 7/1
Karleigh Richnavsky 7/5
Dominik Luthens 7/6
Andrew John Michel 7/11
Michael Phillips III 7/12
Izaak Waddle 7/13
Phyllician Beitler 7/17
Travis Watkins 7/18
Edye Spangler 7/20
Ruby Korenoski 7/25
Christa Diaz 7/28
Alexa Sims 7/29
Emily Olexa 7/30

By Dr. Michael Kopanic

Slovak Words--Slovenské slová

Detský kútik [dyet-ski ] [koo-teek ] = Kid’s corner
Slovenské slová [Slow-ven-skeh slow-vaah ]

summer = leto  [le-toe]

dates, vacation = prázdniny  [prahz-nee-nee]
to go = ist’  [east]

I am going on vacation. = Idem na prázdniny  [Ee-dyem nah praahz-nee-nee]

Good luck 2015

Blet Participants
Scenes of the 69th International Slovak Catholic Sokol Bowling Tournament held in conjunction with the Greek Catholic Union’s 79th Bowling Tournament

Freeway Bowling Lanes + Radisson Hotel + Wickliffe, Ohio + May 15-17

4th place men’s team - tie, included, l-r, Marty Underation, Rich Underation, Peter Underation and Joe Burfield.

4th place men’s team - tie. Veronica Hrinyak is shown with, l-r, with Paul Dietz, Joe Hrinyak, John Shutack and Matthew Hrinyak.

Patricia Fischetti, Amy Shortall, Anna Marie Kuzma and Tracy Myers are all smiles for the camera.

Well-known Group 14 keglers enjoying the competition included, l-r, Christine Sofranko, Chrisy Piotrowski, Janet Mirt and Marianne Nalli.

Bernie Seruga and Dave Matty are shown with 1st place doubles winners, Clarence “Buffalo” Checton and Ed Elnikar.

Members of the 4th place women’s team included, l-r, Karen Adamek, Cheryl Fischer, Georgann Siesky and Lori Burns.

Enjoying this year’s competition are, l-r, Brian Miller, Bud Miller, Whitey Harbist and Dave Oleksa.

Shown above are from the left, Doug Simon, Robert Shedlock, Corey Shedlock and John Goberish.
The members of the 2nd place women’s team are shown above and include, l-r, Diana Simpson, Jean Karaffa Bonnie Ciresi and Deb Selip.

Members of the 6th place men’s team are shown above and include, l-r, George Juba, president of the Greek Catholic Union; Mike Suray, Ron Haller and Don Ribarchak.

Assembly 25 keglers from Perryopolis, Pa. are shown above and include, l-r, Alan Novotney, Steve Luecki, Rudy Hollman and Mike Todd.

Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Marty Degnan, right center, is shown with fellow Group 7 keglers including, from the left, Dave Check, Justin Gober and Tony Gober.

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Slovakia’s Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak honored departing United States Ambassador to Slovakia, Theodore Sedgwick at a reception in Bratislava on June 26. Minister Lajcak presented Ambassador Sedgwick with the ministry’s Golden Plaque for what Lajcak described as the ambassador’s extraordinary personal contribution towards developing Slovak-American relations, the ministry’s press department told TASR on June 26.

“I appreciate your work and merit in developing Slovak-American cooperation. You have contributed to many joint projects that have been carried out. You’ve a lot to be proud of, and we’re happy that you’ve used your potential and skills in Slovakia, both to the benefit of the United States and Slovakia,” said Lajcak.

Sedgwick has been ambassador to Slovakia since the summer of 2010, becoming the longest-serving ambassador in Slovakia since the country gained independence in 1993. At the same time he is one of the longest-serving ambassadors during the terms of the U.S. President Barack H. Obama.

The Slovak ministry noted that Sedgwick’s mission to Slovakia has been a productive one. It has included Prime Minister Robert Fico’s visit to the White House, the creation of a Slovak-American partnership in modernizing the Slovak military, the preparation of an agreement on combating the smuggling of nuclear materials and a boost to bilateral trade and investments. Sedgwick has also done much to support Slovak start-ups and SMEs in their quest to make it onto the US market.

On June 25, Ambassador Sedgwick also received the Slovak President’s Medal from President Andrej Kiska for developing Slovak-American relations.

Sedgwick, a Cleveland native, was the sixth U.S. ambassador since Slovakia’s independence in 1993. During his years as ambassador, Sedgwick has enjoyed a close association with the American Slovak community. He departs Bratislava this month.
Michigan Fraternal Alliance to 
ost upcoming Fraternal activities

Motivational! Informational! Re- 
viewing Friendships! Entertaining! These are just some of the activities hosted by the Michigan Fraternal Alliance which represents fraternals in the Motor State. The board of the Michigan Fraternal Al- liance has been diligently working to provide attendees of the Annual Conference scheduled for Septem- ber 30 through October 2, 2015 with a worthwhile experience. The conference will be held at the We- ber’s Inn in Ann Arbor, Mich. The theme for this year’s conference is “Celebrating Fraternalism in Michi- gan.” There will be two full days of guest speakers, hands-on workshops and lots of good food for Michigan Fraternal Alliance member, Michi- gan Fraternal Insurance Counselors and guests. Members of the Michigan Catholic Sokol who reside in Michi- gan are welcome to participate in the conference.

In keeping with the traditions of fraternal outreach, Michigan frater- nalists are asked to support the Pen- rickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor, Mich. Penrickton is a private, non-profit five day residential and day care agency serving blind, multi- 
disabled children ages 1-12. Because no fees are ever charged to families, all financial support is raised from individuals, service clubs, corpora- tions and foundations. The Penrick- ton Center will be the beneficiary for the 2015 annual conference. For golf enthusiasts, the annual Michigan Fraternal Alliance golf tournament will be held on Wednesday, Septem- ber 30 at the Leslie Park Golf Course with the tee time of 1:30 p.m. Sokol golfers are invited to participate.

The keynote speaker at the an- nual conference will be Joseph An- notti, National President of the Michi- gan Fraternal Alliance. Mr. Annotti 
heads the trade organization which represents the nation’s more than 9 million fraternalists. Michael Aan, a motivational speaker, and also Jim Lauck and Jerilyn McCollum from GBU Financial Life will give pre- 
sentations on Social Security. Ente- 
tertainment for the evening’s program will feature Jason Abbott, Magician/ 
Comedian.

An important project of the Michi- 
gan Fraternal Alliance is the selection of the 2015 Fraternalist of the Year Award. The honor is bestowed on a Michigan fraternalist who has dem- onstrated dedication to fraternalism by participating in volunteer acts of service. This award recognizes and commends individual members for the good works they perform. Any member of the Michigan Catholic Sokol of any age residing in Michigan may be nominated for this award. The recipient of this award will be invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Fraternal Alliance scheduled for October 1-2, 2015 in Ann Arbor, Mich. In addition to the engraved medallion, the Michigan Fraternal Alliance will present a dona- tion of $300 in the name of the award recipient to a charitable/non- profit organization of the honoree’s choice. The only stipulations for the charity are that they are a 501c3 char- ity and have a local office operating in Michigan. A nomination form for the Fraternalist of the Year Award is available contacting Fraternal Director Daniel F. Tanzone at the home office. Deadline for the completed nomination is July 31, 2015. There are several active Sokol members in Group 16 who are to be considered for this Fraternalist of the Year. For information on any activities hosted by the Michigan Fraternal Alliance, visit their website www.michiganfraternalalliance.org.

Youth Awards for 
New Jersey - New York members available

The New York - New York Fraternal Alliance (NYNYFA), which represents Fraternalists in both the Garden and Empire states will offer its 2015 Youth Vol- unteer Awards. One of the most important awards offered by the New York - New York Fraternal Alliance is its Youth Volunteer Award Program. Each New Jersey Sokol Officers chooses deserving young students from a member society, based on their volunteer achievements with their society as well as the commu- nity at large. Any member of the Sokol Catholic Sokol residing in New Jersey or New York may apply for this award.

Many of our young people are actively engaged in volunteer and service projects in their school, their parish or their community and should consider making application for the 2015 Youth Vol- unteer Awards Program. Thanks to the generosity of the Recreation Farm Foundation, each group will be awarded a $500 additional award to their designated char- ity. The number of awards will be based upon the proceeds re- alized from the convention a book of this year’s annual con- vention scheduled for October 31. Members of our organization have been recipients of this award in the past.

Any member of the Catholic Sokol between the ages of 16 and 22 at the time of application may apply for the award. An application form is available by contacting Editor Daniel F. Tanzone at the home office. Judging will be done by the Youth Volunteer Award Committee, headed by Richard Cecchi of Wornen’s Benefit Fund of the USA of Farming-dale, N.Y. The award recipients will be announced at the 82nd annual convention of the New Jersey - New York Fraternal Al- liance to be held at the Golden Nugget Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J., October 8-9, 2015. Deadline for receipt of the completed application form is September 2, 2015.
Comments from our scholarship recipients

Essays submitted by our 2015 High School Scholarship Winners

(As part of the application process, members seeking one of our Catho-
lic High School scholarship grants, were asked to submit an essay on
the following topic: “What does the Slovak Catholic Sokol Mean to Me?
We present some of the essays submitted by our 2015 scholarship win-
ers.)

David E. Antoniuk
Group 1, Assembly 162
Clifton, N.J.

What does the Slovak Catholic Sokol mean to me? It reminds me of my
heritage which reminds me of my grandmother, Babci. When we went
over to her house on Eas-
ter, Christmas or on some other hol-
day, she would most likely have a
very special dinner planned out for
us. When we were younger, dur-
ing Christmas, mostly visiting every or every
other year, she would make tomato soup and would pass the Christmas
wafer. Of course, that was always the
table for us to share. However, we
could always pray first. Then we
would enjoy prohyb and klobasy.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol or-
ganization gives me a sense of be-
longing to a group with unyielding
Catholic beliefs. It also reminds me
of my father and the sports he en-
joyed with the Sokol. He played
golf and participated in the Sokol
bowling tournaments. Often his
name and photo would appear in the
organizational newsletter, the
Slovak Catholic Falcon. I hope that
I too will be a participant in these
Sokol events with my father in the
near future.

In conclusion, if I am selected to
receive a Sokol scholarship grant, I
will continue to strive to be an hon-
ors student representing the Slovak
Catholic Sokol.

Brooke Morella
Group 1, Wreath 2

Fitness, faith and heritage are what the Slovak Catholic Sokol
means to me. I am proud to belong to a group that promotes physical fit-
ness, our Catholic faith and Slovak heritage through its many programs.
The organization promotes our Catholic faith through scholarships, so
I can continue my Catholic faith education at DePaul Catholic High
School, which is very important to me. The Slovak Catholic Sokol also
promotes physical fitness of its members by hosting various sport-
ning events, which is also important to me, since I am currently captain
of the freshman cheerleaders and it’s important to me to remain active and
physically fit. Please consider me when choosing a Catholic High School
Grant recipient from Group 1.

Kara Saranich
Group 2, Wreath 1
Bridgeport, Conn.

“What does the Slovak Catholic Sokol mean to me?” My name is
Kara Saranich and I have been a
member of the Slovak Catholic So-
kol since I was born. Although our
Group 2 is not very active, I believe
that being a part of this group is about
expressing my Catholic faith and
supports my family values of
love and respect for others. Being a
Sokolka is about fraternalism, being
a member of a group with similar
values and interests. I am lucky to
be able to practice these values on
a daily basis every day at my high
school.

I am currently a junior at St.
Joseph’s High School in Trumbull, Connecticut. I am involved in many
school clubs, however my favorite responsibility is being a Student
Ambassador and a role model.

As a Student Ambassador, I assist welcoming potential students at
open house events and going out to schools to speak about St. Joseph’s
High School. My school motto is “Privilege and Responsibility.” I am
privileged to be able to attend a high school that supports the values
I was brought up with in my faith.

I especially enjoy attending the cele-
bration of monthly Mass where I
have the freedom to express my
faith with my friends. This privilege
also means I have a responsibility
to give back to my community through
service and volunteering in my
community. My parents have
worked very hard to send me to a
Catholic high school and I would
appreciate the opportunity to apply for a Catholic high school scholarship grant.

Alexander J. Kwiatkowski
Group 3, Assembly 314
Boston, Mass.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol re-
news me of my Catholic faith, and
our Slovak traditions and culture. My
baba/grandmother has taught my
dad, his brother and sister many
wonderful Sokol traditions. One
exciting Sokol tradition, shar-
ing the Oplotky during our Ste-
yed Vecer, or Bountiful evening ob-
servance. This takes place at our
Christmas eve dinner. The Oplotky,
whose word comes from the Latin
oblatia/offerings are shared among
our family members and are eaten
with honey. At this time, my dad
reminds us of how our Lord Jesus
Christ is the bread of life. We then
continue to enjoy the traditional
foods eaten at the Steyed Vecer.
There is always an extra dish set-
ning for a guest, which is a tribu-
tion to Jesus, who is the unseen guest in our
home.

Alexandra L. Stecker-Jaussens
Group 4, Wreath 93
Milwaukee, Wis.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol has
been a significant part of my
life ever since I can remember. It
strengthens my faith, cultural heri-
tage and fraternalism. Being a So-
kol has helped me grow in my faith
as we pray together at Masses and
grow as a community at practices
and Slets. As a participant at every
Slet since I was eight years old, I
have really enjoyed the Sokol school
drills, since they help uncover a part
of my ethnic background. The So-
klov Catholic Sokol has also taught
me to be loyal to my country and
to be a responsible member of
people. My absolute favorite part
of being a member and active par-
ticipant in Sokols is experiencing its
annual Group Days. Sokol Frater,
fraternalism has taught me how to
work with my fellow Sokolks and others
within our organization and through
community service, which has al-
lowed me to learn what brotherly
love is all about. This fraternal spirit
is what has allowed me to make life-
long friendships and connect with
others in high school.

Being part of the Slovak Catholic So-
kol has taught me a great deal and
has been a remarkable experience,
and I am extremely grateful to be a
member and active participant in its
programs.

Emily Lauren Hudak
Group 5, Assembly 369
Smock, Pa.

Growing up in my traditional
Catholic family, I learned how much
I appreciated the ability to practice
my religion freely in America and
having the option to go to a religious
based school. I was blessed enough
to be able to attend Catholic schools
my entire education system for the last
13 years. My parents have shared with me
my grandparents. They along with
my parents have shared with me
their Catholic values such as ser-
dom, service, loyalty and kindness.
My entire family enjoy membership in
the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and they
have helped me to become the
young man I am today.

(Continued in next issue)
Youngstown to Host 10th Annual Mahoning Valley Slovak Fest

by Lorett Etokoia

Wow, it is hard to believe, but what started out as a small festival at St. Matthias Church in Youngstown, Ohio, is about to hold its TENTH annual festival which is now a Mahoning Valley event with participation from many area Slovak churches, local lodges of our Slovak fraternal organizations, including the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and individuals! And this year’s festival which will be held on Sunday, August 9 on the grounds of St. Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, at 2800 Shady Run Road in Youngstown, Ohio 44502 looks better than ever

This year’s Slovak Fest begins with the celebration of Mass at 11 a.m. in St. Matthias Church (915 Cornell Avenue across the lot from the festival). The Rev. Martin Czach, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, which includes St. Matthias, SS. Cyril and Methodius and Holy Name of Jesus Slovak Churches in Youngstown, will be celebrant of the bilingual Slovak-English liturgy. The Slovak Fest continues after Mass in the parking lot and school hall until 9 p.m. Outside there will be an assortment of Slovak culinary specialties available (and this year we are making much more to make sure we don’t run out before everyone has a chance to sample their favorites). There will be halusky (with real dumplings), holubky (stuffing, cabbage), pirohy, klobasa and kraut (or as Father Martin insists, kysla kapusta), roast pork sandwiches, BBQ chicken and even hot dogs, fries and ice cream and of course, imported Slovak beer, all served outside all day. Inside the parish auditorium from noon until 3 p.m., we will be serving a “Taste of Slovakia” platters with breaded pork cutlet, klobasa, kysla kapusta (aka sauerkraut), halubky and halusky.

There will be a great selection of homemade Slovak baked goods, including kolace and kifles (first come, first served), and palacinky (crepes) along with imported Slovak crystal and other folk art available for sale. There is also a great Slovak Heritage corner displaying many beautiful items on display, such as authentic Slovak kroj (folk costumes), maps, corn husk dolls, photo books, embroidery and informational items. There was also a basket auction and a gas card raffle good for food or gas at Giant Eagle stores.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Eddie Vallus bank, the Del Sincak Orchestra along with a performance by the popular Lucia Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland. The music begins after Mass outside and continues until about 8:30 p.m. and included room to dance.

So if you want to help celebrate our rich Slovak culture and heritage, just put the address in your GPS and come join us for an entertaining, exciting and enjoyable summer afternoon. We hope to see many Sokols and Slovakians from across the Mahoning Valley at this year’s Slovak Fest. For more than 125 years, Slovaks have been an integral part of the cultural fabric of the Mahoning Valley. And if you need more information on this year’s 10th Slovak Fest, just give me a call at (330) 549-3760 or email me at lorett.okonik@gmail.com. The photos are from last year’s Slovak Fest.

2015 Slovak Catholic Federation Mid-Year Annual Appeal Report

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic

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by Lorett Etokoia

Wow, it is hard to believe, but what started out as a small festival at St. Matthias Church in Youngstown, Ohio, is about to hold its TENTH annual festival which is now a Mahoning Valley event with participation from many area Slovak churches, local lodges of our Slovak fraternal organizations, including the Slovak Catholic Sokol, and individuals! And this year’s festival which will be held on Sunday, August 9 on the grounds of St. Matthias Church, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, at 2800 Shady Run Road in Youngstown, Ohio 44502 looks better than ever

This year’s Slovak Fest begins with the celebration of Mass at 11 a.m. in St. Matthias Church (915 Cornell Avenue across the lot from the festival). The Rev. Martin Czach, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, which includes St. Matthias, SS. Cyril and Methodius and Holy Name of Jesus Slovak Churches in Youngstown, will be celebrant of the bilingual Slovak-English liturgy. The Slovak Fest continues after Mass in the parking lot and school hall until 9 p.m. Outside there will be an assortment of Slovak culinary specialties available (and this year we are making much more to make sure we don’t run out before everyone has a chance to sample their favorites). There will be halusky (with real dumplings), holubky (stuffing, cabbage), pirohy, klobasa and kraut (or as Father Martin insists, kysla kapusta), roast pork sandwiches, BBQ chicken and even hot dogs, fries and ice cream and of course, imported Slovak beer, all served outside all day. Inside the parish auditorium from noon until 3 p.m., we will be serving a “Taste of Slovakia” platters with breaded pork cutlet, klobasa, kysla kapusta (aka sauerkraut), halubky and halusky.

There will be a great selection of homemade Slovak baked goods, including kolace and kifles (first come, first served), and palacinky (crepes) along with imported Slovak crystal and other folk art available for sale. There is also a great Slovak Heritage corner displaying many beautiful items on display, such as authentic Slovak kroj (folk costumes), maps, corn husk dolls, photo books, embroidery and informational items. There was also a basket auction and a gas card raffle good for food or gas at Giant Eagle stores.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Eddie Vallus bank, the Del Sincak Orchestra along with a performance by the popular Lucia Slovak Folk Ensemble of Cleveland. The music begins after Mass outside and continues until about 8:30 p.m. and included room to dance.

So if you want to help celebrate our rich Slovak culture and heritage, just put the address in your GPS and come join us for an entertaining, exciting and enjoyable summer afternoon. We hope to see many Sokols and Slovakians from across the Mahoning Valley at this year’s Slovak Fest. For more than 125 years, Slovaks have been an integral part of the cultural fabric of the Mahoning Valley. And if you need more information on this year’s 10th Slovak Fest, just give me a call at (330) 549-3760 or email me at lorett.okonik@gmail.com. The photos are from last year’s Slovak Fest.

2015 Slovak Catholic Federation Mid-Year Annual Appeal Report

Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdivic

Since 1978, the Slovak Catholic Federation, the representative body of American and Canadian Catholics of Slovak ancestry, has been conducting the SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal which begins each year in the month of February when we celebrate the feast of SS. Cyril and Methodius and continues throughout the year. To date, I wish to report that a total of $14,333.00 has been collected to date in this year’s appeal. In its 37th year, this appeal has primarily been taken up in parishes in the United States and Canada of Slovak heritage. As we are all very aware, the days of “ethnic parishes” are becoming a thing of the past. More and more Slovaks reside in different parts of the country and no longer claim to belong to a parish of Slovak heritage. For this reason many of Slovak ancestry may not have the opportunity to hear about, let alone participate in this Annual Appeal. If it were not for the Slovak Catholic fraternal societies and their publications, communication to American and Canadian Slovaks would not be possible. In recent years, we have seen an increase in the number of individual donors apart from the parish collections. In addition, most of the Slovak fraternal societies have also made contributions to the appeal from their National Board of Directors, along with a number of local branches, assemblies, wreaths and lodges of these societies. The appeal continues during the entire calendar year 2015. The SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal assists the Church in Slovakia by supporting the training mission of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome, Italy (formerly known as the Slovak Institute or Ustav). As you know, the Pontifical Slovak College was built through the generosity of the American and Canadian Slovak Catholic communities a half-century ago. Our own Slovak Catholic Sokol was among the major donors to this project.

In addition, the appeal provides financial support to those religious communities of men and women in Slovakia which share a counterpart which belongs to the Slovak Conference of Religious Communities in the United States. These communities include: the Vincentian Sisters of Charity (Ruzomberok), the Dominican Sisters (Dunajská Streda), the School Sisters of St. Francis (Zilina), Daughters of St. Francis (Bratislava-Prievoz), the Byzantine Catholic Sisters of St. Basil the Great (Secovec and Presov), the Franciscan Friars Minor (Bratislava) and the Benedictines of the House of St. Benedict (Bacurov).

As various groups will be hosting their annual Slovak day summer picnics and other gatherings, I ask that consideration be given to kindly taking up a collection in support of the Slovak Catholic Federation Appeal. All donations are tax deductible. In 2014 a total of $38,087.00 was raised.

Since the inception of the SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal, our Sokol Groups, Assemblies, Wreaths as well as individual members have generously supported this effort for which I am very grateful. Last year a total of 7 Groups, 8 Assemblies and 3 Wreaths, in addition to a donation from the Board of Directors, supported the appeal. I thank them and hope that more of our lodges due the same in 2015.

Individual Groups, Assemblies, Wreaths, picnics, etc. are welcome to make a donation to this appeal. Make all checks payable to: SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION and send same directly to Dolores M. Evanko, national secretary-treasurer, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201.

I pray that Almighty God reward all of us who participate in the support of the Church in Slovakia through the Slovak Catholic Federation’s 37th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal. May God repay your generosity - Pan Boz Zaplat!
Report of the Supreme Secretary for the Month of May 2015

ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash - Senior Account</td>
<td>$573,152.36</td>
<td>Operating Expense - Sokol Building</td>
<td>$21,000.96</td>
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<td>Cash - Bank of Montreal</td>
<td>7,378.21</td>
<td>Building Maintenance &amp; Repairs</td>
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<td>Cash - Payroll Account</td>
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<td>Rental Area Expenses</td>
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<td>Petty Cash</td>
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<td>Capital Reserve</td>
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<td>Stock Adj. to Book Value</td>
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<td>Salaries - Office Employees</td>
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<td>First Mortgage Loans</td>
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<td>Salaries - Editorial Employees</td>
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<td>P/R - Taxes Employer</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
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<td>Sokol Building</td>
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<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures</td>
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<td>Sokol Baby Spoons</td>
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<td>Supreme Auditors</td>
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<td>Due From Groups</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Accountant Expenses</td>
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<td>Non-Admitted Assets</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
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LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

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<tr>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Reserves</td>
<td>$53,777,817.00</td>
<td>Death Benefit Claims Paid</td>
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<td>Reserve Dep. Furn. &amp; Fixture</td>
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<td>Cash Surrender Values Paid</td>
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<td>Annuity Surrernders</td>
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<td>Asset Valuation Reserve</td>
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<td>Matured Endowments Paid</td>
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<td>Interest Maintenance Reserve</td>
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<td>Reserve for Supplemental Contracts</td>
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<td>Reserve Emp. Retirement Plan</td>
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<td>Bank Charges - Bond Account</td>
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<td>Reserve for Convention</td>
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<td>Matured Endowments</td>
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<td>Claims Payable</td>
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<td>IBNR Payable</td>
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<td>Conversion - Canadian Currency</td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Sokol Secure Fund</td>
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<td>Other Coaches, Insurance</td>
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<td>Mary Jane Rich Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Emil Slavik Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Dr’s Lesko Medical Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Group Assessments Paid</td>
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<td>Krista L Glugosh Memorial Scholarship Fund</td>
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<td>Commission Expense</td>
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<td>Dividend Accum. At Interest</td>
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<td>Advance Premiums</td>
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<td>Undistributed Funds - Sokol</td>
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<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; SURPLUS</td>
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<td>Scholarship Expense</td>
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<td>12,184.39</td>
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<td>$4,563,060.67</td>
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INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Bonds and Bills</td>
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<td>Accrued Interest Paid</td>
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<td>Dividends on Stocks</td>
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<td>Interest on Mortgages</td>
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<td>Sale of Cookbooks</td>
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<td>Rent Received - Sokol Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premium Income</td>
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<td>Annuities</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
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<td>Sale of Securities/Amortization</td>
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<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
<td>$715,704.92</td>
<td>$5,316,805.06</td>
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</table>

Remember the Memorial Scholarship Fund!!!

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to the Memorial Scholarship fund? Donations made payable to: SCS Memorial Scholarship Fund may be sent to:

Dennis Z. Zifcak
SCS Museum Treasurer
33 Pinecrest Rd.
Uxbridge, MA 01569

or

Julie Ann Dobbs
SCS Museum Chairperson
5314 Agatha Turn,
Racine, WI 53402
Púť do Mariánskej sväténe vo West Havestaw, NY

Púť do Mariánskej sväténe vo West Havestaw, NY, ktorú každý rok usporiada slovenské spolky. Nutno sa usporiadiť o 11:00 hod. na Slováckom parku na adrese 91-40 South 7th Street, Franklin, WI. O 12:00 hod. na 66th Street a First Avenue v New York City môžu dostat bližšie informácie od Marií Bežovej na telefónnom čísle (347) 619-1234. Blížšie informácie o púti podáva nám podúčasť pod menom Žofia Bilík, tel. č.: (718) 463-9314.

Slovensko-americký deň v Milwaukee, WI


Turčianske Teplice patria medzi najstaršie kúpelné mestá Slovenska

V roku 1728 Kremnica postavila Zelený kúpeľ (dnešný Modrý kúpeľ), ktorý dnes patria k histórickým pamiatkám.

Plávanie uvolňuje endorfín - hormón šťastia

Plávanie má blahodarné účinky na organismus, pretože je to aj zdravotnícky nefatálny početný štýl. Tento štýl platí, že by ste sa vám v spa sa uvolnil a zamestnali rôzne časti organizmu.

Využitie endorfínu - hormón šťastia

V prípade, že ste sa uvolnili, vám bude všetko vyhovovať.

Ach, tá naša slovenská!

Púť do Mariánskej sväténe vo West Havestaw, NY, ktorý dnes patria k histórickým pamiatkám.
Pápež František poslal prezidentovi Kiskovi telegram